Land North of Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Prepared by:	Jim Mumford (Supervisor)
Checked by:	Stuart Foreman (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by:	Chris Hayden (Senior Project Manager)
Approved for Issue by:	Dave Score (Head of Fieldwork, OAS)
Signature:	DavidScore

OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com
Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

Chief Executive Officer
Ken Welsh, BSc, MCIfA
Private Limited Company, No: 1618597
Registered Charity, No: 285627
Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Land North of Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Jim Mumford and Stuart Foreman with contributions from John Cotter and illustrations by Gary Noble and Lucy Offord

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Summary

A 30 trench archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology on behalf of RPS consulting on land north of Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, in advance of a proposed residential development.

Two areas of medieval archaeological interest were discovered. The first, located in the southern corner of the site in Trenches 28 and 29, comprised a series of substantial masonry wall foundations associated with gravel floor or yard surfaces. These structural remains were overlain by stony demolition deposits containing iron horseshoe nails, a horseshoe fragment, medieval pottery and animal bone. The second focus, located along the eastern edge of the site in Trench 8, comprised a group of ditches and pits, which were overlain and partially infilled with stony rubble deposits, possibly from another former masonry building. The relatively large pottery assemblages from both locations appear to have a strong 12th-13th century focus, with some possible continuation into the early 14th century. The horseshoe nails include a distinctive type that dates from the period *c* 1250-1350. All of the finds would be consistent with a late 13th century date.

After consultation with the County Archaeologist it was agreed to extend Trenches 7, 8 and 29 and to open an additional Trench (30) to help define the extent of the medieval archaeology.

The remaining trenches were either empty of archaeological features or contained only plough furrows. These traces of former medieval ridge and furrow cultivation followed a north-west to south-east alignment, as shown in the geophysical survey and aerial photographs.

The archive is deposited with Wiltshire Museum under Accession Number DZSWS:19-2022.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was supervised by Jim Mumford, who was supported by Ines Matos Glover, Narita Banks and Jeremy Briscombe. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Marjaana Kohtamaki. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Consulting, on behalf of Gleeson Land, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform an outline planning application (planning ref: PL/2021/08453). Discussions between RPS and the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council established the scope of work required. This report details the results of the trial trenching.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014b), and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Whychurch Farm, north of the historic centre of the market town of Malmesbury, Wiltshire. The site is centred at NGR ST 93680 88350 (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of two agricultural (pasture) fields. The site is bounded by the B4014 to the north, agricultural fields to the east and south, and housing and further fields to the west.

1.2.3 The site gently undulates with a slight NW–SE gradient and overall is generally flat at c 90m above Ordnance Datum. The nearest major watercourse is the River Avon, which lies c 1km south of the site. A minor tributary of the Avon lies c 700m to the south. A further water channel lies c 400m north-east at its closest point.

1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone of the Kellaways Clay Member, sedimentary bedrock formed c 164–166 million years ago in the Jurassic period (BGS 2022). No overlying superficial deposits are recorded at the site (ibid.).

1.2.5 Archaeological investigations undertaken immediately to the north-west recorded natural clays overlain by a layer of subsoil, typically 0.15–0.25m thick, which was in turn overlain by up to 0.33m of topsoil (CA 2014).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL

2.1 Archaeological and historical background

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in an archaeological desk-based assessment (RPS Consulting 2021) and is only summarised here. An overview of the results of the 2020 geophysical survey of the site (MS 2020) are also provided below.

2.1.2 Earlier prehistoric worked flints were recovered during archaeological investigations carried out directly to the north-west of the site (CA 2014; 2017). Although residual in overburden deposits and later features, their recovery is suggestive of a limited and perhaps transitory presence in the wider landscape during this period.

2.1.3 The remains of a later prehistoric occupation site were uncovered to the north-west of the site (CA 2014; 2017). The investigations revealed a series of small semicircular post-built structures (possibly parts of roundhouses or windbreaks), pits and field boundary ditches, as well as the deposition of artefacts in a large number of tree-throw holes. The stratigraphic and dating evidence indicate that settlement and agricultural activity originated in the early Bronze Age and extended into the late Bronze Age (possibly extending into the Iron Age).

2.1.4 In the wider vicinity, evidence of middle–late Bronze Age activity has been recorded at Tetbury Hill further to the west. Iron Age postholes and ditches were found during excavations at Abbey Row, c 750m south-west of the site, while fragments of Iron Age querns were recovered during a watching brief c 650m to the south. Substantial defences of Iron Age date, uncovered to the north-east of Malmesbury, confirmed the presence of a hillfort, a precursor to the Saxon and medieval settlement c 1km south of the site.

2.1.5 No evidence of middle Iron Age to late Roman date was identified to the north-west of the site, suggesting that occupation of this area of the landscape ended in the earlier Iron Age until it was ploughed in the medieval/post-medieval period (CA 2017). Evidence of Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the site is generally limited to isolated findspots, including a possible Roman pit and residual Roman pottery recorded during a recent evaluation c 950m south-west of the site (CA 2020). However, geophysical survey and subsequent excavation c 650m east of the site identified an extensive Roman villa site. Investigations at Tetbury Hill, c 600m west of the site, also recorded a number of rectilinear features dating from the late 1st to mid-3rd centuries AD, suggestive of a low-status Roman rural farmstead.

2.1.6 The site is situated c 900m north of the Saxon abbey and historic core of Malmesbury, which was founded in the mid-7th century. The landscape of which the site formed a part was probably agricultural land that belonged to the abbey and was probably worked by the abbey and its tenants throughout the medieval period. Evidence of medieval agricultural activity, in the form of plough furrows and possible field boundary ditches, was uncovered directly to the north-west of the site (CA 2014; 2017), with similar remains identified in the wider landscape.

2.1.7 The historic core of Malmesbury continued to develop around the abbey some distance to the south of the site. The site formed part of the manor of Whitchurch and (or with) Milbourne and lay within an area of common pasture known as Whitchurch Marsh. The placename suggests that Whitchurch may have been the site of an early chapel, remains of which may have been found in the present trial trenches (discussed further in Section 5.2 and 5.3).

2.1.8 A settlement known as Filands (Fulinge), c 100m north-west of the site, was probably established during the medieval period, with documentary evidence of an estate of the same name occurring in the 12th century under the ownership of the abbey.

2.1.9 The rural character of the site continued from the medieval period into the post-medieval period. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the lands owned by Malmesbury Abbey passed to the Crown. By the 18th century, the site lay within the estate of Whitchurch Manor and comprised agricultural land. Historic maps demonstrate the continued agricultural nature of the site in the 19th century, with little subsequent change to site layout and use during the modern era.

Lidar data

2.1.10 The Lidar plot shows an area of rectilinear enclosures in the fields to the south of the site. While these had no direct dating evidence (prior to this evaluation) on morphological grounds they could be settlement features of medieval and/or post-medieval date.

Geophysical survey

2.1.11 A magnetometer survey of the application site and a wider area was undertaken in September 2020. The survey detected a small number of anomalies within Survey Areas 3 and 4, which covers the current site. No anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origin were identified.

2.1.12 A series of widely spaced parallel linear anomalies on broadly NW–SE alignments were identified across the site. Following the topography of the landscape, they are characteristic of ridge and furrow cultivation.

2.1.13 A curvilinear anomaly of undetermined origin was also detected in the eastern part of the site. Located close to the current field boundary, the anomaly probably relates to agricultural activity or variations in the natural geology, though the possibility of an archaeological origin cannot be entirely ruled out.

2.2 Potential

2.2.1 As highlighted by the DBA (RPS Consulting 2021) and the results of nearby archaeological investigations (CA 2014; 2017), the site has moderate potential to contain later prehistoric remains associated with agricultural activity relating to the nearby settlement site.

2.2.2 Given the limited evidence of Roman activity uncovered within the immediate area, the site has low potential to contain archaeological remains of Roman date, with the

site perhaps having formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the nearby villa located further to the east.

2.2.3 The site probably remained part of the estate of Malmesbury Abbey, forming part of the agricultural, possibly pastoral, lands adjacent to the medieval settlement of Filands. As indicated by historic mapping, the site and wider landscape remained agricultural throughout the post-medieval period and into the modern era. In conjunction with the geophysical survey results, the site has high potential to contain agricultural remains dating to the medieval–post-medieval periods.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The general aim of the evaluation is to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features within the proposed development site.

3.2 Specific aims and objectives

3.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation are:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
ii. To ground truth the results of the geophysical survey;
iii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains;
iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
v. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
vi. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
vii. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present;
viii. To determine the potential of the site to provide paleoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
ix. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to the economy, status, utility and social activity of or at the site; and
x. To disseminate the results of the evaluation through the production of a fieldwork report.

3.2.2 The programme of trial trenching will be conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Webster 2007) and *South West Archaeological Research Framework: Research Strategy 2012–2017* (Grove and Croft 2012).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction and presentation of results

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

4.1.2 In total, the trenches represent a c 3% sample of the proposed development area. As there were no geophysical features to target the trenches were distributed to provide even coverage of the site. Trenches 18 and 19 were relocated during the fieldwork due to their proximity to an overhead power line (Fig. 2).

4.1.3 The original scope comprised 29 trenches, each measuring 30m long and 2m wide. A contingency was allowed for up to 10 additional trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m (up to an additional 1% sample of the proposed development area). The scope of the additional trenching was agreed between RPS Consulting and the Assistant County Archaeologist. One additional trench (Trench 30) was excavated in the north-eastern corner of the site, between Trenches 7 and 8, to clarify the extent and nature of a group of archaeological features in Trench 8. Trenches 7 and 8 were also extended for the same purpose. Trench 29, located along the south-eastern edge of the site, had a T-shaped extension dug to clarify the extent of a series of medieval masonry features and gravel surfaces.

4.1.4 The mechanical excavation was carried out using a 13-ton 360 degree excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, which excavated through topsoil and subsoil to either the natural geology or the top of archaeological features and deposits. The soil stripping was carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist. Once the trenches were open any archaeological features were excavated and recorded following the methods detailed in the WSI. The trenches were then backfilled with the agreement of the Assistant County Archaeologist.

