Land to the East of Whelford Road, Kempsford, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

February 2018

Client: Pye Homes

Issue No: 1
OA Reference No: 6816
NGR: SU 1590 9700

oxfordarchaeology
southsouthsouth

Client Name:	Pye Homes
Document Title:	Land to the East of Whelford Road, Kempsford, Gloucestershire
Document Type:	Evaluation Report
Report No.:	1
Grid Reference:	SU 1590 9700
Planning Reference:	17/02224/FUL
Site Code:	OAKWR17
Invoice Code:	OAKWREV
Receiving Body:	Corinium Museum
Accession No.:	To be issued by the museum on submission of the archive
OA Document File Location:	X:\o\OAKWREV_Whelford_Road_Kempsford_Glos\002Reports\03_Evaluation
OA Graphics File Location:	\\10.0.10.86\Projects\o\OAKWREV_Whelford_Road_Kempsford_Glos\010Geomatics\01 PDFs
Issue No:	1
Date:	February 2018
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Land to the East of Whelford Road, Kempsford, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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With contributions from Edward Biddulph and Lee Broderick and illustrations by Caroline Souday and Sophie Lamb

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by West Waddy ADP on behalf of Pye Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Whelford Road, Kempsford, Gloucestershire in advance of proposed residential development. The trial trench evaluation followed a geophysical survey and comprised a 2% sample by area of the site, equating to nine trenches each measuring 30 x 1.8m.

The evaluation uncovered a complex of archaeological features mostly situated in the western half of the site that corresponded closely with the results of the geophysical survey. Dating evidence was limited to only three sherds of pottery, but these indicate activity from the middle Iron Age and Roman periods.

A possible small rectilinear enclosure was dated to the middle Iron Age and a penannular gully, possibly a roundhouse, may be of similar date, as may a second gully identified by the geophysical survey to the south of Trench 4.

The Roman features appear to represent a N-S trackway with a second trackway branching off to the west. Other ditch features may represent boundary ditches of enclosures adjoining the trackway.

An undated L-shaped feature in the north-western part of the site is likely to be part of a rectilinear enclosure.

The features in the eastern part of the site were modern or undated, although some may nevertheless be associated with the complex to the west.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank West Waddy ADP (planning consultants) for commissioning this project on behalf of Pye Homes. Thanks are also extended to Charles Parry, Planning Archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council, for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence. The fieldwork was directed by Paul Murray, who was supported by George Gurney and Katie Sutton. Survey and digitising was carried out by Mathew Reynolds. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by West Waddy ADP on behalf of Pye Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Whelford Road, Kempsford, Gloucestershire in advance of residential development.

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken prior to determination of a planning application (planning ref: 17/02224/FUL). A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the scope, aims and methods of the evaluation necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2017a). This document was submitted to and approved by Charles Parry, Planning Archaeologist at Gloucestershire County Council, prior to the start of the fieldwork.

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

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located in the middle of the village of Kempsford within the Cotswold district of Gloucestershire and is centred on NGR SU 1590 9700 (Fig. 1). The site boundary encompassed an area of *c* 2.5ha and is bounded on its eastern, southern and western sides by residential developments, and by arable farmland to the north. The site is currently used for arable cultivation and is level ground lying at approximately 79m OD.

1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology is Oxford Clay Formation, mudstone deposits which were laid down 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic period. This is overlain by superficial deposits comprising the Summertown-Radley Second gravel terrace, laid down in the Quaternary Period (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment has previously been undertaken by OA and this provides a detailed account of the site history (OA 2017b). The following is summary of the information presented in the assessment.

Prehistoric (500,000 BP-AD 43)

1.3.2 No finds or features from the Palaeolithic-Neolithic periods have been recorded within the site or surrounding area. No certain Bronze Age finds or features have been recorded, although there are numerous circular cropmarks north of the site which may be the ring ditches of Bronze Age round barrows.

1.3.3 Early Iron Age activity represented by pits, gullies and postholes has been recorded to the west of the site (Hoad 2006). Partially articulated remains from at least nine individuals were found within one of the excavated pits with no dating material, but were tentatively phased to the Iron Age due to the proximity of other Iron Age remains.

1.3.4 An evaluation at Top Road, 450m to the north-west of the site, revealed ditches and a pit dating to the Iron Age period. The results of a geophysical survey and cropmark analysis demonstrated that the features were situated within a wider complex of linear

features which are likely to be Romano-British in date (OA 2017c). It is likely that at least some represent the continuation of activity from the middle or late Iron Age into the Romano-British period.

1.3.5 Several sub-circular features have been recorded within this landscape, and have been interpreted as the remains of roundhouses, enclosures and pit clusters. These features are clustered at three locations and have been interpreted as evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British settlement remains. They include cropmarks comprising circular features, pits and linear features that extend into the site.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

1.3.6 The surrounding landscape is within an important Romano-British agricultural landscape noted for its dense concentration of settlements, enclosures and field systems. The cropmarks within the site and in the wider landscape covers some 12ha, and to the north appear to represent a multi-phased settlement and/or system of animal management. The focus of this appears to be *c* 400m to the north of the site. While these cropmarks strictly remain undated, similar trackways and enclosures have been excavated near to the site, and these primarily date to the Romano-British period.

1.3.7 The cropmarks within the site include an almost square enclosure containing a pit, located in the south-east corner of the site. Two larger, less regular, features are present to the east just outside the enclosure. Further to the east still are two intersecting ditch defined trackways and a linear feature. The western trackway runs into the area of recent housing development to the west. The northern fork of the trackway can be followed some 750m where it joins a complex of enclosures, pits, trackways, other linear and circular features.

Early medieval (AD 410-1066)

1.3.8 The village of Kempsford has its origins in the early medieval period and appears to have been mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of AD 800 as 'Cymeresford'. While no early medieval remains have been recorded within the site, Saxon inhumations have been recorded 550m to the north-west of the site and 950m south of the site.

Later medieval (1066-1550)

1.3.9 Kempsford is recorded in the Domesday Book as comprising a very large population of 69 households, assessed at 21 geld units. The lord in 1066 was Asgot of Hailes, recorded as the lord of five other manors in the north of Gloucestershire. The lord in 1086 was Arnulf of Hesdin who also held five other manors in Gloucestershire.

1.3.10 Aerial photographs from the 1940s show extensive ridge and furrow earthworks across the wider landscape. Ridge and furrow earthworks are still present in the fields to the east and north-east of the site although no such remains extend into the site itself. The ridge and furrow earthworks in the field to the north-east suggest that the present-day field was once divided into four smaller fields. This contrasts with the layout shown in the 1801 Inclosure map, suggesting that the ridge and furrow in this field predates the Inclosure survey.

Post-medieval (AD 1550-1900)

1.3.11 Within the wider landscape there is evidence for the continuation of the area as a rural agricultural village from the medieval to the post-medieval period. The 1801 Inclosure map of Kempsford shows the historic core of the village structured around High Street, with houses on very few other roads. The site was located immediately north of domestic properties, with fields to the north, east and west. The Ordinance Survey map of 1875 (published 1882) shows the site with the current boundaries.

20th century

1.3.12 The OS map published in 1923 shows a rectangular building in the eastern part of the site. Up to three buildings are shown in this area on both the 1946 and 1975 aerial photographs.

