OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation at Palm Cross Green, Modbury, Devon

on behalf of
Fuse Architecture

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oakford Archaeology on land adjacent to Palm Cross Green, Modbury, Devon (SX 6555 5180), during November 2012. The work comprised the excavation of 25 trenches totalling 635m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. These targeted a series of anomalies identified during an earlier geophysical survey and provided a spatial sample of those areas that were not available for geophysical survey.

Excavation revealed three ditches, two discrete features and the remains of a hedgebank of probable post-medieval date. All the linears and the hedgebank had been identified by the geophysical survey.

Evidence for earlier activity was confined to the centre of the site where two undated ditches were exposed. Two further undated discrete features were exposed at the eastern and north-eastern edge of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Fuse Architecture and sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation undertaken by Oakford Archaeology (OA) in November 2012 on land adjacent to Palm Cross Green, Modbury, Devon (SX 6555 5180). The work was commissioned on the advice of the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES), to provide information in support of a forthcoming planning application for housing development.

1.1 **The site**

The site (Fig. 1) lies on the north-west side of Modbury and covers an area of approximately 3.3 hectares. It consists of a large irregular field, under pasture, forming a block of land rising from a dry valley. The site lies between c. 45m and 63m AOD and the underlying geology belongs to the Meadfoot Group of Slate, Siltstone and Sandstone. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 391 to 412 million years ago in the Devonian Period, and gives rise to Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 1995).

1.2 **Archaeological and historical background**

The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment, undertaken by Revival (Salvatore 2012).

The site lies to the north-west of the historic core of the town of Modbury, although few early archaeological remains have been recorded in the vicinity. Some prehistoric and later settlement sites have been identified approximately 2km to the south-west. A curvilinear double ditched enclosure has been identified to the north of Shearlangstone Farm, while a rectilinear double-ditched enclosure has been found west of Butland Farm. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the latter. Located approximately 3km to the south-west is the Iron Age promontory fort of Oldaport Camp. Recent work has suggested that the later masonry remains at Oldaport date to the late 10th century.

Modbury is of Saxon origin, and is believed to be the site of the Hundred Moot. The town developed in the medieval period, when it held two fairs and a market. The town's main era of prosperity came between 1600 and 1800 with the development of the woollen industry.

The triangular Palm Cross Green stands at the southeast corner of the site footprint with The Green car park due north of it. From here the land drops away to the north and west. The bulk of the proposal area has probably been laid down to pasture fields since antiquity. The 1841 Tithe Map shows the field to the west as having originally been divided into a number of smaller fields. The boundaries between these fields and two further fields to their west remained in situ until at least 1972 when they were incorporated into the one large field.

A geophysical survey (gradiometer) has been undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment (Substrata 2012). This was undertaken across targeted areas of the site. A series of anomalies were identified including possible ditched enclosures and roundhouses. Evidence for iron-working in the form of possible smelting furnaces and areas of associated slag were also recorded. The interpretation of the survey is shown on Fig. 2 and the full report is included with the desk-based assessment (Revival 2012).

2. AIMS

The principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, character, extent, depth and date of archaeological features and deposits within the footprints of the proposed development. The results of the evaluation (this document), in conjunction with the desk-based assessment, will inform the planning process and may be used to formulate a programme of further archaeological work either prior to and/or during groundworks.

3. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by Oakford Archaeology (2012), submitted to and approved by DCHES prior to commencement on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

The work comprised the excavation of 25 trenches totalling 635m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. They were positioned to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey and to provide a spatial sample of those areas of the site where no anomalies were identified. Trench positions were agreed with DCHES prior to commencement on site. Localised site constraints (eg. spring) subsequently required the shortening of trench 7. Following the completion of the initial trench evaluation in area 1 (Tr 1-18) the client requested further trenching in area 2 (Tr 19-25). At a site meeting on the 8 November 2012 with Graham Tait (DCHES) consent was granted for the works. The positions of trenches as excavated are shown on Fig.2.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control using a 360^{o} mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket. Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed digital photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. RESULTS

Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs 3-6 and context descriptions for the trenches are set out in Appendix 2.

4.1 **The trenches**

Area 1

Trench 1
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 1, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Trench 2 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 3. Plates 3-4)
The trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The only archaeological features present were an approximately NE-SW aligned linear feature located towards the centre of the trench (203) and a small discrete feature (207) located towards the SE end of the trench. These cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.48m (56.68mAOD) and through subsoil at a depth of 0.2m below current ground level (57.56mAOD) respectively. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 2, Appendix 2.

Feature 203 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch was 1.25m wide and 0.55m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fills (204-6). Two consisted of a mid reddish brown silty clay deposit (204 and 206) similar to the overlying subsoil, while fill 205 consisted of redeposited natural clay. This feature probably continues into Trench 9.

Feature 207 was a possible pit, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. It was approximately 0.82m wide and 0.41m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (208). This consisted of a mid to dark reddish brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying topsoil.

Trench 3
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 3, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Trench 4
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 4, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Trench 5
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 5, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Trench 6
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 6, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Trench 7
This trench measured 15m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. A single NW-SE aligned linear feature (703) was located towards the south-eastern end of the trench. This cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.4m below current ground level (49.68mAOD). The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 7, Appendix 2. The other anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Feature 703 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.8m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (704). This consisted of a uniform mid to dark brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying topsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 8.

Trench 8
This trench measured 15m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. A single NW-SE aligned linear feature (803) was located towards the south-eastern end of the trench. This cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level (52.47mAOD). The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 8, Appendix 2. The other anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Feature 803 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.85m wide and 0.16m deep, with gently breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (804). This consisted of a uniform mid to dark brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying topsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 7 and 11.

Trench 9 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 3. Plate 5)
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. A single NE-SW aligned linear feature (903) was located towards the centre of the trench. This cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level (56.32mAOD). The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 9, Appendix 2. The other anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Feature 903 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch was 0.8m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (904). This consisted of a uniform mid reddish brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying subsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 2.

Trench 10 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 3. Plates 6-8)
The trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The only archaeological features present were two approximately NE-SW aligned linear features (1003 and 1005) located towards the centre of the trench and a small linear feature (1007) located along the SE edge of the trench. These cut through subsoil at a depth of 0.16m below current ground level (54.20mAOD, 54.23mAOD and 53.81mAOD). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 10, Appendix 2.

Feature 1003 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 1.27m wide and 0.37m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1004). This consisted of a uniform mid to dark brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying topsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 11.

Feature 1005 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.96m wide and 0.37m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1006).

This consisted of a uniform mid to dark brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying topsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 11.

Feature 1007 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This un-interpreted feature was at least 0.5m wide and 0.38m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1008). This consisted of a uniform mid reddish brown silty loam deposit similar to the subsoil.

