LAND TO THE WEST OF THE LEA, DENHAM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

HARLEYFORD AGGREGATES LIMITED

NOVEMBER 2000

Cotswold Archaeological Trust

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SUMMARY

In August 2000 Cotswold Archaeological Trust was commissioned by DK Symes Associates, on behalf of Harleyford Aggregates Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of The Lea, Denham, near Uxbridge, Buckinghamshire.

The archaeological evaluation identified features dating to the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods across the study area, although many features conatined no artefactual material. The character of the features identified suggested activity relating to land division and agricultural production rather than domestic settlement, although the palaeoenvironmental evidence suggests that there may have been some domestic activity in the vicinity of trenches 17, 26, and 28, and Romano-British pits were found in Trench 32. A shallow sub-rectangular pit containing a mixed deposit of burnt human bone, charcoal, and burnt clay was found in Trench 21 and is identified as a pyre site, with associated stakeholes possibly representing a windbreak. A ditch also located in trench 21 was found to contain 10 sherds of pottery dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted between the 11th September and the 6th October 2000, on land to the west of The Lea, Denham, near Uxbridge, Buckinghamshire (centred on NGR TQ 049 860) (Fig. 1). Planning consent (planning applications SBD/204/89 and SBD/8205/97) has been granted for the extraction of gravel from the site and the construction of a new haul road to the west. The evaluation was required to provide sufficient information to assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development.

1.1.2 The evaluation was conducted in compliance with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (IFA 1997) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2) issued by English Heritage. The project design was submitted to, and approved by, Buckinghamshire County Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 Geology Topography, and Landuse

1.2.1 The geological sequence of the study area is described in detail in the Archaeological Briefing Document (CAT 2000A). However, the main elements, as elucidated from both the British Geological Survey (BGS 1990 and Bridgland 1994) and a borehole survey (DK Symes Associates 1987), can be summarised as follows. The earliest geological units identified within the study area during the borehole survey comprised chalk deposits of the Upper Cretaceous period. These units originated at depths of between 8.3m and 9.7m below the present ground level and were overlain by Eocene clay deposits of the London Clay and Reading Bed series which originated at depths of between 5.2m and 6.4m below the present ground surface.

1.2.2 The Eocene beds were subsequently overlain by sand and gravel deposits originating at depths of between 0.7m and 1.3m below the modern ground surface. It is considered probable that these deposits comprise part of the

Colney Street deposit which is considered to extend along the length of the Colne Valley from Hertfordshire to West London (Gibbard 1985, 82). It is likely that (although not established) that the deposits date to the late Devensian (*c*35-11,500 BP) and can be compared to the river terrace deposits revealed within the Colne Valley to the south of the study area at Three Ways Wharf (Lewis *et al* 1992, 235), Highbridge Industrial Estate (Wilkinson 1997, 3-4), and Oxford Road (Chadwick 2000, 9). However it appears that the current study area is located approximately 5m higher (at around 35m AOD) than the above sites and it is therefore possible that the gravel deposits represented an older gravel terrace.

1.2.3 The borehole survey indicated that the terrace gravels were overlain by a brown sandy clay deposit. This had an average thickness of 0.8m and originated at depths of between 0.3m and 1.1m below the present ground surface. It appeared that this deposit is equivalent to the deposit of Alluvium as mapped across the site by the BGS and represents alluviation through overbank flooding of the River Colne at times during the last 10,000 years.

1.2.4 The site lies at the confluence of the Rivers Colne and Misbourne. Topographically the study area slopes gently downwards from north-west to south-east. The modern ground surface was found to be 3.2m higher in the north-western corner of the northern field than the south-eastern corner of the southern field (Fig. 3). It appeared that the study area occupied the first gravel terrace to the west of the River Colne at a mean height of *c*.35m AOD.

1.2.5 The study area is bounded to the north by a band of mature woodland located on the southern bank of the River Misbourne, to the east by The Lea, to the south by the M40 motorway and A40 dual-carriageway, and to the west by the access road to the Colne Valley Country Park. The study area was under arable cultivation.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Prior to this evaluation an archaeological briefing document was prepared by Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT 2000B). It is not intended to repeat this

background information in detail as that report is available in its entirety, however, its principal conclusions can be outlined as follows.

1.3.2 The desk-based assessment concluded that the archaeological potential of the site was uncertain. However, evidence for the existence of Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity has been recovered from the Lower Colne Valley. While evidence for Later Mesolithic settlement has been recovered from the Upper Colne Valley and its tributaries. In particular excavations within the Colne Valley to the south of the study area at Three Ways Wharf (Lewis *et al* 1992, 235), Highbridge Industrial Estate (Wilkinson 1997, 3-4), and Oxford Road (Chadwick 2000, 9) have to some extent established a predictive model of the prehistoric environment and human occupation.

1.3.3 This predictive model can be summarised as follows. In this part of the Colne Valley Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic occupation sites occur on the upper surface of the Devensian gravels. Following this occupation there is widespread evidence for a wetter climate and the accumulation of distinct organic clay horizons with high palaeoenvironmental potential. While the site lies within the zone of this model, no detailed evidence exists for the actual sequence of sediments.

1.3.4 Neolithic activity is also indirectly attested from Highbridge Industrial Estate. It appeared that the latest organic Mesolithic clay horizon had been sealed by alluvial layers which seem to have resulted from overbank flooding. Wilkinson (1997, 3) suggested that the most likely date for this period of deposition is the middle Holocene or later (i.e. Neolithic period or later) as horizons of this nature are indirectly a product of agricultural erosion. Similar deposits were identified at Three Ways Wharf where finds of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age were also recovered (Lewis *et al* 1992, 235). The deposition of the alluvial clay overlying the probable Devensian Gravels within the study area (as identified by the borehole survey) may therefore also have been initiated at this time.

1.3.5 No evidence for any later Prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, or medieval activity within the study area was identified in the Archaeological Briefing Document.

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 Thirty-three trenches were excavated in the positions shown (Fig. 2). The positions of trenches 4-8 were altered slightly from the Project Design for Health & Safety reasons, to avoid machine excavation within 17m of the overhead powerlines. Trench 15 was divided into two parts located to the north and south of the trackway dividing the two fields. The trenches located in the vicinity of the powerlines in the northern field (trenches 4-8) were 50m in length and 1.6m in width due to the use of a lower and therefore lighter 360° excavator. The remainder of the trenches were 50m in length and 2.4m in width. Machine excavation was halted when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate (Devensian Gravel) was revealed and excavation continued by hand thereafter.

1.4.2 All recording was undertaken in accordance with the CAT Technical Manual 1: *Site Recording Manual*. All archaeological features identified during the evaluation are described fully in Appendix 1. Environmental samples were recovered in accordance with CAT Technical Manual 2: *The Taking of Palaeoenvironmental/Palaeoeconomic Samples from Archaeological Sites*, the results of which are described in Appendix 2. All artefacts recovered were retained for processing and analysis in accordance with the CAT Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds immediately after Excavation* and are listed in Appendix 3. An assessment of the pottery recovered during the evaluation comprises Appendix 4. The height of the watertable was also established during the excavation of three geotechnical testpits and this information comprises Appendix 5. The finds will be deposited, with the landowner's consent, with Buckinghamshire County Museum (Accession number AYBCM 2000.51).

2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 General

2.1.1 In all of the trenches the natural substrate of light yellow-grey sandy gravel was encountered at depths of between 0.4m (trench 14) and 1.25m (trench 31). This was overlain by between 0.05m (trench 14) and 0.90m (trench 31) of medium red-brown silty alluvial clay, except in trench 8 where no alluvial deposits were identified. The alluvial clay deposits were subsequently overlain by between 0.06m and 0.2m of undifferentiated subsoil and/or mixed alluvial material which comprised dark red-brown clay silt. Finally these deposits were overlain by *c.* 0.3m of dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil. The great majority of archaeological features were found to cut the alluvial clay and the fills of these features, which generally comprised medium grey-brown silty clays, were sealed by the undifferentiated subsoil and/or mixed alluvial layer. Exceptions to this sequence will be highlighted in the text below.

2.1.2 Unless otherwise stated in the text below, all of the features described below were hand excavated, a minority of features were recorded in plan only. The archaeological features identified in the northern field, the southern field, and the western field are depicted in figures 4, 5, and 6 respectively. Large-scale plans and sections of the archaeological features identified in trenches 3, 8, 9, 15B, 18, 21, 23-6, 29, 32 and 33 are depicted in figures 7-19.

2.2 Northern field

Trench 1

2.2.1 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 2

2.2.2 A curvilinear gully [207] was identified 7m from the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 3

2.2.3 Two ditches orientated north-north-east to south-south-west were identified within this trench, ditch [305] was located 16m and ditch [307] was located

22m from the southern end of the trench. A shallow oval pit [309] was also identified 35m from the southern end of the trench and an environmental sample <9> was recovered from the fill (310) of this feature. Three shallow palaeochannels were also identified in this trench. These features were located within the Devensian gravel and were filled by red silty sand, for example (311), which was subsequently overlain by alluvial deposits.

Trench 4

2.2.4 No archaeological deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 5

2.2.5 An irregular sub-oval shallow pit [507] was identified 12m from the southern end of the trench; a sherd of pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered from the fill (508). A circular posthole [505] was located immediately to the south of this.

Trench 6

2.2.6 A narrow gully [605] orientated north-north-west to south-south-east was identified 13m from the eastern end of the trench. A more substantial ditch [607] was identified 3m from the southern end of the trench. This feature was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east.

Trench 7

2.2.7 No archaeological features were identified in this trench, but two palaeochannels were identified. At the north-western end of the trench palaeochannel [705] was filled by alluvial deposit (703) while palaeochannel [706] was located 16m from the south-eastern end of the trench, filled by a orange-red silty sand (707).

Trench 8

2.2.8 No alluviation was identified in this trench, and the features identified were cut into the Devensian gravel (803). The fills of the archaeological features were covered by subsoil/alluvial layer (802). Ditch [804] was identified at both the western end of the trench and 5m south from the north-eastern corner

of the trench. The location and orientation of the feature, west-north-west to east-south-east, suggests that this may be a continuation of ditch [917] as identified in trench 9, paragraph 2.2.9 below. Located 8m to the east ditch terminus [808] appeared to be aligned parallel to [804], associated with this feature was a shallow oval pit [806].

Trench 9

2.2.9 Ditch [927] was located 6m from the north-western end of the trench and was orientated north-east to south-west, gully [925] was located 7m to the south-east and was parallel to [927]. No alluvial clay deposits were identified at the north-western end of trench 9 and features [925] and [927] were found to cut the Devensian gravel. The fills of these features, (924) and (926) respectively were found to be sealed by subsoil/alluvial layer (913). Located 21m from the north-western end of the trench ditch terminus [923] appeared to represent the north-eastern extent of a ditch entering the trench from the south-west. A sub-rectangular feature [921] was identified 26m from the north-western end of the trench, which was extended to the north-east by 5m to expose the whole of the feature. The feature was filled by a dark brown-grey silty clay (920) from which pottery dating to the late Roman period was recovered. At the southern end of the trench a further rectangular feature [902] orientated north-east to south-west was identified, again the trench was extended to the north-east by 10m but the north-eastern extent of the feature was not exposed. The tertiary fill of this feature (903) was of the same character as (920) the function of this feature is also unclear. Postholes [906] and [910] also appeared to be associated with this feature. Feature [902] was found to be truncated by ditch [917] which was identified 10m from the south-eastern end of the trench and within the southern extension. This ditch was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east and appeared to continue into trench 8 as [804], see paragraph 2.2.8 above.

Trench 10

2.2.10 A group of archaeological features was identified at the centre of trench 10. Part of a circular pit [1011] was identified 23m from the western end of the trench, immediately to the east of this feature ditch [1010] appeared to be

orientated north to south, neither of these features was excavated. Ditch [1007] was located 28m from the western end of the trench and was orientated north to south.

Trench 11

2.2.11 At the western end of the trench gully [1109] was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west. This ditch as found to cut the subsoil/alluvial layer (1102) and the fill (1110) was sealed by topsoil (1101). A more substantial ditch [1105] was identified 1m from the eastern end of the trench. It was orientated north-east to south-west and the secondary fill (1107) was sealed by subsoil/alluvial layer (1102). A palaeochannel was also identified in this trench. Palaeochannel [1108] was located at the western end of the trench and was filled by alluvial deposit (1103).

Trench 12

2.1.12 A ditch [1205] was identified 23m from the southern end of the trench, it was orientated east to west and the fill (1206) was sealed by alluvial deposit (1203).

Trench 13

2.1.13 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 14

2.1.14 Ditch [1406] was identified 13m from the southern end of the trench, it was orientated east to west and was subsequently truncated by the excavation of [1408] on the same alignment but 0.5m to the north. An irregular sub-circular posthole [1411] was identified at the centre of the trench and the eastern part of a oval pit or ditch terminus [1413] was identified 1.5m from the northern end of the trench.

Trench 15B

2.1.15 Trench 15B measured 25m in length and was excavated to the north of the trackway dividing the northern and southern fields. Ditch [1525] was located 15m from the western end of the trench and was orientated west-north-west to

east-south-east. Ditch [1523] was parallel and located immediately to the east, there was no stratigraphic relationship between [1523] and [1525]. A further parallel ditch [1521] was located 0.5m to the east. Ditch [1514] was located 3m from the western end of the trench and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. Brick and tile dating to the modern period was identified within fill (1513) and this feature was not excavated.

2.3 Southern field

Trench 15A

2.3.1 Trench 15A measured 25m in length and was excavated to the south of the trackway dividing the northern and southern fields. A ditch orientated north-north-east to south-south-west [1512] was identified at the south-western end of the trench. A lens of charcoal extending across the base of the feature was identified within the fill (1511) and an environmental sample <8> was recovered from this context. Located at the centre were three probable ditch termini [1506], [1508], and [1510]. At least one of these ditches [1506] was orientated east to west however the orientation of the remainder was uncertain. An environmental sample <7> was recovered from the fill (1505) of ditch terminus [1506].

Trench 16

2.3.2 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 17

2.3.4 A short linear feature [1701] was identified 20m from the south-western end of the trench. This feature was orientated north to south and did not extend beyond the edges of the evaluation trench. The primary fills of this feature (1702) and (1706) contained abundant fragments of charcoal and burnt clay suggesting that some of the burning may have taken place *in-situ*. An environmental sample <6> was recovered from (1702) and was found to contain 18 charred cereal grains. At the southern end of this feature the latest fill (1704), from which pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered, was truncated by the insertion of a shallow oval pit [1707], the fill of which (1708) was archaeologically sterile.

Trench 18

2.3.5 Three features were identified at the centre of the trench. The earliest features appeared to be a shallow oval pit [1811], the fill of which (1812) produced pottery dating to the Iron Age, and a shallow ditch orientated west-north-west to east-south-east [1809]. Both of these features were subsequently cut by a deeper ditch [1804] which was orientated north-west to south-east. Sherds of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age and early Romano-British periods were recovered from the tertiary fill (1807) of this ditch. A palaeochannel [1818] was also identified immediately to the north of the features described above. This feature was approximately 5m in width, 0.9m in depth, and was filled by succession of archaeologically sterile alluvial clays (1817), (1816), and (1815) respectively.

Trench 19

2.3.6 No archaeological features were identified in this trench. A palaeochannel [1908] was orientated east to west and was located 14m from the south-western end of the trench.

Trench 20

2.3.7 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 21

2.3.8 A pit [2125] was identified 5m from the northern end of trench 21 this feature was very shallow and comprised an irregular rectangle in plan. The fill (2126) contained burnt human bone, charcoal, and burnt clay and was excavated in two halves, the northern half was removed as environmental sample <12> and the southern half was removed as environmental sample <13>. Immediately to the south and west of this feature a group of three stakeholes [2119], [2121], and [2123] was identified. Analysis of the samples from the feature (Appendix 5) has shown that the bone was the cremated remains of a young juvenile aged 5-10 years, and was material left after the collection of the majority of the cremated bone, ie the feature and associated bone represents a pyre site. It was possible to determine from the surviving

bone fragments recovered that the body had been lain on the pyre with the head to the north. The scorched rectangular feature is identified as an under-pyre scoop, to aid combustion, while the associated stakeholes may represent the remains of a windbreak against the prevailing wind.

2.3.9 At the centre of the trench a ditch [2116] orientated north-east to south-west was identified. Ten sherds of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age were recovered from the secondary fill of this feature (2118). A ditch of similar character [2106] but orientated north-west to south-east was also identified 13m from the southern end of the trench. A single sherd of pottery dating to the Iron Age was recovered from the fill of this feature (2107). Ditch [2106] was subsequently cut by two stakeholes [2108] and [2109] whilst two further postholes [2111] and [2113] were located immediately to the south-west of ditch [2106]. A sherd of pottery dating to the medieval period was recovered during the machine excavation of this trench.

Trench 22

2.3.10 At the north-western end of the trench a shallow oval pit [2209] was identified. This feature was subsequently cut by ditch terminus [2207]. Located approximately 1m to the south was the terminus of a ditch orientated north to south [2205] An environmental sample <4> was recovered from the fill (2206) of this feature. Located 10m from the south-eastern end of the trench was a large pit [2211], an environmental sample <3> was recovered from the fill of this feature (2212), whilst 2m to the south-east of this feature was a truncated posthole [2213].

Trench 23

2.3.11 The earliest feature identified in this trench was a ditch terminus [2328] which was located *c.* 20m from the north-western end of the trench and which was orientated north-west to south-east. This feature was subsequently truncated by the excavation of a ditch [2332] which was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west. Ditch [2332] was subsequently truncated by the excavation of a parallel ditch [2306] 0.5m to the south. A sherd of pottery

probably dating to the Iron Age was recovered during the excavation of the fill (2307) of this feature. Immediately to the south-west of ditch [2306] a group of four postholes [2320], [2322], [2324], and [2326] was located and these features appeared to follow the alignment of the ditch. At the centre of the trench these ditches intersected with ditch [2308] which continued on the same alignment to the south-south-west, ditch [2312], [2319] which entered the evaluation trench from the north, and [2304] which entered the evaluation trench from the south. Due to the limited exposure of these features within a relatively narrow evaluation trench, it has not been possible to clarify the stratigraphic relationships between these features.

