Polar Technology, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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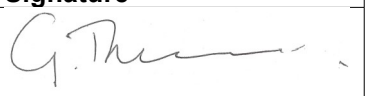
1	Mariusz I. Gorniak Project Officer; Gerry Thacker Senior Project Manager	Ian Scott Project Officer (Post-excavation)	Gerry Thacker Senior Project Manager	

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Polar Technology, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

During the latter part of March and early April 2016 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation ahead of the submission of a planning application on land to the south of Eynsham, Oxfordshire, centred on NGR 442762 208827. The southern part of the site falls within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The evaluation comprised 20 trenches targeted on both geophysical anomalies and cropmarks, and also to test potential blank areas.

Within the northern and central part of the site several undated ditches were identified, as well as a flat based pit which contained pottery of 5th-7th century date, and could represent a sunken featured building. Within the scheduled area a pit containing struck flint, pottery, animal bone and charred hazel nut shells is likely to be of early Neolithic date. Other ditches present were of probable Roman and post-medieval date, although very little datable material was recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Will Odling on behalf of Polar Technology Management Group Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation of the site of proposed manufacturing buildings and associated access routes (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken in advance of submission of a Planning Application. Discussions with Hugh Coddington the Oxfordshire County Council Archaeologist and David Wilkinson of Historic England established the scope of work that was required; this document outlines how OA implemented those requirements.

1.1.3 Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained to enable the trial trenching to be undertaken within that part of the site that fell within the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (below and Fig. 2).

1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 442762 208827. The site lies to the south of the core of Eynsham, on relatively flat agricultural land. It is bounded by the Chil Brook to the north, the B4449 to the south-east, and agricultural land to the west. (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of agricultural land. The northern part of this was crossed by a former railway line, currently under scrub and hard standing. The southern part of the site is located within the eastern extent of a wider Scheduled Ancient Monument (Fig. 2) which comprises an extensive collection of cropmarks thought to be of prehistoric and Roman date.

1.2.3 The site is located on the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation, sedimentary mudstone formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. These deposits are overlain by Summertown-Radley sand and gravel which formed up to 3 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a desk based assessment (OA 2015), the results of which are summarised below.

1.3.2 Study of aerial photographs and the findings of the geophysical survey (below) all suggest that archaeological features are less numerous within the area of the site than they are within the core of the Scheduled cropmark complex to the south west.

Prehistoric period

1.3.3 There are possible archaeological remains that date to the prehistoric period within the site. The south western corner of the site falls within the area of a Scheduled Monument which comprises “Sites discovered by aerial photography, near Foxley Farm. Cropmarked Settlement and Cemetery Complex near Foxley Farm. large and important concentration of cropmarks, mostly comprising Bronze Age ring ditches and barrows and Iron Age- Roman enclosures and settlement sites. Excavations and watching briefs have produced secondary Neolithic pottery, an unusually large number of beakers and beaker graves (including a cemetery), Bronze Age remains and Iron Age/Roman occupation material” (OA 2015).

1.3.4 Finds dating to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic within the study area (a 1km radius around the site) suggested that there is also a slight possibility of material from these periods being present.

Roman period

1.3.5 There is the potential for significant archaeological remains dating to the Roman period within the site. The south western corner of the site falls within the area of Scheduled Monument that includes the remains of a farmstead and associated field system dating to the Roman period.

Early medieval period

1.3.6 There is low potential for Saxon archaeological remains being identified within the site. Although there are large numbers of recorded assets from this period within the Study Area, the focus of this activity lies within the historic core of Eynsham *c* 450m north east of the Site.

Later medieval period

1.3.7 There is low potential for medieval archaeological remains to be identified within the site. It is likely that the core of activity in this period lay *c* 450m to the north east in the historic core of Eynsham and the evidence from the (later) historic maps suggests that the site lay within the open agricultural fields of the village of Ducklington, which lies 8km to the south west. Traces of ridge and furrow were identified within the southern field during the geophysical survey.

Post medieval and early modern periods

1.3.8 There is low potential for significant post-medieval archaeological remains to be present within the site. Despite the known presence of a railway station within the site the groundworks of the 1980s redevelopment are deemed to have been sufficiently destructive to have removed all archaeological deposits in this area.

Geophysical survey

1.3.9 A detailed magnetometry survey was undertaken of the southern part of the site, including the area within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument. (Stratascan 2015; Figs 2-6). The survey located features shown in the aerial photograph plot and also a number of previously unidentified anomalies. The survey identified a ditched trackway that leads from the centre of the prehistoric complex and a series of possible enclosure ditches as well as several discrete features that are possibly pits. The northern portion of the site was too overgrown to be surveyed but parts of an irregular enclosure ditch are shown in aerial photographs and are also shown on the site plot.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology was appointed to undertake the evaluation by Will Odling on behalf of Polar technology Ltd. David Wilkinson of Historic England monitored the whole of the site work in the absence on leave of Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council. The fieldwork was conducted by Mariusz I. Gorniak assisted by Conan Parsons, Mike McLean, Caroline Souday, Adam Rappiejko and Neil Holbrook. The report was written by Mariusz I. Gorniak and Gerry Thacker. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims of the evaluation

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

(i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive. Should remains be found to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.

(ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains

(iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.

(iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.

(v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.

(vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.

(vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.

(viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.

(ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artifactual evidence present.

(x) To target the anomalies plotted during the geophysical survey and from the aerial photograph plot, and to test areas currently shown as archaeologically 'blank'.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The evaluation was intended to comprise 23 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.6m, laid out across the site as indicated on Fig. 2. This equated to a 2% sample of the proposed development area. However the northernmost part of the site proved to be beyond the development area and therefore three trenches (Trenches 1-3) positioned here were not excavated.

2.2.2 Every effort was taken to locate the trenches in their intended positions, but minor changes were required due to on site conditions and/or obstructions. Two trenches in the northern part of the site had to be slightly relocated after consultation with the representative of Oxfordshire County Council. All trenches were located by an OA Surveyor using a GPS system with a sub 50mm accuracy.

2.2.3 All trench locations were CAT scanned by an appropriately trained OA staff member, both prior to and during the machining of the trenches.

2.2.4 All trenches were opened under constant archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machining was undertaken in level spits until the top of the natural geology or a significant archaeological horizon was reached, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.5 A representative sample of the revealed features were hand excavated and recorded in line with the OA approach outlined in Appendix A of the WSI (OA 2016).

2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from a selection of appropriate dated contexts, to evaluate their potential to contain environmental evidence.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with the dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated within Appendix B. Trench location plans, section drawings and plates are found at the end of the document.

3.1.2 A total of 11 of the 20 trenches contained features of potential archaeological origin (Fig. 2).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Within the larger part of the site (the field to the south of the former railway-track) the soil sequence consisted of modern ploughsoil (c 0.33m thick on average, but reaching the depth of 0.45m in some trenches) sealing either natural geology (in Trench 16 and in most parts of Trench 11 – both located in the highest part of the field), or a subsoil, (former ploughsoil present in trenches: 7, 10 and 19-23 in the lower part of the southern field), and also the remnants of north-south orientated plough furrows (trenches: 9, 11, 13, 14, and 17). Deep plough-scars were uncovered in trenches 11, 12, 16, perhaps indicative of sub-soiling. A number of tree-throws were also present. The underlying geology in the southern part of the site was a firm layer of coarse sand and gravel.

3.2.2 The area in between the disused railway line and the northern edge of the site, the latter running close to Chil Brook, had a different soil sequence. The topsoil either overlay a buried ploughsoil (in the southern part of the area) or a thick colluvial layer, which overlay silty alluvial deposits. The natural coarse sand and gravels were present between 1.0 to 1.6m below the current ground level. The colluvium in the western part of the field contained fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material.

3.2.3 Ground conditions during the evaluation were generally good. The northern part of the site in which trenches 4–8 were located was fairly wet and these trenches did partially fill with ground water. Due to a popular path across the area, these trenches were backfilled rapidly after recording, for health and safety reasons.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The trenching revealed archaeological remains focussed mainly within the southern, south-western, and central-western part of the southern field. These were represented by a series of ditches and occasionally discrete features.

3.3.2 Naturally occurring features, namely tree-throws, were observed in several of the trenches, and a percentage of these were excavated and recorded. Ceramic land drains were present only in the land to north of the former railway-line and adjacent to the Chil Brook. Several trenches had clear traces of medieval furrows under the ploughsoil horizon.

3.3.3 All features described below were sealed by the buried ploughsoil (subsoil) where present, unless otherwise indicated.

3.4 Trench 5

3.4.1 A ditch, 504, was orientated broadly west-east and located towards the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 2). The ditch which measured 1.25m wide was not further investigated due its its depth below ground level (1.3m). The visible fill of the ditch, 505, was a very dark grey silt containing frequent wood fragments. The ditch fill was sealed by 0.67m of alluvium (502) 0.23m of subsoil, (501), and 0.4m of topsoil (500).

3.5 Trench 8

3.5.1 A ditch, 804, was orientated north-west to south-east and had an irregular profile, reminiscent of a ditch and re-cut, but recorded by the excavator as a single feature (figs 2 and 7). The lower fill, 806, was a firm light yellow-brown sandy clay. This was sealed by 805, a medium brown sandy silt containing occasional fragments of charcoal and decayed organic material. No finds were recovered from either fill.

3.6 Trench 9

3.6.1 At the south-eastern end of the trench a possible ditch terminal, 914, was orientated north-south and had moderately steep sides and a concave base (Figs 2 and 4). The fill, 915, was a mid brown silty sand. A few metres to the north-west a 'kidney' shaped feature, 918, had an irregular base and sides, and was recorded as a tree throw hole.

3.6.2 A flat based pit, 908, was partially present within the confines of the trench, the remainder extending beneath the western limit of excavation (Figs 2, 4 and 7; Plate 1). The pit, which was 0.24m deep and around 2.3m wide contained two fills, the lower of which, 910, was a very dark brown silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and five sherds of pottery thought to be of Anglo-Saxon date (see Appendix B1). A post hole, 912, in the base of feature 908, had a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.3m (Figs 4 and 7). The single fill, 913, was a medium brown silty sand.

3.6.3 Around two metres to the north of 908 a second pit, 905, had gently sloping sides, becoming much steeper with depth (Figs 2 and 7). The lower fill, 907 was a very dark brown silty sand. This was below fill 906, a medium brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from either fill.

3.6.4 Immediately to the north-west a ditch, 903, was orientated north-south, and terminated within the confines of the trench (Figs 2, 4 and 7). The ditch had fairly steep sides, a flat base, and the single fill 904 was a medium brown sandy silt.

3.6.5 A further feature, 916, situated towards the north-western end of the trench was interpreted as a tree throw hole (Figs 2 and 4).

3.7 Trench 10

3.7.1 A probable ditch, 1009, was present at the south-western end of the trench and had moderately sloping and a fairly flat base (Figs 2 and 7). The single fill, 1010, was a light reddish-brown sandy silt.

3.7.2 Another smaller ditch, 1007, was located just to the north of the centre of the trench (Figs 2 and 7). The ditch had was steep sided with a concave base, and the single fill, 1008, was a reddish-brown sandy silt.

3.7.3 A possible ditch terminal, 1005, was present towards the northern end of the trench (Figs 2 and 7). This had a shallow sloping profile, and single fill, 1006, also a mid reddish brown sandy silt.

3.7.4 A possible pit, or tree throw hole, 1003 was partially present within the trench, extending to the north beyond the limit of excavation (Figs 2 and 7). The fill, 1004, was a dark red-brown sandy silt. Other features within the trench were interpreted as tree throw holes and root disturbance, and were not further investigated.

3.8 Trench 12

3.8.1 A large ditch, 1202, was located within the western part of the trench and was orientated NNE-SSW (Figs 2, 3 and 8). The ditch had a shallow, slightly irregular profile, and contained a single fill, 1203, a brownish-red silty sand.

3.8.2 A possible pit, 1205, was located towards the eastern end of the trench (Figs 2, 3 and 8). The pit had a shallow concave profile and the single fill, 1208, was a reddish-brown silty sand.

3.9 Trench 14

3.9.1 A pit, 1407, towards the western end of the trench contained numerous struck flint artefacts and pottery sherds, both likely to be dated from the earlier Neolithic period (Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 8; Plate 2 and Appendices B.1 and B.2). The pit which had a concave profile also contained fragments of animal bone, some of which had been burnt (Appendix B.3). The single fill, 1408 was a dark reddish-brown sandy silt containing occasional gravels. An environmental sample (sample 1400; Appendix C) contained numerous hazel nut shell and charcoal fragments and also two cereal grains.

3.9.2 A very shallow ditch, 1405, adjacent to pit 1407, was orientated ENE-WSW, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 2). The ditch contained a single fill, 1406, a dark reddish-brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

3.9.3 A ditch, 1403, was orientated south-west to north-east, and terminated within the confines of the trench (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 8). The single fill, 1404, was a reddish-brown sandy silt.

