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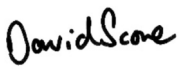
Signature:	

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Dewar's Farm Quarry Extension, Ardley, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial-trench evaluation on the site of the proposed north-eastern extension to Dewar's Farm Quarry, Ardley, Oxfordshire, in September 2021. The fieldwork was commissioned by Landgage Heritage on behalf of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd.

A total of 107 trenches were investigated across the site, some of which were targeted on selected geophysical anomalies. Of these, 15 trenches were found to contain archaeological remains.

The most notable remains comprised an assemblage of late Mesolithic flint artefacts recovered from a series of natural hollows/depressions within Trench 104 in the south of the site overlooking Trow Pools. Small quantities of charred remains were also recovered in association with the flint artefacts.

A possible ring ditch or enclosure ditch recorded in Trench 65 in the south-east of the site, together with a small number of undated ditches nearby, may provide limited evidence of activity during the late Iron Age/Roman period.

Limited late post-medieval/modern remains, comprising 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.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd for commissioning this project and Will Bedford of Landgage Heritage who managed the project on behalf of the client.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence. The fieldwork was directed by Ben Attfield, who was supported by Adam Fellingham, Ines Matos Glover, Emma Powell, Andrew Smith and Ashley Strutt. Survey and digitising were carried out by Bernadetta Rzadek, Marjaana Kohtamaki and Matt Bradley. 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.

Richard Oram monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Landgage Heritage on behalf of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed north-eastern extension to Dewar's Farm Quarry, near Ardley, Oxfordshire. A total of 107 trenches were excavated between 6th and 28th September 2021, targeted on geophysical anomalies and otherwise blank areas as identified by a preceding geophysical survey (AS 2021).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application. Although the local planning authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions between William Bedford, Landgage Heritage, and Richard Oram, Lead Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service (OCCAS), established the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA and issued to OCCAS detailing how it would implement and fulfil the requirements of the scope (OA 2021).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies between the villages of Ardley and Middleton Stoney, *c* 4.6km north-west of the historic town of Bicester, in the Cherwell District of Oxfordshire. The site is centred at NGR SP 54730 25478 (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The irregularly shaped area of proposed development consists of *c* 35.5ha of arable land. The site is bounded by the M40 motorway to the east, by the Viridor energy recycling facility and existing Dewar's Farm Quarry to the west, and by agricultural fields to the north and south.

1.2.3 The northern part of the site lies at *c* 109m above Ordnance Datum (aOD; Plate 1), and from this point slopes downwards towards the south, which is situated at *c* 100m aOD (Topographic Map).

1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as limestone of the White Limestone and Forest Marble Formations, with a band of interbedded mudstones and limestones of the Bladon Member close to the eastern site boundary, all of which are sedimentary bedrocks formed approximately 166–8 million years ago in the Jurassic period (BGS 2021). No overlying superficial deposits are recorded at the site (ibid.).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (DBA; Landgage Heritage 2021) and is summarised here, together with the results of the 2021 geophysical survey of the site (AS 2021).

1.3.2 Various phases of archaeological works carried out by OA have been completed at Dewar's Farm Quarry since 2008. Excavations carried out to the south-west of the current site in 2012 uncovered a small cluster of Neolithic pits, one of which contained pottery sherds of Peterborough Ware and another a flake from a polished axe.

1.3.3 Archaeological excavation and recording undertaken in 2008, also within the quarry, investigated a 75m-long section of a possible late Bronze Age–early Iron Age pit alignment, which was initially identified as a feature on aerial photographs crossing the landscape for *c* 1.7km on a NW–SE orientation. Limited evidence of associated occupation activity was identified during this phase of fieldwork, with only a few small and seemingly isolated pits containing early Iron Age pottery recorded. The pits of the alignment had been backfilled before a segmented ditch was dug along the same alignment, though the date of this ditch remains unclear.

1.3.4 Subsequent phases of excavation carried out between 2012 and 2016 further investigated the pit alignment and the surrounding area. In 2013 the northern continuation of the pit alignment uncovered a linear NE–SW arrangement of early–middle Iron Age features that abutted the pit alignment. The collection of pits, postholes and short lengths of ditch, together with finds and environmental remains, are suggestive of occupation activity that may have been broadly contemporary with the pit alignment. A dispersed group of four-post structures and a single cremation burial were also revealed to the west of the pit alignment during investigations in 2008 (cremation) and 2016 (four-posters).

1.3.5 Following the early Iron Age there appears to have been a period of inactivity within the landscape of which Dewar's Farm Quarry now forms a part. Previous archaeological investigations at the quarry did not identify evidence of Roman activity. Limited remains of Roman date have also been recorded within the wider landscape, with evidence of a possible Roman cemetery and nearby settlement recorded *c* 875m west of the site.

1.3.6 Several cropmarks within the surrounding landscape, including a ring ditch and square enclosure, have been identified from aerial photographs and may provide further evidence of prehistoric and/or Roman activity within the vicinity of the site. The geophysical survey of the site also identified anomalies of possible archaeological origin concentrated in the south of the site, including a curvilinear feature suggestive of a prehistoric ring ditch (see below; AS 2021).

1.3.7 The nearest known early medieval settlement to the site is the village of Bucknell, located *c* 750m to the east, which is recorded in Domesday Book suggesting at least late Saxon origins. In 2016 excavations carried out *c* 450m west of the site, within the western extent of Dewar's Farm Quarry, uncovered the remains of a Saxon cemetery. Over 130 burials tentatively dated to between the 6th and 8th centuries were recorded, but no evidence of associated Saxon settlement activity has been identified elsewhere within the limits of the quarry.

1.3.8 No known remains of later medieval date have been recorded at Dewar's Farm Quarry or within the surrounding area, suggesting that the landscape was largely used for agricultural purposes during the medieval period with the centres of occupation being the existing village settlement pattern. This is also suggested by the results of the 2021 geophysical survey of the site, which identified remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation (see below; AS 2021).

1.3.9 Historic mapping demonstrates the continued agricultural use of the landscape during the post-medieval period and into the modern era. Analysis of LiDAR and geophysical

survey data for the site also identified linear features/anomalies indicative of former field boundaries, correlating with those shown on historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping (see below; AS 2021; Landgage Heritage 2021).

Geophysical survey

1.3.10 A magnetometer survey of the site was undertaken in March–April 2021 and detected a number of anomalies that are of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 2; AS 2021).

1.3.11 The survey identified an extensive area across the northern part of the site comprising discrete pit-like anomalies of natural origin within the underlying limestone geology. A small number of pit-like anomalies with a stronger response were also located within this part of the site, and these were of uncertain origin.

1.3.12 An extensive spread of magnetic debris associated with contaminated green waste was also identified across the southern part of the site and has partially obscured weaker anomalies. Nevertheless, the survey identified a positive curvilinear anomaly that could relate to the remains of a ring ditch. Further positive discrete and possible fragmented curvilinear and linear anomalies are located nearby and may also be of possible archaeological origin.

1.3.13 Linear geophysical anomalies on generally NW–SE alignments are concentrated in the east of the site and are indicative of probable medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Anomalies correlating with former field boundaries depicted on late 19th-century OS mapping were also detected crossing the site.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aim

2.1.1 The general aim of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (OA 2021), was to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features within the proposed development site.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

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.

2.2.2 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).

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 107 trenches, of which 101 trenches measured *c* 35m by *c* 1.8m. The remaining six were arranged as T- or L-shaped trenches, each with a combined linear dimension of *c* 65–70m long by *c* 1.8m wide. In total, the trenches represented a *c* 2% sample of the proposed development area (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to establish the reliability of the geophysical survey results, with a slightly denser concentration of trenches also positioned in the southernmost part of the site to aid the identification of potential prehistoric remains.

2.3.2 The trenches were positioned in accordance with the WSI (OA 2021). In addition, Trench 104 was extended with a further 30m-long trench to create a T-shaped arrangement in order to investigate the extent and density of worked flints recovered at this location.

2.3.3 The trenches were laid out using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy prior to excavation. Mechanical clearance of the modern ploughsoil horizons was undertaken using an

excavator fitted with a toothless bucket operated 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.

2.3.4 The exposed surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. Identified or suspected features were excavated and recorded in accordance with the methods outlined in the WSI (OA 2021). A sample of features of unclear character across the site were also hand excavated to establish whether these were of natural or archaeological origin.

2.3.5 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and contexts were recorded on *pro forma* sheets in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual and recording system. Environmental samples were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context.

2.3.6 Spoil produced from machine excavation, as well as exposed surfaces, archaeological features and spoil from hand excavation was scanned by a metal detector to enhance finds retrieval.

2.3.7 Bulk soil samples were collected from deposits identified to have potential for the recovery of environmental remains (eg carbonised or waterlogged plan macrofossils) and/or small artefacts and faunal remains.

2.3.8 All excavated trenches and features were planned by GPS. Sections of features were hand drawn at a scale of 1:20, and 1m-wide sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the plan.

2.3.9 A full photographic record comprising digital images of all archaeological features, deposits and trenches was collated. In addition, a number of photographs representative of the general work on site were taken.

2.3.10 Upon completion of the works and in agreement with the OCCAS, the trenches were backfilled with the arisings in reverse order of excavation.

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

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. Detailed finds reports are presented in Appendix B and environmental reports in Appendix C. Relevant information from these reports is included in the descriptive text below.

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 mixed white/grey limestone and patches of light brown/grey silty clay, though the surface of the limestone bedrock was very variable across the site, with some areas having tabular pieces and others with more brash-like stone. The topsoil was a dark greyish brown silty clay, *c* 0.15–0.33m thick. A light–mid yellowish brown to dark reddish brown silty clay subsoil, *c* 0.05–0.36m thick, was identified underlying the topsoil and overlying the natural in 61 trenches distributed across the site.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout (Plate 1). Some recorded archaeological features were difficult to identify against the underlying natural geology and may have been natural/geological in nature rather than of archaeological origin.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were recorded in 15 of the 107 excavated evaluation trenches, though a proportion of these are likely to have been natural in origin (Fig. 2). The features present comprised a small number of ditches, the possible remains of a former hedge line, possible pits and natural hollows/depressions within the bedrock geology that contained archaeological artefacts. An overall very low density of features was encountered across the site, although there was a slight concentration of features in the south-east.

3.4 Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 14)

3.4.1 Trench 8 was aligned E–W and located in the north-west of the site, targeted upon a discrete, pit-like geophysical anomaly. A single archaeological feature was revealed within the western half of the trench, correlating with the plotted position of the anomaly. Ditch 803 was NNW–SSE aligned and continued beyond the trench limits, though continuations of the ditch were not seen in nearby trenches. The ditch had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and contained a sequence of four fills (804, 805, 806, 807) suggestive of natural infilling and slumping/erosion of the ditch sides (Fig. 14, Section 800). No finds were recovered from the ditch fills. Bulk soil sample 1 was collected from lower fill 804 and produced only a small quantity of unidentified charcoal.

3.5 Trenches 12, 22 and 32 (Figs 4, 7 and 14)

3.5.1 Trenches 12, 22 and 32 were positioned in the east of the site on broadly NW–SE alignments. The trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies indicative of natural variations in the underlying geology and an anomaly correlating with a field boundary depicted on historic mapping. Trench 32 was also positioned to investigate a fragmented N–S aligned linear anomaly suggestive of a boundary feature.

3.5.2 A single NNE–SSW aligned ditch (1203, 2203, 3203) was exposed in all three trenches. The plotted position of the ditch correlates with the geophysical survey results and with a field boundary depicted on late 19th- and 20th-century OS mapping. In each trench, the ditch was found to cut the subsoil, and therefore was not excavated given its recent date. Fragments of modern glass, timber and plough machinery (not retained) were noted in the exposed fills of ditches 1203 and 2203, further demonstrating the modern date of the feature (Plate 2). A NW–SE aligned land drain was also observed crossing the eastern half of Trench 32, indicating the continued agricultural nature of land use.

3.5.3 No other archaeological features were revealed in Trenches 12 and 22, but a large pit or possible ditch (3205) was revealed within the centre of Trench 33, corresponding with the fragmented linear geophysical anomaly targeted by the trench. Feature 3205 had gently to moderately sloping sides and a concave, albeit uneven, base (Fig. 14, Section 3200). It contained a sequence of three fills (3206, 3207, 3208), with six fragments of animal tooth enamel recovered from upper fill 3208; the remaining fills were devoid of finds. The feature is likely to have been related to a possible ditch terminal seen in Trench 28 to the north, as suggested by the geophysical survey results. The irregular and intermittent linear feature seen across Trenches 28 and 32 appears to have comprised the remains of a former hedge line; its position does not correlate with any features depicted on historic mapping. Its southern continuation was not seen in Trenches 43 and 68 further to the south.

3.6 Trench 28 (Fig. 5)

3.6.1 Located in the central-north of the site, Trench 28 was aligned E–W and positioned to investigate the fragmented N–S aligned linear geophysical anomaly also targeted by Trenches 32, 43 and 68. A possible ditch terminal (2802) was recorded in the centre of the trench which broadly correlated with the location of the anomaly. This ditch was aligned N–S and had a rounded northern terminal and continued beyond the southern trench limit. The probable continuation of this linear ditch was recorded in Trench 32 to the south, together forming the remains of a former hedge line. The feature had moderately sloping sides and a concave, albeit uneven, base (Plate 3). Its single fill (2803) was devoid of finds.

3.7 Trench 30 (Figs 6 and 14)

3.7.1 Trench 30 was situated within the north-east part of the site and positioned on a NW–SE alignment, its south-east end coinciding with a zone of discrete geophysical anomalies of natural origin. Two features were revealed within the centre of the trench, one of which was a ditch and the other a variation in the natural geology. Ditch 3003 was aligned NE–SW and had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 14, Section 3000). It

contained two fills (3004, 3005), both of which were devoid of finds. Continuations of the ditch were not revealed in nearby trenches.

3.8 Trench 38 (Fig. 7)

3.8.1 Located towards the centre of the site, E–W aligned Trench 38 was positioned within an area of discrete pit-like geophysical anomalies of natural origin. Three possible postholes (3802, 3804, 3806) were revealed within the centre of the trench. Upon excavation, however, they were found to be fairly irregular in profile and all contained sterile mid brown silty clay fills (Plate 4). Therefore, these features are considered to have been geological in origin.

3.9 Trench 54 (Fig. 8)

3.9.1 Trench 54 was a T-shaped trench located in the east of the site and was positioned to investigate a zone of geological variation and two rectilinear anomalies detected by the geophysical survey. Two possible features were revealed within the trench, as well as several areas of variations in the underlying geology.

3.9.2 In the north of the trench was a sub-circular possible pit (5402). It had gently sloping sides, a concave base and a single sterile fill (5401) of mid reddish brown silty sand. The characteristic fill-type is suggestive of a probable natural rather than archaeological origin for this feature.

3.9.3 Possible ditch 5403 crossed the east of the trench on a N–S alignment, roughly correlating with the position of one of the targeted rectilinear anomalies, though their forms and alignments were different. The ditch appeared to have moderately sloping sides, a flat base and a single sterile fill (5404), though the feature was unclear against the bedrock geology, suggesting it was also probably natural in origin (Plate 5).

3.10 Trench 65 (Fig. 9)

3.10.1 Trench 65 was aligned E–W and located in the south-east of the site, adjacent to the site boundary, in order to investigate several linear geophysical anomalies suggestive of ridge-and-furrow cultivation and land drains. A NE–SW aligned land drain was revealed towards the centre of the trench, broadly correlating with the geophysical survey results. The land drain truncated the western side of ditch 6503, which had not been detected by the geophysical survey. Aligned NE–SW, ditch 6503 appears to have formed part of a curved ditch, with its return (6505, unexcavated) recorded *c* 6m to the east. The feature is suggestive of a ring ditch, though it may alternatively form the corner of an enclosure ditch. Ditch 6503 had a steep eastern side and a slightly concave base (Fig. 14, Section 6500). It contained a single fill (6504) from which two very small and abraded sherds of possible Iron Age/Roman pottery were recovered.

