Poverty Lane, Maghull, Sefton

Archaeological Evaluation and Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report

April 2022

Client: Countryside Properties and Persimmon Homes

Issue No: 4
OA Reference No: 2161/2021-22
NGR: SD 38977 01688

oxfordarchaeology

Client Name:	Countryside Properties and Persimmon Homes
Document Title:	Poverty Lane, Maghull, Sefton
Document Type:	Evaluation and Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report
Report No.:	2161/2021-22
Grid Reference:	SD 38977 01688
Planning Reference:	DC/2017/01532
Site Code:	PLM21
Invoice Code:	L11373
Receiving Body:	Merseyside Historic Environment Record Office
Accession No.:	

OA Document File Location:	X:\Adam T\Projects\L11373_Poverty_Lane_Maghull
OA Graphics File Location:	X:\Adam T\Projects\L11373_Poverty_Lane_Maghull\drawings

Issue No:	4
Date:	April 2022
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Poverty Lane, Maghull, Sefton

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In July 2021 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Pegasus Group, on behalf of Countryside Properties and Persimmon Homes, to undertake an archaeological evaluation and strip, map, and sample excavation in advance of a proposed residential development at Poverty Lane, Maghull, Sefton, Merseyside. The work was informed by a desk-based assessment completed by CgMs and a geophysical survey undertaken by Sumo Geophysics. The potential for archaeological remains across the proposed development area was deemed generally low, although there was higher potential for post-Medieval remains associated with a former dwelling off Poverty Lane and an area labelled Brick Kiln Close on historic mapping, as well as potential for possible early Prehistoric activity identified by geophysics to the north of the site. A scheme of trial trench evaluation and targeted strip, map, and sample investigation was therefore proposed by Pegasus Group, in order to evaluate and mitigate the archaeological potential of the site; the fieldwork was undertaken by OA North over 9 weeks from July to September 2021.

The fieldwork was undertaken in order to discharge a planning condition imposed by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) at appeal. The proposed field work had two components, trial trench evaluation would target anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, and sampling 'blank' areas of the site, while two areas of strip, map, and sample excavation were undertaken, targeting the former location of eighteenth-century dwelling identified off Poverty Lane, and a geophysical anomaly recorded in the former Brick Kiln Close area, postulated to potentially represent the location of a kiln. Subsequent mitigation, where potentially significant archaeology was identified, was to be undertaken concurrently.

The trial trenching identified that the linear geophysical anomalies were mostly boundary ditches and post-medieval farming features, such as field drains and plough furrows. There were several larger, deep pit features, including that observed in the strip, map, and sample Area B, which were interpreted as possible extraction pits, possibly associated with the presence of a kiln somewhere in the vicinity of Brick Kiln Close, although this feature was never identified. Finds included post-medieval pottery and modern plastic and were not retained. Across many of the trenches, a windblown sand deposit was observed, into which the post-medieval boundary ditches had been cut. The sand in some places sealed a putative buried soil which was thought to be potentially medieval or earlier in date, but this could not be subsequently substantiated by the environmental evidence. Area A targeting the dwelling on Poverty Lane was not excavated due to the presence of services found to be crossing the area.

A number of discrete features were observed in Trench 4, situated to the north of the present-day farm, east of Poverty Lane. Within the trench a range of putative postholes and pits appeared to form linear trends. Following consultation with the Pegasus Group consultant and the MEAS archaeologist, the trench was expended, revealing further possible posthole-type features and a large pit. In addition, four further trenches were excavated at evenly spaced intervals to the north-west in order to assess the potential extent of these discrete features. Following further consultation with all parties a larger area incorporating all such trenches was subject to strip, map and sample (Area C). Stripping of this area revealed an array of further discrete and large irregular linear features. However, sample excavation of these features identified that the majority were natural in origin, and included tree rooting and potential palaeochannels,

interspersed with a number of posthole and large pit features. More detailed examination of these features suggested that all discrete features were likely associated with tree-planting possibly to establish an orchard and perhaps associated with the creation of the farmstead.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Countryside Properties and Persimmon Homes for commissioning this project and Donald Sutherland from Pegasus Group for overseeing the work. Thanks are also extended to Alison Plummer, who monitored the work on behalf of Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS).

The project was managed for OA North by Adam Tinsley. The fieldwork was directed by Becky Wegiel, who was supported by Steve Clarke, Faye Corbett, Selina Dean, Catherine O Doherty, George Pearson, Katie Sanderson, and Alicia Senelle. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that processed the environmental remains, under the supervision of Denise Druce, and prepared the archive, under the supervision of Karen Barker.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was jointly commissioned by Countryside Properties and Persimmon Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation and strip, map and sample excavation with further potential mitigation at the site of Poverty Lane, Maghull Sefton in advance of a residential development (Fig 1).

1.1.2 Planning permission (ref. DC/2017/01532) was granted at appeal in February 2021 (ref. APP/M4320/W/20/3257252), and the archaeological works were added as a pre-commencement condition. A brief was set by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) and in response to this brief a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by Pegasus Group detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (Pegasus Group, 2021). This document outlines how OA North implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located on the eastern edge of Maghull, Merseyside, to the north of Poverty Lane. The site is approximately 27ha in size and comprises agricultural land, now overgrown, with a series of modern extant farm buildings fronting Poverty Lane in the vicinity of the site entrance. The site is bounded by Poverty Lane to the southwest, and the M58 to the south-east, with residential housing to the west and agricultural land to the north and north-east (Fig 1). The site is mostly flat, with a slight incline from the north, *c*.25m aOD to *c*.21m aOD to the south (Pegasus Group 2021).

1.2.2 The solid geology of the area is mapped as sandstone of the Chester Formation (BGS 2021), and the superficial deposits are characterized as Shirdley Hill sand deposits (Cranfield 2021).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was compiled by CgMs (CgMs 2017). The information was summarized by Pegasus Group in the WSI (2021) and is reproduced here.

1.3.2 A single findspot of prehistoric flint is recorded within the east of the site (ref. MME4442) during fieldwalking (ref. EME2021). However, recorded archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site are otherwise scarce.

1.3.3 No Roman archaeology is recorded either within the site or its vicinity and no significant remains from this period are anticipated within the site.

1.3.4 No medieval archaeology is recorded within the site, and very little is recorded within the vicinity of the site. It is considered likely that the site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Maghull from at least the medieval period and no significant archaeological remains from this period are anticipated within the site.

1.3.5 The majority of the site is likely to have been under agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and modern periods. However, a field and house within the west of the site is recorded as 'Brick Kiln Croft' on the 1839 Tithe Map of Maghull, which may indicate some localised, small-scale industrial activity. The site of this former house dating to *c* 1777 AD is also recorded within the south of the proposed development site (ref MME4267). The house was demolished by the mid-twentieth century, with modern agricultural buildings and a dwelling subsequently being constructed to the north and east of the former house location.

1.3.6 A geophysical survey of the site recorded several magnetic responses which were interpreted as being of possible archaeological interest (Sumo 2021, Fig 2). The anomalies include two possible enclosures, along with ditch-like and pit-like anomalies, that are largely focused within two areas of the site, one group towards the centre and a range of potential features along the northern boundary. Former field boundaries, ponds, and anomalies relating to agricultural use and drainage were also recorded.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general project aims and objectives were defined in the WSI and are as follows:

i. To record where feasible the depth, extent, character and date of archaeological features or deposits encountered;
ii. To provide information about the archaeological resource within the area of the site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality);
iii. To create a record of the archaeological resource which will be impacted upon as a result of the proposed development;
iv. To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context; and
v. To carry out the above in accordance with the CIfA Code of Conduct, Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation and Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation.

2.1.2 The specific objectives of the fieldwork were:

i. To investigate anomalies potentially indicative of archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey, sample some uncertain anomalies, and 'blank' areas of site, to determine whether any further mitigation is required;
ii. To determine whether an anomaly identified within the former 'Brick Kiln Croft' relates to previous industrial activity and to record any identified archaeological remains;
iii. To identify the level of survival of an 18th century dwelling;
iv. To determine the presence/absence of archaeological deposits relating to the 18th century dwelling;
v. To identify deposits and evidence relating to the use of the dwelling and provide evidence of the occupants;
vi. To answer research agenda objectives set in the Archaeological Research Framework for the North West Region: Research Agenda:
vii. To use any artefactual and dating evidence revered to assist in answering specific research questions;
viii. To recover and record an appropriate sample of the range, quality and quantity of the artefacts and environmental evidence discovered; and
ix. To provide a report on the results of the evaluation and mitigation and if appropriate publish the results in an academic paper or journal.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The programme of archaeological works defined in the WSI comprised the following:

i. Excavation of nine 30m x 2m trenches to investigate anomalies potentially indicative of archaeological remains (as identified by the geophysical survey: Fig 2);
ii. Fourteen 50m x 2m trenches to investigate uncertain anomalies, possible field boundaries and 'blank' areas (as identified by the geophysical survey: Fig 2);

iii. A strip, map, and sample (SMS) excavation measuring 25m x 10m to mitigate the potential footprint of the 18th century dwelling fronting Poverty Lane (Area A: Fig 2);

iv. A SMS excavation measuring 15m x 15m to investigate a geophysical anomaly in the vicinity of the former 'Brick Kiln Croft' (Area B: Fig 2).

2.2.2 All of the trenches and areas were excavated as proposed, with the exception of Area A, that was found to have a live gas feed traversing diagonally across the location. For obvious safety reasons, it was agreed with MEAS that no mitigation would take place in this area. Instead, an additional trench, Trench 24, was excavated to the north-east of Area B, in a perceived blank area.

2.2.3 Where potentially significant archaeology was encountered in Trench 4, the southern half of the trench was initially expanded by 5m on either side. After further consultation with Pegasus Group and MEAS, based upon the results of the expanded trench, which identified further potential remains extending in almost all directions, but particularly to the west, four additional trenches were subsequently excavated to the north-west at approximately 20m intervals. These trenches were intended to establish the potential extent of any features extending in this direction and appeared to confirm features continued within at least the first three of these trenches. Based on these results and again following consultation with Pegasus Group and MEAS, the intervening areas were subject to strip, map, and sample excavation by way of investigating and mitigating this potential resource. Consequently, an area approximately 20m x 115m was stripped to archaeological level (identified here as SMS Area C).

2.2.4 All trenches and archaeological features were located by use of a differential Global Positioning System (dGPS), accurate to within 0.02-0.03m, and altitude information was established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. During all excavations, the overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) in controlled spits of no more than 0.20m, to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or natural, under direct archaeological supervision at all times. Topsoil and subsoil were stored and bunded separately in close proximity to each excavation area in order to facilitate backfill operations. Subsequent cleaning and investigation of all archaeological deposits were undertaken manually, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels, depending on the subsoil conditions. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded as appropriate and defined by the WSI.

2.2.5 All excavations were conducted in a stratigraphic manner, and all information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were made available for inspection. The results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes both a digital photographic record and hand-drawn plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All works therefore adhered to the specification set out in the WSI and to industry guidelines and standards (i.e., CIfA 2019; 2020a; 2020b: English Heritage 1991: Historic England 2015a: 2015b: 2016: UKIC 1990).

2.2.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project WSI (Pegasus Group 2021), and in accordance with current CIfA and Historic England guidelines and will be deposited with the Merseyside Historic Environmental Record Office in due course.

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 areas that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches and SMS areas, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in *Appendix A*.

3.1.2 Trenches 7, 8, 12, 13, 21 and additional Trench 24 were all found to be devoid of archaeology and will not be discussed in further detail.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology comprised sands and fine gravels, with common patches of silty clay across the site. In several trenches a 0.2m thick band of wind-blown sand was observed (see *Appendix A* for Trenches 8, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21 and 24). These deposits were overlain by a sandy subsoil, which in turn was overlain by plough soil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were relatively easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, although in certain areas a distinction between *bona fide* discrete archaeological features and those with a natural origin could only be fully discerned following manual investigation. Many of the anomalies identified by geophysical survey were corroborated and proved to be over 1m deep. In such instances, the sand and clay geology meant that the edges of these deeper features were too unstable to allow safe manual investigation and machine sondages were employed to allow rapid assessment before immediate backfill.

3.3 Trenches 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 14

3.3.1 The trenches were positioned across the site and targeted various documented former field boundaries, geophysical anomalies, and blank areas (Fig 2). They will be discussed below in numerical order.

3.3.2 ***Trench 1*** measured 50m by 2m, arranged on a north/south axis in the north-west corner of the site, and was positioned to investigate a former field boundary identified on early mapping. It was found to contain several features, all located to the northern end of the trench, and comprised a north-east/south-west-aligned ditch (***103***), a further linear feature (***105***) and a discrete pit feature (***107***). Ditch cut ***103*** measured 2.4m wide and was 0.52m deep with a steep sided but slightly irregular profile containing a single relatively homogenous medium brown silty fill (context ***104***: Fig 3, Plate 1). The ditch relates to the targeted former field boundary and is likely post-medieval in origin, although no finds were recovered from its fill. To the north-west of this ditch, a parallel plough furrow ***105*** was observed (0.76m wide, 0.2m deep), which is likely of the same phase as the ditch given it respects its location and axis. Between the two linear features, an oval pit (***107***), measured 0.84m by 2m, and was found to be 0.3m deep and to contain modern materials, including a plastic toy figurine (not retained).

3.3.3 ***Trench 2*** measured 50 m x 2m, and was located to the south-east of Trench 1, but excavated on a north-west/south-east axis and targeted a former field boundary identified on mapping. It was found to contain a north-east/south-west-aligned ditch (***207***), that measured 1.95m wide and 0.45m deep, with a shallow sloping north-west and steeper south-east edge (Fig 4: Plate 2), that contained a single relatively homogenous medium brown silty sand fill (***208***).

Two parallel plough furrows were located further to the north-west (***203*** and ***205***), which measured 0.4m wide and 0.0.5m deep, and 0.55m and 0.11m deep respectively (Fig 4). It is likely that the boundary ditches and associated furrows in these two trenches were of the same agricultural phase. Although the profile varies slightly, it is also possible that ditch ***207*** is again examined in the context of Trench 15 (*Section 3.4.2*).

*Plate 1: east-facing view of ditch **103***

*Plate 2: south-west-facing view of ditch **207***

3.3.4 ***Trench 3*** was situated approximately 180m to the east of Trench 1, towards the northern boundary of the site, measured 50m x 2m on a north-east/south-west axis, targeting an elongated geophysical anomaly (Fig 2). The linear feature was recorded as context ***303*** (Plate 3: Fig 5) and measured 2.4m wide extending across the trench. It was found to be 0.8m deep, with a vertical edge, and contained two fills (***303*** and ***304***) both of which contained redeposited blocks of clay and topsoil-indicative of a rapid and relatively recent episode of backfill. It was interpreted as a likely modern or very late post-medieval extraction pit.

*Plate 3: south-facing view of Trench 3 with feature **303** in the foreground*

3.3.5 ***Trench 4*** will be discussed in relation to SMS Area C below (see *Section 3.7*).

3.3.6 Trenches 5, 6 and 7 were excavated to the south of the site, although Trench 7 was found to be blank (Fig 2). ***Trench 5*** measured 50m x 2m, excavated on a north-east/south-west axis and targeted a former field boundary. It identified an east/west aligned ditch (***509***), which measured 1.62m wide, and up to 0.53m deep with a shallow slightly irregular but V-shaped profile containing a single relatively homogenous fill of medium brown silty sand (context ***510***: Fig 6). A further three features were observed towards the south-west of this ditch, ***507***, ***505*** and ***503***. These measured on average 0.5m wide and were 0.07m deep. They were interpreted as remnants of plough furrows, which, on a slightly different alignment to that of the ditch, suggested a different phase of agriculture. A single possible posthole, ***511***, was located between ditch ***509*** and plough furrow ***507***. Measuring 0.25m in diameter and contained two fills (***512*** and ***513***) which appeared to indicate it had silted up after the post had been removed.

3.3.7 ***Trench 6*** measured 50m x 2m and was excavated on a north-west/south-east axis in the southern corner of the site to target the line of a former field boundary (Fig 2). It contained two linear features, one extending on a north-east/south-west axis across the trench (***608***), probably relating to the former field boundary, and a second (***604***), extending south-east at a right angle to and from ***608***, creating a T-junction configuration within the trench. Given the relationship of the two linears it is likely they formed part of the same phase of field system (Fig 7). Ditch ***608*** measured 2m wide and 0.5m deep with a shallow V-shaped profile

containing a single medium brown sandy fill (***609***). Feature ***604*** measured 1.15m wide and 0.25m deep with a shallower concave profile and a single medium brown fill (***605***). Feature ***604*** follows the same alignment as a series of parallel linear features identified during geophysical survey, and probably relates either to a plough furrow or else a smaller field division.

3.3.8 Within Trench 6, two discrete features were identified in close proximity to the intersection of ditch ***608*** and possible furrow ***604*** (Fig 7). Pit ***602*** was 0.62m in diameter and 0.26m deep with a U-shaped profile and a single medium brown sandy fill (***603***). Pit ***606*** was 0.5m in diameter and 0.15m deep with a shallow, concave profile and a single fill (***607***). Both had silted up naturally, were devoid of dating evidence and the function was unknown.

3.3.9 ***Trench 9*** was excavated towards the east of a central group of trenches, measured 30m x 2m, aligned north-east/south-west, and targeted a linear geophysical anomaly extending roughly north/south (Fig 8). This feature was identified, and sample excavated as context ***902***, which measured 3.6m wide and 0.56m deep with a near vertical U-shaped profile containing a mixed backfill deposit potentially indicative of a modern origin, being relatively dark in colour, and containing large blocks of redeposited natural.

3.3.10 ***Trench 10*** was excavated approximately 50m north of Trench 9 (Fig 2), on an east/west axis, measured 30m x 2m, and targeted the same geophysical anomaly. This linear was identified as cut ***1002*** (Plate 4), which measured 1.98m wide and 0.74m deep and proved to have the same potentially modern backfill deposit (***1003***) as identified in Trench 9. Towards the western limit of the trench (Fig 9) a large spread of dark sandy material (***1005***) was sample excavated, due to its size, by machine sondage, and found to represent the infill of a large vertical-edged pit or group of pits (***1004***). The sondage established the feature was over 2m deep but could not establish the full form or depth within the confines of the trench. Based upon the scant information derived from these investigations the feature was interpreted as a relatively modern extraction pit.

*Plate 4: Ditch **1002**, east-facing view*

3.3.11 ***Trenches 11*** and 12 were excavated in close proximity towards the centre of the site, each measuring 30m x 2m, on a north/south and north-west/south-east axis respectively, to test a group of curvilinear geophysical anomalies thought to potentially be prehistoric in origin (Fig 2). Trench 11 lay directly over the target anomalies but on excavation revealed a large spread of dark brown sandy material (***1106***: Fig 10). This was again sample excavated by means of machine sondage and shown to be the fill of a large pit (***1105***). The pit was approximately 12.2m in diameter, and over 2m deep. On this evidence, rather than representing several ephemeral linear features, the geophysical anomaly appeared to conform to the edge of this large pit, interpreted here as evidence of a further relatively late extraction pit. A smaller feature occurred at the southern end on the trench (***1103***) and measured 0.65m wide, within the confines of the trench, and 0.44m deep, and the fill (***1104***) was identical to that of its larger counterpart.

3.3.12 ***Trench 12*** was excavated immediately to the west of Trench 11, and again targeted a geophysical anomaly (Fig 2). It identified the edge of a feature, cut ***1203***, although this did not appear to relate to the target anomaly. The feature measured 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig 11) within the confines of the trench, but its archaeological validity could not be firmly established, and it may well represent something natural in origin.

3.3.13 ***Trenches 14*** was located north-east of the centre of the site, on an east/west axis and measured 50m x 2m, targeting a possible former boundary ditch extending north/south (Fig 2). The boundary ditch was identified and recorded as cut ***1403*** towards the eastern end of the trench (Fig 12) and measured 2m wide and 0.63m deep, with steep V-shaped profile. It had been deliberately backfilled over a stone-built drain in the base (Plate 5). The trench also contained a layer of the wind-blown sand (***1401***) observed elsewhere on site (*Sections 3.2.1, 3.4.4, 3.4.6, 3.5.1, 3.7.8, Appendix A*).

*Plate 5: south-facing view of ditch **1403** showing stone-built field drain*

3.4 Trenches 15 – 18

3.4.1 These trenches were located sequentially extending along the central northern boundary of the site, from west to east, with a further trench (Trench 23) located slightly further east again, see *Section 3.5.4*: Fig 2). The trenches each measured 30m x 2m and were intended to investigate several geophysical anomalies redolent of a prehistoric origin and potentially representing a segmented trackway or enclosure with possible pit features.

3.4.2 ***Trench 15*** extended on a north/south alignment and targeted a segment of the north-east/south-west trending anomalies. This was excavated and recorded as cut ***1502*** (Fig 13), and measured 1.3m wide, 0.65m deep, with a relatively steep sided V-shaped profile containing a single fill (***1503***), which appeared to have been rapidly backfilled. The feature was interpreted as a relatively modern or late post-medieval boundary ditch and may represent a continuation of that depicted ditch on the site plan and examined in Trench 2 (ditch ***207***, *Section 3.3.3*).

3.4.3 ***Trench 16*** was excavated approximately 40m to the east of Trench 15, again on a roughly north/south alignment, and targeted a series of potential discrete features and irregularly-shaped geophysical anomalies (Fig 14). These were shown to be elongated extraction pits as described previously. Pits ***1603***, ***1605*** and ***1607*** varied in width from 0.64m – 2.95m and were 0.5m deep with relatively steep, near vertical sides. All had been rapidly backfilled with a mix of redeposited clay and sands.

3.4.4 ***Trenches 17*** was excavated approximately 20m to the east of Trench 16, on a north-west/south-east axis, and targeted a further segment of the intermittent linear anomaly and further potential discrete features (Figs 2 and 15). It was found to contain another potential elongated extraction pit (***1703***), measuring 2.18m wide and 0.5m deep, as well as the base of a shallow possible posthole (***1705***), measuring 0.3m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It also contained a linear feature extending north-east/south-west across the trench (***1707***), that correlated with the position of the linear anomaly identified on mapping and in Trench 18 as cut ***1805*** (*Section 3.4.5*). The feature was not sample excavated as the presence of obvious modern materials both here and in Trench 18 indicated it had a modern origin as a former field boundary. The presence of the wind-blown sand deposit noted elsewhere (*Sections 3.2.1, 3.3.13, 3.4.6, 3.5.1, 3.7.8, Appendix A*) was also noted as context ***1701***, which was up to 0.11m thick.

