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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land North of Gloucester Road, Tutshill, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

During 18th -22nd September 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of three conjoined fields to the north-east of Tutshill, in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. The evaluation revealed undated potential archaeological features including ditches and tree-throw holes.

Two trenches in the southern part of the site each contained a single archaeological feature of medieval date, a ditch and bank and a small pit. The pit also contained a quantity of animal bones, the majority of which were from marine fish, as well as well-preserved plant macrofossils.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The fieldwork was directed by Bob McIntosh, who was supported by Simon Batsman. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Matthew Reynolds. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a planning application. A specification was set by Charles Parry the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeologist and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2017). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area (the site) is located to the north-east of Tutshill in the Forest of Dean (Fig. 1), centred on NGR 354360 194810. The site is bounded to the south by the Gloucester Road (B4228) and a residential property boundary; to the west by Elm Road, and to the north and east by agricultural fields. Mature hedgerows surround the site.
- 1.2.2 The area of the site currently comprises a series of three interconnected fields under pasture (Fig. 2). The site slopes down from the north-west to the south-east, with heights ranging between 59m and 45m above Ordnance Datum.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Mercian Group Mudstone to the east of the site, and Limestone of the Hunts Bay Oolite Subgroup to the west (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk based assessment (DBA; CgMs 2014), and is summarized below.
- 1.3.2 The Roman Road from Newnham to Caerwent may cross the southern part of the site, although its precise location has not been identified. The DBA identifies a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains of the prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 1.3.3 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken in 2014 by Stratascan. The survey identified several former field boundaries, two of which appear on mapping from 1891. The north west field contains evidence of a former orchard and the entire site contains closely spaced linear features which suggest modern agricultural activity. A small area of weak magnetic disturbance of an unknown origin is present within the former orchard area. No evidence was found supporting the presence of the Roman road alluded to in the DBA. Magnetic disturbance caused by made ground or proximity to metallic objects and debris is apparent across the site, and there are a number of magnetic spikes indicating ferrous objects (Stratascan 2014).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- ii. to assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- iii. to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- iv. to assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- v. to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- vi. to inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- vii. to disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire HER.
- viii. to test the results of the geophysical survey;
- ix. to establish the presence and or absence of the Roman road.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The methodology for the evaluation was as follows:

- i. Trenches were set out as indicated on Fig. 2 by an OA surveyor equipped with a GPS system to an accuracy of less than 50mm. The exception to this is Trenches 2 and 3 which were split in two (labelled Trench 2a and 3b for example – see Fig. 2), to avoid a buried sewer pipe. The anomalies that they were positioned to target were still covered by the new locations.
- ii. Trench locations were scanned with a cable avoidance tool prior to and during excavation.
- iii. Trenches were machine excavated under constant archaeological supervision by a suitably powered machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- iv. Trenches were machined to the top of the natural geology.
- v. Spoil was stored like with like at a suitable distance from the trench edges.
- vi. Revealed features were hand planned at a suitable scale, and a proportion were hand excavated and recorded as per the agreed methodologies in the written scheme of investigation.
- vii. Trenches were backfilled with excavated material in reverse order of excavation.

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 the dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B. Plans and section drawings and plates are appended to the end of this report.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 1104 is a feature within Trench 11.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The natural geology varied across the site, manifesting as limestone bedrock to the south (Trenches 11, 12 and 13) and clays (mudstone) of various hues with limestone outcrops (Trenches 1, 2 and 3). The natural geology in the remainder of the trenches was recorded as clay or sandy clay. A layer of colluvium (hill wash) in Trenches 2, 3 and the northern part of Trench 6, was sealed by subsoil. The subsoil (probably derived from ploughed out plough ridges) was present in all trenches except Trenches 5 and 13, and varied in depth between 0.9m (Trench 3a) and 0.1m (Trenches 4, 10 and 12). Topsoil was present in all trenches. Archaeological features, where present, were noted to be cut through the underlying geology, unless otherwise mentioned.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally 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 at low frequency within Trenches 1, 2b, 4, 9, 10 and 11, and comprised ditches and pits.

3.4 Trench 1

- 3.4.1 A single large pit was recorded in Trench 1 (Fig. 2) and contained large amounts of pottery and other refuse of 20th-century date. The feature, 103, was located at the eastern extent of the trench, and measured up to 10m wide (not shown). The pit was filled by 104, which was similar to the overlying topsoil in composition and colour, and was not further investigated.

3.5 Trench 2b

- 3.5.1 A possible ditch, 208, ran in a broadly west-east orientation across the south-western end of the trench (Figs 2, 3 and Section 200 Fig. 8). The ditch had an irregular profile, with a flat base, which stepped down to a narrow 'V' shaped profile around the centre of the feature. The single fill, 209, was a soft mid grey-brown silty clay, from which no finds were recovered. It is possible that this feature is of geological origin. The feature did not correspond well with the geophysical survey results, and a linear anomaly identified by the survey proved to be a localised change in geology.

3.6 Trench 4

- 3.6.1 Towards the southern end of the trench a narrow ditch, 409, was orientated north-east to south-west (Figs 2 and 4). The upper fill, 410, was a dark brown sandy clay, and was not further investigated. A few metres to the north a feature, 403, appeared linear in plan, running parallel to and continuing under the western baulk of the trench (Figs 2, 4 and Sections 400-402 Fig. 8). An intervention in the southern end of the feature revealed a gentle break of slope at the top of the cut, becoming steeper with depth, and a flat base. The upper fill, 404, was a grey-brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks which sealed 405, a similar deposit, but containing a number of large irregular unworked fragments of limestone. No finds were recovered from the feature.
- 3.6.2 A further feature, 406, possibly a pit or tree-throw hole, was present within the centre of the trench, and continued to the east beyond the limit of excavation (Figs 2, 4 and Section 403 Fig. 8). The feature had a slightly undulating base, and a single fill, 407, a grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 3.6.3 None of the features identified through the trenching were represented by the results of the geophysical survey.

3.7 Trench 9

- 3.7.1 A sub-circular feature, 903, was located towards the eastern end of the trench, and had undulating sides and base (Figs 2, 5 and Section 900 Fig. 9). The lower fill, 907, was a brownish-grey silty clay containing frequent unworked limestone blocks. This was sealed by 904, a darker grey-brown silty clay, which contained a fragment of animal bone, and occasional flecks of charcoal. Environmental samples were taken from both of the fills, but contained very little material (samples 1 and 2: see Appendix C.1). The feature is likely to represent a tree-throw hole.
- 3.7.2 Adjacent and to the north-west a ditch, 905, was orientated NNE-SSW (Figs 2, 5 and Section 901 Fig. 9) The ditch had a shallow undulating profile, and the single fill, 906 was a grey-brown sandy clay. A fragment of pottery recovered from the surface of the fill dated from the 18th-19th century. Ditch 905 is likely to be a plough furrow, and its alignment matches the direction of the furrows noted by the geophysical survey.
- 3.7.3 A further pit feature, 908, was recorded towards the western end of the trench, but was not further investigated (Figs 2 and 5).
- 3.7.4 A linear anomaly plotted through the geophysical survey was not present within the trench (Fig. 2). Although ditch 905 was in the vicinity of the plotted anomaly, their alignment is not shared.

