

Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report

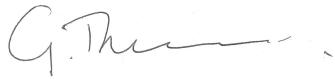
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Summary

Between the 13th and 17th of June 2016 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire.

The evaluation trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey and the plot of cropmarks from aerial photographs. Possibly the earliest feature uncovered was a curvilinear ditch potentially defining a round barrow. Other trenches exposed a comprehensive system of drove roads and field boundary ditches dating to the earlier part of the Romano-British period, and which generally corresponded with geophysical anomalies and the aerial photographs.

The Romano-British archaeology was most dense within the north-west corner of the evaluated area, with the presence of numerous postholes and domestic refuse suggesting occupation in the vicinity. Within the southern part of the site the frequency of finds was reduced, indicating that these areas were further away from any focus of occupation and probably more agricultural in nature.

Evidence for small scale gravel extraction possibly from the earlier post-medieval period was also observed, as was evidence for the machine cultivation of the site shown by tooth marks from “Gyro-Tiller” machinery, observed within the surface of the gravel deposits throughout the northern half of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1) centred on SP 41460 05370. The work was commissioned as part of a pre-application process for proposals in regard to the re-development of the former airfield for a housing development of up to 50 dwellings, green infrastructure, public open space with access from Main Road, following the demolition of existing buildings. The proposed development area is within the jurisdiction of West Oxfordshire District Council.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced and agreed with Hugh Coddington, the Oxfordshire County Archaeologist, detailing how OA would conduct the evaluation (OA, 2016).
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (ClfA revised 2014 and local and national planning policies (specifically NPPF Section 12).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Stanton Harcourt is situated 6 miles west of Oxford and 4.1 miles south-east of Witney. The local landscape is dominated by agricultural land and extensive flooded or restored mineral workings. Stanton Harcourt lies in a tongue of land defined by the River Windrush, 0.8 miles to the west, and the River Thames, 1.4 miles to the east. The confluence of the Windrush and Thames lies 2.7 miles to the south-south-west. The site itself is flat, and lies at approximately 70m Above Ordnance Datum. The site is located within the eastern boundary of the former wartime airfield, to the south of the village and to the west of the site of the former Manor House (Fig 1). The site contains surviving structures and trackways from the airfield, as well as more recent sheds and farm buildings. It also includes areas of woodland, and is obstructed in part by undergrowth and heaps of debris.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the study site comprises Jurassic mudstone, of the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation (undifferentiated at this location). Superficial geology is recorded as Quaternary sand and gravel of Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member. This material overlies the whole of the study site (British Geological Survey online viewer).
- 1.2.3 The soil covering the study site is described as 'freely draining lime-rich loamy soil' (Soilscape 5 on the LandIS online database).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full description of the archaeological and historic background to the site may be found within the WSI and desk based assessment and will not be reproduced here. (OA, 2016; CgMs 2015).
- 1.3.2 A geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the evaluation (Bartlett-Clark Consulting 2015). The trenches were targeted on the results of the geophysical survey and also cropmark plots from aerial photographs (Fig. 2).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to acknowledge Philip Bethell of CgMs who commissioned the evaluation and Hugh Coddington of OCC who monitored the work. The evaluation was undertaken

by Christopher Clark, Camille Guezennec, Michael McLean, Neil Holbrook and James Green, supervised by Mike Sims. The project was managed by Gerry Thacker.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Oxfordshire HER.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 13 trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated using a wheeled mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches all measured 1.6m wide and the length of each is tabulated below, although several were shortened due to services and other obstacles (see below).

Trench number	Length
1	50m
2	25m
3	25m
4	25m
5	30m
6	30m
7	30m
8	25m
9	25m
10	30m
11	30m
12	30m
13	25m

2.2.2 The evaluation trenches were targeted on cropmarks and geophysical anomalies (Fig. 2). A contingency for two additional trenches was allowed for, should it become necessary to establish the extent and nature of any significant features encountered. Following inspection of the site by Hugh Coddington, the contingency was not used.

- 2.2.3 The location of the trenches was checked using a cable avoidance tool (C.A.T.) prior to excavation, and where services were detected a suitable baulk was left in the trench. In two cases it was necessary to re-locate one end of the trench in order to avoid a service and a concrete slab.
- 2.2.4 Excavation and recording of the trenches followed standard OA practices as detailed within the WSI (OA, 2016).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The features within each trench will be described stratigraphically, followed by an overall discussion and interpretation of the site. The sizes and depths of all features and deposits are tabulated within Appendix A. Finds data forms the contents of Appendix B, and environmental samples are reported in Appendix C. The Figures and Plates are at the end of the document.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soils within the study area were free draining and remained friable despite the frequent thunder storms during the period of evaluation. Soil boundaries were clearly visible within all the sections. The underlying natural gravel was exposed throughout the length within all the trenches. Groundwater was not encountered.
- 3.2.2 Parts of Trenches 4, 5, and 9 remained unexcavated due to the presence of concrete slab surfaces. Baulks were left in Trenches 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13 due to the presence of services or manholes.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeologically significant features and deposits were exposed within the majority of the trenches, with only two trenches (4 and 9) containing no significant archaeology.
- 3.3.2 Those trenches within the northern third of the site, particularly Trench 1 in the north-west corner of the site, exhibited a much higher density of both features, including postholes and pits, and recovered artefacts.
- 3.3.3 Elsewhere the archaeology was predominately agricultural in nature, with the exception of the possible round barrow in Trench 12, consisting of field boundary ditches and probable drove roads or trackways defined by ditches, and with few artefacts recovered.
- 3.3.4 All features were sealed by subsoil (a post-medieval buried ploughsoil) and topsoil, unless otherwise mentioned.

3.4 Trench 1

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 was located within the north-west corner of the study area (Figs 2, 3, 9 and 10; Plate 1), and the underlying natural gravel (102) was encountered at approximately 0.5m below the current ground level.
- 3.4.2 Within the eastern end of the trench a north-west to south-east aligned ditch, 107, contained a single mid reddish-brown sandy silt fill 108. Immediately to the west of the ditch was a shallow ovoid pit, 105. The pit contained fill 106, also a red-brown sandy silt, and which contained pottery dating from AD 100-170.
- 3.4.3 A group of seven postholes, (109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119 and 121) broadly aligned NNE-SSW were identified towards the eastern end of the trench. The character of the postholes suggested they represented a fence line. Pottery recovered from the fill of 111 (112) and the fill of 119 (120) dated from AD 70-300. The postholes were filled with red-brown sandy silts.
- 3.4.4 Approximately 5m to the south-west of the row of postholes, the gravel was cut by a large circular pit, 147. The single fill, 148, a red-brown sandy silt contained occasional sub-rounded stones and modern roots. Six sherds of Romano-British pot dating from AD 70-300, and fragments of animal bone were recovered. Adjacent to pit 147, a

shallow feature, 149, appeared to be the truncated base of a pit. Later animal burrowing had linked the two features.

- 3.4.5 Within the centre of the trench a north-east to south-west aligned ditch, 123, had steep sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled by silty sand, 124, which produced sherds of Romano-British pot dating from the 2nd century AD, and animal bone fragments. A probable ditch terminus, 125, was partially observed c. 2m to the east of ditch 124. Immediately west of 125 was a solitary posthole, 157.
- 3.4.6 Towards the SW end of the trench, an irregular line of twelve postholes (127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 151, 153 and 157), were aligned WSW-ENE. It was unclear whether these represented a fence or possibly one side of a building. Several of the fills produced fragments of pottery which ranged in date from AD 1-100 and AD 70-300.
- 3.4.7 At the south-west end of the trench an east- west aligned ditch, 103, was investigated (Figs 2, 3 and 9). The ditch had c 45° sides and gently curved base. The ditch was filled by a single mid reddish-brown sandy silt (104) which produced sherds of pottery dating from AD 1-100. Fragments of animal bone and a residual flint flake were also recovered.

3.5 Trench 2

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 was sited within the north-east corner of the study area (Figs 2, 3 and 10; Plate 2). Natural gravel (202) was encountered at approximately 0.3m below the current ground level.
- 3.5.2 Cut into the surface of the gravel were two small pits, 203 and 207. Fill 206 within pit 203 was a mid brown silty clay which contained pottery dated from AD 43-100. Fill 208 within pit 207 was a dark reddish-brown silty sand which contained no finds.
- 3.5.3 Two broadly north-south aligned ditches, 205 and 211 were present within the centre and eastern end of the trench respectively. Ditch 205 was the larger of the two, and had an irregular concave based profile. The single fill, 206 was a red-brown silty sand which contained 40 sherds of pottery dating from AD 43-100 (Appendix B.1). Ditch 205 cut the western edge of pit 207 (above). Ditch 211 had a shallow concave profile, and the single fill, 201, was a loose mid reddish-brown sand. Towards the eastern end of the trench, adjacent to ditch 211, a possible ditch terminus (209) extended into the trench from the southern baulk.

3.6 Trench 3

- 3.6.1 The underlying natural gravel within Trench 3, (302), was recorded at a depth of 0.3m below the current ground level. Cutting the surface of this deposit was a north-south aligned ditch, 303 (Figs 2, 4, and 11; Plate 3), which was filled by a dark reddish brown sandy silt, (304), which produced 44 sherds of Romano-British pottery dating from AD 120-150 (see Appendix B.1). An irregular feature, interpreted as a tree throw hole, (305), was also recorded (Figs 4 and 11).

3.7 Trench 4

- 3.7.1 Trench 4 was located at right angles to Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 4). The southern end of the trench was shortened due to the presence of a concrete slab. Natural gravel was observed at a depth of 0.3m below the current ground level. No archaeological features were observed, but a series of semi-circular plough marks from a probable "Gyro-Tiller" cultivator were noted within the surface of the gravel.

3.8 Trench 5

- 3.8.1 The geological horizon (516) was recorded at a depth of 0.5m below the current ground level. At the north-eastern end of the trench two parallel ditches, 503 and 505, 3m apart and aligned north-south were recorded (Figs 2, 5, and 11). The ditches had distinctly similar profiles, with 40° sides and gently curved bases. Both had been filled by similar dark reddish brown clay silts, 502 and 504 respectively. Deposit 502 produced pottery dating from AD 120-200. The close proximity and shared alignment of the two ditches indicates that they may have defined a trackway or drove road.
- 3.8.2 A third north-south aligned ditch, 515, was located 17m to the south-east of ditch 505 and probably represents an associated field boundary (Figs 2, 5 and 11). The ditch was filled by red brown clay silt 514, similar in nature to 502 and 504.
- 3.8.3 The base of a truncated north-east to south-west aligned ditch, 513, was present within the centre of the trench, together with two undated postholes 509 and 511 (Figs 2, 5 and 11).
- 3.8.4 To the west of ditch 513, a broad shallow feature, 507, was interpreted as the base of a plough furrow of medieval or post-medieval date (Figs 2, 5 and 11). Evidence of animal burrows and plough marks were also observed in the surface of the gravels.

3.9 Trench 6

- 3.9.1 Trench 6 was located within the centre of the northern half of the site (Fig 2), 10m to the south of trench 5. The natural gravel (602) was observed at a depth of 0.5m below the current ground level.
- 3.9.2 A possible pit or ditch terminus, 603, was partially revealed within the confines of the trench (Figs 2, 5 and 11). The feature had a gradually sloping base and its south-eastern side was c. 45°. The fill, 604, was a reddish brown sandy silt which contained no datable finds. Adjacent to, and the south-west of 603 was a small pit, 607. The pit had a flat base, and a single fill, 608, comprising red brown sandy silt.
- 3.9.3 A north-west to south-east aligned ditch, 605, was revealed in the centre of the trench. The ditch profile was slightly irregular with 40°- 55° sides and a concave base (Figs 2, 5, and 12). The ditch was filled with a red-brown clay silt, 604, which produced pottery of Romano-British date (AD 43-410). The ditch was noted to cut pit 607. Located immediately to the north-east of ditch 605, a second ditch, 609, was on a similar alignment, and terminated within the confines of the trench (Figs 2, 5, and 12). The fill, 610, was a mid brown sandy silt.
- 3.9.4 A modern service trench was noted cut from the topsoil level, but was not recorded. As in Trench 5 evidence of animal disturbance and gyro-tiller plough marks were observed within the surface of the gravel (see Plate 4).

