Rushden Lakes, Ditchford Field, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Rushden Lakes, Ditchford Field, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Robin Bashford

With contributions from Michael Donnelly and John Cotter, and illustrations by Charles Rousseaux and Matt Bradley

Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary

Between 24th April and 2nd May 2017, Oxford Archaeology (OA) completed a trial trench evaluation on land within Ditchford Reserve Local Wildlife Site (LWS) to the west of the Rushden Lakes development north-west of Rushden, Northamptonshire (SP 93390 67800).

The evaluation revealed a variety of geological deposits, reflecting the location of the site at the interface between the solid and superficial geology at the edge of the floodplain.

A number of possible features with very sterile sandy fills were identified but, where sample excavation took place, were predominantly interpreted as being of probable geological origin. A number of these were more regular in plan and profile and may have represented ditches, although no artefactual material was present beyond the topsoil interface with the feature fills. The deposits that filled the features were also very similar in composition to the geological deposits.

A small assemblage of worked flint artefacts was present within two of the trenches indicating prehistoric activity at this location. However, the association between these artefacts and the possible features remains unclear.

A number of modern field drains were identified, one of which appeared to be draining from a low-lying area into the reed marsh to the north.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank LXB RP (Rushden) Limited for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Leslie-Ann Mather who monitored the work on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council.

The project was managed for OA by Steve Lawrence. The fieldwork was carried out by Robin Bashford, who was supported by Chris Richardson. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Markus Dyslewski, Charles Rousseaux and Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allenand prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by LXB RP (Rushden) Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land within Ditchford Reserve Local Wildlife Site (LWS) to the west of the Rushden Lakes development north-west of Rushden, Northamptonshire (SP 93390 67800).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform on the archaeological potential of this site. A specification was discussed and agreed with Lesley-Ann Mather, County Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire, establishing a scope of works to adequately inform on this potential. OA then produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI) outlining how the requirements of the specification would be implemented (OA 2017). This document was issued to, and approved by, Lesley-Ann Mather 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 lies on the southern fringes of the Nene Valley floodplain to the north-west of Rushden and west of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The site is centred on NGR SP 93390 67800 and encloses approximately 2.7ha. The land is currently grassland meadow within Ditchford Reserve LWS, bounded to the east by the ongoing Rushden Lakes development, to the south by a disused railway line embankment, to the west by a hedge line and arable fields, and to the north by a drainage ditch and wet meadow with lakes created by historic gravel quarrying. The site slopes down from a high point of 45.5m aOD within the southern part of the site to a low contour of 38.5m aOD across the northern part.

1.2.3 The solid geology of the site is mapped as Mudstone of the Whitby Mudstone Formation (BGS website). Superficial deposits of sand and gravel are also recorded over the northern half of the site. The geology is discussed further in Section 5 in the light of the results of the evaluation.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following is a summary of information available from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) via the Northamptonshire County Council online interactive mapping service.

1.3.2 The HER records several entries within 200m of the site. These comprise funerary monuments from the late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age periods to the north-east and west of the site. The western half of the site and a larger area to the west and south is also recorded as being part of a prehistoric settlement.

1.3.3 A geophysical magnetometer survey undertaken as part of this evaluation process identified a small group of pits within the western part of the site boundary that may relate to prehistoric activity or settlement (Stratascan 2016).

1.4 Potential

1.4.1 The proximity of funerary remains in the immediate surroundings and the location of the site at the edge of the floodplain suggested that there was a raised potential for similar remains to be present within the site boundary.

1.4.2 The identification of probable archaeological features by the geophysical survey and the HER entry recording a prehistoric settlement partly within the site boundary suggested that archaeological features may have been present across the western part of the site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to identify any archaeological remains and the potential impacts upon these. To do this the general aims were to:

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 significant 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. establish what archaeological remains/deposits may be affected by any proposed ground disturbance,
viii. make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent development designs or mitigation strategies,
ix. produce a factual report, full archive and HER data submission,
x. disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.

Specific aims and objectives

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

i. investigate the archaeological and non-archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey through targeted excavation.

2.2 Methodology

General

2.2.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the WSI. Standard methodologies for geomatics and survey, environmental evidence, artefactual evidence and burials can also be found in that document (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).

2.2.2 The evaluation was intended to comprise a 2.5% sample by area of the site. This equated to the excavation of 12 trenches each measuring 30m by 1.8m. The trenches were arranged to provide a spatial sample of the whole area whilst avoiding modern overhead service obstructions and buried services since removed. The trenches were also arranged to investigate and ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey.

2.2.3 Following consultation with the ecologist on site and the County Archaeological Advisor, it was agreed that Trenches 6 and 9 could be moved, and Trench 1 abandoned, to avoid disturbance to sensitive ecological areas.

Site-specific methodology

i. each trench location was laid out using GPS prior to machine excavation,
ii. trench locations were arranged to take into account stand-off requirements from overhead services (11kV high voltage) and former buried services,
iii. the meadow turf was carefully removed by machine and placed to one side of the evaluation trench,
iv. associated topsoil arisings were removed by machine and stored alongside the turf deposits,
v. machine and hand excavation continued following the methodology set out in Appendix A of the WSI,
vi. in the case of encountering substantial deposits of made ground, colluvium or alluvium, the machine was used to excavate a deeper test pit within the trench in order to establish the depth of the potential archaeological horizon. Any information resulting from the excavation of a deep test pit was recorded from the ground level within the main part of the trench.
vii. trenches were backfilled following approval by Lesley-Ann Mather,
viii. reinstatement of soil deposits was in reverse order with the meadow turf replaced last and lightly tracked or tamped down by the machine in consultation with the ecologist.

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 possible archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds reports are presented in Section 4.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, for example pit 703 is a feature within Trench 7, while ditch 303 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform across the site. The fact that the site lies on the interface between at least three different types of geological deposit was reflected in variation in the composition of the natural geology, not only between trenches, but also within individual trenches. The natural geology was overlain by a predominantly sandy silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain with a topsoil of a similar composition but with a greater humic content.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. The exception to this was within the geotechnical test pits, where groundwater was encountered at an average of 1.2m below existing ground level.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 9. A number of possible features were investigated in Trench 5, but were interpreted as geological in origin.