Trench 24

2.3.12 Ditch [2406] was located at the northern end of trench 24 and was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west, to the south of the ditch were ten probable postholes [2408-26] which may have been on a similar alignment to the ditch. Ditch [2428] was located 10m from the northern end of the trench and was orientated north-west to south-east. Located to the south of this ditch were three further probable postholes [2430-4], possibly forming a north to south alignment, and two possible irregular shallow oval pits [2436] and [2440]. Located 9m from the southern end of the trench ditch [2442] was orientated east to west and may have represented a westward continuation of ditch [2510] located in trench 25.

Trench 25

2.3.13 The earliest features identified in this trench comprised a group of four postholes [2512-8] which were subsequently cut by ditch [2510]. This feature was located 10m from the eastern end of the trench, orientated east to west, and may have represented an eastward continuation of ditch [2442] located in trench 24. A further alignment of four probable postholes [2526-32], which were recorded in plan only, was identified 2m to the east of ditch [2510] together with a larger probable pit [2506]. A probable post pit was located 16m from the eastern end of the trench while a substantial ditch [2522] was located 23m from the eastern end of the trench and was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east.

Trench 26

2.3.14 Located 6m from the north-western end of the trench was a short ditch [2621] orientated east to west, the feature did not extend beyond the edges of the trench and it appeared to have been re-cut at some point [2619]. An environmental sample <10> was recovered from the fill (2620) of this feature which was sealed by alluvial deposit (2616) as well as subsoil/alluvial layer (2615) and topsoil (2614). The feature was similar in from to [1701] although the fills of ditch [2621] did not contain abundant fragments of charcoal, as was the case in trench 17. Immediately to the north of ditch [2621], and possibly associated with it, was a posthole [2623]. A layer (2634) containing fragments of charcoal and burnt clay was identified 10m from the north-western end of the trench. It was up to 0.18m thick, 5m in width, and extended beyond the edges of the trench to the north-east and south-west. A sherd of pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered during the excavation of this layer. A sample <11> was also recovered from this context and was found to contain 34 charred cereal grains.

2.3.15 A circular posthole [2626] was identified at the centre of the trench and a ditch [2627] orientated north-east to south-west was identified 34m from the north-eastern end of the trench. A group of features was identified at the southern-eastern end of the trench. The earliest feature identified was ditch [2606], this feature was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east and terminated in the centre of the trench. This feature was truncated by the excavation of ditch [2608] immediately to the south, this ditch was on the same alignment as [2806] but extended 3m further to the east-south-east. Pottery dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods was recovered during the excavation of the fill (2609) of this feature. A group of three circular postholes [2610], [2630], and [2632] was identified to the north-west of, and possibly aligned parallel to, ditches [2606] and [2608]. Two probable postholes [2601] and [2612] were identified at the south-eastern end of the trench. The latter was not excavated, however the former was cut by ditch

[2603]. This feature was located immediately to the south-west of ditches [2606] and [2608] and was on the same alignment as them, however at the end of the trench the ditch appeared to turn through 90° and head north-north-east. A sherd of pottery dating to the Iron Age was recovered during the excavation of the fill (2604) of this feature. The west-north-western terminus of the ditch was also located within the evaluation trench.

Trench 27

2.3.15 Ditch terminus [2708] was located 18.5m from the south-western end of the trench and was orientated north to south. Located 2m to the north-east was a shallow oval pit [2706].

Trench 28

2.3.16 Located 1m from the eastern end of the trench was a sub-circular posthole [2805]. Two sherds of pottery which probably dated to the Iron Age were recovered during the excavation of the fill (2806) of this feature. Located 21m from the eastern end of the trench was a further posthole, or gully terminus, [2807]. An environmental sample <2> was recovered from the fill (2808) of [2807] and an environmental sample <5> was recovered from the fill (2806) of [2805]. Each of these environmental samples was found to contain two charred cereal grains

Trench 29

2.3.17 Archaeological features which cut the Devensian gravel and which were sealed by the alluvial deposits were identified at the centre of this trench. A shallow oval pit [2907] with a distinctive grey sandy fill (2908) was identified together with a gully [2905] orientated north-east to south west. The fill (2906) of this feature was sealed by alluvial clay (2902) and fragments of pottery dating to the Iron Age were recovered from it. The alluvial clay was subsequently cut by ditch [2913] which was orientated north-west to south-east and was located 12m from the eastern end of the trench. An irregular shallow pit [2909], [2911] was identified immediately to the east.

Trench 30

2.3.18 A regular circular pit [3008] was identified 1.5m from the north-western end of the trench. The fill (3009) was sealed by alluvial deposit (3003).

Trench 31

2.3.19 An irregular oval pit [3107] was identified 6m from the eastern end of the trench. The fill (3108) was sealed by alluvial deposits (3103) and (3104).

2.4 Western field (proposed haul road)

Trench 32

2.4.1 Trench 32 was located at the eastern end of the proposed haul road. A pit or ditch terminus [3206] was located at the western end of the trench, this feature was not excavated. At between 14m and 25m from the western end of the trench an area of intense archaeological activity was identified. The earliest feature appears to have been a pair of intercutting parallel ditches [3216] and [3218] orientated south-west to north-east. To the west these ditches were cut by a wider and deeper ditch [3212] orientated south-east to north-west. The excavation of the secondary fill (3214) of this feature produced a pottery sherd dating to the Late Iron Age or early Romano-British period whilst the excavation of the tertiary fill (3215) produced a large assemblage of pottery sherds dating to the third century AD (later Romano-British period). The south-western edge of this feature was subsequently truncated by the excavation of gully [3221]. To the east the intercutting ditches [3216] and [3218] were cut by two shallow oval pits [3223] and [3233]. A sherd of pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered from the fill (3224) of the former feature. Located 2m to the east ditch terminus [3235] appeared to be orientated north to south and the fill (3229), from which environmental sample <1> was recovered, appeared to be cut by two shallow oval pits [3227] and [3237]. Pottery sherds probably dating to the Middle Iron Age were recovered during the excavation of the primary fill (3228) of the former feature. Located 1m to the north was a further shallow oval pit [3208].

Trench 33

2.4.2 Trench 33 was located at the western end of the proposed haul road. A small irregular layer of organic material (3307) was identified at the south-western end of the trench. This layer was very thin (approximately 0.02m) and was located towards the base of the alluvial clay, the full extent of the layer was not determined as the layer continued to the north of the evaluation trench. A sherd of pottery dating to the post-medieval period was recovered from this context and an environmental sample <14> was also recovered. This sample was severely contaminated by roots and modern weed seeds suggesting recent tree-root disturbance. Two parallel ditches orientated west to east [3308] and [3310] were located at the centre of the trench.

3. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

3.1 Date and Interpretation of Archaeological Deposits

3.1.1 The earliest features identified during the course of the evaluation were the palaeochannels. These features were identified at the interface between the Devensian gravel and the alluvial clay deposits and they appeared to represent changes in the depositional environment during the formation of the Devensian gravels. There was no evidence, with the exception of a very small area of undated peat within a hollow in the upper gravel surface at the extreme west of the site, for any sediments, occupation deposits or artefactual material relating to the Upper Palaeolithic or Early Mesolithic periods.

3.1.2 The only archaeological features which were cut into the Devensian gravel and sealed by the alluvial clay deposits were within trench 29. The only dating evidence was recovered from the fill of a gully [2905] suggesting that it was of an Iron Age date. In this trench a subsequent episode of alluviation occurred to seal these features, and this alluvium was subsequently cut by a ditch and pit of unknown period.

3.1.3 Several features were found elsewhere to be clearly stratigraphically located between episodes of deposition. The short linear feature [2621], circular pit

[3008], and pit [3107] were all found to cut alluvial clay deposits, whilst the fills of these features were sealed by later alluvial clay deposits. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from any of these features or the deposits around them. In many cases, however, it was also unclear from the evaluation as to whether the upper deposit which sealed most of the features was derived from further alluviation, or from gradual soil formation from the earlier alluvial deposits over the now stable and dry land surface. Interestingly, no former land surfaces were encountered in any of the trenches, either at the upper gravel surface or within the alluvial sequence, which was generally undifferentiated.

3.1.4 The dating of the alluviation across the whole site is problematic, as no dating evidence was recovered from any of the alluvial clay deposits and these largely undifferentiated deposits may conceal temporal and spatial variations across the site. Despite these difficulties it appeared that in general as the alluvial clays were cut by features dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, the view which must be formed at this stage is that deposition over most of the site must largely have taken place before this time, with only limited episodes subsequently. This model is supported by the evidence from Highbridge Industrial Estate (paragraph 1.3.4) where alluvial layers resulting from overbank flooding were interpreted as being the indirect result of agricultural erosion in the Neolithic period (Wilkinson 1997, 3).

3.1.5 The absence of significant quantities of worked flint, either from cut features or from the overlying alluvial/subsoil deposits and or topsoil may perhaps also indicate that the undated features identified during the course of the evaluation may also date to the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods. It may also support the hypotheses that the alluvial deposits encountered may date to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

3.1.6 It appears that the features identified in the northern and southern fields represented later prehistoric field systems comprising boundary ditches and more ephemeral post-built fence lines. The Romano-British features identified in the western field may be more characteristic of occupation

activity as intercutting pits were identified together with ditches. In the southern field the palaeoenvironmental evidence in the form of the identification of charred cereal grains suggests the presence of domestic activity in the vicinity of trenches 17, 26, and 28. The paucity of artefactual evidence renders further interpretation difficult.

3.1.7 The existence of a single human cremation pyre site on the east side of the southern field is noteworthy. The stakeholes identified in the immediate vicinity of the cremation may be associated with it as a windbreak, although there is no artefactual evidence to link the various features. Parallels for the form of the pyre suggest that it may well be an Iron Age or Roman feature (Appendix 5). This would fit well with the suggested chronological sequence for occupation at the site. However, possibly relevant to this was the recovery of a relatively large assemblage of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, the earliest pottery identified from the site, from a nearby ditch, although again no stratigraphic or artefactual link may be made between the features. As an adjunct to the discovery of the pyre, it is likely that a cemetery may lie nearby, although no evidence for this was found in the evaluation.

3.2 Survival and Extent of Archaeological Deposits

3.2.1 The survival of the archaeological features identified appears to be good with features being sealed by a well developed and relatively undisturbed subsoil/alluvial layer. The palaeoenvironmental evidence indicates the presence of surviving charred deposits in non-waterlogged deposits. No waterlogged archaeological deposits were identified as none of the features identified intruded sufficiently far into the Devensian gravel (Appendix 5) to be permanently waterlogged. While the presence of deeper features elsewhere on the site cannot be precluded, the results of this evaluation suggested that the probability of encountering waterlogged deposits is not high. The absence of dating evidence for most of the features is problematical in interpretation at this stage, although it should be possible through study of the alluvial sequence, and dating by artefacts and C14, to provide a chronological framework for the sequence of human occupation and the geoarchaeological development of the historic landscape.

3.2.2 Archaeological features were identified across the study area. Despite the identification of several trenches with no archaeological features, these trenches did not define a particular area and it is there impossible to define any areas which were wholly devoid of archaeological activity. The results of the evaluation suggested that the most intensive zone of archaeological activity was defined by trenches 24, 25, 26, 32, and 32, with possible domestic activity in the vicinity of trenches 17, 26, and 28.

3.2.3 The archaeological evaluation has achieved the aims set out in the project design, the extent and character of archaeological deposits has been assessed and this information will allow the impact of the proposed development to be gauged and appropriate measures to be taken.

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Figure 1 Location plan

Figure 2 Trench location plan

Figure 3 Relative heights of Devensian gravel and modern ground surface

Figure 4 Northern field, all feature plan

Figure 5 Southern field, all feature plan

Figure 6 Western field, all feature plan

Figure 7 Trench 3, plan and sections

Figure 8 Trench 8, plan and sections

Figure 9 Trench 9, plan and sections

Figure 10 Trench 15B, plan and sections

Figure 11 Trench 18, plan and sections

Figure 12 Trench 21, plan and sections

Figure 13 Trench 23, plan and sections

Figure 14 Trench 24, plan and sections

Figure 15 Trench 25, plan and sections

Figure 16 Trench 26, plan and sections

Figure 17 Trench 29, plan and sections

Figure 18 Trench 32, plan and sections

Figure 19 Trench 33, plan and sections

APPENDIX 1

Context descriptions

Note: Stratigraphic descriptions are given in numerical order. Cut features are designated by square brackets thus; [000]. All other deposits/layers are in round brackets; (000). All stated depths are given from the present ground level.

Trench 1

(101) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(102) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.16m thick. Overlain by (101).

(103) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.05m and 0.32m thick. Overlain by (102).

(104) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.42m and 0.48m. Overlain by (103).

Trench 2

(201) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(202) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.10m thick. Overlain by (201).

(203) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, 0.18m thick. Cut by [205] and [207].

(204) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.52m and 0.60m. Overlain by (203).

[205] Service trench, orientated E to W, steeply sloping sides, base unexcavated. It was 0.6m in width and of unknown depth. Filled by (206).

(206) Re-deposited alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay with inclusions of dark grey-brown clay silt (10%). Covered by (202).

[207] Curvilinear gully cut, gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.46m in width and 0.04m in depth. Filled by (208).

(208) Fill of [207], dark grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (202).

Trench 3

(301) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(302) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.14m thick. Overlain by (301).

(303) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, *c.* 0.35m thick. Cut by [305], [307], and [309].

(304) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.8m and 1m. Overlain by (303), includes (311).

[305] Ditch cut, orientated NNE to SSW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 2.3m in width 0.4m in depth. Filled by (306).

(306) Fill of [305], dark grey-brown clay silt. Overlain by (302).

[307] Ditch cut, orientated NNE to SSW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.6m in width 0.23m in depth. Filled by (308).

(308) Fill of [307], dark grey-brown clay silt. Overlain by (302).

[309] Pit cut, sub-oval with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.29m in length, 0.85m in width, and 0.13m in depth. Filled by (310).

(310) Fill of [309], medium grey-brown sandy silt. Overlain by (302).

(311) Fill of palaeochannel, medium brown red silty sand, part of (304).

Trench 4

(401) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(402) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.14m thick. Overlain by (401).

(403) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.22m and 0.32m thick. Overlain by (402).

(404) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.62m and 0.78m (centre). Overlain by (403).

Trench 5

(501) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(502) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.1m thick. Overlain by (501).

(503) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, *c.* 0.4m thick. Cut by [505] and [507].

(504) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.5m and 0.62m. Overlain by (403).

[505] Posthole cut, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.38m in diameter and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (506).

(506) Fill of [505], medium orange-grey sandy silt. Covered by (502).

[507] Pit cut, sub-oval with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.45m in length, 0.85m in width, and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (508).

(508) Fill of [507], medium orange-grey sandy silt. Covered by (502).

Trench 6

(601) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(602) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.08m and 0.2m thick. Overlain by (601).

(603) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.14m and 0.22m thick. Cut by [605] and [607].

(604) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 0.6m. Overlain by (603).

[605] Gully cut, orientated NNW to SSE with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.32m in width and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (606).

(606) Fill of [605], medium brown-orange clay silt. Covered by (602).

[607] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.62m in width and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (608).

(608) Fill of [607], medium brown-orange clay silt. Covered by (602).

Trench 7

(701) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(702) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.1m thick. Overlain by (701).

(703) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.46m thick. Covered by (702).

(704) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.48m and 0.8m. Cut by [705] and [706].

[705] Palaeochannel cut, orientated SW to NE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.2m in width and 0.02m in depth. Filled by (703).

[706] Palaeochannel cut, orientated SW to NE, unexcavated. It was at least 1.5m in width. Filled by (707).

(707) Fill of [706], medium orange-red silty sand, covered by (703).

Trench 8

(801) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt *c.* 0.3m thick.

(802) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.1m thick. Overlain by (801).

(603) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 0.4m. Cut by [804], [806], and [808].

[804] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.3m in width and 0.13m in depth. Filled by (805), ?same as [917].

(805) Fill of [804], medium orange-brown clay silt. Covered by (802), ?same as (916).

[806] Pit cut, oval gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1m in width and 0.08m in depth. Filled by (807).

(807) Fill of [806], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (802).

[808] Ditch terminus cut, orientated WNW to ESE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was at least 0.6m in width and 0.08m in depth. Filled by (809).

(809) Fill of [808], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (802).

Trench 9

(901) Secondary fill of [902], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (903).

[902] Rectangular linear feature, orientated NE to SW with vertical sides and an irregular flat base. It was at least at least 10m in length, 2.2m in width, and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (904).

(903) Tertiary fill of [902], dark grey-brown clay silt. Cut by [917].

(904) Primary fill of [902], light orange-red silty clay with inclusions of dark grey-brown clay silt (10%). Covered by (913).

(905) Fill of [906], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (913).

[906] Posthole cut, sub-circular with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.4m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (905).

907 Unused context.

908 Unused context.

(909) Secondary fill of [910], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (913).

[910] Posthole cut, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.4m in diameter and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (911).

(911) Primary fill of [910], light orange-red silty clay with inclusions of dark grey-brown clay silt (10%). Covered by (909).

(912) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, between 0.2m and 0.4m thick.

(913) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick. Overlain by (912).

(914) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, *c.* 0.1m thick. Cut by [902], [906], [910], [917], [921], and [923].

(915) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.48m and 0.8m. Cut by [925] and [927].

(916) Fill of [917], medium grey-brown clay silt. Covered by (913), ?same as (805).

[917] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.12m in width and 0.38m in depth. Filled by (916), ?same as [804].

918 Unused context

919 Unused context

(920) Fill of [921], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (913).

[921] Sub-rectangular feature, orientated NW to SE with steeply sloping and an irregular flat base. It was 2.4m in length, 2m in width, and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (920).

(922) Fill of [923], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (913).

[923] Ditch terminus orientated NE to SW with gently sloping sides and an irregular flat base. It was 0.84m in width and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (922).

(924) Fill of [925], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (913).

[925] Gully cut, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.24m in width and 0.06m in depth. Filled by (924).

(926) Fill of [927], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (913).

[927] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.40m in width and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (926).

Trench 10

(1001) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, between 0.2m and 0.3m thick.

(1002) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick. Overlain by (1001).

(1003) Alluvial clay, light orange-grey silty clay, between 0.06m and 0.18m thick. Covered by (1002).

(1004) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.14m and 0.28m thick. Covered by (1003).

(1005) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.7m and 0.8m. Covered by (1004).

1006 Unused context.

[1007] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.9m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (1008).

(1008) Fill of [1007], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (1002).

(1009) Fill of [1010], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (1002).

[1010] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with a width of 3m, unexcavated. Filled by (1009).

[1011] Pit cut, circular, with a diameter of *c.* 1m, unexcavated. Filled by (1012).

