Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth
101	Dark brown clay loam, moderate flint gravel with occasional large nodules	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.30 m
102	Reddish-brown clay loam, frequent flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.30-0.45 m
103	Chalk	Natural Chalk	0.45 m+

Table 1: Trench 1 soil profile

Wellsite

Five machine trenches (Trenches 2–6), 30 m long by 1.5 m wide were excavated within the area of the proposed wellsite (Figure 3). The trenches were located specifically to evaluate some of the geophysical anomalies identified as potentially archaeological in origin and to evaluate some of the apparently blank areas between.

The soil profiles for each trench are summarised in Table 2 and the archaeological features are described individually on a trench-by-trench basis below. The soil descriptions are listed in Appendix 1.

Plate 1:Feature 205 and ditch 208 in east end of Trench 2

Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth
Trench 2			
201	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, frequent flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.35 m
202	Yellowish-brown silty clay loam, frequent flint gravel	Interface between 201 and 203	0.35-0.48 m
203	Yellowish-brown silty clay, frequent flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.48m+
Trench 3			
301	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.30 m
302	Reddish-brown clay, common flint gravel, occ. sandy patches	Natural subsoil	0.30 m+
Trench 4			
401	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.40 m
402	Reddish-brown clay, common flint gravel, occ. sandy patches	Natural subsoil	0.40 m+
Trench 5			
501	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.30 m
502	Yellowish- to reddish-brown silty clay with moderate flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.30 m+
Trench 6			
601	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.30 m
602	Yellowish- to reddish-brown silty clay with moderate flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.30 m+

Table 2: Wellsite trenches soil profiles

Trench 2

Two archaeological features and two other possibly natural features were revealed at the eastern and western ends of Trench 2 (Figure 4; Plates 1 and 2).

At the eastern end of the trench, was a small ditch (208), aligned *c.* WNW-ESE, and filled with greyish-brown silt (207). No artefacts were recovered from it.

Ditch 208 cut a large, apparently sub-circular, feature (205) that extended beyond the eastern and southern limits of the trench (Figures 4 and 5). The sides of this feature were poorly defined and irregular. Two fills were identified, disturbed natural (206) in the centre and a similar darker and more greyish layer (204) around it. This feature has been interpreted a tree hole or similar disturbance, of uncertain date.