3.8 Trench 10

- 3.8.1 A single small pit, 1003, was located towards the southern end of the trench (Figs 2, 6 and Section 1000 Fig. 9). The pit had steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The single fill, 1004, was a dark brownish-grey sandy silt, from which two sherds of pottery of 12th-14th century date were recovered. An environmental sample (sample 3: Appendix C.1) contained a wide range of both cereal grains and wild plant species as well as well-preserved charcoal including some larger fragments. Pit 1003 was not identified by the geophysical survey.

3.9 Trench 11

- 3.9.1 A ditch, 1103, was located within the eastern end of the trench, and was orientated NNW-SSE (Figs 2, 7 and Section 1100 Fig. 9). The ditch had a shallow concave profile, and a single fill, 1104, a yellow-grey silty sand, from which a single sherd of pottery dating from the late 12th-14th century was recovered. Immediately to the west of the ditch, and sealed by the subsoil (1101) was a raised deposit, 1105, which is likely to be the remains of an associated bank (Fig. 9 Section 1101). The bank material was a yellow-brown silty clay from which no finds were recovered.
- 3.9.2 Ditch 1103 correlates well with a linear anomaly from the geophysical survey (Fig. 2), although no corresponding ditch was present within Trench 12, where the anomaly is plotted as continuing.

3.10 Finds summary

- 3.10.1 Finds were recovered from features in Trenches 9, 10 and 11, and comprised four sherds of pottery – three of medieval date and one of post-medieval date (Appendix B.1). Animal bone was recovered from Trenches 9 and 10, with the majority of the assemblage from a single pit (1003) of medieval date, and representing caprine, pig, birds and fish (Appendix C.2).
- 3.10.2 Environmental samples were taken from features in Trenches 9 and 10, with sample 3 from medieval pit 1003 being especially rich in ecofacts (Appendix C.1).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during good conditions, and the archaeological features were generally easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. However, the geology across the site was variable, and some of the recorded features may be of geological origin.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation identified the presence of archaeological features in some of the trenches, and where possible a date has been provided for these. The potential for the site to contain preserved remains of environmental interest was examined. The veracity of the geophysical survey was tested.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The trenches contained few dated archaeological features, with the exception of Trenches 10 and 11 in the southern part of the site. Both contained a single feature of 12th-14th century date, from which a total of three sherds of pottery were recovered. The pit in Trench 10 contained well preserved plant macrofossils and a moderate assemblage of animal bones, the majority from marine fish, and presumably deposited as domestic waste. The adjacent ditch, within Trench 11 may be contemporary, and could have defined a field boundary.

4.3.2 Other revealed potential features within Trenches 2, 4 and 9 were undated, with the exception of a probable plough furrow in Trench 9, which contained a single pottery sherd of post-medieval date.

4.3.3 There was an element of correlation between the geophysical survey results and the revealed archaeological features. The linear anomaly identified by the geophysical in the southern part of the site correlates with ditch 1103 as recorded in Trench 11. Pottery recovered from this ditch indicates a 12th-14th century origin and it is likely to be a field boundary. The east-west continuation of this ditch, as indicated by the geophysical survey, was not evident in Trench 12. However, it was noted that the linear anomaly correlated with a break of slope in this location, and is therefore likely to be of natural origin.

4.3.4 The areas of amorphous magnetic variation identified by the geophysical survey in the southern part of the site correlated with variations in the natural geology. The linear anomalies in Trenches 2b and 3b also seemed to correlate with a natural break in the slope.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 A number of small, isolated features have been recorded that could be of archaeological origin, but may equally be natural changes in geology. Indeed, it was noted that the geology was variable across the site.

- 4.4.2 There was no 'residual' finds evidence to suggest that the site is located in close proximity to any significant archaeological activity. Most artefacts recovered from the site were from a single context, or were of 20th century origin.
- 4.4.3 The archaeological interest of the site is restricted to a single medieval pit located close to the southern boundary.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained single large rubbish pit of recent date (finds not retained) Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of grey sand with limestone and clay outcrops.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	10m	-	Cut of rubbish pit	-	-
104	Fill	10m	-	Fil of 103	Pot	20 th century

Trench 2a						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and colluvium overlying a natural geology of Purple-red clay with white clay patches.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.8	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.3	Colluvium	-	-
203	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2b						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Consists of topsoil, subsoil and colluvium overlying a natural geology of greenish-grey clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
204	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
205	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
206	Layer	-	0.26	Colluvium	-	-
207	layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
208	Cut	2	0.52	Cut of ditch	-	-
209	Fill	2	0.52	Fill of 208	-	-

Trench 3a						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of reddish clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.3

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.9	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvium	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3b

General description				Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of clay with limestone outcrops.				Length (m)	25	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.3-0.8	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
304	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
305	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-
306	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvium	-	-
307	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4

General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained two pits and a linear feature (unexcavated). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid reddish-brown clay and light yellow-brown sandy clay.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.24	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
403	Cut	10.3	1.34	Cut of pit	-	-
404	Fill	10.3	0.41	Fill of 403	-	-
405	Fill	0.92	0.68	Fill of 403	-	-
406	Cut	1.77	0.3	Cut of pit	-	-
407	Fill	1.77	0.3	Fill of 406	-	-
408	Layer	-	-	Natural sand	-	-
409	Cut	0.6	-	Cut of unexcavated ditch	-	-
410	Fill	0.6	-	Fill of 409	-	-

Trench 5

General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of dark purple-red clay.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of purple-red clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3-0.8
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.2	Natural	-	-
603	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvium	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown sandy clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.13	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid brown silty sand in the south of the trench and mid grey brown sandy clay in the north.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural (south)	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Natural (north)	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained two pits and a ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of yellow-brown sandy silt.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.09	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.41	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
903	Cut	1.52	0.27	Cut of pit	-	-
904	Fill	1.52	0.19	Fill of 903	Animal bone	-
905	Cut	1.44	0.17	Cut of ditch	-	-

906	Fill	1.44	0.17	Fill of 905	Pottery	18 th – 19 th century
907	Fill	0.58	0.12	Fill of 903	-	-
908	Cut	1.45	-	Cut of pit (unexcavated)	-	-
909	Fill	1.45		Fill of 908	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of reddish-brown silty sand with frequent limestone outcrops.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Cut	1.1	0.3	Cut of pit	-	-
1004	Fill	1.1	0.3	Fill of 1003	Pottery, animal bone, burnt stone	12 th – 14 th century

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a ditch and associated bank. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of limestone.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1103	Cut	0.9	0.15	Cut of ditch	-	-
1104	Fill	0.9	0.15	Fill of 1103	Pottery	Late 12 th – 14 th century
1105	Layer	1	0.15	Bank deposit	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of limestone					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of Limestone.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.2
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

Identified by John Cotter

B.1.1 A total of four sherds of pottery (83g) were recovered from three features during the course of the evaluation. The fabric description and spot dates are shown in the table below.

