ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES WYAS

Elmete Caravan Park
Roundhay
Leeds

Archaeological Evaluation

May 2011

Report No. 2218

CLIENT

Leeds City Council

Elmete Caravan Park
Roundhay
Leeds

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Thirty-six trenches were excavated at the former Elmete Caravan Park, Roundhay, Leeds, to evaluate the site in advance of its possible re-development for use as a graveyard. The excavations confirmed the presence of a concentric, double-ditched, square enclosure, initially identified by geophysical survey. A probable entrance was located to the south east. Late 3rd/early 4th-century, predominantly Dalesware, pottery recovered from both the inner and outer ditches dates the later infilling or re-cutting of the ditches to the late Roman period. No other features of archaeological significance were identified in the interior of the enclosure to help determine the function of the feature, although a ritual/religious function is mooted.

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Report Information

Client:	Leeds City Council
Address:	Parks and Countryside, City Development, Leeds City Council, Farnley Hall, Hall Lane, LS12 5HA.
Report Type:	Evaluation
Location:	Elmete Caravan Park
County:	West Yorkshire
Grid Reference:	SE 339 373
Period(s) of activity represented:	late Roman
Report Number:	2218
Project Number:	3550
Site Code:	ECP10
Planning Application No.:	Pre-determination
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Date of fieldwork:	June 21st to July 16th 2010
Date of report:	May 2011
Project Management:	Alistair Webb BA MIfA
Fieldwork supervisor:	Adam Tinsley BA BA MA and Marina Rose BSc
Report:	Adam Tinsley and Marina Rose
Illustrations:	Jon Prudhoe
Photography:	Adam Tinsley, Marina Rose, Alex Harrison and David Williams
Research:	Adam Tinsley
Specialists:	Gerry McDonnell (slag) Ian Rowlandson (Roman pottery) Jane Richardson (environmental material) Jane Young (post-Roman pottery)

Authorisation for distribution: ----------

PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG
Telephone: 0113 383 7500.
Email: admin@aswyas.com

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Nigel Patrick of Leeds City Council Parks and Gardens Authority to carry out a programme of trial trenching at the former site of Elmete Caravan Park, located adjacent to Elmete Lane, off Wetherby Road, Roundhay, Leeds. This work was carried out in order to assess the potential impact of the proposed development of the site ahead of planning permission, in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 5.

The work was undertaken in two phases with two preliminary trenches excavated between March 16th and March 19th 2010 and the remaining trenches excavated between June 21st and July 16th 2010.

Site location and topography

The site, centred at SE 339 373, is located on the eastern edge of Roundhay Park and is bounded to the east by Elmete Lane, to the north by Elmete Hall, to the west by a small ornamental lake and to the south by a former school fronting on to Wetherby Road (Fig. 1). The site consists of an irregular parcel of land, approximately 7 hectares in size, spread across three terraces, which is interspersed with patches of woodland and mature trees (see Fig. 2). It is obvious that the natural topography has been substantially altered in the recent past in order to create the current terraced aspect to the site.

The northern and uppermost terrace is located at a height of approximately 105m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and contains the remnants of the infrastructure for the former caravan park, including a circular hardcore track, concrete platforms and electrical hook-up points. The middle terrace is located at 95m (aOD) and contains a football field. The southernmost and lowest terrace is situated at 85m (aOD) and contains a reduced size rugby pitch and a five-a-side pitch which is now waterlogged and overgrown.

Soils, geology and land-use

The solid geology underlying the site comprises sandstones, mudstones and shales (BGS 1976), part of the Carboniferous Coal Measures sequence, overlain by drift deposits of sandy, silty clay with sand and gravel lenses. The soils are un-surveyed (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Although no specific background research was undertaken as part of the current project, a desk-based assessment undertaken of the area in and around Wyke Beck Woods (located approximately 1km due south of the current site), highlighted the medieval origins of Roundhay Park and also noted the presence of other medieval and post-medieval features in the immediate vicinity (Pollington 2006). Of particular significance was the record of a

Roman altar found in the grounds of Elmet Hall (Wardell 1881, 82). This item is apparently held at Leeds Museum but no clear account of its original location is given, or of the circumstances regarding its recovery. Ordnance Survey mapping places the find spot in the southern part of the current site and if the find is indicative of (or part of) a Roman altar, the item may well have been recovered *in situ* and, together with a scatter of Romano-British finds recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, may indicate potentially significant archaeological activity during the Roman period in and around the site.

On the basis of this evidence, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) advised that a geophysical survey of the site should be undertaken as the first phase of pre-determination evaluation works (Harrison 2010). The survey identified intermittent anomalies interpreted as indicative of ditches forming two, concentric, square enclosures. These features extended between the upper and middle terrace and were orientated approximately south-west/north-east upon high ground which drops away relatively sharply to the south and west. The general form of this double-ditched enclosure would suggest a probable Late Iron Age or Roman date and would be in keeping with the recovery of the Roman altar from the area.

3 Aims and Objectives

On the basis of the survey results, a Project Design for a programme of trial trenching was produced by ASWYAS on behalf of the client. The main aim of the evaluation was to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site and thereby assess the impact of any future development of the site. This scheme was approved by Rebecca Mann at WYAAS prior to commencement on site.

Thirty-six trenches were positioned in order to evaluate both the anomalies interpreted as probable archaeological ditches and also to investigate apparently ‘blank’ areas and parts of the site where magnetic disturbance, due to ground disturbance and features associated with the former caravan park, may have masked the responses from archaeological features, if present. As a preliminary step, and in order to assess the validity of the geophysical survey interpretation, two trenches (T13 and T14), targeting the possible ditch features, were opened in advance of the remaining trenches. These trenches confirmed the presence of two ditches and have been reported previously (Tinsley 2010). As part of this earlier stage of work, six geotechnical test pits were also monitored. The finds from Trenches 13 and 14 and Test pits 5 and 6 are reported here.

A further twelve trenches were either located across the ditches (as indicated by the survey results) or across their projected line. One ditch (T20) was positioned across an apparent entrance.

4 Methodology

All investigations were undertaken in accordance with recognised professional standards (English Heritage 1991; Institute for Archaeologists 2008), and ASWYAS methodologies (ASWYAS 2006) and in line with the Project Design.

Excavation in all trenches was initially carried out using a hydraulically-powered mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. These excavations were monitored at all times by a qualified and experienced archaeologist. Excavation continued until either an archaeological horizon or natural deposits were reached. Excavation by machine then ceased and all further investigation of archaeological features was undertaken by hand.

Some trenches (T18, T5) were stepped-out to ensure safe working and others were widened to either clarify the nature of a feature (T11) or allow a slot to be excavated perpendicular to the ditch feature (T9). Several trenches had to be moved to avoid overhanging branches, dense undergrowth or tree root systems. Other trenches had to be reduced in length or re-orientated for the same reasons. The proposed and actual locations are shown on Figs 2 and 3. The trenches likely to expose sections across the ditches of the enclosure are shown in Fig. 4.

A photographic, written and drawn record using an appropriate scale, usually 1:20 for sections and 1:50 for plans, of all pertinent features were generated using pro forma recording sheets and according to best practice.

A series of temporary bench marks had previously been laid out using a GPS system and provided the means from which to level drawings and associated archaeological contexts according to Ordnance Survey datum.

Environmental samples were taken from the primary ditch fills, where possible, and retained for further analysis.

A metal detector was used to examine any archaeological features upon their initial identification in order to maximise the recovery of metallic artefacts. All spoil was also scanned by metal detector. Finds of a none metallic nature were registered, bagged and labelled accordingly.

5 Results

Stratigraphy

The topsoil varied in thickness across the site between 0.15m and 0.4m in depth. It was shallowest in T17 and T33 where it was buried below approximately 0.15m of modern overburden which had been used to level up this part of the site for the caravan park. The greatest depth (0.4m) was recorded in T6 which was at the base of a slope. At the northern

end of the site the soils were mid-orangey-brown sandy silts merging to dark brown/grey-black silty clays on the lower slopes. Sub-soils were generally absent being recorded in only four trenches. The natural comprised sandstone in the north-west of the site (T1-T14) with mudstones and clay to the east and south.

Only thirteen trenches out of the 36 excavated encountered any archaeological remains. The other 23 trenches, although devoid of archaeological remains, helped to provide a picture of the extent of landscaping that has occurred across the site. Below is a tabulated summary of each trench and the deposits encountered in each. All heights are expressed above Ordnance Datum.

Table 1. Summary of trenches

Trench No.	Total depth	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Depth	Overburden Depth	Additional deposits	Details
1	0.3m	0.25m	-	-	Hardcore surface below topsoil at northern end.	Large sandstone blocks infilling a burnt-out tree bole. Sandstone natural at 103.44m. Plate 1
2	0.4m	0.35m	-	-	-	Two 19th/20th-century linear features and a shallow pit of unknown date. Natural at 101.16m. Plate 2
3	1.1m	0.3m	-	0.8m		No archaeology. Sandstone and clay natural at 103.58m. Plate 3
4	0.49m	0.3m	-	-	-	Linear ditch. Sandstone natural at 99.99m. Plate 4
5	2.3m	0.18m	-	1.6m	Buried topsoil and subsoil horizons below overburden.	Linear ditch. Layering of sandstone and mudstone natural at 101.68m. Plates 5-6
6	0.4m	0.4m	-	-	-	Linear ditch. Natural at 100.02m. Plate 7
7	0.2m	0.18m	-	-	-	No archaeology. Sandstone natural at 105.80m. Plate 8
8	0.2m	0.2m	-	-	-	Linear ditch. Sandstone natural. Plate 9
9	0.8m	0.3m	0.5m	-	-	Linear ditch. Sandstone natural at 105.26m. Plate 10
10	1.7m	0.3m	-	1.6m	Buried subsoil below overburden.	Modern drainage feature at southern end. Sandstone natural at 103.52m. Plate 11
11	0.5m	0.3m	-	0.3m southern area only		Linear ditch and possible pit cut through by modern service trench. Sandstone natural at 104.83m. Plates 12-13
12	0.3m	0.3m	-	-	-	Linear ditch. Sandstone and mudstone natural at 105.20m. Plate 14

Trench No.	Total depth	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Depth	Overburden Depth	Additional deposits	Details
13	0.72m	0.3m	0.33m	-	-	Two linear features. Sandstone natural at 97.89m at south-western end of trench. Plate 15
14	0.4m	0.4m	-	0.33m	-	Two linear features. Sandstone natural at 103.97m. Plate 16
15	0.3m	0.25m	-	-	-	No archaeology. Mudstone and clay natural at 105.10m. Plate 17
16	0.3m	0.25m	-	-	Hardcore deposit along northern edge for caravan hard standing.	No archaeology. Mudstone and clay natural at 105.14m. Plate 18
17	1m	0.15m	-	0.5m	Buried topsoil and subsoil horizons below overburden.	Made ground for caravan parking. No archaeology. Mudstone and clay natural at 100.89m. Plate 19
18	1.2m	0.3m	-	0.8m	-	Linear ditch. Sandstone natural at 99.62m. Plate 20
19	0.76m	0.3m	-	-	-	Linear ditch. Micaceous sandstone natural at 100.96m. Plate 21
20	0.3m	0.3m	-	-	-	Terminal of linear ditch. Sandstone natural at 100.71m. Plate 22
21	1.2m	0.2m	-	0.4m	Buried topsoil and subsoil horizons.	No archaeology. Sandstone natural at 98.55m. Plate 23
22	1.6m	0.25m	-	0.6m	Buried topsoil and subsoil horizons.	No archaeology. Clay and mudstone natural at 96.53m. Plate 24
23	0.25m	0.25m	-	-	Hardcore surfaces in topsoil.	No archaeology. Clay and mudstone natural at 105.80m. Plate 25
24	0.3m	0.3m	-	-	-	No archaeology. Mudstone natural at 90.31m. Plate 26
25	1.25m	0.3m	-	0.6m	Buried topsoil.	No archaeology. Clay natural at 89.51m. Plate 27
26	>2m	0.35m	-	1m	Buried topsoil and subsoil horizons.	No archaeology. Clay natural at 88.49m. Plate 28
27	0.9m	0.3m	-	0.35m	Buried topsoil and subsoil horizons.	No archaeology. Mudstone and sandstone natural at 89.12m. Plate 29
28	0.4m	0.3m	-	-	-	No archaeology. Mudstone natural at 90.48m. Plate 30
29	1.5m	0.3m	-	1.6m	Buried subsoil.	No archaeology. Mudstone natural at 88.17m. Plate 31
30	0.3m	0.25m	0.2m	0.3m	-	No archaeology. Mudstone natural at 88.39m. Plate 32
31	1.2m	0.3m	-	0.6m	Buried topsoil and	Overburden contains modern

Trench No.	Total depth	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Depth	Overburden Depth	Additional deposits	Details
					subsoil horizons.	building debris. No archaeology. Mudstone and clay natural at 86.90m. Plate 33
32	0.35m	0.3m	-	-	-	No archaeology. Mudstone and clay natural at 88.92m. Plate 34
33	1m	0.15m	0.6m	-	-	No archaeology. Mudstone and clay natural at 104.30m. Plate 35
34	3.3m	0.15m	-	3m	Buried subsoil.	Trench abandoned due to location of sewer pipes. No archaeology. Mudstone natural at 98.16m.
35	1.4-3.2m	0.3m	-	1.4m	Two layers of made ground over redeposited natural.	No archaeology. Clay natural at 95.53m. Plate 36
36	1.5m	0.3m	-	1.15m	Demolition deposit over waterlogged clay.	No archaeology. Clay natural at 97.23m. Plate 37

The archaeological features

The outer enclosure ditch (see Figs 5 -11 inclusive)

Sections through the outer enclosure ditch were excavated in nine trenches (T4, T5, T6, T8, T12, T13, T14, T18 and T20). In these trenches the ditch varied in width between 1.8m in T20 (representing the butt end for a possible entrance) to a maximum width of 3.6m recorded in T14, with an average 2.75m. Its maximum depth (2.5m) was also recorded in T14 but was otherwise generally between 1m and 1.5m. No two profiles were exactly the same but the ditch was broadly V-shaped. The number of fills was also varied, presumably partly reflecting the sloping nature of the site. The sections are described in detail below clockwise from the butt-end in T20.

