Station Quarry
Steeple Morden
Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire

NGR TL 3078 3939

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In September 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Station Quarry, Steeple Morden Cambridgeshire, on behalf of Omya UK Ltd. The evaluation revealed a hollow way which ran the entire length of the evaluation area. A parallel shallower trackway was present in places. A beam slot was located close to the hollow way. Other trenches contained tree holes, none of which were dated, and a post-medieval ditch and drain belonging to a post-medieval barn. A barrow thought to be located at the north of the site was not found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In September 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire on behalf of Omya UK Ltd. The work was carried out in advance of a planning application for the extension of the existing chalk quarry. Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council produced a brief outlining the archaeological requirements of the work (CAPCA 2007). OA prepared a Project Design (OA 2008) detailing how those requirements would be met. The development site is situated at NGR TL 3078 3939 and is *c* 23 hectares in area (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Cretaceous Middle Chalk at *c* 62 m to 78 m above OD. The site is situated on the northern slopes of Gallows Hill, immediately north of the Hertfordshire border.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site was subject to an aerial photographic assessment (CgMs 2002), an Environmental Impact Assessment (OA 2005) and a fieldwalking and geophysical survey (OA 2006). The fields immediately to the west of the site were subject to fieldwalking, trench evaluation and a strip map and sample exercise (OA 2002, Piper forthcoming). No significant find spots were noted during the fieldwalking, and possible pits identified by the aerial photographic surveys were revealed to be tree holes in the strip map and sample exercise (OA 2002, OA 2005, Piper forthcoming).

1.3.2 The site lies close to the Icknield Way, identified elsewhere as a focus of Neolithic activity. A probable Neolithic or Bronze Age flint blade was located to the immediate west of the site.

1.3.3 The remains of a possible plough reduced Bronze Age barrow were identified to the north of the site. A total of 33 possible Bronze Age barrows have been identified within 1 km of the site, in the form of earthwork mounds or as ring ditches recorded by aerial photography.

1.3.4 The site lies within an area that was densely populated in the Iron Age, with large complexes of ditches forming field systems among which were scattered small farming settlements. An Iron Age enclosure was excavated *c* 300 m south of the site, near Lower Coombe Farm.

1.3.5 During the Roman period the Icknield Way is believed to have been straightened and metalled. A Roman burial mound lies *c* 650 m east of the site, and crop marks are thought to represent Roman enclosures.

1.3.6 A ditch and bank earthwork runs through the centre of the site, and was excavated during the strip map and sample exercise (Piper forthcoming). The ditch was shown to be flat bottomed and 7.4 m wide and up to 0.9 m deep. The ditch contained pottery dating to the Roman and early medieval periods. The remains of two similarly dated structures were recorded, each represented by parallel beam slots up to 5 m long, 0.8 m wide and up to 0.5 m deep.

1.3.7 A possible Anglo-Saxon burial site is recorded near Ashwell and Morden railway station, *c* 900 m south-west of the site. A single find of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered during the 2002 OA evaluation. The site is likely to have been heathland until enclosure during the early 19th century.

1.3.8 The site of a former barn complex and cropmarks indicating a former shelter belt and associated ditches, first shown on the 1834 OS map, lie within the site. Post-medieval ditches and features possibly associated with a 1940s airstrip were revealed during works to the west (OA 2002, Piper forthcoming).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA would like to thank Rob Nicholson and Gavin Harris of Omya UK Ltd for their assistance throughout the evaluation, and Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council who monitored the works.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1 General

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the area of proposed development, and to determine the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any remains that may affect further need for mitigation prior to the quarrying process.

2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features, and to make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Specific

2.2.1 To establish the presence/absence and nature of preservation of the barrow located to the north of the site.

2.2.2 To investigate the known geophysical anomalies and cropmarks.

2.2.3 To further investigate the trackway ditch identified in the strip, map and sample exercise.

2.2.4 To investigate areas of presumed low archaeological potential, so as to confirm the accuracy of the geophysical and aerial photographic interpretation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 77 trenches, each measuring 30 m by 2 m, and targeted on geophysical anomalies, cropmarks, or set out on a standard grid array (Fig. 2).

3.1.2 The trenching formed a 2% sample of the proposed planning application area.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° Komatsu 21 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.2.2 Revealed features were cleaned by hand, and were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All trenches and features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

3.2.3 The excavated spoil was closely scanned for archaeological artefacts.

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds were recovered from contexts 2203, 2405, 2406 and 2606.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Palaeo-environmental samples were taken by hand and each sample was given an individual number. Samples were taken from contexts 2203, 2704 (charred plant remains) and 2704 (OSL dating potential).

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 Trenches which contained archaeological features or layers are discussed individually.

3.5.2 Trenches that contained tree holes will be discussed together. Where these were excavated they are listed in the context inventory (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on Cretaceous Middle Chalk and contains occasional flints. The geology becomes more mixed to the east of the site with banded brown silt deposits present. A dry river valley runs *c* north-south across the east of the site.

4.1.2 Modern plough scars were present in many trenches but not to a degree that obscured archaeological features.

4.1.3 Ground conditions were good and all the trenches were dry.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Modern ploughsoil was present in all trenches at a depth of between 0.22 m and 0.35 m. Despite constant scanning of the excavated spoil, no finds other than occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery were observed.

4.2.2 A buried ploughsoil was present in Trenches 1, 8, 9, 11, 18, 19, 28, 29, 39, 41, 42, 53, 54, 56 and 59. This deposit, a mid orange brown silt, ranged in depth between 0.05 m and 0.26 m and was present in the extreme west of the field and to the north-east, which may reflect ploughing practises. Elsewhere it appeared to cluster around the area of the dry river valley. No finds were recovered from the soil.

4.2.3 Clearly recognisable colluvial deposits were only noted in two trenches (58 and 75). These were less mixed and lighter in colour than the overlying buried ploughsoil. However where the ploughsoil was especially thin they may have been misidentified. Where present the colluvium was partially filling the dry valley. No finds were recovered from the colluvium.

4.2.4 A parallel sided feature with an irregular base within Trench 58 (5805) may have been an infilled channel associated with the dry valley. This feature was sealed by colluvial layer 5802.

4.2.5 Tree holes were identified in Trenches 1 to 5, 12 to16, 22, 25, 27, 33, 37 to 39, 44 to 46, 48, 56, 58 to 61, 66 and 75 to 76. Where there was a doubt as to their identity these were excavated and recorded (Trenches 1, 4, 12, 13, 22, 58, 60, 66, 75 and 76). The distribution of tree holes was fairly even across the evaluation, as within the strip, map and sample area to the west. No finds were recovered from tree holes.

4.2.6 The ditch identified in the strip map and sample (Piper forthcoming) was present within Trenches 20 to 27, but now more positively identified as a hollow way. A shallower trackway was noted in Trenches 23, 24 and 26. A beam slot was present in Trench 22. The ditch marking the eastern extent of the shelter belt, and seen on the 1834 OS map, was present in Trenches 8, 41, 72 and 74. A brick drain was present in Trench 10. Undated pits were present in Trenches 59 and 66.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits: the trackways and beamslot

Summary (Figs 3-5)

5.1.1 The trackway identified from cropmarks and the strip map and sample to the west (Piper forthcoming) was identified in eight trenches across the centre of the site (from west to east: Trenches 21-27 and 20). The hollow way was flat based and in general measured from 2.5 m to 5.6 m wide and from 0.2 m to 0.55 m deep. However, within Trench 27 the hollow way was over 9 m wide and 0.74 m deep, the variations in width and depth may have been a result of variable truncation from ploughing. Wheel ruts were evident at the base of the feature within Trenches 20 and 24, the wheel ruts measuring between 1.4 m and 1.6 m apart. Pottery dating from the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD was recovered from the fills of the hollow way.

5.1.2 A second narrower and shallower trackway lay to the north of the hollow way in Trenches 23, 24 and 26. Measuring *c* 2 m wide and 0.2 m deep, wheel ruts were also evident at its base. A beamslot from a possible agricultural building was revealed within Trench 22.

