



Land adjacent to Thame Road, Longwick, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land adjacent to Thame Road, Longwick, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In April 2017 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Croudace Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Thame Road in Longwick, Buckinghamshire. The site, centred on NGR SP 7875 0525 and lying at 85m above Ordnance Datum, has been proposed for a new housing development.

The evaluation involved the excavation of sixteen 25m by 1.8m trenches and it took place over three days from the 3rd to the 6th April 2017.

The results of the evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological features at the site, mainly comprising a modest number of linear features, laid out on an approximately NW-SE alignment. Some of the features, in the two most northerly of the three fields under investigation, were parallel with present-day field boundaries. Although most of these features remain undated, Roman pottery was recovered from one of them and medieval pottery was recovered from unstratified contexts.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Croudace Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: 15/08455/OUT). Although the local planning authority has not set a brief for the work, discussions with the planning archaeologist Philip Markham established the scope of work required. The scope of work included geophysical survey followed by evaluation trenching in accordance with the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located on the northeast side of the Thame Road, to the north of the village of Longwick and to the south of Wheelwright Road. It is centred on NGR SP 7875 0525 (Fig. 1). The site currently consists of two fields divided by a hedge and part of a larger field to the east. It is at a height of approximately 85m above Ordnance Datum.

1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as younger head above the Gault Formation (BGS 1994).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is discussed in a desk-based assessment (Thames Valley Archaeological Services 2015) and will not be repeated in any detail here.

1.3.2 In summary, the desk-based assessment located no known heritage assets on the site and very few within a 500m study area. The only known assets from the study are comprised stray finds of prehistoric flint tools, and Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, all in small quantities and none from the fields in question. Furthermore, no archaeological investigations have taken place in the immediate vicinity of the site

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims

2.1.1 The general aim was to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the proposed development site

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To provide sufficient data to allow an understanding of the impact of the proposed development upon any remains present.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of sixteen 25 x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 2), representing a 3% sample of the 2.41ha site.

2.3.2 The trenches were arrayed to investigate the single feature-like anomaly revealed by the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017), as well as to ensure an evenly distributed sample across the site that further incorporated lower potential anomalies highlighted by the survey (Fig. 2).

2.3.3 The trenching was carried out by a team consisting of a Project Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor, under the management of Richard Brown, Senior Project Manager, overseen by the Head of Fieldwork, David Score.

2.3.4 All work specifically adhered to the working scheme of investigation laid out in a separate written scheme of investigation document (Oxford Archaeology 2017)

2.3.5 A 14-tonne 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m toothless ditching blade was used for the trenching. All machine work was carried out under the direct supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

2.3.6 All topsoil was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits, which in this case was the natural geological substrate.

2.3.7 The top of the first significant archaeological horizon was cleared by the machine, but was then cleaned by hand and inspected for features.

2.3.8 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits identified were excavated by hand through a specific or agreed sampling procedure to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described. No archaeological deposits were entirely removed. It was not necessarily expected that all trial trenches would be fully excavated to natural subsoil, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the whole site was assessed.

2.3.9 The stratigraphy of all trial trenches was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

- 2.3.10 Spoil heaps were monitored to allow for the recording of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 2.3.11 All excavation, either by machine or by hand, was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits that appeared to be worthy of preservation *in situ*.

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, thus pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.
- 3.1.3 Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 were all devoid of any archaeology and they will not be discussed in any further detail here. Details of these trenches are laid out in Appendix A. The four trenches that contained archaeology will be discussed below. These comprise trenches 3, 6, 10 and 14.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 While Fields 1a and 2a were under pasture at the time of excavation, Field 3a had been recently ploughed and was seeded with what appears to be an arable crop. The soil sequence between all trenches comprised natural, subsoil then topsoil, although the natural geology – consisting of orange to brown silts, sands and clays – varied between the three fields. In Field 1a the natural varied between an orange brown sandy clay and a fine pale blue grey sandy clay, with higher quantities of flint inclusions than in the other fields. Trench 4 in particular lay in a slight depression and here the natural was almost a gravel causing problems with water inundation (Plate 7). The natural in Field 2a was similar, and where the natural was penetrated by features it could be seen to give way to a pale grey gravel, at which point water ingress would become a problem. The natural Field 3a was again similar, but generally sandier and more uniform in colour and composition compared to the other two fields. The natural in all areas was overlain by a subsoil a grey brown to orange brown silty or sandy clay, depending on the composition of the natural it overlay. As might be expected, the subsoil in Field 1a contained a higher proportion of flints, while in Field 3a the subsoil was a little sandier. The topsoil in all three fields was a dark grey brown silty clay. The same slight differences in subsoil between the fields were reflected in the topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained fairly dry throughout. However, some areas of the natural were more prone to water ingress than others (especially Trench 4, Plate 7), and it is in these areas that archaeological linear features tended to be found. These archaeological features, where present, were not always easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, because the geology itself displayed bands of natural variation that could have been mistaken for archaeological features. Compounding this uncertainty was the fact that the fills in all cases tended to be relatively sterile instances of redeposited natural with only slightly higher clay contents.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in trenches 3, 6, 10 and 14 in all three fields. The linear features, however, were limited to Fields 1a and 2a, with a single ovoid feature, possibly a pit, being the only feature in Field 3a. In particular, the features were concentrated in trenches 3 and 6, which had five and three linear features respectively. All the linear features seemed to run on a broadly NW-SE alignment
- 3.3.2 The dating evidence from the whole site is too slight to make any confident comments, with only one of the archaeological deposits (fill 311 from ditch 302 in trench 3) being dated by a single sherd of Roman pottery. All other finds were from the topsoil and subsoil.