3.10 Trench 7

- 3.10.1 Stripping of the overburden down to the top of the natural gravel showed that the modern topsoil (700) had been heavily disturbed with inclusions of construction or demolition debris and lenses of redeposited soils and gravel. The underlying natural gravel, 706, was encountered at a depth of 0.6m below the current ground level. This is deeper than recorded elsewhere and indicates that the ground level had been raised in this area.
- 3.10.2 Towards the northern edge of the trench was a 7.5m wide feature, 705, (Figs 2, 6 and 12). Due to the large size of the feature it was decided, in consultation with Hugh Coddington (OCC) to sample it using a machine dug sondage. This revealed it to be 1.5m in depth with a steeply sloping southern edge. The primary fill comprised orange

sandy clay and gravel (704), 0.5m in depth. Overlying 704 was a 0.5m thick layer of yellow-brown sandy silt clay, 703. The upper fill, 702, was a reddish brown sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the fills. The size, depth and profile of the feature suggest that it was dug for small scale gravel extraction. Although undated, it was sealed by the subsoil soil horizon, 701, of probable post-medieval date.

- 3.10.3 The truncated base of a plough furrow was also observed within the trench, but not further recorded (Fig. 6).

3.11 Trench 8

- 3.11.1 The natural gravel (802) was encountered at a depth of 0.54m below the current ground level.
- 3.11.2 A ditch, 803, was located within the centre of the trench and aligned south-west to north-east (Figs 2, 6 and 12; Plate 5). The ditch had a slightly flared 'U' shaped profile. The primary fill, 804, was a mid orange sand, very similar to the natural geology, and likely to be derived from erosion of the features edges and possible bank. This was overlain by a mid brown sandy silt, 805, which produced pottery dating from AD 43-410, and a coin identified as a Dupondius issued by the Emperor Trajan, and dated to AD 103-111. The coin was in good condition suggesting that it had not been in circulation long before its loss. Overlying 805 was a dark red-brown gravel rich fill, 806, possibly derived from material slumping in from an associated bank.
- 3.11.3 Deposit 806 was cut by ditch 808, a probable re-cut of the ditch which exhibited a similar profile, but considerably smaller. The single fill, 807, contained 49 sherds of pottery dating from AD 70-300.
- 3.11.4 Sealing all features was a disturbed layer of mixed soils and construction debris, 801. This almost certainly represented construction activity during the building of the airfield in 1940, and was sealed by topsoil 800.

3.12 Trench 9

- 3.12.1 The underlying gravel, 902, was recorded at a depth of 0.4m below ground level. Evidence of extensive animal disturbance in the form of rabbit burrows was visible throughout the length of the trench in the surface of the gravel, but no other features were observed. Sealing the gravel was a layer of disturbed soil and construction debris, 901, similar to that recorded in Trench 8. This was sealed by topsoil 900.

3.13 Trench 10

The underlying gravel, 1002, was encountered at a depth of 0.34m below the current ground level. Within the centre of the trench a ditch, 1003, aligned north-west to south-east had a slightly irregular profile (Figs 2, 7 and 12). This was filled by a dark brown clay silt, 1004, which produced pottery from AD 1-100, and fragments of animal bone. Visible in the surface of the gravel was the base of a modern service trench running north-west to south-east across the site. This was noted but not further recorded.

3.14 Trench 11

- 3.14.1 The top of the natural gravel terrace, 1113, was encountered at a depth of 0.5m below the current ground level.
- 3.14.2 Two parallel ditches, 1107 and 1112, broadly aligned north-south, were revealed at the eastern end of the trench. The ditches were c. 5m apart and almost certainly defined a trackway or driveway (Figs 2, 7 and 12). The western ditch, 1107 had fairly gently sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 12). The single fill, 1106, was a light reddish-brown

clay silt. Ditch 1112, to the east, had a flared concave profile, and the single fill, 1111, was a light reddish-brown clay silt.

- 3.14.3 Both ditches had been re-cut; ditch 1107 by 1105, which was a steeper sided concave based ditch. The lower fill, 1104, was a yellow-brown sandy silt and was overlain by 1103, a red-brown clay silt, in turn sealed by 1102, a yellow-brown clay silt. Ditch 1112 was re-cut by ditch 1110 which had a similar profile to ditch 1105. The lower fill of ditch 1110 (1109) was a yellow-brown clay silt. This was overlain by a red-brown clay silt, 1108. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the fills.
- 3.14.4 Sealing all of the features was a buried plough soil, 1101, which was sealed by topsoil, 1100.

3.15 Trench 12

- 3.15.1 The gravel natural, 1202, was exposed at a depth of 0.45m below the current ground level.
- 3.15.2 At the north-eastern end of the trench a broad curvilinear ditch, 1203, was investigated. This feature appeared to represent the remnant of a round barrow. The ditch had a concave base and 45° sides (Figs 2, 8 and 13; Plate 6). In the base of the ditch was a thin lens of fine reddish-brown sandy silt, 1207. This was overlain by a sandy gravel layer, 1206, the composition of which suggests it might have derived from eroded and slumped natural deposits, possibly redeposited from an adjacent bank. This in turn was sealed by a dark reddish-brown layer of sandy silt, 1205. A single struck flint was recovered from this deposit. The upper fill, 1204, was a mid reddish-brown sandy silt, 1204. An animal bone recovered from this fill possibly derives from an aurochs (see Appendix B.5). The top of this deposit had been truncated by the formation of the buried plough-soil horizon, 1201, which was overlain by topsoil, 1200.

3.16 Trench 13

- 3.16.1 Trench 13 was situated in the south-east corner of the study area, with the southern end adjacent to an open abandoned gravel working. The depth of the overburden above the natural gravel was significantly deeper within this trench, with the surface of the gravel natural, 1306, being encountered at a depth of 1.05m below the current ground level.
- 3.16.2 Within the western end of the trench was a east-west aligned ditch, 1305, which had a shallow concave profile. The single fill, 1304, was a dark reddish brown clay silt. No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit. Fill 1304 was overlain by buried plough-soil deposit 1303. This in turn was sealed by 1302, a red-brown clay silt with occasional gravels. This was overlain by deposit 1301, a dark yellow brown clay silt. Deposits 1301 and 1302 almost certainly represented up-cast from the adjacent gravel extraction pit. Overlying 1301 was topsoil 1300.

3.17 Finds and environmental summary

- 3.17.1 Pottery, all of Roman date was recovered from features in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10, with the largest assemblages from Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Appendix B.1). Struck flints were recovered from features in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 12, but much of this material is likely to be residual (Appendix B.3). A Roman coin was recovered from the fill of a ditch in Trench 8 (Appendix B.4), and animal bone was recovered from features in Trenches 1, 6, 10 and 12 (Appendix B.5).
- 3.17.2 Environmental samples were taken from ditch fills in Trenches 1 and 6 (Appendix C.1).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during generally fair conditions, although there were sporadic heavy downpours. The archaeological features were easy to identify against the underlying natural gravels. The majority of trenches were opened to their full extent, the exceptions being where areas of hardstanding or services were present.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation determined the location, extents, date, character and condition of the remains present within the footprint of the trenches. The palaeoenvironmental potential of selected dated deposits was assessed, as was the impact of previous land use on the site. This report provides information to inform any future mitigation strategy, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service under the accession number OXCMS: 2016.95. The report will also be accessible on the OA digital library in due course <http://library.thehumanjourney.net>.

4.3 Interpretation

Geophysical survey and aerial photographic plot

- 4.3.1 The evaluation largely confirmed the results of the geophysical survey (Bartlett Clark 2015; Fig. 2) and the plotted crop-marks.
- 4.3.2 Trench 1 is located within an area dense with magnetic anomalies (fig 2), some interpreted as archaeological in origin, although many have been interpreted as recent/natural magnetic disturbance and strong magnetic (ferrous) anomalies. The strong magnetic anomalies may correspond with lenses of iron rich (manganese) lenses within the gravel geology. Trench 2 was placed to target three linear crop marks and a number of magnetic anomalies. The trench confirmed the presence of a linear feature corresponding to one of the crop marks, the remaining two were not identified. A linear magnetic anomaly was confirmed as a ditch. Two oval pits and a possible ditch terminus were identified, although did not correspond to the survey results or crop marks. Trench 3 identified a linear feature which confirmed the results of the survey and a crop mark. Trench 4 did not contain any archaeological features, although a number of irregular magnetic anomalies were identified in the survey. Trench five confirmed the presence of two linear features that corresponded to the survey results, although a number of pits, linear features and postholes were also identified. Trench 6 was targeted on a number of irregular anomalies. The trench revealed a number of features broadly corresponding to the survey results. Trench 7 was targeted on a crop mark appearing to form a rectangle which was subsequently identified as a small scale quarry. Trench 8 confirmed the presence of a ditch which corresponded to a linear crop-mark that appeared to form part of an enclosure. Trench 10 was placed in an area of strong (recent/natural) magnetic disturbances and magnetic anomalies, none of which were identified within the trench. The trench did identify a wide steep sided, although shallow, boundary ditch which was not identified in the survey or crop-marks. Trench 11 confirmed the results of the survey, identifying a curving linear ditch. Trench 12 identified two parallel linear feature which corresponded to the survey and crop-mark plot. A further linear feature was identified from crop marks, although not revealed in the trench. Trench 13 identified a single linear feature which did not correlate to the survey results or crop-marks. It was noted that the feature's alignment corresponded well to a crop-mark c. 5m to the north, perhaps indicating a slight error in the plot location.

Archaeological remains

- 4.3.3 A curving linear ditch suggestive of a round barrow was identified in Trench 12. The presence of struck flint and a possible aurochs bone suggests a prehistoric date. The ditch appeared too wide (at over 2m) to have formed the gully of a roundhouse. Extrapolation from the geophysical survey would indicate that the feature has a diameter of c.18m. Other barrows are known from the area, particularly to the west of Devil's Quoits henge monument (located to the south-west of the site).
- 4.3.4 The density of ditches and pits and the presence of posthole alignments within the northern part of the site are, when combined with the quantity of pottery recovered, likely to indicate the site of a Romano British settlement. The focus of this activity is appears to be in the vicinity of Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8. This is on balance likely to date to the earlier part of the Roman period, specifically the later 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Appendix B.1.9). This is at odds with the date of the Roman cemetery to the south of the site, which dates from the mid 4th century. Within the southern part of the site the quantity of pottery recovered dropped considerably. The features uncovered here are perhaps more likely to be of agricultural origin, and include the track-way or drove-way in Trench 11 and a possible field boundary running at 90° to the track in Trench 10.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Very busy trench with 4 ditches on two different alignments. Two E-W and two SE-NW. Possibly two different phases of Drove Road? Two lines of post holes both running parallel to the E-W ditches. Romano-British finds recovered from most features.					Avg. depth	0.5m
					Width	1.6m
					Length	50m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.25m	Present day topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.25m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	> 0.6m	Natural gravel	-	-
103	Cut	0.9m	0.22m	Probable boundary ditch	-	-
104	Fill	0.9m	0.22m	Silting deposit, fill of 103	Pottery, animal bone, flint	AD 1-100
105	Cut	0.42m	0.12m	Small oval shaped pit	-	-
106	Fill	0.42m	0.12m	Fill of Pit 105	Pottery	AD 170-170
107	Ditch	0.7m	0.2m	Probable boundary ditch	-	-
108	Fill	0.7m	0.2m	Silting deposit, fill of 107	-	-
109	Cut	0.3m	0.08m	Possible posthole	-	-
110	Fill	0.3m	0.08m	Backfill of Posthole 109	Animal bone	-
111	Cut	0.3m	0.15m	Posthole	-	-
112	Fill	0.3m	0.15m	Backfill of Posthole 111	Pottery	AD 70-300
113	Cut	0.3m	0.12m	Posthole	-	-
114	Fill	0.3m	0.12m	Backfill of Posthole 111	-	-
115	Cut	0.3m	0.08m	Posthole	-	-
116	Fill	0.3m	0.08m	Backfill of Posthole 115	-	-
117	Cut	0.24m	0.08m	Possible posthole	-	-
118	Fill	0.24m	0.08m	Backfill of Posthole 117	-	-
119	Cut	0.6m	0.10m	Possible posthole	-	-
120	Fill	0.6m	0.10m	Backfill of Posthole 119	Pottery	AD 70-300
121	Cut	0.3m	0.08m	Posthole	-	-
122	Fill	0.3m	0.08m	Backfill of Posthole 121	-	-
123	Cut	1.3m	0.47m	Probable boundary ditch	-	
124	Fill	1.3m	0.47m	Silting deposit, fill of 103	Pottery, animal bone	2nd Century AD
125	Cut	0.85m	0.22m	Possible ditch terminus	-	-
126	Fill	0.85m	0.22m	Fill of Ditch 125	-	-

