



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

An Archaeological Evaluation at

**Hucclecote Centre
Churchdown Lane
Hucclecote
Gloucester**

For Mr Andy Carr



*Edmund Stratford
Archaeology Service
Environment Directorate*

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Details

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Summary

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service was commissioned by Andy Carr of Gloucestershire County Council Business Management to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Hucclecote Centre, Churchdown Lane, Hucclecote, Gloucester. The Historic Environment Manager of Gloucester City Council recommended that a programme of archaeological work be carried out as the Hucclecote Centre is within an area of intensive archaeological activity lying immediately south of a prehistoric farmstead and Romano-British villa complex and partially within the Scheduled Monument of Hucclecote Roman Villa (SM 188). Eighteen trenches were machine excavated during two phases of field evaluation and an extensive rectilinear system of 2nd to 4th century Romano-British ditches was recorded and interpreted as boundaries enclosing Romano-British fields or paddocks associated with the villa complex to the north. Tentative evidence for the presence of structures, in the form of two possible rubble wall foundations and a possible beam slot, was also recorded.

1 Introduction

1.1 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) was commissioned by Andy Carr of Gloucestershire County Council Business Management to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Hucclecote Centre, Churchdown Lane, Hucclecote, Gloucester (OS NGR 387668 217459). The evaluation formed part of a programme of archaeological assessment and field evaluation undertaken in order to inform any future planning application for the site. A desk-based assessment and historic building appraisal, was undertaken in February 2011 (Stratford 2011; GHER 38080). The evaluation was carried out in two phases; Phase 1 was undertaken between 18th February and 4th March 2011 and Phase 2 was undertaken between 16th and 19th May 2011 by Edmund Stratford, Andy Walsh, Nathan Thomas, Nick Witchell and Paul Nichols.

1.2 The evaluation was completed in accordance with the requirements of the 'Brief for an archaeological desk-based assessment, evaluation and rapid historic environment building appraisal' (Smith 2011) issued by the Historic Environment Manager of Gloucester City Council. Specific requirements for the evaluation were detailed in the project design (Nichols 2011). The work was carried out in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation' produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). The Archaeology Service is an Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisation (IfA RO 42).

1.3 This report will be submitted to the Historic Environment Manager of Gloucester City Council for his comments and recommendations for any further archaeological work.

2 Site location (Figure 1)

The Hucclecote Centre is located in the Severn Vale, in the Hucclecote area of Gloucester, c.5km to the east of the city centre. The area which is in Gloucestershire County Council ownership covers c.2.3 hectares of flat ground located on the east side of Churchdown Lane. Surrounding the site to the north, south and east is land which, with the Hucclecote Centre buildings, formerly formed the Hucclecote Secondary School, but has since been given over to other uses. To the north of the site is an open field now occupied by a rugby pitch, to the east the rugby club clubhouse, and to the south a development of residential housing. The site is centred on OS NGR 387668 217459, at a height of c.40m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is geologically situated on blue lias clays and mudstone of the Charmouth formation, overlying Cheltenham sand and gravels (BGS 2011). A portion of the scheduled area, relating to Hucclecote Roman Villa (SM 188), lies within the northern edge of the site.

3 Archaeological, historical and cartographic background

3.1 Information regarding the historical and archaeological background of the site and its immediate surroundings is outlined in a desk-based assessment (Stratford 2011) which should be read in conjunction with this document.

3.2 The desk-based assessment established that the study area lies within an area of intensive archaeological activity where evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has been recorded at depths of between 0.2m and 1.3m below ground level. Part of the study area lies within the

Scheduled Monument of Hucclecote Roman Villa (SM 188) while the remainder of the site lies within the wider villa landscape, where further buildings, trackways and systems of enclosures have been recorded.

4 Purpose of the evaluation

4.1 The purpose of the evaluation was *“to gain information about the archaeological resource ... including its presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality, in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context, leading to: the formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or the formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may affect adversely such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”* (IfA 2008).

4.2 The evaluation presents an opportunity to address the following research questions, which were outlined in the brief (Smith 2011):

- What is the nature of the evidence for prehistoric activity on the site; does this change through the period?
- What is the nature of the evidence for Roman activity on the site? Does the nature of evidenced activity change through the Roman period?
- Is there any evidence of continuity from the prehistoric to the Roman periods?
- The presence and nature of remains from the Saxon and medieval periods; is there evidence for continuity from the Roman period?
- The presence and nature of remains related to the industrial age (1750-1960) activity on the site; what is the origin of the Hucclecote Centre. Did its form and function change in the later 20th century? How is this archaeologically expressed?

5 Methodology

5.1 The field evaluation was undertaken in two separate phases. In Phase 1, 14 trenches (Trenches 1 to 14) were positioned to provide coverage of the previously developed part of the Hucclecote Centre site and immediate surrounding grass areas. Trench locations were, however, restricted due to the presence of live services, standing buildings and trees and requirements to keep the Hucclecote Centre fully operational during the works. The trenches measured between 10m and 25m in length and 1.9m in width. In Phase 2, four trenches (Trenches 15 to 18) were positioned to provide coverage of the grassed area to the south of the car park. The trenches measured 25m in length and 1.9m in width. All trenches were excavated to the level of the first archaeological deposit or the natural ground using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Subsequent excavation was by hand. The location of the trenches is shown on Figure 2.

5.2 All deposits were recorded on pro-forma context sheets and a plan and section were drawn on pre-gridded waterproof draughting film. Site and trench location plans, based on the Ordnance Survey maps, were prepared. Levels above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were recorded for archaeological deposits as required in the brief.

5.3 The site archive will be temporarily stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester, under a unique site code, GHER 38152, issued by the County Historic Environment Record Officer. It is anticipated that it will eventually be deposited with the Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery.

6 Results of the evaluation (Figure 2)

6.1 The results of the evaluation are outlined below, with the deposits discussed in stratigraphic order starting with the earliest. Cut numbers are shown in square brackets [] all other context numbers are shown in round brackets (). The results of the ceramic, small find and coin assessments are detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

6.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

6.2.1 Trench 1 was located towards the northeast corner of the site, adjacent to the existing car park. The trench was orientated west-northwest to east-southeast and measured 20m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of between 0.75m and 0.82m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (102), at a height of between 38.73m and 38.84m AOD. The natural geology was cut by eight features: six linear ditches, a possible pit and a single posthole.

6.2.2 Ditch [105] was recorded at the east end of Trench 1 and was orientated east to west. The shallow ditch had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and measured over 0.45m in width, 0.26m in depth and extended up to 13m along the southern edge of the trench. Ditch [105] was filled by a mid orange brown silty clay (104) containing 2nd to 3rd century pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and worked stone. Overlying fill (104) was a grey brown silt deposit (103), which followed the same alignment as ditch [105] but spread over a metre beyond the feature to the north and contained Romano-British pottery. Deposit (103) is likely to be associated with ditch [105] and may represent a ploughed-out bank.

6.2.3 Deposit (103) was cut by two parallel ditches to the west. Ditch [107] was orientated north-northwest to south-southeast and had concave sides and a flat base. The ditch measured c.1m in width, 0.26m in depth and over 1.9m in length and was filled by a grey brown silty clay (106) containing late 2nd century pottery, CBM and animal bone. A land drain had truncated the east edge of the feature. Ditch [110] was located 0.35m to the west of [107], orientated on the same alignment. The ditch measured 1.3m in width, 0.2m in depth and over 1.9m in length and contained three fills. The primary fill of [110] was a deposit of unworked limestone blocks and rubble (109) set against the base and edges of the ditch cut, which may represent a rubble wall foundation. The limestone rubble deposit was overlain by a layer of redeposited natural clay (130), on the west edge of the ditch, which was in turn overlain by a deposit of brown grey clay silt (108) containing 2nd century pottery, CBM, animal bone and an iron nail (SF 1). These parallel ditches may represent contemporary features, possibly forming part of a landscape feature or structure (as suggested by the limestone blocks in [110]), or they may represent the migration of a boundary through successive episodes of ditch cutting.

6.2.4 Two further parallel U-shaped ditches were recorded 3.4m to the west of [110], on a north to south alignment. Ditch [114] measured 1.15m in width, 0.72m in depth and over 1.9m in length and contained three fills. The primary fill of [114] was a yellow brown mixed clay and sand (115) containing animal bone. Deposit (115) was overlain by a green grey mixed clay and sand (116) containing 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM, tile, animal bone and a copper alloy drop handle (SF 2). The uppermost fill of [114] was a yellow brown clay (117) containing late 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM and animal bone. Ditch [119] was located 0.2m to the west of [114], on the same north to south alignment and measured 1.4m in width, 0.62m in depth and over 1.9m in length. Ditch [119] was filled by a single deposit of blue grey clay (120) which contained Romano-British pottery, CBM, tile, animal bone and limestone pieces. Overlying the uppermost fills of both [114] and [119], and spread c.1m beyond the east and west edges of the ditches, was a deposit of dark grey brown silty clay (129) which measured 0.2m in depth and contained quantities of late 2nd to late 4th century pottery, CBM, tile and animal bone. This deposit may represent an episode of manuring/dumping in the late Romano-British period which resulted in a finds-rich deposit accumulating within the earthwork remnants of backfilled ditches [114] and [119].

6.2.5 Deposit (129) also overlay ditch [127] which was recorded on an east to west alignment to the west of ditch [119], although no relationship was established at the intersections of ditch [127] and ditches [114] and [119]. Ditch [127] had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and measured over 1m in width, 0.48m in depth and extended for over 4.5m along the trench. The ditch was filled by an orange brown clay (128) containing 2nd to 4th century pottery. It is possible that ditch [127] represents a continuation of ditch [105], recorded at the east end of the trench.

6.2.6 Ditch [127] was cut by a large pit [124]. Pit [124] appeared roughly circular in plan, measured over 1.06m in diameter and 0.9m in depth and contained two fills. The primary fill of pit [124] was a yellow brown clay and silty sand (125) which contained animal bone. The uppermost fill of pit [124] was a dark grey clay silt (126) which contained quantities of 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM, animal bone, a fragment of copper alloy sheet (SF 3), a 2nd to 3rd century bracelet (SF 4) and a fragment of prismatic bottle glass (SF 5).

6.2.7 A single possible posthole [122] was recorded to the west of ditch [119]. The feature measured 0.31m in diameter and 0.12m in depth and was filled by a yellow brown clay (123).

6.2.8 The archaeological features were overlain by a yellow brown clay silt subsoil (101) which measured 0.2m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (100) which measured up to 0.4m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.2.9 Modern intrusions recorded in the trench included three land drains on north to south alignments. An east to west orientated line of concrete stanchions was also recorded cutting only the subsoil. The stanchions are likely to represent supports for the former school tennis courts fence.

6.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

6.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the northeast corner of the car park. The trench was orientated northeast to southwest and measured 20m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of between 0.5m and 0.9m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (202), at a height of between 38.83m and 39.05m AOD. The natural geology was cut by eight features: a single possible pit and seven linear ditches, one containing a possible wall foundation.

6.3.2 Ditch [204] was partially exposed at the northeast end of the trench. The ditch was orientated east to west and measured over 1.1m in width, 0.38m in depth and over 3m in length and was filled by a grey orange silty clay (203) containing Romano-British pottery, animal bone and stone tile. Ditch [206] was located 0.2m south of [204] on the same east to west alignment. Ditch [206] measured 0.67m in width, 0.24m in depth and over 4m in length and was filled by a grey orange silty clay (205) containing Romano-British pottery, animal bone and an iron nail. Parallel ditches [204] and [206] may represent recut phases of a single Romano-British boundary ditch.

6.3.3 Ditch [216] was located c.3.5m to the southwest of [206]. The ditch was orientated northwest to southeast, measured c.1.75m in width, 0.25m in depth and over 1.9m in length and contained two fills. The primary fill of ditch [216] was a compact limestone rubble (218) containing Romano-British pottery, CBM, animal bone and a fragment of glass (SF 11), and may represent the remains of a wall foundation. The rubble deposit was positioned along the southwest edge of cut [216] and was abutted by a fill of yellow grey clay and sand (217) which contained late 2nd century pottery, CBM and animal bone.

6.3.4 Ditch [209] was located 2m to the southwest of [216]. The feature was orientated north to south and measured 1.2m in width, 0.16m in depth and over 1.7m in length and was filled by a brown grey silty clay (210) containing Romano-British pottery, CBM and animal bone.

6.3.5 Ditch [211] was located 0.60m to the southwest of ditch [209] and was orientated on the same north to south alignment. The feature measured 2m in width, 0.28m in depth and over 2.5m in length and was filled by a dark grey brown clay silt (212) containing frequent charcoal, 3rd century pottery, CBM, animal bone, iron objects including nails (SF 9 and 10), oyster shell and a fragment of glass (SF 8). The northwest edge of the ditch was truncated by a modern field drain.

6.3.6 Ditch [207] was located towards the centre of the trench, cutting ditch [209] on an east to west alignment. The ditch measured 2m in width, 0.27m in depth and over 2.5m in length and was filled by a grey brown clay silt (208) containing 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM and animal bone.

6.3.7 Ditches [216] and [207] were cut by a broad, possibly linear feature [213] which was exposed in the centre of the trench on a northwest to southeast alignment. The feature measured 7.5m in width, 0.5m in depth and over 2m in length and had moderately sloping sides and a flat, even base. The primary fill of possible linear [213] was a blue grey clay (214) containing residual Romano-British pottery and a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery, CBM and animal bone. Deposit (214) was overlain by the uppermost fill of [213], a dark grey brown clay silt (215) containing CBM. The exact form of feature [213] could not be accurately established within the limits of the evaluation trench; it may represent a former trackway or the deposits within it may represent the accumulation of post-Romano-British soils in a depression left after the backfilling of earlier ditches [216] and [207].

6.3.8 A possible pit [221] measuring 1m in diameter was partially exposed at the southwest end of the trench. The feature was not excavated.

6.3.9 Two land drains were recorded cutting features in Trench 2; one on a north to south alignment and the other running east to west.

6.3.10 The archaeological features were overlain by a yellow brown clay silt subsoil (201) which measured up to 0.5m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by modern deposits associated with the car park/former tennis courts construction (200), comprising a layer of a limestone blocks and yellow gravel sealed by tarmac which measured a maximum of 0.45m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.4 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

6.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the car park area to the west of Trench 2. The trench was orientated northwest to southeast and measured 20m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of between 0.52m and 0.67m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (302), at a height of between 38.36m and 38.61m AOD. The natural geology was cut by seven features: two pits, four linear ditches and a possible ditch terminus.