3.11 Trench 68 (Fig. 10)

3.11.1 Trench 68 was located towards the centre of the site. It was excavated as an L-shaped trench positioned within an area of geological variation and targeted on a number of linear geophysical anomalies, including the extensive fragmented linear anomaly investigated in Trenches 28, 32 and 43. Possible linear feature 6802 was encountered in the centre of the NE–SW aligned arm of the trench and continued beyond the trench

limits. Its position correlated with that of a linear anomaly. Excavation revealed it to be irregular in form with a sterile reddish brown sandy silt fill (6803).

3.11.2 A number of variations were noted in the natural geology in the base of Trench 68. One particular area was located in the south-east end of the NW–SE aligned arm of the trench and correlated within the plotted position of the fragmented linear anomaly; investigation confirmed this to be geological in nature.

3.12 Trench 75 (Figs 11 and 14)

3.12.1 Trench 75 was a T-shaped trench located in the south-east of the site and was targeted on several short curvilinear geophysical anomalies. Only one archaeological feature (7503) was revealed, correlating with the northernmost anomaly. Ditch 7503 crossed the north end of the trench on a broadly E–W alignment, though the geophysical survey results suggest that beyond the trench the ditch curved to the south. The ditch was moderately sized with a width of 1.44m and depth of 0.48m. It had moderately sloping sides, a slightly concave base and contained a sequence of three fills (7504, 7505, 7506) suggestive of initial silting/slumping of the ditch sides and subsequent infilling (Fig. 14, Section 7500; Plate 6). All three fills were devoid of finds. A continuation of the ditch was not revealed elsewhere within Trench 75, though it is possible that a similar undated ditch seen in Trench 87 to the south-west may have been related.

3.13 Trench 87 (Figs 11 and 14)

3.13.1 Located *c* 45m to the west of Trench 75 was NW–SE aligned Trench 87, which was positioned within an area of magnetic disturbance and targeted on a short linear geophysical anomaly. Ditch 8703 was aligned NNE–SSW and correlated with the plotted position of the geophysical anomaly. It may have been related to undated ditch 7503 recorded to the north-east in Trench 75. The ditch had steep sides, a flat base and contained two fills (8704, 8705; Fig. 14, Section 8700), neither of which produced any finds.

3.14 Trench 96 (Figs 12 and 14)

3.14.1 Aligned E–W, Trench 96 was located in the south of the site in an area devoid of geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin, though it was positioned in an area of magnetic disturbance that was detected across the southern part of the site. The only archaeological feature revealed within the trench was ditch 9603, which crossed the west end of the trench on a N–S alignment; continuations of the ditch were not seen in nearby trenches. Ditch 9603 had a V-shaped profile, though its eastern side was slightly stepped, and it contained a sequence of three fills (9604, 9605, 9606; Fig. 14, Section 9600). Middle fill 9605 contained seven small sherds of later Roman (*c* AD 120–410) pottery. Two further tiny pottery sherds of later Roman date and eight animal bone fragments, one of which has been identified as sheep/goat, were recovered from upper fill 9606. Lower fill 9603 was devoid of finds. An undiagnostic iron nail fragment, albeit of probable post-medieval or modern date, was also recovered from upper fill 9606. It may have been intrusive within the fill,

though given the poorly preserved and very fragmentary nature of the Roman pottery, the earlier material may equally have been residual.

3.15 Trench 104 (Figs 12 and 14)

3.15.1 Trench 104 was located to the south-west of Trench 96, targeted on a cluster of discrete and curvilinear geophysical anomalies of uncertain origin in the south of the site. A single probable pit was identified within the trench, though a number of irregularly shaped natural hollows/depressions within the bedrock geology were found to have contained naturally silted deposits of mid brown/reddish brown clay/silt that produced evidence of prehistoric activity (Plate 8).

3.15.2 Hollows 10403 (Plate 7) and 10405, of which the former corresponded within a curvilinear anomaly, were located in the eastern half of the trench. Deposit 10404 within hollow 10403 produced 21 pieces of worked flint dating from the Mesolithic period. Bulk soil sample 2, collected from this deposit, contained small quantities of charcoal and charred hazelnut shell fragments, as well as burnt flint, an animal bone fragment identified as possible sheep/goat and a shard of later 19th- or 20th-century glass, though this is considered to have been intrusive.

3.15.3 In the southern trench extension further natural hollows (10408, 10410) were investigated and recorded. Deposit 10409 within hollow 10408 contained 222 flints dating to the Mesolithic period. Bulk soil sample 3, collected from deposit 10409, yielded a moderate quantity of charred hazelnut shell fragments and a smaller amount of charcoal and burnt flint. Hollow 10410 was not excavated, though two early prehistoric flints were collected from the surface of deposit 10411.

3.15.4 Probable pit 10406 in the west of the trench coincided with a geophysical anomaly and extended beyond the trench limit. Its exposed extent exhibited gently sloping sides and a slightly flat base (Fig. 14, Section 10401). Its single fill (10407) of dark greyish brown sandy/clay silt contained three animal bones, one of which was cattle.

3.16 Trench 106 (Fig. 13)

3.16.1 Trench 106 was aligned NW–SE and positioned in an area of magnetic disturbance in the south of the site but. The trench revealed 12 small pit/posthole-like features, all of which were investigated (Plate 9). Although varying in size, excavation revealed the features to be characteristically similar. Each was irregular in form and filled with the same sterile yellowish/reddish brown silty clay with limestone inclusions. None of the features produced any finds. Given the character of these features, it is probable that all were of natural origin. Nevertheless, the broadly linear arrangement of the features, together with the concentration of prehistoric remains revealed in nearby Trench 104, may suggest that these natural features/deposits were related to prehistoric activity.

3.17 Finds summary

3.17.1 A limited quantity and range of finds types were recovered during the evaluation. A small assemblage of possible Iron Age/early Roman and later Roman pottery, all of which is very fragmented and abraded, provides limited evidence of activity at least within the wider area broadly during the Roman period.

3.17.2 A moderate quantity of worked flint was recovered from Trench 104 in the south of the site. The flints most probably constituted remains of Mesolithic activity at this location.

3.17.3 The animal bone and charred plant assemblages recovered on site are of small size and exhibit a small variety of taxa, providing limited evidence of the nature of past agricultural regimes and the exploitation of natural resources within the area.

3.17.4 The remaining finds retrieved during the evaluation comprise post-medieval/modern glass and iron, providing little additional evidence of the agricultural nature of land use on site.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches provided a good coverage of the site area and were located to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological remains. The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation, and the machining was carried out cleanly providing good visibility of features and deposits in the trenches.

4.1.2 The evaluation demonstrated the presence of a low density of archaeological remains associated with early prehistoric, possible Iron Age/Roman and late post-medieval/modern activity. Therefore, the results of the evaluation are considered to be a true reflection of the general low to moderate archaeological potential of the site as highlighted by the DBA (Landgage Heritage 2021).

4.1.3 The evaluation generally confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey results and largely established the archaeological or natural origins of the targeted geophysical anomalies. However, in some instances the interpretation of features as archaeological in origin is tentative and they may in fact be natural.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The trial-trench evaluation is considered to have achieved its general and site-specific aims (2.1–2.2). The evaluation established and recorded the presence and extent of archaeological features and deposits in 15 of the 107 trenches investigated, though a proportion of these are likely to have been natural in origin. A very low density and complexity of features were recorded, comprising a small number of ditches, the possible remains of a former hedge line and possible pits. In addition, deposits containing Mesolithic flints were identified in Trench 104. It is possible that these deposits are natural, with the flint and other ecofacts surviving in the surface of the softer silty deposits accumulated within natural hollows/depressions in the underlying geology.

4.2.2 With the exception of the flint assemblage, the artefacts recovered from the site are very limited in both number and type. The small assemblage of possible Iron Age/early Roman and later Roman pottery is suggestive of low-level activity at least within the area during these periods, while a small quantity of post-medieval/modern finds are demonstrative of later agricultural land use. The large number of flints, however, represent remains of Mesolithic activity concentrated in the south of the site. The environmental remains recovered during the evaluation comprise small quantities of animal bone, charcoal and charred hazelnut shell and provide limited insight into the nature of past agricultural economy. Nevertheless, the charred hazelnut shell may aid in refining the dating of the Mesolithic activity on site.

4.2.3 The evaluation also established the reliability of the geophysical survey results (Fig. 2). The majority of the trenches were positioned to investigate and verify the results of the survey, which had identified extensive areas of discrete pit-like anomalies of natural origin within the underlying limestone geology, as well as large areas of magnetic debris. The survey also identified a small number of geophysical anomalies suggestive of pits and ditches, as well as linear trends characteristic of ridge-and-

furrow cultivation, former field boundaries and land drains. The geophysical survey results had a good correlation with the archaeological remains recorded within the evaluation trenches.

4.2.4 The fragmented linear anomaly that extended across the centre of the site on a N–S alignment, interpreted as a possible linear boundary of uncertain origin, was demonstrated to be archaeological in nature in Trenches 28 and 32. However, the anomaly was not encountered as below-ground remains in Trenches 43 and 68, though a geological variation seen in Trench 68 may account for the geophysical anomaly in that trench.

4.2.5 The discrete anomaly targeted by Trench 8 in the north-west of the site corresponded with an undated ditch revealed in the trench. The linear/curvilinear anomalies investigated by Trenches 75 and 87 were also found to be archaeological in origin. A probable pit and a natural hollow/depression in the bedrock geology investigated in Trench 104 corresponded within pit-like anomalies.

4.2.6 A small proportion of the limited archaeological features revealed within the evaluation trenches, notably the ditches in Trenches 30, 65 and 96, were not detected as geophysical anomalies. This is possibly due to the generally shallow nature of the features and the depth of overburden deposits. In contrast, a number of curvilinear and linear geophysical anomalies, particularly those targeted by Trenches 52, 56 and 105, were not evident as archaeological features and were probably a result of changes in the natural geology. Similarly, the rectilinear anomalies targeted by Trench 54 may reflect geological variations rather than archaeological remains.

4.2.7 The geophysical survey detected extensive areas of pit-like anomalies across the site that were interpreted as the product of natural variations in the underlying geology. Such variations were evident in the base of many of the trenches investigated across the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Archaeological remains encountered during the evaluation comprised a very low density of ditches, the possible remains of a former hedge line, and a number of notable deposits within natural hollows/depressions in the underlying geology. Where possible, the recorded archaeological features have been dated on the basis of the associated diagnostic artefacts and are discussed below by broad period.

Mesolithic

4.3.2 A number of natural hollows/depressions within the underlying limestone geology were concentrated in Trench 104 in the south of the site and found to contain naturally accumulated deposits of similar composition. Two of these natural features contained notable quantities of early prehistoric worked flints surviving in a fresh condition that have been dated to the Mesolithic period. Given the presence and large quantities of blades, bladelets, core dressing pieces and knapping debitage, the flints constituted remains indicative of intensive phases of specialised, on-site flint knapping and retooling activities related to hunting. Small quantities of charcoal and charred hazelnut shell fragments were also collected from the deposits, providing some

evidence of the exploitation of natural resources. The low-lying topography of this part of the site was perhaps conducive for the survival of the early prehistoric remains seen in Trench 104, though no evidence of contemporary buried soils was identified; if present, such deposits were presumably truncated/removed by later ploughing activities.

4.3.3 The recovery of the worked flint was predominately from the surface of the silty deposits within the shallow hollows. This suggests that these have either worked their way down through the soil profile or survive at or near the contemporary land surface instead of having accumulated or being deposited the hollows at the same time as the silty fills. It is also likely that the artefacts survived at this contact level where they are below the modern and historic plough truncation with the surrounding limestone offering some protection against truncation and removal of these artefacts. It is extremely likely that additional artefacts will be present in the surrounding ploughsoil.

4.3.4 The probable natural features recorded within nearby Trench 106 may have been of a similar nature to the hollows/depressions in Trench 104, though no prehistoric flints or ecofacts were recovered from the deposits in Trench 106. Although considered to be of probable natural origin, the broadly linear formation of the features in Trench 106 may hint at the possibility that post-built structures may be present in the area.

4.3.5 The evaluation results expand upon those of previous investigations carried out in the wider quarry site. A cluster of Neolithic pits and a possible early prehistoric segmented ditch were uncovered just to the south-east of the current site in the vicinity of Trow Pools. Together, these remains demonstrate a focus of early prehistoric activity in this part of the landscape, expanding upon known sites of early prehistoric activity in Oxfordshire and the Upper Thames Valley (Hey 2014).

Iron Age/Roman

4.3.6 Evidence from these periods is limited to a very small assemblage of possible Iron Age/early Roman and later Roman pottery, the majority of which was recovered from a ditch in Trench 96 located in the south-east of the site and the remainder from a possible ring ditch or enclosure ditch in Trench 65 also in this area. It is possible that undated ditches in nearby Trenches 75 and 87 were related to this phase of activity. The poorly preserved and very fragmentary nature of the pottery, however, indicates that the material had undergone multiple episodes of disturbance and redeposition and so may not provide direct evidence of activity on site during this period. The recovery of an iron nail fragment of probable post-medieval/modern date in ditch 9603 may also suggest that the Roman pottery was residual and the feature in fact later, though the iron nail may have been intrusive. Nonetheless, the pottery is suggestive of low-level activity at least within the area during the Roman period.

Post-medieval/modern

4.3.7 The unexcavated ditches recorded in Trenches 12, 22 and 32 represent part of a former field boundary, corresponding with late 19th- and 20th-century OS mapping. Land drains observed within a number of trenches, together with a small quantity of post-medieval/modern glass and iron, recovered either as ploughsoil finds or as possible

intrusive finds in earlier deposits/features, provide further evidence of the agricultural use of the landscape during the post-medieval/modern period.

Undated

4.3.8 A small number of archaeological features revealed by the evaluation remain undated. Those encountered in Trenches 28 and 32 may constitute the remains of a former hedge line and may be of similar post-medieval/modern date, though this is tentative given the limits of the trenches, lack of dating evidence and that it does not correlate with any boundaries depicted on historic mapping. The ditches recorded in Trenches 8, 75 and 87 are also undated, though it is possible that those on Trenches 75 and 87 may have been associated with the ditch in nearby Trench 65, which contained a small quantity of possible Iron Age/Roman pottery.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		North south
Blank					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Mid-dark grey-brown frequent stone silty clay. Ploughsoil		
101	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Loose light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent stone		
102	Layer				Natural. Mixed white and light brown silty clay		
Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		SE NW
One potential feature tested. Natural feature.					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
201	Layer			0.06	Subsoil		
202	Layer				Natural		
Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		NW SE
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
301	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
302	Layer				Natural		
Trench 4							
General description					Orientation		NE SW
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.32

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer			0.32	Topsoil		
401	Layer				Natural		
Trench 5							
General description					Orientation		E W
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
501	Layer				Natural		
Trench 6							
General description					Orientation		NW SE
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
601	Layer				Natural		
Trench 7							
General description					Orientation		SW NE
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
701	Layer				Natural		
Trench 8							
General description					Orientation		E W
Trench contained one ditch [803]. Subsoil only present in western end of trench.					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.2
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
801	Layer			0.35	Subsoil		
802	Layer				Natural		

803	Cut		1.52	0.54	Ditch. Cut of ditch. Possible boundary ditch no dating.		
804	Fill	803	0.1	0.34	Deliberate Backfill. Compact dark reddish brown clayey silt with frequent stones. Quite ashy looking as well.	<1>	
805	Fill	803	0.5	0.1	Secondary Fill. Compact, light yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent stone. Natural slippage		
806	Fill	803	1.04	0.28	Secondary Fill. Compact mid yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent stone		
807	Fill	803	1.52	0.2	Secondary Fill. Compact mid reddish brown clayey silt with frequent stones. Natural infilling.		

