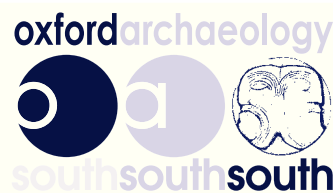


Park Road Didcot Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report




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Park Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In August 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Park Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire. Seventeen trenches were excavated of which four revealed archaeological features. These comprised three postholes and a pit within the eastern part of the site and a narrow gully and a single posthole within the north-western part of the site. None of these features produced dating evidence although the pit and posthole in Trench 16 are likely to be of a recent origin.

Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was present across the majority of the northern and western part of the site. Within the northern field this was faint but visible upstanding earthworks on a ENE-WSW alignment. Furrows were also visible in some of the excavated trenches within the southern field.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details and background

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Bloor Homes (Western) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Park Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). Outline planning permission (Refs: P02/W0848/O & HAR17774/X) had previously been granted to the Great Western Park development (GWP) which encompassed this site. Subsequently agreement (Planning Application Ref: P10/W1959) has been made with the planning authority for Bloor Homes to develop this land ahead of the GWP phase plan.
- 1.1.2 This specific part of the GWP development had not been subject to detailed pre determination archaeological evaluation. Therefore the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) requested post-determination evaluation trenching to establish the potential within the application boundary and to inform whether subsequent archaeological mitigation would be required during or prior to the construction phase.
- 1.1.3 RPS produced a Strategy and Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation works (RPS, 2012). OA fully adhered to the contents of this document in their undertaking of the project requirements.
- 1.1.4 The following Sections 1.2 and 1.3 are largely reproduced from the WSI.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The development boundary encloses an area of approximately 5 hectares centred on National Grid Reference SU 5134 8900 (Fig. 2). The eastern boundary is defined by Park Road which leads south out of Didcot. The western boundary is defined by a historic mature hedge line that appears on the 1st edition maps whilst the northern and southern boundaries are defined by more recent boundaries within a once larger field. The site is located on relatively flat land at c.70m above Ordnance Datum.
- 1.2.2 The development boundary interior area is sub-divided into five parts comprising a farm barn complex in the central southern area and four paddocks. The paddocks are divided by post and rail/ barbed wire fencing. The two northern paddocks and the



paddocks either side of the farm buildings have recently been used for the grazing of horses whilst a narrow east-west aligned plot has reverted to scrub/ unmanaged grassland with an area of short cropped grass at the western end. The southern paddocks are currently uncut grass with access between the two possible to the north side of the barn building and complex in the centre of the southern area. There is a track to the barn structures running east-west through the south-east paddock from the road gateway.

- 1.2.3 The solid geology of the site is Upper Greensands of the Lower Cretaceous period on the southern side of a broad plateau cresting to the north of the Wantage Road within the GWP area adjacent to the Stephen Freeman School. The river Thames is located c.4km to the north whilst the Berkshire Downs are located from c.2-3km to the south.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-study for the wider GWP area including the present site was conducted in 1999 (RPS 1999) with the baseline reproduced in Chapter 8 of the Supplement to the GWP Environmental Statement (ES) and its appendices (RPS 2003). In addition to known sites and monuments identified on the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record the ES included further archaeological surveys in support of the outline application for GWP. Those relevant to the understanding of the archaeological context of present site comprised trial trenching (CA 2003) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2001 & 2002), both managed by RPS between 2001 and 2003. Field walking, undertaken for most of the site (RPS 2001), was not possible within the Bloor Homes development area due to its use as pasture.