3.4 Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3, 4 and Plate 1)

3.4.1 Trench 2 was excavated in the western part of the site and partly targeted on a possible pit group identified by the geophysical survey. The natural geology comprised a compacted ironstone deposit with irregular patches of light grey clay and reddish brown sandy silt (202).

3.4.2 Sandy silt patches were noted in a potentially north-west\south-east linear configuration. Sample excavation across one of these (204) revealed a possible ditch-like profile, although the edges were very diffuse and the very sterile 'fill' (203) produced no finds. Consequently, it is possible that this represented a geological or other natural process feature. The possible feature had been truncated by a north-south aligned field drain. Feature 204 also broadly corresponds to the location of the pit features interpreted from the geophysical survey.

3.4.3 The natural geology was overlain by an orange brown sandy silt subsoil (201) up to 0.40m deep, which was similar in composition to the sandy element of the geology and the fill of the possible feature. The subsoil was in turn overlain by a 0.18m thick layer of mid grey brown sandy loam topsoil (200).

3.5 Trench 3 (Figs 2, 5, 6 and Plate 2)

3.5.1 Trench 3 was excavated in the south-west corner of the site. The natural geology (304) comprised a reddish brown sandy silt with outcrops of light grey clay.

3.5.2 The sandy silt deposits appeared to define a linear feature across the eastern part of the trench. Sample excavation revealed a profile suggesting the presence of two intercutting ditches (303 and 306), although the very sterile fills (302 and 304) were indistinguishable from each other and produced no aretfacts. Additionally, a number of flints were recovered from the surface of the sandy silt 'natural' and consequently a second spread of the deposit was sample excavated (308). The interface between the sandy silt and the clay was fairly irregular and again, no artefacts were recovered. It is possible that these features represent geological or other natural process features.

3.5.3 The natural geology was overlain by a friable, reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (301) up to 0.40m deep, which was similar in composition to the sandy element of the geology and the fill of the possible features. The subsoil was in turn overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil (300).

3.6 Trench 7 (Figs 2, 7 and 8)

3.6.1 Trench 7 was excavated centrally within the site. The natural geology comprised sandy gravel with irregular patches of orange brown sandy silt (706).

3.6.2 This had been cut by a shallow circular feature (703) with a fill (702) which was very similar in composition to the overlying topsoil.

3.6.3 In the southern part of the trench, the geology was cut by a 6.8m wide feature (705). This appeared to survive as a linear earthwork comprising an east-west aligned hollow which turned northward beyond the eastern limit of the trench and extended through the western end of Trench 9 (see below). A ceramic drainage pipe was revealed in the northern part of the cut, although this was possibly a later addition to a pre-existing feature. A machine-excavated sondage was dug through the southern part of the feature, revealing an irregular profile and lower fills containing organic material throughout (707). This was partly decayed and not in a waterlogged context, indicating that it was relatively modern material.

3.6.4 The natural geology was overlain by an orange brown sandy silt subsoil (701) which was 0.15m thick at the northern end of the trench but thinned to the south and was not present at all at the southern end of the trench. The subsoil was in turn overlain by a 0.14m thick layer of mid grey brown sandy loam topsoil (700).

3.7 Trench 9 (Figs 2, 9, 10 and Plate 3)

3.7.1 Trench 9 was targeted on features identified by the geophysical survey. The natural geology comprised sandy gravel (906). This had been cut by three linear features (900, 907 and 908), which all proved to be of modern origin, and at least two of which (908 and 907) contained ceramic field drains. The third feature (900) was also likely to have contained a field drain, given that fragments of pipework were recovered throughout the fills (902 and 903), as was a quantity of 20th century glass fragments. The ceramic pipe within cut 908 is almost certainly the northern continuation of the field drain

revealed in the southern end of Trench 7, although the wide, potentially earlier feature (705) was not present within Trench 9. The recorded features broadly corresponded to the area of the features identified by the geophysical survey.

3.7.2 The natural geology was overlain by a friable, reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (904) up to 0.18m deep which was in turn overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil (905).

4 FINDS

4.1 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

4.1.1 A small assemblage of nine struck and 21 natural flints was recovered from this evaluation. The flints came from three contexts (201, 307 and 602) with the first two contexts containing typically prehistoric material while context 602 contained natural chunks and large nodules as well as some possibly genuine material. The natural fragments weighed 1281g and are problematic in that flint was not believed to be native to site, suggesting that these blocks were brought onto site intentionally. The struck part of the assemblage included some very regular blades of early date as well as some squat flakes that are typically later prehistoric.

Description

4.1.2 Early flint work was present in contexts 201 and 307. Each contained a fairly large well-made blade, both of which had been utilised and were in good condition. These blades could date from the early Mesolithic through to the early Neolithic period.

4.1.3 The flakes recovered include two that are quite typically later prehistoric in form. These display hard-hammer bulbs, unprepared platforms and are generally quite squat in shape. Both of these squat flakes came from context 307.

4.1.4 Context 602 contained 24 pieces of flint including two very large nodule fragments in very poor quality flint. One nodule weighed 806g while the other was far smaller at 352g. The larger piece was roughly square in form and could suggest some form of shaping related to construction material. However, the feature that it was recovered from was natural in origin and may represent some form of sinkhole or other capture point. The flints may have collected in this feature through geological agencies such as the erosion of the flint-rich overlying gravels. Most of the remaining fragments were natural in origin, but two flakes in this same low quality flint appeared to represent genuinely struck material. One other flint flake from this context was made from better quality flint and is likely to be intrusive.

Methodology

4.1.5 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.*

1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
201	blade	inner	Fine blade with clear signs of use	EPH
201	flake	distal trimming	Quite squat flake	
307	blade	inner	Fine blade with possible signs of use	EPH
307	flake	Inner	Probable failed blade	
307	flake x 2	preparation and side trimming	Both are quite squat and probable later prehistoric in date	LPH
602	flake	inner	Residual prehistoric flake	
602	flake x 2	preparation and side trimming	Very low poor quality flint	
602	nodules x 2		Two blocks weighing 806 and 352g	
602	natural fragments x 19		Random shatter and other thermal/natural removals	

4.2 CBM

Identified by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
902	1 end fragment curved land drain, 1 flat tile edge fragment, orange-buff fabric, 170g	Late 19th – 20th century
903	End of large machine-made curved land drain, orange-buff fabric, 828g	Late 19th – 20th century

4.3 Glass

Identified by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
902	8 sherds, 5 green glass from 1 vessel including bottle shoulder (wine or medicine), 3 sherds white glass, from 1 moulded vessel sub rectangular in elevation (medicine or sauce bottle), 61g	20th century
903	10 sherds from 1 Hartley's Jam jar, 'FMF' mark on base, 100g	20th century

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Evaluation objectives and results

5.1.1 The principal site-specific objective was to investigate the potential archaeological and non-archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey through targeted excavation. The majority of these appear to represent geological features or modern field drains. Where possible archaeological features were encountered these were not previously interpreted as clear features by the geophysical survey results, and the lack of artefactual material and the similarity of the fills to the geological features might imply a similar natural origin.