3.4.5 ***Trench 18*** was excavated approximately 50m north-east of Trench 17, on a north-west/south-east axis, and targeted a section of a linear and further discrete features or segmented linear features (Fig 2). It revealed a north-east/south-west aligned linear feature (***1805***: Fig 16), extending across the trench just north of its centre. The feature measured 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep with a shallow V-shaped profile containing a single fill (***1806***) that produced modern (plastic) materials. The feature can clearly be related in plan to that identified as ***1707*** in Trench 17 and the position of a former field boundary.

3.4.6 A single discrete sub-circular feature (***1803***) was recorded in the southern end of the trench (Fig 16). This measured 1.86m wide and extended south-west beyond the limit of excavation. It was found to be 0.86m deep and to have a U-shaped profile with steep, near vertical sides, containing a single dark brown sandy fill that produced no finds (***1802***: Plate 6). The features were sealed beneath the wind-blown sand layer (***1801***) identified elsewhere on site (*see Sections 3.2.1, 3.3.13, 3.4.4, 3.5.1, 3.7.8, Appendix A*).

*Plate 6: east-facing section through pit **1803***

3.5 Trenches 19 – 23

3.5.1 The trenches were excavated towards the north-eastern corner of the site (Fig 2) where they targeted a limited number of geophysical anomalies or sampled putative blank areas. ***Trench 19*** measured 50m x 2m, aligned north-west/south-east, and targeted a linear anomaly and several former field boundaries identified on mapping. The geophysical anomaly was not identified, but the two boundary ditches were clearly evident (Fig 17). Towards the north of the trench ditch ***1903*** was recorded extending roughly north/south across the trench and was found to be 2m wide and up to 0.63m deep with a roughly V-shaped profile and a single fill (***1904***). The second ditch (***1905***) was recorded towards the southern end of the trench extending across it on a north-east/south-west axis. Ditch ***1905*** was found to be similar in size to ***1903***, at 2m wide and 0.6m deep, with a similar profile and single fill (***1906***). Both had silted up naturally and clearly relate to the mapped field boundaries. A wind-blown sand layer (***1901***) was identified below the topsoil and relates to that encountered elsewhere on site (see *Sections 3.2.1, 3.4.4, 3.4.6, 3.7.8, Appendix A*).

3.5.2 ***Trench 20*** was excavated approximately 100m south-east of Trench 19, towards the south-eastern limit of the site (Fig 2), on a north-east/south-west axis, and measured 50m x 2m. It was intended to target a series of discrete geophysical anomalies, interpreted as potential pits. Up to three such features were recorded (***2002***, ***2004*** and ***2006***), each was sub-oval in shape, up to 4.4m wide and were examined by means of a machine sondage, establishing they extended to a depth of 1.7m (Fig 18). The pits had been backfilled with a mix of redeposited natural clay and topsoil and interpreted as likely relatively modern extraction pits.

3.5.3 ***Trenches 22*** measured 50m x 2m and was excavated towards the north-eastern corner of the site, on an east/west axis, to target a conjectural field boundary (Fig 2). A linear feature (***2202***) was recorded extending across the eastern end of the trench on a north/south axis and clearly relates to the conjectural field boundary (Fig 19). Excavation of the ditch feature revealed it

measured 0.75m wide, and up to 0.35m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile containing a single fill (***2203***) that appears to have silted up gradually.

3.5.4 ***Trench 23*** was excavated on an east/west alignment, towards the north-eastern corner of the site, measured 30m x 2m, and targeted the range of linear or segmented linear and discrete geophysical anomalies examined by Trenches 15-18 further to its west (Fig 2: *Section 3.4*), including a section of a conjectural field boundary identified elsewhere in Trench 19 to the south (*Section 3.5.1*). A single linear feature was recorded in the trench (***2302***), where its position appears to correlate with the line of the conjectural field boundary (Fig 20). This feature was found to be 1.45m wide, and 0.5m deep with a well-defined V-shaped profile containing a single medium grey, brown sandy fill (***2303***: Plate 7).

*Plate 7: south-facing section through ditch **2302***

3.6 SMS Area B

3.6.1 Area B measured approximately 10m x 10m and was excavated towards the centre of the site to investigate a large circular geophysical anomaly, though to potentially represent the location of a potential brick kiln (Fig 2 and 21). Upon opening of the area, a large spread of dark brown sandy material (***2503***) was identified, as well as a small linear feature (***2504***) and two smaller discrete features (***2506*** and ***2509***: Fig 21). A machine slot was excavated across deposit ***2503***, which was found to be contained within a cut (***2502***), measuring approximately 11.3m in diameter, and over 2m deep. It had been backfilled with large blocks of redeposited clay and topsoil (Plate 8) and was interpreted as a large and relatively modern extraction pit.

3.6.2 Pit ***2502*** was found to cut linear ***2504***, which extended into the trench, from the north-western limit of excavation and extended south-east. However, the linear was not observed on the south-eastern side of pit ***2502*** and was not excavated. The linear corresponds with the line of a field boundary identified on historic mapping.

3.6.3 The two smaller discrete features (***2506*** and ***2509***) were recorded to the west of the large pit and were interpreted as postholes. The larger, posthole ***2506***, measured 0.35m wide and 0.3m

deep, and contained two fills (***2507*** and ***2508***), the later interpreted as the fill of a post pipe. The smaller, ***2509***, measured 0.15 m in diameter and 0.07m deep. Both had silted up naturally after the post was removed. It is possible that the two posts formed part of a larger alignment extending west beyond the limit of excavation.

3.6.4 No trace of the postulated kiln was identified, although the main pit (***2502***) probably represented an extraction pit. All features identified in Area B appear to be either post-medieval or modern in origin.

*Plate 8: north-west-facing view through pit **2502***

3.7 Trench 4 and SMS Area C

3.7.1 Trench 4 measured 50m x 2m and was excavated on a north-east/south-west alignment, towards the centre and south-western boundary of the site, approximately 40m to the west of the extant farm buildings (Fig 2). It originally targeted two field boundaries, identified in the original trench as cut ***417*** and ***415*** (Fig 22 and 23). Ditch ***417*** extended across the trench on a north-north-west/south-east alignment and was recorded as being 1.3m wide and up to 0.74m deep, with a roughly V-shaped profile and two fills (***418*** and ***419***). Ditch ***415*** was located to the north of ditch ***417*** and extended across the trench on a near north/south alignment. It was recorded as 1.3m wide and 0.26m deep, with a shallow concave profile and a single fill (***416***).

3.7.2 A number of sub-circular discrete features were also recorded within the original confines of Trench 4, a small group of which were identified between the two ditches (cuts ***430***, ***432***, ***434***, ***436***, ***438***, ***440***, and ***442***), and a larger group extending, individually or as small cluster, to the south of ditch ***417*** (i.e. cuts ***403***, ***405***, ***407***, ***409***, ***411***, ***413***, ***420***, ***423***, ***426***, ***428***, and ***440***: Fig 23). While most of these features were later defined as natural in origin, perhaps representing former boulder holes or the like, several were originally thought to represent a series of

potential postholes and, as such, to possibly be structural in nature, although at this stage no clear pattern in their distribution could be discerned.

3.7.3 Following discussion with the Pegasus Group consultant and the planning archaeologist for MEAS, it was decided to expand Trench 4 for 5m either side, along its length from the southern end to a point just north of ditch ***415***, where the trench then appeared to be blank beyond and to the north. It was hoped that this would provide further information relating to the potential posthole array. Expansion of the trench revealed further potential posthole features, as well as several larger discrete features, potentially representing large pits, as well as other potentially significant features that were only partially exposed in the expanded trench. While one larger feature appeared to extend beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east of the expanded area, the majority of features appeared to extend north-west. Cursory examination of some of the larger discrete features, as well as other putative smaller postholes, appeared to confirm their archaeological nature and the fact that many such features were cut by the ditches, ***415*** and ***417***, which were thought to be post-medieval in origin, suggested a potentially earlier date for the remains. In the absence of firm dating evidence, the potential that this group of discrete features could represent an array of earlier structures, either medieval or possibly prehistoric in origin was discussed during further consultation with Pegasus Group and MEAS. During such discussion it was agreed to test the physical extent of any such features by the excavation of four further trenches to the north-west of the area, and ultimately saw expansion of Trench 4 to incorporate these trench locations, as well as a smaller area to the south-east, in a hope of defining the full extent and significance of the activity. This expanded area was subsequently labelled SMS Area C and its excavation revealed an array of putative discrete features of various size and form (see SMS Area C context list in *Appendix A*), that extended for approximately 40-50m north-west, gradually petering out just west of a north/south aligned ditch, at which ditch ***417*** and ***415*** terminated and clearly representing a former field boundary, again of probable post-medieval origin (not excavated and assigned a context number: see Fig 23).

3.7.4 In plan, it proved very difficult to distinguish features of archaeological origin against the widespread background of discrete natural features and geological variation. Following sample excavation of selected features only a small number were subsequently considered archaeological in nature. Of these features, that represented by cut ***2722*** was perhaps the most convincing and was originally speculated to represent a potential sunken feature building (SFB) and therefore of possible early medieval origin. This feature was located towards the juncture of the two post-medieval ditches (***415*** and ***417***), and measured approximately 3m in diameter, with a well-defined if slightly irregular profile up to 0.55m deep, containing three fills (***2723, 2724*** and ***2725***: Fig 23 and 27, Plate 9). This interpretation appeared to be strengthened by the identification of at least two postholes within the excavated segment of the feature, cut ***2700***, containing two fills (***2701*** and ***2702***), cut into the fill of the main feature, and cut ***2730***, containing a single fill (***2731***), cut into the north-eastern edge of the larger feature. Fill ***2701*** of posthole ***2700***, was found to be relatively charcoal rich, as well as containing other materials, and has potential for radiocarbon assay (*Appendix B*, *Section B.1.5*). In addition, further smaller discrete features identified in plan around the main pit also seemingly reinforced the interpretation as a potential SFB, potentially representing a setting of postholes defining its periphery, particularly along its northern edge. However, subsequent investigation of these features proved them to be of natural origin, a finding that physically isolated feature ***2722***, and thereby negated the original interpretation, consequently reducing its archaeological significance. In light of such evidence, the feature was reinterpreted as a potential tree throw, although the two internal postholes appear to be genuine and may represent tree planting activity, perhaps to establish an orchard or

associated with planting in an effort to prevent sand inundation and dune formation during the late post-medieval or modern period (*Appendix B*, *Section B.1.4*).

*Plate 9: north-west-facing view of pit **2722***

3.7.5 Located approximately 15m to the south-west of feature ***2722***, beyond an extensive area of mixed geology and natural features, a further relatively well-defined feature (cut ***2875***) was investigated (Fig 10). This was found to be 2.4m in diameter, and up to 0.68m deep with a single fill (***2876***) of highly variable sand and gravel deposits (Fig 27). A quantity of charcoal and wood fragments were recovered from environmental samples deriving from ***2876***, and have potential for radiocarbon assay (*Appendix B*, *Section B.1.5*). While the feature was relatively well defined, with clear and distinct edges set against the background geology, the variable and mixed nature of the fill suggested an interpretation as a possible tree throw.

3.7.6 Approximately 5m west of feature ***2875***, within the first of the additional evaluation trenches excavated to establish the extent of activity to the west of Trench 4, a further well-defined feature was recorded (cut ***2885***: Fig 24 and 26). This was found to be sub-circular with a diameter of 1.75m, and to have a steep-sided profile up to 0.55m deep, containing a sequence of up to four distinct but variable fills (***2892***-***5***), Again the mixed and variable nature of the fills was taken to indicate the feature derived from a tree throw.

3.7.7 Approximately 20m to the north-west of feature ***2885***, a further two discrete features (***2781*** and ***2783***) were identified adjacent to each other within the second additional trench to the west of Trench 4 (Fig 25 and 26: Plate 10). Feature ***2781*** was sub-circular in shape, with a diameter of 1.17m and a well-defined profile up to 0.17m deep, containing a single mixed fill (***2782***). Feature ***2783*** was located immediately east of ***2781***, and was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.80m and a well-defined profile up to 0.32m deep containing a single mixed fill (***2784***). Like their counterparts to the east, both features were interpreted as probable tree throws.

3.7.8 It is possible that several of the other features examined across SMS Area C, assigned a more natural origin, do in fact represent further tree throw features and, as such, may be associated

with the same potential phase(s) of activity tentatively interpreted as an episode of deliberate plantation and subsequent removal of the plant cover at a later date.

*Plate 10: north-facing view of pits **2781** and **2783***

3.7.9 To the south-east of Trench 4, a large spread of material (***2707***) was initially identified and instigated expansion of the trench in this direction. Initial manual investigation of the material identified that ***2707*** was the uppermost deposit of a sequence of four (including ***2707***-***2710***) infilling a well-defined cut (***2706***), which appeared to possess a vertical western edge and a flat base. Given the definition of this feature, which appeared to continue further to the south-east, the excavation area was again expanded eventually exposing its eastern edge. The feature was ultimately found to be up to 4m wide and 0.34m deep but appeared less regular in plan. It was interpreted as a potential palaeochannel together with a similar large meandering and irregular linear feature (not excavated), identified to the west of the north/south aligned post-medieval ditch (see *Section 3.7.3* and Fig 23). Sealing palaeochannel ***2706***, as well as in discrete pockets throughout SMS Area C, the wind-blown sands evident elsewhere on site (see *Sections 3.2.1*, *3.4.4*, *3.4.6*, *3.5.1*, *Appendix A*) were also observed (Plate 11).

*Plate 11: wind-blown sand in the top of palaeochannel **2706**, east-facing section*

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation initially comprised the excavation of 23 trenches and a strip, map and sample of two small areas. This was subsequently supplemented by the excavation of five further trenches and excavation of a large SMS area to further map, investigate and enhance the understanding of features identified in the preliminary trenching programme. In total 28 trenches and two strip, map and sample excavation areas were therefore completed, which was adequate to inform, understand, assess and draw wider conclusions about the archaeological remains observed.

4.1.2 Unfortunately, SMS Area A that targeted the eighteenth century dwelling on Poverty Lane could not be excavated due to the presence of a gas feed within the area. The potential for archaeological remains in this area have not therefore been assessed.

4.1.3 Where they occurred, features were generally easily distinguished against the natural geology, particularly those of a linear nature and post-medieval origin. Difficulties were experienced, however, in relation to the confines of Trench 4 and the expanded SMS Area C, where a dense and widespread array of natural features, such as rooting, boulder holes, palaeochannels, and natural variation, together with discrete pockets of wind blown sand, presumably which had collected within former hollows, as well as more generally across the site, either masked or could not easily be distinguished from the limited number of discrete features in this area. This meant that many of the features required sample excavation in order to clarify their archaeological or natural origin.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 All the aims and objectives of the evaluation as set out in the WSI (Pegasus Group 2021) have been as comprehensively addressed as possible by the fieldwork programme and post-excavation work.

4.2.2 The majority of the trenches excavated achieved their aim. The archaeology was successfully evaluated and understood as far as possible within the confines of the trenches. Where additional questions pertaining to the nature and extent of the archaeology were posed, for example, in relation to Trench 4, additional evaluation was undertaken, followed by a full strip of the area. The additional strip was sufficient to characterise the nature and extent of the features observed.

4.3 Statement of palaeoenvironmental preservation

4.3.1 A limited number of discrete features produced environmental samples that contained viable palaeoenvironmental material (see *Appendix B*), the majority of features either proving devoid of material or else representing demonstrably modern activity with little to no value for further assessment and analysis. Of those viable samples, a small number allowed identification of taxa and provide sufficient material to allow radiocarbon assay, should it be required, although the likely provenance of the features relating to post-medieval activity of relatively low significance probably negates the need for any such programme of dating.

4.3.2 The layer of wind-blown sand encountered in various locations across the site, was sampled but did not produce significant results. It does, however, potentially relate to a regional coastal episode of sand inundation, documented during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a response to which were large-scale planting schemes of various species, but particularly evergreen pines, although it is unclear if the planting scheme

extended as far as Maghull (*Appendix B*). The presence of the sands may therefore offer a rudimentary form of dating in the absence of diagnostic artefacts or concerted radiocarbon assay of samples, and, moreover, may be linked to the potential evidence for tree planting identified in SMS Area C (*Section 3.7.4*).

4.4 Interpretation:

4.4.1 The most significant results of this programme of archaeological trial trenching and strip, map and sample excavations relate to the identification of multiple potential extraction pits across mainly northern parts of the site. This would appear to confirm the presence of a level of industrial process in the vicinity of the site. The association of the area with brick production was established by local place name evidence documented within cartographic sources by the DBA (CgMs 2017: Fig 12). While the presence of a kiln within the scheme boundaries was not established, the array of deep pits observed in trenches 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and SMS Area B, showed that there was nearby industry associated with removal of clay from geological seams. The pits do not appear on historic mapping, suggesting that they were not of a scale that warranted mapping, or that they had been backfilled before the wholescale mapping of England. Overall, the location of the kiln could not be inferred at this time, and no other signs of industry were observed. In addition, the identification of wind-blown sand deposits across parts of the site may be related to documented evidence of an inundation phenomena during the nineteenth and early twentieth century, potentially providing a rudimentary form of dating features and sequences, in the near total absence of datable artefacts or ecofacts.

4.4.2 The majority of other features across the site could be ascribed to post-medieval field boundaries and associated agricultural practices. The ditches often change very slightly in orientation, but not enough to suggest a change in field patterns or use before the field was amalgamated to form the current configuration.

4.4.3 The only indication of earlier land use was potentially associated with features observed in SMS Area C. Here a limited number of features, including several large pit-like features associated with an array of potential postholes, were initially interpreted as suggestive of structural features indicative of potentially early settlement activity, for example sunken feature buildings of the early medieval period. However, after further and more extensive investigation, despite the features having very clear cuts and a number being confirmed as *bona fide* posthole features, the fills of many of the larger features were found to be reminiscent of tree throws and rooting. It is possible that these features are indicative of a phase of deliberate but localised tree planting, perhaps establishing an orchard which is later depicted on historic mapping, or else associated with late post-medieval and modern efforts to reduce sand inundation and prevent dune formation (see *Appendix B*). This would appear to be at least partially corroborated by the presence of wind-blown sand deposits across parts of the site, which in SMS Area C at least, appears to pre-date the creation of the post-medieval field boundaries. This would suggest that the remnant field boundaries themselves are relatively late additions to the landscape in this area.

4.5 Significance

4.5.1 The initial potential significance of features within Trench 4 and subsequent SMS Area C, unfortunately, was not recognised and can be dismissed based upon subsequent efforts to characterise the features, which may be more readily associated with potential tree planting activity. The greater number of features identified across the site can either be related to a redundant phase of post-medieval land divisions and agricultural practices, as well as potential evidence for localised clay extraction, again during the post-medieval or modern period. This later activity may be associated with brick production, as identified by historic

place names and cartographic evidence, but the evidence for a production site, such as a kiln, was sadly entirely absent. Consequently, the collective significance of features investigated during the evaluation and SMS areas was relatively limited, being largely restricted to relatively late post medieval field boundary features. The presence of wind-blown sand deposits and speculative planting features, possibly associated with wider documented efforts to manage such inundation, has some local interest, although it is unclear if such efforts officially extended as far as Maghull, and the features themselves offer little to no potential for further research and dissemination.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Targeted a linear geophysical anomaly, observed to be a boundary ditch. A second parallel feature was observed to the south of the trench, likely a plough furrow. A rubbish pit was recorded at the northern end of the trench.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer			0.20	Topsoil		
101	Layer			0.25	Natural		
102	Void						
103	Cut		2.40	0.52	Boundary ditch		
104	Fill	*103*	2.40	0.52	Secondary fill		
105	Cut		0.82	0.21	Plough furrow		
106	Fill	*105*	0.82	0.13	Secondary fill		
107	Cut		0.84	0.31	Pit		
108	Fill	*107*	0.64	0.16	Deliberate backfill		
109	Fill	*107*	0.67	0.15	Deliberate backfill		
110	Fill	*107*	0.20	0.15	Secondary fill		
111	Fill		0.24	0.20	Secondary fill		

Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
Targeted north-east/south-west-aligned linear geophysical anomaly, which was observed to be a boundary ditch. Corresponding plough furrows were also observed on the same alignment.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer		10.00	0.23	Topsoil		
201	Layer		10.00	0.14	Subsoil		
202	Layer		10.00	0.12	Natural		
203	Cut		0.4	0.04	Plough furrow		
204	Fill	*203*	0.4	0.04	Secondary fill		
205	Cut		0.55	0.11	Plough furrow		
206	Fill	*205*	0.55	0.11	Secondary fill		
207	Cut		1.95	0.44	Boundary ditch		
208	Fill	*207*	1.95	0.44	Secondary fill		

Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		NNW/SSE
Trench targeted an east/west-trending geophysical anomaly, which appeared to be a large pit.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer			0.15	Topsoil		

301	Layer				Natural		
302	Cut		2.4	0.82	Pit		
303	Fill	*302*	2.44	0.33	Secondary fill		
304	Fill	*302*	2.45	0.32	Secondary fill		

Trench 4							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Targeted two linear geophysical anomalies which were proven to be boundary ditches. In the south-western portion of the trench a series of postholes were observed.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer			0.4	Topsoil		
401	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
402	Layer			0.2	Natural		
403	Cut		0.42	0.15	Natural feature		
404	Fill	*403*	0.42	0.15	Secondary fill		
405	Cut		0.2	0.05	Natural feature		
406	Fill	*405*	0.2	0.05	Secondary fill		
407	Cut		0.2	0.03	Natural feature		
408	Fill	*407*	0.2	0.03	Secondary fill		
409	Cut		0.22	0.05	Natural feature		
410	Fill	*409*	0.22	0.05	Secondary fill		
411	Cut		0.25	0.07	Natural feature		
412	Fill	*411*	0.25	0.07	Secondary fill		
413	Cut		0.25	0.07	Natural feature		
414	Fill	*413*	0.25	0.07	Secondary fill		
415	Cut		1.3	0.26	Boundary ditch		
416	Fill	*415*	1.3	0.26	Secondary fill		
417	Cut		1.3	0.2	Boundary ditch		
418	Fill	*417*	1.3	0.2	Secondary fill		
419	Fill	*417*		0.54	Secondary fill		
420	Cut		0.6	0.2	Natural feature		
421	Fill	*420*	0.6	0.2	Secondary fill.		
422	Fill	*420*	0.61	0.11	Secondary fill		
423	Cut		0.48	0.25	Natural feature		
424	Fill	*423*	0.48	0.15	Secondary fill		
425	Fill	*423*	0.21	0.12	Secondary fill		
426	Cut		0.2	0.07	Natural feature		
427	Fill	*426*	0.2	0.07	Secondary fill		
428	Cut		0.18	0.06	Natural feature		
429	Fill	*428*	0.18	0.06	Secondary fill		
430	Cut		0.26	0.08	Natural feature		
431	Fill	*430*	0.26	0.08	Secondary fill		
432	Cut		0.26	0.06	Natural feature		

