

AD189

**Land at Willowburn,
Whinney Hill Farm,
Northumberland**

Archaeological Evaluation



Author	Jonathan McKelvey
Commissioned by	Dysart Developments and Arch Development Projects Ltd
Project Number	189
OASIS Number	adarchae1-275764
Date	February 2017

For further information please contact:

AD Archaeology Ltd

South Shields Business Works,

Henry Robson Way,

South Shields,

NE33 1RF

Office: 0191 603 0377

Email: info@adarchaeology.co.uk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Archaeological and Historical Background	3
3. Aims and Objectives	5
4. Methodology	5
5. Results of the Evaluation	6
6. Discussion	19
7. Bibliography	20

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context List	21
Appendix 2: Finds	24
Appendix 3: Written Scheme of Investigation	25

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Trench layout plan
Figure 3	Plan of Trench 4
Figure 4	Plans and sections of trench 14
Figure 5	Plan of trench 17
Figure 4	Plan of trench 19
Figure 7	Plans and section of trench 18
Figure 8	Plan and section of Trench 21
Figure 9	Plan and section of trench 35
Figure 10	Plans and sections of Trench 37
Figure 11	Plan and section of Trench 38
Figure 12	Plan of Trench 39
Figure 13	Plans and sections of Trench 40
Figure 14	Plan of Trench 43

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1	Trench 14 feature 1407 facing south-east
Plate 2	Trench 14 feature 1403 facing east
Plate 3	Trench 17 feature 1703 facing south-west
Plate 4	Trench 21 facing south-west
Plate 5	Trench 18 facing east
Plate 6	Trench 18 ditch 1803 facing north
Plate 7	Trench 35 gully 3505 facing south
Plate 8	Trench 37 gully 3703 facing south-west
Plate 9	Trench 37 pit 3709 facing east
Plate 10	Trench 37 pits 3705 & 3707 facing south-west
Plate 11	Trench 38 features 3804 & 3805 facing south-east
Plate 12	Trench 38 feature 3802 facing north
Plate 13	Trench 40 posthole 4008 facing east
Plate 14	Trench 40 pit 4011 and roundhouse facing west
Plate 15	Trench 40 roundhouse facing west
Plate 16	Trench 40 gully 4004 facing south
Plate 17	Trench 40 feature 4003 facing west
Plate 18	Trench 39 facing north-east

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology was commissioned by Dysart Developments and Arch Development Projects Ltd to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development known as Willowburn on land at Whinney Hill Farm, Choppington, Northumberland.

Subsequent to a desk-top-assessment and a geophysical survey, evaluation trenches were excavated across the site with the exception of Field 4 which could not be accessed due to livestock issues. No significant archaeological features were located in Fields 1,3, 6 and 7. Two principal areas containing archaeological features were identified in Fields 5 and 2.

Archaeological features of prehistoric date were located in a number of trenches in Field 5 and in the north-east corner of Field 2. In Field 5 a likely prehistoric roundhouse was located in Trench 40. A pit containing burnt daub and a posthole lay just to the east of the roundhouse. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from a cluster of pits in Trench 37, with gullies being located in Trenches 35 and 37. In Trench 39 at the highest point of Field 5 an intense area of burning of the subsoil may relate to prehistoric activity. In the north-east corner of Field 2 in Trench 14 two curvilinear features were located that may form components of a single roundhouse or may belong to different roundhouses.

The geophysical survey and trenching did not produce evidence for a major complex prehistoric settlement enclosed by large ditches such as recently discovered Late Iron Age rectilinear settlements at Blagdon Hall, East Brunton, West Brunton (Hodgson et al. 2012). Rather the evidence of the trenching suggests a lower density of activity probably relating to an unenclosed settlement of a lesser scale than one of these larger complex late Iron Age sites.

The second area in which archaeological features were located was in the south-eastern sector of Field 2. A sub-circular geophysical anomaly c.15m in diameter (Trench 18) proved to be a ditched enclosure of modern date. Its form and location suggest that it is likely to represent a World War II feature, probably a ditched enclosure for a searchlight battery as one is known to have been positioned in the southern fields of the farm (pers. comm.).

The preservation by record of prehistoric features in Field 5 and the north-eastern corner of Field 2 would be appropriate. The probable World War II searchlight battery in the south-east corner of Field 2 should be recorded in plan.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Dysart Developments and Arch Development Projects Ltd to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development known as Willowburn on land at Whinney Hill Farm, Choppington, Northumberland. The archaeological works were undertaken between 23rd January and 7th February 2017. This trenching follows a Rapid Desk Based Assessment (AD Archaeology 2016a) and a geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016b with a subsequent phase of survey undertaken in January 2017).

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography (Figs 1 & 2)

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR NZ 255 846 and occupies agricultural fields south of Guidepost, north of the villages of Scotland Gate and Choppington. The area of the site (Fields 1-7) is 17ha in size.

1.2.2 The site is bounded to the south by property boundaries and a school at Scotland Gate; to the west by the A1068 road; to the north and east by open fields. The proposed development site excludes Whinney Hill Farm itself and Whinney Hill Farm Cottages.

1.2.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is formed by Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation Sandstone from the Carboniferous Period. The bedrock is masked by glaciofluvial deposits of Devensian sand and gravel, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey 2016).

1.2.4 The proposed development area is located on farmland. Fields 1, 3 and 4 were in use as pasture at the time of the survey with the other four fields being under crop. Fields 3, 4 and 5 to the north and east of the farm occupy slightly higher land with land falling away to the south in Fields 1, 2, 6 and 7.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment (AD Archaeology 2016a) revealed no previously known or recorded prehistoric sites within the area of the proposed development; although it should be noted that the site lies within a wider landscape of settlement and activity dating to the later prehistoric period. A prehistoric settlement identified from cropmarks and geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016c) known as the Whinney Hill Farm cropmark complex lies 310m west of the site. An additional enclosure of possible prehistoric origin to the NNW of the complex was identified during the geophysical survey. The discovery of Bronze Age axes and other artefacts (HER11570) from a possible hoard and a spearhead (HER22586), c.0.5km east of this site, demonstrates activity from this earlier period in the area.

2.2 There is no evidence of early medieval activity on the site which lies within the vill of Choppington (Cebbington), listed in the *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* (South 2002 in AD Archaeology 2014) as one of the dependencies of Bedlingtonshire, a probable pre-Conquest estate (AD Archaeology 2014).

2.3 The HER does not list any known features of medieval date on the development site itself. Guidepost is of relatively recent post-medieval origin and it is clear that during the medieval period there were two principal centres within the vill; Choppington (HER11555) a DMV the location of which is uncertain, and Sheepwash (HER11675) to the northeast of the site located at a crossing of the river Wansbeck. Armstrong's map of Northumberland 1769 shows Whinney Hill, presumably representing the existing Whinney Hill Farm as an isolated settlement. The map depicts West Choppington and two settlements referred to as East Choppingtons along the precursor to the A196 road northwest of the site. It is likely that the site itself formed part of an open field agricultural system during the medieval period. Cropmarks from ridge and furrow are visible on aerial photography (Google Earth 5/13/2009) across the two southern fields of the site (Fields 1 and 2) and may originate from the medieval period.

2.4 Guidepost is first shown on Greenwood's map of 1828 depicted as a cluster of buildings at the crossroads (presumably where its name originates) of the eastwest Choppington road (A196), and the north south road (A1068) leading to the river crossing at Sheepwash and running alongside the western edge of the site. Whinney Hill is depicted with two buildings from the farm recognisable on later OS edition maps. A large plantation of trees dominates the area northeast of the farm, east of Guidepost.

2.5 A historic map regression of the Ordnance Survey edition maps of the area, first published in 1866 shows that although the site itself has changed very little

neighbouring areas have developed considerably (AD Archaeology 2016a). The 1866 first edition OS map shows the site occupied by a system of mainly sub rectangular fields sub-divided by the farm and a track continuing east from the farm. A small building, probably agricultural in origin (HER18323) is depicted on the south side of the track east of Whinnyhill Farm and was no longer shown on the 1898 OS edition map. A pond is depicted within a small enclosure south of the farm (HER18322). Guidepost to the north is shown as a cluster of buildings including terrace rows arranged mainly on the northeast side of the crossroads. Choppington Colliery (HER11805), opened in 1857 (closed 1966), lay 450m southwest of the site. A plantation depicted on Greenwood's earlier map runs along the eastern side of the road forming the western boundary of the site and immediately beyond the northwest corner of the site a clay pit (HER11806) is shown.

2.6 Field boundaries at the site remained mostly unchanged on the second edition 1898 OS map except for the southeast field which had been amalgamated with its neighbour to the south. The site remained unchanged on the 1924 and 1947 Edition OS maps. Guidepost had continued its expansion along the frontage of the roads leading through it. Scotland Gate continued its development during this period with the School first shown, and the 1947 OS map (revised 1938) shows the streets from the housing estate at Scotland Gate depicted prior to the construction of the housing itself.

2.7 Geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016b and 2017) identified one principal area of potential archaeological sensitivity within Field 2 and other possible features across the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features on the site and to determine their nature, depth, importance and level of preservation.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 General Methodology

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with all the relevant codes of practice by suitably qualified and experienced staff.

4.2 Excavation and Recording

4.2.1 The evaluation trench strategy was agreed with the County Archaeology Officer and was undertaken in accordance with an approved trench plan and written scheme of Investigation. The three trenches in Field 4 were not excavated due to livestock issues.

5. RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

Field 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.1 Field 1 was located in the south-western sector of the development. Other than sub-surface anomalies relating to ridge and furrow agriculture the geophysical survey had shown very few anomalies in this field. No significant archaeological features were located in the trenches.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-western sector of Field 1. The natural subsoil (101) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (26.99mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (100), 0.25m in depth.

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the south-eastern corner of the field. The natural subsoil (201) consisting of a yellow clay was located at depth of 0.28m (25.24mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (200). One north-south furrow 1.30m in width was located at the eastern end of the trench.

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of the field. The natural subsoil (301) consisting of a yellow clay becoming a yellow sandy clay in areas was located at a depth of 0.29m (25.15mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (300).

5.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

5.5.1 Trench 4, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the western sector of the field. The natural subsoil (401) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.43m (27.66mAOD). The natural subsoil (401) was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (400). Six north-south furrows, averaging 1.50m in width, were located with a wavelength of 7-9m.

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 Trench 5, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the northern area of the field. The natural subsoil (501) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.35m (28.17mAOD). It was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (500).

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 Trench 6, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the north-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (601) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.31m (26.27mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (600).

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 Trench 7, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (701) consisting of a yellow clay becoming a yellow sandy clay in areas was located at a depth of 0.45m (29.08mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (700). A single north-south furrow 1.7m in width was located toward the centre of the trench.

Field 2 (Figs 2, 4 - 8)

5.9 Field 2 was located in the southern sector of the development. Geophysical survey had suggested the potential for the presence of archaeological features with anomalies in the north-east and south-eastern sectors of the field. The trenching confirmed two foci of activity. In the north-east corner in Trench 14 curvilinear features may relate to one or more roundhouses. A sub-circular geophysical anomaly in the south-east corner of the field (Trenches 18-19) proved to be a modern feature rather than a prehistoric enclosure. Its form and location suggest that it may represent a World War II feature, probably a ditched enclosure for a searchlight battery. A searchlight battery is known to have been positioned in the southern fields of the farm (pers. comm.). Two trenches (trench 24, 46) located toward the centre of the field were abandoned as they were located in a localised area of low-lying ground where ponding meant standing water would have immediately flooded the trenches.

5.10 Trench 8

5.10.1 Trench 8, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the north-west corner of Field 2. The natural subsoil (801) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (25.50mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay

(800). Four north-south furrows, averaging 1.5m wide with a wavelength of 6-7m were located in the north-western half of the trench.

5.11 Trench 9

5.11.1 Trench 9, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-western corner of the field. The natural subsoil (901) consisting of a yellow clay was located at depth of 0.30m (23.68mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (900). One north-south furrow 1m in width was located at the eastern end of the trench. At the western end of the trench demolition material from a building was compacted into the natural subsoil. A small building, probably agricultural in origin (no.24; HER18323) is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey but no longer present by the time of 2nd edition of 1898. A curving drain from this demolished building was located toward the western end of the trench.

5.12 Trench 10

5.12.1 Trench 10, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the north-eastern corner of the field. The natural subsoil (1001) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.40m (23.20mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1000).

5.13 Trench 11

5.13.1 Trench 11, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-east corner of the field and was sited to intersect with anomaly 2c. However, no archaeological features were located within this trench which establishes that anomaly 2c does not represent an enclosure ditch. The natural subsoil (1101) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.30m (23.34mAOD). The natural subsoil (1101) was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1100).

5.14 Trench 12

5.14.1 Trench 12, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-eastern corner of the field. The natural subsoil (1201) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.29m (22.94mAOD). It was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1200). Five north-south furrows, averaging 0.5m in width were located with a wavelength of 2-4m.

5.15 Trench 13

5.15.1 Trench 13, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the north-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (1301) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.27m (23.54mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1301).

5.16 Trench 14 (Fig. 4; Plates 1-2)

5.16.1 Trench 14, which was 50m in length and varied between 1.8m and 3.6m in width, was oriented north-south and located in the north-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (1401) consisting of a yellow clay becoming a yellow sandy clay in places was located at a depth of 0.35m (22.95mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1400). In the northern half of the trench were two curvilinear features (1403 and 1407). Curvilinear feature (1403) was traced for a length of 3.50m through the trench and was filled with a grey clayey sand with lenses of yellow clay (1402), 0.17m in depth. The south-western portion was relatively wide at 0.44m with steep concave sides and a flat-base, the feature narrowing to 0.14m in width to the north-east. Curvilinear feature 1407 was traced for a length of 4.50m through the trench. The feature was 0.90m wide and 0.40m deep with a U-shaped profile and was filled with mixed deposits of yellow sandy clay and blue-grey sandy clay (1406), a layer of blue grey clay (1405) and a mixed deposit of grey and yellow-brown clay (1404).

