Harpole to Weedon Anglian Water Pipeline Phase 2

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 26th of April and the 7th of May 2021, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted a programme of archaeological evaluation along Phase 2 of the proposed route of a new water pipeline, running between the villages of Harpole and Weedon Bec, Northamptonshire (SP 65595 60412 to SP 62200 60642). Ten trenches were excavated along the 4km route of Phase 2 (*c*.3.4ha). This work was undertaken to aid in identifying the preservation and extent of any non-designated heritage assets and followed on from an earlier programme of geophysical survey. The results of this evaluation also augment the data collected by the previous works carried out along Phase 1 in 2020.

Archaeological remains were identified throughout the evaluation area, appearing sparsely across most trenches, while Trench 100 at the western end of Phase 2 was found to be devoid of any archaeology. The earliest datable features included three Roman enclosure ditches found at the eastern end of the evaluation (Trenches 108 and 109). The small pottery assemblage retrieved from all three ditches include fragments dating to the Early and Late Roman periods (1st to 4th century AD), suggesting the possibility of a sustained period of Roman activity in the area. These Roman ditches may have closely related to the numerous ditches revealed towards the western end of Phase 1 in 2020. Some of these features also produced assemblages of Roman pottery.

Medieval activity is represented by the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation exposed across the site. All trenches, from Trench 104 to 109 revealed up to four furrows.

A number of undated ditches, pits and a posthole appeared in Trenches 101 to 105, more towards the west of the evaluation area. A ditch excavated in Trench 103 produced a Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint arrowhead, although this could be a residual artefact, as opposed to firmly dating the ditch. Two modern former field boundaries were exposed, one running north to south through Trench 106 and another in Trench 101, aligned east to west.

Across the evaluation, there was a notable lack of archaeological evidence relating to settlement, industrial or funerary activity. The archaeological remains found may have generally related to periods of agricultural activity in the area, potentially spanning the prehistoric, Roman, and medieval to modern periods.

Some archaeological features identified corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey. These mainly include the Roman enclosures revealed in Trenches 108 and 109 and the medieval ridge and furrow systems exposed across the site. The majority of other features uncovered were not identified in the survey, with the exception of two undated ditches excavated in Trenches 103 and 105 and a modern former field boundary revealed in Trench 106.

Acknowledgements

OA East would like to thank Anglian Water Ltd for commissioning this project, and to Liz Mordue who monitored the work on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council.

The project was managed for OA East by Chris Thatcher. The fieldwork was directed by Edmund Cole, who was supported by Steve Arrow and James Henderson. Survey and digitising was carried out by Thomas Houghton and the report illustrations prepared by Daria Adamson and Sara Alberigi. Thanks are also due to David Beecroft Ltd for providing the machine excavator, and to the teams of OA East staff that cleaned and packaged the finds and processed the environmental remains, and to Katherine Hamilton for supervising the preparation of the archive.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake a trial trench evaluation along Phase 2 of the proposed route of a new water pipeline (Fig. 1). The pipeline will run from the south-east to the north-west along the side of the M1 motorway to the south of Harpole, Northamptonshire, before turning south-west towards the village of Weedon Bec. The Phase 2 evaluation followed on from the 2020 evaluation (Fairbairn 2020), and subsequent excavation (report forthcoming), carried out by OA East along Phase 1 of the pipeline route, which started nearer to Harpole. The trenching for Phase 2 also followed on from a geophysical survey undertaken along the route in 2020 by Magnitude Surveys Ltd (Magnitude Surveys (MS) 2020).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission. A brief was set by Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor, Liz Mordue, detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Oxford Archaeology 2020), outlining how OA East implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Situated *c*.1km north or the River Nene, the eastern end of the Phase 2 evaluation area (Trenches 107, 108 and 109) lies in a large arable field *c*.1km east of the village of Flore (Fig. 1). The field is bounded by the M1 to the south-west, Brington Road to the west and arable farmland to the north and east (SP 65595 60412). The field just to the south-east marks the westernmost end of Phase 1. The Phase 2 evaluation area continues north-west on the same alignment as Phase 1, and directly north of, the M1 motorway. After *c*.2km, the route crosses the M1 and continues to the south-west towards the westernmost Trenches (102, 101 and 100) on the scheme, before crossing the A5 (Watling Street), and continuing south-west towards Weedon Bec (SP 62200 60642).

1.2.2 Phase 2 of the pipeline route is *c*.4km in length, with a total area of *c*.3.4ha which will be impacted by the construction. The landscape consists of largely undulating arable farmland, sitting between 74m and 104m OD.

1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the western (Trenches 100, 101, 102, 103) and the easternmost area of the evaluation (Trenches 108 and 109) is of the Dyrham Formation (siltstone and mudstone). This is overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium (clay), with the exception of Trench 102, where glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel were encountered below the subsoil. From the south-eastern half of Trench 103 to Trench 107, where the landscape rises onto a plateau, the natural geology changes to the Marlstone Rock Formation (limestone, ferruginous) (British Geological Survey online map viewer http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html, (accessed: May 2021).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background for the area surrounding the Phase 2 evaluation, based on a search of the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) and findings from previous investigations. The location of selected NHER events and monuments within 1km of the site are plotted on Fig. 2.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 In 2015 prior to the construction of the new A45 Flore bypass, a trial trench evaluation (ENN108385) and subsequent excavation (ENN107732) revealed significant evidence for earlier prehistoric funerary activity within the environs of the pipeline evaluation. Along the route of the new bypass and *c*.400m south of the current evaluation area, the remains of two Neolithic long barrows were exposed (MNN7246). A scatter of struck flints dated to the Mesolithic and Neolithic were recorded within the same area, along with a Middle Bronze Age ditch running adjacent to the long barrows.

1.3.3 Beyond this area of funerary activity, definite prehistoric evidence is sparse in the immediate vicinity of the evaluation, particularly that of settlement activity. A few find spots have occurred in the area, relating mainly to earlier prehistoric periods. For example, previous trial trenching to the north of Flore High Street and *c*.800m west of Trench 109 of the current evaluation produced a single flint core from the topsoil (ENN107379).

1.3.4 Very little evidence for later Bronze Age or Iron Age activity is known from the immediate environs of the site.

Roman

1.3.5 The site lies in what would have been an active Roman landscape surrounding the River Nene. The westernmost point of the Phase 2 evaluation (Trench 100, Fig. 1) is located just to the east of the major south-east to north-west Roman arterial road, 'Watling Street' - now the A5 (Brown 2013).

1.3.6 To the east of the M1 motorway and *c*.200m north-east of the evaluation (Trenches 103 and 104), a programme of geophysics and fieldwalking revealed the site of a probable Roman villa (MNN14673). The fieldwalking produced a large amount of Roman pottery and some Anglo-Saxon pottery.

1.3.7 Much of the archaeology uncovered along Phase 1 of the Harpole to Weedon pipeline route consisted of ditches containing Romano-British pottery (Fairbairn 2020), the greater extent of which were located towards the western end, close to the beginning of Phase 2.

Medieval to Post-medieval

1.3.8 As shown from ariel photography and cropmarks (Brown 2013), the evaluation site is located within an area of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation typically observed across much of Northamptonshire. Previous trial trench evaluations just to the north of Flore and *c*.400m south of the current evaluation, revealed former ridge and furrow

cultivation (ENN108170; ENN107379). Flore village itself was an active settlement in the medieval period, becoming more prosperous during the post-medieval period from the sale of wool and after the construction of the Grand Union Canal, located *c*.200m west of Trench 100 of the current evaluation (Brown 2013).

Phase 2 geophysical survey

1.3.9 A geophysical survey was carried out along the entire route of Phase 2 (MS 2020; see Fig. 2, ENN109928). The results of the survey can be viewed in Figs 3-8, which are overlain by the evaluation trench plans. Key features of the geophysical results were the medieval ridge and furrow systems broadly aligned east to west, but occasionally switching to a north to south alignment, perhaps indicating different phases of cultivation. The majority of other geophysical anomalies along the scheme that are believed to be of possible archaeological origin have been interpreted as enclosures dating to either the prehistoric or Roman periods (See Fig. 2, MNN171703 and MNN171704). Trenches of the evaluation that overlay these anomalies include Trenches 102, 103, 108 and 109 (Figs 4-5 and 8).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 This evaluation sought to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains along the pipeline route. The scheme of works detailed below aimed to:

- ground truth geophysical survey results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies were registered.
- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they were found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions.
- provide – in the event that archaeological remains were found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.1.2 This evaluation took place within, and contributes to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

- Cooper, N.J., 2006, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph No. 13.
- Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C., 2012, *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 6.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines. All work was conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

2.2.2 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the OA Field Manual (ed. Wilkinson 1992), and the revised OA fieldwork manual (publication forthcoming).

2.2.3 A total of 10 trenches measuring 50m by 1.80m were set out along the proposed 4km route of the water pipeline. The trenches constituted a 3% sample of the 3.4ha impact

area, and some were deliberately targeted on geophysical anomalies believed to be of archaeological origin. However, other trenches were targeted on areas where no significant geophysical anomalies were present in order to test whether these areas were truly absent of archaeological features.

2.2.4 Before trenching, the footprint of each trench was scanned by a qualified and experienced operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate.

2.2.5 Under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist, the trenches were excavated to the depth of the geological horizon using a mechanical excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil and subsoil were kept separate during excavation to allow for sequential backfilling.

2.2.6 Archaeological features were hand excavated, drawn and photographed, with 1m wide interventions excavated in linear features, whilst discrete features were half-sectioned.

2.2.7 Each trench was individually photographed from both ends and measurements and sketch plans showing the archaeological features and modern interventions were recorded on trench sheets. A written record of each archaeological context was completed.

2.2.8 All features in each trench, including modern interventions such as land drains, were plotted using a survey grade differential GPS connected to Leica smartnet providing an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical. This was to provide accurate plans of the archaeology, but also to provide Anglian Water with exact locations for any modern drains, including any which were damaged during machine excavation.

2.2.9 All archaeological deposits and topsoil were scanned with a metal detector. Artefacts found in archaeological deposits during hand digging were collected and taken back to the OA East main office to be washed and quantified. Environmental samples were taken for flotation processing in order to recover any small artefacts, charred or mineralised ecofacts (plant remains) and to assess their preservation quality.

2.2.10 The trenches were all backfilled after the approval of Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Council.

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. Trench 100, which was devoid of archaeological features is not described here, but the full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental data are tabulated in Appendices B and C respectively. A Phase 2 location and full trench plan is provided in Fig. 1, while more detailed plans of the trenches and their associated geophysical anomalies are provided in Figs 3-8. Selected section drawings are illustrated in Fig. 9 and a selection of photographs are reproduced as Plates 1-13.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was not entirely uniform across the site. The natural geology appeared as a mid-orangey brown, sandy clay in the lower western and easternmost areas (Trenches 100, 101, 103, 108 and 109), with the exception of Trench 102, where the geology was a lighter orangey brown clayey sand. On the higher ground (south-eastern half of Trench 103 to Trench 107) the natural geology changed to a paler yellowish brown sandy clay and limestone brash, with patches of ironstone in places (Trench 103).

3.2.2 The majority of trenches were particularly deep, with the geology overlain by a thick, generally homogeneous layer of mid-brown silty clay subsoil, possibly representing colluvial deposition (0.40m to 0.80m thick). The geology in most trenches on the higher ground however (south-eastern half of Trench 103 and Trenches 104, 105 and 107) was overlain by a much shallower silty clay subsoil (0.20m to 0.30m thick). Archaeological features present across the evaluation, including the numerous furrows, appeared to be sealed by the subsoil or were not visible following the removal of the topsoil. Across the site, the mid-greyish brown, clayey silt topsoil was a fairly uniform depth (0.20m to 0.39m thick), overlying the subsoil across each trench.