433	Fill	*432*		0.06	Secondary fill		
434	Cut		0.2	0.11	Natural feature		
435	Fill	*434*	0.2	0.11	Secondary fill		
436	Cut		0.2	0.06	Natural feature		
437	Fill	*436*	0.2	0.06	Secondary fill		
438	Cut		0.27	0.13	Natural feature		
439	Fill	*438*	0.27	0.13	Secondary fill		
440	Cut		0.25	0.11	Natural feature		
441	Fill	*440*	0.25	0.11	Secondary fill		
442	Cut		0.3	0.11	Natural feature		
443	Fill	*442*		0.11	Secondary fill		

Trench 5							
General description					**Orientation**		NE/SW
The trench targeted a series of linear geophysical anomalies. The ones to the north-east were field drains. The central anomaly was a boundary ditch. Three gullies and a posthole were observed to the south-west of the boundary ditch, likely associated with modern farming.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
501	Layer			0.16	Subsoil		
502	Layer			0.14	Natural		
503	Cut		0.58	0.07	Plough furrow		
504	Fill	*503*	0.58	0.07	Secondary fill		
505	Cut		0.44	0.07	Plough furrow		
506	Fill	*505*	0.44	0.07	Secondary fill		
507	Cut		0.5	0.07	Plough furrow		
508	Fill	*507*	0.51	0.07	Secondary fill		
509	Cut		1.62	0.53	Ditch		
510	Fill	*509*	1.62	0.53	Secondary fill		
511	Cut		0.22	0.14	Posthole		
512	Fill	*511*	0.24	0.14	Secondary fill		
513	Fill	*511*	0.22	0.07	Secondary fill		

Trench 6							
General description					**Orientation**		NW/SE
Trench targeted NE/SW and NW/SE aligned geophysical anomalies which were observed to be boundary ditches. A pit and a posthole were also observed.					**Length (m)**		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer			0.32	Topsoil		
601	Layer			0.17	Natural		
602	Cut		1.26	0.26	Pit		
603	Fill	*602*	1.26	0.26	Secondary fill		

604	Cut		1.15	0.27	Ditch/furrow		
605	Fill	*604*	1.15	0.27	Secondary fill		
606	Cut		0.51	0.14	Stakehole		
607	Fill	*606*	0.51	0.14	Secondary fill		
608	Cut		2.06	0.56	Ditch		
609	Fill	*608*	2.06	0.56	Secondary fill		

Trench 7							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
The trench targeted a series of geophysical anomalies which were proven to be field drains. No archaeology observed					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer		10	0.2	Topsoil		
701	Layer		10	0.2	Subsoil		
702	Layer		10	0.2	Natural		

Trench 8							
General description					Orientation		E/W
The trench targeted a NW/SE aligned geophysical anomaly, which was shown to be a field drain. A single discrete feature was observed, likely to be of natural origin.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.21	Topsoil		
801	Layer			0.08	Natural		
802	Layer			0.16	Wind-blown sand deposit		
803	Layer			0.13	Buried soil		
804	Cut		0.5	0.12	Natural Feature		
805	Fill	*804*	0.31	0.1	Secondary fill		
806	Fill	*804*	0.12	0.1	Secondary fill		
807	Fill	*804*	0.09	0.12	Secondary fill		

Trench 9							
General description					Orientation		ENE/WSW
The trench targeted a single linear geophysical anomaly, which was a large, elongated pit					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.4	Topsoil		
901	Layer				Natural		
902	Cut		3.60	0.56	Ditch		
903	Fill	*902*	3.60	0.56	Secondary fill		

Trench 10							
General description					Orientation		E/W
The geophysical anomaly was observed as a linear trending feature. To the west of the trench, many pit cuts were observed that reached to a depth of 2m and were modern in origin.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.45	Topsoil		
1001	Layer			0.07	Natural		
1002	Cut		1.98	0.74	Ditch		
1003	Fill	*1002*	0.98	0.75	Secondary fill		
1004	Cut		2	1.5	Extraction pit		
1005	Fill	*1004*	2	1.5	Deliberate backfill		

Trench 11							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Geo-anomaly at Southern end confirmed to be field boundary with drain. Northern anomalies also observed as drains, one stone packed.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.55
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.35	Topsoil		
1101	Layer			0.13	Natural		
1102	Layer				Natural		
1103	Cut		0.65	0.44	Ditch		
1104	Fill	*1103*	0.65	0.44	Secondary fill		
1105	Cut		12.20	2	Pit		
1106	Fill	*1105*	12	2	Secondary fill		

Trench 12							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
Trench targeted the space between two geophysical anomalies. With the exception of the edge of a pit on the south-west section, the trench was blank.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
1201	Layer			0.2	Wind-blown sand deposit		
1202	Layer				Natural		
1203	Cut		1.75	0.35	Natural feature		
1204	Fill	*1203*	1.75	0.35	Secondary fill		

Trench 13							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Trench in an area with no geophysical anomalies. No archaeology observed.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer			0.33	Topsoil		
1301	Layer			0.06	Wind-blown sand deposit		
1302	Layer			0.1	Buried soil		
1303	Layer			0.01	Natural		

Trench 14							
General description					Orientation		E/W
The trench targeted a single linear anomaly that was shown to be a boundary ditch					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer				Topsoil		
1401	Layer				Wind-blown sand deposit		
1402	Layer				Natural		
1403	Cut		2.13	0.63	Boundary ditch		
1404	Fill	*1403*	2.13	0.49	Secondary fill		
1405	Fill	*1403*	0.20	0.35	Secondary fill		

Trench 15							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Trench 15 targeted a linear geophysical anomaly, which proved to be a boundary ditch.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		20
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer				Topsoil		
1501	Layer				Natural		
1502	Cut		1.3	0.65	Boundary ditch		
1503	Fill	*1502*	1.1	0.65	Secondary fill		

Trench 16							
General description					Orientation		NNW/SSE
The trench targeted a number of discrete geophysical anomalies that were observed to be elongated pits.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer			0.31	Topsoil		

1601	Layer			0.15	Natural		
1602	Layer			0.26	Subsoil		
1603	Cut		0.6	0.64	Pit		
1604	Fill	*1603*	0.6	0.64	Secondary fill		
1605	Cut		1.4	0.5	Boundary ditch		
1606	Fill	*1605*	1.4	0.5	Secondary fill		
1607	Cut		2.92	0.4	Boundary ditch		
1608	Fill	*1607*	2.92	0.4	Secondary fill		

Trench 17							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
The trench targeted a number of discrete geophysical anomalies that were observed to be an elongated pit as well as a field boundary and smaller discrete posthole features					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer			0.32	Topsoil		
1701	Layer			0.11	Wind-blown sand deposit		
1702	Layer			0.04	Natural		
1703	Cut		2.18	0.52	Pit		
1704	Fill	*1703*	2.18	0.52	Secondary fill		
1705	Cut		0.31	0.08	Posthole		
1706	Fill	*1705*	0.31	0.08	Secondary fill		
1707	Cut		1.85		Cut of modern field boundary		

Trench 18							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
The trench targeted a number of discrete geophysical anomalies that were observed to be an elongated pit as well as a field boundary and smaller discrete posthole features					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.50
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer				Topsoil		
1801	Layer				Wind-blown sand deposit		
1802	Layer				Natural		
1803	Cut		1.86	0.87	Pit		
1804	Fill	*1803*	1.86	0.87	Secondary fill		
1805	Cut		2.34	0.51	Boundary ditch		
1806	Fill	*1805*	2.34	0.51	Secondary fill		

Trench 19							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
The trench targeted sections of a former field boundary					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer				Topsoil		
1901	Layer				Wind-blown sand deposit		
1902	Layer				Natural		
1903	Cut		2	0.67	Boundary ditch		
1904	Fill	*1903*	2	0.67	Secondary fill		
1905	Cut		1.63	0.67	Boundary ditch		
1906	Fill	*1905*	1.63	0.59	Secondary fill		

Trench 20							
General description					Orientation		SW/NE
The trench sampled a putative blank area					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.55
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer			0.35	Topsoil		
2001	Layer			0.15	Natural		
2002	Cut		4.4	1.7	Pit		
2003	Fill	*2002*	4.4	1.7	Secondary fill		
2004	Cut		3.56	1.60	Pit		
2005	Fill	*2004*	3.56	1.60	Secondary fill		
2006	Cut		2.5	1.7	Pit		
2007	Fill	*2006*	2.5	1.7	Secondary fill		

Trench 21							
General description					Orientation		E/W
The trench targeted two faint linear geophysical anomalies which were field drains. No archaeology was observed					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.65
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer			0.4	Topsoil		
2101	Layer			0.08	Wind-blown sand deposit		
2102	Layer			0.2	Natural		

Trench 22							
General description					Orientation		E/W
Targeting a series of geophysical anomalies, the only feature of note in the trench was a boundary ditch at the eastern end. All the other anomalies were shown to be related to drainage.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer				Topsoil		
2201	Layer				Natural		
2202	Cut		0.74	0.35	Boundary ditch		
2203	Fill	*2202*	0.74	0.35	Secondary fill		

Trench 23							
General description					Orientation		E/W
topsoil dark brown night soils Natural mottled sand with clay patches					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.65
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer				Topsoil		
2301	Layer				Natural		
2302	Cut		1.45	0.51	Pit		
2303	Fill	*2302*	1.45	0.51	Secondary fill		

Trench 24							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
Additional trench requested to test perceived gap NE of Area B. No archaeology observed.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.7
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer			0.2	Topsoil		
2601	Layer			0.2	Wind-blown sand deposit		
2602	Layer			0.3	Natural		

SMS Area A		
General description	Orientation	
Excavation was not completed due to possible underground cables.	Length (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Avg. depth (m)	

SMS Area B							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Targeting a large geophysical anomaly. This feature was identified in the north-western of the area, this cuts a boundary ditch on the eastern side. Two possible modern postholes in south-eastern corner.					Length (m)		10
					Width (m)		10
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer				Topsoil		
2501	Layer				Natural		
2502	Cut		1.45	0.51	Pit		
2503	Fill	*2502*	1.45	0.51	Deliberate backfill		
2504	Cut				Ditch		
2505	Fill	*2504*			Secondary fill		
2506	Cut		0.33	0.27	Posthole		
2507	Fill	2506	0.21	0.22	Secondary fill		
2508	Fill	2506	0.36	0.27	Post- pipe		
2509	Cut		0.16	0.07	Posthole		
2510	Fill	2509	0.16	0.07	Secondary fill		

SMS Area C							
General description					Orientation		
Extension of trench 4. To investigate possible archaeology.					Length (m)		
					Width (m)		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.7
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Cut		0.37	0.19	Natural feature		
2701	Fill	2700	0.37	0.19	Secondary fill		
2702	Fill	2700	0.37	0.23	Secondary fill		
2703	Cut		1.63	0.28	Tree throw		
2704	Fill	2703	1.63	0.15	Secondary fill		
2705	Fill	2703	1.63	0.18	Secondary fill		
2706	Cut		3.41	0.34	Natural feature		
2707	Fill	2706	3.41	0.28	Secondary fill		
2708	Fill	2706	0.94	0.06	Secondary fill		
2709	Fill	2706	1.84	0.2	Secondary fill		
2710	Fill	2706	0.76	0.08	Secondary fill		
2711	Cut		2	0.23	Natural feature		
2712	Fill	2711	2	0.14	Secondary fill		
2713	Fill	2711	2	0.09	Secondary fill		
2714	Cut		0.18	0.08	Natural feature		
2715	Fill	2714	0.18	0.08	Secondary fill		
2716	Cut		0.16	0.06	Natural feature		

2717	Fill	2716	0.16	0.06	Secondary fill		
2718	Cut		0.2	0.06	Natural feature		
2719	Fill	2718	0.2	0.06	Secondary fill		
2720	Cut		0.44	0.1	Natural feature		
2721	Fill	2720	0.44	0.1	Secondary fill		
2722	Cut		3.1	0.54	Post hole		
2723	Fill	2722	3.1	0.28	Secondary fill		
2724	Fill	2722	3.1	0.26	Secondary fill		
2725	Fill	2722	3.1	0.14	Primary fill		
2726	Layer	2726	0.4	0.24	Floor surface		
2727	Fill	?			Secondary fill		
2728	Cut		0.29	0.14	Natural feature		
2729	Fill	2729	0.29	0.14	Secondary fill		
2730	Cut		0.3	0.12	Post hole		
2731	Fill	3730	0.3	0.12	Secondary fill		
2732	Cut		0.77	0.14	Natural feature		
2733	Fill	2732	0.77	0.14	Secondary fill		
2734	Cut		0.4	0.1	Natural feature		
2735	Fill	3734	0.4	0.1	Secondary fill		
2736	Cut		0.36	0.07	Natural feature		
2737	Fill	2736	0.36	0.07	Secondary fill		
2738	Cut		0.31	0.07	Natural feature		
2739	Fill	2738	0.31	0.07	Secondary fill		
2740	Cut		0.48	0.26	Natural feature		
2741	Fill	2740	0.48	0.26	Secondary fill		
2742	Fill	2740	0.16	0.06	Secondary fill		
2743	Cut		0.46	0.12	Natural feature		
2744	Fill	2743	0.46	0.12	Secondary fill		
2745	Fill	2743	0.2	0.03	Secondary fill		
2746	Fill	2734	0.14	0.03	Secondary fill		
2747	Fill	2736	0.1	0.05	Secondary fill		
2748	Fill	2738	0.1	0.07	Secondary fill		
2749	Layer	2749	5	0.26	Other layer		
2750	Cut		0.25	0.07	Natural feature		
2751	Fill	2750	0.25	0.07	Secondary fill		
2752	Cut		0.3	0.06	Natural feature		
2753	Fill	2752	0.3	0.06	Secondary fill		
2754	Cut		0.35	0.04	Natural feature		
2755	Fill	2754	0.35	0.04	Secondary fill		
2756	Cut		0.2	0.05	Natural feature		
2757	Fill	2756	0.2	0.05	Secondary fill		
2758	Cut		0.24	0.06	Natural feature		
2759	Fill	2758	0.24	0.06	Secondary fill		
2760	Fill	2740	0.08	0.02	Secondary fill		

2761	Cut		0.33	0.17	Natural feature		
2762	Fill	2761	0.33	0.17	Secondary fill		
2763	Cut		0.3	0.13	Natural feature		
2764	Fill	2763	0.3	0.13	Secondary fill		
2765	Cut		0.3	0.14	Natural feature		
2766	Fill	2720	0.24	0.05	Secondary fill		
2767	Fill	2765	0.24	0.14	Secondary fill		
2768	Fill	2765	0.13	0.04	Other fill		
2769	Cut		0.45	0.21	Tree throw		
2770	Cut		0.22	0.07	Natural feature		
2771	Fill	2770	0.22	0.07	Secondary fill		
2772	Cut		0.22	0.08	Natural feature		
2773	Fill	2772	0.22	0.08	Deliberate backfill		
2774	Fill	2772	0.22	0.03	Post-pipe		
2775	Cut		0.84	0.11	Natural feature		
2776	Fill	2776	0.84	0.11	Secondary fill		
2777	Cut		0.88	0.10	Natural feature		
2778	Fill	2777	0.88	0.10	Secondary fill		
2779	Cut		1.48	0.24	Tree throw		
2780	Fill	*2779*	1.48	0.24	Secondary fill		
2781	Cut		1.17	0.25	Tree throw		
2782	Fill	*2781*	1.17	0.25	Secondary fill		
2783	Cut		0.79	0.32	Tree Throw		
2784	Fill	*2783*	0.79	0.32	Secondary fill		
2785	Cut		0.21	0.07	Natural feature		
2786	Fill	*2785*	0.21	0.07	Secondary fill		
2787	Cut		0.25	0.07	Natural feature		
2788	Fill	*2787*	0.25	0.07	Secondary fill		
2789	Cut		0.18	0.07	Natural feature		
2790	Fill	*2789*	0.18	0.07	Secondary fill		
2791	Cut		0.13	0.04	Natural feature		
2792	Fill	*2792*	0.13	0.04	Secondary fill		
2793	Cut		0.1	0.03	Natural feature		
2794	Fill	*2794*	0.1	0.03	Secondary fill		
2795	Cut		0.08	0.23	Natural feature		
2796	Fill	*2796*	0.08	0.23	Secondary fill		
2797	Cut		0.09	0.22	Natural feature		
2798	Fill	***2797***	0.09	0.22	Secondary fill		
2799	Cut		0.12	0.04	Natural feature		
2800	Fill	***2799***	0.12	0.04	Secondary fill		
2801	Cut		0.12	0.06	Natural feature		
2802	Fill	***2801***	0.12	0.06	Secondary fill		
2803	Cut		0.12	0.06	Natural feature		
2804	Fill	***2803***	0.12	0.06	Secondary fill		

2805	Cut		0.3	0.12	Natural feature		
2806	Fill	***2805***	0.3	0.12	Secondary fill		
2807	Cut		0.18	0.07	Natural feature		
2808	Fill	***2807***	0.18	0.07	Secondary fill		
2809	Cut		0.2	0.07	Natural feature		
2810	Fill	***2809***	0.2	0.07	Secondary fill		
2811	Fill	***2909***	0.05	0.03	Post-pipe		
2812	Cut			0.06	Natural feature		
2813	Fill	***2812***		0.06	Secondary fill		
2814	Cut		0.15	0.04	Natural feature		
2815	Fill	***2814***	0.15	0.04	Secondary fill		
2816	Cut		0.19	0.06	Natural feature		
2817	Fill	***2816***	0.19	0.06	Secondary fill		
2818	Cut		0.2	0.06	Natural feature		
2819	Fill	***2818***	0.2	0.06	Secondary fill		
2820	Cut		2.48	0.18	Natural feature		
2821	Fill	***2820***	2.48	0.18	Secondary fill		
2822	Cut		2.48	0.18	Tree throw		
2823	Fill	***2823***	2.48	0.18	Secondary fill		
2824	Cut		0.42	0.09	Natural feature		
2825	Fill	***2824***	0.42	0.09	Secondary fill		
2826	Cut		0.68	0.18	Tree throw		
2827	Fill	***2826***	0.68	0.18	Secondary fill		
2828	Cut		2	0.26	Tree throw		
2829	Fill	***2828***	2	0.26	Secondary fill		
2830	Fill	***2828***	2	0.26	Secondary fill		
2831	Cut		0.37	0.22	Natural feature		
2832	Fill	***2831***	0.37	0.22	Secondary fill		
2833	Cut		0.58	0.23	Natural feature		
2834	Fill	***2833***	0.58	0.23	Secondary fill		
2835	Cut		0.21	0.12	Natural feature		
2836	Fill	***2835***	0.21	0.12	Secondary fill		
2837	Cut		3	0.17	Tree throw		
2838	Fill	***2837***	2.64	0.08	Secondary fill		
2839	Fill	***2837***	3	0.15	Secondary fill		
2840	Cut		0.35	0.22	Natural feature		
2841	Fill	***2840***	0.35	0.22	Secondary fill		
2842	Cut		0.38	0.14	Natural feature		
2843	Fill	***2842***	0.38	0.14	Secondary fill		
2844	Cut		0.19	0.1	Natural feature		
2845	Fill	***2844***	0.19	0.1	Secondary fill		
2846	Cut		0.19	0.1	Natural feature		
2847	Fill	***2846***	0.19	0.1	Secondary fill		
2848	Cut		2	0.26	Tree throw		

2849	Fill	***2848***	2	0.08	Secondary fill		
2850	Fill	***2848***	2	0.18	Secondary fill		
2851	Cut		2.31	0.12	Natural feature		
2852	Cut		2.31	0.12	Natural feature		
2853	Cut		0.30	0.19	Posthole		
2854	Fill	***2853***	0.30	0.19	Secondary fill		
2855	Cut		2	0.58	Tree throw		
2856	Fill	***2855***	2	0.58	Secondary fill		
2857	Cut		0.32	0.1	Natural feature		
2858	Cut		0.6	0.25	Natural feature		
2859	Fill	***2858***	0.6	0.25	Secondary fill		
2860	Cut		0.6	0.27	Natural feature		
2861	Fill	***2860***	0.6	0.27	Secondary fill		
2862	Cut		0.6	0.22	Natural feature		
2863	Fill	***2862***	0.6	0.22	Secondary fill		
2864	Cut		0.47	0.07	Natural feature		
2865	Fill	***2857***	0.32	0.1	Primary fill		
2866	Fill	***2857***	0.32	0.05	Secondary fill		
2867	Cut		0.70	0.32	Natural feature		
2868	Fill	***2867***	0.70	0.32	Secondary fill		
2869	Cut		0.65	0.21	Natural feature		
2870	Cut		0.3	0.09	Natural feature		
2871	Fill	***2870***	0.3	0.09	Secondary fill		
2872	Cut		0.3	0.08	Natural feature		
2873	Fill	***2872***	0.3	0.08	Secondary fill		
2874	Fill	***2867***	0.6	0.17	Secondary fill		
2875	Cut		2.39	0.68	Tree throw		
2876	Fill	***2875***	2.39	0.68	Secondary fill		
2877	Cut		0.21	0.09	Natural feature		
2878	Fill	***2877***	0.21	0.09	Secondary fill		
2879	Cut		0.17	0.08	Natural feature		
2880	Fill	***2879***	0.17	0.08	Secondary fill		
2881	Cut				Natural feature		
2882	Fill	***2881***			Secondary fill		
2883	Cut		3.33	0.19	Tree throw		
2884	Fill	***2883***	3.33	0.19	Secondary fill		
2885	Cut		1.69	0.55	Natural feature		
2886	Group				Posthole		
2887	Cut		0.28		Posthole		
2888	Cut				Posthole		
2889	Cut				Posthole		
2890	Cut				Posthole		
2891	Cut		0.28		Posthole		
2892	Fill	***2885***	1.69	0.05	Secondary fill		

2893	Fill	***2885***	0.61	0.51	Secondary fill		
2894	Fill	***2885***	0.93	0.53	Secondary fill		
2895	Fill	***2885***	0.53	0.22	Secondary fill		
2896	Cut		1.63	0.23	Natural feature		
2897	Cut		1.72	0.16	Tree throw		
2898	Fill	***2897***	1.72	0.16	Secondary fill		
2899	Cut		2.42	0.28	Natural feature		
2900	Cut		2.10	0.13	Tree throw		
2901	Fill	***2900***	2.10	0.13	Secondary fill		
2902	Cut		2.78	0.11	Natural feature		
2903	Cut		1.46	0.27	Tree throw		
2904	Cut		2.54	0.06	Natural feature		
2905	Cut		2.63	0.32	Natural feature		
2906	Cut		1.03	0.79	Natural feature		
2907	Fill	***2906***	1.03	0.79	Secondary fill		
2908	Cut		1.63	0.14	Natural feature		
2909	Cut		3.16	0.21	Natural feature		
2910	Cut		0.22		Posthole		
2911	Cut				Natural feature		
2912	Cut		0.27		Natural feature		
2913	Cut		0.19		Natural feature		
2914	Cut		9	0.4	Natural feature		
2915	Fill	***2914***	9	0.25	Secondary fill		
2916	Fill	***2914***	9	0.15	Secondary fill		

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Environmental Samples

By Denise Druce

Introduction

B.1.1 A targeted programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling was implemented in accordance with the Oxford Archaeology *Environmental Sampling Guidelines* (OA 2017). This resulted in the retrieval of five samples, all from Trench 4, Area C, which were all taken from features interpreted as the remains of tree root disturbance or tree throws. To comply with accepted professional guidelines (EH 2011), 40-litre samples, or the entirety of a deposit, were taken to assess their potential for containing palaeoenvironmental remains; primarily charred plant remains and charcoal.