Context	Description	Date
906	1 body sherd post medieval red earthen ware, (PM1). 7g	18 th – 19 th century
1004	2 sherds from 2 medieval vessels, possibly Bath A ware, including large fresh sagging base from a cooking pot and a body sherd from a second vessel. 61g	12 th – 14 th century
1104	1 body sherd probably from the base of a medieval cooking pot with food residue, possibly Malvernian ware, 15g	Late 12 th – 14 th century

Table B.1 Pottery

B.2 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction

B.2.1 A total of eight pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. There are seven pieces of oolitic limestone (context 1004, 1470g). There is also a single piece of heavily burnt and blackened quartzitic sandstone from context 1004 (399g). None of this stone is worked and it can all be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Three samples were taken during the evaluation. Sample 1 (context 907) was taken from the lower fill of an undated pit or tree-throw hole, 903, within Trench 9, sample 2 (904) was taken from the upper fill of the same pit. Sample 3 (1004) was taken from the single fill of a medieval pit, 1003 within Trench 10, which contained pottery of 12th-14th century date.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains. Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (e.g. Jacomet 2006), and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

C.1.3 The material observed within the flots of these samples is reported on within table C.1 below. Samples 1 and 2 produced very little material with small charcoal fragments and a preponderance of modern roots. By contrast sample 3 produced a large flot with much less modern material and a wide range of both cereal grains and wild plant species as well as well-preserved charcoal including some larger fragments. Condition of the charred material was mixed with some cereal grains showing a large amount of damage while others were in extremely good condition. On the whole the majority of wild plant seeds were damaged and either fragmented or missing exteriors which means that some identifications are tentative.

C.1.4 Samples 1 and 2 contained no finds, sample 3 contained mammal and fish bone and ceramic building material. These are reported on in Appendices C.2 and B.2 respectively.

Conclusions

C.1.5 The material from samples 1 and 2 is sparse and it is impossible to reach any firm conclusions based on the contents of this pit. The grain fragments are small and it is possible that they originate from a single grain. It would seem likely that the majority of this material is a result of secondary deposition which would explain the poor condition and fragmentation. The grass seeds and *Arrhenatherum elatius* tuber may be an indication of grassed areas in the vicinity as *Arrhenatherum elatius* tubers are commonly found on sites where turf burning has occurred.

C.1.6 Sample 3 by contrast contains a wide variety of wild plant material the majority of which are commonly found as crop contaminants (e.g. corncockle, stinking chamomile etc.). Some of the plants prefer a damper environment such as the sedges and rushes, however these do frequently grow in the bases of ditches and would have been cleared periodically.

The large number of small legumes raise questions as to whether they were a crop in their own right or a contaminant within the grain crop.

Sample No	1	2	3
Context No	907	904	1004
Period	-	-	Medieval
Volume (L)	4	27	36
Flot Volume (ml)	10	30	150
Portion scanned	100%	100%	66%
Cereal grain			
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	wheat		40
<i>cf. Triticum</i> sp.	<i>cf. wheat</i>		6
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	barley		7
<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	oat/brome		14
Cerealia	indet. cereal	4*	164
Chaff			
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	free threshing wheat base fragments		7
Legumes, fruits & nuts			
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazelnut shell		7*
<i>cf. Prunus padus</i>	bird cherry		1*
<i>cf. Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry		1*
Wild Species			
Fabaceae	pea family (small)		2*
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. <2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc		24
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. >2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc		21*
Polygonaceae/Cyperaceae	knotweed/sedge family		4*
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	docks		1*
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	corncockle		1*
Amaranthaceae	goosefoot family		3*
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	1*	19*
Asteraceae	daisy family		8*
<i>cf. Sonchus arvensis</i>	perennial sowthistle		1*

<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	stinking chamomile	1	7
<i>cf. Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	oxeye daisy		2*
<i>Juncus sp.</i>	rushes		3
<i>cf. Isolepis setacea</i>	bristle club-rush		2*
Poaceae undiff.	grass seeds	3	13
Other			
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass tuber	1	
Indet.	seed/fruit		15*
* fragmented and/or damaged			

Table C.1 Plant remains

C.2 Animal Bone

By Lee G. Broderick

C.2.1 A total of 70 animal bones were recovered from the site, principally through environmental sampling. Most of these were from a context dated to the 12th – 14th century AD (based on associated ceramic seriation), with one further specimen coming from a context which could not be spot-dated. Environmental samples were sieved at 10mm, 4mm and 2mm fractions, which are reported together here (Table C2).

C.2.2 Although the bones were generally in moderate condition, the sieved samples greatly increased the number of species recovered and included everything from large mammal ribs to small birds and fish. Specifically, these were caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]), pig (*Sus ferus domesticus*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), herring (*Clupea harengus*), salmonid (e.g. salmon [*Salmo salar*] or trout [*Salmo trutta*]) and gadid (e.g. cod [*Gadus morhua*] or pollock [*Pollachius pollachius*]). The house sparrow is a common commensal species and can flock in relatively large numbers in places where cereal crops are being processed. Although salmonids are anadromous the other species are marine, and are native to British waters – they would all have been commonly available in the nearby Bristol Channel at this time.

C.2.3 The pig specimen, a tooth, suggests that these animals were being kept, or at least slaughtered, nearby – although pig heads remained on sale in butchers' shops in Britain into the twentieth century they were never a choice cut and unlikely to have been traded far. The caprine specimens, meanwhile, included one that had been gnawed by canids, suggesting that domestic dogs were present on the site at this time.

Species	12 th – 14 th century AD	12 th – 14 th century AD (sieved)	Undated
caprine	1	1	
caprine?		1	

pig		1	
medium mammal	1		
large mammal		1	
Total Mammal	2	4	0
house sparrow?		1	
Total Bird	0	1	0
Fish		25	
herring		6	
gadid		1	
salmonid		1	
Total Fish	0	33	0
Total NISP	2	38	0
Total NSP	2	67	1

Table C2: Total NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) and NSP (Number of Specimens) figures per period from the site.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
904	1	0
1004	69	90

Table C3: NSP and total mass of specimens per context.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Stace, C 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge: CUP.

