Burnehyll Community Woodland, Bicester

Phase 2 Evaluation Report

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Burnehyll Community Woodland, Bicester

Phase 2 Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology carried out a second phase of archaeological trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed community woodland project near Bicester, Oxfordshire, between March and April 2022. Cherwell District Council commissioned the fieldwork in order to inform their woodland design to help protect archaeological remains.

The site is in an area of considerable archaeological interest, situated immediately north of the Roman town of Alchester, close to the crossroads of two Roman roads. A preceding geophysical survey of the site undertaken in 2019 detected a number of anomalies of probable and possible archaeological origin, across seven areas. These included linear anomalies suggestive of a trackway and associated rectilinear field system across Areas 1 and 2 and a series of linear and curvilinear anomalies suggestive of a large sub-circular enclosure and rectilinear enclosure/field system in Area 6. An initial phase of evaluation of Area 5 carried out by Oxford Archaeology in 2020 revealed the remains of a late Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch and a second undated ditch, which corresponded with features identified in the geophysical survey.

A total of 50 trenches were undertaken across Areas 1, 2, 6 and 7 as part of the Phase 2 evaluation, the majority of which were targeted on selected geophysical anomalies. Of these, 16 trenches were found to contain archaeological features, predominately comprising ditches together with a small number of pits, a posthole and plough furrows. A good correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and the archaeological evaluation was demonstrated.

A probable earlier prehistoric worked flint and a sherd of earlier Iron Age pottery, both residual in later features, provide very limited evidence of activity in the wider landscape predating the late Iron Age.

The most notable remains encountered on site comprise a series of ditches dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period concentrated in Areas 1 and 2. The ditches demarcated a trackway and were most likely used for drainage purposes. The trackway may have formed part of a local network associated with Akeman Street and the nearby town and extramural settlement of Alchester. A small number of adjacent ditches and pits provide evidence of low-level activity in the agricultural hinterland of the town. Several ditches in Area 6 may constitute the remains of a possible multi-phase Roman rectilinear field/enclosure system and large sub-circular enclosure adjacent to Akeman Street.

A single pit containing early Saxon pottery demonstrates low-level activity on site following the end of the Roman period and prior to agricultural land use during the medieval to post-medieval periods.

Limited medieval–post-medieval and modern remains, comprising plough furrows, a former field boundary ditch and land drains crossing the site, are 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 Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Ines Glover and John Carne, who was supported by Adam Rapiejko, Amy Farrer, Bernice Jones, Katherine Webster, Maxwell Talbot and Sarah Peacop. Survey and digitising were carried out by Marjanna Kohtamaki and Benjamin Brown. 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 Cherwell District Council (CDC) to undertake a second phase of archaeological trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed community woodland project with informal recreation and public access near Bicester, Oxfordshire. A programme of 50 evaluation trenches were undertaken over 6 areas covered by the proposed project.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 19/01351/CDC). This phase of trenching followed on from a geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019) of the proposed development site (Areas 1–6) carried out in 2019 and a phase of trial-trench evaluation undertaken in 2020 that focused on Area 5 of the wider site (OA 2020). A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (2022) detailing how OA would implement the specified requirements set by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for archaeological services necessary to discharge the planning condition at land north-west of Bicester Park and Ride and adjacent to Vendee Drive, Bicester (OCC 2019).

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b), and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the south-west outskirts of the historic town of Bicester in the Cherwell District of Oxfordshire. It is located to the north-west of Bicester Park and Ride and adjacent to Vendee Drive (B4030). The site is centred on NGR SP 56200 21900, and its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.2.2 The proposed development site is *c* 40ha and currently comprises seven fields (Areas 1–7) divided by hedgerows, located on the south-west side of Vendee Drive. Area 7 is unconnected to Areas 1–6, with a separate access from the A4095.

1.2.3 Much of the site (Areas 1 and 2) is generally flat at 74–75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), while the north of the site (Area 7) lies at *c* 81–84m aOD and the south-east (Area 6) is *c* 66–68m aOD (Topographic Map, nd).

1.2.4 The table below provides the collation between the Archaeological/Geophysical Survey Areas and Field (Masterplan) references:

Archaeological and geophysical Areas	Masterplan fields
Area 1	Field 3
Area 2	Field 2
Area 6	Field 6

Area 7	Field 1

1.2.5 The underlying bedrock geology in the north-west of the site is mapped as limestone of the Cornbrash Formation, with a band of interbedded limestone and mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation recorded along the north-west boundary, both sedimentary bedrocks formed 164–168 million years ago in the Jurassic period (BGS 2022). The bedrock geology in the south-east of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Kellaways Clay Member, also formed approximately 164–166 million years ago (ibid.). No overlying superficial deposits are recorded at the site (ibid.).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site is in an area of considerable archaeological interest, situated immediately north of the Roman town of Alchester, a scheduled ancient monument (SAM; List Entry no. 1443650). The settlement area of the Roman town extends beyond the area protected by the SAM, and evidence of this was recorded during the widening of the A41 in the 1990s (Booth *et al.* 2002). The site is also located to the north of the crossroads of two Roman roads.

1.3.2 A number of archaeological features relating to the extramural settlement of the Roman town and the earlier Iron Age settlement were recorded along the line of the road *c* 500m north-east of Area 5. This area included a series of late Iron Age and Roman enclosure ditches and probable house gullies along with a number of pits (Booth *et al.* 2002, 27–34 [Area D]). The complexity of the features, recorded in a small area, suggests that occupation in this area was fairly intensive.

1.3.3 Two larger areas of archaeological features associated with the Iron Age and Roman settlement north of the Roman town were excavated to the south-east of the site, within the area of the current road junction between Chesterton Lane and the A41 (see Booth *et al.* 2002, 37–210 [Areas B and C]). This included part of a Roman cemetery associated with the town, as well as extensive settlement evidence dating from the middle Iron Age through to the late Roman period. Settlement features included various stone footings and yard surfaces, as well as a series of enclosure ditches, which also dated to the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

1.3.4 Further archaeological features were recorded during a staged programme of investigation carried out by Wessex Archaeology (2011) in advance of the South-West Bicester development located to the north-east of the site. A Beaker burial was discovered, which may have been associated with prehistoric round barrows identified from aerial photographs of the site. Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains were also recorded along with evidence of quarrying.

1.3.5 In 2013, OA carried out an evaluation at the Bicester Park and Ride site immediately south-east of the development area (OA 2013). Various undated pits and postholes were identified, along with two possible hearths, one cremated human bone deposit of probable Roman date containing hobnails and tacks (probably from a box), and series of ditches and gullies. The lack of dating evidence from the linear features suggests that this area lay predominantly within an area of agricultural activity since at least the Roman period.

Previous investigations

Geophysical survey (Areas 1–6)

1.3.6 A magnetometer survey of Areas 1–6 (c 40ha) of the development site was undertaken in January 2019 and detected a number of anomalies of probable and possible archaeological origin (Fig. 2; Magnitude Surveys 2019).

1.3.7 The results demonstrate the presence of numerous linear, ditch-like, anomalies suggestive of an Iron Age/Roman road/trackway on a broadly NW–SE alignment and an associated rectilinear field system concentrated within Area 2 in the north-west of the site. The detected length of the possible road/trackway was measured at *c* 354m with a width of *c* 16m; it appears to abruptly terminate in the middle of Area 1 to the south-east. Truncated linear anomalies identified within the road/trackway anomaly are suggestive of possible development and expansion. Discrete anomalies identified within the enclosed areas of the potential field system are suggestive of associated activity. Several discrete responses indicative of small-scale burning events were also detected in Areas 1 and 2 and may be associated with the potential Iron Age/Roman activity within the site.

1.3.8 A series of linear and curvilinear anomalies were also detected in Area 6 in the south-east of the site. Suggestive of multi-phase settlement and cultivation activity in the area, a potential Iron Age sub-circular enclosure is situated along the southern boundary of Area 6. The linear anomalies are suggestive of several rectilinear enclosures/field systems, some of which may be associated with those identified in Area 2.

1.3.9 Evidence of other activity on site includes anomalies/trends related to agriculture, in the form of different phases of medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, modern ploughing and drainage. Anomalies associated with geological variations were also detected by the magnetometer survey across the site.

1.3.10 A subsequent phase of geophysical survey covering Area 7 (*c* 1.5ha) has been commissioned and a written scheme of investigation (Magnitude Surveys 2022) submitted for approval.

Phase 1 Evaluation (Area 5)

1.3.11 Following the 2019 geophysical survey of Areas 1–6, a programme of trial trenching was undertaken in Area 5, carried out by OA in August 2020 (OA 2020). The evaluation comprised the investigation of 15 trenches, and it established the presence of archaeological remains within the area. A moderately good correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and the evaluation was demonstrated.

1.3.12 The remains of a late Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch and a second undated ditch were identified within Trench 12. Small sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery were also recovered from the topsoil in the adjacent Trench 15, suggestive of nearby activity. Other anomalies detected by the geophysical survey were confirmed to be of natural geological or modern agricultural origin. No other archaeological features or finds were encountered during the evaluation.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aim of this phase of evaluation, as stated in the WSI (OA 2022), was to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features within Areas 1, 2, 6 and 7 of the proposed site.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
ii. To ground truth the results of the geophysical survey;
iii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains;
iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
v. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
vi. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
vii. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present;
viii. To determine the potential of the site to provide paleoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
ix. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to the economy, status, utility and social activity of or at the site; and
x. To disseminate the results of the evaluation through the production of a fieldwork report.

2.1.3 The research aims of the evaluation were:

xi. To determine the level of Roman archaeology present within the hinterland of vera;
xii. To assess the presence of a potential Roman trackway running east to west across the site and locate where it goes on the site.

2.1.4 The programme of trial trenching was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (Hey and Hind 2014).

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 As stated in the WSI (OA 2022), the archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 50 trenches, measuring *c* 30m by *c* 1.8m, distributed across Area 1, 2, 6 and 7 as follows:

- Area 1: 22 trenches (Trenches 27–48)
- Area 2: 13 trenches (Trenches 49–61)
- Area 6: 11 trenches (Trenches 16–26)
- Area 7: 4 trenches (Trenches 62–65)

2.2.2 In total, the trenches represented a *c* 1% sample of Areas 1, 2, 6 and 7 of the site and were located to establish the reliability of the geophysical survey results and to test

blank areas (Fig. 2). A further 1% contingency sample was held in reserve should more archaeological remains be revealed beyond that identified within the geophysical survey.

2.2.3 The trenches were generally positioned in accordance with the WSI (ibid.), though Trench 25 was relocated further to the south-west in order to investigate a geophysical anomaly of probable archaeological origin in the south-west of Area 6. Trench 19 (Area 6) was also extended by 3m to the south-west in order to establish the continuation of the ditch seen in Trenches 17 and 18. In addition, Trench 59 (Area 2) was repositioned directly to the south-west to target an agricultural trend and other anomalies of possible natural origin detected by the geophysical survey. Following the excavation of Trench 40 (Area 1), a 20m-long extension was added, creating a T-shaped arrangement, in order to confirm the termination of the trackway ditch as suggested by the geophysical survey results.

2.2.4 The trenches were laid out using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy. They were excavated using an appropriately powered mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. 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 geology or the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.5 The exposed surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. As outlined in the WSI (ibid.), a sufficient sample of each feature or deposit type, for example pits and ditches, was hand excavated and recorded.

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, comprising topsoil and subsoil, where present, overlying the bedrock geology. The natural geology generally comprised mid yellowish brown clay silt and mid orangish brown/grey sandy clay and Cornbrash. The topsoil was a mid to dark greyish brown sandy/clay silt, *c* 0.20–0.40m thick. A mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil, *c* 0.02–0.34m thick, was identified underlying the topsoil and overlying the natural in 15 trenches across Area 1 and four trenches in Area 6.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good. Several episodes of rain and snow did not adversely impact the identification of features/deposits within the trenches. Archaeological features, where present, were relatively easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. Some of the discrete features were less easily identifiable and so were slightly over-machined in some areas, though this did not adversely impact the aims of the evaluation.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were recorded in 16 of the 50 excavated evaluation trenches: Trenches 16–19, 35, 36, 40, 44–46, 50, 52–54, 57 and 58 (Fig. 2). The features present predominately comprised ditches together with a small number of pits, a posthole and plough furrows. A low density and complexity of features was encountered. There were slight concentrations of features in the south-west of Area 6, north-west of Area 1 and south-west of Area 2.

3.3.2 The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological features, though remnants of possible plough disturbance were noted in Trenches 21, 22 and 26 in Area 6, Trench 49 in Area 2 and Trench 65 in Area 7.

3.4 Area 1 (Fig. 3)

3.4.1 Trenches 27–48 were positioned in Area 1, with trenches in the north-west of the area targeted upon linear, ditch-like, anomalies suggestive of a trackway; the remaining trenches were laid out to investigate anomalies of probable agricultural and natural/geological origin. Archaeological features were encountered in Trenches 36, 40 and 44–46, establishing the presence of a trackway defined by drainage ditches, corresponding with the geophysical survey results. The remaining trenches in Area 1 were devoid of archaeological remains, though the remains of an E–W aligned field drain (2802) was identified crossing the centre of Trench 28 (Plate 1). Two modern agricultural linear features (3503 and 3505; Plate 2) containing fragments of wood (not retained) were also noted in otherwise blank Trench 35, correlating with an area of

ferrous debris as detected by the geophysical survey (Fig. 4). Notable variations in the natural bedrock geology were also observed in the bases of Trenches 28, 35, 37 and 46.

Trenches 35 and 36 (Fig. 4)

3.4.2 Trench 36 was located towards the centre of Area 1 and aligned NW–SE. It contained two inter-cutting ditches that crossed the centre of the trench on a NE–SW alignment and continued beyond the trench limits, corresponding with the geophysical survey results. The position of the ditches also broadly correlates with a field boundary depicted on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (Fig. 18).

3.4.3 The earliest of the ditches was ditch 3608, which exhibited moderately sloping sides and a concave base, 0.45m deep, though it was heavily truncated to its north-west by parallel ditch 3605 (Fig. 6, Section 3600). The south-east side of ditch 3608 was also cut by parallel plough furrow 3610, which had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, 0.14m deep. Both ditch 3608 and furrow 3610 contained similar single fills (3609 and 3611 respectively). Ditch 3608 was devoid of finds, though a sherd of post-medieval (1670–1800) pottery and a fragment of post-medieval glass were retrieved from furrow 3610. Ditch 3605 had a broadly V-shaped profile, 1.68m wide and 0.55m deep, with a rounded base. It contained two fills (3606 and 3607), with three pottery sherds of post-medieval (1580–1800) date, a post-medieval iron horseshoe nail and four residual fragments of Roman tile recovered from lower fill 3606.

3.4.4 Directly adjacent to the north-west side of ditch 3605 was sub-circular posthole 3603. It was 0.27m by 0.22m and 0.22m deep, with near vertical sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, Section 3600). No finds were recovered from its single fill (3604), though the posthole is likely to have been broadly contemporary with ditch 3605.

3.4.5 Two further plough furrows on NE–SW alignments were recorded in plan only to the south-east of furrow 3610. Two similarly aligned plough furrows were also recorded directly to the south in Trench 34, one of which was excavated. Furrow 3403 was 0.53m wide and 0.08m deep, with shallow but steep sides and a flat base. Its single fill (3404) was devoid of finds.

Trenches 40, 44 and 46 (Fig. 5)

3.4.6 Trenches 40, 44 and 46, all NE–SW aligned, were positioned in the north-west of Area 1 to investigate the linear geophysical anomaly suggestive of a trackway ditch. Corresponding below-ground archaeological remains were encountered in all three trenches.

3.4.7 Ditches 4004, 4403 and 4603 crossed Trenches 40, 44 and 46, respectively, on a NW–SE alignment and appear to have defined the south-west side of a trackway, as suggested by the geophysical survey results, presumably for drainage purposes. Trench 40 was extended and revealed the south-east terminal of the trackway ditch, as suggested by the geophysical survey results. The north-westward continuation of the trackway ditch was recorded in Trenches 50, 53 and 57 in Area 2 (see below).

3.4.8 Ditches 4004, 4403 and 4603 were 1.20–1.70m wide and 0.42–0.70m deep. Their profiles differed slightly, ranging from moderately sloping to steep sides and concave

to flat bases (Fig. 6, Sections 4001, 4400, 4600). Ditches 4004 and 4403 both contained two fills (4005 and 4006, and 4404 and 4405, respectively), while ditch 4603 contained a single fill (4604), though all were of similar compositions consistent with the site. A total of 131 late Iron Age/early Roman (50 BC–AD 100) pottery sherds were hand collected from across the ditches, the majority dating to AD 50–100 and found in ditches 4403 and 4603. A further five pottery sherds dating to 50 BC–AD 100 were collected from the surface (upper fill 4012) of the unexcavated terminal of ditch 4004 revealed in the extension of Trench 40. Small quantities of Roman CBM and animal bone (including one fragment with a cutmark) and a residual early prehistoric worked flint were also retrieved from the ditches. Bulk soil sample 3, collected from upper fill 4405 of ditch 4403, yielded small amounts of charcoal and charred cereal grain (including wheat), as well as further pieces of pottery (22 sherds) and animal bone (14 fragments).

3.4.9 In Trench 40, trackway ditch 4004 cut an earlier parallel ditch (4010), suggestive of maintenance/modification of the trackway drainage ditch (Fig. 6, Section 4001). Ditch 4010 was up to 0.22m deep and had a gently sloping south-west side and a slightly concave base. It contained two fills (4007 and 4011) from which no finds were recovered.

3.4.10 A further NW–SE aligned ditch (4008) was revealed crossing the south-west end of Trench 40, broadly corresponding with the position of a discrete geophysical anomaly of possible archaeological origin. Measuring 1.40m in width and 0.38m in depth, ditch 4008 had a similar profile to ditch 4004. Its single fill (4009) was devoid of finds, though it is possible that ditch 4008 formed part of an associated field/enclosure system adjacent to the trackway.

3.4.11 Pit 4002 was located approximately 3m north-east of ditch 4004 and extended beyond the north-west limit of Trench 40. Slightly irregular in plan shape, the pit was 1.70m wide, 0.50m deep and had steep to moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 6, Section 4000). A single sherd of broadly Roman (AD 43–410) pottery was collected from its single fill (4003).

3.4.12 No further archaeological features were revealed in Trenches 44 and 46, though evidence of plough disturbance was revealed in the extension of Trench 40.

Trench 45 (Fig. 5)

3.4.13 Located in the north-west corner of Area 1, Trench 45 was NE–SW aligned and targeted upon an area of geophysical anomalies suggestive of natural variations in the underlying geology. A single archaeological feature was encountered within the trench. Sub-circular pit 4503 was situated in the north-east end of the trench and extended beyond the south-east trench limit. Its exposed extent measured 2.80m in width and 0.28m in depth and had moderately steep, straight sides and a flat base (Plate 3). Its single fill (4504) contained 18 pottery sherds dating to the early Saxon (AD 470–700) period and 21 animal bone fragments.

3.5 Area 2 (Fig. 7)

3.5.1 Located in the north-west of the site, Trenches 49–61 were distributed across Area 2, with a slight concentration of trenches positioned in the south-west of the area in order to target linear, ditch-like, anomalies suggestive of a trackway and an associated rectilinear fieldsystem. Below-ground archaeological features coinciding with the geophysical survey results were revealed in Trenches 50, 52–54, 57 and 58, confirming the continuation of the trackway ditches seen in Area 1. The remaining trenches in Area 2 were blank, though evidence of possible plough disturbance was observed in the base of Trench 49.