Trench 11 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 4. Plates 9-12)
The trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. Three archaeological features present. Two NW-SE aligned linear features (1103 and 1107) and a NE-SW aligned linear (1105) were located towards the centre of the trench. These cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.5m (51.40mAOD) and through subsoil at a depth of 0.2m (51.80 and 51.48mAOD) below current ground level respectively. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 11, Appendix 2. The other anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Feature 1103 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 1.11m wide and 0.41m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1104). This consisted of a uniform mid yellowish grey silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 8 and 10.

Feature 1105 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch was 0.9m wide and 0.53m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1106). This consisted of a uniform light greyish yellow silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 12.

Feature 1107 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 1.02m wide and 0.42m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1108). This consisted of a uniform mid yellowish grey silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 10.

Trench 12 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 4. Plates 13-14)
The trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The only archaeological features present were two approximately NE-SW aligned linear features (1203 and 1205) located towards the centre of the trench. These cut through subsoil at a depth of 0.45m below current ground level (54.71mAOD and 54.36mAOD). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 12, Appendix 2.

Feature 1203 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch was 0.8m wide and 0.38m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1204). This consisted of a uniform light yellowish brown silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 11.

Feature 1205 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch was 1.01m wide and 0.42m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1206). This consisted of a uniform light to mid reddish brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying subsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 11 and 13.

Trench 13 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 5. Plate 15)
This trench measured 50m x 1.6m, was L-shaped and orientated approximately N-S and E-W and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. A single NE-SW aligned linear feature (1303) was located towards the centre of the trench. This cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level (54.33mAOD). The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 13, Appendix 2. The other anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Feature 1303 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch was 1m wide and 0.38m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1303). This consisted of a uniform light to mid reddish brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying subsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 12 and 14.

Trench 14 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 5. Plates 16-17)
The trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. The only archaeological features present were two approximately NW-SE aligned linear features (1403 and 1405) located towards the southern end of the trench. These cut through subsoil at a depth of 0.45m below current ground level (52.63mAOD and 52.42mAOD). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 14, Appendix 2.

Feature 1403 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.59m wide and 0.21m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1404). This consisted of a uniform light to mid reddish brown silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 19.

Feature 1405 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 1.32m wide and 0.77m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1406). This consisted of a uniform mid reddish brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying subsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 11 and 13.

Trench 15
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 15, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Trench 16 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 5. Plate 18)
This trench measured 50m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. A single NE-SW aligned linear feature (1603) was located towards the centre of the trench. This cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.4m below current ground level (56.45mAOD). The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 16, Appendix 2. The other anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Feature 1603 was a linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch was 0.59m wide and 0.16m deep, with gently breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1604). This consisted of a uniform mid reddish brown silty clay deposit.

Trench 17
This trench measured 50m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 17, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Trench 18
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 18, Appendix 2. The anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not present.

Area 2

Trench 19 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 6. Plates 19-20)
The trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The only archaeological features present were two approximately NW-SE aligned linear features (1903 and 1905) located towards the centre of the trench. These cut through subsoil at a depth of 0.45m below current ground level (49.37mAOD and 48.32mAOD). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 19, Appendix 2.

Feature 1903 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.62m wide and 0.16m deep, with gently breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1904). This consisted of a uniform mid reddish brown silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 14 and 21.

Feature 1905 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.92m wide and 0.28m deep, with gently breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1906). This consisted of a uniform mid reddish brown silty clay deposit similar to the overlying subsoil. This feature probably continues into Trench 14 and 21.

Trench 20
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 20, Appendix 2.

Trench 21 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 6. Plates 21-22)
The trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m. The only archaeological features present were two approximately NW-SE aligned linear features (2103 and 2105) located towards the southern end of the trench. These cut through subsoil at a depth of 0.45m below current ground level (47.62mAOD and 46.79mAOD). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 21, Appendix 2.

Feature 2103 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.82m wide and 0.25m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (2104). This consisted of a uniform light to mid yellowish grey silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 19.

Feature 2105 was a linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE. This probable ditch was 0.96m wide and 0.23m deep, with gently breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (2106). This consisted of a uniform light to mid yellowish grey silty clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 19.

Trench 22
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 22, Appendix 2.

Trench 23
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 23, Appendix 2.

Trench 24
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 24, Appendix 2.

Trench 25 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 6. Plate 23)
This trench measured 25m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. A small discrete feature (2503) located towards the centre of the trench. This cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 0.4m below current ground level (45.58mAOD). The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 25, Appendix 2.

Feature 2503 was a possible pit, with gently breaking sides and a flat base. It was approximately 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (2504). This consisted of a light greyish brown silty clay deposit.

5. DISCUSSION

The evidence for archaeological activity within the site is somewhat limited, both in terms of the number and the variety of features identified. Furthermore, the interpretation and dating of the exposed features is hampered by a general lack of pottery, lithics and other dating evidence from secure contexts. The majority of features exposed comprise ditches, and some of these, based on the limited dating evidence available, ditch profiles and alignment with existing boundaries, are of probable post-medieval date.

5.1 **Post-medieval activity**
The principal post-medieval feature identified comprises an extensive set of parallel ditches that bisect the site on a broad NW-SE alignment. These were no longer visible as a landscape feature and the evidence suggests that they were completely levelled during the late 20th century. The ditches share the same orientation as elements of the existing field system, and in particular correspond well with a boundary shown on the 1841 tithe map (Revival 2012, Fig. 5). It is likely that the ditches would have functioned with a hedgebank, although no evidence of this survived.

A further probable post-medieval agricultural ditch was identified to the south – ditch 1603. This was similar in character and profile and lay broadly perpendicular to the existing field system.

To the north, a large pit 207 was located in trench 2. Although no finds were recovered from its single fill, the feature cut through the subsoil, suggesting a post-medieval date.

The geophysical survey identified areas of high dipolar magnetic anomaly within area 1. These anomalies were interpreted as potential evidence for iron-working in the form of possible smelting furnaces and areas of associated slag. A number of these anomalies were targeted during the evaluation but no such evidence was found.

5.2 **Undated activity**
Evidence for early activity within the site is limited to three features, two ditches located in the centre of the site (trenches 2, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19 and 21) and a single pit (trench 25). In contrast to the post-medieval ditches exposed in trench 10 they were more difficult to discern due to the similarity of their fills to the surrounding deposits. They also correlate poorly with the alignments of existing hedgebanks, and the sides of the ditches were markedly more

weathered and eroded. The ditches also appeared to have suffered from a greater degree of truncation than those seen elsewhere within the site. Although no dating evidence was found, the general character of the ditches is not inconsistent with boundary features of prehistoric or later date.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The trench evaluation constitutes a thorough examination of the site, with trenches positioned to target geophysical anomalies and comprehensive sampling of those areas that were not subject to geophysical survey. Colluvial deposits (up to 0.8m deep) have been confirmed, primarily across the lower slope within area 1, but the total removal of this material within each trench has failed to reveal any evidence for buried archaeological features or deposits.