5.2 Interpretation

Geology

5.2.1 The geology revealed within the trenches was very mixed, reflecting the location of the site at the interface between the Northamptonshire sand formation, Whitby mudstone, terrace gravels and floodplain alluvium (British Geological Survey (BGS), sheet 186). Descriptions of these deposits can be found on the BGS website (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html), and broadly reflect the different types of geology encountered.

Prehistoric activity

5.2.2 The few fragments of worked flint recovered were the only evidence for clear prehistoric activity recovered during the evaluation. These were either found within the subsoil (e.g. 201), or from the interface between the subsoil and the fills of the possible features (e.g. 307). Some of these features were more regular in plan and profile than others, most notably 204 in Trench 2 and 303/306 in Trench 3. However, the fills of these features was very similar in appearance and composition to the geological deposits. Combined with the absence of other indicators of human activity such as artefacts or charcoal, it seems probable that these are either geological features or the result of other natural processes.

5.2.3 Similar features were noted during excavations at Chalk Lane, Northampton where a series of intercutting gullies were recorded, although it was noted that they *"were possibly geological, but contained Early Mesolithic material which could have been derived from the surrounding area"* and formed *".....part of a wider scatter of Mesolithic activity covering the Ironstone outcrop and terrace gravels…….close to the confluence of the two arms of the River Nene."* (Phillips 2006).

5.2.4 Nevertheless, the flintwork from this evaluation indicates a limited prehistoric presence here during early prehistory and again in the later prehistoric period, most likely the mid-late Bronze Age (Michael Donnelly, pers. comm.).

Modern

5.2.5 The field drain encountered in the top of feature 705 in Trench 7 is almost certainly the same as that recorded in the western end of Trench 9 (within cut 908), and is likely

to have been draining the low-lying area around Trench 7 and into the marshy area to the north. The feature appeared to survive as a linear earthwork comprising an east-west aligned hollow which turned northward beyond the eastern limit of Trench 7 and extended through the western end of Trench 9. The origin and date of the feature was uncertain. It was very irregular in profile, and no finds were recovered.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Natural geology 'cut' by a possible NW-SE aligned ditch, although the edges were quite diffuse. Natural geology comprised a compacted ironstone deposit with predominantly irregular patches of light grey clay and reddish brown sandy silt					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	Flint	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Fill	1.00	0.60	Fill of possible ditch 204	-	-
204	Cut	1.00	0.60	Possible ditch cut	-	-
Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Natural geology cut by two possible intercutting ditches, although comparable composition of fill in probable geological/glacial feature may indicate that the ditches are of a similar origin. Natural geology predominantly comprised a reddish brown sandy silt with outcrops of light grey clay					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
302	Fill	1.70	0.65	Fill of possible ditch 303	-	-
303	Cut	1.70	0.65	Possible ditch cut	-	-
304	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
305	Fill	1.40	0.50	Fill of possible ditch 306	-	-
306	Cut	1.40	0.50	Possible ditch cut	-	-
307	Fill	1.20	0.35	Fill of probable natural feature(s)	Flint	-
308	Cut	1.20	0.35	Probable natural feature(s)	-	-
Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of orange brown sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of orange brown sandy silt. Three geological/glacial features investigated.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.10	Variation in composition of natural	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
504	Fill	1.30	0.60	Fill of probable natural feature 505	-	-
505	Cut	1.30	0.60	Probable natural feature	-	-
506	Fill	1.30	0.20	Fill of probable natural feature 507	-	-
507	Cut	1.30	0.20	Probable natural feature	-	-
508	Fill	1.00	0.20	Fill of probable natural feature 509	-	-
509	Cut	1.00	0.20	Probable natural feature	-	-
Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow brown clay with irregular patches of reddish brown sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.44	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Sterile sandy material filling geological/glacial feature(s)	Flint	-
603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel with irregular patches of orange brown sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.15 (max)	Subsoil	-	-
702	Fill	0.60	0.12	Fill of shallow ?modern feature	-	-
703	Cut	0.60	0.12	Shallow ?modern feature	-	-

704	Fill	6.80	0.30	Upper fill of marshy area		
705	Cut	6.80	0.30	Marshy area		
706	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
707	Fill	-	0.20	Lower fill of marshy area	-	-
Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of orange brown silty sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.24	?Landscaping deposit possibly associated with adjacent railway embankment	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Cut			NW-SE aligned service trench	-	-
901	Fill			Fill of 900	-	-
902	Fill			Fill of 900	Ceramic drain pipe; glass	Modern
903	Fill			Fill of 900	Ceramic drain pipe; glass	Modern
904	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
905	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
906	Layer			Natural	-	-
907	Cut			Cut for field drain	-	-
908	Cut			Cut for field drain	-	-
Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of orange brown silty sand becoming paler to the south.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel with irregular concentrations of reddish brown silty sand and yellow brown clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
110	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Sandy natural	-	-
1103	Layer	-	-	Sand and gravel natural	-	-
1104	Layer	-	-	Clay natural	-	-
Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of very light orange brown sandy silt overlying alluvial deposits.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Sandy silt natural	-	-
1203	Layer	-	-	Shelly silt alluvium	-	-
1204	Layer	-	-	Clay alluvium	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX C SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Rushden Lakes, Ditchford Field, Northamptonshire
Site code:	RULA17
Grid Reference	SP 93390 67800
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	24th April – 2nd May 2017 (6 days)
Area of Site	2.7ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.
Summary of Results:	Between 24th April and 2nd May 2017, Oxford Archaeology (OA) completed a trial trench evaluation on land within Ditchford Reserve Local Wildlife Site (LWS) to the west of the Rushden Lakes development north-west of Rushden, Northamptonshire (SP 93390 67800). The evaluation revealed a variety of geological deposits, reflecting the location of the site at the interface between the solid and superficial geology at the edge of the floodplain. A number of possible features with very sterile sandy fills were identified but, where sample excavation took place, were predominantly interpreted as being of probable geological origin. A number of these were more regular in plan and profile and may have represented ditches, although no artefactual material was present beyond the topsoil interface with the feature fills. The deposits that filled the features were also very similar in composition to the geological deposits. A small assemblage of worked flint artefacts was present within two of the trenches indicating prehistoric activity at this location. However, the association between these artefacts and the possible features remains unclear. A number of modern field drains were identified, one of which appeared to be draining from a low-lying area into the reed marsh to the north.

