



Land at Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Greater Manchester Archaeological Evaluation Report

June 2022

**Client: Lanpro Services on behalf of Miller
Homes**

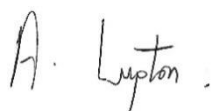
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Land at Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Katie Sanderson

*With contributions from Denise Druce and Karen Barker, and
illustrations by Mark Tidmarsh.*

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land south of Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Greater Manchester in preparation for a residential development of the site (NGR: SD 92801 08795). As part of the planning application (planning ref: FUL/346529/21) Lanpro Services produced a desk-based assessment (Lanpro 2020). Lanpro Services consulted Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) who recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken, Lanpro Services subsequently produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the necessary works. Planning permission was granted for the proposed development and OA North were commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork, which was undertaken between 21st and 23rd March 2022.

The principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to test anomalies and 'blank' areas identified on the geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys in 2021, and to characterise any archaeological remains identified to inform a decision as to whether any further mitigation would be required. The result of the evaluation were minimal, with ditched features being identified in five of the eight trenches, which likely relate to field boundaries as depicted on historic mapping. The environmental and finds data also appears to suggest that the remains are post-medieval in date and of low significance.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Lanpro Services for commissioning this project on behalf of Miller Homes. Thanks are also extended to Ben Dyson who monitored the work on behalf of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

The project was managed for OA North by Paul Dunn. The fieldwork was directed by Katie Sanderson, who was supported by Catherine O’Doherty and Matthew Hargreaves. Survey and digitising was carried out by Katie Sanderson and Mark Tidmarsh. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA North staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Karen Barker, who also produced the finds report. The environmental remains were assessed by Denise Druce.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land south of Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Greater Manchester in preparation for a residential development of the site (NGR: SD 92801 08795; Fig 1).

1.1.2 As part of the planning application for a proposed residential development (planning ref: FUL/346529/21) Lanpro Services produced a desk-based assessment (Lanpro 2020). Lanpro Services consulted Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) who recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken; Lanpro Services subsequently produced a written scheme of investigation (*Appendix A*) for the necessary works. Planning permission was granted for the proposed development and condition 14 stated:

‘The archaeological investigation works and subsequent reports of their findings shall be undertaken in full in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation prepared by Lanpro Services, dated December 2020.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 199 – to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the pact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.’

1.1.3 OA North were commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork, which was undertaken between 21st and 23rd March 2022. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The study site is located on the west side of the town of Shaw and Crompton, referred to as Shaw, c 4km to the north of the centre of Oldham (centred at NGR SD 92801 08795; Fig 1). The north side of the study site is bound by the rear of residential properties fronting onto Denbigh Drive and the east, south and west sides are bound by agricultural land. The area of proposed development consists of a single pasture field with an area of marshy ground on the east side.

1.2.2 The topography of the study site is undulating with the north side being at a higher level, at approximately 183m AOD, than the south side of the study site, at approximately 170m AOD, with a relatively steep drop in levels across the central portion.

1.2.3 The bedrock geology across the very northern edge of the site consists of sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation with the remainder comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the same Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation (BGS 2022). This is overlain by sand and gravel of the Devensian Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits for the majority of the site, with Diamicton



Devensian Till within the south-east (*ibid*). The soils of the site are identified as freely draining slightly acid sandy soils (Cranfield 2022).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is described in detail in the WSI and a desk-based assessment provided by Lanpro (2020). Therefore it will not be repeated in full here, a summary is provided below.
- 1.3.2 There were no recorded archaeological assets within or bounding the site. It was considered that there was a low/nil potential for Roman period remains on this site as no Roman finds were discovered in the surrounding area.
- 1.3.3 During the medieval period this site was situated in an agricultural hinterland surrounding Crompton, a settlement first recorded in the thirteenth century. The potential for the presence of significant (*i.e.* non-agricultural) medieval remains within the study site is considered to be very low/nil.
- 1.3.4 Since the nineteenth century the internal field boundaries have been gradually removed and it remains as a single field. During the later twentieth century the area to the north of the study site has been developed for residential purposes. The potential for significant (*i.e.* non-agricultural) evidence of post-medieval or modern origin has, however, been considered to be very low/nil.



2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the development site;
- to excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- to assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- to assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- to assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence;
- to inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- to undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features; and
- to report the results of the evaluation and place them in their local, regional or national context and to make this record available.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The full methodology is outlined in the WSI (*Appendix A*) and was adhered to in full, and, as such, was fully compliant with prevailing guidelines and established industry best practice (ClfA 2020a; 2020b; 2021; Historic England 2015). A programme of field observation accurately recorded the character of the deposits within the excavations.

2.2.2 The topsoil and subsoil were removed by a 8-tonne 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit, natural geology or a safe working depth, under direct archaeological supervision at all times. Subsequent cleaning and investigation of all archaeological deposits was undertaken manually, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded.

2.2.3 The trenches were located by use of a real-time kinematic (RTK) global navigation satellite system (GNSS), accurate to within 0.02-0.03m, and altitude information was established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. Prior to excavation, the trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) and Signal Generator (Genny), to identify any potential services. All trenches were excavated in a stratigraphic manner. Trench 7 was the only trench required to be moved, due to the presence of a monitoring well, all the other trenches were excavated in their intended locations

2.2.4 All information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre of Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.

- 2.2.5 Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes both photographic images and accurate large-scale plans and sections at appropriate scales (1:50; 1:20; 1:10).
- 2.2.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the WSI, and in accordance with current ClfA (2020b) and Historic England (2015) guidelines. The archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), due to minimal archaeological remains and no significant finds being recovered. The site has also been uploaded to the online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS).

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 or significant changes in the natural geology. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in *Appendix B*. The full finds reports can be found in *Appendix C*, whilst the reports on the environmental soil samples can be found in *Appendix D*.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence on this site was variable throughout due to the undulating topography of the field and the proximity of the site to a waterlogged area. The general stratigraphic sequence on the higher ground was of a slightly peaty topsoil overlaying a dark brown silty sand subsoil, which overlay a brownish orange silty sand natural with patches of gravel concentrations. In areas where the trenches were positioned over a significant slope there were alluvial sands or waterlogged gravels present. There were also areas where channels or depressions had been filled with modern made-ground.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, due to good weather prevailing throughout the excavation. There was some waterlogging at the lower levels of the field, which was counteracted by sondages, excavated and then immediately backfilled after photographic recording. Archaeological features cut into the natural were easy to identify, features excavated into the subsoil, however, were difficult to distinguish, and were only observed in the sections of trenches, once the machine had excavated to the level of the natural.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, the remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological remains, suggesting that the **anomalies** they targeted were natural in origin and the **'blank' area targeted** by Trench 8 was blank. Ditches in trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7 crossed the site on a north-east/south-west-alignment, and likely related to field boundaries depicted on the OS historic map as early as 1851. A small pit, **303**, in Trench 3, was also identified.

3.4 Trench 2

3.4.1 Trench 2 targeted several geophysical anomalies interpreted as natural anomalies, drains and agricultural trends (Fig 2). Natural geology **203** was identified throughout the trench as a silty sand, which was cut by north-east/south-west-aligned ditch **204**, which measured 1.55m wide and survived to a depth of 0.55m (Fig 6; Plate 1). The ditch was filled by a single dark brownish grey sand deposit, **205**, which contained a small flint fragment (*Section 3.9.3* and *Appendix C*). There was no other dating material recovered from ditch **204**, the historic mapping suggests that the feature may relate to a field boundary depicted on the OS map of 1851 (Fig 3), suggesting that the flint may well be residual.



Plate 1: Plan view of ditch **204**, scale 1m

3.4.2 Ditch **204** was overlain by light grey, fine-grained alluvial **202**, approximately 0.2m thick, overlain by subsoil **201**, approximately 0.15m thick, which was, in turn, overlain by topsoil **200**, approximately 0.15m thick.

3.5 Trench 3

3.5.1 Trench 3 principally targeted the strong agricultural anomaly running north-east/south-west through the proposed development, as well as areas of magnetic disturbance and natural anomalies (Fig 2). Natural geology **302** was identified throughout the trench as a gravelly sand, which was cut by two archaeological features, a north-east/south-west-aligned ditch, **306**, and a pit, **303**, at the north-western end of the trench (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Trench 3 looking south-east. 1m and 2m scales

3.5.2 Pit **303** was located against the south-eastern edge of the trench at the north-western end, measured 0.5m wide and survived to a depth of 0.16m (Fig 7; Plate 3). The pit was filled by two deposits, light grey firm silty sand **304** being the earlier deposit, which was overlain by dark grey brown friable clay sand **305**. The pit was sealed by subsoil **301**, which was approximately 0.3m thick.



*Plate 3: North-east-facing section of Trench 3 and pit **303**, scale 1m*

3.5.3 Subsoil **301** was cut by north-east/south-west-aligned ditch **306**, which measured 1.25m wide and was 0.35m deep and was filled by a single dark grey brown friable sandy silt deposit **307** (Fig 7; Plate 4). Ditch **306** was subsequently overlain by topsoil **300**, approximately 0.27m thick.



*Plate 4: South-west-facing section of Trench 3 and ditch **306**, scale 1m*

3.6 Trench 4

- 3.6.1 Trench 4 targeted magnetic disturbance and ferrous spreads identified by the geophysical survey (Fig 2). Natural geology **402** was identified throughout the trench as orange sand, which was cut by north-east/south-west-aligned ditch **403** at the western end of the trench (Fig 8; Plate 5).



Plate 5: Trench 4 looking west, 1m and 2m scales

- 3.6.2 Ditch **403**, recorded on an **oblique angle**, measured 4m wide and survived to a depth of 0.5m, was filled by two deposits, mid grey sandy clay **405** being the earliest deposit in the base of the ditch, overlain by dark brown clay silt **404** (Plate 6). There was no dating material recovered from the ditch, however, it does appear to be on the same alignment as ditch **204**, in Trench 2, and corresponds fairly well with a field boundary depicted on the OS map of 1851 (Fig 3). Ditch **403** was overlain by subsoil **401**, approximately 0.2m thick, which was, in turn, overlain by topsoil **400**, approximately 0.25m thick.



Plate 6: South-facing section of Trench 4 and ditch 403, scale 2m

3.7 Trench 5

3.7.1 Trench 5 targeted the **strong agricultural anomaly** running north-east/south-west through the proposed development, as well as areas of magnetic disturbance and natural anomalies (Fig 2). Natural geology **503** was identified throughout the majority of the trench as fine-grained sand; this was overlain by a number of alluvial sand deposits (**508** and **507**) at the southern end of the trench as the ground level sloped downwards, which were recorded in a machine-excavated sondage (Plate 7). These alluvial deposits were overlain by aeolian sediment **502**, identified as light grey loose sand approximately 0.04m thick, which was, in turn, overlaid by buried soil **504**, which survived to a thickness of 0.07m.



Plate 7: East-facing section of Trench 5, scale 1m

3.7.2 Buried soil **504** was overlaid by subsoil **501**, approximately 0.17m thick, which was cut by north-east/south-west-aligned ditch **505**, measuring 1.26m wide and surviving to a depth of 0.4m (Fig 9; Plate 8). Ditch **505** was filled by single mid grey sandy silt **506**, contained a small assemblage of late post-medieval ceramic and glass (*Section 3.9.3* and *Appendix C*), which was, in turn, overlain by topsoil **500**, approximately 0.16m thick.