(1012) Fill of [1011], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (1002).

Trench 11

(1101) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, between 0.16m and 0.36m thick.

(1102) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.16m and 0.22m thick. Cut by [1109].

(1103) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.2m and 0.46m thick. Cut by [1105].

(1104) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.53m and 0.82m. Cut by [1108].

[1105] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.94m in width and 0.36m in depth. Filled by (1106).

(1106) Primary fill of [1105], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1107).

(1107) Secondary fill of [1105], light orange red silty clay with dark brown-grey clay silt inclusions (10%). Covered by (1102).

[1108] Palaeochannel cut, orientated NNW to SSE with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was at least 2m in width and 0.04m in depth. Filled by (1103).

[1109] Gully cut, orientated NNE to SSW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.28m in width and 0.8m in depth. Filled by (1110).

(1110) Fill of [1109], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1101).

Trench 12

(1201) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, *c.* 0.25m thick.

(1202) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.18m thick. Covered by (1201).

(1203) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.14m and 0.22m thick. Covered by (1202).

(1204) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.52m and 0.64m. Cut by [1205].

[1205] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.34m in width and 0.4m in depth. Filled by (1206).

(1206) Fill of [1205], dark red-brown silty sand. Covered by (1203).

Trench 13

(1301) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, *c.* 0.3m thick.

(1302) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.05m thick. Covered by (1301).

(1303) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.08m and 0.16m thick. Covered by (1302).

(1304) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.42m and 0.48m. Covered by (1303).

Trench 14

(1401) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, *c.* 0.12m thick.

(1402) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.16m thick. Covered by (1401).

(1403) Alluvial clay, light grey-orange silty clay, *c.* 0.28m thick. Covered by (1402).

(1404) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.01m and 0.25m thick. Located between the northern end and the centre of the trench. Cut by [1411] and [1413].

(1405) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.55m and 0.85m. Cut by [1406].

[1406] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with a steeply sloping side to the north, a gently sloping side to the south, and a concave base. It was at least 0.26m in width and 0.39m in depth. Filled by (1407).

(1407) Fill of [1406], dark grey-brown clay silt. Cut by [1408].

[1408] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with a steeply sloping side to the north, a gently sloping side to the south, and a concave base. It was 0.94m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (1410).

(1409) Secondary fill of [1408], dark orange-brown clay silt. Covered by (1403).

(1410) Primary fill of [1408], medium grey-brown clay silt. Covered by (1409).

[1411] Posthole cut, sub-oval with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.66m in length, 0.58m in width, and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (1412).

(1412) Fill of [1411], dark grey-brown clay silt, covered by (1403).

[1413] Ditch terminus, sub-triangular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.58m in width and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (1414).

(1414) Fill of [1413], dark grey-brown clay silt, covered by (1403).

Trench 15A

(1501) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, *c.* 0.2m thick.

(1502) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Covered by (1501).

(1503) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Cut by [1506], [1507], [1508], [1510], and [1512].

(1504) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 0.6m. Covered by (1503).

(1505) Fill of [1506], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1502).

[1506] Ditch terminus, orientated ?E to ?W with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.54m in width and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (1505).

(1507) Fill of [1508], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1502).

[1508] Ditch terminus, orientated ?E to ?W with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.8m in width and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (1507).

(1509) Fill of [1510], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1502).

[1510] Ditch terminus, orientated ?E to ?W with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.50m in width and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (1509).

(1511) Fill of [1512], dark brown-grey clay silt with charcoal-rich lens at the base of the context. Covered by (1502).

[1512] Ditch cut, orientated NNE to SSW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.4m in width and 0.28m in depth. Filled by (1511).

Trench 15B

(1513) Fill of [1514], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1517).

[1514] Ditch cut, orientated NNW to SSE with a width of 2.4m, unexcavated. Filled by (1513).

(1515) Unused context.

(1516) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, *c.* 0.2m thick.

(1517) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.1 thick. Covered by (1516).

(1518) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, *c.* 0.36thick. Cut by [1514], [1521], [1523], and [1525].

(1519) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 0.7m. Covered by (1518).

(1520) Fill of [1521], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1517).

[1521] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.5m in width and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (1520).

(1522) Fill of [1523], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1517).

[1523] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.65m in width and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (1522).

(1524) Fill of [1525], dark brown-grey clay silt. Covered by (1517).

[1525] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.45m in width and 0.17m in depth. Filled by (1524).

Trench 16

(1601) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, between 0.3m and 0.4m thick.

(1602) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium grey-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick. Covered by (1601).

(1603) Alluvial clay, light orange-red silty clay, between 0.18m and 0.38m thick. Covered by (1602).

(1604) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.56m and 0.88m. Covered by (1603).

Trench 17

[1701] Linear cut feature (northern end), orientated N to S with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 2.5m in length, 0.75m in width, and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (1702).

(1702) Fill of [1701], dark orange-brown with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions (50%). Covered by (1710).

[1703] Linear cut feature (southern end), orientated N to S with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 2.5m in length, 0.75m in width, and 0.34m in depth. Filled by (1706).

(1704) Tertiary fill of [1703], medium grey-brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions (5%). Cut by [1707].

(1705) Secondary fill of [1703], medium orange-brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions (*c.* 1%). Covered by (1704).

(1706) Primary fill of [1703], charcoal fragments and burnt clay in a matrix of dark grey-brown silty clay (30%). Covered by (1705).

[1707] Pit cut, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.92m in length, 0.75m in width, and 0.14m in depth. Filled by (1708).

(1708) Fill of [1707], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (1710).

(1709) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, *c.* 0.2m thick.

(1710) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium grey-brown silty clay, between 0.16m and 0.22m thick. Covered by (1701).

(1711) Alluvial clay, light yellow-brown clay silt, between 0.15m and 0.23m thick. Located at the northern and southern ends of the trench only. Covered by (1710).

(1712) Alluvial clay, light orange-brown silty clay, between 0.22m and 0.34m thick. Cut by [1701] and [1703].

(1713) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.7m and 0.8m. Covered by (1712).

Trench 18

(1801) Topsoil, dark grey-brown clay silt, *c.* 0.3m thick.

(1802) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium brown-orange silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Covered by (1801).

(1803) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.64m and 0.96m. Covered by (1817).

[1804] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.82m in width and 0.96m in depth. Filled by (1805) and (1813).

(1805) Primary fill of [1804] in SE facing section, medium orange-grey silty clay. Covered by (1806), same as (1813).

(1806) Secondary fill of [1804] in SE facing section, light grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (1807), same as (1813).

(1807) Tertiary fill of [1804] in SE facing section, light grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (1808).

(1808) Quaternary fill of [1804] in SE facing section, medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (1802).

[1809] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was at least 1m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (1810).

(1810) Fill of [1809], light orange-brown silty clay. Cut by [1804]).

[1811] Pit cut, circular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.7m in length, 1.1m in width, and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (1812).

(1812) Fill of [1811], medium orange-brown clay silt. Cut by [1804].

(1813) Primary fill of [1804] in NW facing section, dark grey-orange silty clay. Covered by (1807), same as (1805) and (1806).

(1814) Alluvial clay, light orange-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.15m thick. Cut by [1809] and [1811].

(1815) Tertiary fill of [1818], medium yellow-brown silty clay, covered by (1814).

(1816) Secondary fill of [1818], medium yellow-grey silty clay, covered by (1815).

(1817) Primary fill of [1818], medium orange-pink sandy silty, covered by (1816).

[1818] Palaeochannel cut, orientated E to W with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was at least 4m in width and 0.96m in depth. Filled by (1817).

Trench 19

(1901) Topsoil, medium grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.30m thick.

(1902) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-orange silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Covered by (1901).

(1903) Alluvial clay, light orange grey silty clay, *c.* 0.25m thick. Covered by (1902).

(1904) Alluvial clay, light grey-orange silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Covered by (1903).

(1905) Alluvial clay, light orange-grey silty clay, *c.* 0.22m thick. Covered by (1904).

(1906) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of *c.* 0.8m. Covered by (1905).

1907 Unused context.

[1908] Palaeochannel cut, orientated E to W with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was between 0.6m and 1.5m in width and 0.02m in depth. Filled by (1909).

(1909) Fill of [1908], medium orange brown silty clay. Covered by [1905].

Trench 20

(2001) Ploughsoil, medium grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.26m thick.

(2002) Alluvial clay, light grey-orange silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Covered by (2001).

(2003) Alluvial clay, light orange grey silty clay, *c.* 0.26m thick. Covered by (2002).

(2004) Alluvial clay, light brown-grey silty clay, *c.* 0.18m thick. Located at centre of trench, 5m in length. Covered by (2003).

(2005) Alluvial clay, medium brown orange silty clay, *c.* 0.22m thick. Located at SE end of trench, 5m in length. Covered by (2003).

(2006) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 0.7m. Covered by (2004) and (2005).

Trench 21

(2101) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.28m thick.

(2102) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.24m thick. Covered by (2101).

(2103) Alluvial clay, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.16m thick. Cut by all archaeological features.

(2104) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.16m thick. Covered by (2103).

(2105) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.8m and 0.9m. Covered by (2103).

[2106] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.6m in width and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (2107).

(2107) Fill of [2106], dark grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [2108] and [2109].

[2108] Probable stakehole, sub-square with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.25m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (2115).

[2109] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.25m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (2110).

(2110) Fill of [2109], medium orange-grey silty clay. Covered by (2102).

[2111] Probable stakehole, irregular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.2m in length, 0.14m in width, and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (2112).

(2112) Fill of [2111], medium grey-orange silty clay. Covered by (2102).

[2113] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.08m in diameter and 0.04m in depth. Filled by (2114).

(2114) Fill of [2113], medium grey-orange silty clay. Covered by (2102).

(2115) Fill of [2108], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2102).

[2116] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.75m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (2117).

(2117) Primary fill of [2116], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2118).

(2118) Secondary fill of [2116], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2102).

[2119] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.07m in diameter and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2120).

(2120) Fill of [2119], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2102).

[2121] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.12m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Filled by (2122).

(2122) Fill of [2121], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2102).

[2123] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.07m in diameter and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2124).

(2124) Fill of [2123], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2102).

[2125] Pit, sub-rectangular with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1m in length, 0.7m in width, and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2126).

(2126) Fill of [2125], medium red –black silty clay with inclusions of charcoal and burnt clay (10%). Covered by (2102).

Trench 22

(2201) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.30m thick.

(2202) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.25m thick. Covered by (2201).

(2203) Alluvial clay, medium grey-orange silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick. Cut by archaeological features.

(2204) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.68m and 0.72m. Covered by (2203).

[2205] Ditch terminus, orientated N-S with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.5m in width and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (2206).

(2206) Fill of [2205], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2202).

[2207] Ditch terminus, orientated N-S with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.4m in width and 0.4m in depth. Filled by (2208).

(2208) Fill of [2207], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2202).

[2209] Pit, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was at least 0.4m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (2210).

(2210) Fill of [2209], dark brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [2207].

[2211] Pit, oval with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was at least 1.1m in length, 1m in width, and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (2212).

(2212) Fill of [2211], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2202).

[2213] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.17m in diameter and 0.07m in depth. Filled by (2214).

(2214) Fill of [2213], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2202).

Trench 23

(2301) Topsoil, medium grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.30m thick.

(2302) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.20m thick. Covered by (2301).

(2303) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, *c.*between 0.1m and 0.4m thick. Cut by archaeological features.

[2304] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.6m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (2305).

(2305) Fill of [2305], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2306] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.6m in width and 0.28m in depth. Filled by (2307), same as [2330].

(2307) Fill of [2306], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2308] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.5m in width and 0.32m in depth. Filled by (2309).

(2309) Fill of [2308], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2310] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.3m in width and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (2311), same as[2332].

(2311) Fill of [2310], medium brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [2312].

[2312] Ditch terminus, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.15m in width and 0.40m in depth. Filled by (2313).

(2313) Primary fill of [2312], dark purple-grey silty clay. Covered by (2314).

(2314) Secondary fill of [2312], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2337).

[2315] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1m in width and 0.64m in depth. Filled by (2316).

(2316) Primary fill of [2315], dark purple-grey silty clay. Covered by (2317).

(2317) Secondary fill of [2315], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (2318).

(2318) Tertiary fill of [2315], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (2319).

(2319) Quaternary fill of [2315], light brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2320] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.15m in diameter and 0.11m in depth. Filled by (2321).

(2321) Fill of [2320], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2322] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.15m in diameter and 0.8m in depth. Filled by (2323).

(2323) Fill of [2322], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2324] Probable stakehole, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.2m in length, 0.15m in diameter, and 0.11m in depth. Filled by (2325).

(2325) Fill of [2324], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2326] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.15m in length, 0.12m in diameter, and 0.4m in depth. Filled by (2327).

(2327) Fill of [2326], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2328] Ditch terminus, orientated NW to SE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.25m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (2329).

(2329) Fill of [2328], dark grey-purple silty clay. Covered by [2335].

[2330] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.7m in width and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (2334), same as [2306].

(2331) Fill of [2330], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2302).

[2332] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (2334), same as [2310].

(2333) Secondary fill of [2332], medium orange-brown silty clay. Cut by [2330].

(2334) Primary fill of [2332], medium yellow-brown. Covered by (2333).

(2335) Secondary fill of [2328], medium yellow-brown silty clay. Cut by [2330] and [2332].

(2336) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.6m and 1.05m. Covered by (2303).

(2337) Tertiary fill of [2312], medium orange-brown silty clay. Cut by (2302).

Trench 24

(2401) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, between 0.24m and 0.32m thick.

(2402) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium red-brown silty clay, between 0.2m and 0.3m thick. Cut by [2442].

(2403) Alluvial clay, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.12m thick. Cut by all archaeological features.

(2404) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.18m and 0.3m thick. Covered by (2403).

(2405) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 0.9m. Covered by (2403).

[2406] Ditch cut, orientated NNE to SSW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1m in width and 0.43m in depth. Filled by (2407).

(2407) Fill of [2406], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2408] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.18m in length, 0.15m in width, and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2409).

(2409) Fill of [2408], medium grey-orange silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2410] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.28m in length, 0.15m in width, and 0.14m in depth. Filled by (2411).

(2411) Fill of [2410], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2412] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.13m in length, 0.09m in width, and 0.06m in depth. Filled by (2413).

(2413) Fill of [2412], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2414] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.16m in length, 0.10m in width, and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2415).

(2415) Fill of [2414], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2416] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.15m in diameter and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (2417).

(2417) Fill of [2416], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2418] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.1m in diameter and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2419).

(2419) Fill of [2418], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2420] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.5m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (2421).

(2421) Fill of [2420], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2422] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.12m in length, 0.10m in width, and 0.04m in depth. Filled by (2423).

(2423) Fill of [2422], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2424] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.1m in diameter and 0.04m in depth. Filled by (2425).

(2425) Fill of [2424], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2426] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.14m in diameter and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (2427).

(2427) Fill of [2420], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2428] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.54m in width and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (2429).

(2429) Fill of [2428], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2430] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.24m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. Filled by (2431).

(2431) Fill of [2430], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2432] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.18m in length, 0.14m in width, and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2433).

(2433) Fill of [2432], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2434] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.09m in diameter and 0.06m in depth. Filled by (2435).

(2435) Fill of [2434], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2436] Probable pit cut, oval with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.32m in length, 0.8m in width, and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (2437).

(2437) Fill of [2436], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2402).

2438 Unused context number.

2439 Unused context number.

[2440] Probable pit cut, oval with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was at least 1.7m in length, 1.14m in width, and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (2441).

(2441) Fill of [2440], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2402).

[2442] Ditch cut, orientated E-W with gently sloping sides and a concave base It was 1m in width and 0.4m in depth. Filled by (2443).

(2443) Fill of [2442], medium grey-brown silty clay, covered by (2401).

Trench 25

(2501) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.28m thick.

(2502) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, *c.*0.25m thick. Covered by (2501).

(2503) Alluvial clay, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Cut by all archaeological features.

(2504) Alluvial clay, light red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.18m thick. Covered by (2503).

(2505) Alluvial clay, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.1m thick. Covered by (2504).

(2506) Alluvial clay, medium grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.8m thick. Covered by (2505).

(2507) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 1.08m. Covered by (2506).

[2508] Probable pit cut, oval with a gently sloping side to the west, a steeply sloping side to the east, and a concave base. It was 0.88m in length, at least 0.3m in width, and 0.33m in depth. Filled by (2509).

(2509) Fill of [2508], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2502).

[2510] Ditch cut, orientated E-W with gently sloping sides and a concave base It was 0.72m in width and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (2511).

(2511) Fill of [2510], medium grey-brown silty clay, covered by (2502).

[2512] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.24m in length, 0.14m in width, and 0.06m in depth. Filled by (2513).

(2513) Fill of [2512], medium grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [2510].

[2514] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.22m in diameter and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (2515).

(2515) Fill of [2514], medium grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [2510].

[2516] Probable stakehole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.32m in length, 0.2m in width, and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (2517).

(2517) Fill of [2516], medium grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [2510].

[2518] Probable stakehole, circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.22m in diameter and 0.11m in depth. Filled by (2519).

(2519) Fill of [2518], medium grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [2510].

[2520] Probable pit cut, oval with a gently sloping side to the west, a steeply sloping side to the east, and a concave base. It was 0.96m in length, at least 0.3m in width, and 0.4m in depth. Filled by (2521).

(2521) Fill of [2520], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2502).

[2522] Ditch cut, orientated WNW-ESE with steeply sloping sides and a flat base It was 1.6m in width and 0.66m in depth. Filled by (2523).

(2523) Primary fill of [2522], medium grey-orange silty clay. Covered by (2524).

(2524) Secondary fill of [2522], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2502).

(2525) Layer, Subsoil/alluvial layer at eastern end of trench, medium grey-brown, *c.* 0.1m thick. Covered by (2502).

[2526] Probable stakehole, circular with a diameter of 0.07m, unexcavated. Filled by (2527).

(2527) Fill of [2526], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2502).

[2528] Probable stakehole, circular with a diameter of 0.1m, unexcavated. Filled by (2529).

(2529) Fill of [2528], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2502).

[2530] Probable stakehole, circular with a diameter of 0.11m, unexcavated. Filled by (2531).

(2531) Fill of [2530], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2502).

[2532] Probable stakehole, oval with a length of 0.17m and a width of 0.1m, unexcavated. Filled by (2533).

(2533) Fill of [2532], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2502).