127	Cut	0.5m	0.28m	Double posthole	-	-
128	Fill	0.5m	0.28m	Backfill of Posthole 127	Pottery	AD 43-410
129	Cut	0.3m	0.2m	Posthole	-	-
130	Fill	0.3m	0.2m	Backfill of Posthole 129	Pottery	AD 70-300
131	Cut	0.28m	0.22m	Posthole	-	-
132	Fill	0.28m	0.22m	Backfill of Posthole 131	-	-
133	Cut	0.6m	0.22m	Posthole	-	-
134	Fill	0.6m	0.22m	Backfill of Posthole 133	-	-
135	Cut	0.3m	0.2m	Posthole	-	-
136	Fill	0.3m	0.2m	Backfill of Posthole 135	-	-
137	Cut	0.4m	0.29m	Posthole	-	-
138	Fill	0.4m	0.29m	Backfill of Posthole 137	-	-
139	Cut	0.4m	0.6m	Posthole	-	-
140	Fill	0.4m	0.6m	Backfill of Posthole 139	-	-
141	Cut	0.45m	0.11m	Posthole	-	-
142	Fill	0.45m	0.11m	Backfill of Posthole 141	Pottery	AD 1-100
143	Cut	0.35m	0.08m	Posthole	-	-
144	Fill	0.35m	0.08m	Backfill of Posthole 143	-	-
145	Cut	0.25m	0.1m	Posthole	-	-
146	Fill	0.25m	0.1m	Backfill of Posthole 145	-	-
147	Cut	1.2m	0.68m	Large circular pit	-	-
148	Fill	1.2m	0.68m	Fill of Pit 147	Pottery, animal bone	AD 70-300
149	Cut	0.55m	0.06m	Truncated base of pit	-	-
150	Fill	0.55m	0.06m	Fill of Pit 149	-	-
151	Cut	0.3m	-	Unexcavated Posthole	-	-
152	Fill	0.3m	-	Backfill of Posthole 151	-	-
153	Cut	0.4m	-	Unexcavated Posthole	-	-
154	Fill	0.4m	-	Backfill of Posthole 153	-	-
155	Cut	0.7m	0.1m	Shallow oval shaped pit	-	-
156	Fill	0.7m	0.1m	Fill of Pit 155	Animal bone	-
157	Cut	0.3m	-	Unexcavated Posthole	-	-
158	Fill	0.3m	-	Backfill of Posthole 151	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Two N-S aligned ditches, probable boundary ditches. Two truncated pits and a Possible ditch terminus. Romano-British finds recovered from several of the features. East end of trench shortened because of electric cable.					Avg. depth	0.2m
					Width	1.6m
					Length	25m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.15m	Present day topsoil	-	-
201	Fill	0.6m	0.16m	Silting deposit, fill of 211	-	-
202	Layer	-	> 0.6m	Natural gravel	-	-
203	Cut	0.4m	0.1m	Small oval shaped pit	-	-
204	Fill	0.4m	0.1m	Fill of Pit 203	-	-
205	Cut	1.35m	0.54m	Probable boundary ditch	-	-
206	Fill	1.35m	0.54m	Silting deposit, fill of 205	Pottery, flint	AD 43-100
207	Cut	0.85m	0.55m	Oval shaped pit	-	-
208	Fill	0.85m	0.55m	Fill of Pit 207	-	-
209	Cut	0.78m	0.3m	Possible ditch terminus	-	-
210	Fill	0.78m	0.3m	Fill of Ditch 209	-	-
211	Cut	0.6m	0.16m	Probable boundary ditch	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
N-S aligned ditch, probable boundary ditch. Irregular truncated feature, probable tree throw hole. Romano-British finds recovered from ditch.					Avg. depth	0.3m
					Width	1.6m
					Length	25m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.15m	Present day topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.1m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	> 0.4m	Natural gravel	-	-
303	Cut	1.7m	0.78m	N-S aligned boundary ditch	-	-
304	Fill	1.7m	0.78m	Silting deposit, fill of 303	Pottery, animal bone, flint	AD 120-150
305	Cut	0.9m	0.52m	Probable tree throw hole	-	-

306	Fill	0.9m	0.52m	Redeposited soils, fill of 305	-	-
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Trench 4

General description					Orientation	N-S
Blank trench. Evidence of root and plough activity visible in surface of the natural gravel including semi-circular “Gyro Tiller” marks. Southern end not excavated due to presence of concrete slab.					Avg. depth	0.3m
					Width	1.6m
					Length	17.3m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.15m	Present day topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.15m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	> 0.15m	Natural gravel	-	-

Trench 5

General description					Orientation	ESE-WNW
Three parallel N-S aligned ditches, a boundary ditch and a Drove Road. An isolated SW-NE aligned ditch, two Postholes and a possible medieval plough furrow. Several irregular truncated features, all probable animal disturbances. Romano-British finds recovered from one of the N-S ditches.					Avg. depth	0.5m
					Width	1.6m
					Length	30m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.16m	Present day topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.25m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
502	Fill	0.95m	0.28m	Silting deposit, fill of 503	Pottery	AD 120-200
503	Cut	0.95m	0.28m	Western ditch of a N-S aligned Drove Road.	-	-
504	Fill	0.95m	0.25m	Silting deposit, fill of 505	-	-
505	Cut	0.95m	0.25m	Eastern ditch of a N-S aligned Drove Road.	-	-
506	Fill	1.15m	0.18m	Redeposited soils, fill of 507	-	-
507	Cut	1.15m	0.18m	Base of plough furrow, possibly medieval ?	-	-
508	Fill	0.28m	0.08m	Backfill of Posthole 509	-	-
509	Cut	0.28m	0.08m	Truncated base of a Posthole	-	-

510	Fill	0.3m	0.08m	Backfill of Posthole 511	-	-
511	Cut	0.3m	0.08m	Truncated base of a Posthole	-	-
512	Fill	0.55m	0.18m	Silting deposit, fill of 513	-	-
513	Cut	0.55m	0.18m	Base of a SW-NE aligned ditch. Later phase of field boundary.	-	-
514	Fill	0.85m	0.25m	Silting deposit, fill of 505	-	-
515	Cut	0.85m	0.25m	N-S aligned boundary ditch. Probably associated with 503 and 503	-	-
516	Layer	-	> 0.3m	Natural gravel	-	-

Trench 6

General description	Orientation	SSW-NNE
NW-SE aligned ditch running across trench cutting an earlier pit. Probable associated ditch terminus immediately to the NE. Edge of a large pit or possible ditch terminus running up from the northern bulk. Natural gravel observed throughout length of trench.	Avg. depth	0.5m
	Width	1.6m
	Length	30m

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.15m	Present day topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.35m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	> 0.5m	Natural gravel	-	-
603	Cut	0.48m	0.32m	Possible ditch terminus ? Edge of Pit ?	-	-
604	Fill	0.48m	0.32m	Fill of Feature 603, probable flood deposit	Animal bone	-
605	Cut	0.8m	0.23m	SW-NE aligned field boundary ditch.	-	-
606	Fill	0.8m	0.23m	Redeposited soils, fill of 606	Pottery	AD 43-410
607	Cut	0.75m	0.2m	Truncated base of a small pit.	-	-
608	Fill	0.28m	0.08m	Backfill of Pit 607	-	-
609	Cut	0.48m	0.32m	Probable ditch terminus.	-	-
610	Fill	0.48m	0.32m	Fill of Feature 609, probable flood deposit	-	-

Trench 7							
General description Large 8.5m wide feature observed in NW end of trench. A machine dug sondage showed this to be a 1.5m deep gravel extraction pit (undated). Redeposited lenses of gravel at the SE end of the trench suggest that the cast up material was spread out and levelled. Truncated base of a SW-NE aligned plough furrow observed running across the trench south of the quarry.					Orientation		SE-NW
					Avg. depth		0.6m
					Width		1.6m
					Length		30m
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date	
700	Layer	-	0.15m	Present day topsoil	-	-	
701	Layer	-	0.35m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-	
702	Fill	7.5m	0.5m	Tipline of backfill within Quarry 705. Possible silting deposit.	-	-	
703	Fill	6.5m	0.5m	Tipline of backfill within Quarry 705. Probable redeposited material.	-	-	
704	Fill	5.7m	0.5m	Tipline of backfill within Quarry 705. Probable redeposited material.	-	-	
705	Cut	7.5m	1.5m	Small scale gravel extraction pit. Undated	-	-	
706	Layer	-	> 1.5m	Natural gravel	-	-	

Trench 8						
Modern disturbed ground down to the top of the natural suggest the area had been levelled/graded as part of the airfield construction. Single large N-S aligned Romano British boundary ditch.					Orientation	SW-NE
					Avg. depth	0.54m
					Width	1.6m
					Length	25m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.25m	Present day topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.25m	Disturbed ground	Brick	C20th
802	Layer	-	> 1.5m	Natural gravel	-	-
803	Cut	1.8m	0.66m	Large steep sided boundary ditch. Possible	-	

				recut in top.		
804	Fill	6.2m	0.08m	Primary fill of Ditch 803. Slumped, washed in natural	-	-
805	Fill	1.04m	0.22m	Layer of backfill within Ditch 803. Silting deposit.	Pottery, coin	AD 43-410 (pot) AD 103-111 (coin)
806	Fill	0.8m	0.21m	Upper fill within ditch. Possibly redeposited material from bank(s)	-	-
807	Fill	0.7m	0.3m	Fill of ditch 803	Pottery	AD 70-300
808	Cut	0.7m	0.3m	Re-cut of ditch 803	-	-

Trench 9**General description**

Modern disturbed ground down to the top of the natural suggest the area had been levelled/graded as part of the airfield construction similar to trench 8. Top of natural heavily disturbed by rabbit burrows. No significant archaeology observed,

Orientation

SW-NE

Avg. depth

0.4m

Width

1.6m

Length

25m

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.16m	Present day topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.18m	Disturbed ground	Brick, glass, iron	C20th
902	Layer	-	> 0.2m	Natural gravel	-	-

Trench 10**General description**

Modern ploughsoil overlying an earlier buried soil horizon. Single large E-W aligned boundary ditch cut by WWII airfield service trench.