Trench 50 (Fig. 8)

3.5.2 Trench 50 was adjacent to the south-east boundary of Area 2, aligned NE–SW, and was targeted upon a number of geophysical anomalies, including that defining the trackway and several linear and discrete anomalies interpreted as industrial/modern and natural in origin.

3.5.3 Three inter-cutting features (5010, 5014, 5017) were located in the south-west end of the trench (Fig. 11, Section 5003; Plate 4). Ditch 5017 corresponded with the trackway ditch anomaly and formed a continuation of the ditches seen in Trenches 40, 44 and 46 to the south-east and Trenches 53, 54 and 57 to the north-west, defining the south-west side of the trackway. Ditch 5017 was 3.39m wide, 0.94m deep and had moderately sloping to steep sides and a slightly concave base. The ditch contained a sequence of four fills (5018–5021). A total of 50 early Roman (AD 50–100) pottery sherds were recovered from across fills 5018 and 5020, with a single sherd dating to 50 BC–AD 100 recovered from fill 5021.

3.5.4 The south-west side of ditch 5017 cut sub-circular pit 5014, which was 2.47m wide and 0.70m deep. It had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and contained three fills (5015, 5016, 5022). Pottery (18 sherds) dating to AD 43–100 and four fragments of animal bone were collected from pit 5014.

3.5.5 Sub-oval pit 5014 cut NW–SE aligned ditch 5010, which was 1.57m wide, 0.79m deep and had slightly stepped moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a sequence of five fills (5011–5013, 5023, 5024). Only upper fill 5023 contained finds comprising six pottery sherds dating to 50 BC–AD 100 and four animal bones. The ditch may constitute a modification to the trackway or perhaps formed part of an adjacent field/enclosure system.

3.5.6 Three similar ditches (5004, 5006, 5008), spaced *c* 2.70–3.10m apart, crossed the north-east of Trench 50 on a NW–SE alignment, broadly corresponding with the geophysical survey results. It is possible that at least ditch 5008 formed a continuation of one of the trackway ditches seen in Trench 54 to the north-west. The ditches were 0.80–1.04m wide, 0.20–0.32m deep. Ditches 5004 and 5006 had similar profiles of moderately sloping sides and slightly concave bases, while slightly deeper ditch 5008 had near vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 11, Section 5002). All contained single fills (5005, 5007, 5009 respectively) of similar composition. Ditch 5004 contained five pottery sherds dating to 50 BC–AD 100 and a piece of unworked stone, while ditch 5008 produced six fragments of animal bone; ditch 5006 was devoid of finds.

3.5.7 Located in the centre of Trench 50 was curved ditch 5002, which was recorded for a distance of *c* 5m, truncated by ditches 5004 and 5017 (Fig. 11, Section 5000). Measuring 0.35m in width and 0.21m in depth, ditch 5002 had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and a single fill (5003) from which 15 late Iron Age/early Roman (50 BC–AD 100) pottery sherds were retrieved.

3.5.8 Coinciding with a discrete anomaly in the south-west end of the trench was a large probable pit, at least 2.70m wide, which was recorded in plan only.

Trench 52 (Fig. 9)

3.5.9 Aligned NW–SE, Trench 52 was targeted upon linear and curvilinear geophysical anomalies of probable and possible archaeological origin. Ditch 5202 crossed the centre of the trench on a NE–SW alignment, correlating with the linear anomaly. It was 0.79m wide and 0.16m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 11, Section 5200). No finds were recovered from its single fill (5203).

3.5.10 No below-ground remains coinciding with the curvilinear anomaly were identified within the trench.

Trenches 53, 54 and 57 (Figs 9 and 10)

3.5.11 Trenches 53, 54 and 57 were in the north-west of Area 2, all positioned on NE–SW alignments to investigate the geophysical anomaly suggestive of trackway ditches and anomalies of possible archaeological, agricultural and natural origin. Corresponding below-ground archaeological remains were encountered in all three trenches.

3.5.12 Ditches 5302 and 5304 in Trench 53 and ditch 5704 in Trench 57 formed part of the same NW–SE aligned ditch that appears to have defined the south-west side of a trackway; the continuation of this ditch was recorded further to the south-east in Trench 50 (Area 2) and Trenches 40, 44 and 46 (Area 1). In Trench 53, ditches 5302 and 5304, spaced *c* 1.45m apart, suggest that the trackway may have been altered/maintained during its use. Ditches 5302 and 5304 were 0.84–1.60m wide and 0.20–0.46m deep, with similar profiles of moderately sloping sides and concave bases (Fig. 12, Section 5301; Plate 5). They contained similar single fills (5303 and 5305 respectively), both of which produced small quantities of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (25 sherds in total) dating between 50 BC and AD 100 and animal bone (two fragments), with the majority concentrated in ditch 5302 (fill 5303). Bulk soil sample 1, collected from fill 5305 of ditch 5304, yielded a small quantity of charcoal, a single indeterminate charred cereal grain and molluscs, as well as a further sherd of pottery and an animal bone fragment. Ditch 5704 was slightly larger at 1.70m wide and 0.55m deep and had slightly stepped moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 12, Section 5701). It contained a sequence of two fills (5705 and 5706), with 12 broadly Roman (AD 100–410) pottery sherds recovered from upper fill 5705.

3.5.13 Ditches 5402 and 5404 in Trench 54 and ditch 5702 in Trench 57 together formed part of the same NW–SE aligned ditch delineating the north-east side of the trackway; those ditches in Trench 54 are suggestive of a modification to the trackway. Ditches 5402 and 5404 were similar in size at 0.58–0.60m wide and 0.14–0.20, with similar profiles of moderately sloping sides and slightly concave base (Plate 7). Both ditches

also contained similar single fills (5403 and 5405 respectively), but only fill 5405 of ditch 5404 contained finds comprising two sherds of early Roman (AD 43–100) pottery. Ditch 5702 was significantly larger at 2.77m wide and 0.38m deep. It had gently to moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained two fills (5703 and 5707), both of which were notable for stone inclusions concentrated in the bases of the deposits (Fig. 12, Section 5700). Only upper fill 5703 contained finds comprising ten pottery sherds of broadly Roman (AD 43–410) date and two animal bone fragments.

3.5.14 Of Trenches 53, 54 and 57, only Trench 53 contained any further archaeological features. Pit 5306 was located *c* 4.50m south-west of ditch 5304, roughly corresponding with a discrete geophysical anomaly. It was sub-oval in plan shape, measuring at least 1.30m by 0.80m and 0.30m deep, continuing beyond the north-west trench limit (Plate 6). The pit had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and a single fill (5307) from which 78 early Roman (AD 120–150) pottery sherds and a 1st-century AD copper-alloy brooch (SF 1) were recovered. Bulk soil sample 2, collected from this fill, contained small quantities of charcoal and charred cereal grains, a charred legume, molluscs and a further 18 sherds of pottery.

Trench 58 (Fig. 10)

3.5.15 Trench 58, aligned NE–SW, was targeted upon two curvilinear geophysical anomalies of undetermined origin in the north-west of Area 2. No corresponding archaeological features were identified within Trench 58, though a probable ditch terminal (5802) was revealed towards the centre of the trench. Ditch terminal 5802 was rounded to the south-east and extended to the north-west, continuing beyond the trench limits. It was 1.55m wide and 0.20m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 8). No finds were recovered from its single fill (5803).

3.6 Area 6 (Fig. 13)

3.6.1 Trenches 16–26 in Area 6, in the south-east of the site, were positioned to investigate a series of linear and curvilinear geophysical anomalies suggestive of multi-phase settlement and cultivation activity. Only those anomalies targeted by Trenches 16–19 located along the south-west site boundary were encountered as below-ground archaeological remains. The remaining trenches in Area 6 were devoid of archaeological features, though evidence of possible plough disturbance was noted in the bases of Trenches 21, 22 and 26.

Trenches 16 and 17 (Fig. 14)

3.6.2 Trenches 16 and 17 were positioned on NW–SE and NE–SW alignments, respectively, to investigate a rectilinear anomaly of probable archaeological origin, as well as anomalies of possible archaeological and natural origin. Located towards the centre of Trench 16 was NE–SW aligned ditch 1603, corresponding with the geophysical survey results. The ditch was 1.55m wide and 0.50m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 16, Section 1600). Its single fill (1604) contained 42 late Roman (AD 270–300) pottery sherds, three fragments of Roman CBM, three oyster shells and an iron looped bar (SF 2) possibly from a key or knife handle also of Roman date.

3.6.3 The possible continuation of ditch 1603 turned and continued towards the north-west, as indicated by the geophysical survey results, where it was recorded in Trench 17 as ditch 1703. Although truncated by a late post-medieval/modern land drain to its south, ditch 1703 was 1.80m wide, in excess of 0.85m deep and exhibited a steep northern side; the base of the ditch was not reached as its excavation exceeded safety limits (Plate 9). Two fills (1704 and 1705) were identified within the ditch, with 29 middle Roman (AD 160–200) pottery sherds, a Roman iron nail and two fragments of animal bone hand collected from upper fill 1705. Bulk soil sample 5, collected from upper fill 1705, yielded small quantities of charcoal, charred cereal grains, weed seeds and hazelnut shell fragments, together with molluscs, an eel bone and further pieces of pottery (43 sherds) and animal bone (15 fragments).

3.6.4 Two plough furrows on a NE–SW alignment were also recorded in the west end of Trench 16, one of which was excavated (1602), roughly correlating with the position of the geophysical anomalies interpreted to be of natural origin. No finds were recovered from the furrows. Two further land drains and a possible pit/ditch (not excavated) were also noted in Trench 17. A pottery sherd dating to AD 120–150 was also residual within the subsoil (1701) in Trench 17.

Trenches 18 and 19 (Fig. 15)

3.6.5 Trenches 18 and 19, both aligned NE–SW, were targeted upon the continuation of the rectilinear anomaly investigated in Trenches 16 and 17, as well as a curvilinear anomaly suggestive of an Iron Age sub-circular enclosure, in the western corner of Area 6. Ditch 1803 crossed the centre of Trench 18 on a NW–SE alignment and was 1.65m wide and 0.58m wide, with steep sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 16, Section 1800). It contained a sequence of five fills (1804–1808) indicative of natural infilling and erosion. Two earlier Iron Age (700–50 BC) pottery sherds and five late Iron Age/early Roman (50 BC–AD 50) pottery sherds were recovered, with the earlier sherd residual within the ditch.

3.6.6 The south-east continuation of ditch 1803 was revealed in Trench 19, correlating with the geophysical survey results, and was recorded in plan only as unexcavated ditch 1906. No finds were recovered from the surface of the feature. The geophysical survey results suggest that ditches 1803 and 1906 were continuations of ditches 1603 and 1703 seen further to the south-east, though the dating of these ditches differs.

3.6.7 Curvilinear ditch 1903 crossed the centre of Trench 19 on a broadly NW–SE orientation, corresponding with the targeted curvilinear anomaly, though its continuation was not identified in the south end of Trench 18, as suggested by the geophysical survey results. Measuring 3.70m in width and 0.50m in depth, ditch 1903 had gently sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 16, Section 1900). Its basal fill (1904) was devoid of finds, while its upper fill (1905) contained four pottery sherds dating to 20 BC–AD 70, two animal bone fragments and a piece of burnt stone. Bulk soil sample 4, collected from fill 1905, produced small quantities of charcoal and charred cereal grain, as well as further pieces of pottery (two sherds) and animal bone (five fragments).

3.6.8 An unexcavated feature (1907), possibly a pit, was recorded in plan only in the south end of Trench 19, while a tree throw hole was observed within the north end of Trench 18. No finds were recovered from the surface of the features.

3.7 Area 7 (Fig. 17)

3.7.1 Trenches 62–65 were excavated in Area 7 in the north of the site, positioned to provide an even coverage of the area. No archaeological features were encountered within the trenches, though evidence of possible plough disturbance was observed in the base of Trench 65.

3.8 Finds summary

3.8.1 A small–moderate assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. The majority comprises pottery dating from the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and post-medieval periods.

3.8.2 The remaining finds recovered during the evaluation include small quantities of probable earlier prehistoric worked flint, Roman CBM, metalwork (including iron and copper alloy of Roman and post-medieval date), burnt stone and post-medieval glass. The metalwork included a nice copper-alloy Colchester derivative Harlow-type brooch, the head of a nail and a bar with loop, possibly a latch-lifter key handle or the handle of a knife.

3.8.3 A small–moderate quantity of animal bone was collected from the site, with a number of taxa identified. A small amount of fish bone and shell was also recovered. A limited assemblage of generally poorly preserved charred plant remains were recovered from the site and exhibit a small variety of species. Together with the animal bone assemblage, these remains provide evidence of a mixed agricultural economy.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches provided a good coverage of Areas 1, 2, 6 and 7 of the site 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. Episodes of rain and snowfall did not inhibit the evaluation or the identification of archaeological remains. The machining was generally carried out cleanly, providing largely good visibility of features and deposits. A small degree of over-machining of discrete features occurred, though this did not adversely impact the aims of the evaluation.

4.1.2 The evaluation results demonstrate the presence of a low density of archaeological remains associated with late Iron Age to Roman, early Saxon and post-medieval activity. The results are considered to be a true reflection of the archaeological potential of the site highlighted by the results of nearby archaeological investigations and the geophysical survey of the site (Section 1.3).

4.1.3 The evaluation 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). The evaluation established and recorded the presence and extent of archaeological features and deposits in 16 of the 50 trenches investigated. A low density and low inter-cut complexity of features were recorded, predominately comprising ditches together with a small number of pits, a posthole and plough furrows. There were slight concentrations of features in the south-west of Area 6, north-west of Area 1 and south-west of Area 2. Evidence of possible plough disturbance and late post-medieval/modern field drains were observed in otherwise blank Trenches 21, 22, 26, 28, 49 and 65.

4.2.2 A range of finds and environmental remains, albeit in generally small quantities, were recovered from the site. An early prehistoric flint blade and a single pottery sherd of broadly Iron Age date, both residual in later features, may hint at very low-level activity within the landscape prior to the late Iron Age/Roman period. The majority of the pottery assemblage dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, though small quantities dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD provide evidence of activity during the later Roman period. A small assemblage of metalwork recovered from a number of features is also of Roman date, including two iron objects and a 1st-century AD copper-alloy brooch. The animal bone and charred plant remains provide limited insight into the mixed agricultural economy of the late Iron Age/Roman period. A small quantity of early Saxon pottery from a single pit is also demonstrative of some activity on site following the end of Roman activity and prior to the agricultural use of the landscape in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

4.2.3 The evaluation established the reliability of the geophysical survey results. The trenches were positioned to investigate and verify the results of the preceding geophysical survey, which had identified a number of anomalies of probable and possible archaeological origin, including numerous linear, ditch-like, anomalies suggestive of a road/trackway and associated rectilinear field system across Areas 1 and 2 and a series of linear and curvilinear anomalies suggestive of a large sub-circular enclosure and rectilinear enclosure/field system in Area 6. In addition, a number of anomalies were identified and interpreted as potentially being associated with medieval/post-medieval agriculture, as well as areas of ferrous/magnetic debris and linear trends indicative of more modern ploughing and drainage. The geophysical survey results had a good correlation with the archaeological remains recorded within the evaluation trenches.

4.2.4 The trackway anomalies detected crossing Areas 1 and 2 in the north-west of the site were encountered as below-ground archaeological remains within Trenches 40, 44, 46, 50, 53, 54 and 57, with recovered pottery indicating a late Iron Age/early Roman date for the trackway ditches. In addition, the three parallel NW–SE aligned ditches recorded in Trench 50 correlated with linear anomalies interpreted to be of archaeological and industrial/modern origin.

4.2.5 Targeted by Trenches 16–19 in Area 6 in the south-east of the site, a rectilinear anomaly suggestive of an enclosure/field system also proved to be archaeological in origin, though the pottery recovered from the excavated interventions in Trenches 16–18 was of mixed Roman date. In addition, a curvilinear anomaly also targeted by Trench 19 was demonstrated to be archaeological in nature, comprising a large curved ditch containing late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. However, its continuation was not seen in the south-west end of Trench 18 as suggested by the geophysical survey results.

4.2.6 The NE–SW aligned ditch revealed in Trench 36 in the centre of Area 1 correlated with the plotted position of the linear anomaly targeted by the trench and comprised the remains of a former late post-medieval field boundary, corresponding with historic OS maps.

4.2.7 Several plough furrows recorded in Trenches 16, 34 and 36 were on NE–SW alignments, similar to the agricultural trends detected by the geophysical survey, though the furrows did not necessarily correspond with the plotted position of the trends.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Archaeological remains encountered during the evaluation comprised a low density and inter-cut complexity of ditches, together with a small number of pits, a posthole and plough furrows. Where possible, the recorded features have been dated based on the associated diagnostic artefacts and cartographic evidence and are discussed below by broad period.

Early prehistoric

4.3.2 A single flint blade of probable early prehistoric date was recovered during the evaluation. Albeit residual within a later feature, the worked flint attests to a very limited and transitory presence in the wider landscape during the earlier prehistoric period.

Roman

4.3.3 No features of clearly Iron Age date have been identified within the evaluation trenches, though a single pottery sherd of broadly Iron Age date, residual within a late Iron Age/early Roman ditch in Trench 18, provides very limited evidence of low-level activity within the wider landscape during the Iron Age. This correlates with the limited results from the previous evaluation of Area 2, which recovered a few sherds of late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, also residual within a Roman ditch (Trench 12; OA 2020).

4.3.4 The first phase of substantial activity at the site dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The evaluation revealed the remains of a series of parallel, NW–SE aligned ditches across several trenches in Areas 1 and 2 that demarcated a probable trackway and were most likely used for drainage. The south-west side of the trackway was defined by ditches recorded in Trenches 40, 44, 46, 50, 53 and 57, while the north-east side was demarcated by ditches seen in Trenches 54 and 57 and possibly in Trench 50. Pottery recovered from the majority of trackway ditches largely dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman (50 BC–AD 100) period. No later Roman pottery was recovered from the ditches, indicating they had become infilled by AD 100.

4.3.5 Modification of the trackway ditches is suggested by several instances of inter-cutting ditches and pairs of ditches recorded in Trenches 40, 50, 53 and 54. The width of the trackway is indicated by the spacing of the drainage ditches, which ranged from 12.80m (Trench 57) to 19m (Trench 54). However, no evidence of a metalled trackway surface was revealed within the trenches.

4.3.6 Three narrow parallel ditches were also identified in Trench 50. It is possible that the north-easternmost ditch (5008) formed part of the main drainage ditch demarcating the north-west side of the trackway, sharing similar characteristics with the ditches recorded in Trench 54 to the north-west. Alternatively, the narrow ditches (or at least ditches 5004 and 5006) were the remains of possible wheel ruts associated with the construction/use of trackway.

4.3.7 The terminal of the south-west trackway ditch was revealed within Trench 40, corresponding with the geophysical survey results. No evidence of any further south-eastward continuation of the trackway ditches was encountered within the south-east of Area 1 nor within the Phase 1 evaluation trenches in Area 5 (OA 2020). A change in the natural geology, in the form of an area of clay, was identified in Trench 40, which may have impacted the continuation of the trackway in this area of the landscape. No evidence to suggest that the trackway turned towards the south was revealed by the current evaluation or the preceding geophysical survey and Phase 1 evaluation. Nevertheless, given the location and orientation of the trackway ditches, it is most probable that the trackway formed part of a local network of minor trackways/roads

associated with the major Roman road known as Akeman Street (Margary 1973, route 16a) that passed to the south-east of the site and continued to the town of Alchester.