Trench 21 (Fig. 3)

5.1.3 Trench 21, to the west was only 0.3 m deep with a width of 5.5 m. The hollow way contained three fills within cut 2106. Two chalk rich fills (2102 to the south-east, and 2105 to the north-west), 0.08 m and 0.1 m deep respectively, were overlain by 2104 a friable light brown silt up to 0.2 m deep. The ditch had gently sloping sides and a flat even base and was truncated by a land drain.

Trench 22 (Figs 3 and 5)

5.1.4 Within Trench 22 the hollow way (2202) was 5.6 m wide and 0.56 m in depth. A primary fill (2212) consisting of redeposited chalk (potentially from a bank), had slumped into the south-eastern side of the ditch and was 0.08 m thick. This was overlain by a pale yellow brown silt deposit (2203) up to 0.12 m thick, which covered most of the base of the trackway. This contained a single sherd of pottery, dating to the Romano-British period. This deposit was overlain by a chalk rich fill (2204) which may have resulted from the deliberate levelling of a bank, potentially from both sides of the ditch. Deposit 2204 was up to 0.26 m deep and was present across the entire ditch. This was sealed by 2205, the upper fill, a pale orange brown silt also up to 0.26 m in depth.

5.1.5 Approximately 11 m south of 2202 was a beam slot measuring 3.2 m long and 0.45 m wide. The beam slot was slightly uneven in plan and ran in a north-west south-east direction with a distinct curve at the north end. The only fill (2207) was a dark orange brown silt 0.15 m deep. It seems likely that the shape of the beam slot mirrors that of the timber that it held.

Trench 23 (Figs 3 and 5)

5.1.6 Trench 23 (Figs 3 and 5) contained two parallel trackways 8.5 m apart. The northern feature (2302) was 2.14 m wide and 0.1 m deep and contained a single orange-brown silt fill. The base of the trackway was even and slightly concave. It seems likely that given the shallow nature of this feature it represents more of a de-turfing or weathering episode than a true cut feature. The southern trackway was a continuation of 2106 and 2202 (above) and was 4.18 m wide and 0.46 m deep. The cut (2304) contained three infilling episodes. The primary fill (2305) was mainly reworked chalk in a pale orange brown matrix and was 0.18 m deep. Above this was 2306, a pale grey brown silt fill 0.2 m deep. The base of the trackway undulated slightly towards the north-west.

Trench 24 (Figs 3 and 5)

5.1.7 Both features were also present in Trench 24, but converged to be 4.5 m apart. Again the northern trackway was the smaller. Two separate events may have occurred, as the base had two distinct concave undulations. Combined, the trackways (2409 and 2411) were 1.9 m wide and 0.2 m deep. It seems as probable that the undulations were caused by the use of wheeled transport and that a single event is represented. The fill (2408/2410) was a light brown silt. The larger southern hollow way (2407) was 5.04 m wide and 0.5 m deep. Probable wheel ruts were present in the base, each with a 'U' shaped profile some 0.18 m wide and 1.4 m apart. Similar ruts appeared towards the edges of the feature. The basal fill (2406) was 0.24 m of light brown silt and contained several sherds of Nene Valley pottery (*c* 170-300 AD). Overlying this was a thin layer of chalky silt, reminiscent of the possible bank levelling deposits discussed above. This fill (2405) was up to 0.07 m thick and contained two pottery sherds, dating from AD 200-410. The upper fill (2402) was a light brown silt up to 0.18 m deep.

Trench 25 (Fig. 4)

5.1.8 Trench 25 contained only the larger trackway (i.e. a continuation of 2407), which at this point was 6.3 m wide but only 0.2 m deep. Its basal fill (2505) was reworked chalk and was present in patches up to 0.05 m deep. It is possible that where this deposit is absent from the base of the trackway it has been worn away or eroded by weathering. The upper fill (2504) was a light brown silt up to 0.15 m deep. The cut (2506) had gradually sloping sides to a flat base.

Trench 26 (Fig. 4)

5.1.9 Trench 26 contained both trackways, now 2.5 m apart. The northern feture (2608) was 2.7 m wide and 0.2 m deep. The southern trackway (2605) was 2.5 m wide and 0.17 m deep. Both had similar fill profiles with a lower chalk rich fill (2604 to the north and 2607 to the south) and a brown siltier upper fill (2603 and 2606 respectively). A horse tooth and three bone fragments were recovered from 2606.

Trench 27 (Fig. 4)

5.1.10 Trench 27 contained only the larger trackway (2706) which was 9.5 m wide and 0.74 m deep. While this could be an amalgamation of both the features discussed above there was no evidence for more than one trackway within the section. The primary fill (2704) was a light grey brown silt 0.34 m thick that also filled two possible wheel ruts, some 1.5 m apart. This was partially overlain by 2705, a reworked chalk deposit 0.12 m deep that had slumped in from the south-eastern edge. Both of these fills were overlain by 2703 a slightly chalky grey brown silt up to 0.36 m deep. The upper fill (2702) had formed in the centre of the trackway and was a light yellow brown silt up to 0.2 m in depth.

Trench 20 (Fig. 4)

5.1.11 Trench 20, the furthest east across the trackway only contained the larger feature (2005). This was 4.9 m wide and 0.55 m deep. The fill sequence was different to any of the other sections of the trackway excavated. The lower fill (2004) was a light grey silt 0.4 m deep which contained hard laminated calcareous silt deposits, possibly derived from material washed down the slope. This deposit also filled possible ruts (*c* 1.6 m apart). At the interface between this deposit and the upper fill (2002) were patches of compact white silts. These too could be interpreted as wheel ruts, being 'U' shaped, fairly regular and measuring c. 0.16 m deep and 0.3 m wide. Fill 2002 was a light brown sandy silt 0.12 m in depth.

5.2 Description of deposits: other features

19th-century features

5.2.1 Trenches 8, 41, 72 and 74 (Figs 2, 4 and 5) contained the eastern boundary ditch of the shelter belt, seen on the 1834 OS map, but not visible on the 1816 enclosure map. The ditch was located on plan in all locations, but only excavated within Trench 8. Here the ditch, (803) cut buried plough soil 802. It was 1.34 m wide and 0.46 m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill (804) was a mid orange brown clay silt 0.28 m deep, while the upper fill (805) was slightly darker and 0.18 m deep. No finds were recovered.

5.2.2 Trench 10 contained a brick drain orientated west-east. The drain was 0.26 m wide and was constructed of slightly uneven yellow frogged bricks. It seems likely that this structure relates to the barn complex seen on the OS map of 1886.

Modern features

5.2.3 Trench 1 contained a small pit containing modern refuse including pottery and nails. Trench 31 contained a posthole associated with the former route of the telegraph poles. Trench 61 contained the cut for a high voltage electric cable.

Undated features (Figs 5 and 6)

5.2.4 Two trenches contained probable pits, neither of which contained any finds. Pit 5903 (Trench 59) was ovoid in plan, 1.36 m long, 0.75 m wide and 0.15 m deep. It had a single fill (5904), a dark brown silt, and a concave base. The second pit, in Trench 66, (6601) was round in plan with a slightly irregular concave profile and was 0.88 m by 0.86 m with a depth of 0.14 m.

5.3 Finds

Romano-British Pottery by Edward Biddulph (OA)

5.3.1 A total of 17 pottery sherds weighing 49 g were recovered from the evaluation. Context 2203, a fill of the hollow way, contained a sherd of shelly ware pottery of probable Roman date. The piece cannot be closely dated within that period, since the shell tempering tradition in the region was long lived. However, the fabric better matches the range of shelly fabrics typically seen in the early to mid Roman periods than late Roman fabrics; for example shelly ware produced at Harrold, and so an earlier Roman date may be more appropriate. More shelly ware was found in context 2405, again a fill of the trackway ditch, and was accompanied by a very small fragment of an oxidised fabric; no surfaces were preserved, but the sandy inclusions are consistent with Hadham ware produced in east Hertfordshire and exported throughout eastern Britain in the 3rd and 4th centuries (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151). A Nene Valley colour-coated folded beaker was recovered from context 2406, also from the trackway. The form was first produced during the late 2nd century (Perrin 1999, 94), but was more common in the 3rd century.