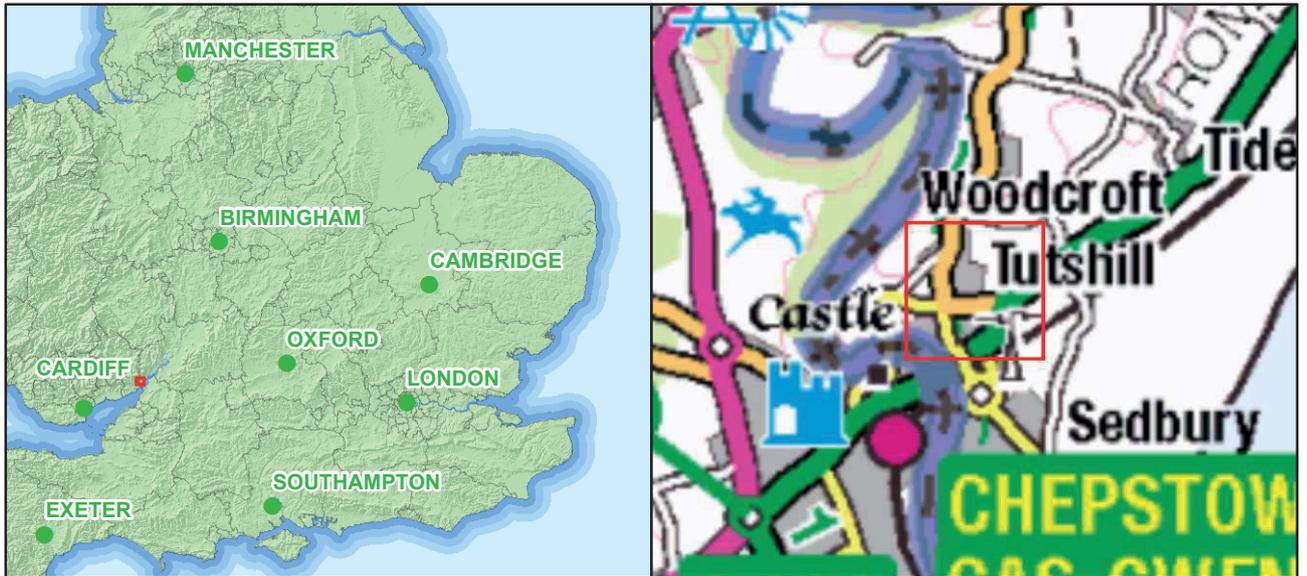
Stratascan 2014 Tutshill Gloucestershire Geophysical Survey Report. Unpublished client document

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land North of Gloucester Road, Tutshill, Gloucestershire
Site code:	OATUCO17
Grid Reference	354360 194810
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	18th-22nd September 2017
Area of Site	c 6ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Dean Heritage Centre in due course, under an accession number to be confirmed.

Summary of Results: During September 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of three conjoined fields to the north-east of Tutshill, in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. The evaluation revealed several undated potential archaeological features including ditches and tree-throw holes.

Two trenches in the southern part of the site each contained a single archaeological feature of medieval date, a ditch and bank and a small pit. The pit also contained a quantity of animal bones, the majority of which were from sea fish, as well as well-preserved plant macrofossils.



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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location

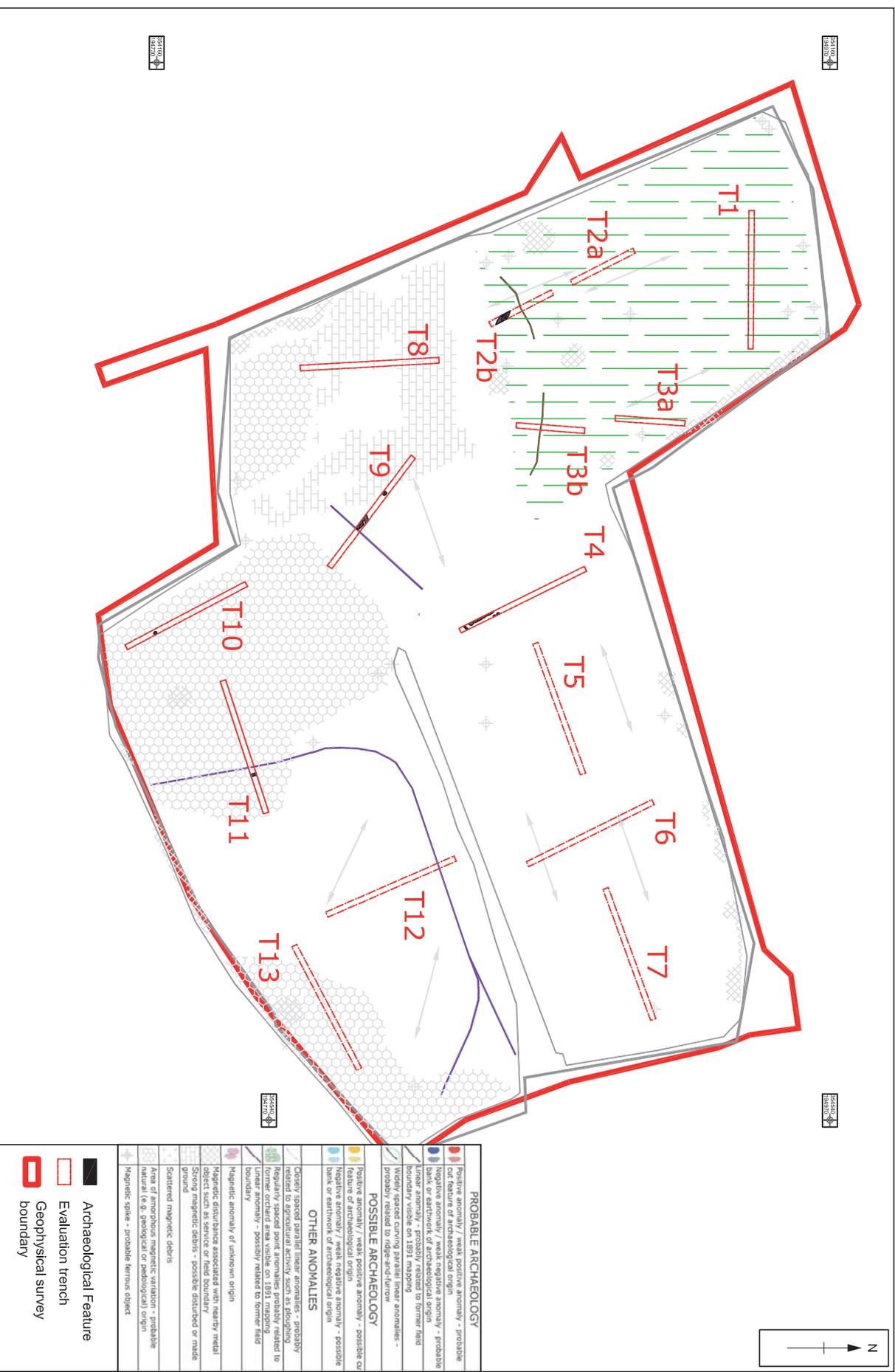


Figure 2: Trench locations with geophysical survey results and archaeological features