4.2 General distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 8, 28, 29 and 30, which are described in detail in Sections 4.5-4.8.

4.2.2 Trenches 3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 26 contained traces of medieval ridge and furrow but no other archaeological features. The plough furrows were very shallow and only *c* 1.0 to 1.4m wide, having been eroded by modern ploughing. Modern field drains and scarring from a mole-plough were noted in several of the trenches.

4.2.3 Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 27 contained no recognisable archaeology at all.

4.3 General soils and ground conditions

4.3.1 The trenches were either aligned north-west to south-east or north-east to south-west (Fig. 2). Most trenches measured 30m long by 2m wide and were excavated to an

average depth of c 0.40m to the top of the yellowish-brown clay natural. Trenches 7 and 8 were extended to clarify the extent and nature of a group of medieval features exposed in Trench 8. Trench 30 was dug as an additional trench in between Trenches 7 and 8 for the same purpose.

4.3.2 The soil sequence in the trenches was quite uniform, although the thickness of topsoil and subsoil varied somewhat between trenches due the presence of former ridge and furrow, as detailed in Appendix A. In some of the trenches modern land drains were noted, cutting into the natural geology.

4.3.3 The natural geology, derived from weathered Mudstone bedrock, comprised yellowish brown clay with grey streaks. The natural was revealed below a 0.10m to 0.15m thick reddish brown silty clay loam subsoil with occasional charcoal specks. This was sealed below 0.15 - 0.20m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil, with occasional charcoal flecks and limestone fragments.

4.3.4 Ground conditions during the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained mostly dry, except for one period of light rain. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

4.4 Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 7)

4.4.1 This trench was aligned north-east to south-west, alongside the eastern boundary of the site. It was initially 30m long and 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. It was later extended by 14m to the north-east to clarify the extent of the archaeological features within it. The yellowish-brown natural clay (802) was cut by several archaeological features. These included a narrow ditch (803) which was aligned north-west to south-east, had steep sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was 0.41m wide and 0.24m deep and was filled with a greyish brown silty clay (804) with gravel, limestone fragments. The only fill of the ditch (804) produced 50 sherds of locally produced hand-made pottery dating from period *c* 1150-1300. Cutting and sealing the ditch was a north-west to south-east plough furrow (805), which contained 15 sherds of pottery of similar date ploughed up from the underlying ditch fill. To the south-west of the furrow (and cut by it) was a poorly defined spread of greyish-brown silty clay material (813) lying between the topsoil and natural, which produced 4 sherds of similar pottery.

4.4.2 At the south-west end of the trench two pits (806 and 809) and a large hollow (811) were exposed. The first pit (806) was a small circular cut feature with sloping sides and a flat base, 0.58m in diameter and 0.07m deep. The greyish brown silty clay fill (807) contained charcoal and a single sherd of medieval pottery. The second pit (809) was circular with steep sloping sides and a flat base, 0.58m in diameter and 0.12m deep. It was filled with a greyish brown silty clay (810) with charcoal inclusions and 6 sherds of pottery dating from the period 1050-1300. Pit 809 was cut through a small spread of material (808) comprising mid-greyish brown silty clay with limestone fragments, charcoal and 1 sherd of medieval pottery. This 0.12m deep spread was seen in the side of the trench covering an area 0.60m x 0.32m in plan.

4.4.3 To the south-west of the pits was a large sub-circular hollow (811) with a shallow concave profile, spanning the trench, and measuring 4.1m across and 0.24m deep. The

hollow was filled with an orangey grey-brown silty clay deposit, with bone fragments and pottery dating from the medieval period.

4.4.4 Cutting into these features were a series of five c 0.07m deep plough furrows measuring between 1.4m and 1.7m wide. These were sealed below a 0.10m thick reddish brown silty clay subsoil (801) and a 0.30m thick dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (800).

4.5 Trench 28 (Fig. 4)

4.5.1 This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 30m long and 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. Machine excavation exposed natural geology comprising yellowish brown clay (2802) with patches of light grey clay. Towards the south-east end of the trench, a 0.12m thick and 4m wide soil spread of dark yellowish brown silty clay (2803) was found, containing charcoal specks, patches of gravel and small limestone fragments. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the soil spread, which is thought to be the remains of the base of a trackway surface, which was recorded in the adjacent Trench 29 to the south-west, but not in Trench 27 to the north-east. Trench 28 represents the approximate north-eastern edge of the medieval features found in the southern part the site. The deposit was sealed below a 0.10m thick light reddish brown silty clay loam (2801) subsoil, which lay below a 0.30m thick dark grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil (2800).

4.6 Trench 29 (Figs 4-6)

4.6.1 This trench was 30m long, 2m wide and aligned north-east to south-west. A T-shaped 15m extension was added to the south-east side, *c* 5m from the south-east end, as requested by the Assistant County Archaeologist. The soil sequence was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.25 to 0.40m. Natural geology, comprising yellowish brown clay, was exposed at the north-east end of the trench, sealed below a 0.01 to 0.04m thick layer interpreted as a possible remnant gravel floor or yard surface deposit (2903) This layer consisted of gravel in a dark grey clay matrix with limestone fragments and produced 34 sherds of medieval Minety ware pottery. This layer got thicker towards the south-west where it butted up against a gravel floor or yard surface (2914). At the north-east end of the trench, layer 2903 thinned out and was similar to spread 2803 in adjacent Trench 28.

4.6.2 A substantial wall footing (2905), 0.40m wide, was exposed on a north-west to south-east alignment, for a length of 6.6m. It had a square corner at the north-east end and extended beyond the trench edge to the south-west. There was a possible internal dividing wall on the inside face of wall 2905. The internal wall was constructed from tabular limestone fragments with a rough face and rubble core, bonded with clay and grit. Two courses were exposed to a height of 0.10m. To the south-west of the internal wall, a floor (2906) of large limestone flagstones was partly exposed and sealed below a spread of demolition rubble (2907). The latter comprised large quantities of small limestone fragments, nails, horseshoe nails and medieval pottery in a dark greyish-brown silty clay soil matrix. On the south-east side of the internal wall was a floor base of reddish-brown silty clay, which lay up against the inner face of wall 2905. It also

abutted a floor base (2912) of reddish-brown silty clay which was stratified below a possible stone flag floor similar to 2906 but no longer *in situ*.

4.6.3 To the south-east of wall 2905 and butting up against it, was another demolition spread (2909) of dark brown silty clay with large quantities of limestone fragments, nails, horseshoe nails, one horseshoe fragment and medieval pottery. This covered the rest of the trench although two walls (2910 and 2911) were observed poking through the layer. As the objectives of the evaluation had been met, no more work was carried out on this part of the trench other than cleaning and recovering finds from the demolition layer. The two walls were of similar construction to wall 2905 and lay on the same alignment. Wall 2911 was at the very end of the trench and on a north-east to south-west alignment. At the south-west end of the main trench two patches of limestone rubble (2913 and 2914), similar to demolition spread 2909 were observed below the subsoil.

4.6.4 The subsoil (2901) was a reddish-brown silty clay loam around 0.03m thick which lay over the stonework. The depth of soil cover increased away from the stonework to 0.10m. This subsoil was sealed below a 0.30m thick dark greyish-brown silty clay loam topsoil (2900).

4.7 Trench 30 (Figs 3 and 7)

4.7.1 This additional trench was designed to expose the nature and extent of the medieval archaeology found in Trench 8. It was positioned between Trenches 7 and 8 on the same north-east to south-west alignment and was 30m long, 2m wide and 0.40m deep.

4.7.2 The natural geology was a yellowish-brown clay (3002). Cutting into this were two intercutting ditches (groups 3017 and 3018) which shared the same north-east to south-west alignment, running along the trench. A series of four sections were cut along these ditches, which proved the relationship between them. The north-western ditch (Group 3018, comprising cuts 3008, 3012 and 3014) was found to be the later. This ditch typically had steep sloping sides and a narrow concave base measuring 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep. The fills (3009, 3013 and 3015) were typically a grey-brown silty clay loam containing bone and medieval pottery. The earlier ditch (Group 3017 comprising cuts 3006 and 3010) typically had a V shape profile, and at its most substantial was 0.24m wide and 0.26m deep. The fills of the ditches in Groups 3017 and 3018 were similar, typically a mid grey-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, and several of the fills produced medieval pottery (3007, 3011 and 3015).

4.7.3 Ditch cut 3003 (part of Group 3018), at the north-east end of the trench, appeared to a continuation of the same ditched boundary but only a single cut could be seen. This section had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.83m wide and 0.26m deep and was filled with a mid-grey-brown silty clay (3005) with limestone fragments, charcoal, bone and medieval pottery. The ditch was sealed below an orange-brown silty clay soil spread (3004) which also contained limestone fragments, charcoal, bone and medieval pottery.

4.7.4 Layer 3016/3004 (group 3019) was a loose stony spread of material, possibly rubble from a demolished stone building, which overlay the boundary ditches described

above, near the north-east end of the trench. This layer produced 15 sherds of medieval pottery.

4.7.5 All of the medieval features were truncated by plough furrows aligned north-west to south-east across the trench. The furrows were sealed below a 0.10m thick light reddish brown silty clay loam subsoil (3001), which in turn lay below a 0.30 m thick dark grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil (3000).

4.8 Finds summary

4.8.1 A total of 305 sherds (2569g) of pottery were recovered from 21 contexts. All of this is of medieval date, as detailed in Appendix B.

4.8.2 A small group of animal bone, consisting largely of cattle and sheep/goat bone, was recovered from 9 contexts in a range of features in Trenches 8, 29 and 30. Some provide evidence for butchery, gnawing and the age of the animals, and they suggest that animal bone contemporary with the medieval buildings will be well preserved.

4.8.3 Fourteen iron objects weighing 126g were recovered from two contexts in Trench 29 during the evaluation, comprising nails, horseshoe nails and one horseshoe fragment.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The results of the trial trenching have successfully characterised the archaeological potential of the site within the constraints of an evaluation exercise. Apart from one episode of light rain the trenches were excavated in clear, dry weather. The site conditions presented no difficulties in distinguishing archaeological features from the natural geology.