3.4 Trench 3

- 3.4.1 Trench 3 lay in the southern half of Field 1a and contained five linear features (Fig. 3), four of which were excavated (Plates 4-6).
- 3.4.2 At the southwest end of the trench Ditch 302 cut Ditch 303 (Fig. 6, sections 300 and 301). Both were just under 1m wide with depths of less than 0.5m, and extended on the same alignment. As such, Ditch 302 could be a recut of 303. Ditch 302 is the only dated feature on the site, and it was dated to the Roman period (2nd or 3rd century AD) by a single sherd of pottery from its second fill (311). This does not provide an especially reliable date, but the tentative implication is that both ditches were part of the same recut Romano-British field system. Both had multiple fills of similar compositions of orange silty clays, although the lowest fill of the earlier ditch was a light greyish clay, perhaps accumulated through alluviation. Ditch 314 to the northeast of this pair had a more gently sloping concave profile and a single sterile fill. A linear feature to the northeast of Ditch 314 was not excavated. To the northeast of the unexcavated feature was Ditch 304, which had a different profile again with a very flat base and multiple fills, broadly similar to the fills of the other ditches (Fig. 6, section 302).
- 3.4.3 314 and the unexcavated linear ran on a NW-SE alignment, but 302, 303 and 304 ran on a slightly different NNW-SSE alignment. Given their shared alignment, it is possible that 302, 303 and 304 formed part of a small enclosure or the boundaries of a driveway. The four excavated ditches were all of similar proportions, being just under 0.5m deep and around 1m wide. It is also true that 314 and the unexcavated linear feature run on what appears to be the same alignment as the present day field boundary. That said, the alignments of 302, 303 and 304 are not entirely dissimilar (Fig. 3).

3.5 Trench 6

- 3.5.1 Trench 6 lay in the northeast corner of Field 2a and contained three ditches running on a broadly similar NW-SE alignment, very similar to the five linear features in Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Plates 10-12). None of the ditches provided any evidence for dating.
- 3.5.2 Ditch 603 lay in the northeast half of the trench and was a relatively shallow feature of just 0.20m, with a width of 1.20m. Its lower fill (607) was banked up on the southwest side, and given the different profiles of southwest and northeast sides (Fig.

6, section 600) an alternative interpretation could be that the interface between the fills represents a recut similar to that seen between ditches 302 and 303 in Trench 3. The fills are very different, 607 being a brown orange clayey sand, and 606 above it being a plastic pale blue grey sandy clay. Ditch 604 to the southwest of 603 also had an asymmetrical profile (Fig. 6, section 601), a similar depth of 0.30m and a width of 0.84m. Ditch 605 lay to the southeast of 604 and had asymmetrical sides, though it had a greater depth of 0.44m and was a little wider than the other two with a width of 1.24m (Fig. 6, section 602).

3.6 Trench 10

- 3.6.1 Trench 10 lay in the southeast corner of Field 2a (Fig. 4) and contained just one ditch, again aligned on the same ne-sw axis as the ditches in Trenches 3 and 6 (Plate 17).
- 3.6.2 Ditch 1003 was of a quite different character to the ditches in Trenches 3 and 6, being very shallow indeed (0.12m) with a distinctively flat base and single fill, a light grey clayey sand (Fig. 6, section 1000). No dating evidence was recovered.

3.7 Trench 14

- 3.7.1 The only feature from Field 3a lay in Trench 14 on the southeast edge of the field (Fig. 5, Plate 21).
- 3.7.2 The feature (1403) was an irregular ovoid-shaped depression with a stepped base, and measured 0.16 in depth and 0.5m in width (Fig. 6, Section 1400). The feature is difficult to interpret and there is a possibility that it could be natural. The fill was a soft dark brownish silty clay, which stands out somewhat from most of the other fills from the archaeological features in the other trenches, which were lighter in colour.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 Very few finds were recovered during the excavation of the evaluation trenches and they are detailed in Appendix B. Finds comprised just six sherds of pottery from three contexts, only one of which was archaeological (fill 311 of ditch 302) and dated to the Roman period. The other pottery was from the topsoil of trench 6 (600) and the subsoil of trench 11 (1101) and comprised five sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware, dated to the 13th or 14th century AD.
- 3.8.2 Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered, most likely of medieval date.
- 3.8.3 A single nondescript iron find was recovered, being a small tapered fragment with a square section of unknown date.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches were excavated over the course of three days in generally sunny and dry conditions with some light rain.
- 4.1.2 Nevertheless, some archaeological features were difficult to positively identify due to natural variations in the geological substrate.
- 4.1.3 The geophysical anomalies targeted by some of the trenches all turned out to be natural features. Moreover, excavation revealed archaeological features that had not been picked up by the geophysical survey.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological remains on the development site (Fig. 2), providing the first clear evidence of archaeological potential through formal archaeological investigation.
- 4.2.2 Although standard samples were excavated from the features, they produced insufficient dating material for a confident characterisation of the remains. Nevertheless, archaeological features are certainly present, and some of them are potentially Roman.
- 4.2.3 Archaeological features were found in all three fields, though they were concentrated in Fields 1a and 2a (9 features in total), with just one somewhat ambiguous feature from Field 3a.
- 4.2.4 Trench 3 produced a linear feature of potential Roman date, while further undated linear features were found in the same trench, as well as in trenches 6 and 10. A single ovoid feature was found in Trench 14. Unstratified medieval ceramics were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in trenches 6 and 11. As such, the date range of past activity at the site from the excavated remains is Roman to medieval. This, however, does not preclude thus far undetected remains of other periods being present at the site.
- 4.2.5 Due to the ambiguous nature of the archaeology uncovered at the site it is difficult to assess the impact of the proposed development. Archaeology is certainly present, but it is likely to be of a dispersed nature with little density.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The equivocal results of the evaluation do not permit much ground for interpretation. At least one of the linear features could be Roman, although a single sherd of pottery does not provide a confident date.
- 4.3.2 The regular alignment of the ditches in Fields 1a and 2a, however, is of interest, and it suggests that there are relationships here that could be determined with more knowledge of the size, shape and date of the features. The alignments are broadly equivalent to the present day field boundaries, though they must predate the early 19th century, as a map from this time indicates the site lying within a field system broadly similar to that found today, but with fewer boundaries (though it should be

noted that the site location given in TVAS 2015 is incorrect on the earliest map of 1813, where the site appears to be in just one field). Given the proximity of the ground surface to the water table at the site, it could be the case that these ditches were all for the purposes of drainage, and some of the fills indicated that there could have been intermittent standing water in these features in the past. The medieval pottery from the topsoil and subsoil may be indicative of medieval manuring practices rather than any immediate settlement.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay. The geophysical anomaly at the NW end of the trench was tested and turned out to be a geological deposit of pale blue grey clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil: dark grey brown firm to friable silty clay. Less than 2% stone inclusions, smaller than 3cm, sub-angular to sub-round.	None	n/a
101	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil: mid grey brown firm silty clay, with some sand. 5-7% flint inclusions 1-4cm, sub-angular to angular.	None	n/a
102	Layer	-	-	Natural: Mid orange brown fine sandy clay and pale blue grey clay with flint c 10%, sub-angular to angular up to 7cm, average 2-3cm.	None	n/a