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the majority of trenches remained dry throughout. Trenches 101, 108 and 109, situated at low elevations within valleys, partially flooded with ground water shortly after mechanical excavation took place. This issue did not significantly impede hand excavation and recording. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits *(Figs 3-8)*

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all trenches apart from Trench 100. Additionally, four trenches contained natural features which were subject to investigation (Trenches 101, 104, 105, and 106).

3.3.2 The remains encountered in these trenches are described below by trench number. Archaeological features were widely distributed across the site but can be grouped broadly into four main groups, as summarised here:

- *Roman enclosure ditches.* Towards the eastern end of the evaluation area, Trenches 108 and 109 exposed three enclosure ditches, all producing Roman pottery. The two ditches excavated in Trench 108 are thought to directly relate to one another or are part of the same enclosure. These features correspond with the results of the geophysical survey, where enclosures were identified in this part of the evaluation area (See Fig. 2, MNN171703; MS 2020).
- *Medieval ridge and furrow.* Medieval furrows were the most common feature across the evaluation. All trenches, from Trench 104 to 109 revealed up to four furrows. Although no finds were recovered, they can be dated from their character as typical of the medieval period across the county. The furrows respect the geophysical survey results, as they are broadly aligned east to west and Trenches 108 and 109 revealed furrows running on a north to south alignment.
- *Undated features.* A number of undated ditches running on varying alignments appeared in Trenches 101 to 105, more towards the west of the evaluation area. The ditch excavated in Trench 103 produced a Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint arrowhead, although this could be a residual artefact, as opposed to firmly dating the ditch. Additionally, towards the west of the evaluation, two undated pits were exposed in Trenches 101 and 103, while Trench 104 uncovered a small posthole.
- *Modern features.* Two modern former field boundaries were exposed, one running north to south through Trench 106 and cutting across a furrow, and another to the west in Trench 101, aligned east to west.

3.4 Trench 101 *(Fig. 3)*

3.4.1 Trench 101 (Plate 1), situated at the western end of the evaluation, *c*.150m to the north-east of Trench 100, revealed three undated ditches towards its north-eastern end. Ditch **10105** was located *c*.0.50m to the south-west of ditch **10107** and ran directly parallel to it, on a broadly east to west alignment (Plate 2). The ditch measured 0.60m wide and 0.16m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 3; Fig. 9, Section 2). It was filled with a mid-brownish grey silty clay (10106), producing no finds as with all other features in this trench. Ditch **10107** was 0.90m wide and 0.27m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid-brownish grey silty clay (10108). Seven metres further to the north-east of ditch **10107**, a third undated ditch (**10113**) ran on a north-west to south-east alignment. This measured 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (10114) consisted of a mid-brownish grey silty clay. These three ditches appeared to be closely associated and exhibited similar characteristics. The lack of artefactual evidence within these ditches may be indicative of disused agricultural field systems or drainage ditches, as opposed to ditches relating to settlement activity.

3.4.2 Located at the south-western end of Trench 101 was an undated sub-circular pit (**10111**). This measured 0.80m long, 0.75m wide and 0.23m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill was a mid-greyish brown silty clay (10112).

3.4.3 Roughly 7m to the north-east of the pit lay a wide east to west aligned, linear feature (**10115**). This measured 1.65m wide and 0.26m deep with irregular sides and an uneven base. The feature was filled by a mid-greyish brown, silty clay (10116). The

irregular form of this feature suggested it was the line of a former hedgerow. Although this is not presented on historical mapping or the geophysical survey results, communication with the landowner confirmed this feature to have been a former modern field boundary. Just to the north-east, and only partly exposed against the side of the trench, was what appeared to be a natural feature or three throw (**10103**). The feature was sub-circular in plan, but displayed irregular sides and an uneven base, potentially a result of bioturbation. It measured 2m wide and 0.29m deep. The fill (10104) consisted of a light-greyish brown, silty clay. Although not visible in plan in the trench, this feature may have been part of the hedgerow (**10115**).

3.5 Trench 102 *(Fig. 4)*

3.5.1 The trench was situated *c*.300m further to the north-east of Trench 101 in a separate arable field and *c*.300m south-west of the M1 motorway.

3.5.2 Contrary to what the geophysical survey results suggested, only one small undated ditch (**10203**), aligned north to south, was revealed towards the north-eastern end of the trench. This measured 0.42m wide and only 0.12m deep with gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled with a light-orangey brown, sandy silt (10204). A north-east to south-west aligned modern land drain cut through the base of the trench *c*.25m to the south-west of the ditch. The geophysical survey identified a linear and a curvilinear anomaly within the footprint of the trench, which were interpreted as potential prehistoric enclosures (See Fig. 2, MNN171704; MS 2020). However, these were not visible during mechanical excavation.

3.6 Trench 103 *(Fig. 5)*

3.6.1 Trench 103 was located *c*.0.5km due east of Trench 102, on the eastern side of the M1 and running parallel to the motorway. Here, the land sloped upwards, and the trench was much shallower at its south-eastern end (Plate 4). Towards the deeper north-western end, an extra layer, consisting of light-blueish grey colluvium (10309), with a maximum depth of 0.40m, was found underlying the subsoil (See Appendix A, Trench 103). This layer did not appear to mask any archaeological remains or to be truncated by any features.

3.6.2 Midway along the trench and sealed by subsoil was a single shallow ditch. Two excavated slots in the ditch (**10303**=**10307**) confirmed that it terminated within the trench. This feature was broadly aligned east to west, although towards its terminal end it began to curve slightly towards the north-west. It measured between 0.50m and 0.55m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 5; Fig. 9, Section 8). The fill (10304=10308) consisted of a mid-orangey brown, silty clay, which produced one small possible flint arrowhead roughout (SF 1), thought to be Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date (App. B.2). This artefact was potentially present as a result of residual deposition and cannot provide a secure date for the ditch. The feature appeared to closely correlate with a linear geophysical anomaly, running in a generally west-north-west to east-south-east alignment, which was interpreted as a prehistoric/Roman enclosure (See also Fig. 2, MNN171704; MS 2020).

3.6.3 Just 2m to the south-east of the ditch, a sub-circular pit (**10305**) was exposed. This measured 0.90m long, 0.86m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately sloping sides and

a concave base. It was filled with a dark-brownish grey, silty clay (10306), producing no finds or datable evidence. The pit was truncated by one of the two modern land drains revealed running through the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. These land drains appear to follow the direction and path of furrows displayed in the geophysical survey results associated with Trench 103. However, no furrows were visible at the base of the trench or during the removal of the topsoil, subsoil and colluvial layer (10309).

3.7 Trench 104 *(Fig. 5)*

3.7.1 Trench 104 lay *c.*150m to the south-east, on the same alignment as Trench 103. Two unphased features, including a posthole and the terminus of a boundary ditch were investigated, along with two east to west aligned furrows.

3.7.2 The circular posthole (**10405**) was located 10m from the trench's north-western end and measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.10m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 6; Fig. 9, Section 14). It was filled with a mid-orangey brown, clayey silt (10406). The function of this isolated posthole was not clear. Despite its very regular form, suggesting the former presence of a standing post, there is a possibility that it could have been a naturally formed hollow.

3.7.3 Located 25m to the south-east was the terminus of a north to south aligned boundary ditch (**10409**), measuring 0.80m wide and 0.19m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 7; Fig. 9, Section 16). The fill (10410) was a mix of dark-reddish and mid-yellowish brown, clayey silt, perhaps indicating a deliberate backfill. The feature appeared linear in plan as it disappeared into the side of the trench. Its alignment was perpendicular to that of the furrows and could represent a field system pre-dating the medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, although no datable material was recovered from the ditch.

3.7.4 The two furrows (**10407** and **10411**) exposed in the trench were *c.*27m apart with furrow **10411** situated at the south-eastern end, *c.*11m south-east of the ditch. Following hand excavation, both furrows exhibited fairly similar shallow forms, measuring between 0.80m and 1.10m wide and 0.01m and 0.10m deep (respectively). They had gentle sides and slightly concave bases (Plate 8; Fig. 9, Section 17). The fills (10408 and 10412) consisted of a mid-greyish brown, clayey silt. These furrows correlate with their associated geophysical linear anomalies.

3.7.5 The trench revealed a linear feature (**10403**) at the north-western end, which excavation determined to be an irregular, natural feature – probably the result of periglacial processes. This correlates with a geophysical anomaly in the same location, classified as 'indeterminate'.

3.8 Trench 105 *(Fig. 6)*

3.8.1 About 300m further to the south-east, in a separate field, Trench 105 was located over a linear, almost north to south aligned geophysical anomaly. It seemed highly probable that the similarly aligned boundary ditch (**10503**), located *c.*10m from the north-western end of the trench, corresponded with this anomaly. The ditch measured 0.56m wide and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Plate 9; Fig. 9, Section

18). It was filled with a mid-orangey brown, silty clay (10504); no finds or material to aid in providing a date for the ditch was retrieved.

3.8.2 Three furrows were identified across the trench, all orientated east to west as depicted in the geophysical survey and two were excavated. Furrow **10505**, located *c*.7m south-east of ditch **10503**, measured 1.25m wide and 0.08m deep with very gentle sides and a flat base. It was filled with a light-orangey brown, silty clay (10506). This furrow was truncated by a similarly aligned modern land drain on its southern side. The second excavated furrow (**10509**), located *c*.10m south-east of the first, measured 0.76m wide and 0.18m deep with gentle sides and a flat base. Its fill (10510) was a light-greyish brown, silty clay. The unexcavated furrow, *c*.5m south-east of **10509**, had a width of 1.80m, and showed a very similar form in plan to that of furrow **10505.**

3.8.3 Just *c*.0.50m to the north-west of furrow **10509**, a sub-circular feature (**10507**) only partly exposed against the side of the trench was investigated. It was 0.85m wide and 0.19m deep with gentle sides and an uneven base (Fig. 9, Section 11). The fill (10508) consisted of a mid-greyish brown, silty clay. This feature was thought to be of a natural origin, possibly a tree throw.

3.9 Trench 106 *(Fig. 6)*

3.9.1 Trench 106 was located *c*.175m to the south-east of Trench 105, in an adjacent field. Three furrows were uncovered, again all broadly aligned east to west and evenly spaced across the trench, approximately 12m apart. The one unexcavated furrow (detected during the geophysical survey) located *c*.4m from the trench's north-western end was only partially visible, as it was truncated by a modern former field boundary. This modern boundary with its associated land drain corresponded with a large north to south orientated geophysical anomaly at the north-western end of the trench.

3.9.2 The two excavated furrows further to the south-east (**10603** and **10607**) exhibited similar characteristics, measuring between 0.80m and 1.18m wide and 0.15m and 0.23m deep (respectively). They had moderately sloping sides and flat bases. The fills (10604 and 10608) consisted of a mid-greyish brown, silty clay.

3.9.3 Situated just to the north-west of furrow **10603** and only partially exposed against the side of the trench, was an irregularly shaped feature (**10605**), suspected to have formed naturally as a result of bioturbation. Measuring *c*.4m wide and 0.20m deep, the sides were gently sloping, and the base was particularly uneven. Its fill (10606) was a mid-brownish grey, silty clay.

3.9.4 A total of five modern land drains, all evenly spaced throughout the trench and orientated north to south, were observed during the removal of the subsoil. Most drains were seen truncating through the thick subsoil layer. The drain furthest to the north-west however, truncated through the modern former field boundary, which in turn, cut through the subsoil.

3.10 Trench 107 *(Fig. 7)*

3.10.1 About 800m further to the south-east of Trench 106, towards the eastern end of the evaluation area, Trench 107 revealed three furrows that corresponded with the geophysical survey results.

3.10.2 All furrows were orientated east to west and were fairly evenly spaced across the length of the trench. The one excavated furrow (**10703**) situated at the north-western end, measured 1m wide and 0.11m deep with gentle sides and an uneven base. The fill (10704) consisted of a light-orangey brown, silty clay.

3.11 Trench 108 *(Fig. 8)*

3.11.1 Trench 108 (Plate 10) was situated *c*.180m further to the south-east. The trench contained two enclosure ditches and four furrows, only one of which was excavated due to their apparent similarity in character and phase.