Trench 20

At the butt-end in T20, the outer ditch (2003) was 1.22m in depth and 1.8m in width and contained two fills, 2001 and 2002 (Fig. 5; Plate 22). Its profile was broadly V-shaped but with a flat bottom. The primary fill (2002) was very distinct in that it almost entirely comprised angular sandstone pieces possibly suggesting deliberate backfilling. The upper fill (2001) comprised mid to light orangey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from either deposit. Ditch 2003 was seen to continue beyond T20 on a south-west alignment presumably turning to the north-west where it was next encountered in T13.

Trench 13

In this trench the ditch (13004) was approximately 3.5m wide and up to 1.2m deep with a rough V-shaped profile (Plate 15). It contained a total of six fills, from primary deposit 13011

to tertiary deposit 13016, the latter being a band of colluvium. All of these deposits contained varying quantities of sandstone amongst a silty sand matrix of variable hue. Deposits 13013 and 13014 also contained a quantity of burnt stone inclusions while deposit 13012 contained a small quantity of charcoal. No finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig. 6)

Three deposits filled Ditch 605 and a single sherd of Roman greyware pottery was recovered from the tertiary fill (607). Ditch 605 was seen to cut a steeply V-shaped linear feature (611) on its south-western side. This feature contained two fills (609 and 610). This is the only excavated location that identified an earlier feature cut by either of the ditches. No finds were recovered from this earlier feature. The geophysical survey identified the outer ditch turning to the north-east approximately 18m to the north-west of T6 where it was next sampled in T4 (Fig. 4).

Trench 4 (Fig. 7)

Ditch 403 in T4 had a V-shaped profile and was 2.7m in width and 1.26m in depth containing four fills (406, 405, 404 and 402). The sequence of fills in this trench suggests an apparent gradual silting up of the ditch. No finds were recovered from this section.

Trench 5 (Fig. 8)

The outer ditch (514) in T5 was 3.3m in width and 1.58m in depth with a V-shaped profile. Ditch (514) contained a primary fill (513) with slump deposits (511 and 512) on the sides of the ditch. The primary fill (509) of a later re-cut (510) contained large amounts of angular sandstone pieces with a tip line from the south-eastern side. The remaining three fills (508, 507 and 506) seemed to follow the sequence of gradual deposition noted in T4. Due to the large amount of overburden (1.6m) covering Ditch 514, it is likely that the profile presented here provides the fullest representation of the depth of the original ditch.

Trench 8 (Fig. 9)

Ditch 801 was 2.75m wide and 1.55m in depth with an irregular profile. The depositional sequence is slightly different again in T8 as there appears to be no primary silting before the deposition of a stone-rich fill (802), which is similar in composition to the primary recut fill (509) in T5. The upper two fills (803 and 804) seem to follow the gradual silting model although the tertiary fill (804) was very compacted possibly as a consequence of the passage of traffic associated with the use of the site as a caravan park. Seven sherds of pottery from a late 3rd to early 4th-century flanged bowl were recovered from the upper fill (804) along with fragments of sheep/goat teeth.

Trench 12 (Fig. 10)

T12 revealed the outer ditch (1208) on the northern side of the enclosure aligned north-west/south-east. It measured only 2m wide by 0.8m in depth, the shallowest of all the excavated sections, with a V-shaped profile and a flat base. Landscaping to form a terrace had removed the upper portion of the ditch. Despite its truncated depth, an identifiable sequence of deposits was observed with episodes of primary silting (1207, 1206 and 1205), a re-cut (1204) backfilled by a very stony deposit (1203), and finally a compacted upper deposit (1202).

Trench 14

In T14 the outer enclosure ditch (14006) was 3.6m wide, up to 2.5m in depth with a V-shaped profile (Plate 16). It contained five fills (14007, 14008, 14009, 14004 and 14005), all of which comprised silty sands distinguishable by minor variation in colour and by differing quantities of sandstone inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Trench 18 (Fig. 11)

The final section through the outer ditch was excavated in T18 on the eastern side of the enclosure. The ditch profile presented here was slightly shallower and narrower (2m by 1m in depth) than encountered elsewhere and the depositional sequence was also distinct. The primary fill (1810) was entirely contained within a narrow central channel and comprised a dark grey silty clay that suggested deposition by water. Above this was the sequence of silty fills (1809, 1808, 1807 and 1806) identified in other sections. A re-cut (1805) within this section was very distinct as it was backfilled by a loose stone deposit (1804) that was probably deposited as a single event.

The inner enclosure ditch (Figs 12-14 inclusive)

Sections through the inner enclosure ditch were excavated in five trenches (T9, T11, T13, T14 and T19). The sections are described in detail below clockwise from T19.

Trench 19 (Fig. 12)

On the south-eastern side of the enclosure, the inner ditch (1902) measured 2.8m in width and 1.4m in depth with a regular, V-shaped profile. It contained only two fills (1903 and 1904). The primary deposit (1903) was sterile but the secondary deposit (1904) contained large amounts of stone and heat affected cobbles and three sherds of broadly dated Roman pottery.

Trench 13

The inner ditch in T13 (13005) was approximately 2.5m wide and 1.15 m deep with a rough V-shaped profile with a slightly irregular and flat base. The sequence of deposition within

13005 comprised only three fills (13010, 13009 and 13008). Evidence of a possible re-cut was observed within deposit 13008 and is represented by cut 13007 and fill deposit 13006.

Trench 9 (Fig. 13)

As the orientation of this trench resulted in the ditch being clipped at a slightly oblique angle, the trench was widened out so that a section could be excavated at right angles across the feature. T9 revealed a ditch measuring 2.4m in width and 1.2m in depth with a rounded, V-shaped profile. Three fills (907, 906 and 902) comprising sandy silts were identified with two sherds of medieval pottery recovered from the secondary fill (906) and a single sherd of medieval pottery from the tertiary fill, 902. Within T9, a band of grey clay (904) was observed. This was of unknown function and was not associated with any artefacts.

Trench 11 (Fig. 14)

A change within the deposition of the fills within the inner ditch was noted between T9 and T11, with the sequence of fills in T11 resembling that of the outer ditch in T8 and T12 (Figs 9 and 10). The primary fill (1117) was fairly stony, suggesting erosion of the sides of the freshly cut ditch, and was followed by three fairly clean fills (1115, 1114 and 1116) derived from the natural silting up of the ditch. A central fill (1113), containing large amounts of stone with numerous sherds of pottery from Dalesware jars of early 4th-century date at its base, was very similar to the recut fill observed in the outer ditch, and it is likely that an unrecorded re-cut was also present here. Two subsequent fills (1112 and 1111) of increasing compactness due to later activity followed with the latter containing a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and some slag fragments.

Trench 14

The north-eastern side of the inner ditch was investigated in T14. The ditch (13020) was roughly V-shaped in section with a narrow flat base, approximately 3.6m wide and 1.36m deep. It contained three fills (13017 being the primary deposit, 13018 the secondary deposit and 13019 the tertiary fill), all of which comprised silty sands of slightly varying colour and quantities of sandstone inclusions. Deposit 3018 contained a small quantity of charcoal as well as 82 ceramic sherds from Dalesware jars of early 4th-century date.

Other features

The evaluation trenches revealed two features in addition to the two concentric ditches. A shallow pit (202) was located approximately 4m from the eastern end of T2. This pit measured 1.2m in width, 0.2m in depth and was exposed for 0.6m in length. The single mid to dark orangey-brown silty clay fill (201) contained no finds. A further linear cut feature (204) was observed extending northwest to southeast through T2 approximately 7.5m further west from pit 202. This was found to be approximately 4.1m wide and up to 0.4m deep with an irregular profile. It contained a single med to dark orange-brown silty clay fill which

contained red brick fragments as well as machine parts and other late 19th to early 20th-century metallic material.

The other feature (1105) was located in T11 to the south-east of the inner ditch (1118) and therefore within the internal enclosed area. The remains of this feature measured 2.5m in length and 0.92m in width, although only the southern side of it survived disturbance by a modern service trench (Fig. 14). The excavated section showed a steep-sided, flat-bottomed cut measuring 0.7m in depth with a very stony primary fill (1104) overlain by a mid-orangey-brown silt. The remains of this feature suggest a large pit although no artefacts were recovered from either fill to clarify form or function.

6 Artefact Record

Roman pottery by I. M. Rowlandson

Methodology

The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by The Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004) using the codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (see Darling and Precious forthcoming). Rim equivalents (RE) have been recorded and an attempt at a 'maximum' vessel estimate has been made following Orton (1975, 31), although this should be viewed with caution considering the highly fragmentary nature of many of the sherds. The pottery suitable for illustration has been bagged separately with a 'D' number along with amphora, samian and mortaria for ease of future study.

A dating summary is provided in Table 2. Fabrics and forms are summarised in Tables 3 and 4. The archive record is an integral part of this report (Table 5).

Table 2. Dating summary of the Roman pottery

Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
00607	ROM	A single greyware sherd	1	4	0
00804	L3-E4	A small group including a flanged bowl	7	81	16
01113	E4	A small group of sherds from a single Dalesware jar	75	174	0
01904	ROM	Four sherds of greyware	3	7	0
13018	E4	A large proportion of a shell gritted Dalesware jar	82	432	51

Table 3. Fabric summary

Fabric	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %
DWSH	Calcareous	Dales ware; lid-seated jars (Tomber and Dore 1998, DAL SH)	157	93.45%	606	86.82%	51
GREY	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares	6	3.57%	28	4.01%	0
SYGRB1	Reduced	South Yorkshire Greyware (as Leary 2007)	5	2.98%	64	9.17%	16

Table 4. Form summary

Form	Form Type	Form Description	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %
BFB	Bowl	Bead and flange bowl	4	2.58%	60	9.53%	16
BD	Bowl/dish	-	3	1.94%	21	3.33%	0
CLSD	Closed	Form	1	0.65%	4	0.63%	0
JDW	Jar	Dales ware	144	92.90%	538	85.40%	40
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	3	1.94%	7	1.11%	0

Table 5. Roman pottery archive

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Comments	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
00607	SYGRB1	CLSD		1		BS	1	4	0	0
00804	SYGRB1	BFB		1		RIM	4	60	24	16
00804	GREY	BD		1	ABR	BS; R/OX/R; MICA; MOD FINE QU SAND	3	21	0	0
01113	DWSH	JDW	HB	1	SOOT EXT	BS SHLDR	75	174	0	0
01904	GREY	-		1	ABR	BS	3	7	0	0
13018	DWSH	JDW	HB/WF	1	ABR; SOOT EXT; CORETION EXT	RIM SHLDR; THIS IS PROBABLY A LARGE PROPORTION OF A SINGLE JAR	82	432	21	51

Condition

The ceramics presented for assessment totalled 168 sherds, weighing 0.698kg, from five contexts. Although there appears to be a large number of sherds, the majority come from two fragmentary Dalesware jars and the group probably only represents six individual vessels.

The average sherd weight, 4.15g, is low, as would be expected from a Roman rural site in the north of England.

This group of pottery provides interesting stratified evidence of late Roman occupation. The pottery is predominantly from the upper fills of a square double-ditched enclosure. The groups of pottery probably all date to the late 3rd to early 4th century AD.

The only evidence of use present on the sherds are the external deposits of soot on the Dalesware jars from fill 1113 (of a probable re-cut of the inner ditch; T11) and fill 13018 (secondary fill of the inner ditch; T14).

Dating

The dating summary for pottery from the evaluation provides a quantified spot dating summary based on the pottery by context (Table 2). All of the five groups probably related to activity in the early 4th century AD. The small groups from fill 607 (of a re-cut of the outer ditch; T6) and 1904 (secondary fill of the inner ditch; T19) can only be considered to be broadly Roman in date with certainty due to the lack of diagnostically late Roman sherds. Upper fill 804 of the outer ditch contained a fragment of a flanged bowl, dating the group to the late 3rd to earlier 4th century. Fills 1113 and 13018 both contained a large number of sherds from Dalesware jars. Although vessels of this form probably had a longer currency in northern Lincolnshire, the occurrence of these vessels in this region has been dated to the early 4th century on the basis of groups from other sites (Leary 1997). This small assemblage may represent a single phase of activity.

Overview of forms and fabrics

The majority of the pottery is from shell gritted Dalesware jars. This form was commonly produced in northern Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire and East Yorkshire. The vessels from this site were probably also from a similar source. Of the other vessels from the site, a considerable proportion of the greywares are also from South Yorkshire including a flanged bowl (Rush 2001, fig. 14.17). The group is small and appears to contain only basic kitchen wares.

Discussion

This pottery is of some interest as it provides a small group of late Roman pottery. Evidence for ceramic usage on Roman rural sites in West Yorkshire is usually much more limited than lowland assemblages from Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire. This assemblage is more similar to published groups from rural sites at Pontefract and Methley than the assemblages from the villa at Dalton Parlours (Rush 2001, Evans 2002 and Wrathmell and Nicholson 1990). This limited utilisation of ceramics follows the pattern evident on Iron Age sites in this region. Little can be said about this group due to its small size, but the forms present suggest a very limited and functional ceramic assemblage was in use on this site.