Plate 8: East-facing section of Trench 5 and ditch 505, scale 1m

3.8 Trench 7

3.8.1 Trench 7 principally targeted the **strong agricultural anomaly** running north-east/south-west through the proposed development (Fig 2). Natural geology **703** was identified throughout the trench as orange sand, and was cut by north-east/south-west-aligned ditch **704** (Fig 10; Plate 9), which measured 0.7m wide and survived to a depth of 0.34m (Plate 10). The base of ditch **704** appeared to have been utilised as a drain, with hand-made brick sides and limestone capstone, which was then overlain by mid to dark brown sandy silt **705**, containing a small assemblage of late post-medieval ceramic sherds (*Section 3.9.3* and *Appendix C*).



Plate 9: Trench 7 looking north, 1m and 2m scales



Plate 10: Ditch 704 looking north, scale 1m

- 3.8.2 A natural depression was identified at the northern end of the trench, and a sondage was excavated through it (Plate 11) which identified a thin layer of alluvial sand, **702**, approximately 0.12m thick, overlying natural geology **703**, which was, in turn, overlain by peat **701**, approximately 0.22m thick. There was no evidence of subsoil within this trench, with these deposits being sealed by topsoil **700**, approximately 0.3m thick.



Plate 11: Sondage at the northern end of Trench 7, looking south-west

3.9 Environmental and finds summary

- 3.9.1 Combined, the palaeoenvironmental evidence suggests that the features and deposits excavated at ~~Denbigh Drive~~ were in receipt of varying levels of debris comprising fuel and habitation waste. The presence of rare hammerscale in pit **303** and organic layer **701** suggests some of this debris may derive from some sort of nearby workshop/industrial activity, which utilised oak and pine wood. The recovery of common waterlogged plant remains from ditch **204** suggests the fills of this ditch had remained damp/wet over time and was in receipt of wood fragments and seeds from local vegetation, which included elder scrub, sedges, and thistles. Without direct dating, the age of the material remains ambiguous; however, the material evidence suggests it is likely to be modern. Organic remains from ditch **505**, pit **303**, and organic layer **701** would provide suitable material for radiocarbon dating, if warranted.
- 3.9.2 Although of some interest, the relatively low amount and limited diversity of the remains ~~from Denbigh Drive~~ means that further analyses would not contribute significantly to the archaeobotanical record provided by this assessment.
- 3.9.3 The finds recovered during the processing of environmental samples are all very small making identification limited. From these, finds that potentially date to earlier than the post-medieval period are chert (OR1003) and ochre (OR1004), however, these show no evidence of being worked. All the other finds from the samples and the

ceramics found during excavation are likely to date to the post-medieval period and are common types.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The ground conditions, in general, did not adversely affect the results as it was largely dry weather for the duration of the fieldwork. Waterlogging only affected one trench, Trench 3, which flooded at the south-eastern end of the trench. The remainder of the site was free draining and was not hampered by wet conditions. The archaeological remains, where they were encountered, were easily identified against the natural geology.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The principal aims and objectives identified above in *Section 2.1.1* was to obtain sufficient information to establish the presence, absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development, and to provide sufficient information as to the need for and scope of any subsequent mitigation strategy. To meet these aims, the programme of trenching was designed to provide adequate coverage across the site and targeted anomalies identified on the geophysical survey (Fig 2). All of the trenches were successfully excavated, only one trench was required to be moved due to the presence of a monitoring well in the trench's intended location.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 It was determined that the majority of the geophysical anomalies were largely as a result of natural variation and modern disturbance. The undetermined anomalies identified in the south-western part of the site were seen to relate to variations in the natural geology. The blank area on the geophysical survey in the south-eastern part of the site was proved to be blank by Trench 8.

4.3.2 The site in general consisted of varying layers of aeolian, alluvial or peat deposits, that were archaeologically sterile. The lower levels of the site had clearly been subject to levels of much higher water level than at present day, due to the presence of peat. There were also several areas of made-ground levelling the field for agricultural use, and there was relatively little evidence for arable use of the land, such as plough scarring, so it is more likely it has been used historically for pastoral agriculture.

4.3.3 The ditched features identified in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 appeared to correlate fairly well with field boundaries identified on the historic OS mapping. The northern field boundary, encountered in Trenches 2 (**204**) and 4 (**403**), was only depicted on the 1851 historic mapping (Fig 3), seemingly having gone out of use by the production of the 1893 historic mapping (Fig 4). The southern field boundary, encountered in Trenches 3 (**306**), 5 (**505**) and 7 (**704**), was identified as clearly cutting through the subsoil, suggesting that the feature was clearly late in date. The finds recovered from the fills of ditches **505** and **704** provided further evidence that this feature was post-medieval in date.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The significance of the results outlined above is limited, the ditches appeared to be post-medieval field boundaries, which, judging by the fact they cut the subsoil, were in use until relatively recently. They correlated fairly well with the historic mapping of the site (Figs 3, 4 and 5), the northern field boundary appearing to have gone out of use by 1893 (Fig 4) and the southern boundary having gone out of use before 1909 (Fig 5).
- 4.4.2 The stratigraphy of the layers in the field reveals that there have been various attempts to level out the area, some of which is likely to do with the residential housing erected to the north of the site, particularly with regards to Trench 4. This activity has resulted in preservation of old ground surfaces, though with the lack of evidence for anthropogenic interference with the land it is unlikely the preservation of such would yield any new interpretation; the site therefore holds low significance.