3.10 Trench 15

3.10.1 A large pit, 1503 (Figs 2 and 3), was located towards the centre of the trench, and cut the subsoil 1501. The sides were near vertical, and the base was not reached due to concerns over the feature's depth. The lowest fill encountered, 1507, was a light brownish-grey sandy silt. This was overlain by 1506, a dark orange-brown sandy silt containing three sherds of pottery 1830-1880 (Appendix B.1). This was in turn sealed by 1505 a light grey-brown deposit of similar composition, and then by 1504 darker grey-brown silty sand containing pottery dating from 1820-1900.

3.10.2 A further small feature, 1508, at the south-western end of the trench proved to be of natural origin.

3.11 Trench 18

3.11.1 A single posthole, 1804, was present towards the north-eastern end of the trench (Figs 2 and 8). The single fill, 1805, was a dark brown sandy silt. A rectalinear anomaly from the geophysical survey proved to be a change in geology, and not of archaeological origin.

3.12 Trench 20

3.12.1 Towards the southern end of the trench ditch 2009 was orientated broadly west-east (Figs 2, 3, 5 and 8). The south-eastern side of the ditch sloped at an angle of around 45°, the north-western edge having a less perceptible slope. The base of the ditch was flat, and the single fill, 2010, was a firm mid brown clay silt from which a single sherd of Roman pottery (AD 1st to 4th century) was recovered (see Appendix B. 1). An adjacent smaller ditch, 2007, shared the same orientation, and had a concave profile (Figs 2, 3, 5 and 8). The single fill, 2008, was a firm mid brown clay silt.

3.12.2 A further ditch, 2005 (Figs 2, 3, 5 and 8; Plate 3), was located around 3.5m to the north-west, and was orientated on a similar alignment to ditches 2007 and 2009, but inclined slightly to the south-east. The ditch had fairly gentle sides, and a slightly undulating base. The south-eastern edge had been removed by animal burrowing activity. The lower fill, 2012, was a mid yellow-brown silty clay. This was overlain by fill 2006, a mid brown silty sand that contained two sherds of Roman pottery (AD 1st to 2nd century).

3.13 Trench 21

3.13.1 Ditch 2103 was orientated south-west to north-east, and was located in the southern end of the trench, extending partially beyond the limit of excavation (Figs 2, 3, 5 and 9). The ditch had a gentle upper break of slope, which became steeper with depth. The single fill, 2104, was a firm orange brown silty sand.

3.13.2 A further ditch, 2105, was orientated broadly west-east, and was not excavated (Figs 2, 3 and 5). The upper fill, 2106, was a light reddish-brown sandy silt.

3.13.3 A few metres to the north, a small ditch, 2107, terminated within the confines of trench. The ditch, which was orientated NNE-SSW, had a shallow, slightly undulating profile, and the single fill, 2108, was a mid reddish-brown sandy silt.

3.13.4 A further possible ditch terminal or pit, 2109, was located towards the northern end of the trench (Figs 2, 3, 5 and 9). Feature 2109 had a fairly regular concave profile, and the single fill, 2110, was also a reddish-brown sandy silt.

3.14 Trench 22

3.14.1 Towards the southern end of the trench a ditch, 2203, was orientated WSW-ENE (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 9; Plate 4). The ditch had steep sides and a flat base, and the single fill, 2204, was firm dark brown clay silt which contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery (AD 1550-1900), and iron blade and several fragments of animal bone. An adjacent pit, 2205, was broadly circular in plan, and had steep, slightly stepped sides and a flat base that sloped down to the south-east. The pit had a single fill, 2206, which contained a single sherd also of post-medieval date (AD 1550-1800).

3.14.2 Two intercutting ditches, 2207 and 2209 were situated towards the northern end of the trench, and were orientated similarly to 2203 (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 9; Plate 5). It was unclear which of the ditches was the earlier of the two, and ditch 2207 to the north-west had a flat based profile, and single fill, 2208, a mid orange-brown sandy silt. Adjacent ditch 2209 had a more concave profile, and similar fill (2210).

3.15 Trench 23

3.15.1 At the northern end of the trench ditch 2305 was orientated west-east (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 9). The ditch had a concave sides, and a slightly irregular base. The lower fill, 2307 was a mid brown silty sand. This was overlain by fill 2306, which filled the centre of the ditch, and may actually be indicative of an episode of re-cutting of the feature. Fill 2306 was of similar composition to 2307, but was of a lighter hue. No finds were recovered from either fill. An environmental sample from 2306 (sample 2300) contained very little charred material, although two fragments of grain and small quantities of charcoal were present. The sample also contained animal bones from cattle, snake and frog or toad.

3.15.2 Around 19 metres to the south a pair of intercutting ditches were orientated on a similar west-east alignment. The northernmost of the two, 2304, had a fairly steep sided, flat based profile (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 9; Plate 6). The fill, 2303, was a mid yellow-brown sandy silt that contained two small abraded pottery sherds that could date to either the prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon periods (see Appendix B.1). The second ditch, 2308, was situated immediately to the south, and would have shared a relationship with ditch 2304, although this was unclear. The ditch had gently sloping sides and a concave base. The fill, 2309 was likewise indistinguishable from 2303.

3.16 Finds and environmental summary

3.16.1 Finds were recovered from relatively few contexts, and these include pottery from the fills of a flat based pit 908 in Trench 9, pit 1407 in Trench 14, pit 1503 in Trench 15 and ditches in Trenches 20, 22 and 23 (2205; 2007; 2203; 2205 and 2304). The same

contexts that contained pottery often also contained animal bone. Other finds included struck flint, the majority from a single pit in Trench 14, which also included other worked stone items. Two pieces of metalwork were recovered from post-medieval contexts, as was a single piece of slag. The finds ranged in date from the Early Neolithic to the post-medieval periods. The finds are described in Appendix B.

3.16.2 Environmental samples were taken from five contexts, although three of these later proved to be of post-medieval date. Sample 1400, from Neolithic pit fill 1408 contained well preserved hazel nut shell fragments and charcoal, in addition to two charred grain fragments. Sample 2000 from ditch fill 2006 of probable Roman date was less well preserved, but also contained small fragments of charcoal and a single charred barley grain.

4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during fair weather conditions, and the trenches, with the exception of a few of those within the north of the site, remained dry. The archaeological features were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. Nearly every feature encountered was investigated, although datable material was recovered only from a few of these.

4.2 Interpretation and discussion

Prehistoric

4.2.1 The pit excavated with Trench 14 (1407) contained both pottery (40 sherds) and struck flint of probable early Neolithic date. The good preservation of both animal bone and charcoal within the fill is potentially significant. It is possible that this part forms part of a group of similar features and the presence of struck flints of a possible similar date from overburden in nearby trenches (Trenches 12, and 13) provides some indication of this.

4.2.2 The only other feature that contained material of possible prehistoric date was fill 2303 from ditch 2304 in Trench 23. However in this instance the sherds were few and small and consequently the identification tenuous, as they could equally be of Anglo-Saxon date (the same local clay fabrics being utilised in both periods). The ditch, or sequence of ditches within Trench 22 to the west (ditches 2207/2209) remained undated.

Romano-British

4.2.3 The upper fill (2006) of ditch Ditch 2005 contained two sherds of early Roman pottery, and the fill of adjacent ditch 2009 (2010) contained a single sherd of pottery of more generic Roman date. Ditch 2005, appears from the geophysics and cropmark evidence to continue eastwards, where it is represented by ditch 2305 in Trench 23. Ditch 2009, and adjacent 2007 were not identified by the geophysical survey, and it is therefore unclear how far this extends. The two ditches at the southern end of Trench 20 could conceivably delineate a trackway or droveway.

Anglo-Saxon

4.2.4 The shallow flat based pit identified in Trench 9 (908) could represent a sunken featured building, and the pottery (although only five sherds were recovered) could well date to the 5th to 7th century, although similar fabrics were utilised in the late prehistoric period (see Appendix B.1). The presence of the single substantial posthole (912) situated towards the edge of the feature may also lend credence to this interpretation.

4.2.5 Medieval and post-medieval

4.2.6 Only a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, from the topsoil in Trench 12 (1205), and this can be interpreted as arriving on site through the disposal of household waste. Several plough furrows were identified, and as indicated by the geophysics these were orientated broadly north-south or west east.

4.2.7 Post-medieval features were identified in Trenches 15 and 22. Pit 1503 in Trench 15 contained a pit two of the fills of which contained pottery of late post-medieval date (1820-1900). Pit 2205 and ditch 2203, both in Trench 22 contained small sherds which date from 1550-1900 and 1550-1800 respectively.

4.2.8 Undated features

4.2.9 Several potential ditches remain undated, and were identified in Trenches 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14. Whilst some of these clearly were real features, others especially where only partially present within the confines of the trenches are included tentatively. Potential

undated pits were present in Trenches 9, 10 and 18. Several features that proved to be tree throw holes were also investigated.

Geophysical survey results

4.2.10 The results of the geophysical survey, and the plotting of the features from cropmarks, generally tallied fairly well with the findings in the ground. The linear features plotted in the footprints of Trenches 8, 20, 21, 22 and 23 were represented in the ground, although additional ditches (2007 and 2009) were present in Trench 20. Discrete features were not as well represented by the geophysics, with the possible Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building 908, in Trench 8 and Neolithic pit 1407 in Trench 14 not identified prior to trenching.

4.3 Conclusions

4.3.1 The geophysical and cropmark evidence generally provides a fair indicator of the quantity and location of linear features within the site. Some additional ditches and several discrete features were not identified prior to trenching, and of these a pit of early Neolithic date, a ditch of Roman date, and a possible sunken featured building of Anglo-Saxon date are significant. The majority of the features identified are within or adjacent to that part of the site that falls within the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The lack of finds from the ditches suggests that these are likely to form part of an agricultural landscape, and not define settlement within the immediate area. The environmental potential of the site appears generally fairly low, but perhaps counter intuitively, the best preserved remains appear to come from the earliest feature (Neolithic pit 1407).

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1		
General description	**Orientation**	
Trench set up north of the development area. Not excavated.	**Avg. depth (m)**	-
	Width (m)	-
	Length (m)	-

Trench 2		
General description	**Orientation**	
Trench set up north of the development area. Not excavated.	**Avg. depth (m)**	-
	Width (m)	-
	Length (m)	-

Trench 3		
General description	**Orientation**	
Trench set up north of the development area. Not excavated.	**Avg. depth (m)**	-
	Width (m)	-
	Length (m)	-

Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained no archaeological remains. A single ceramic field drain, aligned NW-SE was present. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 400, overlying thick colluvial subsoil 401, which overlay alluvial deposit 402. The alluvium sealed natural geology 403.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.9
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Layer	+1.9	0.3-0.5	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil; a friable very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	-	-
401	Layer	+1.9	0.15-0.45	Subsoil: old ploughsoil made of colluvial material; a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel, its depth increases southwards	-	-
402	Layer	+1.9	0-0.42	Alluvium: firm lenses of very silty deposits and slightly clayey deposits (light brown, medium brown, light grey)	1 CBM fragment	Late post-medieval/ Victorian
403	Layer	1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm coarse sand and gravel	-	-

Trench 5		
General description	**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained one linear feature 504 Three ceramic field drains, aligned NW-SE were present. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 500, overlying colluvial subsoil 501, which overlay thick alluvial deposit 502. The alluvium sealed natural geology 503.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1.1
	Width (m)	1.9

					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	+1.9	0.3-0.4	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	-	-
501	Layer	+1.9	0.2-0.25	Subsoil: old ploughsoil made of colluvial material, a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
502	Layer	+1.9	0.5-0.7	Alluvium: firm, thick lenses of yellowish brown and light brown, very silty deposits and thin lenses of coarse sand	-	-
503	Layer	+1.9	+0.15	Natural geology: a firm coarse sand and gravel	-	-
504	Cut	1.25	0.29	Cut of linear feature: aligned N-S, extending in both directions beyond Tr 5, length of 11.6m within the trench, moderately steep, symmetrical sides, a concave base, cut into alluvium 502	-	-
505	Fill	1.25	0.29	Single fill of linear feature: a friable, silty sand, very dark blueish grey with medium grey lenses, frequent pieces of waterlogged wood	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two linear features – 604 and 605. Three ceramic field drains, aligned NW-SE and NE-SW were present. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 600, overlying colluvial subsoil 601, which overlaiy alluvial deposit 602. The alluvium sealed natural geology 603.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.05
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	1.9	0.15-0.2	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	-	-
601	Layer	1.9	0.2-0.25	Subsoil: old ploughsoil made of colluvial material, a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
602	Layer	1.9	0.0-0.4	Alluvium: thick lenses of a firm medium blueish slightly sandy silt with no inclusions and similar lenses but with gravel	-	-
603	Layer	1.9	+0.15	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown silt with coarse sand and gravel	-	-
604	Cut	0.7	0.1	Cut of linear feature: aligned E-W, extending in both directions beyond Tr 6, length of 2.0m in the trench, gently sloping sides, a concave base, cut into alluvium 602	-	-
605	Cut	0.28	0.12	Cut of linear feature: aligned NW-SE, extending in both directions beyond Tr 6, length of 2.5m in the trench, gently sloping sides, a concave base, cut into alluvium 602	-	-
606	Fill	0.7	0.1	Single fill of linear feature 604: a friable, silty very dark blueish grey clayey silt with medium grey lenses, frequent pieces of wood	-	-
607	Fill	0.28	0.12	Single fill of linear feature 605: a friable, silty very dark blueish grey clayey silt with medium grey lenses, frequent pieces of wood d	-	-