Geophysical survey

1.3.13 A geophysical survey was also undertaken as part of the evaluation and to inform trial trench investigation (OA 2017c). The survey produced positive results that largely replicate the cropmark data, indicating the presence of an enclosure and trackway ditches (Figs 2 and 3). In addition, the survey also tentatively identified possible roundhouses. A debris scatter associated with the demolition of the 20th buildings shown on the OS map published in 1923 was also clearly defined within the eastern part of the site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

I. establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;

II. determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation or preservation;

III. determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;

IV. characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon younger (overlying) deposits where possible;

V. determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered;

VI. recover suitable materials for scientific dating where appropriate;

VII. make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent development designs or mitigation strategies;

VIII. produce a factual report, full archive and HER data submission;

IX. disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.

2.2 Specific aims

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were to:

X. investigate the archaeological and non-archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey through targeted trial trench excavation,

XI. to establish the impact of the 20th century demolition on the underlying horizons and the potential for archaeological remains to survive within this area.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The evaluation comprised a 2% sample by area of the site, equating to nine evaluation trenches each measuring 30 x 1.8m. The trenches were arranged to provide a spatial sample of the whole area and to target specific features identified as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies (Figs 2 and 3).

2.3.1 Plough disturbed soil horizons were removed by mechanical excavator (JCB 3CX) fitted with a toothless bucket to expose archaeologically significant horizons or the surface of the superficial geology, whichever was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits or those with the potential to contain artefacts were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers directly relating to the individual trench (eg Trench 17, context 1700, 1701, etc). The excavation and recording of archaeological features was undertaken as outlined within the WSI following established OA practices and in line with CIfA standards.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of mixed sandy gravels was overlain by a subsoil, which in turn was overlain by the modern ploughsoil (Plate 1).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all the trenches.

3.4 Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Plates 2 and 3)

3.4.1 The geological horizon (109) was established at a general depth of 0.46m below the current ground level (*c* 79.3m OD). The geological horizon was cut by three features (103, 105, 107).

3.4.2 Ditches 105 and 107 closely corresponded to an L-shaped feature identified by the geophysical survey. Ditch 105 (Plate 2) represented the east-west arm of the feature. The ditch was 0.28m deep and 1.25m wide, and was filled with a soft, reddish brown silt (106). The north-south part of the feature was represented by ditch 107 (Plate 3). This feature was 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep and was filled by a very compact pale grey slightly sandy silt (108). The profile of this feature was difficult to establish due to it being very compact and the similarity of the fills to the surrounding geology. It had steep 50° sides and a flat base.

3.4.3 A very shallow feature (103) was investigated towards the south-east end of the trench. This was 0.8m wide and just 0.1m deep with a very shallow, U-shaped profile. It was filled with a moderately compact, dark brown sandy silt (104), which could not be distinguished from the overlying subsoil. This feature almost certainly represented the remains of a furrow.

3.5 Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Plates 4 and 5)

3.5.1 The geological horizon (202) was established at a general depth of 0.26m below the current ground level (*c* 79.0m OD). The geological horizon was cut by three linear features (203, 205, 209). A further two linear features (211, 212) were recorded in plan but not excavated. A single pit or ditch terminus (207) was also investigated.

3.5.2 Ditch 203 (Plate 5), aligned north-south, was investigated towards the north-western end of the trench and closely corresponded to a curving feature in the results of the geophysical survey. The ditch was 1.85m wide and 0.25m deep with an asymmetrical profile. Its north-western edge was slightly irregular, although generally 20° whilst its south-eastern edge was 45°, gently breaking to a flattish base. It was filled with soft, mid reddish brown silt (204). This deposit produced a single sherd of Roman pottery from the base of a jar or bowl, weighing 149g. The deposit also produced a horse mandible and a third phalanx, possibly from the same individual.

3.5.3 Roughly in the centre of the trench a shallow and narrow gully (205), aligned east-west, was investigated. This was 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep with a shallow, U-shaped profile. It was filled with a loose, mid grey brown silt (206) which did not produce any artefacts.

3.5.4 A pit or ditch terminus (207) was exposed at the edge of the trench, 0.3m south of 205 was investigated. This feature was 1.6m wide and 0.28m deep with shallow sides and a flattish base. It was filled with a soft, mid reddish brown clay silt (208) which did not produce any artefacts.

3.5.5 A possible ditch terminus (209) aligned east-west was investigated towards the south-eastern end of the trench. It was 1m wide and 0.08m deep with shallow sides and a flat base. It was filled with soft, mid grey brown clay silt that did not produce any artefacts.

3.5.6 Two linear features (211, 212), both aligned NE-SW, were identified but were not excavated. They measured were 0.9m and 1m wide respectively. Both were filled with loose, mid grey brown sandy silt.

3.6 Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 and 5)

3.6.1 The geological horizon (304) was established at an average depth of 0.26m below the current ground level (*c* 78.99m OD). The geological horizon was cut a single feature (302). The geological horizon was noted to have been disturbed by five narrow plough scars, possibly mole ploughing, aligned NW-SE. These broadly corresponded to the geophysical survey results, which identified a number of linear features on this alignment that were interpreted as cultivation features (Fig. 2).

3.6.2 The feature (302) was aligned NW-SE and measured 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with a moderately compact, mid brown sandy silt (303) which did not produce any artefacts.

3.7 Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Plates 6 and 7)

3.7.1 The geological horizon (402) was established at a general depth of 0.26m below the current ground level (*c* 79.0m OD). The geological horizon was cut by three linear features (403, 405, 407): a small pit (409), a possible pit or ditch terminus (411) and a recent intrusion (413).

3.7.2 Ditches 403 and 407 closely corresponded to a possible penannular feature identified in the geophysical survey results. Ditch 403 (Plate 7) was on the northern side of the feature, roughly in the centre of the trench. It was a gently curving feature broadly aligned east-west, and measured 2.3m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled with a loose,

reddish brown sandy silt (404) which was similar in character to 408. Ditch 407, which represented the southern part of the penannular feature, was partially revealed at the southern end of the trench. Its visible width was 0.8m and it was filled with a moderately compact, mid reddish brown sandy silt (408). It was not excavated and no artefacts were visible in the surface of the fill.

3.7.3 Ditch 407 was cut by probable furrow 405. This was aligned NNE-SSW and measured 0.7m wide and 0.06m deep with a shallow, U-shaped profile. It was filled with a loose, mid grey silt (406) which did not produce any artefacts.

3.7.4 A small pit (409) was investigated within the penannular gully, some 0.9m south of ditch 403. It had a diameter of 0.77m and was 0.12m deep. It had shallow sloped sides and a flattish base and was filled with a sterile mid grey brown silt (410). This feature was ill-defined and its character suggested that it could be a slight geological variation.

3.7.5 Towards the northern end of the trench a pit or ditch terminus (411) was identified, although not excavated. Its observable dimensions were 1.2 x 1.2m. It was filled by a soft, reddish brown silt (412) which did not produce any artefacts. The geophysical survey results suggest that this may be a small penannular feature. The north-west extent of the this exposed within the trench was cut by a modern, rectangular feature (413).

3.8 Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3 and 6)

3.8.1 The geological horizon (504) was established at a general depth of 0.2m below the current ground level (*c* 79.19m OD). The geological horizon was cut by a single linear feature (502).

3.8.2 Feature 502, aligned NW-SE, was located within the southern end of the trench. It was 0.8m wide and 0.16m deep with sloped sides gently breaking to a rounded base. It was filled with a sterile, moderately compact, mid brown sandy silt (503).