5.16.2 The two curvilinear features (1403 and 1407) did differ in character and profile but it is possible that they form two arcs of a gully c15m in diameter belonging to a prehistoric roundhouse. Alternatively, the two features may belong to different phases of roundhouse. Although no dating evidence was recovered both features are pre-modern being cut by a north-south furrow, and their clay-rich fills are directly comparable to prehistoric features located in Field 5. A natural hollow lay to the south of curvilinear feature 1407.

5.17 Trench 15

5.17.1 Trench 15, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-eastern area of the field. The natural subsoil (1501) consisting of a yellow clay was located at depth of 0.26m (23.39mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1500).

5.18 Trench 16

5.18.1 Trench 16, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-eastern area of the field. The natural subsoil (1601) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.27m (22.95mAOD). The natural subsoil

was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1600).

5.19 Trench 17 (Figs. 5 & 7; Plate 3)

5.19.1 Trench 17, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the south-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (1701) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.26m (23.45mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1700). A 2m wide north-south feature (1703) was located toward the eastern end of the trench. The feature (1703) was excavated to a depth of 0.40m before the ingress of water made further excavation impractical. On its eastern side the feature had a near vertical cut with a straight steeply sloping profile on its eastern side. The feature (1703) was modern in date being infilled with topsoil and redeposited natural subsoil (1702). The feature (1703) coincides with an irregular geophysical anomaly at the eastern end of the trench. The feature had been backfilled with similar material to a modern sub-circular ditch (1803) in Trench 18 and it is likely that feature 1703 represents an associated feature. One 1.8m wide north-south furrow was located toward the centre of the trench.

5.20 Trench 18 (Fig. 5; Plates 5-6)

5.20.1 Trench 18, which was 50m by 3.6m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the south-eastern sector. The natural subsoil (1801) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.26 (22.81mAOD). It was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (1800). The trench was sited to investigate a sub-circular geophysical anomaly (2a) c14-15m in diameter. The anomaly proved to be a sub-circular enclosure formed by a ditch (1803) 1.60m wide and 0.48m deep. The ditch was intersected at two points in the trench 14.4m apart. The ditch (1803) had a U-shaped profile with a flattish base and was infilled with topsoil and redeposited natural clay subsoil (1802).

5.20.2 The ditched enclosure was 14.4m in diameter with an entrance to the south. The material infilling the ditch indicates that it is modern in date. A searchlight battery is known to have been situated in the southern fields of the farm during World War II (*pers.comm.*) and it is probable that feature 1803 represents a 20th Century defensive feature. Typically World War II searchlights were located in circular ditched enclosures within an internal bank. Searchlight batteries usually had an anti-aircraft position set in a pit and it is possible that this is what feature 1703 in Trench 17 represents. Four north-south furrows 0.50m-0.70m in width with a wavelength of 4-6m were located toward the eastern end of the trench.

5.21 Trench 19 (Figs. 6 & 7)

5.21.1 Trench 19, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented WNW-ESE and located in the south-eastern corner of the field. The natural subsoil (1901) consisting

of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.20-0.26m (23.04mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.20-0.26m deep layer of grey-brown sandy clay topsoil (1900). There was no evidence of the sub-circular ditch (1803) identified in trench 18 within the trench. The origin is uncertain of a narrow topsoil filled cut (1903) orientated north-south at the western end of the trench, whilst it may simply relate to modern agriculture it may alternatively represent a shallow gully associated with the likely WW2 features identified in trench 18 immediately to the north. The cut measured 0.38m by 0.06m in depth and had a flat base and steep sides. Two north-south furrows 1m wide were located 14m apart.

5.22 Trench 20

5.22.1 Trench 20, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-eastern corner of the field. The natural subsoil (2001) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.25m (23.41mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (2000).

5.23 Trench 21 (Fig. 8; Plate 4)

5.23.1 Trench 21, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the south-east corner of the field. The natural subsoil (2101) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.27m (23.05mAOD). The natural subsoil (2101) was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (2100). Eight north-south furrows averaging 1m in width were located with a wavelength of 4-6m. The origin is uncertain of two parallel (1.66m apart) narrow topsoil filled cuts (2103, 2105) orientated north-south at the southern end of the trench, whilst they may simply relate to modern agriculture they may alternatively represent shallow gullies of twentieth century origin. The western most cut turned sharply eastwards at its southern end, a form that militated against an interpretation of them as simply later furrows. The cuts measured 0.38m by 0.06m in depth and had a flat base and steep sides.

5.24 Trench 22

5.24.1 Trench 22, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the southern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (2201) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.27m (23.55mAOD). It was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (2200). Three north-south furrows 1m wide were located with a wavelength of 8-10m.

5.25 Trench 23

5.25.1 Trench 23, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-western sector of the field. The natural subsoil (2301) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.27m (23.88mAOD). The

natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (2300).

Field 3

5.26 Field 3 was located in the northern sector of the development on land that fell steadily from west-east toward the eastern field boundary. Geophysical survey had suggested a low potential for archaeological features with only a small number of anomalies. Other than subsurface remains of ridge and furrow agriculture the trenching supported this with no significant archaeological features being present.

5.27 Trench 25

5.27.1 Trench 25, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (2501) consisting of a yellow clay becoming a yellow sandy clay in places, was located at a depth of 0.47m (26.01mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (2500). Thirteen east-west furrows, ranging between 0.50m-1m in width were located at varying intervals along the trench. The frequency and variable spacing of the furrows suggests that they belong to more than one phase of agricultural activity.

5.28 Trench 26

5.28.1 Trench 26, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the central southern area of the field. The natural subsoil (2601) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at depth of 0.34m (30.39mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (2600). Two sets of furrows were located in the trench. One set of four ENE-SWS furrows 0.6-1m in width were located with a wavelength of 9-12m. In the north-eastern half of the trench were a second set of three east-west furrows averaging 0.6m in width with a wavelength of 5m.

5.29 Trench 27

5.29.1 Trench 27, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the north-western corner of the field. The natural subsoil (2701) consisting of a yellow-orange sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.29m (31.74mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (2700).

Field 5 (Figs. 2 & 9 - 13)

5.30 Field 5 was located in the north-eastern sector of the development. Geophysical survey had suggested a potential for a low density of archaeological

features with anomalies principally in the eastern half of the field. The trenching confirmed the presence of archaeological features including pits containing prehistoric pottery in Trench 37 and gullies in Trenches 35 and 37. In addition a prehistoric roundhouse and a number of other features were located in the north-western corner of the field in Trench 40. Whilst the evidence from the geophysical survey and trenching does not suggest the presence of a major complex prehistoric settlement in field 5 it does point to a low density prehistoric settlement across the field with the potential for some concentrations of settlement activity.

5.31 Trench 31

5.31.1 Trench 31, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the south-western corner of Field 5. The trench was moved 2m north of its original line to avoid a furrow which would have run the length of its original line. The natural subsoil (3102) consisting of a pink clay becoming a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.45m (24.15mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.10m deep ploughsoil (3101) and a grey-brown sandy clay topsoil (3100), 0.35m in depth. Seven furrows north-south, averaging 2m wide with a wavelength of 6-8m were located with a wavelength of 6-7m.

5.32 Trench 32

5.32.1 Trench 32, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the central area of the field. The natural subsoil (3201) consisting of a yellow clay was located at depth of 0.40m (24.68mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3200). Six north-south furrows averaging 1.5m in width were located in the trench with a wavelength of 6-8m.

5.33 Trench 33

5.33.1 Trench 33, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-eastern area of the field. The natural subsoil (3301) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m (24.01mAOD). The natural subsoil (3301) was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3300). One 2.1m wide east-west furrow was located toward the southern end of the trench.

5.34 Trench 34

5.34.1 Trench 34, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the south-eastern corner of the field. The natural subsoil (3401) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.32m (23.48mAOD). The natural subsoil (3401) was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3400). Five north-south furrows averaging 1.5m in width were located

with a wavelength of 6-8m.

5.35 Trench 35 (Fig. 9; Plate 7)

5.35.1 Trench 35, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the south-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (3501) consisting of a yellow clay with patches of yellow-orange sand was located at a depth of 0.37m (25.08mAOD). It was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3500). At a distance of 15m from the south-eastern end of the trench was a north-south gully (3505). The gully (3505) was traced 2.50m through the trench and was 1.49m wide and 0.49m deep. It had a variable profile on its eastern side with a concave cut on its western side. The earliest fill consisted of a pink clay (3503) lying on the eastern side of the feature. Overlying this was a mixed deposit of pale yellow clay and blue-grey clay (3504), 0.38m in depth which probably represents material filling a 1.25m wide recut. These two earlier fills (3503 and 3504) were sealed by brown sandy clay (3502), 0.08m in depth. One north-south furrow 2.50m in width was located at the south-eastern end of the trench. A geophysical anomaly curving north-east/south-west through the trench did not relate to an archaeological feature. The alignment of gully 3505 did correspond to the line of a geophysical anomaly (5b) to the north of Trench 35 and located in Trench 37 as gully 3703.

5.36 Trench 36

5.36.1 Trench 36, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (3601) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.24m (23.48mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3600).

5.37 Trench 37 (Figs. 10; Plates 8-10)

5.37.1 Trench 37, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located at the eastern end of the field. The natural subsoil (3701) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.40m (24.60mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3700). Three shallow pits (3705, 3707 and 3709), one of which contained two sherds of prehistoric pottery and 1 piece of daub, were located at the western end of the trench which was extended to investigate the pits. Pit 3705 was 0.80m by 0.70m extending beyond the southern baulk of the trench. As with the other pits it was heavily truncated, surviving to a depth of only 0.07m and was filled with a light grey-brown sandy clay (3704). Pit 3707 was sub-oval in shape, and 1.20m by 0.90m in size with concave sides and flat base. It survived to a depth of 0.07m and was filled with grey-brown sandy clay with lenses of yellow clay (3706). Two sherds of prehistoric pottery and a piece of daub were recovered from this feature, including a rim-sherd. Pit 3709 was 0.80m by 0.66m extending beyond the baulk of the trench. It had

irregular sides with a flattish base, survived to 0.18m in depth and was filled with a brown sandy clay (3708). The south-east side of pit 3709 cut a further feature filled with a brown sandy clay (3710). Only a small portion of the feature (3710) was exposed (0.30m by 0.17m), with the remainder extending east beyond the limits of the trench.

5.37.2 A north-south gully (3703) that lay 10.5m east of the group of pits (3705, 3707 and 3709) corresponds to the position and alignment of geophysical anomaly 5b. The gully (3703) was 1.30m wide with shallow concave sides and base. The gully was heavily truncated at this point being 0.14m deep and infilled with black clayey sand (3702). It is possible that gully 3703 forms part of the same feature as gully 3505 located in Trench 35.

5.38 Trench 38 (Fig 11; Plates 11-12)

5.38.1 Trench 38, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the north-east sector of the field. The natural subsoil (3801) consisted of yellow sandy clay and was located at depth of 0.30-0.50m (24.86mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3800). Three shallow east-west gullies (3802, 3804 and 3805) were located at the northern end of the trench. At the northern end of the trench gully 3802 was 1.35m wide with an uneven profile. To the south were two further intercutting gullies (3804 and 3805) 1.30m wide and 1.80m wide respectively. All three features were filled with deposits of grey brown sandy clay (3803 and 3806) and post-medieval china pottery was recovered from close to the base of gully 3804. These features represent successive phases of an east-west field boundary present on Ordnance Survey mapping until the 1970s and correspond to the position and alignment of geophysical anomaly 5e.

5.39 Trench 39 (Fig. 12; Plate 18)

5.39.1 Trench 39, which was 10m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the central northern area of the field. The natural subsoil (3901) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m (25.85mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (3900). The trench was sited to investigate a discrete geophysical anomaly 8.7m by 5m in area. An area of intense burning of the natural subsoil, extending to a width of 2m was located in the central area of the trench. The area of burning was cut both by a field drain and a furrow suggesting that it relates to pre-modern activity. Given the evidence for prehistoric features in the nearby (Trenches 35, 37 and 40). It is probable that the area of burning relates to prehistoric activity. It is notable that Trench 39 is situated on the top of a localised area of higher ground with land falling away gently in all directions.

5.40 Trench 40 (Fig. 13; Plates 13-17)

5.40.1 Trench 40, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-western corner of the field. The natural subsoil (4001) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m (26.11mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (4000). In the western third of the trench a sub-circular gully 4.7m in diameter is likely to represent the drainage gully associated with a small roundhouse. In plan the drainage gully (4004) appeared to have been excavated with slightly straightened sections forming a slightly hexagonal appearance rather than forming a true circular shape. It measured 0.80m in width by 0.18m deep and in profile had moderately sloped sides, slightly steeper on the external (eastern) side with a narrow U-shaped base. The lower fill (4005) consisted of greyish brown, silty sandy clay with rust mottles throughout and occasional flecks of charcoal. Deposit 4005 merged with a similar overlying deposit that contained occasional lenses of clay (4005).