Methodology

B.1.2 The samples were floated, where the flots were captured in a 250 µm mesh, and air dried. The retents of the floated samples were washed through 2mm and 500 µm meshes and air dried. The samples were scanned using a *Leica* stereo-microscope and any plant material, including fruits, seeds, charcoal and wood fragments, was recorded. Other remains, such as bone, insects, small artefacts, ceramic building material (cbm), industrial/metal waste, and coal/heat-affected vesicular material (havm) were also noted. The remains were quantified on a scale of 1–4 where 1 is rare (one to five items); 2 is frequent (6 to 50 items); 3 is common (51–100 items); and 4 is abundant (greater than 100 items). Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010). The assessment results were recorded on a pro-forma, which will be kept with the site archive. The potential of each sample for any further work and for radiocarbon dating is also highlighted.

B.1.3 Wood and charcoal fragments over 2mm in size were quantified and scanned to assess preservation and wood diversity. Wood maturity was also noted to assess wood type (ie heart wood, sap wood, or round wood) and to identify suitable material for radiocarbon dating. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*), which are anatomically similar in transverse section were not separated during assessment. Similarly, hawthorn-type (Maloideae) may include hawthorn, apple, whitebeam, rowan and wild service tree, and blackthorn-type (*Prunus* sp) may include blackthorn, wild plum, wild cherry, and bird cherry. Identification and classification of the charcoal was aided by Hather (2000).

Results

B.1.4 The results of the archaeobotanical assessment are presented in Table 1. Although quantifications of charred material were variable, the evidence suggests that charred coniferous wood was present in most of the dug features. A closer examination of some of the fragments confirmed the presence of resin ducts and a very abrupt transition between early and late wood. Such characteristics are consistent with the native Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), however the presence of other coniferous trees, such as European and North American varieties, planted in Britain for timber or as shelter belts from the sixteenth century onwards, cannot be ruled out (Edlin 1949, Stace 2010). Indeed, large-scale planting schemes, which included European pines, European larch (*Larix decidua*), and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), were implemented in areas of the nearby Sefton coastline from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as a response to the encroachment of sand dunes (The Mersey

Forest, 2003). Much of the conifer woods in the area were felled during the Second World War (ibid), presumably for timber supplies, therefore if the remains do originate from previously planted shelter belts, it may not be coincident that the features were sealed by a layer of blown sand (*Section 3.2.1, 3.4.4, 3.4.6, 3.5.1, 3.7.8, and Appendix A*).

B.1.5 Deposit ***2701*** produced the largest assemblage, with roughly 200ml of charcoal. Small fragments of round wood would provide suitable material for radiocarbon dating if warranted. Other recorded taxa included rare fragments of possible holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), alder/hazel, hawthorn-type, and oak (*Quercus* sp) in deposit ***2876*** (pit/tree throw ***2875***). The same deposit also contained one charred hazel nutshell fragment, which may originate from hazel branches.

Context No	Sample No	Flot size ml	Charred plant remains/charcoal	Other remains
2701	18	200	<2mm charcoal (4), >2mm charcoal (4) Coniferous wood, including rare twig fragments	Bone fragments (1), havm (2)
2749	19	5	<2mm charcoal (1)	Coal (2), havm (1)
2780	27	15	>2mm charcoal (1) Coniferous wood	Glass fragments (1), coal (2), havm (3) (including magnetised fragments)
2784	29	<5	<2mm charcoal (1), >2mm charcoal (1) Coniferous wood	Coal (2), havm (1)
2876	47	20	<2mm charcoal (3), >2mm charcoal (2) Mainly Coniferous wood (including rare twig fragments). Rare *Ilex aquifolium*, *Alnus/Corylus*, Maloideae, and *Quercus* sp. Rare *Corylus avellana* nut shell fragments.	Burnt bone fragments (1), coal (2), havm (3) (including magnetised fragments

Table 1: Palaeobotanical assessment results of samples taken from PLM21

Remains are quantified on a scale of 1–4 where (1) is rare (one to five items); 2 is frequent (6 to 50 items); 3 is common (51–100 items); and 4 is abundant (greater than 100 items). Havm = heat affected vesicular material

B.1.6 Other remains included rare bone fragments in deposits ***2701*** and ***2876***, and rare glass fragments in deposit ***2780***. All five of the deposits contained comminuted fragments of coal and heat affected vesicular material (havm), which were commonly magnetic. There was no evidence of hammerscale however, so the magnetism may be naturally occurring, perhaps through high temperature burning.

B.1.7 Combined, the present evidence suggests that the features excavated at Poverty Lane were likely to be in receipt of soil debris containing primarily burnt coniferous wood. The material may represent fuel wood from some sort of nearby industrial activity however it is also possible the material originates from conifer trees, perhaps burnt in situ. Without direct dating, the age of the material remains ambiguous, however the evidence suggests it is likely to be modern.

Statement of potential

B.1.8 Although of some interest, the relatively low amount and limited diversity of the charred material from Poverty Lane means that further analyses of these remains would not contribute significantly to the archaeobotanical record provided by this assessment.

Retention and disposal

B.1.9 Any unprocessed samples not selected for assessment will be disposed of. Similarly, processed flots not selected for further analysis will be disposed of on completion of the project.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Poverty Lane, Maghull, Sefton
Site code: PLM21
Grid Reference SD 38977 01688
Type: Evaluation and SMS
Date and duration: August 2021, 9 weeks
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA North, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with Merseyside Historic Environment Record Office in due course.

Summary of Results: The intended programme of works was to see the excavation of 23 trenches and two small strip, map and sample areas. One of the intended SMS areas, Area A intended to investigate the location of a former farmhouse, could not be excavated due to the presence of services. Ultimately, an additional five evaluation trenches were excavated in order to test the extent and character of potential features, together with an additional larger area (SMS Area C). This expanded scope of work identified a number of discrete features towards the south of the site, which ultimately were proven to be of low significance, potentially representing a phase of tree planting, perhaps to provide an orchard or else associated with region wide activity designed to arrest sand inundation and dune formation. Elsewhere a range of field boundaries were also identified and found to be post-Medieval or modern in origin and relatable to early historic mapping of the area. The potential for industrial activity relating to the post-Medieval period was also identified in the form of several large and deep clay extraction pits, which would seem to corroborate the assertion, based upon cartographic evidence and place names, of brick manufacturing activity in the local area. However, the potential for the presence of an actual kiln was not recognized.

Project Details

OASIS Number			
Project Name	Poverty Lane, Maghull, Sefton		
Start of Fieldwork	19th July 2021	End of Fieldwork	21st September 2021
Previous Work	DBA	Future Work	None

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PLM21	Planning App. No.	APP/M4320/W/20/3257252
HER Number		Related Numbers	

Prompt	
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	Choose an item.

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
☐ Dendrochonological 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	Object	Period
Field boundary ditches	Post Medieval		Choose an item.
Extraction pits	Post Medieval		Choose an item.
Tree planting	Post Medieval/Modern		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Merseyside
District	Maghull
Parish	Sefton
HER office	Merseyside
Size of Study Area	27ha
National Grid Ref	SD 38977 01688

Address (including Postcode)

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Project Supervisor	

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)		
Digital Archive		
Paper Archive		

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

Database	☐
GIS	☐
Geophysics	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☐
Moving Image	☐
Spreadsheets	☐
Survey	☐
Text	☐
Virtual Reality	☐

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	☐
Context Sheets	☐
Correspondence	☐
Diary	☐
Drawing	☐
Manuscript	☐
Map	☐
Matrices	☐
Microfiche	☐
Miscellaneous	☐
Research/Notes	☐
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
Plans	☐
Report	☐
Sections	☐
Survey	☐

Further Comments

FIGURES

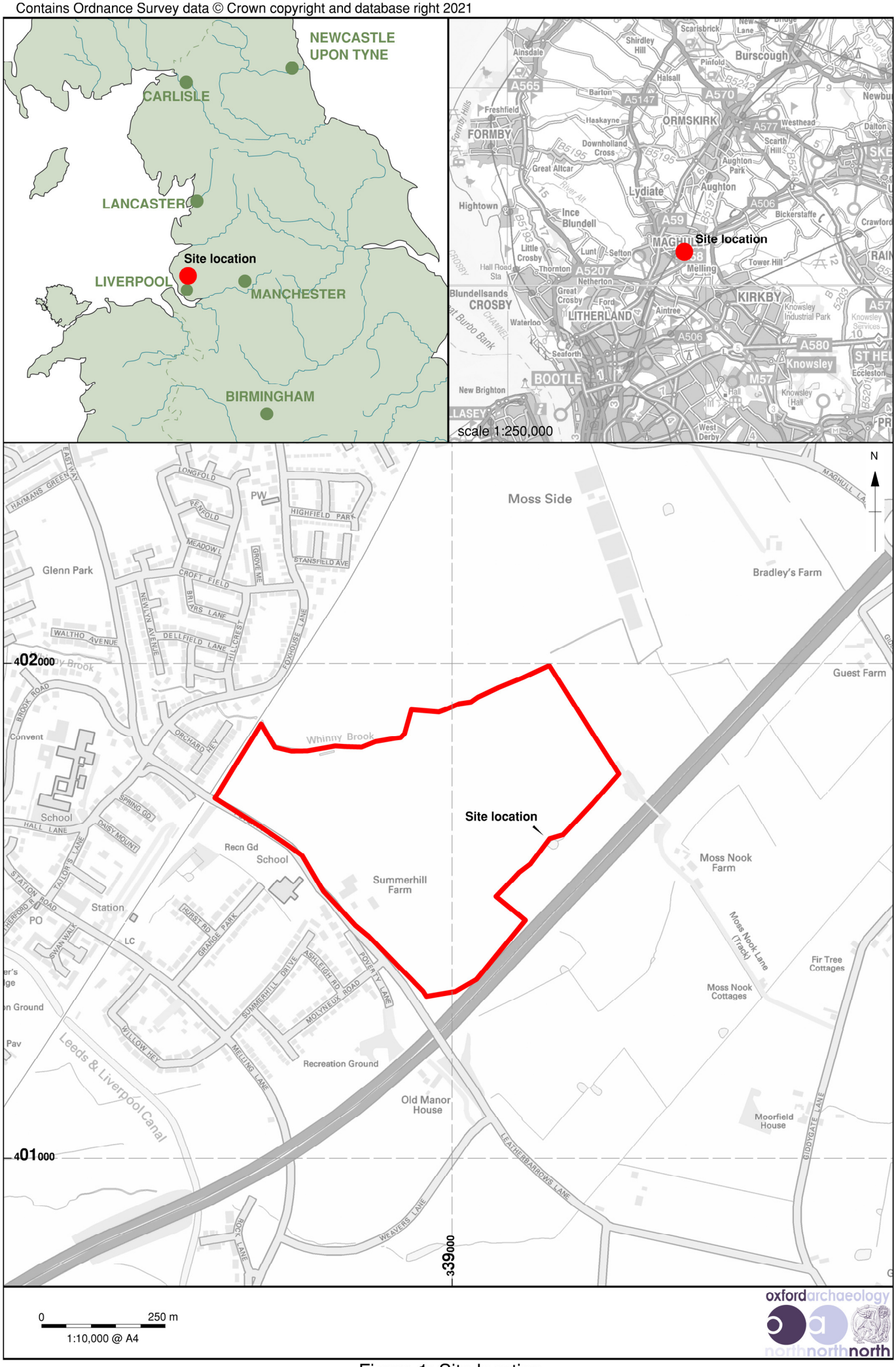

Figure 1: Site location

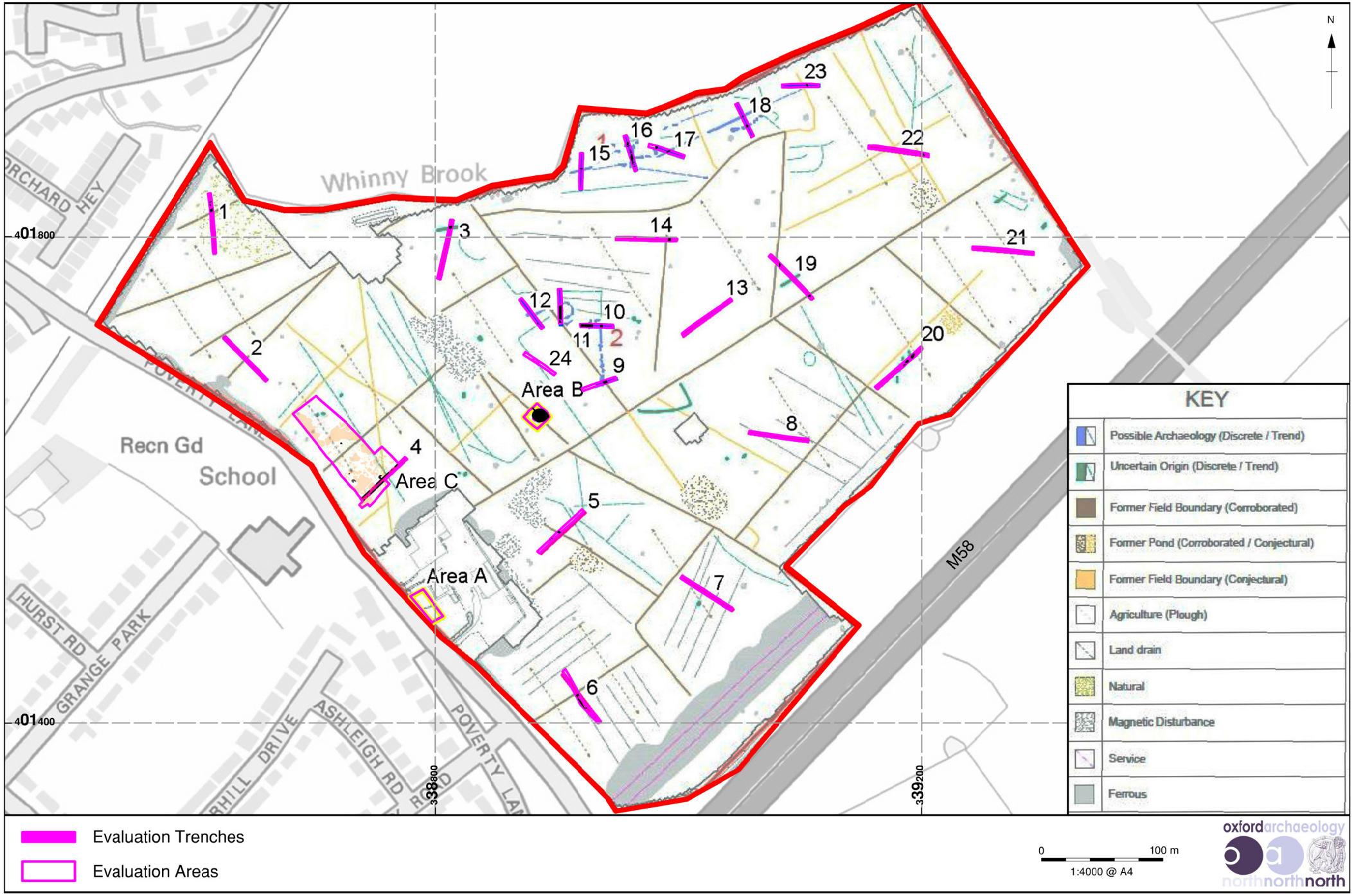

Figure 2: Evaluation trenches and areas superimposed on the geophysical survey

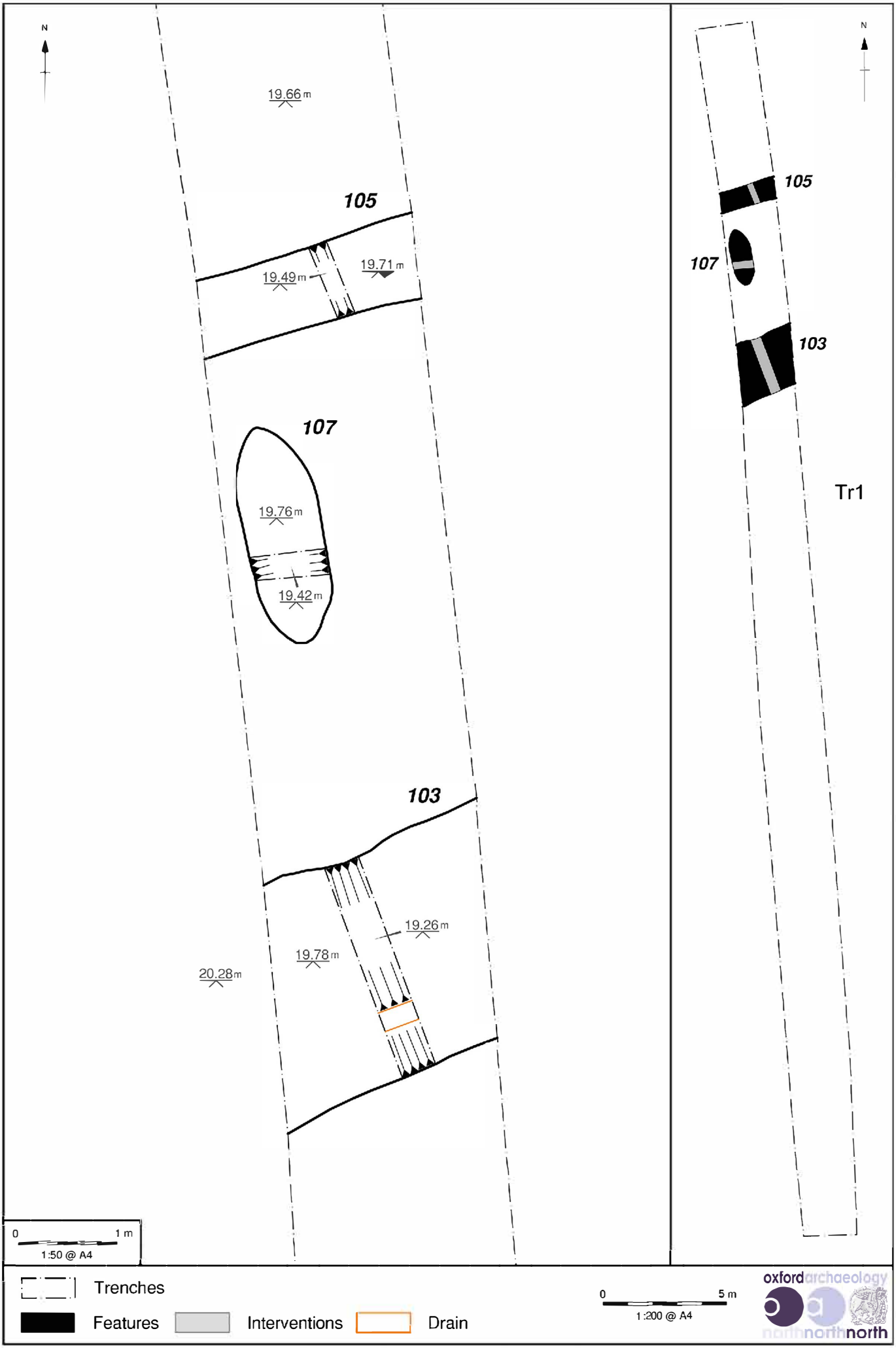

Figure 3: Plan of evaluation Trench 1

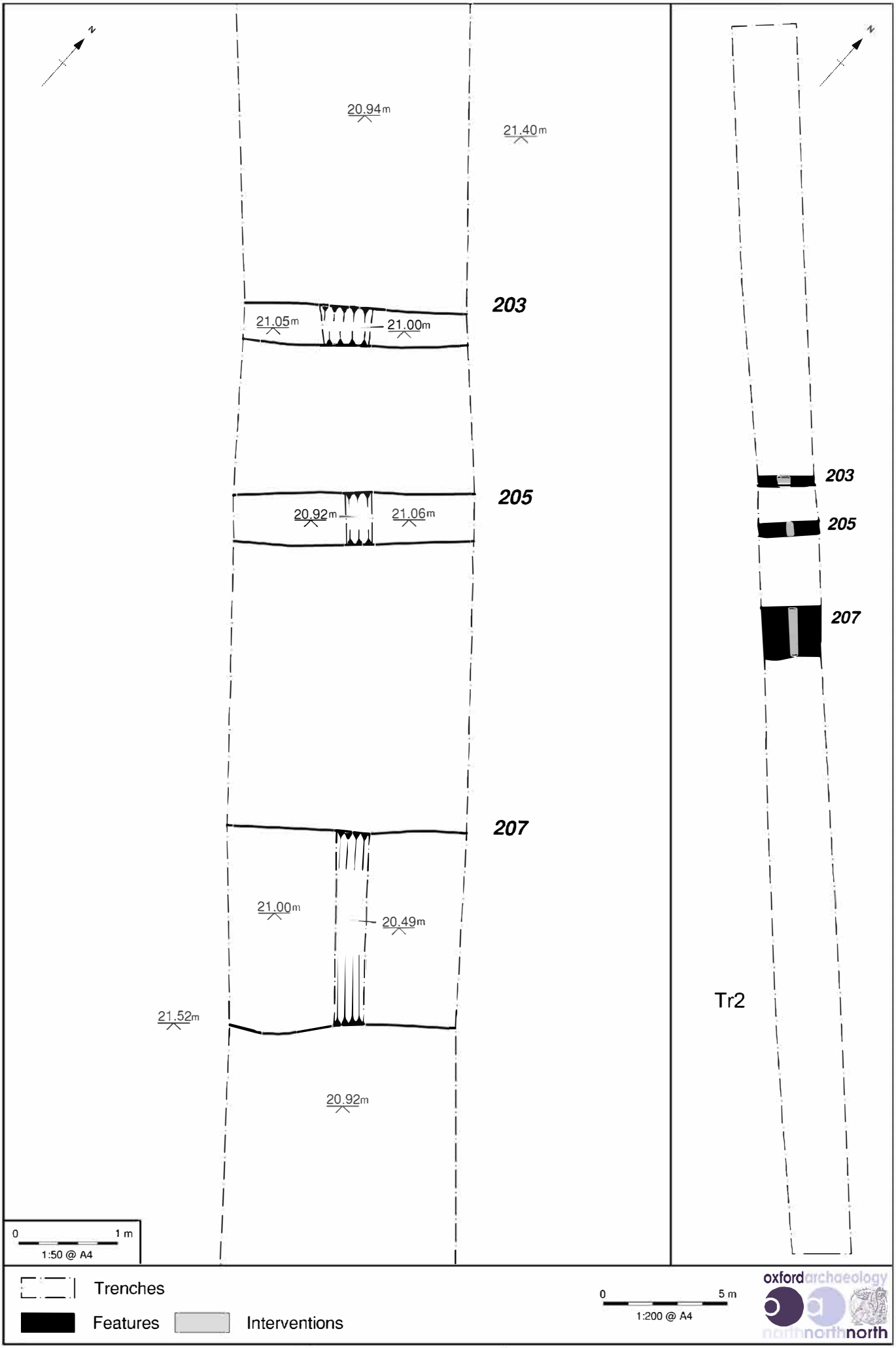

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Figure 4: Plan of evaluation Trench 2

