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at  
**Land of Parkfield House and Otia**  
**33 Mill Street**  
**Norton**  
**North Yorkshire**

( SE 79794 71322 )

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**Land to the Rear of Parkfield House And Otia  
33 Mill Street  
Norton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 79794 71322**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

***Non-Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at land to the rear of 33 Mill Street, Norton, North Yorkshire, during January 2006 (SE 79794 71322, Figs. 1 and 2).*

*The Evaluation was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref: 05/01144/FUL) and consisted of four Trenches that were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.50m below existing ground level (22.50m AOD). No archaeological features were identified in any of the Evaluation Trenches.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on a plot of land to the rear of 33 Mill Street, Norton, North Yorkshire (SE 79794 71322) during January 2006. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed development, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 6).
- 1.2 The Evaluation was designed to provide information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16), and in accordance with Policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.

- 1.3 A total area of approximately 13m<sup>2</sup> was examined at four locations that were agreed with the Heritage Unit, as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 6).
- 1.4 The site code for the project was MAP 05.01.06
- 1.5 All work was funded by Mr and Mrs P Netzel.
- 1.6 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description (Figs 1 and 2)**

- 2.1 The proposed development site lies in the south-eastern part of Norton, to the south of Mill Street and west of North Road at SE 79794 71322 (Figs. 1 & 2). The site covered an area of 32m x 14m and at the time of the Evaluation consisted of a rear garden and parking space (Pl. 1). The site stands at a mean height of approximately 24.00m AOD.
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Landbeach Association, which consist of permeable calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils, overlying a solid geology of chalky glaciofluvial and river terrace drift (Mackney, 1984, 194).

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The proposed development site lies to the south of the River Derwent, and to the south of Malton Roman fort and *vicus* (civilian settlement). A large area of present day Norton overlies earlier Romano-British settlement areas that were linked to the settlement in Malton via a ford.
- 3.2 Archaeological evidence associated with the Roman fort and *vicus* is well documented and consists of numerous find spots of pottery, together with fragmentary sections of the various Roman roads that radiated out from the Fort. One of the major roads that runs southwards from the fort appeared to run very close to the site, and therefore the archaeological potential of the site was high. Of particular note is the

presence of several pottery kiln located 11m to the east of the Trench 4 site (Robinson 1978).

- 3.3 In 1946-7 archaeological remains were recorded immediately to the east of the site during the construction of a new housing estate at North Road, which indicated this area was heavily occupied in the late 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD (Wilson. 1988). The remains consisted of drystone walls and paved surfaces, and a large assemblage of finds including pottery; animal bone and Roman coins were uncovered. In addition, a section of the Roman road was recorded.
- 3.4 In 1998 similar remains of the road and associated activity were uncovered in advance of the construction of a new dwelling (Otia) at 31 Mill Street, as well as a large assemblage of finds. Remains included a paved area sealing an earlier flue of an oven/kiln (Anon 1998).

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

The aims of the evaluation were:

- A. To determine by means of trial trenching the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site,
- B. To prepare a report summarising the results of the work, assessing the significance of the archaeological implications of any development.

## 5. Methodology

- 5.1 Four areas were subjected to Evaluation: Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. Trench 1 measured 2m x 1.5m, Trench 2 measured 3m x 2m, Trench 3 measured 2m x 1m and Trench 4 measured 2m x 1m (Fig 3).
- 5.2 The Evaluation Trenches were stripped of topsoil and recent overburden in shallow spits by hand, as was the tarmac covering Trenches 1 and 2.
- 5.3 All subsequent deposits were excavated by hand in stratigraphic sequence.
- 5.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on Map's *pro forma* context sheets that are compatible with the MoLAS recording system (Appendix 1).
- 5.6 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis. Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines (Appendix 2).
- 5.7 The full extent of archaeological deposits was recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at 1:10, also on drawing film, and included an AOD height (Appendix 3).
- 5.8 The photographic record comprised monochrome and colour prints, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered (Appendix 4).