Trench 7		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W

Trench contained no archaeology One ceramic field drain, aligned NW-SE was present. Two tree-throws were below the subsoil in the eastern part of the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 700, overlying, subsoil/old ploughsoil 701, which overlay colluvium 702. The colluvium sealed alluvial layer 703, which overlay natural geology 704	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.8
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
700	Layer	1.9	0.22-0.27	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil; a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	-	-
701	Layer	1.9	0.2-0.25	Subsoil: old ploughsoil made of colluvial material; a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
702	Layer	1.9	0.0-0.4	Colluvium: thin lenses of a firm medium blueish slightly sandy silt with a moderate amount of gravel and patches of manganese deposit	-	-
703	Layer	1.9	0.0-0.4	Aluvium: a firm, orangey light brown silt with some coarse sand	-	-
704	Layer	1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown silt with coarse sand and small amount of gravel	-	-

Trench 8

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained one linear feature, aligned NW-SE. One ceramic field drain, orientated NW-SE present. Four probably natural features (tree-throws) were below subsoil Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 800, overlying, old ploughsoil/subsoil 801, which overlay thin colluvium 803. The colluvium sealed natural geology 802.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.8
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
800	Layer	1.9	0.3-0.35	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	Pottery	1680-1800
801	Layer	1.9	0.3	Subsoil: old ploughsoil made of colluvial material; a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
802	Layer	1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-
803	Layer	1.9	0.1-0.15	Colluvium: a friable medium blueish silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel	-	-
804	Cut	2.2	0.44	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned NW-SE, steep and very steep sides, a base with a strong undulation (double ditch-like profile), gradual breaks of slopes, filled with deposits 805 and 806, cut into natural geology 802	-	-
805	Fill	1.05	0.24	Upper fill of ditch 804: a firm, medium brown slightly sandy silt with very occasional flecks of charcoal and no other inclusions, depth increases in the SW part of the ditch, sealed by deposit 806, overlain by colluvium 803	-	-
806	Fill	2.2	0.4	Lower fill of ditch 804: a firm, light yellowish brown slightly sandy silt with a moderate amount of gravel, frequent thin water deposited lumps of iron at the base	-	-

Trench 9

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE

Trench contained eight features. Two tree-throws were not excavated. Three of the excavated features were interpreted also as tree-throws. One feature was probably a ditch terminus. One was a pit. Also part of a structure was formed by shallow pit 908 with posthole 912. The lower fill of 908 contained Saxon potter sherds and animal bone fragments.
Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 900, overlying undulating subsoil 901, which was probably remains of N-S orientated furrows. The subsoil overlay natural geology 902.

Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Width (m)	1.9
Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
900	Layer	+1.9	0.2-0.25	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil; a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	-	-
901	Layer	+1.9	0.0-0.2	Subsoil: gently undulating, remain of N-S running furrows, a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
902	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-
903	Cut	0.77	0.18	Cut of ditch terminus: linear with a rounded end (disturbed by tree-throw 911), aligned N-S, extending southwards beyond Tr 9; moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base, filled with deposit 904, cut into natural geology 902	-	-
904	Fill	0.77	0.18	Single fill of ditch 903: a friable, medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel, sealed by topsoil 900	?	-
905	Cut	0.92	0.41	Cut of pit: extending eastwards beyond Tr 9, a length of 0.92m was exposed in the trench, irregular suboval, stepped sides – upper part gently sloping, lower very steep - gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base, cut into natural geology 902, filled with two deposits (906 and 907).	-	-
906	Fill	0.92	0.34	Upper fill of pit 905: a friable, medium brown sandy silt with only occasional pieces of gravel, sealing fill 907, overlain by topsoil 900	-	-
907	Fill	+0.2	0.03	Basal fill of pit 905: a friable, very dark brown silty sand with charcoal flecks and iron and manganese mineral stain, sealed by fill 906		
908	Cut	2.3	0.24	Cut of shallow pit: extending eastwards beyond Tr 9, within the trench asymmetrical sub-oval, 0.52m long, with gently sloping sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a flat base, cut into natural geology 902, filled with deposits 909 and 910, posthole 912 was cut within feature 908	-	-
909	Fill	2.3	0.15	Upper fill of pit 908: a friable, medium brown silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel, no other inclusions, sealed by subsoil 901, overlying 910	-	-
910	Fill	2.18	0.11	Lower fill of pit 908: a friable, very dark brown silty sand with occasional pieces of gravel and occasional charcoal flecks, overlain by fill 909	Pottery sherds, animal bone fragments	Early Anglo-Saxon (5th-7th century)
911	Cut	1.1	-	Tree-throw: amorphous in plan, not excavated, filled with a medium brown slightly sandy silt, disturbing the terminal part of feature 903	-	-
912	Cut	0.28	0.3	Post-hole: round, with straight sides, gradual break of slope, and a flat base; cut into natural geology 902, within pit 908, filled with deposit 913	-	-
913	Fill	0.28	0.3	Single fill of post-hole 912: a medium brown silty sand, with only occasional pieces of gravel, no other inclusions, no post-pipe present, sealed probably by deposit 909	-	-
914	Cut	0.28	0.07	Cut of gully terminus/natural feature: linear with a rounded end, extending southwards beyond Tr 9 – length of 0.35m within the trench, moderately steep	-	-

				sides, gradual break of slope, and a flat base, cut into natural geology 902, filled with deposit 915		
915	Fill	0.28	0.07	Single fill of gully terminus/natural feature 914: a friable, medium brown, silty sand with occasional pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 901	-	-
916	Cut	0.4	0.08	Cut of tree-throw: irregularly oval (slightly 'kidney' shaped), 0.8m long, asymmetrical sides, and a slightly undulating base, cuts natural geology 902, filled with deposit 917	-	-
917	Fill	0.4	0.08	Fill of tree-throw 916: a friable, slightly reddish medium brown silty sand with occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
918	Cut	0.45	0.09	Cut of tree-throw: irregularly oval, 1.4m long, asymmetrical sides, and a slightly undulating base, cuts natural geology 902, filled with deposit 919	-	-
919	Fill	0.45	0.09	Fill of tree-throw 918: a friable, slightly reddish medium brown silty sand with occasional pieces of gravel	-	-

Trench 10

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained six features. Two tree-throws were not excavated. Of the excavated features one represented a tree-throw, feature 1007 was a possible gully terminus, feature 1003 a pit/natural feature, and feature 1009 is a ditch Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1000, overlying subsoil 1001, which overlay natural geology 1002	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	+1.9	0.25	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium pieces of gravel	-	-
1001	Layer	+1.9	0.25	Subsoil: a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
1002	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-
1003	Cut	1.1	0.23	Cut of pit/tree-throw: extending north-eastwards beyond Tr 10, within the trench 1.35m long, sub-circular, a gently sloping side, imperceptible break of slope, and a flat base, cut into natural geology 1002, filled with deposit 1004	-	-
1004	Fill	1.1	0.23	Single fill of pit/tree-throw 1003: a friable, medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel, overlain by subsoil 1001	-	-
1005	Cut	0.85	0.17	Natural feature: extending southwards beyond Tr 10, within the trench 1.85m long, asymmetrical sides – moderately steep and gently sloping - imperceptible breaks of slopes, and a concave base, cutting natural geology 1002, filled with deposit 1006	-	-
1006	Fill	0.85	0.17	Single fill of natural feature 1005: Friable, reddish medium brown sandy silt with only occasional pieces of gravel, overlain by subsoil 1001	-	-
1007	Cut	0.35	0.45	Cut of gulley terminus/tree-throw: linear with a rounded end, aligned N-S, extending northwards beyond Tr 10; moderately steep, asymmetrical sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, and a concave base, cut into natural geology 1002, filled with deposit 1008		
1008	Fill	0.35	0.45	Single fill of gulley terminus/tree-throw 1007: a friable, medium reddish brown sandy silt, with no inclusions, sealed by subsoil 1001	-	-
1009	Cut	1.4	0.15	Cut of ditch/natural feature: linear, asymmetrical sides – SW moderately steep and NE gently sloping - a slightly concave base, filled with deposit 1010	-	-
1010	Fill	1.4	0.15	Fill of ditch/natural feature 1009: a friable, medium reddish brown sandy silt, with no inclusions,	-	-

				sealed by subsoil 1001		

Trench 11

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained no archaeological features. One natural feature (tree-throw) was exposed and not excavated. A couple of thin parallel lines, runniing N-S, thin lines within the natural geology in the NW part of the trench represented modern plough-scars Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1100, overlying subsoil 1101 (very thin and present only in some parts of the trench). Where there was no subsoil the ploughsoil overlay natural geology 1102.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	+1.9	0.28-0.33	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	-	-
1101	Layer	+1.9	0.0-0.03	Subsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel	-	-
1102	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-

Trench 12

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained ditch 1202 . One natural feature (tree-throw) was exposed. A couple of parallel thin lines, running N-S and E-W, within the natural geology, represented plough-scars. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1205, overlying subsoil 1206, which overlay natural geology 1204.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1202	Cut	3.2	0.36	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned NW-SE and extending in both directions beyond Tr 12, asymmetrical sides – NW gently sloping, SE moderately steep – imperceptible breaks of slopes, a base with slight undulation in the centre (double-ditch like), cut into natural geology 1204, filled with deposit 1203	-	-
1203	Fill	3.2	0.36	Fill of ditch 1202: a friable, medium brown silty sand with relatively frequent pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 1206	-	-
1204	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil 1206	-	-
1205	Layer	+1.9	0.28-0.3	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel	Pottery	1820-1900
1206	Layer	+1.9	0.1-0.16	Subsoil: a friable medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel, sealed by topsoil 1205, overlying natural geology 1204	-	-
1207	Cut	0.52	0.36	Cut of tree-throw: extending NW beyond Tr 12; in the trench irregular sub-oval, 1.3m long, a moderately steep side, an imperceptible break of slope, and a slightly concave base; cutting natural geology 1204, filled with deposit 1208	-	-
1208	Fill	0.52	0.36	Fill of tree-throw 1207: a medium brown, friable, sandy silt with only occasional pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 1206	-	-

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained no archaeology. Four natural features were present within the trench - all were excavated. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1300, overlying subsoil 1301, which represented remains of N-S running furrows (present only in some parts of the trench) and overlying natural geology 1302. Where there was no subsoil (former ridges) the modern ploughsoil overlay natural geology 1302.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	+1.9	0.3	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil; a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel., where there is no subsoil present, the layer overlies natural geology.	-	-
1301	Layer	+1.9	0.15	Subsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel, with undulating character – remains of furrows running N-S.	-	-
1302	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-
1303	Cut	1.45	0.45	Cut of tree-throw: slightly amorphous, extending NE beyond Tr 13 , within the trench 1.75m long, with asymmetrical sides – eastern steep, and western moderately steep - gradual breaks of slopes, and a strongly undulating base, cutting natural geology 1302, filled with deposit 1304	-	-
1304	Fill	1.45	0.45	Fill of tree-throw 1303: a friable, reddish medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel; overlain by subsoil 1301	-	-
1305	Cut	1.75	0.25	Cut of tree-throw: Extending both NE and SW beyond Tr 12; amorphous, moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a slightly undulating base, cutting natural geology 1302, filled with a friable, reddish brown silty sand with no inclusions apart from occasional pieces of gravel, overlain by subsoil 1301	-	-
1306	Cut	0.3	0.2	Cut of probably natural feature: slightly irregular oval, with moderately steep and gently sloping sides, and a slightly concave base, filled with medium brown silty sand with no inclusions apart from occasional pieces of gravel.	-	-

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained three features – probable narrow ditch terminus 1403, pit 1407, and a shallow ditch 1405. The pit contained early Neolithic pottery sherds, a hammer stone, and pieces of worked flint debitage. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1400, overlying subsoil 1401 (remain of N-S running furrows), which overlay natural geology 1402.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	+1.9	0.3	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel, overlying subsoil 1401	-	-
1401	Layer	+1.9	0.15	Subsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel, slightly undulating – remain of furrows running N-S – overlain by topsoil 1400, overlying natural geology 1402	-	-
1402	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse	-	-

				sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil 1401		
1403	Cut	0.45	0.14	Cut of narrow ditch/natural feature: linear with a rounded end, aligned ENE-WSW, extending ENE beyond Tr 14, in the trench 1.15m long, gently sloping, asymmetrical sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, a slightly concave base, cut into natural geology 1402, filled with deposit 1404	-	-
1404	Fill	0.45	0.14	Fill of narrow ditch/natural feature 1403: a friable, medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel; overlain by subsoil 1401	-	-
1405	Cut	0.82	0.1	Cut of shallow ditch: aligned N-S, extending in both directions beyond Tr 14; linear, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base, cut into natural geology 1402, filled with deposit 1406	-	-
1406	Fill	0.82	0.1	Fill of shallow ditch 1405: a medium brown, silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 1401	-	-
1407	Cut	0.95	0.2	Cut of pit: extending NE beyond Tr 14, within the trench 0.7m (probably 80% of the whole feature), sub-circular; moderately steep, symmetrical sides, a gradual break of slope, a flat base, cut into natural geology 1402, filled with deposit 1408	-	
1408	Fill	0.95	0.2	Fill of pit 1407: a friable, medium brown sandy silt with c 5% gravel, overlain by subsoil 1401	Pottery sherds, animal bone fragments, worked flint debitage, one hammerstone	Early Neolithic