4.3.8 Further evidence of late Iron Age/early Roman activity was revealed in Trenches 18 and 19 in Area 6 in the south-east of the site. The curved ditch recorded in Trench 19, together with the geophysical survey results, is suggestive of a large sub-circular enclosure, though its continuation was not seen in Trench 18.

4.3.9 Trenches 18 and 19 also revealed a NW–SE aligned ditch (1803 and 1906), with late Iron Age/early Roman pottery recovered. It is unclear whether this ditch formed a direct continuation of the ditches seen further to the south-east in Trenches 16 and 17, as suggested by the geophysical survey results, as the dating of the pottery recovered differs. In contrast to the Iron Age/early Roman pottery recovered from ditch 1803, 2nd- and 3rd-century AD pottery was recovered from ditches 1703 and 1603 respectively. Therefore, it is possible that the linear ditches in Trenches 16–19 represent different phases of a Roman enclosure/field system adjacent to Akeman Street, the route of which passed directly south of Area 6. These ditches may have also been related to two ditches uncovered in Trench 12 (Area 5) during the Phase 1 evaluation (OA 2020). Together they may have formed part of a larger enclosure/field system, though the dating of the Trench 12 ditches is tentative.

4.3.10 The only other feature on site to contain later Roman material was a pit recorded in Trench 53, adjacent to the trackway ditch. It contained a 1st-century AD copper-alloy brooch (SF 1) and a moderate quantity of 2nd-century (AD 120–150) pottery demonstrating some degree of continuity in activity in this part of the site.

4.3.11 It is probable that the landscape of which the site formed a part constituted the agricultural hinterland surrounding the extramural settlement and town of Alchester (Booth *et al*. 2002). This is suggested by the low density and range of archaeological features encountered on site and the artefactual and environmental evidence recovered. While a small–moderate assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the trackway ditches, the limited quantity and range of other features and material (including only small quantities of CBM, metalwork and environmental remains) suggests that the focus of late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman settlement was concentrated towards the settlement area of Alchester further to the south-east (see Booth *et al*. 2002). This is reiterated by the results of the adjacent evaluation carried out at the Bicester Park-and-Ride site (OA 2013), which revealed a collection of undated pits and postholes, along with two possible hearth pits, one cremated human bone deposit and ditches and gullies. It was considered that the lack of material culture and dating evidence from the site suggested that it was outside the main Iron Age and Roman settlement area of Alchester and formed part of the wider hinterland (ibid.).

Early medieval

4.3.12 Evidence from this period is limited to a single large pit recorded within Trench 45 that contained a small assemblage of early Saxon pottery and animal bone. It is unclear if this pit comprised the remains of a sunken-feature building, as it was only partially exposed within the trench and survived to a shallow depth.

Medieval and post-medieval

4.3.13 The remnants of medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation were encountered on site, as suggested by the geophysical survey. Plough furrows were recorded in Trenches 16, 34 and 36 on NE–SW alignments, broadly following the topography of the site.

4.3.14 Evidence of continued agricultural activity in the post-medieval period was revealed in Trench 36. Ditch 3605, which contained post-medieval (1580–1800) pottery and residual Roman CBM, represents part of a former field boundary, corresponding with late 19th-century OS maps (Fig. 18). Ditch 3605 truncated stratigraphically earlier but otherwise undated ditch 3608, though it probably constituted an earlier phase of the post-medieval field boundary. An adjacent undated posthole may have constituted the remains of an associated fenceline.

4.3.15 Land drains observed within a number of trenches provide further evidence of the agricultural use of the landscape during the late post-medieval/modern period.

Undated

4.3.16 A small number of archaeological features revealed by the evaluation remain undated. The ditches encountered in Trenches 40, 52 and 58 may have formed part of field/enclosure systems associated with the late Iron Age/early Roman trackway.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation has identified the presence of a limited archaeological remains across the site, the majority of which provide evidence of a late Iron Age/early Roman ditched trackway in Areas 1 and 2 that presumably formed part of a wider network of local trackways/roads associated with Akeman Street and the nearby town and extramural settlement of Alchester. A small number of ditches in Area 6 may provide evidence of a possible multi-phase field/enclosure system adjacent to Akeman Street. The evaluation results expand upon those of previous investigations within the area, providing further, albeit limited, evidence of the agricultural nature of the hinterland surrounding Alchester.

4.4.2 A small assemblage of residual early prehistoric and Iron Age material provides little evidence of activity in the landscape during these periods, while a pit containing early Saxon pottery demonstrates low-level activity on site following the end of the Roman period.

4.4.3 The little evidence of medieval–post-medieval and modern agricultural activities on site is of little local significance. The plough furrows, field boundary ditch and drains, together with the small assemblage of post-medieval finds, demonstrate the continued agricultural use of the landscape during this time, supporting the historic mapping of the area.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

AREA 6

Trench 16

General description	Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench revealed one ditch and two furrows. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer		1.6	0.3	Topsoil		
1601	Layer		1.6		Natural. Mid Brownish orange sandy clay with patches of light bluish grey clay with frequent limestone inclusions less than 0.01m		
1602	Cut		1.64	0.05	Plough Furrow. Plough furrow		
1603	Cut		1.55	0.5	Ditch. S.1600		
1604	Fill	1603	1.55	0.5	Secondary Fill, SF 2	Pottery, CBM, bone, Fe, shell	AD 270–300
1605	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Mid to light greyish brown silty clay. Rare inclusions. Depth varies between NE and SW trench bulk with greater depth at SW.		

Trench 17

General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench revealed one ditch and possible pit. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.42

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Friable, mid/dark greyish brown, clayey silt.		
1701	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light brownish grey, silty clay.	Pottery	AD 120–150
1702	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid/light orange-grey sandy clay.		
1703	Cut		1.8	0.85	Ditch. Droveway ditch		
1704	Fill	1703	1.4	0.6	Secondary Fill		

1705	Fill	1703	1.8	0.3	Primary Fill	Pottery, bone, Fe, <5>	AD 160–200

Trench 18

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed a ditch and a tree throw. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil/alluvium overlying natural geology of Sandy clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.48

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Friable, mid/dark brownish grey, clayey silt.		
1801	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light brownish grey, silty clay.		
1802	Layer				Natural. Firm, light orange grey, Sandy clay with gravel.		
1803	Cut		1.65	0.58	Ditch. Droveway ditch		
1804	Fill	1803	1.28	0.18	Secondary Fill. Basal fill of ditch	Pottery	50 BC–AD 50
1805	Fill	1803	1.5	18	Secondary Fill. Lower fill of droveway ditch		
1806	Fill	1803	0.74	0.07	Secondary Fill. Middle fill of droveway ditch		
1807	Fill	1803	1.5	0.19	Secondary Fill. Upper fill of droveway ditch	Pottery	700–50 BC
1808	Fill	1803	1.06	0.15	Secondary Fill. Uppermost fill of droveway ditch		

Trench 19

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed two ditches. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of Sandy clay.	Length (m)	33
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Friable, mid/dark greyish brown, clayey silt.		
1901	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light brownish grey, silty clay.		
1902	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid/light orange-grey sandy clay.		
1903	Cut		3.7	0.5	Ditch. Large curvilinear		

1904	Fill	1903	2.5	0.2	Secondary Fill		
1905	Fill	1903	3.7	0.3	Primary Fill	Pottery, bone, burnt stone, <4>	20 BC–AD 70
1906	Cut		1		Ditch. Unexcavated droveway ditch		
1907	Cut		0.5		Pit. Unexcavated feature, possible pit at end of trench		

Trench 20

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer		1.6	0.2	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, clayey silt with occasional small stones.		
2001	Layer			0.15	Natural. Natural- light-mid grey clayey-silt (40/60%) with orangey silty patches		

Trench 21

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench revealed a probably furrow. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer		1.6	0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, clayey silt with sand and occasional small stones.		
2101	Layer			0.1	Natural. Natural- light-mid grey clayey silt with patches of orangey silt		

Trench 22

General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Possible plough disturbance. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

2200	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey clayey silt with sand, occasional small stones as inclusions.		
2201	Layer			0.15	Natural. Natural- light-mid grey - clayey silt (40/60%)		

Trench 23

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.3

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer		1.6		Topsoil. Friable, mid/dark greyish brown, clayey silt.		

Trench 24

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer		1.6		Topsoil. Friable, mid/dark greyish brown, clayey silt.		

Trench 25

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of sandy clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.3

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer		1.6		Topsoil. Friable, mid/dark greyish brown, clayey silt.		

Trench 26

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of sandy clay with gravel patches.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer		1.6		Topsoil. Friable, mid/dark greyish brown, clayey silt.		

AREA 1

Trench 27

General description	Orientation	N-E
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer		1.6	0.4	Topsoil. Topsoil- mid brown with grey, clayey, sandy silt with stones; same as in Tr.31,32; overlays natural (2701)		
2701	Layer			0.15	Natural. Mid yellowish sandy gravel with patches of brown silt and grey clay; same as in TR.31,32		

Trench 28

General description	Orientation	W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology. Single field drain across centre. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, clayey silt with sand and stones; overlays (2801)- natural; same as in Tr.31,32,27		
2801	Layer			0.15	Natural. Mid yellow silty sand with stony gravel with large patches of grey clay;/ (less than in TR.27, 31, 32)		
2802	Cut		0.45	0.35	Modern. Linear poss. French drain E-W, steep straight sides, base not excavated		
2803	Fill	2802	0.45	0.35	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish brown, firm,		

					silty sand. Contained abundant limestone Cornbrash well sorted at base of deposit.		
Trench 29							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, sandy silt with clay and stones; Same as in Tr.28, 27, 31, 32;		
2901	Layer			0.15	Natural. Light- mid brown sandy silt with large patches of grey clay; differs to Tr.28, 27, 31, 32 - without yellow sandy gravel		
Trench 30							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay and gravel.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay.		
3001	Layer			0.19	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light brownish grey clay with gravel.		
3002	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid orange grey, sandy gravel with clay bands.		
Trench 31							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

3100	Layer		1.6	0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey clayey silt with sand and stones; no finds; overlays natural (3101)		
3101	Layer			0.15	Natural. Mid yellowish-brown with grey- silty-gravelly sand with patches of clay; same as in Tr.32 and 27, etc.		

Trench 32

General description	Orientation	W-E
Trench revealed possible tree throw. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	60

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, clayey silt with sand; no finds; small stones		
3201	Layer			0.3	Alluvial Layer. Instead of subsoil- alluvial clayey silt, overlaying natural (3202); no finds		
3202	Layer			0.15	Natural. Mid yellowish gravelly sand with patches of alluvial clay; same as in TR.31 and others		

Trench 33

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay.		
3301	Layer			0.19	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light brownish grey clay with gravel.		
3302	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid orange grey, sandy gravel with clay bands.		

Trench 34							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed two probable furrows. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Friable, mid greyish brown, clayey silt.		
3401	Layer			0.04	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey silt with gravel.		
3402	Layer				Natural. Loose, light orange grey, sandy clay with clay bands.		
3403	Cut		0.53	0.08	Plough Furrow. Two furrows, one tested furrow w: 0.53m l:1.75 d:0.08m, N-S orientation		
3404	Fill	3403	0.53	0.08	Secondary Fill. Mid orangey brown, friable, silty sand with gravel		

Trench 35							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Contained two post-med field boundary ditches, both containing wood. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel. Natural variation throughout trench.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Friable, mid greyish brown, clayey silt.		
3501	Layer			0.04	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey silt with gravel.		
3502	Layer				Natural. Loose, light orange grey, sandy clay with clay bands.		
3503	Cut		0.3	0.19	Modern. Cut of possible modern boundary		
3504	Fill	3503	0.3	0.19	Secondary Fill. fill of modern field boundary. contained wood.		

3505	Cut				Modern. Unexcavated Cut of possible modern boundary		
3506	Fill	3505			Secondary Fill. unexcavated fill of modern feature.		
Trench 36							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench revealed two ditches and three furrow. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer			0.33	Topsoil. Friable, mid greyish brown, clayey silt.		
3601	Layer			0.06	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey silt with gravel.		
3602	Layer				Natural. Loose, light orange grey, sandy gravel.		
3603	Cut		0.22	0.22	Posthole. S.3600		
3604	Fill	3603	0.22	0.22	Secondary Fill		
3605	Cut		1.68	0.55	Ditch. S.3600 ditch two fills		
3606	Fill	3605	1.4	0.3	Secondary Fill	Pottery, CBM, Fe	1580–1800, Roman
3607	Fill	3605	1.68	0.24	Secondary Fill		
3608	Cut		0.7	0.45	Ditch. S.3600		
3609	Fill	3608	0.7	0.45	Secondary Fill. Mid yellow-brown silty clay, freq. stones		
3610	Cut		1.3	0.14	Plough Furrow. S.3600		
3611	Fill	3610	1.3	0.14	Primary Fill. Mid yellow-brown clay silt, freq. stones	Pottery, glass	1670–1800
Trench 37							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench revealed a spread of material. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay and gravel.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

3700	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Soft, mid/dark brownish grey, silty clay.		
3701	Layer			0.24	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, silty clay.		
3702	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid orange-grey clayey gravel.		

Trench 38

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay and gravel.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.54

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Firm, mid/dark brownish grey, silty clay.		
3801	Layer			0.28	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, silty clay.		
3802	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid orange grey, clayey gravel.		

Trench 39

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Heavy agricultural disturbance. Consisted of Topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.44

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer			0.24	Topsoil. Firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay.		
3901	Layer			0.34	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, silty clay.		
3902	Layer				Natural. Mixed sandy clay and Cornbrash.		

Trench 40

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed 3 linear features and 1 possible pit. Consisted of topsoil (4000) overlaying a natural geology of (4001). Trench extended 20m to SE to locate droveway ditch.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Topsoil- mid brown with grey, sandy silt with clay		

4001	Layer			0.1	Natural. Mid yellow with brown, sandy silt with silty clay patches; natural		
4002	Cut		1	0.5	Pit. Cut of pit near droveway. Function unclear		
4003	Fill	4002	1	0.5	Secondary Fill. Fill of pit [4002]. Likely formed by gradual silting	Pottery	AD 43–410
4004	Cut		1.3	0.42	Ditch. Cut of ditch thought to be associated with Roman droveway		
4005	Fill	4004	0.5	0.2	Tertiary Fill. Redeposited natural sitting I'm the top of ditch cut [4004]		
4006	Fill	4004	1.3	0.42	Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch [4004] associated with Roman droveway. Fill likely accumulated through gradually deposition	Pottery, bone	AD 1–100
4007	Fill	4010	0.8	0.1	Secondary Fill. Lower fill of ditch [4010]. Likely formed through redeposition of natural		
4008	Cut		1.4	0.38	Ditch. Cut of ditch possibly related to Roman droveway		
4009	Fill	4008	1.4	0.38	Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch [4008] likely formed by gradual accumulation		
4010	Cut		1	0.22	Ditch. Cut of ditch possibly associated with Roman droveway		
4011	Fill	4010	0.9	0.12	Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch [4010] possibly associated with roman droveway. I'll likely accumulated through gradual silting		
4012	Fill	4004	1.6		Secondary Fill. Fill of droveway ditch. Revealed during extension of trench 40 to SW. Roman pottery	Pottery	50 BC–AD 100

					sherds recovered. Unexcavated		

Trench 41

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, sandy silt- topsoil		
4101	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Light- mid greyish clayey silt- subsoil		
4102	Layer			0.1	Natural. Mid brown with orangey- clayey silt with sand- natural		

Trench 42

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4200	Layer			0.27	Topsoil. Firm, mid/dark brownish grey, silty clay.		
4201	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light yellowish grey, silty clay.		
4202	Layer				Natural. Firm, mid/light orange/grey, clay.		

Trench 43

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4300	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Firm, mid/dark brownish grey, silty clay.		
4301	Layer			0.19	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light brownish grey, silty clay.		
4302	Layer				Natural. Firm, mid/light orange grey, clay.		

Trench 44							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed one droveway ditch. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of Cornbrash and clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4400	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown silty clay.		
4401	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Soft, mid orange-brown, silty clay.		
4402	Layer				Natural. Compact, changeable Cornbrash and clay.		
4403	Cut		1.7	0.7	Ditch. Cut of droveway ditch		
4404	Fill	4403	1.7	0.5	Secondary Fill	Pottery, flint, bone	50 BC–AD 100
4405	Fill	4403	1.7	0.3	Secondary Fill	Pottery, CBM, bone, <3>	AD 50–100
Trench 45							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed one pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4500	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Mod soft, mid/dark greyish brown, silty clay.		
4501	Layer			0.25	Subsoil. Loose, mid greyish brown, clayey silt with abundant limestone inclusions.		
4502	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid orange-brown, Cornbrash.		
4503	Cut		2.8	0.28	Pit. S.4500		
4504	Fill	4503	2.8	0.28	Secondary Fill. S.4500	Pottery, bone	AD 470–700
Trench 46							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed one droveway ditch. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6

						Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4600	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Mod soft, mid/dark greyish brown silty clay.		
4601	Layer			0.02	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, silty clay.		
4602	Layer				Natural. Compact, mid orange-brown, Cornbrash.		
4603	Cut		1.2	0.5	Ditch. Cut of droveway ditch on SW side of trench		
4604	Fill	4603	1.2	0.5	Secondary Fill. Fill of droveway ditch	Pottery, bone	AD 50–100
Trench 47							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of Cornbrash and clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4700	Layer			0.33	Remnant Topsoil. Firm, mid brownish grey, silty clay.		
4701	Layer			0.22	Subsoil. Soft, mid/light yellowish brown, silty clay.		
4702	Layer				Natural. Changes between Cornbrash and firm, mid orange grey, clay.		
Trench 48							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4800	Layer		1.8	0.32	Topsoil. Firm, mid/dark brownish grey, silty clay.		
4801	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact, mid orange-brown, silty Cornbrash.		