P:\R_codes\RULAEV\RULAEV_Figure1.mxd*charles.rousseaux*12/04/2017

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

Figure 1: Site location

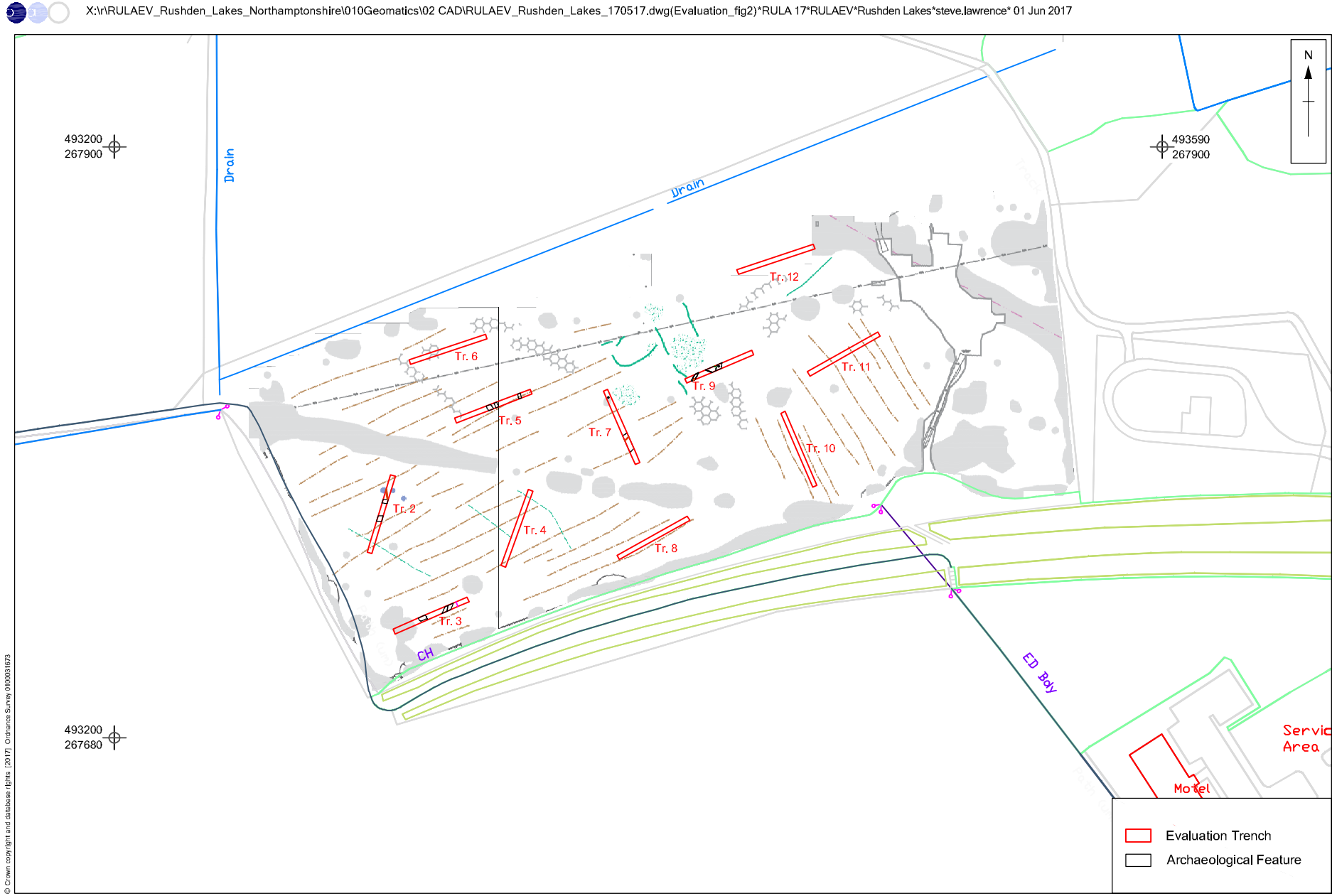