3.11.2 Ditch **10803** (Plate 11), located *c*.11m from the north-western end, was orientated east to west and had a width of 2m and a depth of 0.63m. This was noted during the geophysical survey and was thought to be a prehistoric or Roman enclosure (See Fig. 2, MNN171703; MS 2020). The sides were moderately sloping, and the base was concave (Fig. 9, Section 23). It had three different fills. The thin basal fill (10804) was a mid-greyish brown sandy clay, measuring 0.06m deep and perhaps represented natural silting while the ditch was still in use. The fill contained two sherds of Early Roman pottery (166g; App. B.1), one fragment of soft fired clay (App. B.4) and a fragment of unidentified mammal bone (App. C.2). This was overlain by a fill 0.08m thick and consisting of mid-yellowish grey, sandy clay (10805) that seemed to have tipped in from the southern side. The upper fill (10806), formed during the period of disuse, was a mid-reddish brown, sandy clay with a depth of 0.57m. No finds were retrieved from the upper fills; however, the pottery from fill 10804 could date this enclosure ditch to the Roman period.

3.11.3 Ditch **10809** (Plate 12), located *c*.21m further to the south-east, was orientated north-west to south-east. This ditch terminated within the trench and potentially corresponds to the same enclosure associated with ditch **10803** identified in the geophysical survey. However, this part of the trench lacked clarity due to a large modern land drain truncating through the subsoil and masking the full extent of ditch **10809**. The ditch measured 1.16m wide and 0.35m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid-brownish grey sandy clay (10810). This fill produced six sherds of pottery (44g), including sherds dating to the Early and Late Roman periods, alongside two fragments of tile, probably also Roman in date. Two struck flints were retrieved, presumably residual, dating to the Late Mesolithic or Neolithic periods. A bulk soil sample produced a small amount of charcoal (4ml; App. C.3).

3.11.4 All four furrows exposed were orientated north to south and were evenly spaced across the length of the trench, as the geophysical survey suggested. The most north-westerly furrow in the trench, located just south-east of ditch **10803**, appeared in plan to truncate the ditch. Similarly, ditch **10809** appeared to be truncated by the furrow situated just to the north-west. The one excavated furrow (**10807**) located centrally

within the trench, measured 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (10808) consisted of a mid-greyish brown, sandy clay.

3.11.5 Two substantial modern land drains, avoided during mechanical excavation, cut across the trench through the subsoil layer. One towards the north-western end, aligned north to south, truncated the furrow. The other towards the south-eastern end, aligned east to west, truncated ditch **10809** (as mentioned above).

3.12 Trench 109 *(Fig. 8)*

3.12.1 Trench 109 was located at the eastern end of the evaluation area, *c*.80m south-east of Trench 108. This trench contained one enclosure ditch and a furrow.

3.12.2 Ditch **10905** (Plate 13), located centrally within the trench, was orientated north-east to south-west as indicated by a corresponding linear geophysical anomaly. This anomaly, along with similar anomalies surrounding Trench 109, were also thought to be Roman enclosure ditches (See Fig. 2, MNN171703; MS 2020). The full width of ditch **10905** was not known due to the substantial modern land drain truncating through the trench just to the east of the excavated ditch slot. Only a partial profile (1.40m wide) of the ditch was recorded, although the full depth of 0.70m was reached. The profile was almost 'V-shaped', with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 9, Section 22). It was filled with a dark-greyish brown sandy clay (10906), which contained nine sherds of Early and Late Roman pottery (51g) and several fragments of disarticulated, adult-sized human limb bone (17g; App. C.1).

3.12.3 At the eastern end of the trench was a broadly north to south aligned furrow (**10903**) corresponding with an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. This measured 0.93m wide and 0.24m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (10904) was a mid-greyish brown sandy clay.

3.12.4 A total of three large modern land drains, avoided during mechanical excavation, cut across the trench through the subsoil layer, including the drain masking the full extent of ditch **10905** (see above). These were all evenly spaced along the trench and aligned north to south.

3.13 Finds and Environmental summary

Roman Pottery

3.13.1 The evaluation produced a total of 17 sherds (261g) of Roman pottery with varying levels of abrasion, recovered from the three ditches across Trenches 108 and 109 (App. B.1). The total assemblage includes sherds ranging in date from the 1st to 4th century AD. Two of the sherds (166g), dating to the Early Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD), were recovered from ditch **10803** in Trench 108. Six sherds (44g) varying in date between the 1st to 4th century AD were recovered from ditch **10809** in Trench 108. From Trench 109, nine sherds (51g) were recovered from ditch **10905** dating to the 1st to 4th century AD.

Flint

3.13.2 A probable roughout for a leaf shaped flint arrowhead was recovered from ditch **10303** in Trench 103 (App. B.2). This was thought to be a residual find, dated to the Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. A single bladelet and a small Late Mesolithic or Neolithic bladelet core were retrieved from ditch **10809** in Trench 108. Found within a probable Roman context, these finds were also thought to be residual.

Non-building stone

3.13.3 A single fragment of unworked stone was recovered from ditch **10905** in Trench 109. The flake is unworked and is probably the result of a plough strike (App. B.3).

Ceramic building material and fired clay

3.13.4 One fragment of soft, silty fired clay was recovered from ditch **10803** in Trench 108 (App. B.4) and two fragments from a single tile were recovered from ditch **10809**, also in Trench 108 and associated with Roman pottery. This tile was thought to also be Roman in date, possibly part of a Tegula.

Human remains

3.13.5 Several small, very abraded fragments of disarticulated, adult-sized human limb bone (17g) were recovered from ditch **10905** in Trench 109 (App. C.1). This assemblage was associated with Roman pottery.

Animal bone

3.13.6 The evaluation only produced one fragment of unidentified medium to large mammal bone from ditch **10803** in Trench 108 (App. C.2). This was associated with Early Roman pottery.

Environmental samples

3.13.7 Five bulk samples were taken during the evaluation, the results of which were generally very poor (App. C.3).

3.13.8 The only plant remains recovered consisted of small quantities of charcoal in three of the five samples, taken from the three Roman ditches across Trenches 108 and 109 (ditches **10803**, **10809** and **10905**). The largest quantity of charcoal (4ml) was recovered from Sample 5, taken from ditch **10809** in Trench 108 (App. C.3, Table 3).

3.13.9 Most samples from this site contained occasional relatively well-preserved molluscs, while Sample 1, taken from ditch **10303** (Trench 103) produced no environmental remains.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation can be considered reliable; the archaeological features were clearly visible against the generally light orangey or yellowish shades of brown, across the geological horizon.

4.1.2 Water in the partially flooded trenches (101, 108 and 109) was shallow and relatively easy to manage, and therefore did not significantly impede the visibility and excavation of archaeological features.

4.1.3 The only issue which hindered the evaluation was the presence of substantial modern land drains extending through Trenches 106, 108 and 109. The six large drains across the three trenches were left *in situ* by the mechanical excavator, along with a certain amount of subsoil deposit either side of each drain, to act as protection. Four of the six drains left in place partially masked archaeological features, including two of the Roman enclosure ditches (**10809** and **10905**) excavated in Trenches 108 and 109 and two unexcavated features interpreted as furrows in Trenches 106 and 108.

4.1.4 The natural geology was reached across all other areas of the trenches, with no other deposits or modern disturbances left masking potential archaeology.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The objectives of this evaluation have been successfully achieved in so far as the presence, character, and distribution of archaeological remains across the site has been established (Figs 3-8). Of the 10 trenches excavated, nine contained archaeological features.

4.2.2 Moreover, the state of preservation of archaeological features and artefacts/ecofacts has been assessed. Despite the generally poor preservation of the small artefactual and environmental assemblages from across the site, information of some value can be gleaned from them regarding the date, use and significance of the archaeological features they came from.

4.2.3 Ground truthing of the results of the geophysical survey was only partially successful. Many archaeological features identified across the site corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey. However, geophysical anomalies across Trenches 100 and 102, which were suggested to represent archaeological features, were not encountered during trenching (Fig. 3 and 4). The evaluation revealed features which were not detected during the survey, including many of the excavated undated features across Trenches 101, 102, 103 and 104.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The archaeological works along Phase 2 of the Harpole to Weedon pipeline scheme revealed evidence for Roman activity in the form of enclosure ditches, which in each case produced small assemblages of Roman pottery (Trenches 108 and 109). Remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, characteristic of the medieval period, was common across much of the site (Trenches 104 to 109). A series of poorly dated ditches, pits

and a posthole were also encountered (Trenches 101 to 105). Two modern former field boundaries were exposed in Trenches 101 and 106.

Roman enclosure ditches (Trenches 108 and 109)

4.3.2 The easternmost Trenches 108 and 109 revealed three substantial ditches thought to represent Roman enclosures. Each ditch directly corresponded with anomalies detected during the geophysical survey (see Fig. 8) that appeared to form enclosed spaces or former field systems (MS 2020; Fig. 2, MNN171703).

4.3.3 The two ditches excavated in Trench 108 (**10803** and **10809**) seemed to both belong to the same 'L-shaped' anomaly detected during the survey, which was interpreted as an enclosure. Ditch **10803** represented the enclosure's northern side, aligned east to west, while the ditch terminus (**10809**) could have been a possible entrance for the enclosure. However, the supposed terminus was partially masked by a large land drain truncating through the trench, therefore hindering the clarity of the full extent and nature of this part of the enclosure. The ditches in Trench 108 could be dated to the Romano-British period due to the recovery of Roman pottery from their fills, specifically the Early Roman period in the case of ditch **10803**.

4.3.4 Ditch **10905** in Trench 109 directly corresponded with a north-east to south-west aligned linear anomaly from the geophysical survey. This feature resembled the eastern side of a rectangular or square enclosure (displayed in Fig. 8). Its almost 'V-shaped' profile suggested its use for perhaps keeping in and protecting livestock (Plate 13; Fig. 9, Section 22). This ditch could also be firmly dated to the Roman period due to the recovery of nine sherds (51g) of Romano-British pottery (App. B.1). Moreover, several small fragments of adult-sized human bone were retrieved from the ditch. Disarticulated human bones associated with boundary ditches are relatively common in rural Romano-Britain (Esmonde-Clearey 2000; App. C.1).

4.3.5 From the small pottery assemblages alone it is unclear what the exact relationship was between the ditches in Trenches 108 and 109 and the length of time that these enclosures were in use. The wide date range for the assemblages recovered from each trench could at least suggest a sustained period of Roman activity within the wider vicinity of the site. The limited artefactual material, and almost complete absence of environmental remains from the bulk soil samples taken from these ditches (App. C.3, Table 3), indicates that they may have functioned as agricultural field systems on the periphery of any settlement – perhaps for keeping in and protecting livestock, judging by their substantial size.

Medieval ridge and furrow (Trenches 104 to 109)

4.3.6 Numerous linear features which displayed a wide and shallow form were exposed across the majority of trenches (see Figs 5-8; Plate 8). In terms of alignment and positioning, these largely corresponded with the regular pattern of linear geophysical anomalies identified during the survey as medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, which has been frequently recorded across the Midlands region (see Section 1.3; MS 2020). Alongside ridge and furrow systems recorded during previous archaeological investigations nearby (Fig. 2, ENN108170 and ENN107379), these features formed part

of an extensive area of cultivation, peripheral to the medieval settlement at Flore village and extending into the wider region of Northamptonshire (Brown 2013).

Undated features (Trenches 101 to 105)

4.3.7 A number of undated and generally thin and shallow ditches were exposed, largely within the western half of the evaluation (see Figs 3-6). These ditches, which were laid out on varying alignments, may be multi-period and the only indication of dating for an individual feature comes from the ditch (**10303**=**10307**) located in Trench 103 (Fig. 5). This feature produced one small flint arrowhead thought to be Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date (App. B.2). However, it is probable that this is a residual find. The feature appeared to closely correlate with a linear geophysical anomaly, running on a generally north-west to south-east alignment, which was interpreted as part of a prehistoric/Roman enclosure (see Section 1.3, Fig. 2, MNN171704).