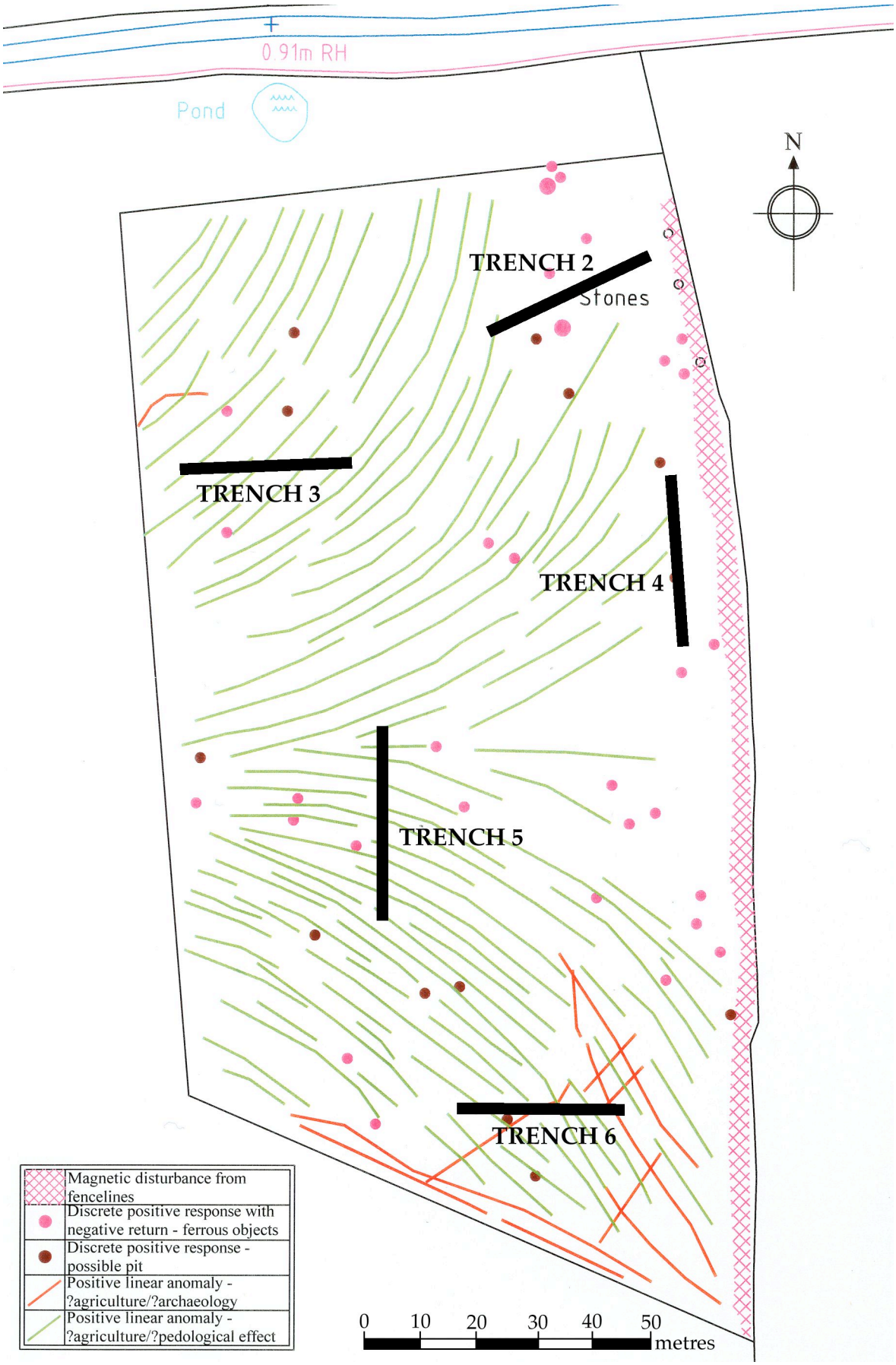

Figure 3: Location of wellsite area trenchess plotted against the geophysical plot

At the extreme western end of the trench was another ditch (210), aligned c. NW-SE (Figure 4; Plate 3). This ditch had an open 'U' profile (Figure 5) and was much clearer and more substantial than the ditch to the east. Two fills were recognised within the ditch, the lower (211) derived from the weathering of the subsoil through which the ditch was cut, whilst the upper (209) was siltier and less stony. A flint scraper was recovered from 209.