Known archaeological context of the site and its close vicinity

- 1.3.2 Magnetic susceptibility survey over the site (Stratascan 2001 and 2002 Fig 4) identified relatively low levels of enhancement in comparison to areas to the north of Wantage Road where archaeological sites of Iron Age and Roman date have been subsequently identified. However, this technique is no longer considered a reliable indicator of archaeological presence/absence and is particularly poor at locating earlier prehistoric activities. Magnetometer survey was selectively targeted on areas of magnetic susceptibility survey in 2002. One such area of survey (Area 21) was conducted to the immediate north of the site (Stratascan 2002; Fig 47) and identified faint linear features of possible archaeological origin. These areas were subsequently evaluated by trial trench (CA 2003 – Trenches 186 - 188) but no archaeological features relating to the geophysics were found and it was concluded that they were of likely geological origin. However, a 100m trial trench to the west of the site (Trench 265) provided indications of Roman activity in the area. This trench identified a buried soil layer containing late Romano-British pottery in addition to iron objects including a hobnail. The former soil overlay the natural and was sealed by a colluvium (hillwash) deposit and modern ploughsoil (CA 2003 p31-32).
- 1.3.3 Further archaeological trenches undertaken within the vicinity of the site in 2002 (CA Feb 2003) areas around Down Farm to the north-west including comprising Trenches 171-185. These did not identify any significant remains. A field to the west of Down Farm was trenched via a grid of trenches at a similar density to the current proposal for the site due to a scatter of late Roman pottery found on the surface of the field via fieldwalking (RPS 2001). No Roman associated Roman archaeology was found by the trenching although Bronze Age pits were found in an area to the north-west of the farm suggesting some prehistoric activity in the zone to the south of Wantage Road. In addition a sewer trench for the Didcot Sewerage Scheme was constructed within a



'dog-leg' trench to the immediate south and west of the site. The easement trench was archaeologically monitored in 1997-8 although no archaeology was identified within the section closest to the site (HER 16112 & 16115).

- 1.3.4 Most of the fields in the vicinity of the site contain traces of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. This is identified as cut furrow features within the GWP evaluation trenches and was specifically identified as very slight earthwork remnants during RPS walkover of the site in 2001. The survey indicated that the furrows were post-enclosure in date comprising 'RPS 46' in the northern area - 'an area of ridge and furrow, post enclosure in origin' and 'RPS 47' an 'area of ridge and furrow headland, post enclosure in origin'. The County Archaeologist regarded these poorly preserved remains as being of low significance and required no further recording of them. The Grade II listed Down Farm is of 17th-18th century post-medieval date but may have a early medieval or medieval origin given its setting within an oval earthwork/ hedged enclosure incorporating the surrounding fields which is atypical and pre-dates the earlier 19th century enclosures. It is possible that the area within the enclosure was the focus of a currently unknown earlier farm.
- 1.3.5 A detailed summary of the wider archaeological context of the area is also presented in the WSI but not included here.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

General

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

Specific

- Are there any indications for Mesolithic or Neolithic activities or transient camps/settlements within the development boundary, such as artefact scatters or pitting?
- Are the slight indications for Bronze Age funerary monuments, metal-working hoards, landscapes and/or associated settlements within the wider area indicative of presence of such activities within the development boundary?
- Is there any evidence within the development boundary which can be related to settlement evidence of Iron Age, Roman or Saxon date, perhaps equivalent to settlements indications within a kilometre to the north and north-west?
- Are there activities other than ridge and furrow associated with the medieval use of the landscape?

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seventeen evaluation trenches (16 measuring 50 m x 2 m and one 59 m x 2 m trench) representing an approximate 3% sample of the 5ha area enclosed by the development boundary (Fig. 2). Prior to the investigation the central field had been identified as a habitat for lizards and as a consequence the project ecologists required that any trial trenching avoided as far as possible the area pending completion of ecological works. As a result the trenches were arranged mostly within the northern and southern field with a single trench located within the western end of the central field that was not suitable lizard habitat. In addition a localised area was strimmed in advance of the archaeological works to remove the



habitat and allow the excavation of a trench within the eastern part of the central field. The trench arrangement provided a best coverage of the whole site within the constraint of the ecological restrictions

- 2.2.2 All trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The exposed surface of the natural geology, which was the first horizon encountered below the topsoil/subsoil, was sufficiently clean following machine excavation to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. Hand excavation of the exposed features was undertaken with the aim to establish or confirm their origin and significance.
- 2.2.3 The trench locations, features and variations in the geological natural, along with levels for all trenches were recorded using a Leica GPS. Individual recorded points have an accuracy to within 0.075m.
- 2.2.4 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with standard OAS practices and the requirements of the WSI. Summary results were discussed with the RPS Archaeologist and the CAO prior to backfilling.