4.3.8 Ditches **10105**, **10107** and **10113** in Trench 101 (Fig. 3) exhibited similar characteristics and shared similar alignments. These ditches could have been broadly contemporary and may each have represented the redefining of a particular boundary or related to field drainage.

4.3.9 All of the undated ditches uncovered across Trenches 101 to 105, including the north to south aligned ditches (**10203**, **10409** and **10503**) were markedly different in form to the east to west aligned furrows and are therefore unlikely to relate to medieval/post-medieval cultivation.

4.3.10 Regardless of their date, the almost complete dearth of finds and environmental remains from these ditches (App. C.3, Table 3), strongly suggests they were not associated with settlement or industry, but represent disused agricultural field systems or drainage ditches, peripheral to any occupation activity.

4.3.11 A small number of undated discrete features (including pits **10111** and **10305** and posthole **10405**; see Fig. 3 and 5) could either have been hollows formed through natural processes or may have been broadly contemporary with the use of some of the nearby undated ditches.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The Roman enclosure ditches uncovered in Trenches 108 and 109 almost certainly related to those discovered towards the western end of Phase 1. Some of those ditches found during Phase 1 also produced small assemblages of Roman pottery (Fairbairn 2020). The results from Phase 2 expand the known extent of Roman enclosures north-westwards along the route of the new pipeline. Although these ditches may not have directly related to settlement activity, their substantial size and the presence of Roman pottery could indicate the existence of more concentrated settlement activity within the wider environs of the evaluation area. The evaluation results, along with the evidence for a probable Roman villa (Fig. 2, MNN14673) *c*.200m north-east of the evaluation (Trenches 103 and 104), suggest the wider landscape surrounding the River Nene and the Roman arterial road – 'Watling Street' (Brown 2013), was indeed very active during the period.

4.4.2 Within the wider evaluation area, there was a notable lack of archaeological evidence relating to settlement, industrial or funerary activity. No archaeological feature uncovered during the evaluation can be dated to the prehistoric period with any degree of certainty. However, prehistoric remains recorded nearby (see Section 1.3), and residual worked flint recovered from ditch **10303** raise the possibility that some of the undated features exposed in Trenches 101 to 105 relate to prehistoric field systems.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 100							
General description					**Orientation**		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and a thick layer of subsoil (alluvium) overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.78
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10000	Layer	-	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
10001	Layer	-	-	0.5	Subsoil	-	-
10002	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 101							
General description					**Orientation**		NE-SW
Trench consisted of topsoil and a thick layer of subsoil (alluvium) overlying natural geology of clay. Contained three ditches, one pit, a tree throw and a hedgerow.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.81
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10100	Layer	-	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
10101	Layer	-	-	0.46	Subsoil	-	-
10102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10103	Cut	-	2.0	0.29	Tree Throw	-	-
10104	Fill	10103	2.0	0.29	Light-greyish brown, firm silty clay	-	-
10105	Cut	-	0.6	0.16	Ditch	-	-
10106	Fill	10105	0.6	0.16	Mid-brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
10107	Cut	-	0.9	0.27	Ditch	-	-
10108	Fill	10107	0.9	0.27	Mid-brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
10111	Cut	-	0.75	0.23	Pit	-	-
10112	Fill	10111	0.75	0.23	Mid-greyish brown, firm silty clay	-	-
10113	Cut	-	0.5	0.18	Ditch	-	-
10114	Fill	10113	0.5	0.18	Mid-brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
10115	Cut	-	1.65	0.26	Hedgerow	-	Modern
10116	Fill	10115	1.65	0.26	Mid-greyish brown, firm silty clay	-	-

Trench 102		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
	Length (m)	50

Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy silt. Contained one ditch and a modern land drain.					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.71
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10200	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
10201	Layer	-	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
10202	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10203	Cut	-	0.42	0.12	Ditch	-	-
10204	Fill	10203	0.42	0.12	Light-orangey brown, soft sandy silt	-	-

Trench 103							
General description					**Orientation**		NW-SE
At the north-western end, the trench consisted of topsoil, subsoil and a thick layer of colluvium (hill wash) overlying natural geology of clay. Midway along the trench and further up the sloping field, the clay natural and colluvium gave way to iron stone and the trench became much shallower. The iron stone was overlain by just the topsoil and subsoil layers in the south-eastern half. The trench contained one ditch terminus, a pit and two modern land drains.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.88
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10300	Layer	-	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
10301	Layer	-	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-
10302	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10303	Cut	-	0.5	0.18	Ditch – same as 10307	-	-
10304	Fill	10303	0.5	0.18	Mid-orangey brown, firm silty clay	1 flint arrowhead	Prehistoric (Late Mesolithic /Early Neolithic)
10305	Cut	-	0.86	0.28	Pit	-	-
10306	Fill	10305	0.86	0.28	Dark-brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
10307	Cut	-	0.55	0.18	Ditch – same as 10303	-	-
10308	Fill	10307	0.55	0.18	Mid-orangey brown, firm silty clay	-	-
10309	Layer	-	-	0.4	Lighter colluvial layer below the subsoil	-	-

					towards the NW end of trench		

Trench 104							
General description					**Orientation**		NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of limestone brash. Contained two furrows, a ditch terminus, one possible posthole and a natural feature.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10400	Layer	-	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
10401	Layer	-	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
10402	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10403	Cut	-	0.45	0.19	Natural Feature	-	-
10404	Fill	10403	0.45	0.19	Mid-orangey brown, soft clayey silt	-	-
10405	Cut	-	0.25	0.1	Posthole	-	-
10406	Fill	10405	0.25	0.1	Mid-orangey brown, soft clayey silt	-	-
10407	Cut	-	0.8	0.01	Plough Furrow	-	Medieval
10408	Fill	10407	0.8	0.01	Mid-greyish brown, loose clayey silt	-	-
10409	Cut	-	0.8	0.19	Ditch	-	-
10410	Fill	10409	0.8	0.19	Dark-reddish brown, soft clayey silt	-	-
10411	Cut	-	1.1	0.1	Plough Furrow	-	Medieval
10412	Fill	10411	1.1	0.1	Mid-greyish brown, friable clayey silt	-	-

Trench 105							
General description					**Orientation**		NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay and limestone. Contained three furrows (two excavated), a ditch, one tree throw and one modern land drain.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10500	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
10501	Layer	-	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
10502	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

10503	Cut	-	0.56	0.2	Ditch	-	-
10504	Fill	10503	0.56	0.2	Mid-orangey brown, compact silty clay	-	-
10505	Cut	-	1.25	0.08	Plough Furrow	-	Medieval
10506	Fill	10505	1.25	0.08	Light-orangey brown, compact silty clay	-	-
10507	Cut	-	0.85	0.19	Tree throw	-	-
10508	Fill	10507	0.85	0.19	Mid-greyish brown, compact silty clay	-	-
10509	Cut	-	0.76	0.18	Plough Furrow	-	Medieval
10510	Fill	10509	0.76	0.18	Light-greyish brown, firm silty clay	-	-

Trench 106							
General description					**Orientation**		NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and a thick layer of subsoil overlying natural geology of limestone and clay. Contained three furrows (two excavated), numerous natural features (one excavated), a modern hedgerow (field boundary) and five modern land drains.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10600	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
10601	Layer	-	-	0.7	Subsoil	-	-
10602	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10603	Cut	-	0.8	0.15	Plough Furrow – cut into natural rooting	-	Medieval
10604	Fill	10603	0.8	0.15	Mid-greyish brown, firm silty clay	-	-
10605	Cut	-	4	0.2	Natural Feature	-	-
10606	Fill	10605	4	0.2	Mid-brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-

10607	Cut	-	1.18	0.23	Plough Furrow	-	Medieval
10608	Fill	10607	1.18	0.23	Mid-greyish brown, compact silty clay	-	-

Trench 107							
General description					**Orientation**		NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay and limestone. Contained three furrows (one excavated).					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10700	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
10701	Layer	-	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
10702	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10703	Cut	-	1	0.11	Plough Furrow	-	Medieval
10704	Fill	10703	1	0.11	Light-orangey brown, compact silty clay	-	-

Trench 108							
General description					**Orientation**		NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and a thick layer of subsoil (colluvial hill wash) overlying natural geology of clay. Contained four furrows (one excavated), two ditches and two modern land drains.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10800	Layer	-	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
10801	Layer	-	-	0.75	Subsoil	-	-
10802	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10803	Cut	-	2	0.63	Ditch	-	-
10804	Fill	10803	-	0.06	Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay	2 sherds of pottery, 1 fragment of fired clay and 1 fragment of animal bone	Roman
10805	Fill	10803	-	0.08	Mid-yellowish grey, firm sandy clay	-	-

10806	Fill	10803	-	0.57	Mid-reddish brown, firm sandy clay	-	-
10807	Cut	-	0.6	0.1	Plough Furrow	-	Medieval
10808	Fill	10807	0.6	0.1	Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay	-	-
10809	Cut	-	1.16	0.35	Ditch	-	-
10810	Fill	10809	1.16	0.35	Mid-brownish grey, firm sandy clay	6 sherds of Roman pottery, 2 fragments of ceramic building material (tile) and 2 worked flints (Mesolithic -Neolithic)	Roman

Trench 109

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consisted of topsoil and a thick layer of subsoil (colluvial hill wash) overlying natural geology of sandy clay. Contained one ditch and a furrow and three modern land drains.	**Length (m)**	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	1.1

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10900	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
10901	Layer	-	-	0.8	Subsoil	-	-
10902	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
10903	Cut	-	0.93	0.24	Plough Furrow	-	-
10904	Fill	10903	0.93	0.24	Mid-greyish brown, compact sandy clay	-	-
10905	Cut	-	1.4	0.7	Ditch	-	-
10906	Fill	10905	1.4	0.7	Dark-greyish brown, firm sandy clay	9 sherds of pottery, 1 frag. of unworked stone and several fragments of adult human bone	Roman

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman Pottery

By Kathryn Blackbourn

Introduction

B.1.1 An assemblage of Roman pottery totalling 17 sherds, weighing 261g was recovered, representing a minimum of 10 individual vessels. Varying levels of abrasion occurred on these sherds and they range in date from the 1st to 4th century AD and have an average sherd weight of 15.4g.

Methodology

B.1.2 The pottery was analysed following the national guidelines (Barclay *et al*. 2016) and with reference to the national fabric series (Tomber and Dore 1998) and also Tyers (1996). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Vessel forms were recorded and vessel types cross-referenced and compared to other examples. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context (Table 2). Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA East curates the pottery and archive.

The Pottery

B.1.3 A total of seven pottery fabric types were identified (Table 1) and the assemblage largely comprises locally made coarse ware jars alongside two sherds of Oxfordshire red slipped ware bowl. The assemblage comprises only wheel made sherds.

Fabric Type	Forms	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Weight %
LRSH Late Roman Shelly Ware	Jar	3	13	4.98
OXRS Oxfordshire red slipped wares (Tyers 1996, 176)	Bowl	2	23	8.81
SGW Sandy grey ware	Jar?	4	34	13.03
SGW (GROG) Sandy grey ware with grog temper	Jar	4	21	8.05
SGW (White) Sandy grey ware with oxidised surface	Jar	1	13	4.98
SOW Sandy oxidised ware	Jar	1	154	59.00
WW White ware	Jar/beaker	2	3	1.15
Grand Total		**17**	**261**	**100**

Table 1: Roman pottery by fabric type

Results

B.1.4 Three features across two trenches yielded Roman pottery; these are discussed by trench below.

Trench 108

B.1.5 Two ditches within Trench 108 contained Roman pottery. Fill 10804 of ditch **10803** contained two sherds (weighing 166g), these sherds comprised a sherd of sandy grey ware and a large sherd of sandy oxidised ware storage jar both dating to the 1st to 2nd century AD.

