

AD365

**Land to the north-east of Castledene Road,
Delves Lane, Consett**

County Durham

Archaeological Evaluation



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Gleeson Homes to carry out evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development on land to the north-east of Castledene Road, Delves Lane, Consett.

A WNW-ESE ditch, 4m wide and up to 0.83m deep, was traced for a distance of 180m through the site. Its line can be traced across the site as a geophysical anomaly (anomaly C) and it was located and investigated in four trenches (Trenches 10, 11, 13 and 15). No dating evidence was recovered, the ditch being a pre-modern feature representing a landscape boundary feature of uncertain date.

In the south-eastern portion of the site linear features were located in Trenches 16 and 17. In Trench 16 a linear NNE-SSW feature was cut by the terminal of a north-south gully, which was traced a further 11m to the north. In Trench 17 an east-west gully (corresponding to geophysical B) and a further shallow linear were found. No dating evidence was recovered from these features.

Palaeo-environmental samples will be analysed from the WNW-ESE ditch (Trenches 10=11=13 and 15) and the cluster of features in Trenches 16-17 in order to provide further information on the nature and date of these features. This scientific work will make possible an assessment of the relative importance of these features located in the south-eastern portion of the site.

In the north-western portion of the site only a small number of features of limited archaeological significance were located.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 The project consists of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development on land to the north-east of Castledene Road, Delves Lane, Consett. The site consists of a single field 3.3 ha in area which is centred on NGR NZ 1180 5030. The site slopes steadily to the south and south-east and is uneven in places.

1.2 Geology

1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone), overlain by glacial till (BGS, 2020).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 There are a number of prehistoric features and finds in the wider area of the site. A Neolithic stone axe and a scatter of worked flint tools (H1027) have been found in the wider vicinity of the site. A cup and ring marked stone and a stone axe have been located at Delves.

2.2 The site of the village of Crook Hall lies to the north-east of the site. The earliest records of settlement in this area date to the medieval period, when a deserted medieval village (H1898) called 'Crokrough' was recorded - this place name probably comes from the Old English for 'flat land by the bend in the river'. The medieval manor house (H1900) at Crookhall was first mentioned in documents dating to around 1180. However, no remains of this early manor house can be seen, though the ruins of a later manor house can still be seen close to the farm 500m north-east of the site. Early maps show a probable medieval fishpond (H1899) near the medieval settlement.

2.3. The area was much changed in the 19th century with the growth of the coal industry. The main coal mine was Delves pit, which employed over 200 men. Clay worked at the same time as the coal was used to make bricks. Much of the coal was turned into coke at nearby coke ovens. The growth of the collieries led to many houses being built for the miners. The sequence of Ordnance Survey maps shows the site as open field with no structures present.

2.4 Geophysical Survey

2.4.1 In the geophysical survey anomalies were identified that relate to modern material/objects, agricultural activity and probable geological/pedological variations. There were also several linear/curvilinear anomalies of uncertain origin. It was thought that some of these could be related to agricultural activity or natural variations but it was considered possible that some of them could be associated with

features and as such an archaeological origin was not ruled out (Phase Site Investigations 2017).

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 written scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2). A footpath ran north-west/south-east through the site and a small number of trenches were adjusted lightly to avoid disturbing this feature. Trench 18 was scheduled to be site in the south-west corner of the site. However this location at the lowest lying part of the site was waterlogged so the trench was re-sited to the nearest drier location 40m to the north-west.

5. RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

5.1.1 Trench 1, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented WNW-ESE and located at the north-western end of the site. The natural subsoil (101) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (240.89m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (100), 0.29m in depth.

5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

5.2.1 Trench 2, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located at the north-western end of the site. The natural subsoil (201) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (238.96m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (200), 0.30m in depth.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 2-3; Plates 1-2)

5.3.1 Trench 3, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNE-SSW and located at the north-western end of the site. The natural subsoil (301) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (236.60m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (300), 0.32m in depth. A gully (303) was located in the northern half of Trench 3 consisting of a shallow concave feature with a flattish base. It was filled with a dark brown clayey silt (302) and was 0.53m in width and 0.10m in depth. Trench extensions were cut to either side of Trench 3 to investigate the feature. To the west the gully was traced for a distance of 8m as a linear north-west/south-east feature. The gully (303) was not intersected in the extension trench on eastern side of Trench 3 but the dark brown clay silt filling the feature was traced as a buried soil 0.10m in depth, beneath the topsoil. A curvilinear geophysical anomaly (D) had been identified at this point in the geophysical survey, however the evaluation demonstrated this feature (303) to be a linear north-west/south-east feature.

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

5.4.1 Trench 4, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the north-western area of the site. The natural subsoil (401) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.35m BGL (239.58m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (400), 0.35m in depth.

5.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

5.5.1 Trench 5, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the north-western area of the site. The natural subsoil (501) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (235.18m AOD) and was overlain by a grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (500), 0.29m in depth.

5.6 Trench 6 (Figs. 2, 4 & 10; Plate 3)

5.6.1 Trench 6, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central sector of the site. The natural subsoil (601) consisting of yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.28m BGL (238.48m AOD). It was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (600), 0.28m in depth. Toward the central area of the trench was a shallow east-west gully (603). The gully (603) was 0.80m wide and 0.23m in depth with concave sides and base and was filled with a brown sandy clay (602). The gully (603=703) was traced east-west across the site as a geophysical feature (anomaly A) being excavated in both Trenches 6 and 7. The feature (603=703) shared an east-west alignment with a system of furrows identified during the geophysical survey and it seems most probable that it represents a former boundary gully associated with this agricultural regime.

5.7 Trench 7 (Figs. 2, 4 & 10; Plate 4)

5.7.1 Trench 7, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central sector of the site. The natural subsoil (701) consisting of yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (234.87m AOD). It was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (700), 0.32m in depth. Toward the southern end of the trench was a shallow east-west gully (703=603). The gully (703) was 0.86m wide and 0.21m in depth with concave sides and base and was filled with a brown sandy clay (702). The gully (703=603) was traced east-west across the site as a geophysical feature being excavated in both Trenches 6 and 7 (see 5.6.1).

5.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

5.8.1 Trench 8, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (801) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.33m BGL (237.02m AOD) and was overlain by a grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (800), 0.33m in depth.

5.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

5.9.1 Trench 9, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (901) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.31m BGL (233.70m AOD) and was overlain by a brown-grey clay loam topsoil (900), 0.31m in depth.

5.10 Trench 10 (Figs. 2, 5 & 10)

5.10.1 Trench 10, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (1001) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (233.75m AOD) and was

overlain by a grey clay loam topsoil (1000), 0.32m in depth. The line of ditch (1003=1106=1304=1504) was traced WNW-ESE through the southern end of the Trench 10. The ditch (1003) was 4m wide in this trench.

5.11 Trench 11 (Figs. 2, 5 & 10; Plates 5-6)

5.11.1 Trench 11, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (1101) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.28m BGL (233.73m AOD) and was overlain by a grey clay loam topsoil (1100), 0.28m in depth. The line of ditch (1106=1003=1304=1504) was traced WNW-ESE through the northern end of Trench 11. The ditch (1106) was 4.60m wide consisting of a gently sloping concave sided feature on its southern side, steepening sharply in its northern half to form a more deeply cut feature with a slightly rounded base. The shallower southern side of the ditch was 0.45m in depth, the more deeply cut northern side being 2.40m wide and 0.83m in depth. The northern more deeply cut portion of the ditch (1106), which was 0.90m wide at its base was filled with a primary fill of dark grey sandy silty clay (1105), 0.38m in depth and a grey sandy silt (1104), 0.26m in depth containing frequent sandstone fragments. These two fills were overlain by a brown-grey silty clay (1103) and a brown silty clay (1102) with lenses of yellow clay, of a combined depth of 0.44m, which extended the full width of the feature.

5.12 Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

5.12.1 Trench 12, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (1201) consisting of yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (233.73m AOD). It was overlain by a grey-brown clayey loam topsoil (1200), 0.29m in depth.