5.40.2 A small pit (4011) lay 2.8m east of the drainage gully (4004) which was filled with burnt daub. The pit was sub-oval in plan measuring 0.63m by 0.43m in plan. The outer edges of the pit were filled with grey silt with flecks of daub and charcoal (4010), with small areas of wood soot lying on the inner edge of this fill which was in turn filled by fragments of burnt daub (4009) which formed the main portion of the fill. The southern edge of another feature (4012), extending north beneath the edge of the trench, lay immediately north of the pit which was truncated on its western side by a field drain. At a distance of 2.5m east of pit 4011 was an irregular shaped posthole (4008). The main body of the posthole consisted of a tapered cut narrowing from 0.30m to 0.9m diameter at its base by 0.37m in depth. The upper edge of the eastern side was shallow and may even have represented a separate cut. It was filled with friable dark greyish brown sandy silt containing flecks of charcoal and yellow sand (4007).

5.40.3 A wide, north-south orientated, linear feature (4003) measuring 6m in width by 0.18m in depth lay at the eastern end of the trench. The feature was filled with grey silty clay (4002). The feature probably represents an early phase of furrow that has been preserved from later truncation by a dip in the natural topography and can be seen as more pronounced furrow on the geophysical survey of the field.

Field 6

5.41 Field 6 was located in the south-eastern area of the development and consisted of the northern part of a larger undulating field. No significant archaeological features were located in the trenches in this field.

5.42 Trench 42

5.42.1 Trench 42, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located at the western end of the field. The natural subsoil (4201) consisting of a brown clay was located at a depth of 0.31m (20.85mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of grey-black sandy clay (4200). At the south-western end of the trench was an east-west depression or shallow hollow in the field. The south-western end of the trench lay close to an existing housing development and modern material including brick and tarmac pressed into the natural subsoil relates to ground disturbance during the construction of this estate.

5.43 Trench 43 (Fig. 14)

5.43.1 Trench 43, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the central area of the field. The natural subsoil (4301) consisting of an orange clay was located at a depth of 0.35m-0.60m (19.05mAOD). The natural subsoil (4301) was overlain by a 0.35m-0.60m deep layer of topsoil consisting of grey-black sandy clay. A north-west/south-east hollow ran through the field towards the central area of the trench, and in the base of this was a large 4m wide east-west feature (4302) had been cut which corresponded with a furrow identified during the geophysical survey. This feature was modern being infilled with the grey-black sandy clay topsoil and containing ash, modern brick and pieces of broken field drain.

5.44 Trench 44

5.44.1 Trench 44, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located toward the eastern end of the field. The natural subsoil (4401) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m (18.82mAOD). The natural subsoil and was overlain by topsoil that consisted of grey-black sandy clay (4400).

5.45 Trench 45

5.45.1 Trench 45, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located toward the eastern end of the field. The natural subsoil (4501) consisting of a brown clay was located at a depth of 0.40m-0.50m (17.83mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (4500), 0.40m-0.50m in

depth. Two modern 1m wide north-east/south-west stone filled soakaway drains were located 7m apart. The position and alignment of the stone-filled drains corresponds with line of two north-east/south-west geophysical anomalies.

Field 7

5.46 Field 7 consisted of a small parcel of land located in the south-eastern sector of the development. No significant archaeological features were located in the trench excavated in this area.

5.47 Trench 41

5.47.1 Trench 41, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the central area of the portion of the field being developed. The natural subsoil (4101) consisting of a yellow clay was located at depth of 0.30m (22.16mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of topsoil that consisting of grey-brown sandy clay (4100). Three north-south furrows averaging 1.5m in width were located in the eastern half of the trench, with a wavelength of 9-11m.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 No significant archaeological features were located in the trenches in Fields 1, 3, 6 and 7. Two principal areas containing archaeological features were identified in Fields 5 and 2.

6.2 Archaeological features of prehistoric date were located in a number of trenches in Field 5 and in the north-east corner of Field 2. In Field 5 a likely prehistoric roundhouse was located in Trench 40. A pit containing burnt daub and a posthole lay just to the east of the roundhouse with a gully beyond. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from a cluster of pits in Trench 37, with gullies being located in Trenches 35 and 37. In Trench 39 at the highest point of Field 5 an intense area of burning of the subsoil may also relate to prehistoric activity. In the north-east corner of Field 2 in Trench 14 two curvilinear features were located that may form components of a single roundhouse or may belong to different roundhouses.

6.3 The geophysical survey and trenching did not produce evidence for a major complex prehistoric settlement enclosed by large ditches such as recently discovered Late Iron Age rectilinear settlements at Blagdon Hall, East Brunton, West Brunton (Hodgson et al. 2012). Rather the evidence of the trenching suggests a lower density of activity probably relating to an unenclosed settlement of a lesser scale than one of these larger complex late Iron Age sites.

6.4 The second area in which archaeological features were located was in the south-eastern sector of Field 2. A sub-circular geophysical anomaly c.15m in diameter (Trench 18) proved to be a ditched enclosure of modern date. Its form and location suggest that it is likely to represent a World War II feature, probably a ditched enclosure for a searchlight battery as one is known to have been positioned in the southern fields of the farm (pers. comm.). A typical World War II searchlight site would comprise a circular earthwork, usually 30ft (9.14m) in diameter at least one anti-aircraft machine gun pit and a number of huts including one for a generator (Brown et al 1996, 63). The ditched enclosure would have an internal bank of upcast from the ditch. It is possible that the 2m wide feature (1703) in Trench 17 represents a pit for an anti-aircraft position.

6.5 The preservation by record of prehistoric features in Field 5 and the north-eastern corner of Field 2 would be appropriate. The probable World War II searchlight battery in the south-east corner of Field 2 should be recorded in plan.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2014 Land at Guidepost, Northumberland Geophysical Survey (unpublished client report no. 037)

AD Archaeology 2016a Willowburn, Land at Whinney Hill Farm, Northumberland Rapid Desk-Based Assessment (unpublished client report no. 181)

AD Archaeology 2016b & 2017 Willowburn, Land at Whinney Hill Farm, Northumberland Geophysical Survey (unpublished client report no. 181)

AD Archaeology 2016c Land at East Choppington Farm, Archaeological Geophysical Survey (unpublished client report no. 165)

Brown, I. et al 1996 20th Century Defences in Britain, CBA

BGS 2016 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer

Hodgson, McKelvey and Muncaster 2012 - The Iron Age on the Northumberland Coastal Plain, Newcastle Upon Tyne

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Depth	Description
100	0.25m	Trench 1- grey-brown sandy clay
101		Trench 1 -natural subsoil
200	0.28m	Trench 2- grey-brown sandy clay
201		Trench 2- natural subsoil
300	0.29m	Trench 3-grey-brown sandy clay
301		Trench 3-natural subsoil
400	0.43m	Trench 4-grey-brown sandy clay
401		Trench 4-natural subsoil
500	0.32m	Trench 5-grey-brown sandy clay
501		Trench 5-natural subsoil
600	0.31m	Trench 6-grey-brown sandy clay
601		Trench 6-natural subsoil
700	0.43m	Trench 7- grey-brown sandy clay
701		Trench 7-natural subsoil
800	0.29m	Trench 8-grey-brown sandy clay
801		Trench 8- natural subsoil
900	0.30m	Trench 9-grey-brown sandy clay
901		Trench 9- natural subsoil
1000	0.40m	Trench 10- grey-brown sandy clay
1001		Trench 10 –natural subsoil
1100	0.30m	Trench 11-grey-brown sandy clay
1101		Trench 11-natural subsoil
1200	0.29m	Trench 12 -grey-brown sandy clay
1201		Trench 12-natural subsoil
1300	0.27m	Trench 13-grey-brown sandy clay
1301		Trench 13- natural subsoil
1301		Trench 9- natural subsoil
1000	0.40m	Trench 10-topsoil
1001	0.15m	Trench 10-layer
1002		Trench 10-natural subsoil
1003	1.0m	Trench 10-fill of gully
1004	1.0m	Trench 10-cut of gully
1005	0.09m	Trench 10-fill of gully
1006	0.09m	Trench 10- cut of gully
1007	0.06m	Trench 10-fill of gully
1008	0.06m	Trench 10- cut of gully
1100	0.30m	Trench 11-topsoil
1101		Trench 11-natural subsoil
1200	0.37m	Trench 12-topsoil
1201		Trench 12-natural subsoil
1300	0.30m	Trench 13- topsoil
1301		Trench 13-natural subsoil
1400	0.34m	Trench 14-topsoil
1401		Trench 14-natural subsoil
1402	0.17m	Trench 14-fill of feature 1403
1403	0.17m	Trench 14-curvilinear feature
1404	0.22m	Trench 14-fill of feature 1407
1405	0.12m	Trench 14-fill of feature 1407

1406	0.10m	Trench 14-fill of feature 1407
1407	0.40m	Trench 14-curvilinear feature
1500	0.26m	Trench 15-grey-brown sandy clay
1501		Trench 15-natural subsoil
1600	0.27m	Trench 16-grey-brown sandy clay
1601		Trench 16 – natural subsoil
1700	0.26m	Trench 17 -grey-brown sandy clay
1701		Trench 17-natural subsoil
1702	-	Trench 17-fill of feature 1703
1703	-	Trench 17-cut feature
1800	0.26m	Trench 18- grey-brown sandy clay
1801		Trench 18-natural subsoil
1802	0.48m	Trench 18-fill of feature 1803
1803	0.48m	Trench 18-cut feature
1900	0.26m	Trench 19-grey-brown sandy clay
1901		Trench 19-natural subsoil
1902	0.06m	Trench 19-fill of 1903
1903	0.06m	Trench 19-cut of possible modern gully
2000	0.25m	Trench 20-grey-brown sandy clay
2001		Trench 20-natural subsoil
2100	0.27m	Trench 21-grey-brown sandy clay
2101		Trench 21-natural subsoil
2102	0.06m	Trench 21-fill of 2103
2103	0.06m	Trench 21-cut of possible modern gully
2104	0.06m	Trench 21-fill of 2105
2105	0.06m	Trench 21-cut of possible modern gully
2200	0.27m	Trench 22-grey-brown sandy clay
2201		Trench 22- natural subsoil
2300	0.27m	Trench 23-grey-brown sandy clay
2301		Trench 23-natural subsoil
2500	0.47m	Trench 25-grey-brown sandy clay
2501		Trench 25- natural subsoil
2600	0.34m	Trench 26-grey-brown sandy clay
2601		Trench 26-natural subsoil
2700	0.29m	Trench 27-grey-brown sandy clay
2701		Trench 27-natural subsoil
3100	0.35m	Trench 31-grey-brown sandy clay
3101	0.10m	Trench 31-grey-brown sandy clay
3102		Trench 31-natural subsoil
3200	0.40m	Trench 32-grey-brown sandy clay
3201		Trench 32-natural subsoil
3300	0.32m	Trench 33-grey-brown sandy clay
3301		Trench 33-natural subsoil
3400	0.32m	Trench 34-grey-brown sandy clay
3401		Trench 34-natural subsoil
3500	0.37m	Trench 35- grey-brown sandy clay
3501		Trench 35-natural subsoil
3502	0.08m	Trench 35- fill of gully 3505
3503	0.25m	Trench 35-fill of gully 3505
3504	0.38m	Trench 35 – fill of gully 3505
3505	0.49m	Trench 35- cut of gully

3600	0.24m	Trench 36-grey-brown sandy clay
3601		Trench 36-natural subsoil
3700	0.40m	Trench 37- grey-brown sandy clay
3701		Trench 37-natural subsoil
3702	0.14m	Trench 37-fill of gully 3703
3703	0.14m	Trench 37-cut of gully
3704	0.07m	Trench 37-fill of pit 3705
3705	0.07m	Trench 37 pit
3706	0.07m	Trench 37 – fill of pit 3707
3707	0.07m	Trench 37 -pit
3708	0.18m	Trench 37- fill of pit 3709
3709	0.18m	Trench 37- pit
3710		Trench 37 – feature
3800	0.30-0.50m	Trench 38-grey-brown sandy clay
3801		Trench 38-natural subsoil
3802	0.15m	Trench 38- cut of gully
3803	0.15m	Trench 38-fill of gully 3802
3804	0.21m	Trench 38-cut of gully
3805	0.30m	Trench 38-cut of gully
3806	0.30m	Trench 38- fill of gullies 3804 & 3805
3900	0.30m	Trench 39-grey-brown sandy clay
3901		Trench 39- natural subsoil
4000	0.30m	Trench 40-grey-brown sandy clay
4001		Trench 40-natural subsoil
4002	0.18m	Trench 40-fill of 4003
4003	0.18m	Trench 40-furrow?
4004	0.20m	Trench 40-gully
4005	0.20m	Trench 40-fill of 4004
4007	0.37m	Trench 40-fill of 4008
4008	0.37m	Trench 40-cut of posthole
4009		Trench 40-fill of 4011
4010		Trench 40-fill of 4011
4011		Trench 40-pit
4012		Trench 40-unexcavated feature
4100	0.30m	Trench 41-grey-brown sandy clay
4101		Trench 41-natural subsoil
4200	0.31m	Trench 42—grey black sandy clay
4201		Trench 42-natural subsoil
4300	0.35-0.60m	Trench 43- grey-black sandy clay
4301		Trench 43-natural subsoil
4302		Trench 43-fill of feature
4400	0.32m	Trench 44- grey-black sandy clay
4401		Trench 44-natural subsoil
4500	0.40-0.50m	Trench 45- grey-black sandy clay
4501		Trench 45-natural subsoil

APPENDIX 2 – List of Finds

Context 3706 – (fill of Pit 3707)- 2 sherds of prehistoric pottery (1 rim-sherd and one body sherd); 1 piece of daub.