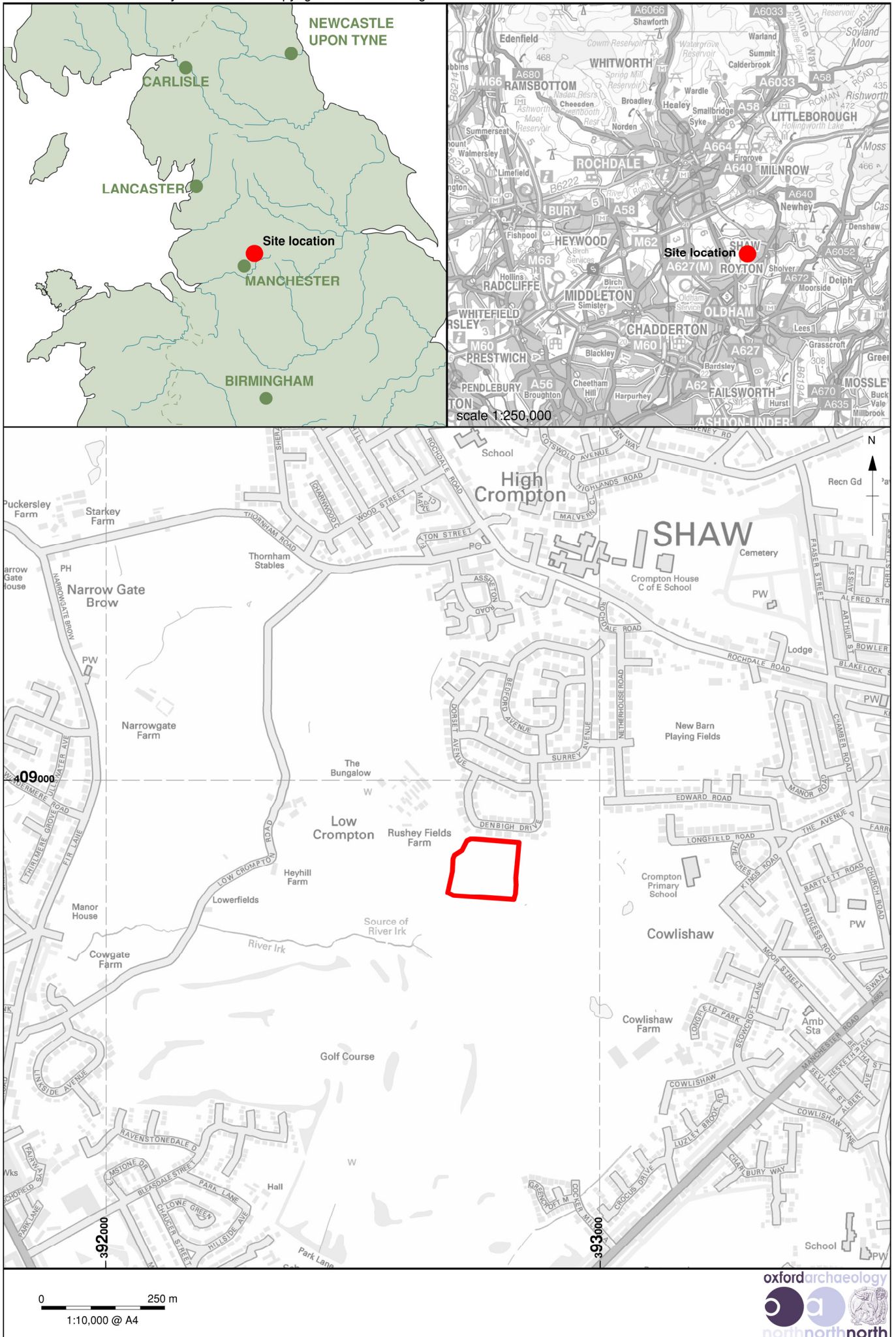


Figure 1: Site location

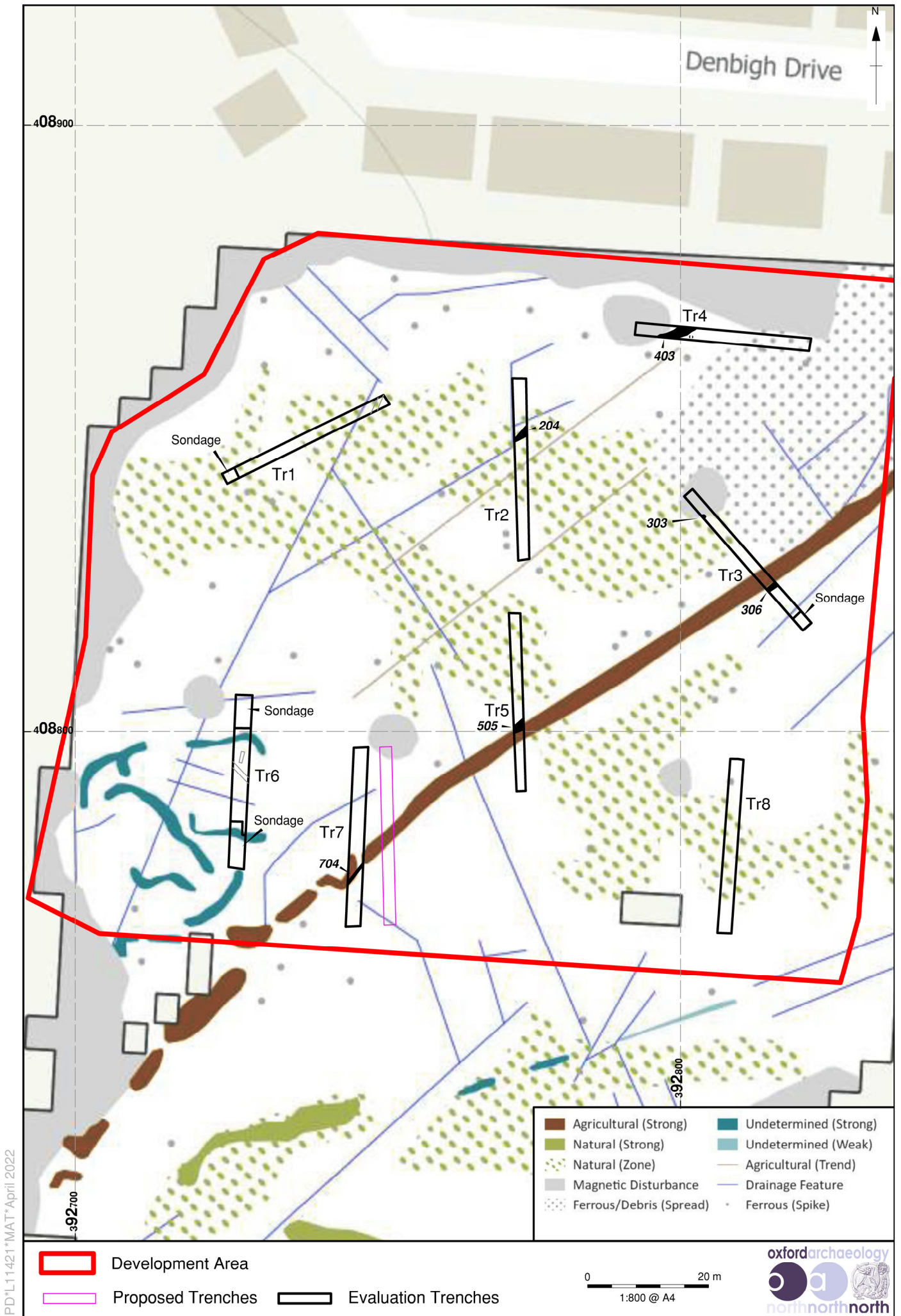
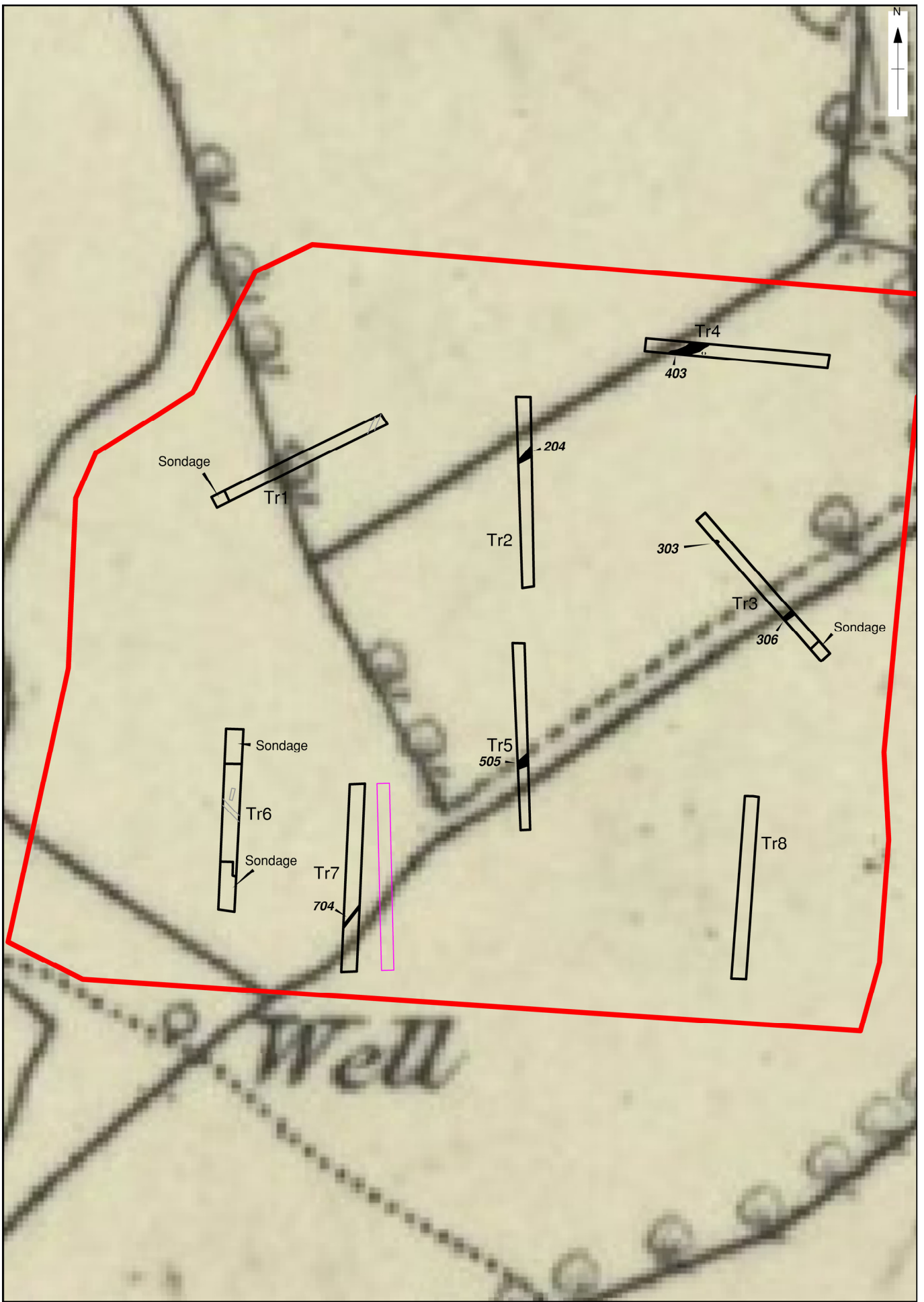


Figure 2: Evaluation trenches superimposed on the interpretation of the geophysical survey



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- Development Area
- Proposed Trenches
- Evaluation Trenches

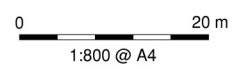


Figure 3: Evaluation trenches superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 6":1 mile map of 1851

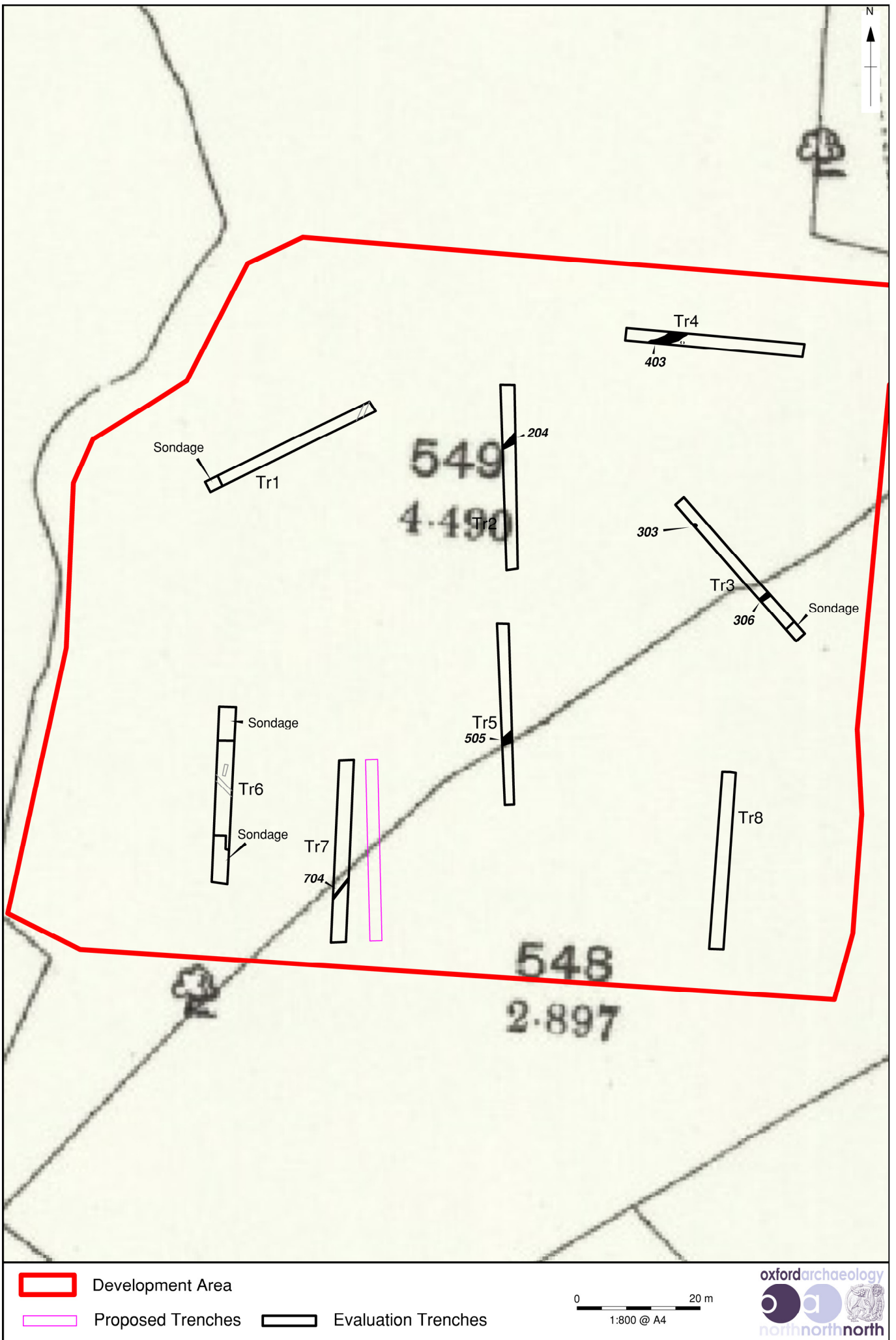
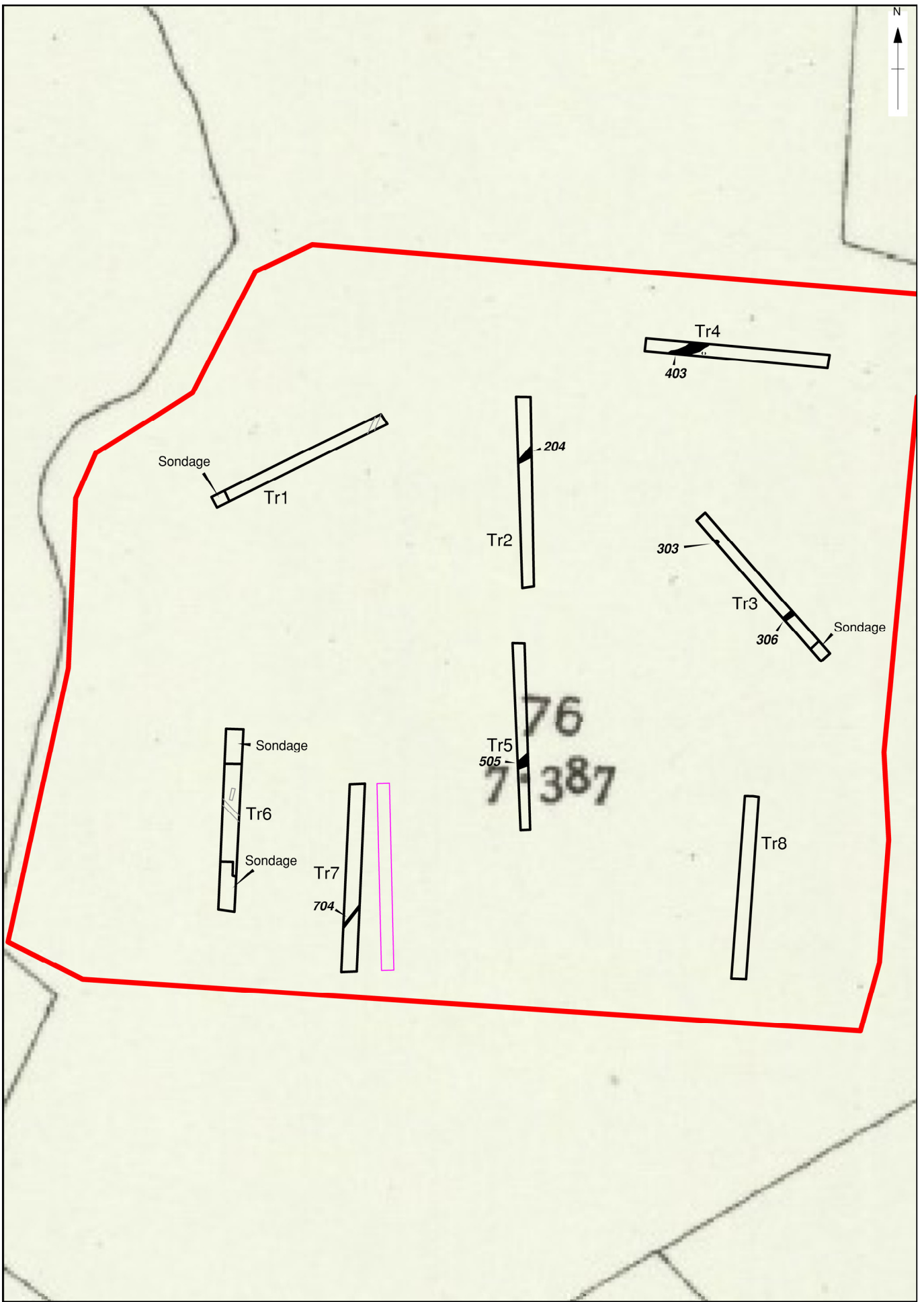


