



making sense of heritage

Land off Langton Road, Norton-On-Derwent North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 108240.01
April 2015



**Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent,
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

Summary.....	v
Acknowledgements.....	vi
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 The Site.....	1
1.3 Topography.....	1
1.4 Geology.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Summary.....	2
2.3 Geophysical survey results	2
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	2
3.1 General	2
3.2 Specific	2
4 METHODOLOGY.....	3
4.1 General	3
4.2 Machine excavation	3
4.3 Sample excavation and recording.....	3
4.4 Recording.....	3
4.5 Finds	4
4.6 Environmental samples.....	4
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	4
5.1 Introduction	4
5.2 General stratigraphy.....	4
5.3 Upper Terrace	4
5.4 Lower Terrace	5
5.5 Palaeochannels.....	5
6 FINDS	5
6.1 Summary.....	5
6.2 Pottery.....	6
<i>Romano-British</i>	6
<i>Medieval</i>	6
6.3 Animal Bone.....	6
6.4 Other Finds	6
7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	7
7.1 Introduction	7



7.2	Charred plant remains and wood charcoal	7
8	DISCUSSION	9
8.1	Summary.....	9
9	STORAGE AND CURATION	10
9.1	Museum	10
9.2	Archive	10
9.3	Discard policy.....	10
9.4	Security copy	11
10	REFERENCES	12
10.1	Bibliography	12
10.2	Online sources	13
11	APPENDICES	14
11.1	Appendix 1: Context Descriptions.....	14
11.2	Appendix 2: Environmental Data.....	18
11.3	Appendix 3: OASIS Form.....	20

Tables

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Figures

Figure 1 Site location and plan
Figure 2 Plan of **Trench 1** and section of ditches **104** and **106**
Figure 3 Plan of **Trench 2** and sections of ditches **204** and **206**
Figure 4 Plan of **Trench 3** and sections of gullies **303**, **305**, **307** and **309**
Figure 5 Plan of **Trench 5** and sections of ditch **503**, gully **505**, posthole **507** and ditch **509**
Figure 6 Plan of **Trench 9** and sections of gully **904** and ditch **906**
Figure 7 Plan of **Trench 4** and section of ditch **404**
Figure 8 Plan of **Trench 7** and section of ditch **704**
Figure 9 Plan of **Trench 8** and section of ditch **803**
Figure 10 Plan of **Trench 6** showing paleochannel **602**, and Plan of **Trench 10** showing paleochannel **1005**

Plates

Front Cover Landscape shot
Plate 1 Ditches **104** and **106** from east
Plate 2 Ditch **204** from northwest
Plate 3 Ditch **206** from northwest
Plate 4 Gullies **303** and **305** from southeast
Plate 5 Gullies **307** and **309** from southeast
Plate 6 Ditch **503** from northeast
Plate 7 Gully **505** from north
Plate 8 Posthole **507** from north
Plate 9 Ditch **509** from southwest
Plate 10 Ditch **904** from east
Plate 11 Gully **906** from west
Plate 12 Ditch **404** from southeast
Plate 13 Ditch **704** from northeast
Plate 14 Ditch **803** from east



Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of evaluation trenching on land located at Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire (centred on NGR SE 79654 70375), to inform an outline planning application for residential development.

The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015) and a geophysical survey (GSB 2015), which demonstrated good potential for archaeological features being present on the site. A Method Statement (Wessex Archaeology 2015) for the evaluation was prepared prior to groundworks commencing.

The evaluation results appear to indicate there are two phases of archaeological activity represented on the site with the focus of Romano-British activity on the lower terrace (**Trenches 7 and 8**) and medieval activity on the upper terrace (**Trenches 1-9**). The artefacts recovered included Romano-British (2nd to 3rd century AD) and medieval ceramics (primarily 12th to 14th century), animal bone (cattle, sheep, horse, dog and pig), and small quantities of fired clay, ironworking slag and ceramic building material (CBM). Informative environmental evidence was present in features from both phases; the crop types represented are typical of the Romano-British and medieval periods in England, and there is potential evidence in the plant assemblage for the use of turves as fuel in the earlier Romano-British phase.