Trench 9

General description	Orientation	SW NE
	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.22

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
901	Layer				Natural		

Trench 10

General description	Orientation	NW SE
Some natural features tested	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.3

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
1001	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
1002	Layer				Natural		

Trench 11

General description	Orientation	NE SW
	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.2

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
1101	Layer				Natural		

Trench 12							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
Modern boundary ditch unexcavated						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
1201	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
1202	Layer				Natural. Stoney with multiple brown and grey clay patches		
1203	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Ditch. Unexcavated modern field boundary. Cuts sub 1201		
1204	Fill		0.7		Secondary Fill. Fill of modern boundary ditch 1203. Firm dark grey brown silty clay with frequent stone. Glass and a fragment of plough present		
Trench 13							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
1301	Layer			0.34	Subsoil		
1302	Layer				Natural		
Trench 14							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
One natural feature tested and found to be an infilled hollow.						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer			0.33	Topsoil		
1401	Layer				Natural		
Trench 15							
General description						Orientation	SE NW
Sheet missing						Length (m)	35

						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer				Topsoil. See 100		
Trench 16							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
1601	Layer			0.25	Subsoil		
1602	Layer				Natural		
Trench 17							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
1 potential linear tested but found to be very irregular. Most likely natural banding or result of modern agriculture.						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
1701	Layer				Natural		
Trench 18							
General description						Orientation	E W
One natural feature tested.						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
1801	Layer			0.15	Subsoil		
1802	Layer				Natural		
Trench 19							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. See 100		

1901	Layer			0.12	Subsoil		
1902	Layer				Natural		

Trench 20

General description	Orientation	N S
Sondage in northern half to look at clay / potential alluvial geology.	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.28

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
2001	Layer			0.08	Subsoil		
2002	Layer				Natural. Mixed. Light blue grey silt clay with stone patches, brown silty clay and dark blue grey and mid yellow clay		

Trench 21

General description	Orientation	NE SW
Contained modern wheel rut, rope found in it	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer			0.15	Topsoil		
2101	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
2102	Layer				Natural. Light grey clay and clay silt with occasional limestone		

Trench 22

General description	Orientation	NW SE
Contained a modern ditch. Unexcavated. Seen in trench 12 also. Modern timber present in fill	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.42

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer			0.27	Topsoil		
2201	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay, occ. stone		
2202	Layer				Natural		
2203	Unexcavated feature		0.6		Ditch. Unexcavated field boundary ditch		
2204	Fill		0.6		Secondary Fill. Unexcavated fill of 2203, dark grey brown silty clay		

Trench 23							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
One possible feature tested but turned out to be natural banding						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
2301	Layer			0.12	Subsoil		
2302	Layer				Natural		
Trench 24							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
Subsoil present in NE end only.						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
2401	Layer			0.13	Subsoil		
2402	Layer				Natural		
Trench 25							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
2501	Layer				Natural		
Trench 26							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
Geophysical survey plan shows a large circular anomaly in centre of trench. This is seen but it a large area of silt which takes up 50-60% of trench						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
2601	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
2602	Layer				Natural		
Trench 27							
General description						Orientation	NE SW

						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
2701	Layer				Natural		
Trench 28							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
2801	Layer				Natural		
2802	Cut		0.9	0.28	Ditch. Terminal of possible ditch/hedge line		
2803	Fill	2802		0.28	Secondary Fill. Mid-dark brown clay silt, freq. stone		
Trench 29							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
7 land drains noted in trench						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer				Topsoil		
2901	Layer				Natural. Mid grey-yellow and dark grey-blue clay, occ. stone		
Trench 30							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
3001	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
3002	Layer				Natural		
3003	Cut		0.9	0.4	Ditch		

3004	Fill	3003	0.58	0.08	Secondary Fill. Basal fill of light-mid grey-brown silty clay, freq. stone		
3005	Fill	3003	0.9	0.32	Secondary Fill. Main fill of mid greyish brown silty clay, occ. stone		
Trench 31							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
2 land drains in NE end						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
3101	Layer				Natural		
Trench 32							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
1 modern ditch unexcavated and a large pit or ditch. Trench deepest in NW end						Length (m)	36
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
3201	Layer			0.19	Subsoil		
3202	Layer				Natural		
3203	Unexcavated feature		0.8		Ditch. Unexcavated field boundary ditch		
3204	Fill		0.8		Secondary Fill. Unexcavated fill of 3203, dark grey-brown silty clay		
3205	Cut		3.3	0.4	Ditch. Large ditch/pit, possible former hedge line		
3206	Fill	3205		0.08	Secondary Fill. Lower fill of mid blue-grey silty clay		
3207	Fill	3205		0.22	Secondary Fill. Middle fill of mid brown-grey silty clay		
3208	Fill	3205		0.16	Secondary Fill. Upper fill of mid grey-brown silty clay	Bone	
Trench 33							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
1 natural feature tested						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		

3301	Layer			0.05	Subsoil. Dark reddish brown silty clay, freq. stone		
3302	Layer				Natural		
Trench 34							
General description						Orientation	SE NW
4 natural features tested						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
3401	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
3402	Layer				Natural		
Trench 35							
General description						Orientation	E W
Some natural features tested						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
3501	Layer			0.05	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay, freq. stone		
3502	Layer				Natural		
Trench 36							
General description						Orientation	N S
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
3601	Layer				Natural		
Trench 37							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
Some natural features tested						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
3701	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		

3702	Layer				Natural. Same as 102		
Trench 38							
General description						Orientation	E W
Contained 3 possible postholes in a line, though found to be geological in nature						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
3801	Layer				Natural		
3802	Cut		0.48	0.06	Possible posthole. Excavation proved this to be natural/geological		
3803	Fill	3802		0.06	Fill. Single fill of mid brown silty clay		
3804	Cut		0.24	0.06	Possible posthole. Excavation proved this to be natural/geological		
3805	Fill	3804		0.06	Fill. Single fill of mid brown silty clay		
3806	Cut		0.26	0.1	Possible posthole. Excavation proved this to be natural/geological		
3807	Fill	3806		0.1	Fill. Single fill of mid brown silty clay		
Trench 39							
General description						Orientation	SSW NNE
1 area of burning tested. Turned out to be a burnt tree throw. Not recorded.						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
3901	Layer			0.08	Subsoil		
3902	Layer				Natural. Mixed light grey, light brown-grey, light orange-brown sandy clay, w/ limestone patches		
Trench 40							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4001	Layer			0.18	Topsoil		

4002	Layer			0.07	Subsoil		
4003	Layer				Natural. Mixed limestone and reddish brown silty clay		
Trench 41							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
4101	Layer			0.06	Subsoil		
4102	Layer				Natural. Same as 4003		
Trench 42							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
Some natural features tested						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4200	Layer			0.23	Topsoil		
4201	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
4202	Layer				Natural		
Trench 43							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4300	Layer			0.19	Topsoil		
4301	Layer			0.07	Subsoil		
4302	Layer				Natural. Mixed light grey clay w/ varying shades of brown, orange-brown, blue-grey clay		
Trench 44							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.22

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4400	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Same as 100		
4401	Layer				Natural. Same as 4003		
Trench 45							
General description					Orientation		NE SW
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4500	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
4501	Layer			0.07	Subsoil		
4502	Layer				Natural. Same as 4302		
Trench 46							
General description					Orientation		NW SE
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.22
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4600	Layer			0.19	Topsoil		
4601	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
4602	Layer				Natural. Light grey limestone		
Trench 47							
General description					Orientation		NE SW
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4700	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
4701	Layer				Natural. Same as 4602		
Trench 48							
General description					Orientation		E W
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4800	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		

4801	Layer				Natural. Light grey degraded limestone		
Trench 49							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.21
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4900	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
4901	Layer				Natural. Same as 4801		
Trench 50							
General description						Orientation	SW NE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5000	Layer			0.23	Topsoil		
5001	Layer				Natural		
Trench 51							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5100	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
5101	Layer				Natural		
Trench 52							
General description						Orientation	SW NE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5200	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
5201	Layer			0.07	Subsoil		
5202	Layer				Natural		
Trench 53							
General description						Orientation	NW SE

						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5300	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
5301	Layer				Natural		
Trench 54							
General description						Orientation	N S, E W
T Shaped. 1 possible pit and 1 possible ditch excavated. A few other potential features noted on sketch plan. Possible changes in geology						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.21
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5400	Layer			0.21	Topsoil		
5401	Fill	5402		0.2	Secondary Fill. Mid reddish brown silty sand		
5402	Cut		1	0.2	Possible pit. Excavation proved more likely to be geological		
5403	Cut		3.1	0.42	Ditch. Possible ditch or variation in geology		
5404	Fill	5403		0.42	Secondary Fill. Mid brown silty clay, freq. stone		
5405	Layer				Natural. Light grey limestone w/ mid yellow-brown silty clay patches		
Trench 55							
General description						Orientation	NNW SSE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5500	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
5501	Layer				Natural. Mixed light yellow-grey limestone/sand and mid brown clay patches		
Trench 56							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

5600	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
5601	Layer				Natural		
Trench 57							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5700	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
5701	Layer				Natural		
Trench 58							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5800	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
5801	Layer				Natural. Light brownish grey limestone w/ mid brown clay patches		
Trench 59							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5900	Layer			0.21	Topsoil		
5901	Layer				Natural. Same as 5801		
Trench 60							
General description						Orientation	NNW SSE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6000	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
6001	Layer				Natural. Same as 5801		
Trench 61							

General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.27
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6100	Layer			0.27	Topsoil		
6101	Layer				Natural. Same as 5801		

Trench 62							
General description						Orientation	N S
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.18
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6200	Layer			0.18	Topsoil		
6201	Layer				Natural. Same as 5801		

Trench 63							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6300	Layer			0.23	Topsoil		
6301	Layer				Natural. Light brown limestone w/ mid grey clay patches		

Trench 64							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.21
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6400	Layer			0.21	Topsoil		
6401	Layer				Natural. Same as 5801		

Trench 65							
General description						Orientation	W E
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.42

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6500	Layer			0.23	Topsoil		
6501	Layer			0.22	Subsoil		
6502	Layer				Natural. Light brown limestone w/ mid brown silty clay patches		
6503	Cut		0.7	0.28	Ditch. Possible curvilinear ditch		
6504	Fill	6503		0.28	Secondary Fill. Mid grey-brown silty clay, freq. stone	Pottery	AD 50–410
6505	Unexcavated feature				Ditch. Unexcavated ditch, continuation of 6503		
6506	Fill				Secondary Fill. Unexcavated fill of 6505, mid grey-brown silty clay		

Trench 66		
General description	Orientation	N S
	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.31

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6600	Layer			0.16	Topsoil		
6601	Layer			0.18	Subsoil		
6602	Layer				Natural		

Trench 67		
General description	Orientation	NE SW
	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.23

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6700	Layer			0.23	Topsoil		
6701	Layer				Natural. Light grey limestone w/ occ. grey-brown clay patches		

Trench 68		
General description	Orientation	SW NE, NW SE
	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.23

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6800	Layer			0.23	Topsoil		

6801	Layer				Natural. Light grey-brown limestone w/ mixed yellow-brown clay patches		
6802	Cut		0.5	0.25	Natural Feature. Irregular but broadly linear feature		
6803	Fill	6802		0.25	Secondary Fill. Reddish brown sandy silt		
Trench 69							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6900	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
6901	Layer				Natural. Same as 6801		
Trench 70							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7000	Layer			0.23	Topsoil		
7001	Layer				Natural. Mixed light brown-grey limestone and mid grey-brown silty clay		
Trench 71							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7100	Layer			0.21	Topsoil		
7101	Layer				Natural. Mixed light brown-grey limestone and mid brown sandy/silty clay		
Trench 72							
General description						Orientation	N S
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.24

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7200	Layer			0.24	Topsoil		
7201	Layer				Natural. Same as 7401		
Trench 73							
General description					Orientation		E W
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.27
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7300	Layer			0.21	Topsoil		
7301	Layer			0.06	Subsoil		
7302	Layer				Natural. Same as 7401		
Trench 74							
General description					Orientation		NW SE
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7400	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
7401	Layer				Natural. Mixed light brown-grey limestone and mid yellow-brown silty clay		
Trench 75							
General description					Orientation		NE SW, SE NW
T shaped. 2 potential linear features and a pit. One looked at 7503, discovered to be a ditch. The others were irregular and not recorded.					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7500	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
7501	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
7502	Layer				Natural		
7503	Cut		1.44	0.48	Ditch		
7504	Fill	7503	0.68	0.14	Secondary Fill. Basal fill of mid yellowish brown clay silt, natural erosion/slumping		
7505	Fill	7503	0.68	0.16	Secondary Fill. Lower fill of mid brown clay silt, freq. stone, natural silting/erosion/slumping		

7506	Fill	7503	1.44	0.38	Secondary Fill. Main fill of mid brown clay silt, natural infilling		
Trench 76							
General description						Orientation	SW NE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.27
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7600	Layer			0.27	Topsoil		
7601	Layer				Natural. Mixed light yellow-brown/grey limestone silty clay		
Trench 77							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7700	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
7701	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
7702	Layer				Natural. Dark reddish brown silty sand w/ light brown patches and freq. stone		
Trench 78							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7800	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
7801	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
7802	Layer				Natural		
Trench 79							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

7900	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
7901	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
7902	Layer				Natural		
Trench 80							
General description					Orientation		SSE NNW
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8000	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
8001	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
8002	Layer				Natural. Same as 8202		
Trench 81							
General description					Orientation		SW NE
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8100	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
8101	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
8102	Layer				Natural. Same as 8202		
Trench 82							
General description					Orientation		N S
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8200	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
8201	Layer			0.15	Subsoil		
8202	Layer				Natural. Mixed light brown-yellow sand w/ darker patches, freq. stone		
Trench 83							
General description					Orientation		WSW ENE
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

8300	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
8301	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
8302	Layer				Natural		
Trench 84							
General description						Orientation	WSW ENE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8400	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
8401	Layer			0.15	Subsoil		
8402	Layer				Natural		
Trench 85							
General description						Orientation	NE S2
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8500	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
8501	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
8502	Layer				Natural. Mixed red silt/ yellowish brown silty sand and brash		
Trench 86							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8600	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
8601	Layer			0.15	Subsoil		
8602	Layer				Natural		
Trench 87							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

8700	Layer			0.25	Topsoil	Glass	C19/20
8701	Layer			0.27	Subsoil		
8702	Layer				Natural. Mixed brownish yellow/reddish brown silty sand and limestone		
8703	Cut		1.1	0.46	Ditch		
8704	Fill	8703		0.28	Secondary Fill. Basal fill of mid brown clay silt, freq. stone		
8705	Fill	8703		0.18	Secondary Fill. Upper fill of mid brown clay silt, occ. stone		

Trench 88							
General description						Orientation	N S
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8800	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
8801	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
8802	Layer				Natural. Mixed reddish brown and brownish yellow sand, with freq. limestone small stones/gravel		

Trench 89							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8900	Layer			0.26	Topsoil		
8901	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
8902	Layer				Natural		

Trench 90							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9000	Layer			0.22	Topsoil		
9001	Layer			0.24	Subsoil		

9002	Layer				Natural		
Trench 91							
General description						Orientation	NE SW, SE NW
T shaped						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9100	Layer			0.16	Topsoil		
9101	Layer			0.34	Subsoil		
9102	Layer				Natural		
Trench 92							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9200	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
9201	Layer			0.28	Subsoil		
9202	Layer				Natural		
Trench 93							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9300	Layer			0.29	Topsoil		
9301	Layer				Natural		
Trench 94							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9400	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
9401	Layer			0.1	Subsoil		
9402	Layer				Natural. Dark blue clay w/ bands of orange clay		