Context 3806 (fill of gully 3804)- 1 sherd of white transfer printed china (19th Century)

APPENDIX 3-WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF AT WILLOWBURN, GUIDEPOST, NORTHUMBERLAND

1 Introduction

1.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development known as Willow Burn on land at Whinney Hill Farm, Choppington, Northumberland. This trenching follows a Rapid Desk Based Assessment (AD Archaeology 2016a) and a geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016b and a subsequent phase in January 2017).

1.2 The site is centred on NGR NZ 255 846 and occupies agricultural fields south of Guidepost, north of the villages of Scotland Gate and Choppington. The area of the site (Fields 1-4) to be developed is 11.5ha. Although subsequently an additional area (Fields 5-7) of 5.5ha was added, meaning the development area is 17ha in size.

1.3 Policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to the heritage resource within the planning system is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012). The Framework identifies that the planning system should perform 'an environmental role', contributing to and protecting the built and historic environment and that the pursuit of 'sustainable development' includes seeking improvements to the built, natural and historic environment.

1.4 The Framework further clarifies that, in circumstances where heritage assets will be damaged or lost as a result of development, Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance the understanding of the asset to be lost in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. The evidence (and any archive) generated as part of the plan making process should be made publically accessible; copies of the evidence generated should be deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and archives with the relevant museum.

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Where a site on which a development proposal includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation" NPPF page 128. This Written Scheme of Investigation relates to the field evaluation stage of the project.

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment (AD Archaeology 2016a) revealed no previously known or recorded prehistoric sites within the area of the proposed development; although it should be noted that the site lies within a wider landscape of settlement and activity dating to the later prehistoric period. A prehistoric settlement identified from cropmarks and geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016c) known as the Whinney Hill Farm cropmark complex lies 310m west of the site. An additional enclosure of possible prehistoric origin to the NNW of the complex was identified during the geophysical survey. The discovery of Bronze Age axes and other artefacts (no. 1; HER11570) from a possible hoard and a spearhead (no. 2; HER22586), c.0.5km east of this site, demonstrates activity from this earlier period in the area.

2.2 There is no evidence of early medieval activity on the site which lies within the vill of Choppington (Cebbington), listed in the *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* (South 2002 in AD Archaeology 2014) as one of the dependencies of Bedlingtonshire, a probable pre-Conquest estate (AD Archaeology 2014).

2.3 The HER does not list any known features of medieval date on the development site itself. Guidepost is of relatively recent post-medieval origin and it is clear that during the medieval period

there were two principal centres within the vill; Choppington (HER11555) a DMV the location of which is uncertain, and Sheepwash (HER11675) to the northeast of the site located at a crossing of the river Wansbeck. Armstrong's map of Northumberland 1769 shows Whinney Hill, presumably representing the existing Whinney Hill Farm as an isolated settlement. The map depicts West Choppington and two settlements referred to as East Choppingtons along the precursor to the A196 road northwest of the site. It is likely that the site itself formed part of an open field agricultural system during the medieval period. Cropmarks from ridge and furrow are visible on aerial photography (Google Earth 5/13/2009) across the two southern fields of the site (Fields 1 and 2) and may originate from the medieval period.

2.4 Guidepost is first shown on Greenwood's map of 1828 depicted as a cluster of buildings at the crossroads (presumably where its name originates) of the eastwest Choppington road (A196), and the north south road (A1068) leading to the river crossing at Sheepwash and running alongside the western edge of the site. Whinney Hill is depicted with two buildings from the farm recognisable on later OS edition maps. A large plantation of trees dominates the area northeast of the farm, east of Guidepost.

2.5 A historic map regression of the Ordnance Survey edition maps of the area, first published in 1866 shows that although the site itself has changed very little neighbouring areas have developed considerably (AD Archaeology 2016a). The 1866 first edition OS map shows the site occupied by a system of mainly sub rectangular fields sub-divided by the farm and a track continuing east from the farm. A small building, probably agricultural in origin (no.24;HER18323) is depicted on the south side of the track east of Whinnyhill Farm and was no longer shown on the 1898 OS edition map. A pond is depicted within a small enclosure south of the farm (no.19; HER18322). Guidepost to the north is shown as a cluster of buildings including terrace rows arranged mainly on the northeast side of the crossroads. Choppington Colliery (no.19; HER11805), opened in 1857 (closed 1966), lay 450m southwest of the site. A plantation depicted on Greenwood's earlier map runs along the eastern side of the road forming the western boundary of the site and immediately beyond the northwest corner of the site a clay pit (no.22; HER11806) is shown

2.6 Field boundaries at the site remained mostly unchanged on the second edition 1898 OS map except for the southeast field which had been amalgamated with its neighbour to the south. The site remained unchanged on the 1924 and 1947 Edition OS maps. Guidepost had continued its expansion along the frontage of the roads leading through it. Scotland Gate continued its development during this period with the School first shown, and the 1947 OS map (revised 1938) shows the streets from the housing estate at Scotland Gate depicted prior to the construction of the housing itself.

2.7 The geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016b) identified one principal area of potential archaeological sensitivity within Field 2 which may relate to a prehistoric settlement. Elsewhere in the survey anomalies of uncertain origin, though possibly representing archaeological features, were identified within Field 4 and isolated features of low archaeological potential within Field 1. The size and shape of anomaly 2a within Field 2 is indicative of a drainage ditch associated with a roundhouse. The fragmentary linear anomalies found in proximity to anomaly 2a may represent associated features such as small enclosures, drainage ditches or gullies. Although there was no indication of a substantial rectilinear enclosure surrounding the putative roundhouse associated with anomaly 2a, anomaly 2c to the north may represent part of a large enclosure associated with a settlement (its extent and character remains uncertain). Anomalies within the interior of the area defined by anomaly 2c were weak and indistinct. The origin of a large linear anomaly 2d to the south of anomaly 2c is uncertain and may simply represent a natural feature. In Field 4 strong dipolar anomalies (4b and 4c) may relate to 19/20th century ground disturbance possible associated with localised rubbish tipping containing ferrous material. The origin of linear anomaly 4d is uncertain and may represent a service trench rather than a ditch. The origin of weak curvilinear anomaly 4e is also uncertain and was in part masked by magnetic disturbance in the local area. A row of 3 positive anomalies (1a) in Field 1 may relate to agricultural activity or simply be of natural origin. Ridge and furrow systems survive within the fields as a sub-surface feature and are clearly shown by the linear magnetic anomalies detected by the

geophysical survey. The wide spacing of these anomalies within Field 1 is a strong indication of their medieval origin. There was considerable evidence from later ploughing throughout the survey areas. The survey detected a likely modern service alongside the farm within Field 4 and another possible service trench represented by anomaly 4d within the field. An additional area (Fields 5-7 were surveyed in January 2017). The additional geophysical survey identified several features of potential archaeological interest. Although the responses were relatively weak from linear anomalies 5b and 5c within Field 5 it is possible that they may represent ditches, their location to the north of a possible prehistoric settlement site in Field 2 raises the possibility that they are related. The southern area of Field 5, neighbouring Field 2, was unfortunately masked by magnetically enhanced debris probably originating from colliery/ industrial waste spread amongst the field. A linear anomaly (6a) detected in Field 6 may also be of potentially early date and is clearly not contemporary with the ridge and furrow. Anomaly 5a almost certainly relates to a field boundary present until the later 20th century. The origin is uncertain of strong magnetic anomalies (5d and 6b) in Fields 5 and 6, and though possibly representing archaeological features they may alternatively represent localised areas of magnetically enhanced material within the topsoil or in cuts of Victorian or modern origin.

3 Required Course of Action

3.1 in Fields 1-4 it is proposed that 31 trenches (23 of 50x 1.8m, 5 of 25 x 1.8m, 1 of 50 x 3.6m and 2 of 50 x 1.8m which are widened to 3.6m in half their lengths) representing a 2.38% trenching sample strategy (2745 sqm of the 11.5ha), across the site with a greater density in the area of Field 2 where geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies. In Fields 5. In Fields 5-7 (1100sqm of 5.5ha) 10 50m x 1.8m, 4 25m x 1.8m, 1 12m x 1.8m) have been added. The total area sampled is 3745 sqm out of 17ha which represents a 2.26% sample.

3.2 Any variation or alteration to this scheme would require approval by NCCCT. Contingency trenching of up to a further 2% trenching has been defined. The contingency would only be drawn upon, following discussions and agreement between the client and NCCCT. However, minor expansions to trenches to clarify features can be undertaken in advance of a meeting so long as the client is kept informed. Any variation or alteration to this scheme would require approval by NCCCT.

3.3 During the course of the trenching it may become apparent that variation is required, dependent on the nature, extent and importance of archaeological remains uncovered. It also may become apparent during the course of the operation that some areas where trenches have been sited are inappropriate for potential archaeological activity (for instance lying entirely within the line of a furrow) or due to logistical or practical reasons. Trenches can only be moved with the approval of NCCCT.

3.4 If the trenching is delayed until after the fields are ploughed fieldwalking should be undertaken and any lithic/pottery concentrations targeted for trenching.

4 General Standards

4.1 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA) (CIfA 2014a) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014b). All work will be in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice (Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East 2009).

5 Pre-site work preparation

5.1 All staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff will be briefed in the work required under the specification and the project aims and methodologies.

5.2 The Great North Museum will be contacted to discuss archiving, should significant archaeological

features be recorded.

5.3 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the English Heritage North East Regional Science Advisor (see 8 below) will be followed.

6 Fieldwork

6.1 Each evaluation trench will be accurately surveyed and related to the National Grid, using a Total Station Theodolite or GPS system, and located on a map of the area at an appropriate scale.

6.2 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. This machine stripping will be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision.

6.3 The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil, whichever is encountered first.

6.4 All faces of the trenches that require examination or recording will be cleaned sufficiently to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, particularly the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil. All subsequent deposits will be hand-excavated.

6.5 In the event that small discrete archaeological features are revealed including but not limited to postholes and pits, during machining or subsequent cleaning of the trench, the trench will be expanded either side of the feature by a machine bucket width as standard. If further additional trench expansion is required this should be carried out following discussions with the Assistant County Archaeologist and the client.

6.6 The archaeology will be investigated sufficiently to establish its nature, extent and date, unless it is deemed of sufficient importance to require total preservation *in situ*. This will be achieved by excavation of the following samples of all exposed features.

50% of every discrete feature (e.g. pits, post-holes)

25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a non-uniform fill

10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a uniform fill

6.7 Within the constraints of the site, the excavations will be maintained in a manner that allows quick and easy inspection without any requirement for additional cleaning.

6.8 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling will be in line with the strategy agreed with English Heritage Regional Science Advisor and NCCCT.

6.9 In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office will be informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with relevant Home Office regulations.

6.10 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.

6.11 The drawn record from the site will include a representative selection of long sections from the excavations that clearly allow the nature and depth and any significant changes in the deposits recorded to be demonstrated. If there is any uncertainty, advice will be sought from the Assistant County Archaeologist as to which sections may be appropriate for inclusion within the site record.

6.12 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

7 Archaeological Recording

7.1 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.

7.2 The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

7.3 All archaeological deposits and features, the current ground level and base of each trench will be recorded with an above ordnance datum (AOD) level.

7.4 A photographic record of all archaeological features will be taken, both in detail and in a wider context. These will be digital photographs and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. The photographic record will be sent to ADS York if appropriate in an approved format to be stored as part of their electronic archive.

7.5 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled

8 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating Strategy

8.1 This sampling strategy is intended to provide sufficient data to characterise the nature and informative potential of deposits and features identified during the works. Because this is the first stage of intrusive works and there is a possibility that a wide range of features may be encountered, this strategy is best set out as a series of principles.

These are:

- 30l samples will be taken from structural, occupational and industrial features, as well as pits and ditch fills. Other features should be sampled to help to characterise the deposits on the site. Priority should be given to processing samples from identifiable, dated features, or to those undated features which have potential for other forms of dating (e.g. radiocarbon dating).
- Bulk sample residues should be checked for the presence of industrial waste (e.g. slags, hammerscale) and small faunal remains (e.g. fishbones, small mammal/avian bones) as well as for plant material.
- The potential of buried soils and ditch fills to provide dated (using radio-carbon dating) pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating of sediments should be considered, although this type of sampling will be undertaken in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor.

8.2 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens are identified, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes.

8.3 The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with the NCCCT. Analysis of environmental sampling and radiocarbon dating will be required should significant

archaeological deposits be located. Costs for sampling and dating should be clearly stated as contingencies in costings for the evaluation. In principle palaeo-environmental samples will be taken from deposits which have clear stratigraphic relationships. Particular attention will be paid to the recovery of samples from any waterlogged samples that may be present.

9 Monitoring

9.1 The County Archaeologist will be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation in advance of work commencing.

9.2 Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to the County Archaeologists or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.

9.3 Regular communication between the contractor, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

9.4 If appropriate, specialists will be contacted and allowed access to the site to help inform any detailed study / information retrieval depending upon the nature of the archaeological features being revealed.

10 Post excavation work, archive, and report preparation

10.1. Finds

10.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the ClfA Guidelines for Finds Work (IFA 2008c) and those set by UKIC.