5.13 Trench 13 (Figs. 2, 6 & 10; Plate 7)

5.13.1 Trench 13, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (1301) consisting of yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (231.41m AOD). It was overlain by a grey clayey loam topsoil (1300), 0.30m in depth. The line of ditch (1304=1003=1106=1504) was traced east-west through the southern end of the Trench 13. The ditch (1304) which was 4.30m wide and 0.50m deep, consisted of a gently sloping concave sided feature with an undulating base. It was filled with a grey-brown silty clay (1303), 0.30m in depth with occasional small sandstone fragments and a brown silty clay with lenses of yellow clay (1302), 0.20m in depth.

5.14 Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

5.14.1 Trench 14, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the south-western sector of the site. The natural subsoil (1401) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.36m BGL (232.78m AOD). It

was overlain by a grey clayey loam topsoil (1400), 0.36m in depth.

5.15 Trench 15 (Figs. 2, 7 & 10; Plate 8)

5.15.1 Trench 15, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the south-eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil consisting of a yellow sandy clay (1501) was located at a depth of 0.31m BGL (228.64m AOD). It was overlain by a grey-brown clayey loam topsoil (1500), 0.31m in depth. In the northern half of the trench was WNW-ESE ditch (1504=1003=1106=1304). The 4.20m wide ditch (1504) had a shallow concave side and flat base in its southern half with a more deeply set V-shaped cut with rounded base in the northern half of the feature. The ditch was 0.35m deep in the southern half of the feature and 0.70m in depth to the north. The ditch was filled with a grey silty clay (1503) 0.40m in depth and a grey brown sandy clay (1502) 0.30m in depth.

5.16 Trench 16 (Figs. 2 & 8; Plates 9-11)

5.16.1 Trench 16, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-western sector of the field. The natural subsoil (1601) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (230.22m AOD). It was overlain by a grey clayey loam topsoil (1600), 0.34m in depth. Two linear features (1603 and 1605) were located in the trench and a number of extensions to the trench were excavated to investigate them. Toward the southern end of the trench a NNE-SSW linear feature (1603) was traced for a distance of 7m before extending south beyond the trench. To the north the feature (1603) began to curve slightly at the point at which it is cut by feature 1605. Linear feature 1603 was 0.35m wide and had concave sides with a slightly uneven base. It was filled with a grey silty clay (1602) and was up to 0.12m in depth. Feature 1605, which appears to represent a shallow gully was traced for a distance of 4.2m, within the main body of the trench. A trench extension showed that it continued northward being traced for a distance of 11m, but extended further north. The southern terminal of the gully (1605) cut linear feature 1603. The gully (1605) had shallow concave sides with a slightly undulating base. It was 0.70m wide and 0.10m deep and was filled with a brown sandy silty clay (1604).

5.17 Trench 17 (Figs. 2 & 9-10; Plate 12)

5.17.1 Trench 17, which was 27m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the south-western sector of the site. The natural subsoil (1701) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (228.78m AOD). It was overlain by a grey clayey loam topsoil (1700), 0.32m in depth. An east-west gully (1703) was located in the southern half of the trench. The gully (1703) had shallow concave sides and a flat base and was 1.20m wide and 0.14m in depth. It was filled with mixed grey and brown silt clays (1702) containing occasional sandstone fragments. The gully corresponded to the position and alignment of an east-west geophysical anomaly (anomaly B). In the northern half of the trench was a shallow WNW-ESE linear feature (1705). The linear feature was 0.45m wide and 0.02m deep

and was filled with a brown sandy silt (1704).

5.18 Trench 18 (Fig. 2)

5.18.1 Trench 18, which was 15m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the south-western sector of the field. The natural subsoil (1801) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (230.29m AOD). It was overlain by a grey clayey loam topsoil (1800), 0.34m in depth.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 A WNW-ESE ditch, 4m wide and up to 0.83m deep, was traced for a distance of 180m through the site. Its line can be traced across the site as a geophysical anomaly (anomaly C) and it was located and investigated in four trenches (Trenches 10, 11, 13 and 15). No dating evidence was recovered, the ditch being a pre-modern feature representing a landscape boundary feature of uncertain date.

6.2 In the south-eastern portion of the site linear features were located in Trenches 16 and 17. In Trench 16 a linear NNE-SSW feature was cut by the terminal of a north-south gully which was traced a further 11m to the north. In Trench 17 an east-west gully (corresponding to geophysical B) and a further shallow linear were found. No dating evidence was recovered from these features.

6.3 Palaeo-environmental samples will be analysed from the WNW-ESE ditch (Trenches 10=11=13 and 15) and the cluster of features in Trenches 16-17 in order to provide further information on the nature and date of these features. This scientific work will make possible an assessment of the relative importance of these features located in the south-eastern portion of the site.

6.4 In the north-western portion of the site only a small number of features of limited archaeological significance were located.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Depth	Description
100	0.29m	Trench 1- Topsoil
101		Trench 1 – Natural subsoil
200	0.30m	Trench 2 – Topsoil
201		Trench 2 – Natural subsoil
300	0.32m	Trench 3 – Topsoil
301		Trench 3 – Natural subsoil
302	0.10m	Trench 3- Fill of gully
303	0.10m	Trench 3 – Cut of gully
400	0.35m	Trench 4 – Topsoil
401		Trench 4 – Natural subsoil
500	0.29m	Trench 5 – Topsoil
501		Trench 5 – Natural subsoil
600	0.28m	Trench 6 – Topsoil
601		Trench 6 – Natural subsoil
602	0.28m	Trench 6 – Fill of gully
603	0.28m	Trench 6 – Cut of gully
700	0.32m	Trench 7 – Topsoil
701		Trench 7 – Natural subsoil
702	0.21m	Trench 7 – Fill of gully
703	0.21m	Trench 7 – Cut of gully
800	0.33m	Trench 8 – Topsoil
801		Trench 8 – Natural subsoil
900	0.31m	Trench 9 – Topsoil
901		Trench 9 – Natural subsoil
1000	0.32m	Trench 10 – Topsoil
1001		Trench 10 – Natural subsoil
1002		Trench 10 – Fill of ditch
1003		Trench 10 – Cut of ditch
1100	0.28m	Trench 11 – Topsoil
1101		Trench 11 – Natural subsoil
1102	0.22m	Trench 11 – Fill of ditch
1103	0.22m	Trench 11 – Fill of ditch
1104	0.26m	Trench 11 – Fill of ditch
1105	0.38m	Trench 11 – Fill of ditch

1106	0.83m	Trench 11 – Cut of ditch
1200	0.29m	Trench 12 – Topsoil
1201		Trench 12 – Natural subsoil
1300	0.30m	Trench 13 – Topsoil
1301		Trench 13 – Natural subsoil
1302	0.20m	Trench 13 – Fill of ditch
1303	0.30m	Trench 13 – Fill of ditch
1304	0.50m	Trench 13 – Cut of ditch
1400	0.35m	Trench 14 – Topsoil
1401		Trench 14 – Natural subsoil
1500	0.31m	Trench 15 – Topsoil
1501		Trench 15 – Natural subsoil
1502	0.30m	Trench 15 - Fill of ditch
1503	0.40m	Trench 15 - Fill of ditch
1504	0.70m	Trench 15 – Cut of ditch
1600	0.34m	Trench 16 – Topsoil
1601		Trench 16 – Natural subsoil
1602	0.12m	Trench 16 – Fill of cut feature
1603	0.12m	Trench 16 – Cut feature
1604	0.10m	Trench 16 – Fill of cut feature
1605	0.10m	Trench 16 – Cut feature
1700	0.32m	Trench 17 – Topsoil
1701		Trench 17 – Natural subsoil
1702	0.14m	Trench 17 – Fill of cut feature
1703	0.14m	Trench 17 – Cut feature
1704	0.02m	Trench 17 – Fill of cut feature
1705	0.02m	Trench 17 – Cut feature
1800	0.34m	Trench 18 – Topsoil
1801		Trench 18 – Natural subsoil

APPENDIX 2**DM/17/02333/OUT****WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND TO THE NORTH EAST OF CASTLEDENE ROAD, DELVES LANE, CONSETT****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 on land to the north east of Castledene Road, Delves Lane, Consett. The site consists of a single field 3.3 ha in area which is centred on NGR NZ 1180 5030. The site slopes steadily downward to the south and east and is uneven in places.