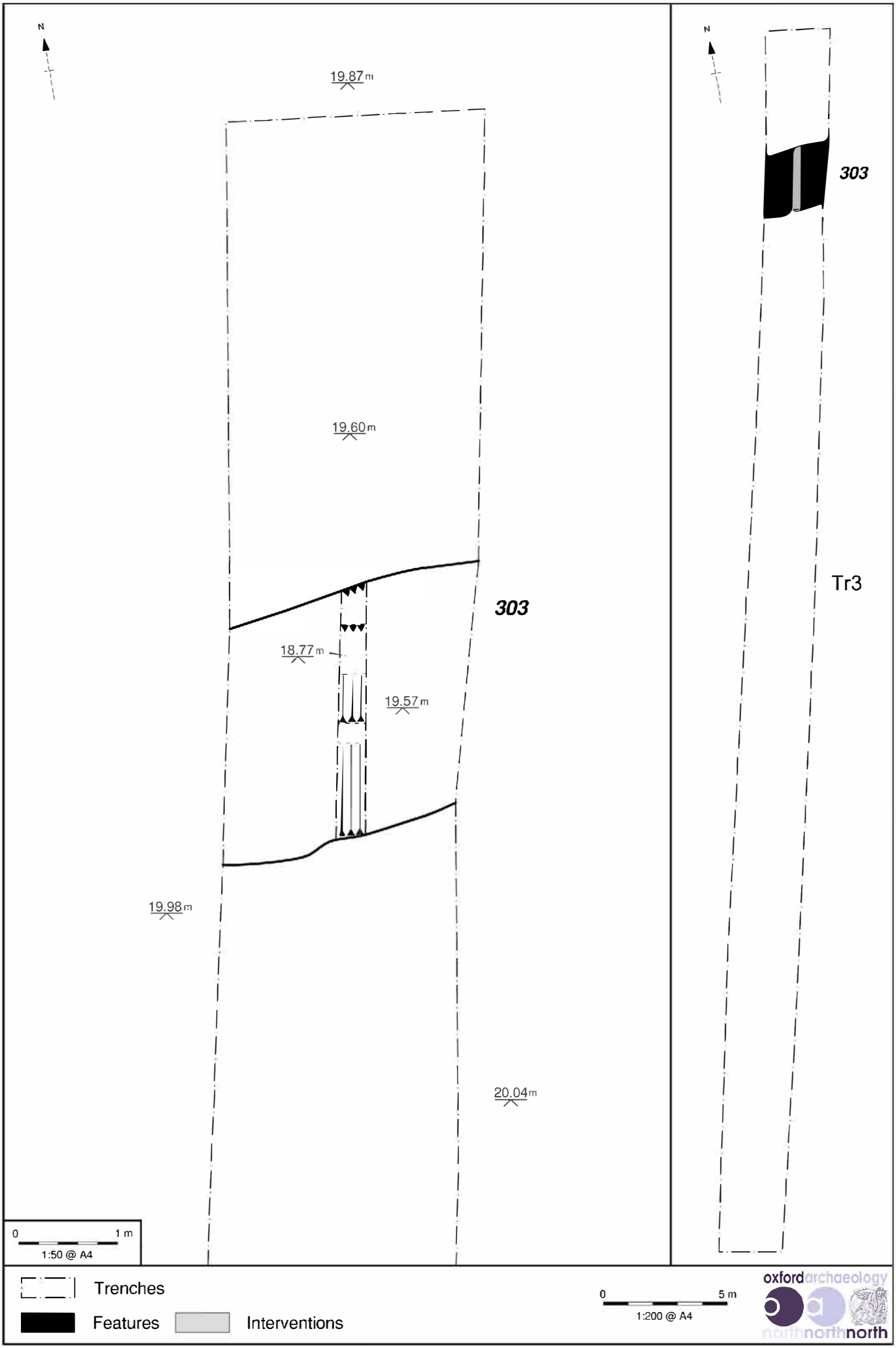


Figure 5: Plan of evaluation Trench 3

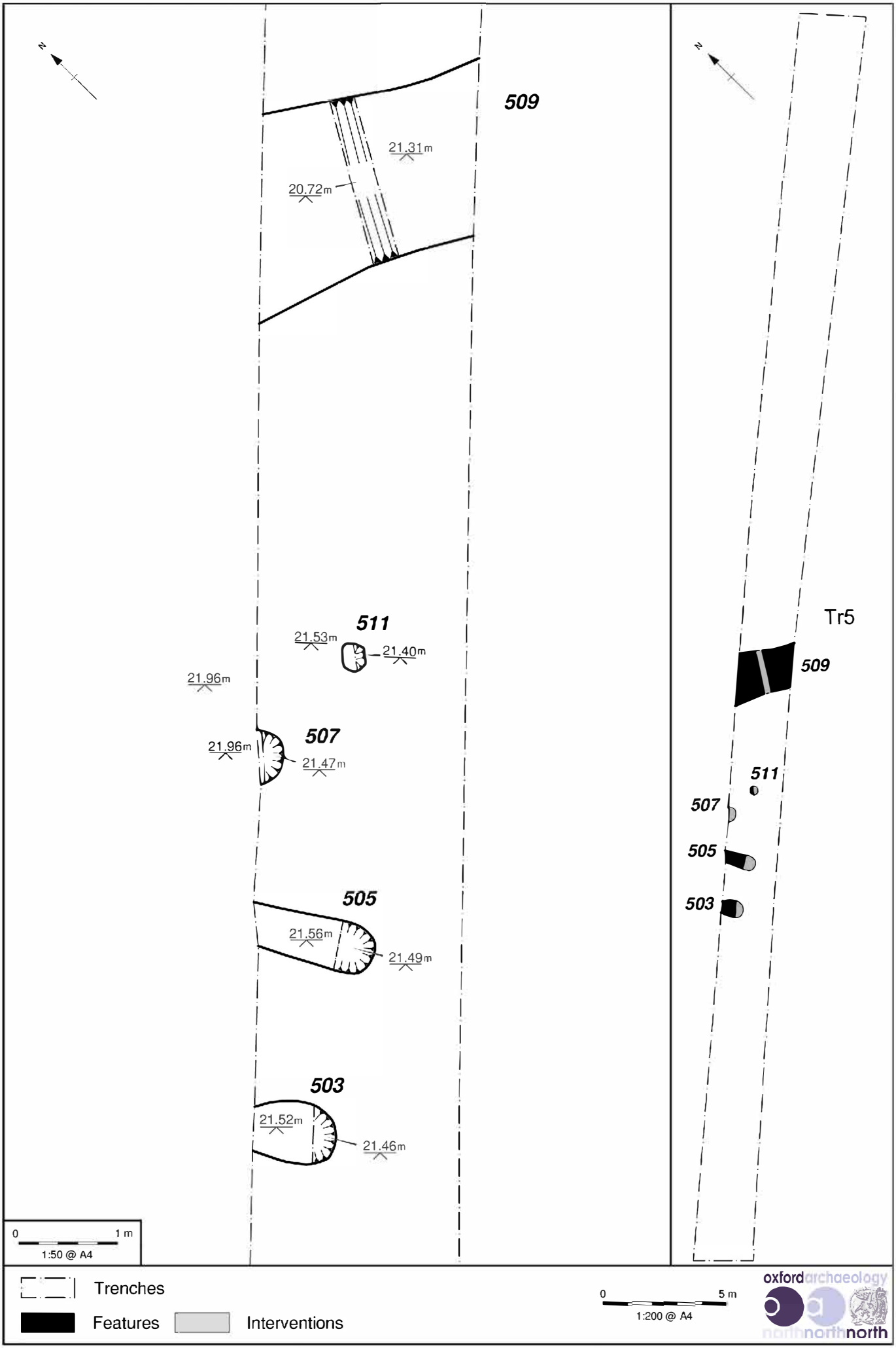
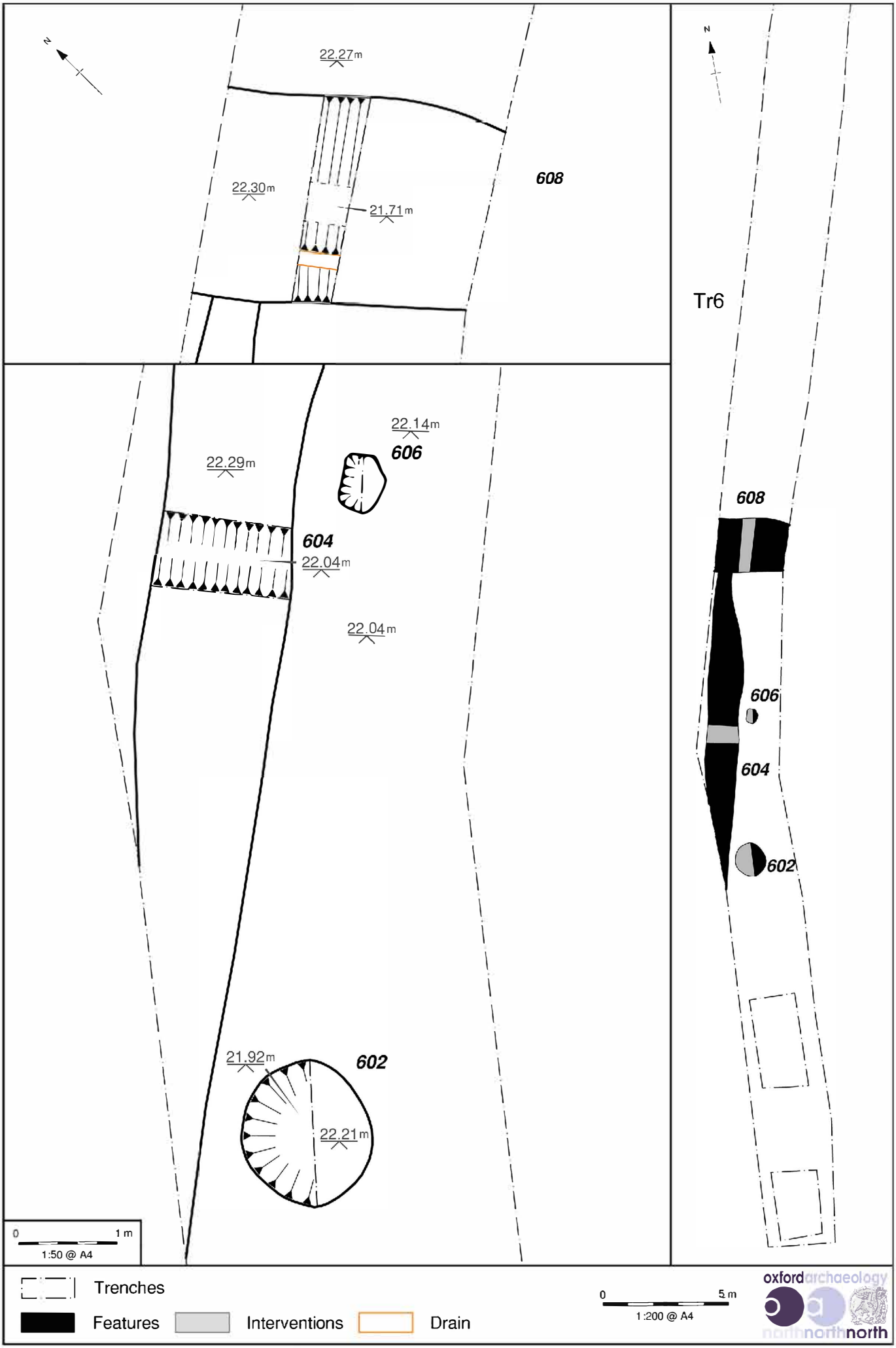


Figure 6: Plan of evaluation Trench 5



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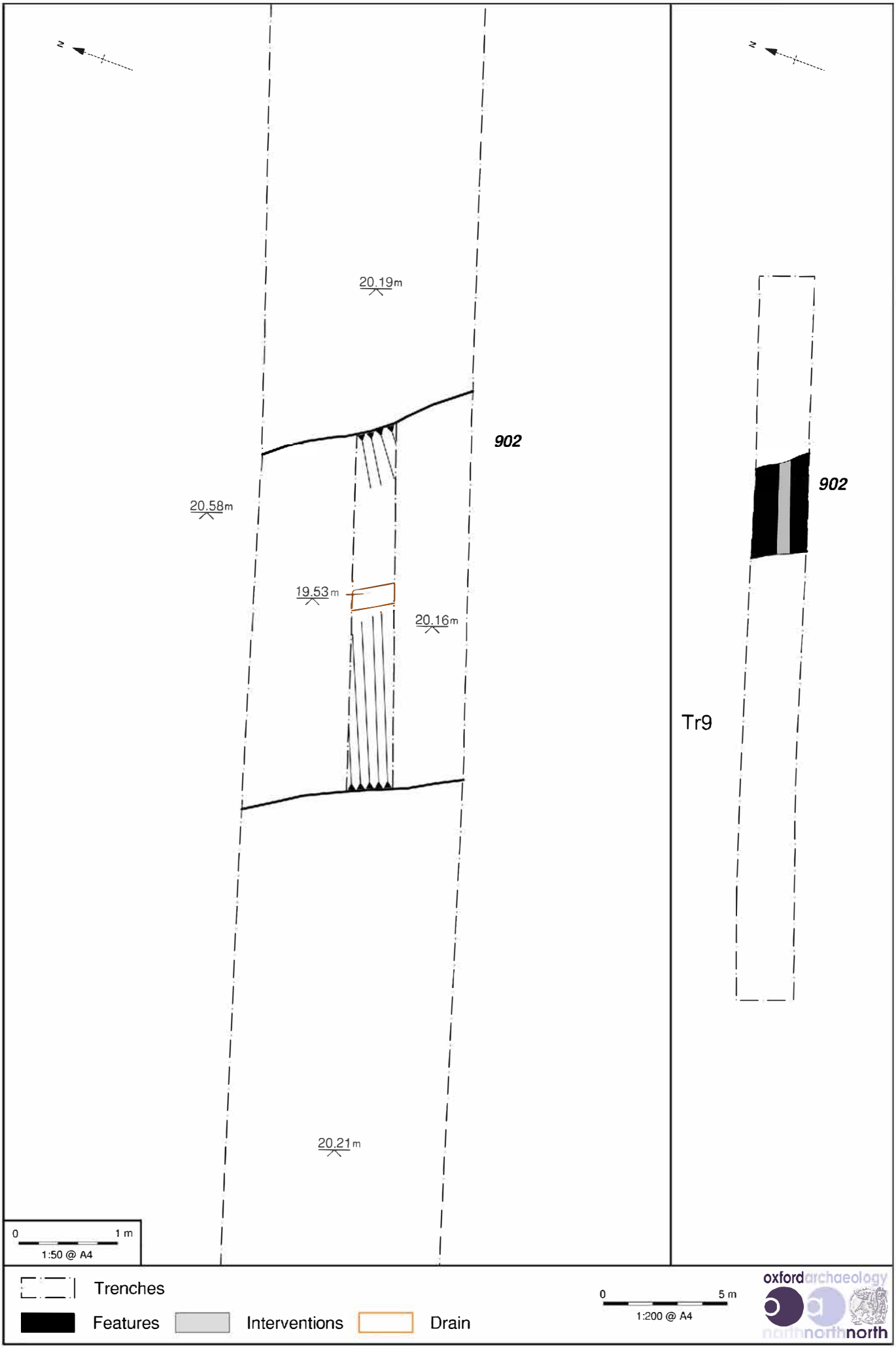