5.4 Palaeo-environmental remains

Animal Bone by Rebecca Nicholson (OA)

5.4.1 Four animal bone fragments were recovered by hand from context (2606). Bone preservation was extremely poor; all fragments were severely eroded and heavily root etched, which is consistent with relatively shallow burial in chalk. One horse tooth and three fragments of large mammal scapula were all that was recovered.

Carbonized plant remains, charcoal and molluscs by Laura Strafford (OA)

5.4.2 Two samples were taken for charred plant remains (CPR), which were sub-sampled for molluscs. Both samples came from the main trackway. The evaluation samples suggest that charred plant remains, although minimal, are preserved and that molluscs are both well preserved and numerous.

5.4.3 The two samples produced a limited amount of CPR (e.g. cereal grains, weed seeds, etc.). Sample 1 (2203) contained one wild oat (Avena sp.) caryopsis, and Sample 2 (2704) contained one barley (Hordeum sp.) grain and one highly clinkered wheat (Triticum sp.) grain. In both samples, modern root, weed seeds and wheat chaff were

abundant. The quantity of charcoal in both samples was minimal, and the fragments too small to be identifiable.

5.4.4 All the snails from Sample 1 represent terrestrial species, with Pupilla muscorum especially common. Among the other more abundant species found in this sample were Vallonia excentrica, Vallonia costata, and Trichia hispida.

5.4.5 Sample 2 produced snails very similar in nature to sample 1. Again Pupilla muscorum was the most common species found. All snails found in Sample 2 were also present in Sample 1, with the addition of Cecilioides, a modern burrowing snail.

OSL assessment by Carl Champness (OA)

5.4.6 A sample (3) was taken from trackway fill 2704 in order to assess the potential for carrying out optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating of the ditch fills. OSL dating is based on the emission of light by commonly occurring minerals, principally quartz (EH 2008). Sample 3 contained only a minimal amount of quartz, and the trackway fill is unsuitable for OSL dating.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 The aerial photographic analysis identified the trackways, and geophysics detected the presence of the linear features. Other crop marks identified are likely to represent slight changes in geology as they were not evident. Most of the geophysical anomalies investigated were either not present, or were of modern date. Areas devoid of crop marks or geophysical anomalies appeared to be clear of archaeological features.

6.1.2 Ground conditions and weather were good throughout. Where archaeological features were present they were easily identifiable. The evaluation reflected the results of the previous strip, map and sample (Piper forthcoming).

6.2 Overall interpretation

Discussion of results

6.2.1 The only archaeologically significant remains were the trackways and associated building, inferred from the beamslot. The larger hollow way potentially forms part of the route of the Icknield Way and the beamslotted building may have formed an agricultural/shepherds hut at its edge. The larger hollow way may have followed the line of a natural hollow, and become wider and deeper through use. The smaller trackway may have been a result of the larger route becoming boggy or blocked.

6.2.2 The interpretation of the trackways (previously interpreted as ditches) is suggested by the following: Their gentle sloping sides, flat base, and often great width would not seem necessary for a field boundary: Secondly, the presence of probable wheel ruts

would preclude any other interpretation: and finally the majority of the pottery recovered was at the interface with the natural chalk in the base of the features.

6.2.3 However, there was no evidence for any trample in the base of the features, although this could be indicative of continuous erosion or weathering. The density of finds and their date range (including the late Saxon/early medieval pottery from the strip, map and sample) is also puzzling given the lack of finds recovered from the topsoil and fieldwalking. In addition, the section of trackway revealed in the strip map and sample to the west (Piper forthcoming) appeared to have a terminus. The 'terminus' was relatively shallow and it may have been a result of weathering and erosion through use, although it is also possible that the hollow way was managed and may have been hand excavated to some extent. The possible 'terminus' may also be explained if the hollow way was a result of the erosion of a field boundary ditch.

6.2.4 It seems likely that deposits relating to the trackway were first noted in the evaluation of 2002. However, partially due to the location of the trenches, the trackway deposits were misinterpreted as a natural geological layer (OA 2002).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
1								
	101	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	102	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
	103	Layer			Natural chalk			
2								
	201	Layer		0.25	Modern ploughsoil			
	202	Layer			Natural chalk			
3								
	301	Layer		0.3	Modern Ploughsoil			
	302	Layer			Natural Chalk			
4								
	401	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	402	Cut	2.84	0.28	Cut of tree hole			
	403	Fill	0.5	0.14	Lower fill of 402			
	404	Fill	1.3	0.25	Fill of 402			
	405	Fill	1.76	0.24	Fill of 402			
	406	Fill	0.5	0.18	Fill of 402			
	407	Fill	0.57	0.18	Upper fill of 402			
5								
	501	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	502	Layer			Natural chalk			
6								
	601	Layer		0.35	Modern ploughsoil			
	602	Layer			Natural chalk			
7								
	701	Layer		0.34	Modern ploughsoil			
	702	Layer			Natural chalk			
8								
	801	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	802	Layer		0.12	Subsoil			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	803	Cut	1.34	0.46	Cut of ditch			
	804	Fill	0.82	0.28	Lower fill of 803			
	805	Fill	1.34	0.18	Upper fill of 803			
	806	Layer			Natural chalk			
9								
	901	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	902	Layer		0.16	Subsoil			
	903	Layer			Natural chalk			
10								
	1001	Layer		0.35	Modern ploughsoil			
	1002	Cut	0.26		Cut of drain			
	1003	Drain	0.26		Frogged brick drain			
	1004	Fill	0.26		Fill of drain			
11								
	1101	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	1102	Layer		0.05	Subsoil			
	1103	Layer			Chalk natural			
12								
	1201	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	1202	Cut	2.5	0.22	Tree hole			
	1203	Fill	2.5	0.22	Fill of 1202			
	1204	Layer			Natural chalk			
13								
	1301	Layer		0.26	Modern ploughsoil			
	1302	Cut	3.3	0.1	Tree hole			
	1303	Fill	3.3	0.1	Fill of 1302			
	1304	Layer			Natural chalk			
14								
	1401	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	1402	Layer			Natural chalk			
15								
	1501	Layer		0.29	Modern ploughsoil			
	1502	Layer			Natural chalk			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
16								
	1601	Layer		0.28	Modern ploughsoil			
	1602	Layer			Natural chalk			
17								
	1701	Layer		0.31	Modern ploughsoil			
	1702	Layer			Natural chalk			
18								
	1801	Layer		0.27	Modern ploughsoil			
	1802	Layer		0.14	Subsoil			
	1803	Layer			Natural chalk			
19								
	1901	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	1902	Layer		0.17	Subsoil			
	1903	Layer			Natural chalk			
20								
	2001	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	2002	Fill	4.9	0.12	Upper fill of 2005			
	2003	Fill	2.5	0.4	Fill of 2005			
	2004	Fill	3.8	0.4	Fill of 2005			
	2005	Cut	4.9	0.55	Cut of trackway			
	2006	Layer			Natural chalk			
21								
	2101	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	2102	Fill		0.08	Fill of 2106			
	2103	Layer			Natural chalk			
	2104	Fill	4.8	0.2	Fill of 2106			
	2105	Fill	3.8	0.1	Fill of 2106			
	2106	Cut	5.5	0.3	Cut of trackway			
22								
	2201	Layer		0.28	Modern ploughsoil			
	2202	Cut	5.6	0.56	Cut of trackway			
	2203	Fill	2.86	0.12	Fill of 2202	Pot	1	Roman
	2204	Fill	5.6	0.26	Fill of 2202			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	2205	Fill	4.16	0.26	Upper fill of 2202			
	2206	Cut	1.3	0.46	Cut of tree hole			
	2207	Fill	1.3	0.36	Fill of 2206			
	2208	Cut	3.2	0.15	Cut of beam slot			
	2209	Fill	0.45	0.15	Fill of beam slot			
	2210	Cut	3.2	0.15	Same as 2208			
	2211	Fill	0.45	0.24	Same as 2209			
	2212	Fill	0.62	0.08	Primary fill of 2202			
	2213	Layer			Natural chalk			
23								
	2301	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	2302	Cut	2.14	0.1	Cut of trackway (N)			
	2303	Fill	2.14	0.1	Fill of 2302			
	2304	Cut	4.18	0.46	Cut of trackway (S)			
	2305	Fill	4.0	0.18	Primary fill of 2304			
	2306	Fill	3.48	0.2	Fill of 2304			
	2307	Fill	4.18	0.18	Upper fill of 2304			
	2308	Layer			Natural chalk			
24								
	2401	Layer		0.28	Modern ploughsoil			
	2402	Fill		0.1	Fill of 2407			
	2403	Layer			Natural chalk			
	2404	Fill	5.04	0.18	Fill of 2407			
	2405	Fill	4.66	0.07	Fill of 2207	Pot	2	Roman
	2406	Fill	4.1	0.24	Primary fill of 2207	Pot	14	Roman
	2407	Cut	5.04	0.5	Cut of trackway (S)			
	2408	Fill	1.3	0.2	Fill of 2409			
	2409	Cut	1.3	0.2	Cut of trackway (N)			
	2410	Fill	0.6	0.2	Fill of 2411			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	2411	Cut	0.6	0.2	Cut of trackway (N)			
25								
	2501	Layer		0.25	Modern ploughsoil			
	2502	Fill		0.1	Fill of 2506			
	2503	Layer			Natural chalk			
	2504	Fill	6.3	0.15	Fill of 2506			
	2505	Fill	1.3	0.05	Primary fill of 2506			
	2506	Cut	6.3	0.2	Cut of trackway			
26								
	2601	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	2602	Layer			Natural chalk			
	2603	Fill	2.3	0.13	Fill of 2605			
	2604	Fill	2.2	0.09	Fill of 2605			
	2605	Cut	2.5	0.17	Cut of trackway (S)			
	2606	Fill	2.7	0.15	Fill of 2608	Bone	4	-
	2607	Fill	1.3	0.1	Fill of 2608			
	2608	Cut	2.7	0.2	Cut of trackway (N)			
27								
	2701	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	2702	Fill	2.85	0.2	Fill of 2706			
	2703	Fill	9.5	0.36	Fill of 2706			
	2704	Fill	3.9	0.34	Fill of 2706			
	2705	Fill	1.4	0.12	Primary fill of 2706			
	2706	Cut	9.5	0.74	Cut of trackway			
	2707	Layer			Natural chalk			
28								
	2801	Layer		0.22	Modern ploughsoil			
	2802	Layer		0.16	Subsoil			
	2803	Layer			Natural chalk			
29								