Figure 2: Trench location plan overlain on the geophysical survey results

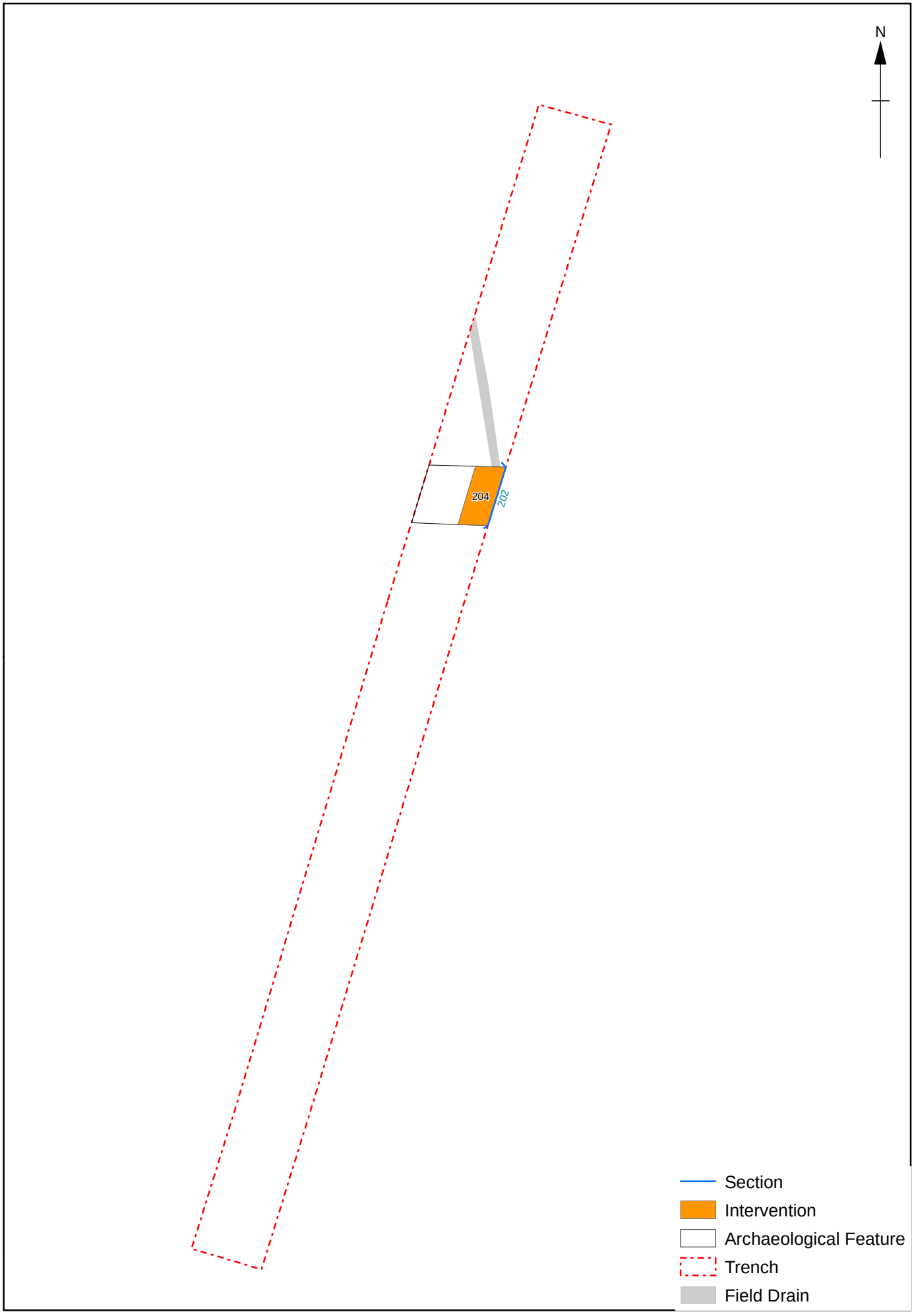

Figure 3: Trench 2 plan

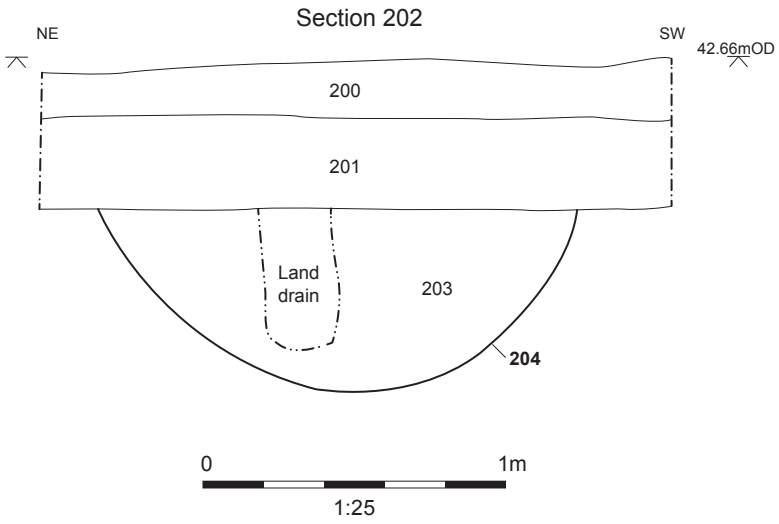

Figure 4: Section 202