Trench 15

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two features – pit 1503 and natural feature 1508 – both were excavated. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1500, overlying subsoil 1501 (with remains of N-S running furrows), which overlay natural geology 1502.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	+1.9	0.22	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel, overlying subsoil 1401	-	-
1501	Layer	+1.9	0.17	Subsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with only occasional pieces of gravel. Slightly undulating character – remain of furrows running N-S – overlain by topsoil 1400, overlying natural geology 1402	-	-
1502	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil 1401	-	-
1503	Cut	2.12	+1.4	Cut of deep pit: extending NE beyond Tr 15, in the trench subcircular, 1.3m long, vertical sides, a base not exposed, cut into subsoil 1501 and into natural geology 1502, filled with deposits 1504, 1505, 1506, and 1507	-	-
1504	Fill	2.12	0.24	Upper fill of deep pit 1503: a friable, medium greyish brown sandy silt and occasional pieces of gravel, not homogeneous (patches of reddish clay), occasional small pieces of coal, sealed by topsoil 1500, overlying fill 1505	Pottery sherds, small pieces of CBM	1820-1900
1505	Fill	2.05	0.52	Middle fill of deep pit 1503: a friable, medium brown silty sand with occasional small charcoal flecks and pieces of gravel, overlying by 1504, overlying fill 1506	Slag	-

1506	Fill	+1.0	0.58	Lower fill of deep pit 1503: a friable, dark greyish brown with occasional pieces of gravel and small charcoal flecks, sealed by fill 1505, overlying fill 1507	Pottery	1830-1880
1507	Fill	0.4	0.08	Basal fill of deep pit 1503: a friable, light brownish grey sandy silt with frequent pieces of gravel, overlain by fill 1506 (a very thin context of the same material also present alongside the vertical edges)	-	-
1508	Cut	0.2	0.1	Cut of natural feature: slightly irregularly circular, moderately steep sides, and a concave base – asymmetrical – cutting natural geology 1502, filled with deposit 1509	-	-
1509	Fill	0.2	0.1	Fill of natural feature 1508: a medium brown, sandy silt with a moderate amount of gravel stones, overlain by subsoil 1501	-	-

Trench 16

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench had only geological feature 1602. A couple of N-S orientated modern plough-scars were exposed on the natural geology level. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1600, overlying natural geology 1601, with no trace subsoil stratum in between them.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	+1.9	0.4	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel, overlying natural geology 1601	-	-
1601	Layer	+1.9	+0.3	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-
1602	Cut	1.6	0.46	Cut of geological feature: extending NW beyond Tr 16, within the trench irregular suboval, 0.56m across, a stepped side – gently sloping, gradual break of slope and very steep, a flat base, cutting natural geology 1501, filled with deposit 1603	-	-
1603	Fill	1.6	0.46	Fill of geological feature 1602: firm, compact, horizontal lenses of light yellowish brown sand and gravel (redeposited natural geology) and lenses of very dark grey and brown slightly silty sand, sealed by topsoil 1600	-	-

Trench 17

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained remains of N-S running furrows, and two natural features – one not excavated, and one recorded in section Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1700, overlying fills of furrows 1701. The deposits in the furrows were overlying natural geology 1702. Between the furrows topsoil layer 1700 sealed natural geology.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	+1.9	0.3	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel, overlying natural geology 1702 and fills of furrows 1701	-	-
1701	Layer	+1.9	0.24	Subsoil/fills of furrows 1703: a friable, medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones, overlain by topsoil 1700	-	-
1702	Layer	+1.9	+0.25	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse	-	-

				sand and gravel		
1703	Cut	+1.9	0.24	Furrows: four, N-S running furrows, of various widths and depths, with spaces between furrows also varied (3.2m, 2.5m, and 1.6m), cutting natural geology 1702, filled with deposit 1701	-	-
1704	Cut	0.45	0.2	Cut of natural feature/pit: (recorded in section only), slightly asymmetrical, moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, and a concave base, cutting natural geology, filled with deposit 1705	-	-
1705	Fill	0.45	0.2	Fill of natural feature/pit:1704: a medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones only, sealed by topsoil 1700	-	-

Trench 18

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained one small pit/posthole 1804. Geological formation 1802 was in the central part of the trench Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1800, overlying subsoil/remains of furrows 1801. The deposit in furrows overlay both geological feature 1802 and natural geology 1803	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	+1.9	0.3	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel, overlying natural geology 1802 and fills of furrows 1801, and geological formation 1802	-	-
1801	Layer	+1.9	0.2	Subsoil/fills of furrows 1703: friable, medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones. Overlain by topsoil 1700, overlying geological formation 1802 and natural geology 1803	-	-
1802	Layer	+1.9	0.3	Geological formation: a friable, light greyish brown slightly sandy silt with a moderate amount of gravel, in a gently sloping depression (13m long), sealed by subsoil 1801, overlying natural geology 1803	-	-
1803	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-
1804	Cut	0.35	0.06	Cut of small pit/posthole: Round, with moderately steep sides, and a flat base, cut into natural geology 1803, filled with deposit 1805	-	-
1805	Fill	0.35	0.06	Fill of small pit/posthole 1804: a friable, medium brown silty sand with moderate amount of gravel stones, sealed by subsoil 1801	-	-

Trench 19

General description	**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained two natural features. One large tree-throw 1902 was investigated Geological formation 1902 was in the central part of the trench Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 1901, overlying old ploughsoil 1904, which overlay natural geology 1905	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.54
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1901	Layer	+1.9	0.32	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium pieces of gravel, overlying subsoil 1904	-	-
1902	Cut	1.44	0.44	Cut of tree-throw: extending northwards beyond Tr	-	-

				19, within the trench irregular and asymmetrical, 3.4m long, asymmetrical sides – eastern slightly concave and steep, western stepped – moderately steep and undulating, an asymmetrically concave base, cutting natural geology 1905, filled with deposit 1903		
1903	Layer	+1.9	0.3	Fill of tree-throw 1902: a friable, reddish medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones, overlain by subsoil 1904	-	-
1904	Layer	+1.90	0.31	Subsoil/old ploughsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel stones, sealing natural geology 1905, overlain by topsoil 1901	-	-
1905	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained five natural features (tree-throws) – they were not excavated. Two wide ditches 2005 and 2009 and one narrow ditch 2007 had interventions excavated. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 2000, overlying subsoil/old ploughsoil 2001, which overlay natural geology 2002					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.54
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
2000	Layer	+1.9	0.26	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel, overlying subsoil 2001	-	-
2001	Layer	+1.90	0.28	Subsoil/old ploughsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel stones, sealing natural geology 2002, overlain by topsoil 2001	-	-
2002	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel with wide patches of a light greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2003	Cut	0.32	0.38	Animal burrow: extending NW and SE beyond Tr 20, semi-circular, with undercut sides, and a flat base, very gradual breaks of slope; cutting natural geology 2002 and fill 2012 of ditch 2005, filled with deposits 2004 and 2005	-	-
2004	Fill	0.32	0.38	Fill of animal burrow 2003: a firm, medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones, overlain by subsoil 2001	-	-
2005	Cut	2.7	0.66	Cut of ditch: aligned NE-SW – extending in both directions beyond Tr 20 – linear, NW edge truncated by animal burrows 2003, moderately steep and asymmetrical sides with a strong undulation at a base, cutting natural geology 2002, filled with deposits 2006 and 2012 (the latter could be a fill of re-cut within 2005)	-	-
2006	Fill	1.6	0.38	Upper fill of ditch 2005: a friable, medium brown silty sand with only very occasional sandstone gravel stones, overlain by subsoil 2001, overlying fill 2012	Pottery	Roman 1st-2nd century
2007	Cut	0.38	0.07	Cut of narrow ditch: linear, aligned WNW-ESE, moderately steep and gently sloping sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a concave base, cutting natural geology 2002, filled with deposit 2008	-	
2008	Fill	0.38	0.07	Fill of narrow ditch 2007: a friable, medium brown, sandy silt with frequent pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 2001	-	-
2009	Cut	2.3	0.29	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned WNW-ESE, moderately steep and slightly concave sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base, cutting natural geology 2002, filled with deposit 2010	-	

2010	Fill	2.3	0.29	Fill of ditch 2009: a friable, medium brown, sandy silt with pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 2001	Pottery	Roman 1st-4th century
2011	Fill	-	-	Part of fill 2004: redeposited (slid down) natural geology within animal burrow 2003	-	-
2012	Fill	2.7	0.42	Lower fill of ditch 2005: a friable, medium brown silty sand with frequent sandstone gravel stones, overlain by subsoil 2001 and by fill 2006		

Trench 21

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained five features. One wide ditch 2105, possible ditch 2103, and two gullies temini (2107 and 2109) Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 2100, overlying subsoil/old ploughsoil 2101, which overlay natural geology 2102	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.33
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2100	Layer	+1.9	0.18	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil;, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium pieces of gravel, overlying subsoil 2001	-	-
2101	Layer	+1.90	0.16	Subsoil/old ploughsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel stones, sealing natural geology 2102, overlain by topsoil 2101	-	-
2102	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel	-	-
2103	Cut	+1.85	0.62	Cut of ditch: aligned NE-SE, extending in both directions beyond Tr 21, linear, 2.35 within the trench, symmetrical, stepped sides – gently sloping and steep with gradual breaks of slopes, a concave base, cutting natural geology 2102, filled with deposit 2104	-	-
2104	Fill	+1.85	0.62	Fill of ditch 2103: a firm, medium brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones and no other inclusions, sealed by subsoil 2101	-	-
2105	Cut	5.3	-	Cut of ditch: aligned NE-SW – extending in both directions beyond Tr 20 – linear, not excavated (an intervention across this feature is in Tr 22), cutting natural geology 2102, filled with deposit 2106	-	-
2106	Fill	1.6	0.38	Fill of ditch 2105: a friable, medium brown silty sand with only very occasional sandstone gravel stones, overlain by subsoil 2101	-	-
2107	Cut	0.38	0.07	Cut of narrow ditch terminus/natural feature: linear with a rounded end, aligned N-S, extending southwards beyond Tr 21, within the trench 1.5m long , gently sloping sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, and a slightly undulating base, cutting natural geology 2102, filled with deposit 2108		
2108	Fill	0.38	0.07	Fill of narrow ditch terminus/natural feature 2007: a friable, medium brown, sandy silt with frequent pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 2101	-	-
2109	Cut	0.61	0.23	Cut of gully terminus: linear with a rounded end, aligned E-W, extending westwards beyond Tr 21, within the trench 058m long symmetrical, moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, and a slightly concave base, cutting natural geology 2102, filled with deposit 2110	-	-
2110	Fill	2.3	0.29	Fill of gully terminus 2109: a friable, medium brown, sandy silt with pieces of gravel, sealed by subsoil 2101	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained three linear features – ditches 2203 and 2207, and ditch terminus 2205. An E-W running, narrow feature cutting the natural geology 2205 represented a plough-scar. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 2200, overlying subsoil/old ploughsoil 2201, which overlay natural geology 2202					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
2200	Layer	+1.9	0.15	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium pieces of gravel, overlying subsoil 2201	-	-
2201	Layer	+1.90	0.17	Subsoil/old ploughsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel stones, sealing natural geology 2202, overlain by topsoil 2201	-	-
2202	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil 2201	-	-
2203	Cut	2.1	0.64	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned NE-SW, extending in both directions beyond Tr 22, very steep symmetrical sides, sharp breaks of slope, a flat base, cutting natural geology 2202, filled with deposit 2204	-	
2204	Fill	2.1	0.64	Fill of ditch 2203: firm, dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones and no other inclusions, sealed by subsoil 2201	Pottery, animal bone fragments, an iron blade	1550-1900
2205	Cut	1.15	0.57	Cut of pit/ ditch terminus: linear with narrowing SW end, aligned NE-SW, extending in both directions beyond Tr 20, steep sides and a concave base, cutting natural geology 2202, filled with deposit 2206	-	
2206	Fill	1.15	0.57	Fill of pit/ ditch terminus 2205: a friable, medium brown silty sand with frequent sandstone gravel, overlain by subsoil 2201	Pottery	1550-1800
2207	Cut	0.9	0.35	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned NE-SW, extending in both directions beyond Tr 22, asymmetrical sides – southern very steep, northern steep - gradual breaks of slopes, and a concave base cutting natural geology 2202, filled with deposit 2208	-	-
2208	Fill	9	0.35	Fill of ditch 2207: a firm, dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones and no other inclusions, sealed by subsoil 2201	-	-
2209	Cut		0.35	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned NE-SW, extending in both directions beyond Tr 22, asymmetrical sides – southern very steep, northern steep - gradual breaks of slopes, and a concave base cutting natural geology 2202, filled with deposit 2210	-	-
2210	Fill		0.35	Fill of ditch 2209: a firm, dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones and no other inclusions, sealed by subsoil 2201	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two linear features – ditches 2305 and 2307. Stratigraphy consisted of modern ploughsoil 2300, overlying subsoil/old ploughsoil 2301, which overlay natural geology 2302					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context	**Type**	**Width**	**Depth**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**