1.2 A geophysical survey (Phase Site Investigations 2017) has been undertaken in advance of the proposed development.

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. 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". This Written Scheme of Investigation relates to the field evaluation stage of the project.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background**2.1 Prehistoric Period**

2.1.1 There are a number of prehistoric features and finds in the wider area of the site.

A Neolithic stone axe and a scatter of worked flint tools (H1027) have been found in the wider vicinity of the site. A cup and ring marked stone and a stone axe have been located at Delves.

2.2 Medieval Period

2.2.1 The site of the village of Crook Hall lies to the north-east of the site. The earliest records of settlement in this area date to the medieval period, when a deserted medieval village (H1898) called 'Crokough' was recorded - this place name probably comes from the Old English for 'flat land by the bend in the river'. The medieval manor house (H1900) at Crookhall was first mentioned in documents dating to around 1180. However, no remains of this early manor house can be seen, though the ruins of a later manor house can still be seen close to the farm 500m north-east of the site. Early maps show a probable medieval fishpond (H1899) nearby.

2.3 Post-medieval

2.3.1 The area was much changed in the 19th century with the growth of the coal industry. The main coal mine was Delves pit, which employed over 200 men. Clay worked at the same time as the coal was used to make bricks. Much of the coal was turned into coke at nearby coke ovens. The growth of the collieries led to many houses being built for the miners. The sequence of Ordnance Survey maps shows the site as open field with no structures present.

2.4 Geophysical Survey

2.4.1 Anomalies have been identified that relate to modern material/objects, agricultural activity and probable geological/pedological variations. There are several linear/curvilinear anomalies of uncertain origin. Some of these could be related to agricultural activity or natural variations but it is possible that some of them could be associated with features and as such an archaeological origin cannot be completely ruled out (Phase Site Investigations 2017).

3 Aims and Recommended Course of Action

3.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of significant archaeological features and/or deposits. Should significant deposits and/or features be located the aim of the evaluation is to determine the nature, extent, date and state of preservation of the deposits in order to inform potential subsequent stages of mitigation.

3.2 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment' by David Petts with Christopher Gerrard, 2006 notes the importance of research questions as a vital element of development-led

archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

3.3 Whilst there are no known archaeological features on the site, there is a growing awareness of the density of prehistoric settlement activity. In recent years development control-led archaeological investigation in the area has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the density of settlement and activity in this area during the prehistoric period (North East Regional Research Framework, Petts & Gerrard, 2006).

Recent excavations have begun to challenge established models of prehistoric settlement morphology. It is therefore important for any evidence of prehistoric settlement to be studied in order to establish more firm chronologies. Also needed is the study of site function and the social role of settlements in the landscape (NERRF Research Priority Iii).

3.4 A trenching strategy consisting of 18 trenches 30m by 1.8m in size has been designed to test for the presence/absence of archaeological features, representing a 3% sample (972m²) of the site which measures 3.3ha. The trench plan is designed to investigate geophysical anomalies and give a representative sample of trenching across the site in case there are archaeological features present that have not been detected by the survey.

3.4 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 the County Archaeologist.

3.5 Contingency will be allowed for the excavation of up to an additional 1% of the site (above and beyond the 18 trenches indicated on the accompanying trench plan). The implementing of contingency would require approval by DCC Archaeology Section and the client.

4 General Standards

4.1 All work will be carried out to the standards set by the DCC Archaeology Section as detailed in <http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/22749/Standards-for-Archaeological-Work-in-County-Durham-and->

[Darlington/pdf/StandardsForArchaeologicalWorkInCountyDurhamAndDarlington.pdf](#)

. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists CfA (2014a) and will follow the CfA (2014b) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. 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 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the Historic England Science Advisor (see 8 below) will be followed.

6 Fieldwork

6.1 Each evaluation trench will be accurately survey 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 back-acting 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 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, linear terminals will be excavated.
- 100% of feature intersections will be examined

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 Historic England Science Advisor and the County Archaeologist.

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 the relevant Ministry of Justice 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 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. All finds work will be undertaken in line with the standards set out "A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds" (English Heritage 1995); "First Aid for Finds" (Wilkinson & Neal 2001); and "Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites"(UKIC 1993).

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.

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:

- 30 litre 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 radiocarbon 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 Historic England's 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 County Archaeologist. 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 (ideally 2 weeks' notice but as a minimum 48 hours before commencement).

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 archaeological 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.

- Pottery and ceramic building material (Rob Young; Alex Croom; Paul Bidwell; Andy Sage)
- Bone (Louisa Gidney)
- Flint (Rob Young)
- Metal work (David Dungworth)
- Industrial debris (David Dungworth)
- Environmental micro and macro fossils (Charlotte O'Brien ASDU)
- Residue analysis (ASDU)
- Radio carbon dating (ASDU/SUERRC)
- Any other analysis identified as necessary during the fieldwork or post excavation work

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 (2014c) 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.

10.2 Site Archive

10.2.1 The final location for the site archive (Co. Durham Archaeological Archives') will be agreed when it is ready for deposition.

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

10.2.3 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.

10.3 Report

10.3.1 The HER requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in PDF/A compliant format) of the report.

10.3.2 The report will include the following as a minimum:

Each page and paragraph will be numbered within the report and illustrations cross referenced within the text.

The report will include the following as a minimum:

- OASIS reference numbers and an 8 figure grid reference
- The nature and extent of the proposed development and client information
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- A location plan showing trench locations within the site. 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 Historic Environment 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

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

10.3.5 Post-Excavation Assessment Report

10.3.6 Should a significant archaeological site be located a post-excavation assessment report will include all the information necessary to make decisions about the future direction of the project in line with Historic England's Guidelines on the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015). The report will be submitted to the Durham County Archaeologist for comment and approval prior to any further analysis or publication work commencing.

10.3.7 This document will be submitted within six months of the end of fieldwork unless previously agreed with all relevant parties.

10.3.8 The archaeological contractor will submit an updated specification for full analysis and publication in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. An appropriate level of publication will then be agreed with Durham County Archaeologist and will be prepared in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. A short report of the work will be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

10.4 OASIS

10.4.1 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.

10.4.2 The archaeological contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. A pdf copy of the report will be uploaded to Oasis within 3 months of its production.

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Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