10.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision will be made for recording them. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

10.1.3 All retained artefacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

11.1 Site Archive

11.1.1 The archive and the finds will be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work and report.

11.1.2 Archiving work will be carried out compliance with the ClfA Guidelines for Archiving (ClfA 2014d).

11.1.3 Before fieldwork, contact will be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

11.1.4 NCCCT will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum.

11.2 Report

11.2.1 NCCCT require one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in Word or PDF format) of the report.

11.2.2 The report will include the following as a minimum:

The report will include the following as a minimum:

- Planning application numbers, NCCCT reference, OASIS reference numbers and an 8 figure grid reference
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000. This will be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record
- Plans and sections of main trench axes and excavated features located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- Period based discussion of the known and potential archaeological sites within the proposed development area
- A summary statement of the results
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- A description of the geology on the site
- Discussion of the physical impact of the proposed development on known and potential archaeological sites

11.2.3 Any variation to the above requirements will be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted

12 OASIS

12.1 NCCCT support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

12.2 The archaeological contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Northumberland HER will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. The archaeological consultant or contractor will indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to NCCCT for approval

13 Publication

13.1 A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.

13.2 A short report of the work will also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

Bibliography

AD Archaeology 2014 Land at Guidepost, Northumberland Geophysical Survey (unpublished client report no. 037)

AD Archaeology 2016a Willow Burn, Land at Whinney Hill Farm, Northumberland Rapid Desk-Based Assessment (unpublished client report no. 181)

AD Archaeology 2016b Willow Burn, Land at Whinney Hill Farm, Northumberland Geophysical Survey (unpublished client report no. 181)

AD Archaeology 2016c Land at East Choppington Farm, Archaeological Geophysical Survey (unpublished client report no. 165)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a, Code of Conduct

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014c, Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014d, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives

Hodgson, McKelvey and Muncaster 2012 - *The Iron Age on the Northumberland Coastal Plain*, Newcastle Upon Tyne

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

Petts, D and C Gerrard, 2006, *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*, Durham County Council, Durham

Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (25 November 2009)



AD Archaeology Ltd
South Shields Business Works,
Henry Robson Way,
South Shields,
NE33 1RF
Office: 0191 603 0377
info@adarchaeology.co.uk

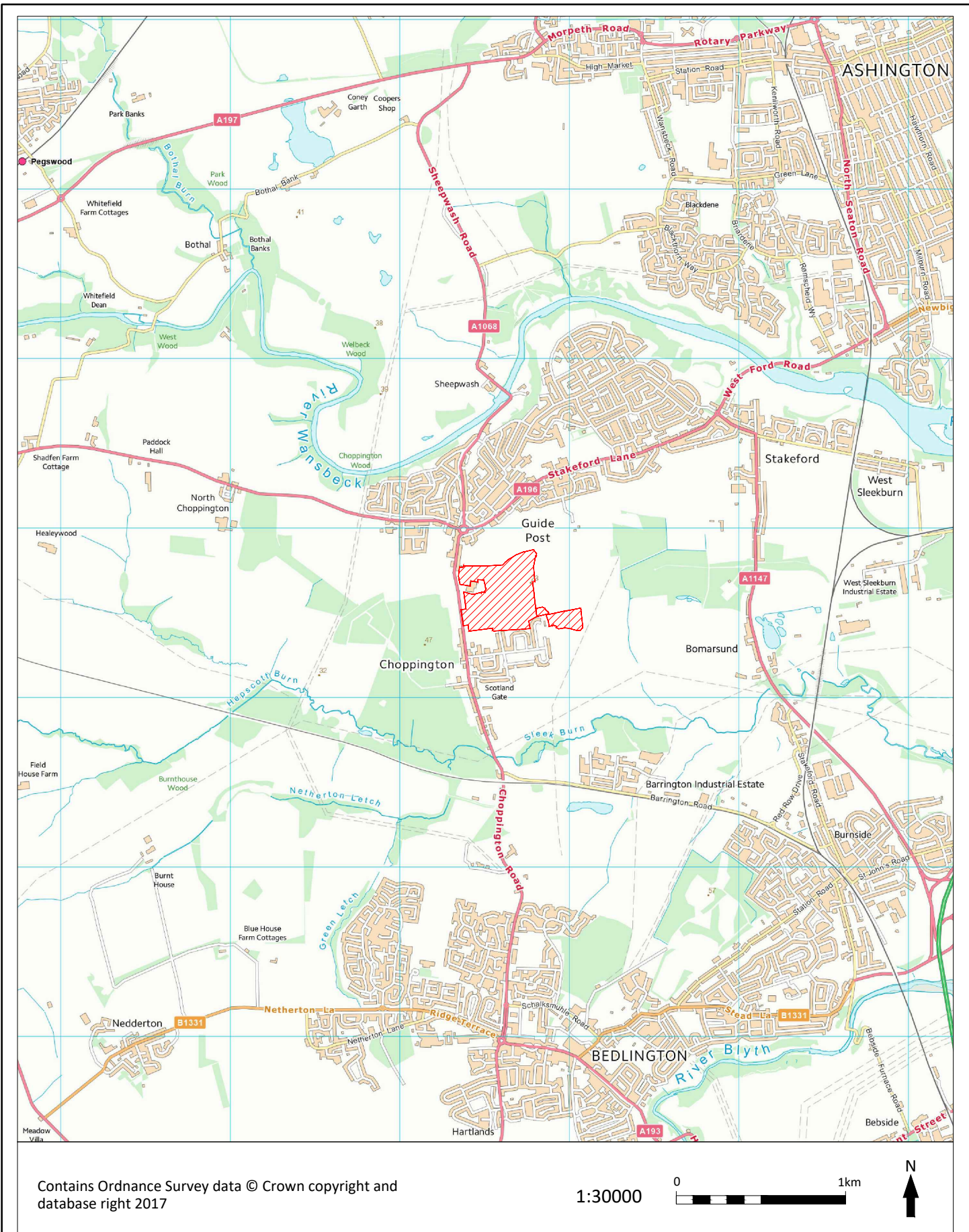
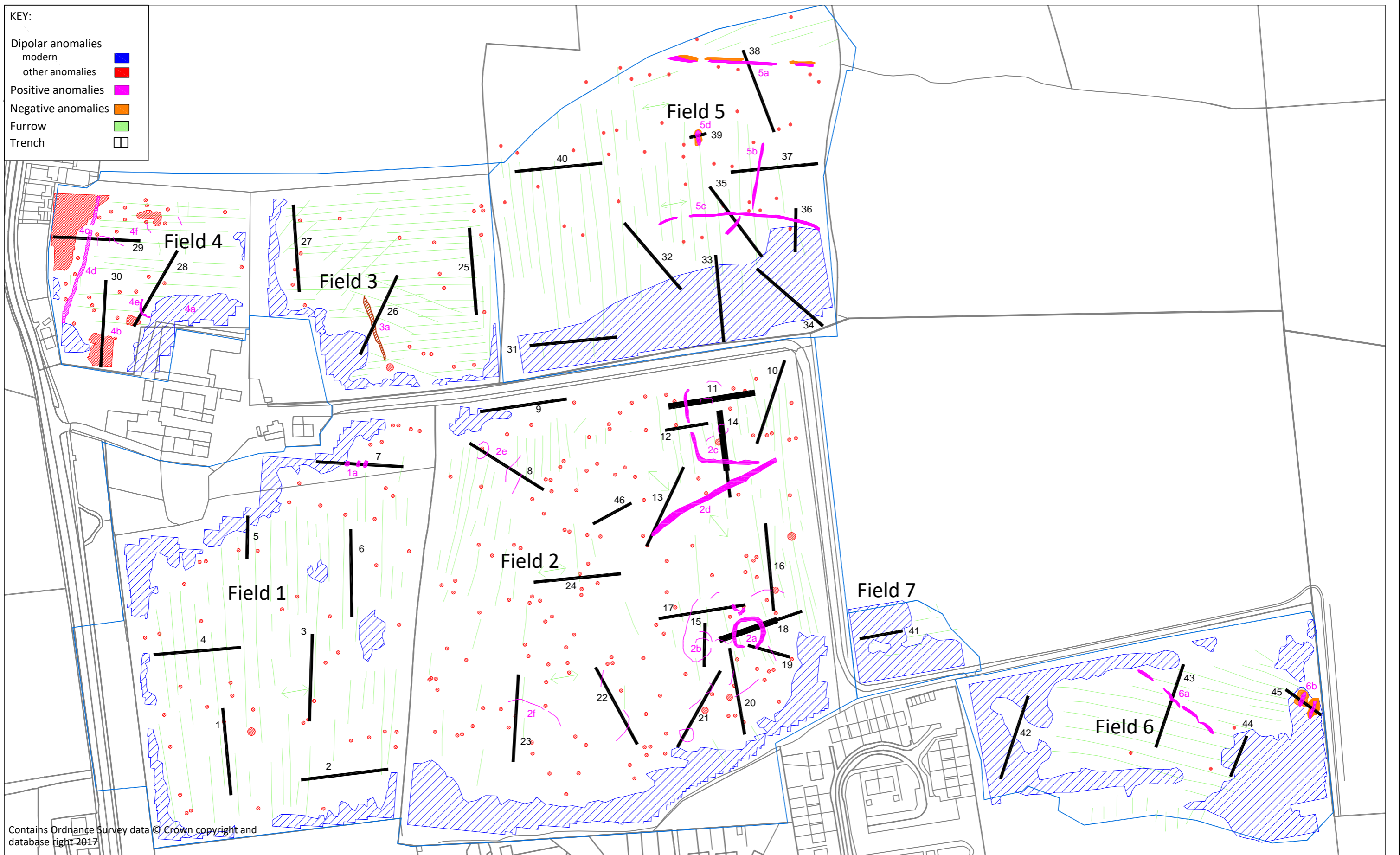


Figure 1: Location of site (red hatch)



KEY:

- Dipolar anomalies
 - modern █
 - other anomalies █
- Positive anomalies █
- Negative anomalies █
- Furrow █
- Trench



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

AD archaeology

0 1:2000 at A3 100m

N

Fig 2: Trench layout plan showing interpretative plan of geophysical survey



0 1:250 10m

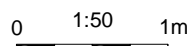
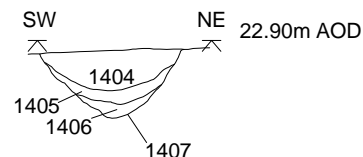
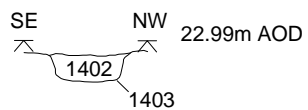
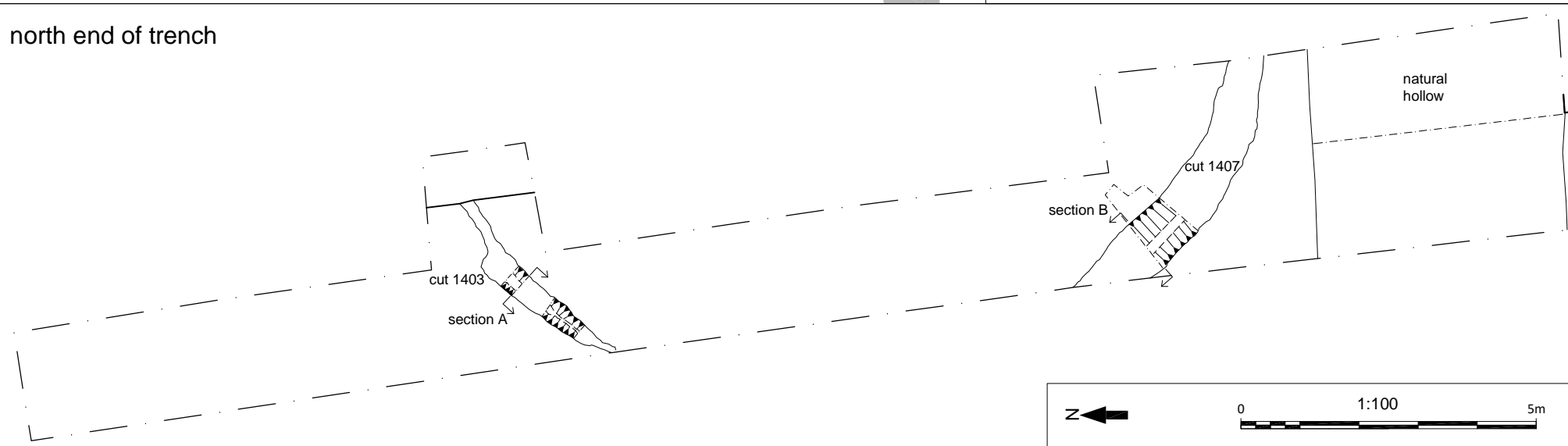
Figure 3: Plan of trench 4