All of the pottery should be retained and deposited in the relevant museum to enable future scrutiny. Future investigations on the site may produce further small groups of Roman pottery.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Jane Young

A small assemblage of post-Roman pottery was submitted for examination. In total, thirteen sherds of pottery representing ten vessels and one ceramic drainpipe were recovered from the site. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 binocular microscope, then recorded using fabric codenames (CNAME) and Fabric groups developed for the Wetherby to Walshford Section of the A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project (Vince and Young 2007) as well as other nationally agreed codenames. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight and the resulting archive entered onto an Access database which is held with the site archive. Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al*. (2001).

Condition

The pottery recovered is mainly in a slightly abraded condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium range (below 25g). The surface shell is leached from the shell-tempered sherd. Only one vessel is represented by more than one sherd and no cross-context joining vessels are present. Soot is present on only two vessels.

The pottery

In total seven vessels in seven different identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types and one fragment of drainpipe were recovered from the site (Table 1). The range of form types is extremely limited with examples of bowl, plate and jar identified.

Table 6. Pottery types with total quantities by sherd count and vessel count

Context	Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
1111	BBAS	Black Basalt	1768	1900	1	1
Test pit 5	CREA	Creamware	1770	1830	2	2
13002	DRAIN	Drain (general)	1800	1950	1	1
Test pit 6	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900	4	1
902 and 906	NGR	Northern Gritty ware	1100	1500	2	2
906	NLST	North Lincolnshire Shell-tempered	1180	1450	1	1
Test pit 6	REFR	Refined Red Earthenware	1730	1800	1	1
13002	WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	1	1

Medieval (mid-12th to 14th century)

Two sherds of Northern Gritty ware (NGR) recovered from deposits 902 and 906 in T9 and a sherd of North Lincolnshire Shell-tempered ware (NLST) are the earliest post-Roman pottery vessels to be found on the site. Northern Gritty ware is found in deposits dating as early as the late 11th century but continues in use until possibly as late as the late 15th century. The two vessels from this site include a medium-sized jar with a sharp everted rim. These jars are likely to date to between the mid-12th and 14th centuries. A sherd from a jar or bowl in North Lincolnshire Shell-tempered ware (NLST) (found in deposit 906) is of late 12th to 14th-century type.

Early modern (mid 18th to 20th century)

Nine of the sherds examined (from six vessels) and a fragment of drainpipe are of mid-18th to 20th-century type. All of the pottery types found are industrial finewares and include everyday and display items. The vessels include a plate and bowls in Creamware (CREA) and Whiteware (WHITE). The two Creamware vessels found in Test pit 5 are of late 18th to mid-19th-century type whilst the Whiteware bowl from T13 could date to the 19th or 20th centuries. Four sherds from a single 19th-century Buff ware bowl (NCBW), found in Test pit 6 are of 19th or 20th-century date. A small fragment from a decorated Black Basalt vessel, probably intended for display came from the upper fill (1111) of the inner ditch in T11. This ware was developed in the mid-18th century and was popular from about *c*.1768. A small sherd in Refined Redware came from Test pit 6. The sherd has an internal white slip and probably comes from a mug or jar of late 18th to 19th-century date. A fragment from a brown-glazed stoneware drainpipe, found in the subsoil of T13 is of mid-19th to 20th-century date.

Summary and Recommendations

The recovered post-Roman pottery suggests that there was medieval occupation in the vicinity of T9. The remaining ceramic material is of early modern date and can be discarded.

Slag by Gerry McDonnell

Five fragments (total weight 56g) of slag were recovered from the upper fill (1111) of the inner ditch. Two larger fragments and three fragments less than 10mm across were examined and the surface texture of a larger fragment shows flowed droplets on the surface. The colour ranges from black to red, with areas of white/cream inclusions. This is ironworking slag, probably smithing, but it is of little significance other than noting that ironworking was carried out in the vicinity.

7 Environmental Record

Soil samples by Jane Richardson

Fifteen soil samples of between ten and thirty litres were subjected to a system of flotation in an Ankara-style flotation tank. The floating remains (the flot) were collected in a 300μm sieve and the heavy fraction (the retent) was collected in a 1mm mesh. The flot, once dry, was scanned using a binocular microscope and the results are presented below (Table 7). The retent was scanned by eye for both ecofacts and artefacts, but none were found.

Only a single charred weed seed and two charred cereal grains were noted, with wood charcoal fragments present in eight of the samples. A few fragments of charcoal are of sufficient size to be identified to genus and may be suitable for AMS dating, but given the tight date range provided by the pottery this is not recommended. Nearly all samples are contaminated by modern plant fibres.

Table 7. Results from the flots

Context number	Sample number	Flot volume	Charred Seeds	Charcoal		Uncharred plant	Comments
				qty.	large frags.		
406 (1^{o} fill outer)	104	1ml					
513 (1^{o} fill outer)	113	1ml					
604 (1^{o} fill outer)	102	1ml				++++	
610 (1^{o} fill ditch)	103	2ml				++++	
902 (upper fill inner)	106	10ml	+	+++		++++	cereal
907 (1^{o} fill inner)	105	5ml		+		++++	
1104 (1^{o} fill pit)	110	2ml		+		++	
1117 (1^{o} fill inner)	109	2ml				+	
1205 (1^{o} fill outer)	111	10ml	+	++		++++	cereal
1810 (1^{o} fill outer)	114	1ml				++	

Context number	Sample number	Flot volume	Charred Seeds	Charcoal		Uncharred plant	Comments
				qty.	large frags.		
1903 (1^{o} fill inner)	107	2ml				++++	
13009 (2^{o} fill inner)	2	15ml	+	++	*	++++	weed
13012 (2^{o} fill outer)	1	20ml		+		++++	
13018 (2^{o} fill inner)	3	15ml		+++	*	++++	
14009 (3^{o} fill outer)	4	1ml		+++		+++	

Key : + = rare (1-5), ++ = occasional (6-10), +++ = common (11-50), ++++ = abundant (>50), * = sufficient charred material for AMS date

Animal bone by Jane Richardson

Animal bone was recovered from an upper fill (804) of the outer enclosure ditch. These were the highly fragmented remains of sheep/goat teeth. It is possible that the twenty fragments represent only a single tooth, and as such have no interpretative value.

8 Discussion

The site of the former caravan park at Elmete has undergone extensive landscaping resulting in level terraces for the caravan park and the football and rugby pitches. The upper terrace encompassing Trenches 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 23, for example, consisted of shallow topsoil straight onto the natural strata. Redeposited material was encountered around the edges of each terrace to provide larger areas of level ground. This amount of landscaping, especially the redeposited material, has served to mask the continuation of the ditches within the geophysical survey data even where, as in the case of T5, the ditch survived to a substantial depth.

A general pattern was observed within the ditches, in that both the internal ditch and the adjacent section of the external ditch exhibited similar profiles both in the morphology of the cut and the character of infilling. This implies that both ditches were in use at the same time and were exposed to the same processes of construction and backfilling. In contrast, each ditch showed varying profiles and patterns of infilling along its length.

All the artefactual evidence was recovered from either the secondary or upper fills of the ditches or from fills associated with episodes of re-cutting. Nevertheless, with the exception of intrusive medieval pottery in T9, the small Roman pottery assemblage is quite tightly dated to the early 4th century.

The paucity of finds from the site, coupled with the lack of internal or other features associated with the ditches, makes interpretation of the site difficult. The lack of finds may negate a domestic function, and certainly a ritual function, perhaps even a temple complex, for this double-ditched square enclosure remains possible. Further investigation of the south-east-facing entrance within the outer ditch, and internal areas, may help clarify the function of the site.

9 Conclusions

The trial trench evaluation at the former Elmete caravan park has identified the presence of a pair of concentric ditches forming a roughly square, double-ditched enclosure, thus confirming the results of the geophysical survey. The outer ditch, with a south-east-facing entrance, encloses an area approximately 110m north-west to south-east and 90m north-east to south west. The inner ditch is placed off-centre, 15m from the south-east outer ditch and only 10m from the north-west section of outer ditch. Other than the enclosure ditches, only one other feature of possible archaeological significance, a pit truncated by a modern drain, was recorded during the evaluation.

Artefactual evidence was limited with only a small assemblage of pottery recovered, but this has provided an early 4th-century date for later infilling and ditch redefinition. In the absence of other artefacts and given the minimal environmental evidence, the function of the enclosure remains unknown. A ritual/religious function is mooted, however, based on the similarity in form to Roman temple sites and by the supposed recovery of a Roman altar stone from the immediate vicinity.