Elsewhere, the results have been very consistent, with a number of exposed features relating to elements of a post-medieval field system and a contemporary hedgebank. The alignments of many of the ditches exposed suggests that these boundaries represent, at least in part, former sub-divisions of the present fields.

Two ditches located towards the centre of the site (area 1 and 2), and a single discrete pit provide the only potential evidence for early, possibly prehistoric activity. This interpretation however is far from secure, being based solely on marked differences in the characteristics of the ditches in comparison with others exposed; it is not supported by any dating evidence.

The lack of pottery and lithic assemblage from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps further indicates that the site is, with the potential exception of the central and northern areas, archaeologically sterile.

7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive currently being held by Oakford Archaeology (project no. 1065) pending deposition with the Archaeology Data Service. Details of the investigations, including a copy of this report, have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-137566).

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APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Table 1: Trench 1

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
101	0.2-1m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
102	1+	mid greyish yellow clay	natural subsoil

Table 2: Trench 2

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
200	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
201	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
202	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
203	0.5-0.94m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
204	0.65-0.94m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [203]
205	0.5-0.74m	light yellowish grey clay and shillet	fill of ditch [203]
206	0.4-0.64m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [203]
207	0.2-0.6m	possible pit	pit
208	0.2-0.6m	mid to dark reddish brown silty clay	fill of pit [203]

Table 3: Trench 3

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
300	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
301	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
302	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 4: Trench 4

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
400	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
401	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
402	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 5: Trench 5

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
500	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
501	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
502	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 6: Trench 6

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
600	0-0.1m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
601	0.1-0.3m	light to mid grey silty loam	subsoil
602	0.3+	light yellowish grey clay and gravel	natural subsoil

Table 7: Trench 7

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
700	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
701	0.2-0.4m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
702	0.4+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
703	0.2+	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
704	0.2+	dark greyish brown silty loam	fill of ditch [703]

Table 8: Trench 8

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
800	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
801	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
802	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
803	0.2+	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
804	0.2+	dark greyish brown silty loam	fill of ditch [803]

Table 9: Trench 9

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
900	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
901	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
902	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
903	0.5-1.14m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
904	0.5-1.14m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [903]

Table 10: Trench 10

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1000	0-0.15m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1001	0.15-0.4m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1002	0.4+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
1003	0.15-0.52m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
1004	0.15-0.52m	mid to dark brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1003]
1005	0.15-0.5m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
1006	0.15-0.5m	mid to dark brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1005]
1007	0.15-0.55m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1008	0.15-0.55m	mid reddish brown silty loam	fill of ditch [1007]

Table 11: Trench 11

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1100	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1101	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1102	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
1103	0.2-0.62m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
1104	0.2-0.62m	mid to dark brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1103]
1105	0.5-1.02m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1106	0.5-1.02m	light greyish yellow silty clay	fill of ditch [1105]
1107	0.2-0.6m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
1108	0.2-0.6m	mid to dark brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1105]

Table 12: Trench 12

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1200	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1201	0.2-0.45m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1202	0.45+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
1203	0.45-0.81m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1204	0.45-0.81m	light yellowish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1203]
1205	0.45-0.87m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1206	0.45-0.87m	light to mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1205]

Table 13: Trench 13

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1300	0-0.15m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1301	0.15-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1302	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
1303	0.55-0.88m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1304	0.55-0.88m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1303]

Table 14: Trench 14

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1400	0-0.15m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1401	0.15-0.45m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1402	0.45+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
1403	0.45-0.77m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1404	0.45-0.77m	light to mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1403]
1405	0.45-1.21m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1406	0.45-1.21m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1405]

Table 15: Trench 15

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1500	0-0.1m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1501	0.1-0.4m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1502	0.4+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 16: Trench 16

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1600	0-0.15m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1601	0.15-0.4m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1602	0.4+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
1603	0.4-0.56m	NE-SW aligned linear	ditch
1604	0.4-0.56m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1603]

Table 17: Trench 17

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1700	0-0.15m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1701	0.15-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1702	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 18: Trench 18

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1800	0-0.15m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1801	0.15-0.6m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1802	0.6+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 19: Trench 19

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
1900	0-0.15m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
1901	0.15-0.7m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
1902	0.7+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
1903	0.7-0.84m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
1904	0.7-0.84m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1903]
1905	0.7-0.98m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
1906	0.7-0.98m	light to mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [1905]

Table 20: Trench 20

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
2000	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
2001	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
2002	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 21: Trench 21

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
2100	0-0.16m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
2101	0.16-0.46m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
2102	0.46+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
2103	0.46-0.66m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
2104	0.46-0.66m	mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [2103]
2105	0.46-0.70m	NW-SE aligned linear	ditch
2106	0.46-0.70m	light to mid reddish brown silty clay	fill of ditch [2105]

Table 22: Trench 22

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
2200	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
2201	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
2202	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 23: Trench 23

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
2300	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
2301	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
2302	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 24: Trench 24

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
2400	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
2401	0.2-0.5m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
2402	0.5+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil

Table 25: Trench 25

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
2500	0-0.2m	dark brown silty loam	topsoil
2501	0.2-0.7m	mid reddish brown silty loam	subsoil
2502	0.7+	mid greyish yellow clay and shillet	natural subsoil
2503	0.7-0.82m	possible pit	pit
2504	0.7-0.82m	Light greyish brown silty clay	

Appendix 1:
Method statement

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Fuse Architecture and sets out the methodology to be employed during an archaeological evaluation on land at Palm Cross Green, Modbury, Devon (SX 6555 5180). The work is to be carried out in support of a planning application for the redevelopment of the site. The present document represents the 'written scheme of archaeological work' required for approval by the local planning authority prior to commencement of the development.

1.2 The site lies to the northwest of the historic core of the small town of Modbury. Of Saxon origin the town developed in the medieval period, when it held two fairs and a market. The town's main era of prosperity came between 1600 and 1800 with the development of the woollen industry.

The geology of the area is primarily of Middle and Lower Devonian grits and slates which give rise to very fertile, well drained loamy soils.

1.3 A desk-based assessment, including a geophysical survey of the site, was carried out in 2012 (Revival 2012). The geophysical survey identified a number of linear, curvilinear and sub-circular anomalies across the site which may have an archaeological origin or significance. These may represent prehistoric enclosures, field systems, settlement evidence or other potentially significant historic features

2. AIMS

2.1 The aim of the evaluation is to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the site. The trenches will be a targeted on the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform any subsequent programme of archaeological mitigation required by the Local Planning Authority.