overall view of trench



north end of trench



section A

section B

Figure 4: Plans and sections of trench 14

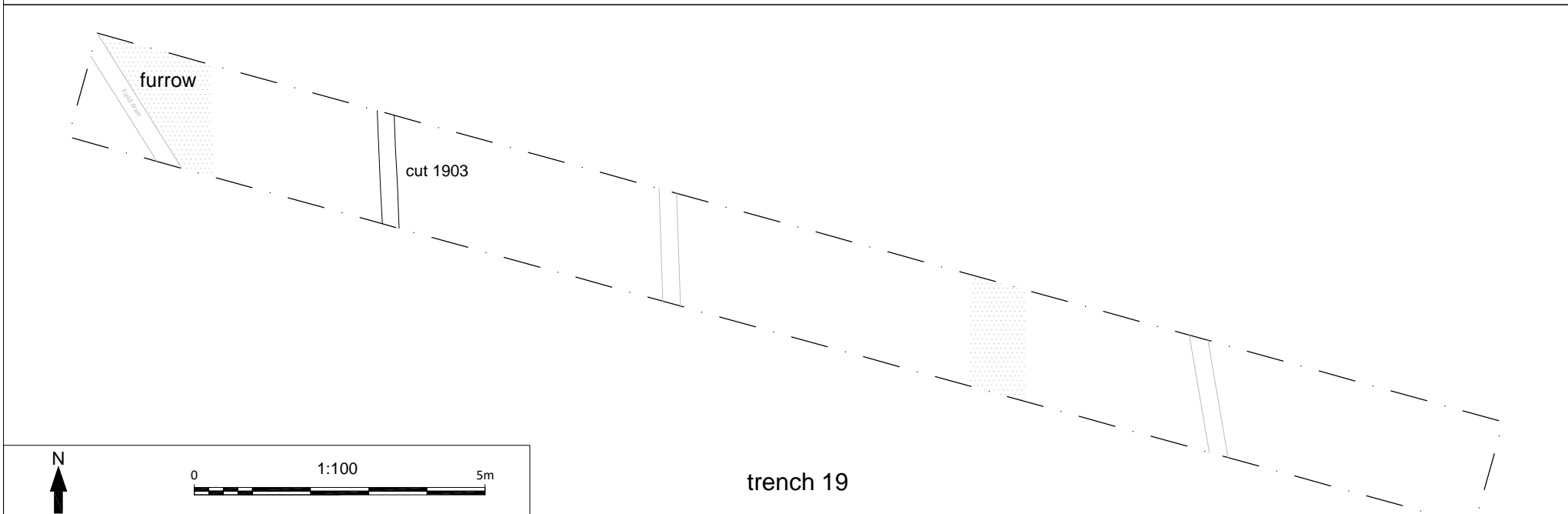
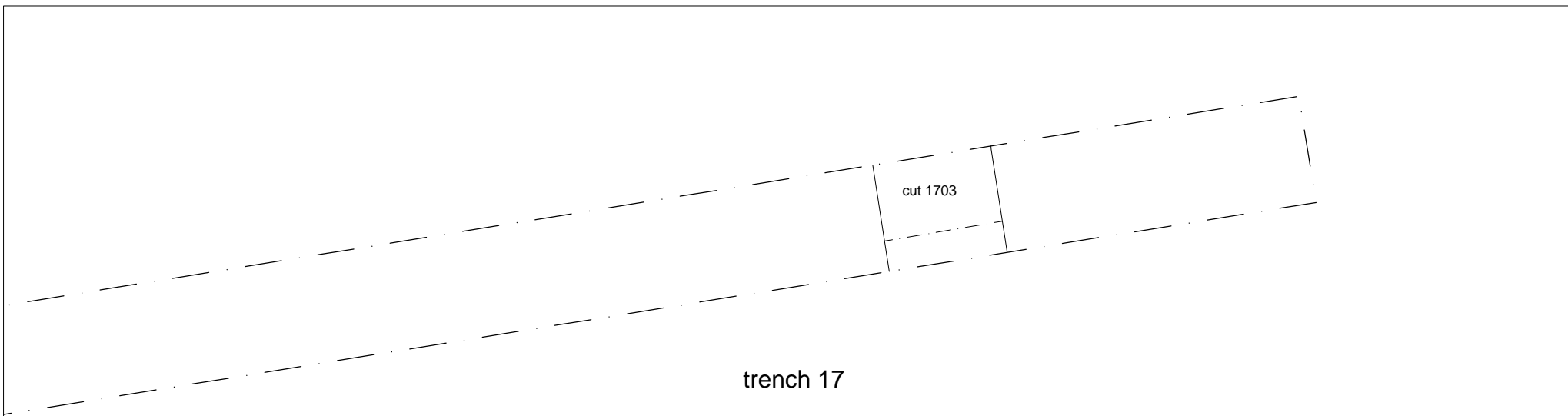


Figure 5: Plans of trench17
 Figure 6: Plan of trench 19

overall view of trenches 18 and neighbouring trenches

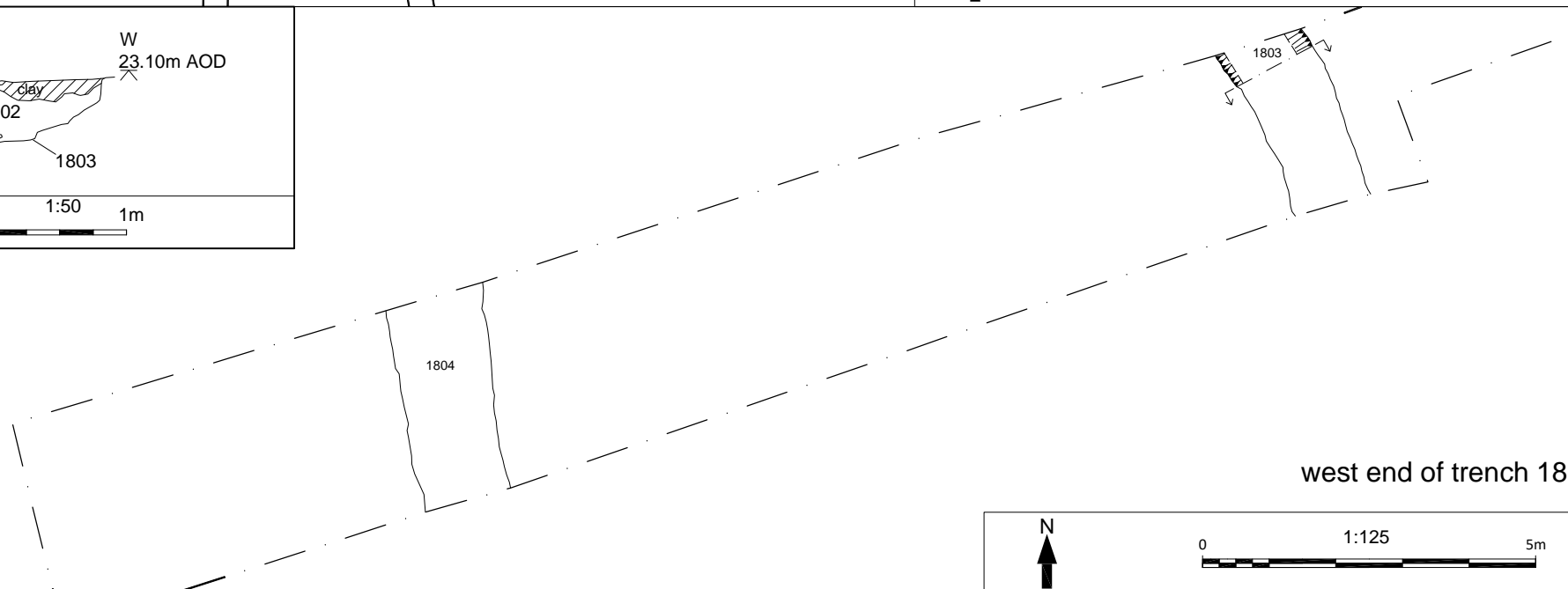
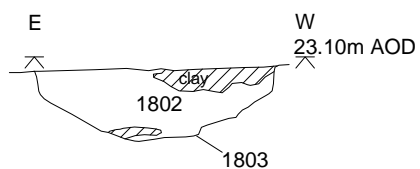
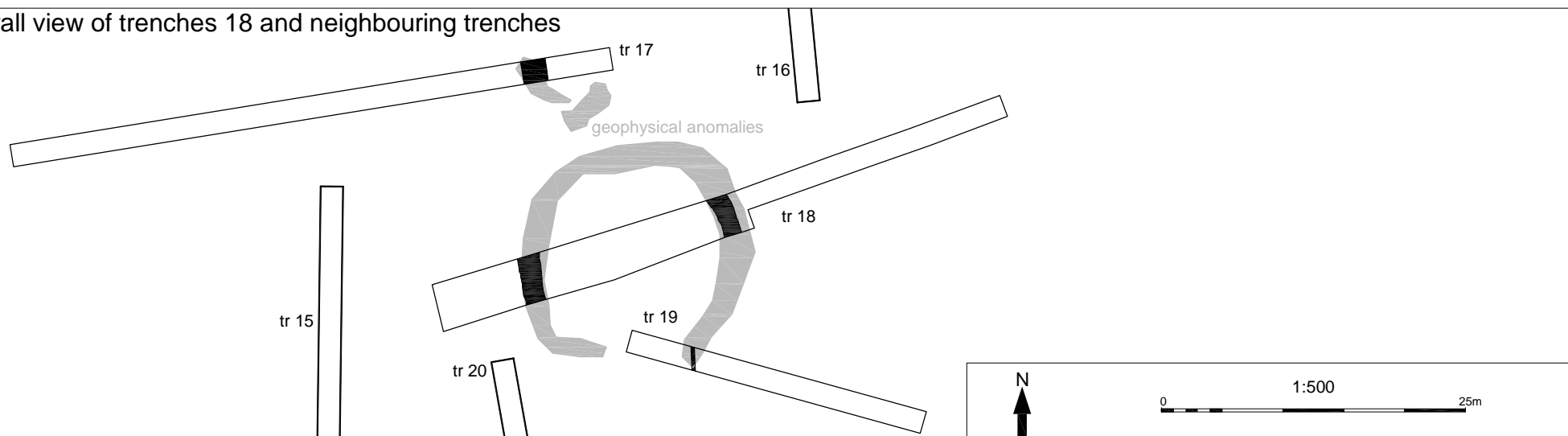


Figure 7: Plans and section of trench 18

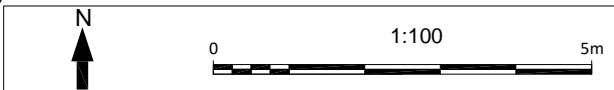
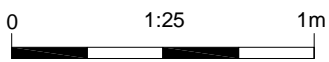
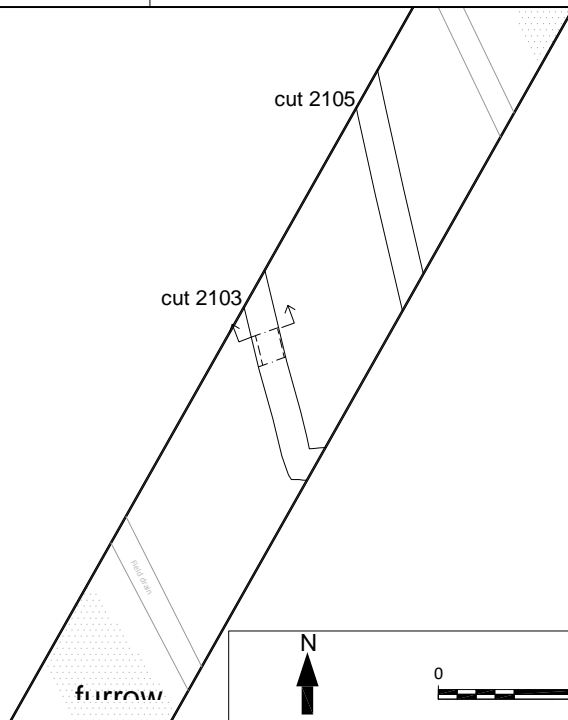
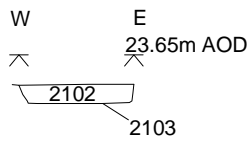
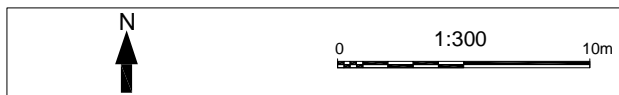
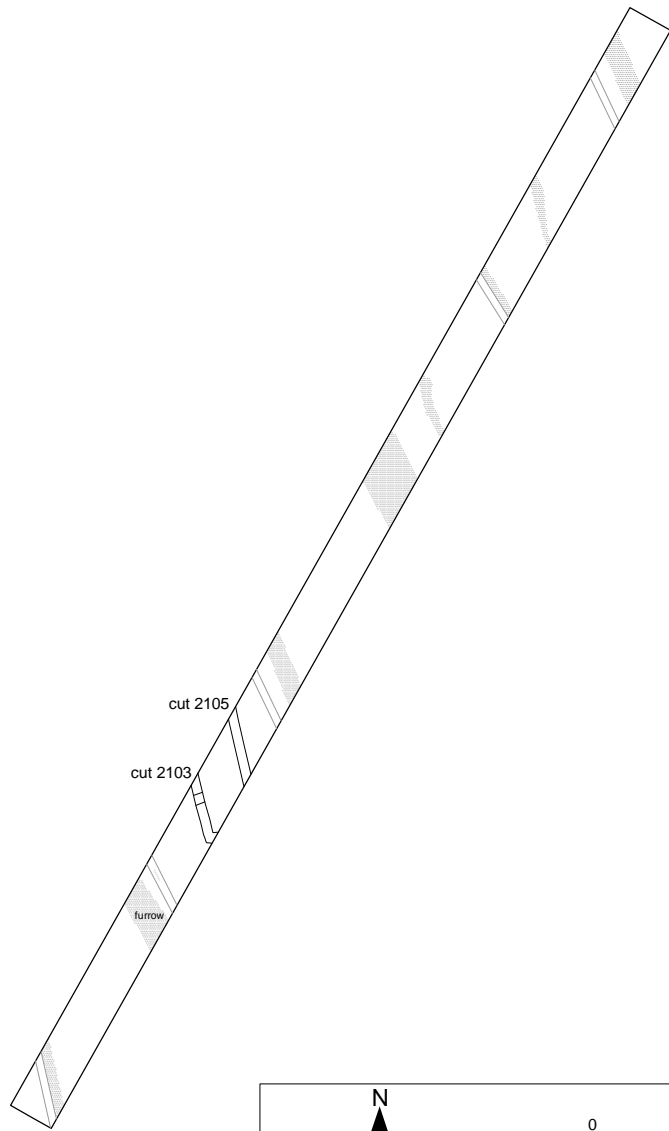