no.		(m)	(m)			
2300	Layer	+1.9	0.27	Topsoil: modern ploughsoil, a friable, very dark greyish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized pieces of gravel, overlying subsoil 2301	-	-
2301	Layer	+1.90	0.18	Subsoil/old ploughsoil: a friable, medium brown silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel stones, sealing natural geology 2302, overlain by topsoil 2301	-	-
2302	Layer	+1.9	+0.1	Natural geology: a firm, orangey light brown coarse sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil 2301	-	-
2303	Fill	2.2	0.38	Fill of ditch 2304: a firm, dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel stones and no other inclusions, sealed by subsoil 2301	Pottery sherds, animal bone fragments, oyster shell	Anglo-Saxon or prehistoric
2304	Cut	1.70	0.38	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned NE-SW, extending in both directions beyond Tr 23, asymmetrical sides – SE gently sloping, NW steep - a gradual break of slope, and a base with strong undulation in its centre, cutting natural geology 2302, filled with 2303	-	
2305	Cut	2.2	0.52	Cut of ditch 2304: linear, aligned NE-SW, extending in both directions beyond Tr 23, slightly asymmetrical steep sides, a gradual break of slope, and a base with two strong undulations in the central part, cutting natural geology 2302, filled with deposits 2306 and 2307	-	-
2306	Fill	1.1	0.33	Fill of ditch 2305: a friable, dark brown sandy silt with only occasional sandstone gravel, overlain by subsoil 2301, overlying fill 2307; the deposit might represent the fill of a re-cut within ditch 2305	-	-
2307	Fill	2.2	0.52	Lower fill of ditch 2305: a friable, medium brown sandy silt with frequent sandstone gravel, overlain by subsoil 2301 and fill 2306	-	-
2308	Cut	0.8	0.34	Cut of ditch: linear, aligned NE-SW, extending in both directions beyond Tr 23, asymmetrical sides – SE gently sloping, NW steep - a gradual break of slope, and a base with strong undulation in its centre, cutting natural geology 2302, filled with 2309	-	-
2309	Fill	0.8	0.34	Fill of ditch 2308: a friable, dark brown sandy silt with only occasional sandstone gravel, overlain by subsoil 2301, overlying fill 2307; the deposit might represent the fill of a re-cut within ditch 2305	-	-

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Pottery

Identified by John Cotter and Ed Biddulph and Lisa Brown

Context	Description	Date
801	1 scrap Staffordshire mottled ware (STMO)	1680 -1800
910	1 coarse rounded quartz sand + rare organic & ?quartzite. Smooth but pimply surface. Handmade? 4 slightly soapy clay with abundant well-sorted oolites and other limestone detritus. (This fabric could derive from nearby Great Oolite Series beds.) Handmade. Well-finished smoothed surfaces. Rim sherd: simple flattened, sample lacks sufficient diagnostic features, 35g	- Possibly Anglo-Saxon (5th – 7th century?) Possibly Anglo-Saxon (5th – 7th century?) but could be MIA-LIA ?
1205	1 sherd sandy glazed ware (OXY)	1075 - 1300
1408	4 sherds lightly sanded clay with moderate scatter of ill-assorted pieces of white and translucent quartzite. Handmade, thin wall, roughly smoothed. Rim sherd: simple inturning. ?Early Neolithic Plain Bowl. 36 sherds (21 from environmental sample <1400>) soapy vesicular ware. Vesicle shape and rare weathered retention suggests crushed limestone or limestone detritus. Thin wall, handmade. Rim: small upright slightly out-turned with slashes across rim top. ?Early Neolithic Decorated Bowl, 192g.	Early Neolithic Early Neolithic
1504	4 sherds - 1 refined whiteware (REFW), I post medieval redware (PMR) flowerpot, 1 Nottinghamshire stoneware (NOTS), 1 pearl ware (PEAR TR), 17g	1820 - 1900
1506	3 sherds – 2 transfer printed ware (TPW), 1 Staffordshire salt glaze ware (SWSG), 9g	1830 – 1880 1720 – 1780
2006	2 sherds – fabrics W20 and R90, 64g	1st – 2nd century
2010	Single sherd - fabric O81, 10g	1st – 4th century
2204	Small body sherd post medieval red ware (PMR), 11g	1550 - 1900
2206	Small glazed body sherd post medieval red ware (PMR), 5g	1550 - 1800
2303	1 tiny scrap with limestone detritus inclusions, 1g 1 very abraded sherd in glauconitic sandy ware with rare calcareous (?limestone) inclusions, 4g	Prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon. Not closely dateable. Could be prehistoric.

Discussion and recommendations.

The Prehistoric Pottery

B.1.1 This collection of pottery is small and much of it is not very diagnostic of date. Oolitic tempered pottery from context 910 could be either Iron Age or Saxon. There are parallels for oolitic pottery of both periods in the region and the rim sherd is too indistinct to be certain of form. Oolitic clays outcrop close to Eynsham so the pottery was locally produced. A sandy sherd from this context looks more likely to be Saxon than prehistoric, and this could indicate the later date for the deposit. The date of context

2303 is equally uncertain as the 5g of pottery could be of either prehistoric or Saxon date.

B.1.2 Context 1408 produced 40 sherds representing two distinct vessels of early Neolithic type. One corresponds most closely to Plain Bowl, with a simple, slightly inturning rim in a quartzite-tempered fabric. The second vessel is a Decorated Bowl, the rim showing closely spaced slash marks resembling vessels found, amongst other locations, at Abingdon. Both the Plain and Decorated Bowl types are post-inception types of Early Neolithic pottery, post-dating the earliest carinated forms but pre-dating the fully developed Impressed wares (Peterborough wares), and so can be dated from approximately 3600 BC. The feature that produced this pottery also yielded worked flint that can be regarded as contemporary, along with undatable hammerstones.

B.1.3 The pottery from the Neolithic pit should be quantified and described in greater detail and the rim sherds illustrated or photographed. The remainder of the possibly prehistoric pottery merits no further work.

B.2 Struck flint

by Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.2.1 A moderate assemblage of 82 struck flints and five pieces of burnt unworked flint was recovered during the evaluation. Additionally two pieces of probable worked quartzite were also recovered.

B.2.2 The assemblage was largely recovered from a single pit fill, 1408, in Trench 14. This feature accounted for 77 of the 89 pieces recovered. Based on evaluation of the flints, this feature would date to the earlier part of the Neolithic. Other Neolithic/early prehistoric flintwork was recovered from nearby trenches suggesting that the pit may form part of a more extensive Neolithic landscape.

B.2.3 The background material included several blades and two arrowheads of later Neolithic date. A classic middle Neolithic pettit-tranchet derivative arrowhead was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 18 while a poorly made but definite example of a late Neolithic chisel arrowhead was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 13.

B.2.4 One other stray find of note was a small and utilised gunflint from the topsoil in Trench 10. This piece is of post-medieval date.

B.2.5 The assemblage from pit 1408 is of note. The pieces are not fresh but display mixed, low-moderate levels of edge damage and many are broken, burnt or both. However, the assemblage forms a cohesive entity and most probably relates to the collection and deposition of middened material from earlier Neolithic domestic activity.

B.2.6 The pit assemblage does not contain any fully culturally diagnostic pieces and a date in any part of the Neolithic could be possible. It is not particularly blade heavy but blades do form a small component of it and are well represented in the recovered tools. The core is typical of early Neolithic industries while the full range of rejuvenation pieces including a core tablet also suggests an earlier rather than late Neolithic date.

B.2.7 The tools recovered consist of two retouched flakes, an end truncation and five microdenticulates. In addition to this, several pieces have also been utilised. The retouched flakes are not diagnostic but are both on thin, well made flakes. The end truncation could date from the Mesolithic or the Neolithic. The microdenticulates are more diagnostic, although these tools have a wide range of dates, the very well executed examples with clearly defined and regularly spaced teeth are usually found in

early or middle Neolithic contexts. Here, three display such well spaced teeth and the others have been so heavily utilised that they may have also had these. Two of these clearly show gloss along their working edges and a third is burnt. They are in a mix of single and dual sided examples, usually utilising a naturally concave lateral margin for the cutting edge and most likely indicate plant processing on site.

B.2.8 Overall, the pit assemblage would most likely date to the early Neolithic although a middle Neolithic date could not be ruled out. The assemblage is typical of earlier Neolithic assemblages where there is no structural deposition in the fill sequence but there is a structured collection of material to fill the pit (Garrow 2007, Lamdin-Whymark 2008). This can be seen here by the high levels of broken tools, mix of other forms but near total lack of knapping chips, clearly a selective assemblage.

B.2.9 These pits are often found in inter-related clusters. Because of this, and the background scatter 'noise' of Neolithic tool forms, the potential for further discoveries of note in this location should be seen as high.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
1000	Flake x2	inner, misc trimming	Both soft-hammer struck	EPH?
1000	Blade	misc trimming		EPH
1000	Gunflint		Small, possibly from pistol	Post-Med
1205	Flake	inner		
1300	Chisel arrowhead		Quite poorly made but clear example of a chisel arrowhead	Late Neolithic
1408	Flake	Distal trimming	Soft-hammer struck	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Flakes x 22	Inner	Some quite early looking flakes, very thin and regular, mix of bulb and platform types, some show signs of use, 4 are burnt	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Flakes x 9	Misc trimming	8Most are soft-hammer, quite thin, 3 are burnt	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Flakes x 7	Preparation flakes	Two are burnt, one of which may have been an end scraper, one is in quartzite but may be accidental	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Flakes x 4	Side trimming	Two are burnt, one is in quartzite but may be accidental	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Blades x 3	Inner	Two blades and one bladelet, one hard-hammer example is typically Neolithic	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Irregular waste		Seven pieces, two of which are burnt	
1408	Rejuvenation flakes x 2	Inner flakes		Earlier Neolithic
1408	Core tablet	Side trimming flake		Earlier Neolithic
1408	Crested bladelet	Distal trimming bladelet	Single and probably full crest but snapped distal so full extent unknown	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Core	Multiplatform flakes	Only flake removals but has distinct cubic form of early Neolithic cores	Earlier Neolithic

1408	Micro-denticuates x 3	Distal trimming blades x 2, side trimming blade x 1	Mix of single and double sides examples, some very well made, all have been used	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Micro-denticuates x 2	Core rejuvenation and side trimming flakes	Utilisation concave lateral margins on irregular flakes, single and dual example, both have been used	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Retouched flakes x 2	Inner & distal trimming	Both are broken segments of quite thin regular flakes	Earlier Neolithic
1408	End truncation	Preparation flake	Concave end truncation on prep flake	Earlier Neolithic
1408	Chips x 6	sieved		
1408	Burnt-unworked		5 pieces weighing 7g	
1800	Petit-tranchet arrowhead		Classic PTD, quite rolled	Middle Neolithc
1800	Bladelet	Inner	Proximal segment may be miss-hit microburin	EPH
2204	Flake	Inner		
2303	Flakes x 2	Misc trimming	One soft-hammer example	EPH?
2303	Chip			

B.3 Animal bone

Identified by Lena Strid

all bones are fragmentary unless stated

Context	Description
910	1 sheep/goat mandible, 6-12 months age, 16g
1408	1 sheep femur, 2 cattle teeth upper jaw, 2 cattle teeth lower jaw, 97g 54 pieces from environmental sample <1400> including 1 mouse/vole tibia, 1 cattle ear bone, 1 large mammal vertebra & 40 fragments of indeterminate burnt bone, 41g
1506	1 indeterminate fragment, 5g
2010	1 cattle rib, 14 indeterminate fragments, 72g
2204	1 medium mammal long bone, 3g
2303	6 indeterminate fragments - ?large mammal long bone, 8g
2306	13 pieces from environmental sample <2300> including 1 frog/toad long bone, 1 snake vertebra, 1 cattle cheek tooth, 13g

Discussion and recommendations.

B.3.1 The animal bone assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.4 Ceramic building material

Identified by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date

801	2 scraps fired clay or cbm, 4g	Undateable
1200	1 limestone tempered ridge tile edge, 17g	1175 - 1350
1504	2 worn scraps – 1 red post medieval roof tile and 1 scrap tile, 21g	16th – 19th century
1505	3 shapeless scraps from sample <1501>, 3g	Undateable
1506	1 worn scrap of red brick, 37g	17th – 18th century

Discussion and recommendations.

B.4.1 The ceramic building material assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work at this stage.

B.5 Slag

Identified by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
1504	Small fragment fused coal/slag, 9g	Post-medieval
1505	Fragment of slag, 35g	Post-medieval

Discussion and recommendations.

B.5.1 The slag assemblage, from post medieval features, is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.6 Fired clay

Identified by Cynthia Poole

Context	Description
910	2 coarse rounded quartz sand + rare ?quartzite. Both surfaces flat, unevenly fired, ? fired clay. 15g
1408	1 fragment 5g
1504	24 fragments 70g

Discussion and recommendations.