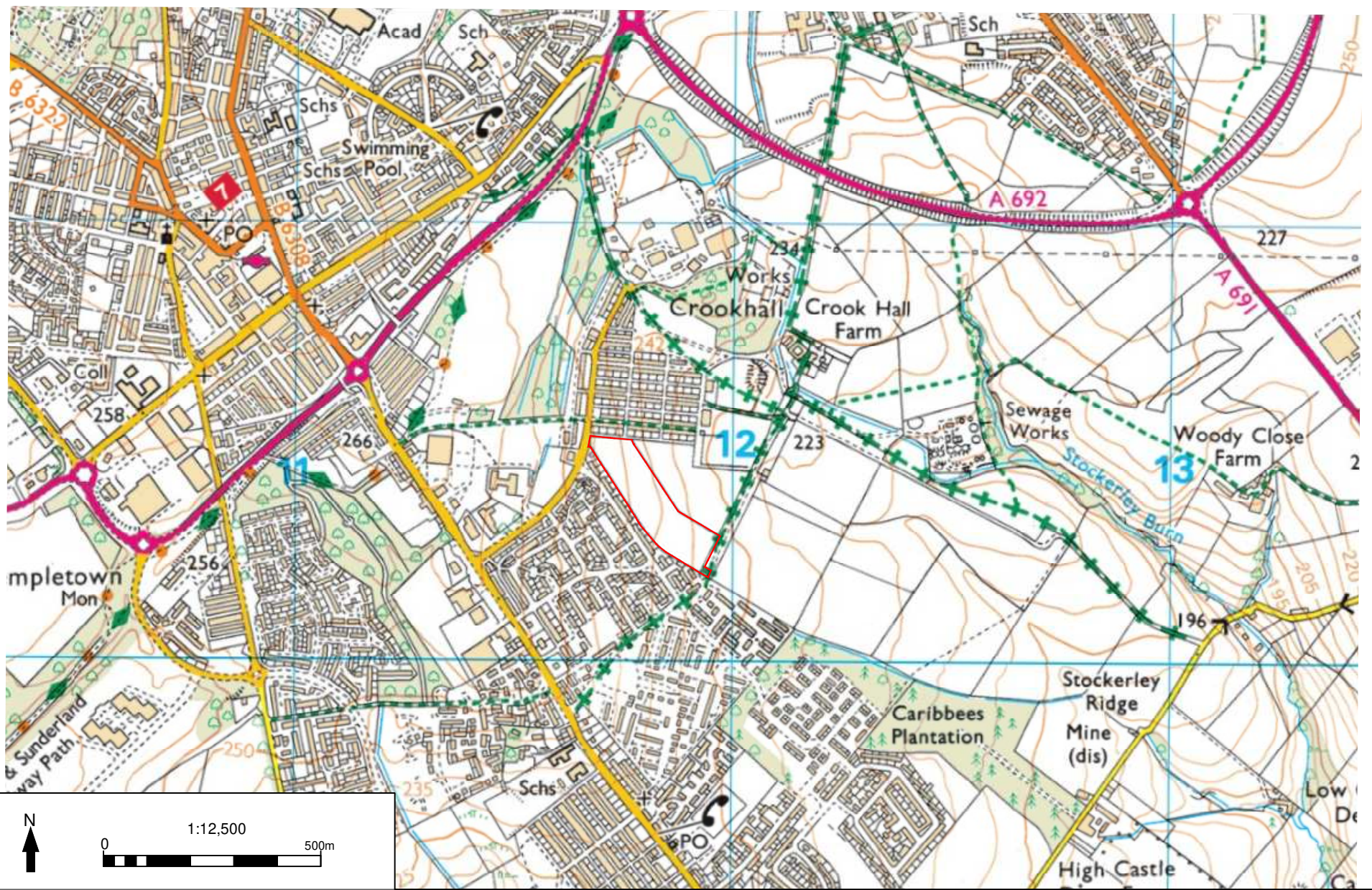
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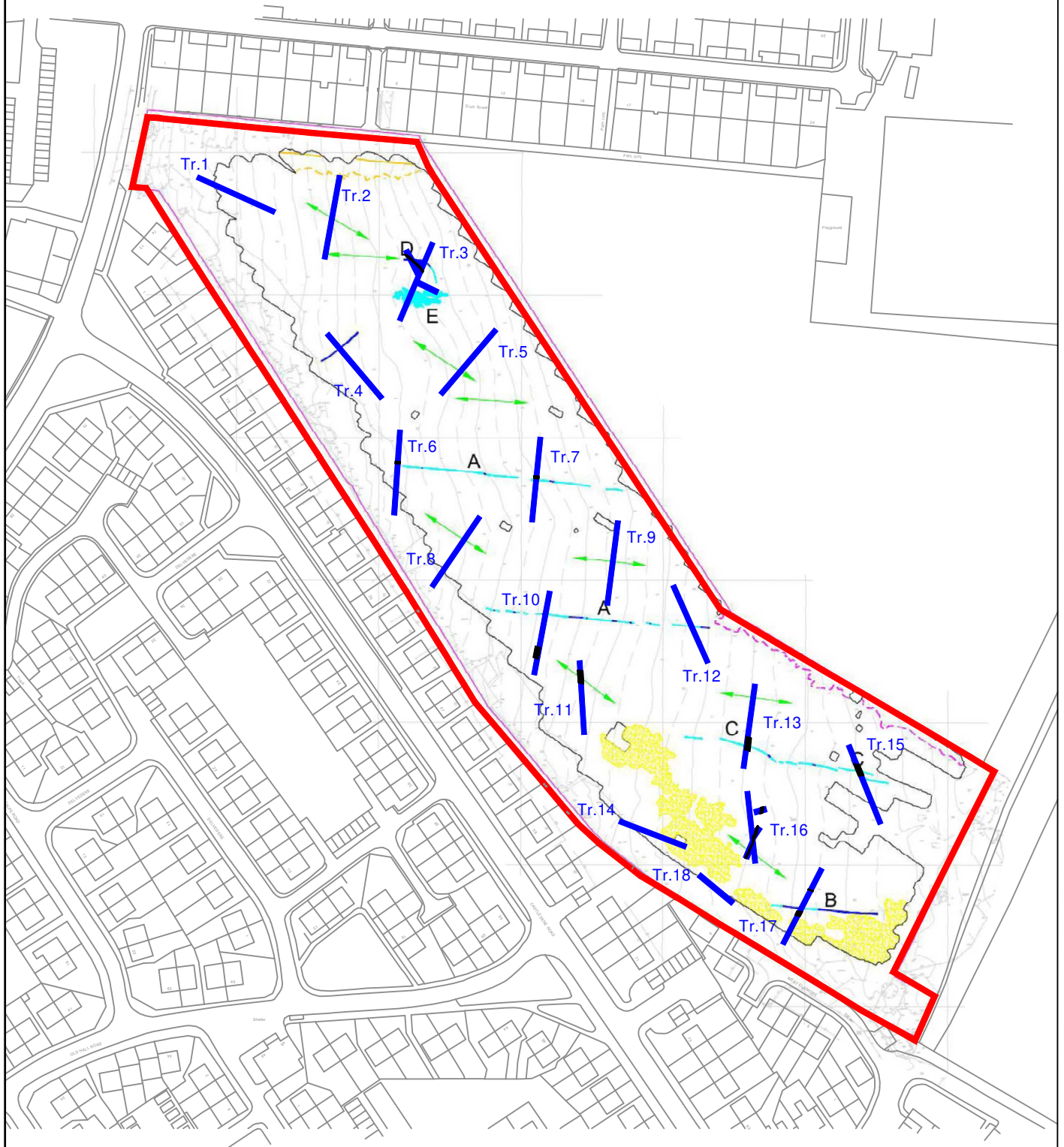
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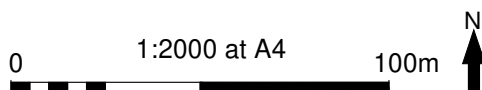
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Figure 1: General location of site





Geophysical survey
 undertaken by Phase Site
 Investigations Ltd, 2016.



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Figure 2: Trench location plan showing geophysical survey interpretation