Trench 26

[2601] Probable posthole, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.62m on length, 0.33m in width, and 0.18mm in depth. Filled by (2602).

(2602) Fill of [2601], light brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [2603].

[2603] Ditch cut, orientated WNW-ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base It was 0.56m in width and 0.29m in depth. Filled by (2605).

(2604) Secondary fill of [2603], light grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2616).

(2605) Primary fill of [2603], light brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2604).

[2606] Ditch terminus, orientated WNW to ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base It was 0.9m in width and 0.28m in depth. Filled by (2607).

(2607) Fill of [2606], medium orange-brown silty clay. Cut by [2608].

[2608] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with steeply sloping sides and a flat base It was 0.97m in width and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (2609).

(2609) Fill of [2608], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (2616).

[2610] Probable posthole, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.23m on length, 0.22m in width, and 0.08m in depth. Filled by (2611).

(2611) Fill of [2610], medium brown orange silty clay. Covered by (2616).

[2612] Probable posthole, sub-circular with a length of 0.55m and a width of 0.4m, unexcavated. Filled by (2613).

(2613) Fill of [2612], light brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [2603].

(2614) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick.

(2615) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, *c.*0.15m thick. Covered by (2614).

(2616) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.22m thick. Covered by (2615).

(2617) Alluvial clay, medium orange brown silty clay, *c.* 0.3m thick. Cut by archaeological features.

(2618) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of *c.* 0.85m. Covered by (2617).

[2619] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base It was 2.9m in length, 0.25m in width, and 0.19m in depth. Filled by (2620).

(2620) Fill of [2619], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (2616)

[2621] Ditch cut, orientated WNW to ESE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base It was 2.9m in length, 0.55m in width, and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (2622).

(2622) Fill of [2621], medium orange-brown silty clay. Cut by [2619].

[2623] Probable posthole, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.3m on length, 0.29m in width, and 0.05mm in depth. Filled by (2624).

(2624) Fill of [2623], dark brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2616).

[2625] Probable posthole, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.19m on length, 0.18m in width, and 0.07mm in depth. Filled by (2626).

(2626) Fill of [2625], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2616).

[2627] Ditch cut, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base It was 0.7m in width and 0.28m in depth. Filled by (2628).

(2628) Secondary fill of [2627], dark orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (2616).

(2629) Primary fill of [2627], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (2628).

[2630] Probable posthole, circular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.21m in diameter and 0.03m in depth. Filled by (2631).

(2631) Fill of [2630], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2616).

[2632] Probable posthole, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.23m on length, 0.21m in width, and 0.1mm in depth. Filled by (2633).

(2633) Fill of [2632], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2616).

(2634) Layer, medium grey-brown silty clay with inclusions of charcoal and burnt clay (10%). It was 3.4m in length, at least 2.4m in width, and up to 0.18m in depth. Covered by (2616).

Trench 27

(2701) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, between 0.3m and 0.45m thick.

(2702) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick. Covered by (2701).

(2703) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.4m thick. Cut by all archaeological features.

(2704) Alluvial clay, medium brown-grey silty clay, between 0.16m and 0.32m thick. Covered by (2703).

(2705) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.8m and 1m. Covered by (2706).

[2706] Probable pit cut, oval with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was at least 1m in length, 0.7m in width, and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (2707).

(2707) Fill of [2706], light brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (2702).

[2708] Ditch terminus, orientated N to S with steeply sloping sides and a flat base It was 1m in width and 0.5m in depth. Filled by (2709).

(2709) Fill of [2708], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2702).

Trench 28

(2801) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.26m thick.

(2802) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, between 0.6m and 0.12m thick. Covered by (2801).

(2803) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.15m and 0.35m thick. Cut by all archaeological features.

(2804) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.45m and 0.75m. Covered by (2706).

[2805] Probable posthole, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.4m in length, 0.3m in width, and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (2806).

(2806) Fill of [2805], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2802).

[2807] Probable pit cut, circular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was at 0.7m in diameter and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (2808).

(2808) Fill of [2807], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (2802).

Trench 28

(2901) Ploughsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.26m thick.

(2902) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.28m thick. Cut by [2909], [2911], and [2913]. Covered by (2901).

(2903) Alluvial clay, located at the western end of the trench, medium orange-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.28m thick. Covered by (2901).

(2904) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.45m and 0.75m. Cut by [2905] and [2907].

[2905] Gully cut, orientated NE to SW with gently sloping sides and a concave base It was 0.55m in width and 0.13m in depth. Filled by (2906).

(2906) Fill of [2905], light brown-grey silty sand. Covered by (2902).

[2907] Pit cut, oval with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.4m in length, 0.9m in width, and 0.05m in depth. Filled by (2908).

(2908) Fill of [2907], light brown-grey silty sand. Covered by (2902).

[2909] Probable pit cut, amorphous with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1m in length, 0.7m in width, and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (2910).

(2910) Fill of [2909], medium grey-brown silty sand. Cut by [2911].

[2911] Probable pit cut, sub-rectangular with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.67m in length, 0.6m in width, and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (2912).

(2912) Fill of [2911], medium brown-grey silty sand. Covered by (2901).

[2913] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with steeply sloping sides and a flat base It was 0.75m in width and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (2914).

(2914) Fill of [2913], light brown-grey silty sand. Covered by (2901).

Trench 30

(3001) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick.

(3002) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, *c.*0.16m thick. Covered by (3001).

(3003) Alluvial clay, medium red-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Covered by (3002).

(3004) Alluvial clay, light grey-orange silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Cut by [3008].

(3005) Alluvial clay, medium grey-orange silty clay, *c.* 0.2m thick. Covered by (3004).

(3006) Alluvial clay, medium orange-grey silty clay, *c.* 0.22m thick. Covered by (3005).

(3007) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 1m. Covered by (3006).

[3008] Probable pit cut, circular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.9m in diameter and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (3009).

(3009) Fill of [3008], medium blue-grey silty clay. Covered by (3003).

Trench 31

(3101) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick.

(3102) Subsoil/alluvial layer, medium grey-brown silty clay, *c.*0.15m thick. Covered by (3101).

(3103) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.08 and 0.18m thick. Covered by (3102).

(3104) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.3m and 0.4m thick. Covered by (3103).

(3105) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.3m thick. Cut by [3107].

(3106) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.93m and 1.25m. Covered by (3105).

[3107] Probable pit cut, amorphous with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. It was 1.09m in length, 0.48m in width, and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (3108).

(3108) Fill of [3107], medium grey-brown silty sand. Covered by (3104).

Trench 32

(3201) Topsoil, medium grey-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.3m thick.

(3202) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, *c.*0.18m thick. Covered by (3201).

(3203) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.3m thick. Cut by archaeological features.

(3204) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown sandy-silt, *c.* 0.16m thick. Covered by (3203).

(3205) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at a depth of *c.* 0.8m. Covered by (3204).

[3206] Pit or ditch terminus, oval with a length of 2m and a width of 1.7m, unexcavated. Filled by [3207].

(3207) Fill of [3206], dark grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (3202).

[3208] Pit cut, oval with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.9m in length, 0.56m in width, and 0.3m in depth.. Filled by [3209].

(3209) Primary fill of [3208], light grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (3210).

(3210) Secondary fill of [3208], light grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (3211).

(3211) Tertiary fill of [3208], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (3202).

[3212] Ditch cut, orientated SE to NW with steeply sloping sides and a concave base It was 1.56m in width and 0.63m in depth. Filled by (2913).

(3213) Primary fill of [3212], dark grey brown silty clay. Covered by (3214).

(3214) Secondary fill of [3212], medium grey brown silty clay. Covered by (3215).

(3215) Tertiary fill of [3212], medium grey brown silty clay. Cut by [3221].

[3216] Ditch cut, orientated SW to NE with steeply sloping sides and a flat base It was 0.8m in width and 0.37m in depth. Filled by (2917).

(3217) Primary fill of [3216], medium blue-grey silty clay. Covered by (3225).

[3218] Ditch cut, orientated SW to NE with gently sloping sides and a concave base It was 0.8m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (2919), same as [3230].

(3219) Primary fill of [3218], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (3220), same as (3232).

(3220) Secondary fill of [3218], medium brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [3216], same as (3231).

[3221] Gully cut, orientated NW to SE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.3m in width and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (3222).

(3222) Fill of [3221], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (3202).

[3223] Pit or ditch terminus, oval with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (3224).

(3224) Fill of [3223], dark orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (3202).

(3225) Secondary fill of [3216], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (3226).

(3226) Tertiary fill of [3216], light grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [3212].

[3227] Pit cut, sub-circular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.1m in length, 0.6m in width, and 0.22m in depth.. Filled by [3228].

(3228) Fill of [3227], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (3202).

(3229) Fill of [3235], light orange-brown silty clay. Cut by [3227] and [3237].

[3230] Ditch cut, orientated SW to NE with gently sloping sides and a concave base It was 0.85m in width and 0.28m in depth. Filled by (2932), same as [3218].

(3231) Secondary fill of [3230], medium brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [3223] and [3233], same as (3220).

(3232) Primary fill of [3230], medium brown-grey silty clay. Covered by (3231), same as (3219).

[3233] Pit cut, sub-circular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.5m in length, 0.84m in width, and 0.16m in depth.. Filled by (3234).

(3234) Fill of [3227], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (3202).

[3235] Pit or ditch terminus, oval with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.8m in width and 0.36m in depth. Filled by (3229).

3236 Unused context.

[3237] Pit cut, sub-circular with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.9m in length, 0.6m in width, and 0.26m in depth.. Filled by (3238).

(3238) Primary fill of [3237], light grey-orange silty clay. Covered by (3239).

(3239) Secondary fill of [3237], medium grey-orange silty clay. Covered by (3202).

Trench 33

(3301) Topsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay, between 0.2m and 0.3m thick.

(3302) Subsoil/alluvial layer, light grey-brown silty clay, *c.*0.15m thick. Covered by (3301).

(3303) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.1 and 0.18m thick. Cut by [3308] and [3310].

(3304) Alluvial clay, medium orange-brown silty clay, between 0.15m and 0.4m thick. Covered by (3303). Includes (3307).

(3305) Natural gravel, light grey-white flint gravel in a matrix of orange-red silty sand, located at depths of between 0.7m and 0.95m. Covered by (3304).

3306 Unused context.

(3307) Tree root disturbance, dark grey-brown clay silt with inclusions of floral material. It was 2.3m in length, at least 0.7m in width, and was 0.02m thick. Part of (3304).

[3308] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with steeply sloping sides and a flat base It was 0.6m in width and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (3309).

(3309) Fill of [3308], medium grey-brown silty clay. Covered by (3302).

[3310] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with steeply sloping sides and a flat base It was 0.98m in width and 0.42m in depth. Filled by (3312).

(3311) Secondary fill of [3310], medium orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (3302).

(3312) Primary fill of [3310], light orange-brown silty clay. Covered by (3311).

APPENDIX 2

The palaeo-environmental evidence by Alan Thomas

Introduction

Fourteen bulk samples were taken from a variety of contexts in order to determine how and if biological remains were preserved on the site.

Methodology

The samples were taken according to the guidelines outlined by Wilkinson (1994), although two bulk samples were taken from hearth [2125] in Trench 21. They were taken in sealable 10L volume plastic tubs and transported to the CAT offices for processing.

The samples were processed using the flotation technique using meshes of 500µm and 1mm for the flot and residue respectively. Both residues and flots were air dried prior to sorting. The dried flots were scanned under a low power binocular microscope for evidence of charred plant and molluscan material.

Results

The results are summarised in Table 1 below. Most of the samples were contaminated by roots and modern weed seeds especially that taken from layer (3307) in Trench 33. A couple of other samples also contained very little organic material.

However, several samples contained a high percentage of charcoal fragments. In addition thirty-four charred cereal grains were found in the sample from occupation layer (2634) in Trench 26 and a further eighteen were found in the fill (1702) of feature [1701]. Two further charred cereal grains were also found in the fill (2808) of pit [2807] and a further two were found in the fill (2806) of pit [2805] in Trench 28. Very few molluscs were found in the samples.

The presence of carbonised grain in Trenches 17, 26, and 28 may suggest that these features are in the vicinity of areas of domestic settlement and that the site has the potential to contain further such environmental material. This will clearly be of importance in any future attempt at reconstructing the former site economy.

Table 2 Assessment of palaeo-environmental evidence

Context no.	Sample no.	Feature no.	Context type	charcoal	charred cereal grains	molluscs
(310)	<9>	[309]	Pit fill	A		
(1505)	<7>	[1506]	Ditch terminus	D		
(1511)	<8>	[1512]	Ditch fill	B		
(1702)	<6>	[1701]	Ditch fill	A	D	E
(2126)	<12>	[2125]	Hearth (N)	A		
(2126)	<13>	[2125]	Hearth (S)	A		
(2206)	<4>	[2205]	Ditch terminus	B		
(2212)	<3>	[2211]	pit fill	C		
(2620)	<10>	[2619]	Ditch fill	D		
(2634)	<11>		Layer	A	D	
(2806)	<5>	[2805]	pit fill	A	E	
(2808)	<2>	[2807]	pit fill	A	E	E
(3229)	<1>	[3237]	Pit fill	C		
(3307)	<14>		Layer	E		

Key
A - <200
B 100-200
C - 50-100
D – 10-50
E – 1-10

APPENDIX 3

Finds Catalogue

APPENDIX 4

Pottery assessment by Jane Timby

Introduction

The work at The Lea, Denham resulted in the recovery of a small group of 101 sherds weighing 489 g.

The assemblage mainly comprises wares of Prehistoric and Roman date accompanied by single sherds of Medieval and post-medieval origin.

Pottery was recovered from 19 individual contexts, spread across 11 trenches. With a single exception where 47 sherds came from one context, the individual groups were very small.

The condition of the material is poor; the sherds are quite fragmented with an average sherd size of just 4.8 g and the edges are generally abraded. Despite this there is evidence of several sherds deriving from single vessels from some of the larger groups.

Methodology

For the purposes of this assessment the group was sorted into wares based on macroscopic observation and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The data is summarized in Table 2.

It should be noted that the apparent mixed chronology of the assemblage combined with the fragmentary nature of the material and the smallness of the groups on which to hinge positive identification limits the accuracy of the assessment. Further work or material may completely change some of the provisional dating suggested here.

No further research has been carried out at the assessment stage to seek for comparable material from the locality.

Prehistoric

Some 31 sherds have been designated prehistoric. None of the pieces were decorated or retained any distinctive surface finishes and only one rim fragment was present.

The fabrics exhibited by the prehistoric sherds were quite diverse. Paste additives include different grades of calcined flint, organic matter and grog. Some of the clays are quite ferruginous, others quite sandy.

Potentially the earliest diagnostic sherd in the group is a rim fragment from (2118) in a fine flint and organic-tempered ware. This had distinctive finger-tipping along the rim edge, a trait found in the later Bronze Age or early Iron Age. There were no other examples of this fabric elsewhere.

Some sherds with a particularly coarse calcined flint temper may be Bronze Age or later in date. Single sherds of this type came from (2107), (2307) and (2806).

Finer flint-tempered sherds with a marked iron content could also derive from the same phase of occupation or belong to the middle Iron Age. Such sherds came from (2604), (3228) and residually in (2609). In (3228) the flint wares were associated with a micaceous sandy ware which would also not be out of place in a middle Iron Age context.

Roman

Most of the assemblage, some 68 sherds, date to the Roman period. At least two episodes of use seem to be indicated, an earlier Roman phase and a later Roman phase.

The earlier phase is characterized by small fragmentary grog-tempered pieces accompanied by sandy wares and this could suggest a later Iron Age or early Roman phase of occupation. Contexts with this type of material include (1807) and (3214).

Isolated Roman sherds occurs in contexts (508), (1704), (2634) and (3224). The sherd from (2634) is Central Gaulish samian ware, probably of 2nd-century date. A wheelmade grog-tempered storage jar from (3224) and a greyware jar from (508) could be of later 2nd-3rd century date.

Nine very leached shelly wares from (920) are difficult to place chronologically. They could be late Roman in date or prehistoric. On the basis of other later Roman activity they are dated Roman at present but further knowledge of the context or the geographical/stratigraphical relationship with other groups may revise this.

Further Roman material was recovered from (2609) and (3215). The former produced five greyware sandy sherds of indeterminate Roman date. The latter was the largest and most distinctive group recovered with four sherds from a barbotine decorated Lower Nene Valley colour-coated beaker, and 35 sherds from a whiteware flagon which probably originally also had a colour-coated finish, alongside other grey wares. This group suggests a date in the 3rd century.

Medieval/ post-medieval

A single base sherd from a Medieval jug, probably originally glazed over a white slip came from Trench 21.

A small scrap of post-medieval glazed ware came from (3307).

Summary

The pottery assemblage recovered suggests a non-intensive use of the area investigated over a long period of time. The condition of the pottery suggests that it has been in a fairly hostile environment not conducive to the preservation of ceramic material. The smallness of the groups, the diversity of the material and the paucity of diagnostic pieces has frustrated close dating.

Table 2 Pottery assessment

Context	Preh	Roman	Med	Pmed	Tot no	Tot Wt	Date
508	0	1	0	0	1	12	Roman
920	0	?9	0	0	9	19	?late Roman
1704	0	1	0	0	1	3	?Roman
1807	2	2	0	0	4	7	?LIA-eRo
1812	1	0	0	0	1	4	IA
2107	1	0	0	0	1	6	IA
2118	10	0	0	0	10	55	LBA/EIA
2307	1	0	0	0	1	1	?IA
2604	1	0	0	0	1	8	IA
2609	2	5	0	0	7	42	IA/Roman
2634	0	1	0	0	1	5	Roman
2806	2	0	0	0	2	3	?IA
2906	2	0	0	0	2	2	IA
3214	1	1	0	0	2	8	LIA/eRo
3215	0	47	0	0	47	228	Roman C3
3224	0	1	0	0	1	20	Roman
3228	8	0	0	0	8	57	IA (?MIA)
3307	0	0	0	1	1	2	Pmed
Tr 21 us	0	0	1	0	1	7	Med
TOTAL	31	68	1	1	101	489	

APPENDIX 5

Cremated bone by Jacqueline I. McKinley

Cremated human bone from a single, undated context was received for analysis. The deposit had been subject to whole-earth recovery as two sub-samples.

Methods

Osteological analysis followed the writer's standard procedure for the examination of cremated bone (McKinley 1994a, 5-21). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal and tooth development (Beek 1986, McMinn and Hutchings 1985).