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	2901	Layer		0.22	Modern ploughsoil			
	2902	Layer		0.16	Subsoil			
	2903	Layer			Natural chalk			
30								
	3001	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	3002	Layer			Natural chalk			
31								
	3101	Layer		0.28	Modern ploughsoil			
	3102	Layer			Natural chalk			
32								
	3201	Layer		0.34	Modern ploughsoil			
	3202	Layer			Natural chalk			
33								
	3301	Layer		0.28	Modern ploughsoil			
	3302	Layer			Natural chalk			
34								
	3401	Layer		0.35	Modern ploughsoil			
	3402	Layer			Natural chalk			
35								
	3501	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	3502	Layer			Natural chalk			
36								
	3601	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	3602	Layer			Natural chalk			
37								
	3701	Layer		0.34	Modern ploughsoil			
	3702	Layer			Natural chalk			
38								
	3801	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	3802	Layer			Natural chalk			
39	3901	Layer		0.24	Modern ploughsoil			
	3902	Layer		0.08	Subsoil			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	3903	Layer			Natural chalk			
40								
	4001	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	4002	Layer			Natural chalk			
41								
	4101	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	4102	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
	4103	Cut	0.85		Ditch (unexcav)			
	4104	Fill	0.85		Fill of 4103			
	4105	Layer			Natural chalk			
42								
	4201	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	4202	Layer		0.26	Subsoil			
	4203	Layer			Natural chalk			
43								
	4301	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	4302	Layer			Natural chalk			
44								
	4401	Layer		0.34	Modern ploughsoil			
	4402	Layer			Natural chalk			
45								
	4501	Layer		0.28	Modern ploughsoil			
	4502	Layer			Natural chalk			
46								
	4601	Layer		0.33	Modern ploughsoil			
	4602	Layer			Natural chalk			
47								
	4701	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	4702	Layer			Natural chalk			
48								
	4801	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	4802	Layer			Natural chalk			
49								

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	4901	Layer		0.27	Modern ploughsoil			
	4902	Layer			Natural chalk			
50								
	5001	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	5002	Layer			Natural chalk			
51								
	5101	Layer		0.33	Modern ploughsoil			
	5102	Layer			Natural chalk			
52								
	5201	Layer		0.33	Modern ploughsoil			
	5202	Layer			Natural chalk			
53								
	5301	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	5302	Layer		0.12	Subsoil			
	5303	Layer			Natural chalk			
54								
	5401	Layer		0.26	Modern ploughsoil			
	5402	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	5403	Layer			Natural chalk			
55								
	5501	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	5502	Layer			Natural chalk			
56								
	5601	Layer		0.34	Modern ploughsoil			
	5602	Layer		0.14	Subsoil			
	5603	Layer			Natural chalk			
57								
	5701	Layer		0.35	Modern ploughsoil			
	5702	Layer			Natural chalk			
58								
	5801	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	5802	Layer		0.2	Colluvium			
	5803	Layer			Natural chalk			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	5804	Fill	3.4	0.2	Fill of 5805			
	5805	Cut	3.4	0.2	Cut for channel			
	5806	Fill	0.42	0.17	Fill of 5807			
	5807	Cut	0.42	0.17	Tree hole			
59								
	5901	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	5902	Layer		0.2	Subsoil			
	5903	Cut	1.36 (length)	0.25	Pit			
	5904	Fill	0.75 (width)	0.25	Fill of 5903			
	5905	Layer			Natural chalk			
60								
	6001	Layer		0.35	Modern ploughsoil			
	6002	Cut	0.6	0.13	Tree hole			
	6003	Fill	0.6	0.13	Fill of 6002			
	6004	Layer			Natural chalk			
61								
	6101	Layer		0.25	Modern ploughsoil			
	6102	Cut		0.1	HV electric cable			
	6103	Layer			Natural chalk			
62								
	6201	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	6202	Layer			Natural chalk			
63								
	6301	Layer		0.28	Modern ploughsoil			
	6302	Layer			Natural chalk			
64								
	6401	Layer		0.24	Modern ploughsoil			
	6402	Layer			Natural chalk			
65								
	6501	Layer		0.24	Modern ploughsoil			
	6502	Layer			Natural chalk			
66								
	6601	Cut	0.88 (length)	0.14	Pit			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	6602	Cut	0.98	0.14	Tree hole			
	6603	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	6604	Fill	0.86 (width)	0.14	Fill of 6601			
	6605	Fill	0.98	0.14	Fill of 6602			
	6606	Layer			Natural chalk			
67								
	6701	Layer		0.24	Modern ploughsoil			
	6702	Layer			Natural chalk			
68								
	6801	Layer		0.32	Modern ploughsoil			
	6802	Layer			Natural chalk			
69								
	6901	Layer		0.38	Modern ploughsoil			
	6902	Layer			Natural chalk			
70								
	7001	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	7002	Layer		0.09	Subsoil			
	7003	Layer			Natural chalk			
71								
	7101	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	7102	Layer			Natural chalk			
72								
	7201	Layer		0.4	Modern ploughsoil			
	7202	Cut	1.15		Ditch (unexcav)			
	7203	Fill	1.15		Fill of 7202			
	7204	Layer			Natural chalk			
73								
	7301	Layer		0.38	Modern ploughsoil			
	7302	Layer			Natural chalk			
74								
	7401	Layer		0.36	Modern ploughsoil			
	7402	Cut	1.1		Ditch (unexcav)			
	7403	Fill	1.1		Fill of 7402			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width/length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	7404	Layer			Natural chalk			
75								
	7501	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	7502	Layer	4.6	0.4	Colluvium			
	7503	Cut	1.9	0.08	Tree hole			
	7504	Fill	1.9	0.08	Fill of 7503			
	7505	Layer			Natural chalk			
76								
	7601	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	7602	Cut	0.65	0.06	Tree hole			
	7603	Fill	0.65	0.06	Fill of 7602			
	7604	Layer			Natural chalk			
77								
	7701	Layer		0.25	Modern ploughsoil			
	7702	Layer			Natural chalk			

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY

By Edward Biddulph (OA)

Table A2.1 Incidence of pottery by context

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Date
2203	1	19	Shelly ware body sherd	AD 43-410
2405	1	4	Shelly ware body sherd	AD 200-410
2405	1	4	Sandy oxidised ware fragment, possibly Hadham ware	AD 200-410
2406	12	20	Nene Valley colour coated ware, folded beaker with applied scale decoration	AD 170-300
2406	2	5	Shelly ware body sherds	AD 170-300

APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONE

By Rebecca Nicholson (OA)

Table A3.1 Number of bones.