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil: dark grey brown firm to friable silty clay. Less than 2% stone inclusions, smaller than 3cm, sub-angular to sub-round.	None	n/a
201	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil: mid grey brown firm silty clay, with some sand. 5-7% flint inclusions 1-4cm, sub-angular to angular.	None	n/a
202	Layer	-	-	Natural: Mid orange brown fine sandy clay and pale blue grey clay with flint c 10%, sub-angular to	None	n/a

				angular up to 7cm, average 2-3cm.		
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Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench contained four linear features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying these features cut into the natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil: soft mid grey clayey silt.	None	n/a
301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil: light greyish orange clay.	None	n/a
302	Cut	0.93	0.46	Ditch cut: filled by 310, 311, 312 and 313. Linear at northern end of trench running NNW-SSE, with a concave base, moderately sloped sides and an abrupt top profile. Cuts ditch 303.	None	n/a
303	Cut	0.40+	0.50	Ditch cut: filled by 308 and 309. Linear at northern end of trench running NNW-SSE, with a concave base, moderately sloped sides and an abrupt top profile. Cut by ditch 302.	None	n/a
304	Cut	1.10	0.47	Ditch cut: filled by 305, 306 and 307. Linear found toward middle of trench running NNW-SSE, with a flat base, steep sides and an abrupt top profile.	None	n/a
305	Fill	0.75	0.28	Ditch fill of 304: moderate to firm mid greyish orange clay with no inclusions.	None	n/a
306	Fill	1.0	0.20	Ditch fill of 304: firm mid greyish blue clay with no inclusions.	None	n/a
307	Fill	1.10	0.05	Ditch fill of 304: moderately compact light greyish brown silty clay with rare small sub-round flint inclusions.	None	n/a
308	Fill	0.40	0.15	Ditch fill of 303: moderately compact light greyish blue clay with on inclusions.	None	n/a
309	Fill	0.45	0.35	Ditch fill of 303: firm mid blue clay with orange smears with no inclusions	None	n/a

310	Fill	0.50	0.12	Ditch fill of 302: soft mid orange silty clay with no inclusions.	None	n/a
311	Fill	0.75	0.29	Ditch fill of 302: moderately compact mid greyish orange silty clay with no inclusions.	Ceramics	Roman
312	Fill	0.60	0.28	Ditch fill of 302: moderately compact mid bluish orange silty clay with frequent reddish flecks.	None	n/a
313	Fill	0.90	0.05	Ditch fill of 302: soft mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare small stone inclusions.	None	n/a
314	Cut	1.1	0.35	Ditch or furrow cut: filled by 315. Shallow linear around middle of trench running NW-SE, with a concave base and shallow sides.	None	n/a
315	Fill	1.12	0.35	Ditch or furrow fill of 314: firm orangey grey silty clay with no inclusions.	None	n/a
316	Layer	-	-	Natural: moderately firm mid orange silty clay with some pure grey clay patches.	None	n/a

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel and clay. Geophysical anomaly around centre of trench investigated and proven to be a natural deposit.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil: soft dark brown clayey silt.	None	n/a
401	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil: moderately compact mid greyish brown silty clay, with frequent small (1cm or less) stones throughout.	None	n/a
402	Layer	-	-	Natural geological deposit with diffuse uneven edges. Mixed clay and brown gravel deposit.	None	n/a
403	Layer	-	-	Natural: light orange clayey gravel with sandy gravel and clean grey clay patches.	None	n/a

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sands and clays. Geophysical anomalies were investigated and proved to be natural geological variations.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil: firm dark grey-brown silty clay with less than 2% sub-angular and sub-round stones (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
501	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil: mid brown-grey silty clay with 5-7% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions (less than 3cm).	None	n/a
502	Layer	-	-	Natural: soft sands (mid brown orange and pale grey) and firm to tenacious clays (mid orange brown) with 7% sub-angular flints (less than 5cm) in the clay and 5% sub-round to round stones (less than 1cm) in the sands.	None	n/a

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench contained three linear features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying archaeological features cut into the natural geology of sands and clays					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil: firm dark grey-brown silty clay with less than 2% sub-angular and sub-round stones (smaller than 3cm).	Iron and ceramics	13th-14th century
601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil: firm mid brown-grey silty clay with 5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
602	Layer	-	-	Natural: soft sands (mid brown orange and pale grey) and firm to tenacious clays (mid orange brown) with 7% sub-angular flints	None	n/a

				(less than 5cm) in the clay and 5% sub-round to round stones (less than 1cm) in the sands.		
603	Cut	1.20	0.20	Ditch cut: filled by 606 and 607. Linear found toward NE end of trench running NNW-SSE, with a flat base, north side straight, south side slightly concave.	None	n/a
604	Cut	0.84	0.30	Ditch cut: filled by 608, 609 and 610. Linear found around middle of trench running NW-SE, with a flat base, with the north side slightly convex and the south side straight.	None	n/a
605	Cut	1.24	0.44	Ditch cut: filled by 611 and 612. Linear found at SW end of trench running WNW-ESE with a slightly concave base, gradual break of slope, straight sides with south one very steep.	None	n/a
606	Fill	0.74	0.26	Ditch fill of 603: plastic mid to pale blue grey sand-clay with less than 5% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (less than 2cm).	None	n/a
607	Fill	1.20	0.30	Ditch fill of 603: friable mid brown-orange clay-sand with less than 5% sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 1cm)	None	n/a
608	Fill	0.84	0.11	Ditch fill of 604: sticky or plastic pale grey-blue clay with no inclusions.	None	n/a
609	Fill	0.62	0.02	Ditch fill of 604: soft mid orange brown fine sand with no inclusions.	None	n/a
610	Fill	0.58	0.18	Ditch fill of 604: soft mottled pale blue grey fine sand with brown orange veins, less than 15 sub-round white stone inclusions.	None	n/a
611	Fill	0.98	0.28	Ditch fill of 605: soft mid orange brown clay-sand with less than 5% sub-	None	n/a