Figure 8: Plan and section of trench 21

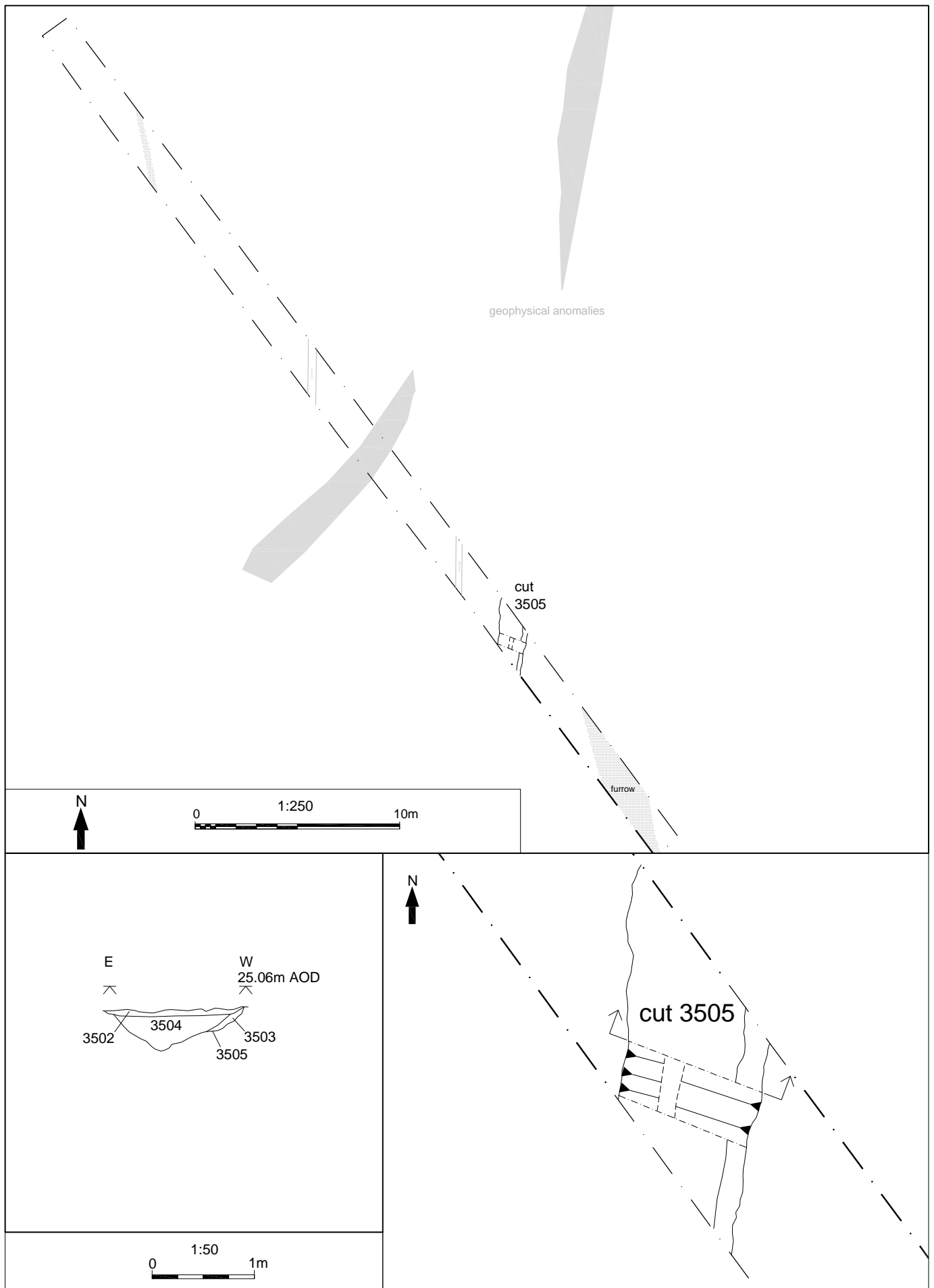
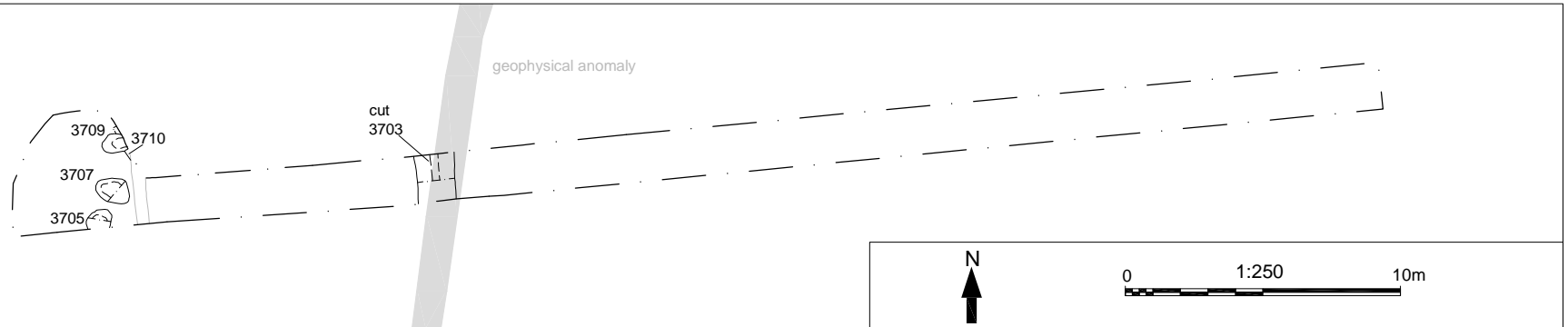
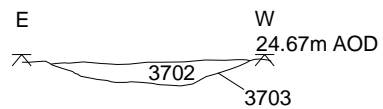
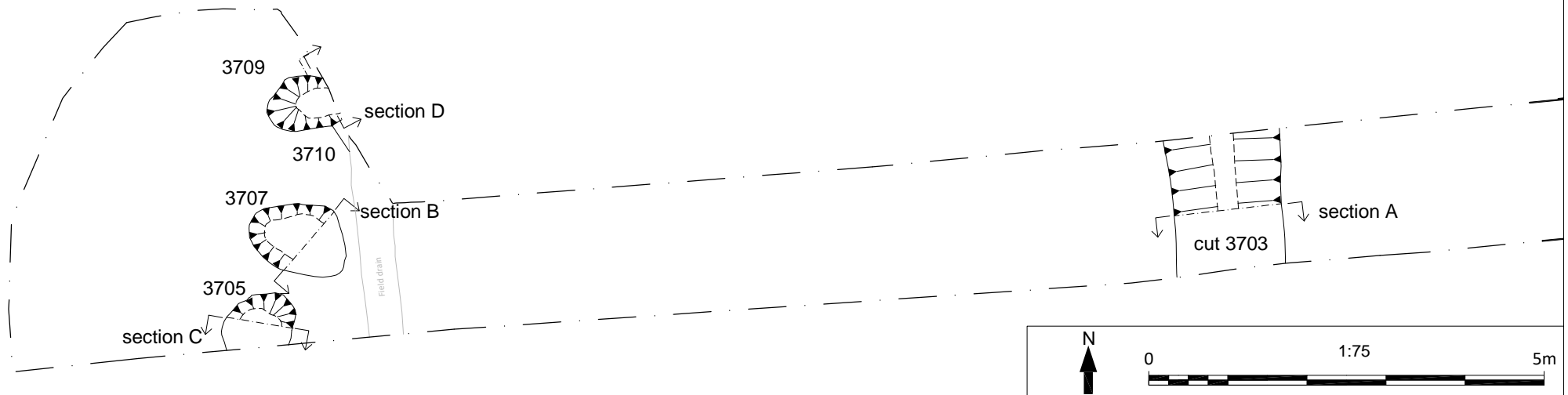


Figure 9: Plan and section of trench 35

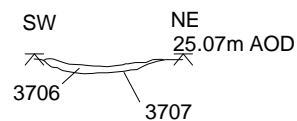
overall view of trench



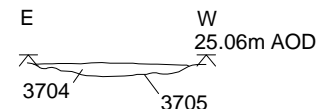
detailed view of trench



section A



section B



section C



section D

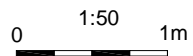


Figure 10: Plans and sections of trench 37

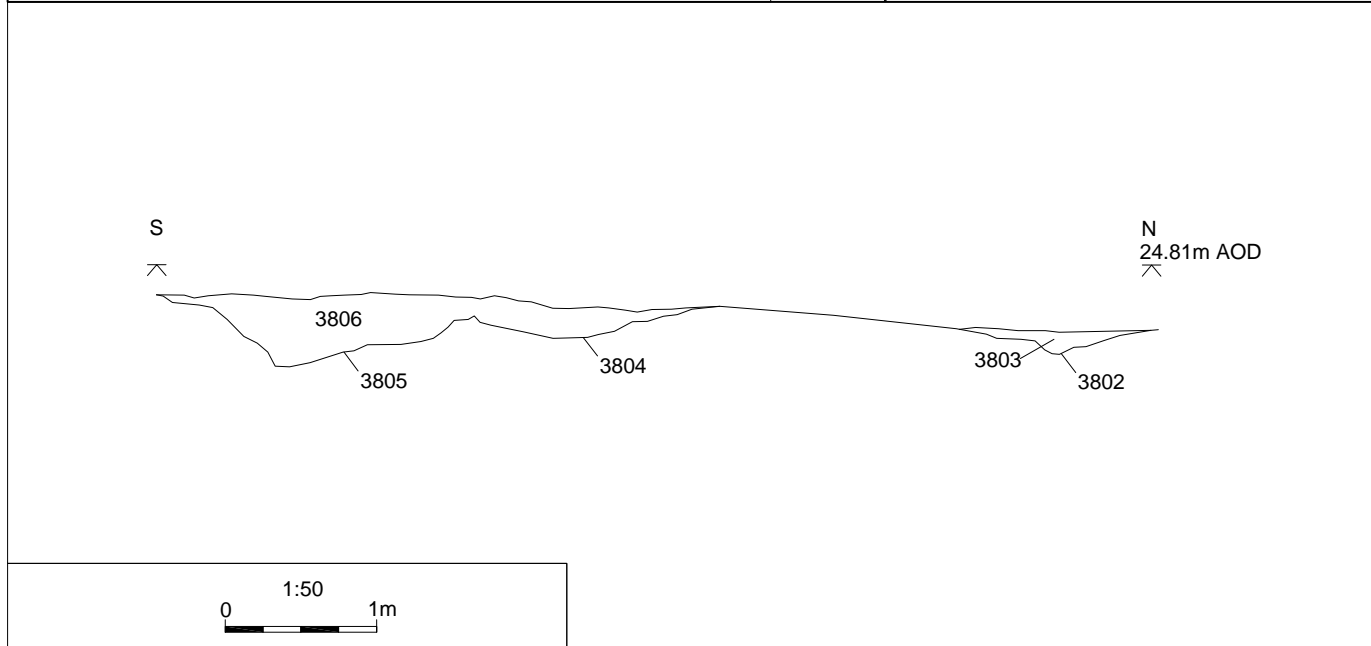
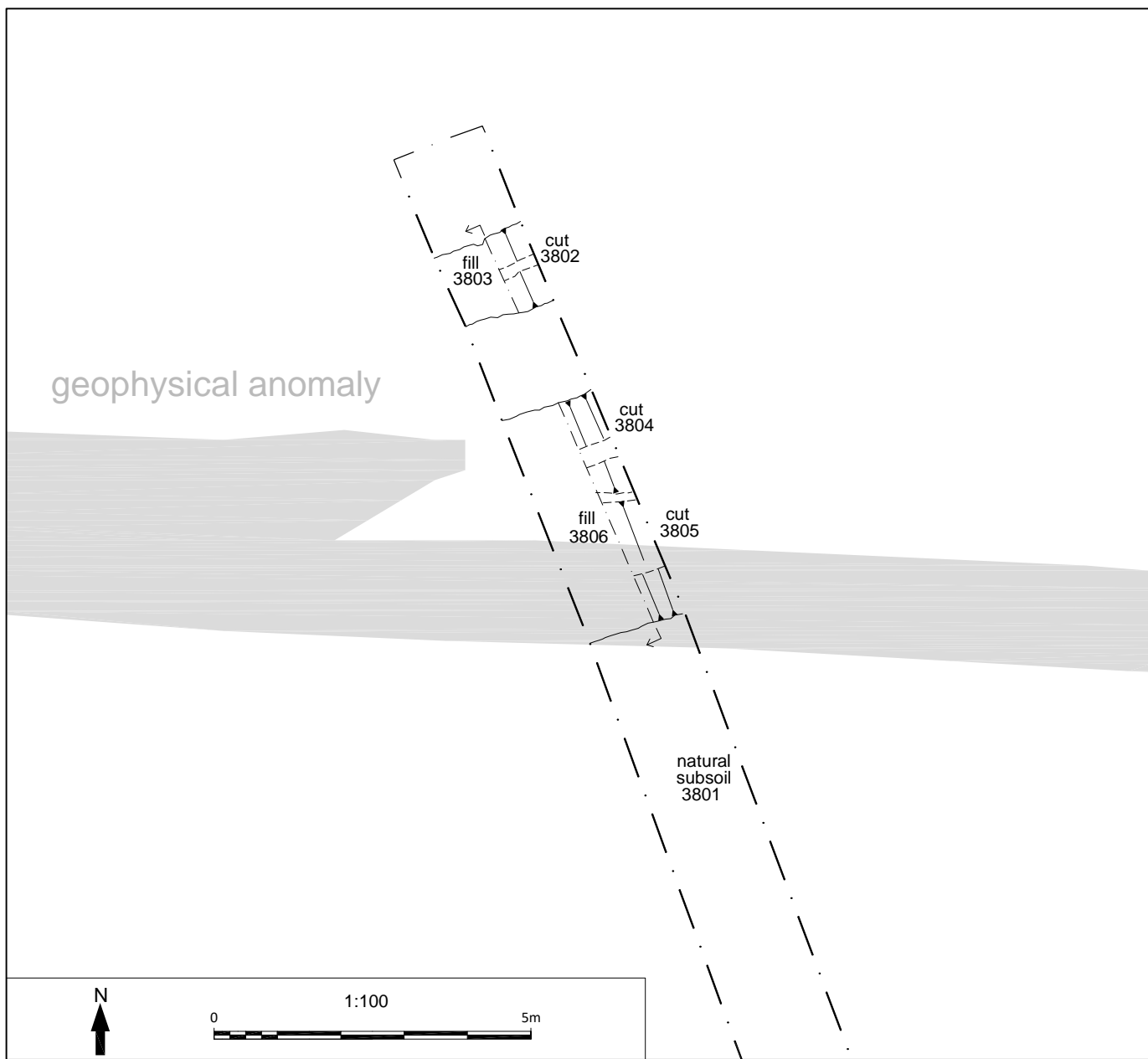
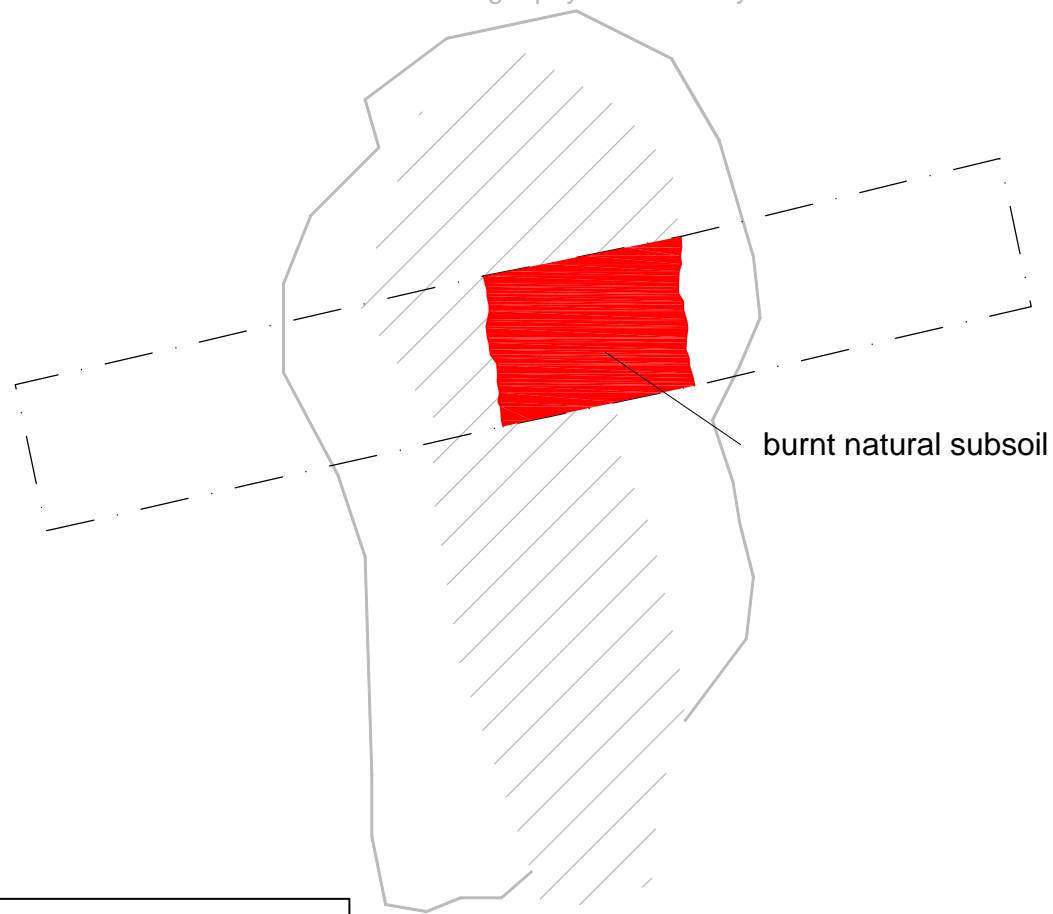