## **6. Results**

### **6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 4 and 6)**

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was situated at the northern edge of the site and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m (23.65m AOD). Excavation was abandoned at this depth due to the presence of modern services (Pl. 2).
- 6.1.2 The earliest deposits identified in Trench 1 were a series of heavily mixed backfills aligned roughly north to south (context 1002 1003 1006, 1010 1012, 1013); these deposits had been heavily truncated by modern services (context numbers 1004, 1005, 1007, 1008, 1011). The sequence in Trench 1 was completed by a 0.35m deep deposit of hardcore (context 1001) that was sealed by a 0.13m thick tarmac surface (context 1000).
- 6.1.3 At the request of Gail Falkingham, Senior Archaeologist, Heritage Section, North Yorkshire County Council, a 0.50m x 0.50m sondage was excavated in the north east end of Trench 1. The sondage was hand excavated to a mean depth of 0.35m depth and revealed only natural deposits (context 1014 and 1015).

### **6.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 5 and 6, Pls. 3 and 4)**

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 measured 3m x 2m and was located to the south of the garage along the northern edge of the site. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.78m below existing ground level (23.33m AOD).
- 6.2.2 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 2 was a sandy deposit (context 2010) that was truncated by three modern pits (context 2006, 2008, 2009). Cut 2006 measured 0.80m x 1m and was excavated to a depth of 0.13m; the fill was a deposit of sandy silt (context 2004). Cut 2008 measured 0.30m x 0.30m and was excavated to a depth of 0.20m; Cut 2008 was filled by a sandy silt deposit (context 2007). The third and final feature (Cut 2009) measured 0.84m x 0.90m in size and was excavated to a depth of 0.14m. The fill consisted of sandy silt deposit (context 2005). This was sealed by a 0.24m deep silt deposit (context 2003). Deposit 2003 was overlain by a 0.22m deep



silty sand topsoil layer (context 2002), with an overlying modern hardcore layer (context 2001) for a tarmac surface (context 2000).

- 6.2.3 Two sondages were hand-excavated, one in the eastern end, and one in the western end of the trench. The sondages were dug to a mean depth of 23.33m AOD and revealed only natural deposits (context 2010).

### **6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 6, Pl. 5)**

- 6.3.1 Trench 3 was located on the proposed plot boundary west of the existing access and was excavated to a depth of 1.16m below the existing ground level (22.87m AOD). Excavations revealed a natural sand deposit (context 3004) that was sealed by a 0.30m deep natural gravel layer (context 3003). Deposit 3003 was sealed by a 0.20 deep silt deposit (context 3002), being in turn overlain by a 0.60m deep silty sand subsoil (context 3001). The sequence in Trench 3 was completed by a 0.40m deep deposit of topsoil (context 3000).

### **6.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 6, Pl. 6)**

- 6.4.1 Trench 4 was situated on the site of the proposed southern plot boundary, north of the existing dwelling, and was excavated to a depth of 1.50m (22.50m AOD). (Pl. 8) At the base of the excavation a natural sand deposit was recorded (context 4005). This deposit was sealed by a 0.10m deep natural gravel layer (context 4003). Situated immediately above Deposit 4003 was a 0.65m silty sand layer (context 4002). (Pl. 9) The archaeological sequence in Trench 4 was completed by a 0.20m deep deposit of silty sand subsoil (context 4001) sealed by a layer of topsoil 0.40m thick (context 4000). Deposits 4002 and 4001 contained residual sherds of Roman pottery.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 The apparent absence of Roman deposits and any associated finds is surprising, especially given the high incidence of Roman artefacts so far recovered from Norton and the surrounding areas.
- 7.2 The negative results on site show the scattered nature of Roman activity in this area of the Roman settlement.