6.4.2 Ditch [315] was partially exposed at the northwest end of the trench. The substantial feature was orientated east to west, measured over 2.44m in width, 0.75m in depth and over 1.9m in length and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The primary fill of [315] was a clean yellow brown clay (316) containing 2nd to 3rd century pottery, CBM and a single large limestone block. Fill (316) was overlain by the uppermost fill of [315], a yellow grey silty clay (317) containing 2nd to 3rd century pottery, CBM and limestone rubble.

6.4.3 A possible linear terminal [304] was located 3.5m to the southeast of [315]. Feature [304] appeared to be an east to west orientated linear with a rounded terminal. The feature measured 0.95m in width, 0.3m in depth and over 1m in length and was filled by a grey brown clay silt (303) containing late 4th century pottery, CBM, animal bone and a square bottle base glass fragment (SF 6). Ditch [306] was located 0.15m to the southeast of [304] on the same east to west alignment. The ditch measured 0.75m in width, 0.18m in depth and over 2m in length and was filled by a light grey brown silty clay (305) containing Romano-British pottery and CBM. Ditch [308] was located 0.15m to the southeast of [306] on the same east to west alignment. The ditch measured 0.9m in width, 0.22m in depth and over 2m in width and was filled by a grey brown silty clay (307) containing Romano-British pottery and CBM. Parallel ditches [304], [306] and [308] may represent recut phases of a single Romano-British boundary.

6.4.4 A further east to west aligned ditch was recorded 1.7m to the southeast of [308]. Ditch [310] measured 1.4m in width, 0.34m in depth and over 2m in length and was filled by orange grey silty clay (309) containing late 2nd century pottery, CBM and animal bone.

6.4.5 Two possible pits were partially exposed on the southern side of [310]. Pit [312] measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.17m in depth and was filled by an orange grey silty clay (311) containing Romano-British roof tile and CBM. Pit [314] measured 0.9m in diameter and 0.2m in depth and was filled by a grey brown silty clay (313) containing Romano-British roof tile and CBM.

6.4.6 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a yellow brown clay silt subsoil (301) which measured 0.28m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by modern deposits associated with the car park/former tennis courts construction (300), comprising a layer of a limestone blocks and yellow gravel sealed by tarmac which measured a maximum of 0.4m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.5 Trench 4

6.5.1 Trench 4 was located to the south of the car park and was orientated west-northwest to east-southeast and measured 25m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of between 0.56m and 0.64m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (402), at a height of between 38.95m and 39.06m AOD. The natural geology was cut by two land drains on northwest to southeast alignments. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trench. The natural geology was overlain by an orange brown sandy clay subsoil (402) which measured up to 0.2m in depth. Subsoil (402) was overlain by a further subsoil of brown silty clay (401) which measured up to 0.35m in depth. Subsoil (401) was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (400) which measured up to 0.2m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.6 Trench 5 (Figure 6)

6.6.1 Trench 5 was located to the south of the car park and to the west of Trench 4 and was orientated west-northwest to east-southeast. The trench measured 20m in length, 1.9m in width and was excavated to a depth of between 0.46m and 0.58m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (502), at a height of between 38.55m and 38.78m AOD. The natural geology was cut by four linear ditch features and two furrows.

6.6.2 A deposit of grey brown clay (513) was recorded overlying the natural at the east end of the trench. The deposit measured over 2m in width and 0.16m in depth and contained 2nd to 4th century pottery. Two ditches, [510] and [514], appeared to cut deposit (513).

6.6.3 Ditch [510] was orientated roughly north to south and measured 0.62m in width, 0.16m in depth and over 1.9m in length and had steep sides and a flat base. The feature was filled by a grey brown silty clay (511) which contained 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM and animal bone. Ditch [510] was truncated by a furrow which was oriented on the same alignment. Ditch [514] was located 1.15m to the west of [510] on a similar north to south alignment. The ditch measured 0.92m in width, 0.3m in depth and over 1.9m in length and had a similar profile to [510]. Ditch [514] was filled by a grey brown silty clay (515) containing 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM and animal bone. It is possible that ditches [510] and [514] are associated and, together with deposit (513), may form the remains of a crude trackway. Alternatively, deposit (513) might simply represent a relict Romano-British subsoil into which boundary ditches were cut.

6.6.4 Linear feature [507] was recorded towards the centre of the trench. The broad flat-based feature was orientated roughly north to south and measured 3.4m in width and 0.24m in depth. The primary fill of linear [507] was a yellow brown clay (508) which contained no finds. Deposit (508) was overlain by a thin layer of mixed grey clay and limestone rubble (509) containing 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM and animal bone.

6.6.5 Ditch [503] was located at the west end of the trench and was orientated roughly north to south. The feature measured 2m in width, 0.3m in depth and over 1.9m in length and was filled by a dark grey silty clay (504) containing 4th century pottery, CBM, and animal bone.

6.6.6 Two furrows were recorded in the trench on north to south alignments, in addition to a single land drain orientated northwest to southeast.

6.6.7 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil (501) which measured 0.2m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (500) which measured up to 0.2m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.7 Trench 6 (Figure 7)

6.7.1 Trench 6 was located in the grassed area to the south of the car park and was orientated northeast to southwest. The trench measured 25m in length, 1.9m in width and was excavated to a depth of between 0.54m and 0.63m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, a yellow brown clay (602), at a height of between 38.39m and 38.59m AOD. Eight linear ditch features and two furrows were recorded in the trench.

6.7.2 Ditch [603] was located at the northeast end of the trench. The feature measured 1.3m in width, 0.28m depth and over 2m in length and was orientated north to south. The primary fill of [603] was a thin yellow brown clay (604) containing Romano-British pottery, CBM and animal bone. Deposit (604) was overlain by a grey brown silty clay (605) containing late 4th century pottery, CBM, animal bone, iron nails and three coins (SF 13, 14 and 15) dating to the mid 4th century.

6.7.3 Ditch [609] was located 4.6m to the southwest of [603]. Ditch [609] had steep sides and measured 0.7m in width, 0.45m in depth and over 2m in length. The ditch was orientated east to west and contained two fills. The primary fill of [609] was a thin grey brown clay (610) which contained no finds. The uppermost fill of [609] was dark grey brown silty clay (611) containing late 4th century pottery, CBM animal bone, slag, iron nails and a 4th century coin (SF 16).

6.7.4 Gully [627] was located 0.5m to the southwest of [609] and was orientated east to west. Feature [627] had near vertical sides and a flat base and measured 0.9m in width, 0.43m in depth and over 2.5m in length. The gully was filled by an orange grey clay silt (628) containing 3rd century pottery, CBM, animal

bone and an iron nail (SF 21). From the well defined vertical sides and flat base feature [627] has been interpreted as a possible beam slot. Gully [627] was cut by a shallow ditch [625] which was orientated north to south. Ditch [625] measured 0.7m in width, 0.1m in depth and over 2m in length and was filled by a grey brown silty clay (626) containing 2nd to 4th century pottery and CBM.

6.7.5 A series of intercutting ditches was located at the southwest end of the trench. Ditch [624] was a broad north to south orientated feature which measured 2.3m in width, 0.7m in depth and over 2.5m in length and contained two fills. The primary fill of [624] was a dark grey silt (623) which was overlain by the secondary fill, an orange brown sandy clay (621) containing Romano-British pottery, CBM and animal bone. Ditch [624] was recut by two parallel ditches on the same north to south alignment. Ditch [619] measured 0.9m in width, 0.55m in depth and over 2.5m in length and contained a single fill of grey brown clay silt (616) containing 2nd to late 4th century pottery, CBM, animal bone, slag and iron nails (SF 18 and 19). Ditch [622] was located to the immediate southwest of [619] and measured 0.9m in width, 0.55m in depth and over 2.5m in length and contained a single fill of grey brown clay silt (620) containing 2nd century pottery, CBM, animal bone and slag. It was not possible to establish a stratigraphic relationship at the intersection of ditches [619] and [622] because of the similarity of fills (616) and (620).

6.7.6 Two furrows were recorded in the trench on north to south alignments in addition to two land drains orientated northwest to southeast.

6.7.7 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a yellow brown silty clay subsoil (601) which measured 0.2m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (600) which measured up to 0.3m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.8 Trench 7 (Figure 8)

6.8.1 Trench 7 was located on the grass landscaped area to the immediate east of the Hucclecote Centre buildings and was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest. The trench measured 15m in length, 1.9m in width and was excavated to a depth of between 0.4m and 0.49m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, a yellow brown clay (702), at a height of between 38.55m and 38.76m AOD. Six small linear features were recorded in the trench.

6.8.2 Ditch [703] was recorded at the north end of the trench on an east to west alignment and measured 0.75m in width, 0.23m in depth and over 1.9m in length. The ditch was filled by a grey brown silty clay (704) containing 2nd to 4th century pottery, CBM and slag.

6.8.3 Ditch [705] was located 0.25m to the south of [703] on the same east to west alignment and measured 0.56m in width, 0.16m in depth and over 1.9m in length. The ditch was filled by a grey brown silty clay (706) containing 2nd to 3rd century pottery.

6.8.4 Ditch [711] was located 0.7m to the south of [705] on the same east to west alignment and measured 0.48m in width, 0.17m in depth and over 1.9m in length. The ditch was filled by a grey brown silty clay (712).

6.8.5 Two possible gullies were also recorded on the same east to west alignment as the ditches. Gully [707] appeared to cut [705] along its south edge. Gully [707] measured 0.28m in width, 0.19m in depth and over 1.9m in length and was filled by a grey brown silty clay (708) containing 3rd to 4th century pottery and CBM.

6.8.6 Gully [709] was located 0.13m to the south of [707] and cut ditch [711] along its north edge. Gully [709] measured 0.35m in width, 0.23m in depth and over 1.9m in length and was filled by a grey brown silty clay (710) containing late 2nd to early 3rd century pottery and CBM.

6.8.7 The small, closely grouped ditches and gullies described above represent the truncated remains of a series of recut ditches.

6.8.8 A further small ditch [713] was recorded on an east to west alignment towards the centre of the trench, 3.5m to the south of [711]. Ditch [713] measured 0.6m in width, 0.26m in depth and over 1.9m in width and was filled by an undated green brown clay silt (714).

6.8.9 A single land drain was recorded in the trench on a northwest to southeast alignment.

6.8.10 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a yellow brown silty clay subsoil (701) which measured 0.2m in depth. On the east side of the trench the subsoil was sealed by a 0.1m thick layer of modern hardcore (715), which is likely to derive from the construction of the adjacent road. Deposit (715), and elsewhere subsoil (701), was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (700) which measured up to 0.20m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.9 Trench 8

6.9.1 Trench 8 was located on the grass landscaped area to the immediate southeast of the Hucclecote Centre buildings and was orientated northeast to southwest. The trench measured 18m in length, 1.9m in width and was excavated to a depth of between 0.58m and 0.69m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, a yellow brown clay (803), at a height of between 38.23m and 38.3m AOD. The natural geology was cut by two modern service trenches and a single furrow orientated northwest to southeast. Overlying the natural was a yellow brown silty clay subsoil (802) which measured up to 0.25m in depth. The subsoil was overlain by a layer of hardcore and geotechnical membrane (801) which measured up to 0.25m in depth. Sealing the hardcore was a brown silt topsoil (800) which measured 0.18m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.10 Trench 9 (Figure 9)

6.10.1 Trench 9 was located on the grass landscaped area to the immediate south of the Hucclecote Centre buildings and was orientated west-northwest to east-southeast. The trench measured 20m in length, 1.9m in width and was excavated to a depth of between 0.66m and 0.72m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, a yellow brown clay (904), at a height of between 38.1m and 38.13m AOD. Two linear ditch features and three furrows were recorded in the trench.

6.10.2 Ditch [905] was a small U-shaped ditch on a north to south alignment which measured 0.45m in width, 0.13m in depth and over 1.9m in length. The feature was filled by an undated grey brown clay silt (906).

6.10.3 Ditch [907] was located 1.7m to the east of [905] and had a similar profile and alignment. Ditch [907] measured 0.5m in width, 0.13m in depth and over 1.9m in length and was filled by an undated grey brown clay silt (908).

6.10.4 Three furrows were also recorded in the trench on a north to south alignment. There was significant evidence of modern disturbance along the northern edge of the trench which is likely to be associated with the construction of the school.

6.10.5 The archaeological features were overlain by a yellow brown silty clay subsoil (903) which measured up to 0.1m in depth. The subsoil was overlain by a deposit of mixed clay and modern rubble (902) which measured 0.35m in depth. The rubble deposit was overlain by a layer of hardcore and geotechnical membrane (901) which measured up to 0.25m in depth. Sealing the hardcore was a brown silt topsoil (900) which measured 0.2m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.11 Trench 10

6.11.1 Trench 10 was located on the grass landscaped area to the west of the Hucclecote Centre buildings and was orientated west-northwest to east-southeast. The trench measured 10m in length, 1.9m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.65m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1003), at a height of between 37.48m and 37.51m AOD. Overlying the natural was an orange brown silty clay subsoil (1002) which measured up to 0.15m in depth. The subsoil was overlain by a layer of mixed clay and modern building rubble (1001) which measured up to 0.3m in depth. Sealing (1001) was a brown silt topsoil (1000) which measured 0.2m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.11.2 Three furrows were recorded in the trench on a north to south alignment.

6.12 Trench 11

6.12.1 Trench 11 was located on the grass landscaped area to the west of the Hucclecote Centre buildings and was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest. The trench measured 10m in length, 1.9m in width and was excavated to a depth of between 0.81m and 0.84m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1103), at a height of 37.38m AOD. Overlying the natural was an orange brown silty clay subsoil (1102) which measured up to 0.12m in depth. The subsoil was overlain by a layer of mixed clay and modern building rubble (1101) which measured up to 0.35m in depth. Sealing (1101) was a brown silt topsoil (1100) which measured 0.2m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.12.2 A single furrow and a single land drain were recorded in the trench on north to south alignments.

6.13 Trench 12

6.13.1 Trench 12 was located to the north of the existing car park. The trench was orientated west-northwest to east-southeast and measured 20m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of between 0.58m and 0.63m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1203), at a height of between 38.42m and 38.67m AOD. Overlying the natural was a yellow brown clay silt subsoil (1201) which measured 0.2m in depth. Along the south edge of the trench the subsoil was overlain by modern deposits associated with the car park/former tennis courts comprising a layer of a limestone blocks and yellow gravel (1202). Deposit (1202) was overlain by a grey brown silt topsoil (1200) which measured up to 0.3m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.13.2 A single furrow and a single land drain, both orientated north to south, were recorded in the trench. An east to west orientated line of concrete stanchions was also recorded cutting only the subsoil. The stanchions are likely to represent supports for the former school tennis courts fence.