Element	Context	Horse	Large Mammal
Tooth	2606	1	
Scapula	2606		3

The extremely poor condition of all fragments is consistent with previous findings from evaluations at the site (Piper forthcoming) and indicate that faunal analysis from any future excavations at this site are unlikely to be very useful, unless deeper deposits with better preserved bone are discovered.

APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

By Laura Strafford (OA)

Introduction

Two bulk environmental samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts. Both samples 1 (2203) and 2 (2704) come from the hollow way. 2L sub-samples were taken from both these samples for the recovery of molluscs.

Aims

Sampling was undertaken to:

- Describe the soils and sediments.
- Determine whether ecofacts and environmental evidence (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present.
- Determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence.
- Recover and identify any small artefacts.
- Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

Methodology

The bulk samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) sieved to 500µm. All flots and heavy residues were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned for CPR using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Identifications were made with guidance from Dr. Wendy Smith, but without comparison to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and should, therefore, all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

A 2L sub-sample was taken from both samples for the recovery of molluscs. Each sample was floated by hand in a bucket, with both the flots and residues collected on a 500µm mesh. After drying in a heated room the flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification. Identifications were made with the help of Liz Stafford. Habitat formation follows Evans (1972) and Kerney and Cameron (1979).

Results

Sediments

Sample 1 (2203) was 40L and consisted of a light yellowish brown, dry loamy sand and was approximately 30% chalk. 38L was processed for charred remains, bone and artefacts, and 2L was processed for the recovery of molluscs.

Sample 2 (2704) was a light yellowish brown, dry loamy sand and approximately 40% chalk. It also included unworked flint (<5%). 38L was processed for charred remains, bones and artefacts, and 2L was processed for the recovery of molluscs.

Bones and artefacts

After careful examination, no finds were recovered from either sample.

Molluscs

The molluscs recovered from the two snail sub-samples are listed in Table A4.2. The flots produced a high quantity of shells, but little variety. Sample 1 (2203) produced slightly more snails than Sample 2 (2704).

All the snails from Sample 1 (2203) represent terrestrial species, with Pupilla muscorum especially common. Among the other more abundant species found in this sample were Vallonia excentrica, Vallonia costata, and Trichia hispida.
Sample 2 (2704) produced very similar snails to Sample 1. Again Pupilla muscorum was the most common species found. All snails found in Sample 2 were also present in Sample 1, with the addition of Cecilioides, a modern burrowing snail.

Charred plant remains

Table A4.1 (below) summarises the assessment results for the charred plant remains. The two samples produced CPR (e.g. cereal grains, weed seeds, etc.) which were very limited. Sample 1 (2203) contained one wild oat (Avena sp.) caryopsis and Sample 2 (2704) contained one barley (Hordeum sp.) grain and one highly clinkered wheat (Triticum sp.) grain. In both samples, modern root, weed seeds and wheat chaff were abundant. The quantity of charcoal in both samples was minimal, and the fragments too small to be identifiable.

Discussion

The evaluation samples suggest that charred plant remains, although minimal, are preserved and that molluscs are both well preserved and numerous. Although no artefacts were recovered from the samples, a fragment of Shelly ware pottery was recovered on site from context (2203), the same context as Sample 1. The fragment is almost certainly Roman, although cannot be dated closely within the Roman period. However, the fabric better matches the range of Shelly fabrics typically seen in the early and mid Roman periods than later on. (see Biddulph above).

Molluscs were plentiful in both samples, and are indicative the kind of environment that they come from (see Table A4.2 below). The dominant species in both samples was Pupilla muscorum, which are typically found in dry exposed calcareous places and short turfed grass land (Kerney 1979: 90-91). Two other snails common in both samples, Vallonia costata and

Vallonia excentrica, also favour dry open calcareous places and occasional short turfed grass land (Kerney 1979: 95-96).

Both Cochlicopa lubricella and the Trichia hispida are catholic species and so can be found in a variety of habitats. Cochlicopa are nearly ubiquitous (Kerney 1979: 64) and common in both dry and moist environments (Kerney 1979: 62). Trichia hispida is absent from very dry sites, but widespread elsewhere (Kerney 1979: 191).

Overall the snail assemblages recovered from the samples are of a low diversity and are typical of an open and exposed environment with short grass and possible grazing taking place nearby. Considering both samples come from a probable trackway, the snails do suggest an environment expected with this type of feature: dry, open, and exposed, with grassland nearby.

Table A4.1 Charred Plant Remains

Context	Sample No.	Floated Volume (L)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Grain	Weeds	Coal	Metalworking	Charcoal	Mollusc	Comments on CPR	Other Comments
2203	1	38	70	-	+	+	-	+	++++	100% of flot scanned. Modern root, weed seeds and wheat chaff abundant. One indeterminate cultivate/ wild oat (Avena sp.) caryopsis noted. Charcoal was present but small-sized (<2mm) and unidentifiable. CPR assessed as POOR	Small fragments of coal observed.
2704	2	38	40	+	-	+	+	+	++++	100% of flot scanned. Modern root, weed seeds and wheat chaff abundant. One barley (Hordeum sp.) grain and one highly clinkered wheat grain (Triticum sp.) observed. Charcoal was present but small-sized (<2mm) and unidentifiable. CPR assessed as POOR.	Small fragments of coal and one piece of slag/ metalworking waste observed.

Table A4.2 Assessment of Molluscs

Sample Number	1	2	Habitat
Context Number	2203	2704	
Period	Romano-British	Romano-British	
Feature Type	Hollow way	Hollow way	
Litres Processed	2	2	
PUPILLAIDAE			
Pupilla Muscorum	5	5	O
VALLONIIDAE			
Vallonia Costata	3	2	O
Vallonia Excentrica	2	2	O
PUNCTIDAE			
Punctum Pygmaeum	1	1	C
HELICIDAE			
Helicella Itala	2	1	O
Trichia Hispida	3	3	C
COCHLICOPIDAE			
Cochlicopa lubricella	2	1	C
FERUSSACIIDAE			
Cecilioides Acicula	-	2	C
Estimated total	Approximately 250	Approximately 200	

Habitat information:
C = Catholic
O=Open habitat

Abundance:
1 = 1-4 examples
2 = 5-25 examples
3 = 26-50 examples
4 = 51-100 examples
5 = >100 examples

APPENDIX 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire
Site code: STMSQA08
Type of evaluation: 77 Trench
Date and duration of project: September 08. 2 weeks
Area of site: 23 Ha
Summary of results: A probable Romano-British trackway ditch, potentially relating to the Icknield Way was found with a related beam slot; forming part of an agricultural building. A ditch and drain of post-medieval date were also noted, and two undated pits.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES. It will be deposited with Cambridgeshire Museum Services under the following accession number: ECB 3043.