5.2 Evaluation objectives and results

5.2.1 The evaluation has identified two apparently distinct foci of medieval activity. The first, located in the southern corner of the site in Trench 29 (extending slightly into Trench 28), comprised a series of NE-SW aligned masonry wall foundations associated with gravel floor or yard surfaces. These substantial structural remains, which include the corner of a building at least 6.5m long and a possible internal subdivision, were overlain by stony demolition deposits containing iron nails, horseshoe nails, a horseshoe fragment , medieval pottery and animal bone. The second focus of medieval archaeology, located along the eastern edge of the site in Trench 8, comprised a group of ditches and pits, which were overlain and partially infilled with stony rubble deposits, possibly from another former masonry building. The relatively large pottery assemblages from both locations appear to have a strong 12th-13th century focus, with some possible continuation into the early 14th century.

5.2.2 While the archaeology in Trench 8 appears somewhat isolated, with no trace showing in the geophysical survey or Lidar plot, the much more substantial and *in situ* structural features in Trench 29 coincide very clearly with a series of anomalies visible on the Lidar plot outside the development boundary. The anomalies include a series of rectilinear enclosures extending throughout the fields to the south-west of the site, which lie on a similar alignment to the medieval walls found in Trench 29. The geophysical survey also shows evidence for magnetic disturbance in the same areas which could be indicative of a medieval settlement. Some of the related enclosures appear to have survived in the modern field boundaries.

5.2.3 The medieval building or buildings have been demolished down to foundation level but appear sufficiently well-preserved that excavation would expose their full plan. In situ floor or yard surfaces are clearly present underlying heavily-plough-truncated and disturbed demolition deposits.

5.2.4 Both of the foci of medieval activity are associated with reasonably large assemblages of medieval pottery, which form the primary dating evidence. While the pottery could reflect activity on the site from the 11th to the 13th century, potentially extending into the post-medieval period, the most likely focus of the pottery assemblage seems to have been in the 13th century. The metalwork from demolition deposits in Trench 29 includes several distinctive horseshoe nails that date from *c* 1250-1350. The horseshoe fragment has a somewhat later date range (1250-1500), but all of the material would be consistent with a date in the later 13th or early 14th century.

5.2.5 This may reflect the settlement's most economically prosperous phase and does not necessarily indicate that it was completely abandoned in the post-medieval period. Documentary and archaeological evidence suggests that the Chapel had been incorporated into Whychurch Farm by 1670. The settlement may have been subject to a long period of decline in the early post-medieval period before it was eventually abandoned in favour of the current Whychurch Farm. The extent of the anomalies might suggest that there is more to the site than just the chapel. They could represent the medieval Whitchurch manorial complex, which was presumably superseded by the present Whychurch Farm in the 17th century. The reason for the shift in settlement location is likely to be complex. The late medieval decline may have been connected with the Black Death and other demographic disasters of the 14th century. The 17th-century revival on a new site next to the main road running north from Malmesbury probably reflects widespread economic expansion and the realignment of the rural landscape along new or reinvigorated local and regional trade networks in the post-medieval period.

5.2.6 No palaeoenvironmental samples were recovered and thus little can be said about the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis. All of the deposits encountered were much-disturbed secondary demolition deposits or structural remains and thus not deemed suitable for sampling. Several demolition contexts were observed to contain charcoal which clearly survives in the soil conditions present on the site. No waterlogged deposits were encountered.

5.3 Documentary context for the discovered archaeology

5.3.1 The development site formed part of the manor of Whitchurch and (or with) Milbourne and lay within an area of common pasture known as Whitchurch Marsh. The placename suggests that Whitchurch may have been the site of an early chapel. The Victoria County History identified several documentary references supporting the existence of a chapel here in the medieval period, up until the 17th century:

- In 1252, Malmesbury abbey was granted a St James's fair on its land at Whitchurch;
- In 1535 offerings made from or at Whitchurch to an image of St James were taken by the abbey;
- Alms were distributed in a chapel at Whitchurch by the abbey or by the lessee of its Whitchurch estate at mass on the eve and feast of St James in the early 16th century;
- By 1670 the chapel building had been dismantled and incorporated into Whychurch Farm.
- In 1268 Nicholas of Malmesbury gave land at Fowlswick in Chippenham for a chaplain to say masses for his parents in the chapel of 'la Charnere' in Malmesbury (Bags *et al.* 1991).

5.3.2 The exact location of the chapel is not recorded. However, as the masonry was incorporated into Whychurch farmhouse it is unlikely to be located very far away.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed 2 x land drains in SE half of trench running parallel in a E-W orientation. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology (silty clay to NE and sandy clay to SW).	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.3

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		2	0.18	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
101	Layer		2	0.12	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish brown silty clay to NE and sandy clay to SW		
102	Layer		2		Natural. Light brownish yellow silty clay mottled with light greyish blue to NE. Light brownish orange sandy clay to SW.		

Trench 2

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed two NW-SE aligned furrows. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.27

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer		2	0.16	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
201	Layer		2	0.1	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish brown silty clay.		
202	Layer		2		Natural. Light brownish yellow silty clay mottled with light greyish blue clay.		

Trench 3

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed 4 probable NW-SE furrows. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of sandy clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.31

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer		2	0.18	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
301	Layer		2	0.16	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish brown sandy clay.		
302	Layer		2		Natural. Light brownish yellow sandy clay mottled with light blueish grey clay.		

Trench 4

General description						Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed a Land drain running NE-SW through middle. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer		2	0.18	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
401	Layer		2	0.16	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish brown sandy clay.		
402	Layer		2		Natural. Light yellowish orange sandy clay mottled with light yellowish grey clay		

Trench 5

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed the continuation of NE-SW land drain seen in Tr4. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer		2	0.18	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
501	Layer		2	0.16	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish brown sandy clay.		
502	Layer		2		Natural. Light yellowish orange sandy clay mottled with light yellowish grey clay		

Trench 6

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed a NW-SE aligned land drain down middle of trench. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of sandy clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer		2	0.21	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
601	Layer		2	0.16	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish brown sandy clay.		
602	Layer		2		Natural. Light yellowish orange sandy clay mottled with light yellowish grey clay		

Trench 7

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Revealed a probable NW-SE furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of sandy clay.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

700	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
701	Layer		2	0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish grey silty clay		
702	Layer		2		Natural. Light orangey yellow silty clay with light bluish grey mottling		

Trench 8

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed 2x ditches, 1x spread and 5x furrows. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer		2	0.1	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt		
801	Layer		2		Subsoil. Mid brownish grey silty clay		
802	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangey yellow silty clay mottled with mid bluish grey silty clay		
803	Cut		0.41	0.24	Ditch. Linear NW-SE ditch		
804	Fill	803	0.41	0.24	Single fill of ditch	50 pot sherds	1150-1300 AD
805	Layer		1.7	0.07	Occupation Layer. Mid greenish brown silty clay layer with large stones and pottery, possible furrow?	15 pot sherds	1150-1300 AD
806	Cut		0.58	0.07	Pit. Shallow pit with charcoal in fill		
807	Fill	806	0.58	0.07	Secondary Fill. Single fill of pit with charcoal and pottery	1 pot sherd	1050-1300 AD
808	Layer			0.12	Occupation Layer. Layer with pottery sherds and charcoal	1 pot sherd	1050-1300AD
809	Cut		0.58	0.12	Pit. Shallow pit within occupation layer, charcoal in fill		
810	Fill	809	0.58	0.12	Secondary Fill. Single fill of pit, small fragments of pottery found	6 pot sherds	1050-1300AD
811	Cut		4.1	0.24	Natural Feature. Sub-circular possible natural hollow with finds in fill		
812	Fill	811	4.1	0.24	Secondary Fill. Single orangey grey silty clay fill of natural hollow, animal bone, lottery and charcoal in fill	42 sherds	1050-1300AD
813	Layer				Poorly defined silty clay soil spread, lying between the topsoil and natural. Possibly an occupation deposit.	4 pot sherds	1150-1300

Trench 9							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed 2x E-W land drain. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
901	Layer		2	0.25	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay.		
902	Layer		2		Natural. Light orangey yellow silty clay with light yellowish grey mottling.		

Trench 10							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed 7 NW-SE furrows and 4x land drains. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer		2	0.16	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1001	Layer		2	0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish grey silty clay		
1002	Layer		2		Natural. Light orangish yellow silty clay mottled with light yellowish grey clay.		

Trench 11							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Single NW-SE furrow runs down length of trench. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.37
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer		2	0.17	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1101	Layer		2	0.22	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay		
1102	Layer		2		Natural. Light orangish yellow silty clay with mottled light bluish grey clay.		

Trench 12							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed 2 NW-SE furrows. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

1200	Layer		2	0.16	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1201	Layer		2	0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light yellowish grey silty clay.		
1202	Layer		2		Natural. Light orangish yellow silty clay mottled with light blueish grey clay.		

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	ESE-WNW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Revealed a probable NNW-SSE furrow in centre. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.29

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1301	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
1302	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	ESE-WNW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.29

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1401	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
1402	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 15

General description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.29

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1501	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		

1502	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 16

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.29

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1601	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
1602	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 17

General description	Orientation	NNE-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.29

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1701	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
1702	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 18

General description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer		2	0.14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1801	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
1802	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 19

General description	Orientation	N-S

Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer		2	0.15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
1901	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
1902	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 20							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer		2	0.15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
2001	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2002	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 21							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer		2	0.15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
2101	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2102	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 22							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer		2	0.15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		

2201	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2202	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 23

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer		2	0.15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
2301	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2302	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 24

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer		2	0.15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
2401	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2402	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 25

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer		2	0.15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
2501	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2502	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 26

General description					Orientation		SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.40
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer		2	0.25	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
2601	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2602	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 27

General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.40
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer		2	0.25	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
2701	Layer		2	0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
2702	Layer		2		Natural. Mid orangish yellow silty clay mottled with bluish grey clay.		