3 RESULTS

3.1 General results

3.1.1 Archaeological features were limited to Trenches 1 and 3 in the north-western part of the site and Trenches 16 and 17 within the southern field and at the eastern edge of the site. The general soil sequence recorded throughout was a former ploughsoil (subsoil) between 0.1 m and 0.3 m thick overlying the natural sandy, silt clay. This clearly relates to post medieval agriculture and the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation were evident at surface level and within some of the excavated trenches as the base of furrows. The current topsoil and turf overlay the buried ploughsoil to a depth between 0.2 and 0.3 m. Trench details and the depths of soils are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A). Only the trenches that contained features are described below along with a comment on the presence of ridge and furrows.

3.2 Trench descriptions

- 3.2.1 A single posthole (105) was encountered in Trench 1 along with a narrow gully (303) within the adjacent Trench 3 (Fig. 3). Both were well defined but otherwise unremarkable and neither produce any artefactual material. Sections of these features and the general soil sequences of these trenches are presented in Figure 4.
- 3.2.2 Two postholes (1703 and 1705) were recorded in Trench 17 (Fig. 3). These were of a similar size and well defined with charred material (charcoal and burnt clay) within their fills (see Fig. 4 for sections). Similarly, neither of these produced any artefactual dating evidence.
- 3.2.3 A localised group of probable modern features cut through the subsoil horizon were recorded in Trench 16 (Fig. 3). These comprise a small pit and a posthole (1607 and 1605). It is unclear what these relate to although the south-eastern field was used as a fairground in the latter part of the 20th century and this may be one source for more recent features within the site.
- 3.2.4 Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was present across the majority of the northern and western part of the site. Within the northern field this was visible as faint upstanding earthworks on a roughly ENE-WSW alignment as also noted during the walkover surveys by RPS. Within the excavated trenches field drains were invariably present in the base of the furrows, and were spaced at regular intervals approximately 11m apart (not indicated on Figs 2 and 3). These were present across the two northern paddocks, the central plot, and the westernmost of the southern paddock. A fragment of heavily abraded Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of the furrow revealed in Trench 10 along with a fragment of 19th century peg tile (see Appendix B below).



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Evaluation results in relation to the project objectives

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation appear conclusive in establishing an absence of significant archaeological remains within the scope of the sample percentage. Visibility of soils was clear during the fieldwork and the results can be viewed as a reliable means for establishing the absence of all but the most scattered and ephemeral types of archaeological features.

4.2 Interpretation and potential

4.2.1 There is little to interpret or discuss with regard to the encountered features. It is clear that those in Trench 16 are of a recent origin whilst the lack of dating evidence from the others and the general sparsity of features makes a meaningful understanding of these impossible.

4.2.2 With regard to the furrow alignments, these are at an apparent variance to the existing field boundaries and Park Road. However, the OS 1st edition map and more recent plots show that the evaluation area has, until recently, been part of a larger field and that none of the internal boundaries pre date the late 20th century so it is not surprising that these do not reflect the former field arrangements and use. Also clear from the 1st edition map to the west of the western boundary to this development area is an arrangement of former strip fields that do follow the alignments recorded for this field. It appears that these are gradually arching around to the east to meet Park Road which is an existing historic rout out of Didcot.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Natural geology was cut by a possible linear feature which is likely to be the base of a post-medieval furrow and a single ephemeral posthole. The fills and natural were overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil.					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
100	deposit		0.29	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
101	deposit		0.1	subsoil	firm mid yellow brown clayey silt	
102	layer			natural	greensand	
103	cut	0.6	0.11	furrow		
104	fill		0.11	fill of furrow 103	friable mid-light yellow brown clayey silt 15% limestone fragments	
105	cut	0.4	0.13	posthole		
106	fill		0.1	fill of posthole 105	friable-firm mid-dark grey brown clayey silt with 20-30% charcoal and 10% limestone fragments	
107	fill		0.03	fill of posthole 105	firm mid grey brown silty clay with 5% limestone fragments	

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
200	deposit		0.3	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
201	deposit		0.2	subsoil	firm dark greyish brown sandy clay	
202	layer			natural	firm mid greyish brown sandy clay	



Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Natural geology was cut by an undated NW-SE aligned gully the fills of which were overlain by a layer of subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
300	deposit		0.18	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
301	deposit		0.12	subsoil	firm mid-light grey brown clayey silt	
302	layer			natural	?greensand	
303	cut	0.4	0.2	NW-SE aligned gully		
304	fill		0.2	fill of gully 303	firm mid orange brown silty clay with 20% stone (of which 10% is ironstone)	

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
400	deposit		0.2	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
401	deposit		0.3	subsoil	firm dark greyish brown clay	
402	layer			natural	firm mid greenish brown sandy clay	

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
500	deposit		0.17	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
501	deposit		0.14	subsoil	firm mid greyish brown clay	
502	layer			natural	firm light greyish brown clay	



Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
600	deposit		0.23	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
601	deposit		0.27	subsoil	firm mid greyish brown clay	
602	layer			natural	firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
700	deposit		0.25	topsoil	loose mid greyish brown silty loam	
701	deposit		0.2	subsoil	firm mid greenish brown silty clay	
702	layer			greensand		

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.38
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
800	deposit		0.3	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
801	deposit		0.08	subsoil	firm dark greyish brown clay	
802	layer			natural	firm mid greyish brown sandy clay	



Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.32
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
900	deposit		0.23	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
901	deposit		0.09	subsoil	firm dark greyish brown clay	
902	layer			natural	mid greyish brown sandy clay	

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No significant archaeological features were present within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1000	deposit		0.32	topsoil	loose mid grey brown silty loam	
1001	deposit		0.2	subsoil	firm mid-dark greenish brown silty clay	
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1002	layer			natural	greensand	
1003	cut	1.2	0.2	furrow		
1004	fill		0.2	fill of furrow 1003	firm mid grey brown clayey silt with 10% charcoal, 10% limestone fragments and 1% CBM	

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No significant archaeological features were present within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.48
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1100	deposit		0.26	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	



1101	deposit		0.22	subsoil	firm dark yellowish brown sandy clay	
1102	layer			natural	firm mid greyish brown firm sandy clay	
1103	cut	1.51	0.13	probable furrow		
1104	fill		0.13	fill of probable furrow 1103	firm mid greyish brown sandy clay	

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1200	deposit		0.19	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
1201	deposit		0.18	subsoil	firm dark greyish brown clay	
1202	layer			natural	firm mid brownish grey sandy clay	

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1300	deposit		0.27	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
1301	deposit		0.22	subsoil	firm dark greyish brown sandy clay	
1302	layer			natural	firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date



1400	deposit		0.33	topsoil	loose mid greyish brown silty loam	
1401	deposit		0.25	subsoil	firm dark greyish brown sandy clay	
1402	layer			natural	firm mid brownish grey clay with mid greyish brown sandy clay	

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Natural geology was overlain by subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features were present within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.36
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1500	deposit		0.24	topsoil	mid grey brown silty loam	
1501	deposit		0.12	subsoil	mid grey brown silty clay	
1502	layer			natural	mid grey brown sandy clay	

Trench 16						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Natural geology was cut by an undated NE-SW aligned linear feature, the single fill of which was overlain by a layer of subsoil. This appeared to have been cut by a series of modern features, some of which are likely to have represented postholes. It is possible that these relate to the use of this field as a fairground in the latter part of the 20th century. The subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1600	deposit		0.23	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
1601	deposit		0.17	subsoil	firm mid greyish brown sandy clay	
1602	layer			natural	firm light yellowish brown sandy clay	
1603	cut	1.3	0.15	furrow		
1604	fill		0.15	fill of furrow 1603	firm mid yellowish brown silty sand	
1605	cut	0.35	0.23	modern post-hole		
1606	fill		0.23	fill of modern post-hole 1605	firm mid grey brown silty clay with 10% limestone fragments and 2% charcoal	
1607	cut	0.41	0.07	modern feature (2 postholes?)		
1608	fill		0.07	fill of modern feature(s) 1607	firm-friable very dark grey/black silty clay	



Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Natural geology was cut by 2 postholes, the fills of which were overlain by a layer of subsoil which was in turn overlain by topsoil.				Avg. depth (m)		0.54
				Width (m)		2.2
				Length (m)		60
Contexts						
context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	date
1700	deposit		0.3	topsoil	loose light greyish brown silty loam	
1701	deposit		0.24	subsoil	firm mid greyish brown clayey silt	
1702	layer			natural	light greyish brown sandy clay	
1703	cut	0.3	0.2	post-hole		
1704	fill		0.2	fill of post-hole 1703	firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with 30% charcoal	
1705	cut	0.34	0.17	post-hole		
1706	fill		0.17	fill of post-hole 1705	firm mid-light brown grey silty clay with 20-30% charcoal	



APPENDIX B. FINDS

B.1 Pottery

by John Cotter

- B.1.1 A single sherd of pottery weighing 7g. was recovered from a context 1004.
- B.1.2 Context (1004) Spot-date: c AD43-400. A single very worn thin-walled sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery. This has lost its original surfaces but evidently comes from a fairly large jar. It has a soft, fine, oxidised, coarseware fabric (Paul Booth, pers. comm.). See also CBM below.

B.2 The ceramic building material (CBM)

by John Cotter

- B.2.1 A single pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 74g. was recovered from a context 1004.
- B.2.2 Context (1004) Spot-date: 19th century. A single fairly fresh corner fragment from a peg tile in a smooth orange sandy post-medieval fabric. This has a trace of a circular nail hole.



APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

RPS 2012 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Park Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire. Unpublished client document

APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Park Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire
Site code: DIPR 12
Grid reference: Centred on SU 51363 89014
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 20th to 24th August 2012, 5 days

Summary of results:

In August 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Park Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire. Seventeen trenches were excavated of which four revealed archaeological features. These comprised three postholes and a pit within the eastern part of the site and a narrow gully and a single posthole within the north-western part of the site. None of these features produced dating evidence although the pit and posthole in Trench 16 are likely to be of a recent origin.

Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was present across the majority of the northern and western part of the site. Within the northern field this was faint but visible upstanding earthworks on a roughly ENE-WSW alignment. Furrows were also visible in some of the excavated trenches within the southern field.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service, in due course, under the accession number: OXCMS:2012.100