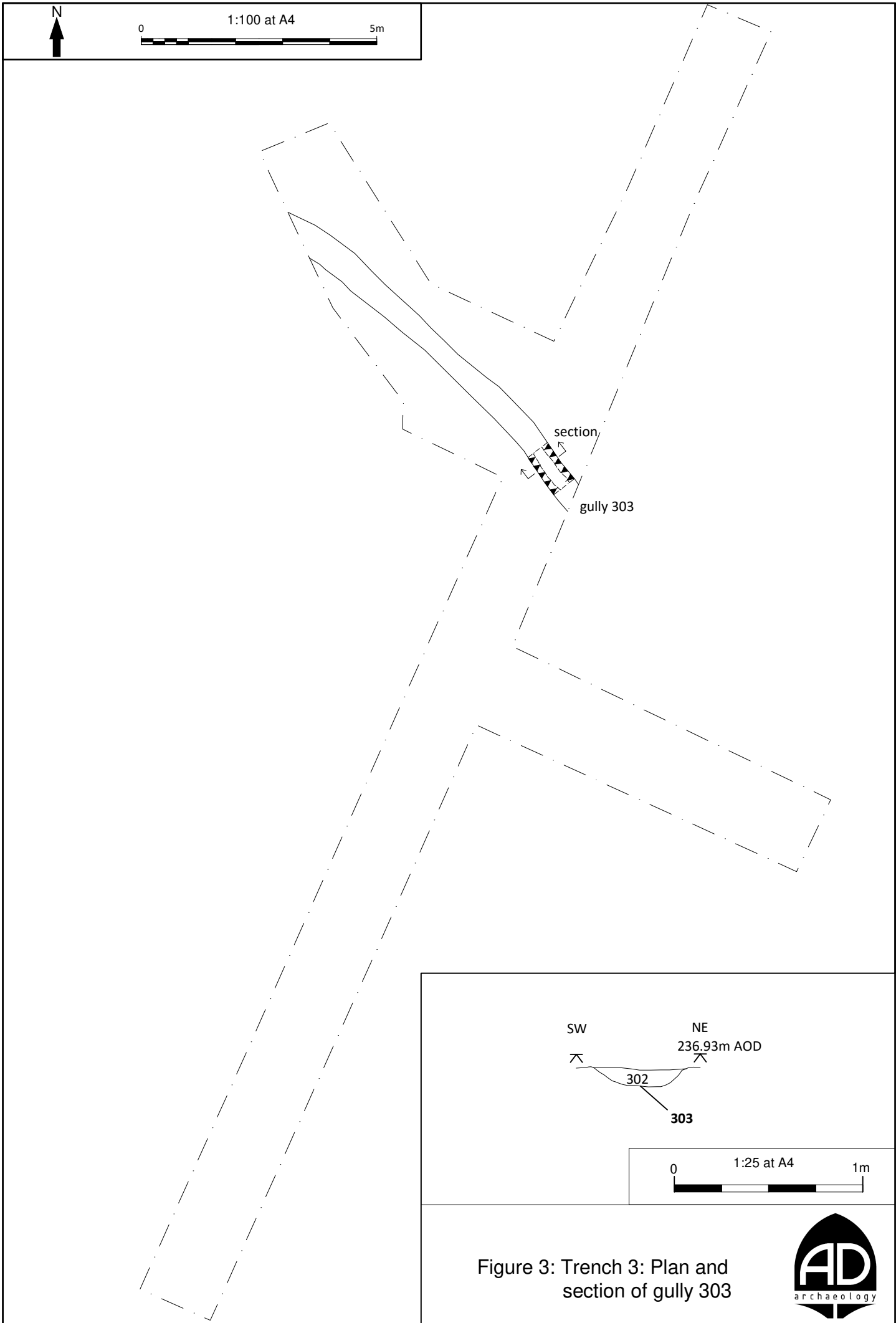
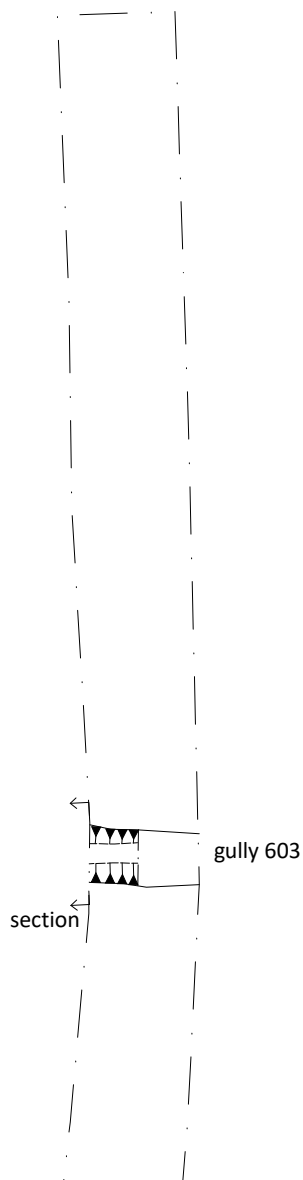


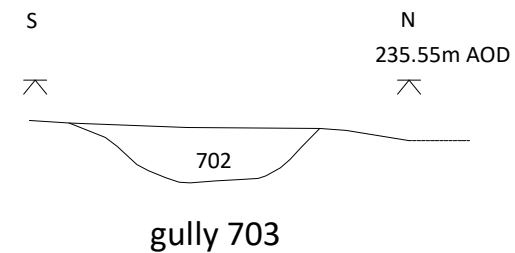
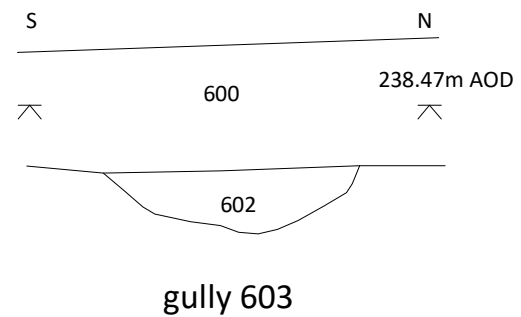
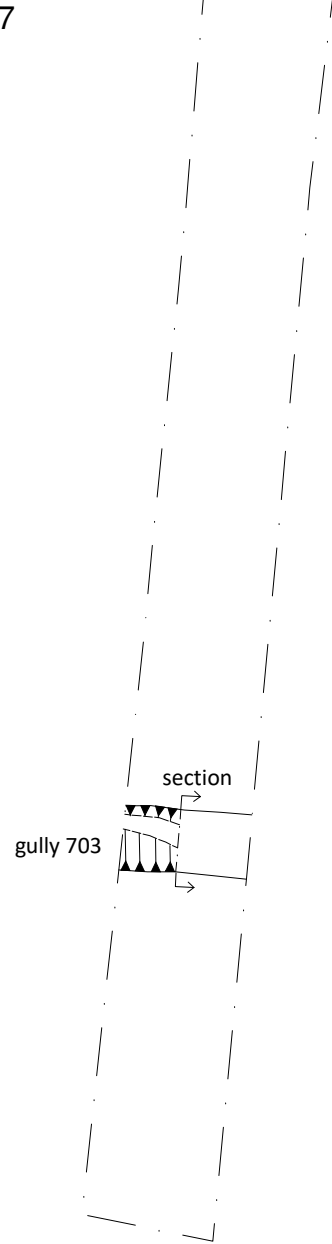
Figure 3: Trench 3: Plan and section of gully 303



Trench 6



Trench 7



0 1:100 at A4 5m

0 1:25 at A4 1m

Figure 4: Trench 6: Plan and section of gully 603
Trench 7: Plan and section of gully 703