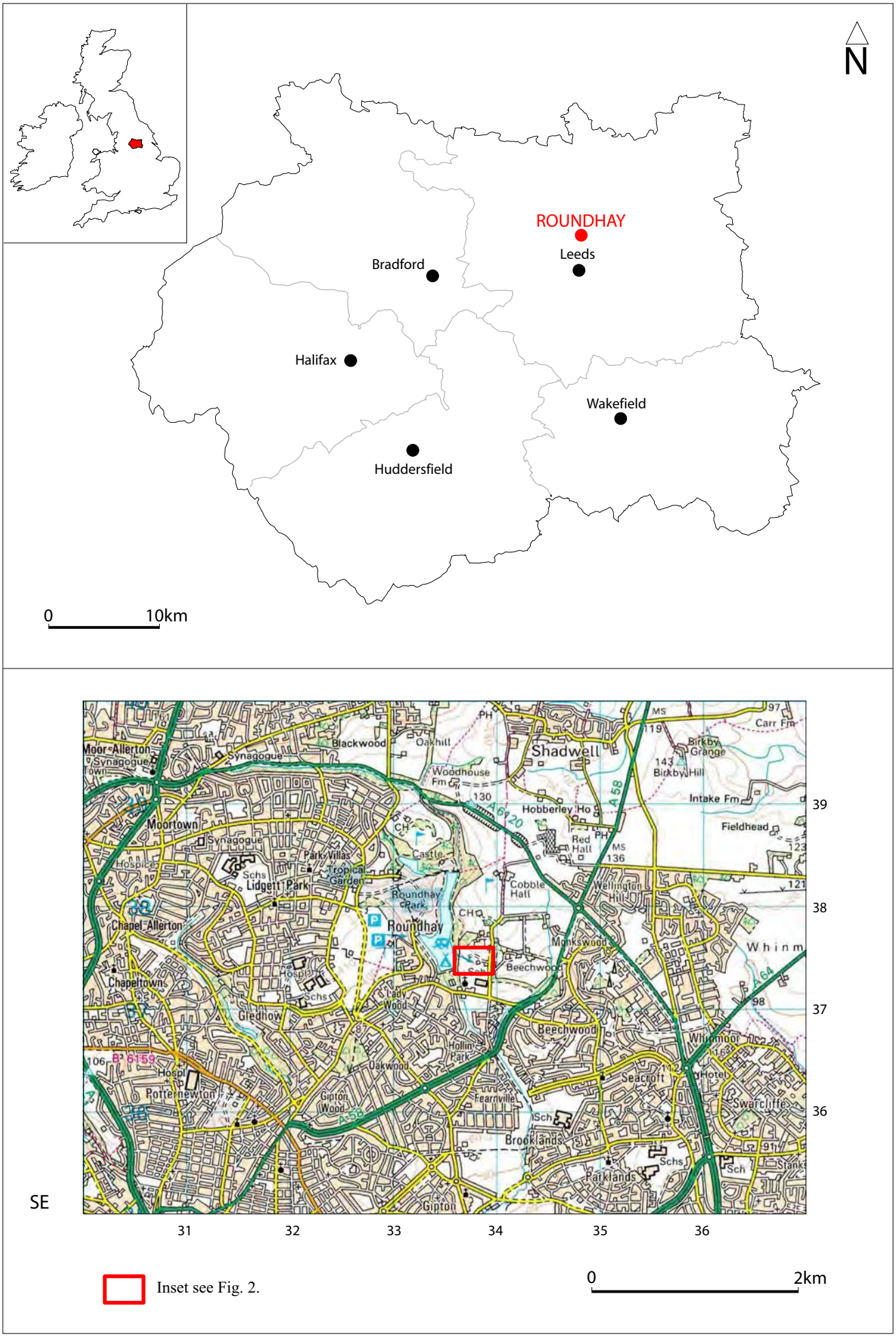


Fig. 1. Site location

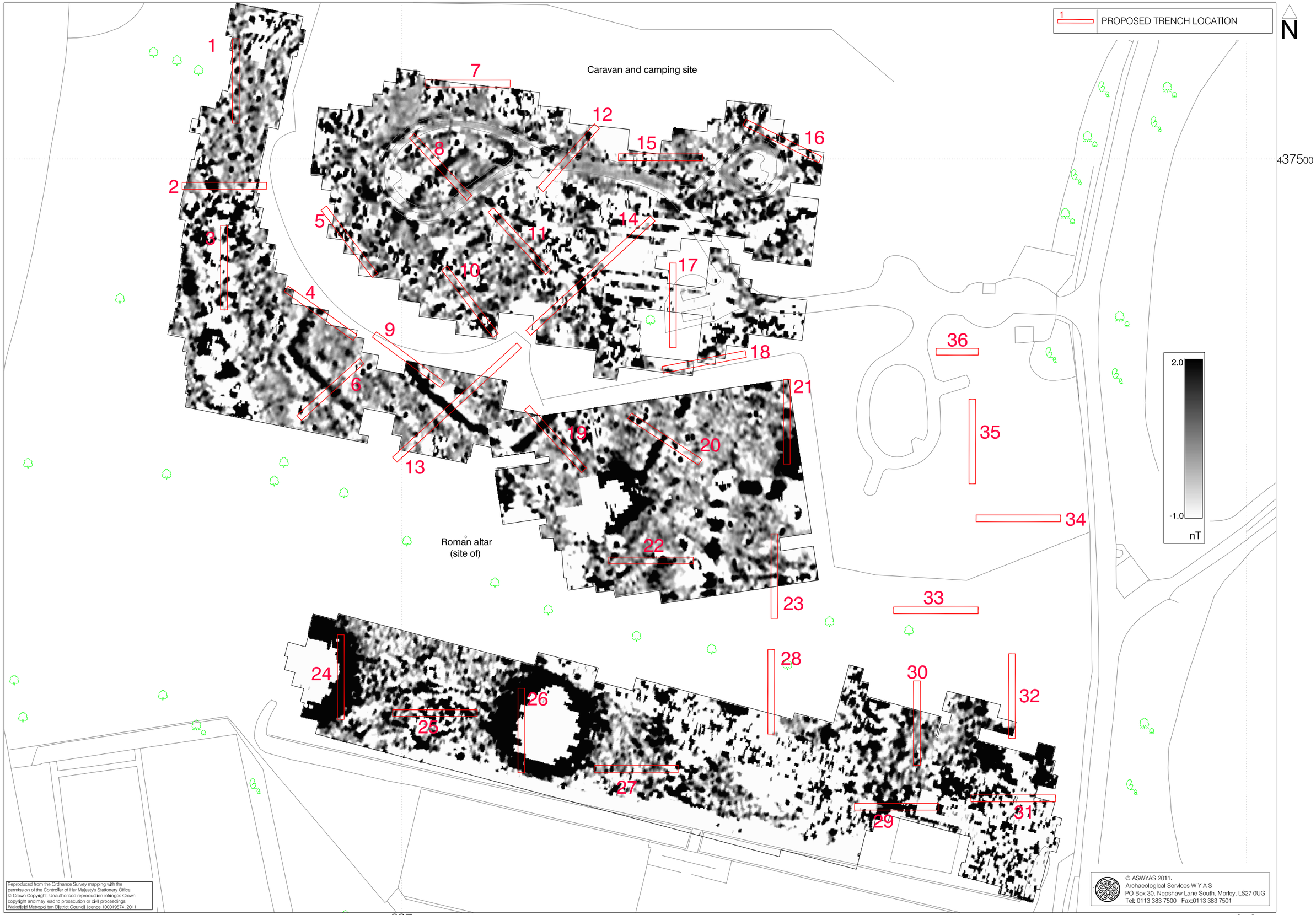


Fig 2. Site location showing proposed trench positions and magnetic data (1:1000 @ A3)

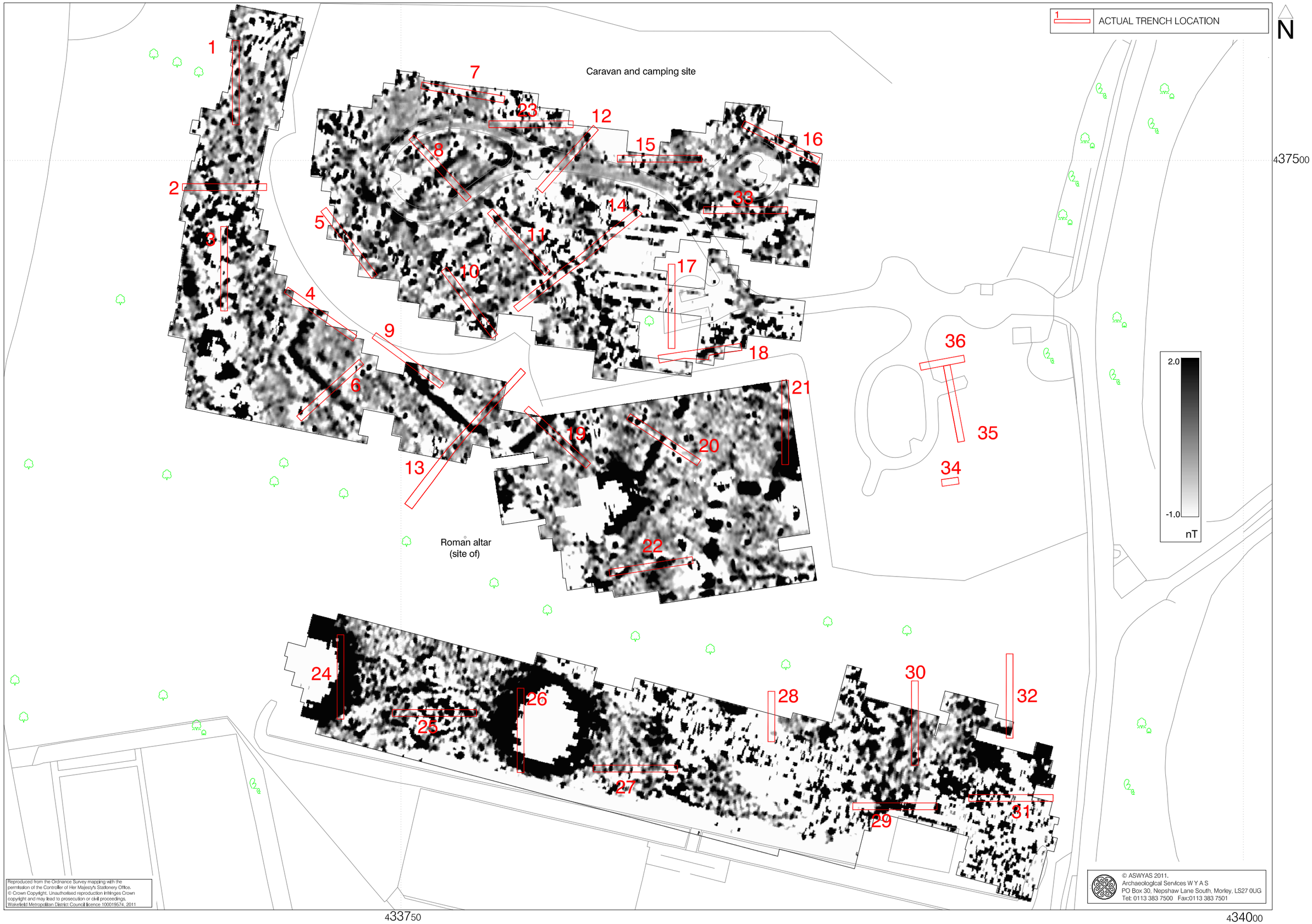


Fig. 3. Actual trench location showing magnetic data (1:1000 @ A3)

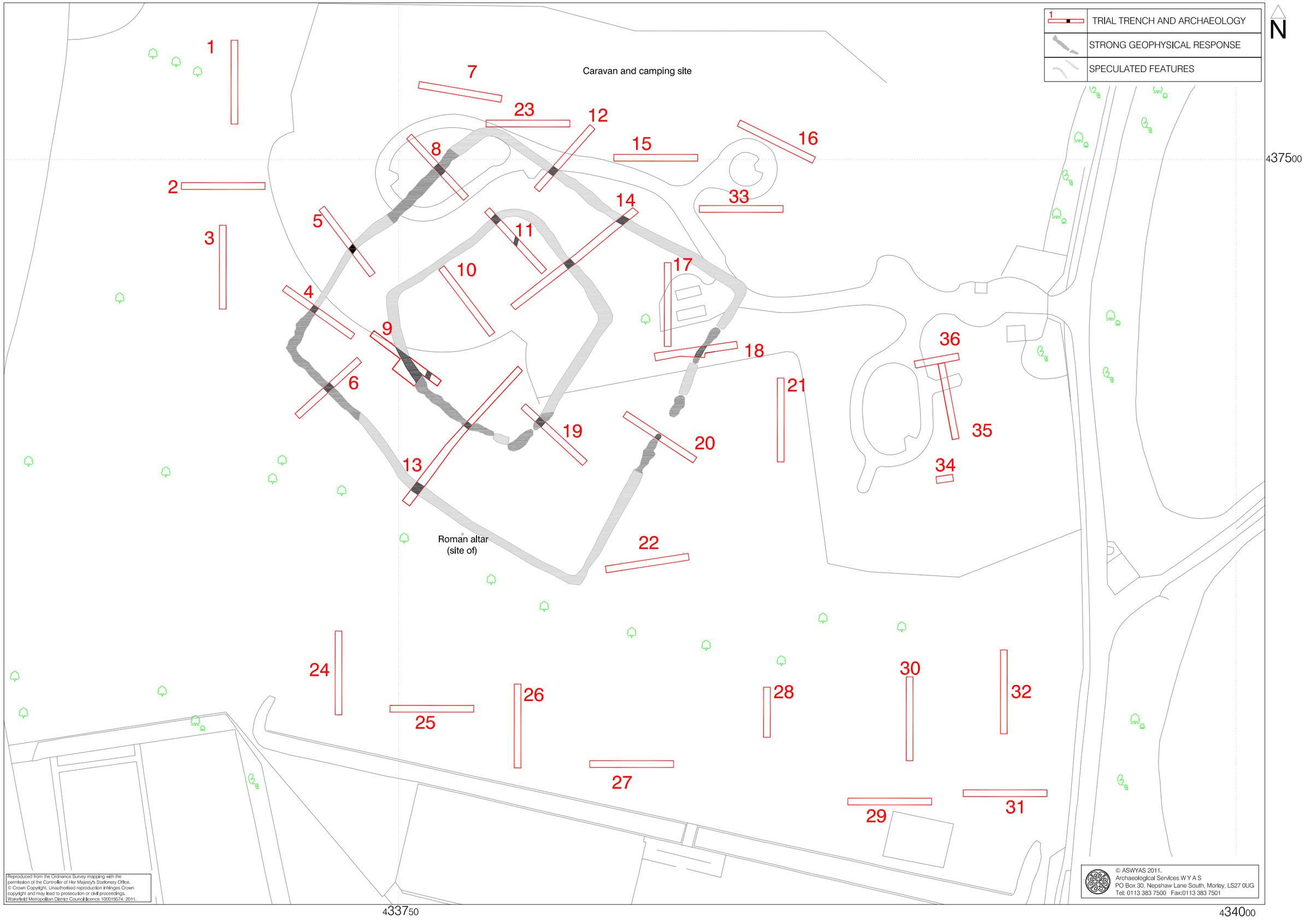
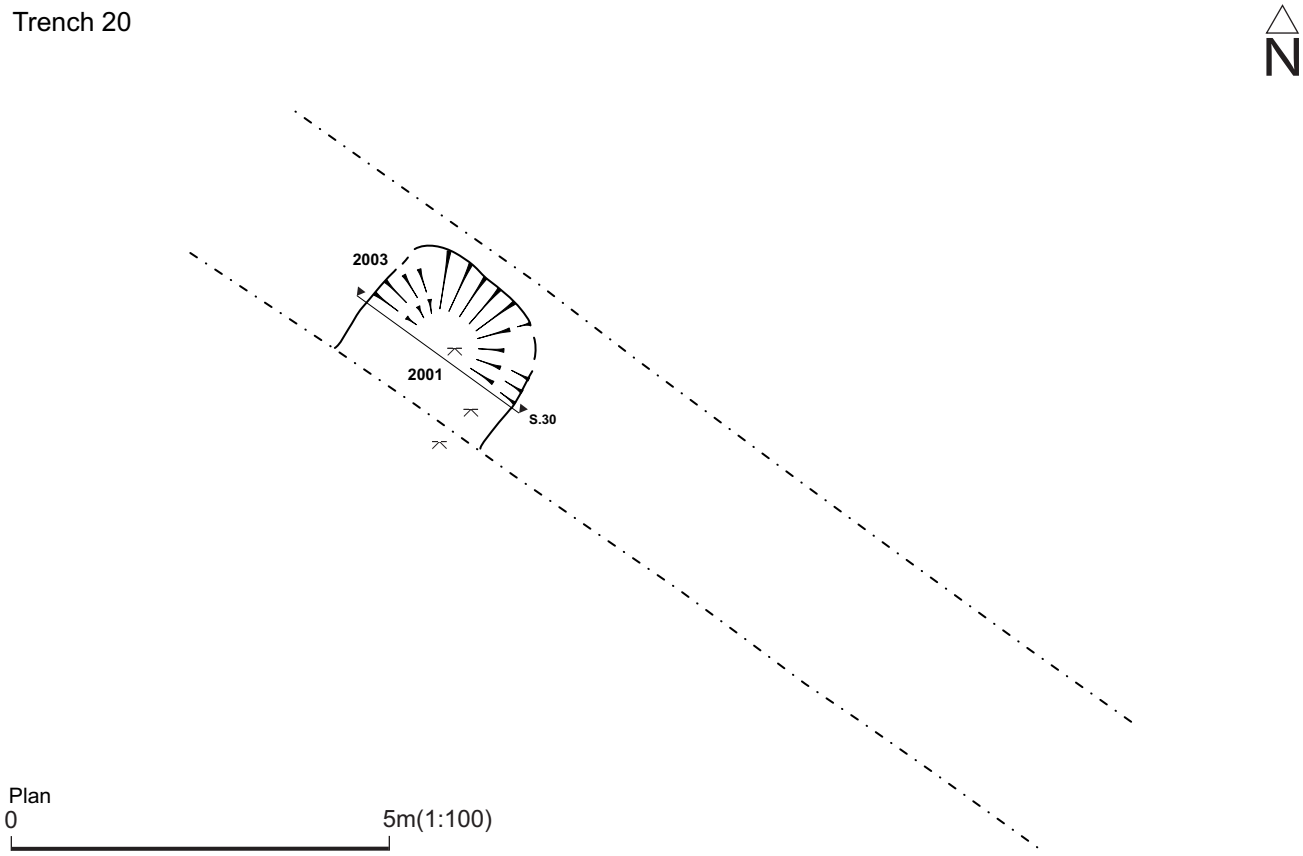