6.14 Trench 13

6.14.1 Trench 13 was located to the east of the existing car park. The trench was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest and measured 15m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 0.67m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1302), at a height of between 39.07m and 39.12m AOD. Overlying the natural was a grey brown clay silt subsoil (1301) which measured 0.5m in depth. Along the west edge of the trench the subsoil was overlain by modern deposits associated with the car park/former tennis courts comprising a layer of a limestone blocks and yellow gravel (1303). Deposit (1303) was overlain by a grey brown silt topsoil (1300) which measured up to 0.2m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.14.2 Two furrows orientated east to west were recorded in the trench.

6.15 Trench 14

6.15.1 Trench 14 was located to the north of the Hucclecote Centre buildings. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 7.5m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 0.55m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1402), at a height of 37.9m AOD. Overlying the natural was a brown clay subsoil (1401) containing modern building debris, which measured 0.35m in depth and is likely to be associated with landscaping after construction of the school. Deposit (1401) was overlain by a grey brown silt topsoil (1400) which measured up to 0.1m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.15.2 A single furrow orientated east to west and modern services were recorded in the trench.

6.16 Trench 15 (Figure 10)

6.16.1 Trench 15 was located in the grassed area to the south of the car park. The trench was orientated northwest to southeast and measured 25m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 0.79m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1502), at a height of between 38.34m and 38.69m AOD. The natural geology was cut by three linear features and a single furrow.

6.16.2 Gully [1515] was orientated north to south and measured 0.4m in width, 0.09m in depth and over 0.8m in length and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The feature was filled by an undated orange brown clay silt (1516). Gully [1515] was cut to the north by ditch [1506].

6.16.3 Ditch [1506] was orientated east to west and measured 1.2m in width, 0.35m in depth and over 12m in length and had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Ditch [1506] was filled by a grey brown clay silt (1507) containing 3rd to late 4th century pottery and animal bone. Ditch [1506] was recut by a single ditch [1503] orientated on the same east to west alignment. Ditch [1503] measured 1.1m in width, 0.37m in depth and over 13m in length and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The primary fill of ditch [1503] was an orange brown silty clay (1505) containing Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Deposit (1505) was overlain by a grey brown clay silt (1504) containing late 4th century pottery and animal bone.

6.16.4 A single furrow was recorded in the trench on a northeast to southwest alignment and a single land drain on a northwest to southeast alignment.

6.16.5 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil (1501) which measured 0.48m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (1500) which measured up to 0.32m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.17 Trench 16 (Figure 11)

6.17.1 Trench 16 was located in the centre of the grassed area to the south of the car park. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 25m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 0.7m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1602), at a height of between 38.8m and 38.88m AOD. The natural geology was cut by two linear ditch features and a single patch of *in situ* burning was also recorded.

6.17.2 Ditch [1603] was orientated east to west and measured 1.25m in width, 0.16m in depth and over 1.9m in length and had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. The feature was filled by an undated orange brown clay (1604). Ditch [1603] was cut to the west by ditch [1605].

6.17.3 Ditch [1605] was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest and measured 1.75m in width, 0.54m in depth and over 16m in length and had steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. The primary fill of ditch [1605] was a light grey brown silty clay (1607) containing Romano-British CBM and animal bone. Deposit (1607) was overlain by a dark grey brown silty clay (1606) containing 3rd century pottery, CBM, animal bone, slag and a single iron nail.

6.17.4 A small patch of *in situ* burning (1608) was recorded over the natural clays at the south end of the trench. The subcircular patch of burning measured 0.85m in length and 0.6m in width. It is likely that this feature represents an isolated episode of burning in this location, but it contained no finds, and was not associated with any other features, so remains undated.

6.17.5 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil (1601) which measured 0.35m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (1600) which measured up to 0.30m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.18 Trench 17

6.18.1 Trench 17 was located to the east of Trench 16. The trench was orientated northeast to southwest and measured 25m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 0.80m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown sandy clay (1702), at a height of between 38.77m and 39.04m AOD. Overlying the natural was a grey brown silty clay subsoil (1701) which measured 0.45m in depth. Deposit (1701) was overlain by a grey brown silt topsoil (1700) which measured up to 0.3m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

6.18.2 Two land drains were recorded in the trench on north to south alignments.

6.19 Trench 18 (Figure 12)

6.19.1 Trench 18 was located in the southern corner of the grassed area to the south of the car park. The trench was orientated roughly east to west and measured 25m in length and 1.9m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 0.65m below the existing ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was the undisturbed natural subsoil, an orange brown clay (1802), at a height of between 38.7m and 39.04m AOD. A single linear ditch feature and three furrows were recorded in the trench.

6.19.2 Ditch [1803] was orientated on a north to south alignment and measured 1.9m in width, 0.4m in depth and over 1.9m in length. The ditch was filled by a greenish grey brown silty clay (1804) containing 2nd century pottery, ceramic tile and animal bone. The ditch was cut to the north by a pit containing modern brick, metal and plastic.

6.19.3 Three furrows were recorded in the trench on north to south alignments.

6.19.4 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a yellow brown silty clay subsoil (1801) which measured 0.35m in depth. The subsoil was sealed by a grey brown silt topsoil (1800) which measured up to 0.30m in depth and formed the existing ground surface.

7 Conclusions

7.1 The evaluation recorded significant archaeological features in 10 of the 18 trenches. The uppermost levels of the archaeological deposits were recorded, cutting the natural geology, at depths of between 0.4m and 0.9m below ground level and between 37.38m and 39.06m AOD.

7.2 No archaeological features or deposits dating to the Bronze Age or Iron Age were recorded during the evaluation which may suggest that activity of this date, which has previously been recorded c.60m to the north (Stratford 2011), does not extend into the study area.

7.3 The earliest features and deposits recorded dated to the Romano-British period and were confined to the area to the east of the Hucclecote Centre buildings, with no features of Romano-British date recorded to the west of Trench 7. Similarly, no features of this date were recorded any further east than Trench 2, with the easternmost evaluation trenches 4, 13 and 17 being archaeologically sterile.

7.4 Although tentative evidence of structures in the form of two possible wall foundations (Trench 1 and Trench 2) and a possible beam slot (Trench 6) were recorded, the evidence of Romano-British activity was dominated by a series of ditches and landscape features. The ditches were generally aligned north to south or east to west and dating evidence from the features suggests continued activity from the 2nd to the 4th century.

7.5 Previous investigations within and beyond the study area (Stratford 2011) suggest that the evaluation area formed part of a wider Romano-British villa landscape dominated by systems of enclosures and fields. The evidence from the evaluation supports this assertion and the extensive rectilinear systems of ditches recorded during the fieldwork (43 ditches or possible ditches) can be interpreted as boundaries enclosing Romano-British fields or paddocks associated with the 2nd to 4th century villa. Finds from the Romano-British features are likely to have derived from the villa itself, including Samian ware pottery, limestone building material and sandstone and ceramic roof tile. However, the relatively small amounts of building debris and the fragmentary abraded nature of the pottery suggest that the evaluation area was not close to the domestic centre of the settlement.

7.6 The only evidence for possible structures on the site comes from Trenches 1, 2 and 6. Trenches 1 and 2 contained rubble deposits within ditch features which were interpreted as possible rubble wall foundations. None of the stone within these deposits was worked and there was no mortar or bonding material present. If these features are structural they may have been associated with outbuildings or barns contemporary with the villa, although it is also possible that they relate to simple landscape boundary walls. The possible beam slot recorded in Trench 6 may also be the foundation for the wall of a building.

7.7 A single possible feature of Anglo-Saxon date was recorded in Trench 2. The broad linear feature may represent a former trackway or the accumulation of post-Romano-British soils. The feature was dated only by a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery and was only partially exposed in the trench so any

interpretation remains highly tentative, however it does provide the only evidence from the evaluation for continuity of activity beyond the Romano-British period.

7.8 No evidence for medieval settlement was recorded during the evaluation. Furrows deriving from ridge and furrow field systems were recorded on largely north to south and east to west alignments across the entire site, indicating that the site was in use as agricultural land during the medieval period.

7.9 Trenches immediately adjacent to the Hucclecote Centre provided some evidence for the impact of the building's construction on possible archaeological deposits. There appeared to be little truncation of the natural geology in the landscaped areas surrounding the centre, with deposits of modern date generally overlying truncated agricultural subsoils. However, where services had been installed, and in trenches closest to the building (Trench 9), significant truncation of the natural geology was apparent. In trenches to the north and east of the car park (Trenches 1, 12 and 13) there was evidence of a modern fence line which is likely to have existed while the car park was used as tennis courts.

7.10 The Historic Environment Manager of Gloucester City Council should be consulted for any further archaeological recommendations.

8 References

- | | | |
|--------------|------|--|
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| IfA | 2008 | <i>Standard and guidance for field evaluations</i> . Institute for Archaeologists |
| Nichols, P | 2011 | <i>An Archaeological Evaluation at the Hucclecote Centre, Churchdown Lane, Hucclecote, Gloucester: Project Design</i> . GCCAS typescript. |
| Smith, J | 2011 | <i>Brief for archaeological desk-based assessment, evaluation and rapid historic environment building appraisal</i> . Gloucester City Council Heritage Service |
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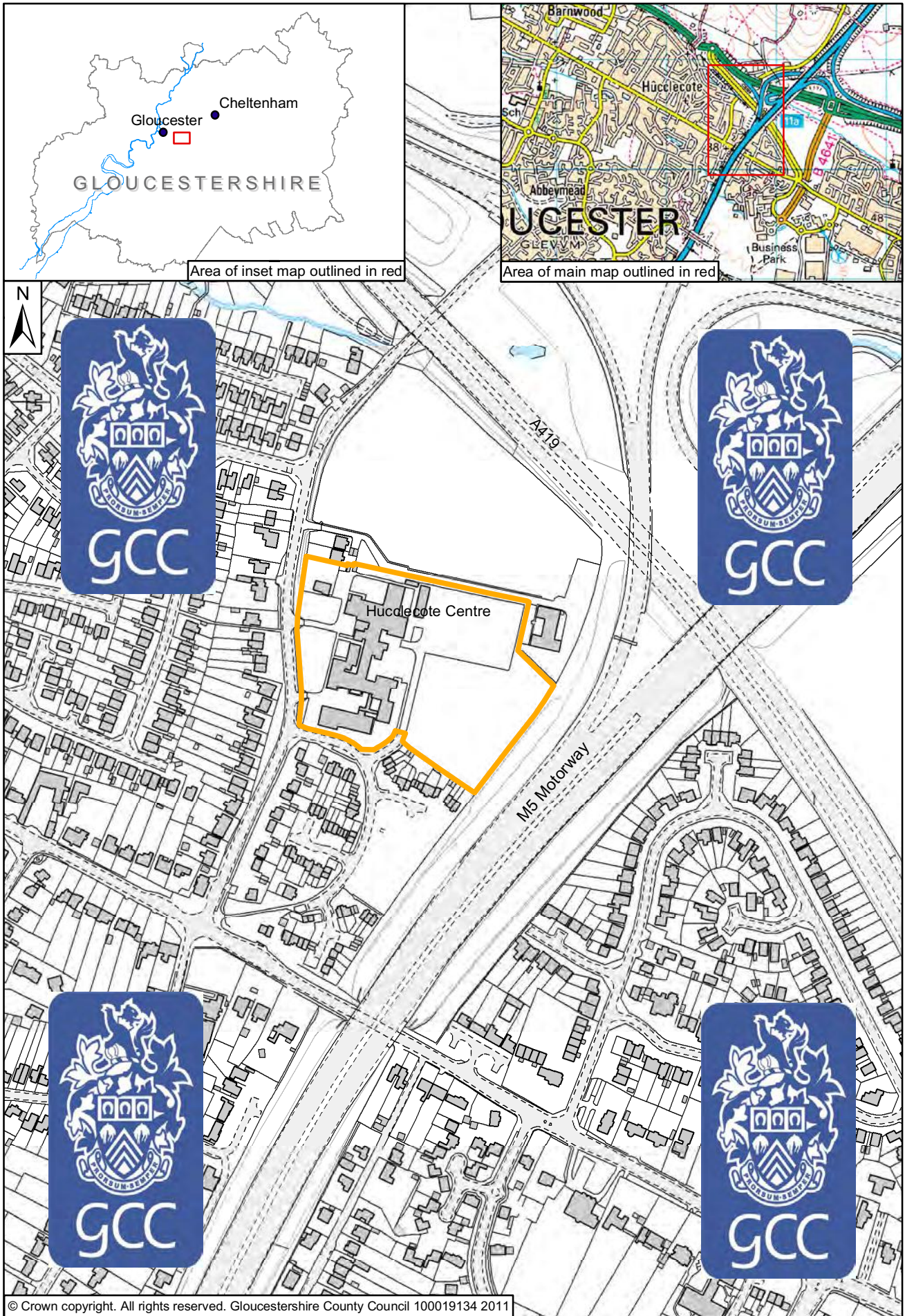


Figure 1: Location map showing study area in orange (scale 1:4000)