Figure 11: Plan and section of trench 38

extent of geophysical anomaly



burnt natural subsoil



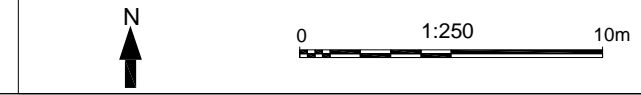
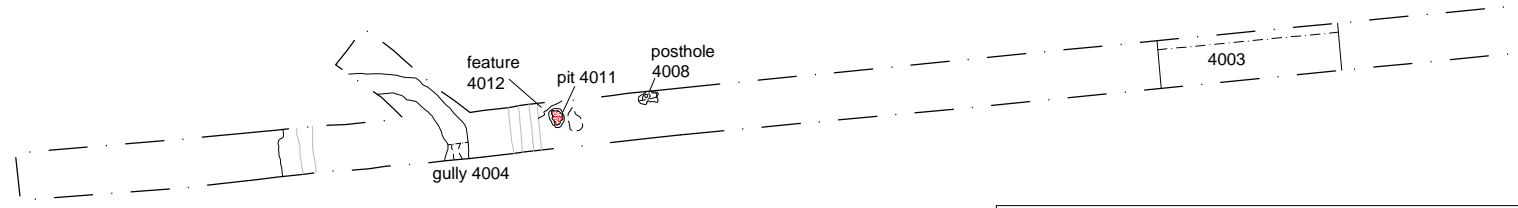
1:75

0

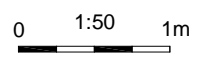
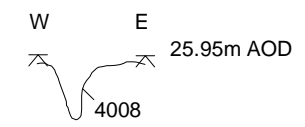
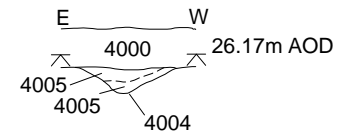
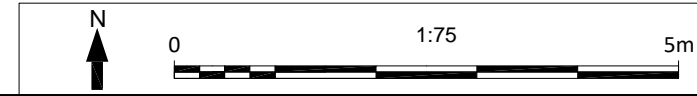
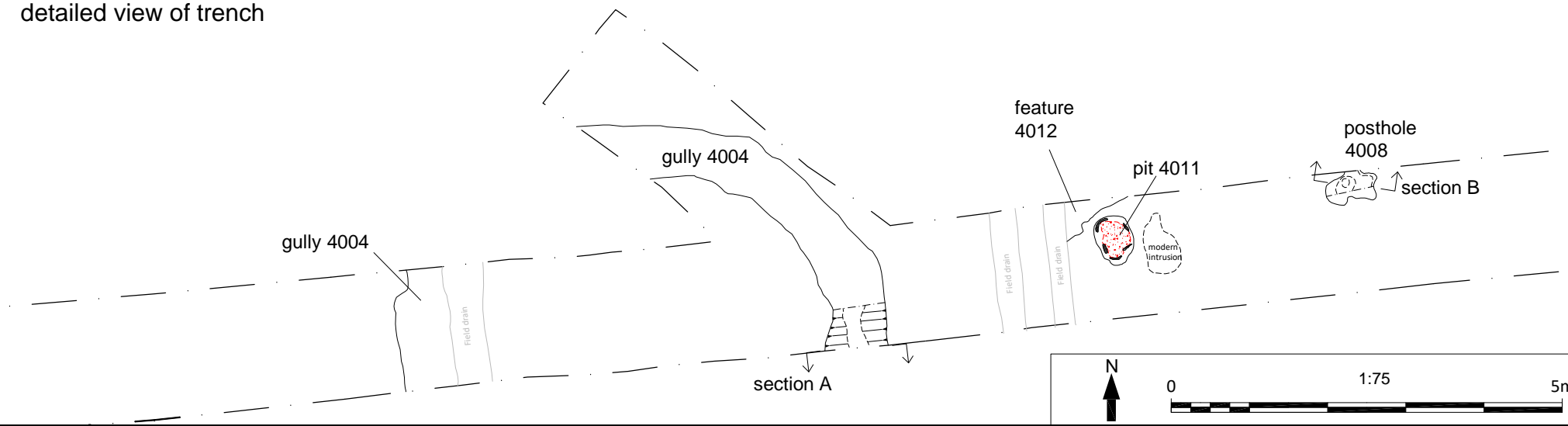
5m

Figure 12: Plan of trench 39

overall view of trench



detailed view of trench



section A

section B

Figure 13: Plans and sections of trench 40



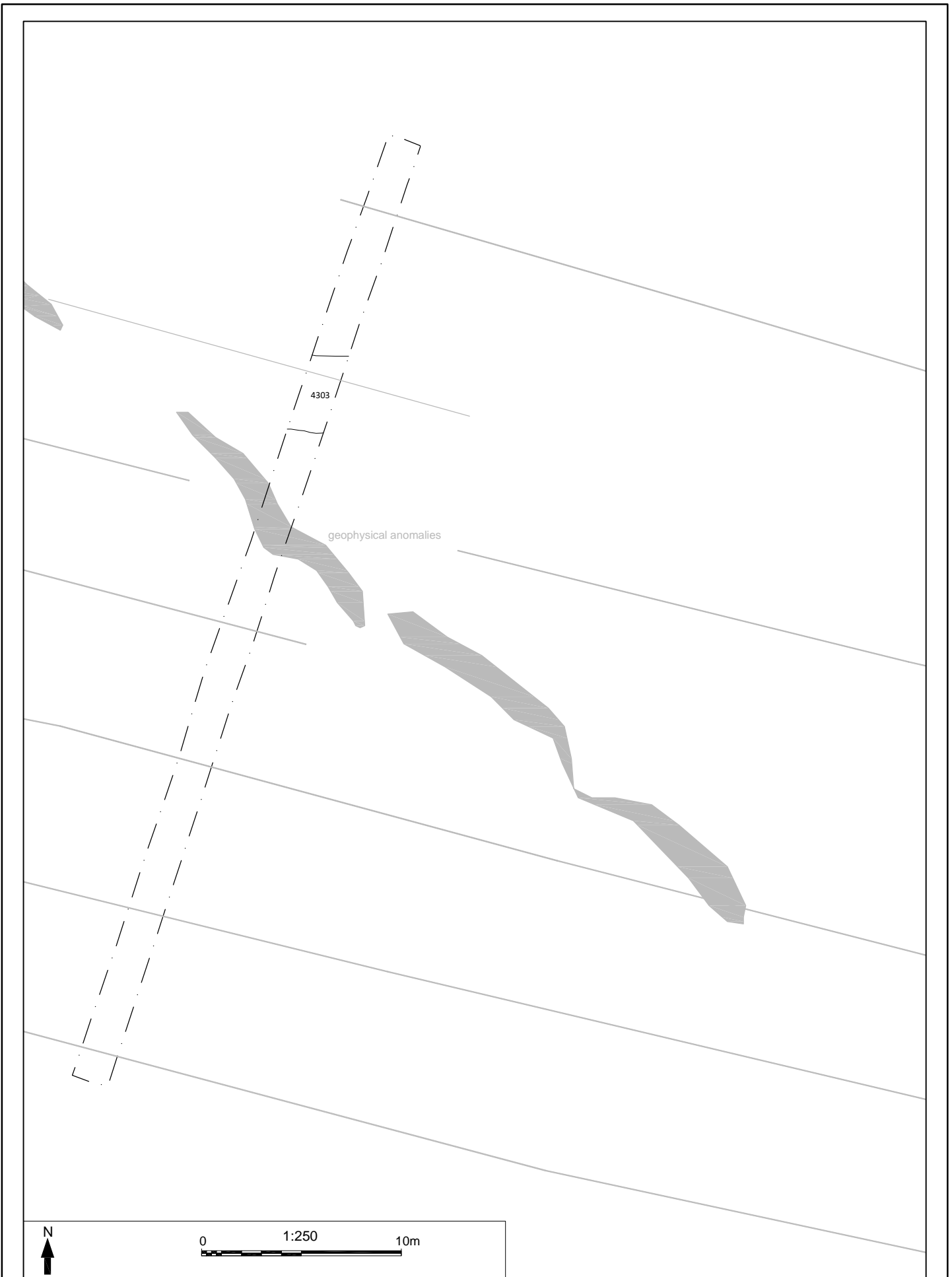


Figure 14: Plan of trench 43



Plate 1: Trench 14 feature
1407 looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 14 feature 1403
looking east



Plate 3: Trench 17 feature
1703 looking south-west



Plate 4 Trench 21 looking south-
west



Plate 5: Trench 18 looking east



Plate 6 Trench 18 ditch 1803
hooking north



Plate 7: Trench 35 gully 3505
looking south



Plate 8 Trench 37 gully 3703
looking south-west



Plate 9 Trench 37 pit 3709
looking east



Plate 10 Trench 37 pits 3705 &
3707 looking south-west



Plate 11 Trench 38 gullies
3804 & 3805 looking south-
east



Plate 12 Trench 38 gully 3802
looking north



Plate 13 Trench 40 posthole
4008 looking east



Plate 14 Trench 40 pit 4011 and
roundhouse looking west



Plate 15 Trench 40 round-house looking west



Plate 16 Trench 40 gully 4004 looking south



Plate 17 Trench 40 feature
4003 looking west



Plate 18 Trench 39 looking north-
east