3. METHOD

Liaison will be established with the client prior to works commencing in order to advise on OA requirements.

3.1 The evaluation will comprise the excavation of 18 trenches totalling 550m in length, with each trench 1.8m (see attached plan). Trenches have been positioned to target the various anomalies identified during the geophysics. Localised site constraints (eg. buried services, tree canopies etc.) may result in minor modifications to the trench layout.

3.2 Trenches will be CAT scanned prior to excavation and opened using a tracked or wheeled machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining will be carried out under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the site archaeologist. Excavation will continue until either the top of significant archaeological levels or natural subsoil is reached (whichever is higher), at which point machining will cease and investigation will continue by hand. If a deep sequence of layers (eg. modern dumping, alluvium and colluvium) is present, then when 1.2m depth has been reached, sondages at the ends of each trench will be excavated to establish the layer sequence.

3.3 If archaeological features are present, then hand-excavation will normally comprise:

- The full excavation of small discrete features;
- half-sectioning (50% excavation) of larger discrete features; and,
- long linear features will be excavated to sample 10-20% of their length - with hand-investigations distributed along the exposed length of any such features, specifically targeting any intersections, terminals or overlaps.

If complex or extensive archaeological deposits are exposed then their extent, nature and depth *only* will be determined by these investigations, by partially emptying more recent intrusions such as service trenches, for example. These investigations will make no attempt to fully excavate - where exposed - any such deposits.

3.4 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to excavation.

3.5 As appropriate, the environmental deposits will be assessed on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology and/or the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survive, these will be processed by AC Archaeology using the EH Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (EH CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.

3.6 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1 (*UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds (*UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.

3.7 On completion of investigations, trenches will be backfilled with the excavated material and made safe.

3.8 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below).

3.9 Should any human remains be exposed, these will initially be left *in situ.* If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site in accordance with Ministry of Justice guidelines. If required, the necessary license will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologist Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.

3.10 Should items be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3.11 The DCHES will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the planning authority and will wish to inspect the works in progress. Any amendments to the trenching plan or to any subsequent excavation plan will be agreed with him prior to implementation and completion. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with the DCHES and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

4.1 Standard OA recording and sampling procedures will be employed, consisting of:

(i) standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10,1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;

(ii) black and white print and colour digital photography;

(iii) survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;

(iv) labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be agreed with the DCHES on completion of fieldwork. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed within the trenches, then reporting will just consist of a completed county HER entry, including a plan showing location of trenches and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic

format suitable for easy incorporation into the county HER, and digital and hard copies sent to the DCC HER within 2 months of the date of completion of archaeological site work.

5.2 Should significant deposits be exposed, a summary report will be prepared. This report, if required, will be prepared within three months of the completion of the trenching. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

i) location plan;
ii) a written description of the exposed remains and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of any reported/published parallels that may assist with interpretation and understanding;
iii) plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location of any significant archaeological deposits;
iv) specialist reports as appropriate.
v) if necessary, an assessment of what further work is necessary to analyse and publish any particularly significant finds and/or results (section 5.7).

5.3 One bound and illustrated hard colour copy and a .pdf version of the summary report or reports (if required) will be produced and distributed to the Client and the DCC HER on completion of sitework within the timescale above (5.2). A copy of the report and.pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive.

5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project. This will be deposited with Plymouth Museum (accession number pending). The guidelines in the *Procedures for the Deposit of Archaeological Archives from Developer Funded Fieldwork to Exeter City Museum (2006)* will be followed.

5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within two months of the completion of site work.

5.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the "round up" section of an appropriate national journal, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.

5.7 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DCHES, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client, and the DCHES. This

will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

5.8 Any amendments to the method or timescale set out above will be agreed in writing with the DCHES before implementation.

6. COPYRIGHT

6.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

7. PROJECT ORGANISATION

7.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation,* 1994, revised 2008), plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer BA Hons AIfA.

7.2 The project will be monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by the DCHES Archaeologist, who will be informed of the progress of the work and will attend site to inspect the excavations.

7.3 Any variations to this document shall be agreed with the DCHES Archaeologist before they are carried out.

Health & Safety

7.4 All trenching works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*).

REFERENCES

Archaeological assessment of land at Palm Cross Green, Modbury, *Devon*. 2012. Revival Planning Consultancy report No. **12-01**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors
The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Historic and archaeological research: Tim Gent (Arcadia);
Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;
Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;
Building specialist: Richard Parker;

Illustrator: Sarnia Blackmore;
Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;
Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);
Environmental data: Vanessa Straker (English Heritage);
Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);
Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);
Human remains: Louise Loe (Oxford Archaeology), Charlotte Coles;
Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);
Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;
Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);
Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);
Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum);
Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);
Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);
Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);
Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