B.1.6 The fill (10810) of ditch **10809** contained six sherds of pottery weighing 44g. The sherds included four sherds of heavily abraded sandy grey ware with grog temper which dates to the 1st to 2nd century AD. Alongside this were two sherds of Oxfordshire red slipped ware, of which one of the sherds came from a flanged bowl and dated from AD 240 to the late 4th century.

Trench 109

B.1.7 Nine sherds of pottery (weighing 51g) were recovered from fill 10906 of ditch **10905**. The assemblage contained a mixture of sandy grey ware jars, white wares and Late Roman shelly wares dating to the 3rd to 4th century AD.

Conclusion

B.1.8 The small assemblage recovered from this site has identified a small collection of features within Trenches 108 and 109 which likely date to the Roman period. The pottery recovered spans the 1st to 4th centuries AD and largely consists of locally made coarse ware jars. The presence of two sherds of Oxfordshire Red Slipped Ware indicates that some products from the larger industries within Britain were used at the site from the mid 2nd century AD.

Catalogue

Trench	Fill	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric Family	Dsc	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Decoration	Spotdate	Context Date
108	10810	10809	Ditch	OXRS	R	bowl	1	18	remnants of red slip	AD140-LC4	MC2-C4
108	10810	10809	Ditch	OXRS	U	?	1	5	nearly fully worn red slip	AD140-LC4	MC2-C4
108	10810	10809	Ditch	SGW (grog)	U	Jar?	4	21		MC1-MC2	MC2-C4
108	10804	10803	Ditch	SOW	U	Jar	1	154		C1-C2	C1-C2
108	10804	10803	Ditch	SGW	U	?	1	12		C1-C2	C1-C2
109	10906	10905	Ditch	SGW	U	jar?	2	19		C1-C4	C3-C4
109	10906	10905	Ditch	WW	U	jar/beaker	2	3		C1-C4	C3-C4
109	10906	10905	Ditch	SGW	U	?	1	3		C1-C4	C3-C4
109	10906	10905	Ditch	SGW (white)	U	jar	1	13		C2-C4	C3-C4

Trench	Fill	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric Family	Dsc	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Decoration	Spotdate	Context Date
109	10906	10905	Ditch	LRSH	U	jar	3	13		C3-C4	C3-C4

Table 2: Roman pottery catalogue

B.2 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

B.2.1 Struck flint was recovered from two features across Trenches 103 and 108; these are discussed below.

Trench 103

B.2.2 The fill (10304) of ditch **10303** produced a small bifacially worked flint (Small Find 1, see Fig. 9, Section 8). It is unclear whether this was a completed tool, but it had semi-abrupt retouch around all its margins applied from both dorsal and ventral surfaces. It seems most probable that this was a roughout for a leaf shaped arrowhead, suggesting a Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

Trench 108

B.2.3 The fill (10810) of ditch **10809** produced a medial prismatic bladelet and a small Late Mesolithic or Neolithic bladelet core. The core was formed on a large flake, which had structured removals from a single platform across its proximal end.

B.2.4 All the struck flint was made of a mid greyish-brown high quality translucent flint.

B.3 Non-Building Stone

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.3.1 A single fragment of unworked stone was recovered from ditch **10905** in Trench 109. The stone was examined using a hand lens of x10 magnification. Simplified recording has been undertaken, with material type, basic description and weight recorded in the text.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.3.2 Ditch **10905** in Trench 109 produced a moderately sized flake (0.034kg) from a fine-grained sandstone, part of a rounded, water worn pebble or cobble. The flake is unworked and is probably the result of a plough strike. The assemblage is fragmentary and unworked, and the stone very probably became incorporated into the feature through ploughing.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.3.3 Should further work be undertaken, more unworked stone may be recovered. The unworked stone has been discarded. This statement acts as a full record.

B.4 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.4.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay, three fragments weighing 0.094kg, was recovered from two features in Trench 108. The CBM assemblage is comprised of tile and a fragment of fired clay; no complete examples were recovered. The bulk of the assemblage was recovered from a single feature and the average fragment weight is low at 0.031kg. The CBM recovered is Roman.

B.4.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded where this was identifiable. Fabrics are described, and dated where possible, only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. The Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group Minimum Standards (ACBMG 2002) forms the basis for recording, and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. The assemblage is recorded in the text. The CBM archive is curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.4.3 In Trench 108, the basal fill (10804) of ditch **10803** produced a fragment of soft, silty fired clay (2.5YR4/8 red). The fragment is not closely datable.

B.4.4 Ditch **10809** produced the bulk of the assemblage. The two fragments of CBM refit, therefore representing a single tile. The irregular fragment (0.089kg) of tile (22mm thick, approximately 63mm x 43mm) has a 5YR6/8 reddish yellow upper surface, with a slightly discoloured base, and some thin paler lenses in the matrix, indicating the clay was not mixed completely. The fragments are quartz-tempered with occasional large angular flint. The tile fragments were recovered alongside Roman pottery, the tile is very probably also Roman, and although no diagnostic features are present, the fragments may be from a Tegula. No other ceramic building material was recovered from this trench. The CBM, alongside the Roman pottery, forms a low-level background noise of Roman material across the trench, suggesting Roman activity, although the pottery and CBM are very probably from manuring scatters.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.4.5 The assemblage is fragmentary; however, should further work be undertaken, additional CBM is likely to be recovered. The evaluation report should be incorporated into any future catalogue. If no further work on the site is undertaken, this report acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected and dispersed prior to archival deposition.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human Remains

By Natasha Dodwell

C.1.1 Several small fragments of adult-size human limb bone were recovered from 10906, the fill of Roman ditch **10905** in Trench 109. A total of 17g of bone was analysed and identifiable fragments derived from the lower limb. The cortical surface of the fragments is very abraded (grade 3-4, McKinley 2004, 16, fig. 6). Articulated burials and disarticulated human bone associated with boundary ditches are both relatively common in rural Romano-Britain (Esmonde-Clearey 2000).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Anthony Haskins

C.2.1 The fill (10804) of ditch **10803** (Trench 108) produced one fragment of unidentified medium to large mammal bone.

C.3 Environmental Remains

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.3.1 Five bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area, in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 103, 104, 108 and 109. The deposits range in date from the prehistoric to the Roman period.

Methodology

C.3.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 27L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.3.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and OAE's reference collection. Nomenclature is

according to Stace (2010). Plant remains have been identified to species where possible.

Quantification

C.3.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as pottery have been recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.3.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Results

C.3.6 Preservation of plant remains is through carbonisation and is very poor. The only plant remains recovered consisted of small quantities of charcoal in three of the five samples. The largest quantity of charcoal, 4ml, was recovered from Sample 5, fill 10810 of ditch **10809** (Trench 108).

C.3.7 Most of the samples from this site contain occasional relatively well-preserved molluscs.

C.3.8 A fragment of pottery was recovered from Sample 5 which may be suitable for dating.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Molluscs	Charcoal Volume (ml)	Pottery
103	1	10304	10303	Ditch	27	25	0	0	0
104	2	10410	10409	Ditch	18	20	++	0	0
108	3	10804	10803	Ditch	14	5	+	<1	0
108	5	10810	10809	Ditch	16	5	0	4	#
109	4	10906	10905	Ditch	16	5	+	3	0

Table 3: Environmental samples from XNNWED20

Discussion

C.3.9 The recovery of only small quantities of charcoal indicates that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.

C.3.10 Little can be inferred regarding the site due to the low density and diversity of plant remains recovered. The scarcity of plant remains could suggest that this area was not a focus of domestic activity.

C.3.11 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-425201
Project Name	Harpole to Weedon Anglian Water Pipeline Phase 2

Start of Fieldwork	26/04/2021	End of Fieldwork	07/05/2021
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENN109946	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER Number	ENN109946	Related Numbers	XNNWED20

Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Development Type	Water pipeline
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐ Grab-sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☒ Gravity-core	☐ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☒ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☒ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☒ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period
Enclosure Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Ridge and Furrow	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Ditch	Uncertain
Pit	Uncertain
Posthole	Uncertain

Object	Period
Flint Arrowhead	Early Neolithic (- 4000 to - 3000)
Worked Flint	Neolithic (- 4000 to - 2200)
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Ceramic Building Material	Roman (43 to 410)
Human Bone	Roman (43 to 410)
Animal Bone	Roman (43 to 410)
Fired Clay	Uncertain

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Northamptonshire
District	West Northamptonshire
Parish	Brockhall and Flore
HER office	Northamptonshire

Address (including Postcode)

Land east of the A5,
Watling Street,
Dodford,

Size of Study Area	34,000sqm	NN7 4TA
National Grid Ref	SP 65595 60412 to SP 62200 60642	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Liz Mordue
Project Design Originator	Nick Gilmour
Project Manager	Chris Thatcher
Project Supervisor	Edmund Cole

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	NARC	ENN109946
Digital Archive	ADS	ENN109946/XNNWED20
Paper Archive	NARC	ENN109946

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☒	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☒	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☐	☒
None	☐	☒	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☒	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
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		Survey	☐

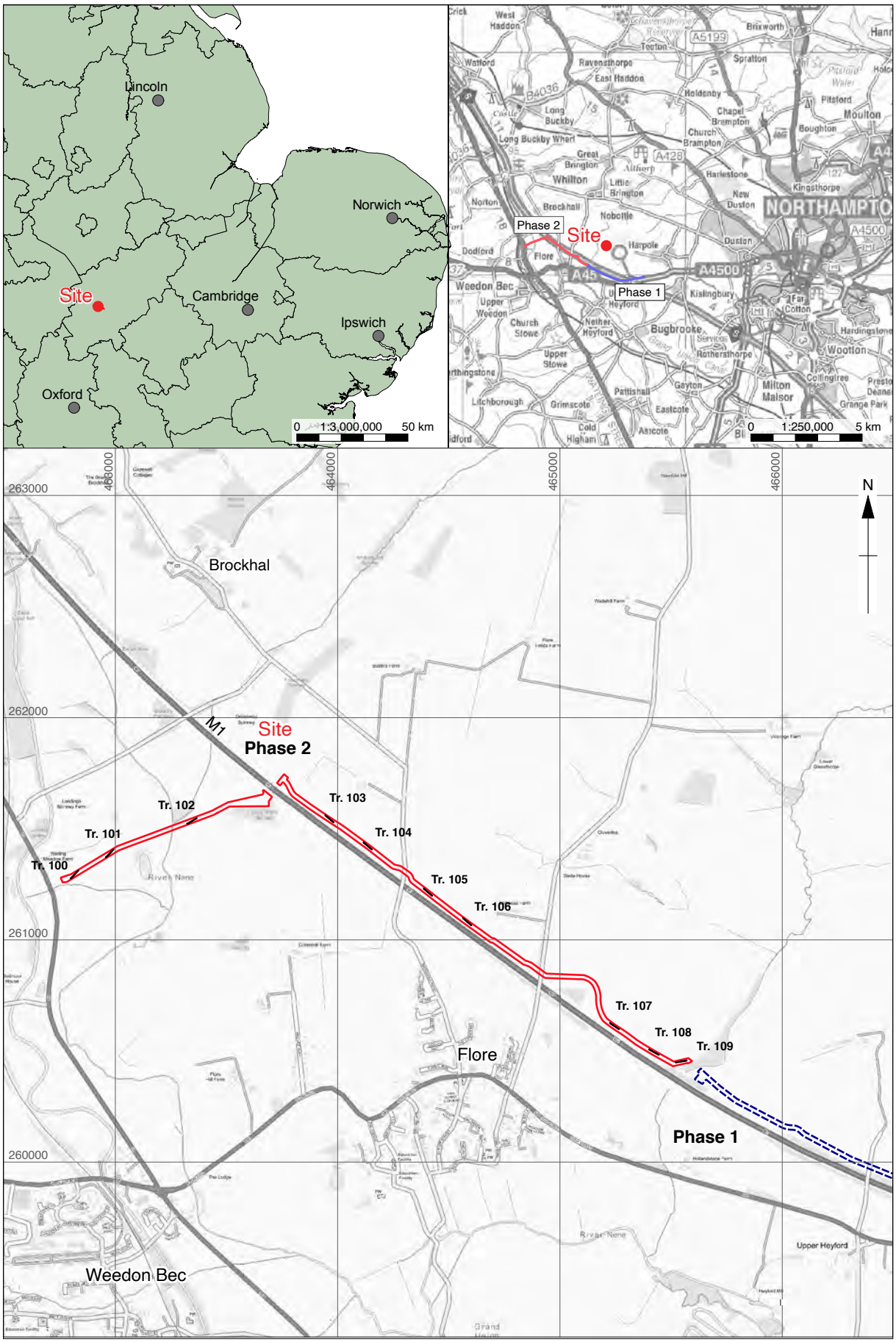

Figure 1: Location of Phase 2 trenches (black) in develompent area (red outline)