AREA 2

Trench 49

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying the natural geology of clay and Cornbrash.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4900	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Topsoil - mid brown with grey, sandy silt with stones;		
4901	Layer			0.1	Natural. Mid yellow with brown, sandy silt with sandstone (50/50%)- natural		

Trench 50

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed 5 linear ditches, a curvilinear ditch and a large pit and a probable pit. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.25

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5000	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey sandy silt with stones; topsoil		
5001	Layer			0.15	Natural. Yellow sandy silt with sandstone (50/50%)- natural		
5002	Cut		0.35	0.21	Ring Ditch. S.5000		
5003	Fill	5002	0.35	0.21	Secondary Fill	Pottery	50 BC–AD 100
5004	Cut		1.04	0.2	Ditch. S.5000		
5005	Fill	5004	1.04	0.2	Secondary Fill	Pottery, unworked stone	50 BC–AD 100
5006	Cut		0.86	0.22	Ditch. S.5001		
5007	Fill	5006	0.86	0.22	Secondary Fill		
5008	Cut		0.8	0.32	Ditch. S.5002		
5009	Fill	5008	0.8	0.32	Secondary Fill	Bone	
5010	Cut		1.57	0.79	Ditch. Cut of droveway ditch		
5011	Fill	5010	0.2	0.1	Secondary Fill. Lowermost fill of droveway ditch. Same as (2012)		

5012	Fill	5010	0.35	0.28	Secondary Fill. Lowermost fill of droveway ditch. Same as (5011)		
5013	Fill	5010	0.78	0.3	Secondary Fill. Lower fill of droveway ditch		
5014	Cut		2.47	0.7	Pit. Cut of large pit		
5015	Fill	5014	1.41	0.25	Secondary Fill. Lowermost fill of pit	Pottery	AD 43–100
5016	Fill	5014	1.15	0.24	Secondary Fill. Middle fill of Pit	Pottery, bone	AD 43–100
5017	Cut		3.39	0.94	Ditch. Cut of large ditch. Excavated depth 0.84m. Full extent is 0.94m deep.		
5018	Fill	5017	2.1	0.4	Secondary Fill. Lowermost fill of ditch	Pottery, bone	AD 50–100
5019	Fill	5017	0.36	0.21	Secondary Fill. Slumping deposit in ditch		
5020	Fill	5017	3	0.35	Secondary Fill. Middle fill of ditch	Pottery, bone	AD 50–100
5021	Fill	5017	3.29	0.26	Secondary Fill. Uppermost fill of Ditch	Pottery, bone	50 BC–AD 100
5022	Fill	5014	0.98	0.16	Secondary Fill. Uppermost fill of pit		
5023	Fill	5010	1	0.46	Secondary Fill. Mid fill of droveway ditch	Pottery, bone	50 BC–AD 100
5024	Fill	5010	0.29	0.2	Secondary Fill. Uppermost fill of droveway ditch		

Trench 51

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5100	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, sandy silt with stones; topsoil		
5101	Layer			0.1	Natural. Natural- mid yellow - brown sandy silt with sandstone (50/50%)		

Trench 52

General description	Orientation	NW-SE

Trench revealing a ditch - only seen in section. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash and sandy clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5200	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey sandy silt with stones- topsoil		
5201	Layer		1.6	0.15	Natural. Light- mid yellowish - orangey sandy clay in half of trench with Cornbrash natural in the other half.		
5202	Cut		0.79	0.16	Ditch. Only visible in section.		
5203	Fill	5202	0.79	0.16	Secondary Fill. Single fill of ditch. No dating. Only visible in section		

Trench 53							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealing two ditch (one possibly a droveway ditch) and a pit. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5300	Layer				Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt topsoil/ploughsoil with frequent limestone inclusions.		
5301	Layer				Natural. Natural geology of Cornbrash with a mid orangish brown sandy clay matrix		
5302	Cut		0.84	0.2	Ditch. S.5300		
5303	Fill	5302	0.84	0.2	Secondary Fill	Pottery, bone	AD 43–100
5304	Cut		1.6	0.46	Ditch. S.5300 - droveway ditch		
5305	Fill	5304	1.6	0.46	Secondary Fill	Pottery, bone, <1>	50 BC–AD 100
5306	Cut		0.8	0.3	Pit. S.5301. Contained SF1 - Cu Alloy broach		
5307	Fill	5306	0.8	0.3	Secondary Fill. Sf 1 broach found in fill	Pottery, bone, Cu, <2>	AD 120–150

Trench 54							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealing a possible droveway ditch. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5400	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, sandy silt with sandstone; topsoil		
5401	Layer			0.1	Natural. Light- mid yellow with brown, sandy silt with sandstone (50/50%); natural		
5402	Cut		0.6	0.14	Ditch. S.5400		
5403	Fill	5402	0.6	0.14	Secondary Fill		
5404	Cut		0.58	0.2	Ditch. S.5400		
5405	Fill	5404	0.58	0.2	Secondary Fill	Pottery	AD 43–100
Trench 55							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5500	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Topsoil- mid brown with grey, sandy silt with sandstone;		
5501	Layer			0.1	Natural. Mid yellowish brown, sandstone (70%) with sandy silt (30%)		
Trench 56							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5600	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Topsoil- mid brown with grey, sandy silt with sandstone;		
5601	Layer			0.1	Natural. Natural- light-mid yellow with brown, sandy silt (60%), with		

					patches of sandstone (40%)		
Trench 57							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealing 2 ditches. Presents topsoil overlying silty Cornbrash natural geology						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5700	Layer		1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay.		
5701	Layer		1.8		Natural. Mixed, light orange/grey silty Cornbrash.		
5702	Cut		2.77	0.38	Ditch. Possible Northern droveway ditch		
5703	Fill	5702	1.22	0.17	Secondary Fill. Upper fill of possible droveway ditch	Pottery, bone	AD 43–410
5704	Cut		1.7	0.55	Ditch		
5705	Fill	5704	1.17	0.26	Secondary Fill. Upper fill of droveway ditch	Pottery	AD 100–410
5706	Fill	5704	0.64	0.26	Secondary Fill. Lower fill of droveway ditch		
5707	Fill	5702	2.14	0.35	Secondary Fill. Lower fill of possible droveway ditch		
Trench 58							
General description						Orientation	W-E
Trench revealing a possible ditch terminus or pit. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5800	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Topsoil- mid brown with grey, sandy silt with stones;		
5801	Layer			0.1	Natural. Natural- mid yellowish brown, silt with sandstone (50/50%); same as in Tr.59,60,61		
5802	Cut		1.55	0.2	Ditch. Ditch terminus		
5803	Fill	5802	1.55	0.2	Secondary Fill. Single fill of ditch terminus. No dating		

Trench 59

General description	Orientation	W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash. Trench moved to W due to potential services picked up by CAT.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5900	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown with grey, sandy silt with clay and stones; overlays natural (2901)		
5901	Layer			0.1	Natural. Natural - mid yellowish brown, clayey silt with sand stones (50-50%), no finds		

Trench 60

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6000	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Topsoil - mid brown with grey, sandy silt with clay and stones; same as in Tr.59		
6001	Layer			0.1	Natural. Natural - mid yellowish brown, clayey silt with sand stones (50/50%); same as Tr.59		

Trench 61

General description	Orientation	W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6100	Layer		1.6	0.35	Topsoil. Topsoil - mid brown with grey, sandy silt with clay and stones; same as in Tr.60, 59		
6101	Layer			0.1	Natural. Natural - mid yellowish- brown, clayey silt with sand		

					stones (50/50%); same as in Tr.59, 60		
AREA 7							
Trench 62							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash and sandy clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 63							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 64							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 65							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying a natural geology of Cornbrash.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Some 549 sherds (5949g) of pottery were recovered from the evaluation. The pottery dates predominantly to the late Iron Age or Roman period, but earlier Iron Age and early Anglo-Saxon pottery was also identified, albeit tentatively. A small amount of post-medieval material was recorded. Context groups were sorted into fabrics and each fabric group quantified by sherd count and weight in grams. Any rims present were quantified by minimum number of vessels (MV) based on rims and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the proportion of rim that survives (thus, 0.3 EVE equals 30%).

B.1.2 Fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth nd). Reference was also made to Young's (1977) typology of Oxford pottery industry, standard samian ware classifications (cf Webster 1996) and the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber and Dore 1998). The post-Roman pottery was identified by John Cotter.

B.1.3 Summaries of forms and fabrics recorded are presented in Tables B.1.1 and B.1.2.

Description

Fabric	Description (NRFRC codes)	No. sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE
A11	South Spanish amphorae (BAT AM 1/2)	1	7		
B11	Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)	16	253	1	0.14
C10	Shelly ware, unspecified	1	7	1	0.1
C11	Shelly wares, including 'late' shelly ware, eg HAR SH	17	56		
E30	Iron Age/early Roman sandy fabrics	2	23		
E40	Iron Age/early Roman shelly fabrics	98	1004	13	1.68
E50	Iron Age limestone-tempered fabric	1	20		
E60	Iron Age flint-tempered fabric	2	8		
E80	Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered ware (SOB GT)	117	1419	17	1.62
F11	Terra nigra (GAB TN 1)	1	12		
O10	Fine oxidised wares	14	56	1	0.05
O11	Oxford fine oxidised ware	11	122		
O20	Sandy oxidised wares	10	70		
O80	Coarse tempered oxidised wares	5	409		
O81	Pink grogged ware (PNK GT)	6	63	2	0.15
R10	Fine reduced wares	11	34		
R11	Oxford fine reduced ware (OXF FR)	50	289	3	1.07
R20	Sandy reduced wares	46	556	2	0.29

Fabric	Description (NRFRC codes)	No. sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE
R30	Medium sandy reduced wares	62	396	8	1
R46	Nene Valley grey ware	1	15		
R50	Dark surfaced reduced wares	50	635	5	0.75
R90	Coarse tempered reduced wares	1	111		
S30	Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian ware (LEZ SA 2)	4	59	1	0.1
W20	Sandy white wares	8	47		
W22	Oxford sandy white ware (OXF WH)	4	24		
W30	Fine white ware, possibly imported	1	1		
Z10	Anglo-Saxon fabrics	7	212	1	0.2
Z30	Post-medieval wares	2	41	1	0.05
	TOTALS	549	5949	56	7.2

Table B.1.1: Quantification of pottery fabrics

Form	B11	C10	E40	E80	O10	O81	R11	R20	R30	R50	S30	Z10	Z30	EVE
C			0.21	0.62	0.05	0.15	0.12		0.61	0.05				1.81
CC				0.14					0.17					0.31
CD			0.43	0.71				0.17	0.12					1.43
CE				0.15				0.12						0.27
CH			0.47							0.1				0.57
CI			0.39									0.2		0.59
CJ			0.13											0.13
CO			0.05											0.05
ED							0.6							0.6
FB											0.1			0.1
H													0.05	0.05
HB440	0.14													0.14
HC430										0.24				0.24
HD							0.35		0.1	0.3				0.75
JB210										0.06				0.06
Z		0.1												0.1
EVE	0.14	0.1	1.68	1.62	0.05	0.15	1.07	0.29	1	0.75	0.1	0.2	0.05	7.2

Key: C jar; CC narrow-necked jar; CD medium-mouthed jar; CE high-shouldered necked jar; CH bead-rimmed jar; CI everted-rim jar; CJ ledge-rimmed jar; CO ovoid jar: ED poppyhead beaker; FB Drag. 27 cup; H bowl; HB440 dropped flange straight-sided bowl; HC430 curving-sided bowl with grooved and flanged rim; HD necked bowl; JB210 bead-rimmed curving-sided dish; Z indeterminate

Table B.1.2: Quantification of pottery forms

B.1.4 The earliest pottery from the site is a handle from a handmade vessel in a limestone-tempered fabric (E50) from context 1807, a fill of ditch 1803 in Trench 18. The handle is provisionally dated to the early/middle Iron Age. An ovoid jar (CO) in a shelly fabric (E40) from context 1804, another fill of the same ditch, is consistent with a middle Iron Age date, although this appears to be residual, having been found with grog-tempered ware (E80) of late Iron Age/early Roman date.

B.1.5 Some 10% of the assemblage by sherd count belongs to groups ceramically dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period (*c* 50 BC–AD 50/70). This material, consisting predominantly of grog-tempered pottery (E80) and to a lesser extent pottery in shelly (E40) and sandy (E30) fabrics, was recovered from Trenches 18, 19, 40, 44, 50 and 53. It is uncertain how much if any of the pottery was deposited exclusively in the late Iron Age—it is possible that it was all deposited after AD 43—but the presence in context 1905, a fill of ditch 1903 in Trench 19, of a fragment of a terra nigra in association with fabrics E30, E40 and E80, points strongly to deposition before or during the mid 1st century AD.

B.1.6 Pottery from groups assigned to the early Roman period (*c* AD 43/50–100) accounts for 41% of the assemblage by sherd count. The pottery was recovered from Trenches 44, 46, 50, 53 and 54. The groups are characterised by pottery of Iron Age tradition (mainly fabrics E80 and E40) found in association with wares of post-Conquest date, typically wheel-made, sand-tempered reduced (eg R20, R30 and R50), oxidised (eg O10 and O20) and white wares (eg W10 and W20). Forms recorded in these context groups include bead-rimmed jars (CH) mainly in fabric E40, medium-mouthed jars (CD) in fabrics E40, E80 and R30, a necked, high-shouldered jar (CE) in fabric E80 and necked bowls (HD) in fabrics R30 and R50. Other notable forms, represented by body or base sherds only, include a girth beaker in a fine, oxidised variant of fabric E80, a butt-beaker in fine white ware W30 (possibly imported from north Gaul and dating to up to *c* AD 70), another butt-beaker in fine oxidised ware (O10) and a strainer in reduced fabric R20. Pottery from the Oxford and *Verulamium* industries, dating after *c* AD 50, were tentatively identified as fabrics O11 and W30 respectively.

B.1.7 Groups dated to the middle Roman period (*c* AD 100/120–250) comprise a 31% share of the assemblage by sherd count. The groups were collected from Trenches 17 and 53. None need date after the 2nd century AD. Material diagnostic of this period includes Central Gaulish samian ware (S30), a poppyhead beaker (ED) in Oxford fine reduced ware (R11), a bowl with a flanged rim, possibly copying samian form Ritterling 12, in fabric R50, pink grogged ware (O81, dating after *c* AD 160) and black-burnished ware (B11). Just one vessel in samian ware was identified by rim—a Drag. 27 cup—but a Drag. 33 cup and a Drag. 18/31 dish are present as body sherds. The Drag. 18/31 dish and the Drag. 27 cup point to samian supply during the second quarter of the 2nd century AD.

B.1.8 Just one group dates to the late Roman period (*c* AD 250/70–410), although it accounts for 8% of the assemblage by sherd count. This was from context 1604, a fill of ditch 1603 in Trench 16. The group was dated after *c* AD 270 on the basis of a dropped flange bowl in fabric B11. Other pottery in the group, such as fabric O81 and Nene Valley grey ware R46, is consistent with this date, although the latter may confine the date of deposition to the late 3rd century AD (cf Perrin 1999, 78). Residual early and middle Roman pottery is present in the group, including samian ware (S30) and South Spanish amphora fabric (A11).

B.1.9 More Roman pottery was recovered from context 4504, a fill of pit 4503 in Trench 45, but this was residual, the group having been dated to the early Saxon period (*c* AD 470–700) by the presence of a round-bodied jar with everted rim (CI) in a coarse crystalline calcite and quartz-tempered fabric (Z10). The date was supported by other

sherds in a similar fabric and a body sherd in a sandy fabric with tooled decoration in a sandy fabric.

B.1.10 No later medieval pottery was found, but two sherds of post-medieval pottery (Z30)—a rim of a bowl in red earthenware and a body sherd from a bottle or jug in salt-glazed stoneware—were recovered from Trench 36.

Discussion

B.1.11 Pottery of Iron Age, Roman, early Saxon and post-medieval date was recovered from the site, with the chronological emphasis being on the late Iron Age/early Roman and middle Roman periods.

B.1.12 The earlier Iron Age pottery is limited in quantity and some or all of it is residual, but it nevertheless indicates early to middle Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the site. Indeed, an area of middle Iron Age settlement is attested at Chesterton Lane on the route of the A41 immediately east of the southern end of the current site (Booth *et al.* 2001). The pottery, recovered from Trench 18 at the southern end of the site, may be related to that activity.

B.1.13 Given its location, the late Iron Age/early Roman pottery collected from Trenches 18 and 19 may also belong to the Iron Age activity in this area and be more firmly assigned a pre-Roman date. (On that basis, the terra nigra platter (F11) from Trench 19 may well have been imported from northern Gaul during the late 1st century BC or early 1st century AD.) The remaining pottery dated to the Iron Age/early Roman period was recovered from the central and northern parts of the site, where early Roman groups were exclusively retrieved and may be more closely associated with early Roman, rather than late Iron Age, activity. The activity here continued into the middle Roman period, but the focus of activity then appeared to shift back to the southern end of the site, where middle and late Roman groups were found.

B.1.14 The late Iron Age and Roman assemblage is diverse, including jars, bowls, beakers, dishes and cups in a variety of fine and coarse fabrics. Northern and central Gaul and southern Spain were among the sources of pottery, and more local suppliers include the Oxford industry, the production site in the Stowe area (responsible for pink-grogged ware) and Dorset. Some of the grog-tempered pottery, in fine oxidised fabrics, may have arrived from the Milton Keynes area, where production is attested (Marney 1989). The diversity of the assemblage is consistent with assemblages associated with the Roman town at Alchester (eg from Langford Lane; Booth 2018), with the settlement represented by the archaeology at Burnehyll benefitting from its proximity to the town and the Roman road network.

B.1.15 The Anglo-Saxon pottery from Trench 45, comprising relatively large body, base and rim sherds representing four or five vessels, points to activity of 5th-/6th-century date within or close to the site. Early or middle Anglo-Saxon occupation is by no means unknown in Bicester, for instance at Whitelands Farm *c* 1km north-east of the current site, where a small number of pits, ditches and postholes dating to this period were recorded (Martin 2011). The pottery from that site includes vessels with rounded bodies and short everted rims in coarse, calcareous fabrics (Brown 2011) that, based on descriptions provided, are broadly consistent with the pottery identified at

Burnehyll. The tooled body sherd may belong to a decorated form similar to early Saxon vessels found in the centre of Bicester at Chapel Street (eg Mepham 2002, fig. 5, nos 2 and 3).

B.1.16 The condition of the assemblage is mixed. The overall mean sherd weight (MSW; weight divided by number of sherds) is 10.8g, but individual context groups range from 2.1g to 35g, indicating an assemblage of large, well-preserved sherds among smaller fragments. The best-preserved pottery, based on MSW and mean EVE percentages, was recovered from Trenches 44, 45, 46 and 53, having relatively large proportions of vessel rims surviving and above-average MSW values. The pottery here is likely to have been found close to areas of use and initial discard. The pottery from the southern part of the site was generally a little scrappier, possibly having undergone a greater degree of redeposition, but also includes larger pieces. The Anglo-Saxon pottery is well-preserved, having a well above-average MSW value of 30.2g, and may have been found close to where it had been used.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.1.17 The pottery reported on here has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the *Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

B.2.1 This evaluation yielded one flint from context 4404 (Table B.2.1). The flint blade recovered is fresh, suggesting that it had not moved far from its original place of use/deposition. As a single object, little can be said about its date other than that it is more likely to be early prehistoric than later prehistoric in date. It most likely represents a causal loss by a mobile group passing through the area (cf Booth 1997; Simminds 2014).

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
4404	Blade	Inner	Hard-hammer struck but probably EPH in date	?EPH

Table B.2.1: Flint assemblage

B.2.2 The artefact was catalogued according to OA's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Saville 1980; Bradley 1999; Anderson-Whymark 2013), general condition noted and dating attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (eg Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48–9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Ohnuma and Bergman 1982) and the presence of platform edge abrasion, as appropriate.

B.3 Ceramic building material

By Kirsty Smith

Introduction

B.3.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to nine fragments (860g) was recovered during the evaluation. The CBM material is Roman in date. The majority of the assemblage is moderately well preserved with a mean fragment weight of 95.5g. Most of the fragments have only one complete dimension (thickness) and the remainder are highly abraded with no complete dimensions. The assemblage also includes two fragments (27g) of CBM of indeterminate form.

B.3.2 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.3.3 The forms and dating of the assemblage have been summarised in Table B.3.1 below.

Fabrics

B.3.4 The Roman fabrics are dominated by an orange fine sandy silty clay. Three fabric types were noted from the different types of inclusions (OA Roman CBM fabrics B, E and Q). Roman fabrics E and Q were recorded during excavations of the extramural settlement associated with Roman Alchester at Langford Lane East located *c* 800m south-east of the site (Poole 2018, 152).

- Fabric B: orange fine sandy clay, containing frequent coarse sandy and red rounded iron rich argillaceous pellets and black grits 0.2mm. The moulding sand used is medium to coarse quartz
- Fabric E: orange or orange red with laminated and folded cream streaks within fine clay. Contains medium to coarse quartz sand and sparse red or cream argillaceous pellets 0.5-4mm and infrequent red ferruginous grits 1-2mm
- Fabric Q: red with high densities of poorly sorted sub angular quartz sand and frequent red ferruginous grits

Roman

B.3.5 A total of nine fragments were identified as Roman in date and this includes one highly abraded fragment of probable Roman date from context 1604. The forms include flat tile and brick.