Figure 4: Evaluation trenches superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile map of 1893



- Development Area
- Proposed Trenches
- Evaluation Trenches

0 ————— 20 m
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Figure 5: Evaluation trenches superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile map of 1909

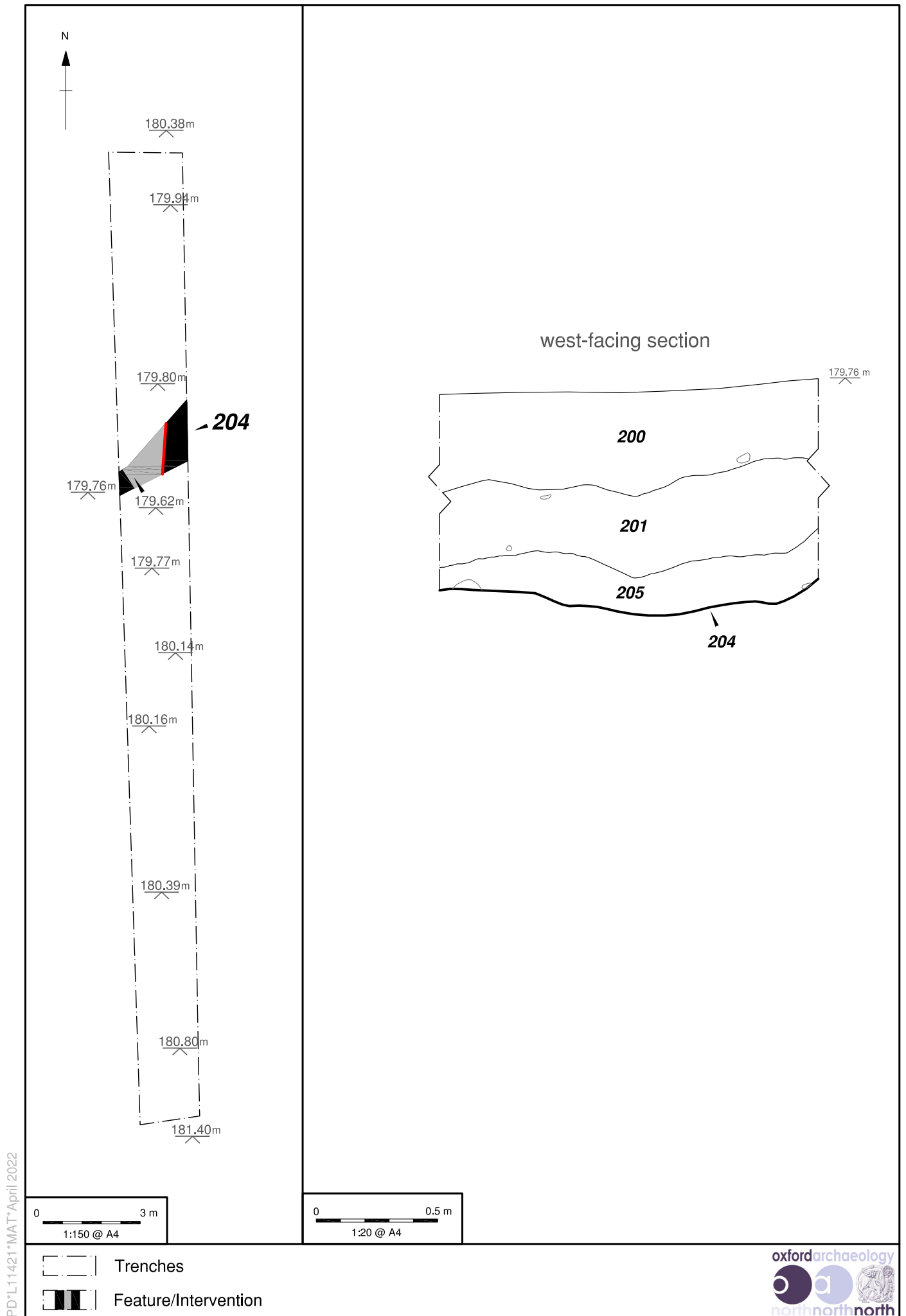


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 2 and section of 204

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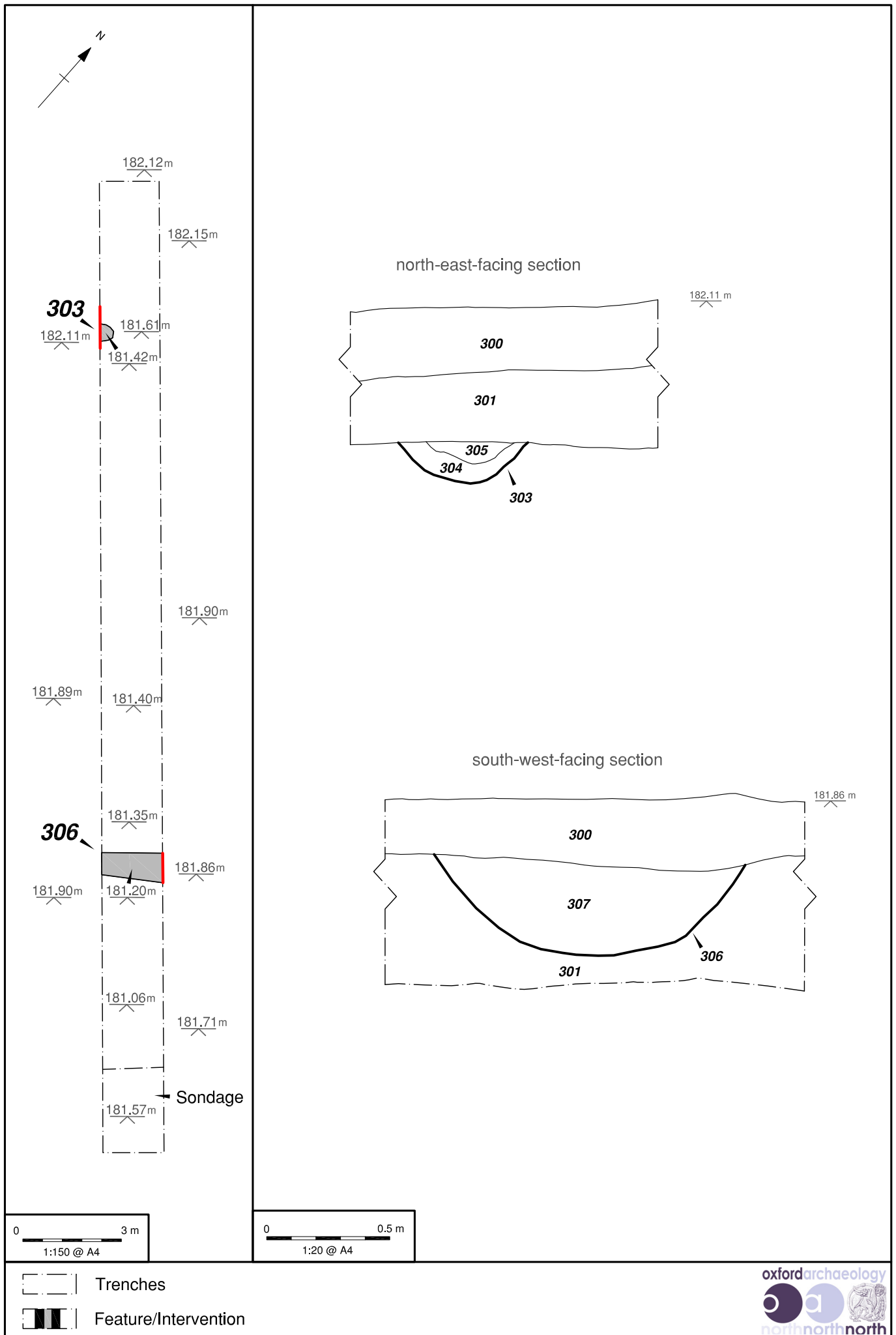


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 3 and sections of **303** and **306**