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Archaeological Society, Roman Antiquities Section



Figure 1. Site Location

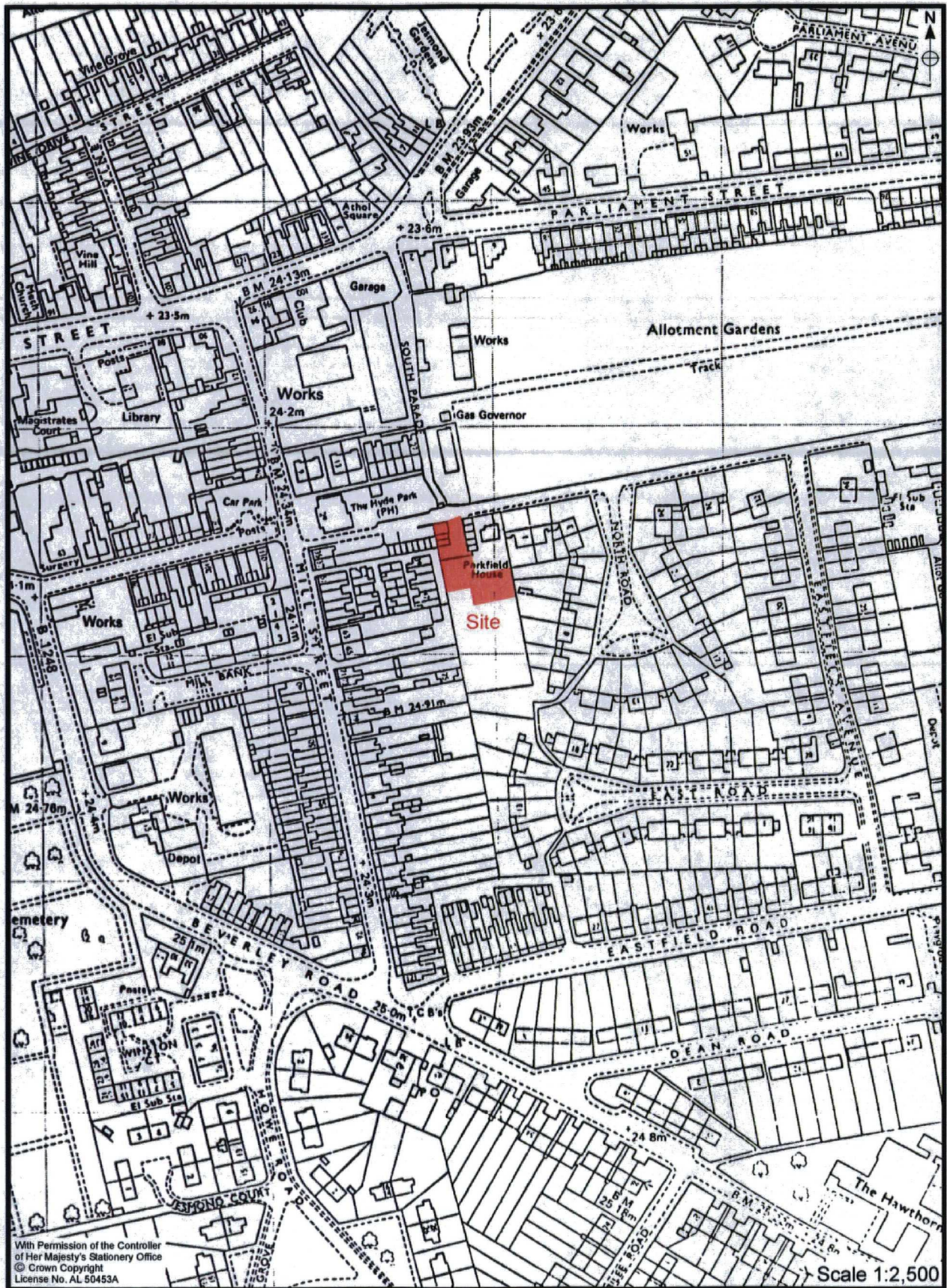


Figure 2. Location of Application Area

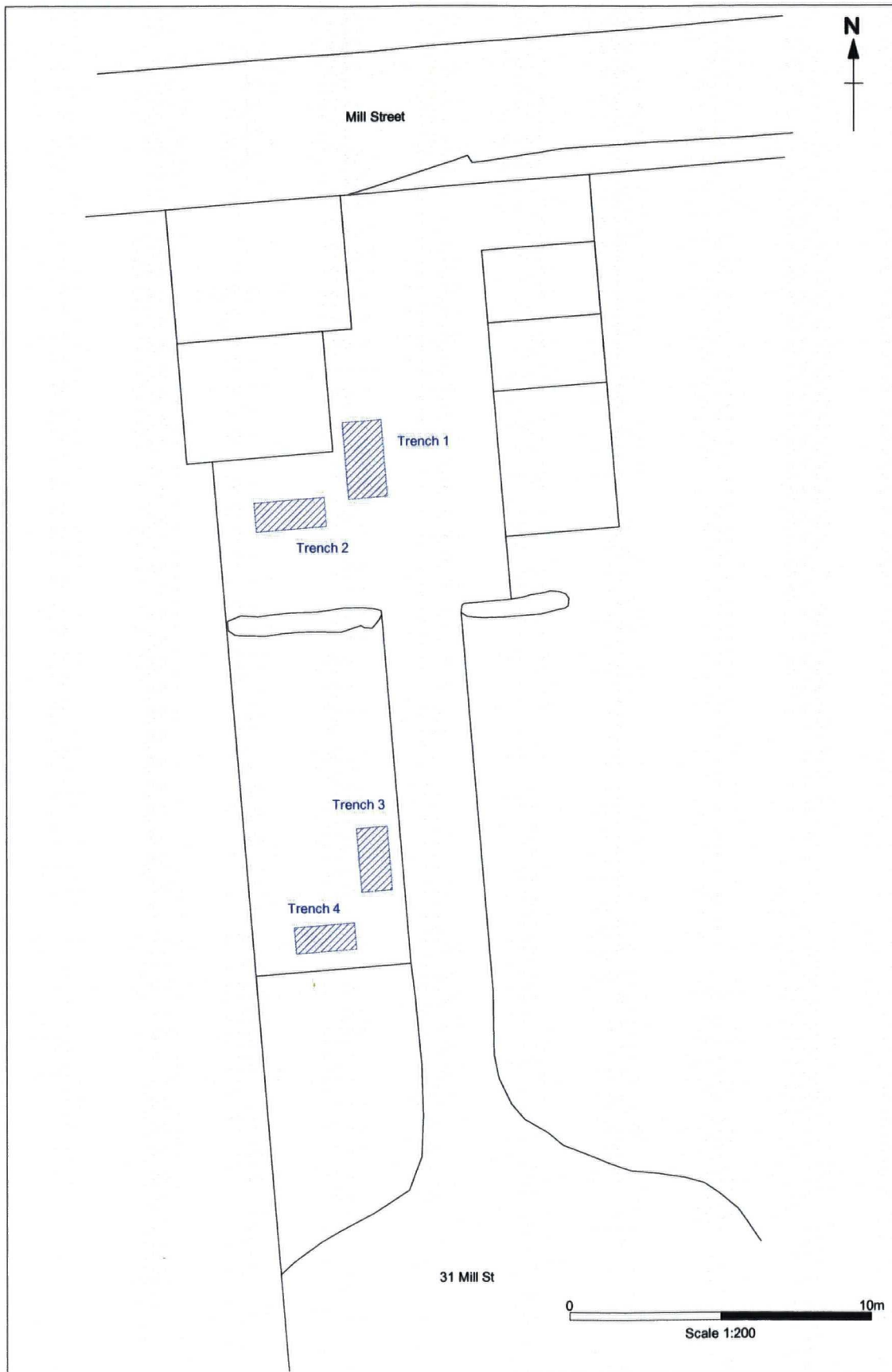


Figure 3. Evaluation Trench Location.