Figure 8: Plan of evaluation Trench 9

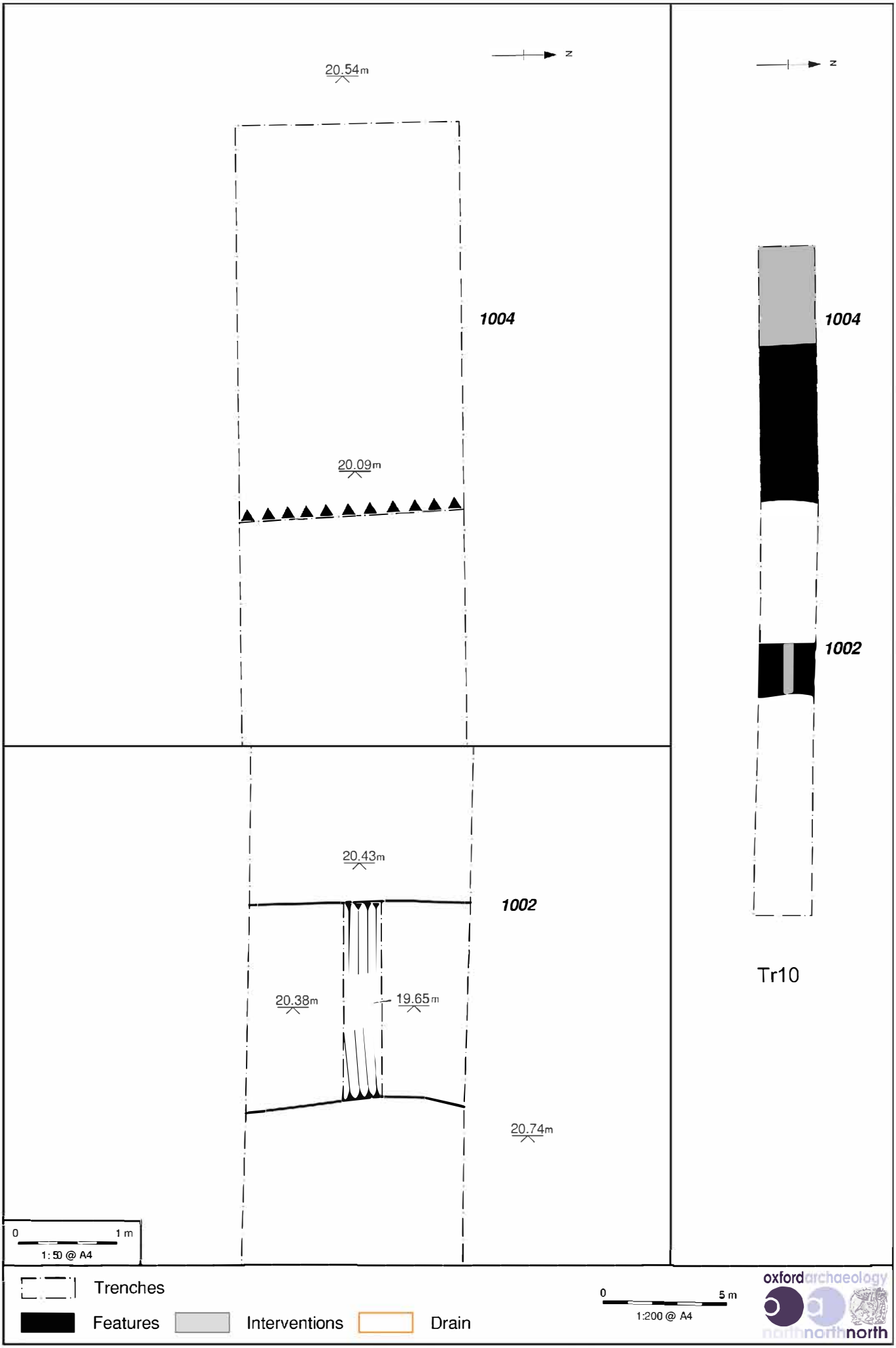


Figure 9: Plan of evaluation Trench 10

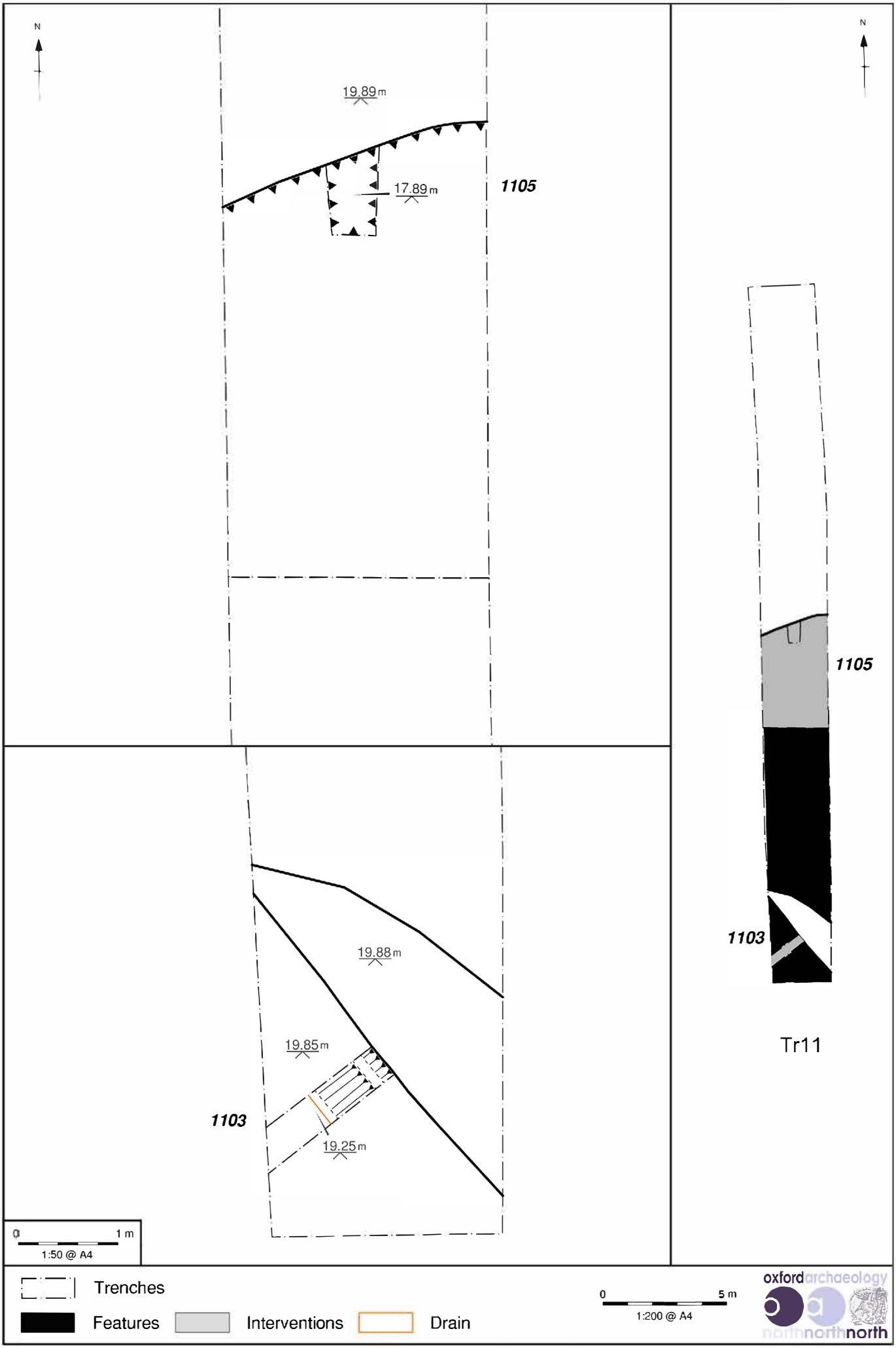


Figure 10: Plan of evaluation Trench 11

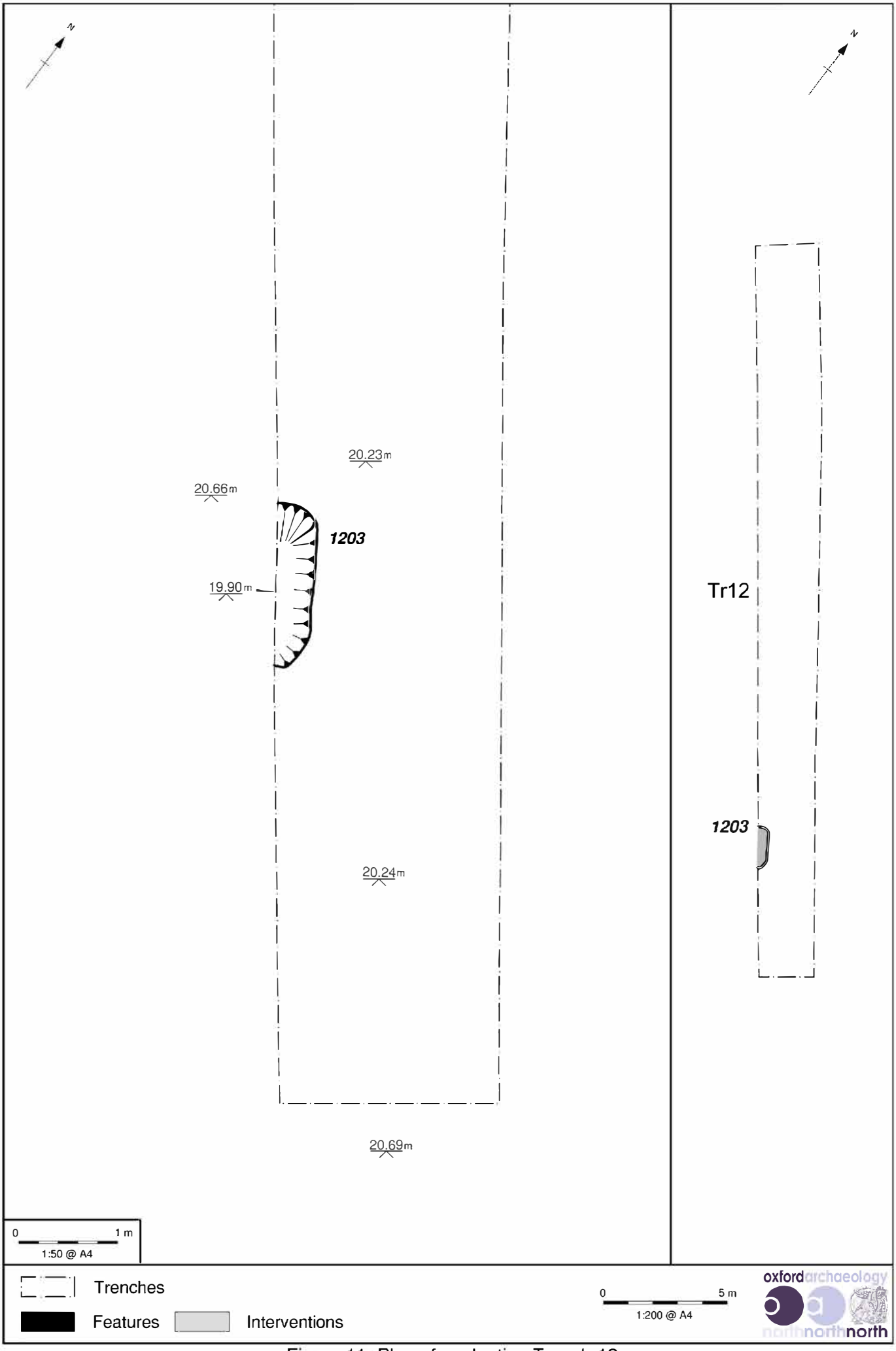


Figure 11: Plan of evaluation Trench 12

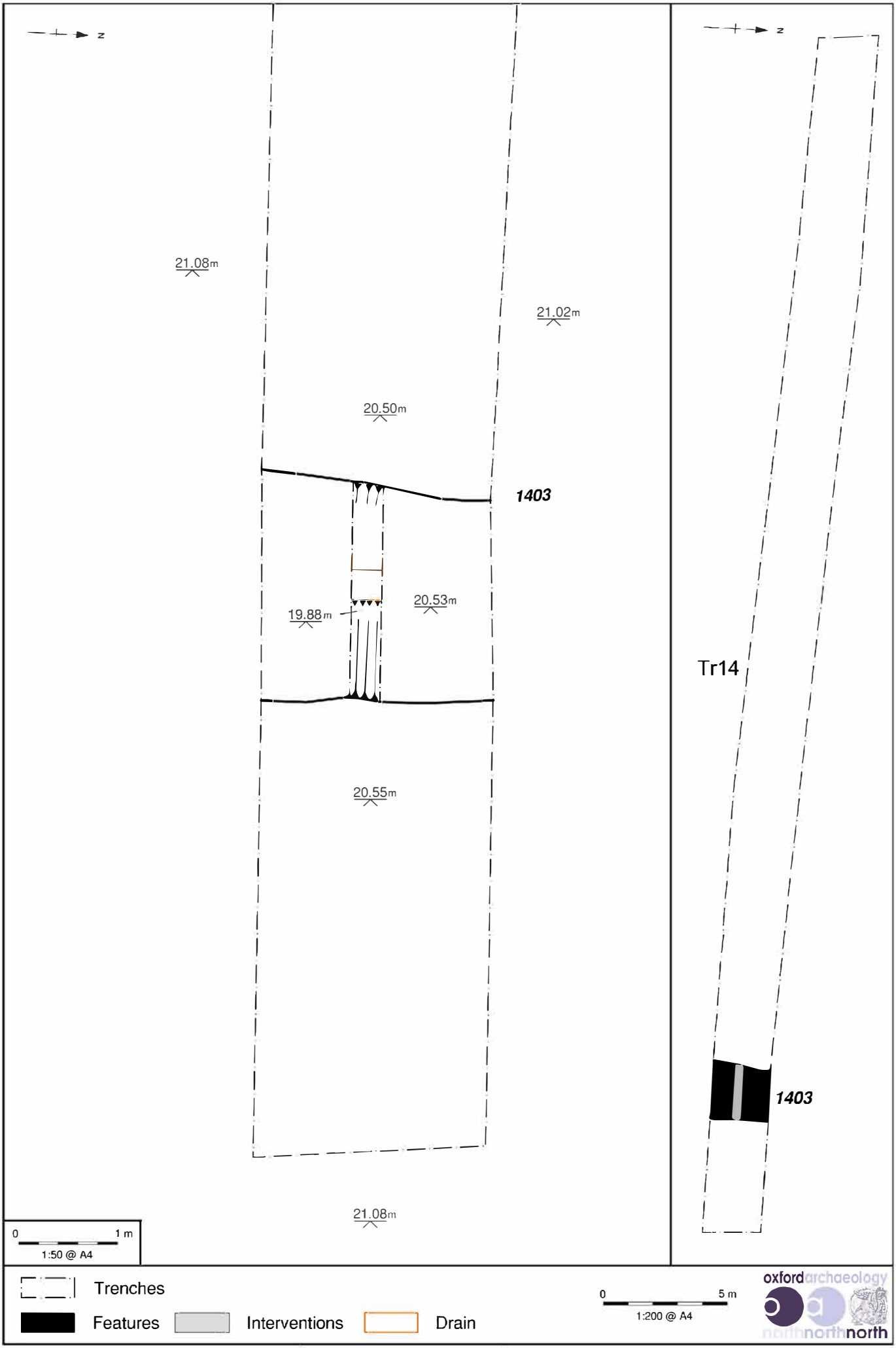
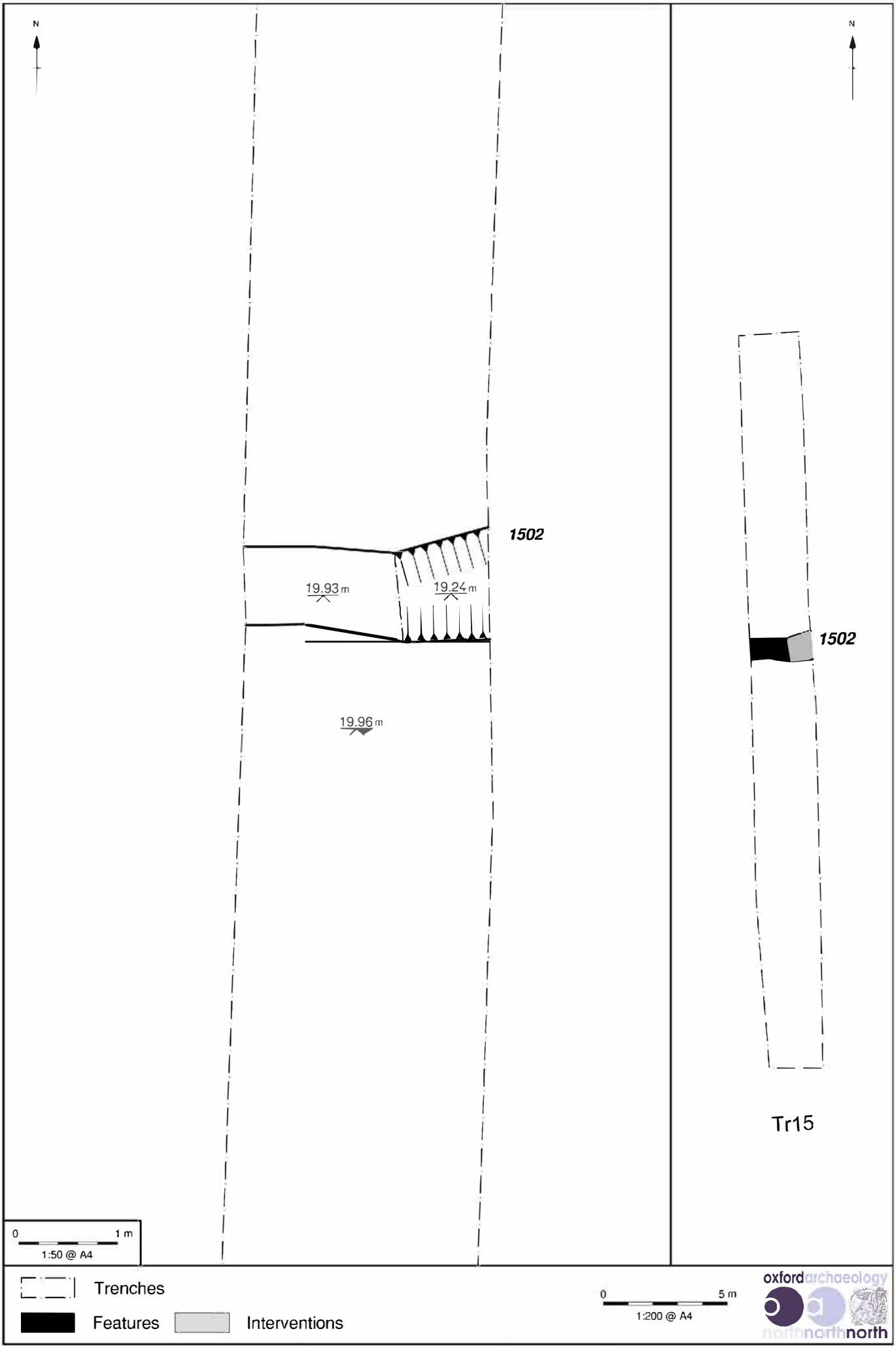


Figure 12: Plan of evaluation Trench 14



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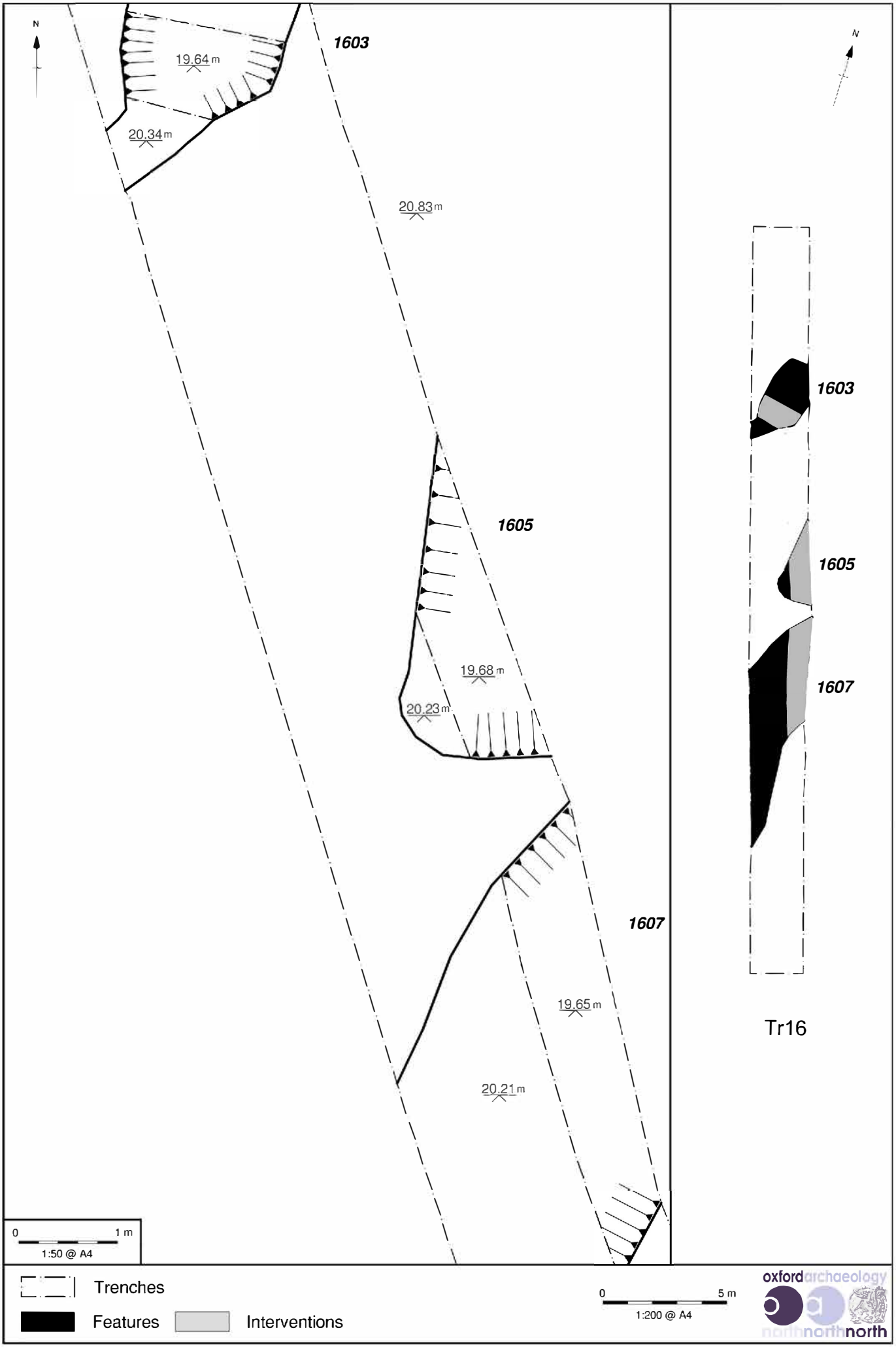

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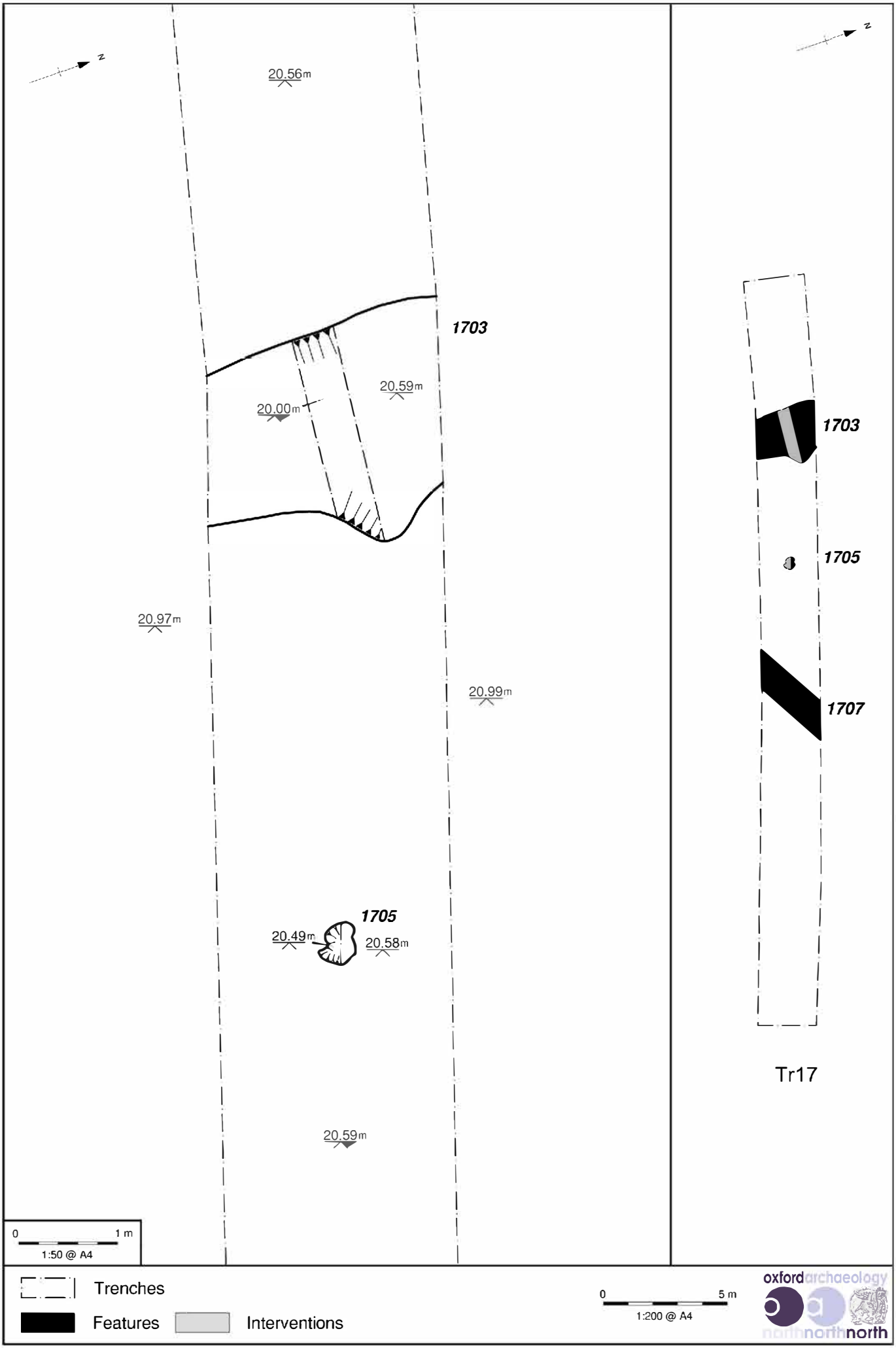