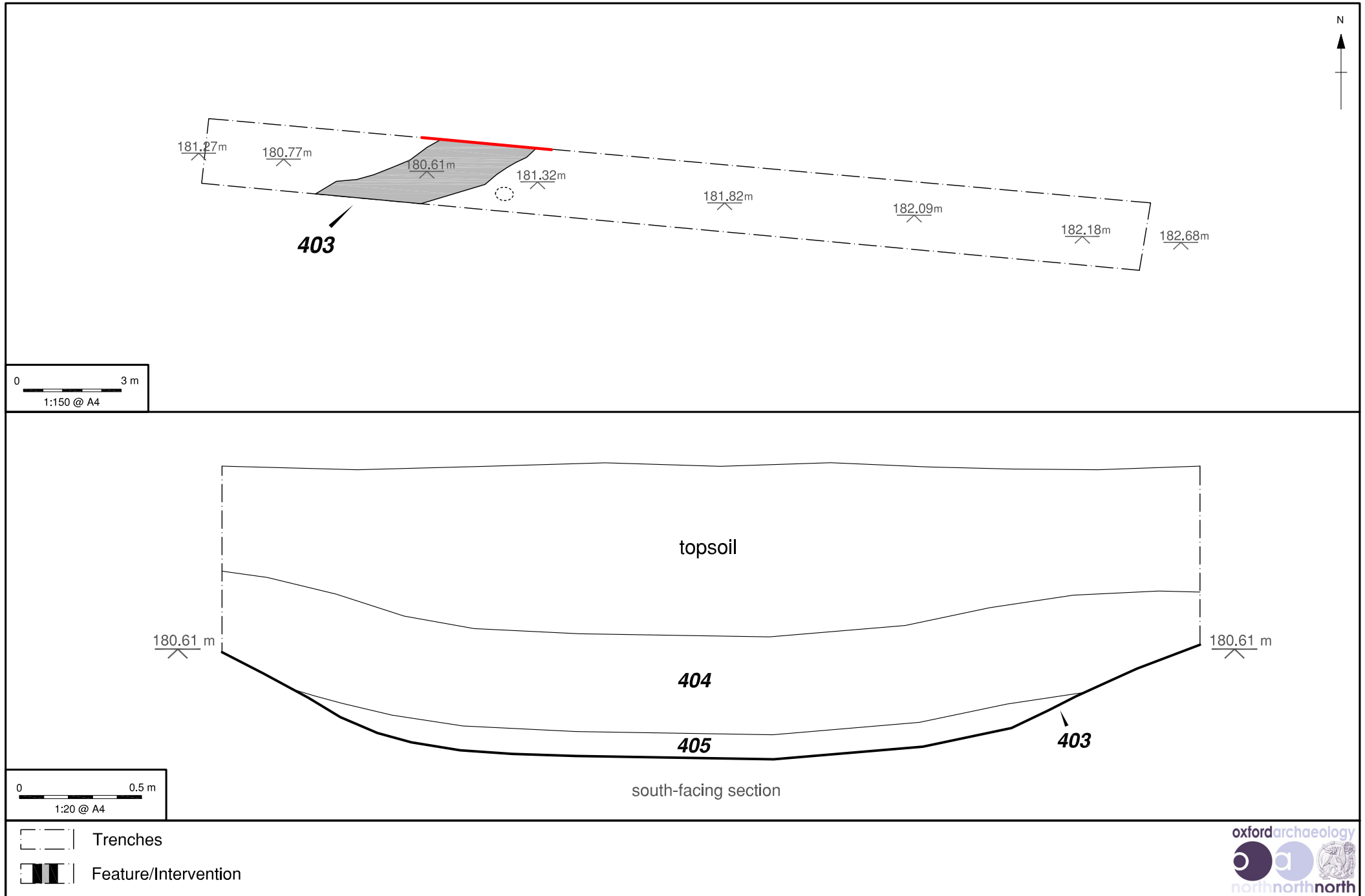


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 4 and section of **403**

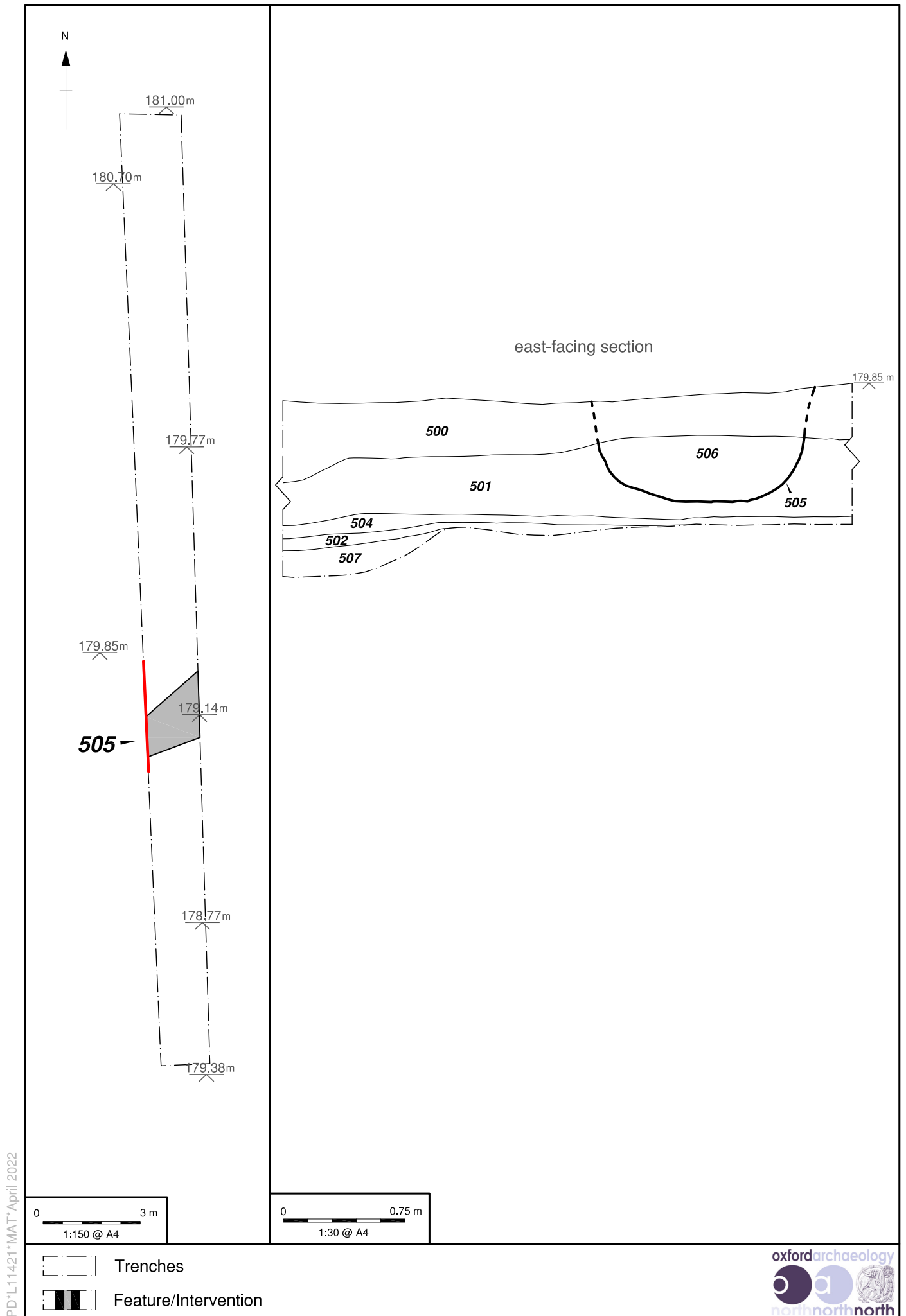
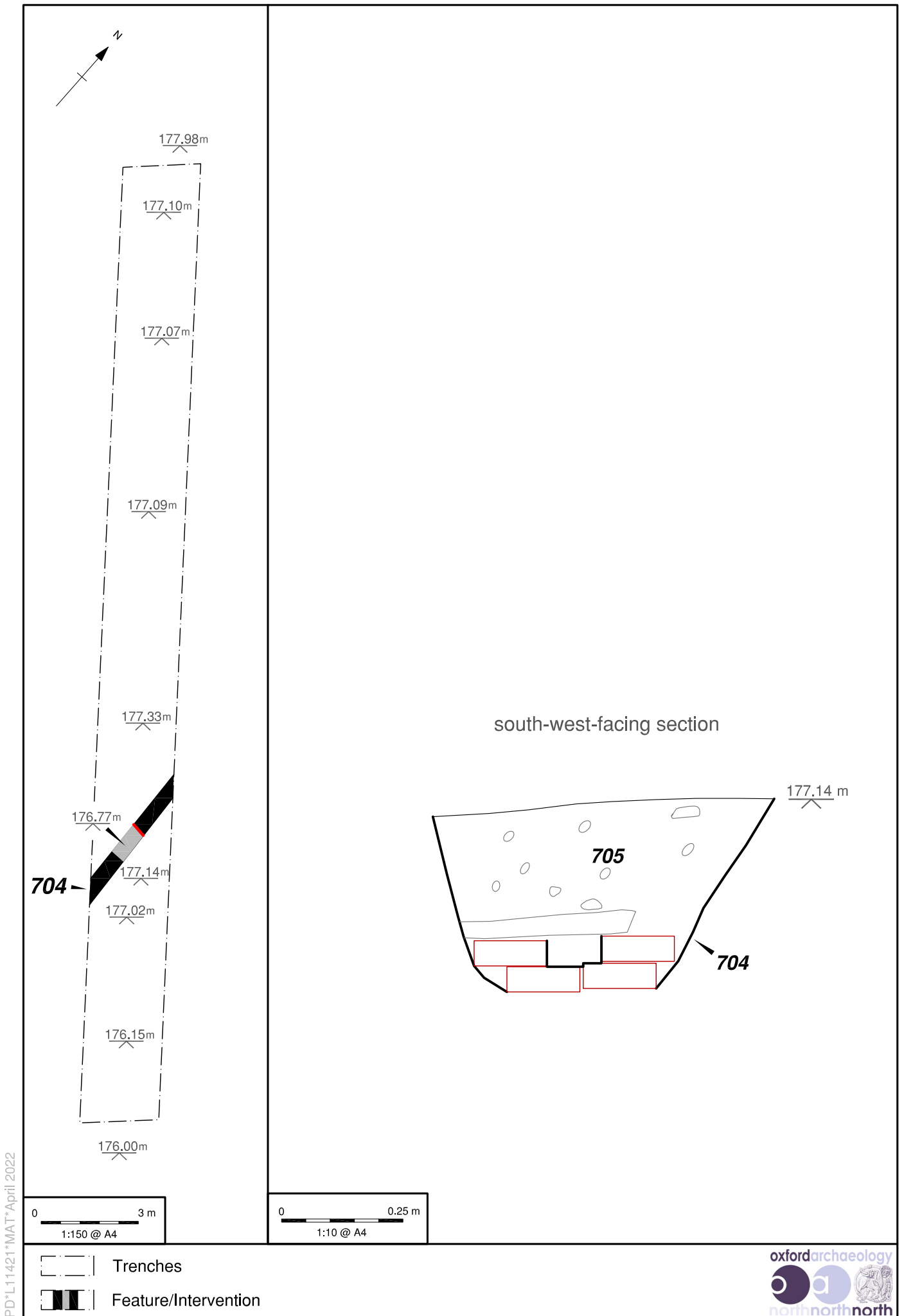


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 5 and section of **505**

PD*L11421*MAT*April 2022



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Figure 10: Plan of Trench 7 and section of 704

APPENDIX A

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**LAND AT DENBIGH DRIVE
SHAW
OLDHAM
GREATER MANCHESTER**

**PREPARED BY LANPRO SERVICES
ON BEHALF OF
MILLER HOMES**

December 2020



Planning + Development | Design Studio | Archaeology + Heritage

Project Reference: 2057/02

Document Prepared by: Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc MCifA

Revision	Reason for Update	Document Updated

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Figure 1. Location of the proposed development site

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Lanpro on behalf of Miller Homes (the client) and details the methodology for undertaking a scheme of archaeological evaluation of land measuring c. 3.2ha in extent to the south of Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Greater Manchester.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation will comprise a geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains and their nature, date, extent and significance. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform decisions on the need for any further archaeological mitigation investigation and, should this be required, the scope of any additional excavation will be detailed in a further WSI.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The study site is located on the west side of the town of Shaw and Crompton, referred to as Shaw, c. 4km to the north of the centre of Oldham (centred at NGR SD 92801 08795; see Figure 1).
- 2.2 The north side of the study site is bound by the rear of residential properties fronting onto Denbigh Drive and the east, south and west sides are bound by agricultural land. The site is accessed via an access track between two residential properties on Denbigh Drive.
- 2.3 The study site comprises a single pasture field with an area of marshy ground on the east side. An electricity pylon is located on the south perimeter and the high voltage overhead powerlines cross over the south-west of the study site. The field boundaries comprise post and wire fencing, although there is some evidence along the south-west boundary of the remains of a dry-stone wall. Within the proposed south-west access point there are also remains of orthostatic hedging.
- 2.4 The topography of the study site is undulating with the north side being at a higher level, at approximately 183m AOD, than the south side of the study site, at approximately 170m AOD, with a relatively steep drop in levels across the central portion.
- 2.5 The bedrock geology across the very northern edge of the study site consists of sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation with the remainder comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the same Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation. This is overlain by sand and gravel of the Devensian Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits for the majority of the study site, with Diamicton Devensian Till within the south-east (bgs.ac.uk).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The study site is proposed for residential development with associated access and infrastructures works. As part of the pre-application process and following completion of an archaeological desk-based assessment, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory

Service (GMAAS) was consulted. It was advised that an archaeological evaluation would be necessary in accordance with paragraph 199 of NPPF and as a condition of consent.