APPENDIX 7 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

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Printable version

OASIS ID: oxfordar1-51858

Project details	
Project name	Steeple Morden, Station Quarry
Short description of the project	September 2008. Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation revealed a hollow way which ran the entire length of the evaluation area. A parallel shallower trackway was present in places. A beam slot was located close to the hollow way. Other trenches contained tree holes, none of which are dated, and a post-medieval ditch and drain belonging to a post-medieval barn. A barrow thought to be located at the north of the site was not found.
Project dates	Start: 15-09-2008 End: 25-09-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	STMSQA 08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3043 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Area of Archaeological Significance
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	BARROW Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development	Mineral extraction (e.g. sand, gravel, stone, coal, ore, etc.)

type	
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE STEEPLE MORDEN Steeple Morden, Station Quarry
Study area	23.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3078 3939 51.1382848365 -0.130417088206 51 08 17 N 000 07 49 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 60.00m Max: 78.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Oxford Archaeology
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project design originator	Oxford Archaeology
Project director/manager	A. Norton
Project supervisor	G Thacker
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Oxford Archaeology
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire. Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Thacker, G
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Oxford Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Oxford
Description	A4, plastic spiral bound client report

Entered by	Susan Rawlings (susan.rawlings@oxfordarch.co.uk)
Entered on	24 November 2008