Results

The deposit did not appear to have suffered from any degree of truncation, having been protected by a relatively thick accumulation of subsoil/alluvium in antiquity (delete as appropriate). The bone was in good condition.

The 98.6g of bone recovered represent the remains of a juvenile (*c.* 5-10 yr). No pathological lesions were observed. The bone was white in colour, indicative of the high level of oxidation of the bone (Holden *et al* 1995a and b); the only variation in colour was in the fragments of tooth enamel which were blue-grey. The enamel of erupted teeth is not commonly recovered from cremation-related deposits, probably due to the very small size of the fragments resulting from shattering of the tooth enamel in the heat of the pyre. It is likely that the small fragments fell into the wood ash at the base of the pyre, thereby restricting the oxygen supply and the process of oxidation.

The majority of the bone was recovered from the 2mm fraction (52%), with a maximum fragment size in analysis of 27.1mm. A number of factors may affect the size of cremated bone fragments (McKinley 1994b) including, to an extent, the age of the individual. Whilst the young age of this individual and the relatively unprotected (i.e. not within a container) nature of the deposit will have affected fragment size, it is probable that the type of deposit was the predominant influence.

The bone was recovered from a shallow (0.05m) rectangular feature (1.0 x 0.70m) which had evidence for *in situ* burning. The deposit included charcoal and burnt clay, with a mix of cremated bone and charcoal in discretely located spreads in the upper fill. The size, form and fill of the feature and deposit are characteristic of a pyre site. Under-pyre scoops – to aid draught – of a similar nature have been found in Iron Age cremation cemeteries (Fitzpatrick 1997) and in some Romano-British cemeteries (Struck 1993). The archaeological components and their distribution (cremated bone towards the top) correspond with what one would expect at an uncleared pyre site (McKinley 1997). In collection of bone for burial, it is to be expected that there may be a bias towards recovery the larger pieces, the tiny fragments of shattered tooth enamel understandably remaining on the pyre site.

The distribution of skeletal elements within the two halves of the deposit (north and south) is not even; fragments of skull, axial skeleton and upper limb were identified from the northern half (containing 65% of the total weight of bone recovered), with fragments of only lower limb from the southern half (35% of recovered bone). This suggests that the body was laid on the pyre head to the north, that during and after cremation there was little movement of the body other than vertically together with the collapsing pyre (McKinley 1997), and that subsequent collection of bone for burial was by hand not raking-off of the remains.

The presence of three stakeholes distributed around the western side of the feature, on the side of the prevailing wind, suggests the presence of a wind-break to guard against uneven burning and collapse of the pyre – a constant hazard in exposed environments, the problems resulting from which have been noted in experimental work (*pers. obs.*)

The presence of a pyre site implies the close proximity of related burials which were commonly made in the same vicinity as the cremation was conducted in all except the Anglo-Saxon period (McKinley 1999).

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APPENDIX 6

Geotechnical testpits

The height of the watertable across the southern field was investigated during the excavation of three geotechnical test pits. These testpits were machine excavated by Harleyford Aggregates Limited in archaeologically sterile areas within existing evaluation trenches on the 29th September. All machine excavation was conducted under archaeological supervision and the results are presented below. All depths are from the top of the modern ground surface.

Table 3 Depths of deposits identified within geotechnical testpits

Test pit	A	B	C
Location	T. 31, western end	T.29, eastern end	T.21, northern end
Dimensions	3m x 2.4m	3m x 2.4m	3m x 2.4m
Top of topsoil	0.00m	0.00m (ploughsoil)	0.00m
Top of Subsoil/alluvial layer	0.21m	N/a	0.28m
Top of alluvial clay deposits	0.35m	0.3m	0.54m
Top of Devensian gravel	1.25m	0.6m	0.8m
Depth of watertable	2.5m	1.4m	1.8m
Maximum depth of excavation	2.7m	1.6m	2.0m

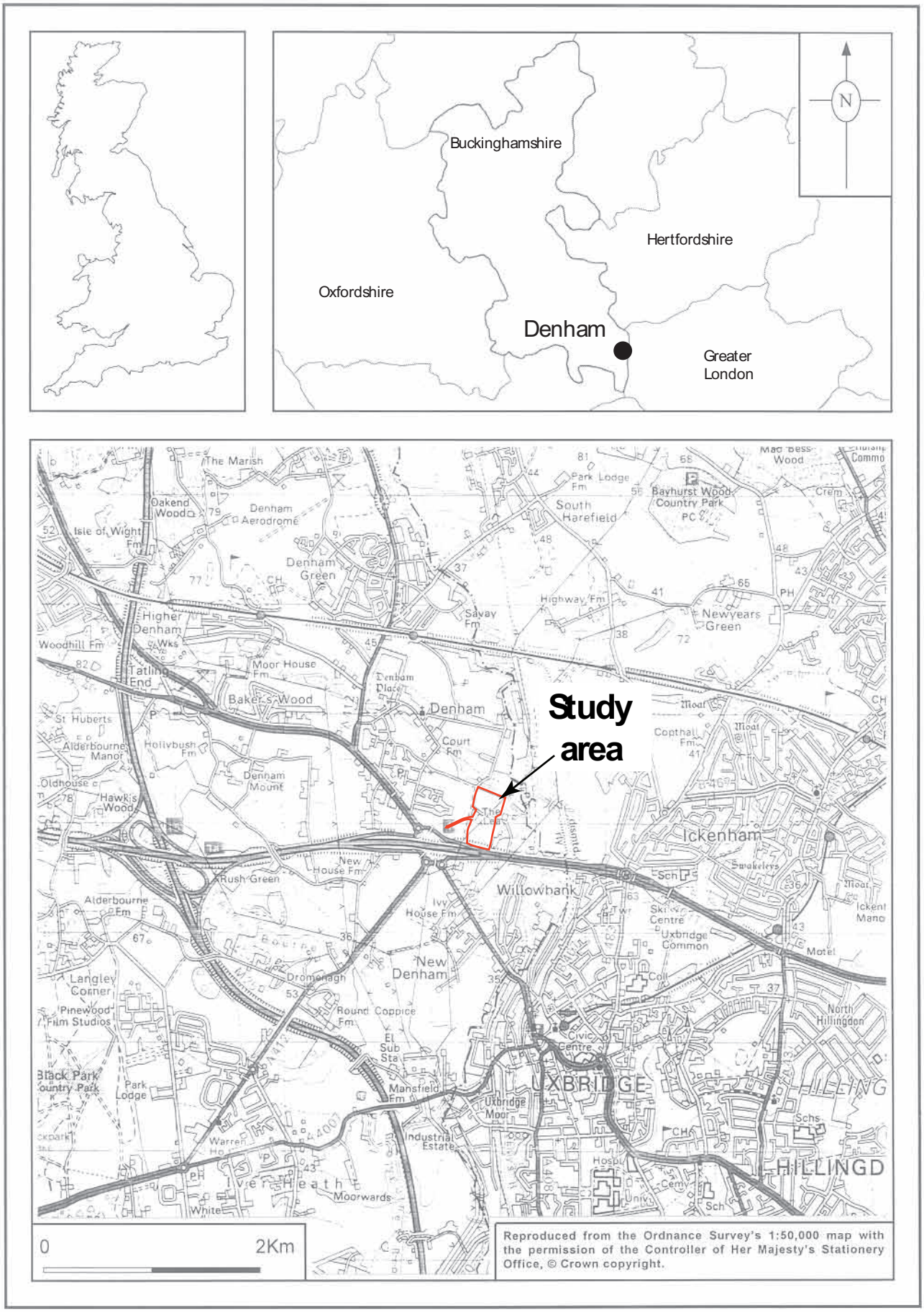


Fig. 1 Location plan

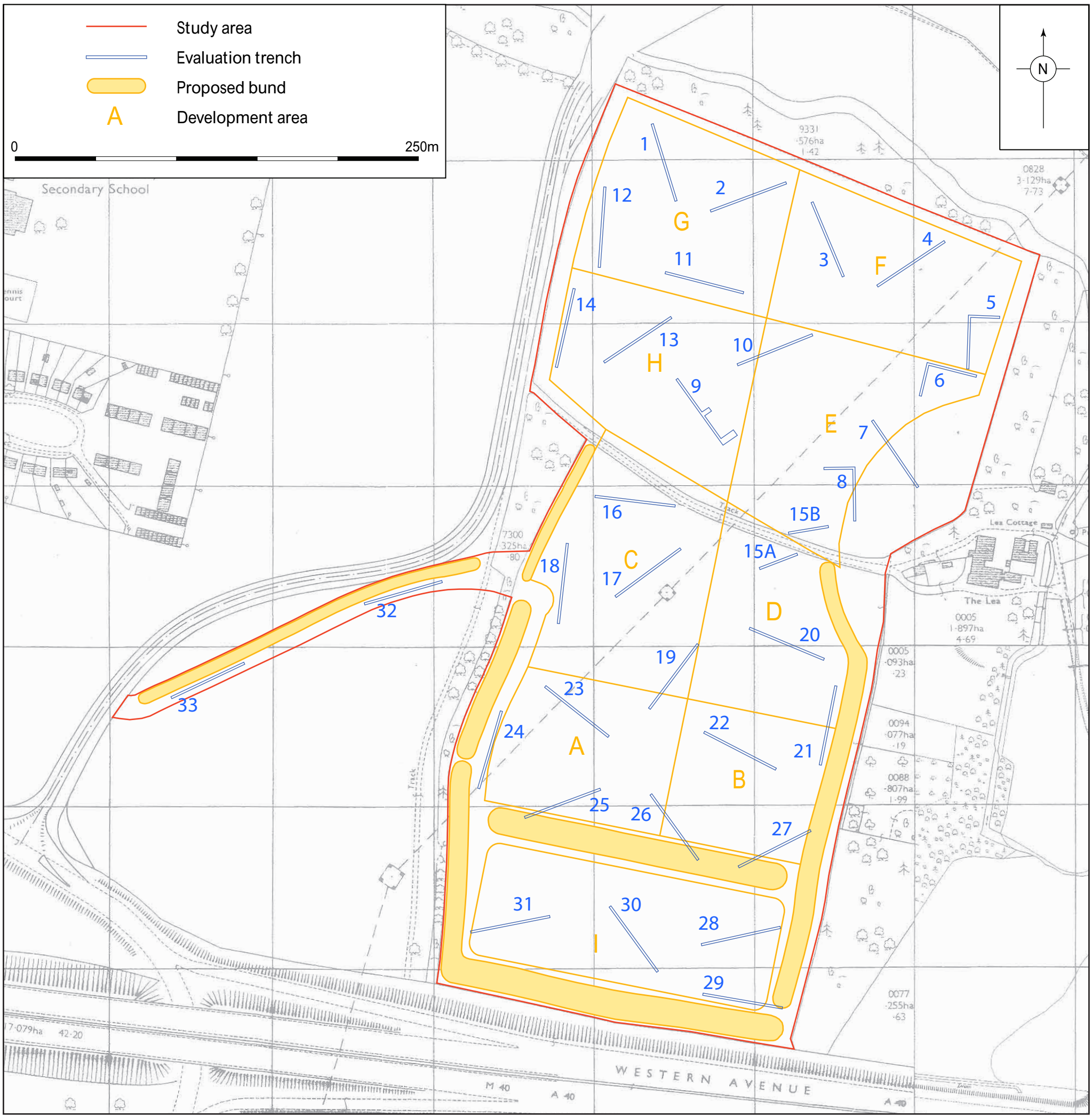


Fig. 2 Trench location plan, development and study area

Study area

Evaluation trench

00.00m Height of modern ground surface

00.00m Height of Devensian gravel

(Heights based on arbitrary base level of 0.00m)