Orientation

ENE-WSW

Avg. depth

0.34m

Width

1.6m

Length

25m

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.16m	Present day topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.16m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	> 0.5m	Natural gravel	-	-
1003	Cut	0.8m	0.24m	Large steep sided boundary ditch.	-	-
1004	Fill	0.8m	0.24m	Fill of Ditch 1003. Silting deposit, washed in soils	Pottery, animal bone	AD 1-100

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Modern ploughsoil overlying an earlier buried soil horizon. Two parallel ditches each with one phase of recut running N-S across the trench 5m apart. Probable drove road. Plough marks visible in surface of the natural gravel.					Avg. depth	0.5m
					Width	1.6m
					Length	30m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.28m	Present day ploughsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.24m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
1102	Fill	1.3m	0.15m	Upper fill of ditch recut	-	-
1103	Fill	0.95m	0.25m	Middle fill of ditch recut	-	-
1104	Fill	0.5m	0.2m	Primary fill of ditch recut	-	-
1105	Cut	1.3m	0.58m	Large steep sided recut of Drove Road ditch 1107.	-	-
1106	Fill	2.2m	0.4m	Fill of original Drove Road ditch 1107	-	-
1107	Cut	2.2m	0.4m	Western ditch bounding a N-S aligned Drove Road	-	-
1108	Fill	1.1m	0.4m	Upper fill of ditch recut	-	-
1109	Fill	0.5m	0.18m	Primary fill of ditch recut	-	-
1110	Cut	1.1m	0.55m	Large steep sided recut of Drove Road ditch 1112.	-	-
1111	Fill	2m	0.58m	Fill of original Drove Road ditch 1112	-	-
1112	Cut	2m	0.58m	Eastern ditch bounding a N-S aligned Drove Road	-	-
1113	Layer	-	> 0.6m	Natural gravel	-	-

Trench 12							
General description					Orientation		NNE-SSW
Modern ploughsoil overlying an earlier buried soil horizon. A 2m + curvilinear ditch may define a round burrow.					Avg. depth		0.45m
					Width		1.6m
					Length		29.6m
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds		Date

1200	Layer	-	0.15m	Present day ploughsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.35m	Earlier ploughsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	> 0.7m	Natural gravel	-	-
1203	Cut	2.18m	0.66m	Large steep sided curvilinear ditch. Shown as a probable ring ditch on the geo-physical survey	-	-
1204	Fill	2.18m	0.17m	Upper fill of ring ditch, Washed in soils from probable bank	Animal bone	-
1205	Fill	2.18m	0.4m	Lens of fill within ring ditch. Composed of washed in soils	Flint	-
1206	Fill	1.1m	0.14m	Layer of fill within ring ditch. Eroded, slumped natural gravels	-	-
1207	Cut	0.57m	0.09m	Primary fill of ring ditch. Composed of washed in soils	-	-

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	SE-NW
Trench located adjacent to modern quarry fronting road. Quarry backfilling visible in SE end of trench (not excavated). Two distinct layers of made ground visible in section, probable levelling layers from construction of the airfield. Single E-W aligned ditch observed in surface of natural sealed by a buried soil horizon, which in turn was sealed by the made ground.	Avg. depth	1.05m
	Width	1.6m
	Length	25m

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.15m	Present day ploughsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.25m – 0.3m	Made ground. Levelling layer from airfield construction	-	1940
1302	Layer	-	0.3m	Made ground. Levelling layer from airfield construction	-	1940
1303	Layer	-	0.3m	Buried ploughsoil horizon	-	-
1304	Fill	1.45m	0.25m	Silting deposit, fill of 1305	-	-
1305	Cut	1.45m	0.25m	Shallow wide SW-NE aligned ditch. Visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. Probably southern ditch of a Drove Road.	-	-

1306	Layer	-	> 0.3m	Natural gravel	-	-
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APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 Roman pottery recovered from the evaluation was quantified within context groups by sherd count and weight in grammes. The assemblage totalled 262 sherds and 3104g. The pottery was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, assess condition, and provide spot dates. Forms and fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard guidelines for Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014). Those encountered are listed in Table 1. Reference was also made to Young's typology of the Oxfordshire industry (Young 1977) and Gillam's typology of coarse pottery (Gillam 1957).

B.1.2

Fabric code	Description	Form code	Description
B11	Handmade black-burnished ware	CD	Medium-mouthed jar
E40	Late Iron Age/early Roman shell-tempered ware	CE	Squat, high-shouldered necked jar
E80	Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered ware	CH	Bead-rimmed jar
M22	Oxford white ware mortarium fabric	CK	Cooking pot
O10	Fine oxidised ware	CN	Storage jar
R10	Fine reduced ware	EF	Poppyhead beaker
R20	Sandy reduced ware	HC	Curving-sided bowl
R38	West Oxfordshire medium sandy reduced ware	KA	Hook-flanged mortarium
R38	As R37, but with additional grog pellets		
R50	Dark-surfaced ware		
R90	Coarse-tempered reduced ware		
S30	Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian ware		

Table 1: Roman pottery forms and fabrics

Description

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
104	8	122	E80 body sherds	AD1-100
106	5	103	KA Young M2 (M22), R38, E80, R37, R20 body sherds	AD100-170
112	1	8	R37 body sherd	AD70-300
120	1	4	R37 body sherd	AD70-300
124	123	1272	CN (R90), CK Gillam 125 (B11), HC (R37), CD lattice dec (R37), R20, body sherd with barbotine-dot dec, cf. EF (R10), beaker base (O10), E40, R50	AD120-180
124	15	135	Sample 1	

128	1	6	C (R10)	AD43-410
130	1	4	R37 body sherd	AD70-300
142	1	17	E80 body sherd	AD1-100
148	6	42	R37 body sherds	AD70-300
206	40	298	CH (R50), R37, E80	AD43-100
304	44	936	CN (R90), CK lattice dec (R37), CE x2 (R37). Sherds have pitted or spalled surfaces	AD120-150
502	1	3	S30 body sherd	AD120-200
606	2	74	CN (R90), R30	AD43-410
805	1	13	C (R50)	AD43-410
807	5	49	R37 base sherds from single vessel	AD70-300
1004	7	18	E80, E40 body sherds	AD1-100
TOTAL	262	3104		

Table 2: Summary of pottery

- B.1.3 The earliest context-groups (104, 142 and 1004) were dated to the 1st century AD and accounted for 6% of the assemblage by sherd count. All groups contained grog-tempered ware (E80) and, in the case of context 1004, shell-tempered ware (E40). No forms were identified.
- B.1.4 Context 206 also contained grog-tempered ware. The fabric was associated with a bead-rimmed jar (CH) in sand-tempered dark-surfaced ware (R50), dating deposition to after AD 43.
- B.1.5 Four groups (106, 124, 304 and 502), accounting for 66% of the assemblage by sherd count, were dated to the 2nd century AD. The largest group (124) was dated to the mid 2nd century on the basis of a cooking-pot-type jar (CK) in black-burnished ware (B11). The remaining pottery in the group, including jar in fabric R37 with lattice decoration, and a body sherd with panels of barbotine-dot decoration, probably from a poppyhead beaker (EF), is consistent with this date.
- B.1.6 Context-group 304 was similarly dated to the mid 2nd century on the basis of a cooking-pot-type jar (though in fabric R37, rather than B11). High-shouldered necked jars (CE) found with it typically have an early Roman date, though they were in relatively good condition and not obviously residual, but may confine deposition to the first half of the 2nd century.
- B.1.7 An Oxford white ware mortarium recovered from context 106, supported by the pottery with which it was found, dates deposition to the 2nd century AD, while a fragment of Central Gaulish samian ware in context 502 was deposited in the mid-late 2nd century or later.
- B.1.8 It is possible that the remaining groups similarly date to the later 1st or 2nd century, but the presence of long-lived fabrics and absence of identifiable forms mean that broader date-ranges must be assigned. Fabric R37, present in contexts 112, 120, 130, 148 and 807, has a date range spanning the Flavian period (from c AD 70) to early 4th century (Booth, forthcoming). Contexts 128, 606 and 805 contained other reduced wares that cannot be dated any closer than Roman.
- B.1.9 Overall, then, the main periods of pottery deposition date to the later 1st and 2nd century. There is no clear evidence that deposition continued into the 3rd and 4th centuries, though the possibility that deposition continued into this time at the site cannot be ruled out.

Condition and pattern of deposition

- B.1.10 The mean sherd weight (weight / sherd count) of the pottery as a whole is 12g, pointing to a fairly fragmented assemblage. However, the mean sherd weights of individual context groups show a wide range of values, from 2.6g to 37g, and generally, large sherds were observed among smaller fragments across the assemblage. This suggests that some of the pottery, for example that in contexts 104, 106, and 304, where relatively large sherds were found, had been deposited close to area of use and initial discard.
- B.1.11 Some of the pottery, particularly in context 304, had pitted or spalled surfaces, which may have been caused by soil conditions, or possibly by firing damage in the kiln. If the latter, then the damage hints at pottery production in the area.
- B.1.12 Trench 1 contained the largest amount of pottery, and large groups were recovered from trenches 2 and 3. Deposition was therefore concentrated in the north part of the investigation area, although some pottery deposition in the southern part of the site can also be noted.

B.2 Worked stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Description

- B.2.1 A single piece of stone was retained. This is a fragment of ferruginous conglomerate (206, 160g). It has the remains of a possible worked face and it is possible it is from a quern but the material is unusual if so.

B.3 Struck flint

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
100	Small irregular flake, hinge termination, 2g	-
104	Snapped flake, hard hammer, heavily rolled, edge damage, 7g	Neolithic – Bronze Age
206	Irregular flake, hard hammer, blade removals, 3g	Neolithic
304	Hard hammer struck flake, 2g	
304	Thick irregular flake fragment, heavily rolled, edge damage, 7g	
304	Thick irregular flake, hard hammer struck, 6g	
304	Hard hammer struck flake, rolled condition, edge damage, 5g	
1205	Heavily patinated, rolled condition, backed blade, dorsal and ventral semi-abrupt retouch, distal end snapped in antiquity, 5g	

Table 3: Struck flint

Discussion and recommendations.

- B.3.1 The size and nature of the assemblage, with all the flint being residual in topsoil or in ditch fills, limits interpretation of the material. However, where technologically diagnostic

features are present they can be assigned to the later prehistoric period, which is consistent with the settlement and burial evidence in the vicinity. The worked flints from the evaluation should be integrated into any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

B.4 The coins

By Paul Booth

- B.4.1 A single coin was recovered from context 805. This was a Dupondius (26-27mm) of Trajan, slightly-moderately worn.

Obv: IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS V P P

Rev: SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI S C trophy with shields at base

RIC 586 (AD 103-111)

B.5 Animal bone

By Lena Strid

Introduction

- B.5.1 The animal bone assemblage consisted of 39 fragments from features preliminarily dated to the Roman period. Of these, 32 (82.1%) fragments were hand-collected and 7 (17.9%) came from sieved soil residues.

Methodology

- B.5.2 The bones were identified using a comparative skeletal reference collection, in addition to osteological identification manuals. An attempt was made to identify sheep and goat to species where possible, using Boessneck *et al.* (1964) and Prummel and Frisch (1986). This was not successful and all caprine fragments were classified as 'sheep/goat'. Ribs and vertebrae, with the exception of atlas and axis, were classified by size: 'large mammal' representing cattle, horse and deer; and 'medium mammal' representing sheep/goat, pig and large/medium dog.
- B.5.3 For the calculation of the number of identified fragments per species (NISP) all identifiable fragments were counted, although bones with modern breaks were refitted. The weight of bone fragments has been recorded in order to give an idea of their size and to facilitate an alternative means of quantification.
- B.5.4 For ageing, Habermehl's (1975) data on epiphyseal fusion was used. Tooth wear was recorded using Grant's tooth wear stages (Grant 1982), and correlated with tooth eruption (Habermehl 1975). The method of Payne (1973) was used to estimate an age for sheep/goat.

Overview of the assemblage

- B.5.5 The condition of the bone is varied, with most bones being in fair to very poor condition. Burnt bones were absent and three bones showed traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs.