3.9 Trench 6 (Figs 2, 4 and 6)

3.9.1 The geological horizon (609) was established at a general depth of 0.3m below the current ground level (*c* 78.7m OD). The geological horizon was cut by two linear features (602, 604) and a possible pit (606).

3.9.2 A linear feature (602), aligned SW-NE, was situated towards the south-eastern end of the trench. It was 0.9m wide and 0.1m deep. It was filled with a moderately compact, mid grey brown sandy silt (603) which did not produce any finds.

3.9.3 A linear feature (604), also aligned SW-NE, was situated towards the middle of the trench. It was 1.1m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled with a moderately compact, mid grey brown sandy silt (605) which did not produce any finds.

3.9.4 A possible pit (606) was investigated towards the northern end of the trench. It had a diameter of 1.2m and was 0.4m deep with sloped sides and flattish base. It was filled with a loose, mid brown sandy gravel (607) which did not produce any artefacts. The character of this feature with its ill-defined edges and gravely fill strongly suggests that it may have a geological or other natural process origin.

3.10 Trench 7 (Figs 2, 4 and 6; Plates 8 and 9)

3.10.1 The geological horizon (702) was established at a general depth of 0.26m below the current ground level (*c* 78.9m OD). The geological horizon was cut by four linear features that were sample excavated (703, 707, 708, 710). A further two linear features (713, 714) were identified but not excavated.

3.10.2 A wide linear ditch (703, Plate 8), aligned NW-SE, was situated towards the south-western end of the trench and corresponded with a feature identified in the geophysical survey. It was 2.5m wide but only 0.34m deep with shallow sloped sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills, the lower of which (704) comprised firm, mid grey brown silty gravel 0.2m thick. This deposit was situated on the north-eastern side of the ditch and may represent bank erosion. This was overlain by a soft, mid grey brown silt (705). This deposit produced animal bone and a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery.

3.10.3 A smaller ditch (706, Plate 8), on a parallel alignment, was located 0.4m to the south-east of 702. It was 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep and was filled with a soft, mid grey brown silt (707) which did not produce any artefacts.

3.10.4 A ditch (708, Plate 9), aligned NW-SE, was investigated towards the north-east end of the trench. It was 1.22m wide and 0.35m deep with a V-shaped profie breaking to a rounded base. It was filled with a soft, mid reddish brown clay silt (709) which did not produce any artefacts. This feature corresponded to the results of the geophysical survey.

3.10.5 Feature 710 appeared to be the western end of a narrow, shallow and slightly sinuous gully. It was just 0.35m wide and 0.08m deep. It was aligned east-west with a slight curve to the north-east and was filled with a loose, mid grey brown silt (711) which did not produce any artefacts.

3.10.6 Two linear features identified toward the centre of the trench (713, 714) were not excavated. They were 1.6m (713) and 0.9m wide (714) and were situated 0.8m apart. They were both aligned NW-SE and were filled with moderately compact, mid reddish brown sandy silt. The features broadly corresponded to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

3.11 Trench 8 (Figs 2, 4 and 6; Plate 10)

3.11.1 The geological horizon (802) was established at a general depth of 0.26m below the current ground level (*c* 79.17m OD). The geological horizon was cut by three linear features (803, 805, 807), situated at the western end.

3.11.2 Ditch 803, aligned N-S, was 0.7m wide and 0.22m deep with a V-shaped profile gently breaking to a curved base. It was filled with loose, mid reddish brown silty deposit (804).

3.11.3 Features 805 and 807, which lay on parallel NE-SW alignments, were not excavated. They were 0.5m and 0.9m wide respectively. These features corresponded to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey which curves to the north-west to correspond with the ditch (703) at the north-east end of Trench 7.

3.12 Trench 9 (Figs 2, 4 and 6)

3.12.1 The geological horizon (903) was established at a general depth of 0.25m below the current ground level (*c* 78.6m OD). The geological horizon was cut by a single linear feature (902).

3.12.2 The linear feature (902) was broadly aligned north-south and extended for most of the length of the trench. The feature was slightly sinuous and irregular and measured between 0.8-1.0m wide and 0.1m deep. It was filled with a loose, mid grey sandy silt (903). Modern pottery and ceramic building material were noted within the fill, but not retained. This feature appeared to represent a furrow, although the presence of the modern artefacts suggest that this may be associated with the modern demolition disturbance from the structures that once stood to the east of Trench 9.

3.13 Finds and environmental summary

3.13.1 The artefactual assemblage was limited to three sherds of pottery and 13 fragments of animal bone. Two of the sherds were middle Iron Age and the third was Roman.

3.13.2 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches were all excavated in their proposed locations and provided a 2% sample of the site, sufficient to represent a reliable sample of any archaeological remains present. The evaluation was undertaken in good visibility and the archaeological features could be seen clearly against the underlying substrate. The trenches were not subject to ingress of groundwater.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation successfully fulfilled its objective of establishing the presence/absence of archaeological features within the area of the proposed development. This indicated that archaeological remains were predominantly distributed in the western half of the site, with only modern and undated features in the eastern part. The features were characterised as mainly comprising ditches, with a few possible pits. The presence of at least one penannular gully may be indicative of domestic settlement, but other features clearly represented trackway and enclosure ditches.

4.2.2 The paucity of the artefactual assemblage hampered the dating of the features, although the pottery was sufficient to indicate that activity dating from both the middle Iron Age and Roman period was present. Only three features were dated directly by the presence of pottery within their fills but the date of some other features could be inferred from this and from their form.

4.2.3 Observation of the archaeological deposits during excavation indicated that none contained visible charred plant remains and it was consequently agreed, in consultation with Charles Parry, Planning Archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council, that they were not suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling. The palaeo-environmental potential of the site is therefore considered to be low.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The evaluation identified a complex of archaeological features that corresponded closely with the results of the geophysical survey. As the geophysical survey had indicated, the greatest concentration of features lay in the western part of the site. Dating evidence was very sparse, limited to just three sherds of pottery, but indicated that activity dating from the middle Iron Age and Roman period was present. The evidence from Trench 4, in which a penannular gully was overlain by a linear ditch, supports the suggestion that the features represent a palimpsest of superimposed features of more than one phase.

4.3.2 The middle Iron Age sherds were recovered from two features in Trench 7, including the broad, shallow ditch 703, which appears from the geophysical survey to form part of a small rectilinear enclosure. The penannular gully (403/407) exposed in Trench 4 produced no artefactual material but its form would also be consistent with such a date. The geophysical survey identified a second, similar penannular gully immediately south of the trench, and a much smaller example was partly exposed at the northern

end of the trench but was not excavated. This group of features may therefore represent an area of middle Iron Age settlement focused on Trenches 4 and 7.

4.3.3 The Roman sherd was recovered from ditch 203 in Trench 2. The ditch corresponded with an anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey, although its form was uncertain, comprising a slightly curved linear feature aligned N-S. It is possible that it represents part of a ditched trackway that has been recorded from cropmark evidence, extending through the western part of the site on a N-S alignment. Ditches 405 and 803 may also represent the ditches of the trackway. Ditch 708 and a geophysical feature on a parallel alignment to the north of Trench 7 may represent a second trackway that branched off the N-S route. Ditches recorded in the other trenches may be the boundaries of enclosures adjoining the trackways. Such arrangements are common features of contemporary Roman sites in the surrounding landscape. The paucity of artefactual remains and the absence of any deposits with visible paleo-environmental material suggests that the features represent agricultural enclosures rather than an area of domestic occupation, and it is therefore likely that the associated domestic focus lay somewhere beyond the area of the proposed development.