The results of the archaeological trial trenching correlated reasonably well with the geophysical survey results (GSB 2015) although not all anomalies were seen in the ground and additional features were present in some trenches. Archaeology was largely confined to the northeast of site, that is, in the area of the upper terrace. This substantiates the results of the geophysical survey, which shows a high density of archaeology on the upper terrace. A lower density of features was seen on the lower terrace. The interpretation of the geophysics report which suggested that small scale industrial activity may have taken place on the lower terrace was not substantiated; the only slag recovered from the site was from the north-eastern end of **Trench 4** in a medieval context. Large palaeochannels were present on the lower terrace in **Trenches 4, 6 and 10** which may account for some of the anomalies in this area.

The general absence of structural features, only a single posthole was observed, may suggest that the focus of settlement during the Roman and medieval periods lies in the wider vicinity of the site. The absence of pits and post-holes and the relatively low quantity of ceramics and finds recovered do not appear to substantiate the presence of a Deserted Medieval Settlement as recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER). The trackway indicated by historic mapping and geophysical survey appears to be defined by sections of ditches on either side (**Trenches 1, 2 and 9**), rather than being a sunken holloway. This trackway likely led to the former Sutton Grange.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 108240. The archive will be deposited with York Museums Trust under an accession number to be determined. An OASIS form, number **wessexar1-207580** will be completed at the time of deposition.



Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of evaluation trenching on land located at Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire (hereafter the 'Site', centred on NGR SE 79654 70375) to inform an outline application for residential development.
- 1.1.2 The Site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA, CgMs 2015) and a geophysical survey (GSB 2015), which demonstrated good potential for archaeological features being present on the Site. A programme of archaeological evaluation trenching was designed by CgMs Consulting to confirm the presence, nature and date of the geophysical anomalies.
- 1.1.3 A method statement (Wessex Archaeology 2015) for the evaluation was prepared and submitted to the Client and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) for information prior to work commencing. All work was carried out in accordance with the method statement (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and current industry guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-d).

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site consists of set-aside approximately 3.5 hectares in area on the southern outskirts of Norton-on-Derwent, approximately 2km southeast of Malton. The Site is bounded to the northeast by Langton Road, to the southwest by Mill Beck and to the west by Sutton Grange (**Figure 1**).

1.3 Topography

- 1.3.1 The Site is terraced with two relatively flat areas separated by a slight downward slope to the southwest, running through the centre of the field, parallel to Mill Beck. The Site is situated at approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.4 Geology

- 1.4.1 The bedrock is recorded as undifferentiated Jurassic sedimentary deposits of the Amptill Clay and Kimmeridge Clay formations. The upper terrace has superficial deposits of undated sand and gravel while the lower terrace has a cover of alluvium (British Geological Survey viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is summarised from the DBA (CgMs 2015) and geophysical survey report (GSB 2015).

2.2 Summary

2.2.1 Towards the northern limit of the Site, historic mapping shows “old foundations” which lie adjacent to a linear feature labelled as “Old Trackway” curving through the field; the latter may be part of a medieval deserted settlement recorded in the HER (MNY 2987). Malton is on the site of Derventio, a Romano-British settlement, and subsequently numerous HER records refer to Roman findspots and features right across Malton and Norton. There are also records pertaining to Iron Age remains in relatively close proximity to the Site.

2.2.2 Previous evaluation of the northern section of the Site however, uncovered only natural sands and gravels in three trenches, and no archaeological finds, deposits or features (MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd 2013).