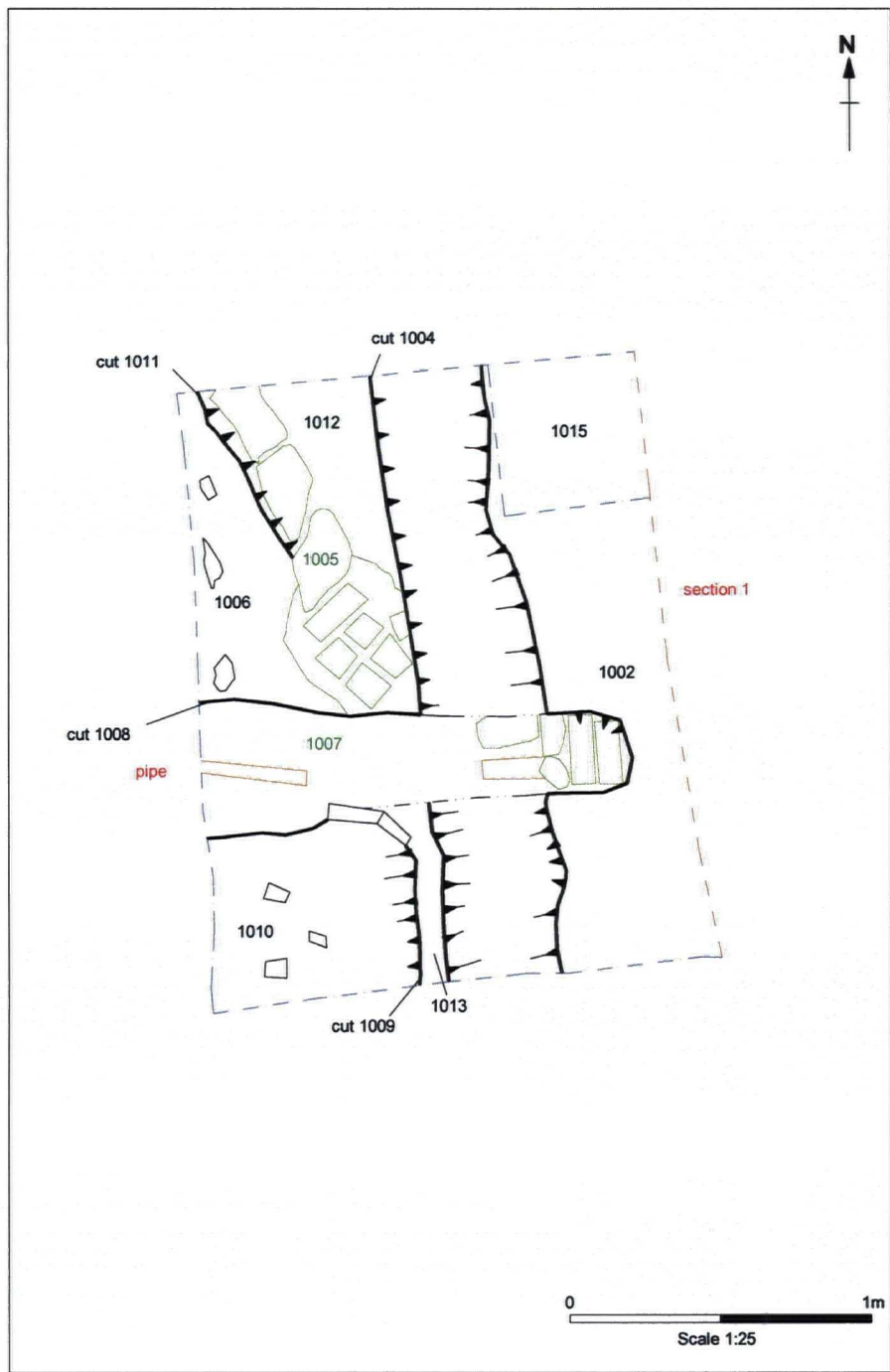


Figure 4. Plan of Trench 1 Features.