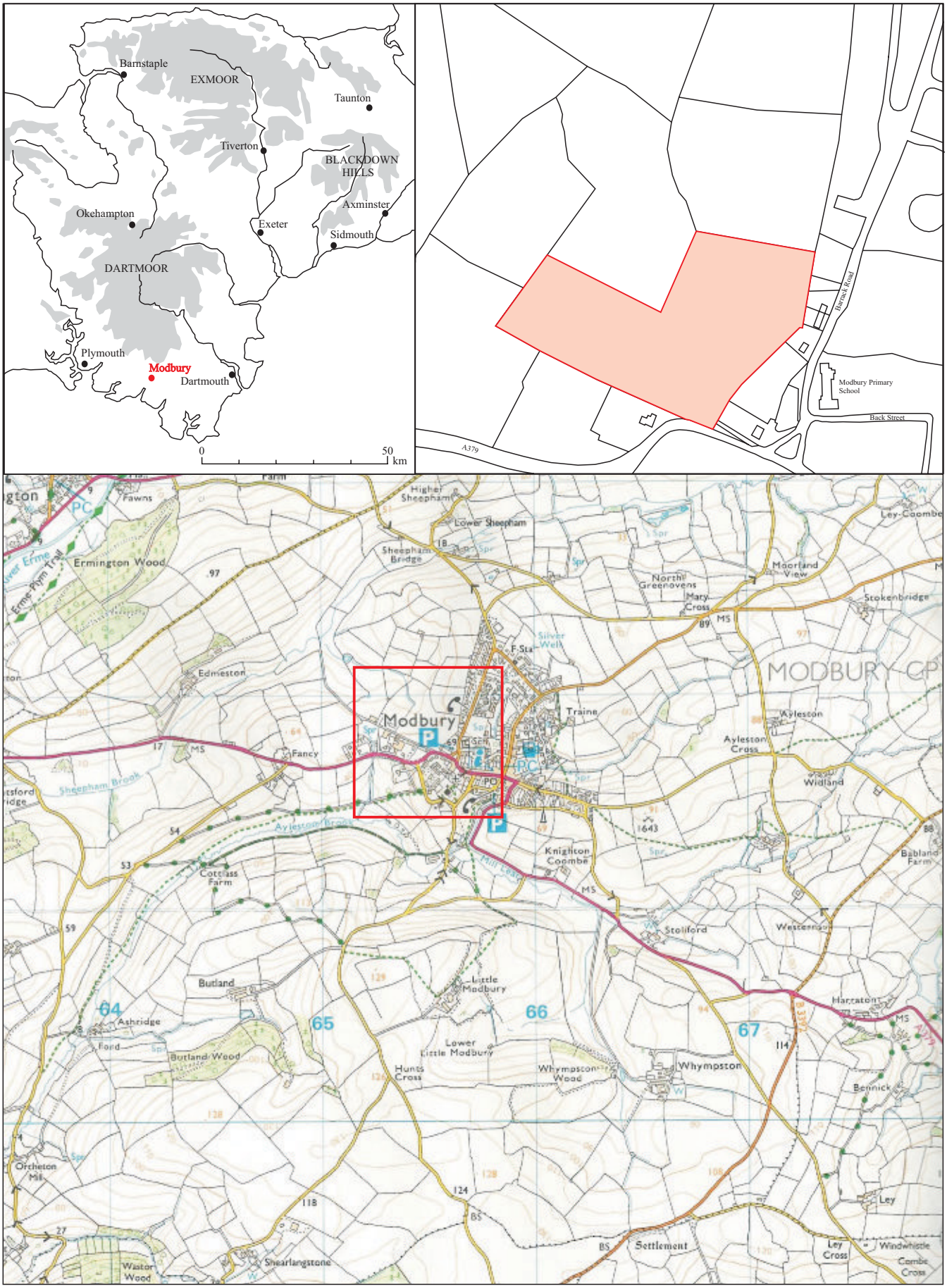

Fig. 1 Location of site.

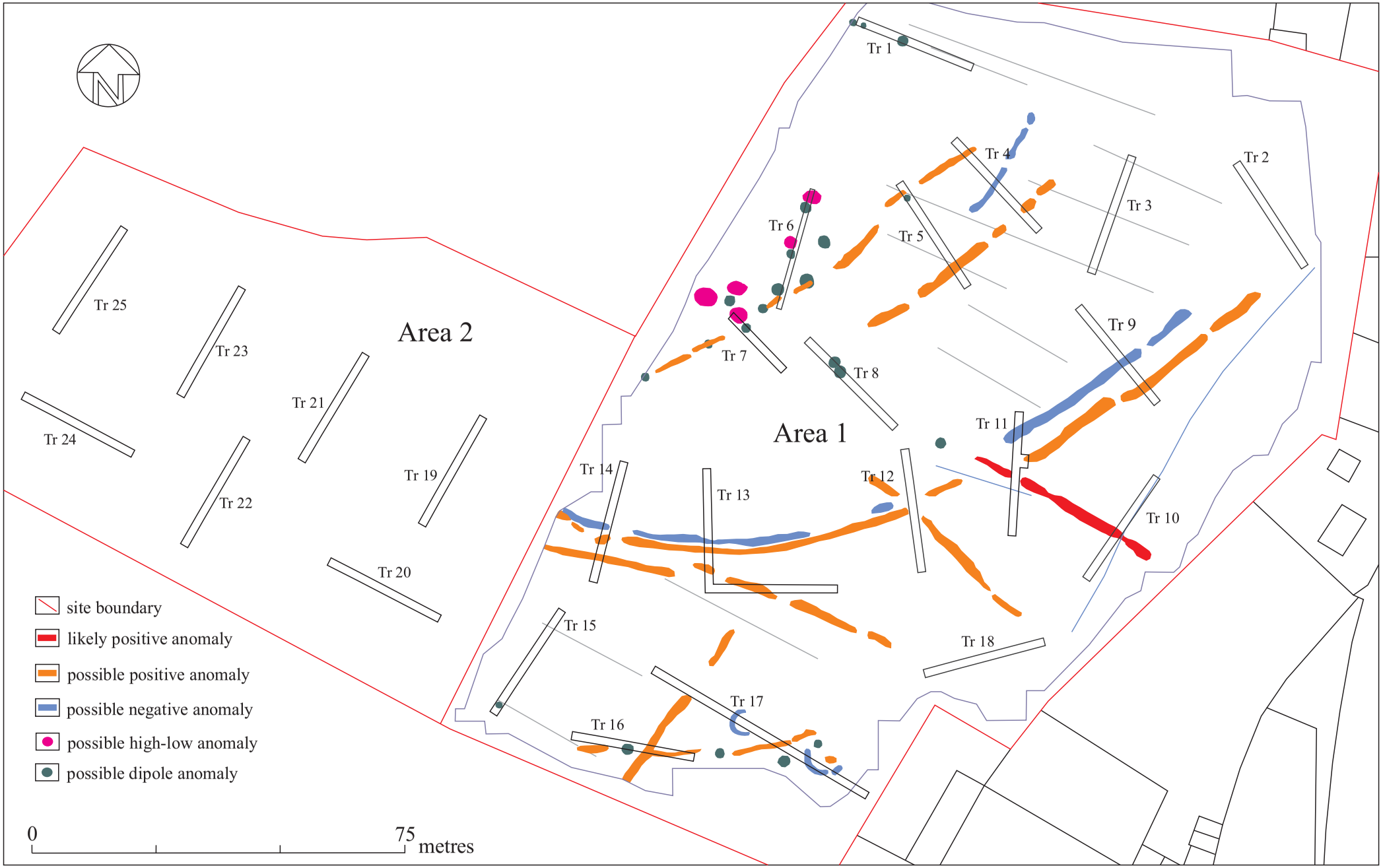

Fig. 2 Trench location plan and summary results of geophysics.