2.3 Geophysical survey results

2.3.1 Recent geophysical survey of the Site (GSB 2015) revealed probable evidence for settlement in the form of ditch and pit-like anomalies forming a series of enclosures, with activity concentrated towards the line of a trackway (marked on historic mapping) which the enclosures appear to respect. This pattern of response correlated with the HER records for a medieval deserted settlement, however Romano-British roadside and ladder-type settlements can also produce a similar pattern of magnetic response and the possibility of the Site being multi-phased could not be ruled out. The settlement appeared to be confined to the higher flat ground on the river terrace. However there were some very strong responses across the lower area of the Site which it was thought could potentially represent industrial activity on the periphery of the settlement.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- *to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
- *to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for additional archaeological mitigation; and,*
- *to make available the results of the work.*

3.2 Specific

3.2.1 A specific aims of the project was:

- *to identify the nature of the geophysical anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.*



4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 10 trenches, each 30m in length (**Figure 1**). All trenches were located to target geophysical anomalies.

4.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the method statement (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and current industry guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-d).

4.2 Machine excavation

4.2.1 The location of all trenches was scanned using a CAT to check for uncharted services.

4.2.2 Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately at a safe distance from the edge of the trench (1m minimum).

4.2.3 All spoil was scanned with a metal detector for artefacts, although no material was recovered using this technique.

4.3 Sample excavation and recording

4.3.1 Surfaces were cleaned to allow inspection and to define the extent of archaeological features and deposits. Archaeological features were hand excavated but the complete excavation of all features was not regarded as necessary for the evaluation. Excavation was sufficient to characterise the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of surviving archaeological remains as well as dating key archaeological features.

4.3.2 Written and drawn records were made of the stratigraphy within the trench, even if no archaeological deposits were identified. Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts were made in accordance with best archaeological practice. Archaeological deposits that were not excavated were recorded to the maximum extent possible.

4.3.3 Records include overall Site plans. All archaeological features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum and to the National Grid. Survey was undertaken using an RTK GPS system.

4.4 Recording

4.4.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. This written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and is cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Context numbers used in the evaluation were not repeated.

4.4.2 Each excavated context appears on at least one detailed plan at 1:50 or 1:20 scale and one section at 1:10 and co-ordinated to the overall Site plan. A full photographic record was maintained consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features.



4.5 Finds

- 4.5.1 All finds were treated in accordance with relevant industry guidance (Watkinson and Neal 1998; English Heritage 2005). All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained (except unstratified modern material) and taken to Wessex Archaeology offices in Sheffield for further work. No finds from excavated contexts were discarded.

4.6 Environmental samples

- 4.6.1 All sealed and stratified archaeological contexts were considered for standard environmental sampling. Bulk soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011). More detail is provided in **Section 7** below.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions within each trench contained in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 General stratigraphy

- 5.2.1 The trenches on the upper terrace (**Trenches 1-5** and **9**) had a natural geological substrate of yellow brown sand with gravel (e.g. **103**). The trenches on the lower terrace (**Trenches 6-8**) had a natural geological substrate of white chalk gravel (e.g. **603**). The natural in **Trench 10** was different: grey clay loam with yellow and white streaks and 50% gravel (**1006**). Subsoil was variable in texture and colour and present in six out of 10 trenches, between 0.2 and 0.5m deep. Topsoil was variable in texture and between 0.3 and 0.5m deep.