Fig. 4. Trench location showing excavated archaeological features (1:1000 @ A3)

Trench 20



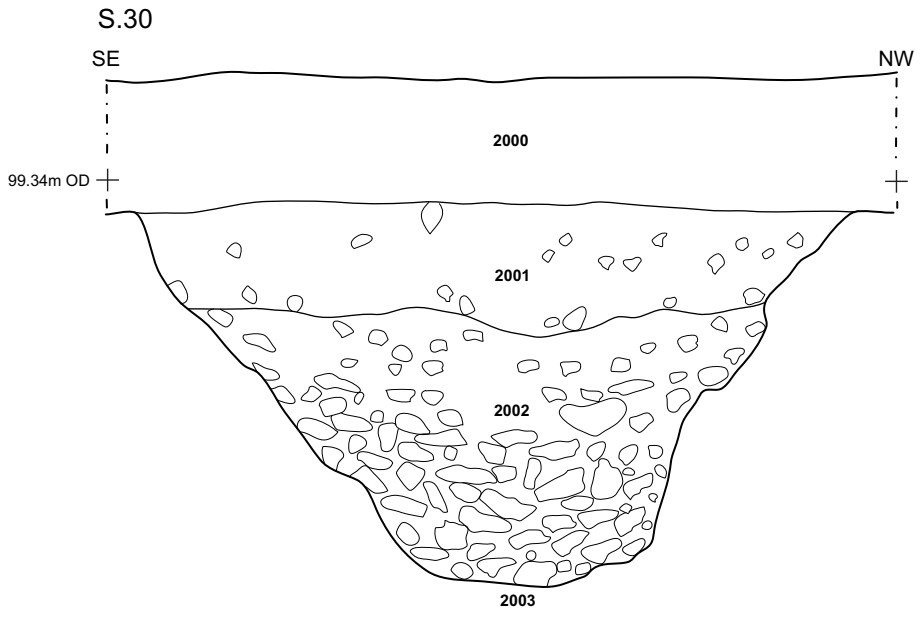


Fig. 5. Trench 20; plan and section

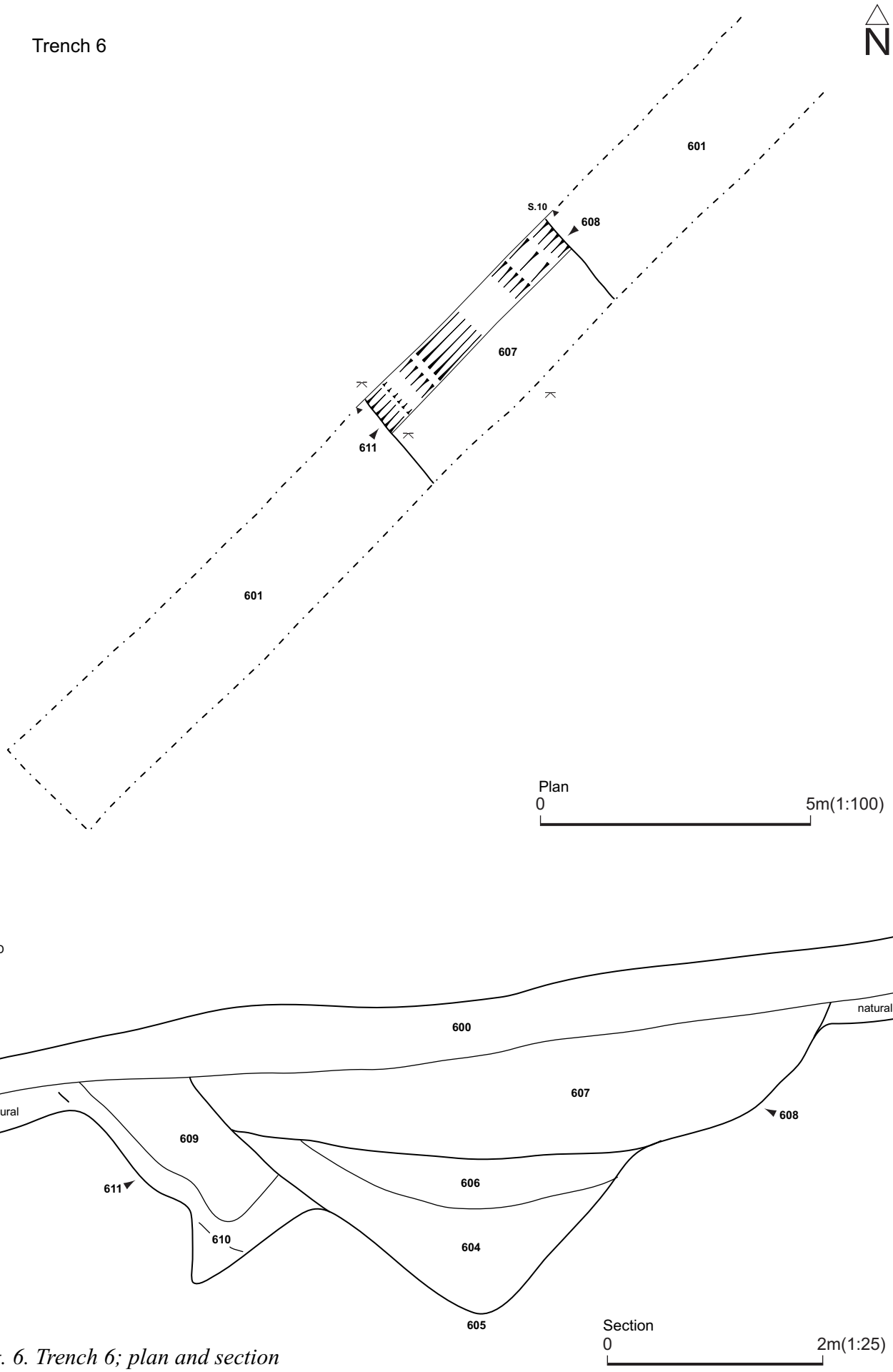
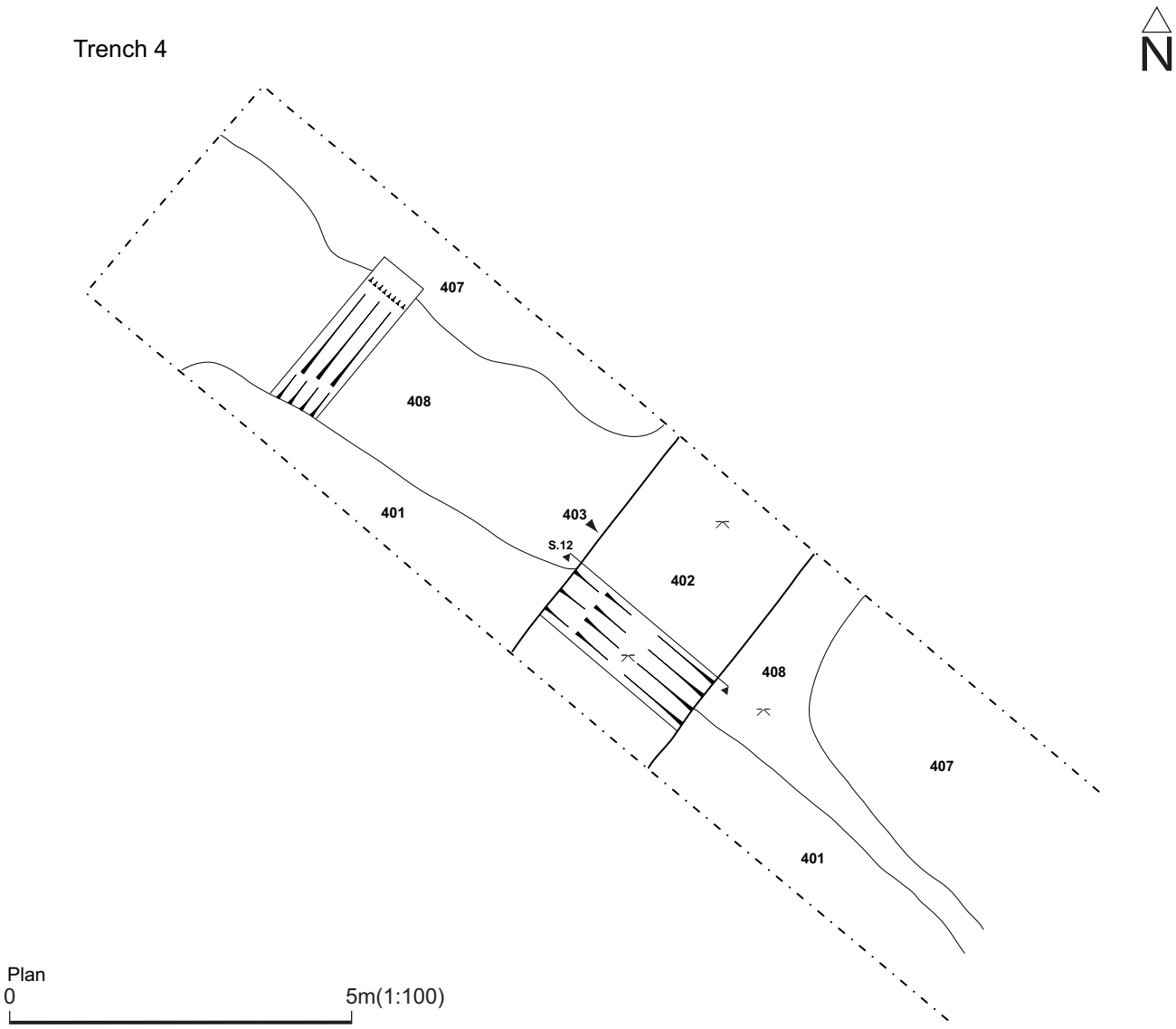