				angular and angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).		
612	Fill	1.02	0.18	Ditch fill of 605: sticky or plastic dark blue grey sand-clay with less than 2% sub-angular stone inclusions (smaller than 1cm).	None	n/a
613	Fill	0.95	n/a	Ditch fill of 605: plastic pale grey blue clay with less than 1% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 2cm)	None	n/a

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sands and clays.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: firm dark grey-brown silty clay with less than 2% sub-angular and sub-round stones (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
701	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay to sandy clay with less than 5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions.	None	n/a
702	Layer	-	-	Natural: soft sands (mid brown orange and pale grey) and firm to tenacious clays (mid orange brown) with 7% sub-angular flints (less than 5cm) in the clay and 5% sub-round to round stones (less than 1cm) in the sands.	None	n/a

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sands and clays. Deeper than most trenches (in points up to 0.6m) due to its situation on a rise in the topography					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5m
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

800	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil: firm dark grey-brown silty clay with less than 2% sub-angular and sub-round stones (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
801	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay to sandy clay with less than 5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions.	None	n/a
802	Layer	-	-	Natural: soft sands (mid brown orange and pale grey) and firm to tenacious clays (mid orange brown) with 7% sub-angular flints (less than 5cm) in the clay and 5% sub-round to round stones (less than 1cm) in the sands.	None	n/a

Trench 9

General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sands and clays. The geophysical survey showed an anomaly that corresponds with the location of a land drain.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil: firm dark grey-brown silty clay with less than 2% sub-angular and sub-round stones (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
801	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay to sandy clay with less than 5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions.	None	n/a
802	Layer	-	-	Natural: soft sands (mid brown orange and pale grey) and firm to tenacious clays (mid orange brown) with 7% sub-angular flints (less than 5cm) in the clay and 5% sub-round to round stones (less than 1cm) in the sands.	None	n/a

Trench 10

General description	Orientation	NE/SW
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Trench contained a single linear feature in SW half. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sands and clays.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: firm dark grey-brown silty clay with less than 2% sub-angular and sub-round stones (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
1001	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay to sandy clay with less than 5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions.	None	n/a
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural: soft sands (mid brown orange and pale grey) and firm to tenacious clays (mid orange brown) with 7% sub-angular flints (less than 5cm) in the clay and 5% sub-round to round stones (less than 1cm) in the sands.	None	n/a
1003	Cut	0.81	0.12	Ditch cut: filled by 1004. Linear found in SW half of trench running NW-SE with a flat base and very gently sloping and shallow sides.	None	n/a
1004	Fill	0.81	0.12	Ditch fill of 1003: soft light grey clayey sand with occasional manganese flecks.	None	n/a

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay. Some darker patches in the natural were interpreted as occasional plough scars in softer areas of natural. Land drain also present in NE end of trench.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil: firm to friable dark grey brown silty clay with less than 5% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
1101	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay and clayey silt with 2-5% sub-angular	Ceramics	13th-14th century

				to angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm)		
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural: firm mid orange brown to mid brown orange sandy clay with less than 2% sub-angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a

Trench 12

General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay. Geophysical anomalies correlated with concentrations of flint in the superficial geology.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil: firm to friable dark grey brown silty clay with less than 5% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
1201	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay and clayey silt with 2-5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm)	None	n/a
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural: firm mid orange brown to mid brown orange sandy clay with less than 2% sub-angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a

Trench 13

General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: firm to friable dark grey brown silty clay with less than 5% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
1301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay and clayey silt with 2-5% sub-angular	None	n/a

				to angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm)		
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural: firm mid orange brown to mid brown orange sandy clay with less than 2% sub-angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a

Trench 14

General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench contained a single ovoid feature at NW end. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: firm to friable dark grey brown silty clay with less than 5% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
1401	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay and clayey silt with 2-5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural: yellow sandy clay of moderate compaction.	None	n/a
1403	Cut	0.50	0.16	Cut of ovoid feature with a flat base and moderately sloping sides with an abrupt top profile, oriented NNW-SSE.	None	n/a
1404	Fill	0.50	0.16	Ovoid feature fill: soft dark brownish grey silty clay with no inclusions.	None	n/a

Trench 15

General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil: firm to friable dark grey brown silty clay with less than 5% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a

1501	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay and clayey silt with 2-5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm)	None	n/a
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural: firm mid orange brown to mid brown orange sandy clay with less than 2% sub-angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a

Trench 16

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay. Geophysical anomalies corresponded with a modern intrusion.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil: firm to friable dark grey brown silty clay with less than 5% sub-angular to sub-round stone inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a
1601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil: firm mid orange brown silty clay and clayey silt with 2-5% sub-angular to angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm)	None	n/a
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural: firm mid orange brown to mid brown orange sandy clay with less than 2% sub-angular flint inclusions (smaller than 3cm).	None	n/a

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

B.1.1 Six sherds of pottery weighing 33g were recovered from three contexts (Table 1).

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Spot-date
311	1	18	2nd/3rd century AD
600	3	8	13th/14th century
1101	2	7	13th/14th century

Table 1: Quantification and dating of pottery from LOTR17

B.1.2 Context 311 contained a sherd (18g, 0.14 EVE) from a bowl or wide-mouthed jar with an everted hooked rim in a medium sandy oxidised ware. The date of the piece is uncertain, but a 2nd or 3rd century AD date seems most likely on typological grounds.