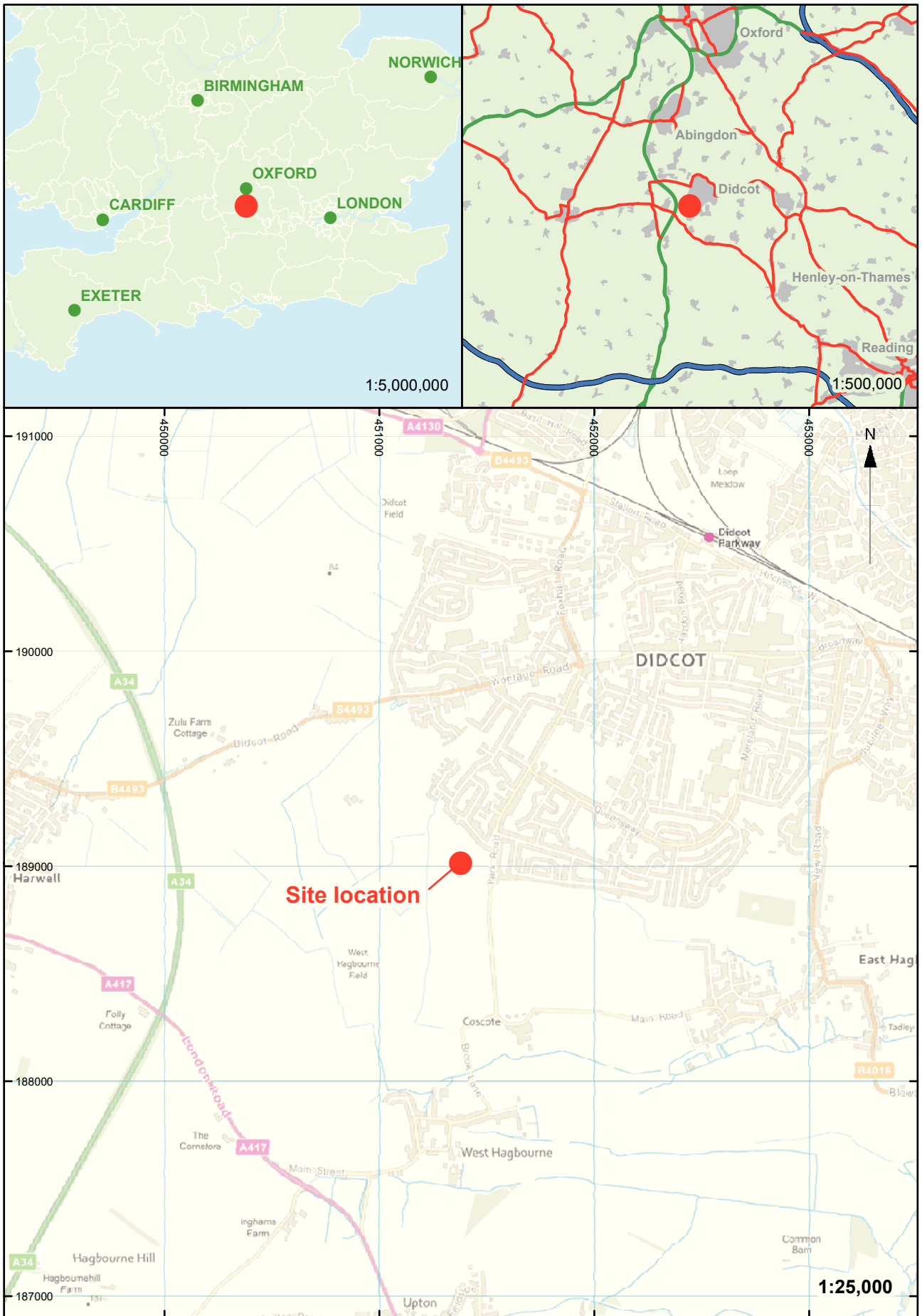


Figure 1: Site location

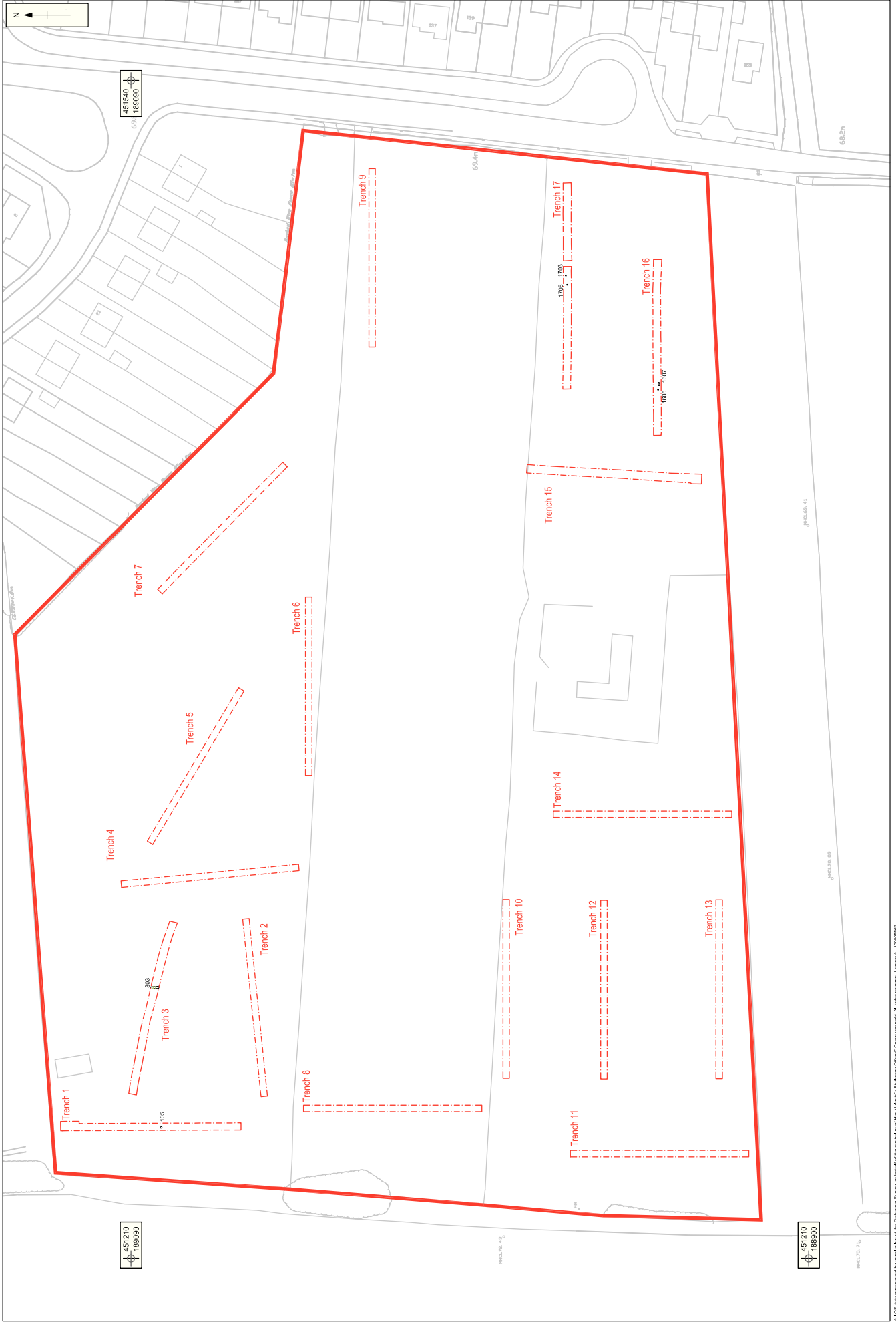


Figure 2: Trench locations

0 50 m