4.3.4 Ditches 105 and 107 in Trench 1 corresponded with an L-shaped anomaly in the geophysical survey results that may represent part of a rectilinear enclosure. The ditches yielded no artefactual material.

4.3.5 The features in the eastern part of the site were modern or undated. The ditches in Trenches 3, 5 and 6 were undated and it is therefore uncertain whether they represented a continuation of the complex in the western part of the site. The shallow ditch exposed in Trench 9 contained modern pottery and may be associated with a building that formerly stood in this area. A large area of disturbance east of this trench and extending along the eastern edge of the site recorded by the geophysical survey and is likely to represent demolition debris from the building.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained three linear features, two of which (105, 107) correspond with the results of the geophysical survey. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying geology of mixed sandy gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
101	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
103	Cut	0.8	0.1	Furrow	-	-
104	Fill	0.8	0.1	Fill of 103. Same as 102	-	-
105	Cut	1.25	0.28	Ditch aligned E-W	-	-
106	Fill	1.25	0.28	Fill of 105	-	-
107	Cut	1.2	0.5	Ditch aligned N-S	-	-
108	Fill	1.2	0.5	Fill of 107	-	-
109	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained four linear features, one of which (203) correspond with the results of the geophysical survey, and a pit or ditch terminus. Consists of topsoil overlying geology of mixed sandy gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
201	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-
203	Cut	1.85	0.25	Ditch aligned N-S	-	-
204	Fill	1.85	0.25	Fill of 203	Pottery, animal bone	AD 43-410
205	Cut	0.7	0.1	Shallow ditch aligned E-W	-	-
206	Fill	0.7	0.1	Fill of 205	-	-
207	Cut	1.6	0.18	Shallow pit or ditch terminus	-	-
208	Fill	1.6	0.18	Fill of 207	-	-
209	Cut	1	0.08	Ditch terminus	-	-
210	Fill	1	0.08	Fill of 209	-	-
211	Fill	1.1	-	Furrow? Unexcavated	-	-
212	Fill	0.9	-	Furrow? Unexcavated	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a single furrow. Consists of topsoil overlying geology of mixed sandy gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
302	Cut	0.6	0.15	Furrow aligned NNW-SSE	-	-
303	Fill	0.6	0.15	Fill of 302	-	-
304	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained three linear features, two of which (403, 405) correspond with the geophysical results, and two pits. Consists of topsoil overlying geology of mixed sandy gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
401	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-
403	Cut	2.3	0.2	Ditch aligned E-W	-	-
404	Fill	2.3	0.2	Fill of 403	-	-
405	Cut	0.7	0.06	Furrow aligned NE-SW	-	-
406	Fill	0.7	0.06	Fill of 405	-	-
407	Cut	2 (as seen)	-	Ditch? Aligned NW-SE	-	-
408	Fill	2	-	Fill of 407	-	-
409	Cut	0.77	0.12	Pit	-	-
410	Fill	0.77	0.12	Fill of 409	-	-
411	Cut	0.8	-	Pit?	-	-
412	Fill	0.8	-	Fill of 411. Unexcavated	-	-
413	Cut	0.6	-	Modern geotechnical pit?	-	-
414	Fill	0.6	-	Fill of 413	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.20
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
501	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
502	Cut	0.8	0.16	Ditch aligned NW-SE	-	-
503	Fill	0.8	0.16	Fill of 502	-	-
504	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two furrows and a possible pit. Consists of topsoil overlying geology of mixed sandy gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
601	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
602	Cut	0.9	0.1	Furrow? Aligned NE-SW	-	-
603	Fill	0.9	0.1	Fill of 602	-	-
604	Cut	1.1	0.12	Furrow? Aligned NE-SW	-	-
605	Fill	1.1	0.12	Fill of 604	-	-
606	Cut	1.2	0.4	Possible pit	-	-
607	Fill	0.85	0.27	Lower fill of 606	-	-
608	Fill	1.2	0.27	Upper fill of 606	-	-
609	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained six linear features. Consists of topsoil overlying geology of mixed sandy gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
701	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-
703	Cut	2.5	0.3	Ditch aligned NW-SE	-	-
704	Fill	1.2	0.2	Primary fill of 703	-	-
705	Fill	2.5	0.3	Upper fill of 703	Pottery, animal bone	400-50 BC
706	Cut	0.7	0.12	Ditch aligned NW-SE	-	-
707	Fill	0.7	0.12	Fill of 706	-	-
708	Cut	1.22	0.35	Ditch aligned NW-SE	-	-
709	Fill	1.22	0.35	Fill of 708	-	-
710	Cut	0.32	0.08	Gully aligned NE-SW	-	-
711	Fill	0.32	0.08	Fill of 710	Animal bone	-
712	Fill	0.84	-	Fill of furrow. Unexcavated	-	-
713	Fill	0.74	-	Fill of linear feature. Unexcavated	Pottery	400-50 BC
714	Fill	0.54	-	Fill of linear feature. Unexcavated	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained three linear features. Consists of topsoil overlying geology of mixed sandy gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
801	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-
803	Cut	0.9	0.22	Ditch aligned NE-SW	-	-
804	Fill	0.9	0.22	Fill of 803	-	-
805	Cut	0.5	-	Linear feature.	-	-
806	Fill	0.5	-	Fill of 805. Unexcavated	-	-
807	Cut	0.85	-	Linear feature	-	-
808	Fill	0.85	-	Fill of 807. Unexcavated	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained single linear feature. Consists of topsoil geology of mixed sandy gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
901	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
902	Cut	0.95	0.08	Furrow aligned NNE-SSW	-	-
903	Fill	0.95	0.08	Fill of 902	-	-
904	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Three sherds of pottery weighing 179g were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic elements, and to provide spot-dates (Table 1). Fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014).

Table 1: Roman pottery from OAKWR17

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
204	1	149	Base of jar or bowl in sandy oxidised ware (O20)	AD 43-410
705	1	21	Body sherd with black/dark grey surfaces and core in medium sand-tempered and micaceous fabric (AM3)	400-50 BC
713	1	9	Body sherd with black/dark grey surfaces and core in fabric of indeterminate voids (from ?shell or organic fragments) and occasional grog (ZG3)	400-50 BC
Total	3	179		

B.1.2 The pottery from contexts 705 and 713 is likely to date to the middle Iron Age, the fabrics being consistent with later prehistoric fabrics identified at other sites in the region, such as Horcott (Brown 2017, 270-1). While the voids visible in the sherd from context 713 cannot be identified with certainty, shell-tempered fabrics dominate middle Iron Age assemblages in the region (eg Brown 2017, 270; Brown and Mullin 2010, 16), and shell seems most likely in this case. The oxidised ware base from context 204 is of Roman date. Its source is uncertain, but a local or North Wiltshire origin can be suggested.

B.1.3 The sherds identified as middle Iron Age are small and worn, having been subject to processes such as weathering and redeposition. The Roman-period sherd is larger, and may have been deposited reasonably close to settlement areas. Together, the sherds indicate later Iron Age and Roman activity in the vicinity of the site.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

C.1.1 A total of 13 animal bones were recovered from the site, mostly from contexts dated to the middle Iron Age (Table 2) on the basis of associated ceramic finds. The assemblage was in moderate condition and all of the material was recovered by hand.