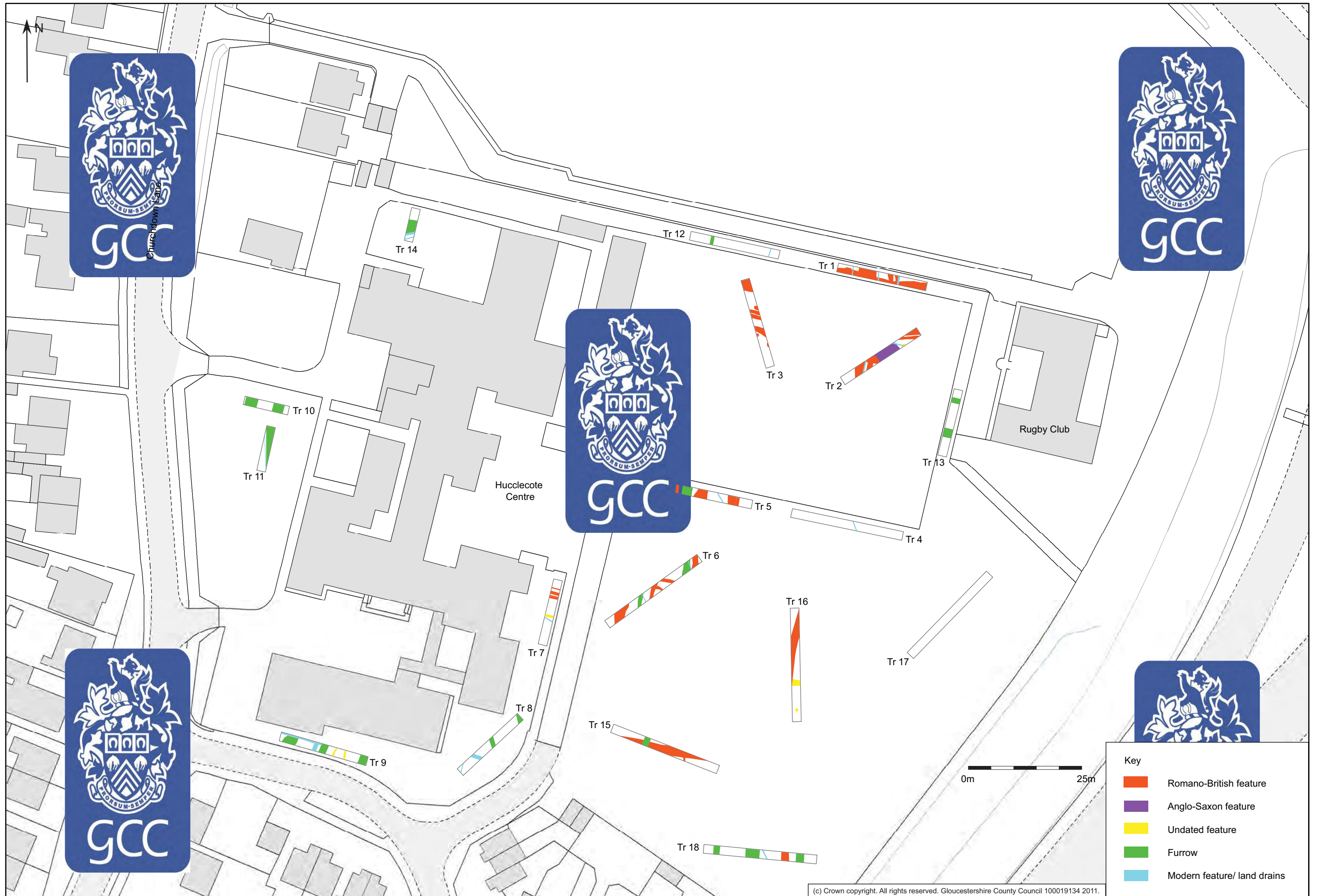


Figure 2: Trench locations showing archaeological features (scale 1:750)

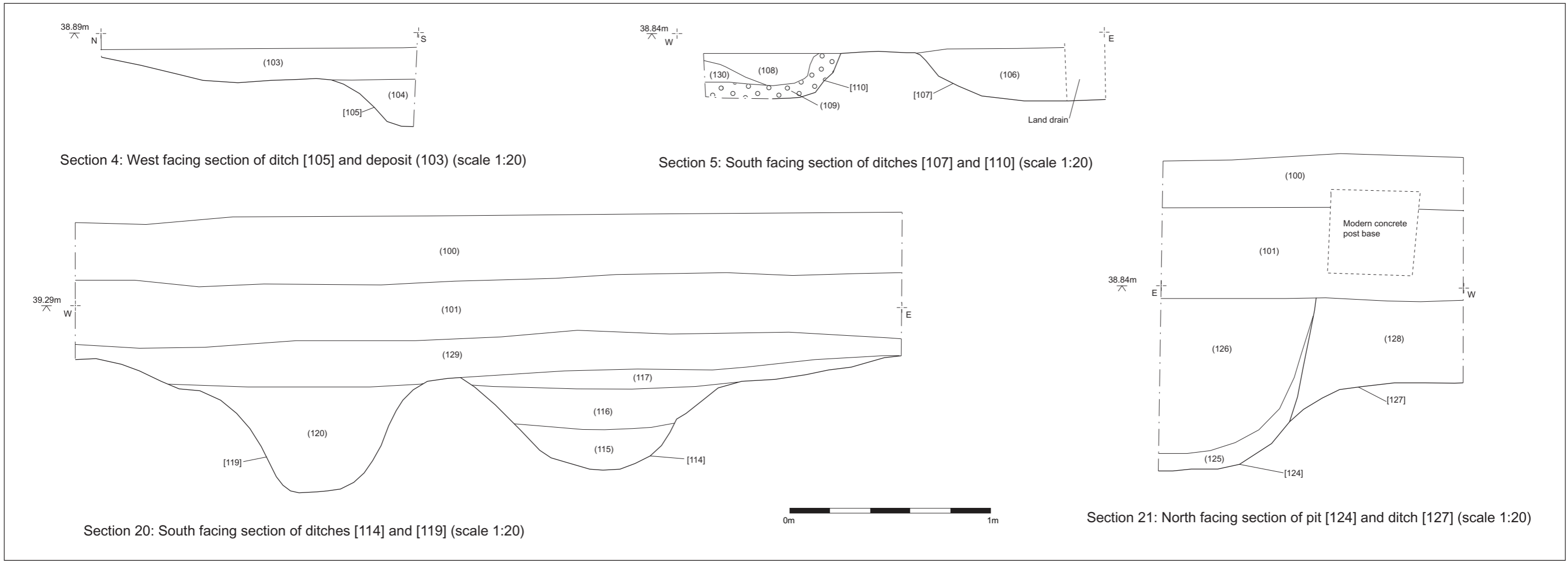
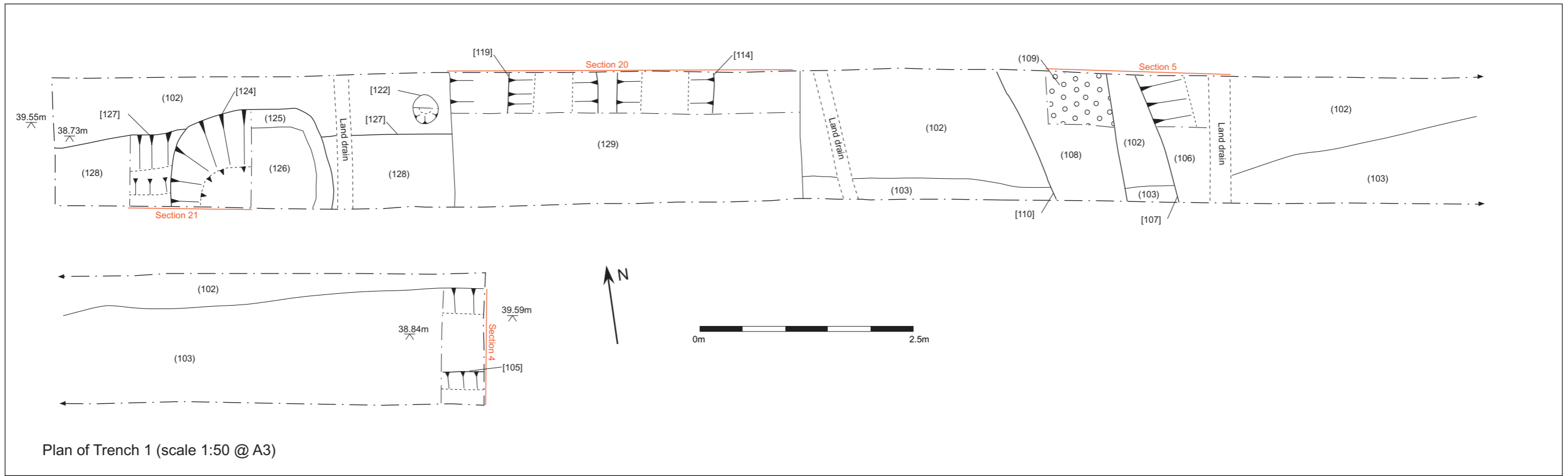


Figure 3: Plan and sections of Trench 1

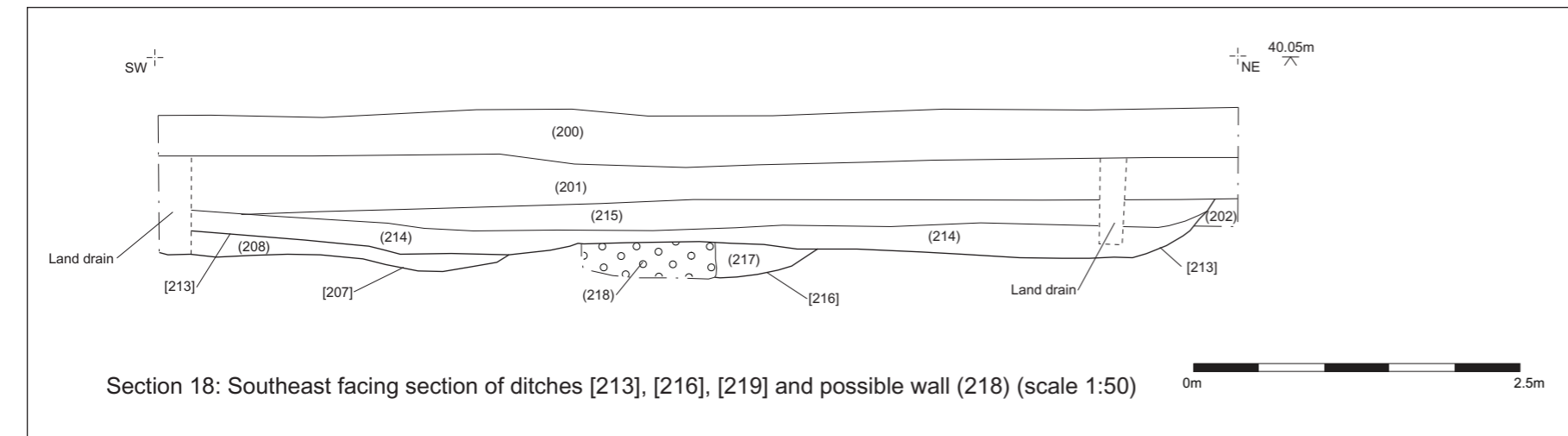
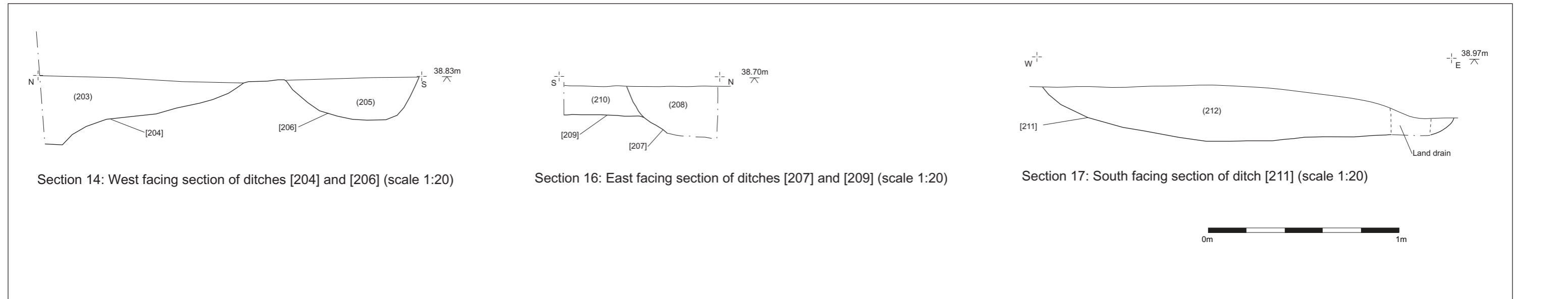
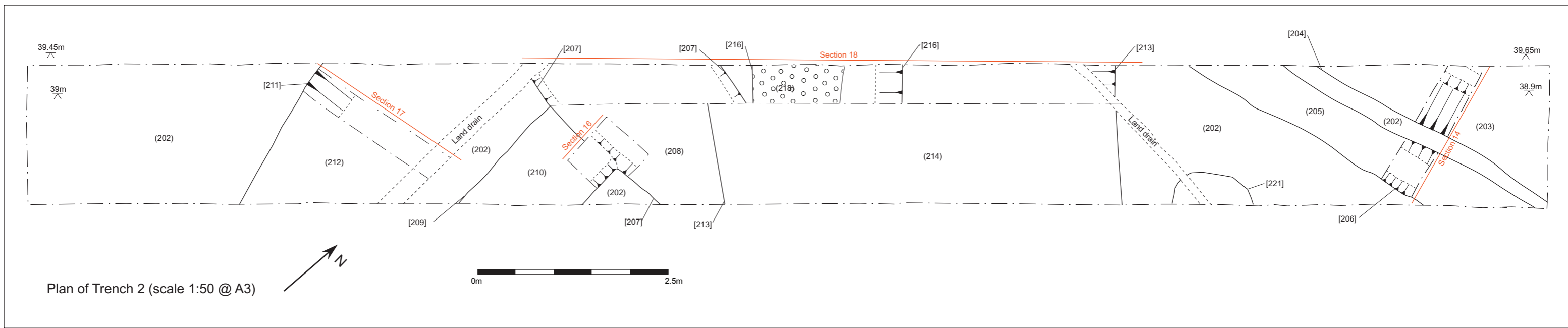