Scale at A4 1:2000

CHECKED BY:

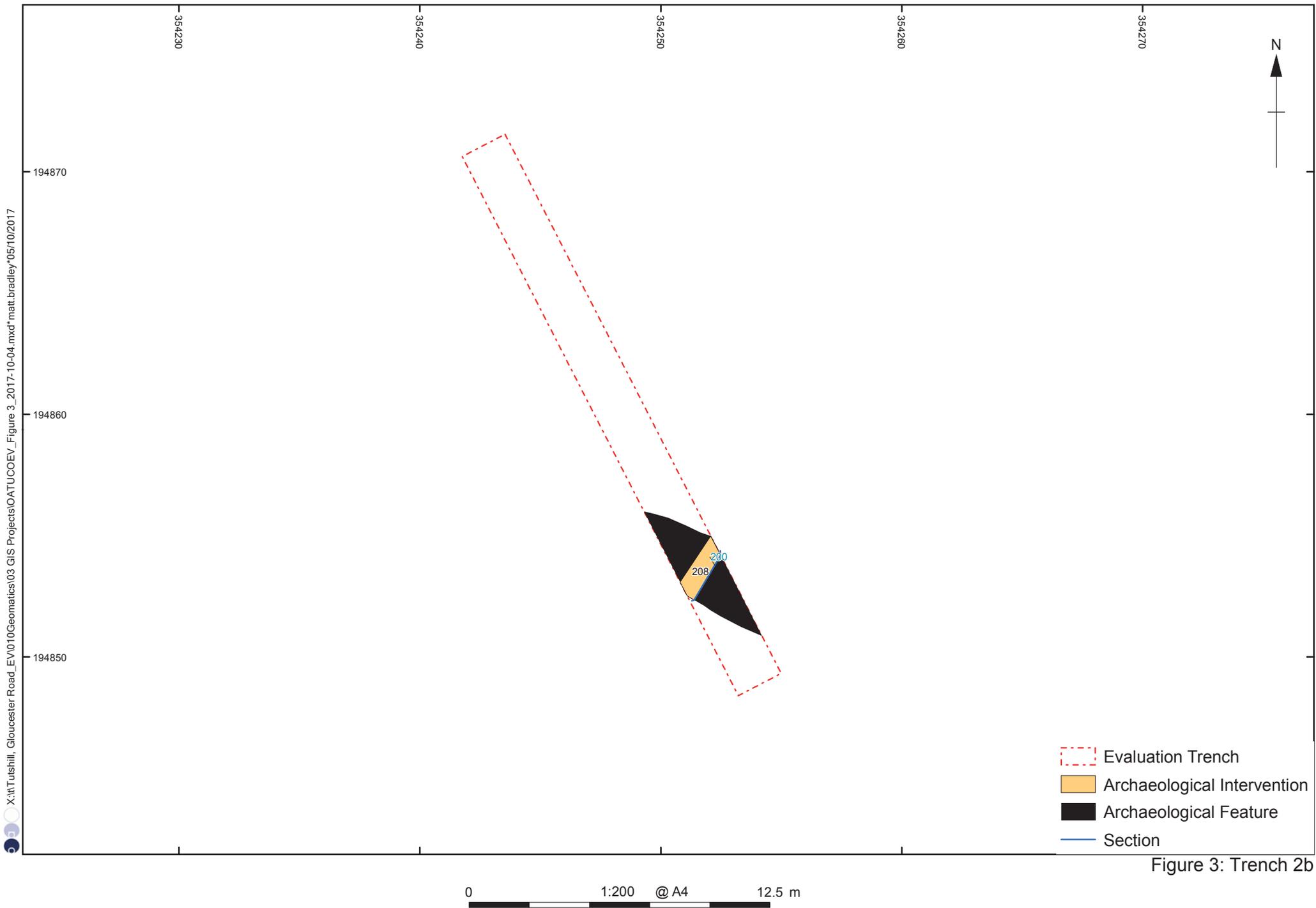


Figure 3: Trench 2b

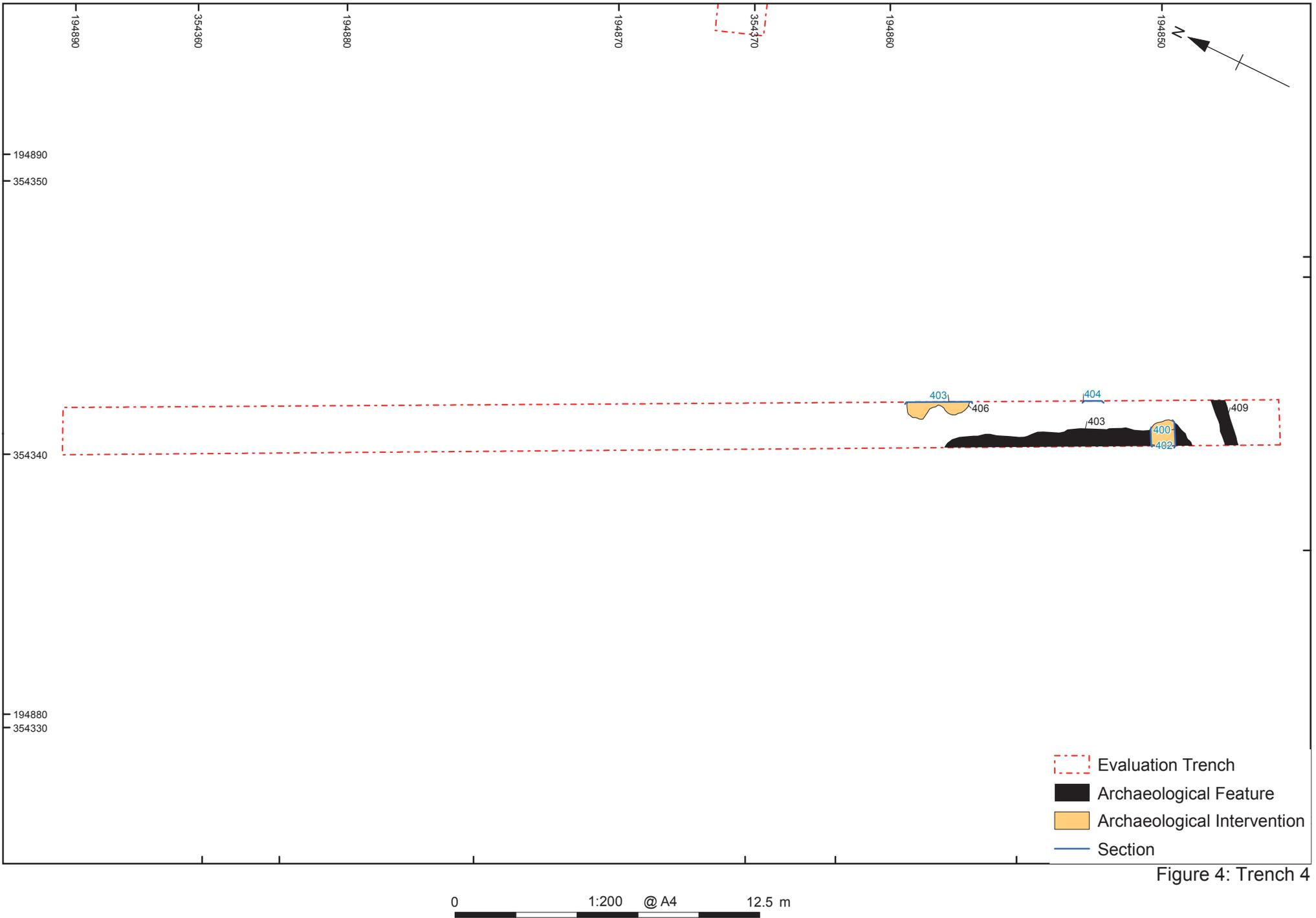


Figure 4: Trench 4