The assemblage

- B.5.6 The species present include cattle and sheep/goat. A micromammal vertebrae from ditch fill (124) may be from water vole or rat. A bovid tarsal bone from ditch fill (1204) is very large, suggesting three possibilities: It could be a late post-medieval intrusive specimen; it could be a residual aurochs bone; or it could be Roman, since the Romans imported larger cattle for improving the native British smaller animals (Maltby 2010, 292). A radio-carbon date is probably the only way to resolve this.
- B.5.7 The limited ageing data included three fused cattle bones (scapula, humerus and metacarpal), indicating an age-at-death over 7-10 months, 15-20 months and 2-2.5 years respectively (Habermehl 1975, 104-105) and two ageable sheep/goat mandibles of 1-2 years and 4-6 years of age. Judging by size and bone surface structure, juvenile animals were absent in the assemblage.
- B.5.8 Butchery marks suggesting disarticulation were found on one large mammal humerus from ditch fill (1003). A cattle metacarpal from ditch fill (604) had exostoses at the proximal joint, possibly deriving from muscle strain or age related wear and tear.
- B.5.9 No further information can be gained from such small sample of bones. However, if further excavations take place on the site, the bones should be included in the full excavation report.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

- C.1.1 Two samples were taken from the evaluation, both from ditch fills. Sample 1 (context 124) was taken from from ditch 123 in Trench 1 which is dated from pottery to AD 120-180, Sample 6 (context 606) was taken from from ditch 605 in Trench 6 dated AD 43-410.
- C.1.2 Both samples were a yellowish red (5YR 4/6) sandy loam with frequent sub-angular stones, and were 40 litres in volume. Both were processed in their entirety by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.
- C.1.3 The samples produced very similar flots, both less than 25ml and containing large amounts of modern roots and plant material. Land snails are frequent although the majority are intrusive in nature including *Ceciloides acicula* which is a burrowing snail frequently observed in archaeological features. Both flots also included small quantities of charcoal in good condition but too small for species identification.
- C.1.4 Both flots also contained a small quantity of charred grain; three fragments of unidentifiable grain are present in sample 1 while a single grain, which is likely to be wheat (*Triticum* sp.) is present in sample 6.
- C.1.5 Pottery and animal bone were extracted from sample 1 and will form part of the specialist finds report.
- C.1.6 While charred remains evidently survive at this site it is not possible to interpret further from such a small and undiagnostic assemblage.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire : Evaluation Report

Site code: SHAIR 16

Grid reference: Centred on SP 41460 05370

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 13th to 17th of June 2016

Area of site: c. 8.5ha

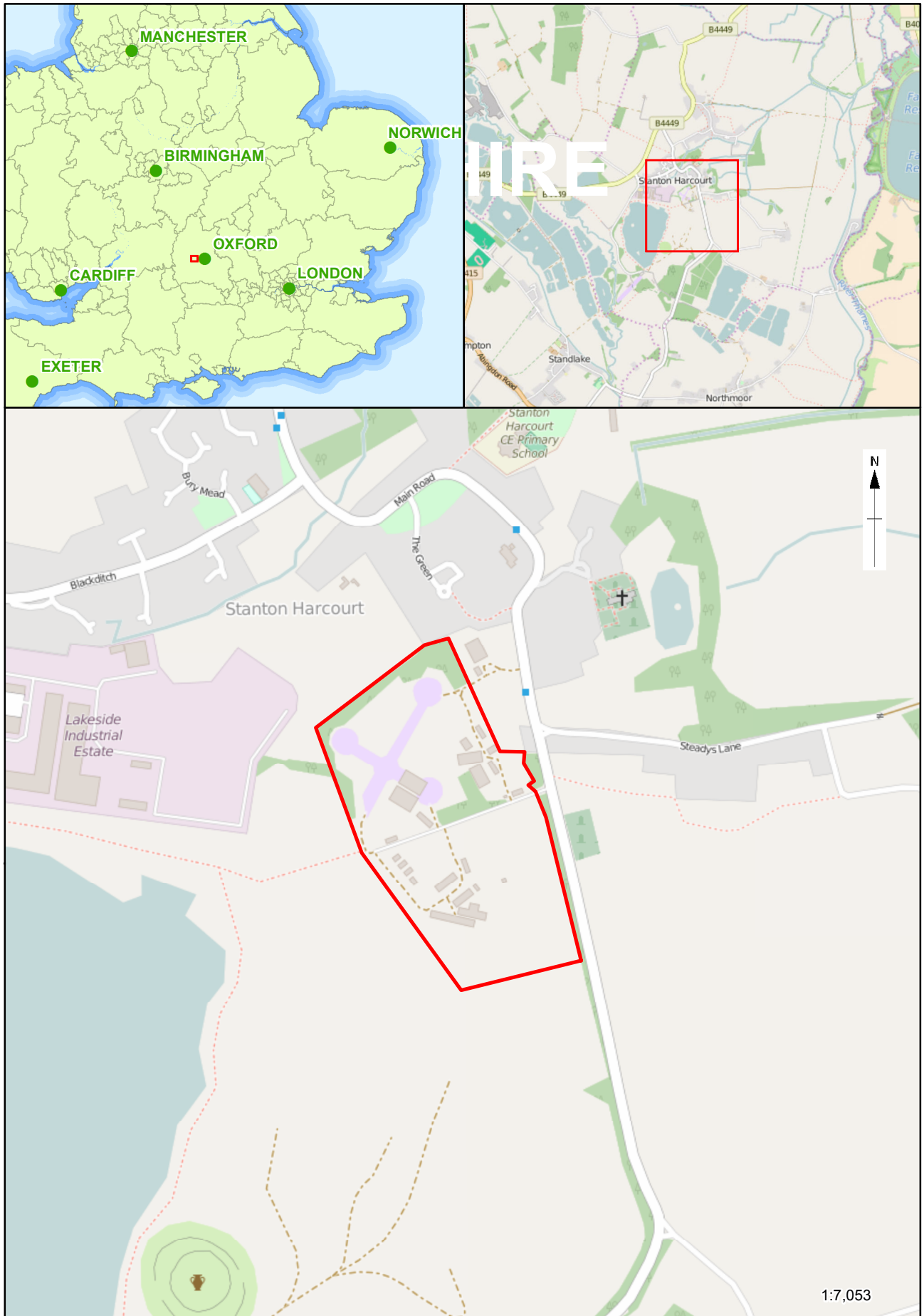
Summary of results: Between the 13th and 17th of June 2016 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire.

The evaluation trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey and the plot of cropmarks from aerial photographs. Possibly the earliest feature uncovered was a curvilinear ditch potentially defining a round barrow. Other trenches exposed a comprehensive system of drove roads and field boundary ditches dating to the earlier part of the Romano-British period, and which generally corresponded with geophysical anomalies and the aerial photographs.

The Romano-British archaeology was most dense within the north-west corner of the evaluated area, with the presence of numerous postholes and domestic refuse suggesting occupation in the vicinity. Within the southern part of the site the frequency of finds was reduced, indicating that these areas were further away from any focus of occupation and probably more agricultural in nature.

Evidence for small scale gravel extraction possibly from the earlier post-medieval period was also observed, as was evidence for the machine cultivation of the site shown by tooth marks from “Gyro-Tiller” machinery, observed within the surface of the gravel deposits throughout the northern half of the site.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2016.95