Figure 4: Plan and sections of Trench 2

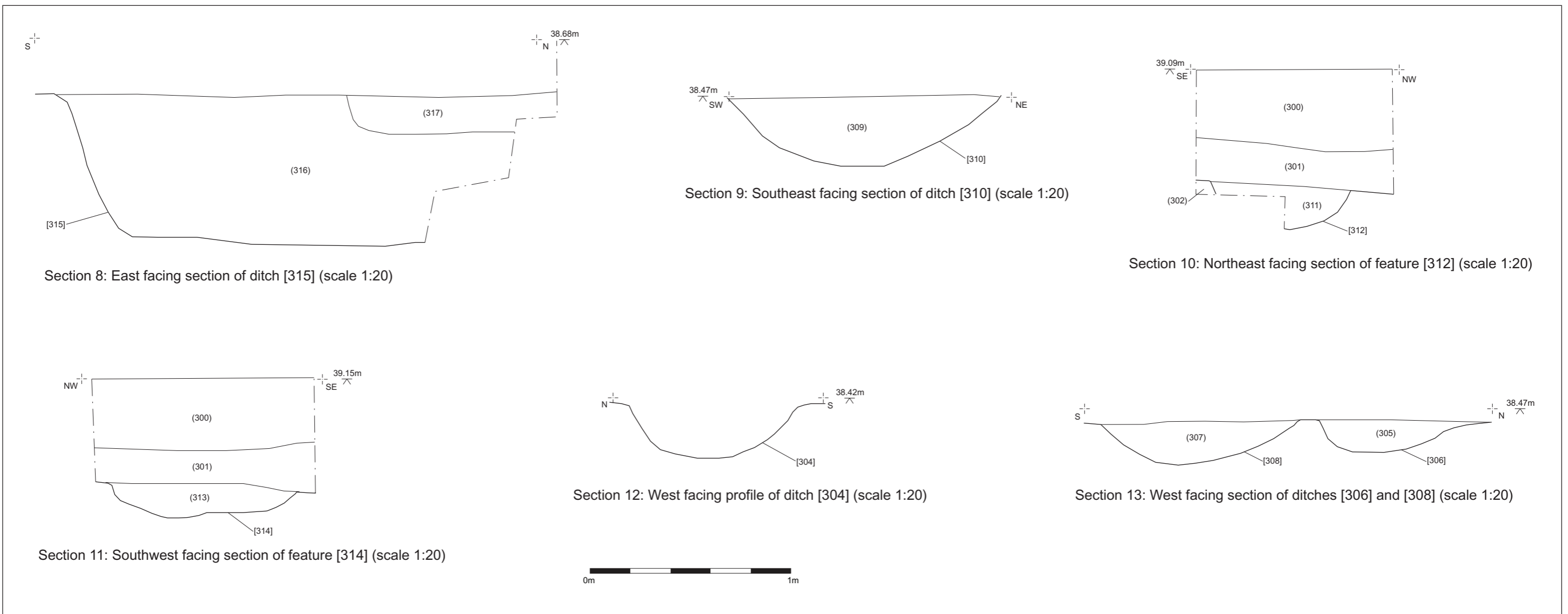
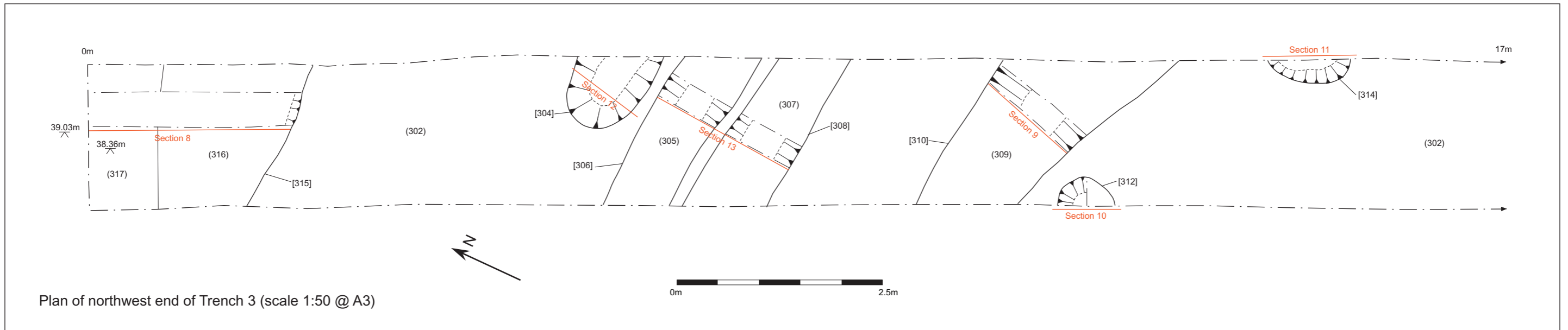
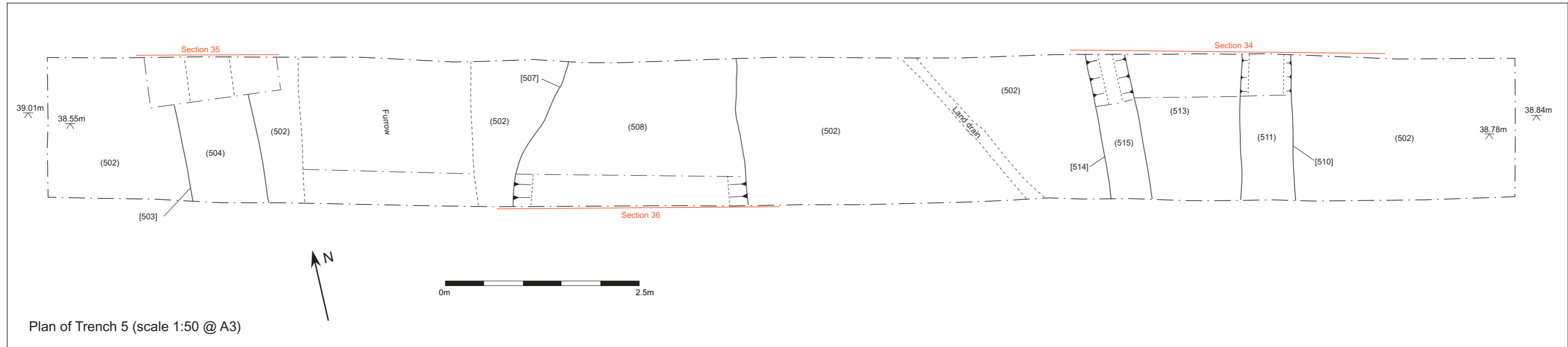


Figure 5: Plan and sections of Trench 3



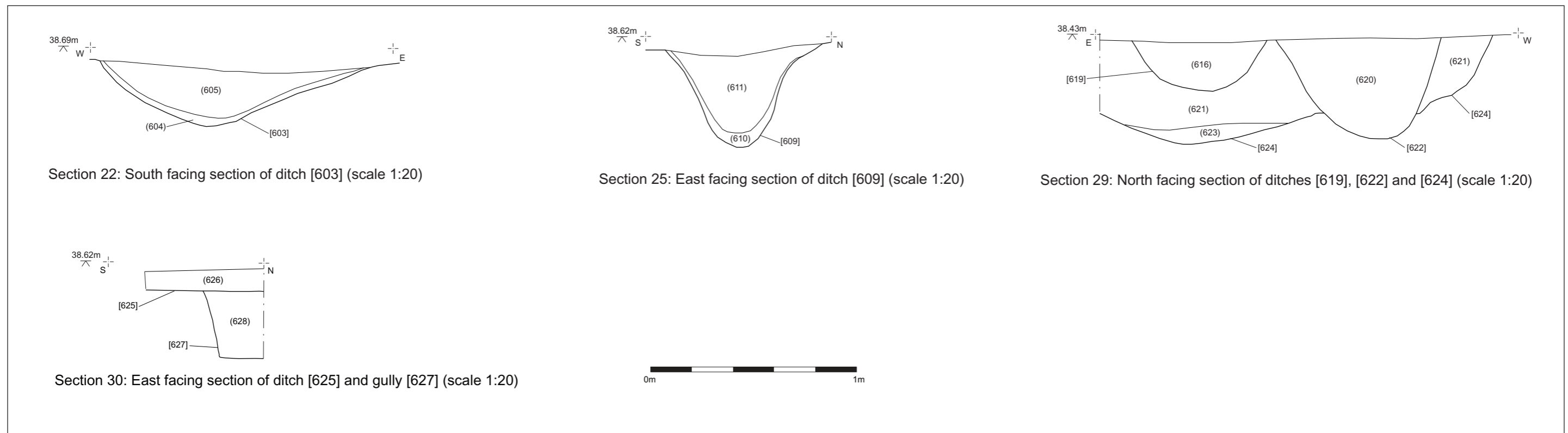
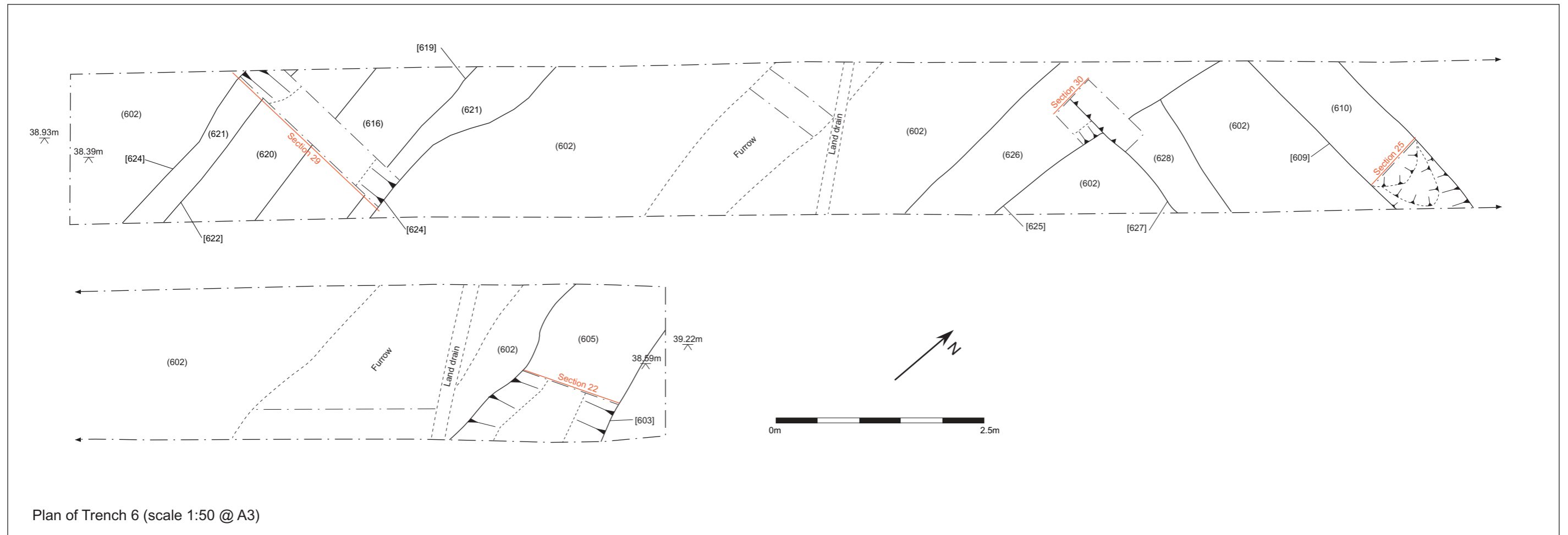


Figure 7: Plan and sections of Trench 6

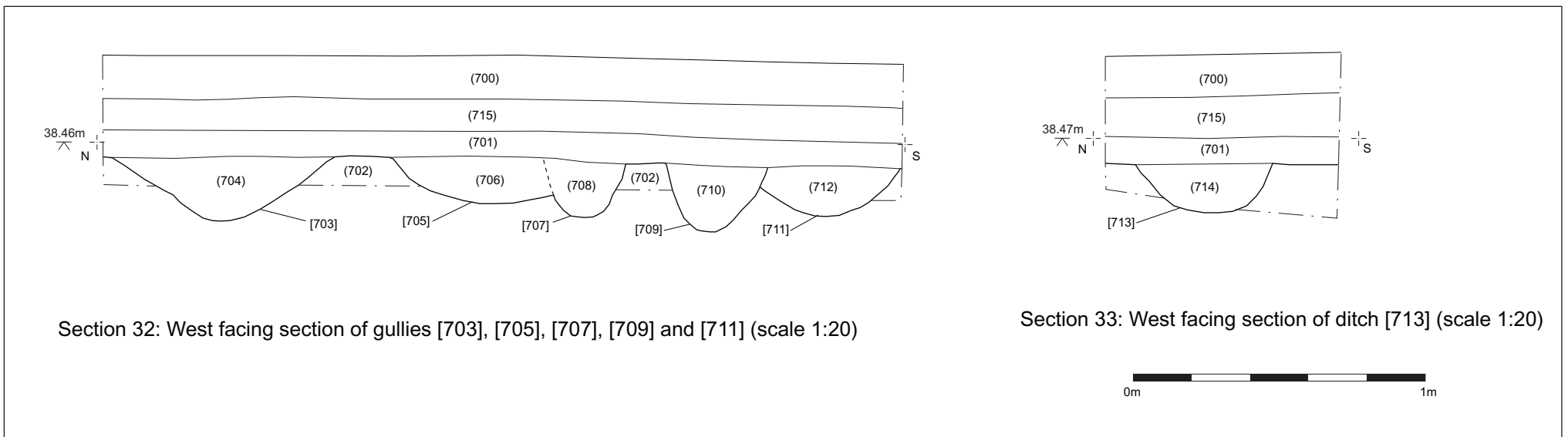
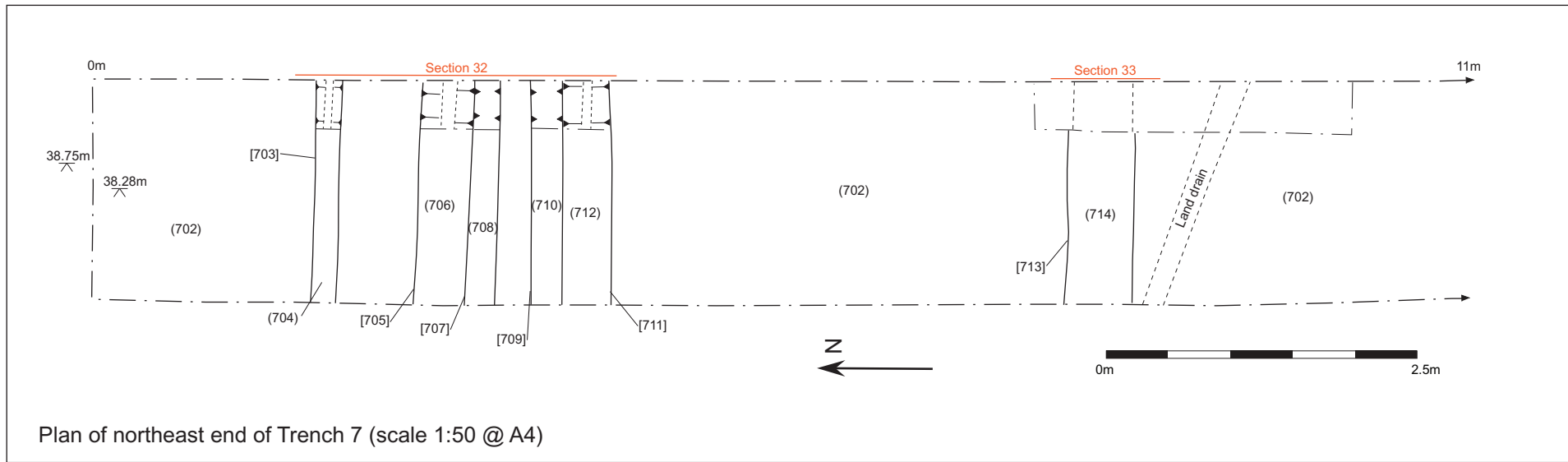