Trench 28

General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench revealed a possible trackway surface. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.7
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer		2	0.3	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty clay		
2801	Layer		2	0.4	Subsoil. Light reddish brown silty clay		
2802	Layer			0.12	Other Layer. Patch of disturbed natural – dark yellowish brown silty clay. Possible base of trackway or surface.		
2803	Layer		4	0.12	Soil spread of dark yellowish brown silty clay (2803) was found, containing charcoal specks, patches of gravel and small limestone fragments, interpreted as the base layer of a trackway.	2 pot sherds	1050-1300 AD

Trench 29							
General description					Orientation Trench extended to form a T-shape.		SW-NE & NW-SE
Trench revealed medieval stonework forming one or possibly two buildings, overlain by a demolition layer. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer		2	0.3	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty clay		
2901	Layer		2	0.1	Subsoil. 0.03m over stonework. Dark reddish brown silty clay		
2902	Layer				Natural. Yellowish brown clay with grey mottling		
2903	Layer				Other Layer. Cleaning layer off stones/structure in E arm of Trench 29	35 sherds of Minety ware	1150-1300 AD
2904	Layer		2	0.04	Remains of a trackway/metalled surface	24 pot sherds, mostly from one Minety ware vessel	1150-1300 AD
2905	Structure				Wall. Medieval stone structure		
2906	Structure				Structure. Possible flagstone floor within a room of building 2905		
2907	Layer				Layer. Demolition spread on top of surface 2906	1 pot sherd 7 horseshoe nails 1 standard nail	1100-1500 AD 1250-1350 AD Medieval
2908	Layer				Floor or yard surface. Gravel surface butting or equivalent to surface 2912, 2913 and 2914		
2909	Layer				Layer. Demolition deposit overlying walls 2910 and 2911.	1 pot sherd 1 horseshoe nail 1 horseshoe fragment 4 standard nails	1100-1500 AD Medieval 1250-1500

							Medieval
2910	Structure				Wall. Possible E-W wall		
2911	Structure				Wall. NE-SW wall extending halfway across trench.		
2912	Layer				Floor Surface. Possible floor surface	10 pot sherds	1250-1350 AD
2913	Layer				Gravel floor or yard surface, probably equivalent to 2908		
2914	Layer				Gravel floor or yard surface, probably equivalent to 2908		

Trench 30

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Additional trench excavated between Trenches 7 and 8 to clarify the extent and nature of features in Trench 8. Trench revealed 2x boundary ditches and a spread of stony material. Also revealed 5x NW-SE furrows. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of silty clay.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer		2	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.		
3001	Layer		2	0.2	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay		
3002	Layer		2		Natural. Light to mid orangish grey silty clay		
3003	Cut				Ditch		
3004	Layer				Other Layer. Stone filled layer - possible demolition	53 pot sherds	1250-1300 AD
3005	Fill	3003			Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch	24 pot sherds	1250-1300 AD
3006	Cut				Ditch. Ditch cut		
3007	Fill	3006			Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch	4 pot sherds	1050-1300 AD
3008	Cut				Ditch. Cut of ditch		
3009	Fill	3008			Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch	6 pot sherds	1050-1300 AD
3010	Cut				Ditch. Cut of ditch		
3011	Fill	3010			Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch	4 pot sherds	1100-1300 AD
3012	Cut				Ditch. Cut of ditch		
3013	Fill	3012			Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch	3 pot sherds	1250-1350 AD
3014	Cut				Ditch. Cut of ditch		
3015	Fill	3014			Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch	7 pot sherds	1100-1300 AD
3016	Layer				Other Layer. Stone filled layer	12 sherds	1100-1300 AD
3017	Group				Ditch. Ditch group - earlier boundary ditch		
3018	Group				Ditch. Ditch group - later ditch		

3019	Group				Other Layer. Group for Stone filled layer including 3004 and 3016		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Medieval Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 305 sherds (2569g) of pottery were recovered from 21 contexts. All of this is of medieval date.

B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is in a fragmentary condition, but many large fresh sherds are present including one vessel profile.

B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg decoration etc). Fabric codes referred to are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and is therefore only summarised below.

Description

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
804	c1150-1300?	50	327	All in a local variant of Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, c 900-1250) - similar to that from Leckhampton (Glos). Or possibly early Minety-type ware (Oxford Fabric OXBB)? Orange-brown to dark grey fabric with grey core and abundant rounded oolitic limestone tempering (often dissolved from surfaces). Moderate coarse rounded red-brown ironstone inclusions. Includes 4x cpot (cooking pot) rims - 4 with simple thickened rims with thumbed decoration and one with plain vertical rim. No evidence of wheel turning or glaze. Some sagging base sherds, 1 flat base with vertical/inward-sloping wall (West Country dish? after c1150)
805	c1150-1300?	15	91	All local OXAC-type including 2 near-flat or slightly sagging bases with sharp basal angle and inward-leaning walls - most probably West Country dishes (c1150+). Remainder = body sherds (bos)
807	c1050-1300?	1	26	Fresh OXAC sagging jar (or West Country dish?) base
808	c1050-1300?	1	14	Bo OXAC
810	c1050-1300?	6	5	Scraps OXAC
812	c1050-1300?	42	145	Scrappy bos OXAC incl. 5x cpot rims - simple, 1 thumbed. One larger cpot bo is clearly from a handmade/built vessel
813	c1150-1300?	4	45	OXAC/OXBB. 2x abraded cpot rims incl. broad flanged/hooked rim of more developed look - possibly after c1150 & possibly wheel/turntable finished? The other rim of more beaded/thickened form. Sag base
2803	c1050-1300?	2	14	OXAC incl. sag base

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
2903	c1150-1300?	35	330	All probably Minety ware (OXBB). Similar to local OXAC but includes many harder-fired sherds with very pale brown to grey-brown surfaces and 7 sherds with a reduced light greenish glaze incl. 1 from a jug and others with int glaze probably from jars or bowls. Forms incl. a complete tripod foot (unglazed) probably from a tripod pitcher & a bo with diagonal bands of combed decoration - typical of jugs/pitchers & some jars, plus a bo with traces of a thumbed strip. 2 joining rim sherds from a wide conical bowl with a heavy squared/collared rim with thumbed dec along the lower rim projection - vessel possibly turntable or wheel-turned? Latter collared rim probably after c1150. Other bos probably from handmade/turntabled vessels. 5 joining sherds from the stub/stump of a ?jug handle. 1x plain everted rim (diam c90mm) probably from a jug.
2904	c1150-1300?	24	178	Mostly 1 Minety ware vessel = joining sherds from shoulder/neck of jug/pitcher with horizontal bands of combed decoration - typical of tripod pitchers - and with splashes of decayed greenish-yellow glaze. Similar in character to sherds from 2903 (and same date?). OXBB sagging base sherd (abraded) in duller greyer fabric with possible trace of tripod foot attachment. Probable jug rim - unglazed with vertical neck and thickened flat top (TFT, almost hammerhead form). 2 bos in local OXAC type or coarse OXBB?
2907	c1100-1500	1	9	Fresh bo OXBB jug/jar. Unglazed
2909	c1100-1500	1	5	Fresh basal bo OXBB jar/bowl with decayed int glaze. Probably sooted ext
2912	c1250-1350?	10	64	All OXBB. Incl. fresh jug bo with int greenish glaze and traces of incised horiz. line dec ext (minimum 2 lines), the vessel appears to be wheel-turned (ie. after c1240/50). 1 other bo with ext glaze. 2 joining rims from unglz jug with simple TFT rim, sooted ext. Some bos abraded
3004	c1250-1300/25?	53	481	All OXBB. Incl. 8x jar/cpot rims from 6 vess. Some with typical everted/rolled Minety-type rims - the largest rim/shoulder sherd is definitely wheel-turned & sooted ext from use. One of the rolled cpot rims has typical greenish glaze on inside of rim/neck. Joining rim/shoulder sherds from jar with flanged rim with ext lip or hook with traces of incised diagonal line dec ext and traces of glaze on rim/neck. Also 3x base sherds possibly from West Country dishes (2 vess)? 1x bo from jug/pitcher with spaced horiz groove dec. Sagging base frags from cpots with int glaze, Mix of fresh larger and abraded smaller sherds.
3005	c1250-1300/25?	24	441	All OXBB. Incl. 4x jar/cpot rims from 2 vess. Latter incl. fresh profile (6 sherds) shallow wheel-turned cook pot with everted rolled/sickle-like rim and sagging base (sooted ext) and shallow grooves on shoulder, unglazed. The other, large cpot has a hooked/flanged rim and appears to be handmade. 1x basal bo with traces of glaze int. 1x small base sherd from West Country dish? 1x reduced jug/jar bo (OXAC/OXBB?) with combed wavy band dec. 2x small bos with incised horiz. line dec - jugs? Some OXAC/OXBB bos.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
3007	c1050-1300?	4	31	3x greyish OXAC/OXBB incl. sagging base. 1x light brown bo OXAC/OXBB
3009	c1050-1300?	6	42	1 vessel. OXAC/OXBB. Handmade Cpot with plain everted thickened rim - slightly flattened top
3011	c1100-1300?	4	54	2x probable OXBB - light brown – incl. flat/slightly sagging base and much of wall from a definite West Country dish. 2x scraps darker OXAC/OXBB
3013	c1250-1350?	3	17	1x bo wheel-turned(?) OXBB bo. 2x OXAC/OXBB incl. sagging cpot base
3015	c1100-1300?	7	27	2x small bos/scraps light grey OXBB incl. 1 with traces combed band dec. 5x OXAC/OXBB incl. 2 bos with combed horiz. band dec. 1x sag base
3016	c1100-1300?	12	223	Mainly OXBB - but some low-fired OXAC/OXBB. 1x spalled frag light brown OXBB from the underside of a jug strap handle with traces of glaze. Large frag from rim (& joining bo) of large handmade cookpot with everted/rolled rim with hook underneath (undercut) with combed diagonal bands of dec on body & slight traces of glaze on int rim surface (low-fired grey-brown OXBB fabric, sooted ext). 1x OXAC/OXBB jug strap handle - complete section. 1x simple beaded rim from OXAC/OXBB cpot rim. Other bos OXAC/OXBB
TOTAL		**305**	**2569**	

Table 1. Description of post-Roman pottery by context

Discussion

B.1.4 The pottery comprises ordinary domestic pottery typical of this part of Wiltshire between the 11th and the 13th/14th centuries. The only ceramic 'tradition' here comprises a limited range of fabrics all tempered, to varying degrees, with rounded inclusions of oolitic limestone, quartz sand and sparse-moderate inclusions of red-brown ironstone. These are almost certainly of fairly local origin and appear to be represent a continuum with the earlier fabric or ware developing into the later one – which is sometimes glazed. In most cases the limestone inclusions have dissolved-out from the surfaces of the vessels (possibly due to acid soil conditions) and the distinction between one fabric and the other is sometimes unclear – particularly for smaller, abraded or heat-altered sherds.