Trench 95							
General description					Orientation		S N
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9500	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
9501	Layer			0.15	Subsoil		
9502	Layer				Natural. Yellowish brown clay w/ bands of blue clay		
Trench 96							
General description					Orientation		W E
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9600	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
9601	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
9602	Layer				Natural. Light grey limestone clay		
9603	Cut		1.08	0.56	Ditch		
9604	Fill	9603	0.32	0.21	Secondary Fill. Basal fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay		
9605	Fill	9603	0.91	0.35	Secondary Fill. Middle fill of mid greyish brown silty clay, freq. stone	Pottery	AD 120–410
9606	Fill	9603	1.08	0.17	Secondary Fill. Upper fill of light yellowish brown silty clay	Pottery, bone, Fe	AD 120–410 or PM/Mod
Trench 97							
General description					Orientation		NE SW
					Length (m)		35
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9700	Layer			0.25	Topsoil		
9701	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
9702	Layer				Natural. Mixed light grey limestone and clay		
Trench 98							

General description						Orientation	NE SW, SE NW
T shaped						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9800	Layer			0.26	Topsoil.		
9801	Layer				Natural. Mixed limestone and clay		
Trench 99							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9900	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
9901	Layer				Natural		
Trench 100							
General description						Orientation	NE SW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10000	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
10001	Layer			0.3	Subsoil		
10002	Layer				Natural		
Trench 101							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10100	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
10101	Layer			0.36	Subsoil		
10102	Layer				Natural		
Trench 102							
General description						Orientation	SSE NNW
						Length (m)	35

						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10200	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
10201	Layer			0.16	Subsoil		
10202	Layer				Natural		
Trench 103							
General description						Orientation	NNE SSW
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10300	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
10301	Layer				Natural		
Trench 104							
General description						Orientation	E W, N S
T shaped. 35m long E W and 30m long N S						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10400	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
10401	Layer			0.12	Subsoil		
10402	Layer				Natural		
10403	Cut		2	0.15	Natural Feature. Natural hollow/depression in geology		
10404	Fill	10403		0.15	Secondary Fill. Reddish brown clay silt	Flint, bone, glass, <2>	EPH
10405	Fill				Secondary Fill. Unexcavated dark reddish brown clay silt		
10406	Cut		1.5	0.2	Pit. Probable pit		
10407	Fill	10406		0.2	Secondary Fill. Dark greyish brown sandy/clay silt, freq. stone	Bone	
10408	Cut		0.75	0.3	Natural Feature. Natural hollow/depression in geology		
10409	Fill	10408		0.3	Secondary Fill. Mid brown clay silt	Flint, <3>	EPH
10410	Unexcavated feature		0.75		Natural Feature. Unexcavated natural		

					hollow/depression in geology		
10411	Fill				Secondary Fill. Unexcavated mid-dark red-brown clay silt fill of 10410	Flint	
Trench 105							
General description						Orientation	E W
						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10500	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
10501	Layer			0.18	Subsoil		
10502	Layer				Natural		
Trench 106							
General description						Orientation	NW SE
Trench contained around 12 possible postholes/small pits with some in a line, probable natural in origin						Length (m)	35
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10600	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
10601	Layer			0.22	Subsoil		
10602	Layer				Natural		
10603	Cut		0.56	0.13	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10604	Fill	10603		0.13	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish silty clay, freq. stone		
10605	Cut		0.42	0.13	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10606	Fill	10605		0.13	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay, freq. stone		
10607	Cut		0.38	0.07	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10608	Fill	10607		0.07	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay. occ. stone		
10609	Cut		0.6	0.16	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10610	Fill	10609		0.16	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay, freq. stone		
10611	Cut		0.58	0.08	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		

10612	Fill	10611		0.08	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay, occ. stone		
10613	Cut		0.21	0.07	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10614	Fill	10613		0.07	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay, rare stone		
10615	Cut		0.55	0.2	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10616	Fill	10615		0.2	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay, occ. stone		
10617	Cut		0.46	0.09	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10618	Fill	10617		0.09	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay, occ. stone		
10619	Cut		1.1	0.32	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10620	Fill	10619		0.32	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish/greyish brown silty clay, occ. stone		
10621	Cut		0.34	0.09	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10622	Fill	10621		0.09	Secondary Fill. Greyish/yellowish brown silty clay, rare stone		
10623	Cut		0.53	0.07	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10624	Fill	10623		0.07	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay. occ. stone		
10625	Cut		0.42	0.16	Recorded as a posthole. Probably natural in origin		
10626	Fill	10625		0.16	Secondary Fill. Mixed light-mid yellowish/reddish brown silty clay, occ. stone		

Trench 107

General description	Orientation	NE SW
	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.48

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10700	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
10701	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
10702	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish white limestone		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

B.1.1 Eleven sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing just 12g, were recovered from the evaluation. The following fabrics were noted (National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) in brackets):

- B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)
- E30 Iron Age/early Roman sandy fabric
- R10 Fine reduced ware; possible Oxford product (OXF FR)
- Z Indeterminate fabric

B.1.2 A description of the pottery is provided in Table B1.1.

Table B1.1: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
6504	1	1	Body sherd (R10)	AD 50–410
	1	2	Body sherd (E30)	
9605	1	2	Body sherd (B11)	AD 120–410
	6	4	Tiny pieces in sandy fabrics (Z); possibly B11 but too fragmented for certain identification	
9606	2	3	Body sherds (B11)	AD 120–410
Total	11	12		

B.1.3 Black-burnished ware (B11) arrived in the region from Dorset during the mid–late Roman period (*c* AD 120–410), and its presence here indicates activity of that date in the vicinity of the site. The sherd of reduced ware (R10), possibly a product of the Oxford pottery industry (Young 1977), cannot be closely dated within the Roman period. The sherd of sandy fabric E30 hints at Iron Age activity, but it could equally be early Roman (mid/late 1st century AD) in date and consistent with the date of fabric R10. Some of the pottery (fabric Z) was too fragmented to be identified to fabric type.

B.1.4 All the pottery was poorly preserved, its mean sherd weight (weight divided by number of sherds) of 1g reflecting its very fragmented and abraded character. The pottery was recovered from Trenches 65 and 96, suggesting that evidence of any Roman or earlier activity is located within or around the southern part of the investigation area. However, the character of the assemblage points to the pottery having undergone multiple episodes of disturbance, weathering and redeposition, and it is a strong possibility that the sherds are entirely residual and some distance from areas of settlement.

Recommendations regarding the retention of material

B.1.5 The pottery reported on here has the potential to inform future research through reanalysis, and thus it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the *Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (PCRG *et al*. 2016).

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 This evaluation brought to light a single large assemblage of 245 struck flints (Table B2.1), all of which were recovered from Trench 104 and most of which came from two deposits: 10409 (222 flints) and 10404 (21 flints). The unburnt flints are very fresh, although a significant proportion of the assemblage is heavily burnt indicating that the assemblage is likely to have a domestic element. All the diagnostic elements are Mesolithic in date with most dating to the late Mesolithic, although some of the microliths are too fragmentary to determine if they are early or late, while the microburins could belong to either phase. However, given the condition of the material, the coherence of the assemblage, tool forms present and the very common occurrence of bladelets over blades, a late Mesolithic date for all the material seems to be most likely. The flints were recovered from deposits of clay accumulated within natural hollows/depressions within the limestone brash, and it is very likely that these represented surviving elements of working floors that have moved downwards into this natural layer with a very high potential of further discoveries in the evaluation area.

B.2.2 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Saville 1980; Bradley 1999; Anderson-Whymark 2013), with 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, 72–7; 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.

Table B2.1: assemblage composition

Category type	No. flints
Flake	35
Blade	7
Bladelet	32
Blade index	52.70% (39/74)
Irregular waste	6
Chips	12
Microburin	2
Sieved chips 10-2mm	136
Crested blade	3
Core rejuvenation flake	1
Core tablet	1
Core opposed platform bladelets	1
Microlith	7

Category type	No. flints
Burin	2
Total	245

Burnt unworked	0
No. burnt (%)	91/245 (37.14%)
No. broken (%)	65/109 (59.63%)
No cores and core dressing (%)	6/109 (5.50%)
No. retouched (%)	9/109 (8.26%)

Condition

B.2.3 The flints are in relatively good condition but have clearly suffered some edge damage (Table B2.2). This could simply relate to trampling after deposition, especially if this was a densely occupied or frequently used location, but it may also relate to damage whilst being displaced through the soil matrix into the underlying natural deposits. Most of the flints have very heavy or heavy cortication, with a sizeable number exhibiting moderate cortication and a limited amount with light cortication.

Table B2.2: flint by condition and cortication

Condition	Total	%	Cortication	Total	%
Fresh	23	33.33%	Light	4	5.80%
Light	43	62.32%	Moderate	11	15.94%
Moderate	3	4.35%	Heavy	22	31.88%
			Very heavy	32	46.38%
	69			69	

Discussion

B.2.4 The assemblage is very clearly Mesolithic in date, and while the majority of the microliths are broken, the compete examples and several of the fragments strongly indicate a late Mesolithic date. One slightly broader and longer obliquely blunted example from 10404 could indicate a mixed assemblage, as it is more typical of examples seen in the early Mesolithic, but the piece is missing both its distal and proximal tips and its exact form is uncertain. The simplest explanation that the assemblage belongs to a single period is most probable; however, many Mesolithic sites are known to have both early and late phases and this might also have been the case here.

B.2.5 The assemblage has a very high blade index of 52.70%, something usually only seen in early Mesolithic or late Glacial sites (Ford 1987). However, most of this material came from one sample from 10409, and it is quite probable that this was located over an area specialising in bladelet reduction. This is further highlighted by the presence of numerous core dressing pieces designed to allow for ease of bladelet production and also from the microburins that would have been abandoned here after bladelets had been converted into microliths via the microburin technique.

B.2.6 As already mentioned, there is a high incidence of core dressing pieces alongside a quite complex bladelet core and masses of fine knapping debitage. In terms of numbers, this suggests an area specialising in core curation, presumably during the production of tool blanks. The very high quantity of fine shatter is something only really seen in either *in situ* knapping floors or where such material is dumped wholesale into a pit. Given the context of recovery, the former suggestion would appear to be most likely.

B.2.7 The presence of numerous broken microliths, some of which are burnt, alongside high levels of burnt pieces and microburins strongly indicates a retooling site related to hunting activities. However, the density of material recovered does suggest a fairly intensive phase of knapping activity, and it may simply be the case that deposit 10409 was a working area specialised in these tasks within a larger and more complex multi-task site.

B.2.8 Burins are the only other tool type represented in the assemblage, and this may indicate that alternative tasks were being carried out alongside hunting activities. However, burins were a very common presence in many microlith-rich scatters found elsewhere in Britain and may well have been used to cut the grooves for microlith insertion, making them an integral component in a microlith retooling location.

B.2.9 This assemblage is likely to represent a scatter deposited at this location where the material has worked its way down into the underlying natural horizons. Given the current and historical arable land use it is likely that any contemporary soil horizon has been truncated away. The density, condition and coherent structure of the assemblage are all very strong indicators of *in situ* or near *in situ* activity with relatively little horizontal movement of artefacts from their original deposition location (eg the dumping of assemblages into pits or off the edge of a living area on site).

B.2.10 Any further work in this location is likely to encounter similar concentrations of lithic material. It is also possible that it may encounter associated features such as postholes, pits or even structural remains, as houses are known from the Mesolithic period in Britain, although they are very rare. The possibility that more significant elements of this buried landscape might survive in any hollows in the evaluation area should be considered. This is especially so if the evaluation trenches did not cover the lowest lying ground or any wetland/dryland interface if present.

B.2.11 Any *in situ* Mesolithic sites are considered of regional importance, rising to national important if organic preservation is also present, although organic preservation is not anticipated within the site boundary.

B.3 Metalwork and glass

By Anni Byard

B.3.1 Two fragments of glass (4g) and a single iron object (4g) were recovered from three contexts during the evaluation (Table B3.1). The finds were assessed, and preliminary records made in an excel spreadsheet.

Table B3.1: Description of metalwork and glass by context

Context	Material	Count	Weight (g)	Object	Date	Description
8700	Glass	1	2	Bottle	19/20th C	Fragment of a probable wine or beer bottle in amber glass
9606	Fe	1	4	Nail	PM/Mod	Shaft of a probable PM / Mod nail. Corroded and missing head and tip
10404	Glass	1	2	Bottle	19/20th C	Part of the neck of a (wine?) bottle in amber glass

B.3.2 Trench 87 yielded a single small piece of light amber brown glass found within the topsoil (8700). It is probably from a beer or wine bottle of relatively modern date.

B.3.3 A short iron rod (<4cm) was recovered from Trench 96. It is circular in section and is probably the remains of a nail, missing its head and tip. The object is probably post-medieval or early modern date, although it is generally undiagnostic. It is corroded and flaking.

B.3.4 Trench 104 produced a single curved shard of glass in a light amber brown, collected from sample 2 of fill 10404. Although the trench produced several fresh struck flints of prehistoric date, this fragment of glass would date to the later 19th or 20th century. It may be intrusive in its context.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard, and retention of material

B.3.5 The finds are modern in date or undiagnostic and hold little further interpretive value. They can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Kayleigh Hamilton

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were collected as part of the evaluation, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of charred plant remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts.

C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at OA 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. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

C.1.3 Sample summary and flot abundance data are presented in Table C1.1.

Table C1.1: Assessment of bulk (CPR) samples

Sample no.	Context no.	Trench	Feature/deposit	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other charred	Notes
1	804	8	803	-	16	5	+				++		5YR 4/4 sandy silt loam
2	10404	104	10403	EPH	40	28	++				+	++	7.5YR 4/4 silty clay
3	10409	104	10409	EPH	40	30	++				+	+++	7.5YR 5/4 silty clay

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

Trench 8

C.1.4 Sample 1 from fill 804 of ditch 803 produced a very small flot mostly composed of fine modern roots and modern plant debris. Rare fragments of unidentified charcoal are present. Molluscs are frequent but are also modern in character (Kerney and Cameron 1979). No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Trench 104

C.1.5 Sample 2 from fill 10404 of natural hollow 10403 produced a small flot, again mostly composed of fine modern roots and modern plant debris. Fragments of charred

hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) were recovered, but no other identifiable charred fragments are present. Modern, presumably intrusive, seeds are present but rare and there are very occasional molluscs. A small quantity of burnt flint was recovered from the residue, along with a single piece of glass.

C.1.6 Sample 3 from deposit 10409 of natural hollow 10408 produced a small flot predominantly composed of fine modern roots and fibrous modern plant debris. Charred fragments of probable hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) are common, with unidentified charcoal occurring frequently and fine (<2mm) charcoal abundant. Molluscs are present but rare, and modern in character. A small quantity of burnt flint was recovered from the residue.

Discussion

C.1.7 The samples examined suggest that there is potential for the survival of charred remains, although the quantities and general condition of the material recovered from the site is generally poor. The character of the material is predominantly modern; however, archaeological material has been identified in the form of both burned flint and charred nutshells, most likely hazelnut. Some of these may be sufficient for a radiocarbon date, especially from sample 3, where more material was present. The presence of subterranean, burrowing mollusc species such as *Ceciloides acicula* (Kerney and Cameron 1979), as well as earthworm egg casts, indicates that modern bioturbation has occurred. The scope for further work with the charcoal is limited by the quantity and condition of the material present.

Recommendations for retention/dispersal

C.1.8 It is recommended that the flots are retained at this stage following the completion of works on site. There is sufficient material present to enable radiocarbon dating.