B.6.1 Most fragments were small, shapeless, crumbly/friable scraps, with a very low mean fragment weight of 3g. One piece from 1504 was larger measuring *c* 40mm x 30mm x 25mm. It has a rough curved exterior surface whilst the broken core exhibited organic impressions probably chaff or broken cereal straw. The piece is non-diagnostic, though the deliberate addition of organic temper is most common in oven or hearth furniture. A second shaped fragment with two flat moulded surfaces from 910 appeared to derive from a thin flat slab or plate c.12mm thick, but was not typical of any known fired clay forms.

B.6.2 The assemblage is undateable and undiagnostic, though likely to derive from oven or hearth structures used for domestic or crop processing activities.

B.7 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.7.1 Three pieces of utilised stone were recovered from context 1408. Two have been used as rubbers, but not of the sort used for processing grain. The largest example is slightly facetted down its long edges and heavily worn and facetted on one end. The wear on the smaller example is less distinctive and could be natural, but the pebble is of an unusual sub-square section. The third stone from this feature is a pebble that has seen some use as a hammerstone. All three stones are of quartzite and weigh, respectively, 585g, 182g and 123g. These rubbed stones could have been used for grinding grain, but not in the typical sense of a rubber because the wear is on the end, rather than the faces. It's more likely they were used for processing other materials, plants, nuts or seeds. Two struck flakes of quartzite were also found in context 1408. Given the other tools in this feature, it seems likely that the flakes were associated and they may represent the working of quartzite on site, but its not clear that they were actually utilised.

B.7.2 Other retained items include some fossilised shell fragments and some small pieces of burnt sandstone from processing. None of these need to be retained.

B.8 Iron

Identified by Ian Scott

4.3.2 There are just four metal finds, three iron and one copper alloy together with two small pieces of possible slag.

Context	Description
1501	Slag. Two small pieces of iron slag (magnetic). Not measured. Sample 1501
1504	Dress or sewing pin with large moulded head. Cu alloy Bent. L; c 30mm. Sample 1500
1505	Block. Small dense iron block, possible cut. 36mm x 23mm x 10mm. Sample 1501
2201	Nail. Fe, hand made with tapering rectangular section stem and small pyramidal head.60mm
2204	Blade. Fe, A small roughly triangular blade of triangular cross-section with straight cutting edge and slightly curve back. The tang is probably bent. Probably hand forged L: 70mm. L of blade: 51mm; W of blade: 20mm.

B.8.1 Neither object is closely datable. The small blade may be specialised tool but its purpose is uncertain. A bag of iron pan context 806 can be discarded.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Sample 1400 (context 1408) was taken from the fill of a pit 1407 in Trench 14. Samples 1500 (context 1504) and 1501 (context 1505) were taken from the fills of pit 1503 in Trench 15. Sample 2000 (context 2006) was from ditch 2005 within Trench 20 and sample 2300 (context 2306) was from the fill of ditch 2305 in Trench 23.

Methodology

4.3.3 These samples were processed for charred plant remains (CPR) by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains.

4.3.4 The dried flot was scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.

4.3.5 Seed identifications were made with reference to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

Results

C.1.2 Sample 1400 was a brown sandy silt loam (7.5YR 4/4). Pottery, mammal bone and worked flint was recovered from the residue. The sample yielded approximately 200ml of flot material of which 25% was scanned.

C.1.3 Sample 1500 was a reddish brown sandy silt loam (5YR 4/3). A small amount of burnt clay was recovered from the residue together with a small quantity of burnt stone and a copper alloy pin. The sample yielded approximately 50ml of flot material of which 100% was scanned.

C.1.4 Sample 1501 was a very pale brown loamy sand (10YR 7/4). A small amount of burnt clay was recovered from the residue together with a small quantity iron fragments and some modern glass. The sample yielded approximately 100ml of flot material of which 50% was scanned.

C.1.5 Sample 2000 was a strong brown sandy silt loam (7.5YR 5/8). A small amount of burnt stone was recovered from the residue. The sample yielded approximately 25ml of flot material of which 100% was scanned.

C.1.6 Sample 2300 was a strong brown sandy silt loam (7.5YR 5/8). A small amount of mammal bone and burnt stone was recovered from the residue. The sample yielded approximately 50ml of flot material of which 100% was scanned.

C.1.7 The flots from all samples were very rich in modern fine roots and contained very little charcoal. Small snail shells were noted in all observed fractions of flot material.

C.1.8 Sample 1400 (context 1408) which is believed to be Neolithic in date, contains the best preserved charcoal of the samples from this site, although it does not seem likely that species identification is possible due to the small size of the fragments. A quantity of hazelnut shell fragments were extracted from the flot, together with two badly degraded fragments of cereal grain. One grain would appear to be wheat (Triticum sp.) while the other was too fragmented to identify.

C.1.9 Samples 1500 and 1501 which are post-medieval in date contained amounts of slag/clinker within the flots. The charcoal was poorly preserved and while both samples contained Amaranthaceae seeds, these were in poor condition and could not be

identified to species. Sample 1500 contained a quantity of badly degraded wild plant seeds which have not been identified together with fragments of straw and an unidentifiable cereal grain. Fragments of damaged chaff were observed but not further identified.

C.1.10 Sample 2000 contains very little charred material, occasional small fragments of charcoal were noted and a single grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*).

C.1.11 Sample 2300 also contains very little charred material. Two unidentified grain fragments, a small legume (<2mm) fragment and two seeds of ivy leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) are present with occasional small charcoal.

C.1.12 The inorganic finds from the sample are included in the finds compendium for the site.

Conclusions and Recommendations

C.1.13 The flots from this site are mostly poor in condition or contain very little useable material. All samples contained large amounts of modern roots, snail shells and poor condition wild plant seeds.

C.1.14 The exception is sample 1400 which is both well preserved and contains material useful for dating the deposit if this is required.

C.1.15 If further work is carried out on this site, features similar to pit 1407 should be sampled in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. Oxford Archaeology, 2005 and English Heritage, 2011).

Appendix D. Bibliography and References

BGS British Geological Survey website
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

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Stace, C. 2010. (third edition). *New Flora of the British Isles.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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Summary of Site Details

Site name: Polar Technology Eynsham, Oxfordshire

Site code: EYPO16

Grid reference: 442762 208827

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: Late March to early April 2016

Area of site: c. 4.6ha

Summary of results:

During the latter part of March and early April 2016 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation ahead of the submission of a planning application on land to the south of Eynsham, Oxfordshire, centred on NGR 442762 208827. The southern part of the site falls within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The evaluation comprised 20 trenches targeted on both geophysical anomalies and cropmarks, and also to test potential blank areas. Within the northern and central part of the site several undated ditches were identified, as well as a flat based pit which contained pottery of 5th-7th century date, and could represent a sunken featured building. Within the scheduled area a pit containing struck flint, pottery, animal bone and charred hazel nut shells is likely to be of early Neolithic date. Other ditches present were of probable Roman and post-medieval date, although very little datable material was recovered.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2016.28