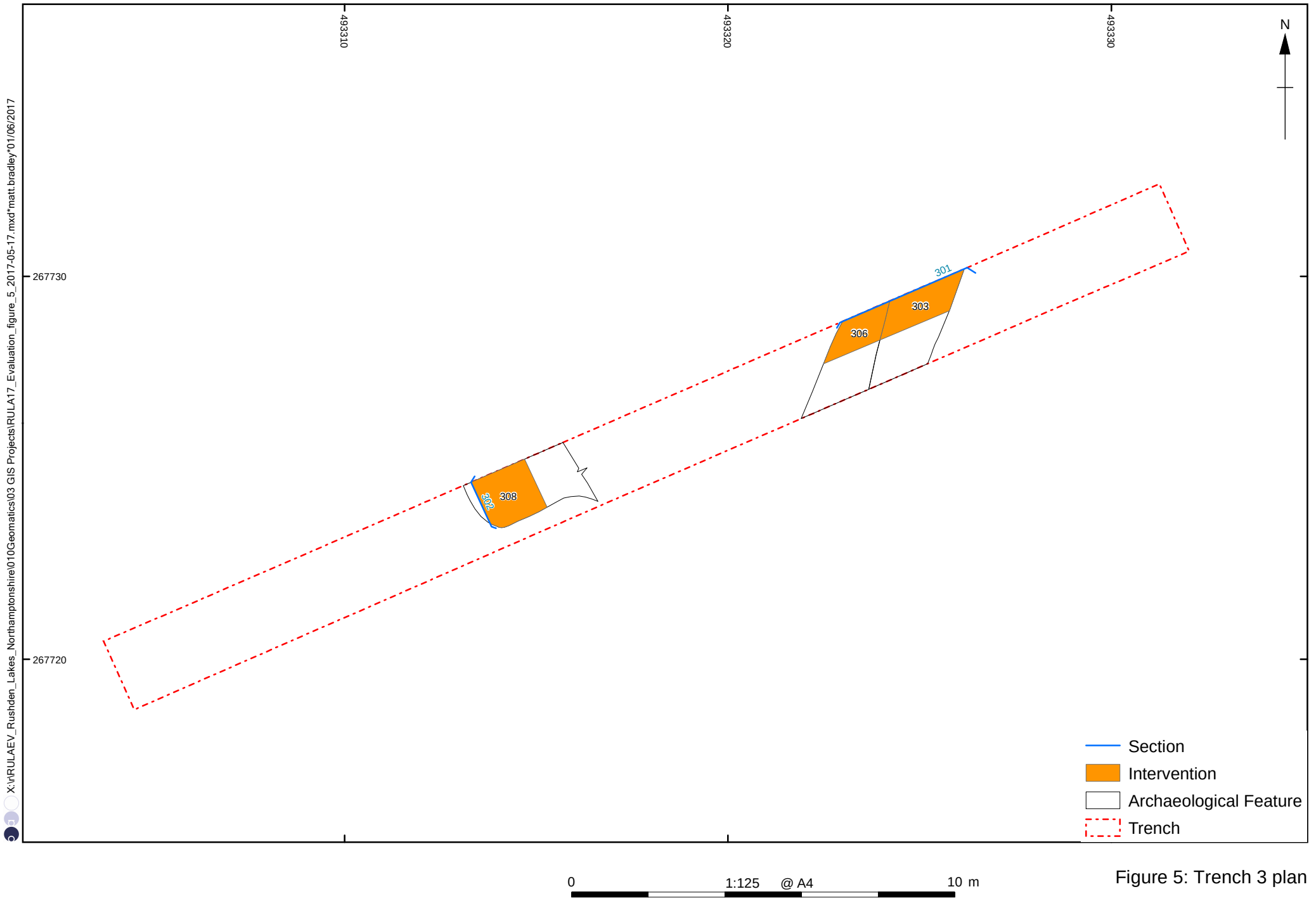

Figure 5: Trench 3 plan

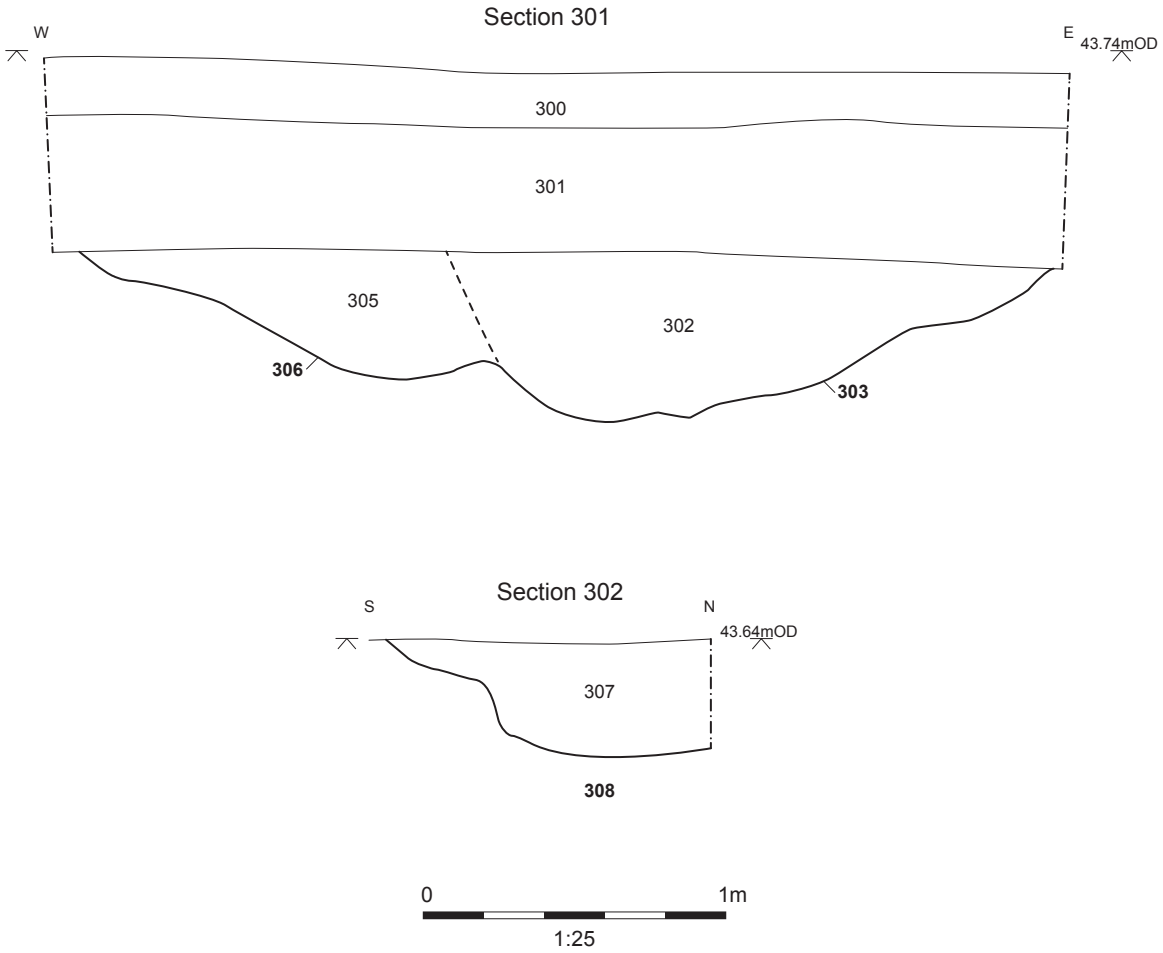

Figure 6: Sections 301 and 302

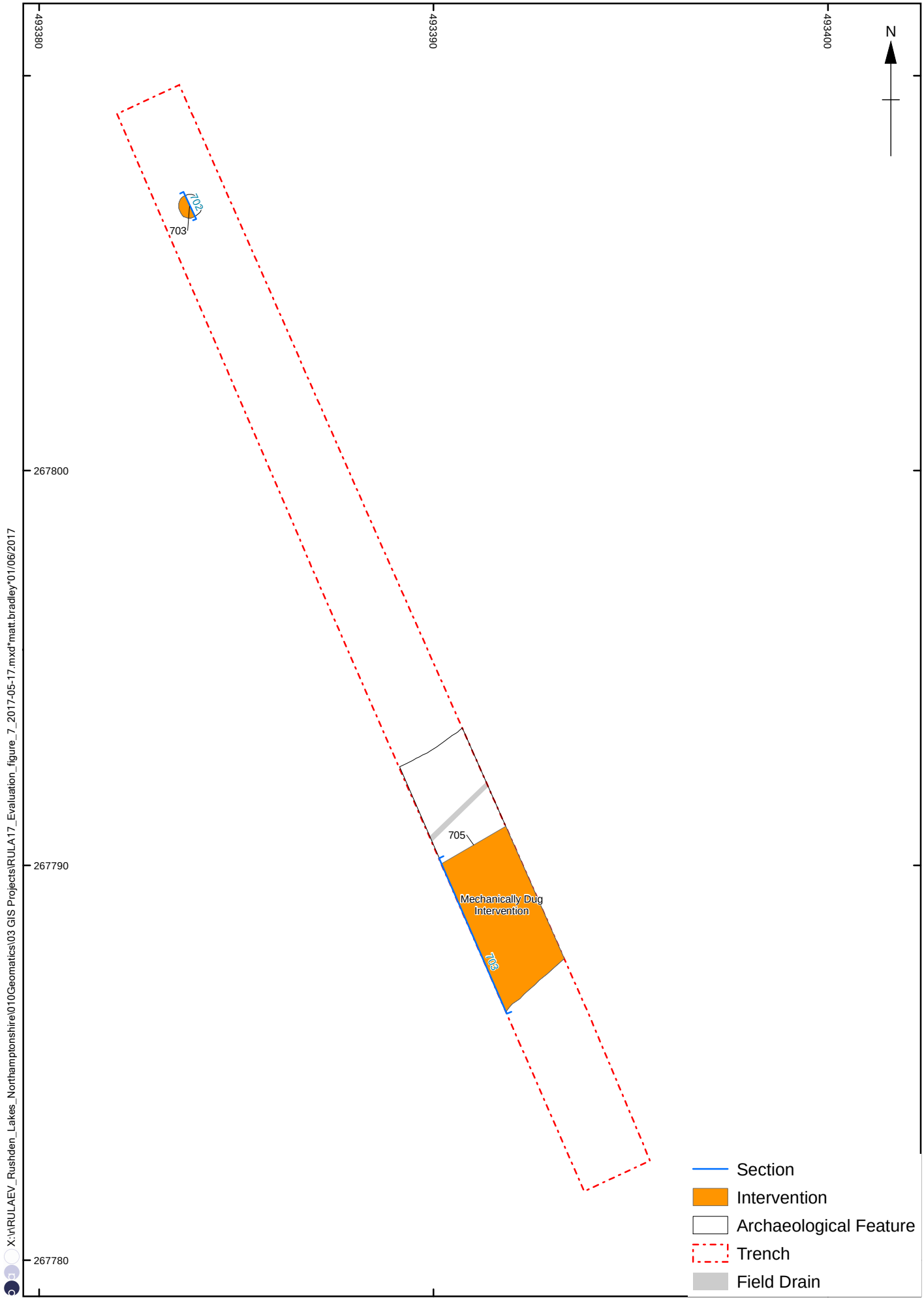

Figure 7: Trench 7 plan