C.1.2 The middle Iron Age assemblage consisted of two pieces of right femur and a right metacarpal of domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) as well as a matched pair of sheep (*Ovis aries*) mandibles. The latter came from an individual of between eight and thirteen months of age at death.

C.1.3 A horse (*Equus caballus*) mandible and third phalanx was recovered from the Roman component (204). Based on crown height the mandible was from an old individual. It is possible that the phalanx was from the same individual – horse head and hoof deposits are a feature of the preceding Iron Age – but given the lack of any related specimens it seems unlikely that this represents deliberate deposition.

C.1.4 Given the very small size of the dated assemblage no further work on it is recommended unless further excavation on the site takes place, in which case it should be considered alongside any material recovered then. As it stands, the assemblage should be considered a low priority for retention.

Table 2: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period

	Middle Iron Age	Roman	Undated
domestic cattle	3		
caprine			1
sheep	2		
horse		2	
medium mammal	1		
large mammal	4		
Total NISP	10	2	1
Total NSP	10	2	1

Table 3: Non-species data recorded for specimens

	Gnawed	Ageing data
domestic cattle	1	1
sheep		2
Total	1	3

Table 4: NSP and total mass per context.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
204	2	507
705	10	264
711	1	12

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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OA, 2017c Land to the east of Whelford Road, Kempsford: archaeological geophysical survey. Oxford Archaeology unpublished client report

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land to the East of Whelford Road, Kempsford, Gloucestershire
Site code:	OAKWR17
Grid Reference	SU 1590 9700
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	25th-28th September 2017
Area of Site	2.5ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Corinium Museum in due course, under an accession number to be issued by the museum on submission of the archive.
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by West Waddy ADP on behalf of Pye Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Whelford Road, Kempsford, Gloucestershire in advance of proposed residential development. The trial trench evaluation followed a geophysical survey and comprised a 2% sample by area of the site, equating to nine trenches each measuring 30 x 1.8m. The evaluation uncovered a complex of archaeological features mostly situated in the western half of the site that corresponded closely with the results of the geophysical survey. Dating evidence was limited to only three sherds of pottery, but these indicate activity from the middle Iron Age and Roman periods. A possible small rectilinear enclosure was dated to the middle Iron Age and a penannular gully, possibly a roundhouse, may be of similar date, as may a second gully identified by the geophysical survey to the south of Trench 4. The Roman features appear to represent a N-S trackway with a second trackway branching off to the west. Other ditch features may represent boundary ditches of enclosures adjoining the trackway. An undated L-shaped feature in the north-western part of the site is likely to be part of a rectilinear enclosure. The features in the eastern part of the site were modern or undated, although some may nevertheless be associated with the complex to the west.