B.3.6 The majority of the Roman CBM is plain flat tile (six fragments, 663g) and comprise fragments that are 14–19mm thick. These fragments probably originated as the central flat sections of tegula roof tiles.

B.3.7 One fragment of Roman brick (170g) with a light grey core was recorded in context 4405. This brick is 40mm thick with no surviving edges.

B.3.8 There are two highly abraded fragments (27g) of indeterminate form. The fragments were recovered from contexts 1604 and 4405 and appear to be Roman in date, as they were very similar in character to the Roman flat tile and brick.

B.3.9 The Roman tile and brick came from ditches aligned NE–SW and NW–SE. The site is located just north of the Roman Akeman Street and just north-west of an extramural settlement associated with the town of Alchester (Booth *et al.* 2002). The tile and brick may have originated from the town of Alchester or from buildings constructed along the roadside.

B.3.10 The fragments should be retained, as they have further research potential in relation to the Roman town of Alchester and its association with extramural settlements located on the outskirts of the town.

Form/Date	RB	RB?	Total
Flat tile	6		6
Indeterminate	1	1	2
RB Brick	1		1
Grand Total	*8*	*1*	*9*

Table B.3.1: Summary of CBM and forms and dating

B.4 Metalwork

By Anni Byard

Introduction and methodology

B.4.1 Four metal objects weighing 40.3g were recovered from four contexts during the evaluation. The objects were identified and recorded in an Excel database and are presented below in tabulated form (Table B.4.1).

Results

B.4.2 One copper-alloy and three iron objects were recovered from the site. Three are of Roman date, including a copper-alloy Colchester derivative Harlow-type brooch with feathering decoration down the bow and a pierced catchplate. The other two objects are of iron and comprise the head of a nail and a bar with loop, possibly a latch-lifter key handle or the handle of a knife (see Manning 1985).

B.4.3 A single horseshoe nail of post-medieval date was recovered from context 3606.

Context	SF no.	Sample no.	Material	Count	Weight (g)	Object	Date
1604	2		Fe	1	30.4	Key / knife?	Roman
1705		5	Fe	1	2.2	Nail	Roman
3606			Fe	1	3	Nail	Post-medieval
5307	1		Cu alloy	1	4.7	Brooch	AD 40–100

Table B.4.1: Metalwork assemblage

Recommendations and retention

B.4.4 The looped bar should be x-rayed to aid identification. This, and the brooch, should be retained and considered alongside any other material resulting from future works. The two nails can be discarded.

B.5 Glass

By Anni Byard

B.5.1 A single piece of post-medieval glass weighing 1.7g was recovered during the evaluation.

B.5.2 The piece of glass was recovered from context 3611 and is light green in colour and has surface weathering. It is of even thickness and is curved, suggesting it is a fragment of (wine?) bottle or another similar vessel.

Context	Material	Count	Weight (g)	Object	Date
3611	Glass	1	1.7	Vessel	Post-medieval

Table B.5.1: Glass assemblage

B.5.3 The fragment of glass has no further potential for study. It has been recorded herein and can therefore be discarded.

B.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.6.1 A total of two pieces of stone were retained. These were examined by eye and are detailed in full here. One is a small piece of burnt (greyed) limestone (21g, 1905) and the other is unworked (5005).

B.6.2 Both pieces of stone can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Richard Palmer

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 Five bulk samples were collected during a second phase of archaeological evaluation at the site, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of ecofacts and the recovery of artefacts. All the samples have been spot dated through ceramic seriation as either early or middle Roman in date.

C.1.2 The 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.1.3 Nomenclature for identified species follows Stace (2010), and cereal and chaff identifications were made with reference to Jacomet (2006).

C.1.4 Mollusc identifications were carried out by comparison to reference images and with reference to Kerney and Cameron (1979).

Results

C.1.5 Sample and flot abundance data is presented in Table C.1.1. Modern rooting is present in all the flots, and samples 1 and 2 contain the burrowing mollusc *Cecilioides acicula*, which has not been quantified as it is likely to be intrusive.

Trench 17

C.1.6 Sample 5 from fill 1705 of ditch 1703 produced a small flot. A few clinkered grains are present along with a glume fragment. Molluscs include the terrestrial *Trochulus hispidus*., *Vitrea* sp. and *Vallonia* sp., which are mainly catholic species and consequently provide limited ecological information. A single specimen of *Planorbis planorbis* was also identified that, as a freshwater species, could suggest that the ditch contained standing water or that water inflow occurred at some point. However, with only a single specimen this interpretation is tentative. Two small hazel nutshell fragments were also recovered, as well as pottery and bone, which were extracted from the sample residue.

Trench 19

C.1.7 Sample 4 from fill 1905 of ditch 1903 produced a small flot that includes a little clinkered grain along with charcoal roundwood in the form of small twig fragments. Pottery and bone were recovered from the residue.

Trench 44

C.1.8 Sample 3 from fill 4405 of ditch 4403 produced a small flot that includes clinkered grain, probable wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Pottery and bone were recovered from the residue.

Trench 53

C.1.9 Sample 1 from fill 5305 of ditch 5304 again produced a small flot that includes only a single indeterminate cereal grain fragment. Numerous terrestrial mollusc species are present with *Discus rotundatus*, *Vallonia* sp., *Aegopinella* sp. being the most common and *Vitrea* sp., *Oxychilus* sp. and *Carychium tridentatum* also identified. Bone and pottery were recovered from the residue.

C.1.10 Sample 2 from fill 5307 of pit 5306 produced a small flot. Wheat grains were recovered, but many of the grains are fragmented and/or clinkered. A small legume was also present. The modest mollusc assemblage includes *Vitrea* sp., *Vallonia* sp. and *Discus rotundatus*. Pottery was recovered from the residue.

Discussion

C.1.11 There is potential for the recovery of charred material on site and several features also indicate potential for mollusc preservation and recovery. The charred assemblage is fairly small and preservation of the cereal grains typically poor with clinkering and fragmentation being common. This is not necessarily indicative of on-site preservation across a larger area, as the material is likely to represent windblown accumulation in features at some distance from the main settlement or incorporation of middened material, rather than the dumping of waste from more intensive occupation activities.

C.1.12 Molluscs are present in several samples with modest abundance, and none of the identified species dominated any of the samples. Most of the identified species are categorised as 'catholic', sometimes found in open grassland, but in the case of some of the identified taxa often in damp grassland or sheltered humic-rich environments with leaf litter (eg *Discus rotundatus*, *Carychium tridentatum*), which are conditions consistent with ditches located close to woodland or hedgerows, for example. The potential for mollusc recovery should be considered as part of any future sampling strategy, but given the number of specimens per litre of processed soil, none of the samples described above include a sufficient quantity of molluscs to indicate that a targeted strategy specifically for mollusc recovery would be justified.

C.1.13 Charcoal recovery was generally limited and none of the samples particularly warrant further identification work at this stage, although a mix of species appear to be present. The roundwood in sample 4 would be suitable for radiocarbon dating and may be further identifiable.

Recommendations for retention/disposal

C.1.14 The flots warrant retention until all works on site are complete and may be deposited as part of the final archive dependent on recommendations of final analysis.

Sample no.	Context no.	Feature/ Deposit	Trench	Spot date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other Charred	Molluscs	Notes
1	5305	5304	53	LIA/ ER	40	12	++	+				+++	10YR 4/3 silty clay
2	5307	5306	53	2C	40	10	++	++			+	+++	10YR 4/3 silty clay
3	4405	4403	44	ER	40	30	++	+				+	10YR 4/6 silty clay
4	1905	1903	19	LIA/ ER	40	20	++	+					10YR 4/3 silty clay
5	1705	1703	17	2C	40	20	++	+	+	+	+	+++	10YR 4/3 silty clay

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+)
Other charred covers hazel nutshell and legumes

Table C.1.1: Assessment of bulk samples

C.2 Animal bone

By Adrienne Powell

Introduction and methodology

C.2.1 A total of 76 animal bone fragments (refitted count) weighing 1.232kg was recovered by hand excavation from the site (Table C.2.1); environmental samples produced a further 36 fragments (0.061kg) from the >10mm, 10–4mm and 4–2mm residue fractions (Table C.2.2). Features on the site were dated based on associated ceramic finds as late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and early Saxon. The bone came from 15 ditch and three pit contexts in Trenches 16, 17, 19, 40, 44, 45, 46, 50, 53 and 57.

C.2.2 All hand-retrieved material was recorded in full, whilst only identifiable material was recorded from the sample residues. Bone was recorded using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996) and identifications were made with the aid of the OA skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides. The condition of the bone has been graded on a scale of 1 (excellent, with little post-depositional alteration) to 5 (very poor, just identifiable as 'bone'). Tooth wear was recorded following Grant (1982). Gnawmarks were categorised as carnivore (probably dog) or rodent. Butchery marks and pathologies were noted and described where present. Few bones were complete enough to permit measurement, but where possible these were taken following Driesch (1976) and Davis (1992). Full records are available with the site archive.

Description

C.2.3 Most of the bone came from late Iron Age/early Roman and early Roman contexts, with a smaller group from the early Saxon pit (4503) and negligible amounts from other Roman contexts. Bone preservation is good to moderate overall, and a relatively high proportion of the bone could be identified to taxon. Carnivore gnawing was noted on 14 specimens (17%) but was light in most instances. Only one specimen with burning is present.

C.2.4 Cattle is the most common species, mainly due to its prevalence in the early Roman phase; in other phase groups, cattle bones occur in similar, low, numbers as those of sheep/goat and pig. Equid bones were only recovered from the early phases. Wild taxa are represented by a single hare (*Lepus* sp.) proximal tibia and three undifferentiated rodent long bones.

C.2.5 One cattle mandible provides an incomplete toothrow with the M_1 in advanced wear (stage 'h') and the P_4 as yet unerupted. The absent M_2 must have been in wear, given the degree of wear in the adjacent tooth, hence this specimen came from an animal that was probably between 15 months and 36 months old at the time of death (Silver 1969). Seventeen bones retaining evidence of epiphyseal fusion show that immature and adult cattle, sheep/goat and pigs were present, but there is no evidence of immature equids.

C.2.6 Only one specimen exhibits evidence of butchery: a late Iron Age/early Roman sheep metacarpal (4404) with a cutmark across the dorsal surface typical of skinning.

C.2.7 A late Iron Age/early Roman cattle metacarpal (5021) with a greatest length of 176mm gives an estimated withers height of 1064–1114mm, a typical size for animals of this date.

C.2.8 Two pathological specimens were noted: a sheep/goat right mandible (4504) with periodontal disease concentrated around the M_1 alveolus and and an equid first phalanx (4006) with exostoses on the medial and lateral borders, midshaft, at the sites of the ligament insertions, which may be a case of false ring bone (Baker and Brothwell 1980).

Conclusions

C.2.9 This small assemblage is not in itself very informative but does demonstrate the presence of bone on site and that bone recovered from future work here is likely to be in good condition with potential to inform on animal husbandry and site economy.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.2.10 The bone has been fully recorded but should be retained pending the completion of the project. The pathological specimens may be worth photographing for incorporation in a future report and the archive.

Taxon	LIA /ER	Early Roman	Middle Roman	Late Roman	Roman	Early Saxon	Undated	Total
Cattle	3	11		1		3		18
Sheep	1							1
Sheep/goat	2	1		1		2		6
Pig	2		1			2		5
Equid	1	1			1			3
Hare		1						1
Large mammal				1				1
Unidentified	11	12	1	1	1	9	6	41
Total	*20*	*26*	*2*	*4*	*2*	*16*	*6*	*76*

Table C.2.1: Hand retrieved animal bone

Taxon	LIA/ER	Early Roman	Middle Roman	Total
Sheep/goat	1		1	2
Pig			1	1
Medium mammal		2		2
Large rodent		1		1
Rodent		2		2
Total	*1*	*5*	*2*	*8*

Table C.2.2: Animal bone from environmental samples

C.3 Shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

C.3.1 Three valves (two left and one right) of the European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) weighing 82g in total were recovered by hand during the evaluation, from ditch fill 1604 which produced pottery of late Roman date.

C.3.2 The shell is in good condition and the valves are virtually complete. The two left valves are fairly large with angled hinges, suggesting that the shellfish were exposed to at least a moderate current, perhaps in an estuary. A chalky deposit on the inside of one of the left valves may indicate that the oyster grew in waters of changing salinity (Winder 2017, 247), which would also be consistent with an estuary. There is slight evidence of tunnelling by the polychete worm *Polydora hoplura* on the right valve, as well as a small opening notch on the margin opposite the hinge.

C.3.3 One of the left valves has a fairly crude sub-rectangular perforation in the body of the valve, centred below the hinge measuring *c* 12.4mm by 9 mm and clearly man-made. The same shell has a light orange hue internally, possibly due to the burial substrate. Perforated oyster shells are not an infrequent find from archaeological sites of various periods (eg Wyles and Winder 2000). The reason for the perforation is not entirely clear: suggestions for perforations in oyster shells have included removal of the nacre for button making (unlikely in this case), fork tine holes made by accident while harvesting the oysters, or perhaps holes made in order to hang the shells, for example as wind chimes. A large but crude V-shaped notch on the left margin immediately below the hinge demonstrates that the oyster was opened while still alive.

C.3.4 Oysters were widely consumed by the Romans in Britain and could be considered an indicator of Romanisation. Oysters were also recovered from excavations at, and close to, the Roman town at Alchester (eg from Langford Lane: Nicholson 2018).

C.3.5 The shell assemblage is very small and has been recorded here. Retention in the archive is not considered worthwhile, but a photograph of the perforated shell could be a useful addition to the site archive.

C.4 Fish bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

Description

C.4.1 A single eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) caudal vertebra was recovered from the heavy residue of sample 5, collected from fill 1705 of middle Roman (2nd-century AD) ditch 1703.

C.4.2 As a single find the significance of this bone is very limited. It may be food refuse, and given the other food-related and domestic items recovered from the fill this is likely. Equally, however, the single bone could derive from a bird pellet or from a fish that formerly inhabited the feature, as eels can traverse wet grass to reach water-filled features.

C.4.3 Retention in the archive is not required.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Burnehyll Community Woodland, Bicester
Site code:	BUCW22
Grid Reference	SP 56200 21900
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	March–April 2022
Area of Site	*c* 40ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2022.22.
Summary of Results:	Preceding geophysical survey of the development site in 2019 detected linear and curvilinear anomalies suggestive of a trackway, large sub-circular enclosure and rectilinear enclosure/field system. An initial evaluation revealed a late Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch and an undated ditch. A total of 50 trenches were investigated, of which 16 trenches contained archaeological remains comprising ditches and a small number of pits, a posthole and plough furrows. A good correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation was demonstrated. A series of ditches of late Iron Age/early Roman date demarcated a trackway, presumably for drainage purposes. The trackway may have been associated with Akeman Street and the nearby town and extramural settlement of Alchester. A small number of adjacent ditches and pits provide evidence of low-level activity in the agricultural hinterland. Several other Roman ditches to the south-east may constitute the remains of a possible rectilinear field system and sub-circular enclosure directly adjacent to Akeman Street. A pit containing early Saxon pottery demonstrates low-level activity on site following the Roman period, while limited plough furrows, a former field boundary ditch and land drains crossing the site are demonstrative of agricultural land use during the more recent historical period.