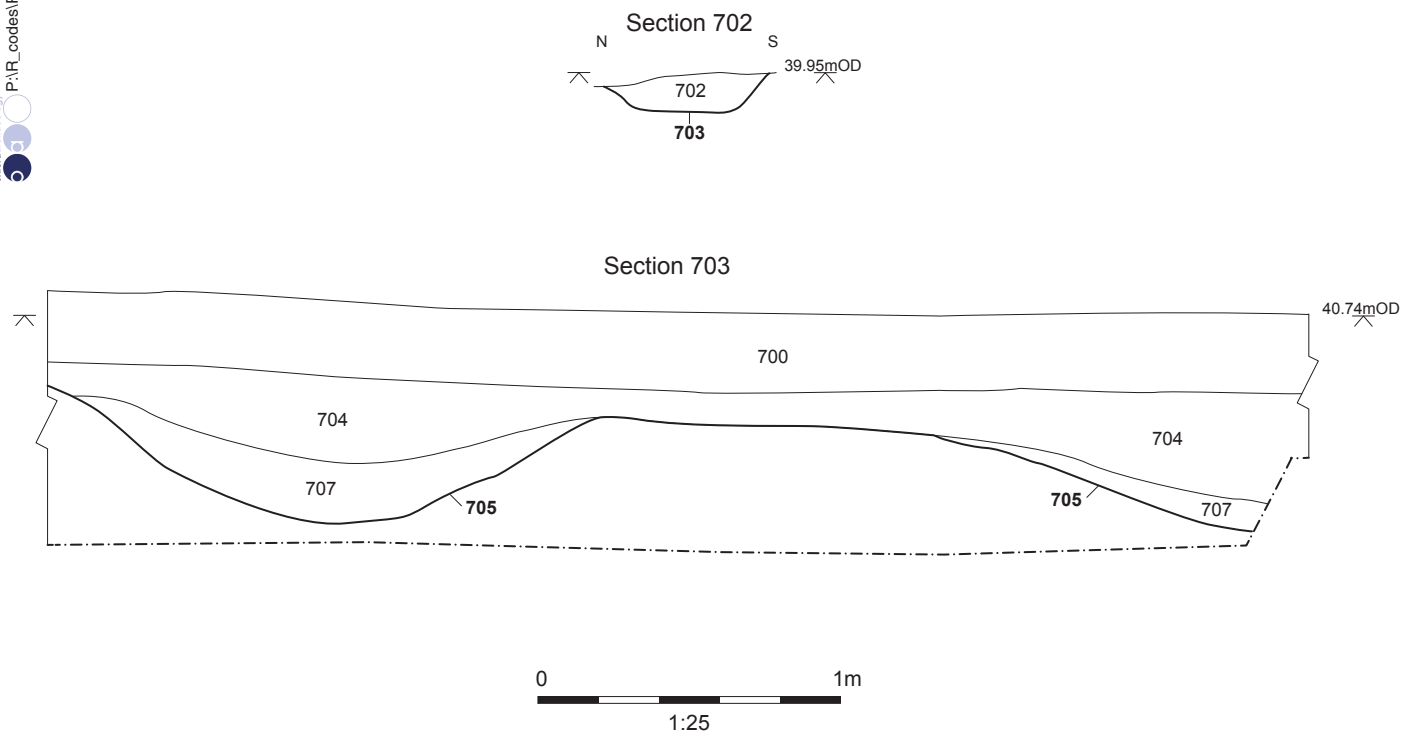

Figure 8: Sections 702 and 703

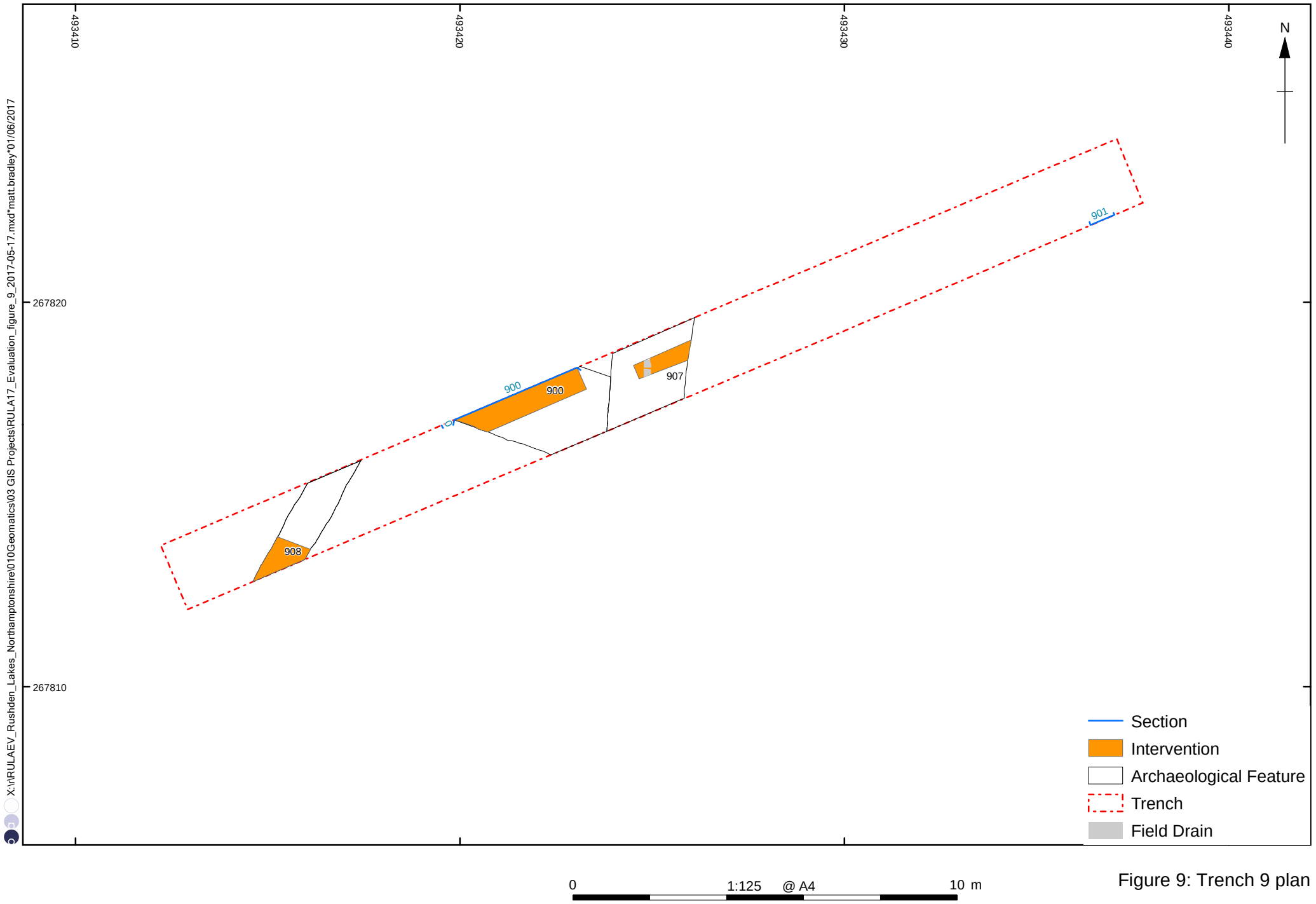

Figure 9: Trench 9 plan

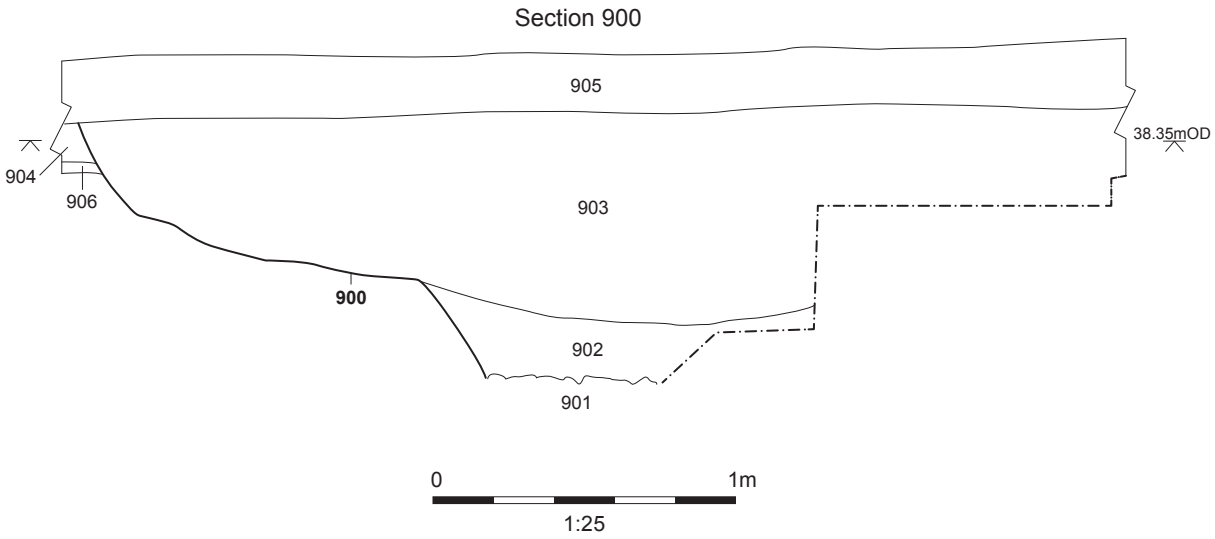

Figure 10: Section 900

Plate 1: Possible ditch 204 in Trench 2

Plate 2: Possible ditches 303 and 306 in Trench 3

Plate 3: Post-excavation shot of Trench 9 showing cuts for field drains

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