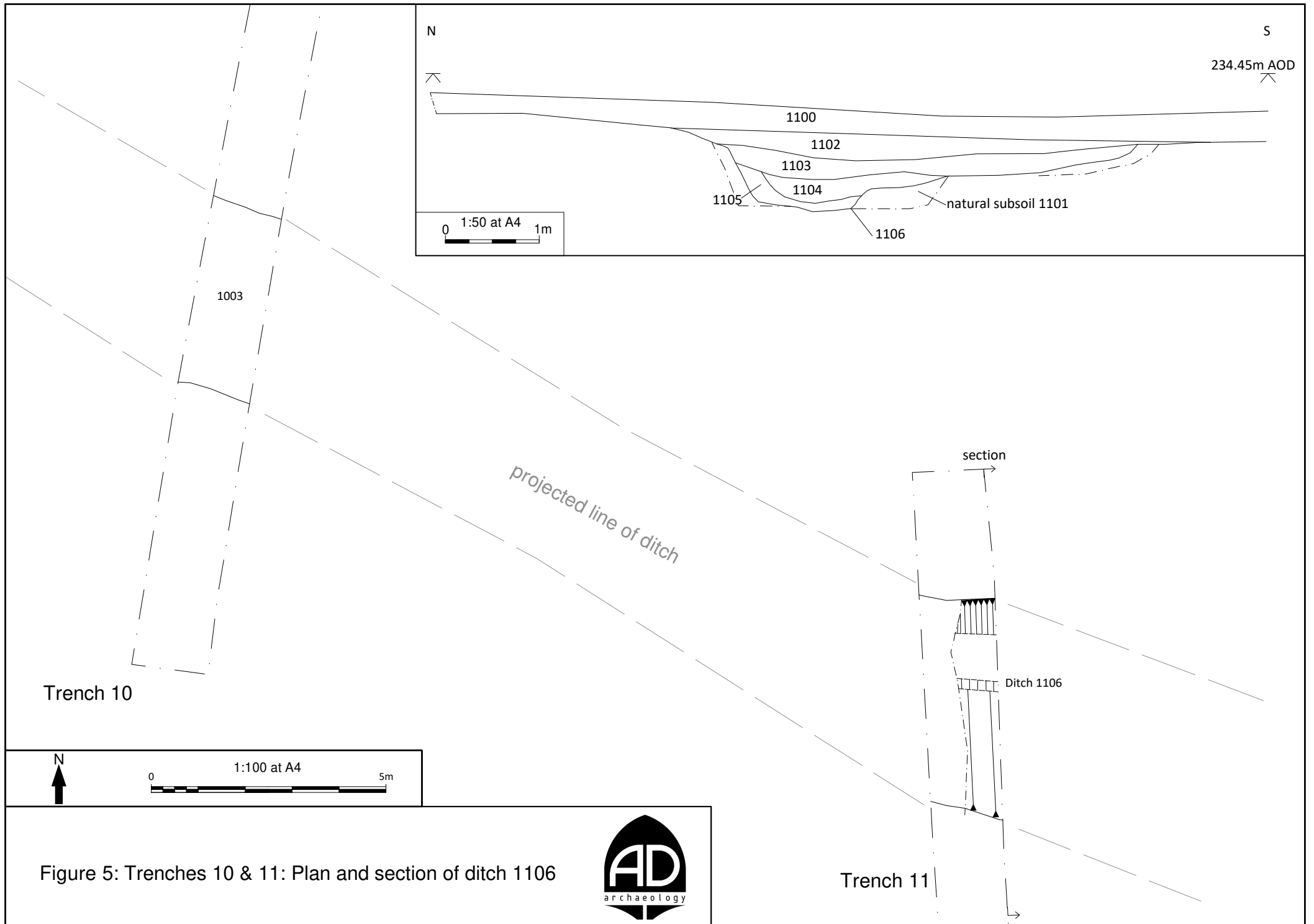


Figure 5: Trenches 10 & 11: Plan and section of ditch 1106



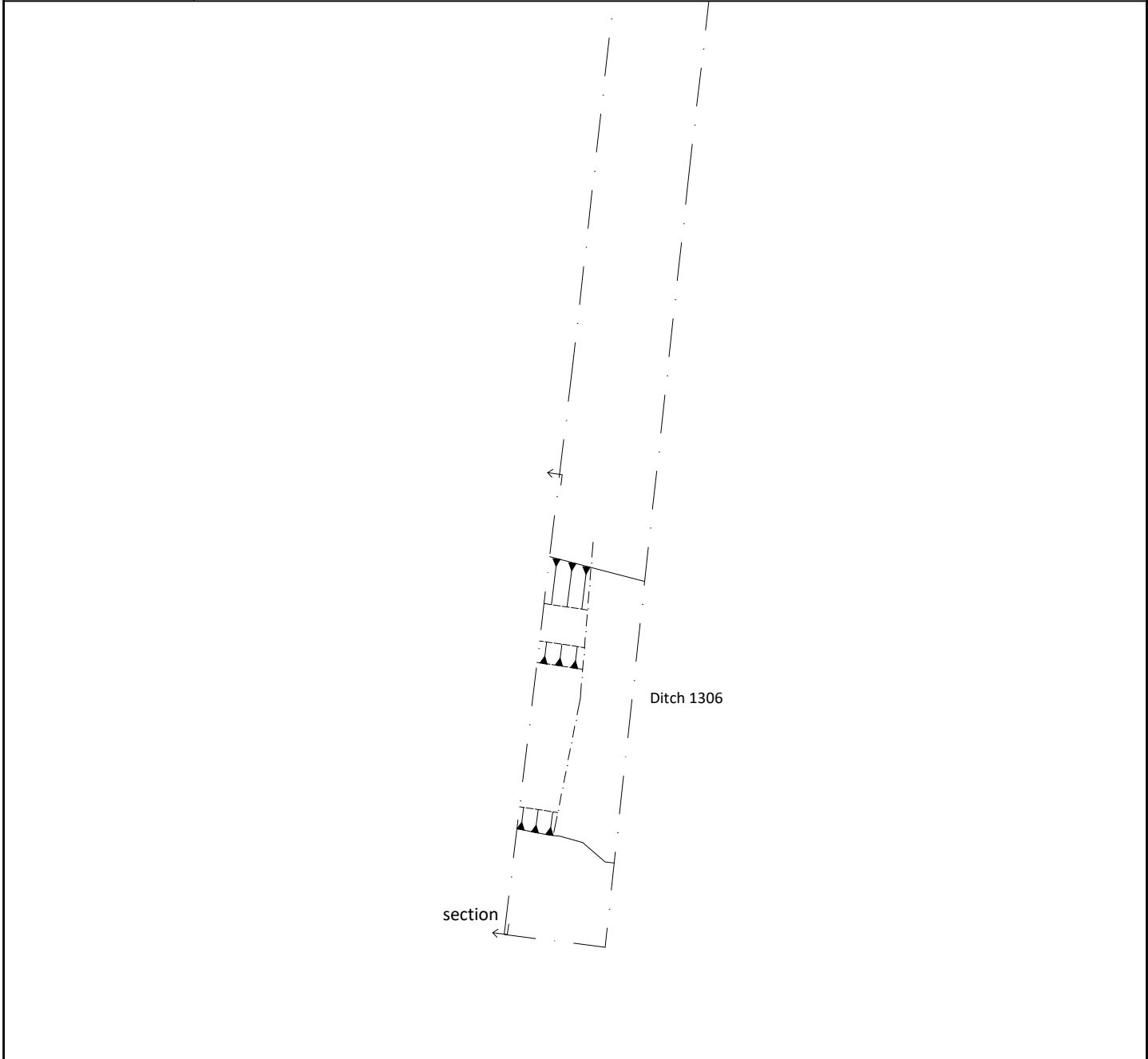