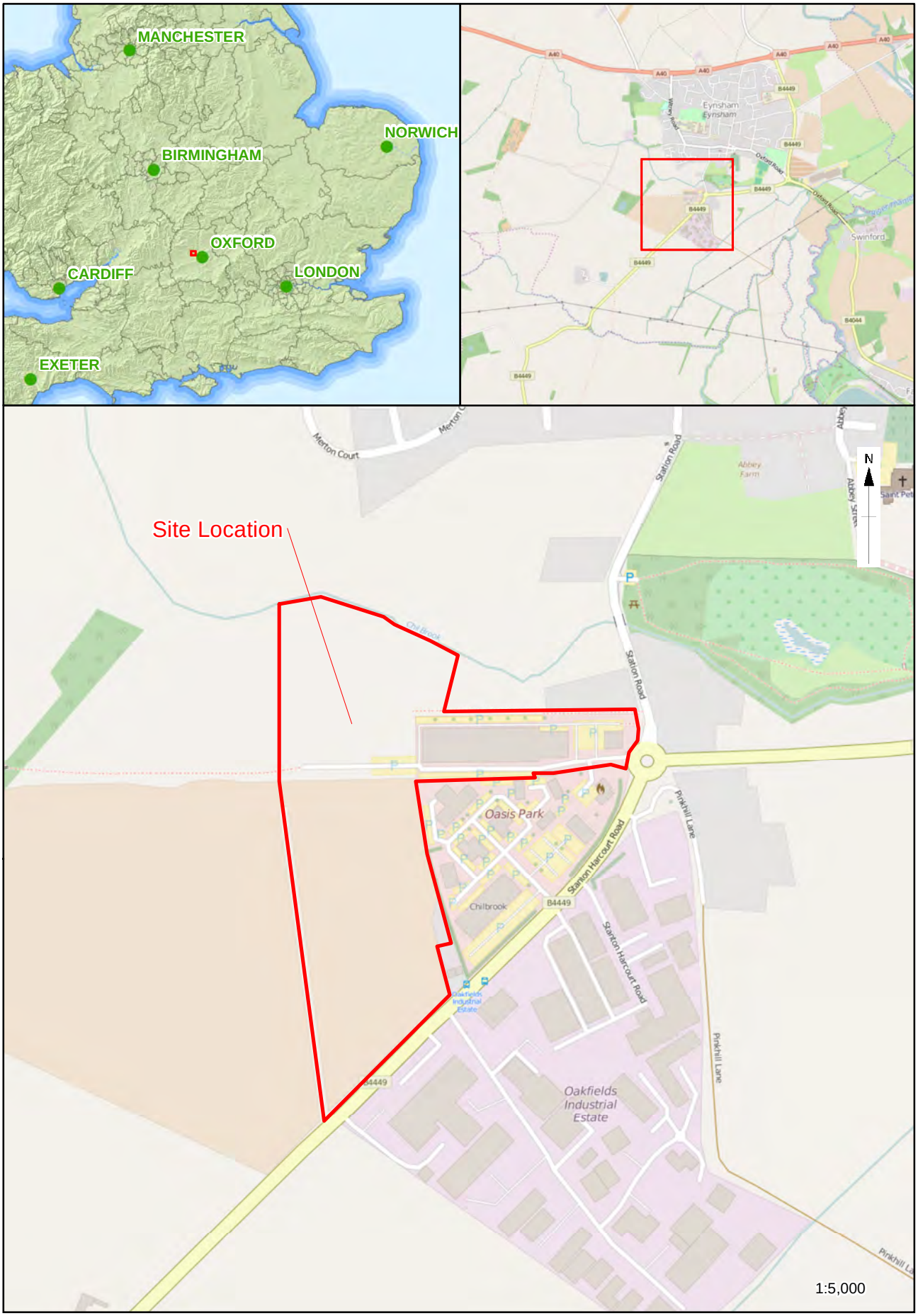


Figure 1: Site Location

442600
209100

443100
209100

N

Trench 3

Trench 4

Trench 5

504

Trench 2

Trench 1

Trench 6

Trench 8

808

807

804

S.800

Trench 7

1003

S.1000

Trench 10

1007

S.1002

1005

S.1001

1009

S.1003

Trench 9

916

903

S.900

912

905

S.903

908

S.902

918

914

Trench 11

Trench 12

1207

1202

S.1200

Trench 13

Trench 14

S.1401

1407

1405

1403

S.1400

Trench 15

Trench 17

1503

1508

Trench 16

Trench 18

Trench 19

2305

S.2301

Trench 20

2304

S.2001

2005

S.2300

2308

S.2000

Trench 23

2007

2207

2009

S.2202

2209

2203

2205

S.2200

S.2201

Trench 22

2109

S.2102

2105

2103

S.2100

Trench 21

442600
208400

100 Feature Number

S.100 Section Number

Archaeological feature

Unopened trench

Evaluation trench

Cropmarks from aerial photography

Geophysical anomaly

Ridge and furrow from geophysics

Site limits

Scheduled ancient monument with site limits

Scheduled ancient monument

0 50 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

CHECKED BY: MB*29/01/16

Figure 2: Trench locations showing geophysical anomalies and cropmarks

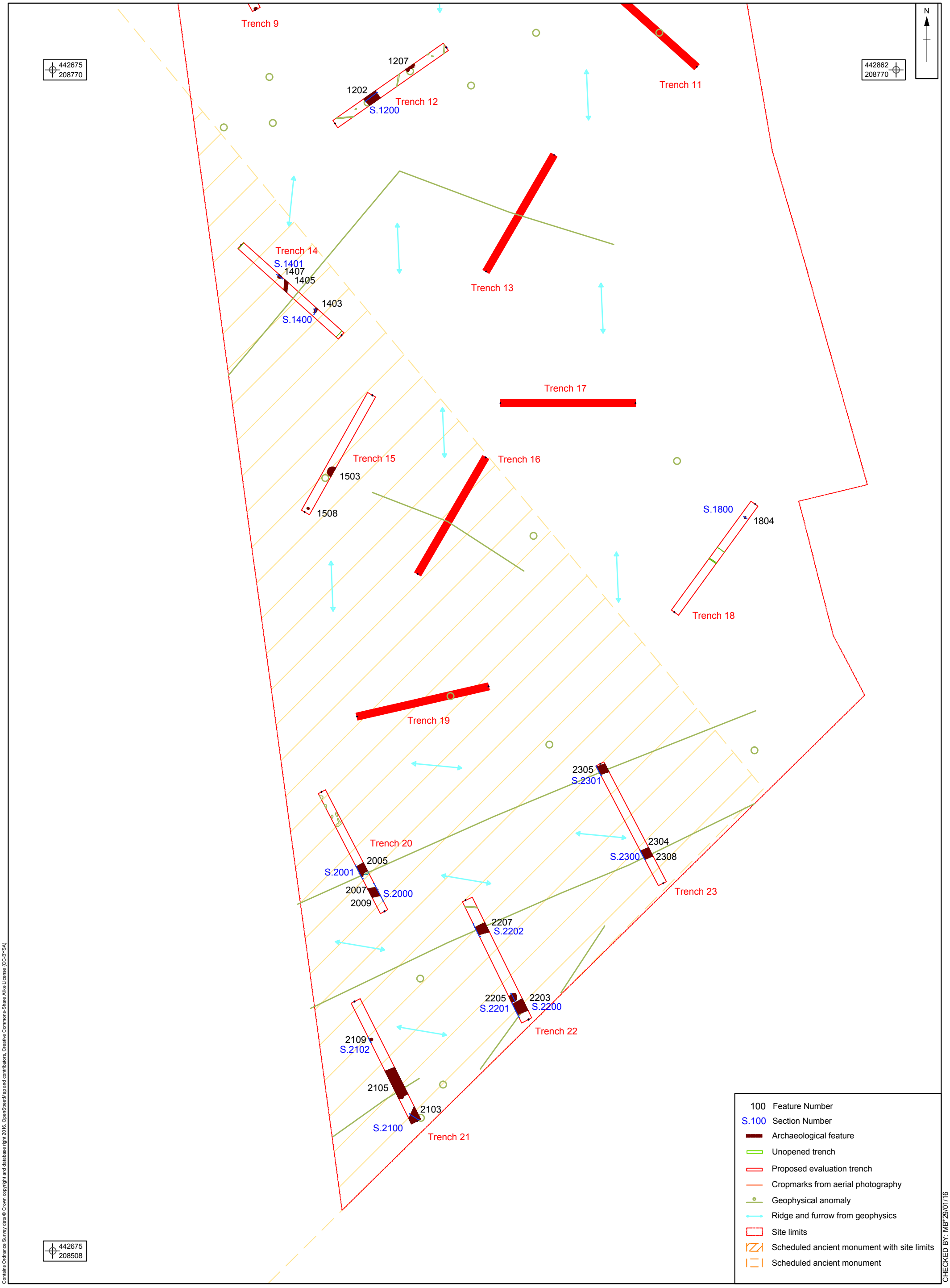
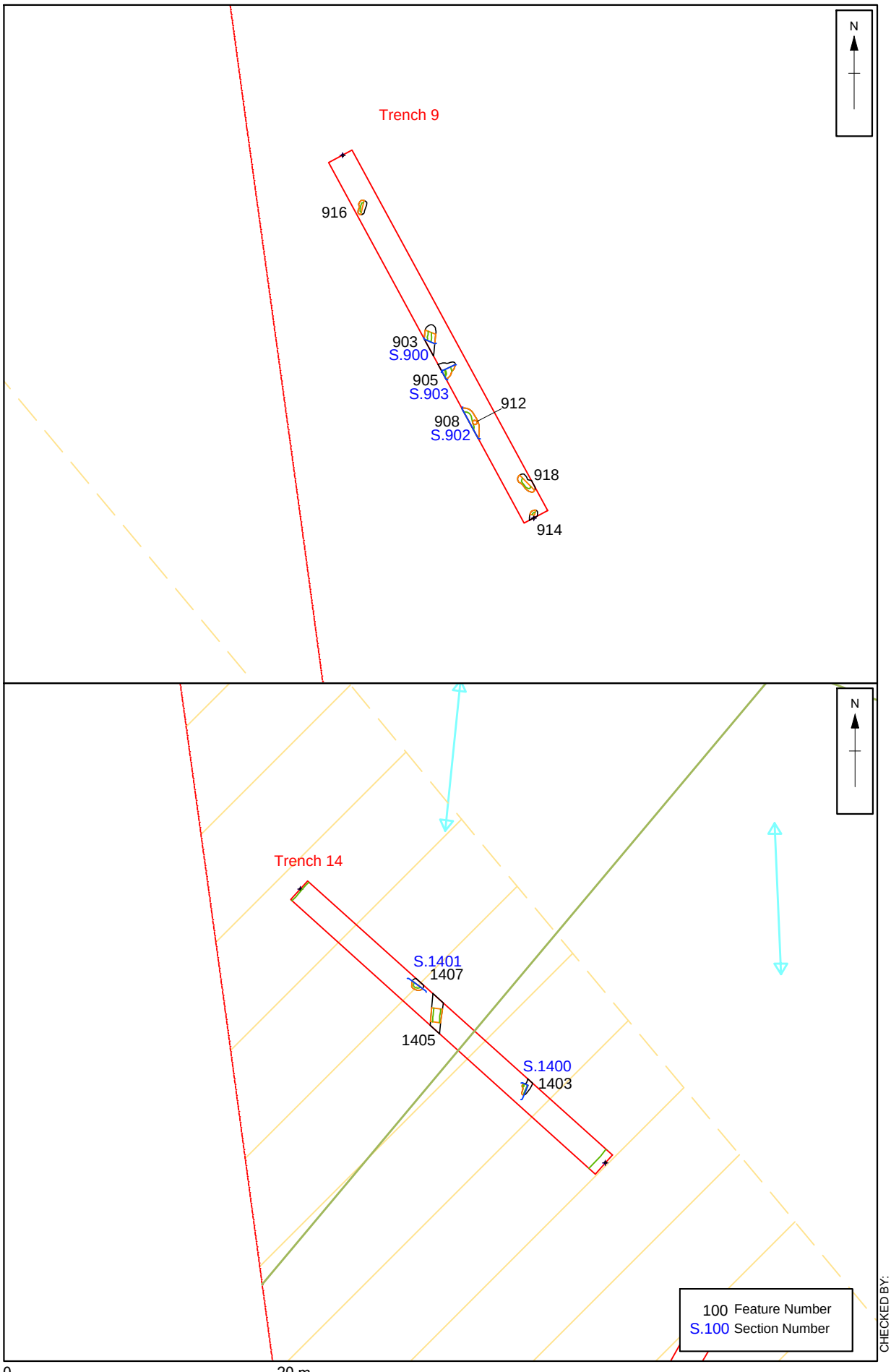


Figure 3: Trenches in the Scheduled Area



C:\Users\victoria.hosegood\appdata\local\temp\AcPublish_5960\EYPOEV Eynsham Polar Technology_280416.dwg(TR9+14)*19107*EYPOEV*Polar Technology, Eynsham*victoria.hosegood* 29 Apr 2016