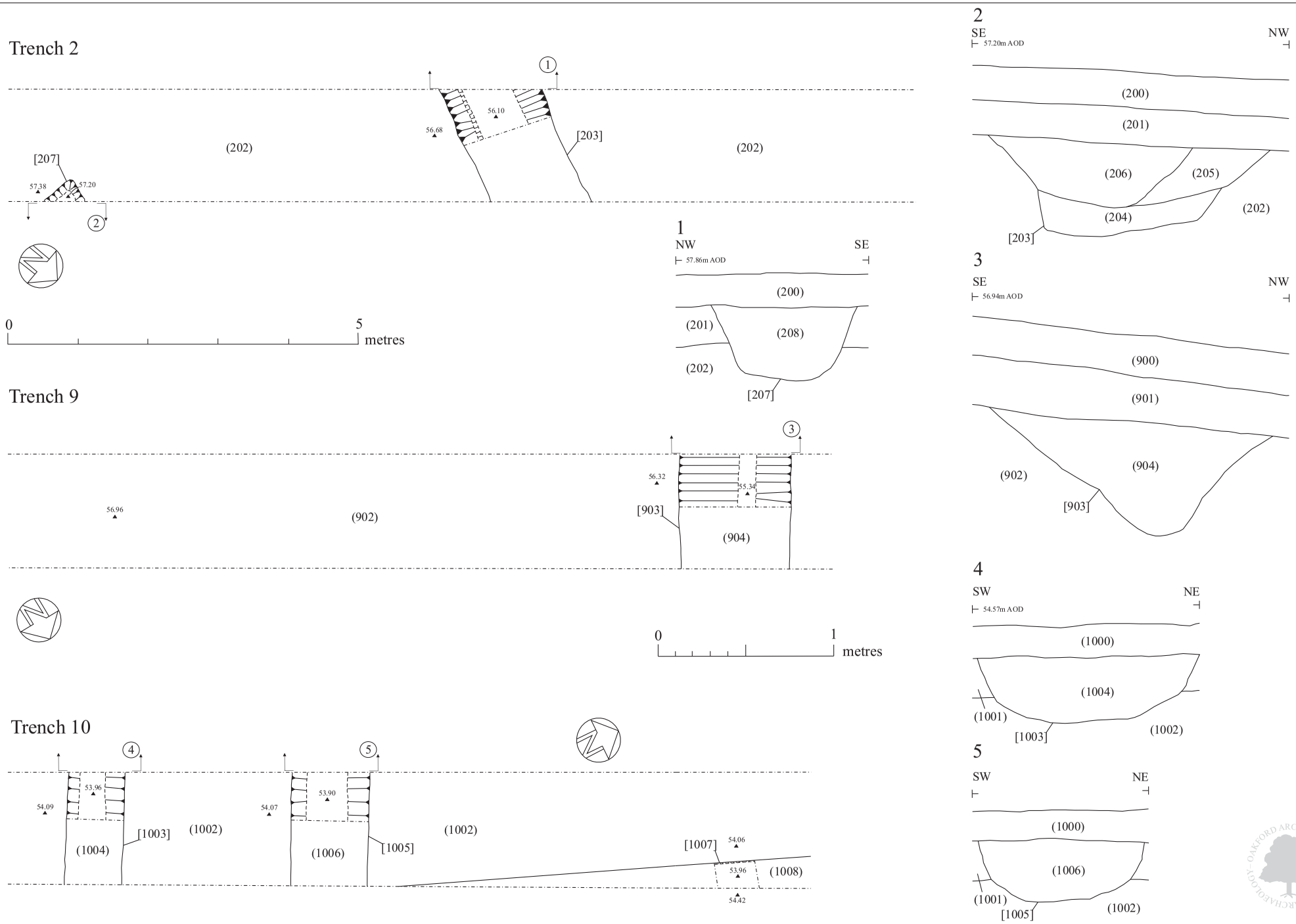

Fig. 3 Plans and sections trenches 2, 9 and 10.

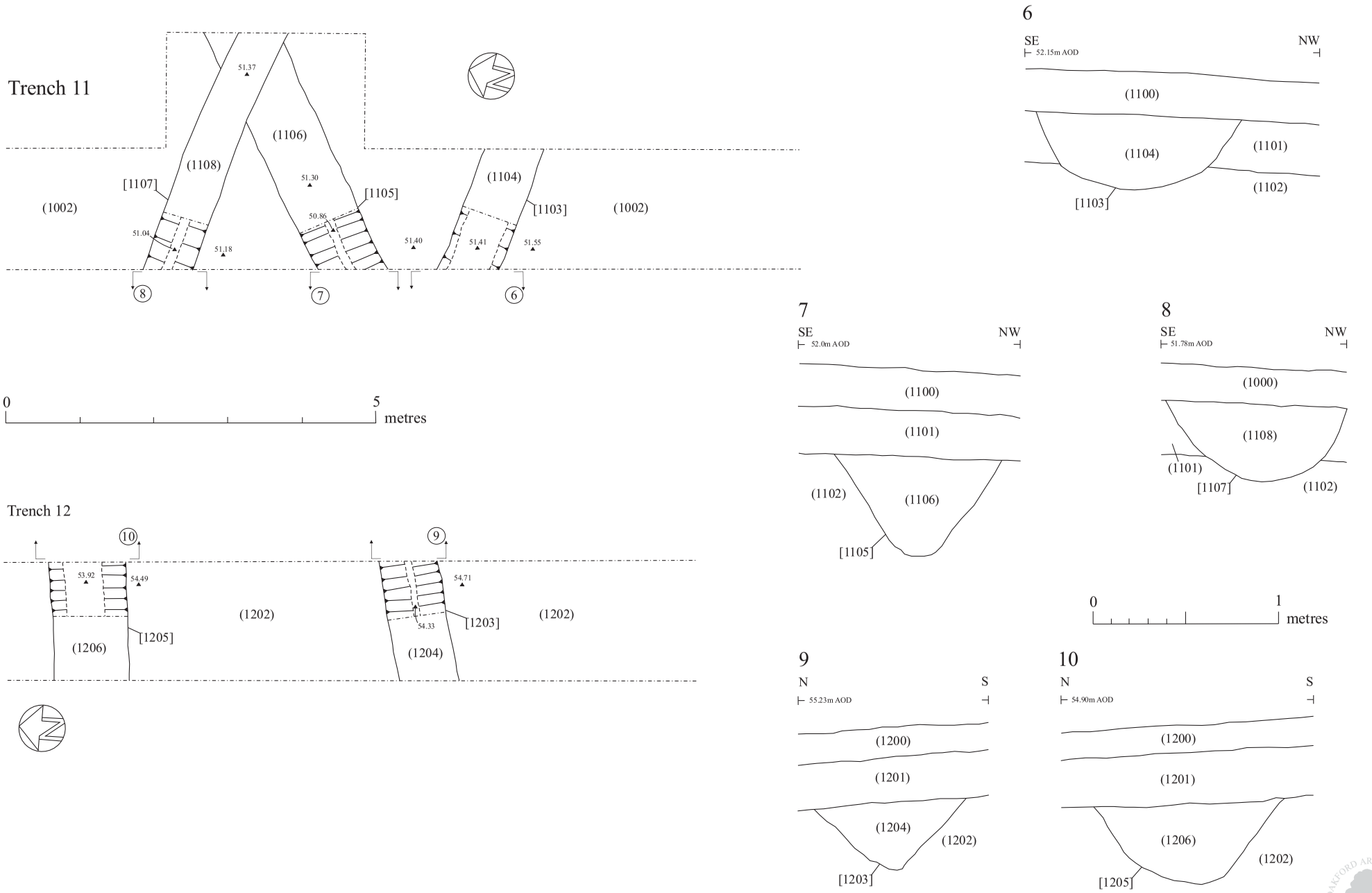

Fig. 4 Plans and sections trenches 11 and 12.