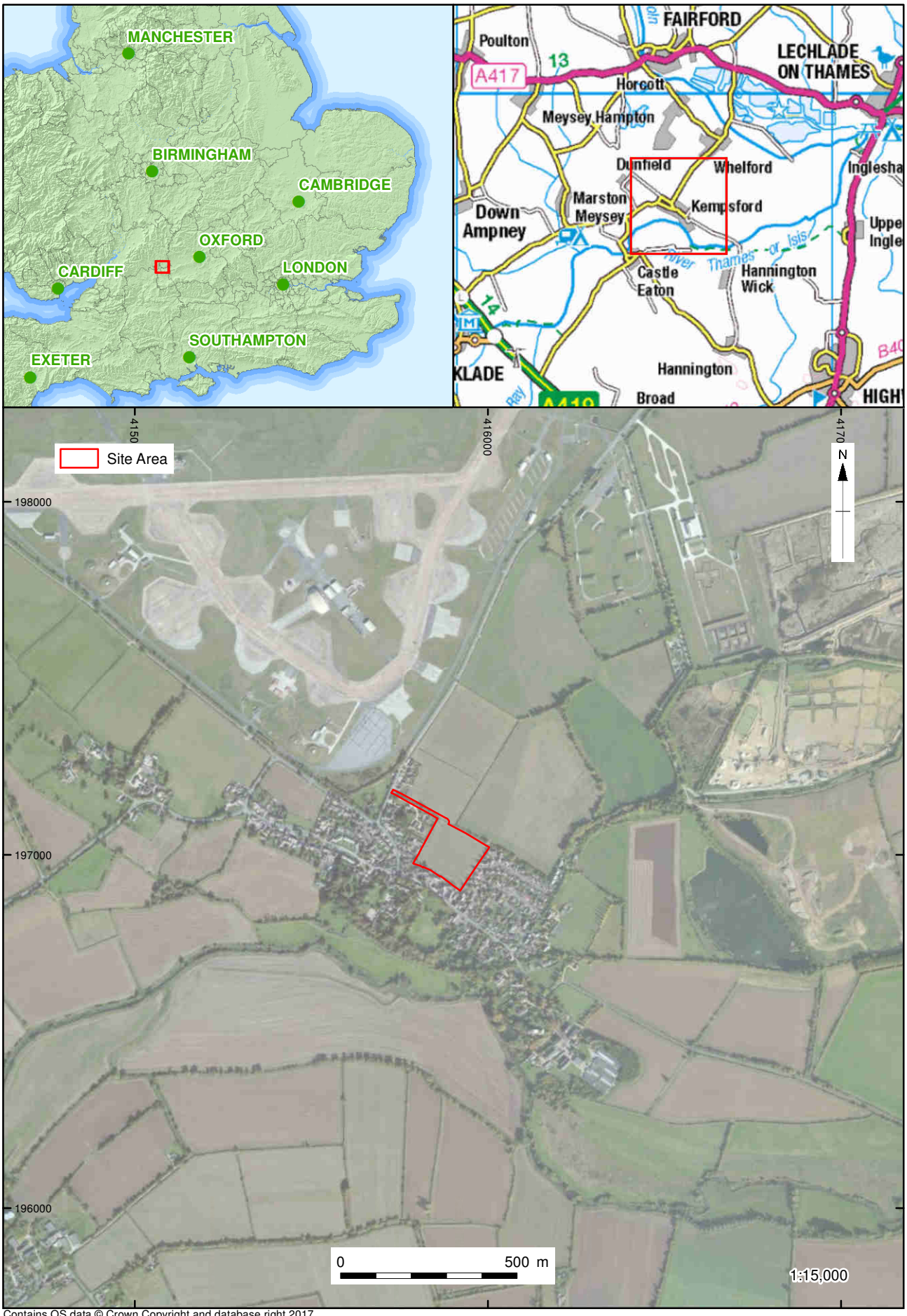

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Figure 1: Site location

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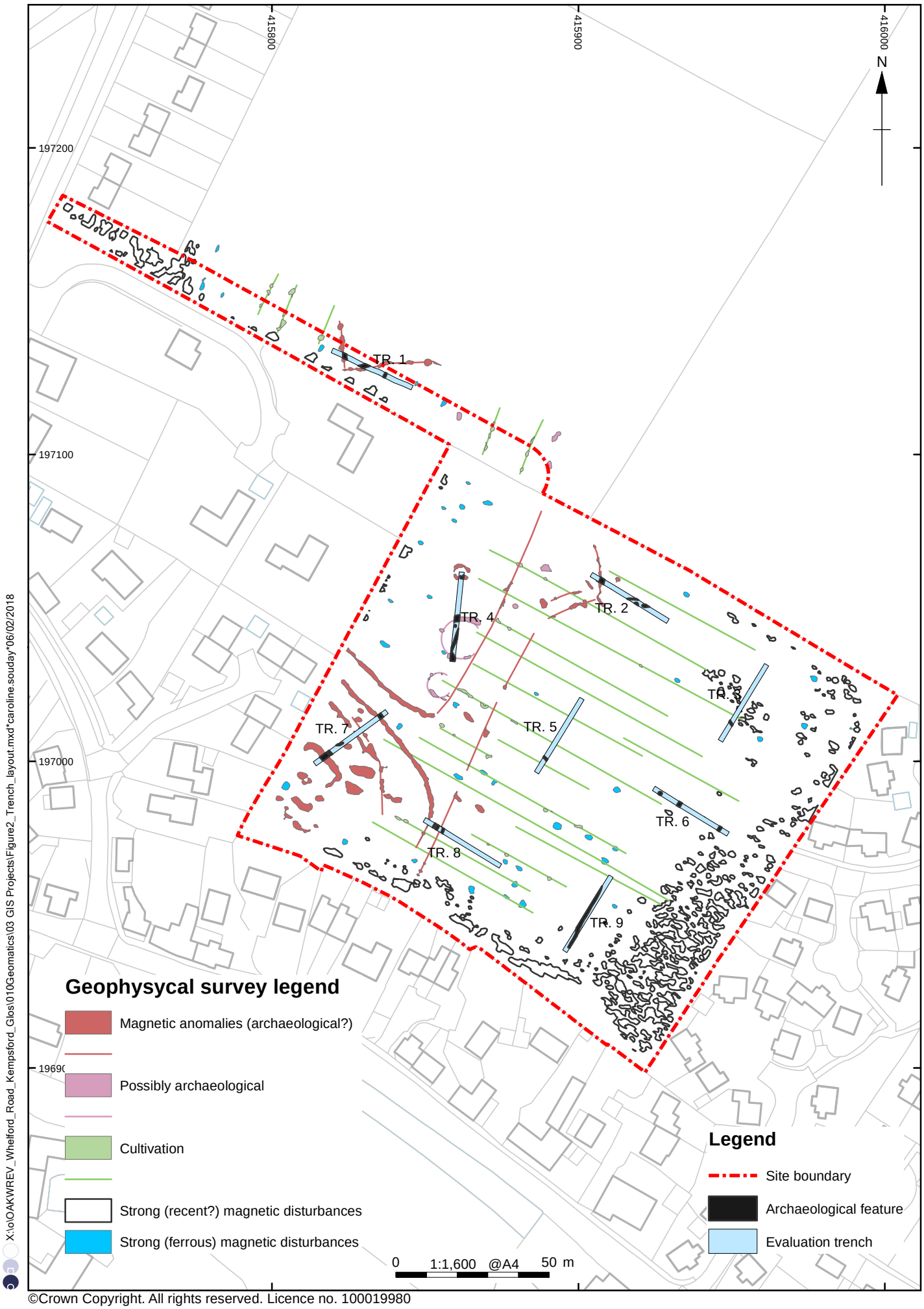