B.1.3 Context 600 contained two body sherds (4g) of unglazed Brill/Boarstall ware, and a sherd (4g) of glazed Brill/Boarstall ware with stamped decoration (identified by John Cotter). Both fabrics date to the 13th/14th century.

B.1.4 Another body sherd (2g) of 13th/14th century unglazed Brill/Boarstall ware was recovered from context 1101, along with a body sherd (5g) in a sandy reduced fabric of Roman or medieval date.

B.1.5 The rim sherd is noticeably larger than the medieval pottery and points to Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. The small size of the medieval sherds is characteristic of pottery that has been moved and redeposited incidentally through agricultural activity.

B.2 Ceramic building material

By Edward Biddulph

B.2.1 Two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 44g, were recovered from context 600. One piece is sandy, and has a flat surface and hint of an edge. The other is in a finer fabric with sand and clay pellet inclusions, and also has a flat surface. Both pieces may belong to roof or floor tiles, and a medieval date is likely.

B.3 Metalwork

By Ian R Scott

B.3.1 There is single iron fragment from context 600. This comprises a small tapered fragment of square section, which might be a nail stem except that it appears pinched in at the thicker end rather than broken off. L: 43mm. The object is undiagnostic to function and not closely datable.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

Magnitude Surveys, 2017 *Geophysical Survey Report MSSP95 of Land Adjacent to Thame Road Longwick, Buckinghamshire*, unpublished report by Magnitude Surveys

Oxford Archaeology, 2017 *Land adjacent to Thame Road, Longwick, Buckinghamshire: written scheme of investigation of archaeological evaluation*, unpublished document by Oxford Archaeology, Oxford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 2015 *Land adjacent to Thame Road, Longwick, Buckinghamshire: archaeological desk-based assessment*, unpublished report by TVAS, Reading

APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

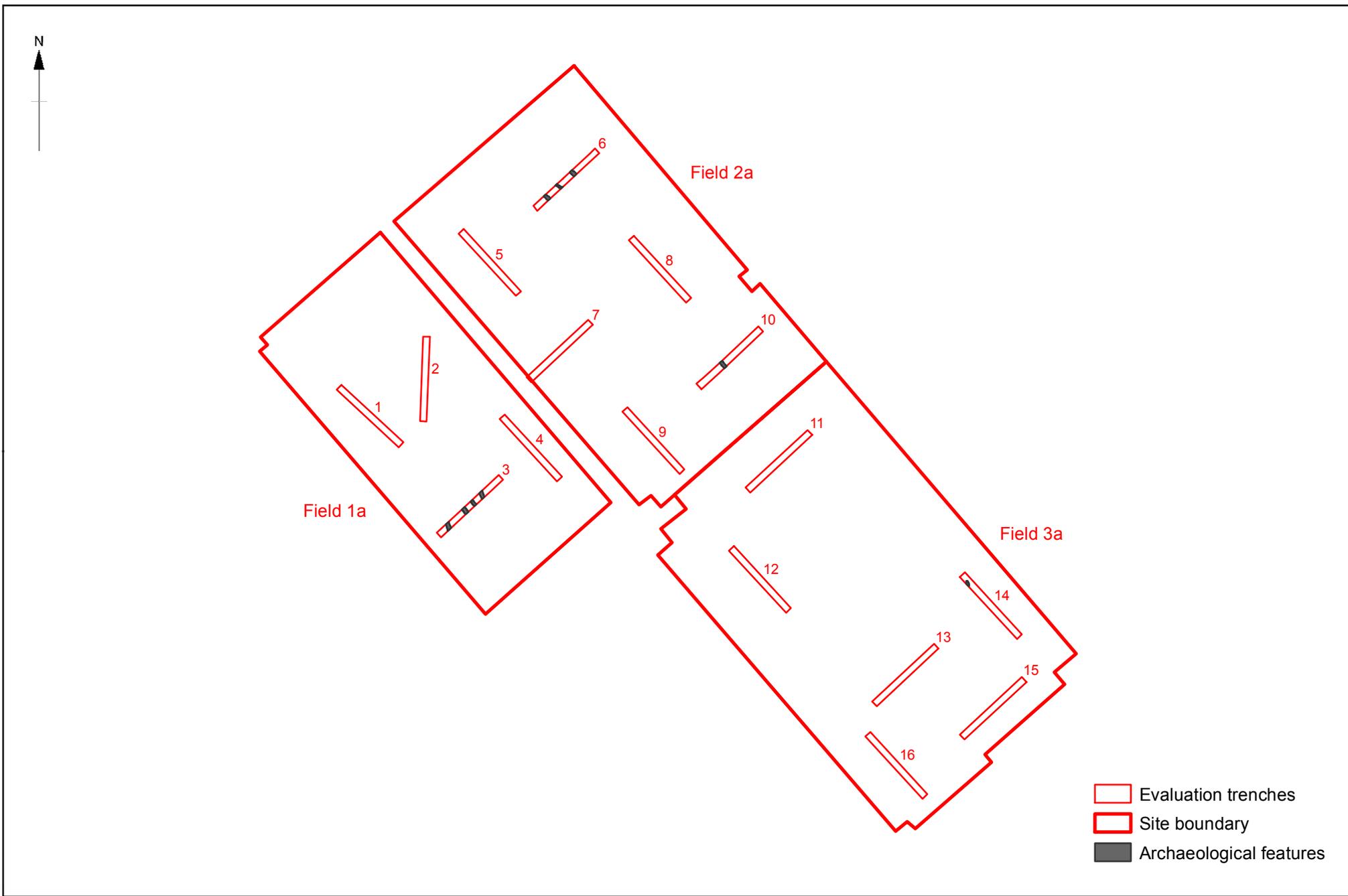
Site name:	Land adjacent to Thame Road, Longwick Buckinghamshire
Site code:	LOTR17
Grid Reference	SP 7875 0525
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	3rd April 2017 – 6th April 2017
Area of Site	2.41ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM:2017.33.
Summary of Results:	<p>In April 2017 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Croudace Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Thame Road in Longwick, Buckinghamshire. The site, centred on NGR SP 7875 0525 and lying at 85m above Ordnance Datum, has been proposed for a new housing development.</p> <p>The evaluation involved the excavation of sixteen 25m by 1.8m trenches and it took place over three days from the 3rd to the 6th April 2017.</p> <p>The results of the evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological features at the site, mainly comprising a modest number of linear features, laid out on an approximately NW-SE alignment. Some of the features, in the two most northerly of the three fields under investigation, were parallel with present-day field boundaries. Although most of these features remain undated, Roman pottery was recovered from one of them and medieval pottery was recovered from unstratified contexts.</p>