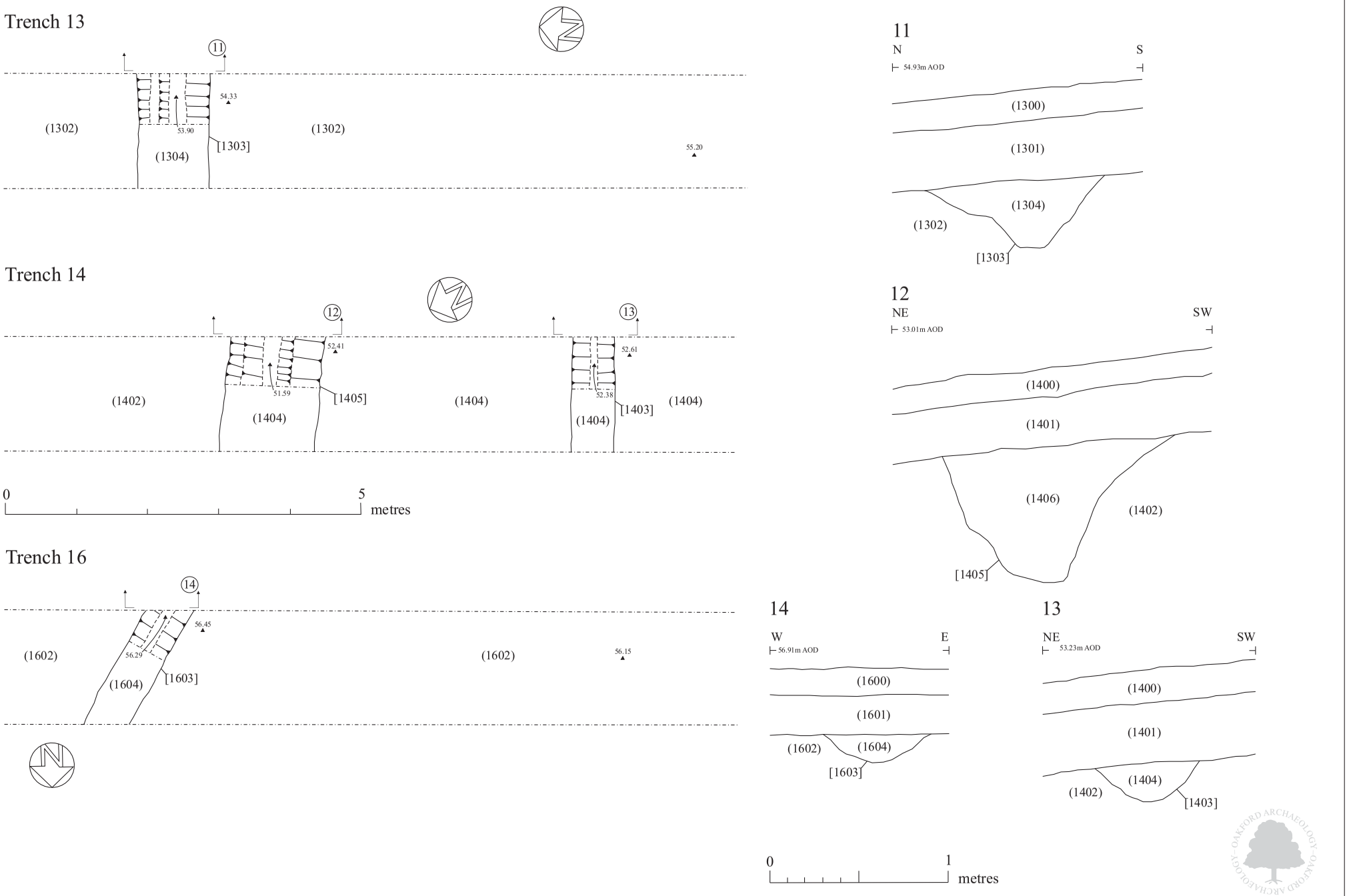

Fig. 5 Plans and sections Trenches 13, 14 and 16.