Figure 4: Trenches 9 and 14

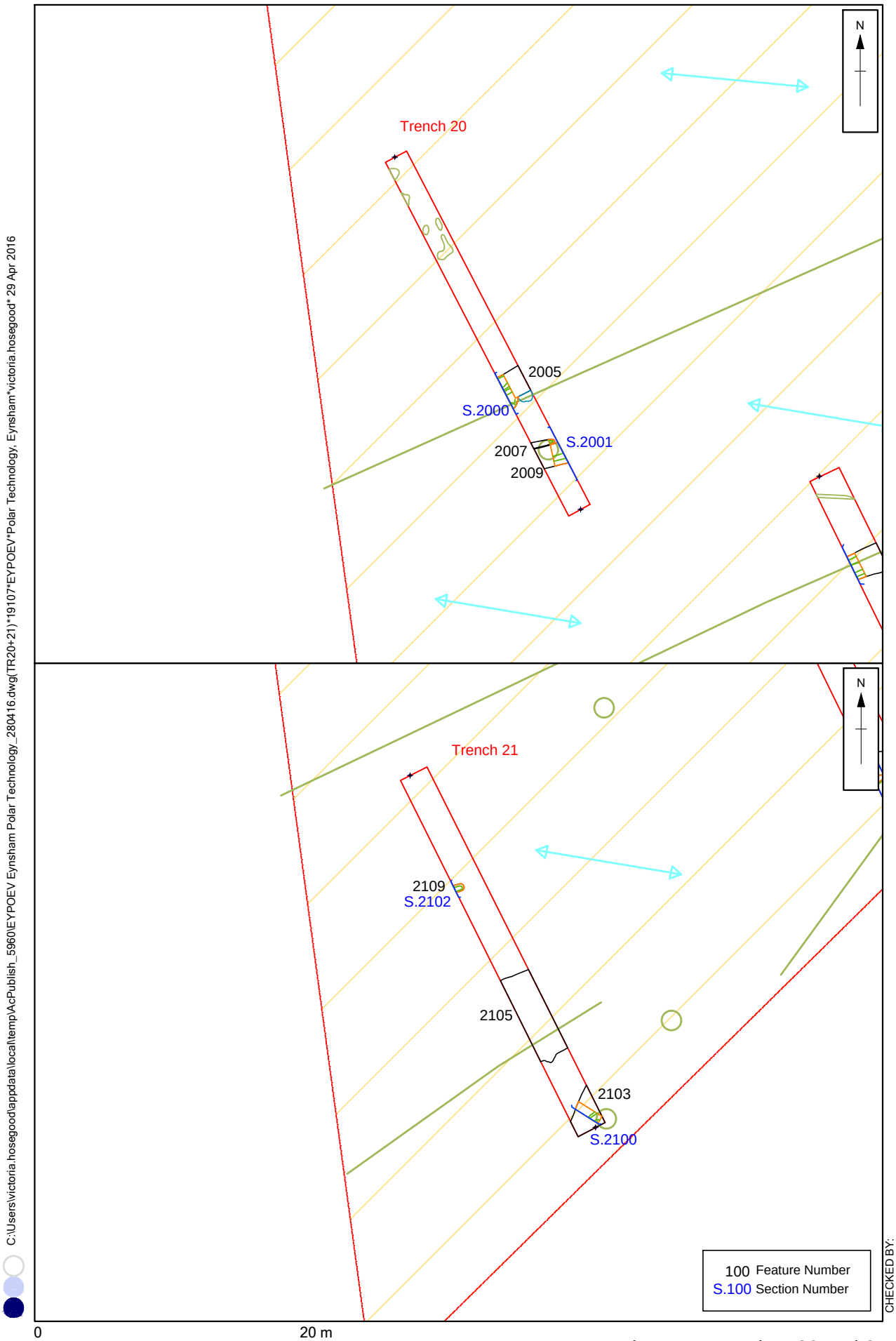


Figure 5: Trenches 20 and 21

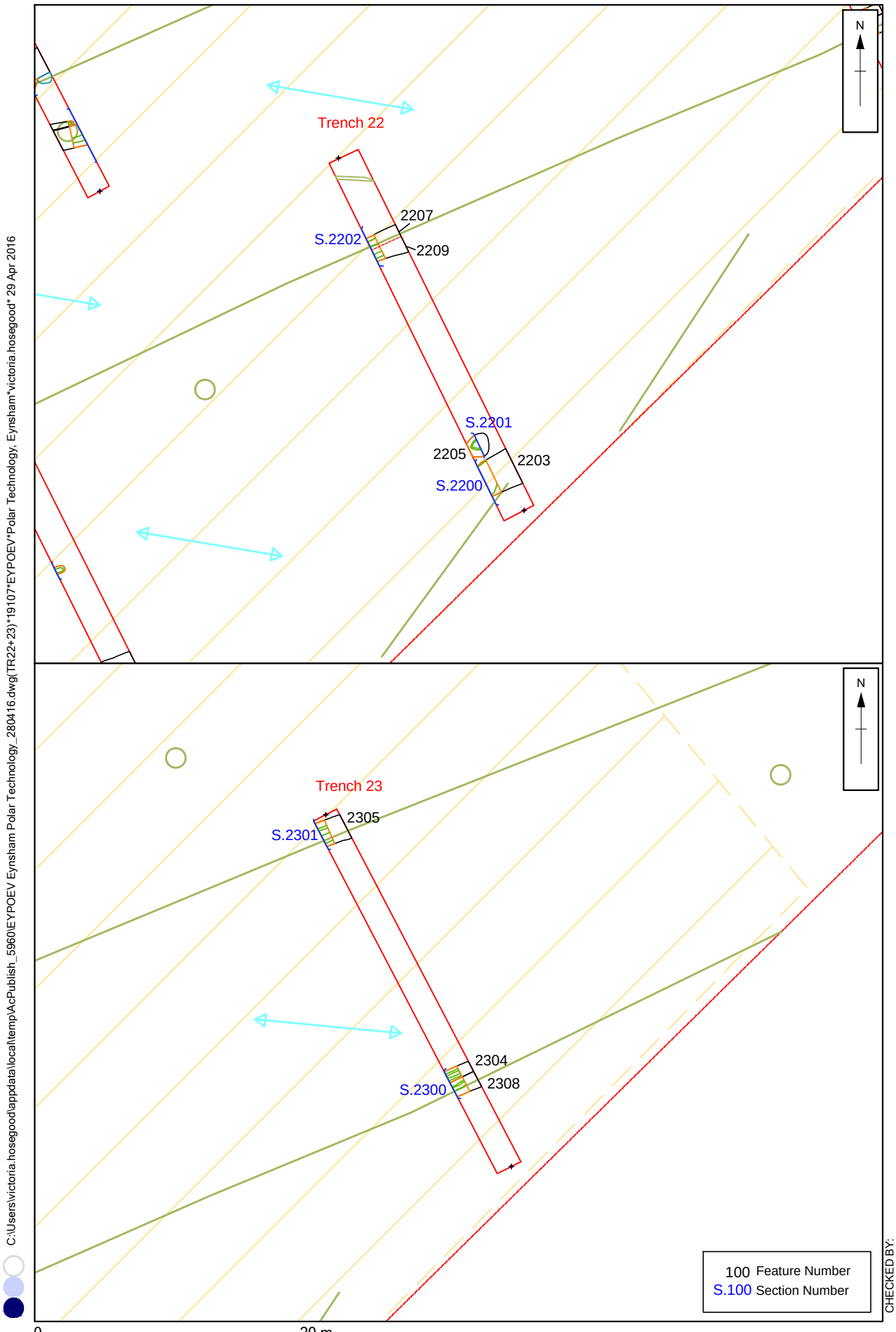


Figure 6: Trenches 22 and 23

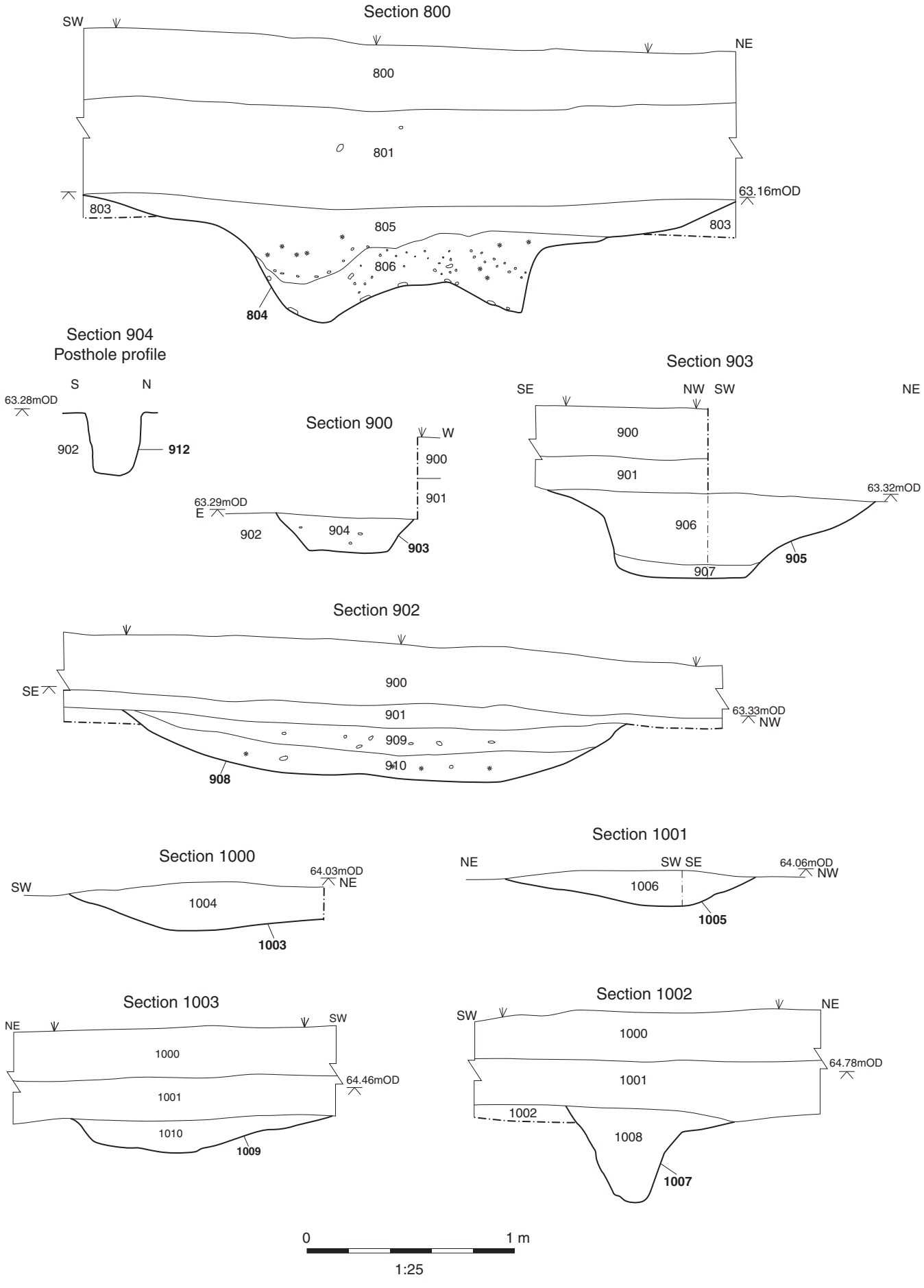


Figure 7 : Sections from Trenches 8, 9 and 10

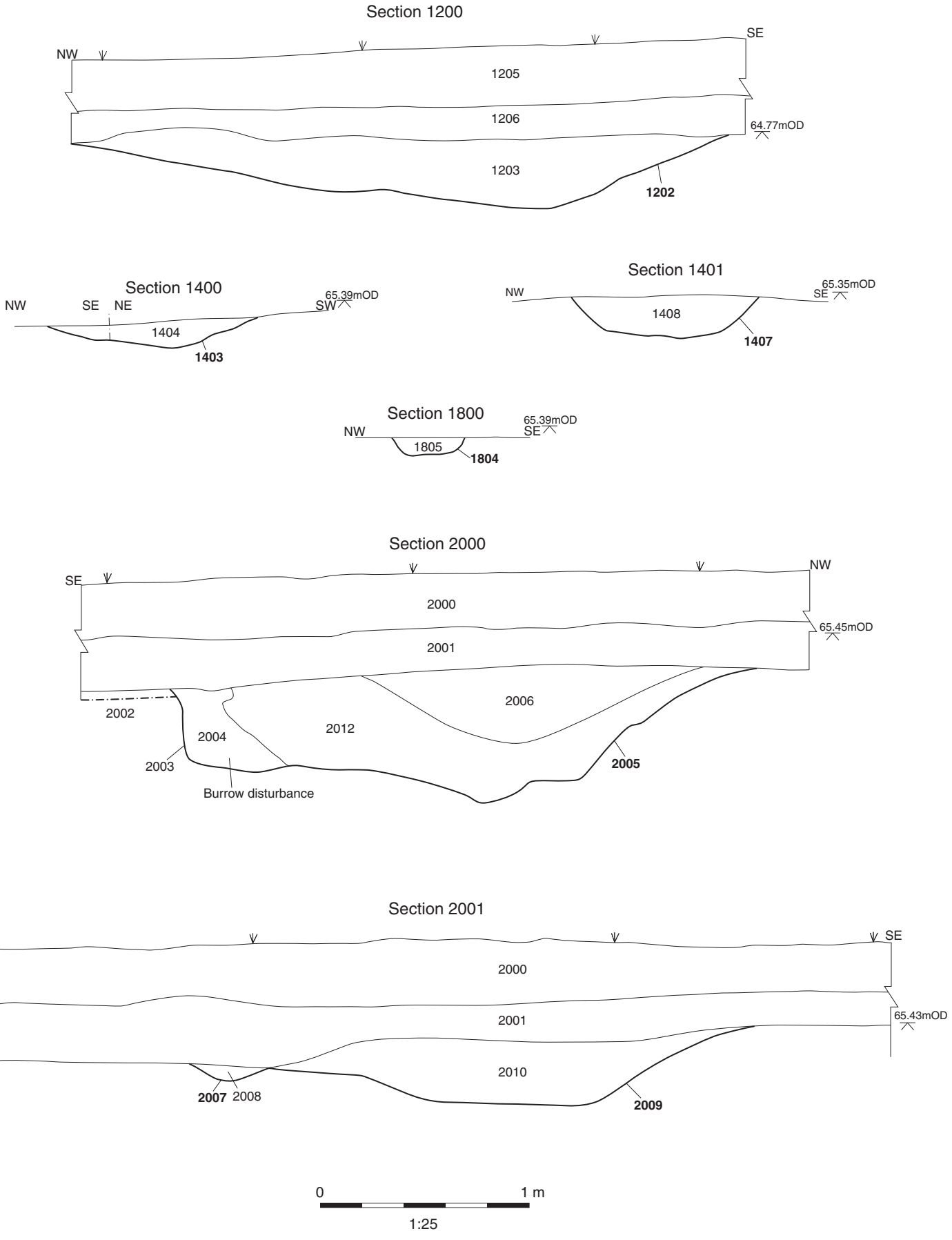


Figure 8: Sections from Trenches 12, 14 18 and 20

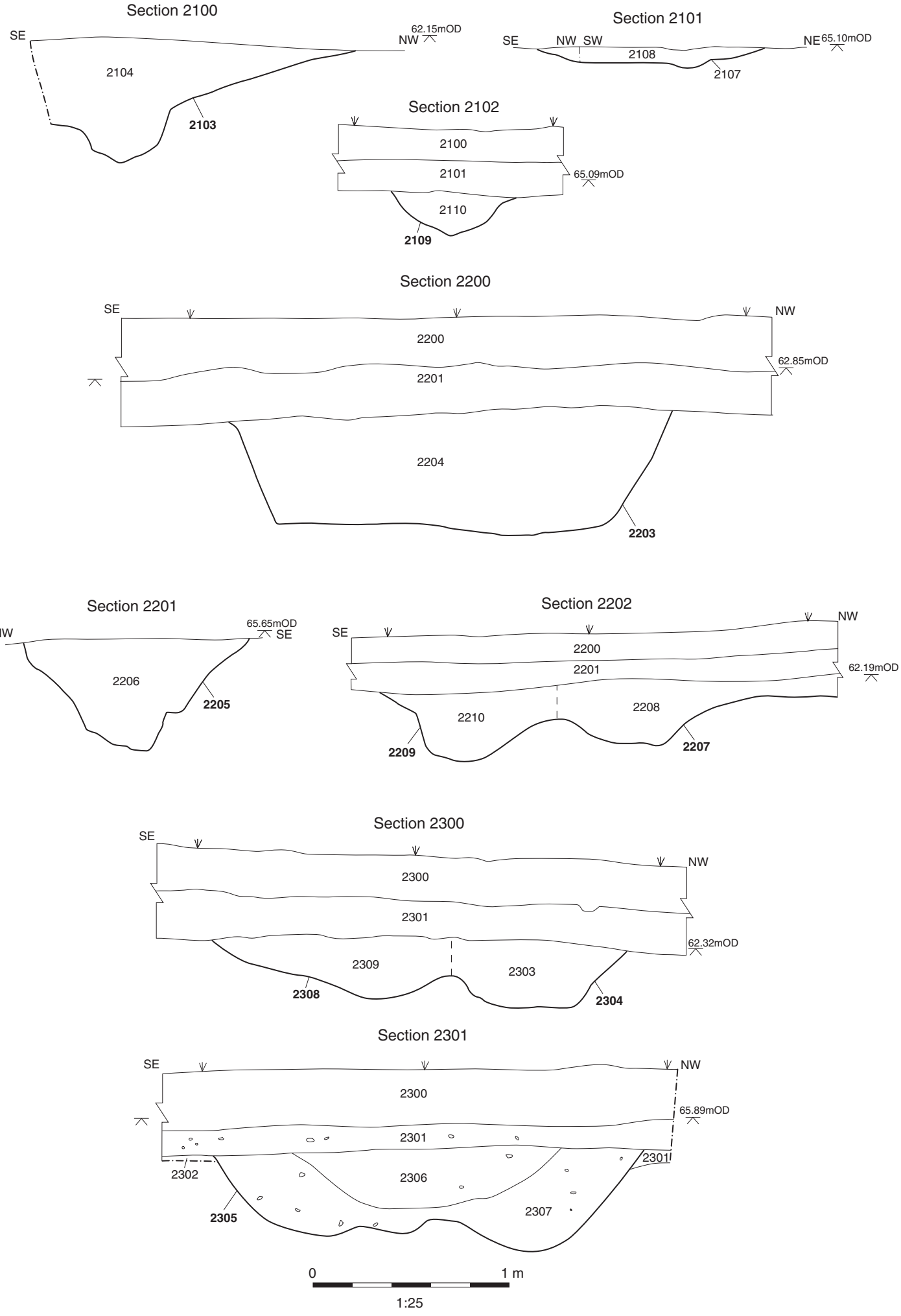


Figure 9: Sections from Trenches 21, 22 and 23

Plate 1 Feature 908 Trench 9

Plate 2 Pit 1407 Trench 14

Plate 3 Ditch 2005 Trench 20

Plate 4 Ditch 2203 Trench 22

Plate 5 Ditches 2207 and 2209 Trench 22

Plate 6 Ditch 2304 Trench 23

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