X:\llongwick_Thame Road_Geophys_Eval\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\LOTREY_Report_Fig1_2017\0421.mxd*toby.martin*21/04/2017

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014
 (c) OpenStreetMap and contributors, Creative Commons-Share Alike License (CC-BY-SA)

Figure 1: Site location



0 100 m

1:1,500 @ A4

Figure 2: Trench locations

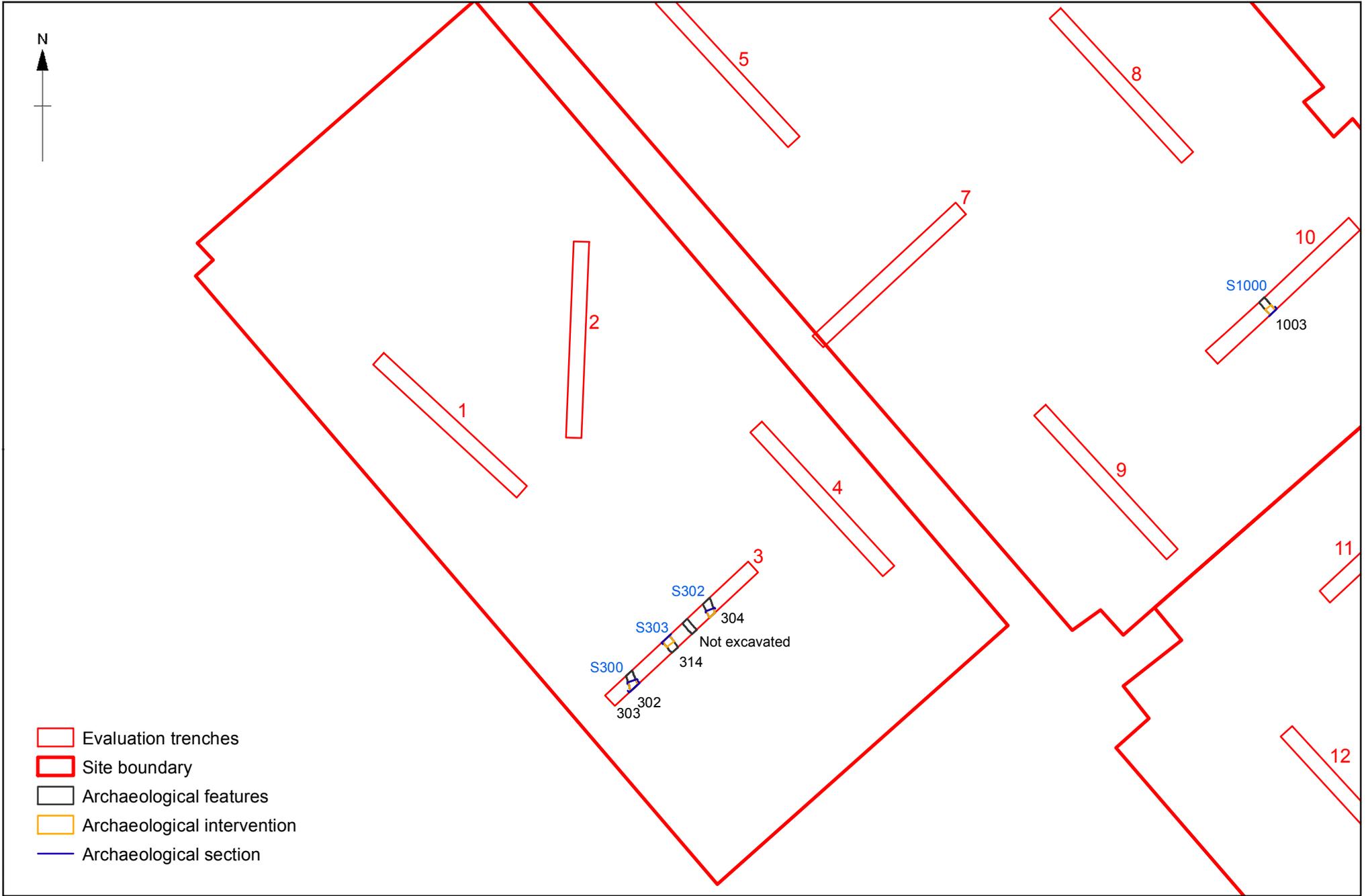


Figure 3: Field 1a trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 showing archaeological features