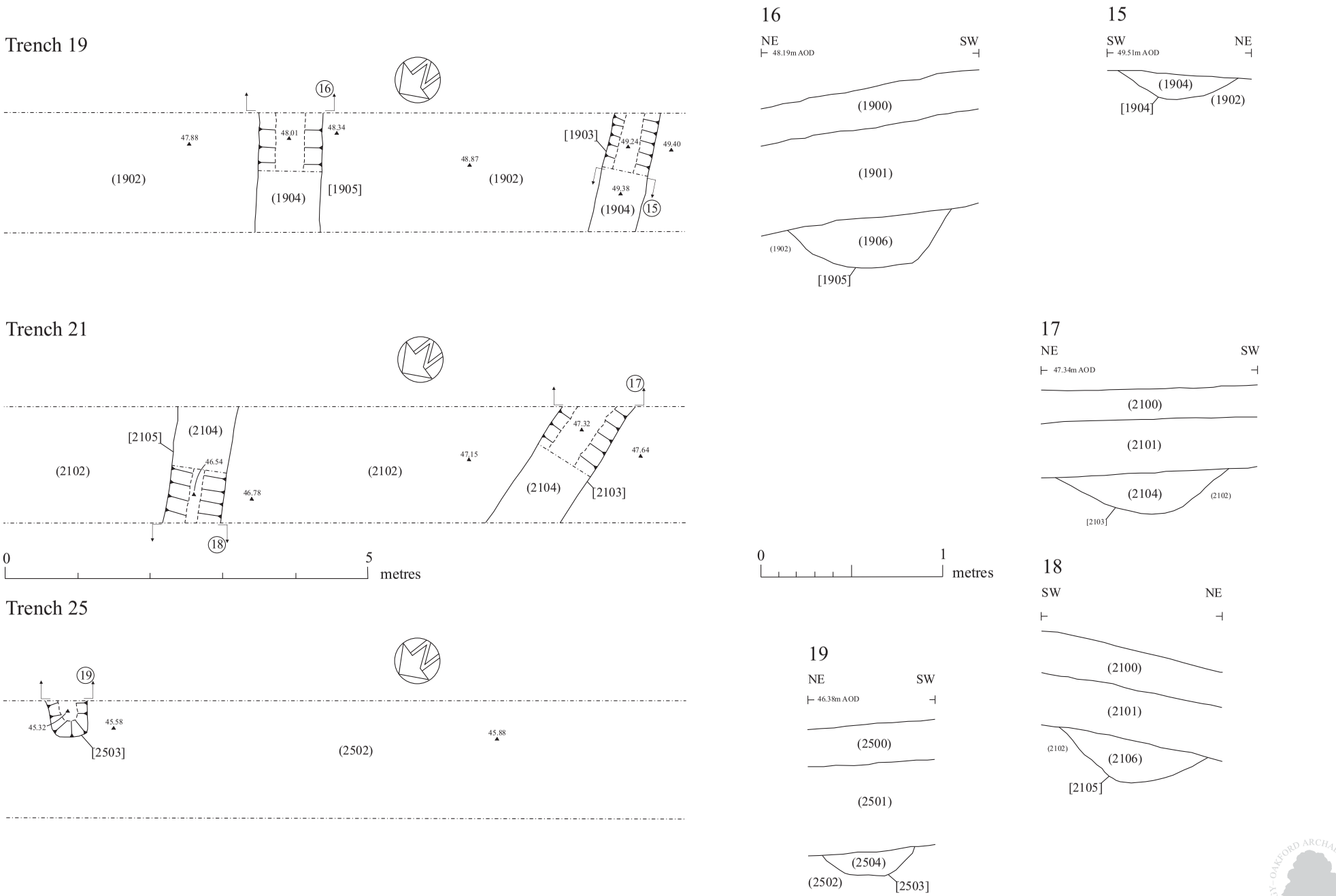

Fig. 6 Plan and sections trenches 19, 21 and 25.

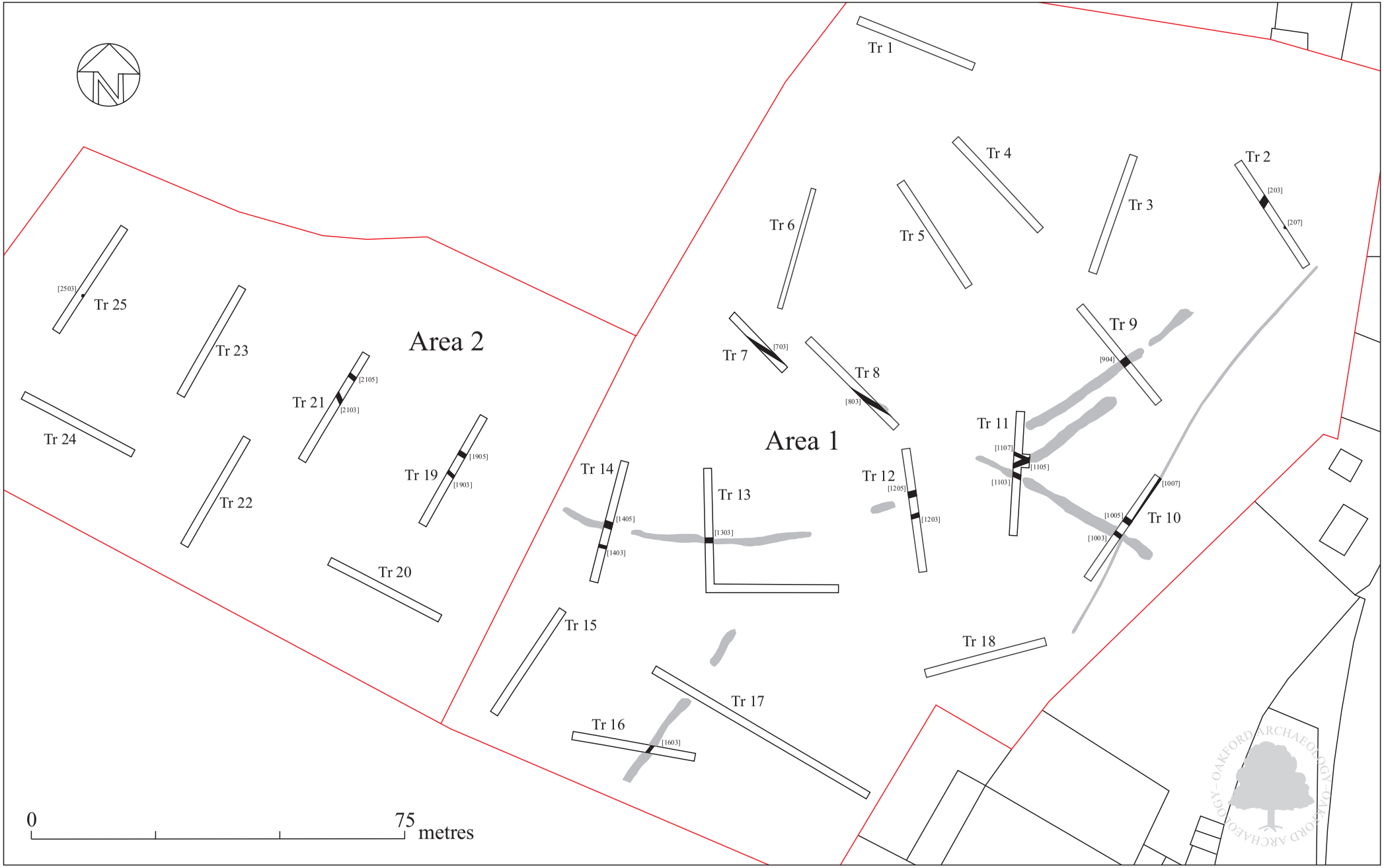

Fig. 7 Trench plan showing principle features identified.

Pl. 1 General view of trenches. Looking southeast.

Pl. 2 General view of trenches. Looking east.

Pl. 3 Section through Ditch 203. 2m scale. Looking southwest.

Pl. 4 Section through Pit 207. 1m scale. Looking northeast.

Pl. 5 Section through Ditch 903. 2m scale. Looking southwest.

Pl. 6 Section through Feature 1007. 1m scale. Looking southeast.

Pl. 7 Section through Ditch 1007. 1m scale. Looking northwest.

Pl. 8 Section through Ditch 1005. 1m scale. Looking northwest.

Pl. 9 Section through Ditch 1103. 1m scale. Looking northwest.

Pl. 10 Section through Ditch 1105. 1m scale. Looking southwest.

Pl. 11 Section through Ditch 1107. 1m scale. Looking northwest.

Pl. 12 General view of Ditch 1003 and 1007. 1m scales. Looking west.

Pl. 13 Section through Ditch 1203. 1m scale. Looking northeast.

Pl. 14 Section through Ditch 1205. 1m scale. Looking northeast.

Pl. 15 Section through Ditch 1303. 1m scale. Looking northeast.

Pl. 16 Section through Ditch 1403. 1m scale. Looking southeast.

Pl. 17 Section through Ditch 1405. 1m scale. Looking southeast.

Pl. 18 Section through Ditch 1603. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.

Pl. 19 Section through Ditch 1903. 0.5m scale. Looking northwest.

Pl. 20 Section through Ditch 1905. 1m scale. Looking southeast.

Pl. 21 Section through Ditch 2103. 1m scale. Looking southeast.

Pl. 22 Section through Ditch 2105. 1m scale. Looking northwest.

Pl. 23 Section through Feature 2505. 1m scale. Looking southeast.