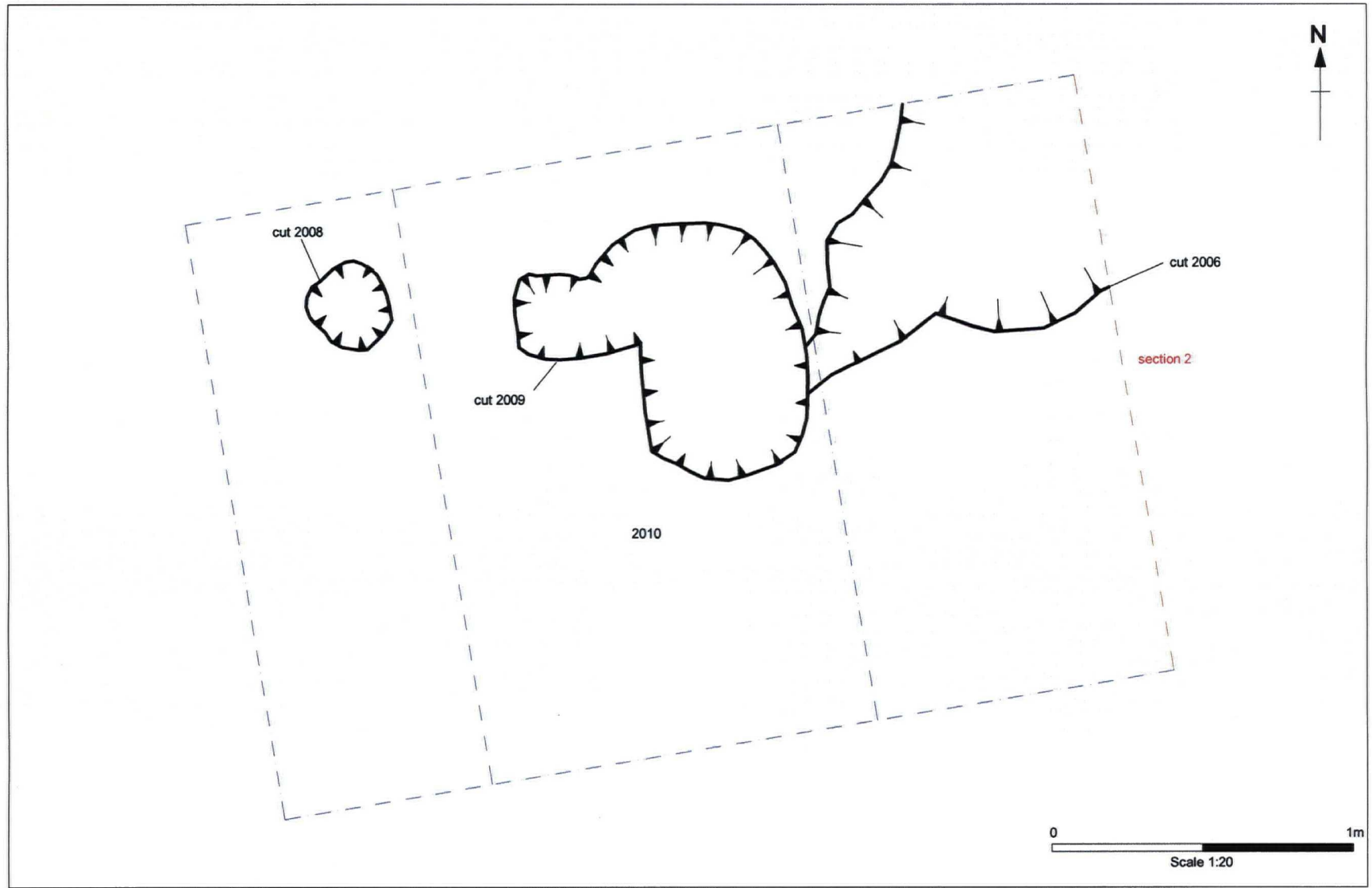


Figure 5. Plan of Trench 2 Features.