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Figure 1: Site location



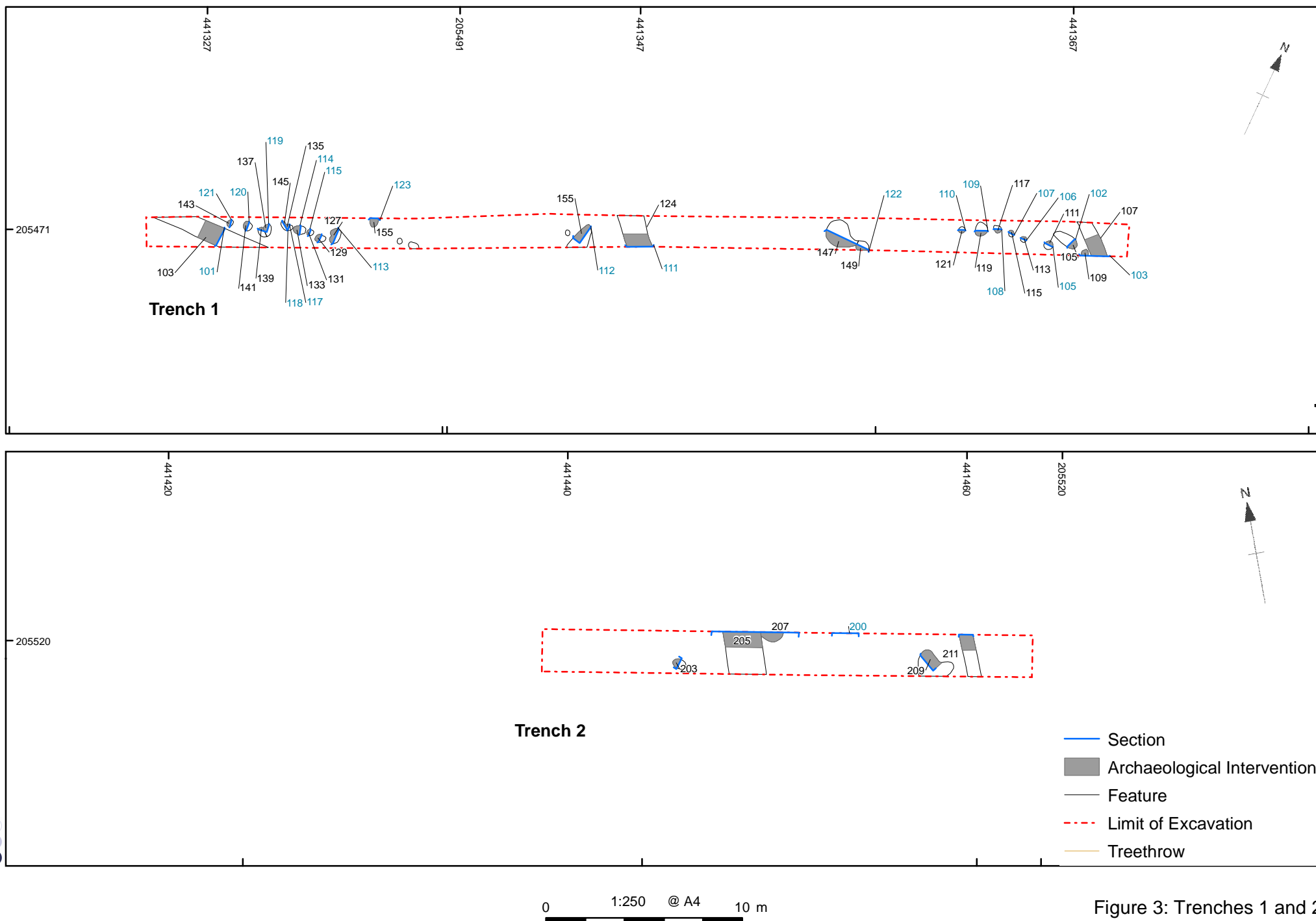


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2

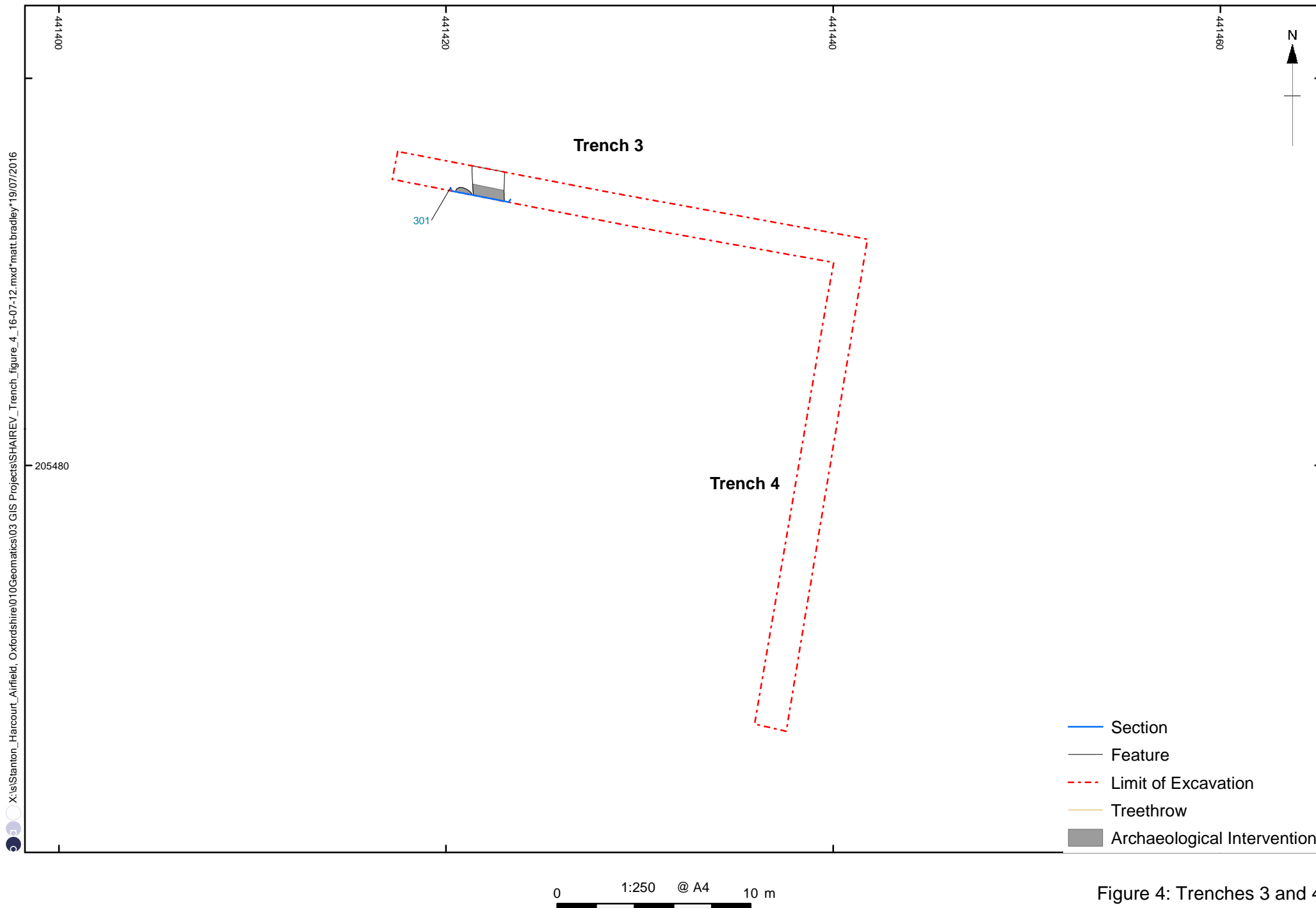
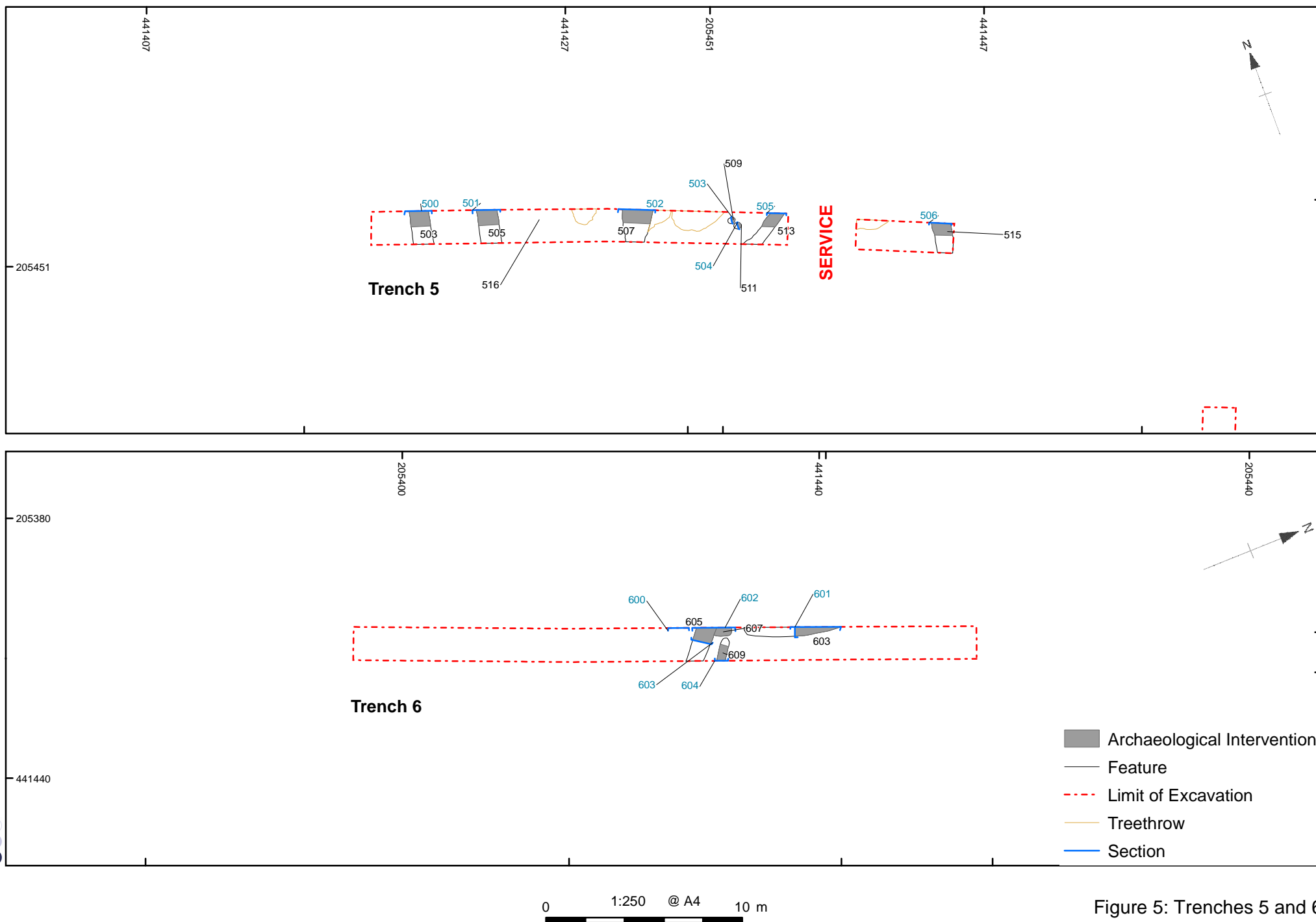


Figure 4: Trenches 3 and 4



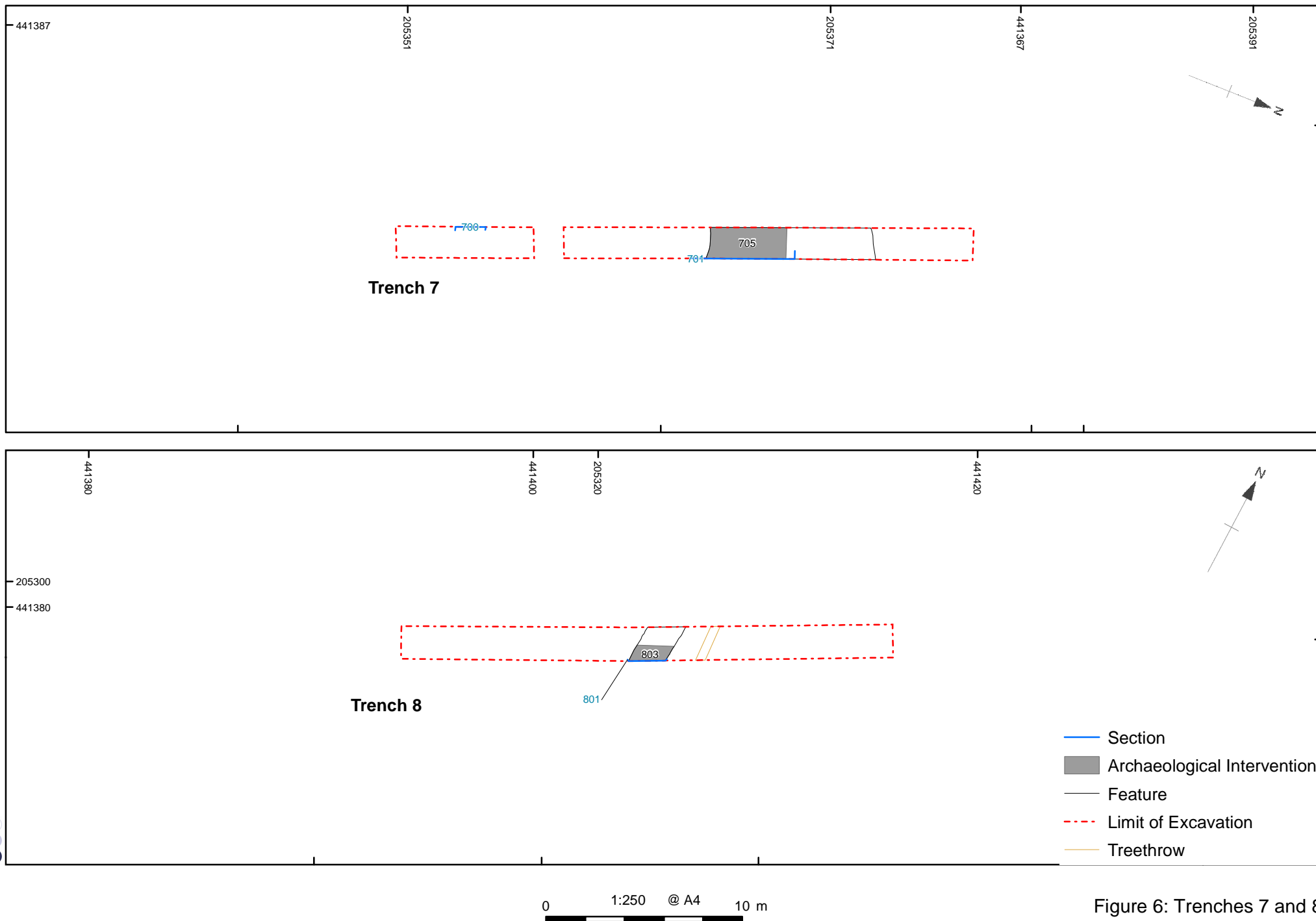
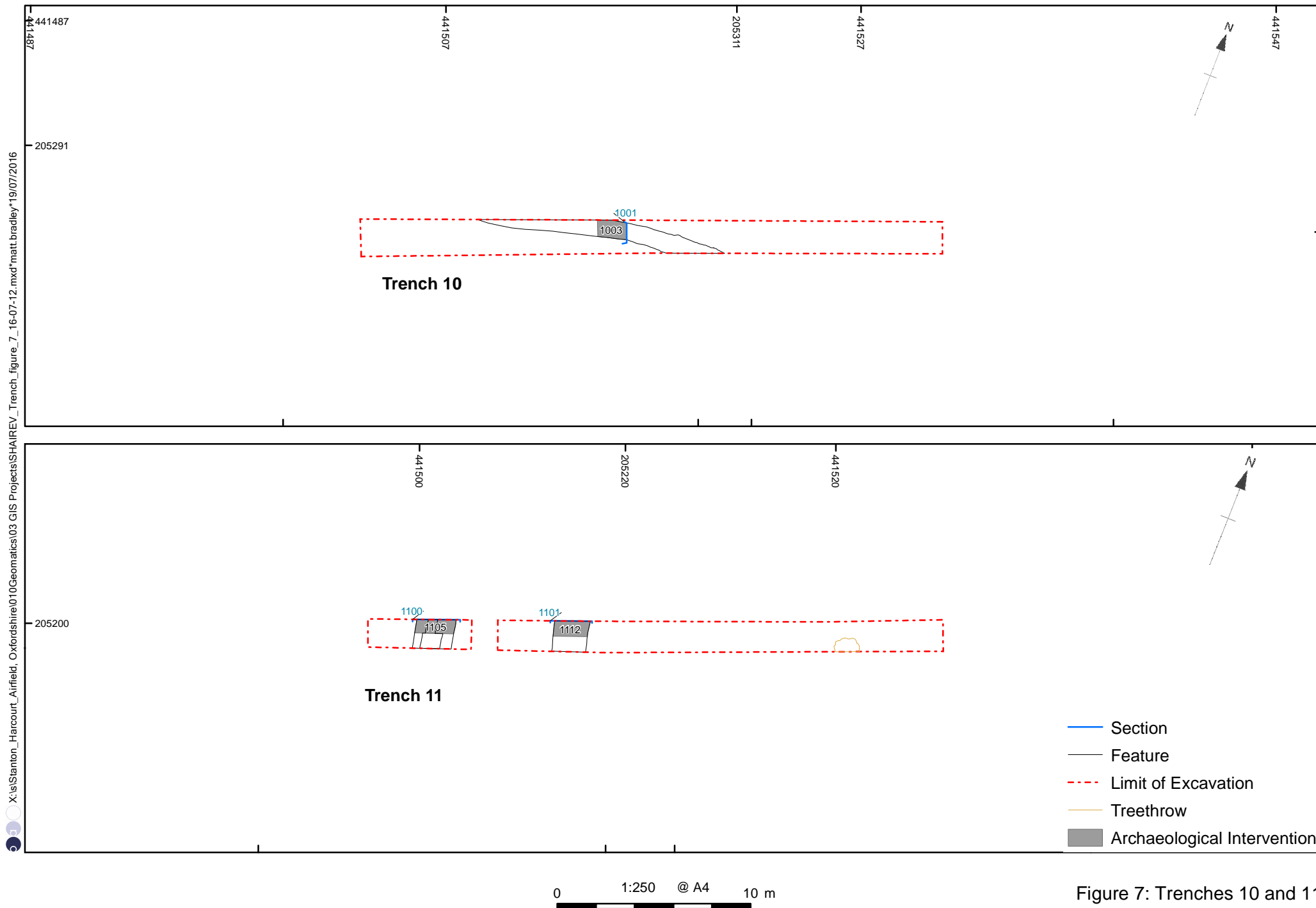