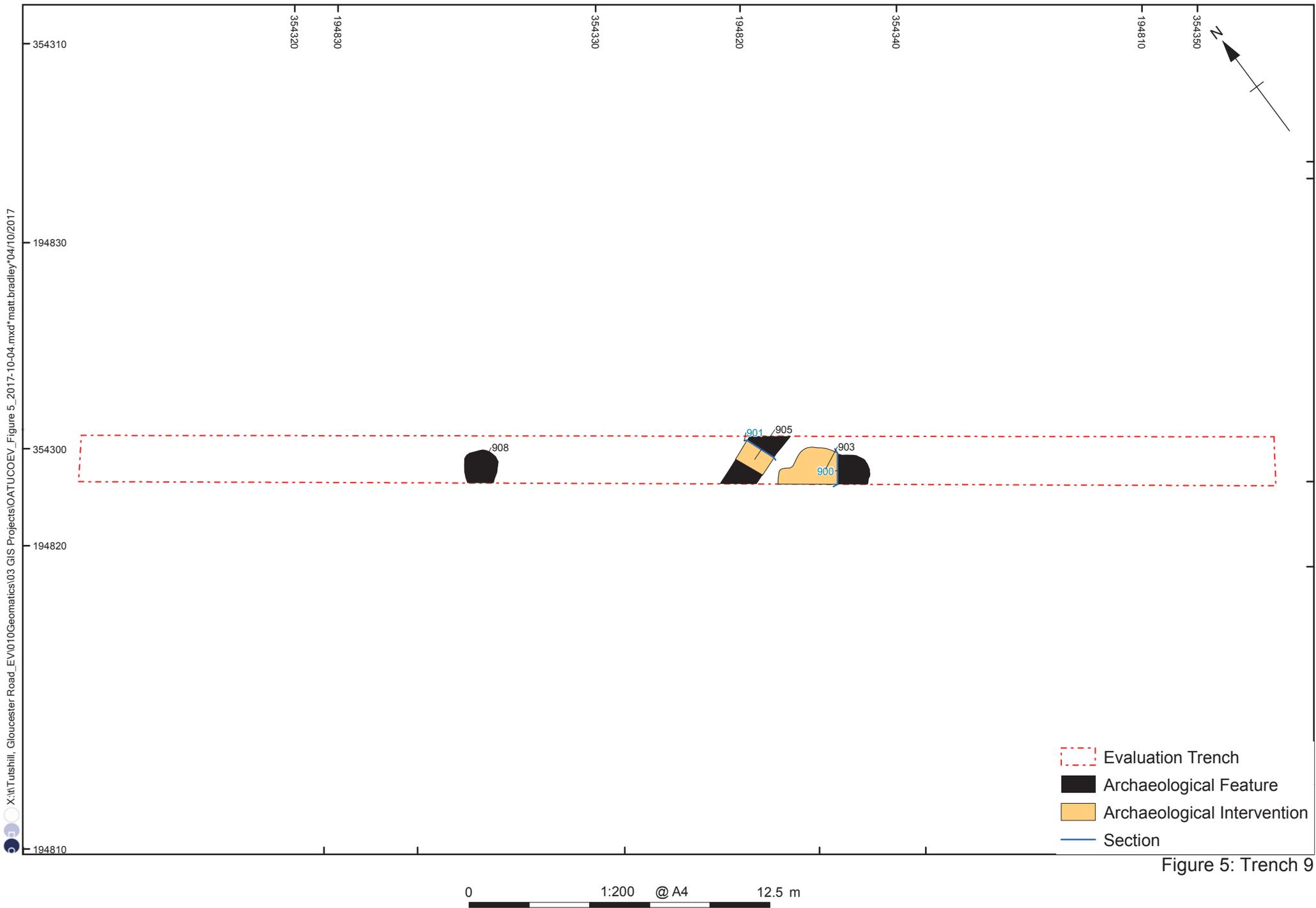


Figure 5: Trench 9

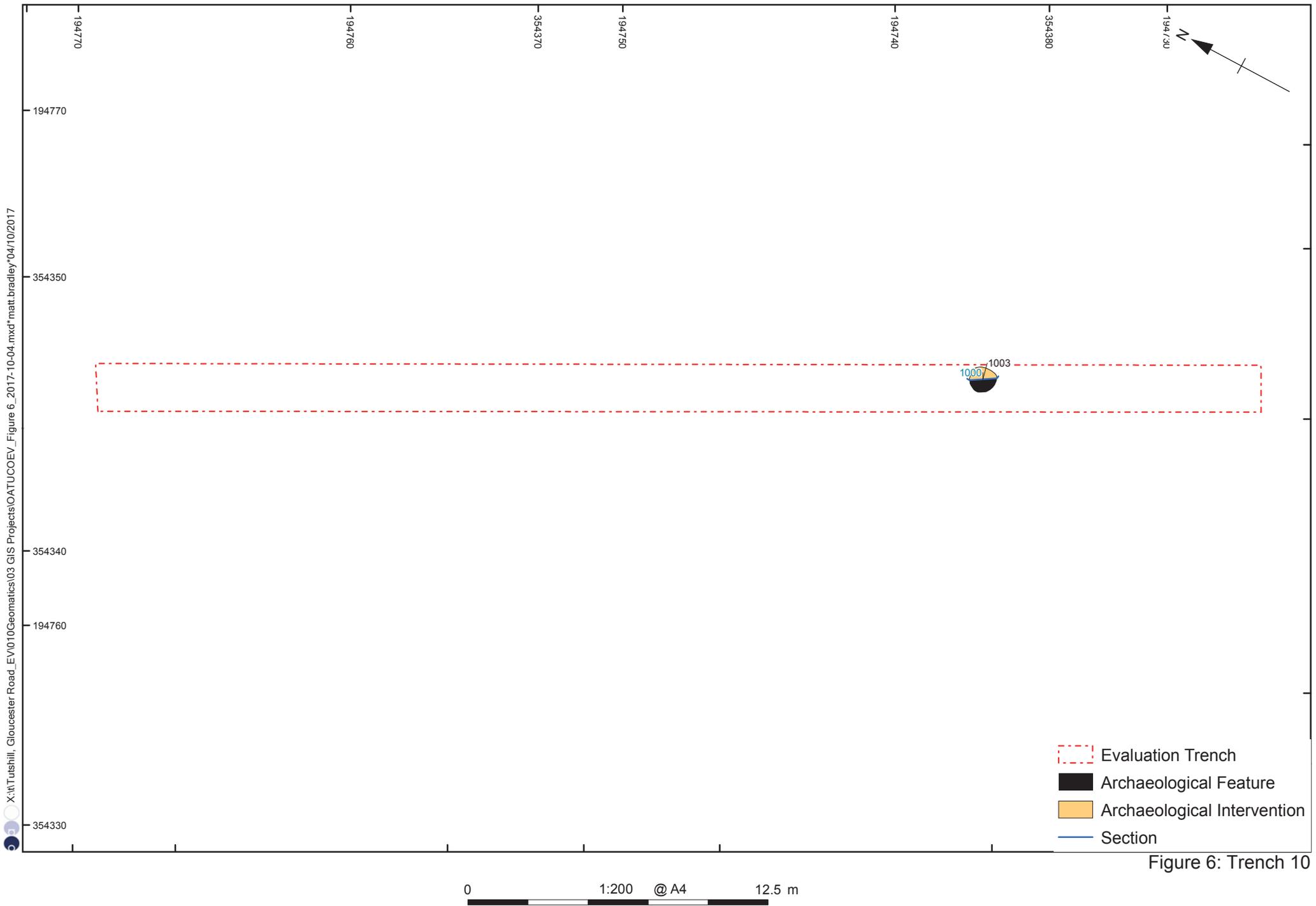


Figure 6: Trench 10

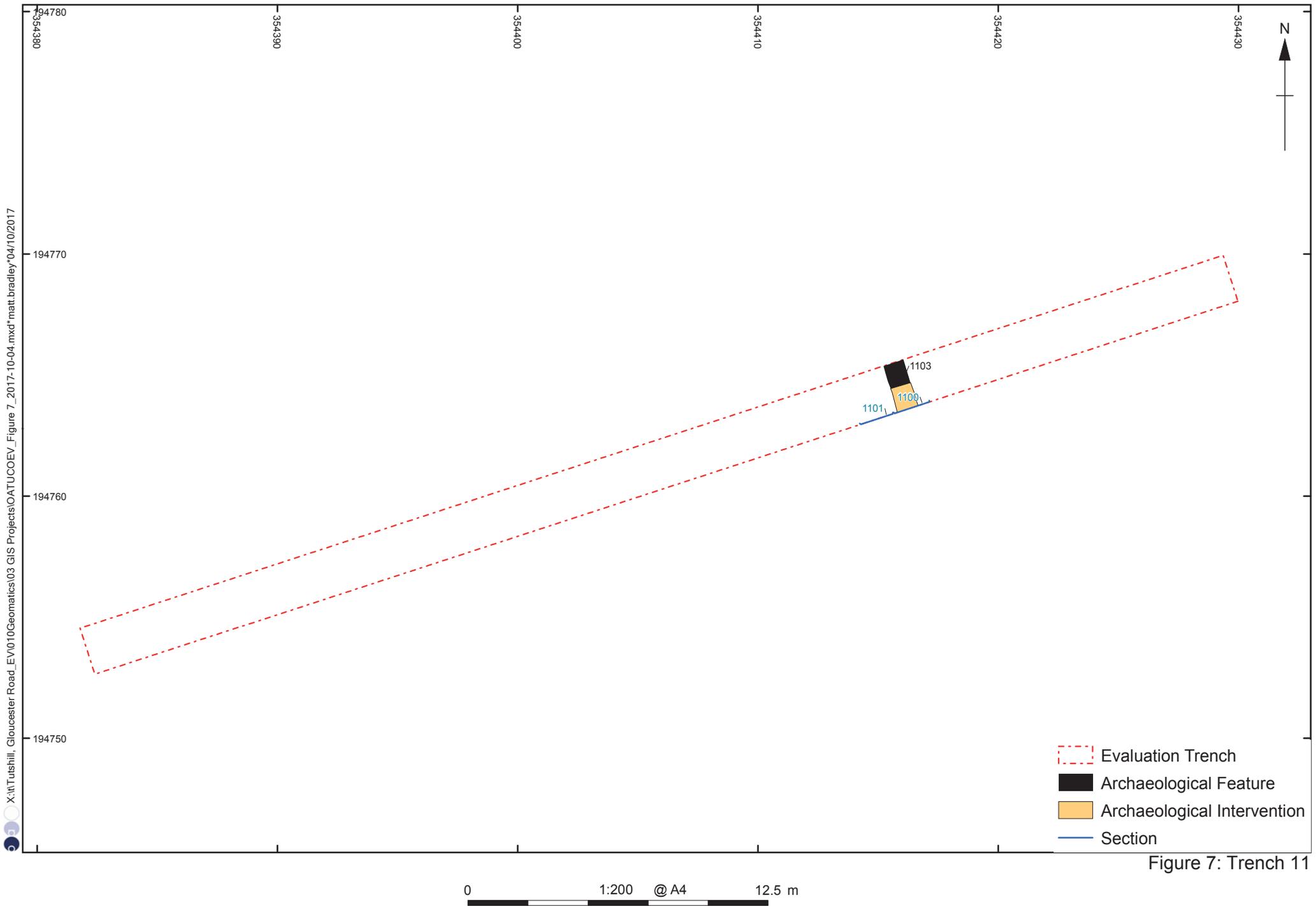