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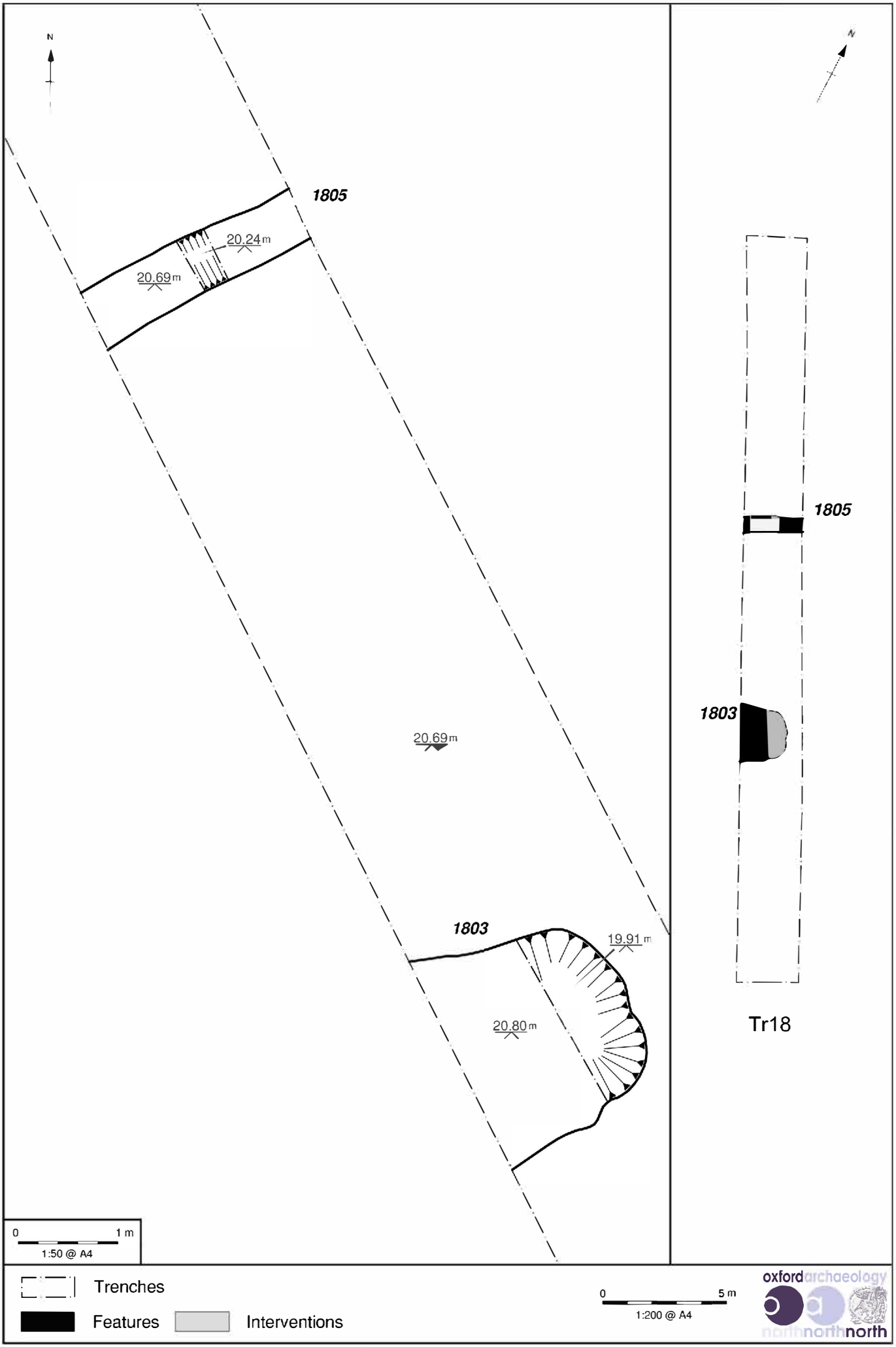

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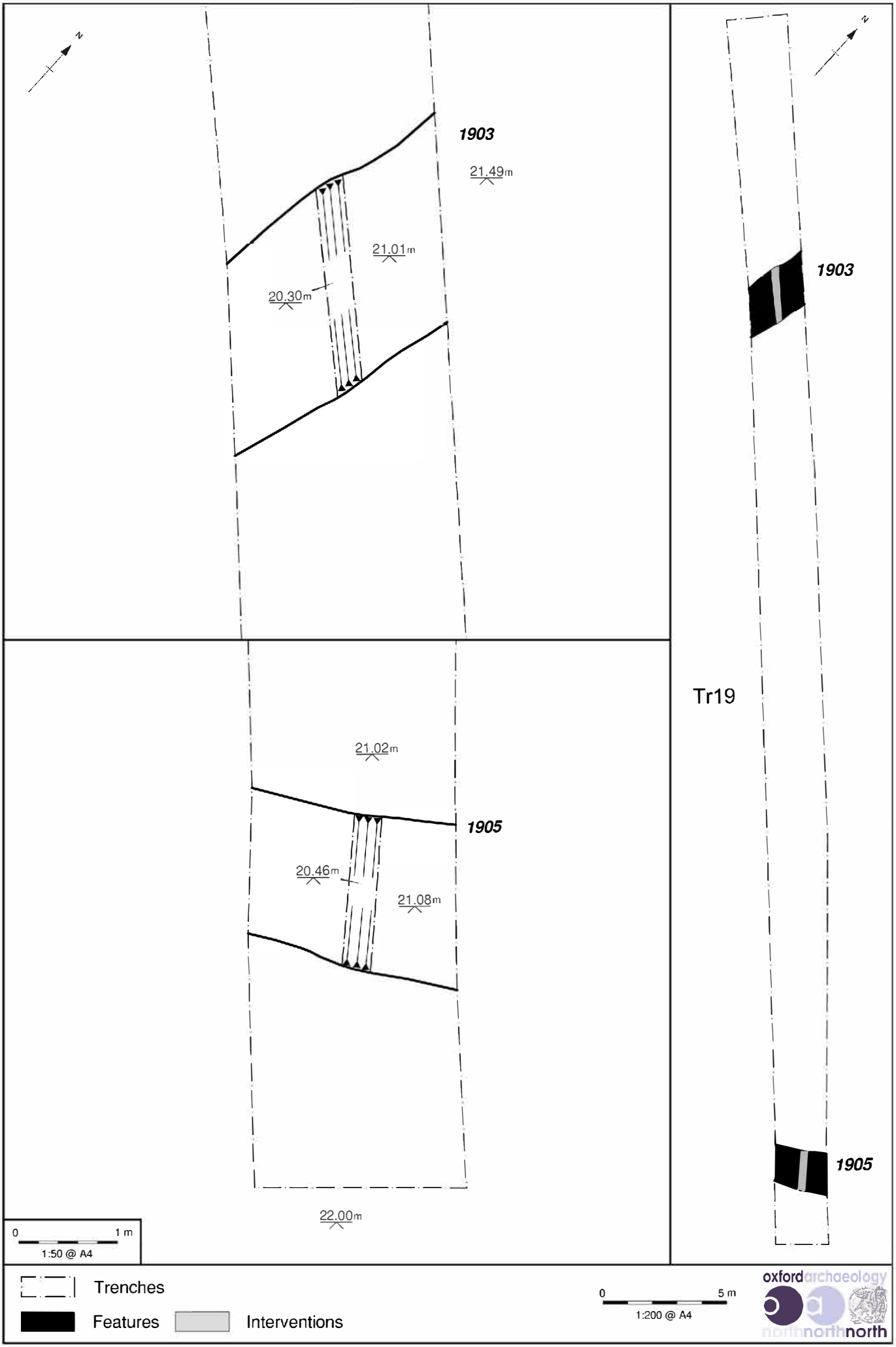
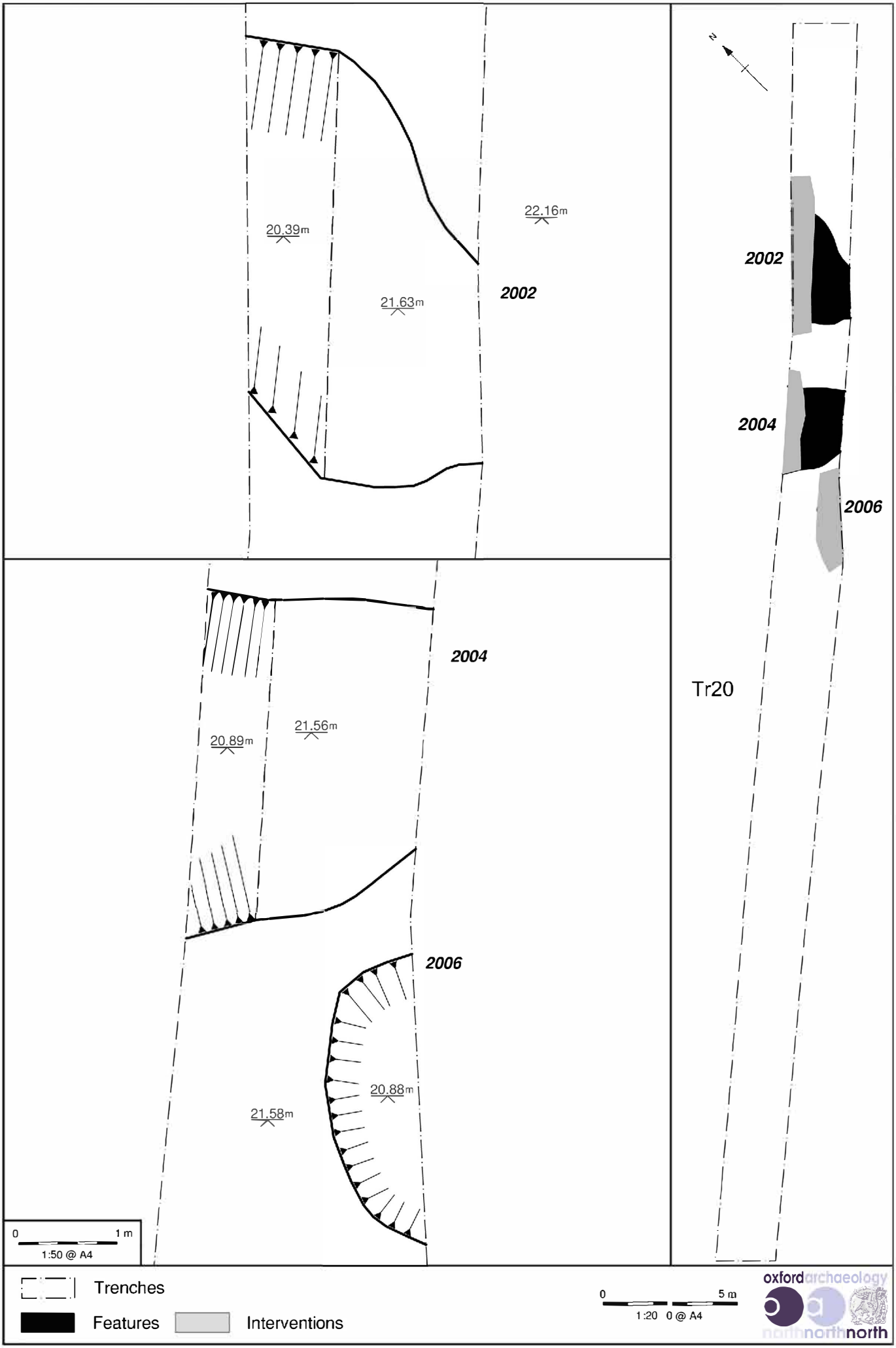


Figure 17: Plan of evaluation Trench 19



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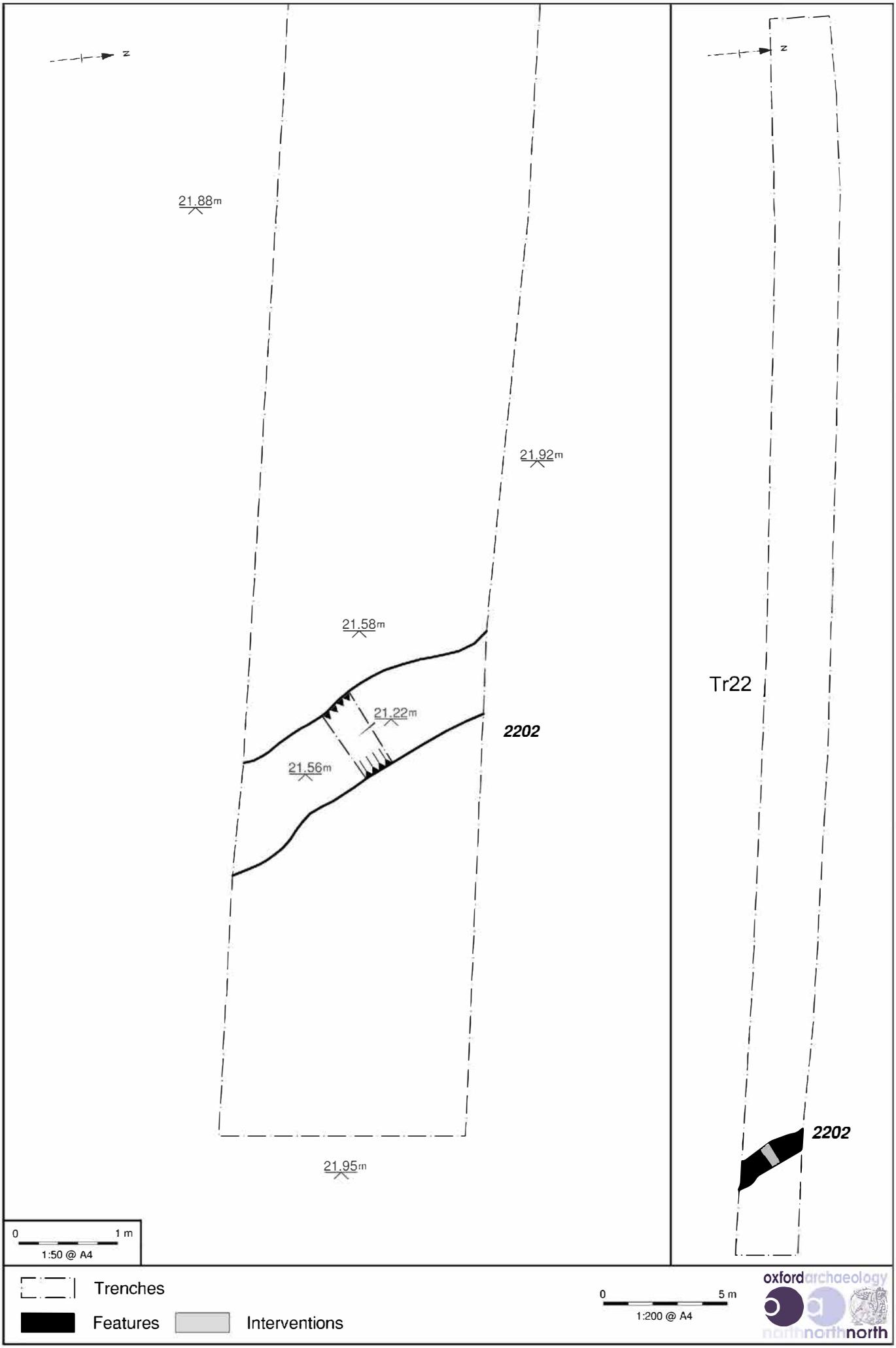

Figure 19: Plan of evaluation Trench 22

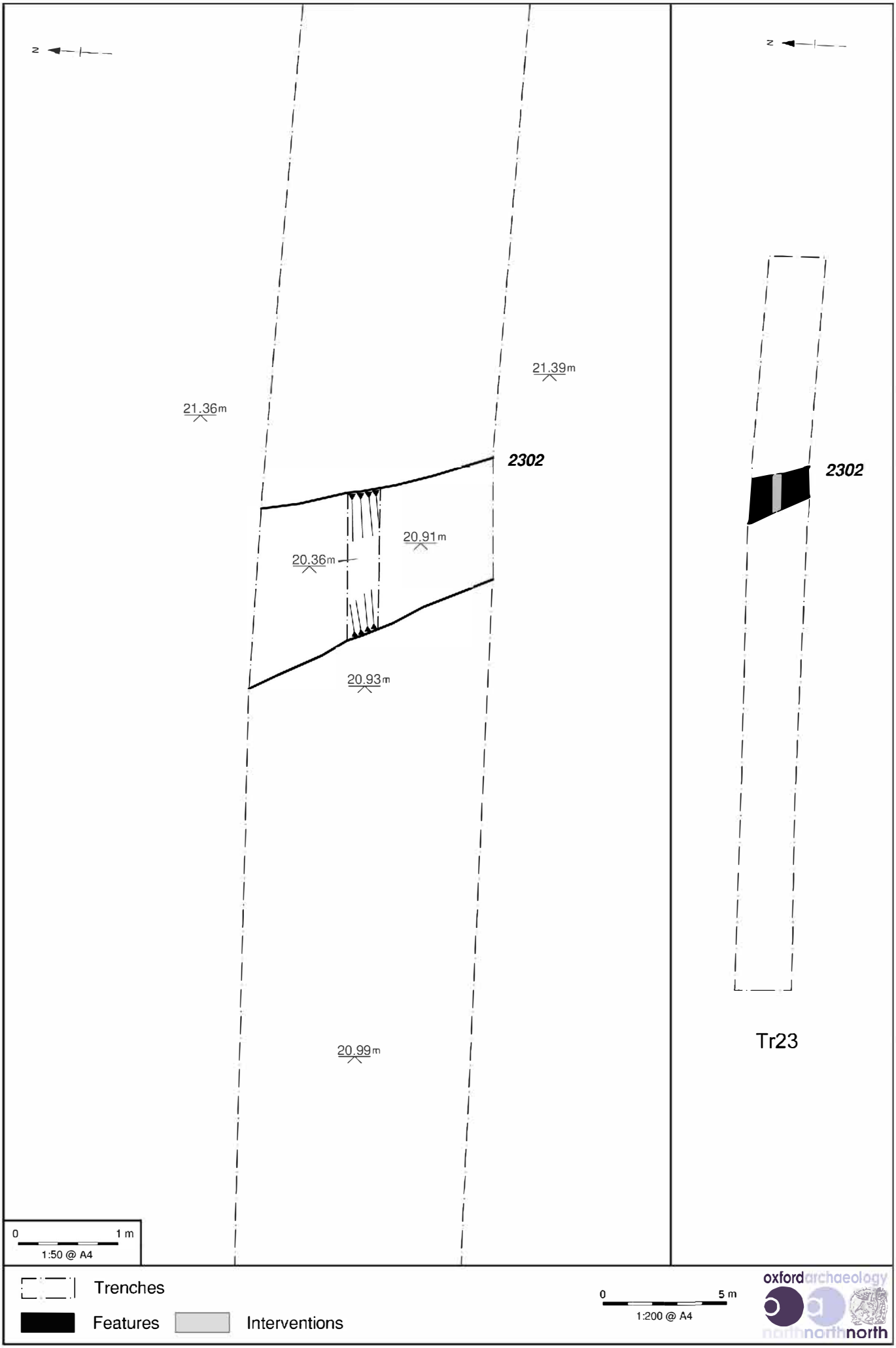

Figure 20: Plan of evaluation Trench 23

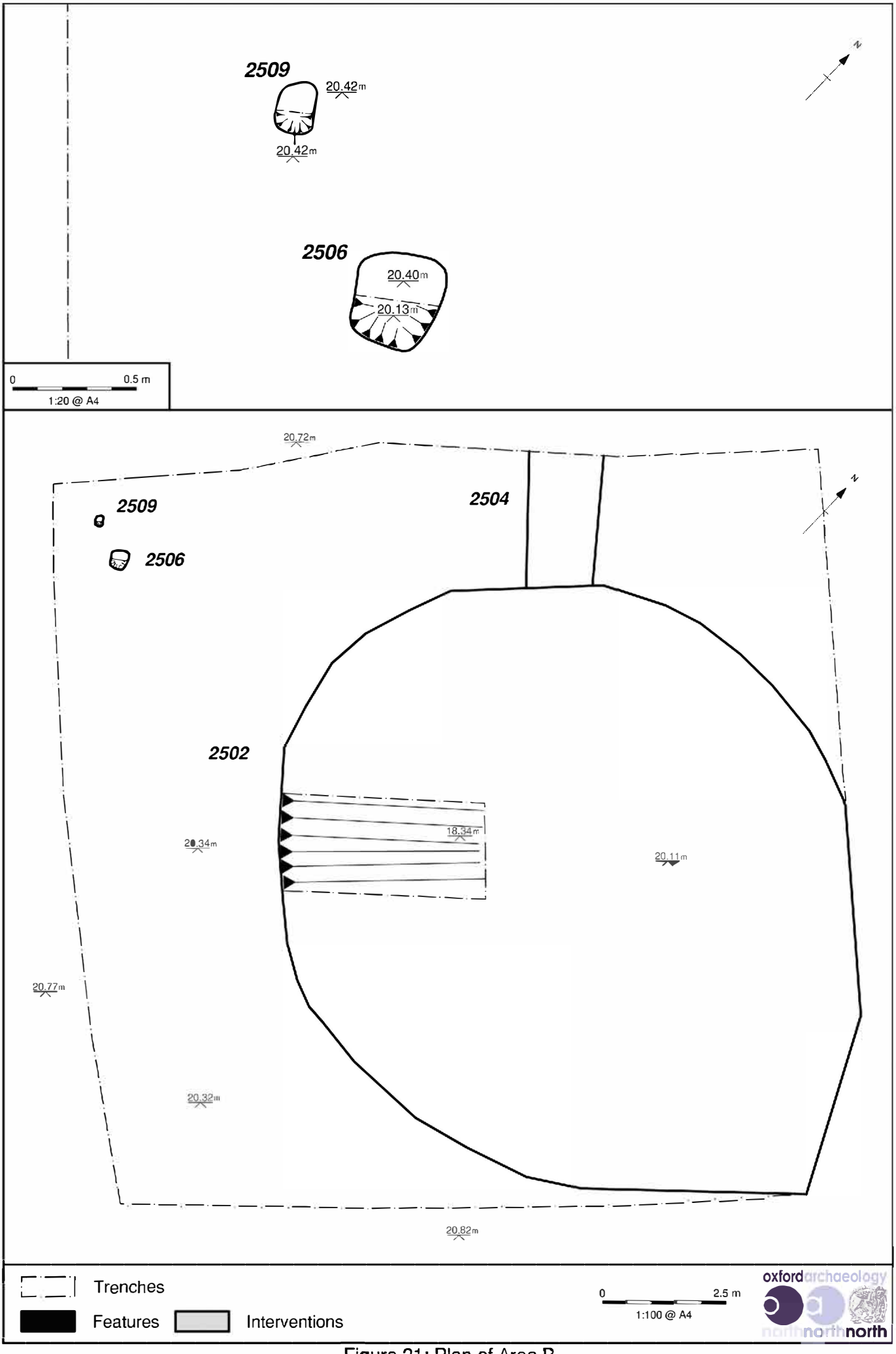

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Figure 21: Plan of Area B

Ctx	Surface LvL	Excavated LvL
415	21.86m	21.58m
417	21.77m	21.18m
2706	21.73m	21.44m
2722	21.71m	21.54m
2781/83	21.56m	21.18m
2837	21.79m	21.59m
2875	21.89m	21.21m
2885	21.81m	21.17m