- 3.2 The programme of archaeological evaluation would be required in the form of a geophysical survey with subsequent trial trenching. A 3% sample of the site will look to target potential archaeological features identified in the survey results together with a test of 'blank' areas in the data. Should significant archaeology be identified during this process a contingency of up to an additional 2% will be employed in agreement with GMAAS and the client.
- 3.3 This WSI provides a detailed methodology for undertaking the programme of archaeological evaluation work across the proposed development site. This is aimed at identifying, recording and sampling any archaeological features that may be present, and assessing the need for further mitigation excavation if required.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The archaeological background below is a precis of the results of the archaeological desk-based assessment provided by Lanpro (2020).
- 4.2 There are no recorded archaeological assets within or bounding the study site.
- 4.3 Within the wider area there has been no evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity and therefore it is considered that there is a very low/nil potential for remains of this date to be discovered within the study site.
- 4.4 During the medieval period the study site was situated within the agricultural hinterland surrounding Crompton, a settlement first recorded in the 13th century. Crompton was a collection of scattered woods, farmsteads, moorland, swamp and a single corn mill, occupied by a small and close community of families. The area was thinly populated and consisted of several dispersed hamlets. The upland geography of the area constrained the output of crop growing, and so prior to industrialisation the area was used for grazing sheep, which provided the raw material for a local woollen weaving trade. Wills and inventories from the late medieval period suggests that most families were involved with small scale pasture but supplemented their incomes by weaving woollens in the domestic system, and selling cloth, linen and fustians to travelling chapmen for the markets in Manchester and Rochdale. Consequently, the potential for the presence of significant (i.e. non-agricultural) medieval remains within the study site is considered to be very low/nil.
- 4.5 In the second half of the 18th century, the technology of cotton-spinning machinery improved, and the need for larger buildings to house bigger, better and more efficient equipment became apparent. The profitability of cotton spinning meant that open land that had been used for farming since antiquity, was utilised for purpose-built weavers' cottages. Larger buildings were still desired, and construction of two water-powered cotton factories (two or three times the size of a cottage) can be traced to 1782. The construction of more mills followed—ten by 1789—facilitating a process of urbanisation and socioeconomic

transformation in the region; the population moved away from farming, adopting employment in the factory system. However, the study remained in agricultural use during the industrial and modern periods through to the present day. Since the 19th century at least the internal field boundaries have been gradually removed and it remains as a single field. During the later 20th century the area to the north of the study site has been developed for residential purposes. The potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) evidence of post-medieval or modern origin has, however, been considered to be very low/nil.

5 RESEARCH DESIGN

Aims and Objectives

5.1 The overall aim of the archaeological evaluation will be to obtain sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development. This will allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made regarding any requirements for mitigation, the scope of which would be detailed in a subsequent WSI in agreement with GMAAS.

5.2 This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the development site;
- To excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features;
- To report the results of the evaluation and place them in their local, regional or national context and to make this record available.

Research Framework

5.3 The programme of archaeological investigation has the potential to contribute to research priorities originally identified in the regional research framework *The Archaeology of North West England - An Archaeological Research Framework for the North West* (Brennand 2006), and recently revised and updated in draft form (archaeologynorthwest.wordpress.com/period-updates/).

- 5.4 The investigation will also take account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's *Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage* (SHAPE) first published in 2008.

6 STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

- 6.1 All work will be undertaken to fully meet the requirements of all nationally recognised guidance for such work, including standards laid down by the former English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 6.2 The programme of archaeological evaluation will be managed in line with the standards laid down in the Historic England guideline publication *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide* (2015a), as well as to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Chapter 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'; revised 2019). All excavation will be undertaken using recording standards detailed in the *Archaeological Field Manual* (MOLAS 1994).
- 6.3 Guidance of particular relevance to the programme of works are:
- *Guidelines for the use of Geophysics in Archaeology* (EAC 2016);
 - *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a);
 - *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014c);
 - *Standard and guidance for archaeological geophysical survey* (CIfA 2016 (rev));
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (English Heritage 2008).

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The programme of archaeological evaluation will comprise:
- geophysical survey;
 - trial trenching;
 - report production.

Project initialisation

- 7.2 Lanpro will inform GMAAS at least one week in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 7.3 The appropriate museum will be contacted by the archaeological fieldwork contractor to arrange for the project archive to be created and deposited in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards.

- 7.4 Before fieldwork commences an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms.

Geophysical survey

- 7.5 Detailed gradiometer survey will be conducted using Bartington Magnetic Gradiometer systems with a sensitivity of 0.03nT/m. Data will be acquired over 30 m x 30 m grids with a sample interval of 0.25m along transects spaced 1 m apart in accordance with EAC's guidelines for geophysical survey (2016). Positioning for the survey grid corners will be provided using appropriate means to locate each grid corner to less than 0.1m.
- 7.6 Preliminary results will be issued within one week which will inform the quantity and configuration of the trial trenches.

Trial Trenching

- 7.7 The configuration of the trial trenches will be determined following the results of the geophysical survey and in consultation GMAAS.
- 7.8 Topsoil across the trenches will be stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless grading bucket, down to the first archaeological horizon or natural sub-soil.
- 7.9 Spoil from mechanical excavation will be scanned by eye and by metal detector to aid the recovery of artefacts, and topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately.
- 7.10 All excavation by mechanical excavator will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision, by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist, with one archaeologist responsible for monitoring each excavator. Mechanical excavation will cease at either undisturbed natural deposits or when archaeological deposits are identified.
- 7.11 All archaeological features and deposits revealed will be cleaned and excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to establish their extent, form, date, function and relationship to other features.
- 7.12 All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features exposed or excavated will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used.
- 7.13 Any excavation, by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.
- 7.14 There will be a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation. Significant archaeological features (e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes), will be preserved intact even if fills

are sampled. For linear features, minimum 1m wide slots should be excavated across their width. For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills will be sampled.

- 7.15 Metal detector searches will take place at all stages of the evaluation. Metal detecting of trench locations will be carried out before trenches are excavated, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches have been opened. Any metal finds will be located using survey-grade GPS and metal detectors will not be set to discriminate against iron. Metal detecting will also be conducted over the surface of all exposed features before the end of each working day as a countermeasure to 'nighthawking'.
- 7.16 Should the excavation of the trenches reach 1.2m in depth (or limit of safe working depth) without natural geology being encountered, a machine dug sondage will be excavated in order to establish the depth of natural geology. Where depth of excavation is required to be greater than 1m, suitable stepping will be employed.
- 7.17 All identified finds and artefacts will be collected and retained, and bagged and labelled according to their context. Finds of significant interest will be given a 'small finds' number, and information on their location in three dimensions will be entered on a separate pro-forma sheet. No finds will be discarded without assessment by an appropriate finds specialist.
- 7.18 A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all features revealed during the course of the archaeological evaluation. The location and extent of archaeological features will be recorded by GPS. Plans will be completed at a scale of 1:20 (as appropriate), with section drawings at a scale of 1:10. All plans will be tied in with the Ordnance Survey National Grid with levels given to above OD.
- 7.19 A photographic record of the project will be maintained, illustrating the detail and context of the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the progress of the programme of archaeological works.
- 7.20 All photography will follow the Historic England guidance for digital image capture (HE 2015b). All images will have accompanying metadata specifying; photo ID, capture device, converting software, colour space, bit depth, resolution, date of capture, photographer, caption, and any alterations made to the image.
- 7.21 Following excavation and recording of any archaeological remains and with the agreement of GMAAS, the evaluation trenches will be back-filled with the previously excavated spoil.

Palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy

- 7.22 Soil samples will be taken from all suitable features or deposits for palaeoenvironmental sampling. This will comprise the removal of a bulk sample from every securely sealed and hand-excavated context, excepting those with excessive levels of residuality or those with minimal 'soil' content (such as building rubble).

- 7.23 Bulk samples will comprise representative 40 litre samples. Where a context does not yield 40 litres of material, smaller samples will be taken (generally the maximum amount of material practicable to collect). Bulk samples will be used to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts where necessary, as well as any industrial residues.
- 7.24 If buried soils or other deposits are encountered, column samples may be taken for micromorphological and pollen analysis. Environmental material will be stored in a controlled environment and specialists consulted during the course of the work if necessary.
- 7.25 The post-excavation processing of all palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the former English Heritage's (now Historic England) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).

Human remains

- 7.26 The discovery of human remains is not anticipated during the evaluation fieldwork. However, should these be encountered then the archaeological contractor must contact the Ministry of Justice for an appropriate licence and GMAAS will be informed. The contractor will comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains.
- 7.27 If human remains are encountered, they will be cleaned with minimal disturbance, prior to recording and removal, following receipt of the required Ministry of Justice licence. Investigation and excavation of human remains will be undertaken by, or under supervision of, suitably experienced specialist staff and in accordance with former Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) guidelines *Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains* (McKinley and Roberts 1993) and the *Updated Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains* (Mitchell and Brickley 2017). Assessment of excavated human remains will be undertaken in line with English Heritage guidelines *Human Bones from archaeological sites: Guidelines for the production of assessment documents and analytical reports* (English Heritage 2004). The archaeological contractor will comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, re-interment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Every effort will be made, at all times, not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 7.28 If required a qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist will undertake site visits to discuss the recording and assist in the removal of any human skeletal remains.

Scientific dating

- 7.29 Provision will be made to recover material suitable for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic, dendrochronological and other scientific dating. Where material suitable for dating is recovered, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the evaluation.

Other finds

- 7.30 Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2 (1990) and the ClfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014c).
- 7.31 If required, conservation will be undertaken by approved conservators in line with the *First Aid for Finds* guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Significant iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment.
- 7.32 Any finds of gold and silver will be moved to a safe place. Where removal cannot be undertaken immediately, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage. All finds of gold and silver, and associated objects, will be reported to the coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 (and the act's amendment of 2003).

Unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries

- 7.33 Should unexpectedly extensive, complex or significant remains be uncovered that warrant, in the professional judgment of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of the WSI, the scope of the WSI will be reviewed.
- 7.34 In the event of a review of the WSI being required, Lanpro will contact the client and GMAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter. This is likely to require an on-site meeting between the relevant stakeholders to review the archaeological remains on-site and identify a way forward. Any variations to this WSI will be put in writing and agreed by the relevant stakeholders including GMAAS and the client.

Plant and equipment

- 7.35 The archaeological contractor on site will be responsible for the provision of all required welfare, plant, and health and safety equipment during the trial trenching.

8 POST-FIELDWORK

- 8.1 Upon completion of the evaluation fieldwork, the artefacts, soil samples and stratigraphic information will be assessed for their potential and significance for further analysis if required and the relevant parties notified accordingly. A report on the combined stages of fieldwork will be produced within 4-6 weeks following completion which will be used to inform any further mitigation work.

Finds

- 8.2 Finds will be cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for *Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2* (1990)

and the ClfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014c).

- 8.3 In accordance with appropriate procedures, significant iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before issue of the final report.
- 8.4 All material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Any waterlogged organic materials will be dealt with in line with the English Heritage guidance documents, *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (2018) and *Waterlogged Wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (2010).
- 8.5 The preservation state, density and significance of material retrieved will be assessed, following the English Heritage guidelines *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).
- 8.6 Any finds for dating will be submitted to specialists promptly, so as to ensure that results are available to aid development of a project design for the analysis stage, if required.

Environmental Sample Processing

- 8.7 The processing of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the English Heritage publications *Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice Guidance for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists* (2006b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).
- 8.8 The samples will be processed, and ecofacts collected and assessed with regard to the potential for detailed analysis of pollen, charred plant macrofossils, land molluscs, faunal remains (including small mammals and fish) and soil micromorphology. Samples suitable for radiocarbon, or other dating methods, will also be identified. The environmental assessment will be reported within the overall post-excavation assessment report for all phases of investigation and include proposals for full analysis if required. Unprocessed sub-samples will be stored in conditions specified by the appropriate specialists. Samples for dating will be submitted to specialists promptly, so as to ensure that results are available to aid development of the project design for any further analysis stage if required.