Figure 6: Trenches 7 and 8



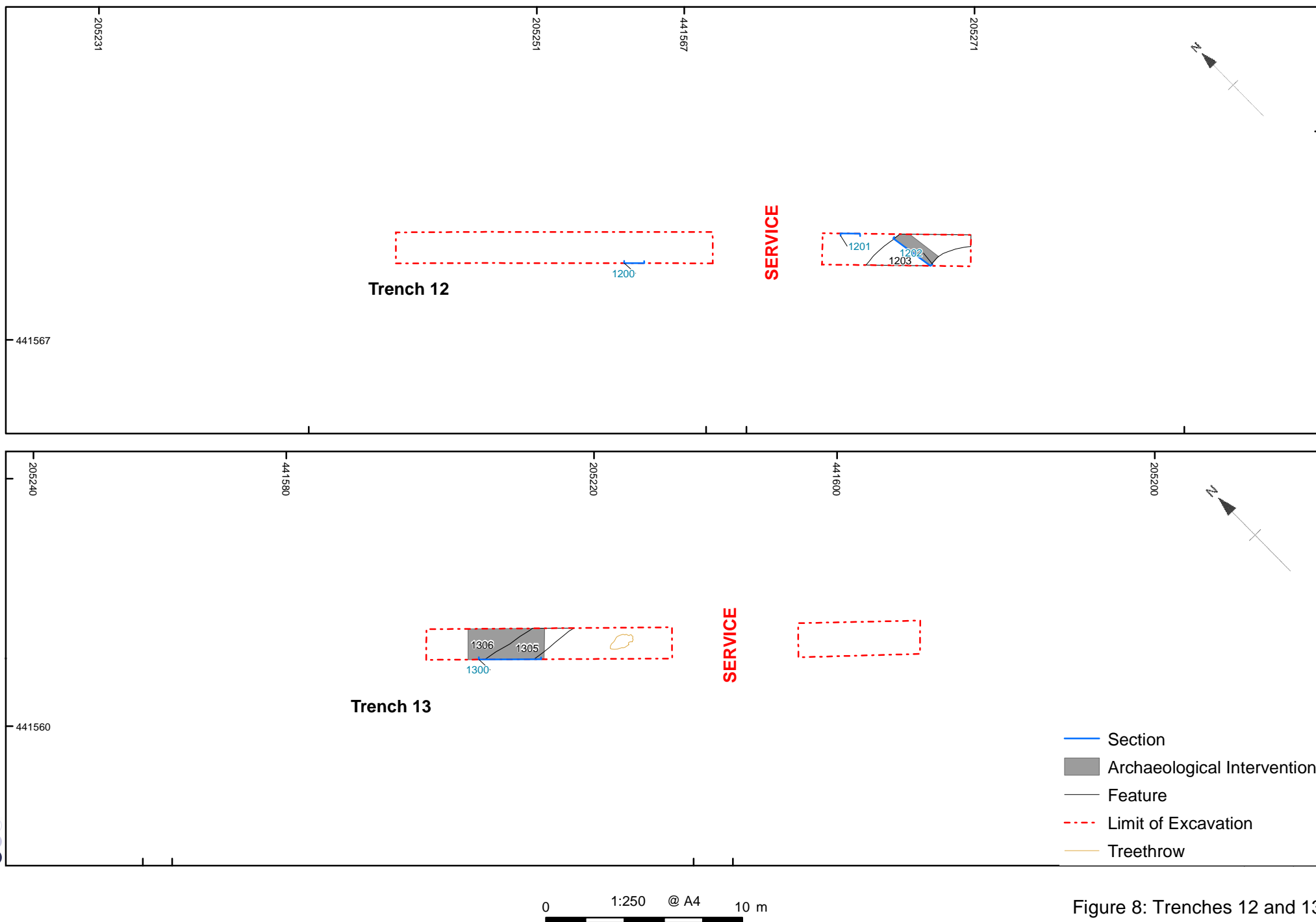


Figure 8: Trenches 12 and 13

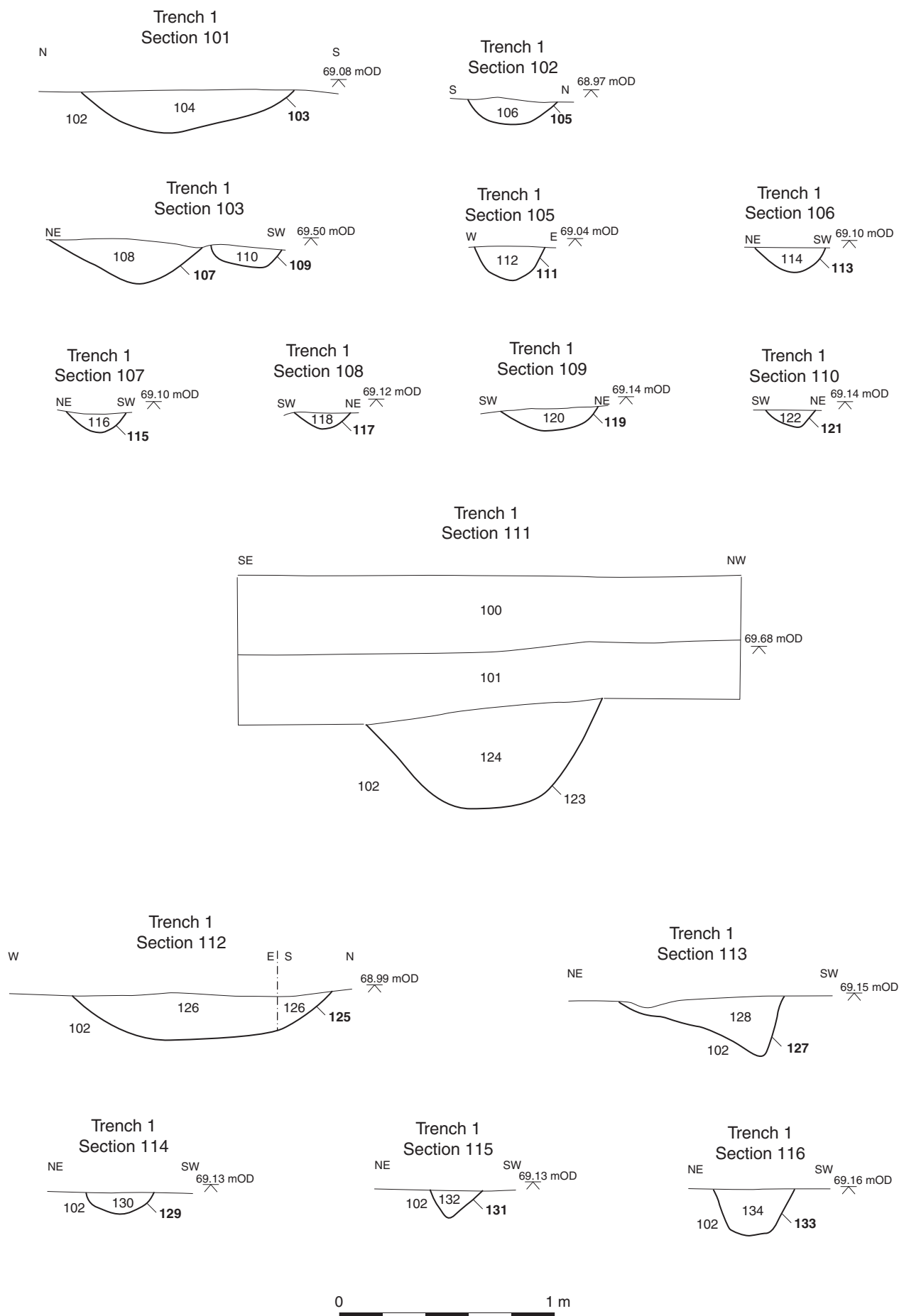


Figure 9: Sections, Trench 1

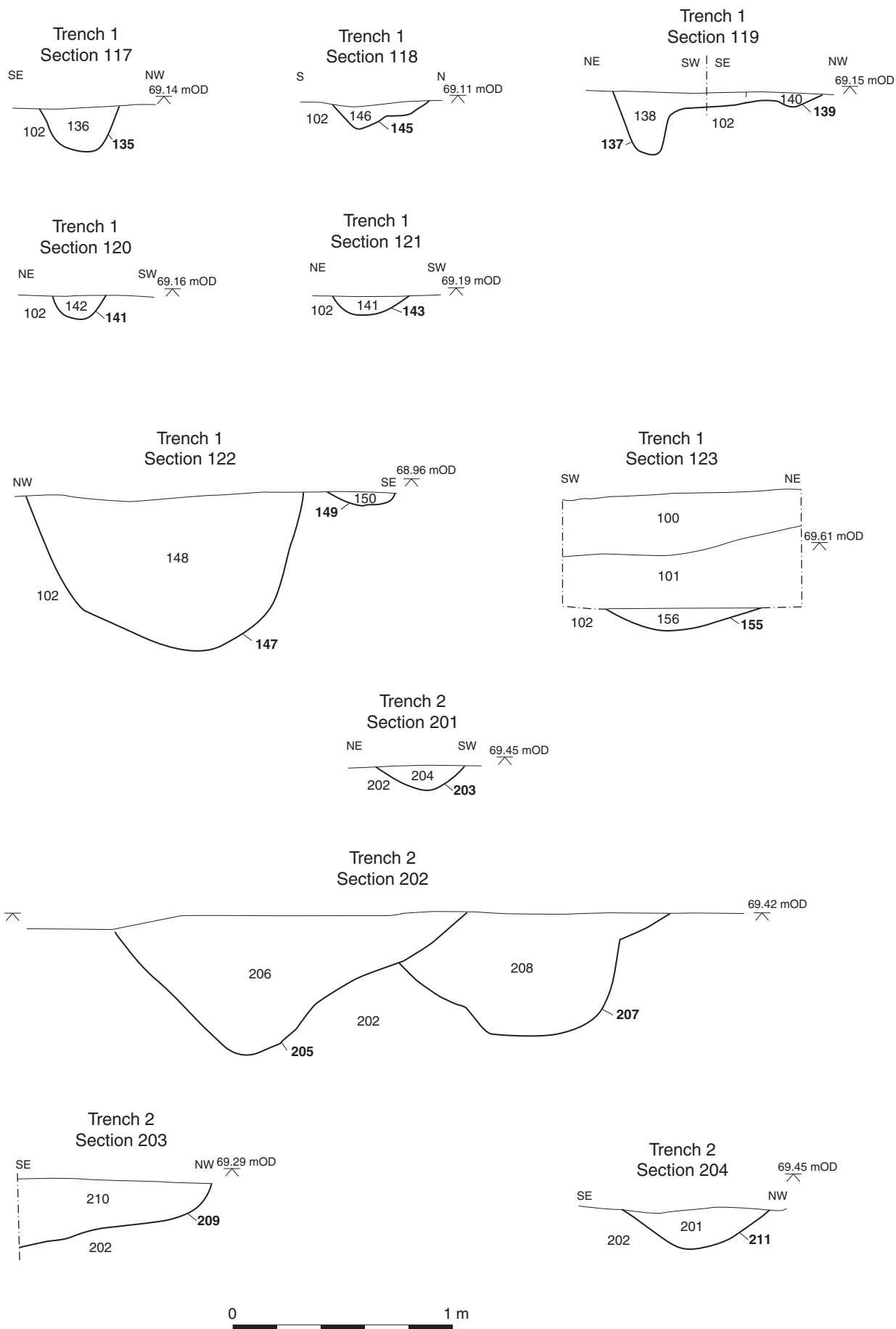


Figure 10: Sections, Trenches 1 & 2

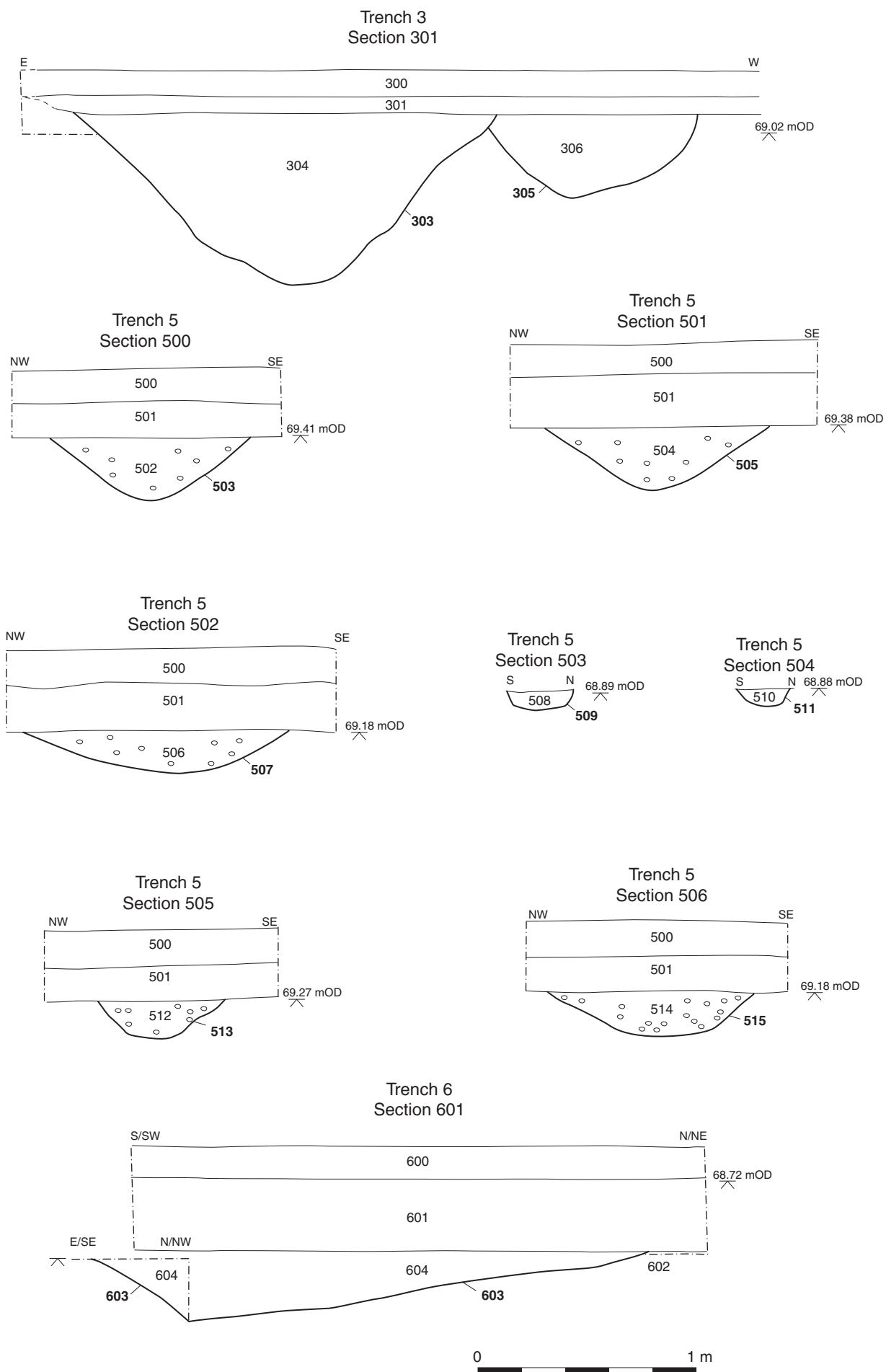


Figure 11: Sections, Trenches 3-6

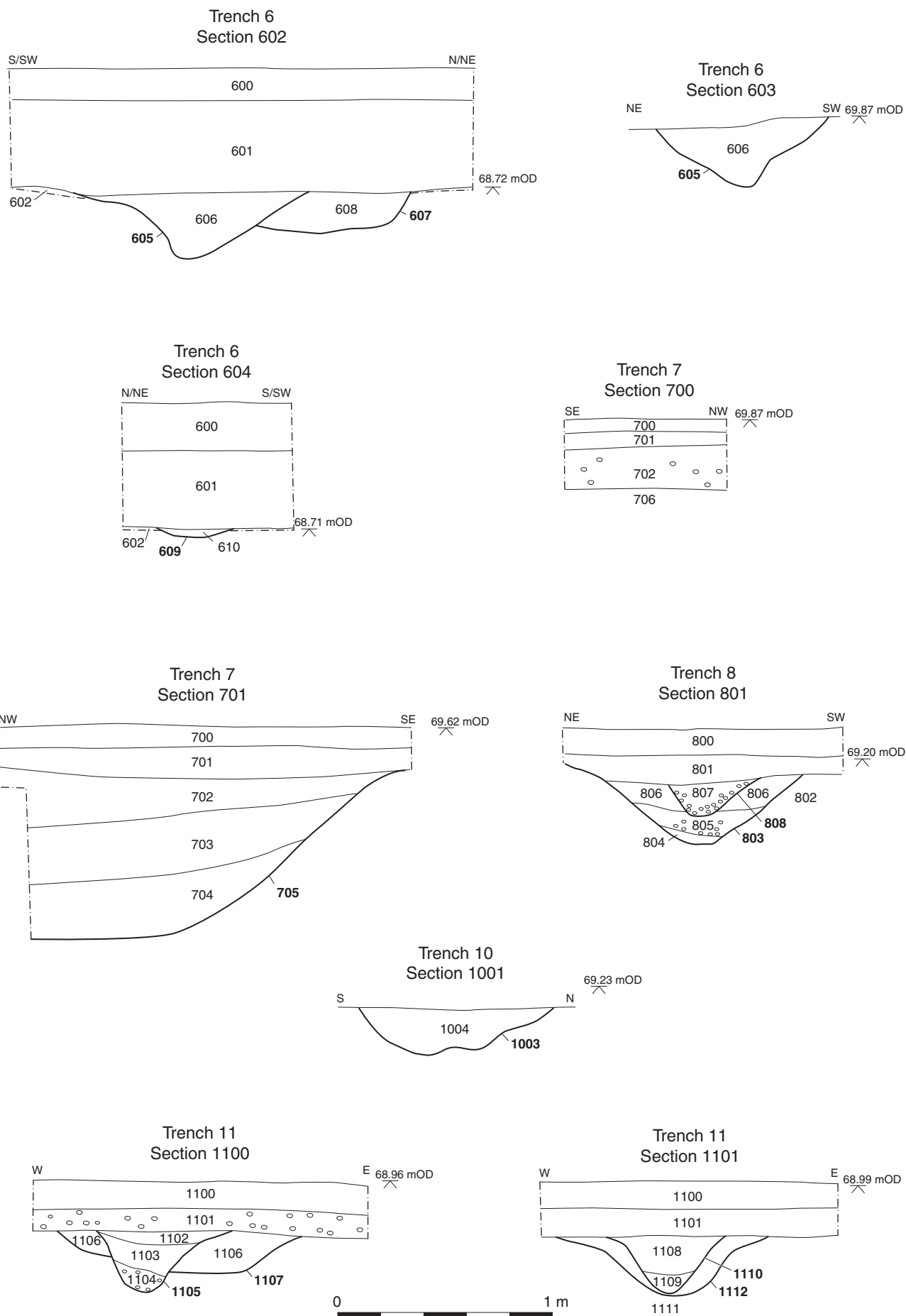