B.1.5 The earlier ware falls within a broad tradition of oolitic limestone-tempered pottery known as Cotswold-type ware (Fabric code OXAC). Vessels are handmade but sometimes with turntable-finished rims and are relatively low-fired, and the firing colour is usually a dull grey to brown, though vessels sooted from use can be dark grey in places. At Oxford the date range of this type is c 900-1250 but it mostly occurs there between c 1050-1250 (Mellor 1994). The Cotswold-type ware tradition has many sources in the wider Cotswolds area including Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and probably Warwickshire. In these areas the dating may vary somewhat from that at Oxford, with survival into the early 14th century being likely in some places (though by this date it should occur alongside local/regional glazed wares – particularly sandy ware fabrics). Cooking pots and bowls, some with thumbed rims, are common in the assemblage here but close dating of these conservative forms is not usually possible.

Several flattish base sherds with markedly inward-leaning walls appear to be from so-called 'West Country' dishes - squat conical bowl-like vessels with a series of perforations through the wall. The precise function of West Country dishes (or 'incurved dishes') remains unknown but the sooting on some examples suggests some kind of specialised cooking function. They are found over a wide area of Wessex and south Wales in 12th- and 13th-century contexts and were produced by several different ceramic industries within this area (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 125). Sherds of these occur here both in OXAC and Minety-type ware (OXBB, see below), although no perforated examples were noted. In the contexts they occur in, the dating can very probably be placed after c 1150 and it could be that most of the OXAC here dates from the 12th century onwards – rather than earlier.

B.1.6 The later, and commonest, ware here is Minety-type ware (OXBB) which was produced in and around the village of that name in north-west Wiltshire – just c 10km north-east of Malmesbury (Mellor 1994; Cotter 2017). This has a date range of c 1100-1550 at the widest. It probably developed out of the local Cotswold-type tradition and the two were concurrent in some areas for up to a couple of centuries. Separation of the two wares – particularly unglazed vessels – is not always clear cut, as here. Minety ware has a harder-fired fabric than OXAC and tends to be more oxidised (light brown to orange-brown). New vessel forms such as jugs and tripod pitchers with incised or combed decoration make their appearance and these are often glazed. Tripod pitchers in the Wessex area are thought to date mainly from the later 11th century through to around c 1250 or c 1300 at the latest. A complete tripod foot from a Minety ware tripod pitcher is present here in context 2903 and another possible example occurs in 2904. Sherds with incised or combed decoration typical of tripod pitchers and large early jugs (or pitchers) also occur in several contexts. West Country-style dishes in Minety ware (probably no later than c 1300/25) were also noted in one or two contexts. A wide conical bowl with a markedly squared/collared rim was noted in 2903 and probably dates after c 1150.

B.1.7 Cooking pots in Minety ware remain the commonest form present and occur in many contexts. These typically have broad 'rolled' and downturned rims sometimes with greenish glaze on the upper surface/neck of the rim. One large, handmade, cooking pot from 3016 has these features and is also decorated with combed diagonal bands on the body – another typical feature of this ware. After c 1250 most Minety ware vessels were fully turned on a fast potter's wheel and the presence of some fully wheel-turned vessels places these contexts after this date. A complete (reconstructable) profile of a wheel-turned shallow cooking pot was recovered from context 3005.

B.1.8 The absence of any regional 'high medieval' glazed sandy wares (eg Laverstock ware jugs, c 1225/1250+) may indicate that the features here date from a period before such wares were in wide circulation, but it could also be a reflection of low status, or the predominance of kitchen wares. Even without these later glazed wares, the assemblage here appears to have a strong 12th-13th century focus, with some possible continuation into the early 14th century.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.1.9 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. Given the reasonable size, and predominantly late medieval to early post-medieval dating of the assemblage, it recommended that it should all be retained and properly catalogued at some point in the future. Some vessels could also be illustrated.

B.2 Metalwork

By Anni Byard

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 Fourteen iron objects weighing 126g were recovered from two contexts during the evaluation. The objects were identified and recorded in an Excel database and are presented below in tabulated form.

Results

B.2.2 Seven horseshoe nails were recovered from context 2907. These are a distinctive type, having a rectangular type and expanded head with 'ears' that fit into the countersunk holes in a horseshoe. They are considered a transitional type, and date from c. AD 1250 – 1350. The eighth nail from this context is not a horseshoe nail, and although it is missing its head, it is likely of a similar date and could have been used in a variety of settings.

B.2.3 A fragment of a horseshoe heel dating *c* 1250-1500 was recovered from context 2909. The fragment retains one rectangular and countersunk nail hole and a rounded heel rather than a calkin. Although its complete form cannot be ascertained, it is likely of later 13th or 14th century date. The same is likely for the horseshoe nail recovered from the same context.

B.2.4 Four general nails were also recovered from context 2909, all medieval in date.

Context	SF no.	Metal	Count	Weight (gms)	Date	Identification
2907	1	Fe	3	11.4	1250-1350	Horseshoe nail
2907	1	Fe	3	7.7	1250-1500	Horseshoe nail
2907		Fe	1	4.8	1250-1350	Horseshoe nail
2907		Fe	1	5.9	Med/PM	Nail
2909	2	Fe	1	25.7	1250-1500	Horseshoe fragment
2909	3	Fe	1	24.3	Med	Nail
2909	4	Fe	1	27.8	Med	Nail
2909	5	Fe	1	5.5	Med	Nail
2909	6	Fe	1	9.7	Med	Nail
2909		Fe	1	3.2	Med	Horseshoe nail

Table 1: Metalwork assemblage

Recommendations and retention

The horseshoe fragment and horseshoe nails are distinctive types. While there is little potential for further work with this small assemblage the finds should be acknowledged in any future reports. The assemblage should be retained.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Adrienne Powell

Introduction

C.1.1 A total of 32 animal bone fragments (refitted count) weighing 257g was recovered by hand excavation from nine contexts all dated by associated ceramics as medieval.

C.1.2 The assemblage has been recorded in full using the diagnostic zone system of Serjeantson (1996). The condition of the bone has been graded on a scale of 1 = very good, with little post-depositional alteration, to 5 = very poor, just identifiable as 'bone'. Tooth wear was recorded following Grant (1982). Gnawmarks were categorised as carnivore (probably dog) or rodent. Butchery marks and pathologies were noted and described where present. Measurements were taken following Driesch (1976) and Davis (1992). Full records will be available with the site archive.

Description

C.1.3 The bone is typically in good to very good condition, except in context 3015 where the bone is in moderate condition. Dog gnawing was evident on 13 fragments, a high incidence although it is mainly in the form of light scoring rather than severe damage. Only one specimen of burnt bone is present.

C.1.4 Half of the fragments could be identified to species level with both cattle and sheep/goat present and occurring in similar frequencies (Table 1). Both taxa produced ageable specimens; these include a cattle M_3 at wear stage 'd' which would have come from an animal between 30 and 36 months old, a prime age for slaughtering for meat, and a sheep/goat M_3 at stage 'g' which would have come from a mature animal between four to six years old. Three butchered specimens were noted: a cattle ulna and calcaneum, and a sheep/goat scapula all had knife cuts consistent with disarticulation.

Conclusions

C.1.5 This small assemblage is not in itself very informative but does demonstrate that bone recovered from future excavation at the site is likely to be in good condition with potential to inform on animal husbandry and site economy.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.1.6 The bone has been fully recorded but should be retained pending the completion of the project.

Context	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Unidentified	Total
804	1	1				2
812	1			1		2
2903	2	1	1	1	1	6
2909	1	2		2		5
2912		1				1
3004	2	1			1	4
3005					1	1
3013		1				1
3015	2				8	10
Total	9	7	1	4	11	32