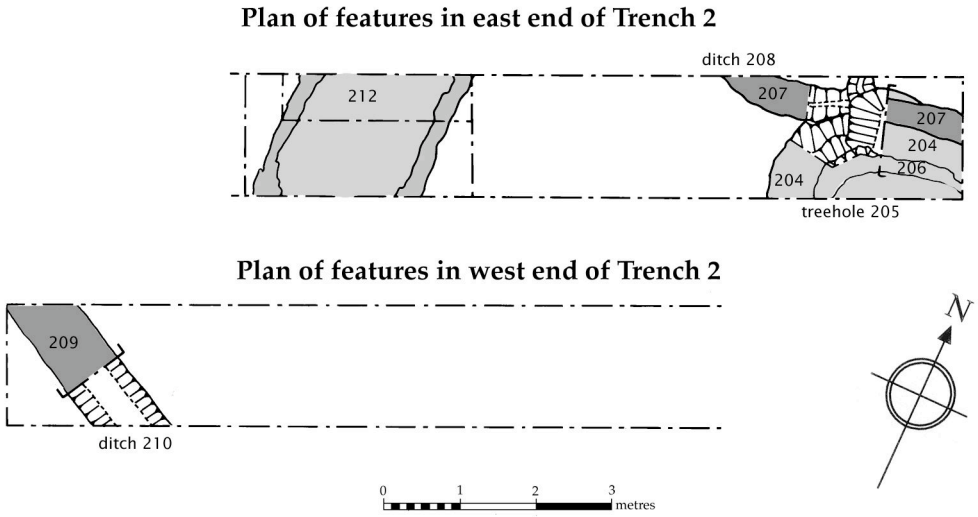

Figure 4: Plan of features in Trench 2

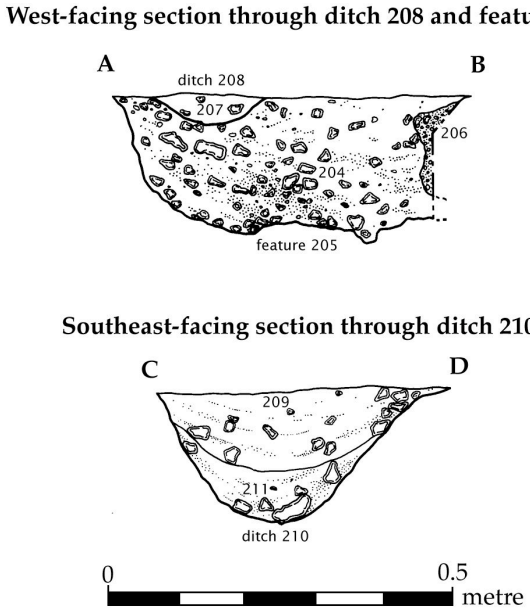

Figure 5: Sections of features in Trench 2

Plate 2: West end of Trench 2 showing ditch 210

Plate 3:South-facing section of feature 212

About 4.5 m west of feature 205 (Figure 4) was a large and somewhat amorphous feature (212) first identified by the presence of a pair of roughly parallel darker stripes visible in the top of the natural subsoil. Hand excavation of this feature failed to reveal either its full extent or depth, and a machine excavated sondage proved to be little more informative, except to confirm that this feature was in excess of 2.5 m wide and 1.25 m deep (Plate 3). The darker stripes first noticed appeared to be due to the presence of mineral (manganese) staining, perhaps occurring in bands or lenses interleaved within the natural subsoil, which, in combination with poor edge definition, rendered interpretation difficult. Visual inspection suggested that the dark colour was not due to the presence of organic material, which, coupled with the lack of artefacts of any kind, would seem to indicate that this feature is the result of natural geological processes.

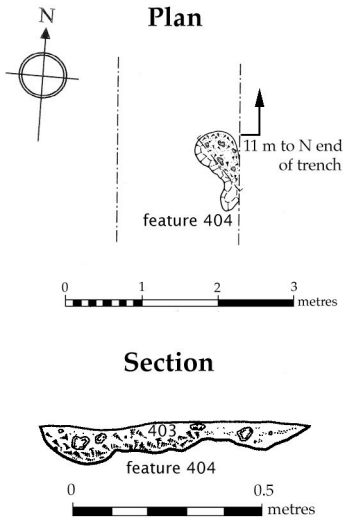

Figure 6: Plan and section of feature 404

Trench 4

A small, irregular feature was cut into the top of the natural subsoil 11 m from the northern end of the trench (404). The single fill (403) was similar to the modern ploughsoil, though contained charcoal, concentrated towards the base of the cut. No artefactual material was recovered. The similarity of the fill to the modern ploughsoil may indicate a recent origin.

Trench 5

Two small and approximately parallel linear features aligned E-W were noted *c.* 3 m from the northern end of the trench. Cleaning showed them to be mineral-stained, and very similar to the large feature in Trench 2, suggesting a natural origin. These features may correspond with anomalies detected by the geophysical survey.

Access Road

Five trenches (Trenches 7–11) 20 m long by 1.5 m wide were excavated along the line of the proposed access road (Figure 7). The soil profiles in each trench are summarised in Table 3. No archaeological features were encountered.

Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth
Trench 7			
701	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.35 m
702	Yellowish- to reddish-brown silty clay with moderate flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.35 m+
Trench 8			
801	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.30 m
802	Yellowish- to reddish-brown silty clay with moderate flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.30 m+
Trench 9			
901	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.34 m
902	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, occ. flint gravel	Colluvium	0.34-0.99 m
903	Reddish-brown clay with common flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.99 m+
Trench 10			
1001	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, moderate flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.28 m
1002	Yellowish- to reddish-brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.28 m+
Trench 11			
1101	Greyish-brown silty clay loam, common flint gravel	Modern ploughsoil	0-0.26 m
1102	Yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel	Natural subsoil	0.26 m+

Table 3: Access Road trenches soil profiles