Figure 2: Trench Layout with geophysical survey results

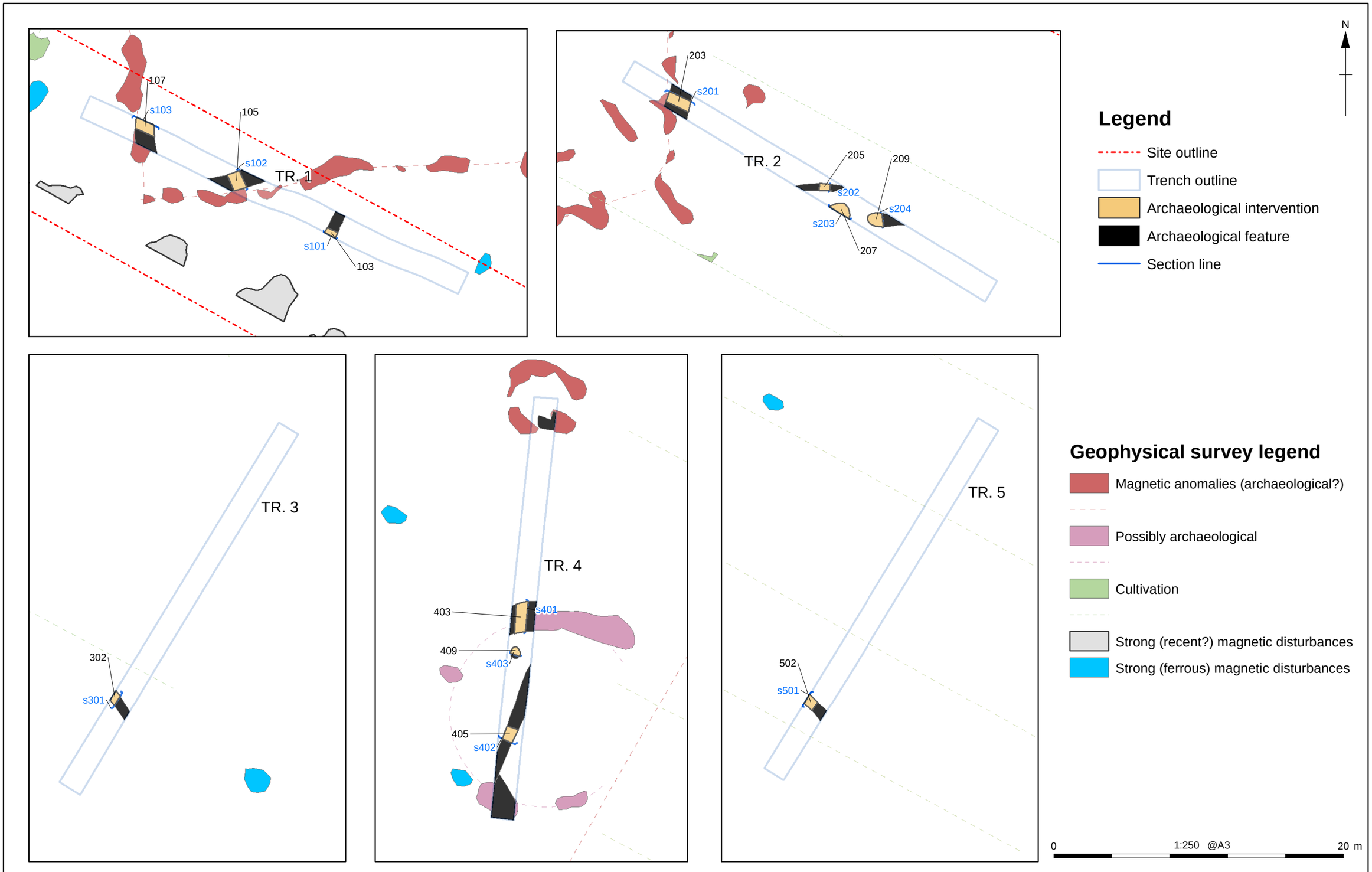
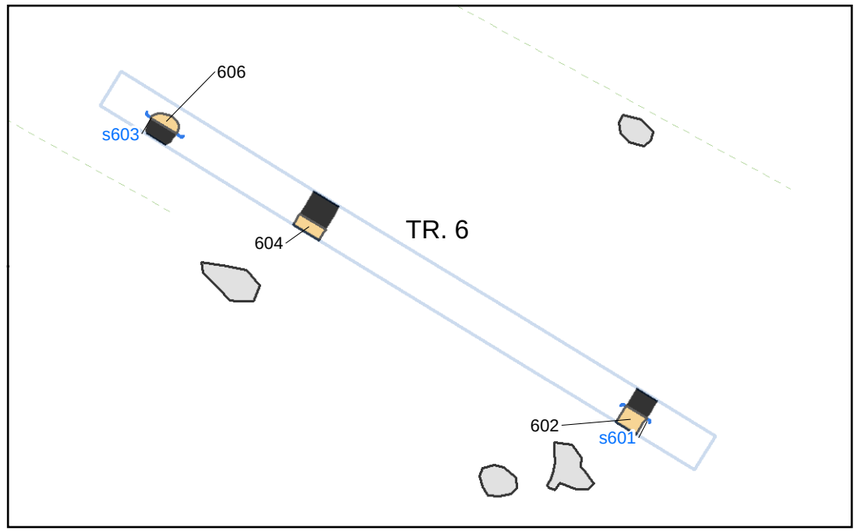
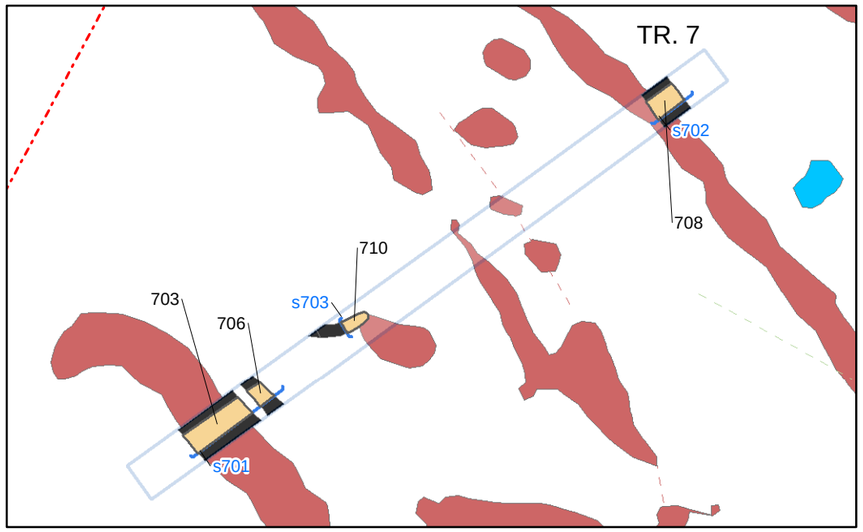
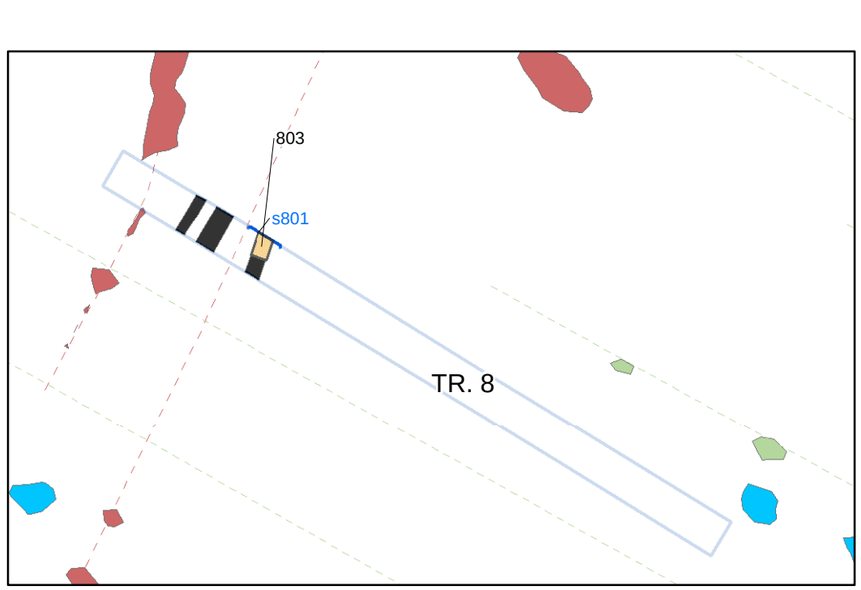
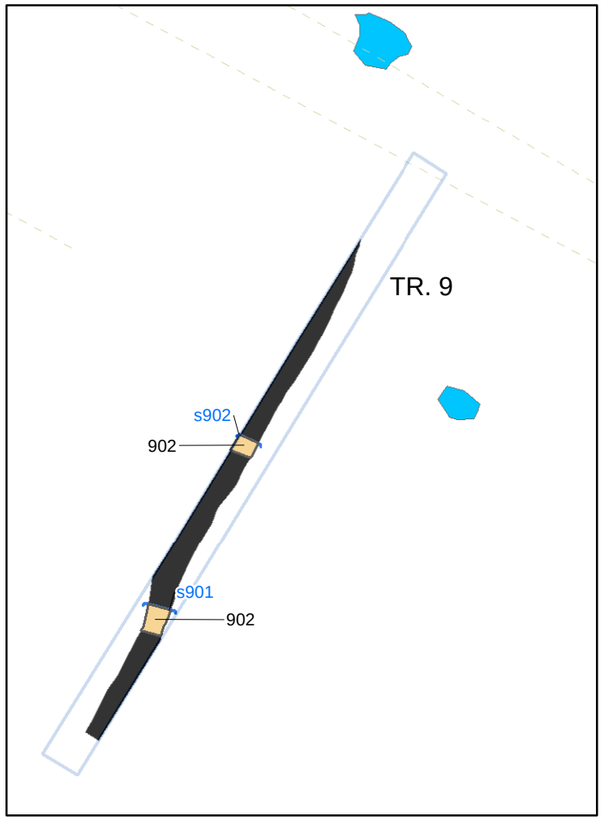


Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results.









Legend

- Site outline
- Trench outline
- Archaeological intervention
- Archaeological feature
- Section line

Geophysical survey legend

- Magnetic anomalies (archaeological?)
- Possibly archaeological
- Cultivation
- Strong (recent?) magnetic disturbances
- Strong (ferrous) magnetic disturbances

0 1:250 @A3 20 m

N

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Figure 4: Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9 showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results.