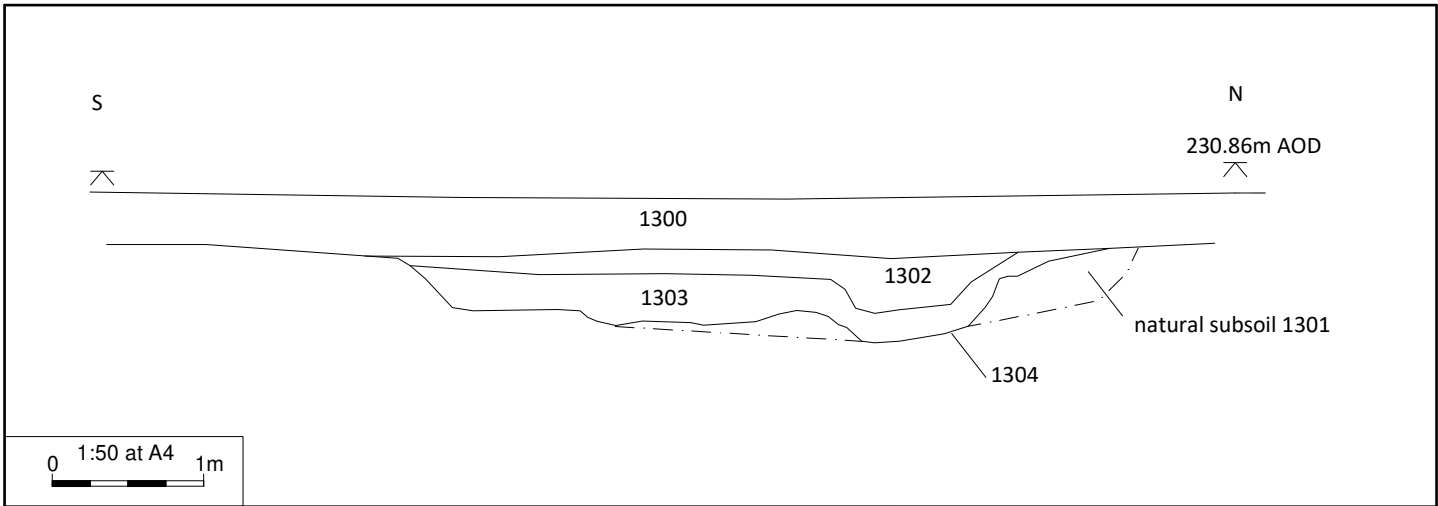
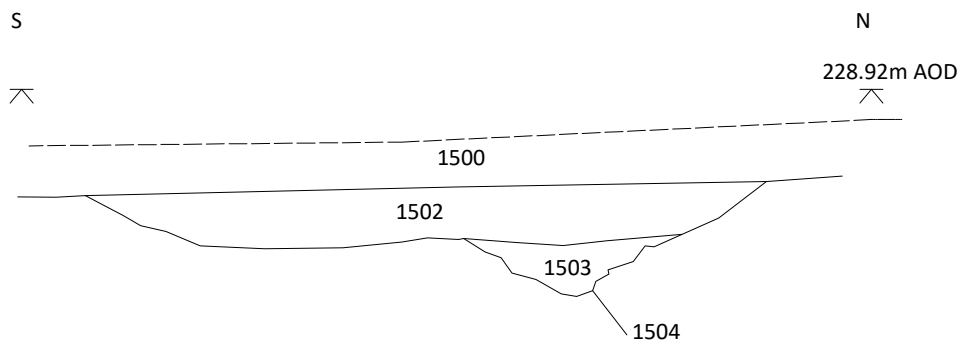
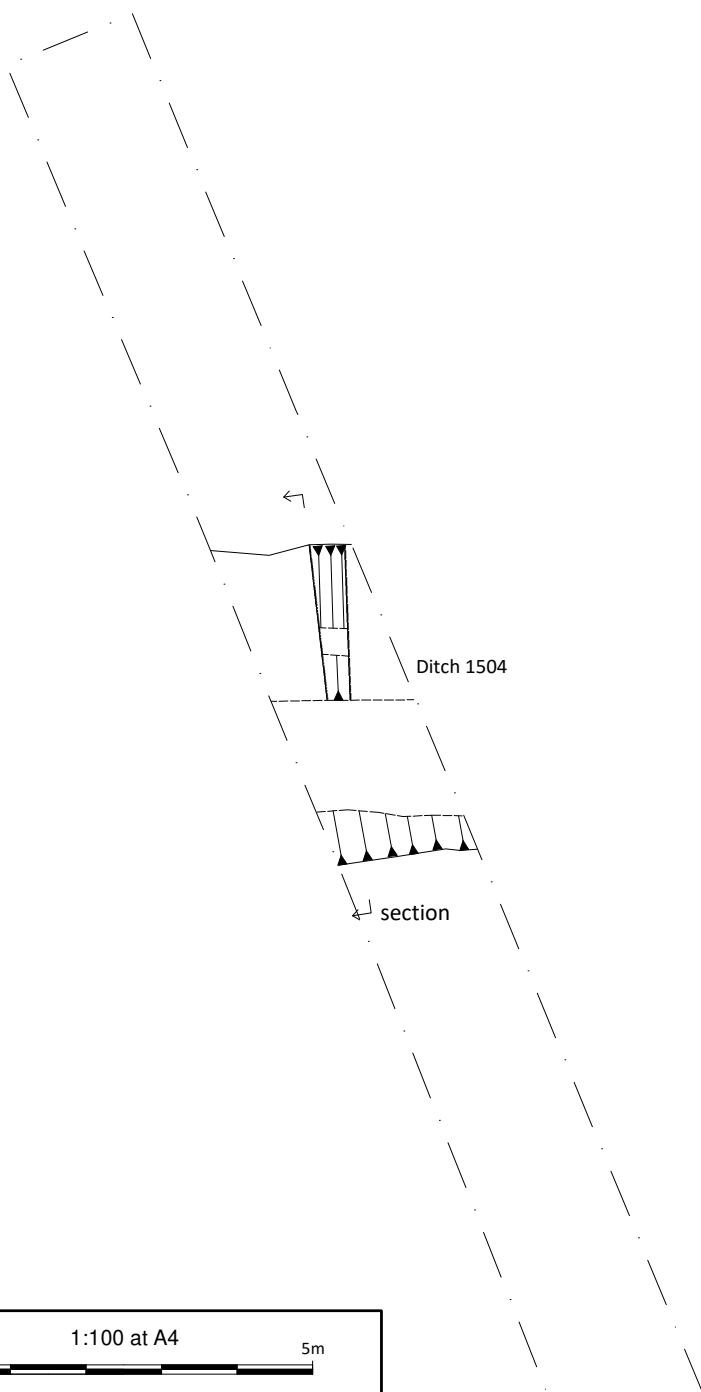