Scale at A3 1:1000

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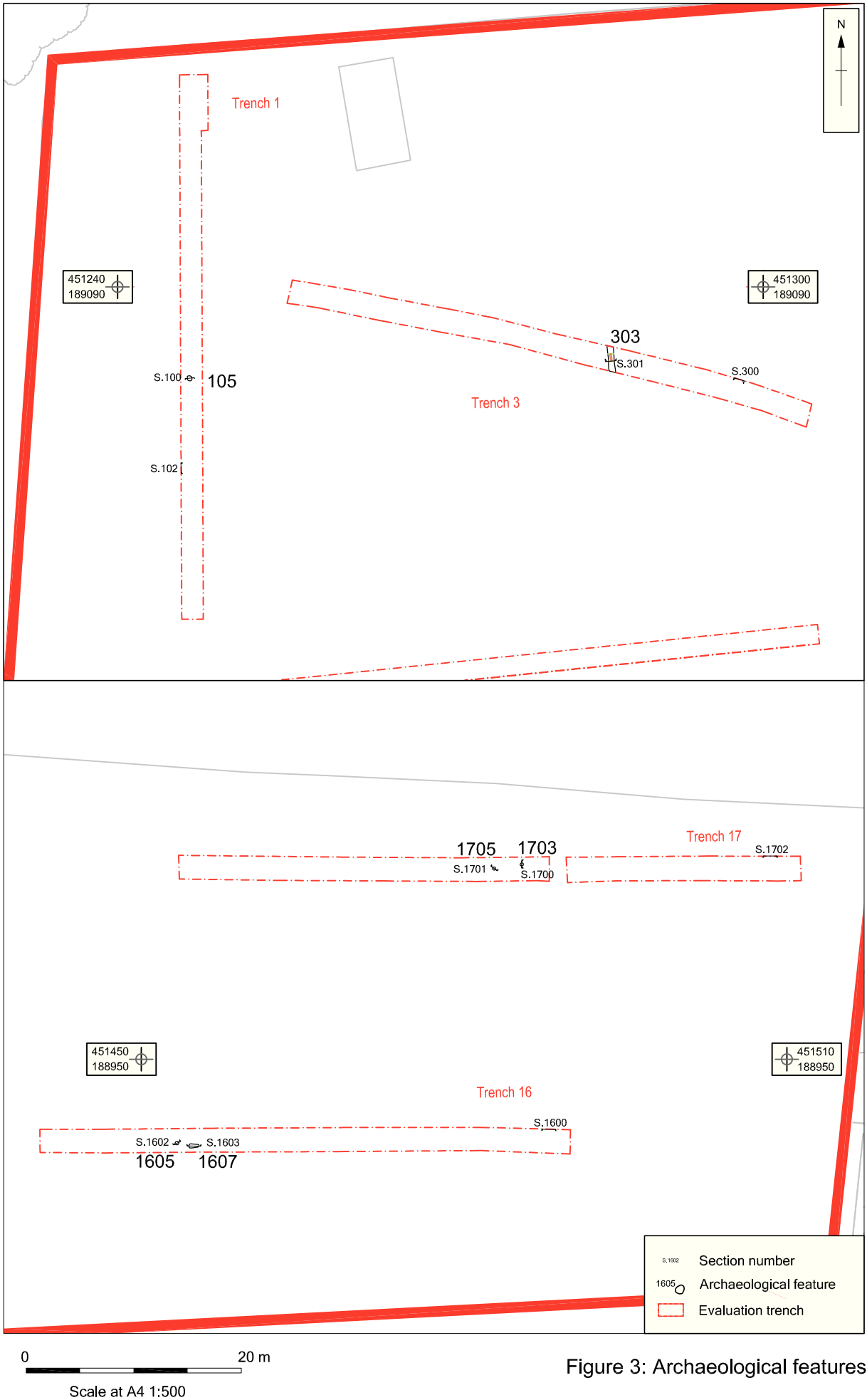
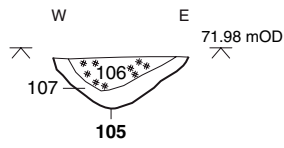