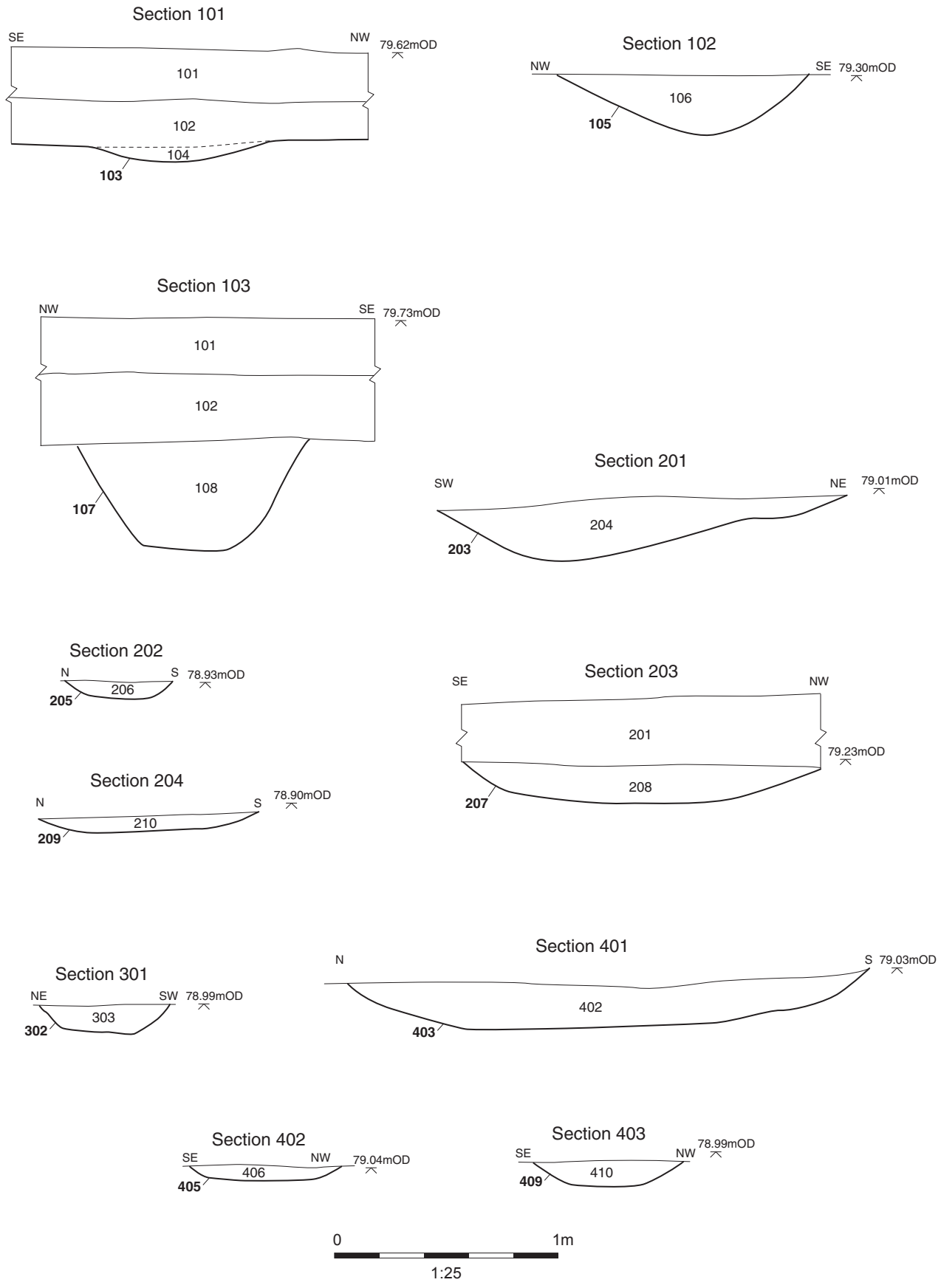

Figure 5: Sections from Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4

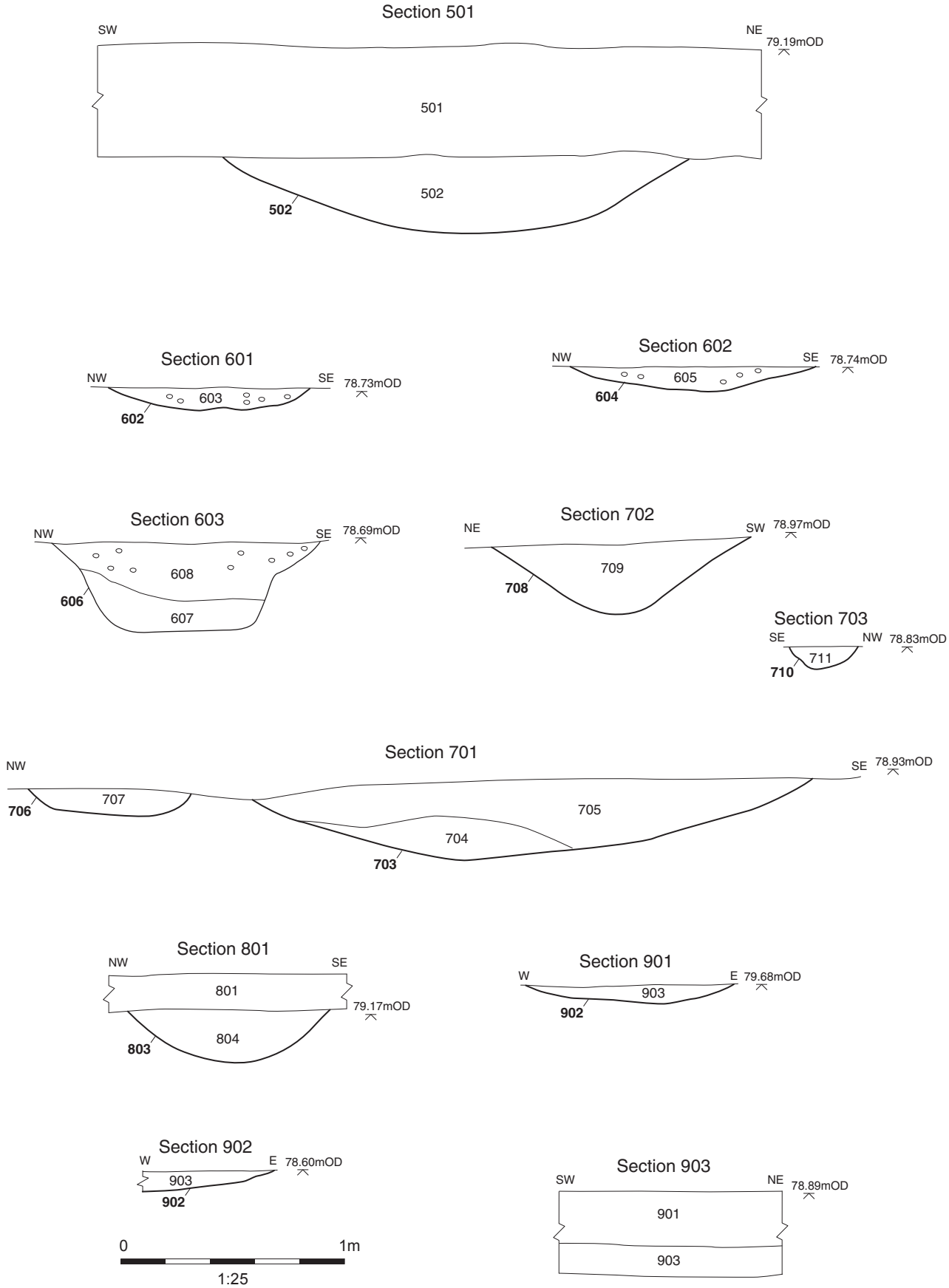

Figure 6: Sections from Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

Plate 1: Trench 9, representative section

Plate 2: Trench 1, enclosure ditch 105, looking north-east

Plate 3: Trench 1, enclosure ditch 107, looking north-east

Plate 4: Trench 2, general view, looking south-east

Plate 5: Trench 2, ditch 203, looking north

Plate 6: Trench 4, general view, looking north

Plate 7: Trench 4, penannular gully 403, looking east

Plate 8: Trench 7, ditches 703 and 706, looking south

Plate 9: Trench 7, ditch 708, looking south-east

Plate 10: Trench 8, general view, looking south-east

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