5.3 Upper Terrace

- 5.3.1 Two intercutting east-west aligned ditches were excavated in **Trench 1 (Figure 2, Plate 1)** correlating roughly with a linear geophysical anomaly (GSB 2015). The earliest feature, **104**, was 1.85m wide and 0.6m deep, with the fill (**105**) containing medieval pottery and animal bone (see **Section 6** below). Ditch **104** was cut by ditch **106**, 0.75m wide and 0.7m deep with a very flat base. Ditch **106** was filled with a similar fill (**107**) to ditch **104**, but contained no finds.
- 5.3.2 Two separate, parallel northwest-southeast aligned ditches were excavated in **Trench 2 (Figure 3)** correlating linear geophysical anomalies (GSB 2015). Ditch **204 (Plate 2)** was 1.74m wide and 0.52m deep, with the fill (**205**) containing medieval pottery and animal bone (see **Section 6** below). Ditch **206 (Plate 3)** was 3.8m wide and 0.43m deep, with the fill (**207**) containing medieval pottery and animal bone (see **Section 6** below).
- 5.3.3 Four parallel northwest-southeast gullies were present in **Trench 3 (Figure 4, Plates 4 and 5)** correlating with linear geophysical anomalies (GSB 2015). These features (**303, 305, 307** and **309**) were between 0.5m and 0.55m wide (except **307** which was 0.97m wide) and 0.1m and 0.25m deep; no finds were recovered from the respective fills (**306, 308, 310** and **312**).



- 5.3.4 A north-west to south-east ditch at the north-east end of **Trench 4 (404, Figure 7, Plate 12)** was 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep and correlated with a linear geophysical survey anomaly (GSB 2015). The fill (**405**) contained medieval pottery and a small number of fragments of ironworking slag (see **Section 6** below).
- 5.3.5 **Trench 5** contained three linear features and a single posthole (**Figure 5**) partially correlating with the geophysical survey results (GSB 2015). Ditch **503 (Plate 6)** was northeast-southwest aligned, 0.79m wide and 0.29m deep. The fill (**504**) contained medieval pottery and animal bone (see **Section 6** below). North-south gully **505 (Plate 7)** was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. The fill (**506**) contained medieval pottery (see **Section 6** below). An isolated posthole, 0.3m in diameter and 0.25m deep (**507, Plate 8**), lay to the west. The fill (**508**) of the post-hole contained no finds. Northeast-southwest ditch **509 (Plate 9)** was 1m wide and 0.15m deep. The fill (**510**) contained animal bone.
- 5.3.6 Two linear features were seen in Trench 9 partially correlating with geophysical survey anomalies (GSB 2015). Gully 904 in Trench 9 (Figure 6, Plate 10) was northeast-southwest aligned, 0.9m wide and 0.27m deep. The fill (905) contained medieval ceramic. Ditch 906 (Figure 6, Plate 11) was northwest-southeast aligned, 1.24m wide and 0.58m deep. The fill (907) of the ditch contained medieval pottery (see **Section 6** below).

5.4 Lower Terrace

- 5.4.1 **Trench 7** had two linear features (**704** and **707, Figure 8**) roughly correlating with geophysical survey anomalies (GSB 2015). Ditch **704 (Plate 13)**, ran northeast-southwest and was 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep with two fills. The lower fill (**705**) contained animal bone. The overlying fill **706** contained burnt animal bone and Romano-British pottery (see **Section 6** below). Feature **707** ran northeast-southwest and also contained Romano-British pottery (**708**; see **Section 6** below).
- 5.4.2 **Trench 8** had a northwest-southeast ditch (**803, Figure 9, Plate 14**) 1m wide and 0.3m deep, which correlated with a geophysical survey anomaly (GSB 2015). The fill (**804**) of the ditch contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone (see **Section 6** below).

5.5 Palaeochannels

Palaeochannels probably relating to former routes and tributaries of the Mill Beck were seen on the lower terrace in **Trenches 4, 6** and **10**. It is likely that the meandering of the Mill Beck is responsible for the terracing on Site. The palaeochannel in **Trench 4 (Figure 7)** covered much of the trench and had an organic fill (**406**); the feature was located at approximately the limit of the lower terrace. The palaeochannel in **Trench 6 (Figure 10)** also covered most of the trench and had organic material in its fill (**602**). **Trench 10** had deep stratigraphy interpreted as the fills (**1005, 1004** and **1003**) of a palaeochannel occupying much of the trench (**Figure 10**). The natural in **Trench 10 (1006)** was seen at a minimum depth of 0.68m below ground level (bgl).