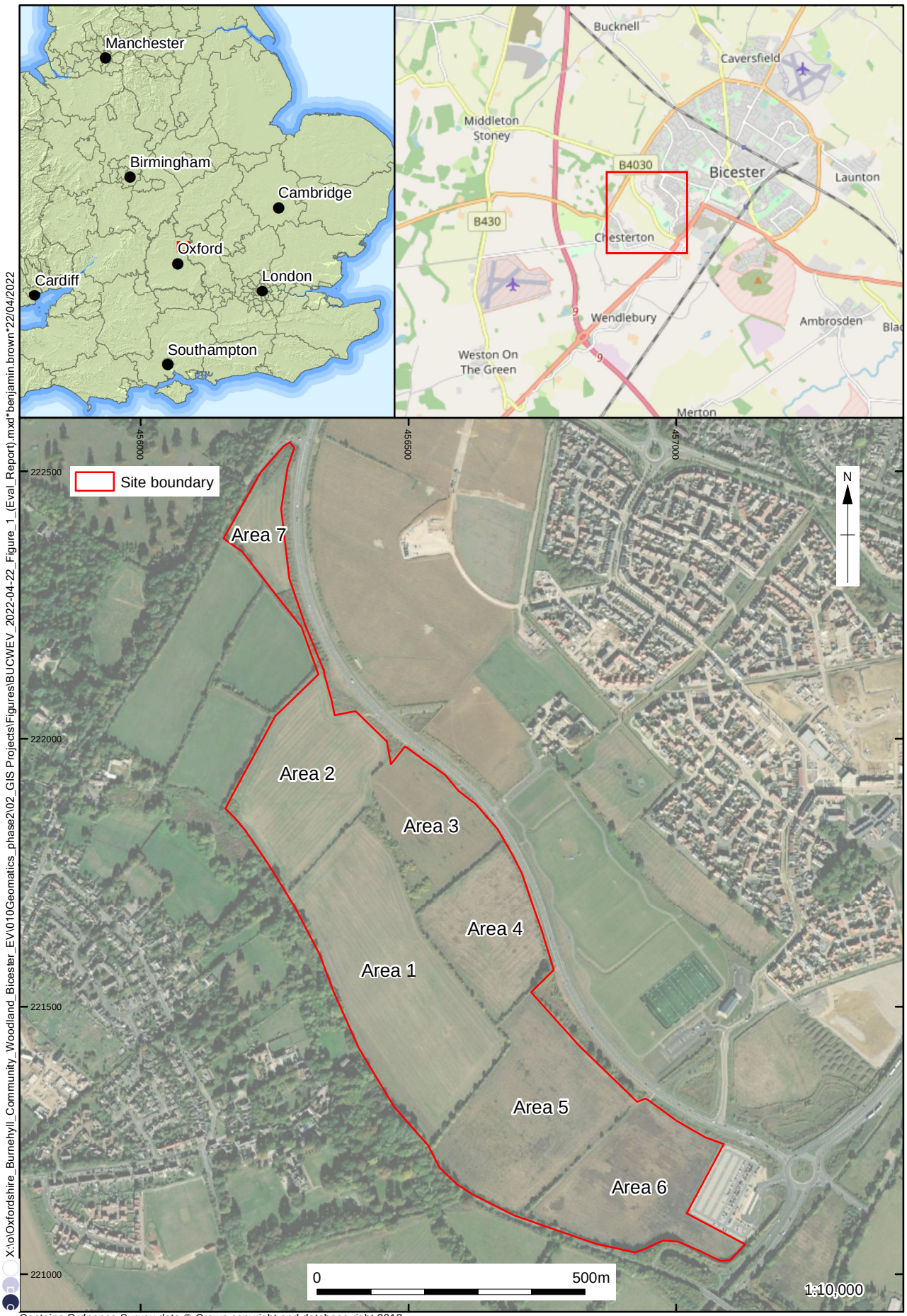

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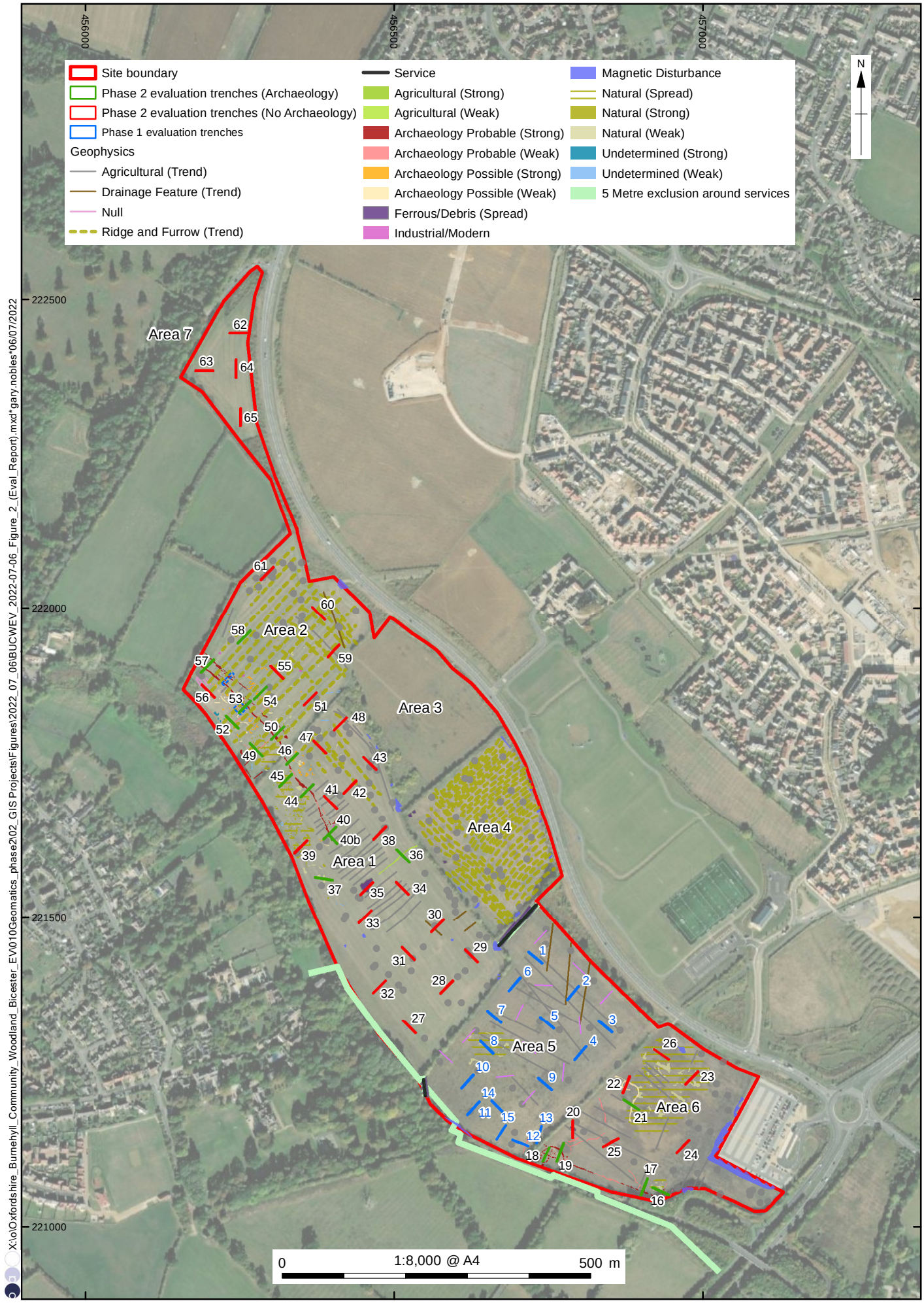
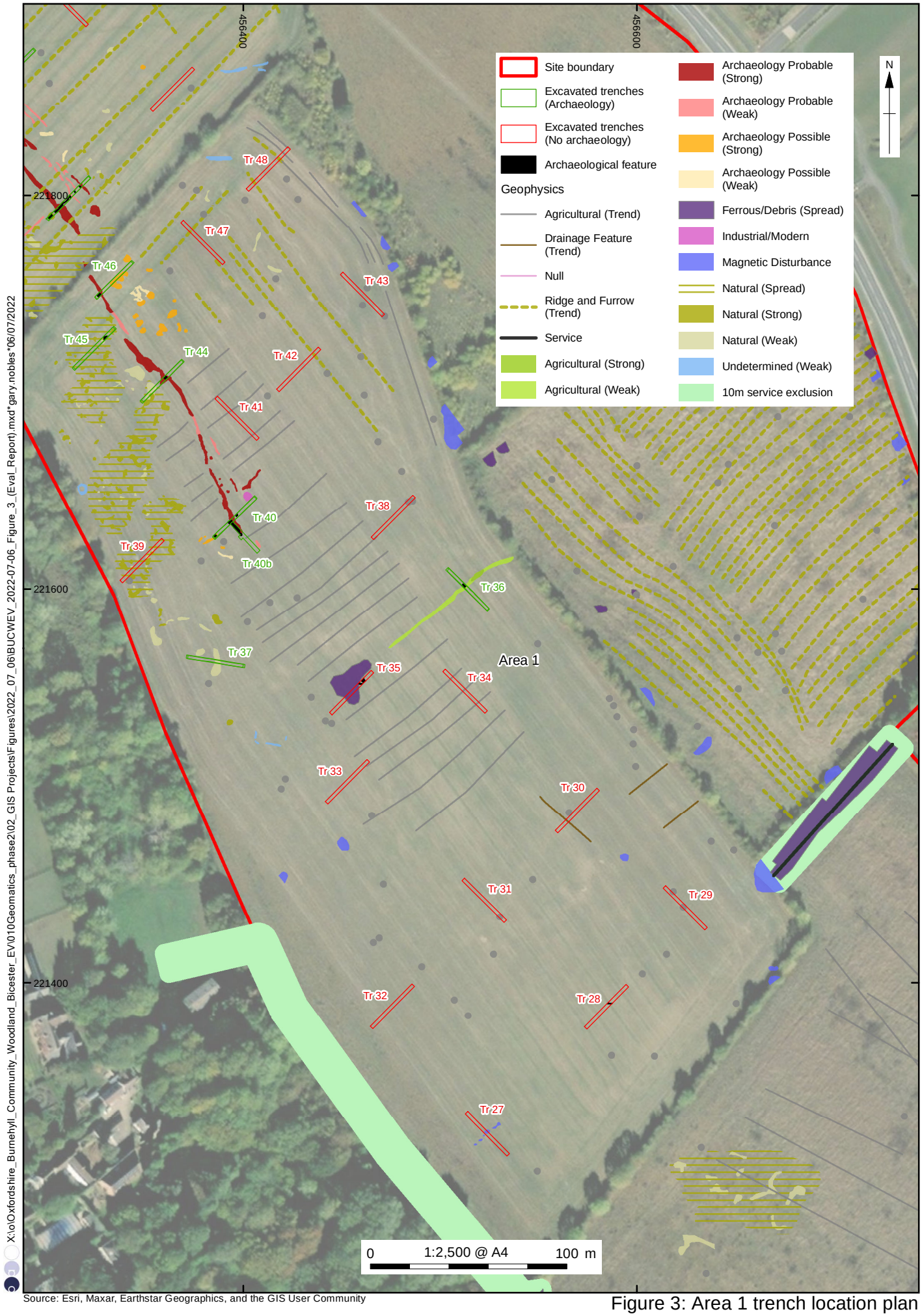
Figure 1: Site location



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2: Trench location plan with geophysical survey results and Phase 1 evaluation trenches



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Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 3: Area 1 trench location plan

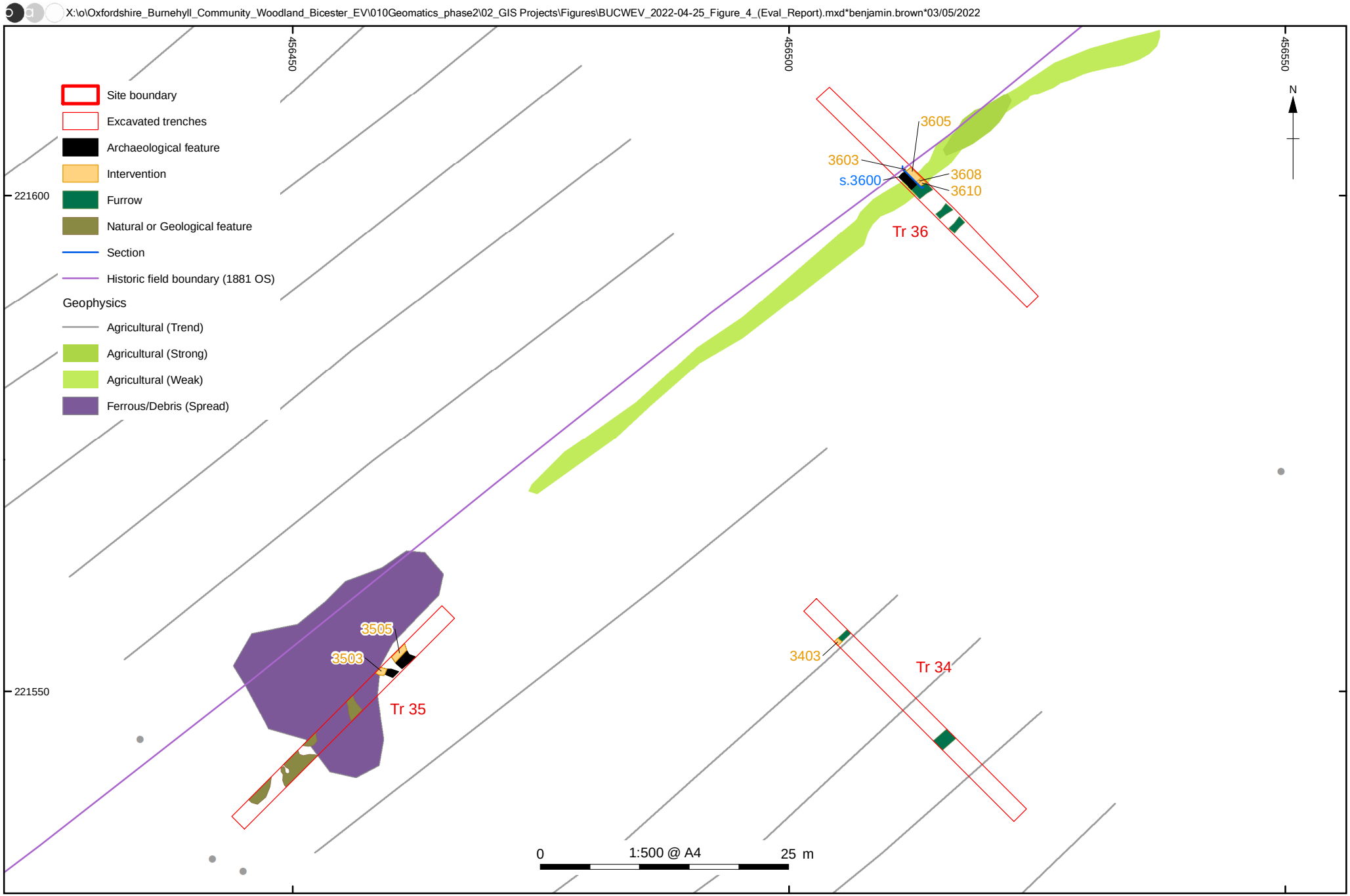


Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 34, 35 and 36

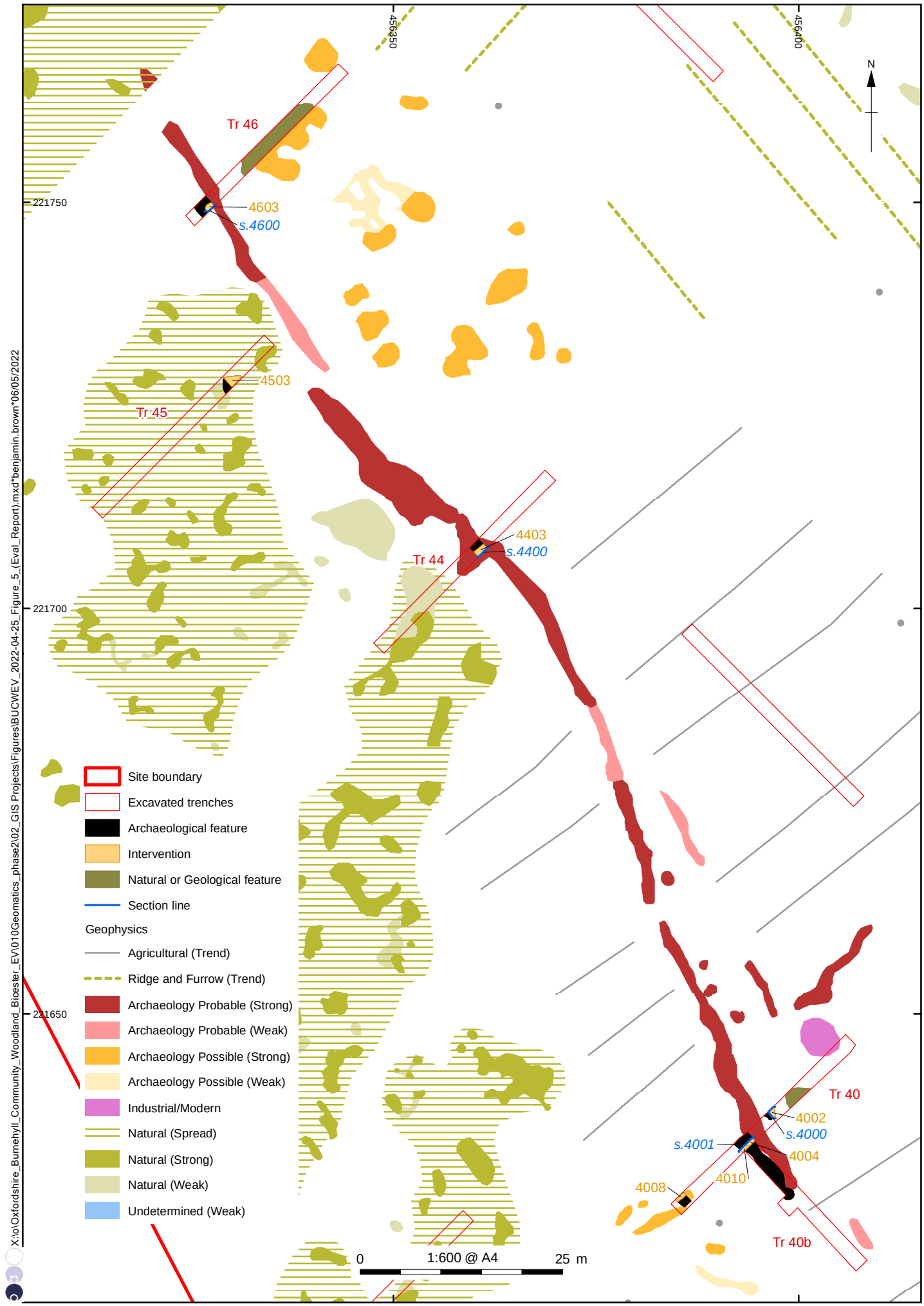


Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 40, 44, 45 and 46

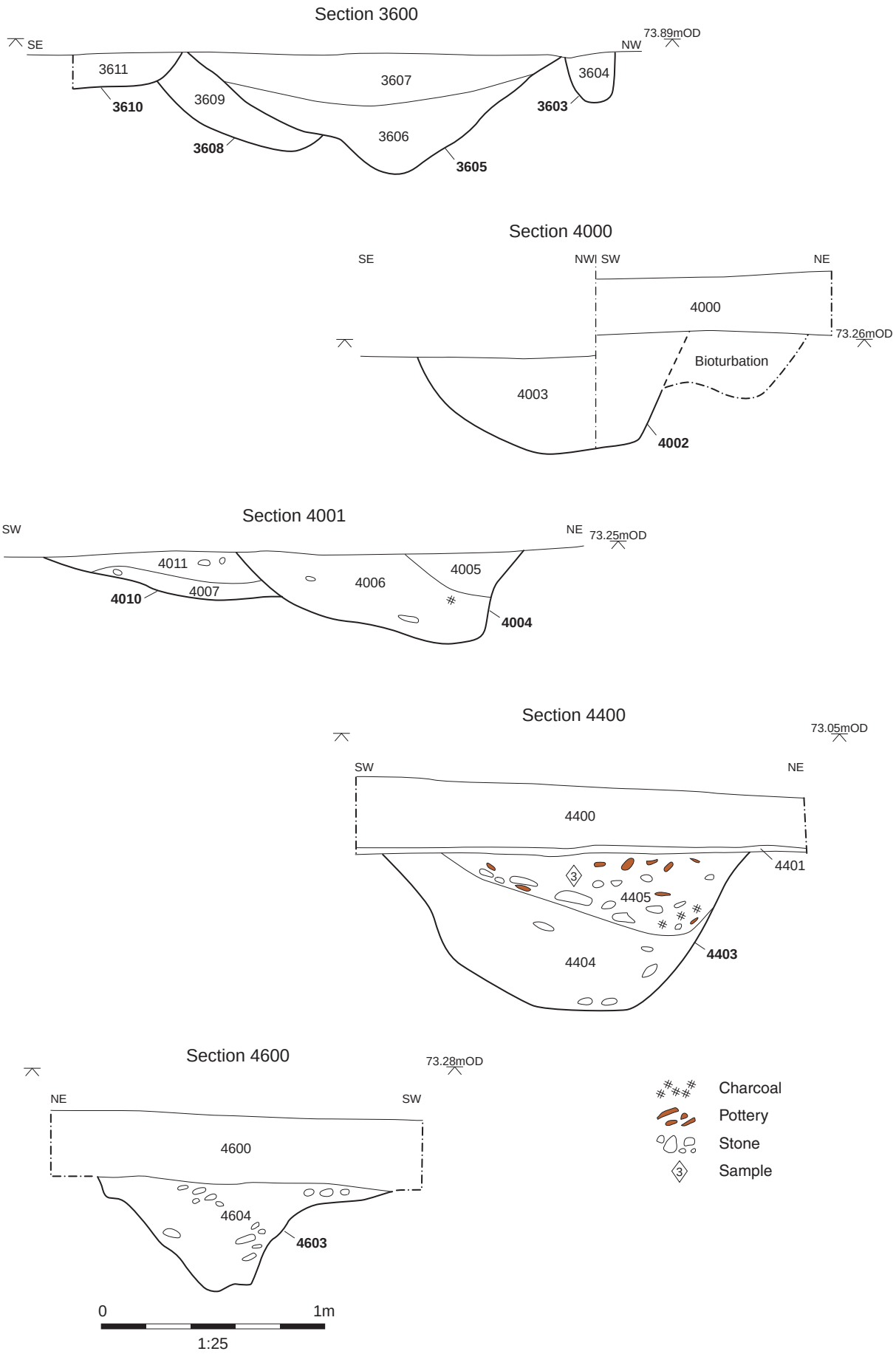
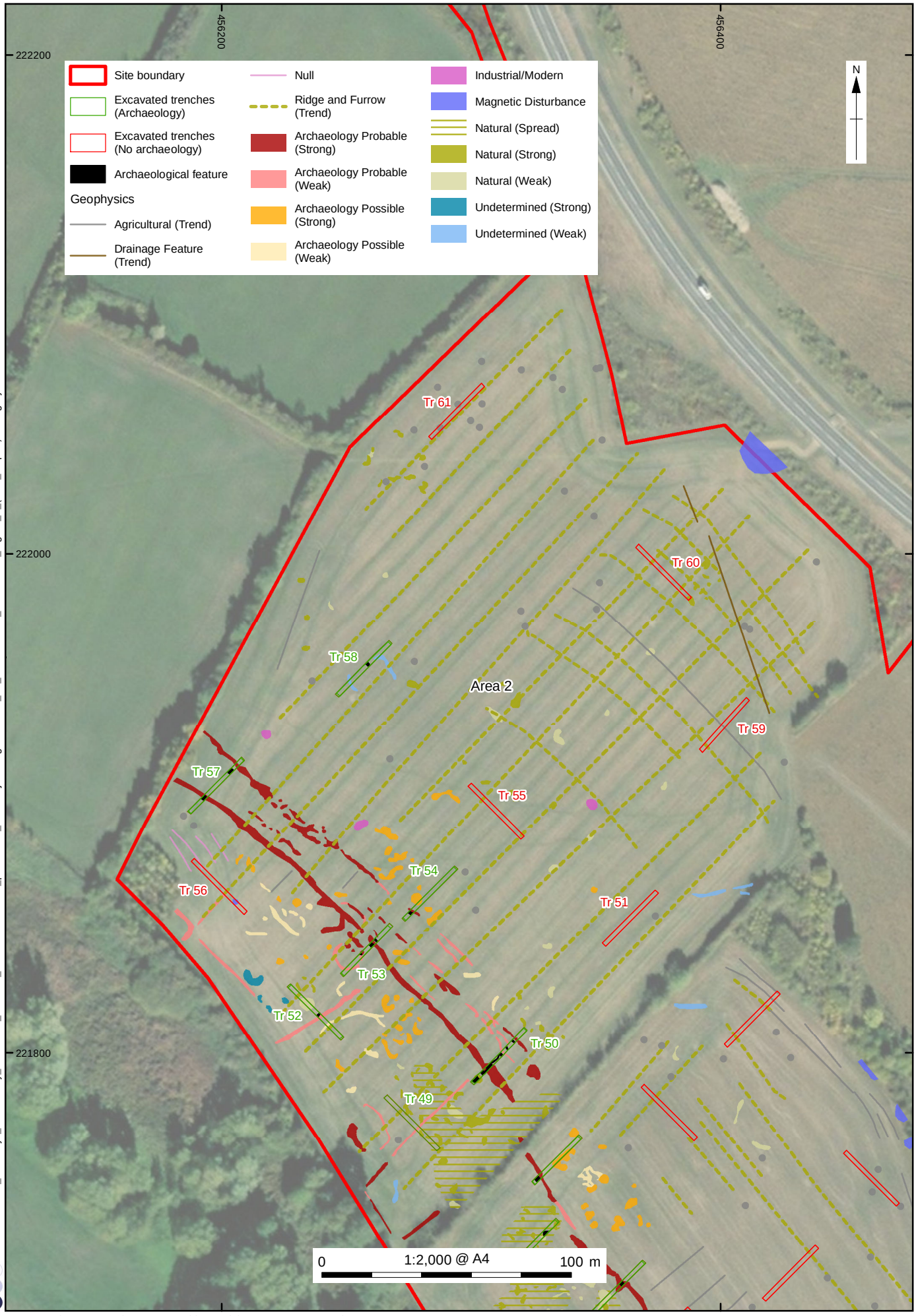