Figure 8: Plan and sections of Trench 7

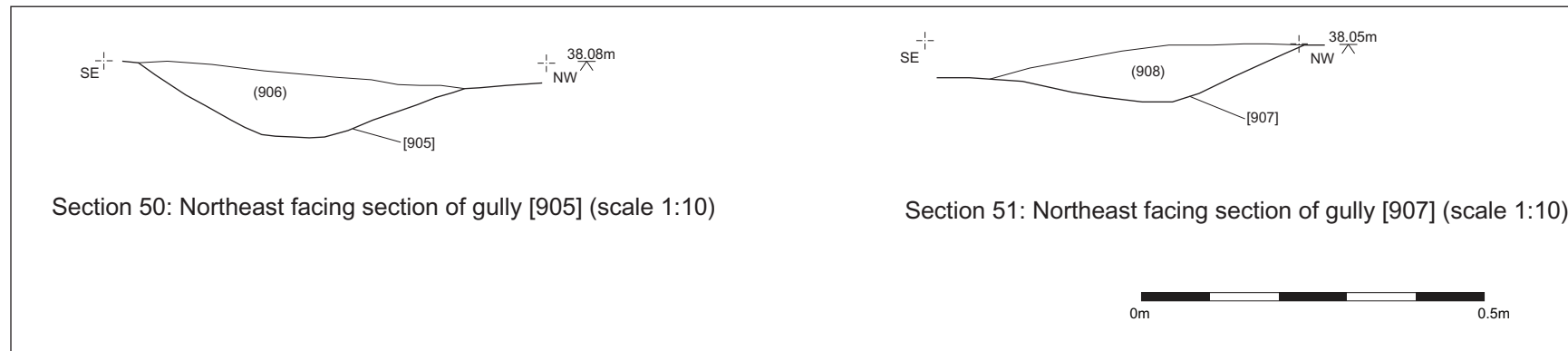
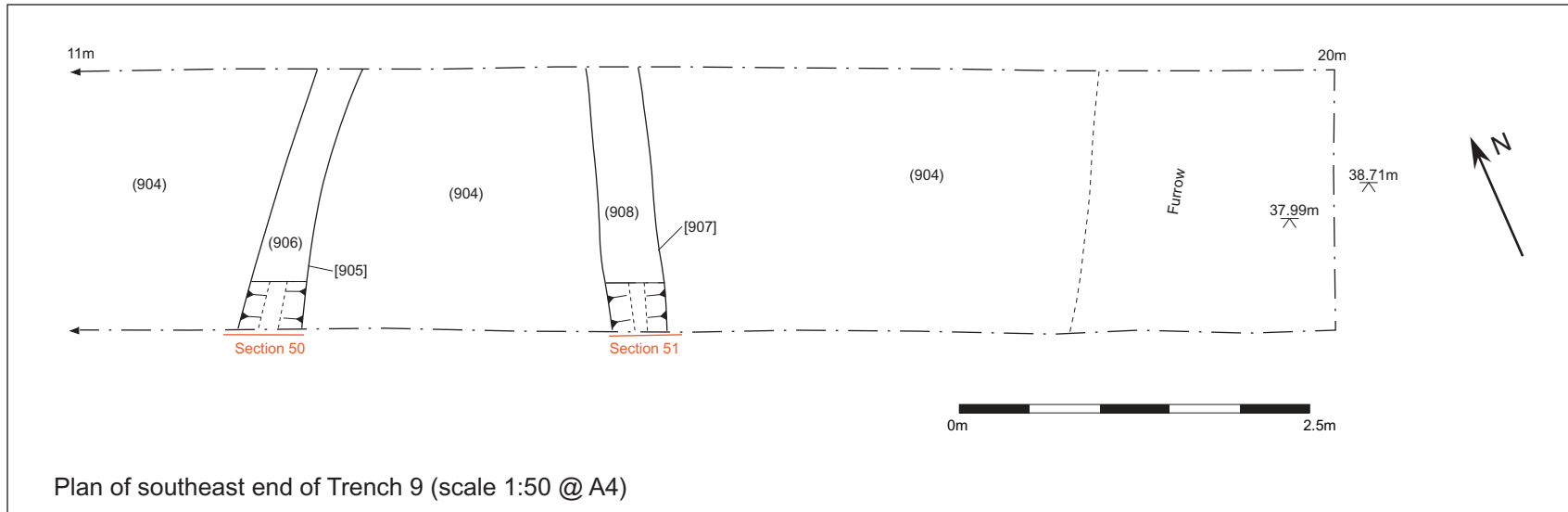
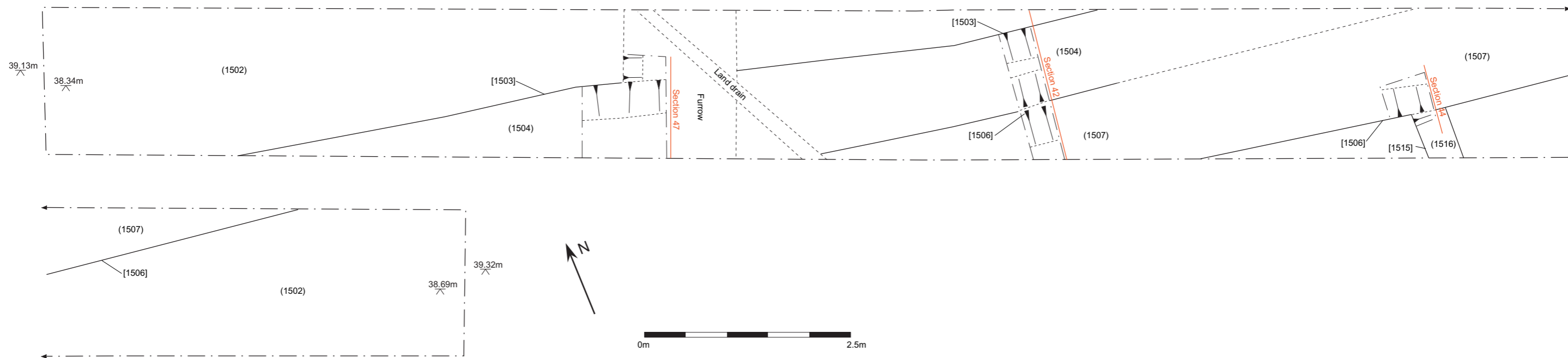
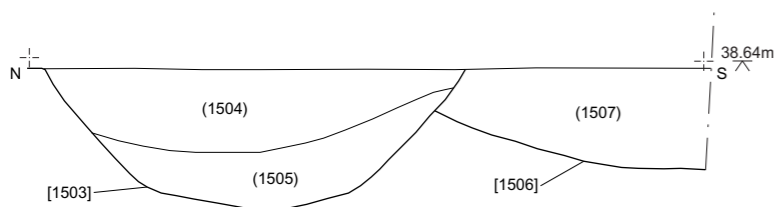


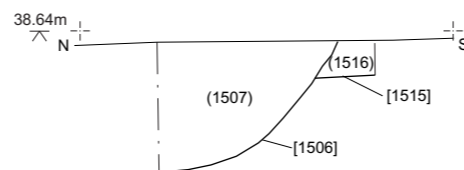
Figure 9: Plan and sections of Trench 9



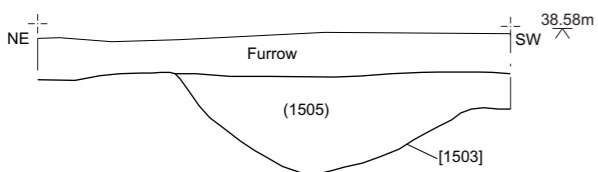
Plan of Trench 15 (scale 1:50 @ A3)



Section 42: West facing section of ditches [1503] and [1506] (scale 1:20)



Section 44: West facing section of ditch [1506] and gully [1515] (scale 1:20)



Section 47: Northwest facing section ditch [1503] (scale 1:20)



Figure 10: Plan and sections of Trench 15

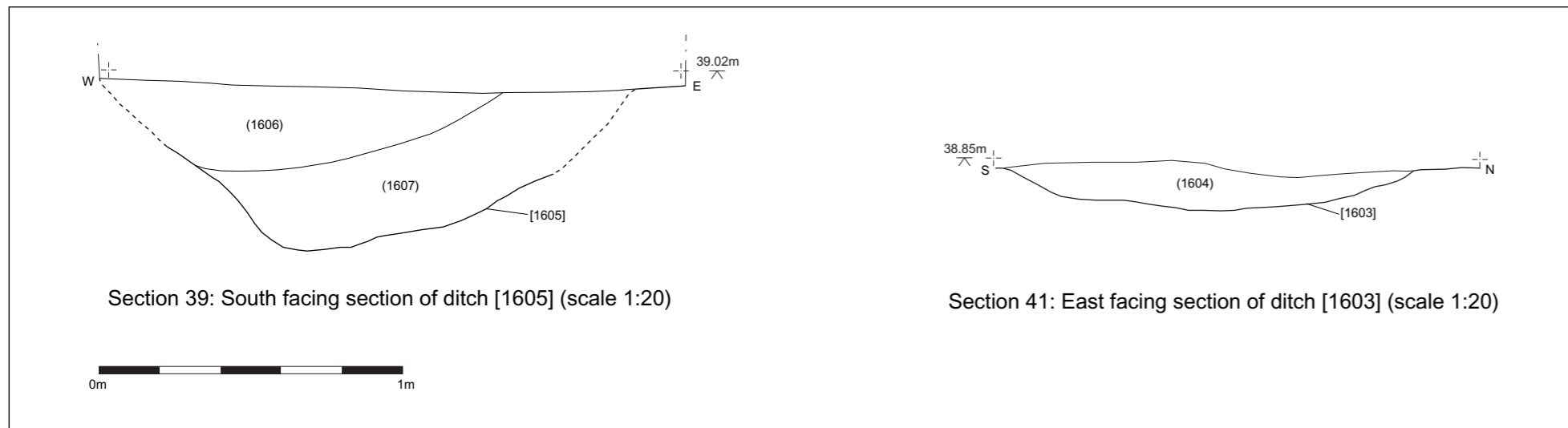
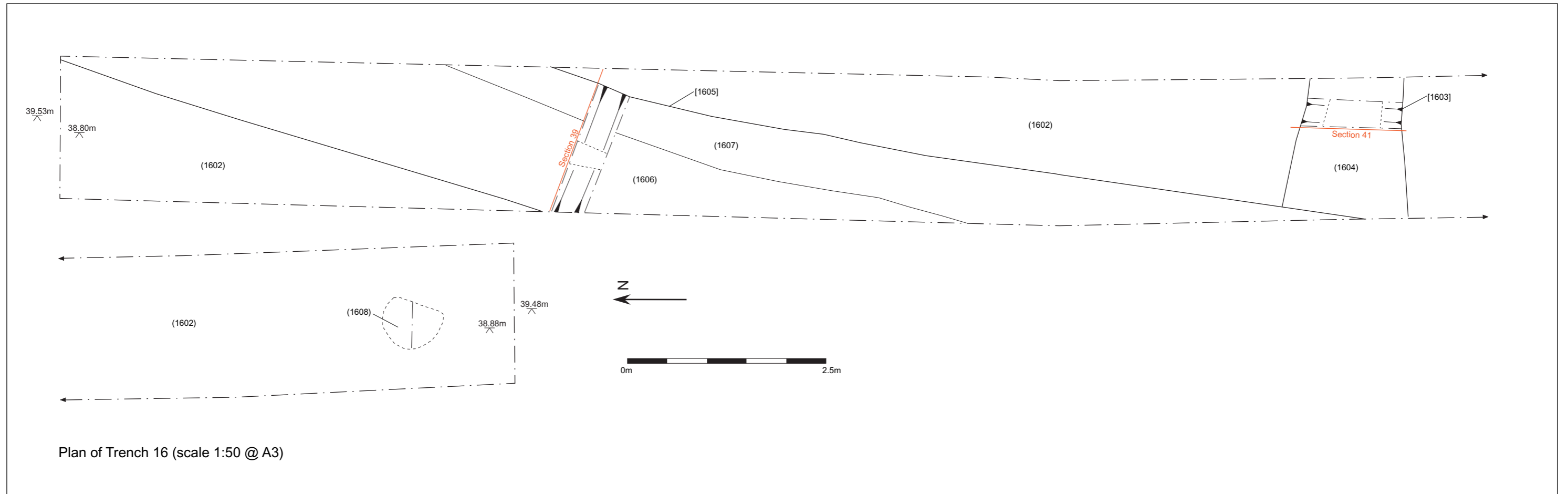