0 250m

Fig. 3 Relative heights of Devensian gravel & modern ground surface

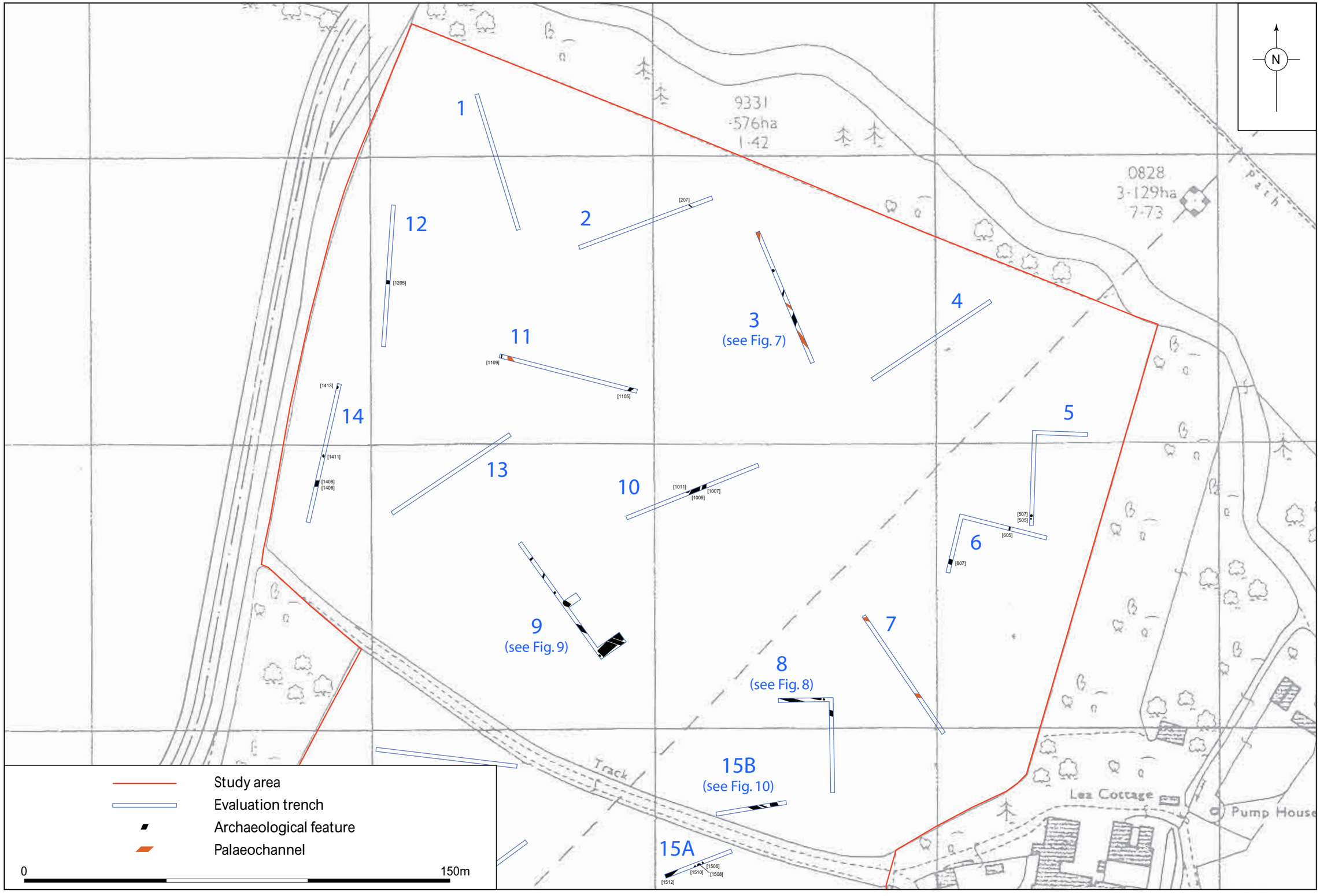


Fig. 4 Northern field; all archaeological features

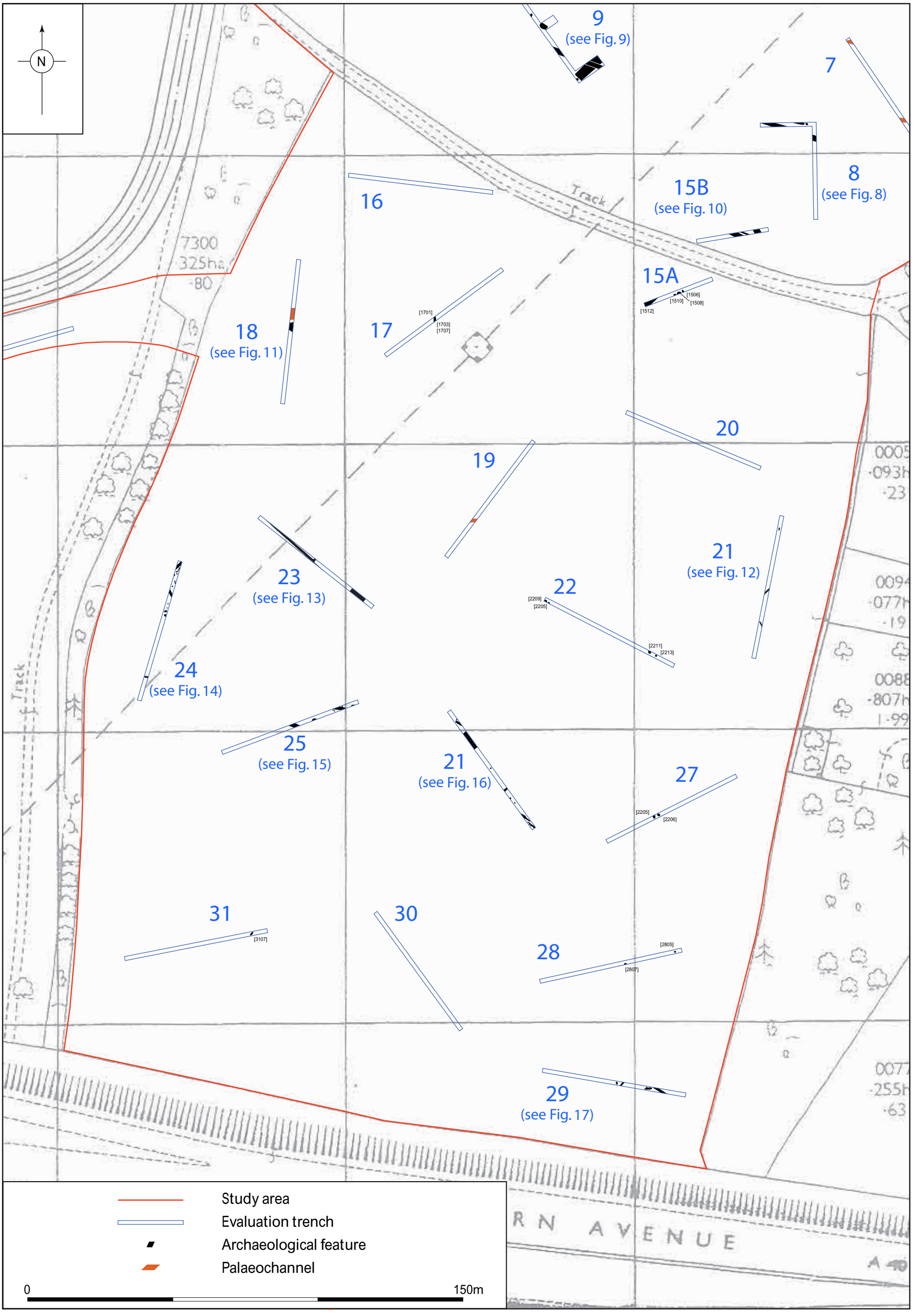


Fig. 5 Southern field; all archaeological features

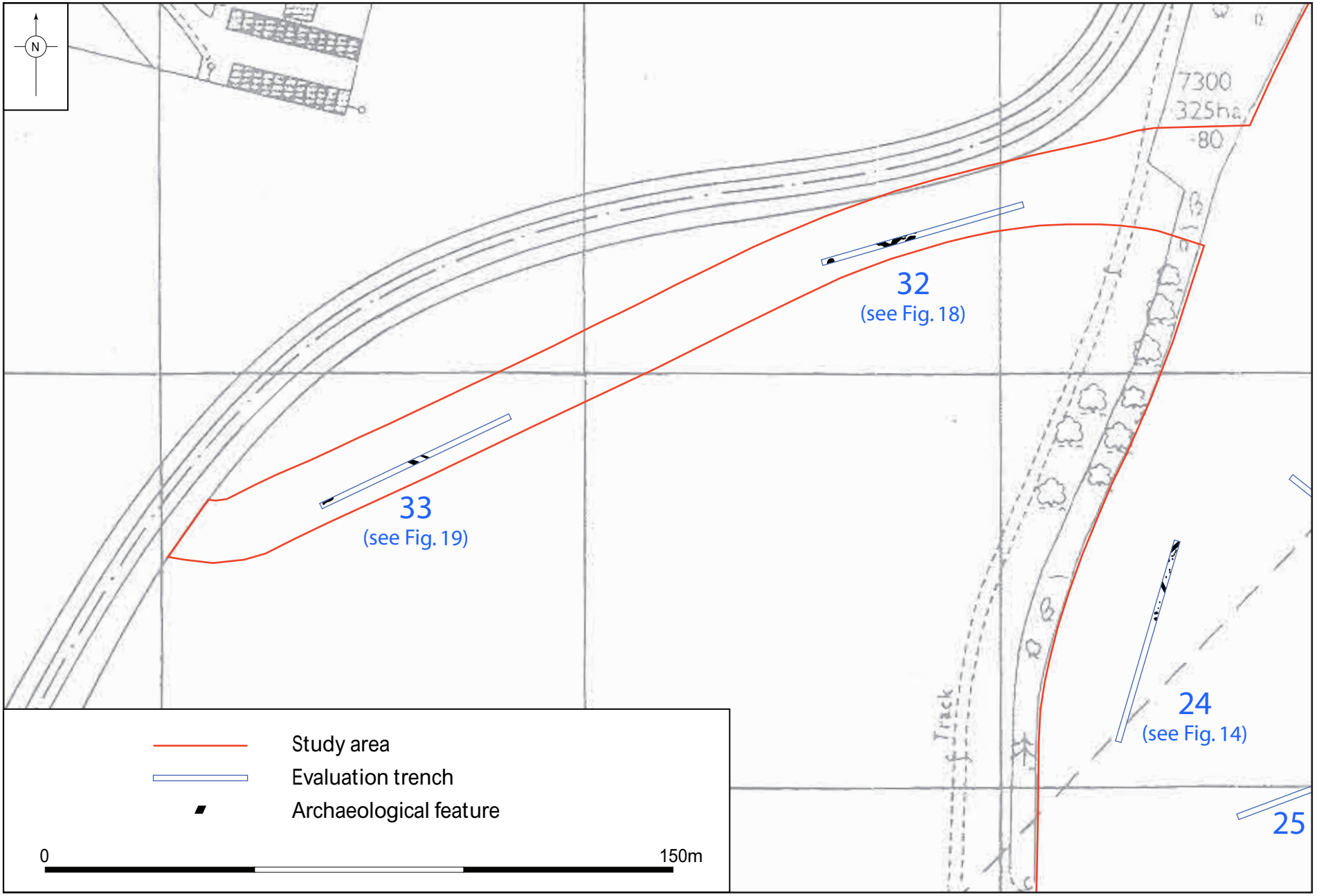
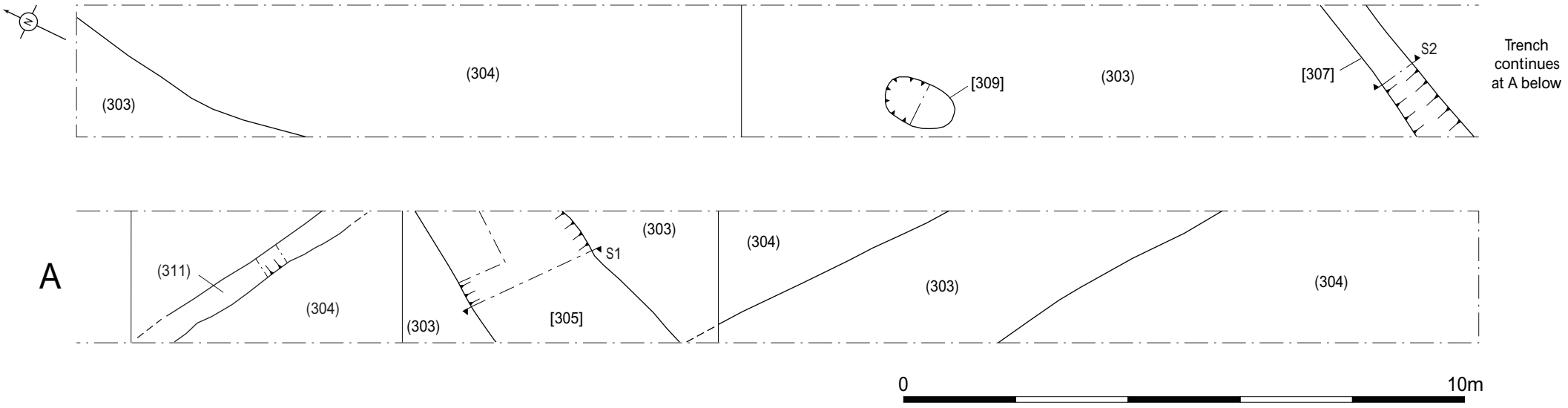


Fig. 6 Western field; all archaeological features



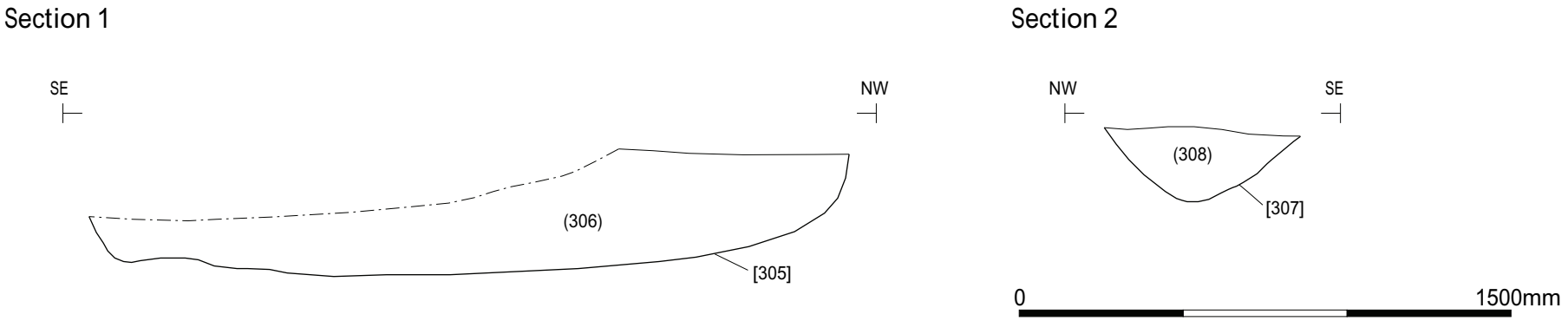


Fig. 7 Trench 3; plan and sections

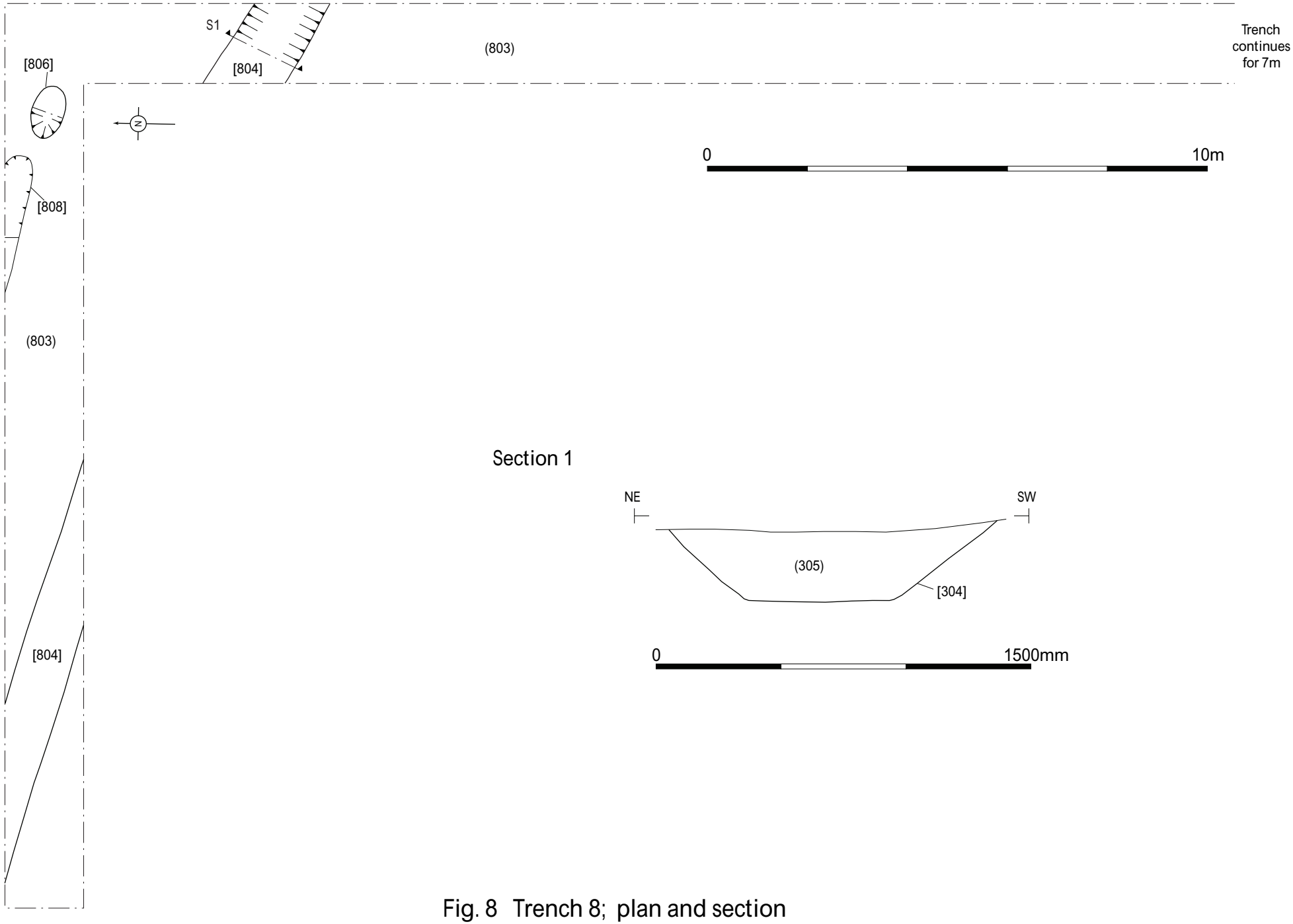


Fig. 8 Trench 8; plan and section

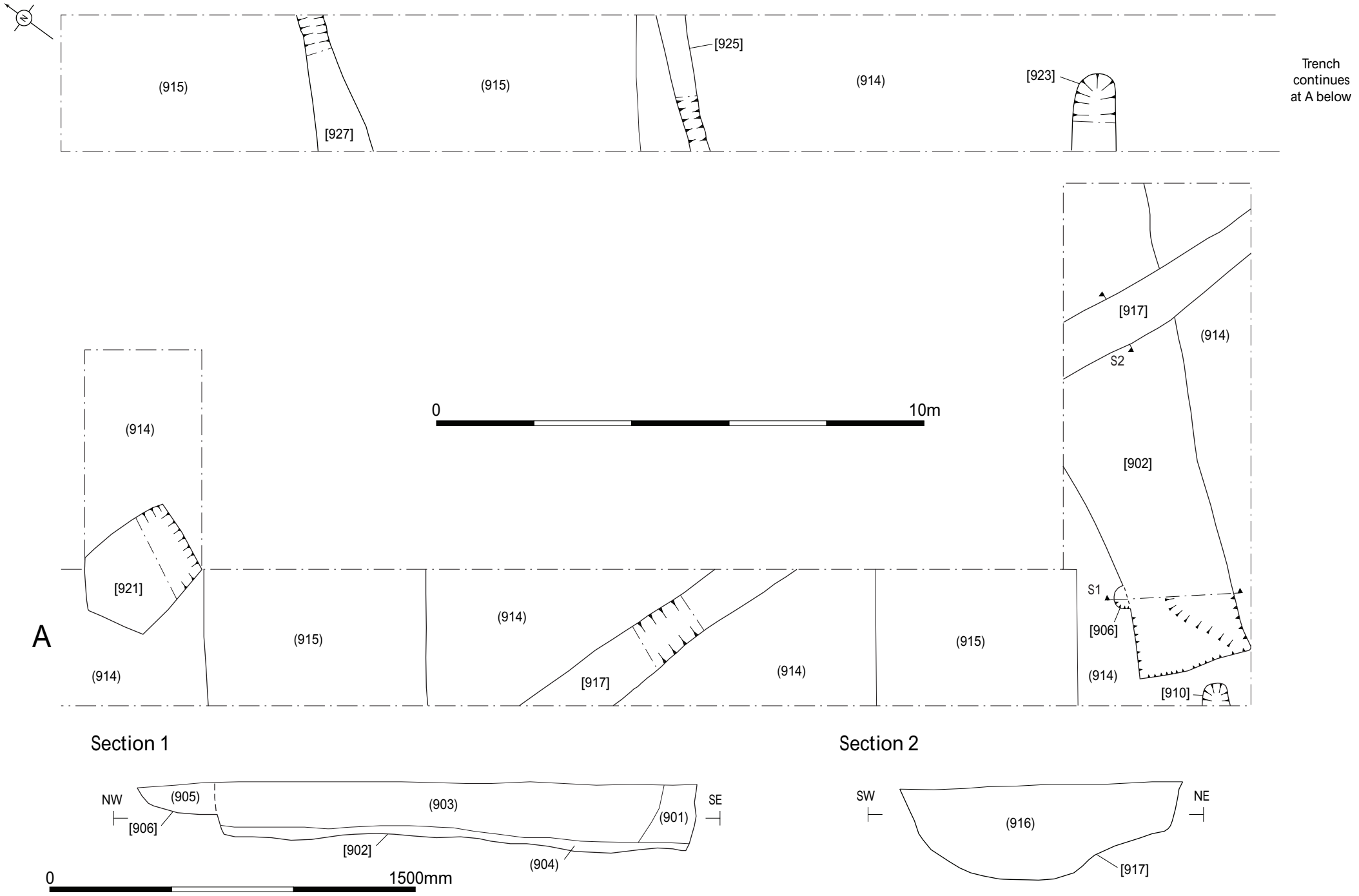
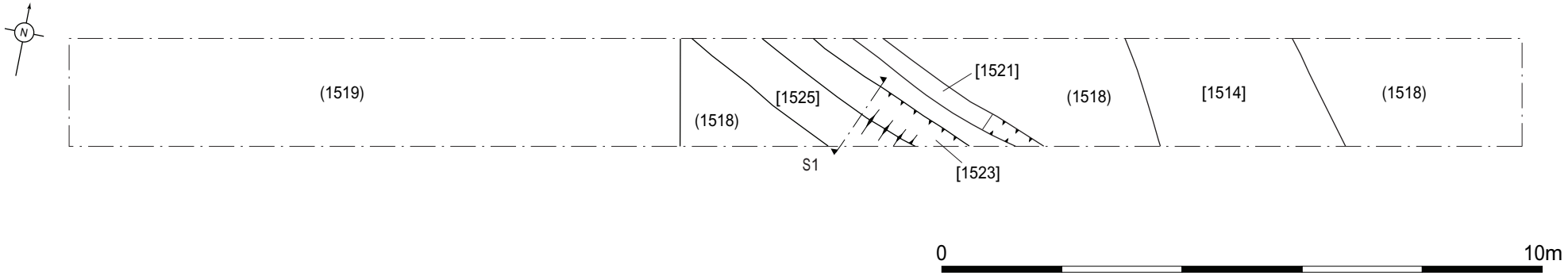