OASIS:
Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

`Cite only: /d1/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page`

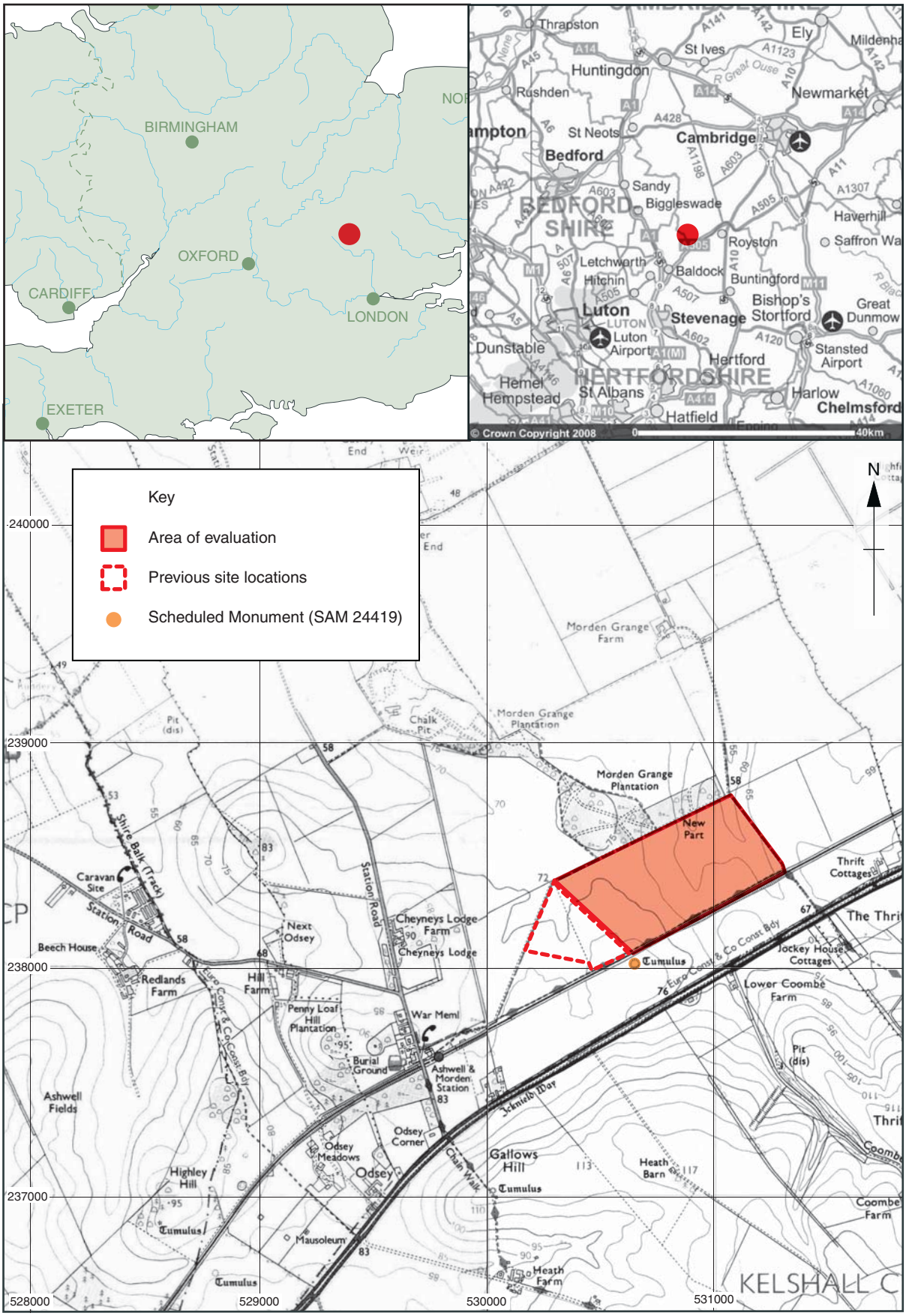

Figure 1: Site location

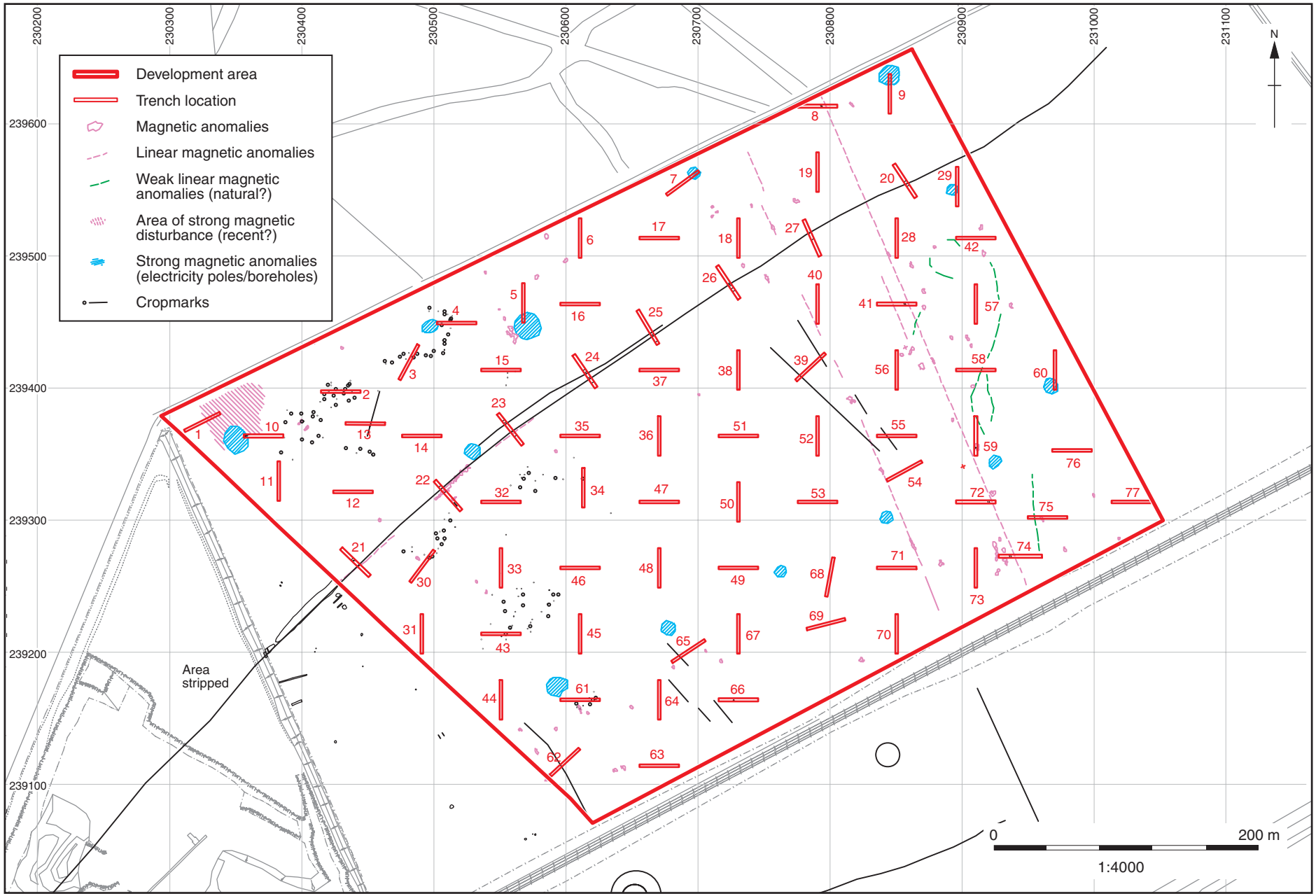

Figure 2: Trench location plan

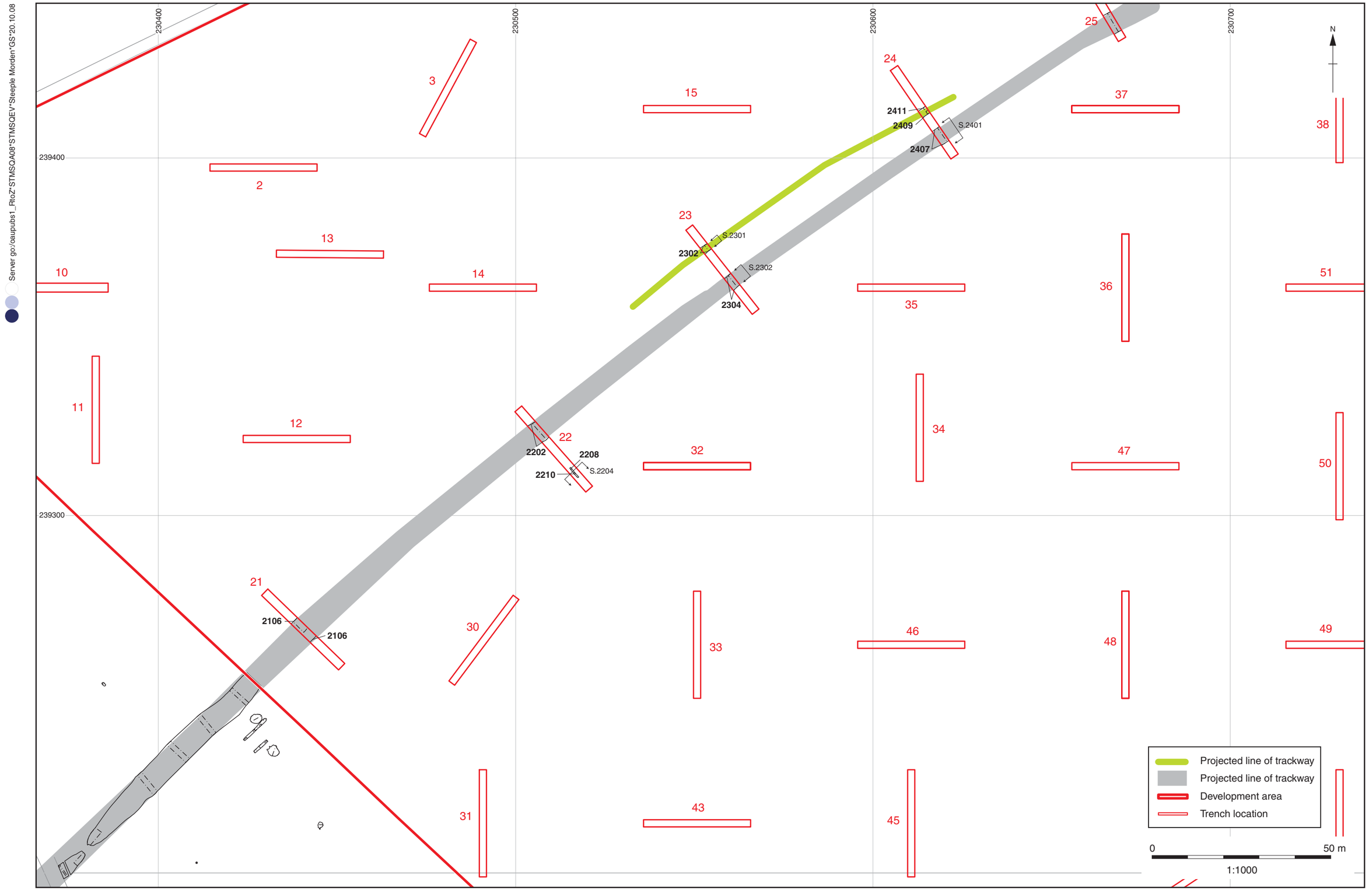

Figure 3: Trenches 21 - 24

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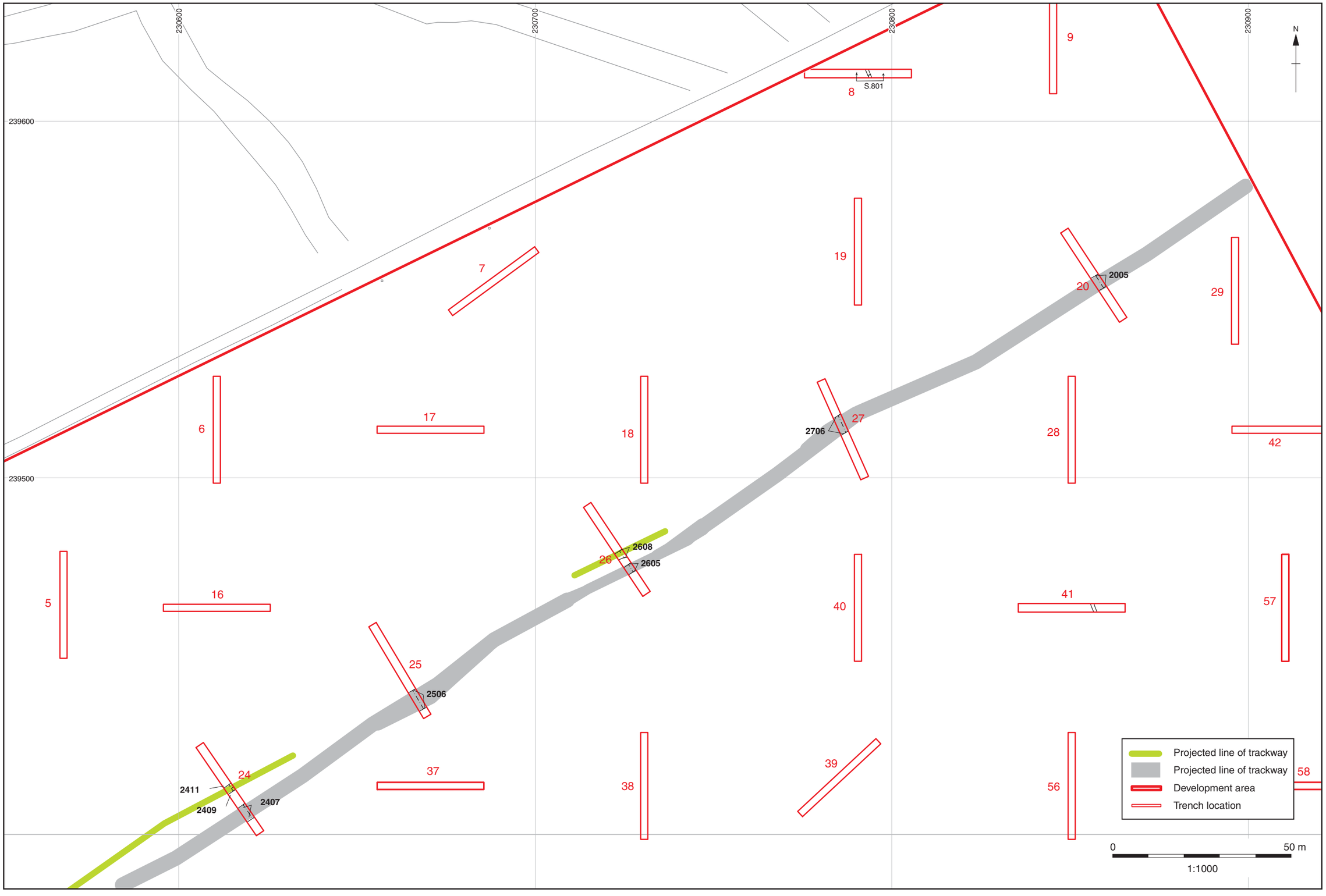
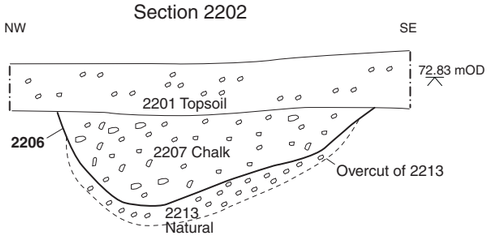
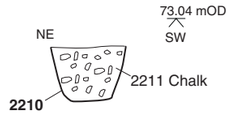