Figure 11: Plan and sections of Trench 16

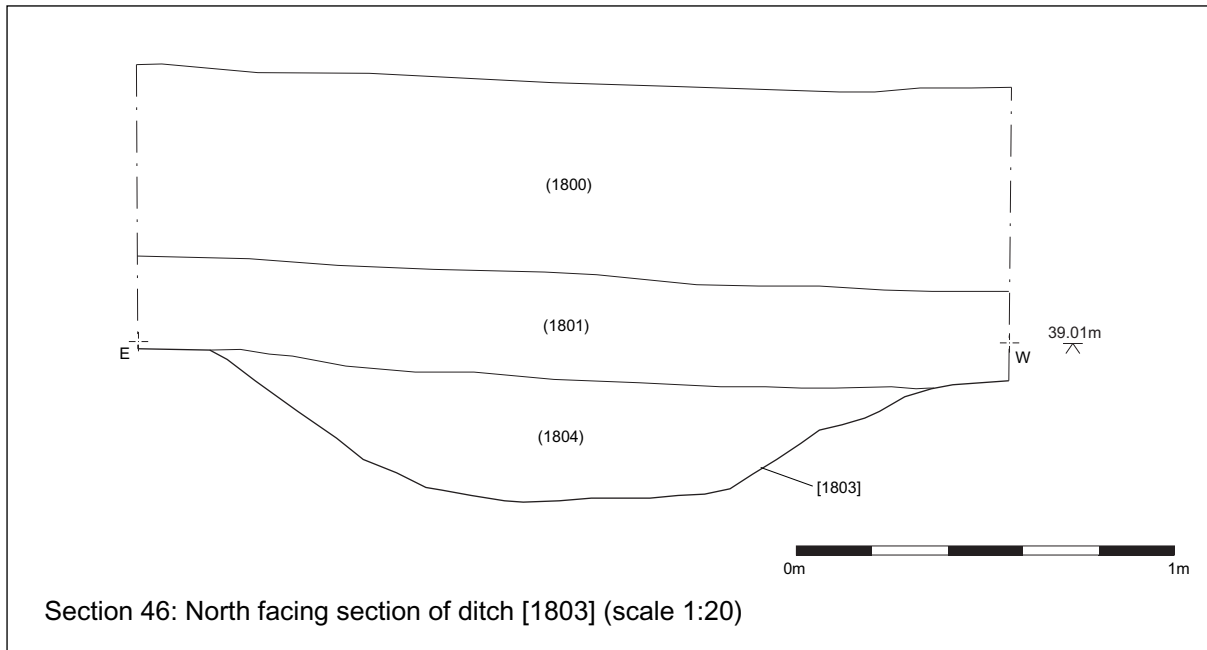
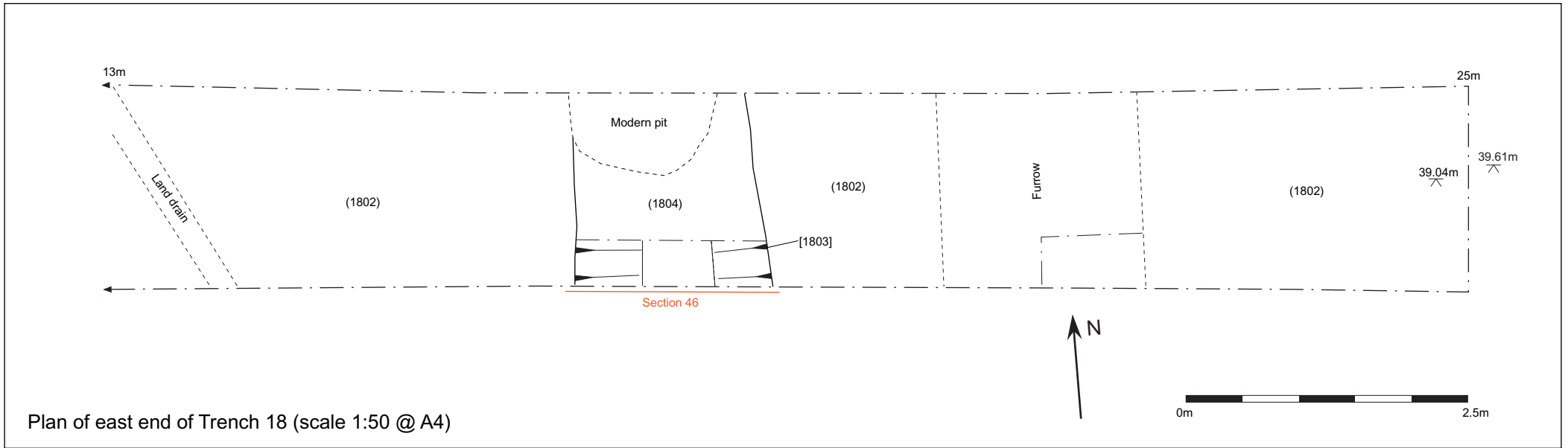


Figure 12: Plan and sections of Trench 18

Appendices

Appendix 1: Assessment of the pottery assemblage by Dr Jane Timby

The pottery

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 552 sherds of pottery weighing 4320 g and 321 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) (see below). With the exception of a single Saxon sherd from (214) all the pottery dates to the Roman period.
- 1.2 In general terms the sherds are quite fragmentary with an average sherd size of 8 g. Many of the pieces have abraded edges and several have lost their surface finishes. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces.
- 1.3 Pottery was recovered from 51 defined archaeological contexts, largely ditch or pit fills. Most of these, (74.5%), yielded 10 or less sherds which affects the reliability of the dating.
- 1.4 For the purposes of the assessment the material was scanned macroscopically and sorted into fabrics which were quantified by sherd count and weight. Table 1 summarises the data for each context.

2 Roman

- 2.1 The chronological emphasis is very much towards the later Roman period although many of the fabrics have quite a long chronology dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries.
- 2.2 The assemblage mainly comprises local wares, in particular Severn Valley ware and local grey or black micaceous ware, accompanied by the standard regional imports to be expected for this area and period; in particular products from the Oxfordshire industries and Dorset black burnished ware.
- 2.3 Severn Valley wares account for just under half the assemblage by sherd count, 48.4% and are mainly the standard oxidised variant with a few reduced (grey) bits. Featured sherds are sparse but include wide-mouthed jars, plain-rimmed dishes and tankards.
- 2.4 The grey or black micaceous wares account for 17% and are mainly from jars and dishes / bowls. This is a well-known fabric in the lower Severn Valley although as yet not sourced and seems to date from the later 2nd century onwards. Many forms imitate black burnished ware or Severn Valley ware forms and decoration.
- 2.5 Black-burnished wares are predominantly from Poole Harbour, Dorset but also include a few South-west vessels, probably from the Exeter region. Collectively these contribute 19.9% and include jars, plain-rim dishes, a grooved-rim dish and flanged-rim conical bowls. One late Roman flanged-rim bowl from (504) has an *in-situ* lead rivet repair. A basesherd from (620) appears to have been smoothed on the edge forming a large disk, half of which survives.
- 2.6 Products from the Oxfordshire industry include white ware mortaria, red-slip mortaria and colour-coated beakers and dishes.
- 2.7 At least seven contexts contain sherds of later Roman Midlands shelly ware (cxts 118, 303, 605, 611, 616, 1506 and 1507) signalling a date in or after the last quarter of the 4th century.
- 2.8 Continental imports are rare and limited to six sherds of Central Gaulish samian and 11 sherds of amphora. The former includes a basesherd with an incomplete potter's stamp from (108). The amphora comprises nine sherds of Baetican olive-oil container imported from Southern Spain and two sherds of Gallic wine amphora. These are the commonest two types to be found in Britain and generally date to the 1st to 3rd century.

2.9 Other named wares include two sherds of handmade Malvernian rock-tempered ware; a piece of Savernake ware jar from Wiltshire and a single sherd of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware.

3 Saxon

3.1 A single rimsherd from a handmade, black organic-tempered small jar or cup was present in context (217).

4 Potential and further work

4.1 The profile of the pottery assemblage in chronological range and content is very much what one would expect from this locality. Previous work at Hucclecote (Clifford 1933; Thomas *et al.* 2003) and nearby Brockworth (Rawes 1981) has established that there was extensive Roman settlement across this area, presumably strung along Ermin Street.

4.2 The present assemblage is very modest with limited featured sherds and does not greatly further our ceramic knowledge of the area although specific details of the exact location and the stratigraphy against previous work is not known to the author at this point. If publication is envisaged a short summary report would be sufficient. Only the Saxon sherd would warrant illustration.

5 Ceramic building material

5.1 Accompanying the pottery was a moderately large assemblage of 321 sherds of Roman ceramic building material weighing 20,087 g.

5.2 This was recovered from 52 separate contexts and ranged from quite large identifiable fragments to indeterminate small, abraded, lumps (Table 2).

5.3 With a possible exception of a brick fragment from (509) all the pieces appear to be Roman in date and comprise a mixture of curved *imbrices* and flanged *tegulae* typically used as roofing material. A few pieces of possible thicker flat tile or *pila* are also present and just one fragment of combed box-flue from a hypocaust system.

5.4 One *tegula* from (509) was marked with concentric finger scoring on the upper surface, otherwise the roofing fragments have no obvious impressions or other features other than some mortar still attached to the piece from (313). What was noticeable however, was a fairly diverse range of fabric types. The fragment of box-flue from (1607) showed concentric combing on one surface.

5.5 No further work is recommended.

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Rawes, B 1981, The Romano-British site at Brockworth, Glos, *Britannia* **12**, 45-78

Thomas, A, Holbrook, N and Bateman, C, 2003, *Later prehistoric and Romano-British burial and settlement at Hucclecote, Gloucestershire. Excavations in advance of the Gloucester Business Park Link Road, 1998*, Bristol & Glos Archaeol Rep no **2**

Table 1: Pottery

Context	samian	amp	SVW	BB1	OXF	GYMIC	Other	Saxon	Total Number	Total Weight	Date
103	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	Roman
104	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	14	C2-C3
106	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	16.5	late C2+
108	2	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	8	58.5	C2
116	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	8	71	C2-C4
117	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	6	25	late C2-C4
118	0	0	5	2	1	6	4	0	18	89	late C4
121	0	1	15	5	0	4	1	0	26	321	late C2+
125	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	25	C2-C4
126	2	1	26	12	0	4	6	0	51	272	I C2+
128	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	C2-C4
129	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	113	C2-C3
203	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	92	Roman
208	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	12	50	C2-C4
212	0	0	20	3	2	8	4	0	37	515	C3+
214	0	1	20	1	0	0	1	1	24	199	Saxon
217	0	2	5	4	0	1	0	0	12	66	late C2+
218	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	47	Roman
220	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	7	17	C2-C4
303	0	0	14	0	0	10	2	0	26	209	late C4
305	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	Roman
309	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	55	late C2+
316	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	302	C2-C3
317	1	1	2	0	0	6	0	0	10	77	C2-C3
504	0	0	4	5	0	1	0	0	10	199	C4
506	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	C2-C4
509	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	5	56	C2-C4
511	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0	11	16	C2-C4
513	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	C2-C4
515	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	9	29	C2-C4
605	0	0	8	6	9	6	7	0	36	246	late C4
607	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	11	C4
608	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	5	20	C2-C4
611	0	0	25	16	4	8	3	0	56	474	late C4
616	0	1	23	9	3	21	5	0	62	244	late C4
617	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	16	IC2-C4
620	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	10	94	IC2+
626	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	C2-C4
628	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	3.5	C3+
704	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	22	C2-C4
706	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	C2-C3
708	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	11	C3-C4
710	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	13	27	late C2-eC3
1205	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	5	C2+
1504	0	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	7	17	late C4
1505	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	Roman
1507	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	4	7	late C4
1512	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	7	20.5	C3+
1514	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	C3+
1606	0	0	2	1	0	7	0	0	10	86	C3+

1804	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	25	C2+
TOTAL	6	11	267	110	20	94	43	1	552	4320	

Table 2: CBM

Context	No	Wt	Type	Date	Context	No	Wt	Type	Date
103	3	58		Roman	511	3	3		Roman
104	4	490	Tegula	Roman	515	3	3		Roman
106	1	14		Roman	604	2	317	Imbrex	Roman
108	4	55		Roman	605	11	711		Roman
116	9	647	Tegula, Imbrex	Roman	607	1	9	Tegula	Roman
117	11	454		Roman	610	1	83	Tegula	Roman
118	15	460	Tegula, Imbrex	Roman	611	13	49		Roman
121	20	1491	Tegula, Imbrex	Roman	616	28	538		Roman
125	1	35		Roman	617	4	135		Roman
126	27	2110	Tegula, Imbrex, flat	Roman	620	5	44		Roman
129	1	232	Tegula	Roman	621	1	44		Roman
208	3	325		Roman	626	1	19		Roman
212	4	104	Tegula	Roman	628	5	22		Roman
214	12	476		Roman	629	2	187		Roman
217	6	184		Roman	704	2	22		Roman
218	4	28		Roman	706	0	0		Roman
220	9	602	Tegula	Roman	708	2	28		Roman
303	20	2605	Tegula, Imbrex	Roman	710	3	487	Tegula	Roman
305	2	85		Roman	1205	4	20		Roman
307	5	294		Roman	1512	1	3		Roman
309	4	237	Tegula	Roman	1514	3	10		Roman
312	5	973	Tegula	Roman	1606	10	396	teg	Roman
313	3	1235	Tegula	Roman	1607	1	109	box flue	Roman
316	1	74	Tegula	Roman	1804	2	222	imb	Roman
317	15	1814	Tegula, Imbrex	Roman	no no.	6	155	teg, lumps, flakes	Roman
506	7	32		Roman	TOTAL	321	20087		
509	10	1289	Tegula, Imbrex	Roman					
509	1	68	Brick	postmed?					

Appendix 2: Assessment of the small finds assemblage by H.E.M. Cool

1 Introduction

1.1 Due to time pressure this assessment concentrates on providing simple identification, spot dates and recommendations for further work. The iron has been supplied without X-radiographs and so any suggestions as to what the iron artefacts are have to be provisional until X-radiography is carried out, which should be done as soon as possible.

1.2 A listing of the material supplied for comment is given in Table 3.

2 Range and Date

2.1 The copper alloy includes two items that will warrant further work, the drop handle (small find (SF) 2) and the bracelet fragment (SF 4). The latter belongs to a numerically small variant that seems to be a local product, as most of the examples come from the Gloucester/Oxfordshire area (Cool 1983, Bracelet Group XXXIIIB). Such dating evidence as there currently is points to a second or third century date. If the ditch fill from which it came can be shown to have a good dated context, this may be helpful in refining the date of the type.

2.2 Without X-radiographs it is difficult to be sure of the identifications of the iron. The pieces are consistent with being nails apart from SF20 which has some features that suggest it might have come from a brooch, if that is the case then a first, into the second century date would be appropriate. X-radiography and investigative conservation would be needed to refine the identification and the date.

2.3 With one exception the glass fragments come from prismatic/square bottles datable to the later first to early third centuries (Price and Cottam 1998, 194-8). One of these (SF 6) is a square bottle base fragment with a basal pattern that includes a square moulding rather than the normal ones based on concentric circles. The one exception is an emerald green body fragment (SF 8). If Roman this would point to a mid first century date, however, there are features that suggest it might have come from a modern vessel. This is probably supported by SF 10 which appears to be a nail with a large head, but which is relatively well preserved though covered with a corrosion crust. Such an appearance normally points to a modern rather than a Roman date.

3 Potential

3.1 The bracelet (SF 4) and the glass bottle fragments suggest that the ditches from which they came were filling in the mid Roman period. The types of items recovered are fairly typical of rural sites in this region at that time. Small Finds 2, 4, 6 and possibly 20 would make a useful contribution to any publication of the work on the site.