C.2 Animal bone

By Adrienne Powell

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 18 animal bone fragments (126g) were recovered during the evaluation (Table C2.1): one fragment was extracted from the 10–4mm residue fraction of environmental sample 2, the remainder were collected by hand.

C.2.2 The assemblage has been fully recorded using the standard OA methodology.

Description

C.2.3 The condition of the bone, assessed on a scale of 1 (excellent, little surface alteration) to 5 (very poor), is moderate to poor: the bone surfaces are abraded and often extensively root etched. Only two fragments could be identified to species (Table C.2.1), one each of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis*/*Capra*). No butchery marks were observed and no measureable bones were present.

Table C2.1: Description of fragments by context

Context	Sample	Weight (g)	No. of frags	Description
3208		<1	6	Splinters of medium mammal tooth enamel
9606		7	8	1 left sheep/goat maxillary molar, 7 medium mammal long bone shaft splinters
10404	2	<1	1	1 fragment of medium mammal proximal 1st phalanx, possibly sheep/goat, calcined
10407		118	3	1 cattle right metacarpal show carnivore gnaw marks, 1 large and 1 medium mammal long bone fragment

Conclusions and recommendations

C.2.4 No meaningful interpretation is possible on this small assemblage. The material has no research potential and may be discarded.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Dewar's Farm Quarry Extension, Ardley, Oxfordshire
Site code:	BUDFQ21
Grid Reference	SP 54730 25478
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	6-28th September 2021
Area of Site	*c* 35.5ha

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: 2021.71.

Summary of Results:

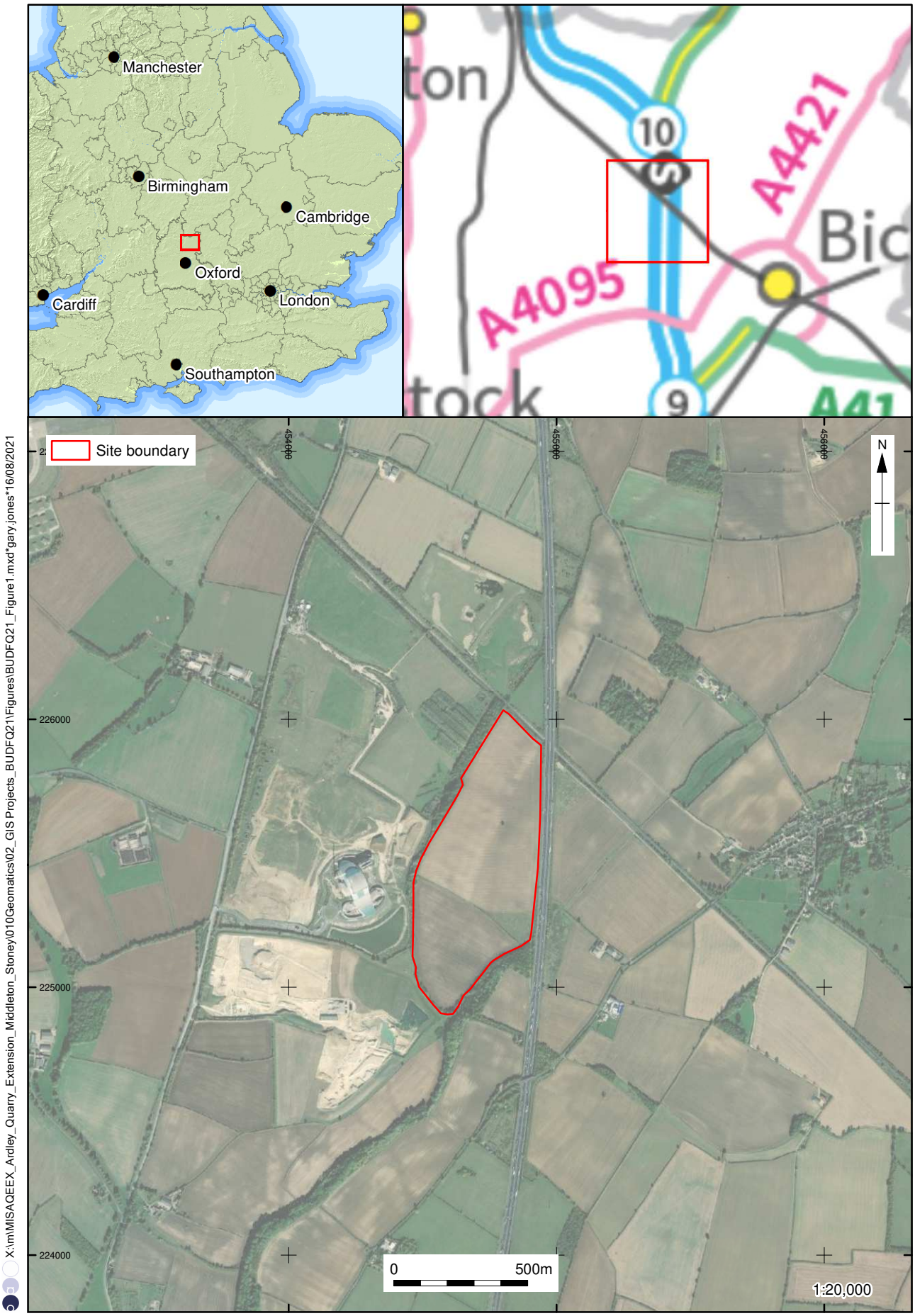
Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on the site of the proposed north-eastern extension to Dewar's Farm Quarry, Ardley, Oxfordshire, in September 2021. The fieldwork was commissioned by Landgage Heritage on behalf of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd.

A total of 107 trenches were investigated across the site, some of which were targeted on selected geophysical anomalies. Of these, 15 trenches were found to contain archaeological remains.

The most notable remains comprised an assemblage of late Mesolithic flint artefacts recovered from a series of natural hollows/depressions within Trench 104 in the south of the site overlooking Trow Pools. Small quantities of charred remains were also recovered in association with the flint artefacts.

A possible ring ditch or enclosure ditch was recorded in Trench 65 in the south-east of the site, together with a small number of undated ditches nearby, may provide limited evidence of activity during the late Iron Age/Roman period.

Limited late post-medieval/modern remains, comprising 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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Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location