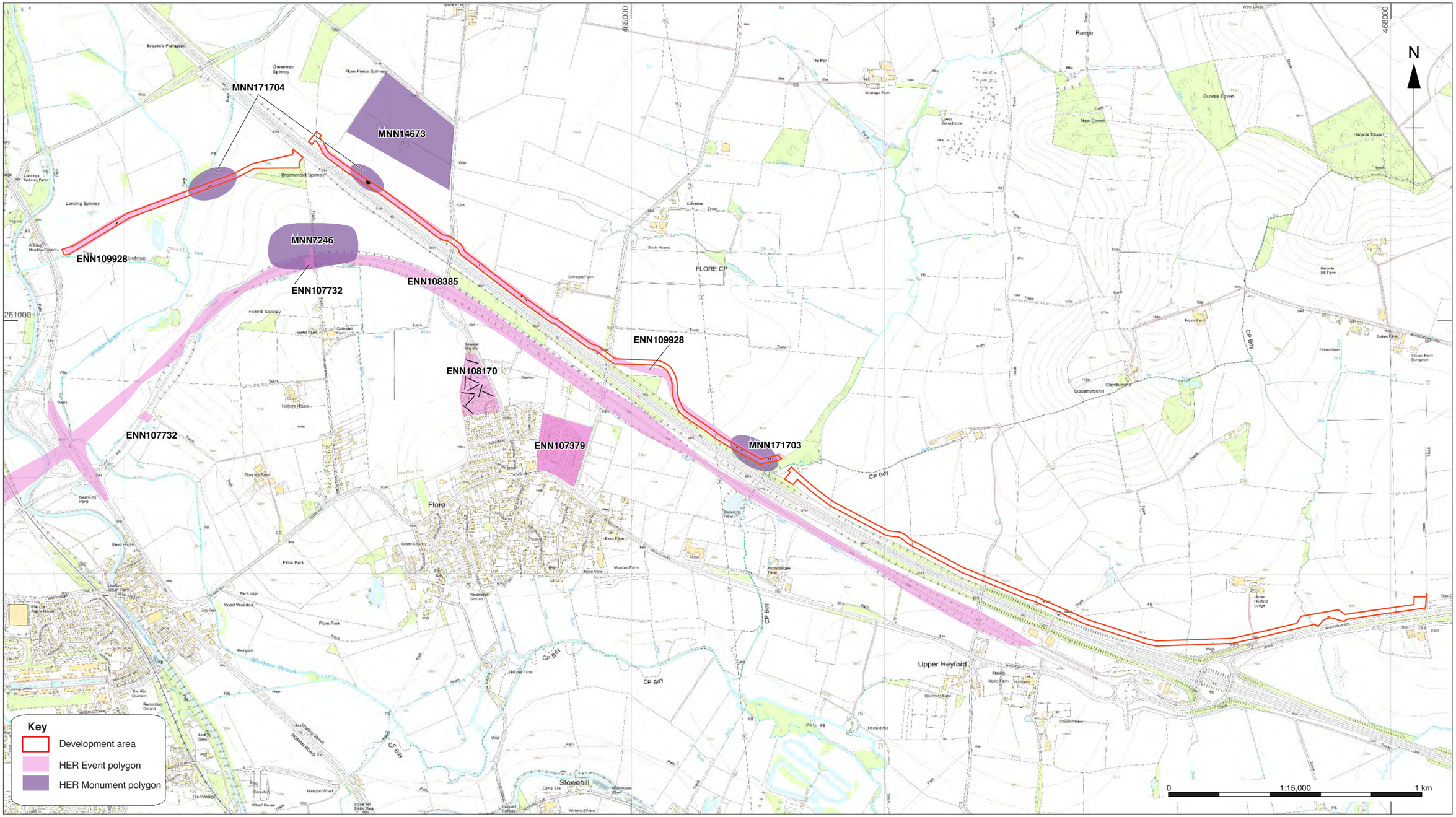

Figure 2: HER entries mentioned in the text

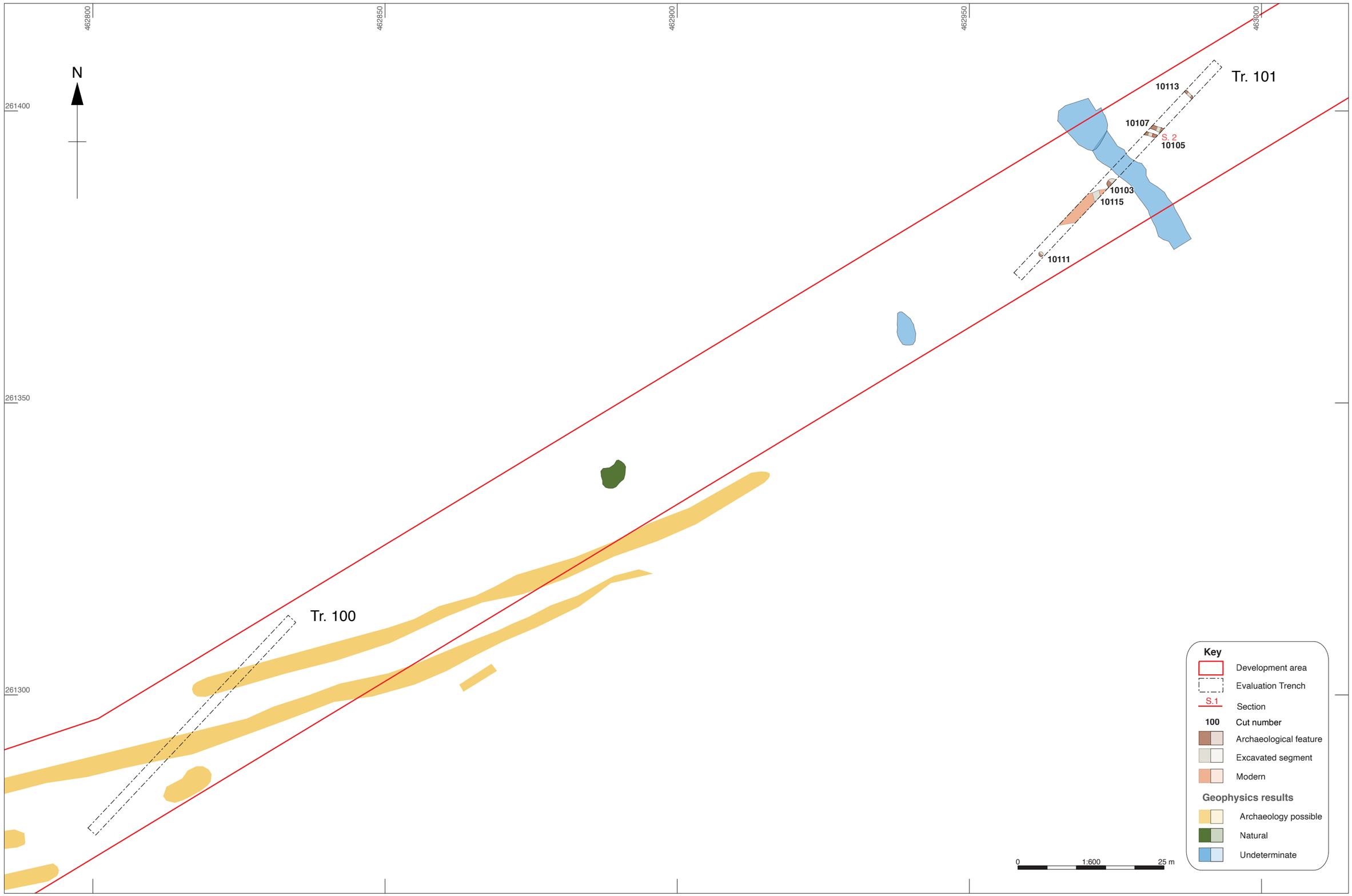

Figure 3: Detailed plan of Trenches 100 and 101

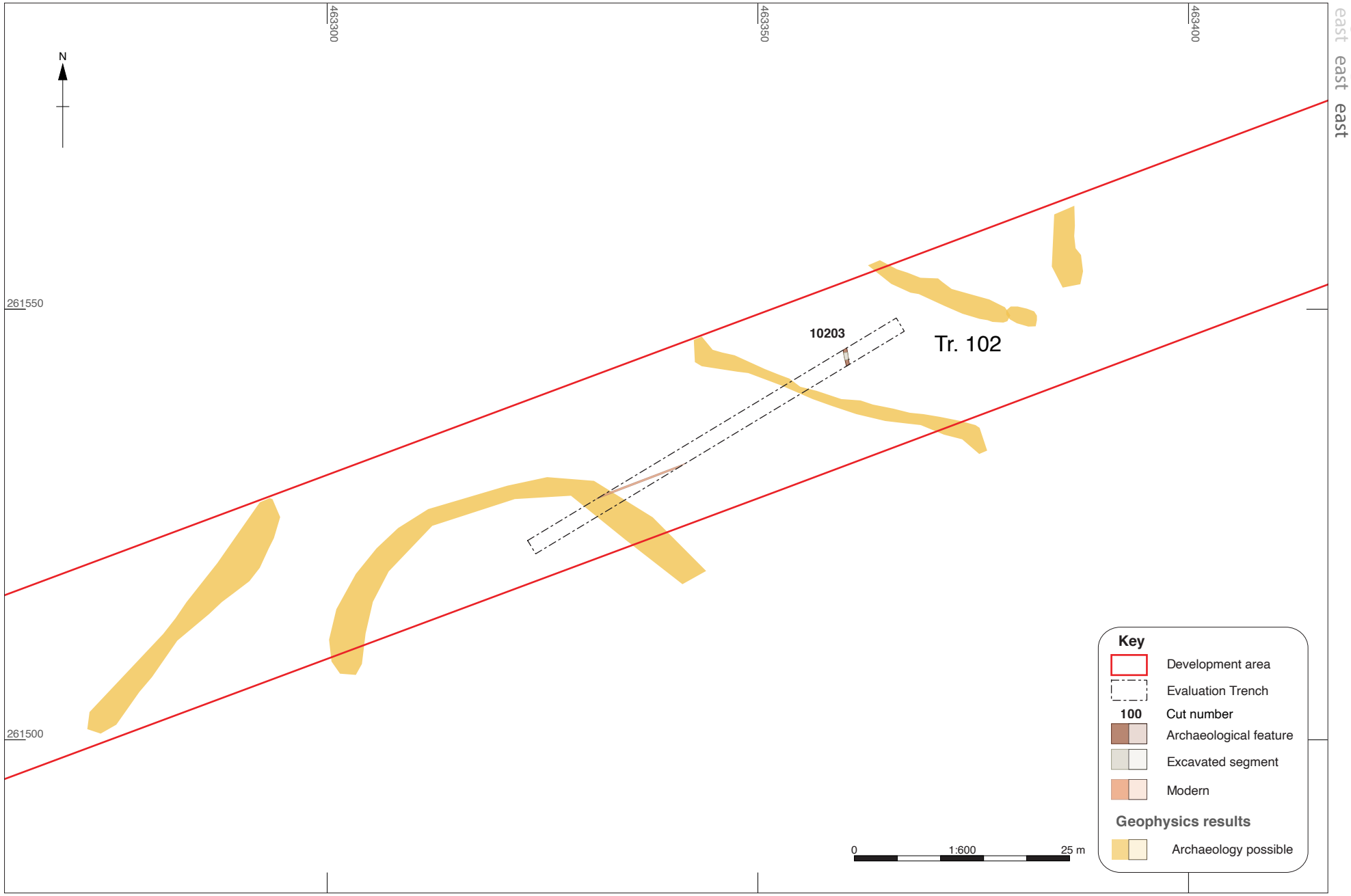

Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trench 102

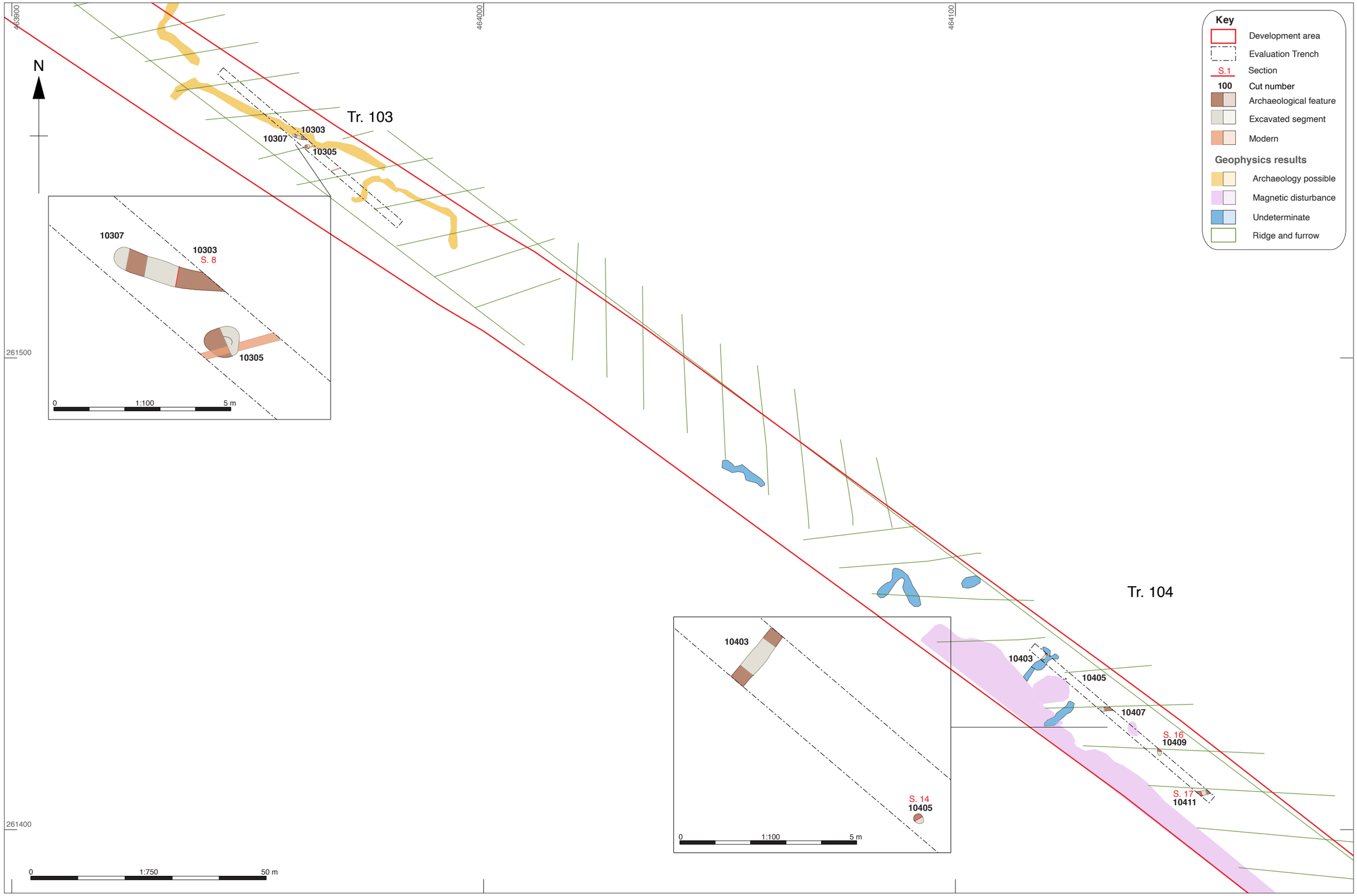

Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 103 and 104

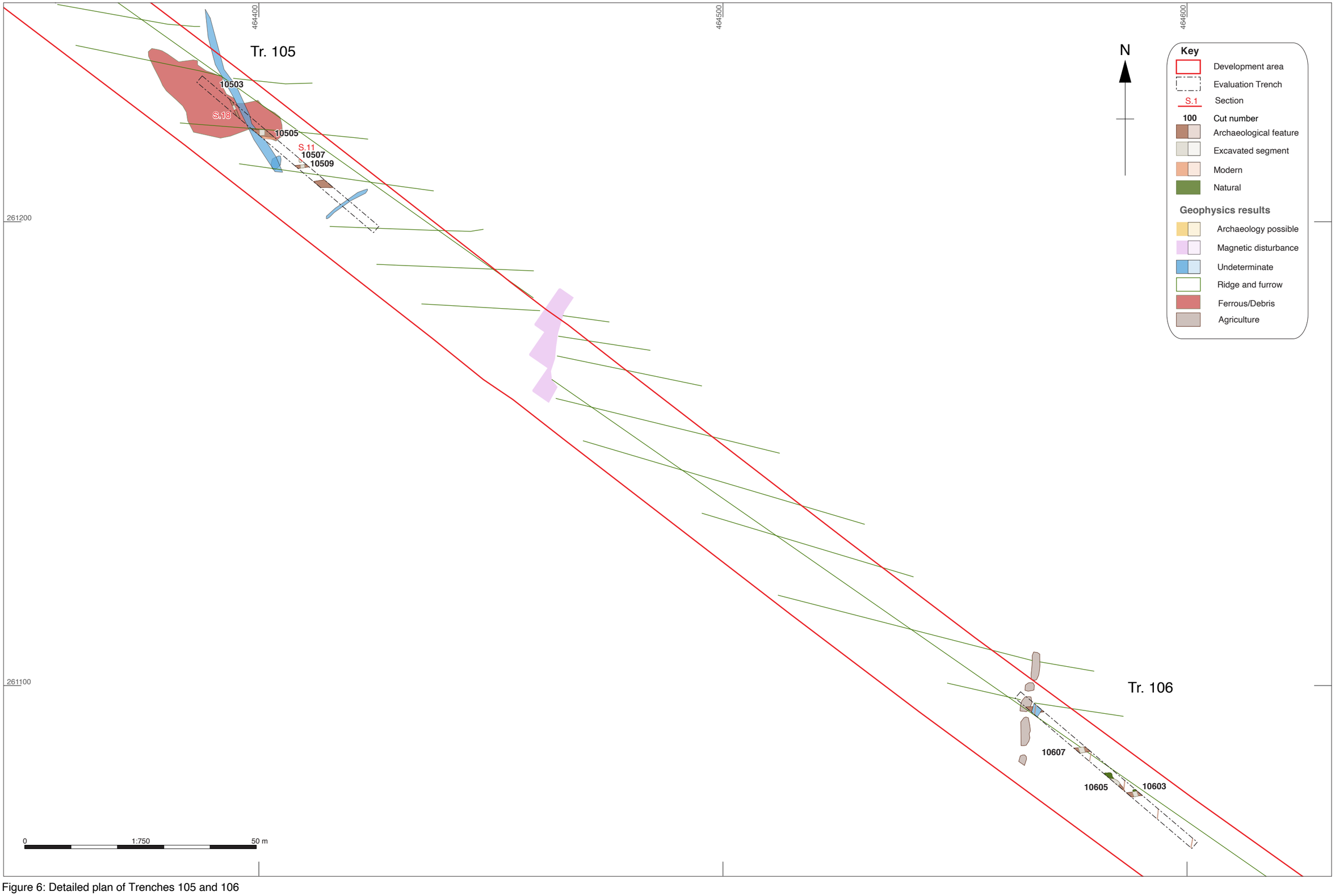

Figure 6: Detailed plan of Trenches 105 and 106