Bibliography

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Price, J. and Cottam, S. 1998. Romano-British Glass Vessels: a Handbook, CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology 14 (York)

Table 3

Small Find number	Context Number	Description
SF 1	(108)	Nail, shank fragment? Iron.
SF 2	(116)	Drop handle. Copper alloy.
SF 3	(126)	Sheet. Copper alloy
SF 4	(126)	Bracelet. Copper alloy. Cool 1983, Bracelet Group XXXIIIB.
SF 5	(126)	Prismatic bottle. Blue/green glass
SF 6	(303)	Square bottle, base fragment. Blue/green glass.
SF 7	(208)	Prismatic bottle. Blue/green glass
SF 8	(212)	Body fragment. Emerald green glass
SF 9	(212)	Nail, shank fragment? Iron.
SF 10	(212)	Nail, with large head. Iron.
SF 11	(218)	Chip. Blue/green glass
SF 12	(214)	Sheet. Copper alloy.
SF 18	(616)	Nail, shank fragment? Iron.
SF 20	(620)	? Brooch. Iron.
SF 21	(628)	Nail, shank fragment? Iron.

Appendix 3: Assessment of the coin assemblage by Kurt Adams

1 Summary

1.1 All of the coins date to the 4th century and can be dated to the 330s AD, with the exception of one coin that is heavily encrusted, but could conceivably be of the same date. The 330s is the richest period of Roman coin finds in this country, with the two soldiers and standard issue being one of the most common coins found in this period.

1.2 Two of the coins are barbarous/contemporary copies and would have been made in this country, perhaps locally, copying the styles of the existing Roman coins. These coins would not have been produced as fakes intended to fool the recipient, but most likely as a lower denomination that was required to fill a gap within the market.

2 Descriptions

2.1 Small find 13: Copper alloy Nummus probably of the House of Constantine, barbarous copy.

Date: possibly 330-340

Diameter: 7mm, weight 0.41g

Obverse: Bust looking right

Obverse Inscription: [...]

Reverse: possibly victory standing on the prow of a boat

Reverse Inscription: [...]

Condition: fair but encrusted

2.2 Small find 14: Copper alloy Nummus of the House of Constantine, barbarous copy.

Date: 335-337

Diameter: 14mm, weight 0.74g

Obverse: Bust looking right

Obverse Inscription: [...]

Reverse: two soldiers, one standard

Reverse Inscription: [SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE]

Condition: fair

2.3 Small find 15: Copper alloy Nummus of the House of Constantine.

Date: 335-337

Diameter: 15mm, weight 1.76g

Obverse: Bust looking right

Obverse Inscription: [...]

Reverse: two soldiers, one standard

Reverse Inscription: [SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE]

Mint: Lyons

Condition: fair

2.4 Small find 16: Copper alloy Nummus of the 4th century.

Diameter: 14mm, weight 1.49g

Obverse: uncertain

Obverse Inscription: [...]

Reverse: uncertain

Reverse Inscription: [...]

Condition: this coin is heavily encrusted obscuring all detail

Appendix 4: Levels survey data and deposit models of the Hucclecote Centre buildings

1 Levels survey

1.1 Generally, across the site, the natural geology sloped downwards from east to west and was recorded at 39.12m AOD at the east edge of the site and 37.38m AOD towards the west edge, indicating a slope of 1.74m from east to west. The Hucclecote Centre appears to have been built on a level platform cut into this sloping ground with a consequently deeper below ground impact into the higher, eastern ground (see deposit model transects A-A and B-B; Figure 2).

1.2 Survey of the interior of the Hucclecote Centre (01/04/11) indicates that floor level is consistent throughout the buildings at a height of 38.55m AOD and original drawings (Fairhurst 1957; 1958) indicate that approximately 0.4m of concrete and hardcore lies beneath the floor, suggesting truncation to a height of 38.15m AOD across the footprint of the buildings. The drawings show that regularly spaced stanchion foundations, measuring up to 1.3m by 1m each in plan, support the building's superstructure (see Figure 1) and appear to impact to a depth of between 1.37m and 1.52m below floor level, typically to a height of 37.03m AOD.

1.3 Basements in the southern half of the building impact to a depth of up to 3.2m below floor level, 35.35m AOD.

1.4 No information regarding services has been included in this survey, though it is clear that significant service trenches exist around the building complex. The results of the field evaluation demonstrate that where service trenches exist there is a significant impact into the natural geology which would undoubtedly have an impact on any archaeological deposits.

2 Deposit models (Appendix Figures 1 and 2)

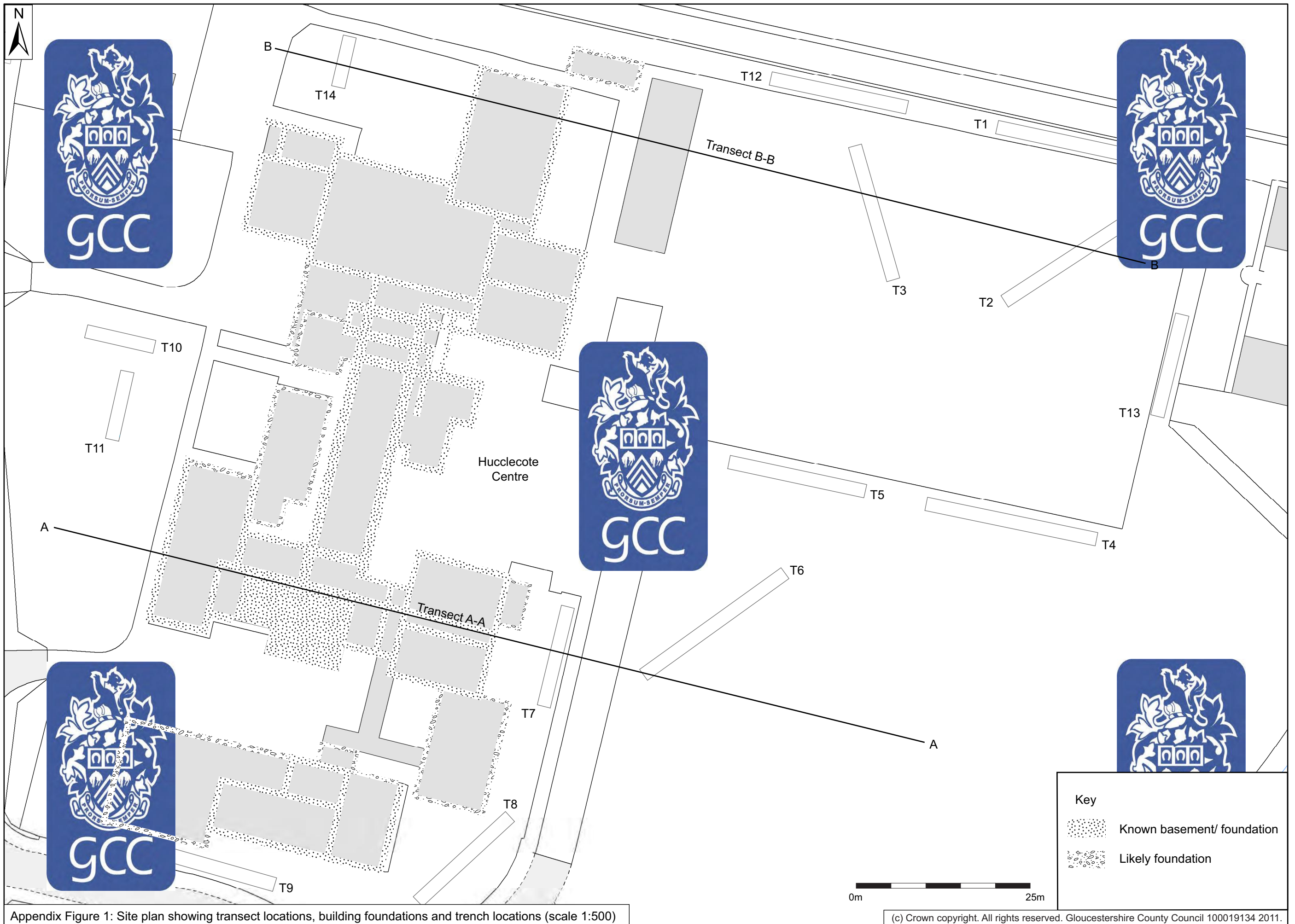
2.1 Deposit models have been produced for two transects across the study area. The models have been created using levels data taken from a topographic survey (A D Horner Ltd 2011) and the archaeological evaluation (Stratford 2011), and drawings of the secondary school showing the foundation and floor construction heights (Fairhurst 1957; 1958). Transect A-A shows a model of the southern end of the main building block incorporating the basements and Trenches 6 and 7 to the east. Transect B-B shows a model of the northern end of the building complex, incorporating Trench 14 to the west and Trenches 3 and 4 to the east.

2.2 The models indicate significant truncation of the natural geology, and consequently any archaeological deposits, within the area of foundation stanchions and basements. There is also clear evidence of truncation within the footprint of the building, most significantly along the eastern half of the complex. Truncation in these areas is likely to have resulted in a degree of destruction to any archaeological deposits.

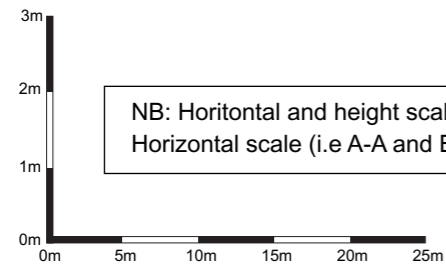
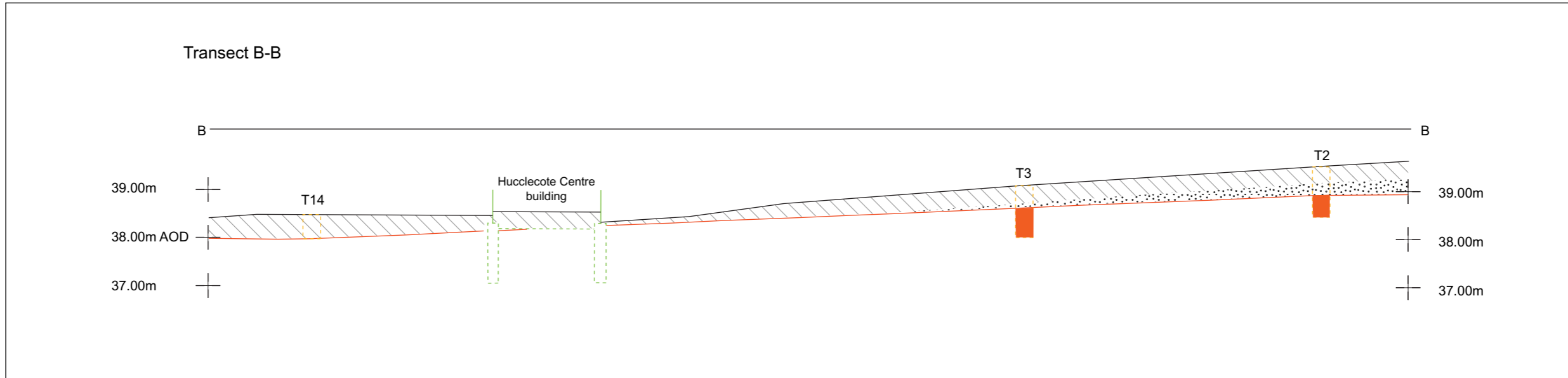
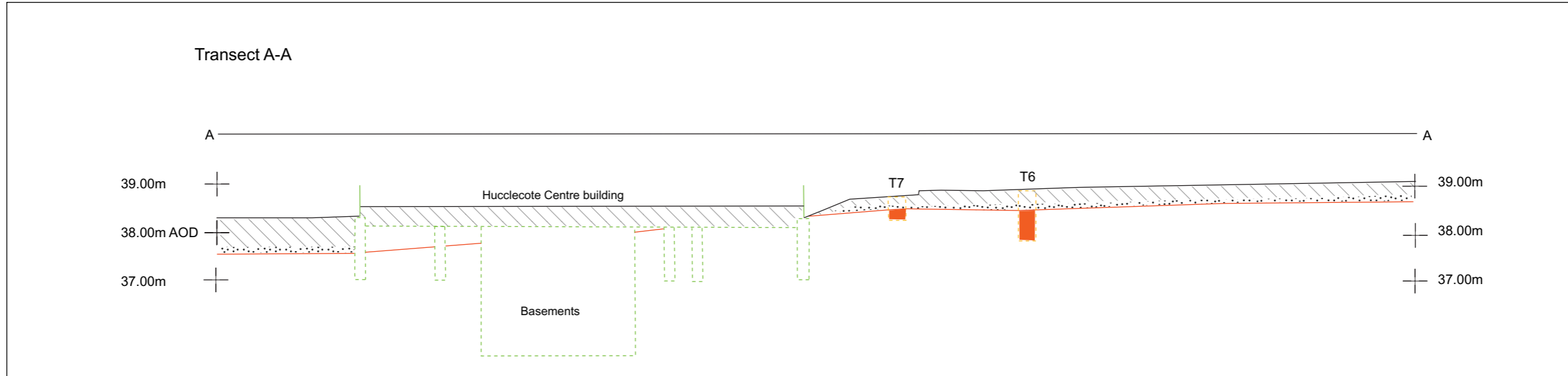
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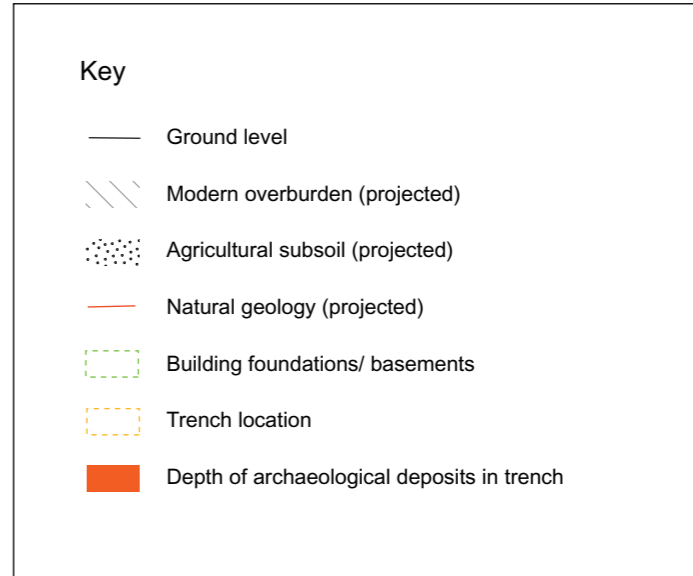
Edmund Stratford
Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service
06.05.2011



Appendix Figure 1: Site plan showing transect locations, building foundations and trench locations (scale 1:500)



NB: Horizontal and height scales differ for illustrative purposes;
Horizontal scale (i.e A-A and B-B) is 1:500, while height data is at 1:100 @ A3



Appendix Figure 2: Deposit models showing Transects A-A and B-B through Hucclecote Centre buildings