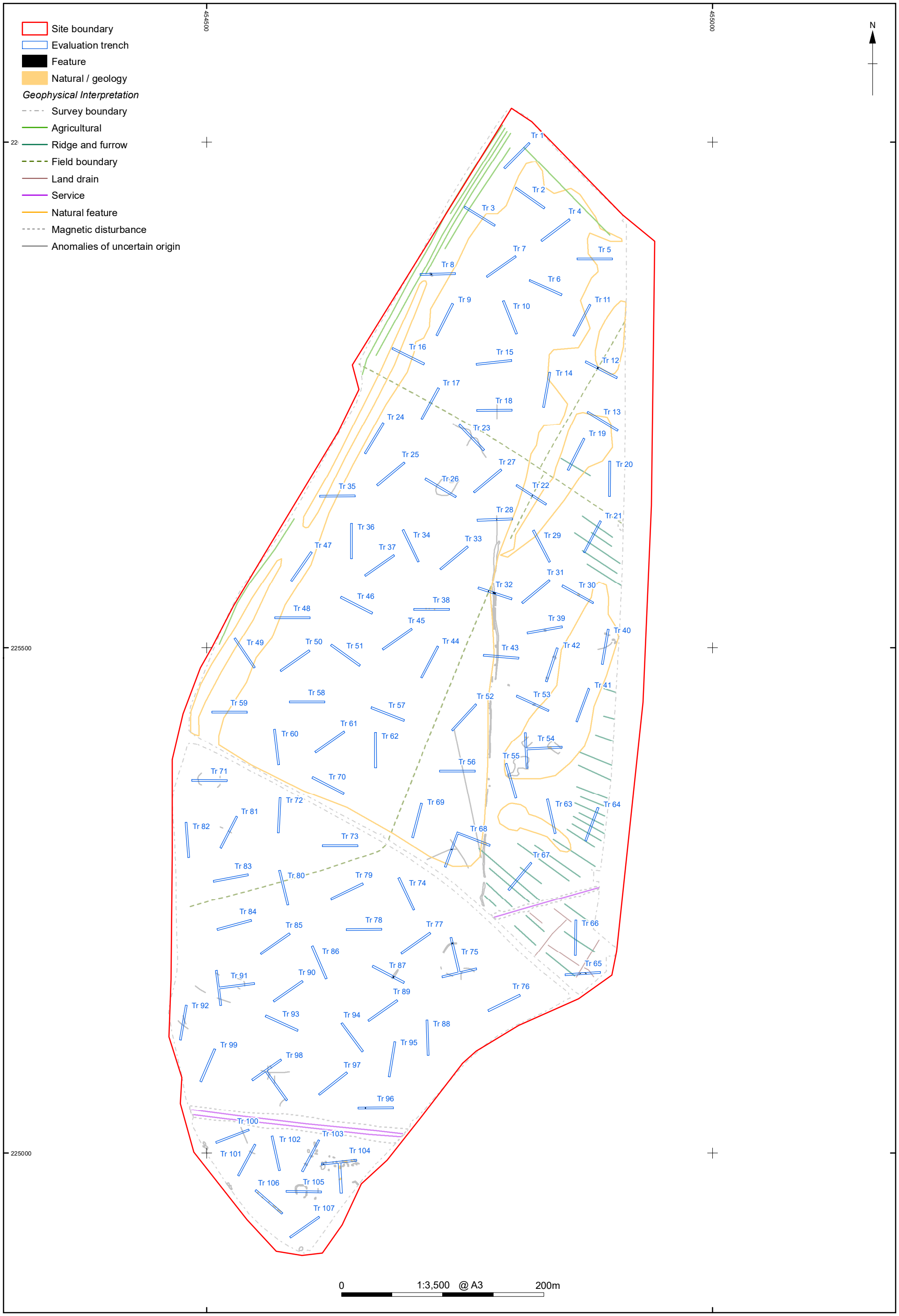

Figure 2: Trench location plan with geophysical survey interpretation

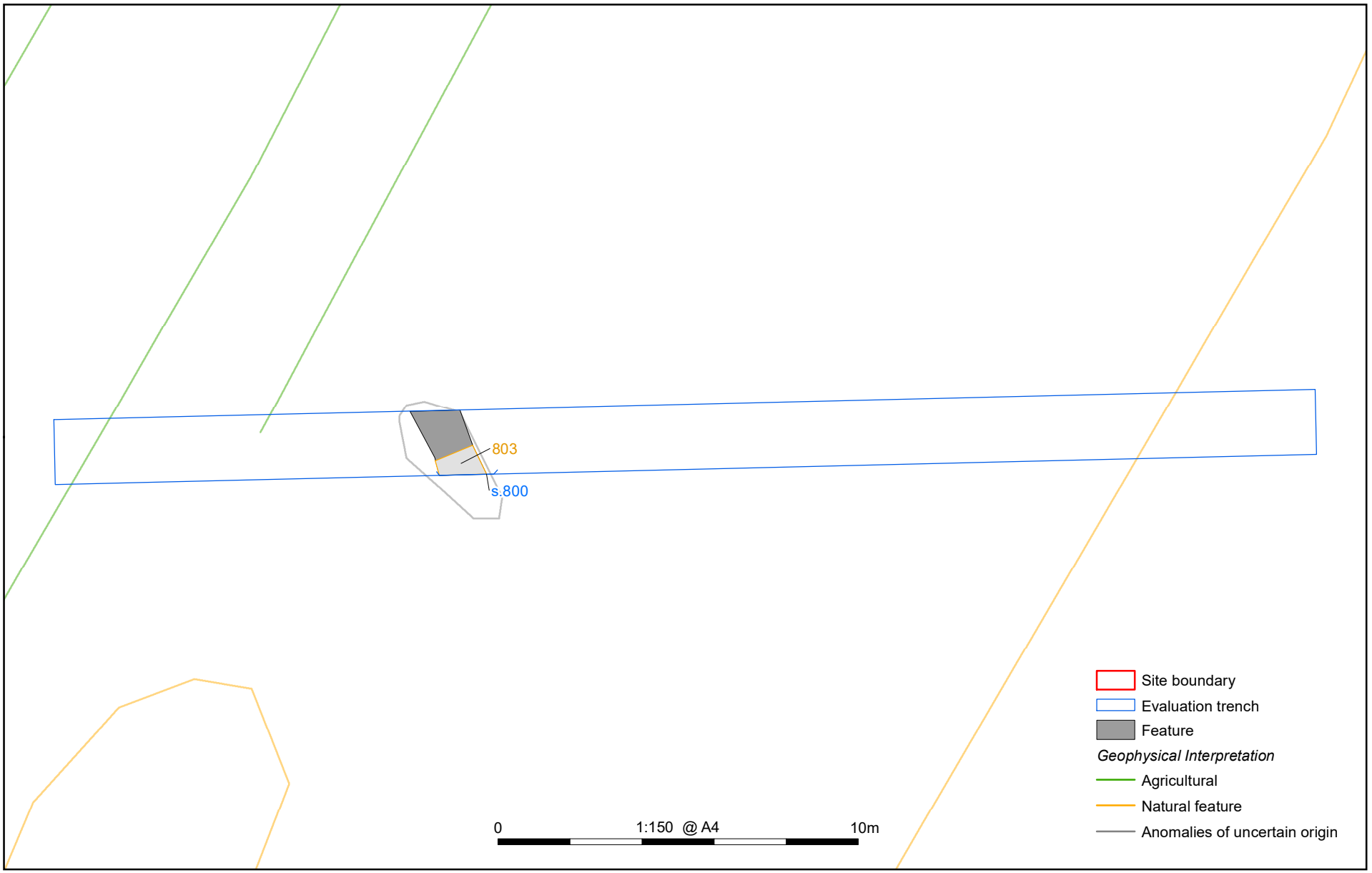

Figure 3: Detailed plan of Trench 8

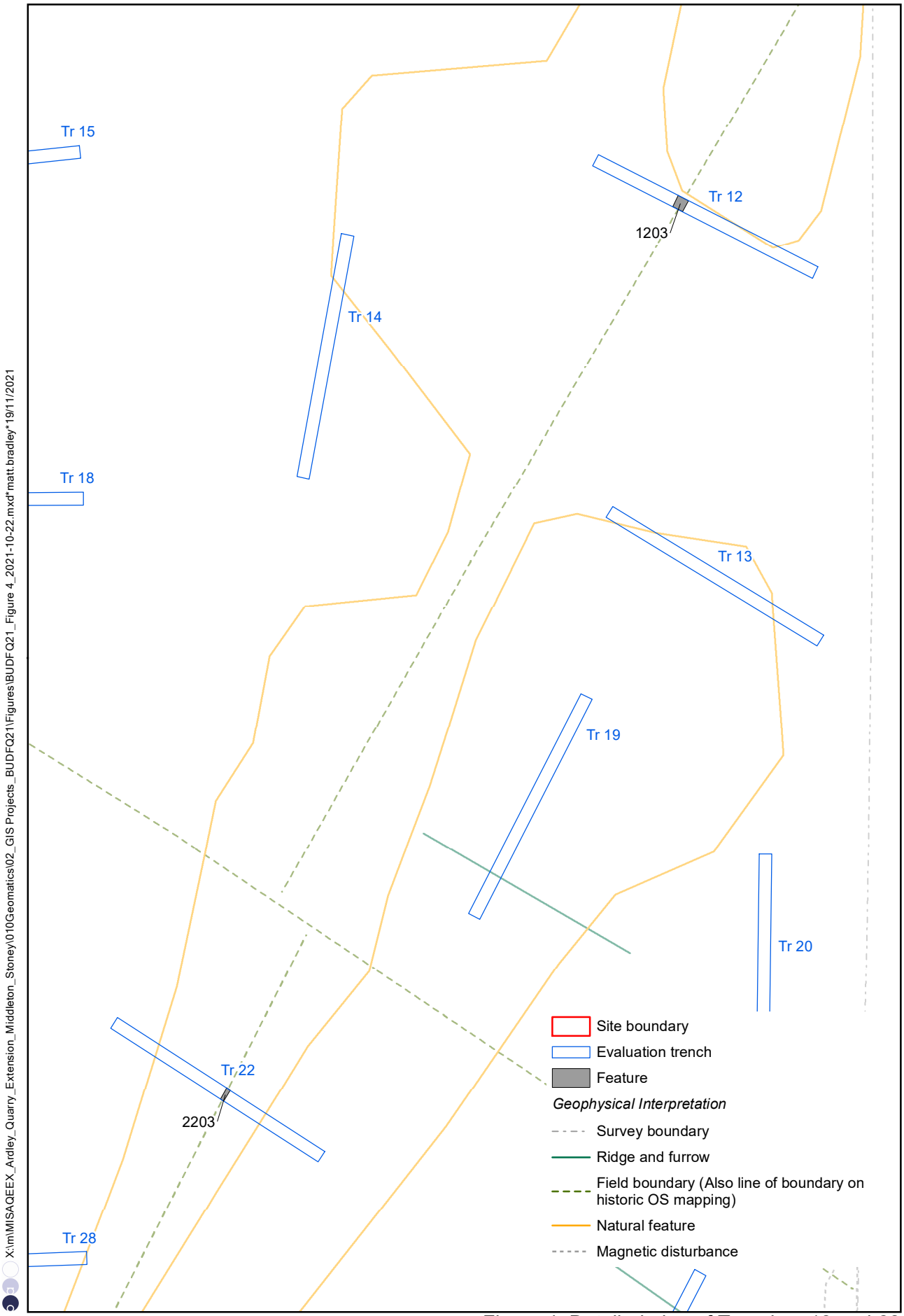

Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 12 and 22

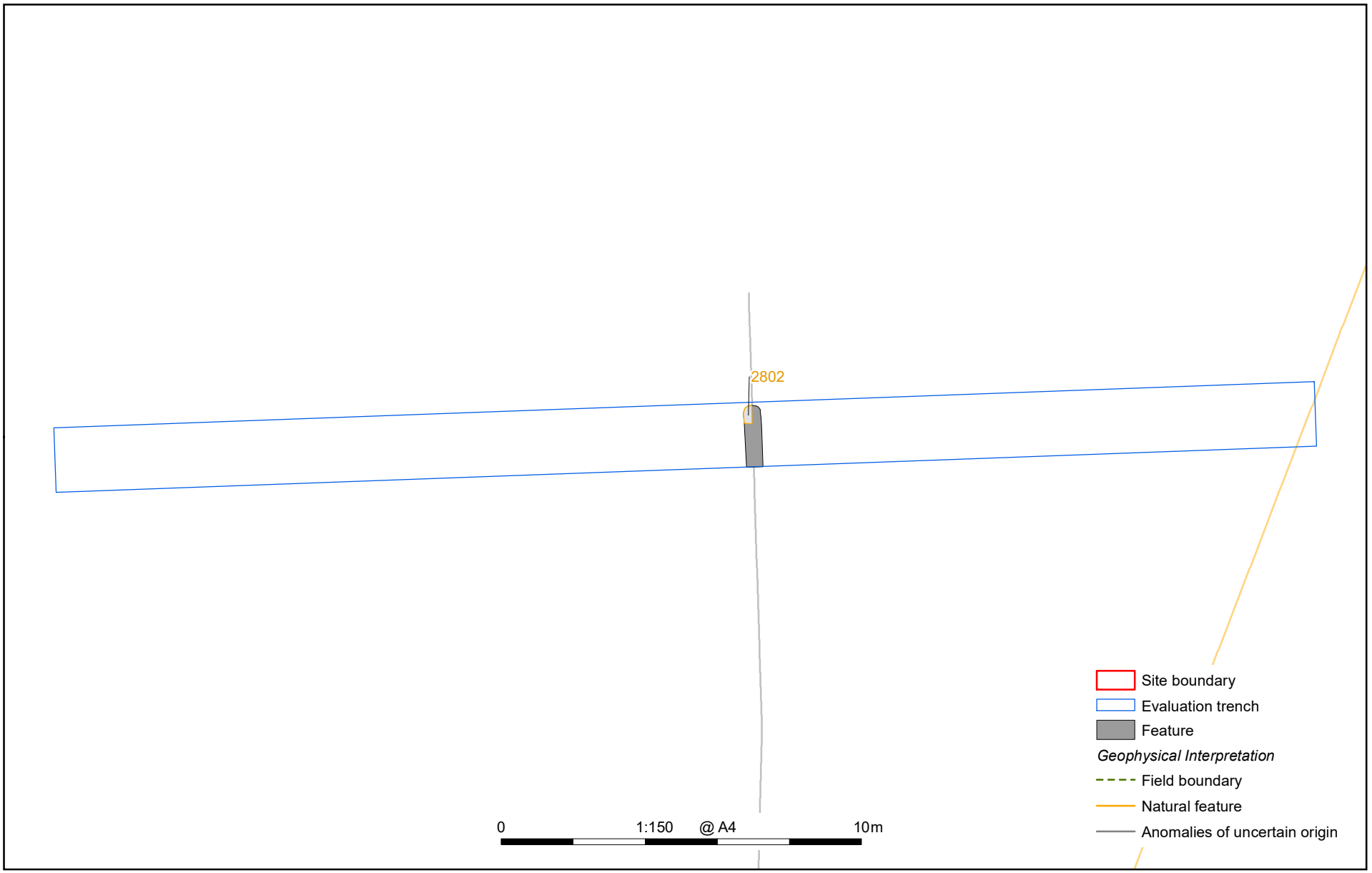

Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trench 28

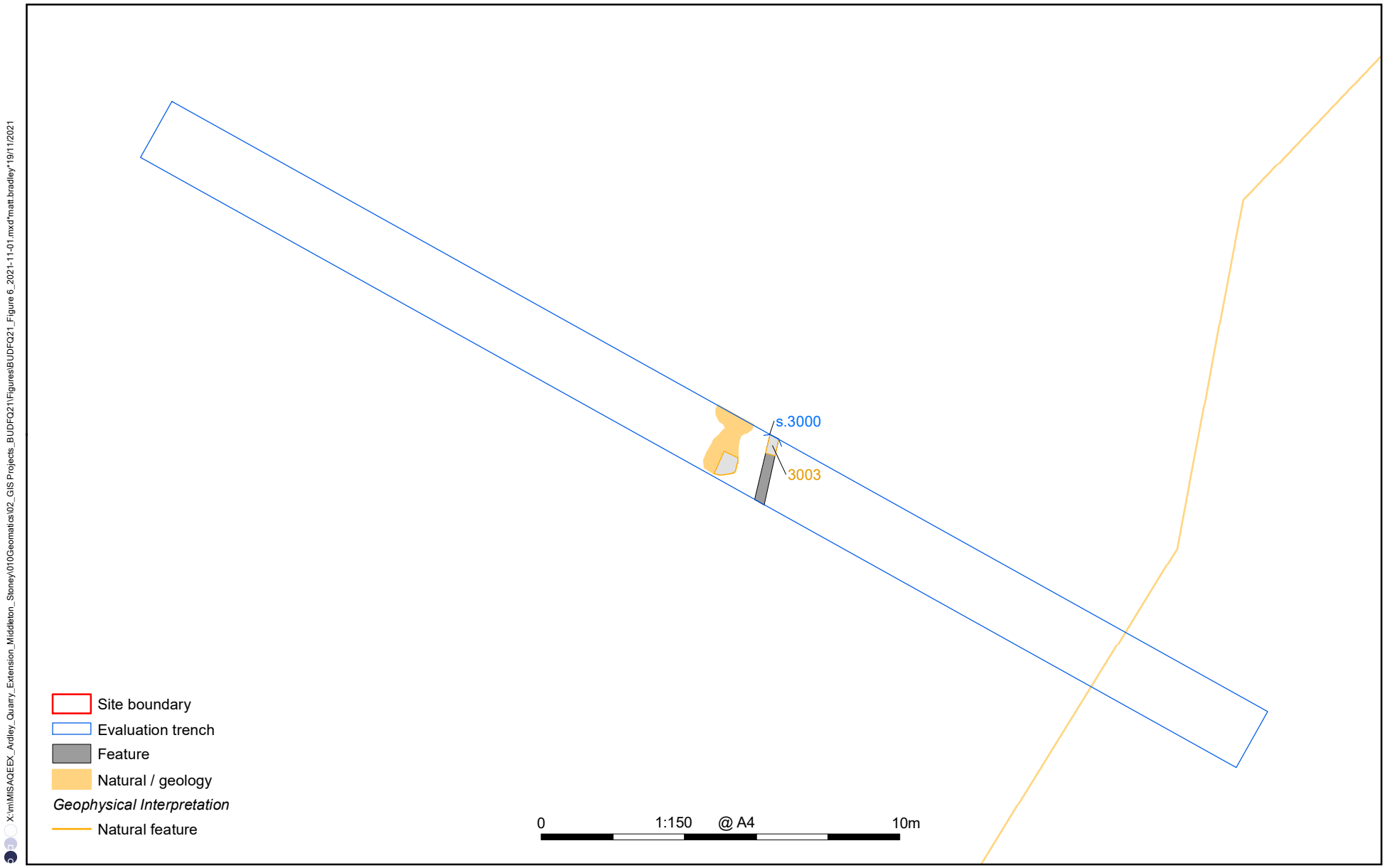

Figure 6: Detailed plan of Trench 30