Fig. 6. Trench 6; plan and section



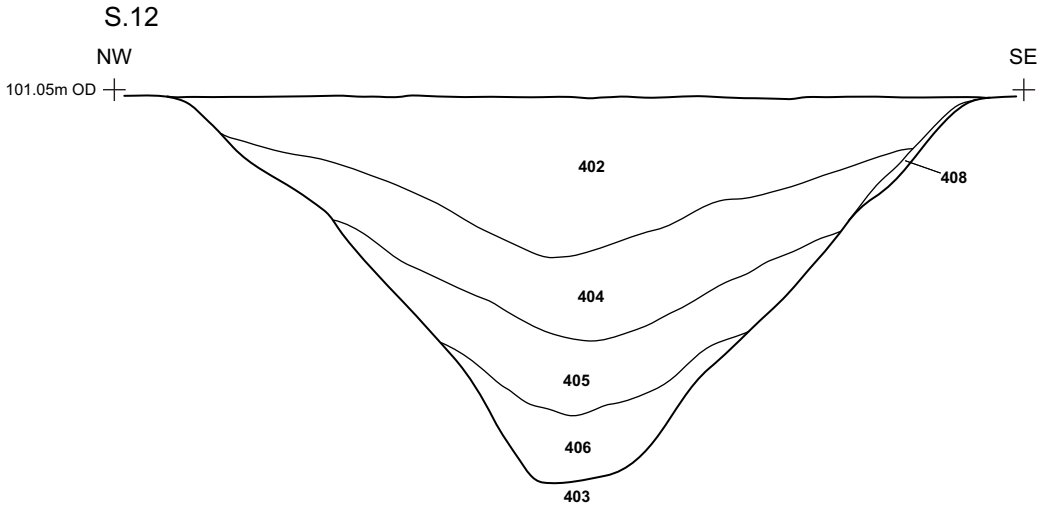


Fig. 7. Trench 4; plan and section

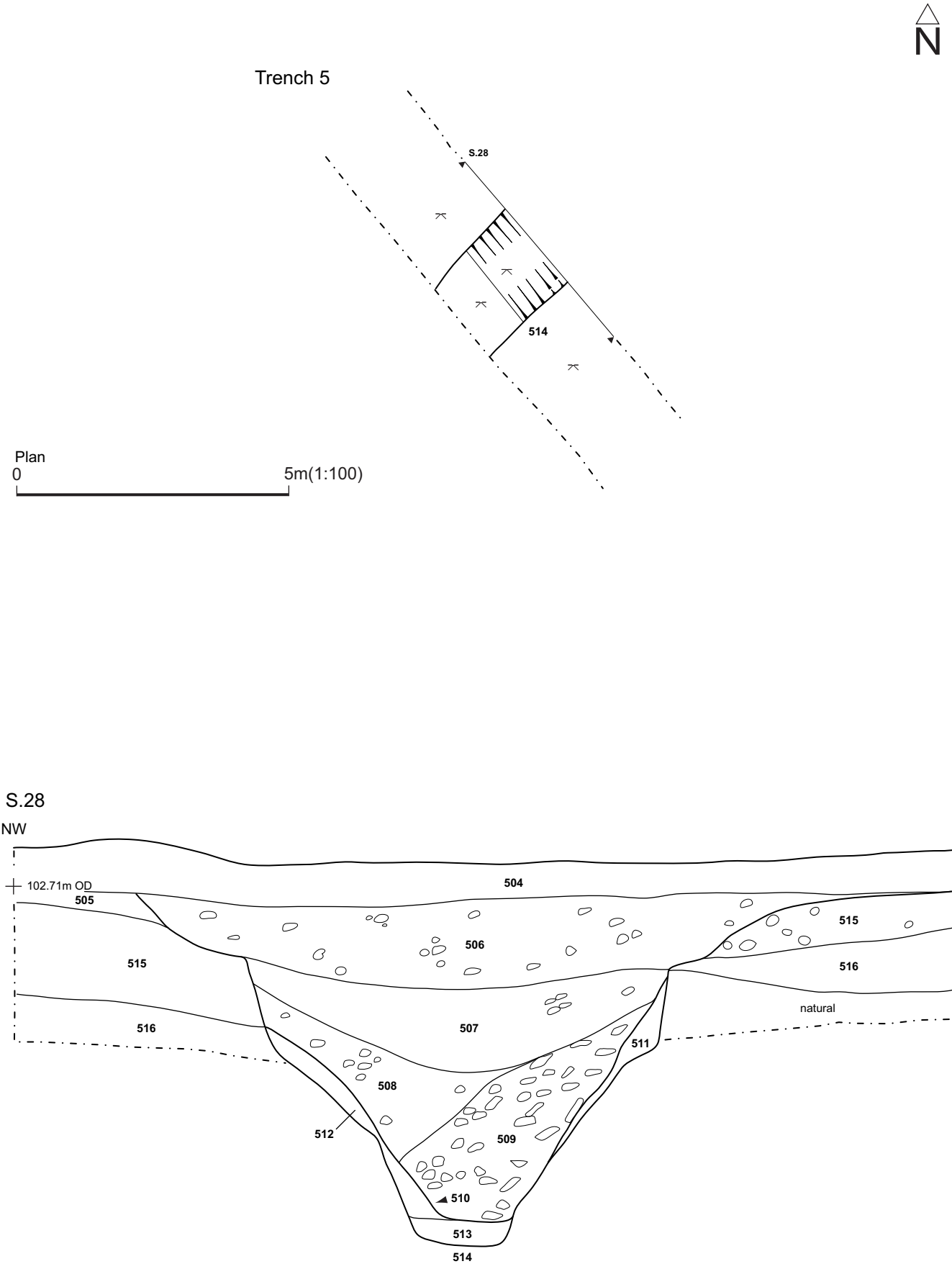


Fig. 8. Trench 5; plan and section

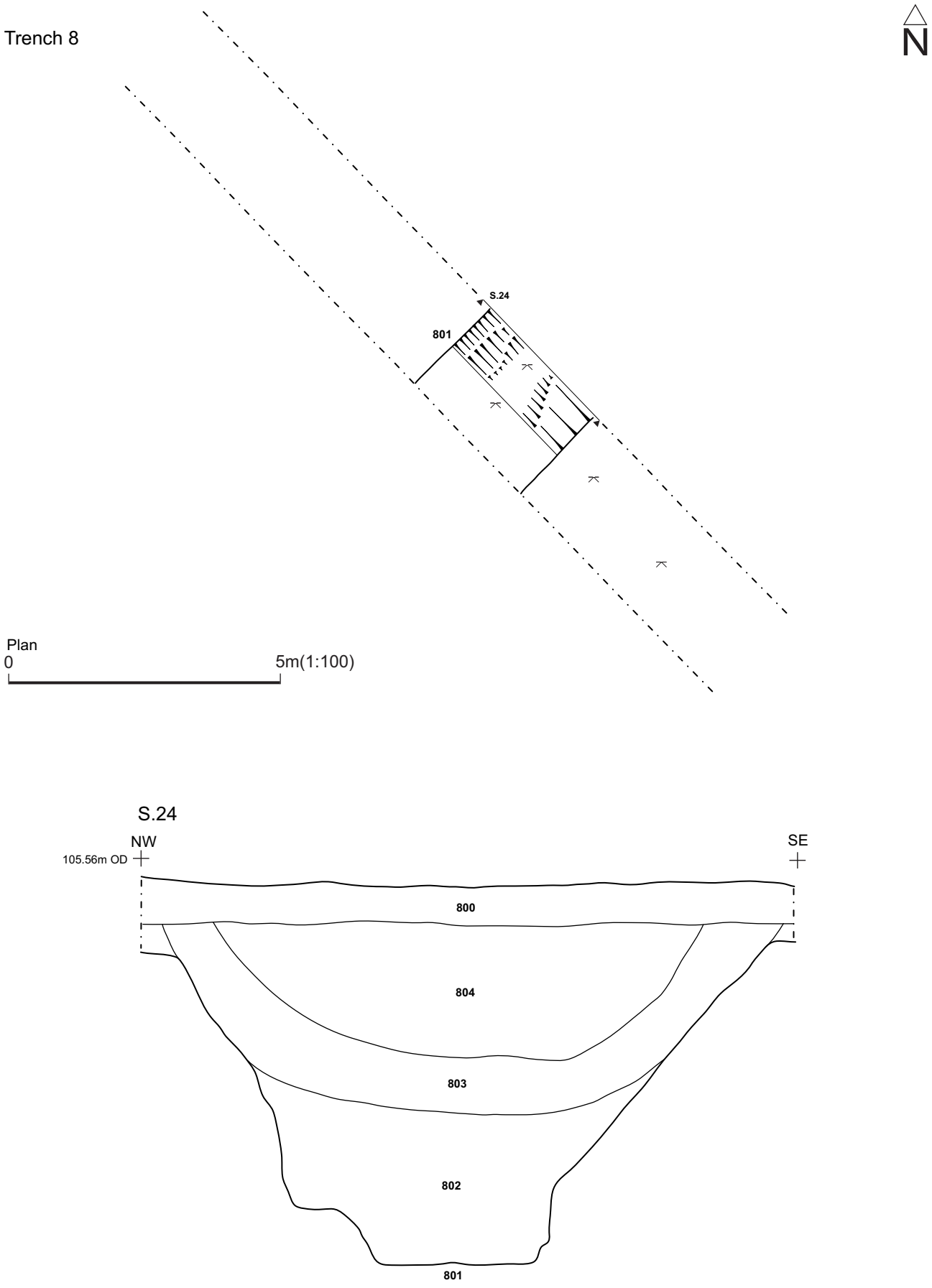


Fig. 9. Trench 8; plan and section

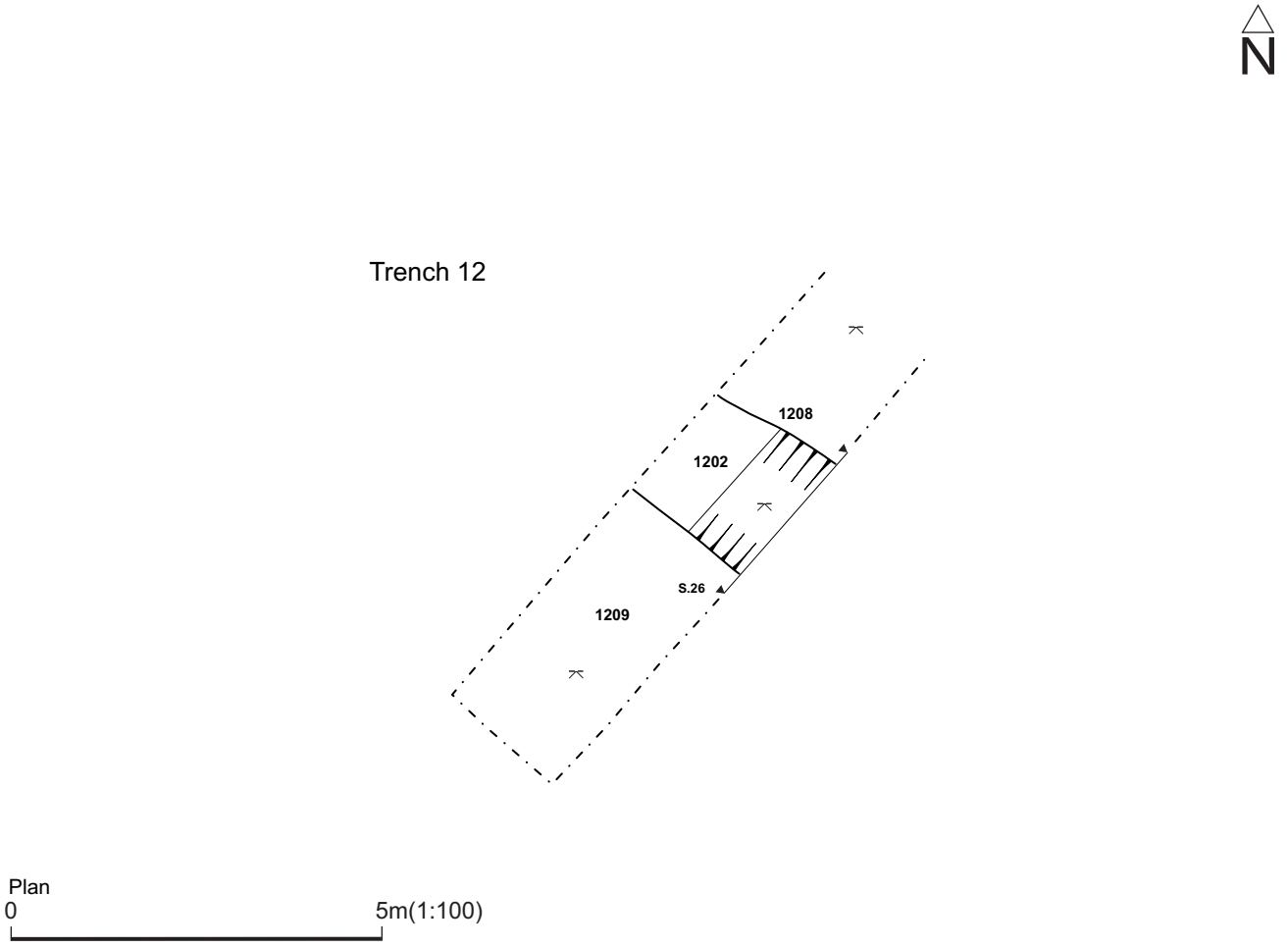


Fig. 10. Trench 12; plan and section

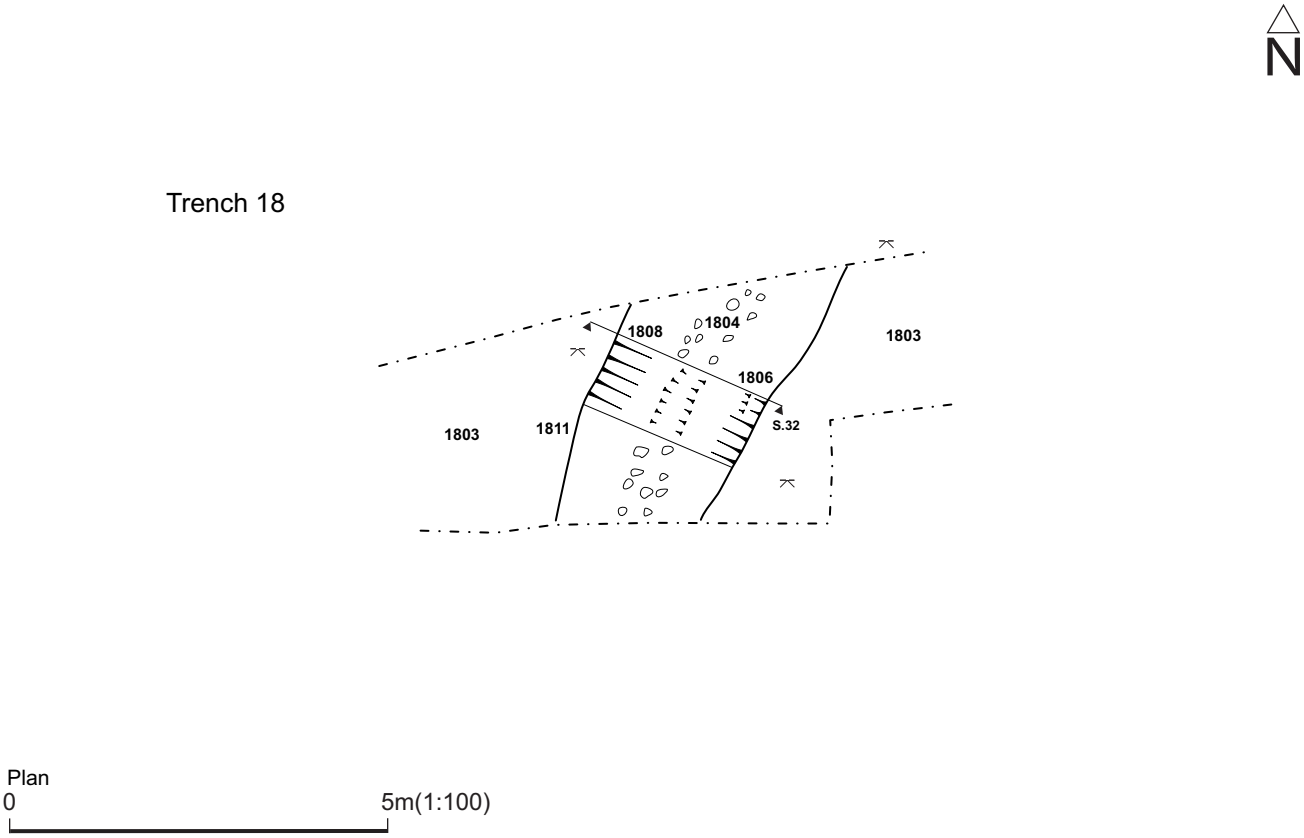


Fig. 11. Trench 18; plan and section

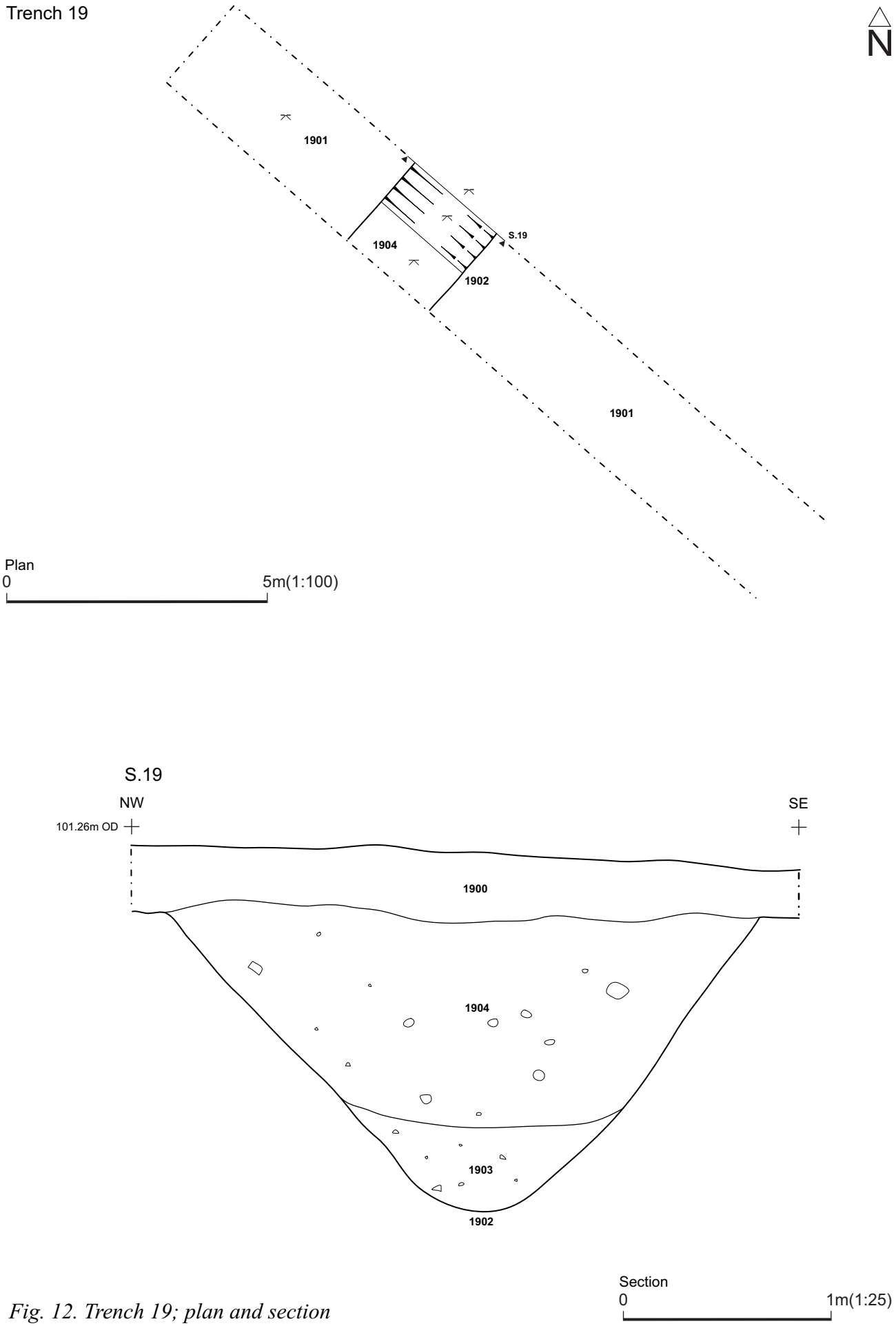
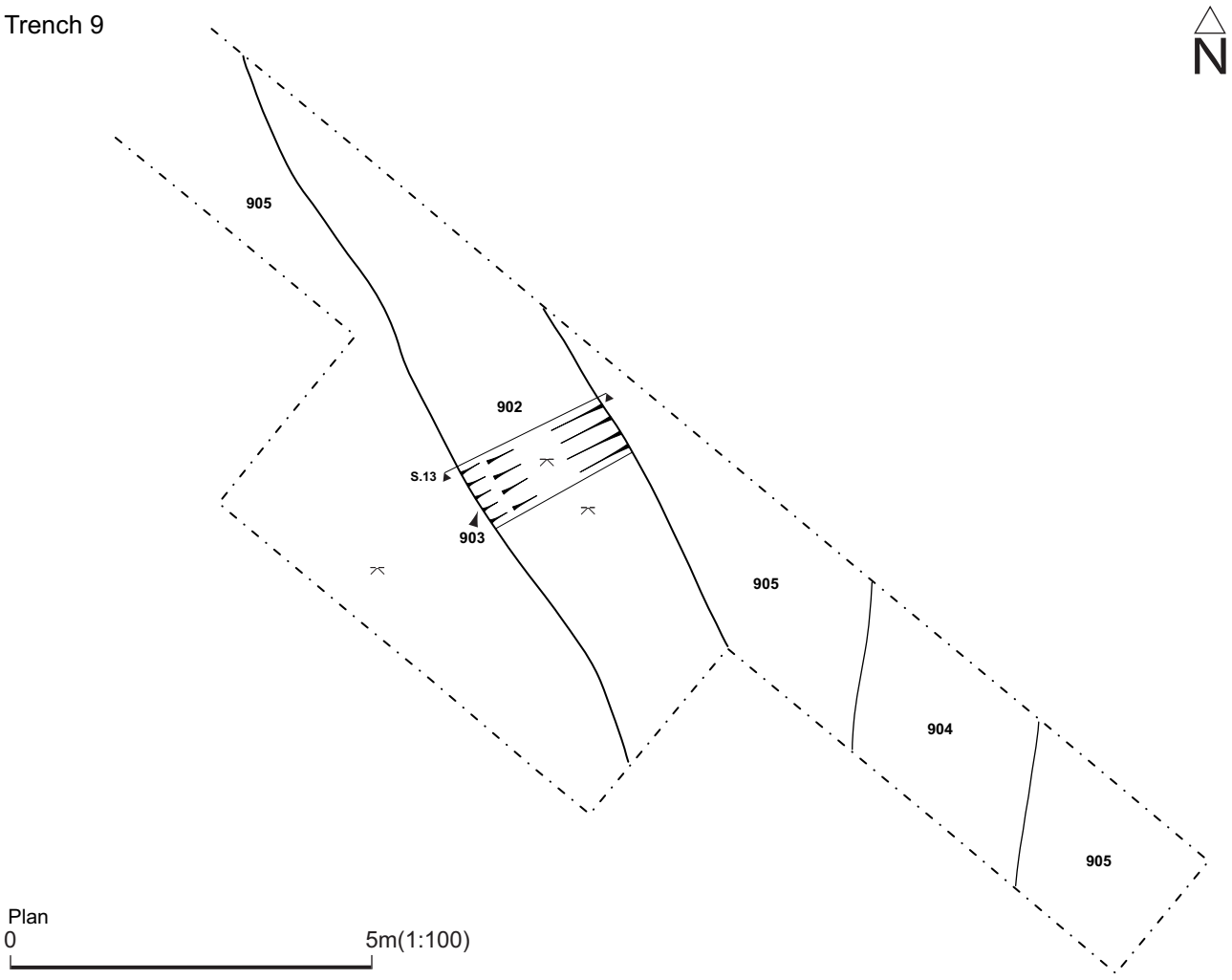


Fig. 12. Trench 19; plan and section



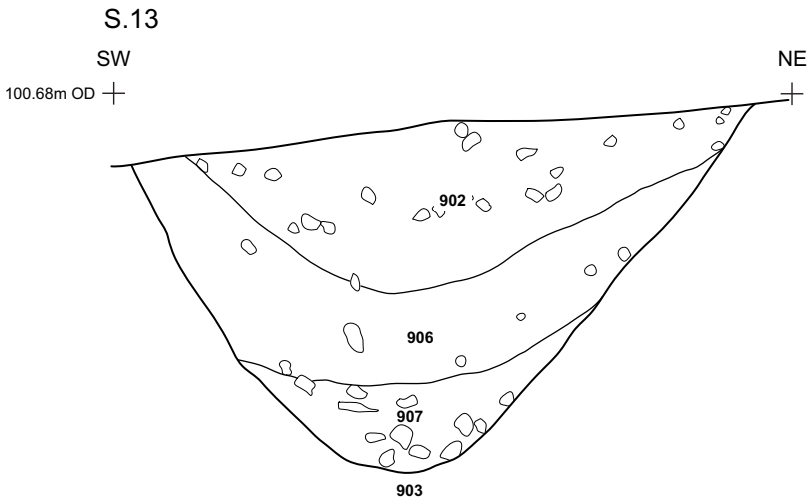


Fig. 13. Trench 9; plan and section

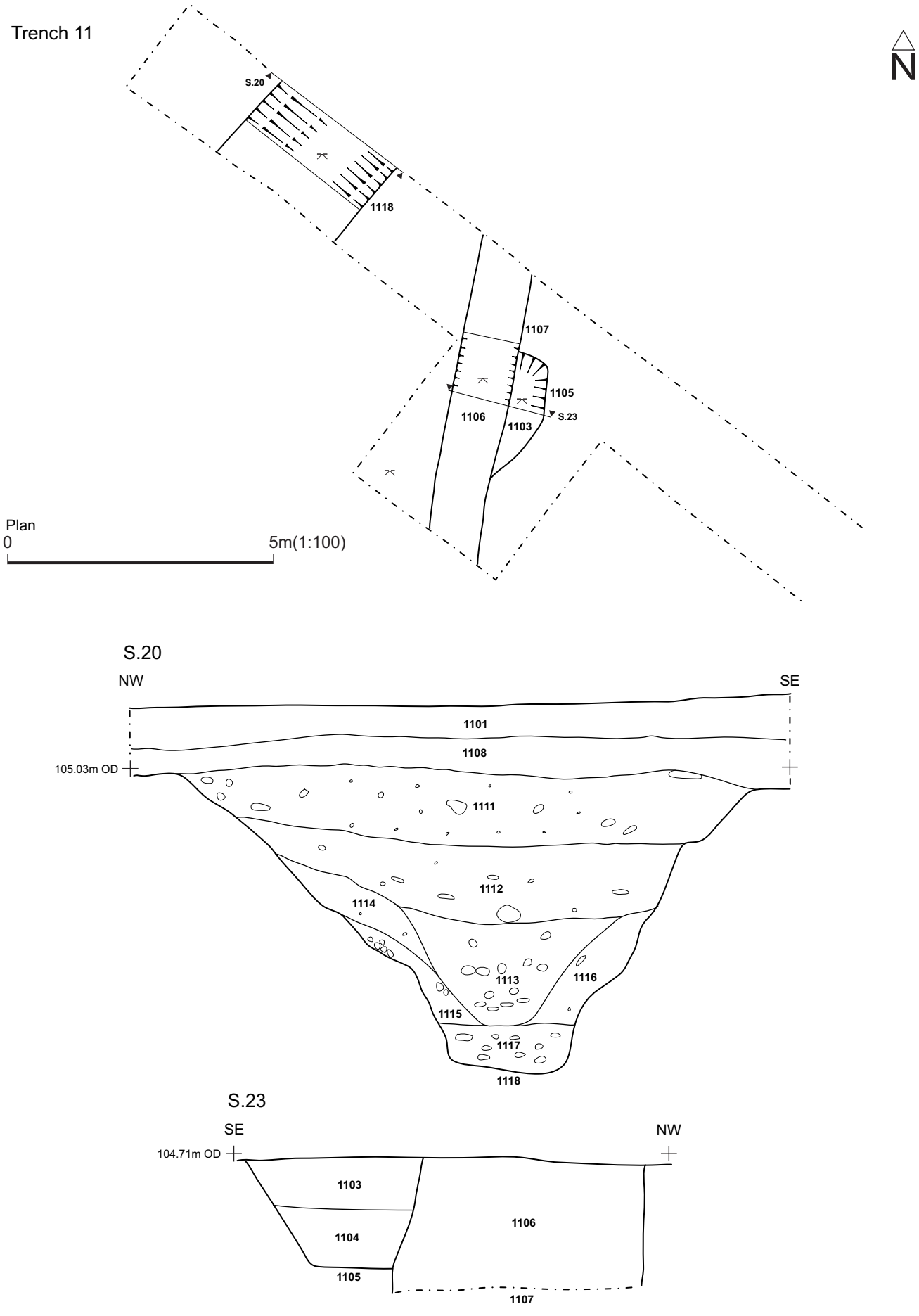


Fig. 14. Trench 11; plan and sections

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking west

Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north

Plate 4. Trench 4, looking north-west

Plate 5. Trench 5, looking north-west

Plate 6. South-west facing section of Ditch 514 in Trench 5

Plate 7. Trench 6, looking north-east

Plate 8. Trench 7, looking west

Plate 9. Trench 8, looking north-west

Plate 10. Trench 9 pre-excavation shot of Ditch 903, looking north-west

Plate 11. Trench 10, looking north-west

Plate 12. Trench 11 with Ditch 1118 in foreground, looking south-east

Plate 13. Trench 11 showing Pit 1105 cut by modern trench 1107, looking south-west