0 50 m

1:650 @ A4

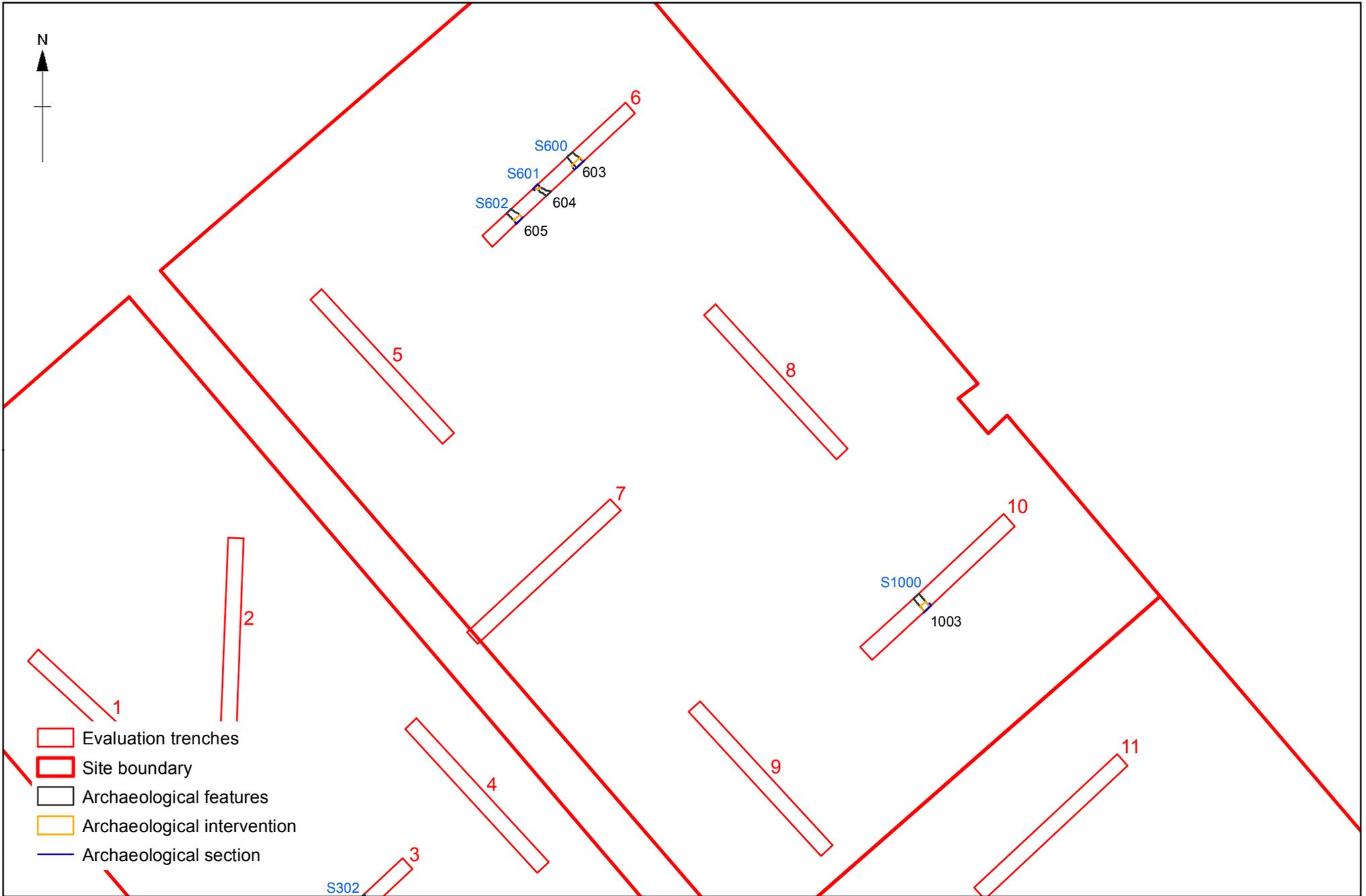


Figure 4: Field 2a trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 showing archaeological features

0 50 m

1:650 @ A4

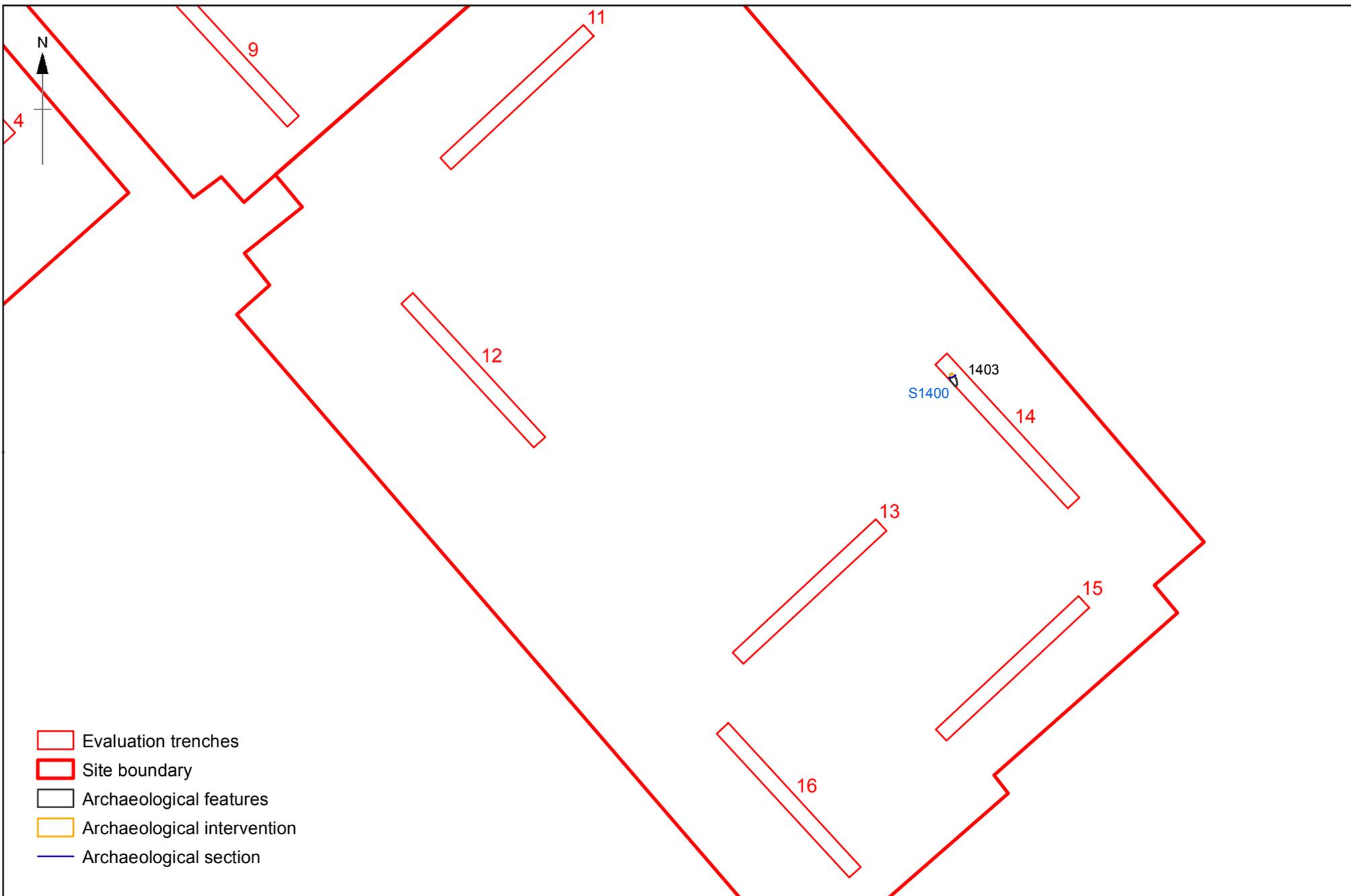


Figure 5: Field 3a trenches 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 showing archaeological features