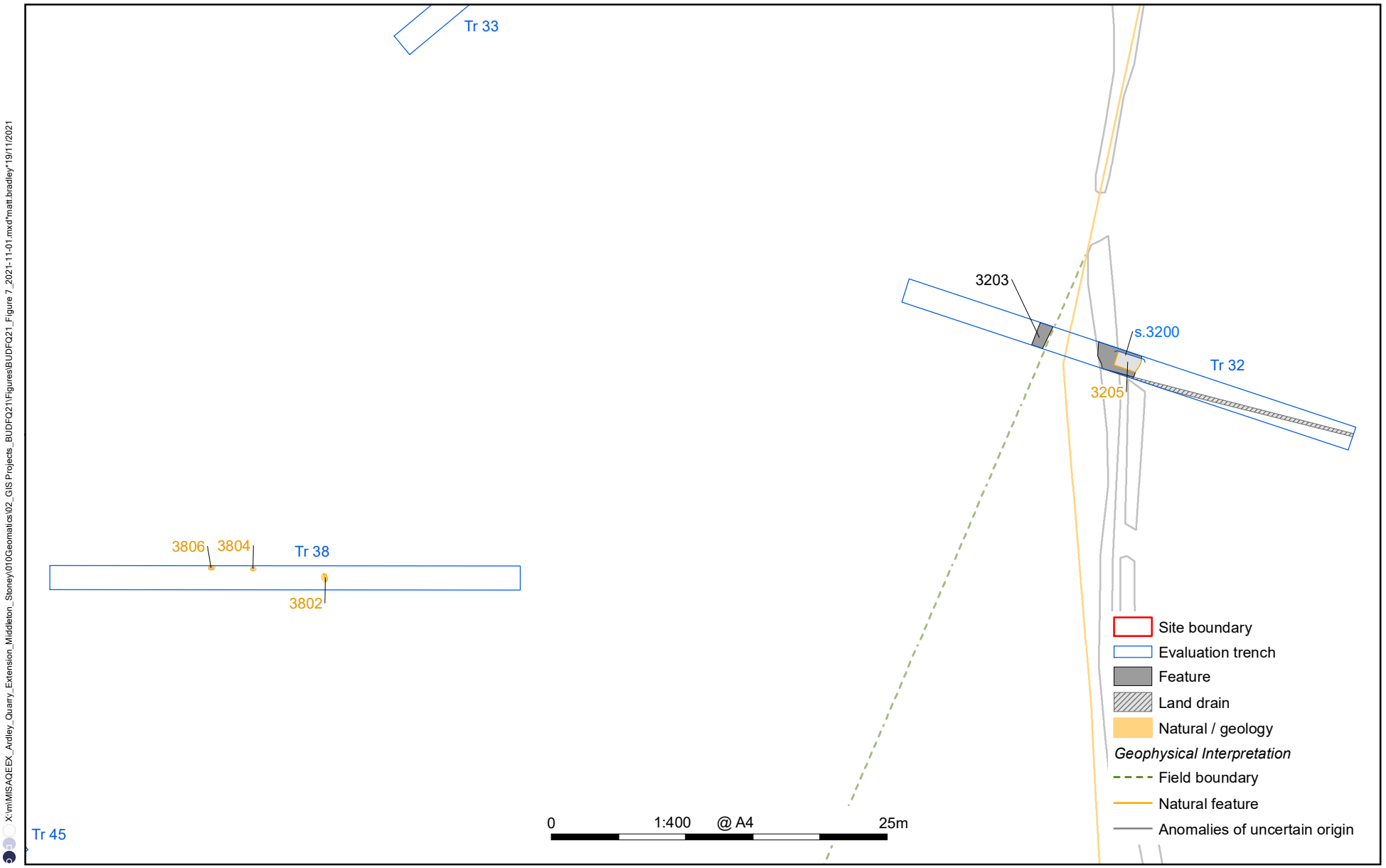

Figure 7: Detailed plan of Trench 32 and 38

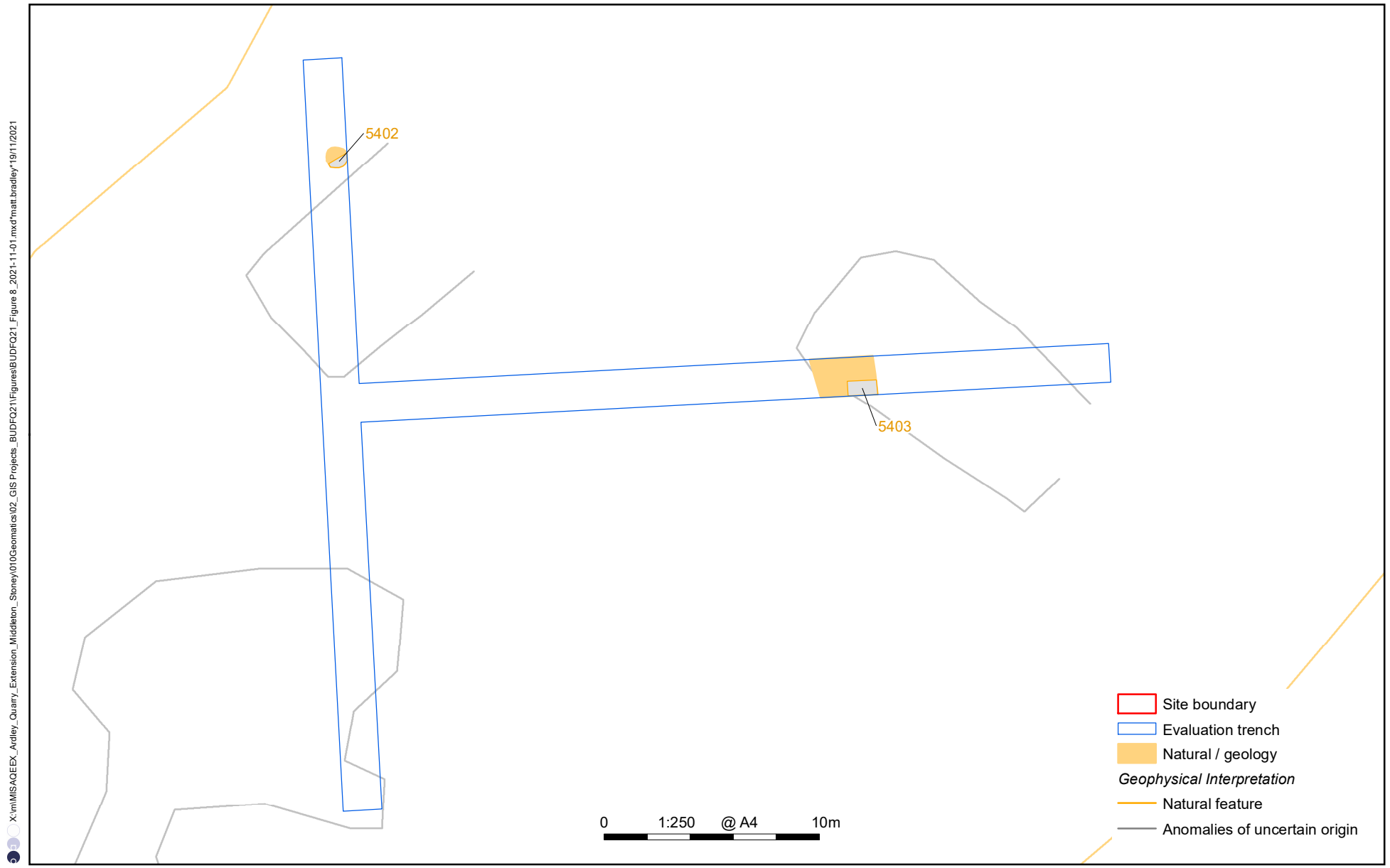

Figure 8: Detailed plan of Trench 54

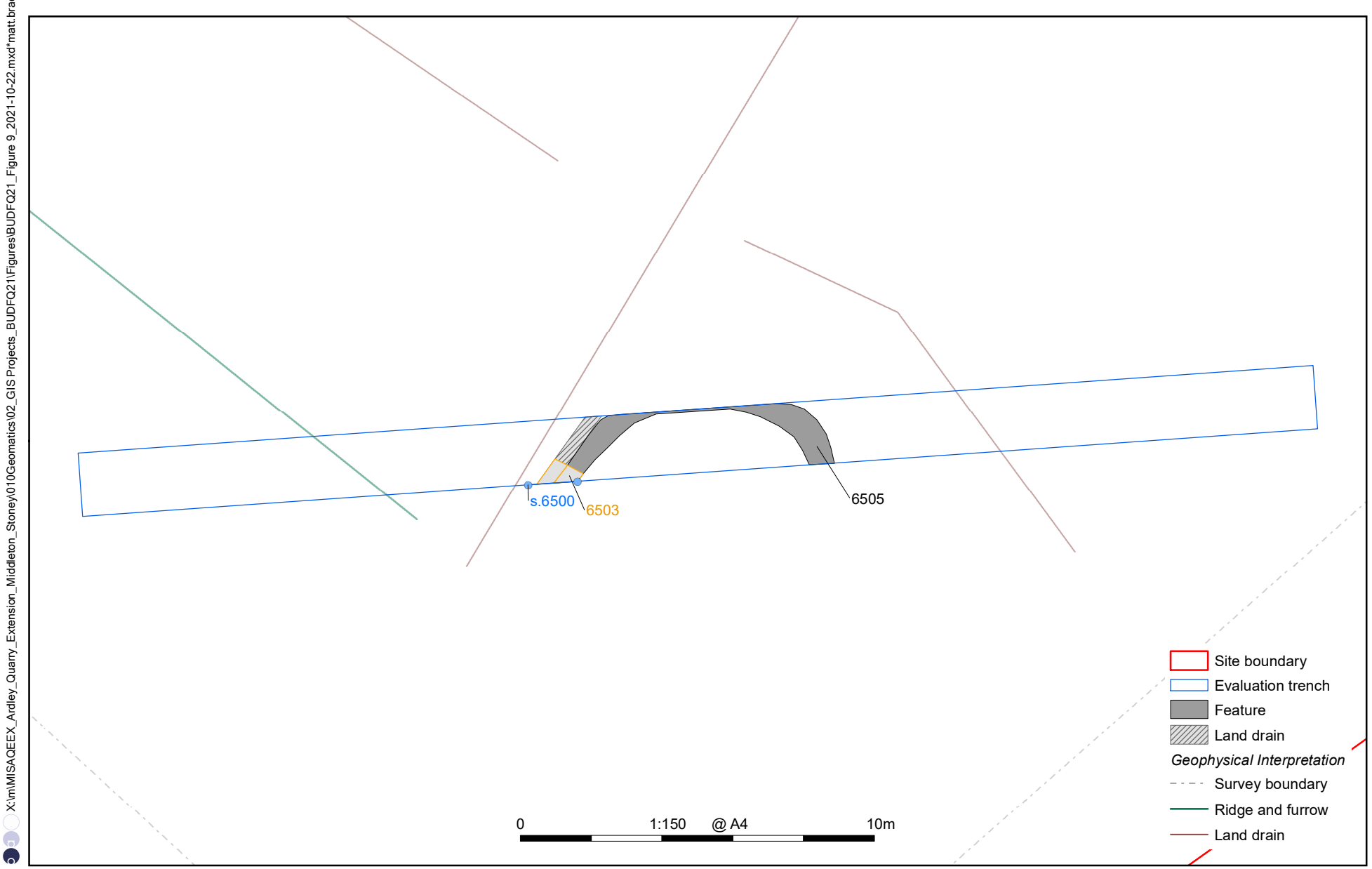

Figure 9: Detailed plan of Trench 65

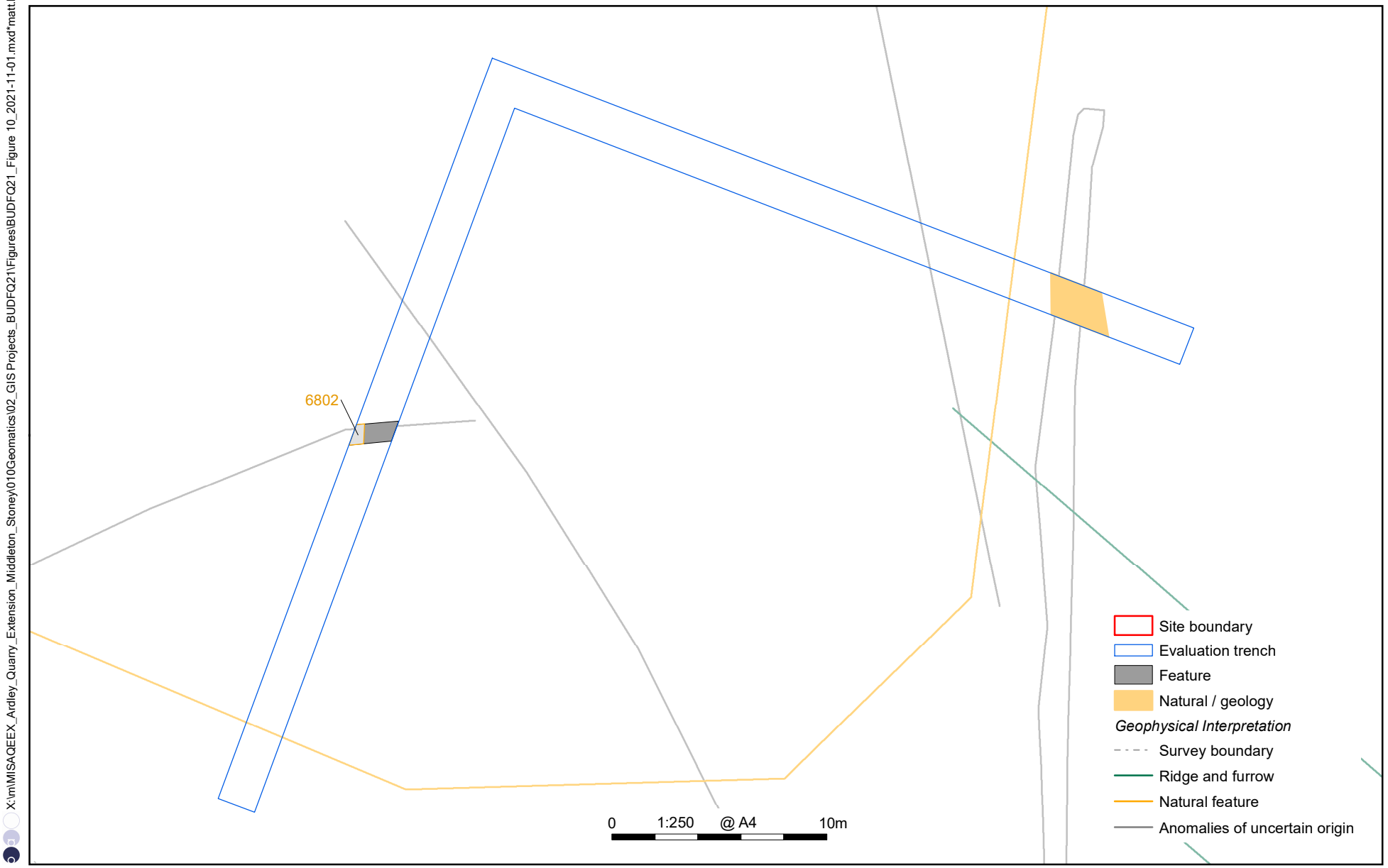

Figure 10: Detailed plan of Trench 68

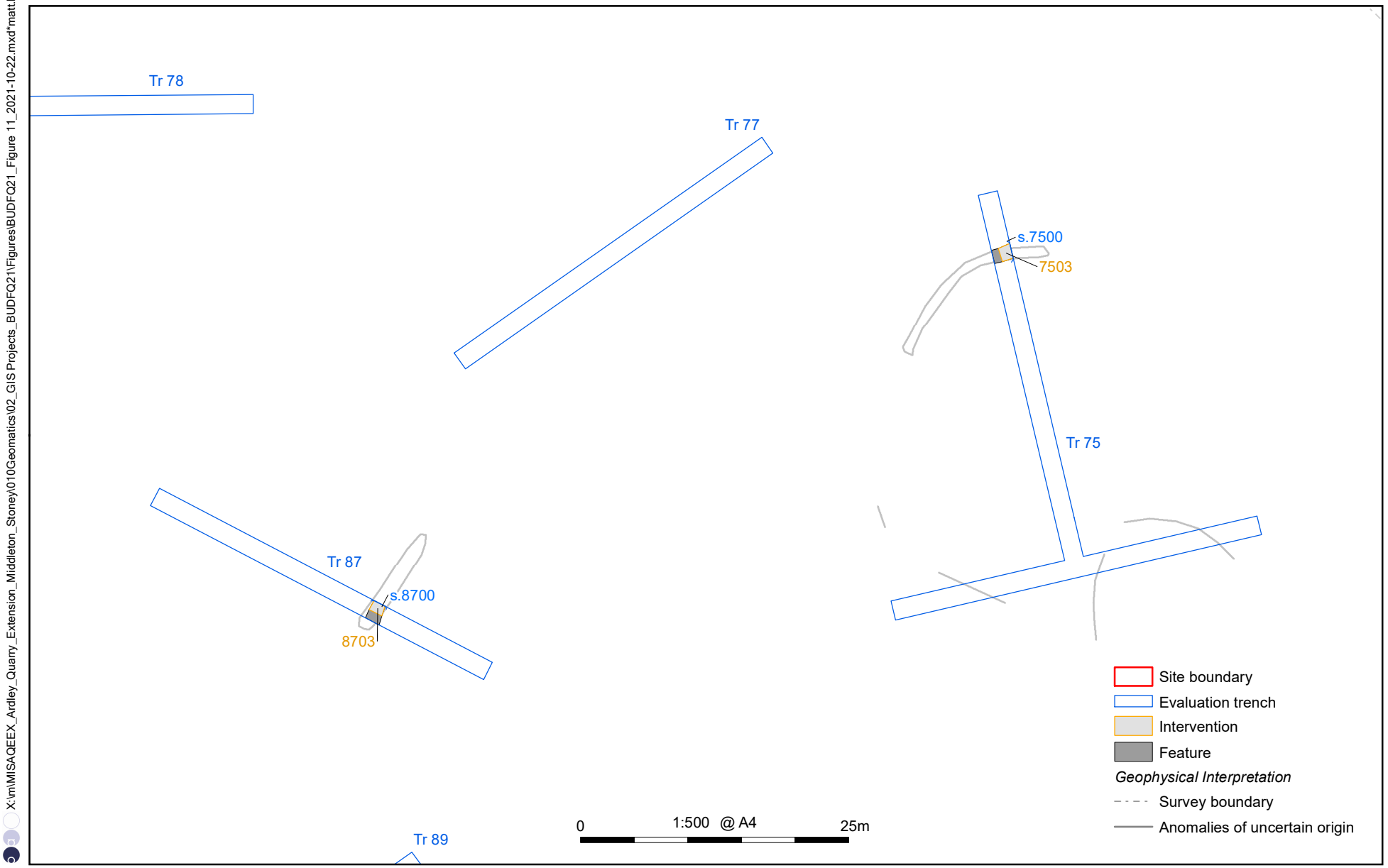

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Figure 11: Detailed plan of Trenches 75 and 87