Table 2: Animal bone by context

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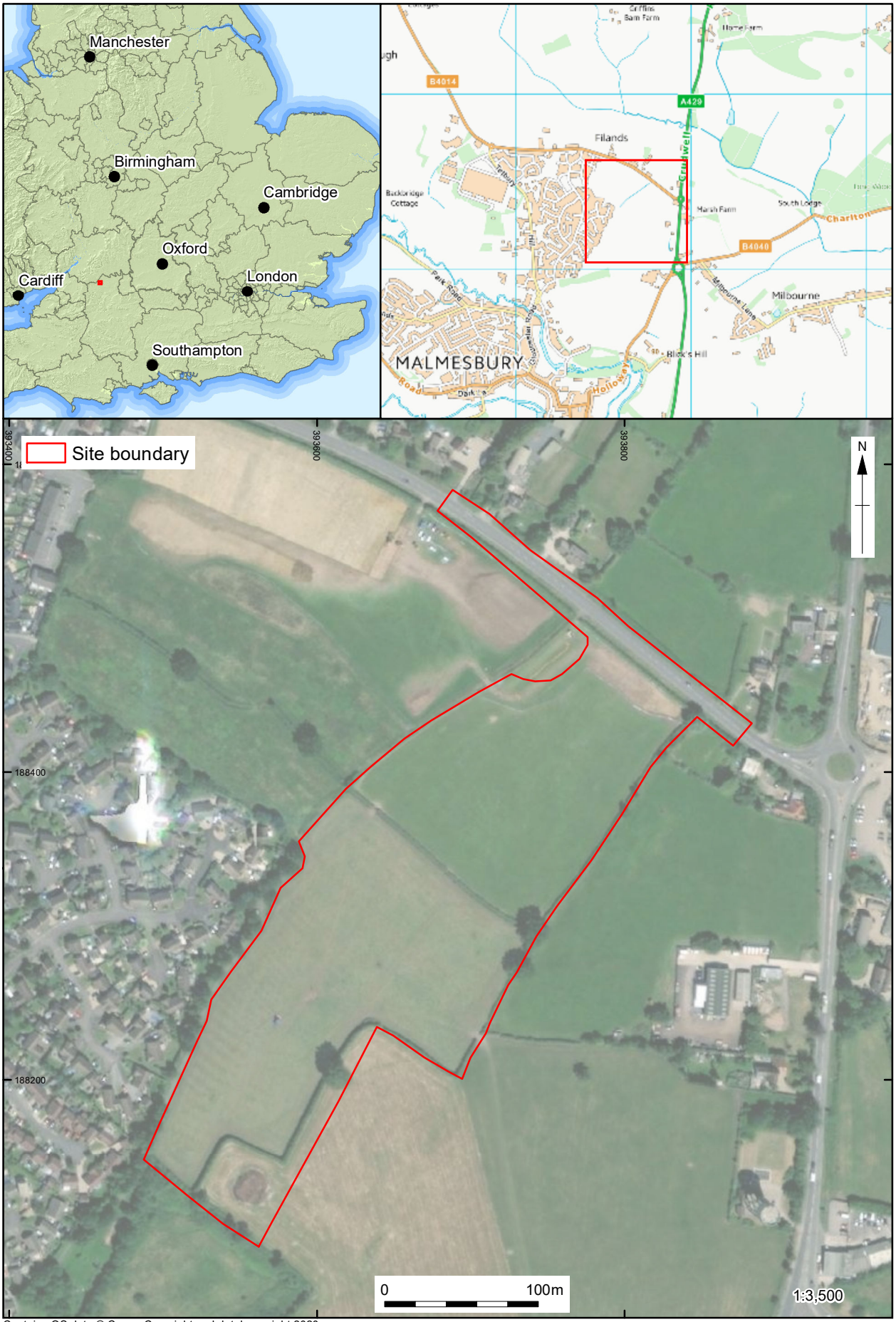

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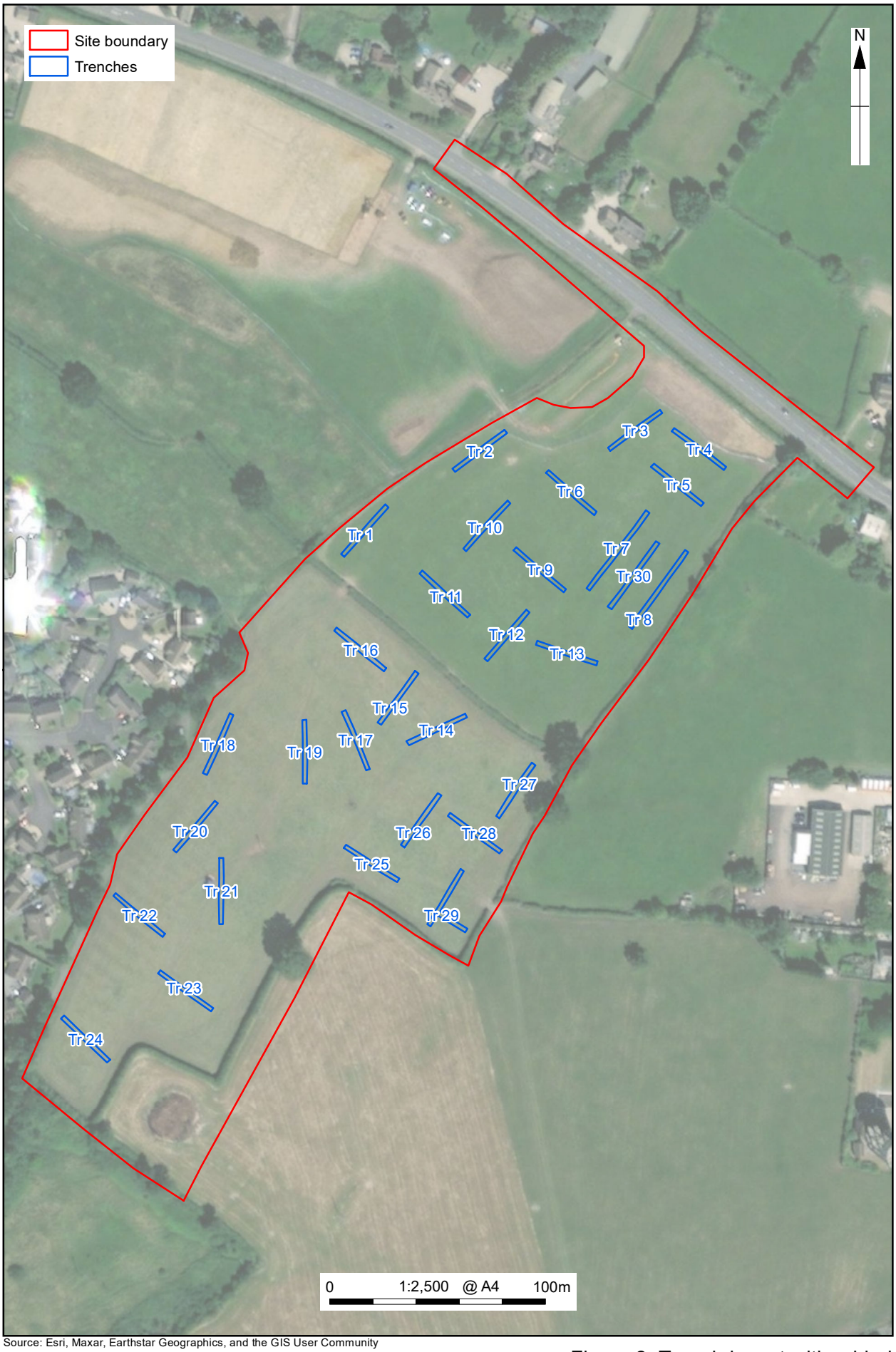
Figure 1: Site location map



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Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2: Trench layout with added trench and extensions