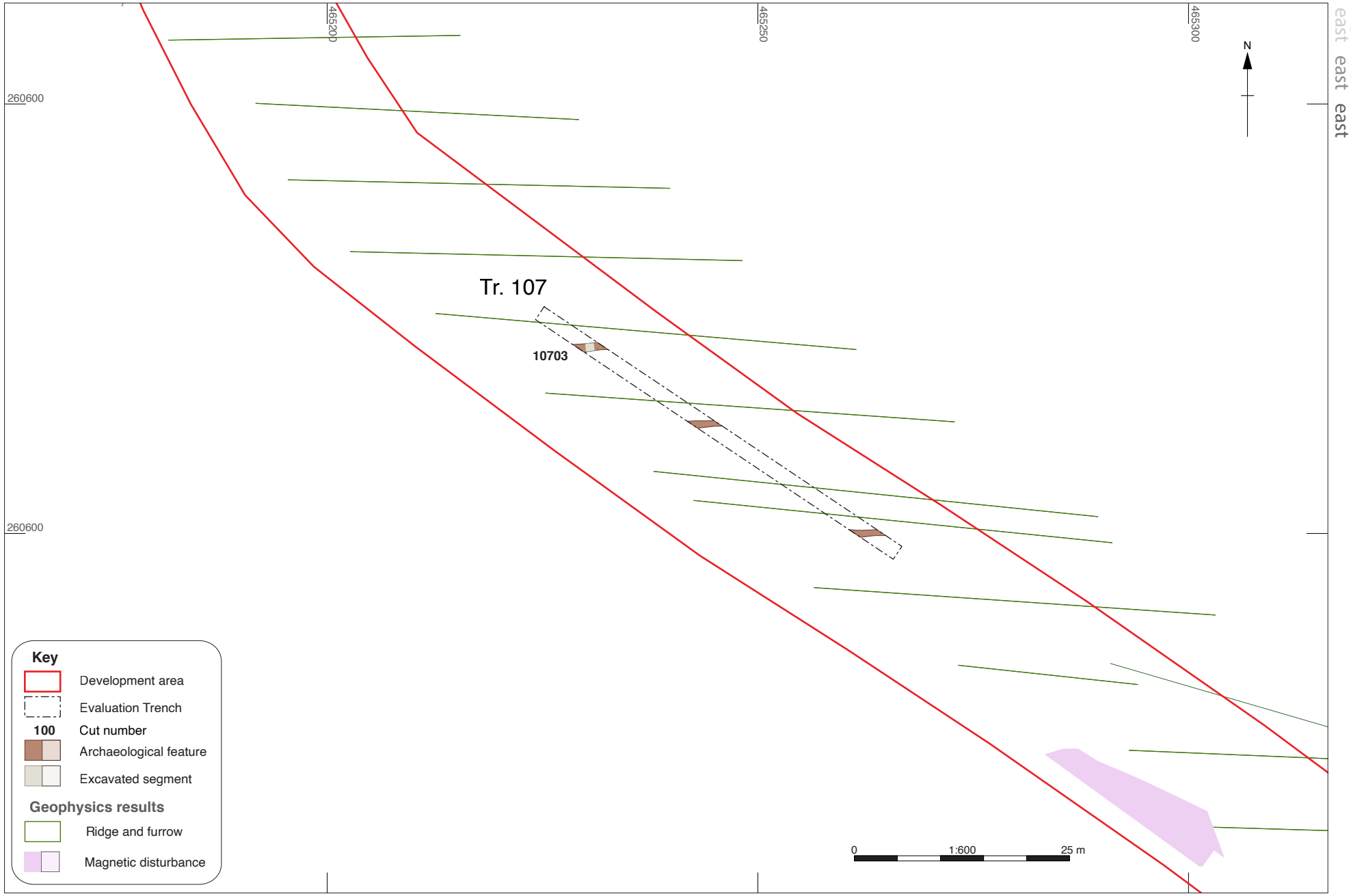

Figure 7: Detailed plan of Trench 107

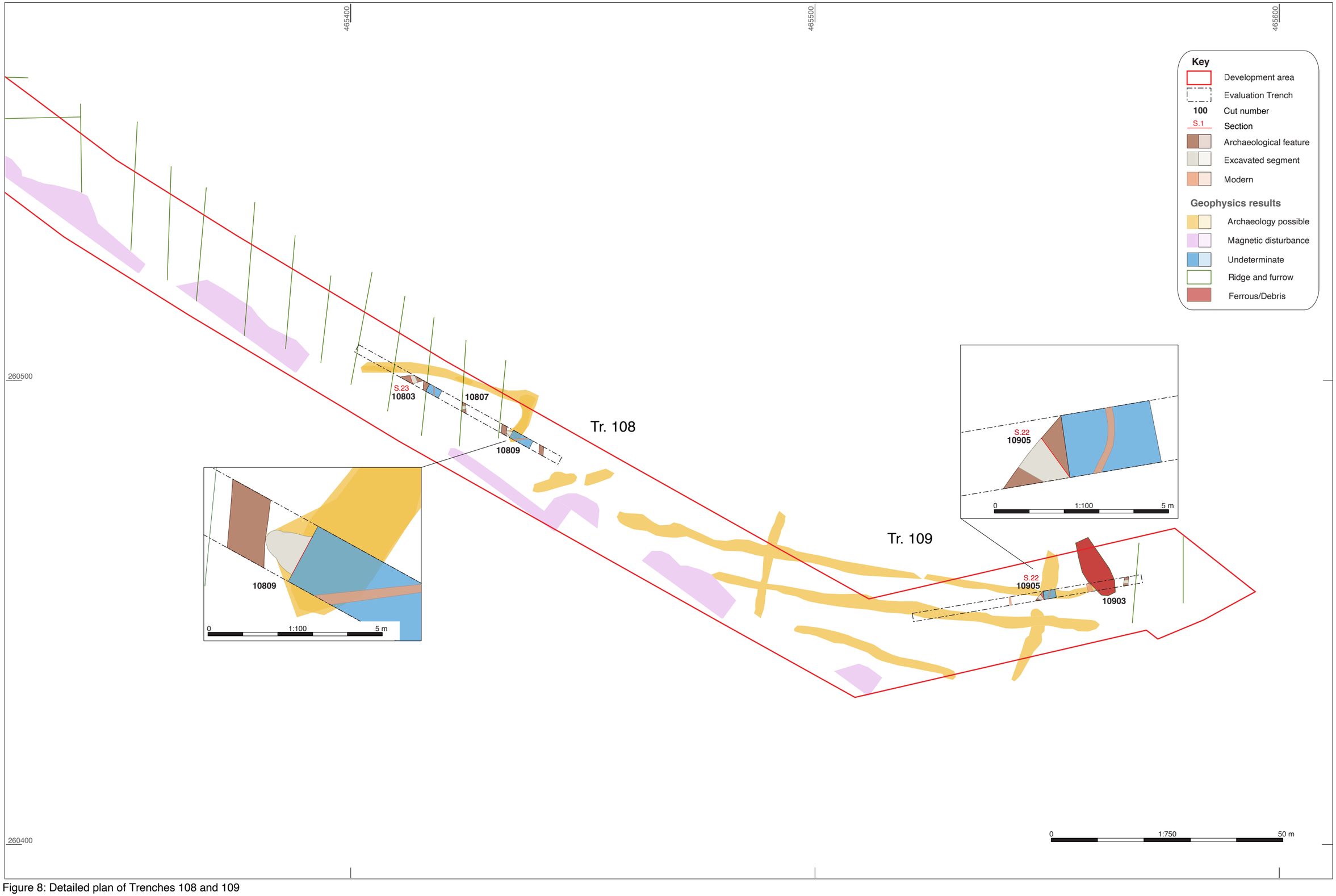

Figure 8: Detailed plan of Trenches 108 and 109

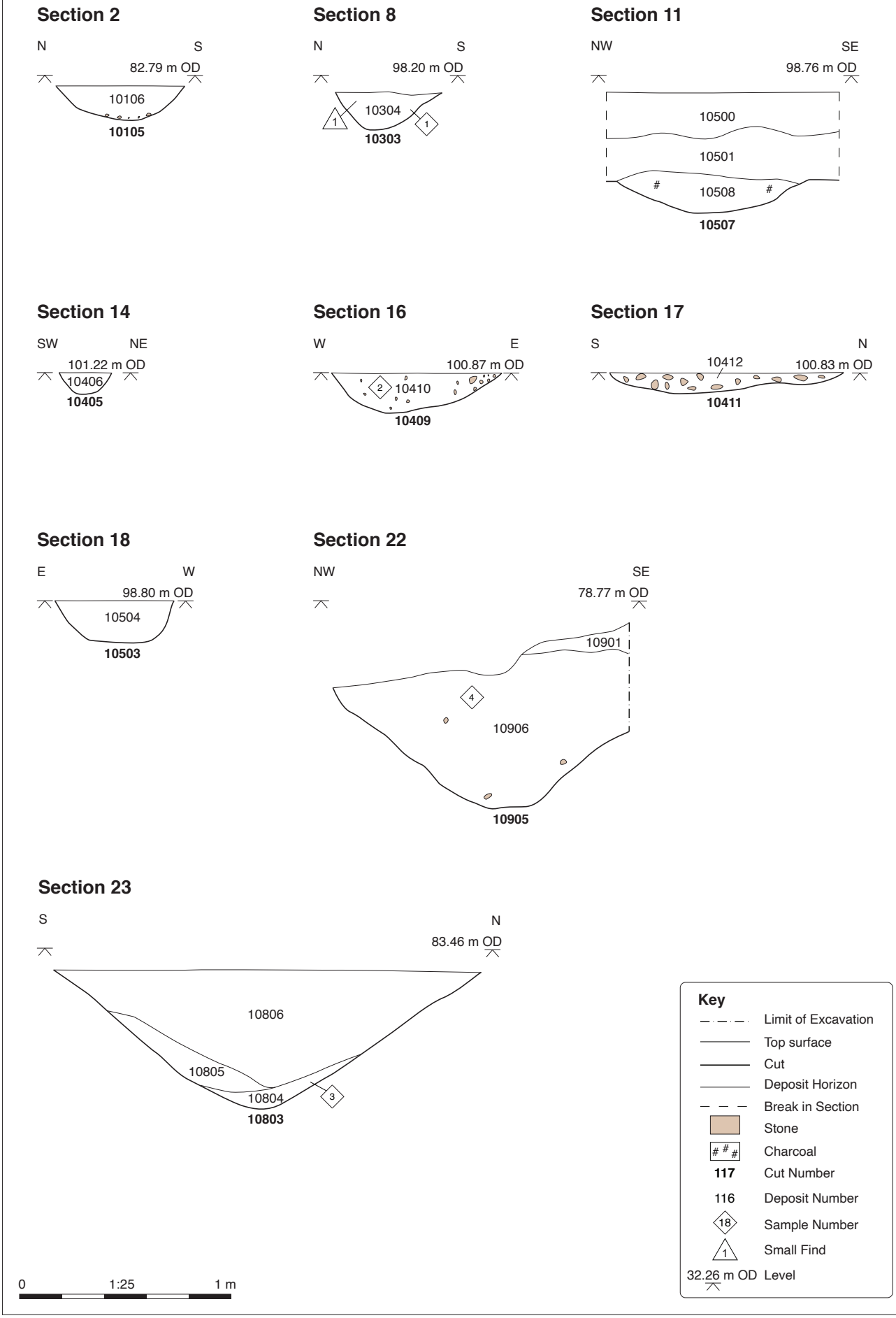

Figure 9: Selected sections

Plate 1: Trench 101, looking north-east

Plate 2: Ditches **10105** and **10107**, Trench 101, looking north-east

Plate 3: Ditch **10105**, Trench 101, looking east

Plate 4: Trench 103, looking north-west

Plate 5: Ditch **10303**, Trench 103, looking east