0 50 m

1:650 @ A4

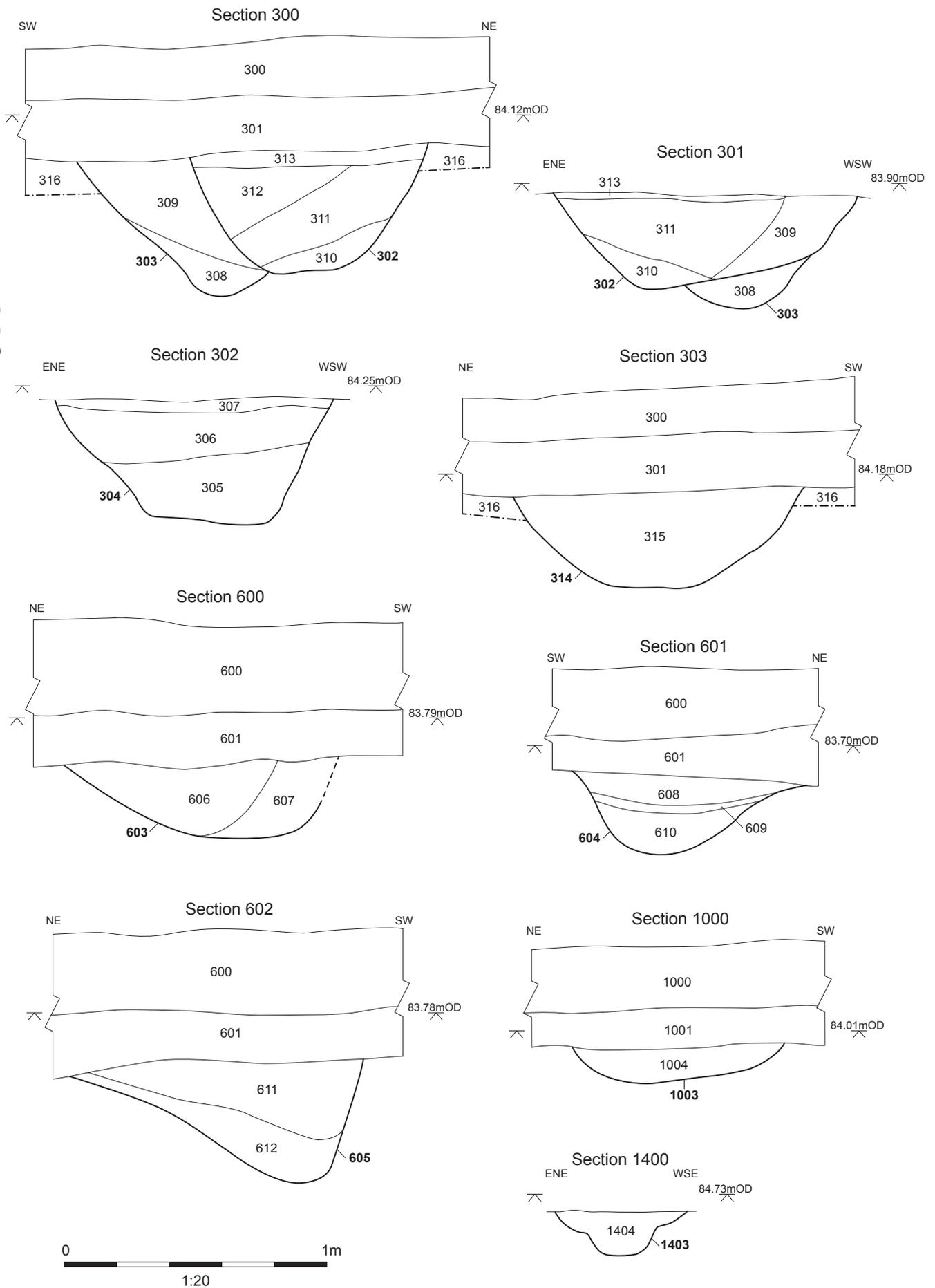


Figure 6: Trench 3, 6 10 and 14 sections



Plate 1: General view of trench 1 with view to northwest



Plate 2: General view of trench 2 with view to north



Plate 3: General view of trench 3 with view to northeast



Plate 4: Trench 3, section 301 showing ditches [302] and [303] with view to southeast



Plate 5: Trench 3, section 302 showing ditch [304] with view to northwest



Plate 6: Trench 3, section 303 showing ditch [314] with view to southeast



Plate 7: General view of trench 4 with view to northwest showing standing water



Plate 8: General view of trench 5 with view to northwest



Plate 9: General view of trench 6 with view to northeast



Plate 10: Trench 6, section 600 showing ditch [603] with view to southeast



Plate 11: Trench 6, section 601 showing ditch [604] with view to northwest



Plate 12: Trench 6, section 602 showing ditch [606] with view to southeast



Plate 13: General view of trench 7 with view to southwest



Plate 14: General view of trench 8 with view to southeast



Plate 15: General view of trench 9 with view to southeast



Plate 16: General view of trench 10 with view to northeast



Plate 17: Trench 10, section 1000 showing ditch [1003] with view to southeast



Plate 18: General view of trench 12 with view to southeast



Plate 19: General view of trench 13 with view to northeast



Plate 20: General view of trench 14 with view to southeast



Plate 21: Trench 14, section 1400 showing ovoid feature [1403] with view to southwest



Plate 22: General view of trench 15 with view to southwest



Plate 23: General view of trench 16 with view to southeast



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