Figure 6: Area 1 Sections



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Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 7: Area 2 trench location plan

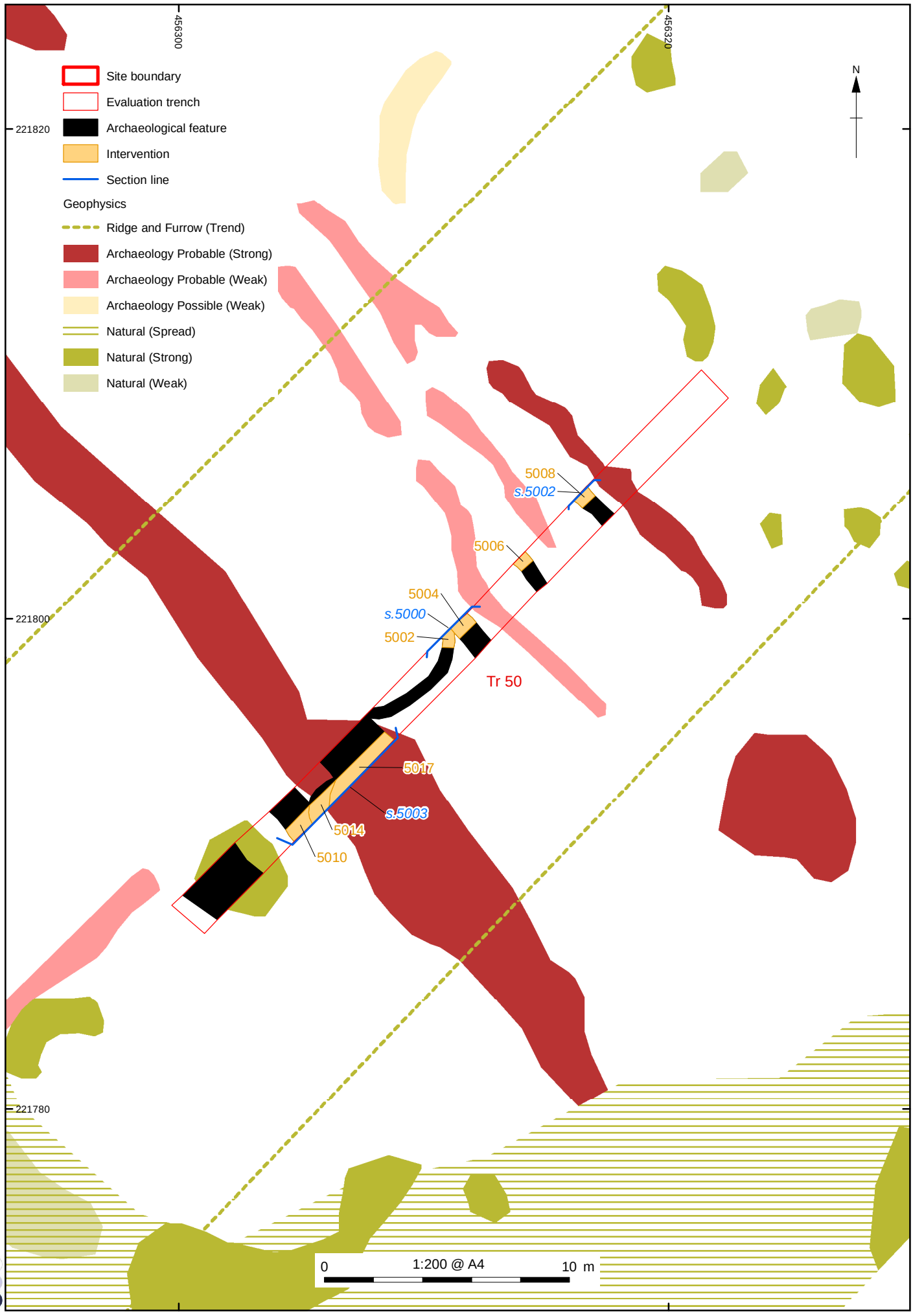


Figure 8: Detailed plan of Trench 50

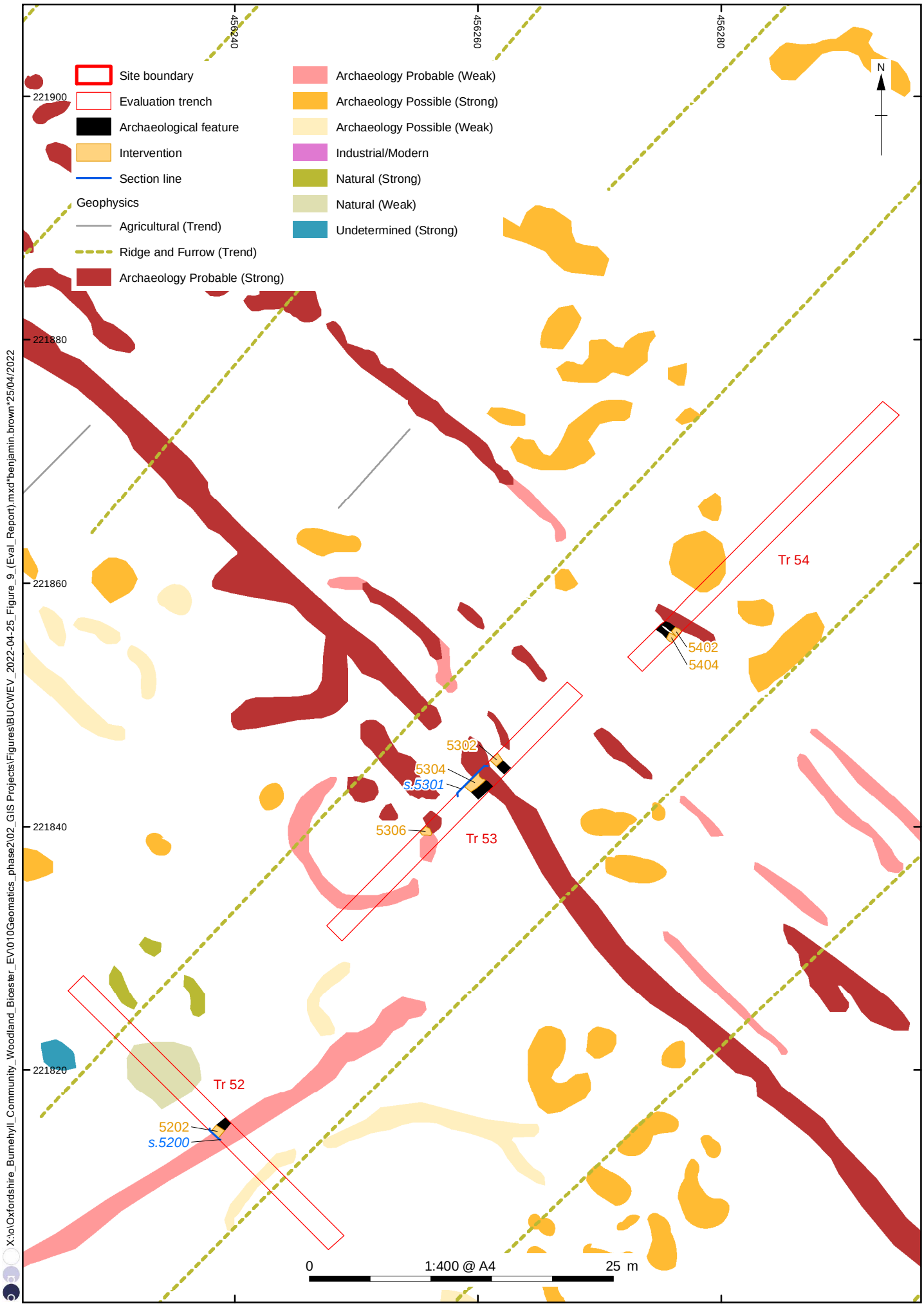


Figure 9: Detailed plan of Trenches 52, 53 and 54

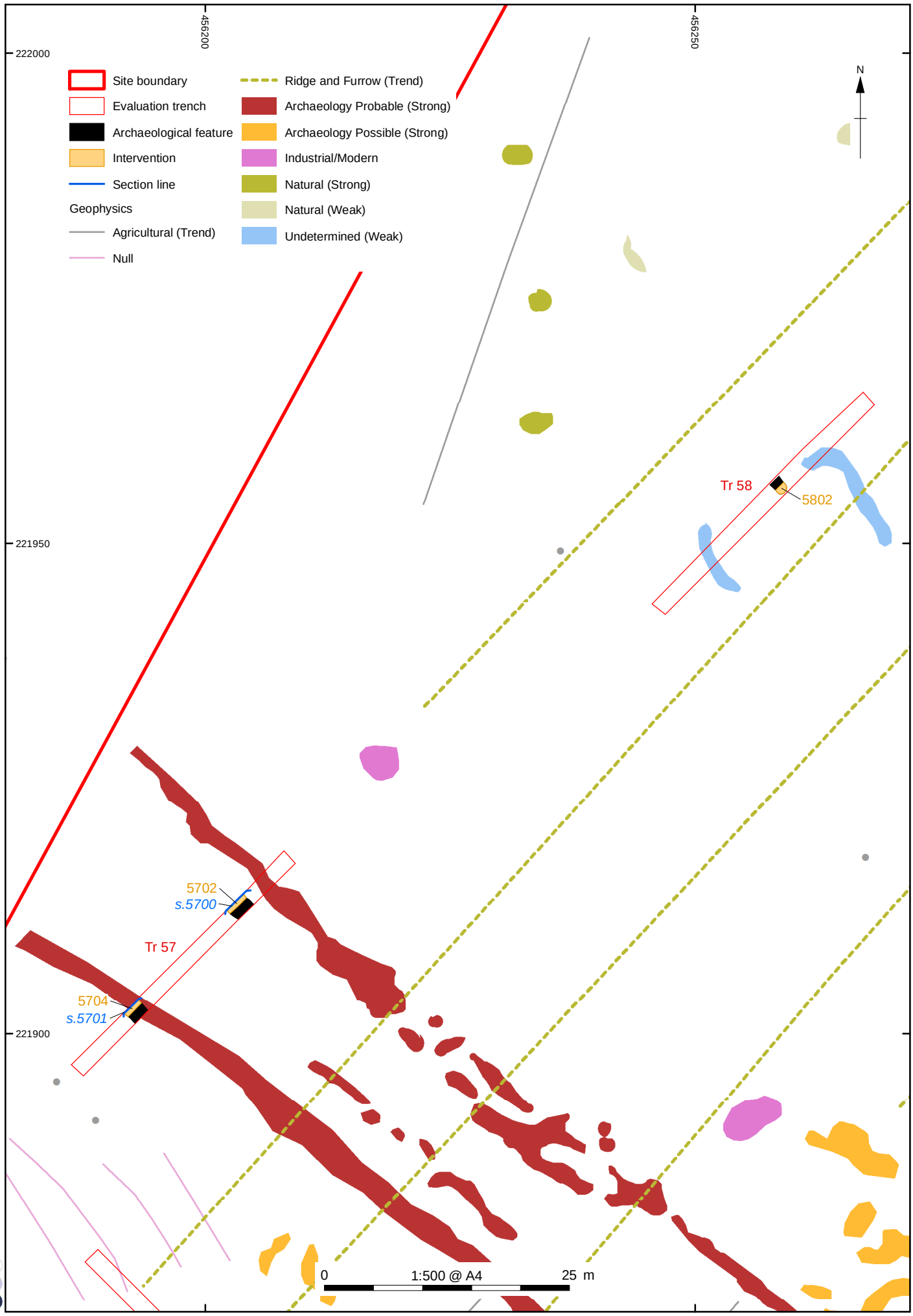


Figure 10: Detailed plan of Trenches 57 and 58

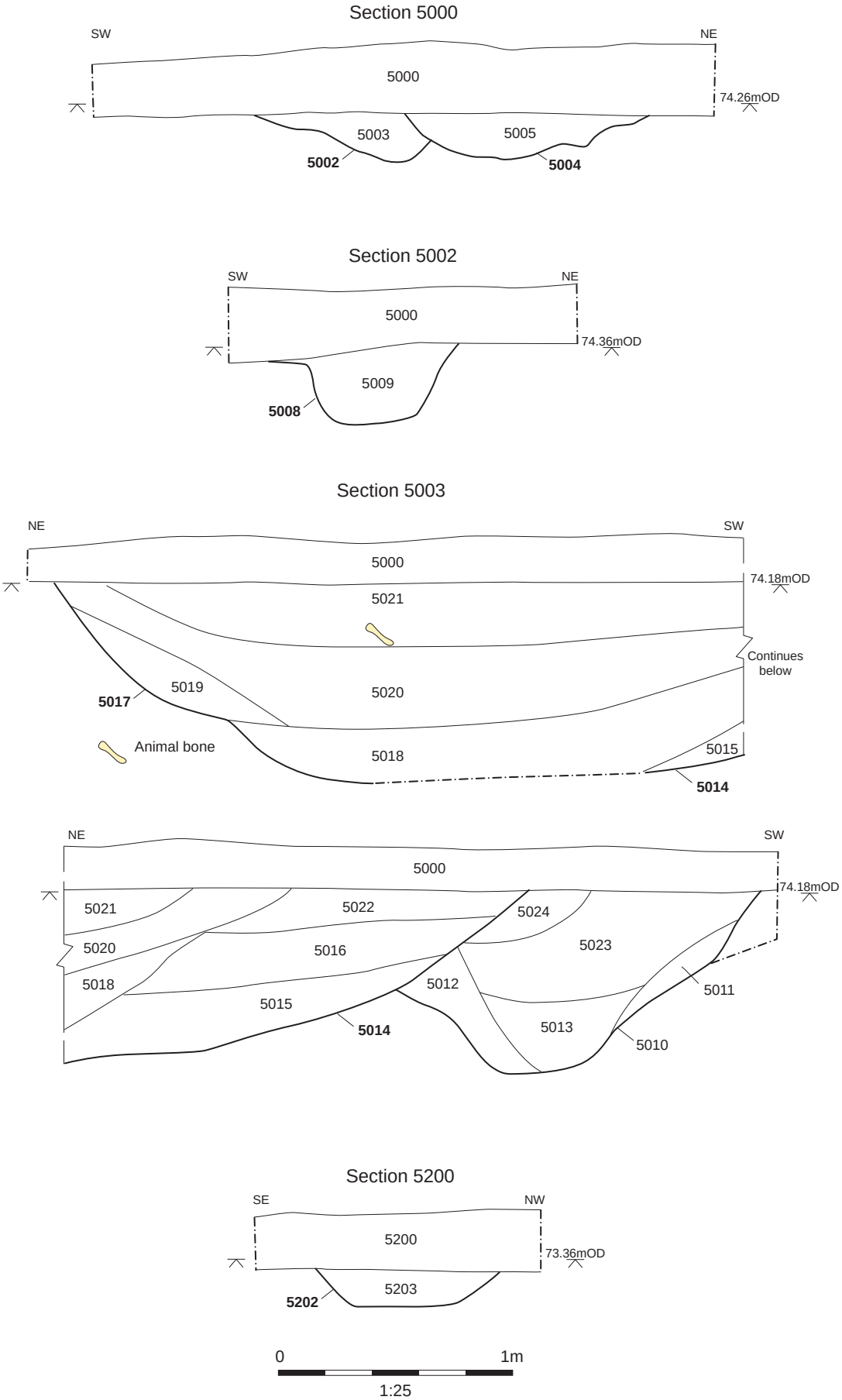


Figure 11: Area 2 Sections

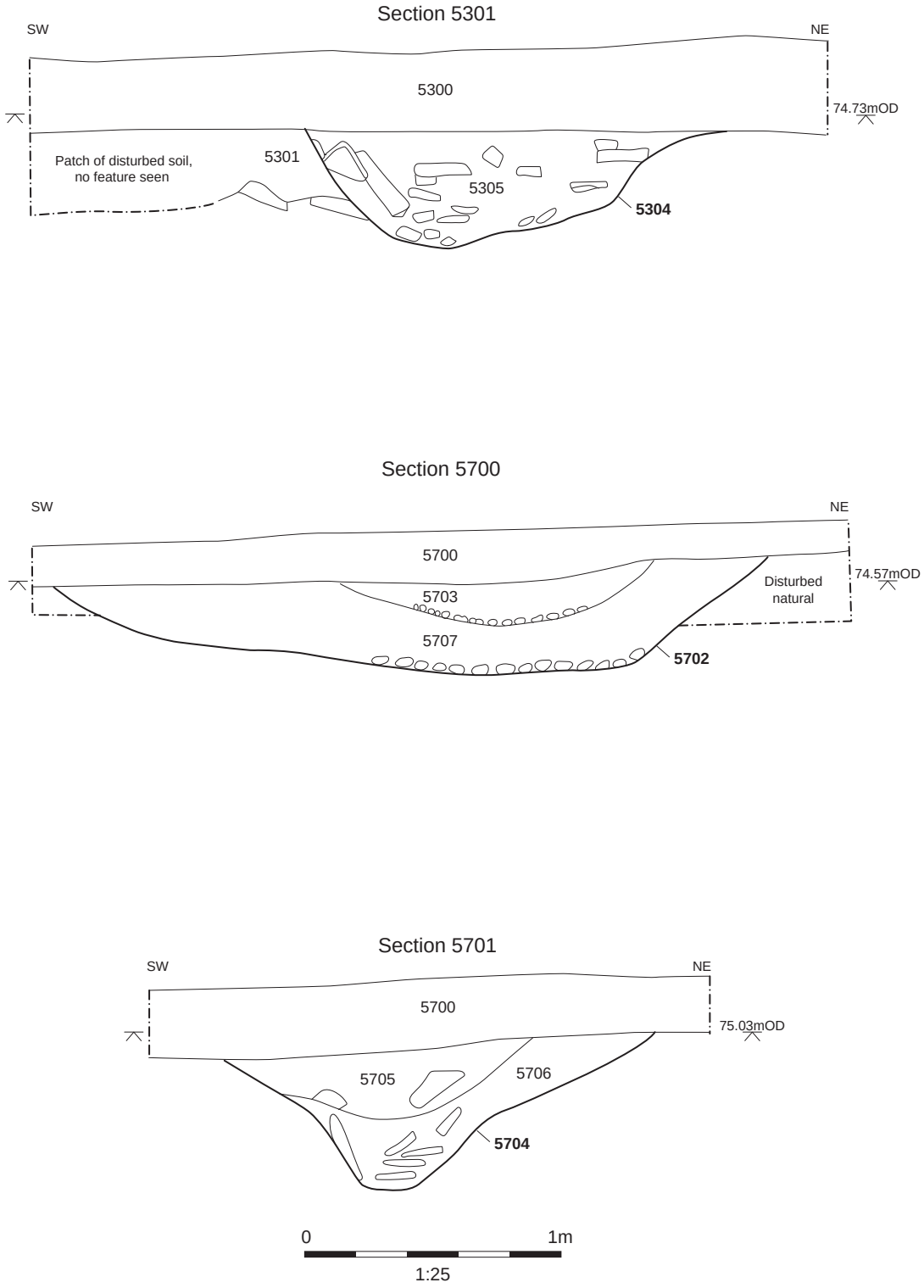
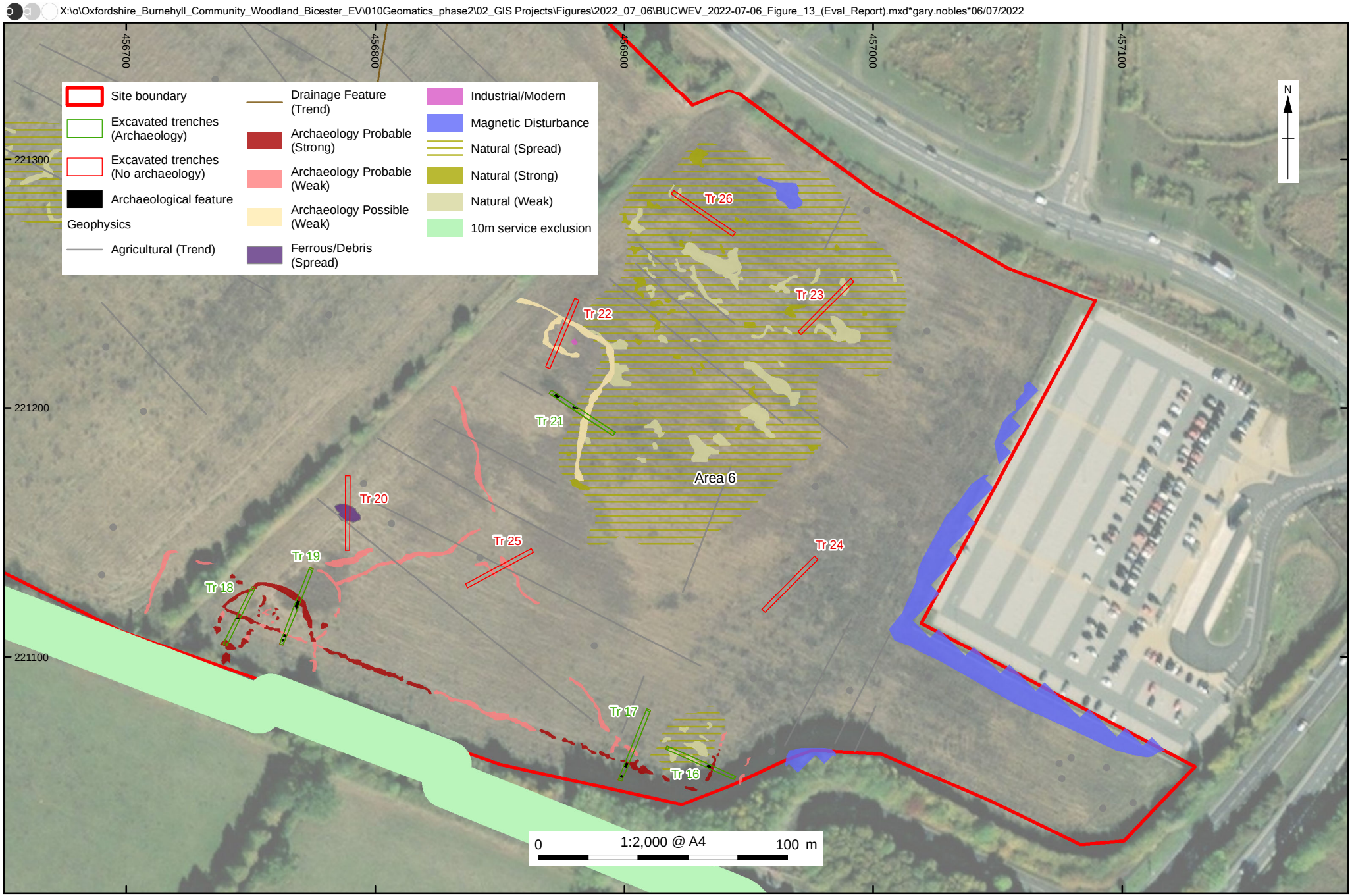


Figure 12: Area 2 Sections



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 13: Area 6 trench location plan

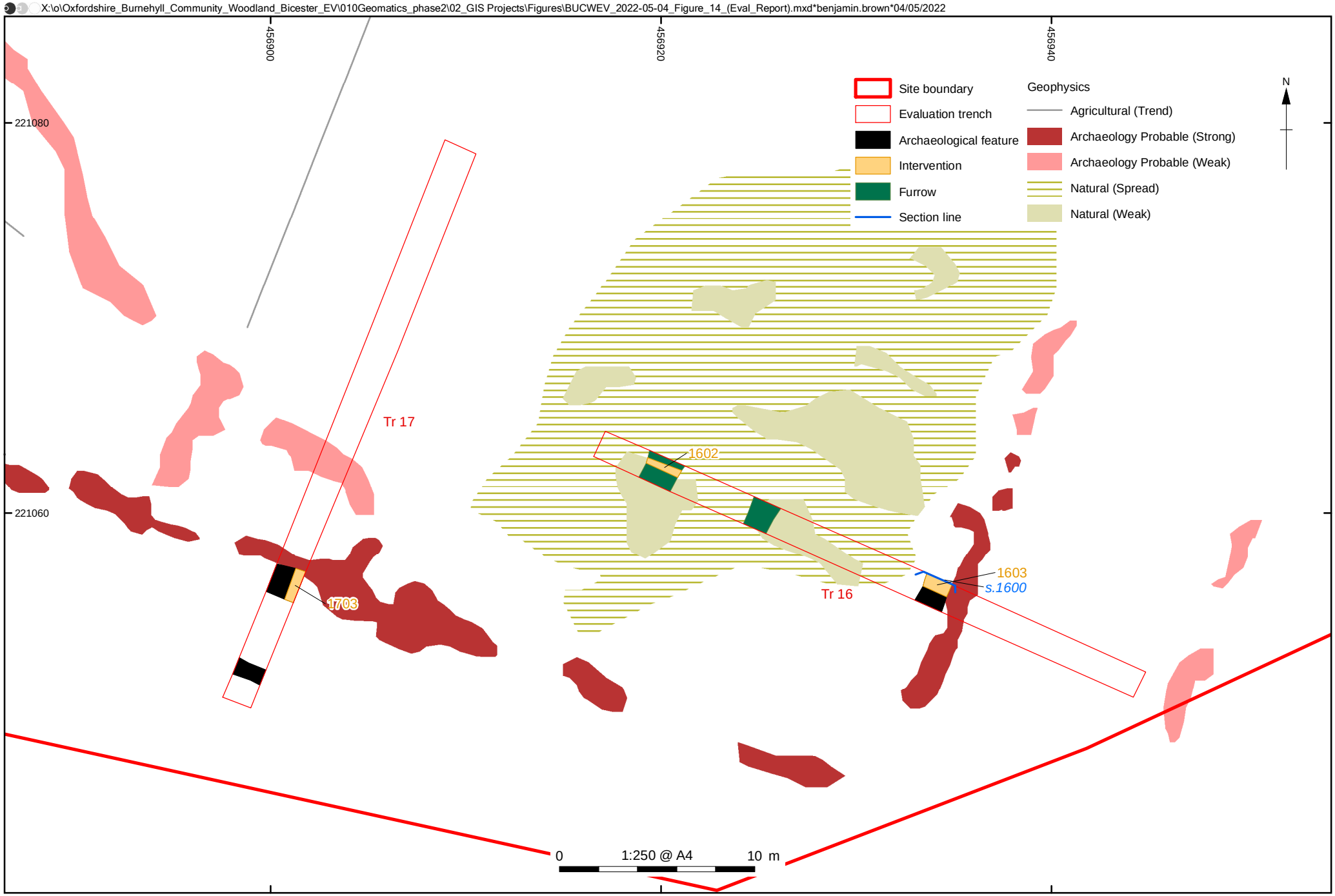


Figure 14: Detailed plan of Trenches 16 and 17

Figure 15: Detailed plan of Trenches 18 and 19

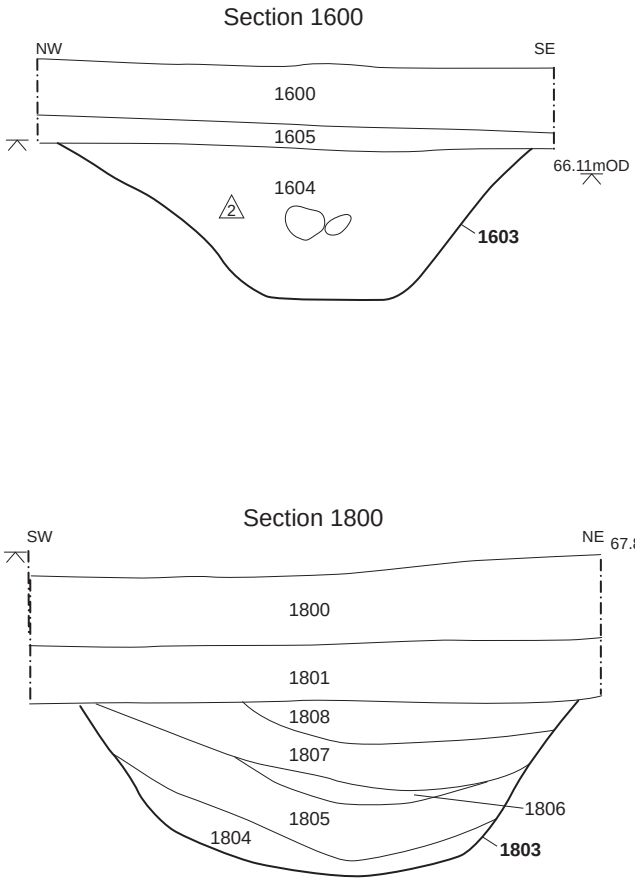


Figure 16: Area 6 Sections