Figure 4: Trenches 25 - 27 and 20

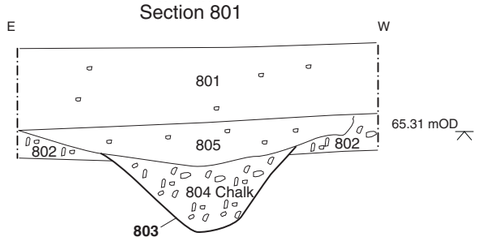
Trench 3
Section 2202



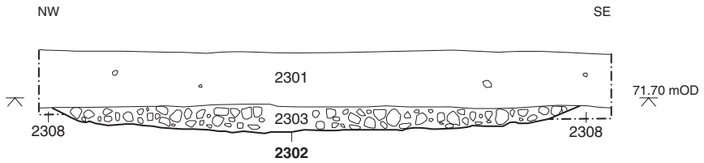
Trench 3
Section 2204



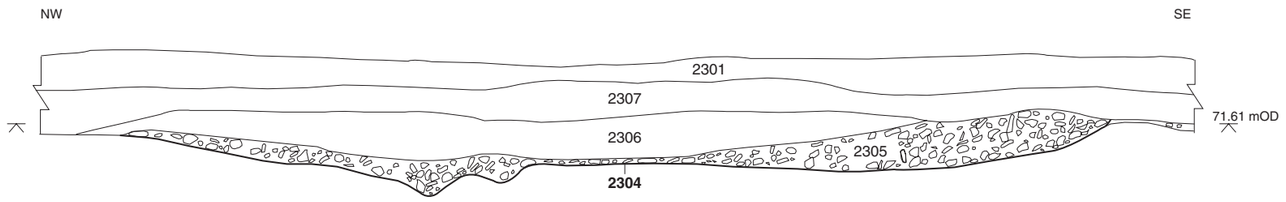
Trench 8
Section 801



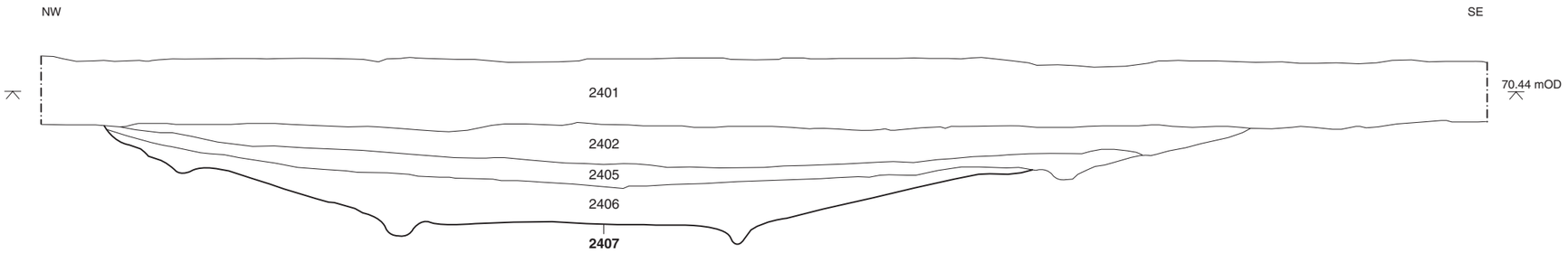
Trench 23
Section 2301



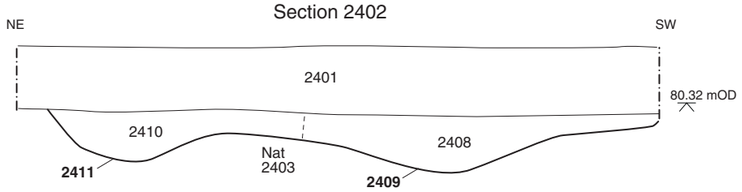
Trench 23
Section 2302



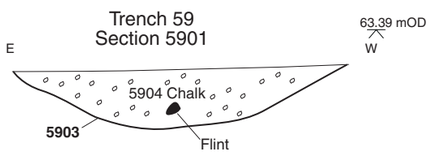
Trench 24
Section 2401



Trench 24
Section 2402



Trench 59
Section 5901



Trench 66
Section 6601

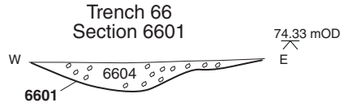


Figure 5: Sections

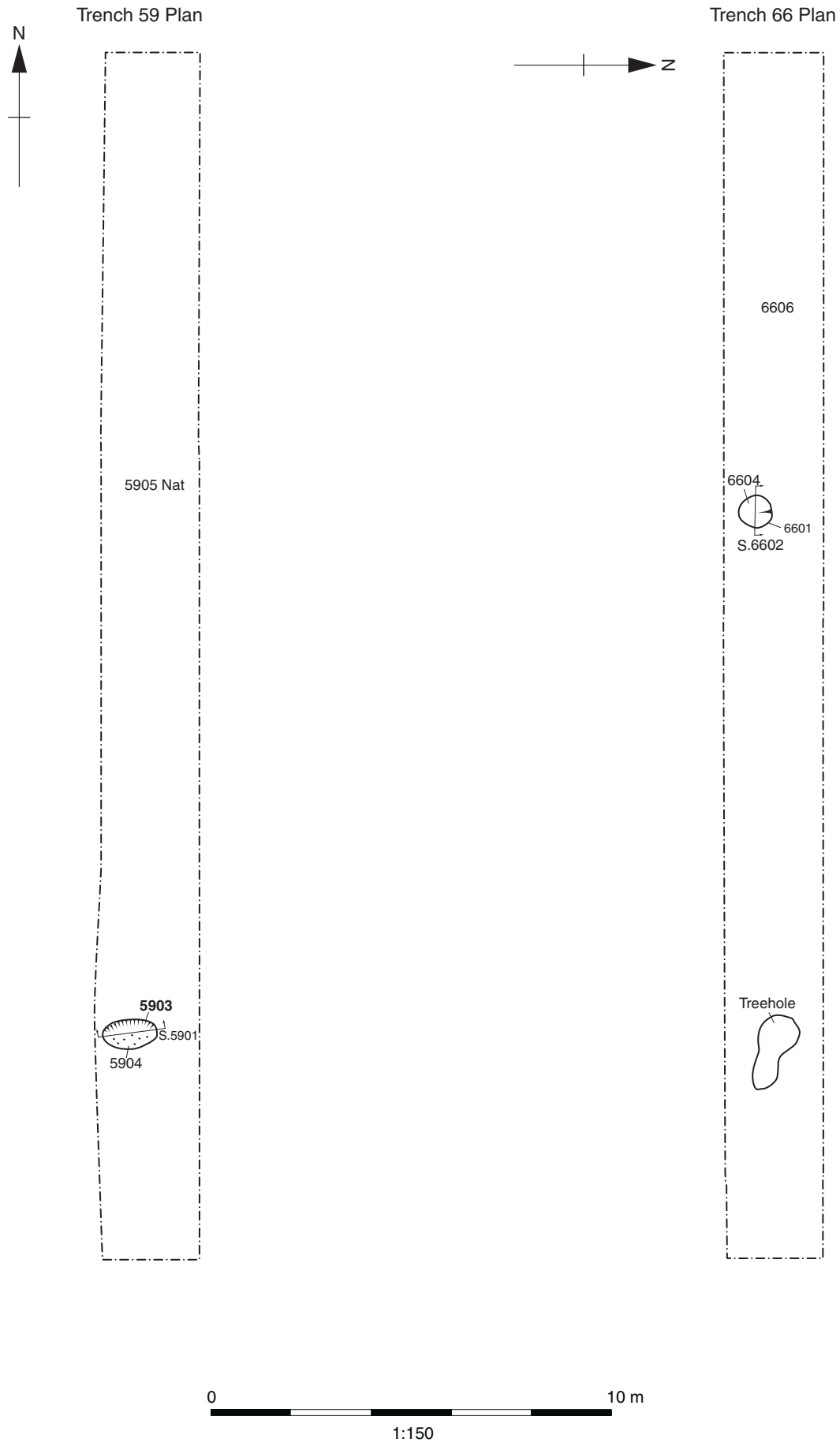


Figure 6: Trenches 59 and 66

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