Figure 11: Sections, Trenches 6-11

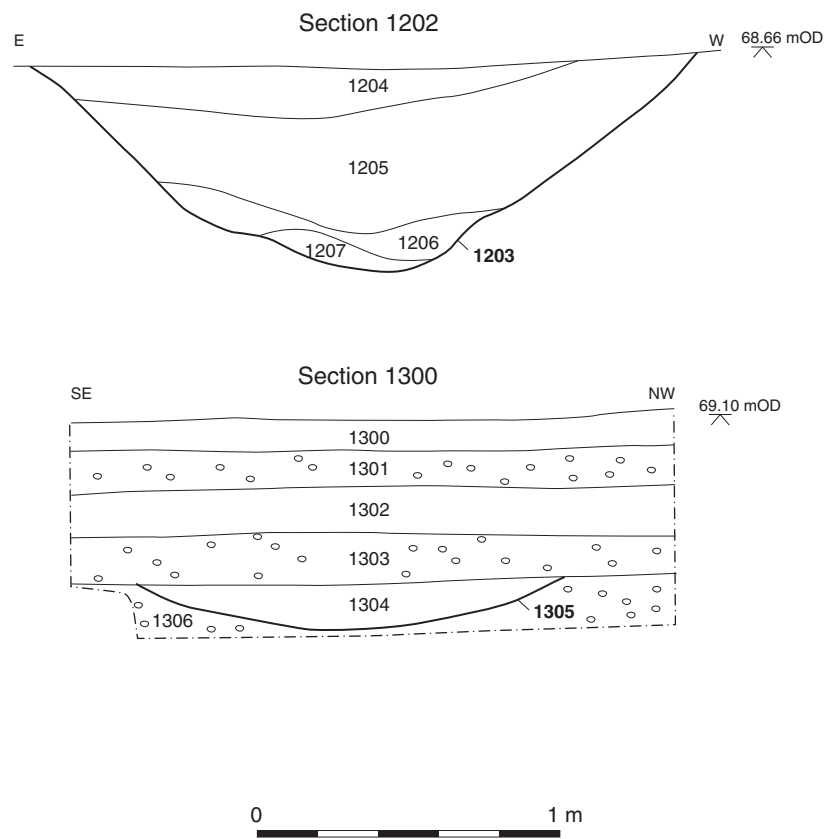


Figure 13: Sections, Trenches 12-13



Plate 1: Trench 1 (view to north-east)



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 3: Ditch 303, Trench 3



Plate 4: Trench 6 gyro-tiller cultivation marks



Plate 5: Ditch 803, Trench 8



Plate 6: Ditch 1203, Trench 12



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