Plate 6: Posthole **10405**, Trench 104, looking north-west

Plate 7: Ditch **10409**, Trench 104, looking north

Plate 8: Furrow **10411**, Trench 104, looking west

Plate 9: Ditch **10503**, Trench 105, looking south

Plate 10: Trench 108, looking south-east

Plate 11: Ditch **10803**, Trench 108, looking west

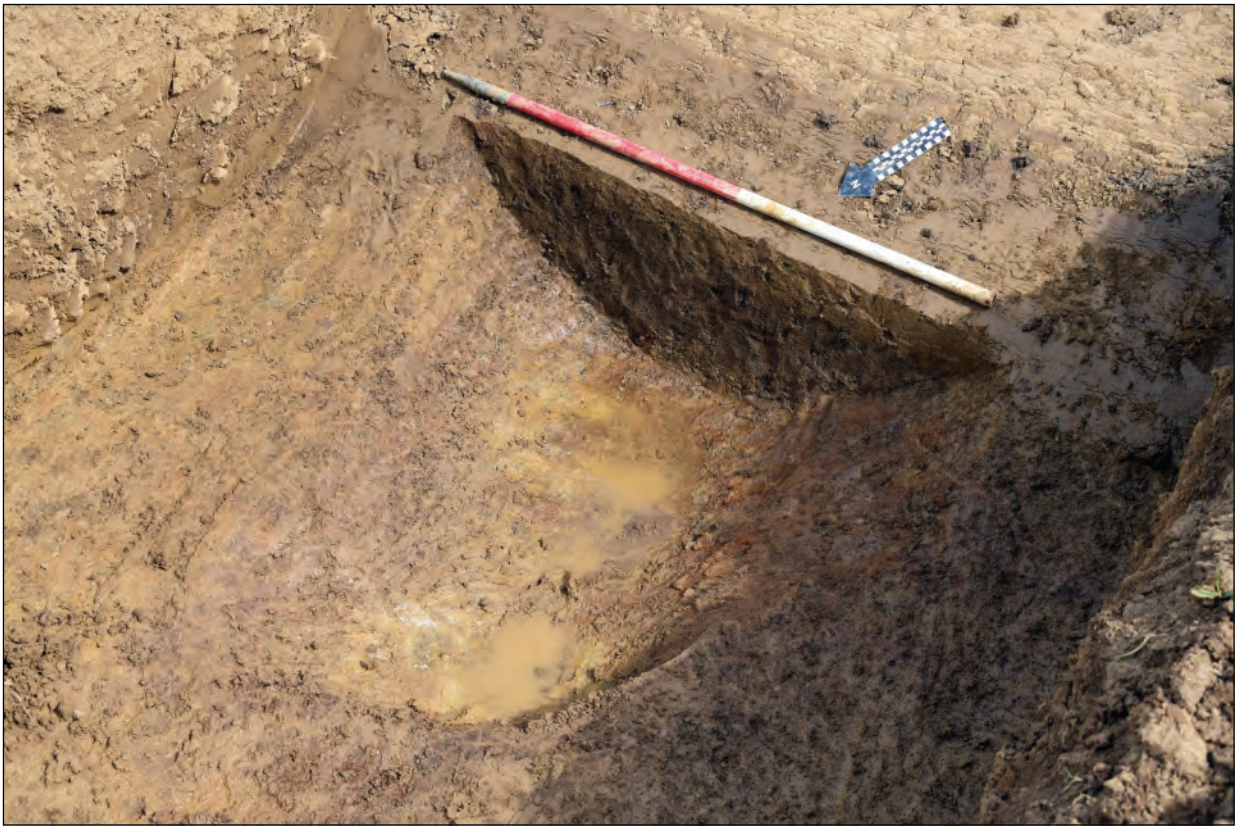

Plate 12: Ditch **10809** , Trench 108, looking south-east

Plate 13: Ditch **10905**, Trench 109, looking north-east

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