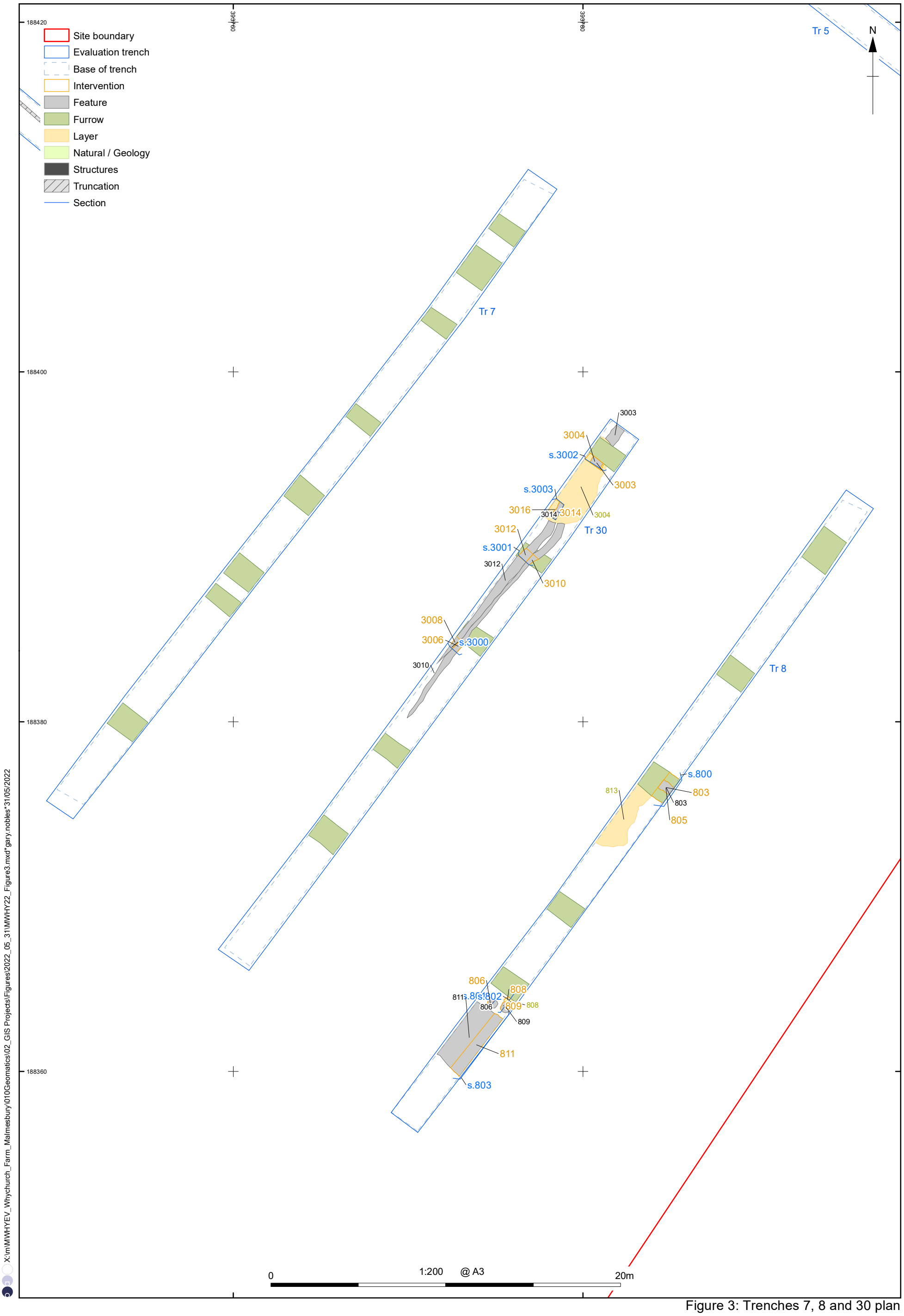

Figure 3: Trenches 7, 8 and 30 plan

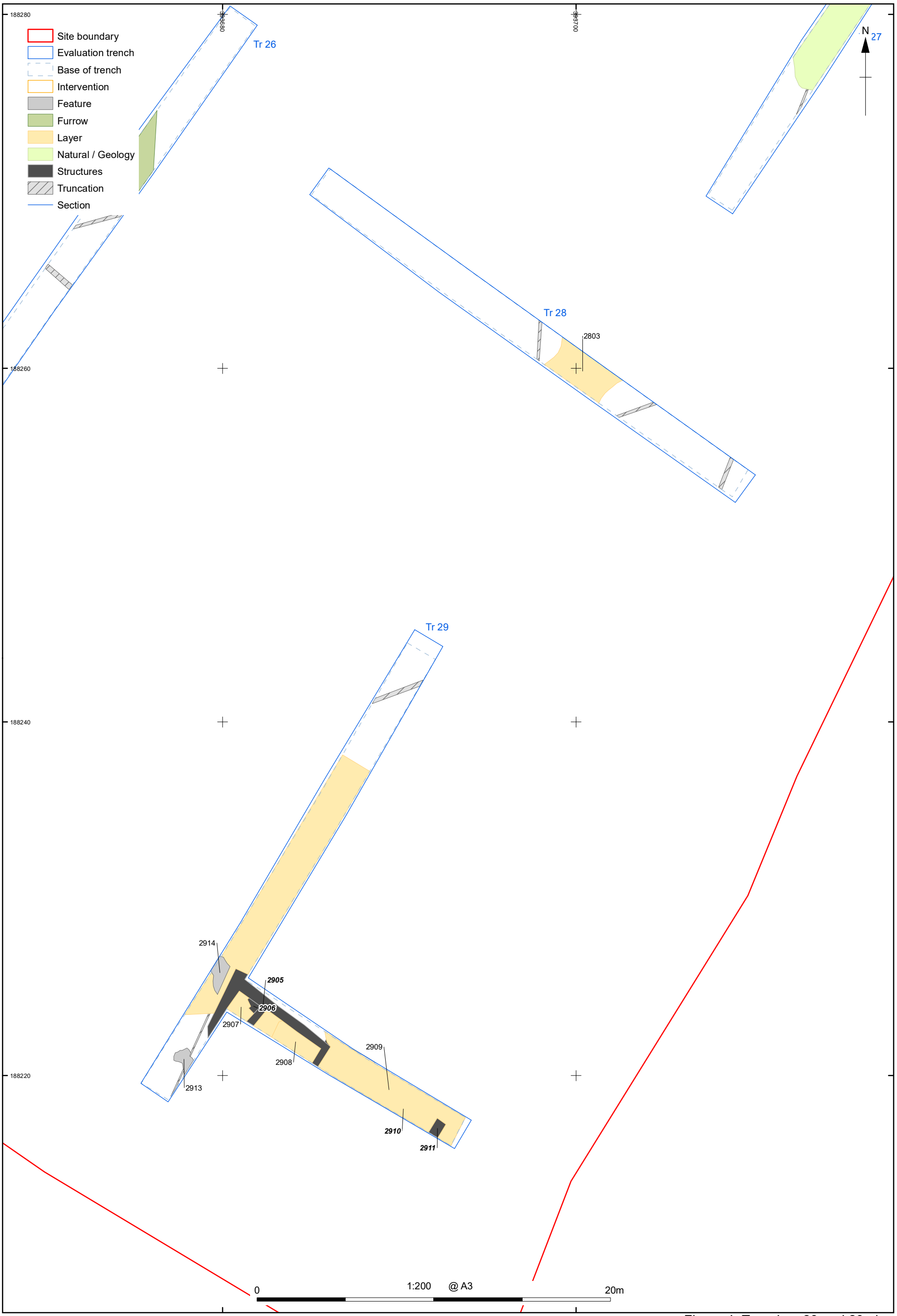

Figure 4: Trenches 28 and 29 plan

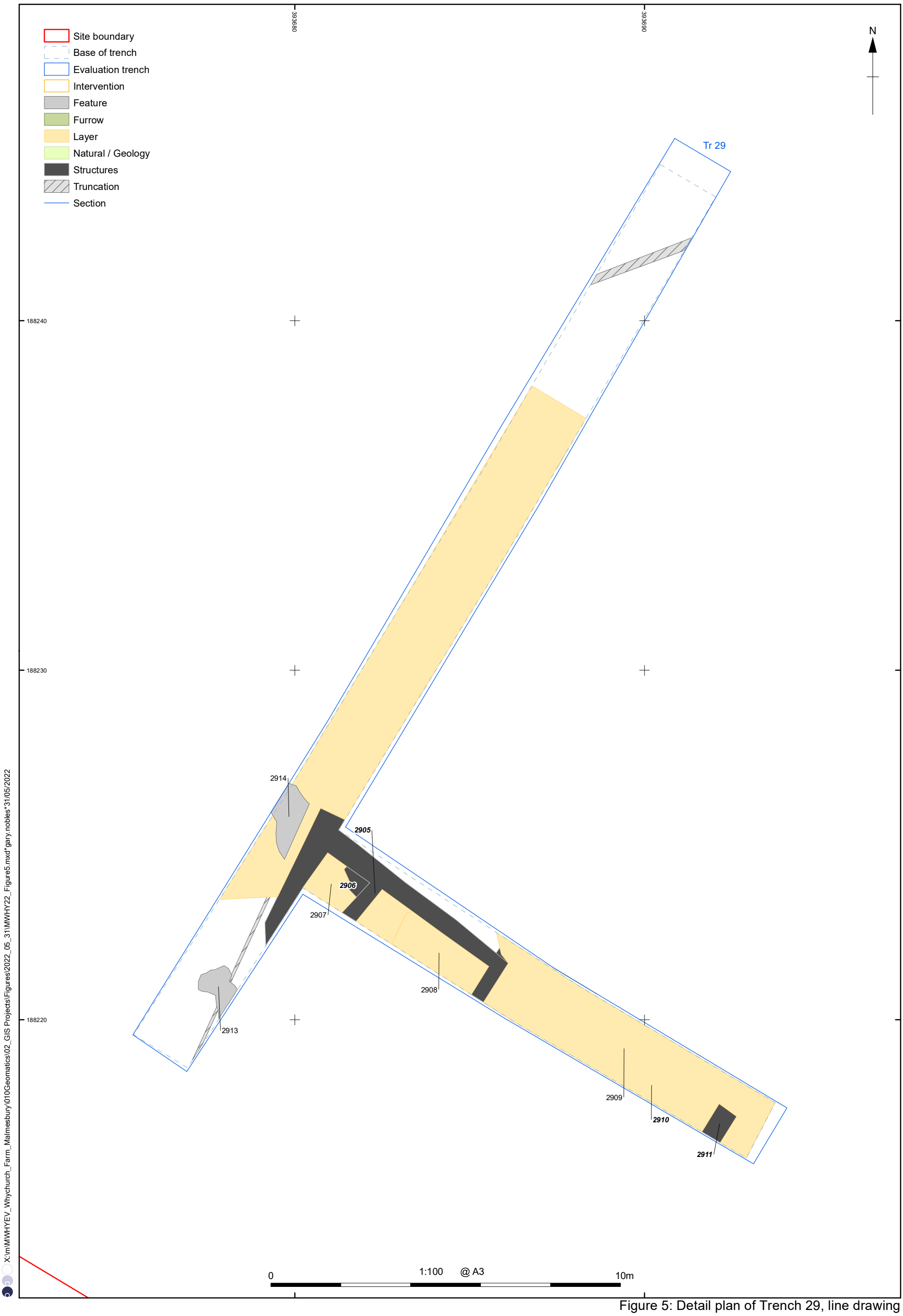

Figure 5: Detail plan of Trench 29, line drawing

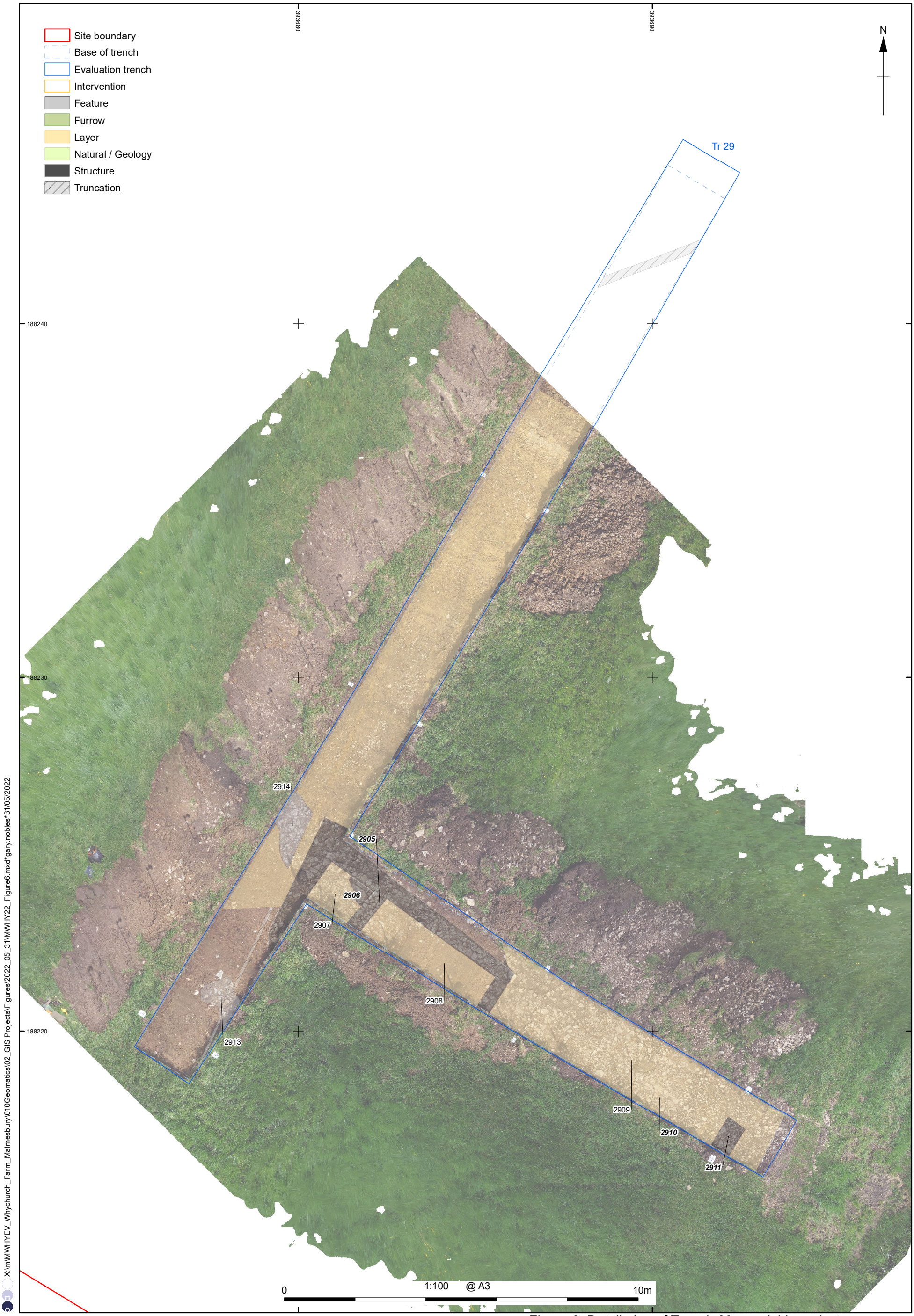

Figure 6: Detail plan of Trench 29, overlaid on photogrammetry

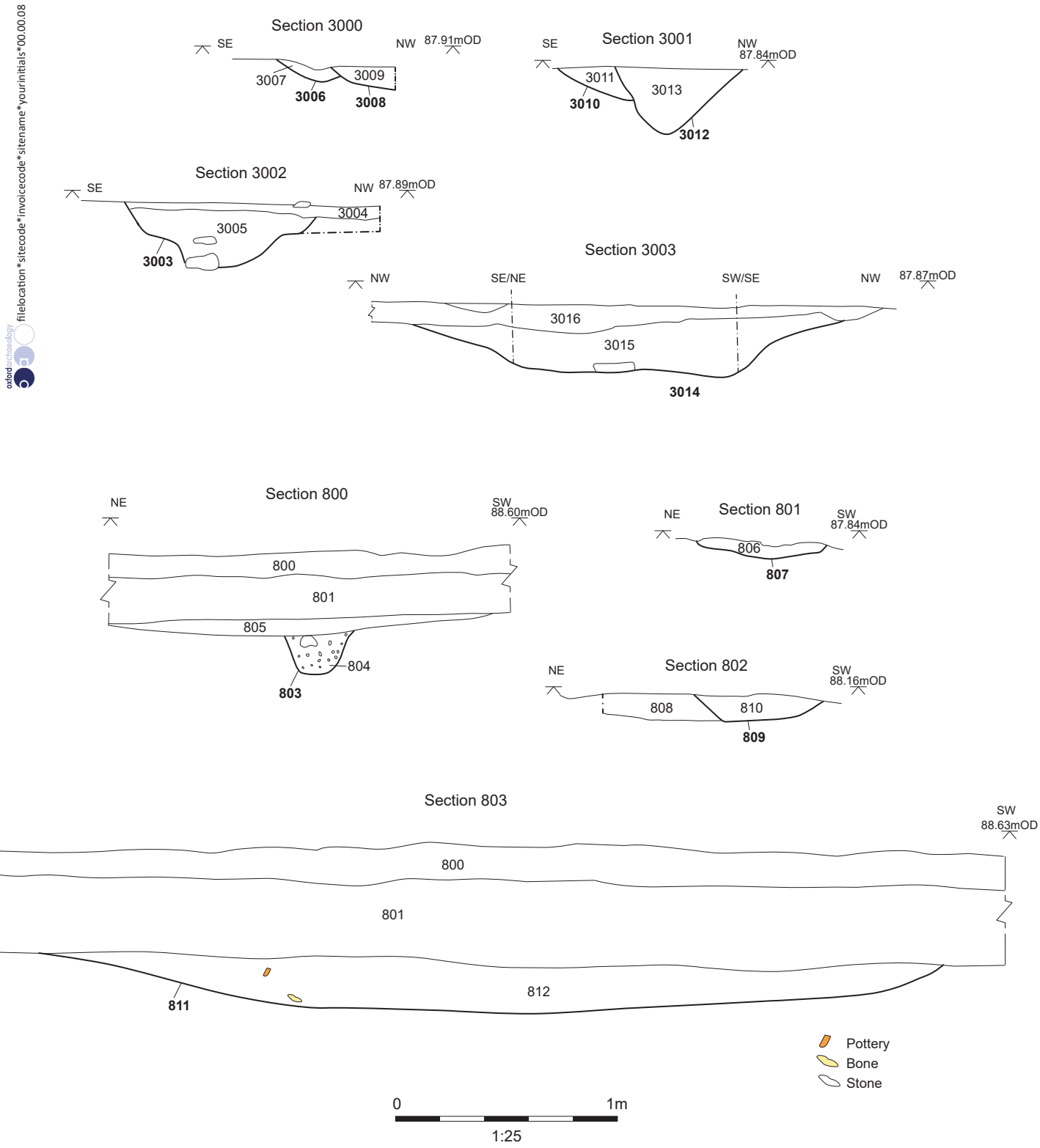

Figure 7 : Sections 3000, 3002, 3003, 800, 801, 802 and 803

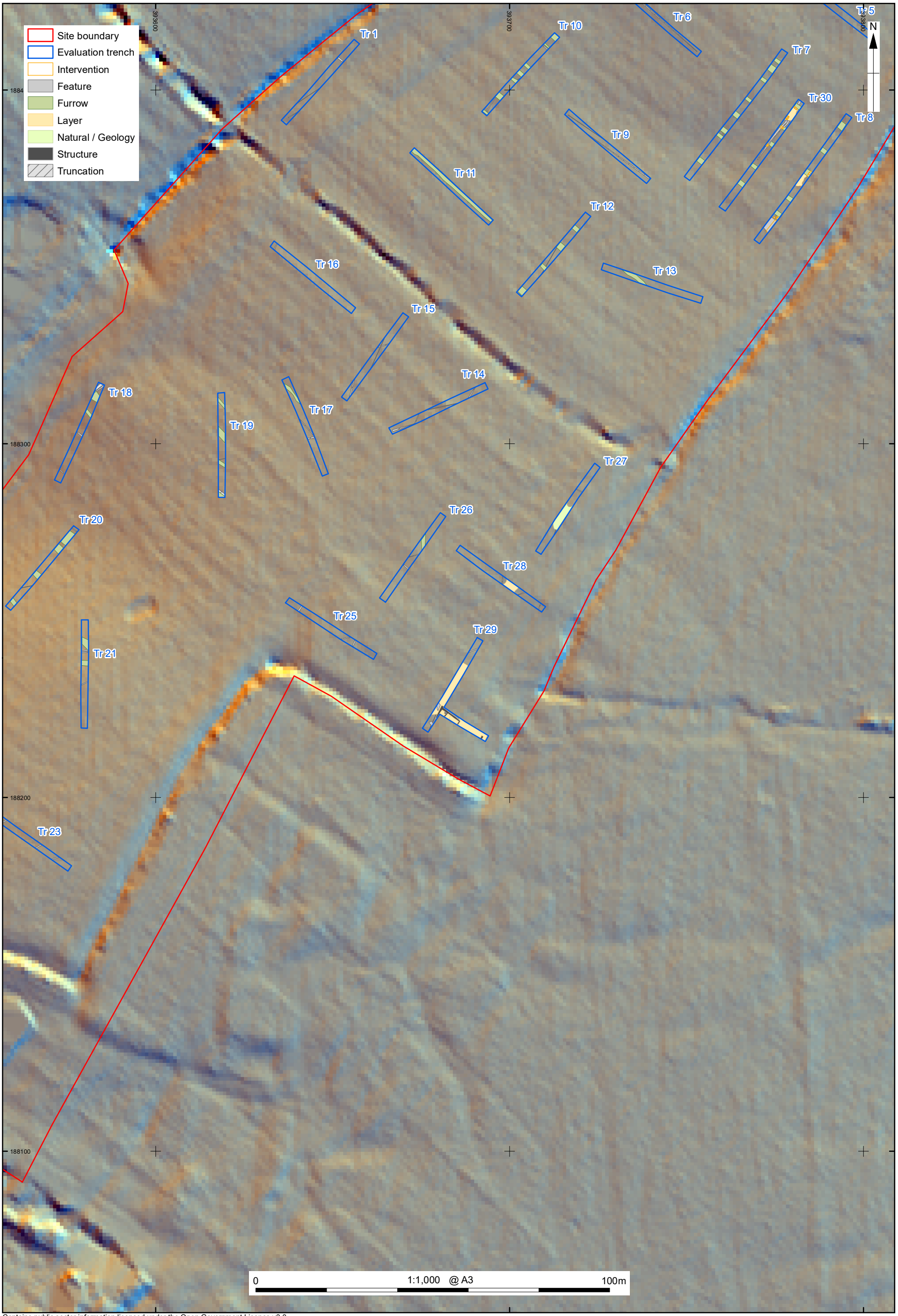

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Figure 8: Trench results overlaid on Lidar plot
1m DTM Multi-Hillshade

Plate 1: Trench 19 showing furrows image

Plate 2: Trench 26 showing a blank trench

Plate 3: Trench 28 showing spread 2803

Plate 4: Trench 30 General view looking Sw showing features

Plate 5: Trench 30 showing section 3002 with spread 3019 and ditch cut 3003

Plate 6: Trench 29 showing wall 2904, floor 2906 and demolition spread 2907

Plate 7: trench 29 showing stone spread 2909 and walls 2910 and 2911

oxfordarchaeology

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44(0)1865 263800
f: +44 (0)1865 793496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44(0)1524 541000
f: +44(0)1524 848606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44(0)1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com