Figure 7: Trench 11

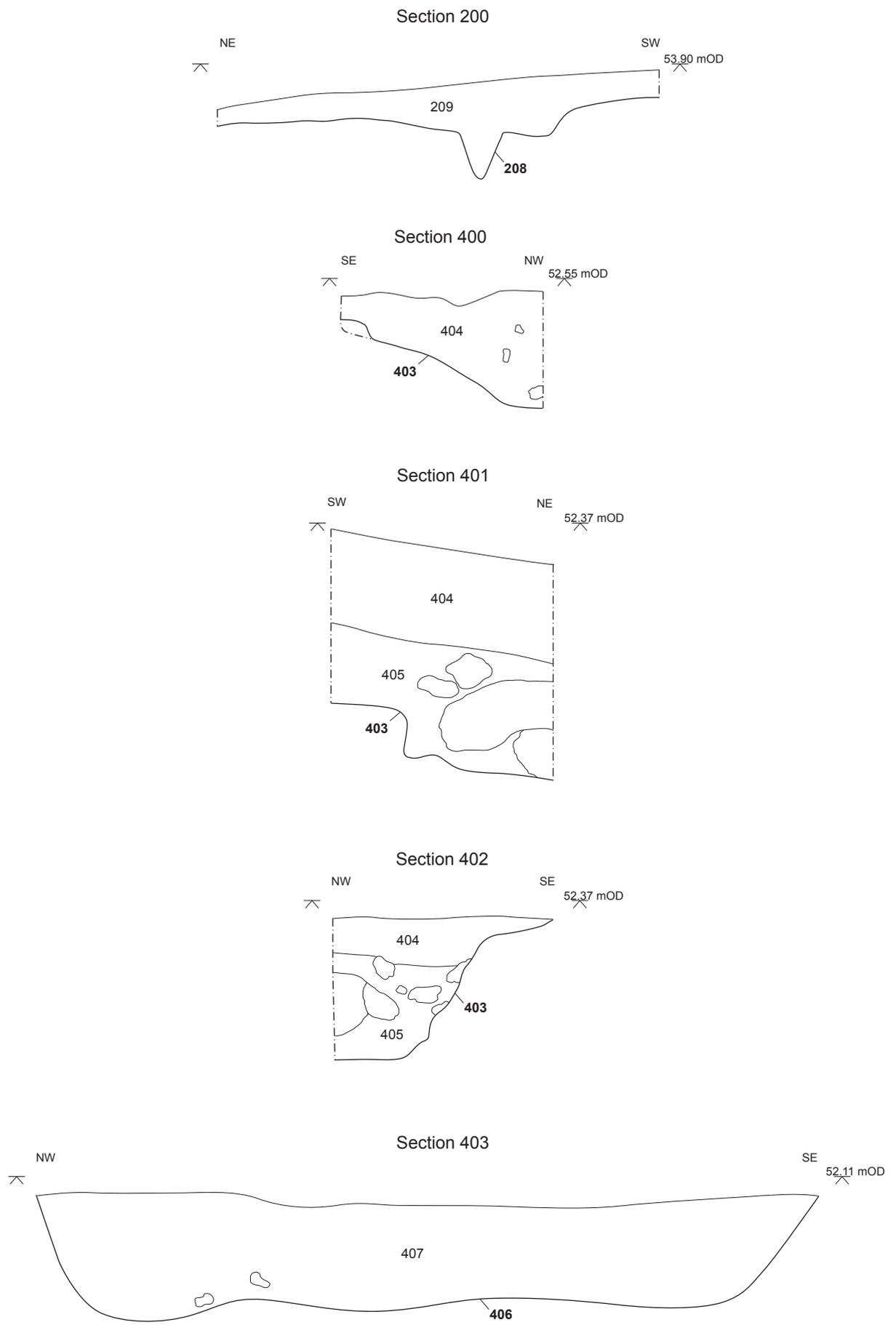


Figure 8: Sections 200, 400, 401, 402 and 403

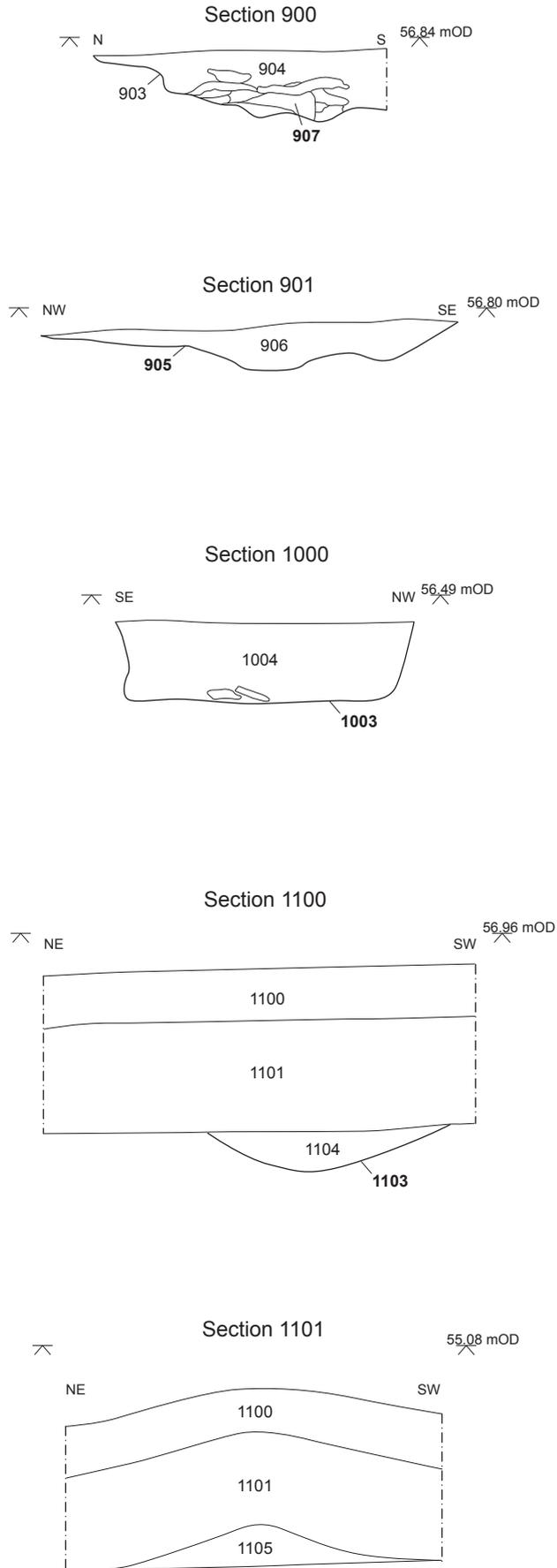


Figure 9: Sections 900, 901, 1000, 1100 and 1101



Plate 1: Trench 10, medieval pit 1003, scale 1m



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