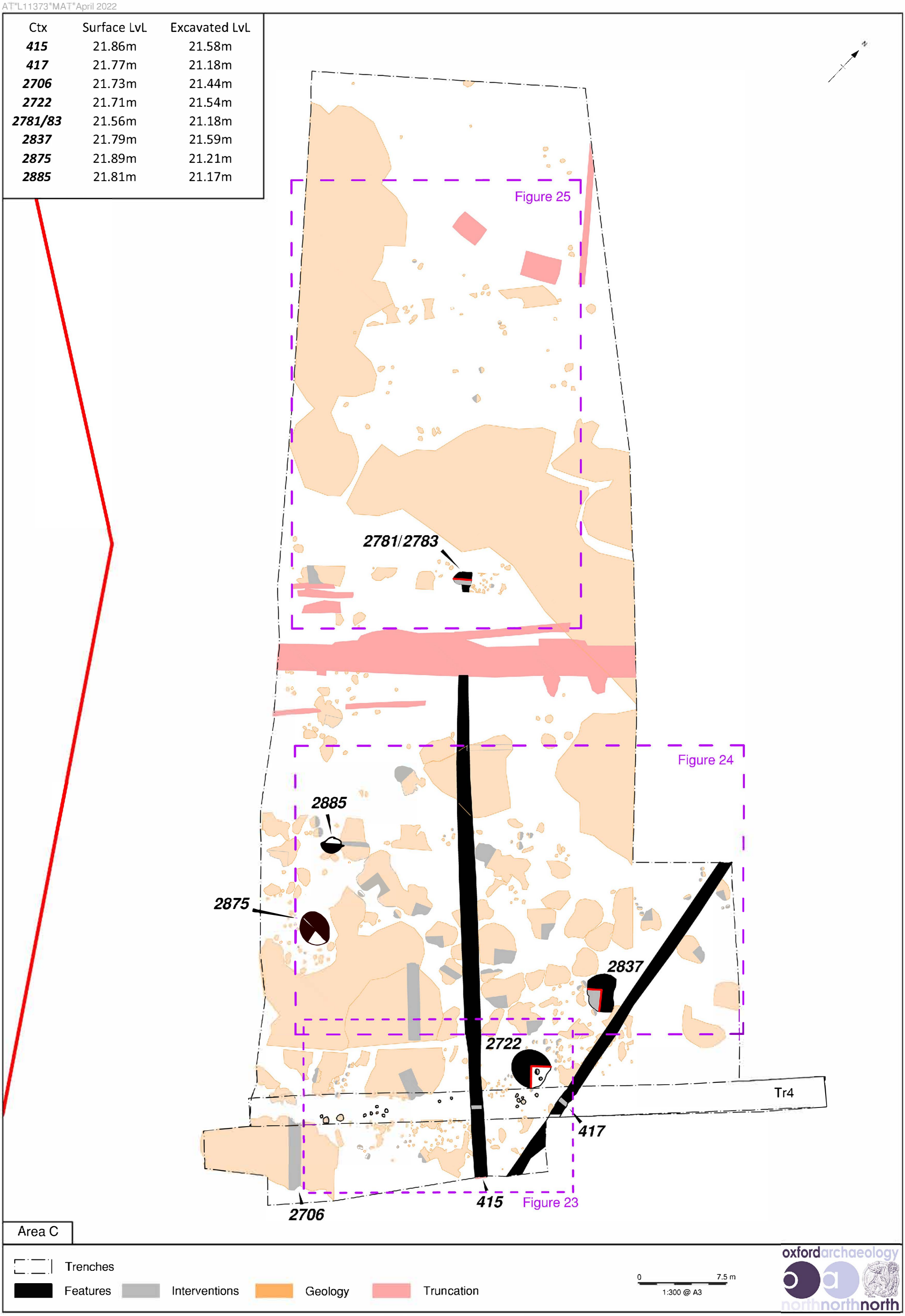
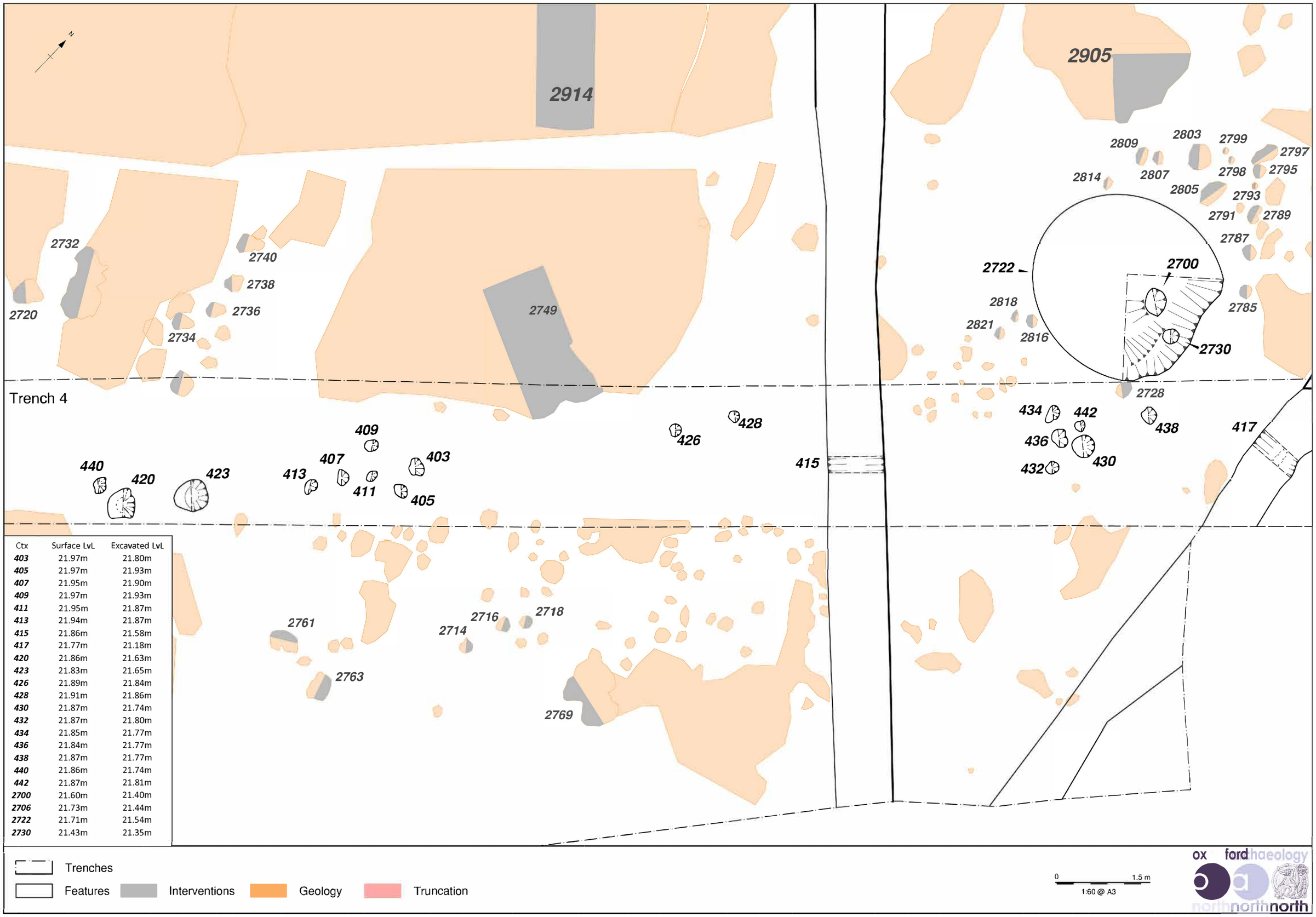


Figure 22: Overall plan of Area C and Trench 4



Ctx	Surface LvL	Excavated LvL
403	21.97m	21.80m
405	21.97m	21.93m
407	21.95m	21.90m
409	21.97m	21.93m
411	21.95m	21.87m
413	21.94m	21.87m
415	21.86m	21.58m
417	21.77m	21.18m
420	21.86m	21.63m
423	21.83m	21.65m
426	21.89m	21.84m
428	21.91m	21.86m
430	21.87m	21.74m
432	21.87m	21.80m
434	21.85m	21.77m
436	21.84m	21.77m
438	21.87m	21.77m
440	21.86m	21.74m
442	21.87m	21.81m
2700	21.60m	21.40m
2706	21.73m	21.44m
2722	21.71m	21.54m
2730	21.43m	21.35m

Figure 23: Plan of Area C (south) and Trench 4

Ctx	Surface LvL	Excavated LvL
415	21.86m	21.58m
417	21.77m	21.18m
2837	21.79m	21.59m
2875	21.89m	21.21m
2885	21.81m	21.17m

2903
2777
2775
2896
2885
2770
2772
2900
2754
2756
2758
2750
2752
415
2862
2860
2858
2824
2822
2846
2867
2844
2842
2855
2870
2872
2826
2904
2840
2837
2875
2852
2879
2877
2902
2848
2883
2908
2906
417
2837
2831
2833
2909
2835
2905
2914

Trenches
Features
Interventions
Geology
Truncation

0 2.5 m
1:100 @ A3

oxford archaeology
northnorthnorth

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Figure 24: Plan of Area C (central)

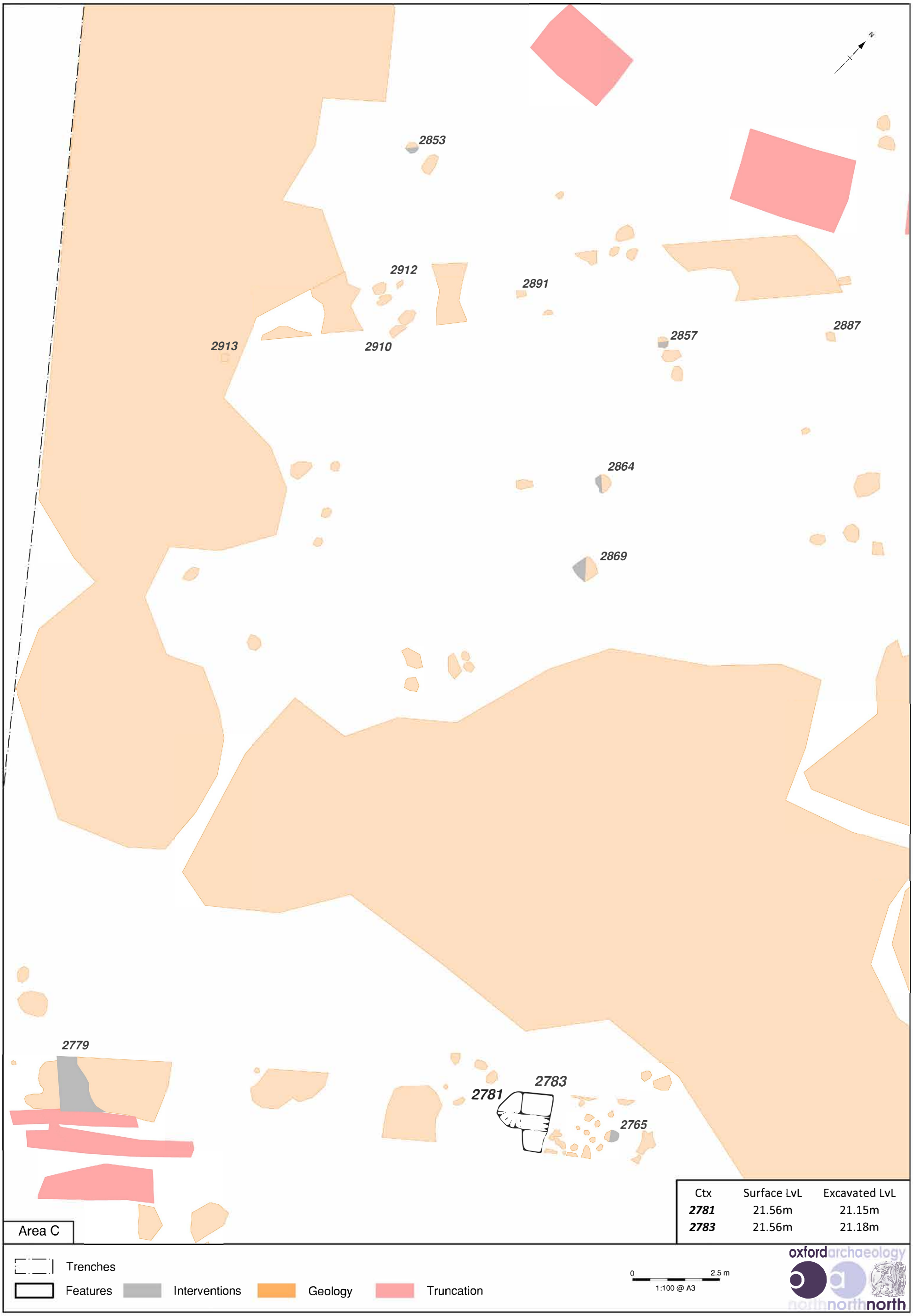
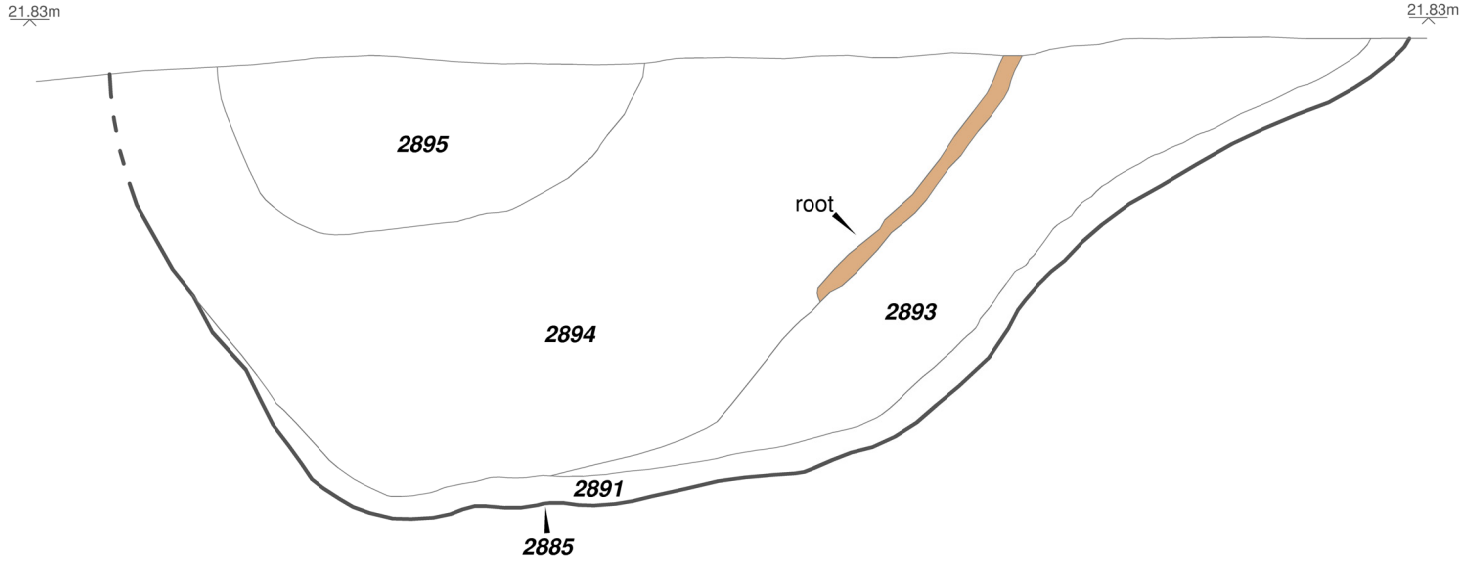


Figure 25: Plan of Area C (north)

South-east-facing section of ***2781*** and ***2783***



North-west-facing section of ***2885***

Limit of excavation

Cut

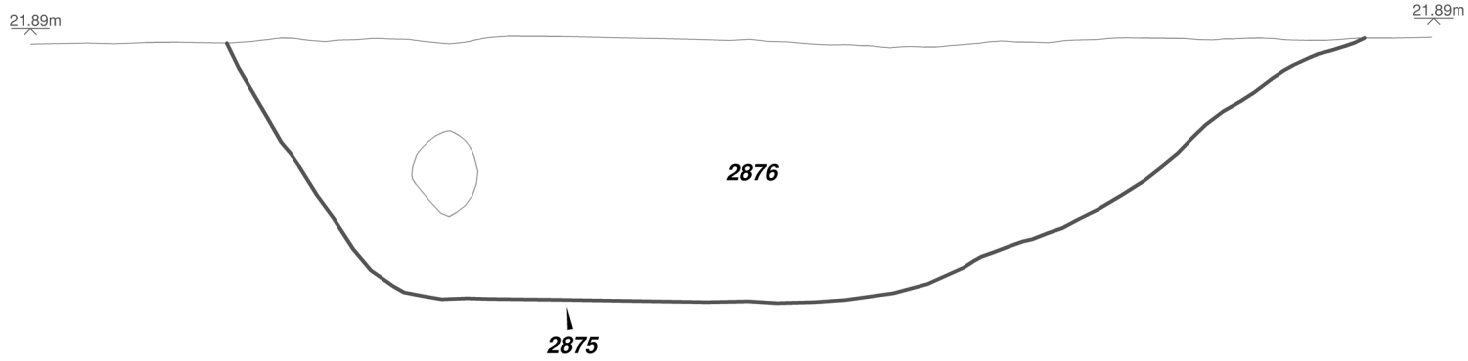
Layer/Deposit

0 0.25 m

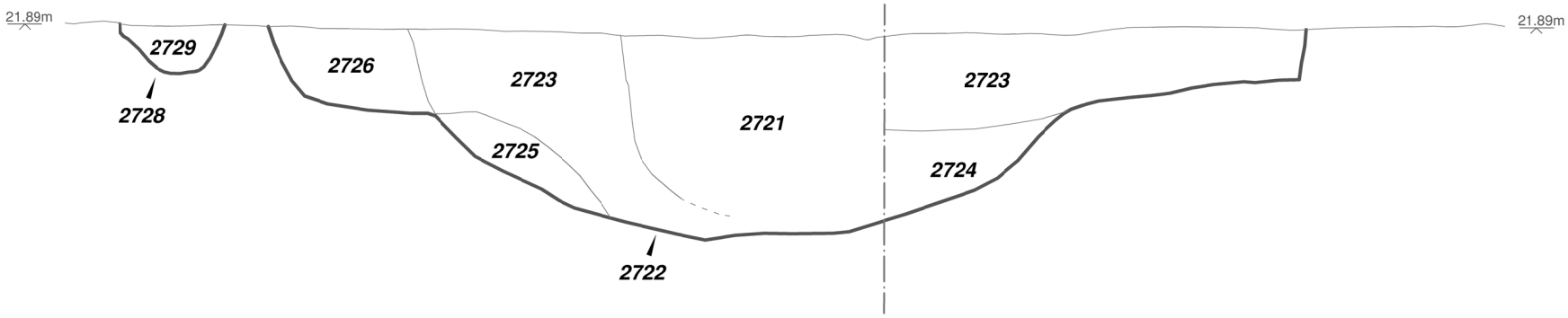
1:10 @ A4

oxfordarchaeology northnorthnorth

Figure 26: Sections of ***2781***, ***2783*** and ***2885***



South-west-facing section of ***2875***



South and east-facing section of ***2722***

Limit of excavation

Cut

Layer/Deposit

0 0.25 m

1:10 @ A4

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Figure 27: Sections of ***2875*** and ***2722***

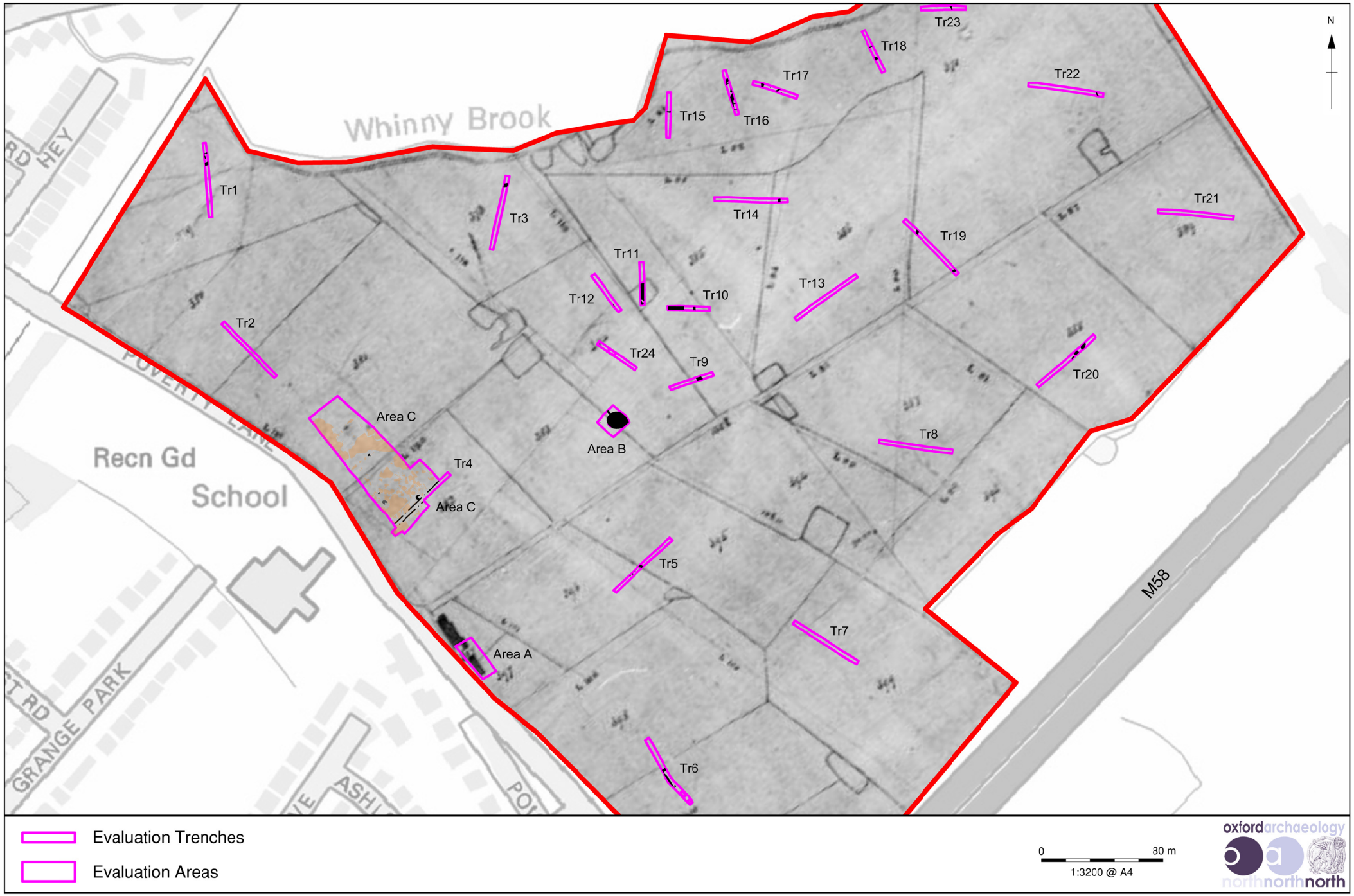

Figure 28: Evaluation trenches and areas superimposed on the Tithe Map of Maghull 1839

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