Conservation

- 8.9 If required, conservation will be undertaken by approved conservators in line with the *First Aid for Finds* guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Material considered vulnerable will be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues in or on pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material).

Report

8.10 The results of the geophysical survey will be issued as a standalone report with the results integrated within the evaluation report. As a minimum the report shall contain the following information:

- A title page, with the name of the project, the name of the author(s) of the report, the title of the report and date of the report;
- A non-technical summary of the scope, methodology and results of the work;
- Introduction which includes site code/project number, dates when the fieldwork took place and grid reference;
- Description of the topography and geology of the site;
- Description of the archaeological background to the site;
- Description of the aims, methodology and extent of fieldwork completed;
- Factual assessments of stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence;
- An assessment of the archaeological potential of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental records;
- Proposed programme for further analysis and reporting if required, including the identification of specialists;
- Conclusions;
- Details of archive location and destination (with the museum accession number), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive;
- Copy of the OASIS entry form and any entry updates;
- Appendices, illustrations and figures, as appropriate; and
- References and bibliography of all sources used.

8.11 A draft copy of the evaluation report will be provided to GMAAS in PDF format for comment.

8.12 Following approval, copies of the final reports will be produced and submitted to the Greater Manchester HER in a PDF/A or hard copy format as required.

9 ARCHIVING

9.1 The appointed archaeological contractor will contact the appropriate museum in advance of commencing any fieldwork to determine the preparation, and deposition of the archive and finds, and obtain an accession number for all archaeological works. The landowner will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to the museum.

- 9.2 Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent.
- 9.3 The archive will contain all the data collected during the archaeological works, including all digital and paper records, finds and environmental samples. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the ClfA guidelines detailed in *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA, 2014c). The preparation of the archive will also be informed by the *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990), *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994), and in accordance with museum's archive deposition guidelines. Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long-term storage.
- 9.4 Digital copies of the assessment report and associated data will be submitted to the Greater Manchester HER, together with OASIS and ADS to allow the results of the work to be accessible on-line to the wider archaeological community and general public.

10 TIMETABLE

- 10.1 The geophysical survey is expected to take one day in the field to complete. Interim results will be provided within one week of the completion of the fieldwork and the final report within 2 weeks.
- 10.2 The configuration of trial trenches is not presently known as this will be informed by the geophysical survey. However, this will be agreed in consultation with GMAAS who will be provided with one week's notice of the fieldwork commencement date.
- 10.3 It is anticipated that the 3% sample trenching will take up to two weeks to complete. Should it be required that the contingency be employed of up to a further 2% sample then this is expected to take up to an additional week and will be within the same mobilisation.
- 10.4 GMAAS will monitor implementation of the programme of archaeological works on behalf of Oldham Council and evaluate the work being undertaken on site against the methodology detailed in this WSI and will be afforded the opportunity to inspect the site and all records of the appointed archaeological contractor at any stage of the work.

11 STAFFING

- 11.1 Emily Mercer (Principal Heritage Consultant, Lanpro) will be in overall charge of the management of the project on behalf of Miller Homes.
- 11.2 The appointed sub-contractors will be confirmed in advance of the fieldwork commencing and CVs can be provided to relevant interested parties.

12 INSURANCE

- 12.1 The archaeological contractor will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £5m.

13 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 13.1 The management of all health and safety on site during the survey and trial trenching phase will be the responsibility of the appointed geophysical survey and archaeological contractors. All works will be undertaken by the contractor in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and all applicable regulations and Codes of Practice.
- 13.2 All archaeological staff will undertake their operations in accordance with safe working practices and will be CSCS certified. At least one First Aider will be present on site at all times. A site-specific risk assessment will be produced by the appointed archaeological contractor, prior to the commencement of work on site, which will be subject to regular review.
- 13.3 Suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and welfare facilities will be provided by the archaeological contractor, including hi-visibility coats/vests, hard hats, safety boots and gloves, as well as safety glasses if required.
- 13.4 All staff will receive a health and safety induction prior to starting work on site to be provided by the archaeological contractor.
- 13.5 Regular audits of health and safety practices will be carried out during the course of the project by Lanpro and the archaeological contractor in consultation with the site workforce. Toolbox talks on health and safety issues will be conducted at minimum weekly intervals and/or after changes in working practices or identification of new threats/risks. The risk assessment will be reviewed and updated as necessary. Control measures will be implemented as required in response to specific hazards.
- 13.6 Safe working will take priority over the desire to record archaeological features or remains, and where it is considered that recording is dangerous, any such features will be recorded by photography at a safe distance.
- 13.7 All areas of excavation will be scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to ground works commencing. Necessary measures will be taken to avoid disturbing any services.
- 13.8 Plant operators will be required to produce evidence of qualification within an industry accepted registration scheme. Sub-Contractors health and safety performance will be kept under review and action taken if necessary. All spoil will be stored and managed safely in line with the standards of the *Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites* (DEFRA 2009).
- 13.9 Site welfare accommodation and car parking should be located within the site and the location of these facilities will be agreed between the archaeological contractor, Lanpro and the client in advance of the commencement of work.

14 COPYRIGHT AND PUBLICITY

- 14.1 Copyright of the documentation prepared by the archaeological contractor and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the client and the Greater Manchester HER to use such documentation for their statutory and educational functions, and to provide copies to third parties as required.
- 14.2 Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR 2004), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'.
- 14.3 It is recognised that the project may identify remains which are of interest to the public and these may be publicised through appropriate media. Any publicity for the project proposed by the archaeological contractor should be approved by the client in advance.
- 14.4 The appointed archaeological contractor will not issue any information on the work through media, internet or social media without prior agreement of the client. Care will be taken to ensure that any publicity does not compromise the security of archaeological remains that may have been identified or recovered. Any approaches by the press to the archaeological contractor should be referred to the client in the first instance.

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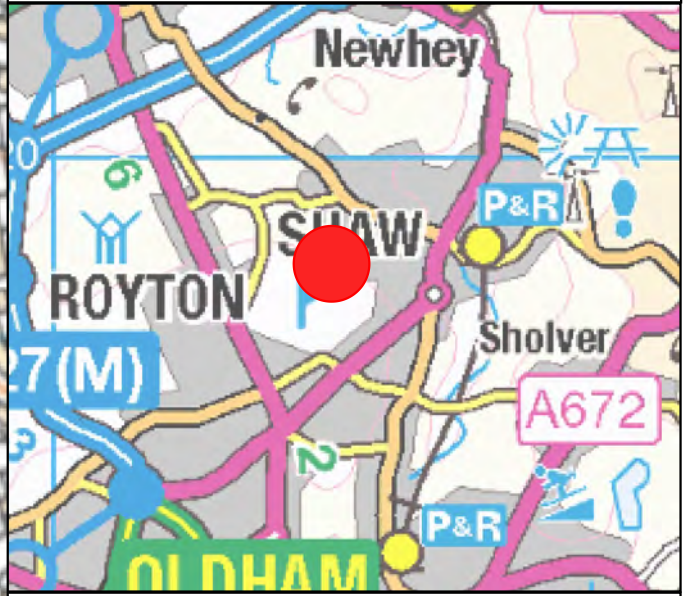
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Figures



 Site

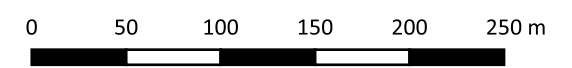


Figure 1. Location of the proposed development site

Norwich:

Brettingham House
98 Pottergate,
Norwich
Norfolk
NR2 1EQ
01603 631 319

London:

70 Cowcross Street
London
EC1M 6EL
020 3011 0820

Retford:

Retford Enterprise Centre
Randall Way
Retford
DN22 7GR
01777 552 001

York:

Blake House
18 Blake Street
York
Y01 8QG
01904 803 800

Manchester:

Peter House
Oxford Street
Manchester
Greater Manchester
M1 5AN
0161 711 1740



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APPENDIX B TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil 100 and subsoil 101 overlying natural geology of slightly silty sand 102 .					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.50
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-		Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil 200 overlying subsoil 201 overlying an alluvial layer of sand 202 which in turn overlay the natural silty sand 203 . There was a potential ditch 204 .					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.50
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.2	Alluvial	Stone	-
203	Layer	-	0.0	Natural	-	-
204	Ditch	1.55	0.55	Ditch	-	-
205	Fill	1.55	0.55	Fill of 204	Stone	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench targeted a boundary ditch 306 that ran across the field southwest to northeast, there was also a pit 303 . The stratigraphy consists of topsoil 300 overlying subsoil 301 , overlying a gravelly sand natural 302 .					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.55
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	Ceramic	-
302	Layer	-	0.00	Natural	-	-
303	Pit	0.5	0.16	Pit	-	-
304	Fill	0.5	0.07	Fill of pit 303	-	-
305	Fill	0.35	0.08	Fill of pit 303	-	-
306	Ditch	1.25	0.35	Ditch	-	-
307	Fill	1.35	0.35	Fill of ditch 306	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
This trench targeted a magnetic disturbance identified during the geophysics. The disturbance appeared to be a channel or large pit 403 that was filled by subsoil 401 , likely as a levelling event. The stratigraphy consists topsoil 400 overlaying a subsoil 401 which overlay a sandy clay natura 402 .					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.5
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
403	Cut	4.0	1.2	Ditch	-	-
404	Fill	4.0	0.7	Fill of ditch 403	-	-
405	Fill	4.0	0.5	Fill of ditch 403	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
This trench targeted a boundary ditch 505 . The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 500 overlaying a subsoil 501 that appeared to be made ground which overlay an old ground surface 504 , which overlay alluvial sands 507, 508 .					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.6
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	Ceramic	-
501	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.04	Aeolian sediment	-	-
503	Layer	-	0.00	Natural	-	-
504	Layer	-	0.07	Buried soil	-	-
505	Ditch	1.26	0.40	Ditch	-	Post-medieval
506	Fill	1.26	0.40	Fill of ditch 505	Ceramic and glass	Post-medieval
507	Layer		0.14	Alluvial sand	-	-
508	Layer		0.95	Alluvial sand	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench targeted geophysical anomalies that turned out to be geological changes, a channel in the north end of the trench and waterlogged ground in the south end. Trench consists of topsoil 600 overlaying subsoil 601 overlaying a light grey alluvial sand 603 and a dark grey alluvial 604 , overlaying a dark grey natural glacial till 605 . In the south end the sand 603 overlay waterlogged gravels 606 .					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.6
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.43	Subsoil	-	-

Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
602	Layer	-	0.0	Natural	-	-
603	Layer	-	0.1	Alluvial layer	-	-
604	Layer	-	0.37	Alluvial layer	-	-
605	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
606	Layer	-	-	Waterlogged gravel	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	N-S
This trench targeted a boundary ditch 704 . The stratigraphy consists of topsoil 700 overlaying subsoil 701 overlaying a sand natural 703 . At the north end of the trench there was a channel that was filled with a peat 701 that was overlain by topsoil.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.8
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.22	Peat	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.12	Alluvial layer	Ceramic and iron	-
703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
704	Cut	0.7	0.34	Ditch	-	Post-medieval
705	Fill	0.7	0.34	Fill of ditch 704	Ceramic	Post-medieval

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench targeting 'blank' area on geophysics, no archaeology was found. Trench consists of topsoil 800 overlaying subsoil 801 , which overlies a remnant topsoil 803 , above a layer of sand 802 under which lies the natural 804 .					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.6
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.44	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.18	Alluvial layer	-	-
803	Layer	-	0.09	Remnant topsoil	-	-
804	Cut	0.7	0.34	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX C FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Finds

By Karen Barker

Introduction

C.1.1 Five objects, all ceramic, were recovered from three locations during the excavation at Denbigh Drive. The pottery was washed and air dried and finds from each context were assigned an object record (OR) number. A further 54 objects were retrieved during the processing of environmental samples, these are all small and were air dried and assigned an object record number (Table 1). All finds have been photographed for the archive.