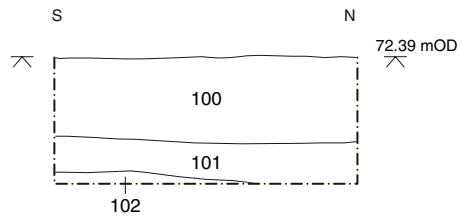
Figure 3: Archaeological features



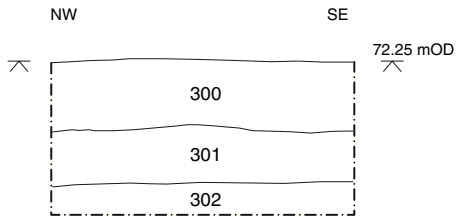
Section 100



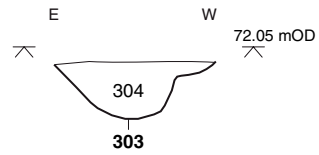
Section 102



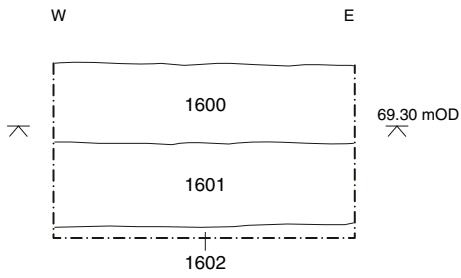
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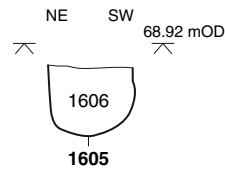
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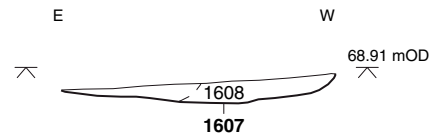
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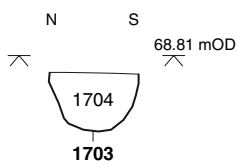
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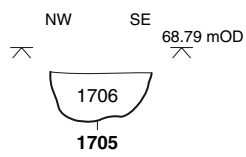
Section 1603



Section 1700



Section 1701



Section 1702

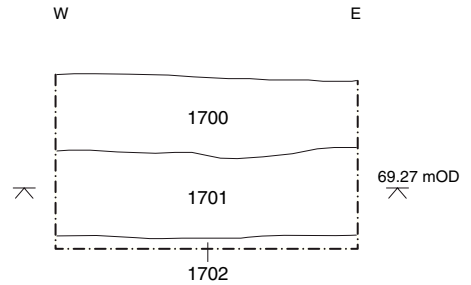


Figure 4: Sections



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