Fig. 9 Trench 9; plan and sections



Section 1

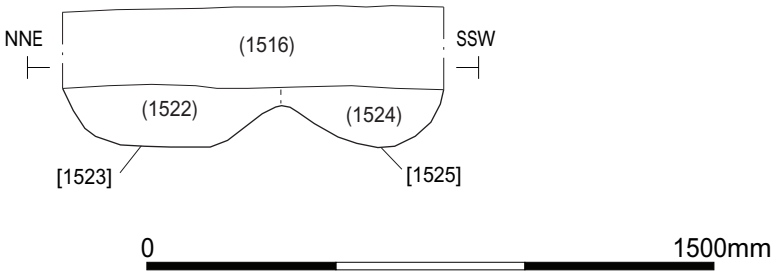
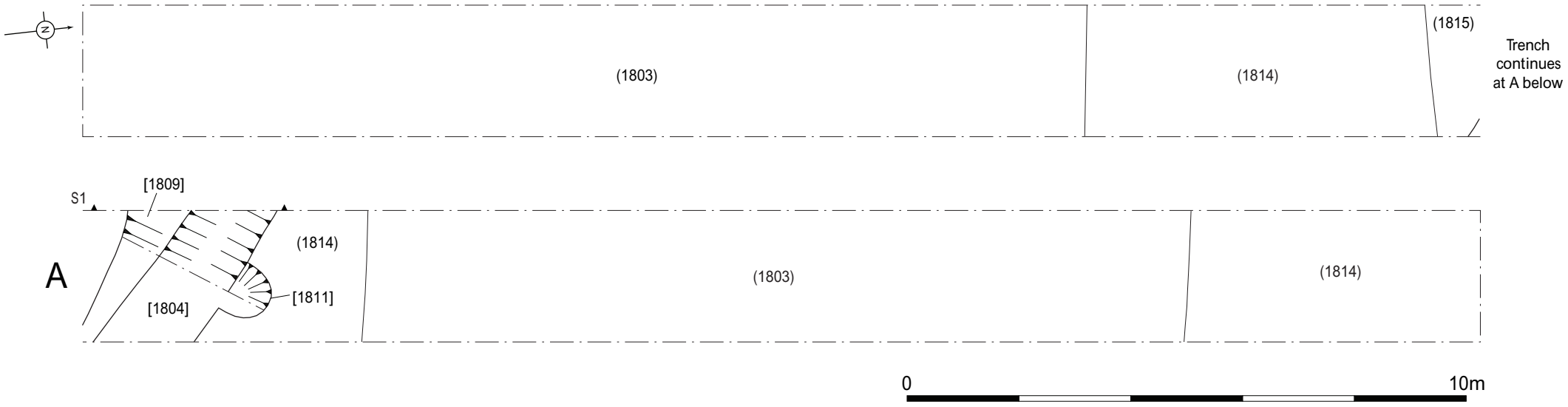


Fig. 10 Trench 15B; plan and section



Section 1

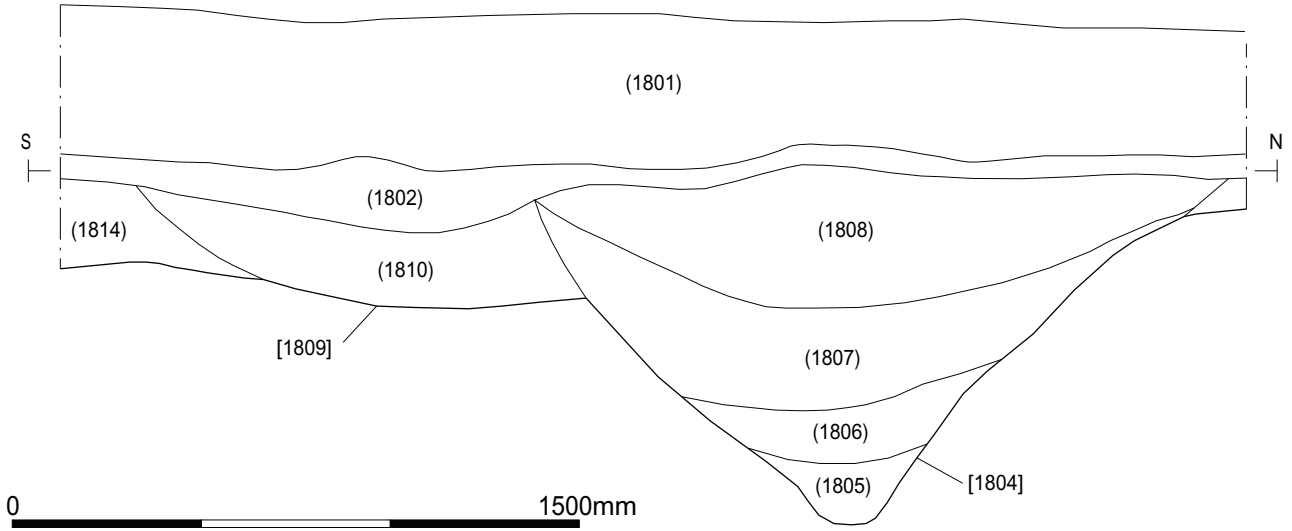


Fig. 11 Trench 18; plan and section

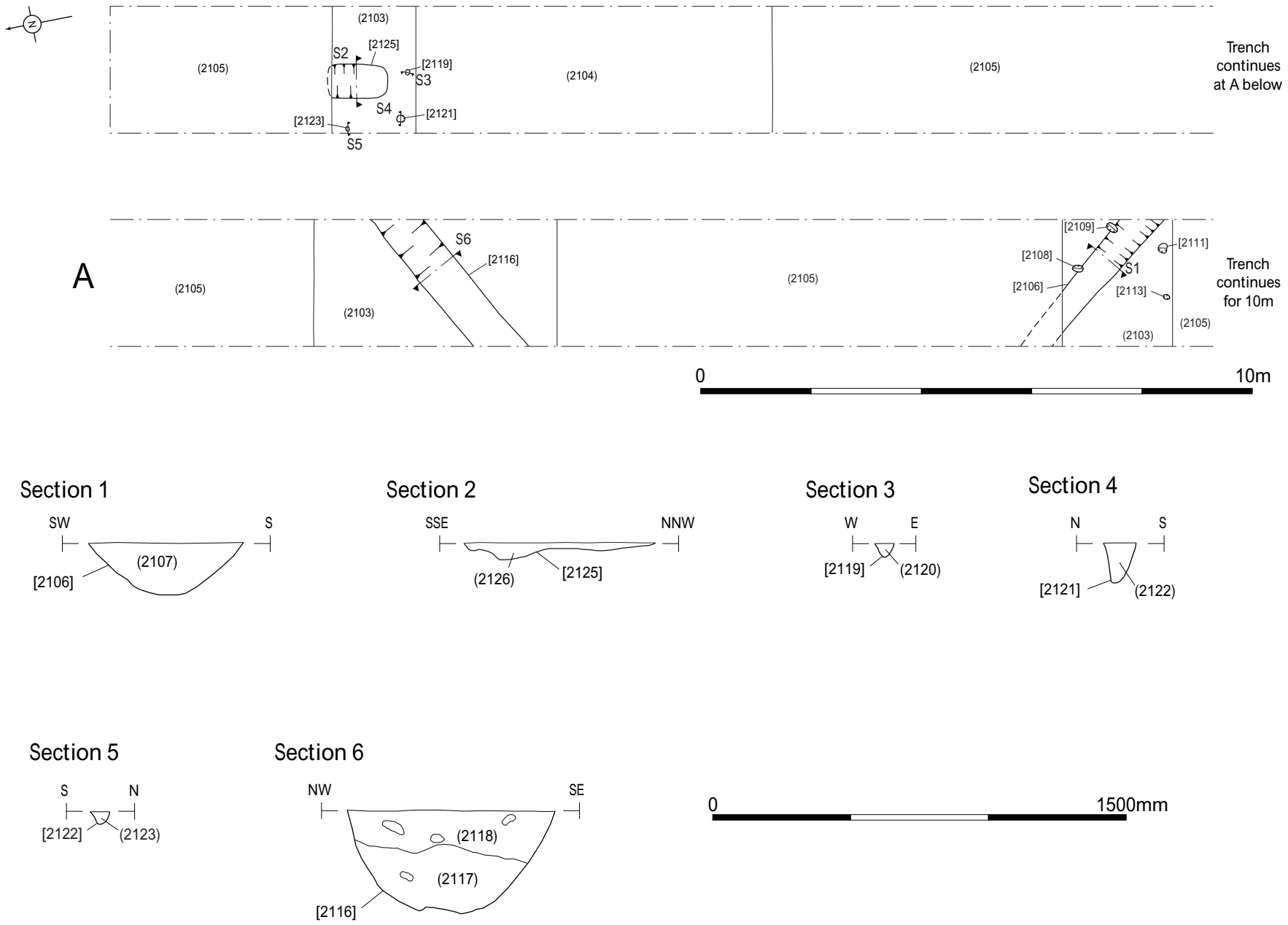
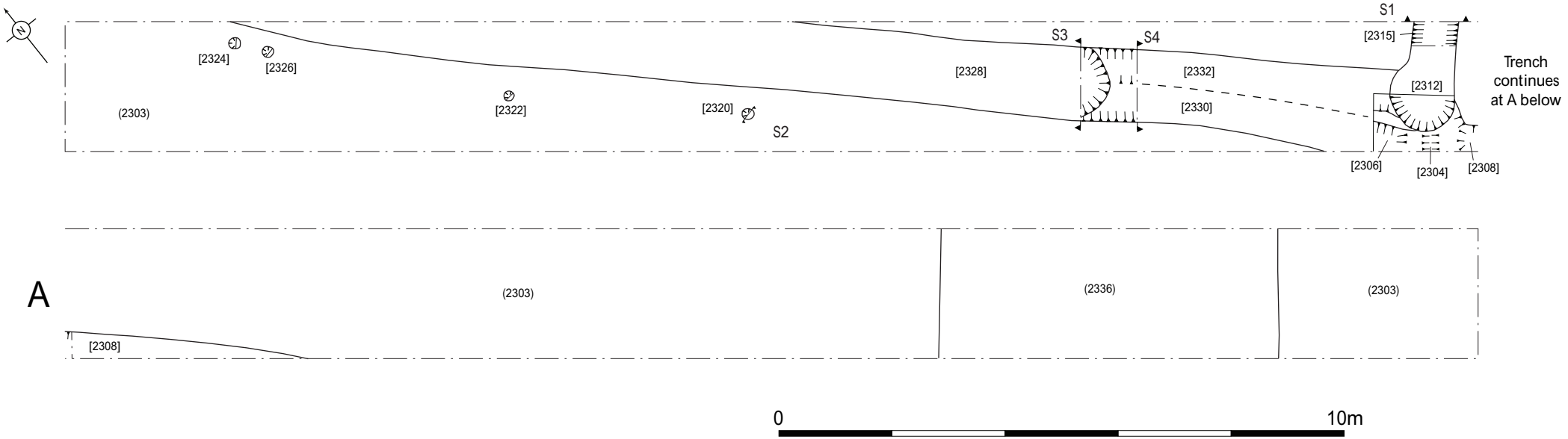
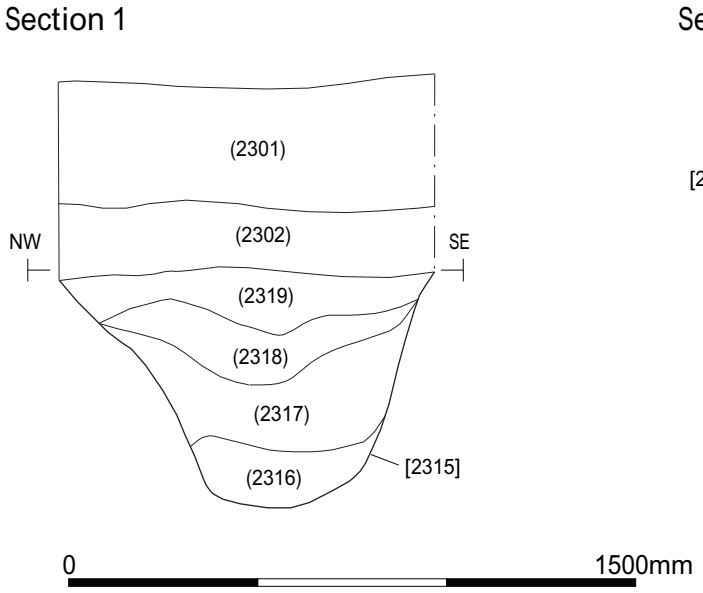
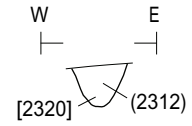
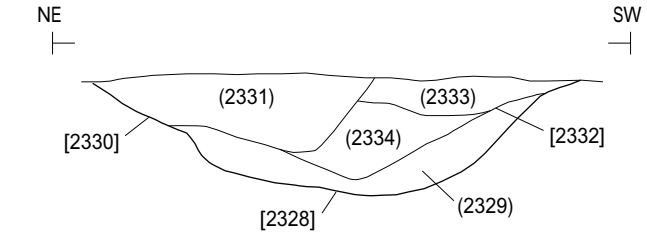