Figure 6: Trench 13: Plan and section of ditch 1304





0 1:50 at A4 1m



0 1:100 at A4 5m

Figure 7: Trench 15: Plan and section of ditch 1504



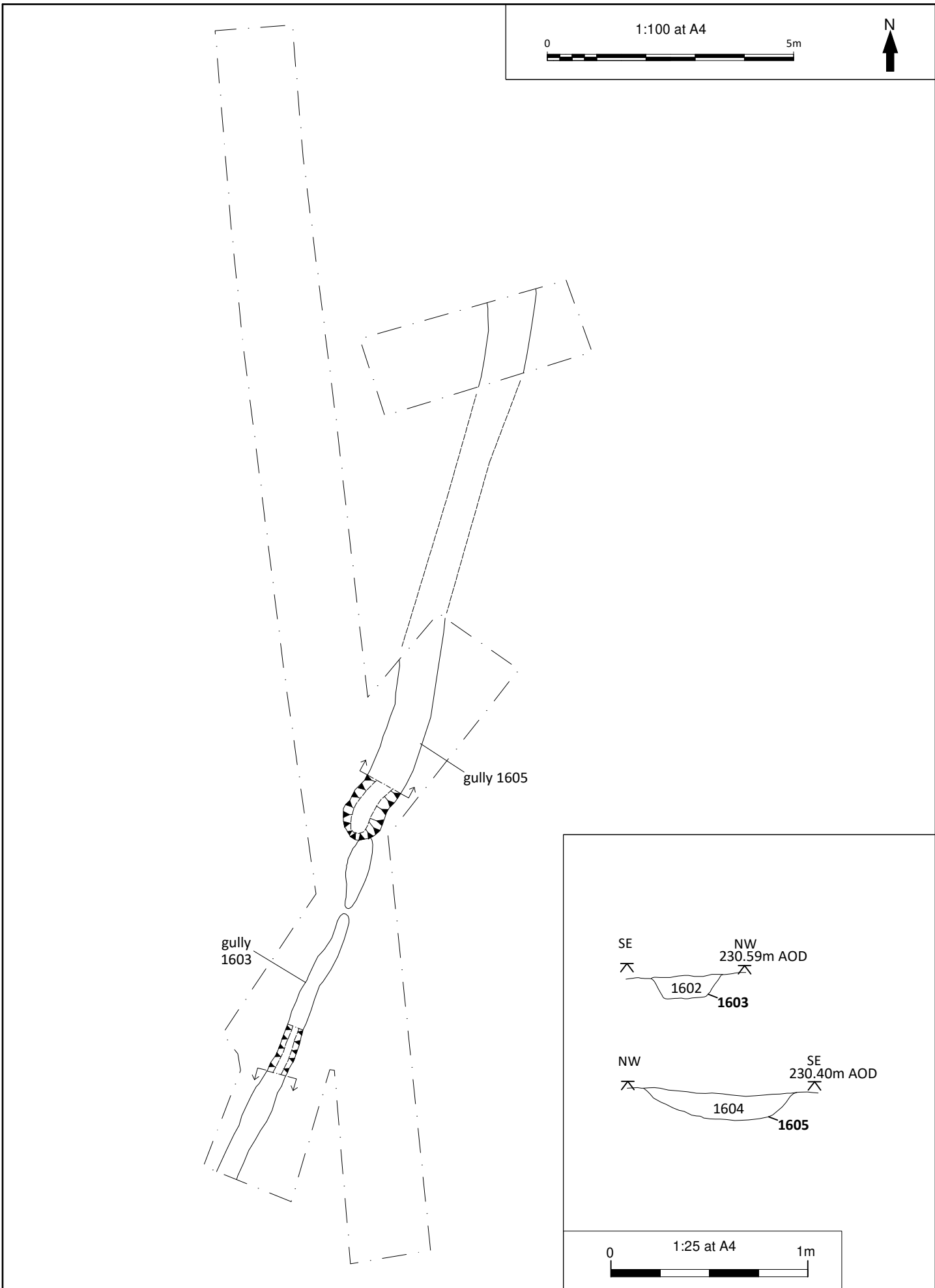


Figure 8: Trench 16: Plan and sections

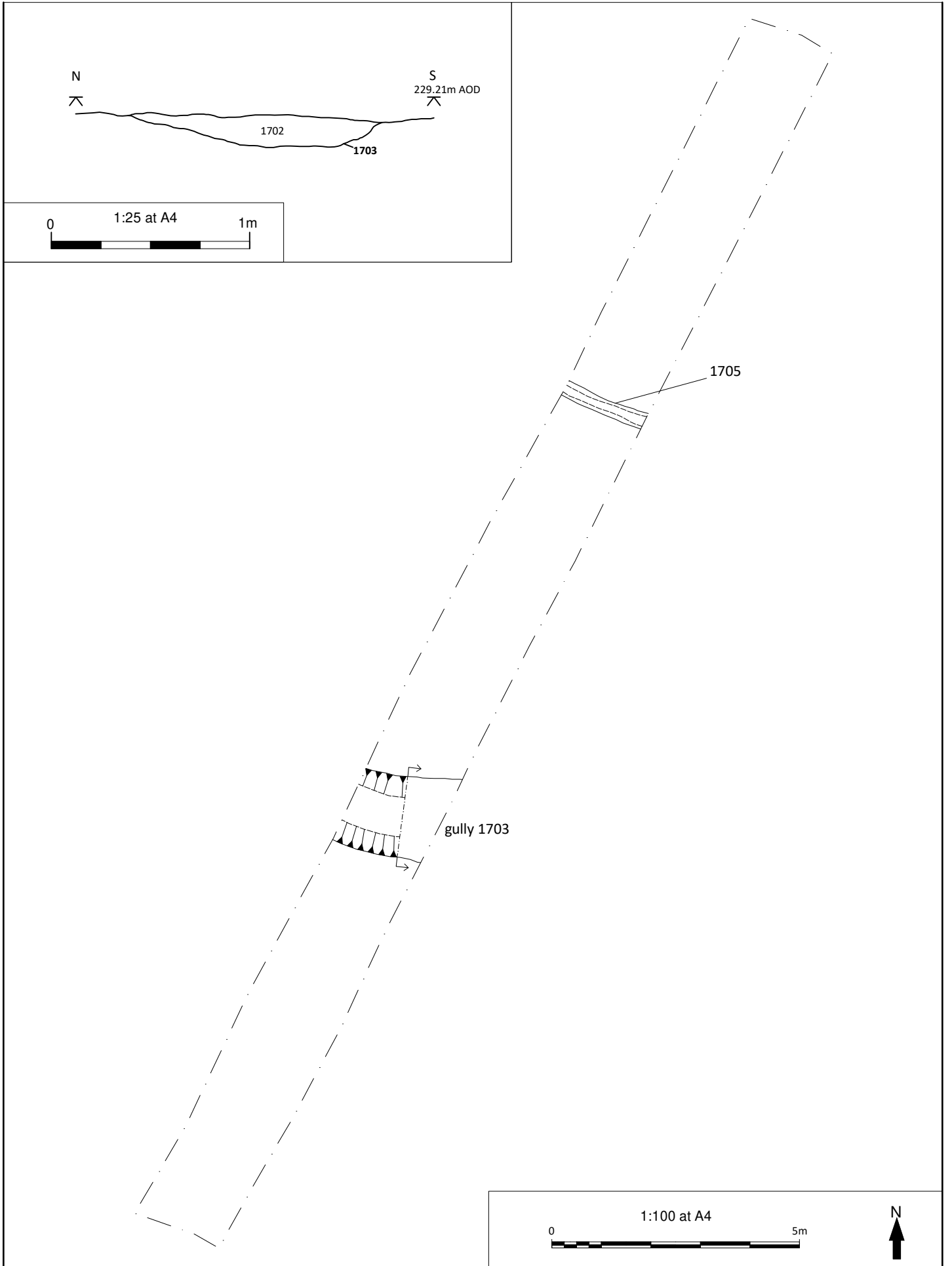
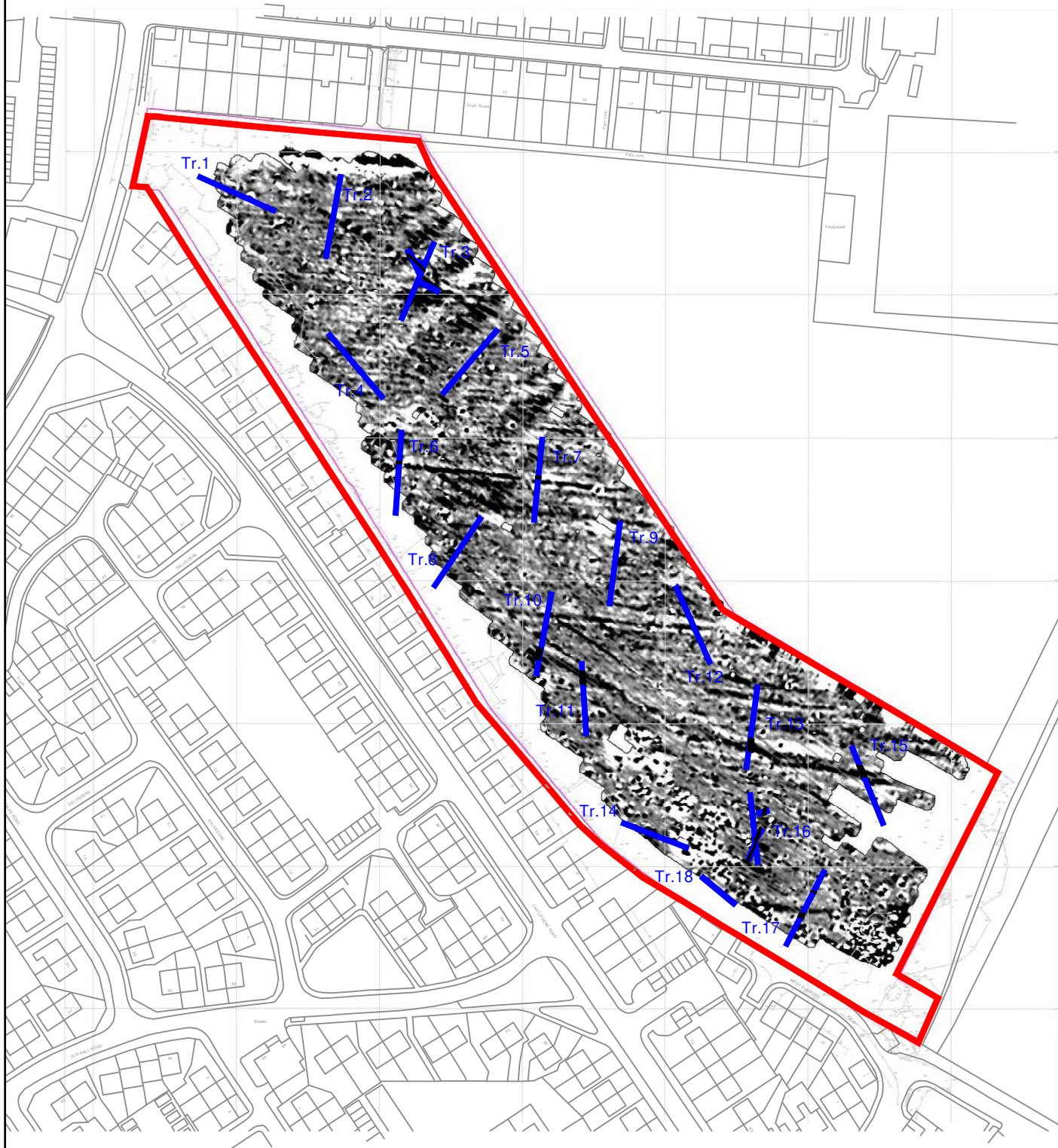
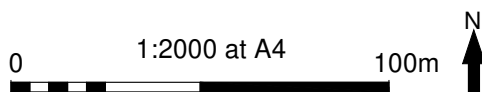


Figure 9: Trench 17: Plan and section



Geophysical survey
 undertaken by Phase Site
 Investigations Ltd, 2016.



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Figure 10: Trench location plan showing greyscale plot of geophysical survey results