Context	Sample	Object Record	Material	Count	Weight (g)	Date
202	1	1004	Stone	1	<1	No confirmed date
205	2	1003	Stone	1	<1	No confirmed date
301		1000	Ceramic	1	34	Late 17 th century onwards
500		1001	Ceramic	1	9	1750's onwards
506	3	1005	Ceramic	3	<1	Post-medieval
506	3	1006	Glass	5	1	Post-medieval
701	5	1007	Iron	1	1	No confirmed date
701	5	1008	Ceramic	43	5	No confirmed date
705		1002	Ceramic	3	29	Post-medieval

Table 1: Quantification of finds

Results

C.1.2 **Ceramic:** OR1000 (**301**) is a body fragment from a glazed black earthen ware vessel. The fabric is brick red with a few white inclusions (feldspar?), the vessel is ribbed on both sides with a dark brown / black glaze (Plate 12). The ribbing is typical for a tankard (Bingham Heritage Trails Association 2021) and dates from the late seventeenth century onwards.



Plate 12: OR1000 black earthenware ware vessel fragment

C.1.3 OR1001 (**500**) is a base fragment from a blue and white transfer printed vessel (Plate 13). The fabric is off-white, with blue and white under-glaze design to the exterior and the interior and base are white. The glaze is crizzled. The base is lipped with an external diameter of c 160mm, suggesting the fragment is from a large bowl. The bulk of the production of this type of ceramic took place in the Staffordshire potteries from the 1750s onwards but was most popular in the nineteenth century (Copeland 1980).



Plate 13: OR1001 Blue and white transfer printed base

C.1.4 OR1002(705) is three fragments from different vessels (Plate 14). On the left is a transfer printed rim fragment from a plate with a diameter of c 240mm. The fabric is hard white with no inclusions. This probably dates to the nineteenth century onwards. In the middle is a body sherd, probably locally made, partially brown glazed earthenware, the fabric is pale red with white striations and the interior only has a dark brown/black glaze. The interior and exterior surface are slightly ribbed, and the glaze is crizzled. This dates from the seventeenth to nineteenth century. The third fragment is a rim probably from a cup with a diameter of c 66mm and is much finer. The fabric is brick red with sand inclusions and has a black glaze on both surfaces. The fineness of the piece suggests this may be Cistercian ware and would date to the late fifteenth or sixteenth century, but this type of pottery evolves into blackwares in the late sixteenth century so could be much later in date (Brears 1971).



Plate 14: OR1002 mixed post-medieval ceramics

- C.1.5 OR 1005 (505) is three tiny fragments of ceramic; two of which are brick red and probably building material and undatable. The third although only 2mm in size is a rim fragment with grey body and brown glaze indicative of stoneware and a post-medieval date. OR1008 (701) is 43 fragments of ceramic building material with no diagnostic features and a combined weight of only 5g and, as such, is undatable.
- C.1.6 **Iron:** OR1007 (701) is a small nail, 13mm long. Nails change little over time and this example cannot be dated.
- C.1.7 **Glass:** OR1006 (505) is five fragments of glass weighing 1g. Four are olive-green which will date to the nineteenth or twentieth century and one is clear which is probably of a similar date.
- C.1.8 **Stone:** OR1003 (205) is an indeterminate fragment of carboniferous black chert and is less than 4mm long and is potentially natural. Also, possibly natural is OR1004 (202) which is a fragment of ochre (Plate 15) with grooves on the surface but with no clear smoothing to suggest that it is worked.



Plate 15: OR1004 fragment of ochre

Statement of potential

C.1.9 The finds found during processing of the environmental samples are all very small making identification limited. From these, the only finds that potentially date to earlier than the post-medieval period are the chert (OR1003) and the ochre (OR1004) but these show no evidence of being worked. All the other finds from the samples and the ceramics found during excavation are likely to date to the post-medieval period and are common types. No further work is required on the finds.

Retention and disposal

C.1.10 The finds are small in size, common and late in date making it unlikely that a museum will accession them or want them for a handling collection so they should be discarded.

APPENDIX D ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Environmental remains

By Denise Druce and Marta Golebiewska

Introduction

D.1.1 A targeted programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling was implemented in accordance with Historic England recommendations (EH 2011) and the Oxford Archaeology *Environmental Sampling Guidelines* (OA 2017), which resulted in the retrieval of five bulk samples for the recovery of archaeobotanical material. The samples were assessed for their potential to provide information on the local environment, cultivation practices, and fuel use. Any remains were also assessed for their potential for providing suitable material for radiocarbon dating if warranted.

Methodology

D.1.2 Four of the samples were processed using standard flotation where the flots were captured in a 250 µm mesh, and air dried. The retents of the floated samples were washed through 2mm and 500 µm meshes, air dried, and checked for residual charred remains, and finds. Organic deposit **701** was washed through a 250 µm mesh and kept wet due to its potential for containing material preserved through waterlogging. For the assessment, the samples were scanned using a *Leica* stereo-microscope and any plant material, including fruits, seeds, and charcoal was quantified. Other remains, such as bone, small artefacts, ceramic building material (cbm), industrial/metal waste, and coal/heat-affected vesicular material (havm) were also quantified. Quantification was based on a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 is rare (one to five items); 2 is frequent (6 to 50 items); 3 is common (51–100 items); and 4 is abundant (greater than 100 items). The assessment results were recorded on a *pro-forma*. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

D.1.3 Wood and charcoal fragments over 2mm in size were quantified and scanned to assess preservation and wood diversity. Wood maturity was also noted to assess wood type (ie heart wood, sap wood, or round wood) and to identify suitable material for radiocarbon dating. Identification and classification of the charcoal was aided by Hather (2000).

Results

D.1.4 The results of the archaeobotanical assessment are presented in Table 2, which also shows potential for radiocarbon dating. Four of the five samples were devoid of charred plant remains, however deposit **506**, from ditch **505** contained rare fragments of charred hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) and grass (Poaceae) stems. The presence of amorphous organic material, uncharred weed seeds, including blackberry (*Rubus* sp), thistle (*Cirsium* sp), sedge (*Juncus* sp) and small fragments of wood in ditch **204** suggests this feature was prone to waterlogging.

Sample No	Context No	Trench No	Feature	Flot size ml	Charred plant remains	Charcoal	Other remains	Radiocarbon dating potential
1	202	2	Alluvial sand deposit	30		<2mm (1), >2mm charcoal (1). <i>Quercus</i> sp	Modern roots (2), insects (1), insect eggs (1), coal (1)	no
2	205	2	Ditch 204	300		<2mm (2), >2mm charcoal (1). <i>Quercus</i> sp	Modern roots (3), amorphous organic (2), wood (2), waterlogged seeds (3), coal (2), havm (2)	no
3	506	5	Ditch 505	80	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragment (1)	<2mm (1)	Modern roots (4), insect eggs (1), coal (3), havm (2), cbm (3)	yes
4	305	3	Pit 303	50		<2mm (3), >2mm charcoal (3). <i>Quercus</i> sp and <i>Pinus</i> sp, frequent round wood	Modern roots (1), coal (1), hammerscale (1)	yes
5	701	7	Organic layer	200		<2mm (1), >2mm charcoal (1). <i>Quercus</i> sp and <i>Pinus</i> sp, frequent round wood	Modern roots (3), <i>Juncus</i> sp (2), coal (2), havm (3), cbm (3), hammerscale (1)	yes

Table 2: Archaeobotanical assessment results

Remains are quantified on a scale of 1–4 where (1) is rare (one to five items); 2 is frequent (6 to 50 items); 3 is common (51–100 items); and 4 is abundant (greater than 100 items). Havm = heat-affected vesicular material, cbm = ceramic building material

D.1.5 The samples contained varying amounts of charcoal fragments, which were most abundant in fill **305**, of pit **303**. Charcoal fragments comprised either oak (*Quercus* sp) or both oak and a coniferous wood, probably Scot's pine (*Pinus sylvatica*) twig fragments in pit **303** and organic layer **701**. Other common remains included coal fragments, heat-affected vesicular material (havm) comprising probable fuel ash slag, and ceramic building material (cbm). Rare hammerscale was recovered from pit **303** and organic layer **701**. The presence of modern roots and invertebrate eggs in several of the samples indicates some degree of contamination.

Statement of potential

D.1.6 Combined, the evidence suggests that the features and deposits excavated at Denbigh Drive were in receipt of varying levels of debris comprising fuel and habitation waste. The presence of rare hammerscale in pit **303** and organic layer **701** suggests some of this debris may derive from some sort of nearby workshop/industrial activity, which utilised oak and pine wood. The recovery of common waterlogged plant remains from ditch **204** suggests the fills of this ditch had remained damp/wet over time and was in receipt of wood fragments and seeds from local vegetation, which included elder scrub, sedges, and thistles. Without direct dating, the age of the material remains ambiguous; however, the material evidence suggests it is likely to be modern. Organic remains from ditch **505**, pit **303**, and organic layer **701** would provide suitable material for radiocarbon dating, if warranted.

D.1.7 Although of some interest, the relatively low amount and limited diversity of the remains from Denbigh Drive means that further analyses would not contribute significantly to the archaeobotanical record provided by this assessment.

Retention and disposal

D.1.8 The assessment *pro-formas* will be kept with the site archive. Flots not required for further analysis and/or radiocarbon dating will be disposed of on completion of the project.

APPENDIX E BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX F**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

Site name:	Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Greater Manchester
Site code:	DDS22
Grid Reference	NGR: SD 92801 08795
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	21/03/22 to 23/03/22
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA North, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited via the Archaeological Data Service in due course.
Summary of Results:	The principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to test anomalies and 'blank' areas identified on the geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys in 2021, and to characterise any archaeological remains identified to inform a decision as to whether any further mitigation would be required. The result of the evaluation were minimal, with ditched features being identified in five of the eight trenches which likely relate to field boundaries as depicted on historic mapping. The environmental and finds data also appears to suggest that the remains are post-medieval in date and of low significance.

APPENDIX G OASIS REPORT

Summary for oxfordar2-505623

OASIS ID (UID)	oxfordar2-505623
Project Name	Land at Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Greater Manchester Archaeological Evaluation Report
Sitename	
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	L11421
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Oxford Archaeology North
Project Dates	21-Mar-2022 - 30-Jun-2022
Location	Denbigh Drive, Shaw NGR : SD 92791 08840 LL : 53.5761076350865, -2.11034368626955 12 Fig : 392791,408840
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater Manchester District : Oldham Parish : Shaw and Crompton
Project Methodology	<p>Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land south of Denbigh Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Greater Manchester in preparation for a residential development of the site (NGR: SD 92801 08795). As part of the planning application (planning ref: FUL/346529/21) Lanpro Services produced a desk-based assessment (Lanpro 2020). Lanpro Services consulted Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) who recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken, Lanpro Services subsequently produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the necessary works. Planning permission was subsequently granted for the proposed development. OA North were subsequently commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork, which was undertaken between 21st and 23rd March 2022.</p> <p>The principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to test anomalies and 'blank' areas identified on the geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys in 2021, and to characterise any archaeological remains identified to inform a decision as to whether any further mitigation would be required.</p>
Project Results	The result of the evaluation were minimal, with ditched features being identified in five of the eight trenches which likely relate to field boundaries as depicted on historic mapping. The environmental and finds data also appears to suggest that the remains are post-medieval in date and of low significance.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Greater Manchester HER - noRev - LITE
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	

Archives

Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with
Archaeology Data Service Archive;



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