Plate 14. Trench 12, Ditch 1208, facing north-west

Plate 15. Trench 13 outer ditch, looking west

Plate 16. Trench 14 outer ditch, looking west

Plate 17. Trench 15, looking east

Plate 18. Trench 16, looking north-west

Plate 19. Trench 17, looking north

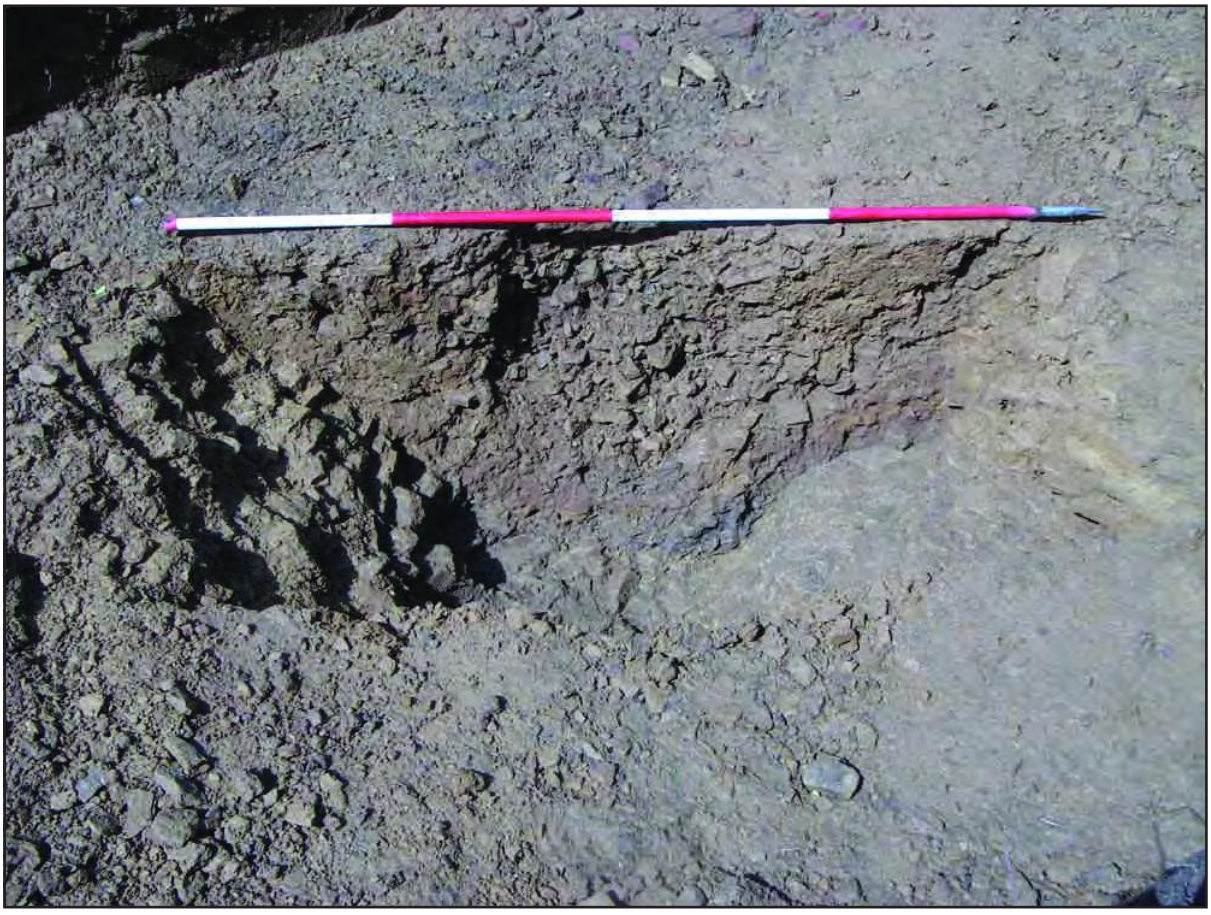


Plate 20. Trench 18, south-west facing section of Ditch 1811

Plate 21. Trench 19, south-west facing section of Ditch 1902

Plate 22. Trench 20 showing Ditch 2003 terminal in foreground, looking south-east

Plate 23. Trench 21, looking north

Plate 24. Trench 22, looking east

Plate 25. Trench 23, looking west

Plate 26. Trench 24, looking north

Plate 27. Trench 25, looking east

Plate 28. Trench 26, looking south

Plate 29. Trench 27, looking west

Plate 30. Trench 28, looking north

Plate 31. Trench 29, looking west

Plate 32. Trench 30, looking north

Plate 33. Trench 31, looking east

Plate 34. Trench 32, looking north

Plate 35. Trench 33, looking east

Plate 36. Trench 35, looking south

Plate 37. Trench 36, looking east

Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Context register sheets	21
		Trench record sheets	34
		Context cards	214
	File no. 2	Sample register sheets	1
		Finds register sheets	2
		Drawing register sheets	2
	File no. 3	Photo register sheets	19
		Colour negative strips	7
		B&W negative strips	7
		Daily site recording form	5
	File no. 4	Drawing sheets	17
	File no. 5	Daily site recording from	3
		Trench record sheet	2
		Geotechnical test pit recording sheet	6
		Drawing sheet number record	1
		Drawing register	1
		Levels data	4
		Photographic film record	1
		Photo register sheets	2
		B&W negative strip	1
		Finds register sheets	2
		Context register	2
		Context cards	30
		Drawing sheets	4

Appendix 2: Concordance of contexts yielding artefacts or environmental remains

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
101	1	Topsoil	
102	1	Area of burning	GBA 101
103	1	Burnt stones	
104	1	Compact stone deposit	
105	1	Cut of field drain	
106	1	Fill of 105	
107	1	Natural	
200	2	Topsoil	
201	2	Fill of 202	
202	2	Sub-circular pit cut	
203	2	Fill of 204	
204	2	Cut of large n-s linear feature	
205	2	Fill of 206 (including land drain)	
206	2	Cut for modern land drain	
207	2	Clay natural	
300	3	Topsoil	
301	3	Natural clays and sandstone bedrock	
302	3	Natural sandstone bedrock	
303	3	Glayed natural clay deposit	
400	4	Topsoil	
401	4	Natural clays and sandstone bedrock	
402	4	Fill of 403	
403	4	Cut of probable Roman ditch	
404	4	Tertiary fill of ditch 403	
405	4	Secondary fill of ditch 403	
406	4	Primary fill of ditch 403	GBA104
407	4	Natural sandy deposit	
408	4	Natural clay deposit	
501	5	Topsoil	
502	5	Made ground/dump deposit	
503	5	Made ground/dump deposit	
504	5	Buried topsoil	
505	5	Buried subsoil	
506	5	Upper fill of ditch 510	
507	5	Fill of ditch 510	
508	5	Fill of 510	
509	5	Fill of 510	
510	5	Recut of ditch 514	
511	5	Fill of 514	
512	5	Fill of 514	
513	5	Primary fill of 514	GBA 113
514	5	Cut of ditch	
515	5	Weathered sandstone natural	

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
516	5	Grey clay natural	
517	5	Natural sandstone	
600	6	Topsoil	
601	6	Natural sandy clay and sandstone	
602	6	Fill of 603	
603	6	Cut of ceramic land drain	
604	6	Primary fill of 605	GBA 102
605	6	Cut of ditch	
606	6	Secondary fill of 605	
607	6	Fill of 608	RB pottery (1)
608	6	Recut of ditch 606	
609	6	Secondary fill of 611	
610	6	Primary fill of 611	GBA 103
611	6	Cut of ditch	
701	7	Topsoil	
702	7	Natural	
800	8	Topsoil	
801	8	Cut of ditch	
802	8	Primary fill of 801	GBA 112
803	8	Secondary fill of 801	Animal bone (20)
804	8	Tertiary fill of 801	RB pottery (7)
805	8	Fill of 801	
900	9	Topsoil	
901	9	Subsoil	
902	9	Upper fill of 903	GBA 106
903	9	Cut of ditch	
904	9	Medium grey clay band	
905	9	Light yellow mudstone/ sandstone natural	
906	9	Secondary fill of 903	
907	9	Primary fill of 903	GBA 105
1001	10	Topsoil	
1002	10	Overburden	
1003	10	Natural	
1004	10	Fill of 1005	
1005	10	Cut of modern drainage gully	
1006	10	Buried subsoil	
1101	11	Topsoil	
1102	11	Overburden	
1103	11	Upper fill of 1105	
1104	11	Primary fill of 1105	GBA 110
1105	11	Cut of pit	
1106	11	Fill of 1107	
1107	11	Cut of modern service trench	
1108	11	Compact natural interface	
1109	11	Natural	

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
1110	11	Modern drainage feature	
1111	11	Upper compacted fill of 1118	Post-medieval pottery (1), slag (5)
1112	11	Fill of 1118	
1113	11	Stony fill of 1118	RB pottery (75), GBA 116
1114	11	Side silting in 1118	
1115	11	Fill of 1118	
1116	11	Fill of 1118	
1117	11	Primary fill of 1118	GBA 109
1118	11	Cut of ditch	
1201	12	Topsoil	
1202	12	Upper fill of 1204	
1203	12	Fill of 1204	
1204	12	Recut of ditch 1208	
1205	12	Fill of 1208	GBA 111
1206	12	Fill of 1208	
1207	12	Primary fill of 1208	
1208	12	Cut of ditch	
1209	12	Natural	
13001	13	Topsoil	
13002	13	Subsoil	Post-medieval pottery (2), ceramic drain (1)
13003	13	Natural	
13004	13	Possible ditch cut	
13005	13	Possible ditch cut	
13006	13	Fill of possible recut 13007	
13007	13	Possible recut of ditch 13005	
13008	13	Final fill of 13005	
13009	13	Secondary fill of 13005	GBA 2
13010	13	Primary fill of 13005	
13011	13	Primary fill of 13004	
13012	13	Secondary fill of 13004	GBA 1
13013	13	Tertiary fill of 13004	
13014	13	Fill of ditch 13004	
13015	13	Fill of ditch 13004	
13017	14	Primary fill of ditch 13020	
13018	14	Secondary fill of 13020	RB pottery (82), GBA 3
13019	14	Tertiary fill of 13020	
13020	14	Cut of ditch	
14001	14	Topsoil	
14002	14	Make up layer	
14003	14	Subsoil	
14004	14	Fill of 14006	
14005	14	Fill of 14006	
14006	14	Cut of ditch	
14007	14	Primary fill of 14006	
14008	14	Secondary fill of 14006	

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
14009	14	Tertiary fill of 14006	GBA 4
14010	14	Natural	
1500	15	Topsoil	
1501	15	Mudstone natural	
1600	16	Topsoil	
1601	16	Natural mudstone and clay	
1602	16	Modern hardcore	
1700	17	Topsoil	
1701	17	Made ground deposit	
1702	17	Gravel surface	
1703	17	Buried topsoil	
1704	17	Buried subsoil	
1705	17	Natural	
1801	18	Topsoil	
1802	18	Overburden	
1803	18	Natural	
1804	18	Fill of 1805	
1805	18	Recut of 1811	
1806	18	Fill of 1811	
1807	18	Fill of 1811	
1808	18	Fill of 1811	GBA 115
1809	18	Secondary fill of 1811	
1810	18	Primary fill of 1811	GBA 114
1811	18	Cut of ditch	
1900	19	Topsoil	
1901	19	Natural sandstone bedrock	
1902	19	Cut of ditch	
1903	19	Primary fill of 1902	GBA 107
1904	19	Secondary fill of 1902	RB pottery (3), GBA 108
2000	20	Topsoil	
2001	20	Upper fill of 2003	
2002	20	Primary fill of ditch 2003	
2003	20	Cut of ditch terminus	
2004	20	Sandstone natural	
2101	21	Topsoil	
2102	21	Overburden	
2103	21	Buried topsoil	
2104	21	Buried subsoil	
2105	21	Natural	
2200	22	Topsoil	
2201	22	Made ground deposit	
2202	22	Buried topsoil	
2203	22	Buried subsoil	
2204	22	Natural clay and mudstone	
2300	23	Topsoil	

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
2301	23	Laminar mudstone natural	
2400	24	Topsoil	
2401	24	Fill of 2402	
2402	24	Cut of modern land drain	
2403	24	Redeposited mudstone	
2404	24	Fill of 2405	
2405	24	Modern land drain	
2406	24	Buried topsoil	
2407	24	Buried subsoil	
2408	24	Clay natural	
2500	25	Topsoil	
2501	25	Land drain	
2502	25	Land drain	
2503	25	Redeposited mudstone and clay	
2504	25	Land drain	
2505	25	Buried topsoil	
2506	25	Clay natural	
2600	26	Topsoil	
2601	26	Land drain	
2602	26	land drain	
2603	26	Redeposited natural	
2604	26	land drain	
2605	26	Buried topsoil	
2700	27	Topsoil	
2701	27	Redeposited natural	
2702	27	Buried topsoil	
2703	27	Clay subsoil	
2704	27	Clay natural	
2800	28	Topsoil	
2801	28	Redeposited natural	
2802	28	Natural mudstone	
2900	29	Topsoil	
2901	29	Made ground	
2902	29	Buried subsoil	
2903	29	Natural	
3000	30	Topsoil	
3001	30	Made ground	
3002	30	Buried subsoil	
3003	30	Natural	
3100	31	Topsoil	
3101	31	Made ground	
3102	31	Redeposited natural	
3103	31	Buried topsoil	
3104	31	Buried subsoil	
3105	31	Natural clay and mudstone	

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
3200	32	Topsoil	
3201	32	Natural clay and mudstone	
3202	32	Made ground	
3300	33	Topsoil	
3301	33	Made ground /subsoil?	
3302	33	Laminar mudstone natural	
3400	34	Topsoil	
3401	34	Made ground	
3402	34	Buried topsoil	
3403	34	Buried subsoil	
3404	34	Mudstone	
3500	35	Topsoil	
3501	35	Made ground	
3502	35	Clay subsoil	
3503	35	Clay natural	
3504	35	Dark organic rich clay layer	
3600	36	Topsoil	
3601	36	Made ground including brick debris	
3602	36	Clay subsoil	
3603	36	Clay natural	

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