Fig. 12 Trench 21; plan and sections









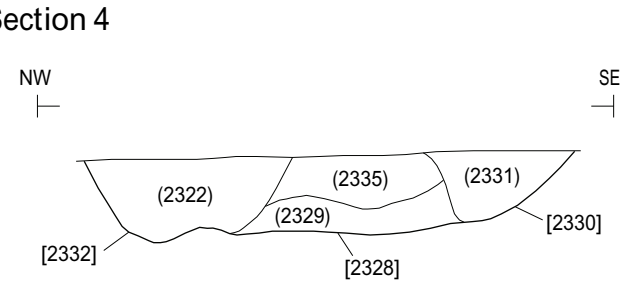


Fig. 13 Trench 23; plan and sections

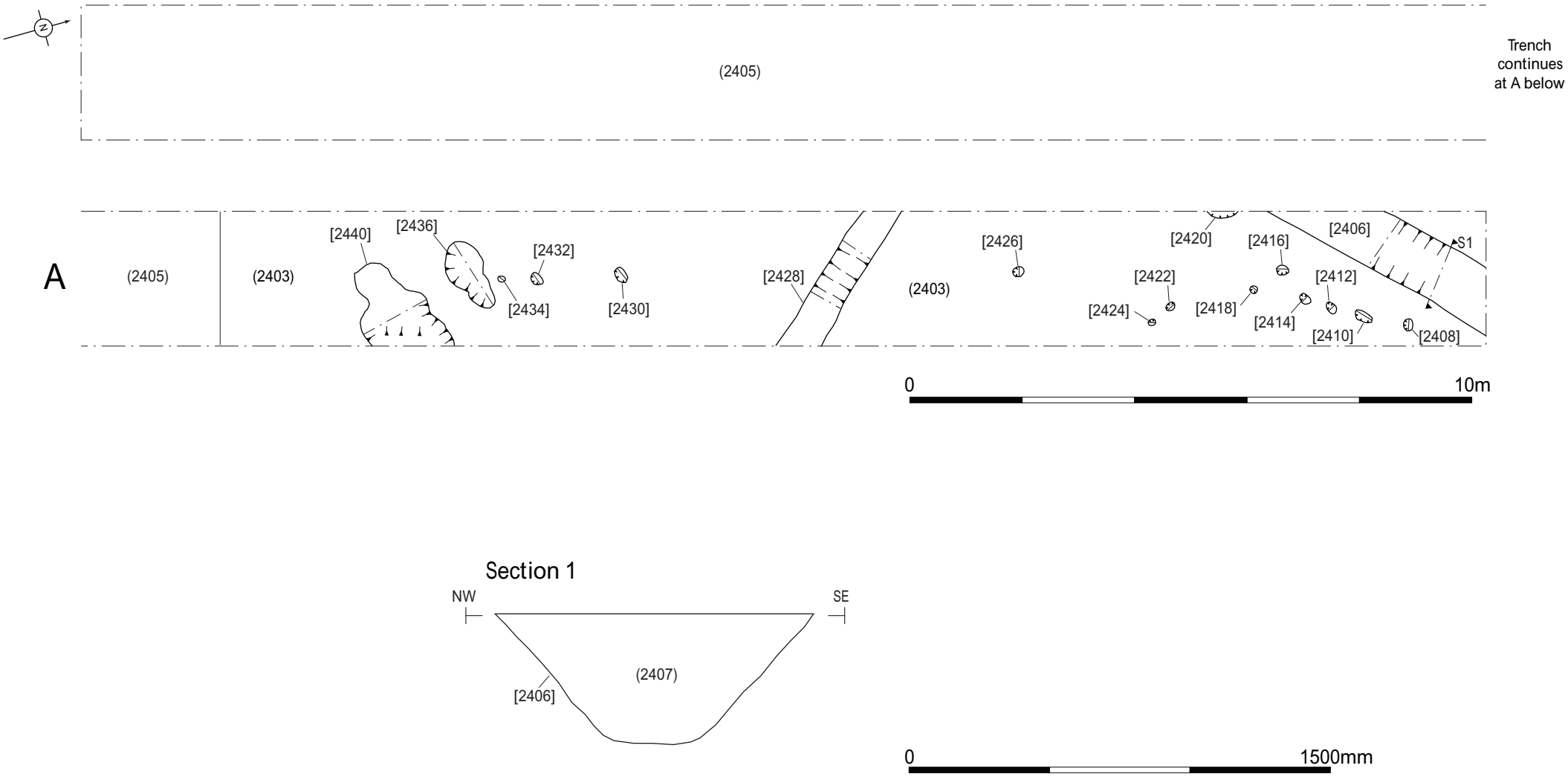


Fig. 14 Trench 24; plan and sections

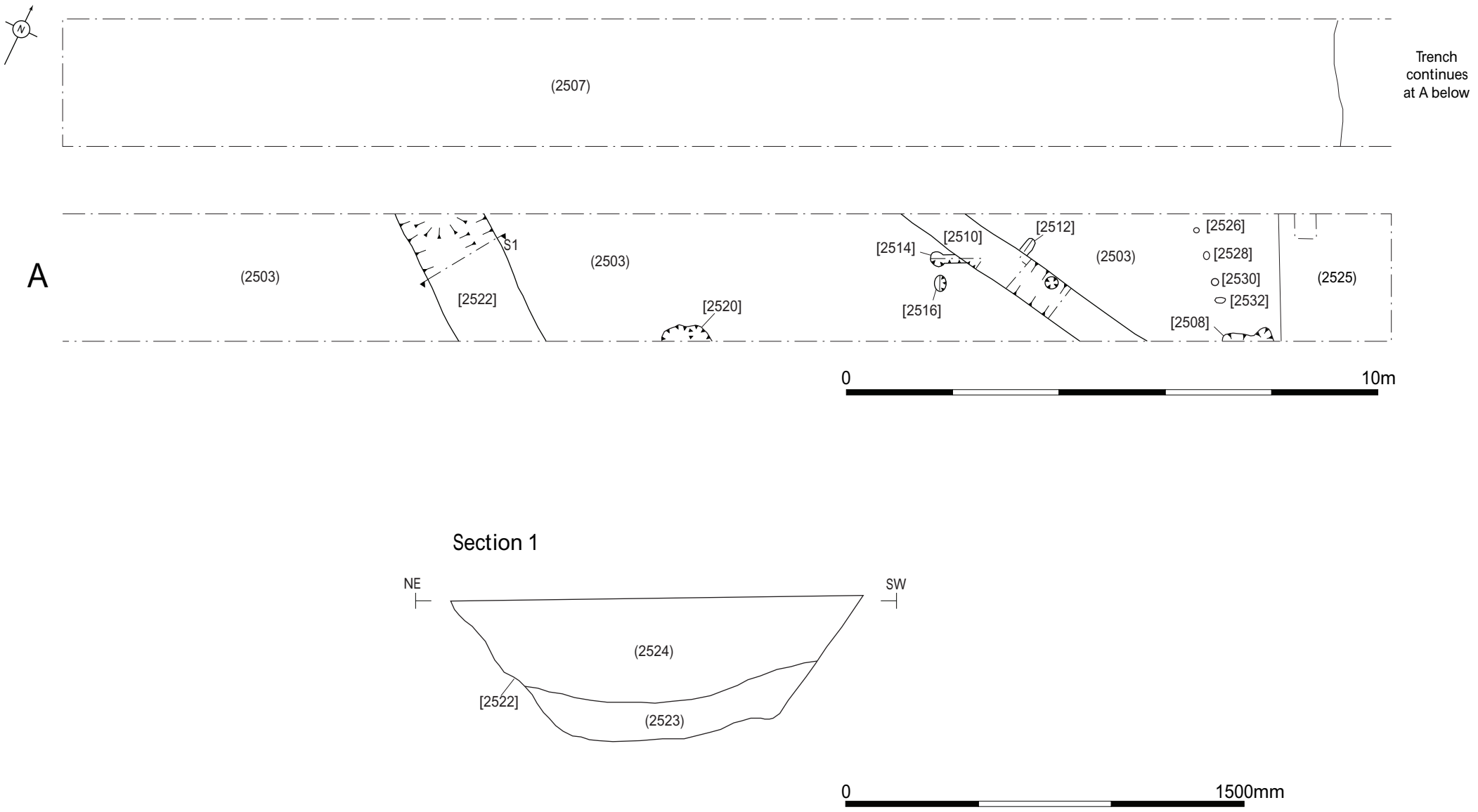
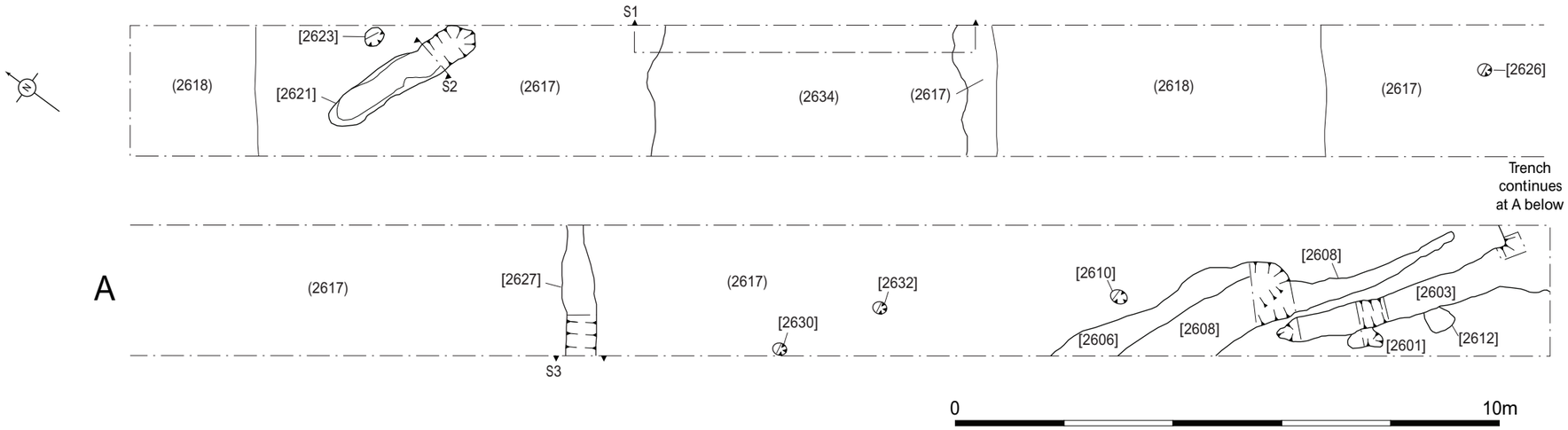
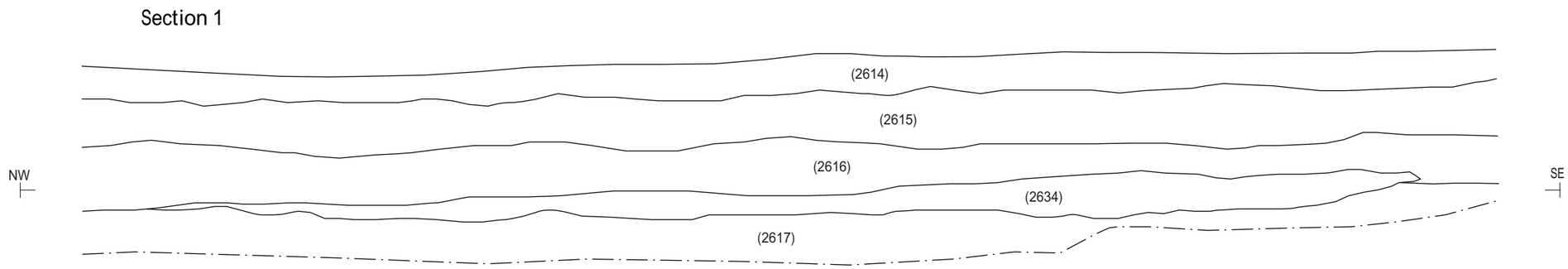
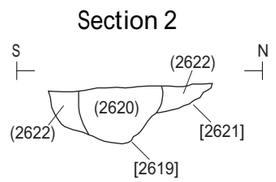


Fig. 15 Trench 25; plan and sections







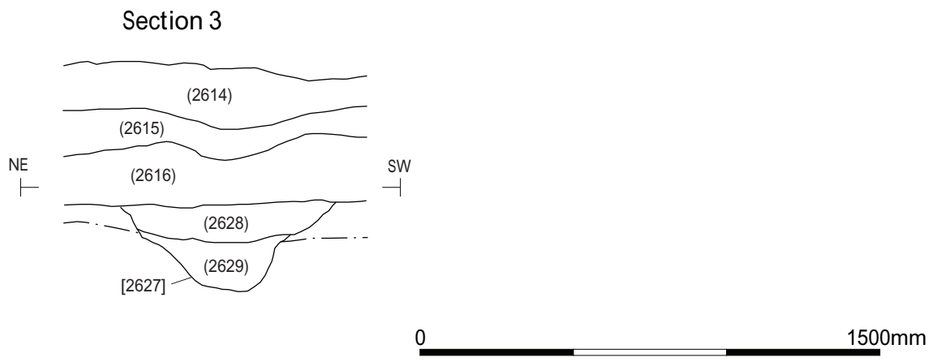


Fig. 16 Trench 26; plan and sections

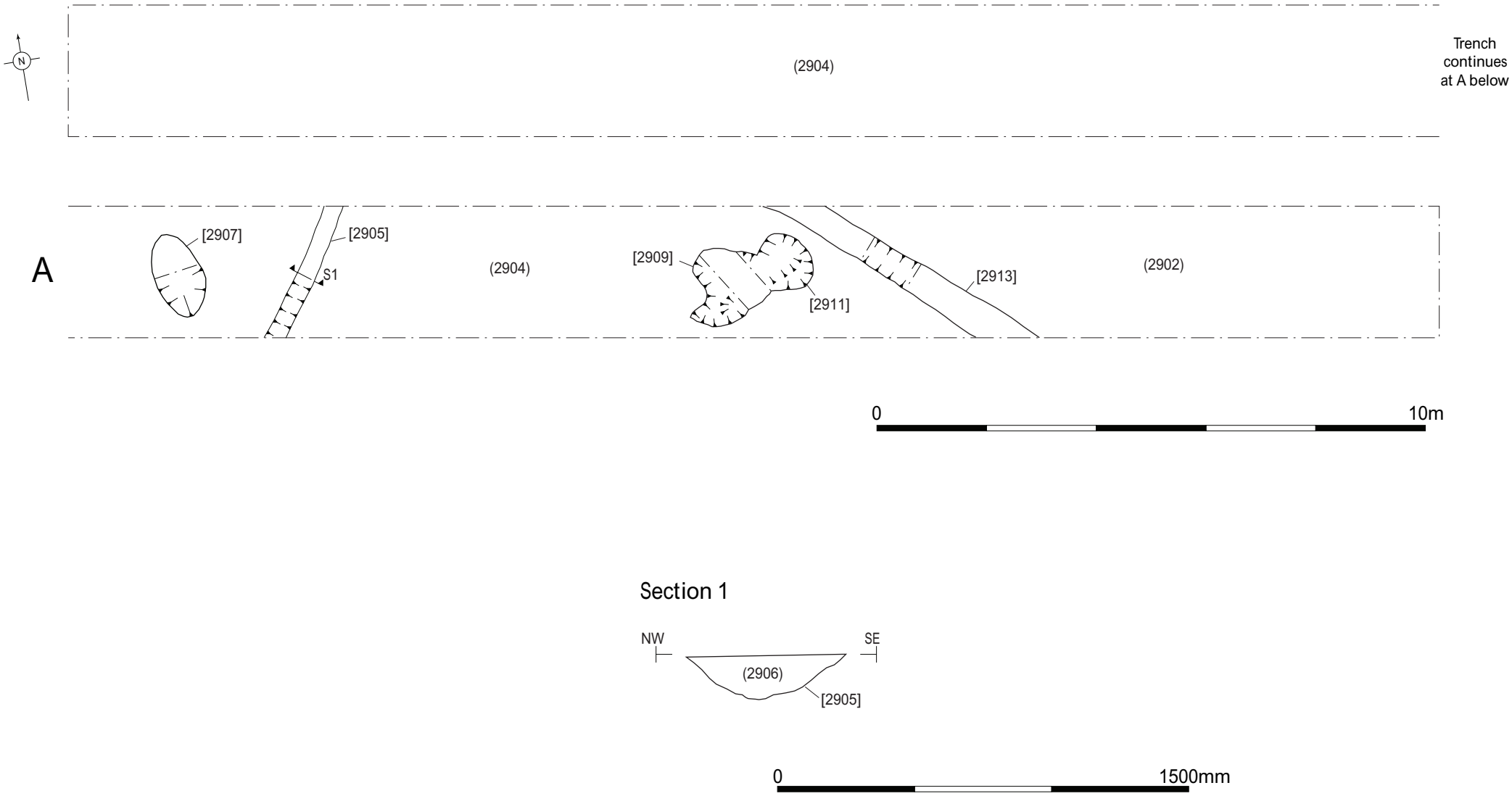


Fig. 17 Trench 29; plan and section

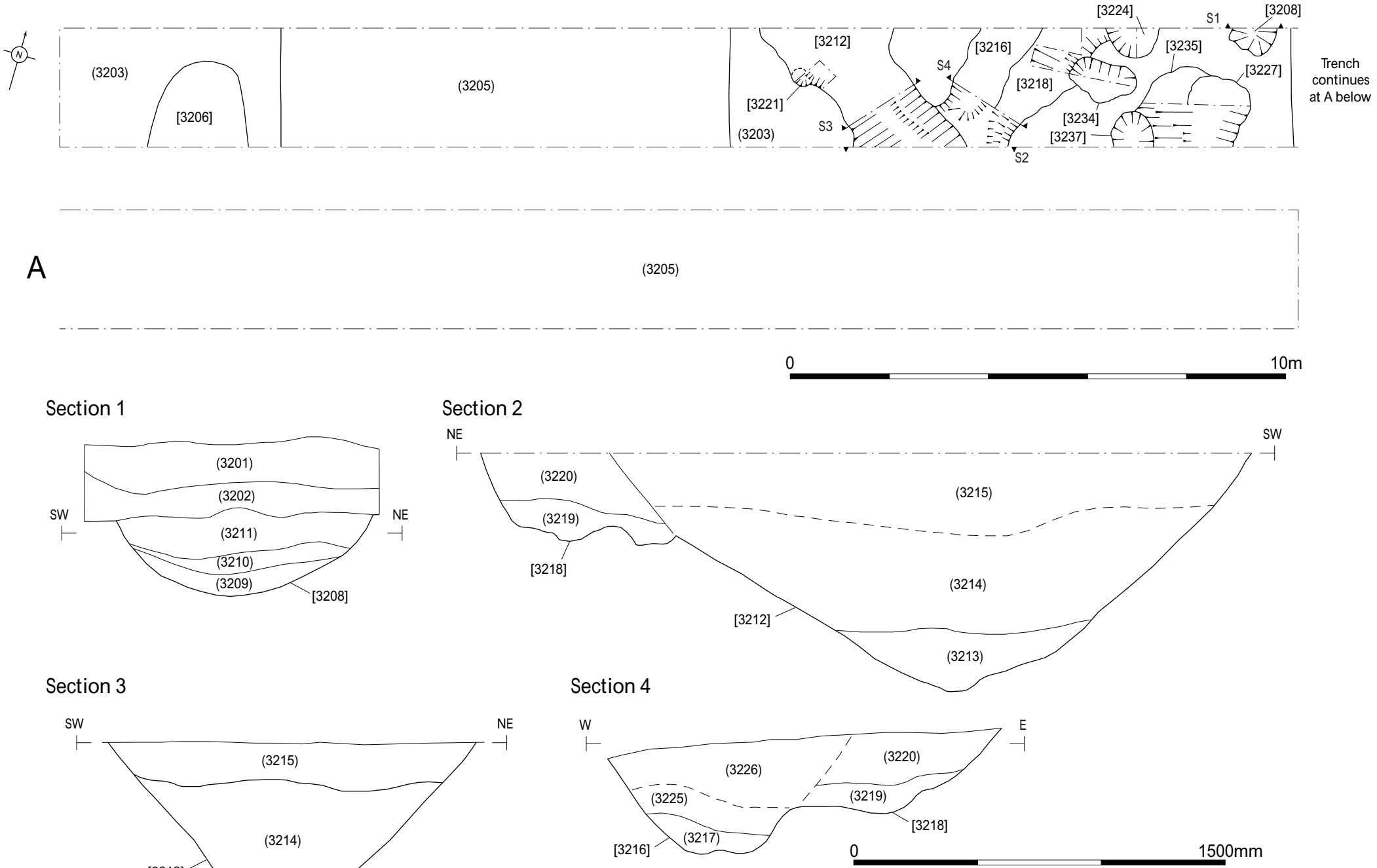


Fig. 18 Trench 32; plan and sections

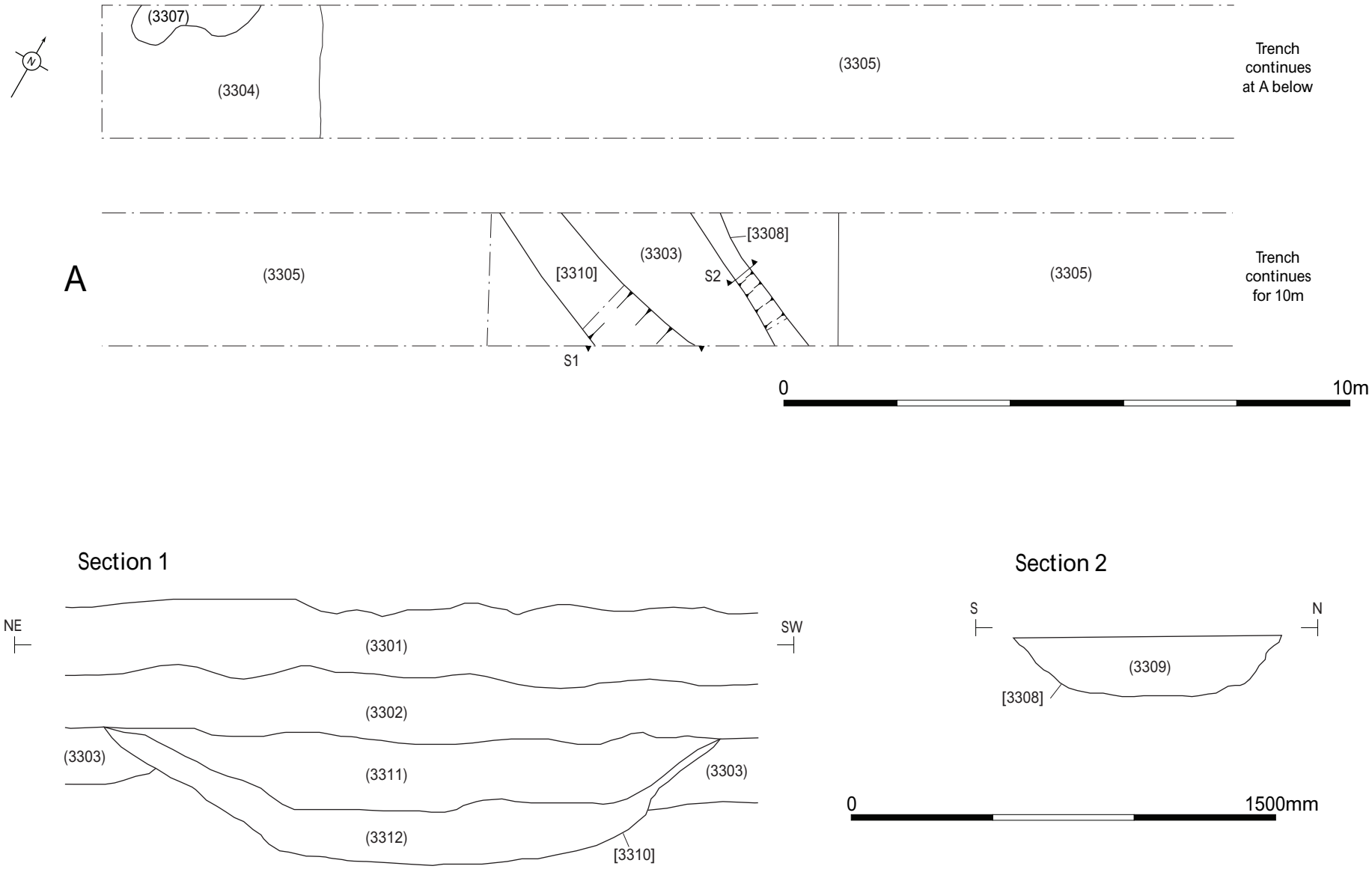


Fig. 19 Trench 33; plan and sections