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Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 17: Area 7 trench location plan

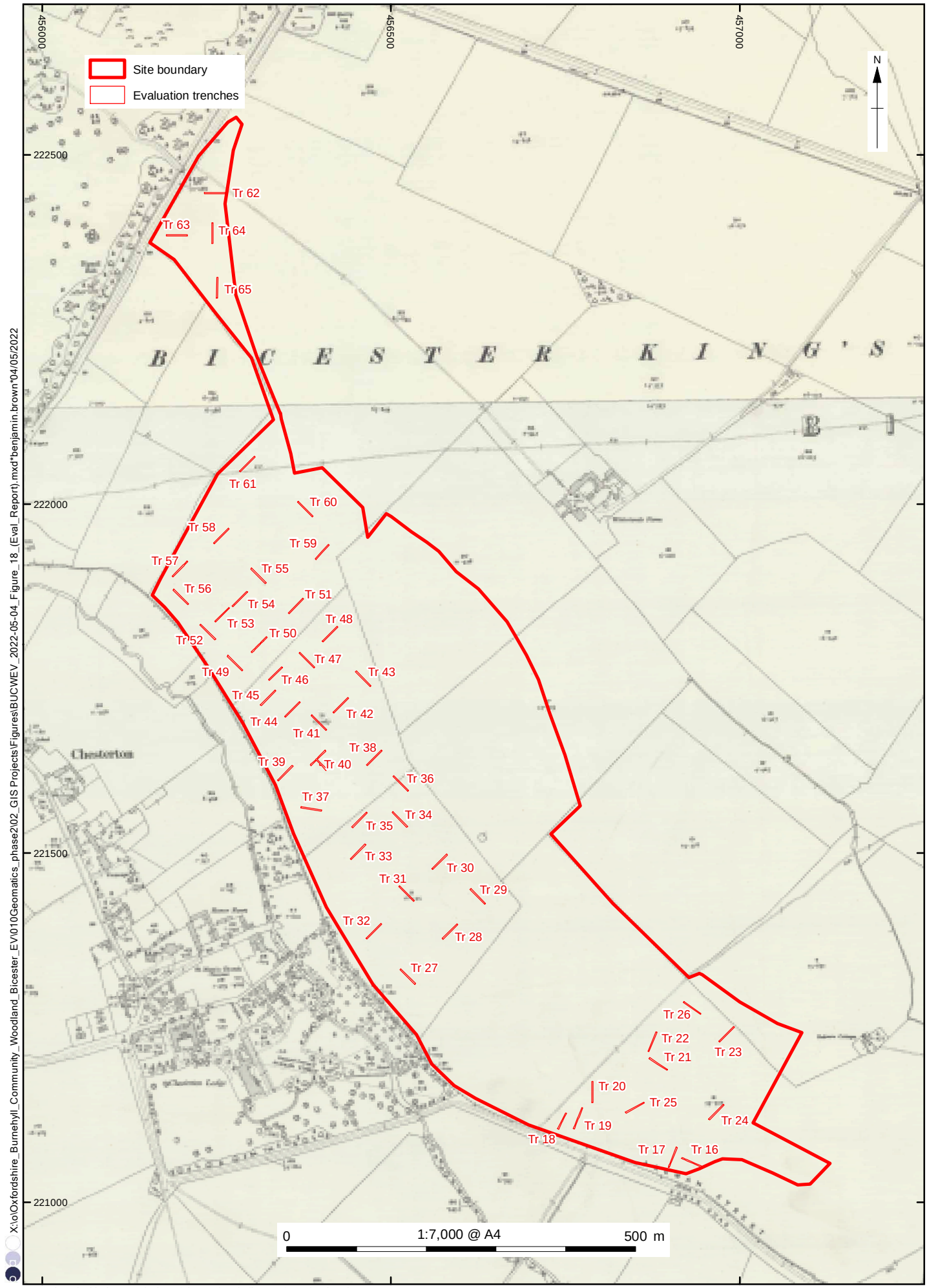

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Figure 18: 1888 Ordnance Survey map

Plate 1: Area 1, Drain 2802, looking west (1m scale)

Plate 2: Area 1, Modern features 3503 and 3505, looking west (1m scale)

Plate 3: Area 1, Pit 4503, looking south-east (1m scale)

Plate 4: Area 2, Inter-cutting ditch 5010, pit 5014 and ditch 5017, looking east (2m scale)

Plate 5: Area 2, Ditch 5302, looking north-west (1m scale)

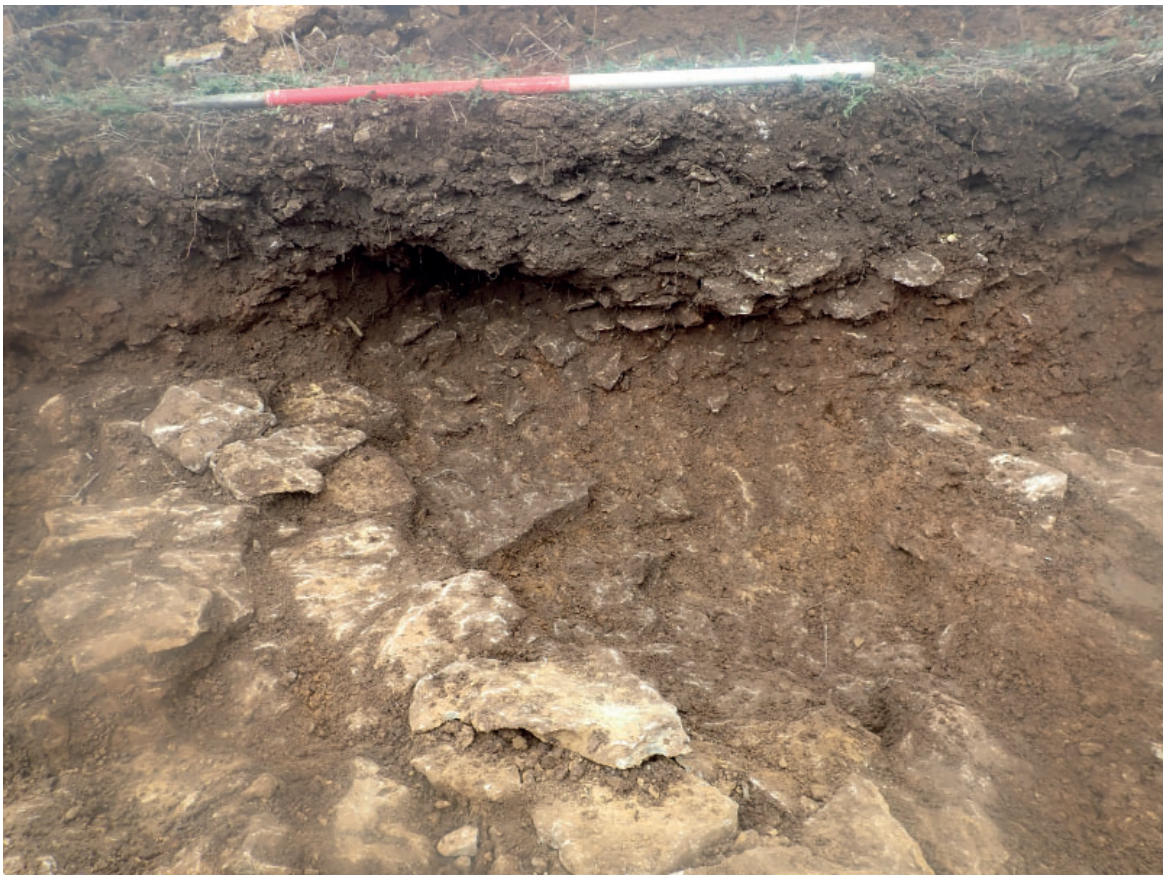

Plate 6: Area 2, Pit 5306, looking north-west (1m scale)

Plate 7: Area 2, Ditches 5402 and 5404, looking south-east (1m scale)

Plate 8: Area 2, Ditch terminal 5802, looking north-west (1m scale)

Plate 9: Area 6, Ditch 1703, looking east-south-east (1m scale)

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