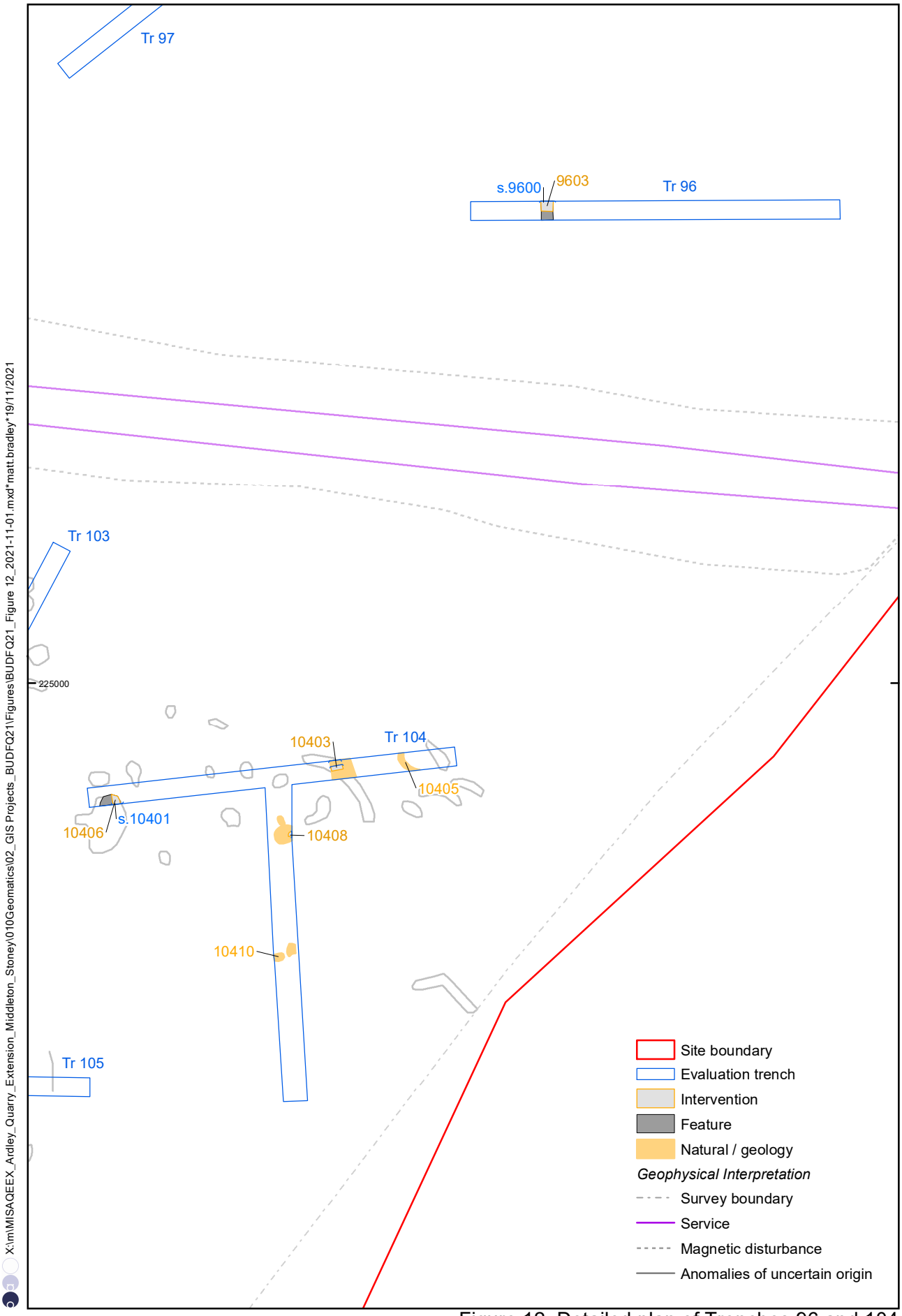

Figure 12: Detailed plan of Trenches 96 and 104

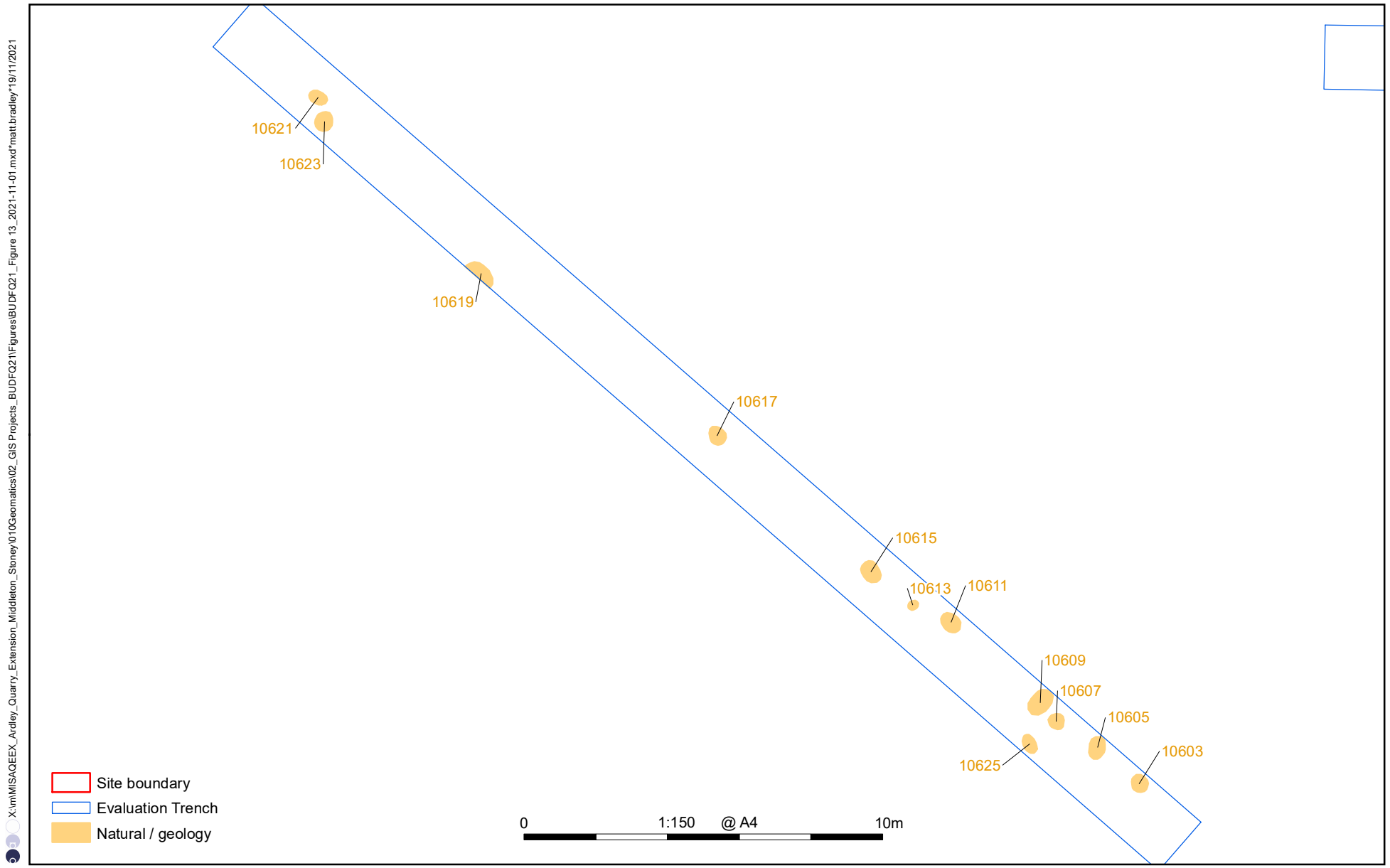

Figure 13: Detailed plan of Trench106

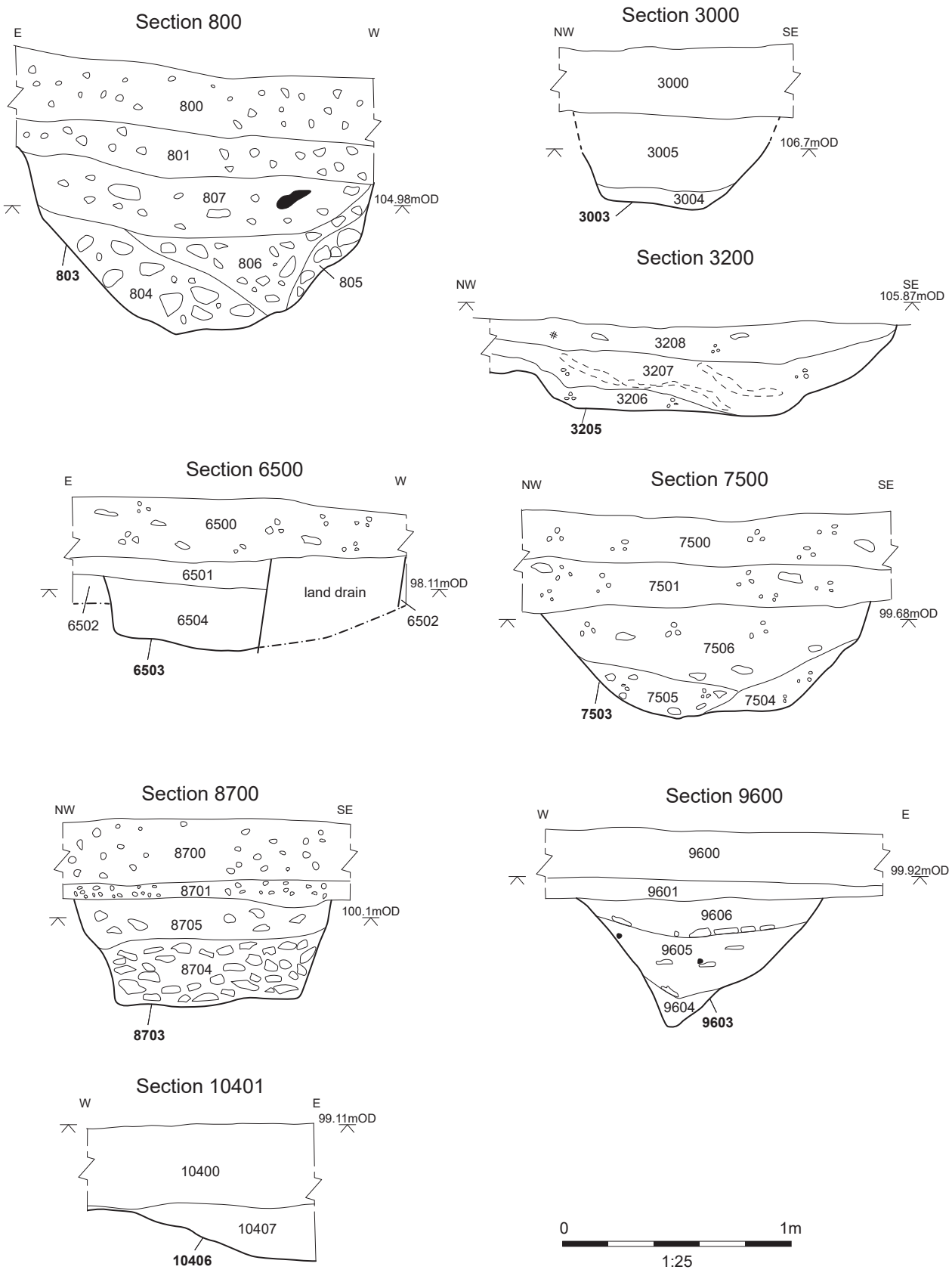

Figure 14: Selected sections

Plate 1: General view of site, looking north

Plate 2: Trench 12 – late post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch 1203, looking north-east

Plate 3: Trench 28 – possible ditch terminal 2802, looking south

Plate 4: Trench 38 – natural feature 3804, looking east

Plate 5: Trench 54 - possible ditch 5403, looking south

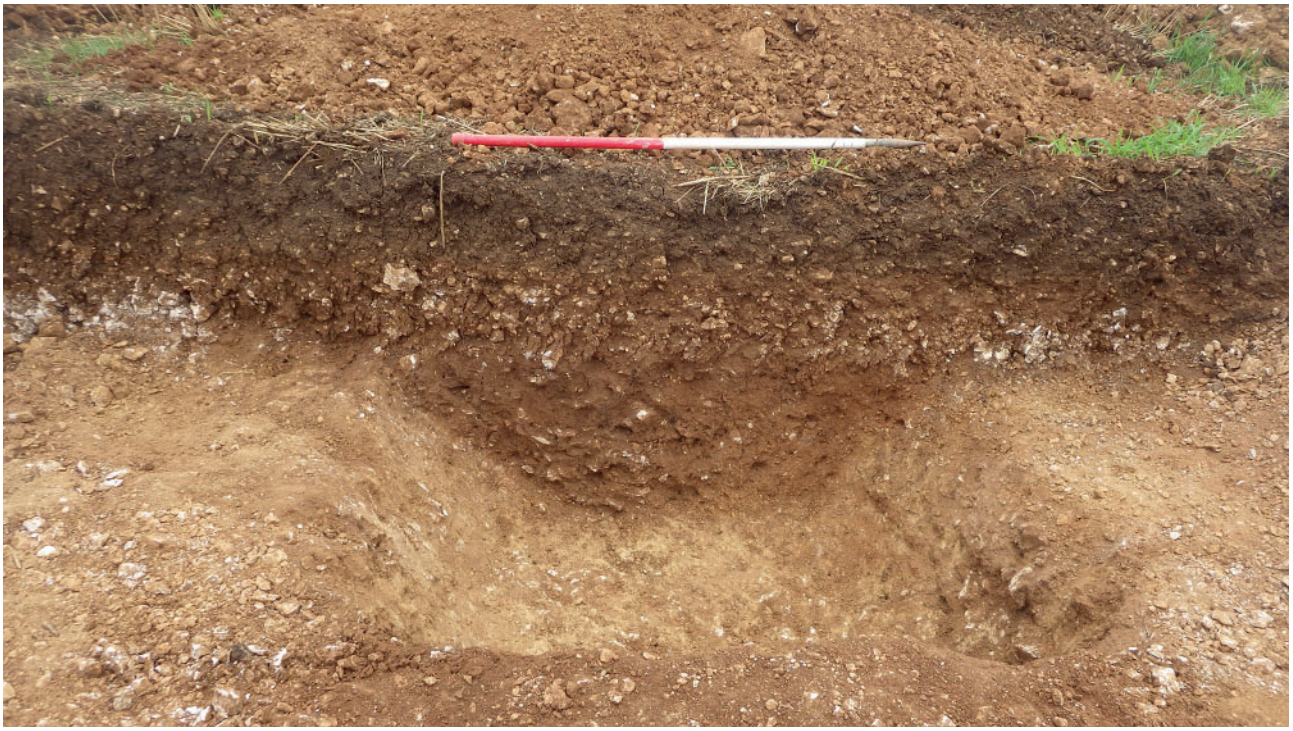

Plate 6: Trench 75 – ditch 7503, looking north

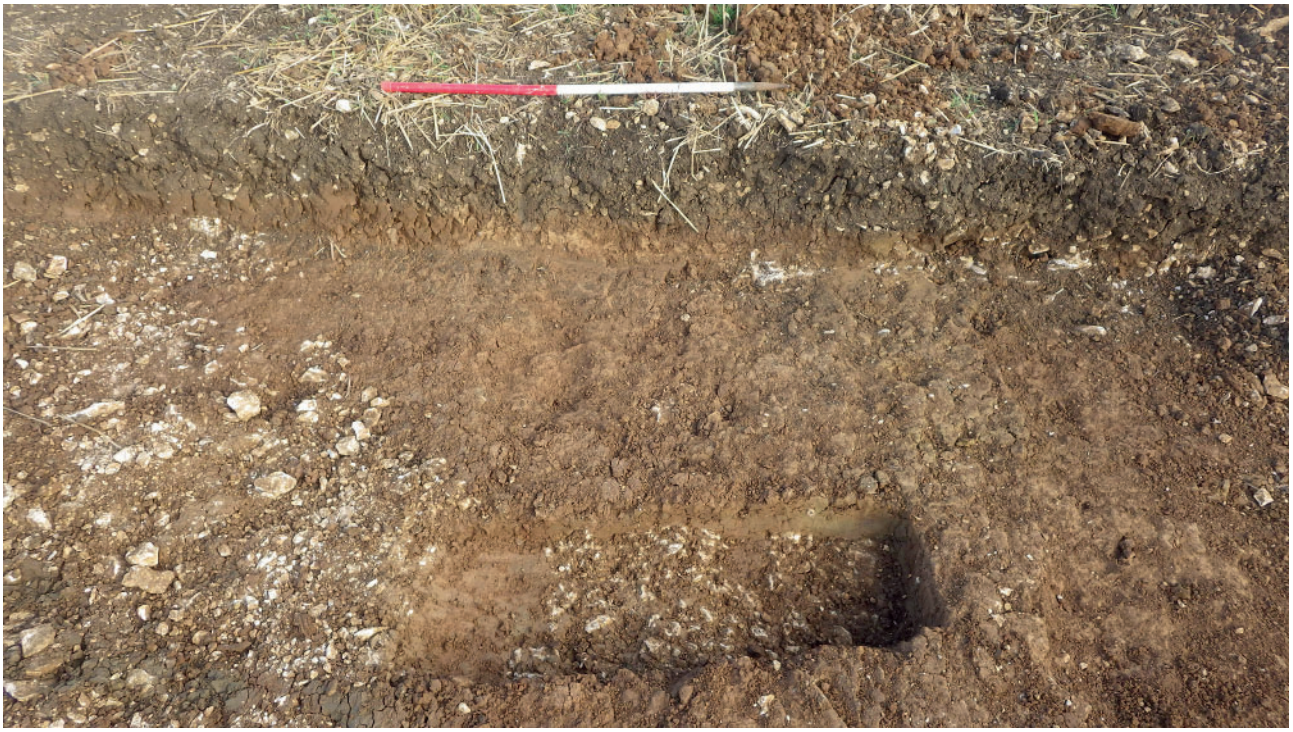

Plate 7: Trench 104 – natural hollow 10403, looking north

Plate 8: Trench 104 – in situ flint, looking south

Plate 9: Trench 106 – overview of probable natural features, looking south-east

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