6 FINDS

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage in a very restricted range of material types, consisting largely of pottery and animal bone. The assemblage ranges in date from Romano-British to Post-medieval.



6.1.2 Finds derived from contexts (nearly all from stratified feature fills, with some unstratified items) in eight of the trenches excavated - no finds were recovered from **Trenches 6** or **10**. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are summarised in **Table 1**.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. Of the 59 sherds recovered, 32 are Romano-British and 27 medieval.

Romano-British

6.2.2 Romano-British sherds came from three contexts in **Trenches 7** and **8**: ditch **704** (fill **706**), feature **707** (fill **708**) and ditch **803** (fill **804**). One sherd from a Dressel 20 amphora (ditch **704**) is the only imported ware. Apart from one small, abraded sherd of Nene Valley colour coated ware (ditch **803**), all of the remaining sherds are in British coarsewares, mostly greywares with one sherd from a mortarium in an orange-brown sandy fabric with trituration grits of mixed black and red-brown slag, possibly a Cantley product (ditch **803**). There are also five sherds (one from ditch **704** and four from ditch **803**) in coarse, handmade, limestone-tempered fabrics, probably marking a post-conquest continuation of an indigenous Iron Age tradition. Vessel forms seen in the greywares include one everted rim jar, and three flanged or lipped bowls. Fabrics and forms suggest a date range of 2nd to 3rd centuries AD.

Medieval

6.2.3 Medieval sherds were recovered from **Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5** and **9**. Apart from one sherd in a gritty ware (ditch **404**), all sherds are in fine- to medium-grained sandy fabrics, mostly pale-firing, and some with rare limestone inclusions. Six sherds are glazed. Diagnostic sherds include two jar rims; the glazed sherds are likely to derive from jugs.

6.2.4 The gritty ware, part of a widespread northern tradition, has a date range of late 11th to early 13th century, while the other wares have a probable date range between 12th and early 14th centuries.

6.3 Animal Bone

6.3.1 The bone is mostly in relatively good condition (although suffering a few recent breaks), with just a few pieces showing signs of abrasion (for example, some horn core fragments from ditch **204**, too abraded for species to be determined). A few bones from ditch **704** are burnt.

6.3.2 Identifiable species include cattle, sheep, horse, dog and pig). Body parts for cattle and sheep focus on the meat-bearing bones rather than primary butchery waste.

6.4 Other Finds

6.4.1 Other Finds comprise very small quantities of ceramic building material (post-medieval brick and roof tile fragments, most of which were found unstratified); fired clay (including one piece with a wattle impression from ditch **503**); and slag (ironworking residues).

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Pottery	Other Finds
105	5/122	3/29	
205	4/7	2/54	



207	7/71	3/96	
306	1/37		
308	5/45		
405		1/9	4 slag; 1 fired clay
504	4/299	1/1	1 CBM; 1 fired clay
506		6/96	
510	3/5		
705	7/47		
706	10/136	6/220	
708		1/26	
804	1/4	25/368	
905		8/190	
907		2/20	
unstrat.		1/13	3 CBM
TOTAL	47/773	59/1122	

CBM = ceramic building material

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Five bulk samples, of between twenty and thirty litres in volume were taken from medieval ditch fill **405**, undated palaeochannel fill **602**, Romano-British ditch fill **706**, medieval ditch fill **207** and medieval ditch fill **504**. The samples were taken in order to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples were processed and assessed for the recovery of charred plant remains and wood charcoal in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (Jones 2011).

7.2 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

7.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected in a 300µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flot and heavy residue were air dried. The residues were scanned for metallurgical debris such as hammer scale, using a large magnet and the > 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was fully sorted for organic remains and artefacts, weighed and then discarded. Where no potential for the recovery of < 2mm artefacts such as fish bone or beads was noted, the < 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was also then weighed and discarded. Where analysis of the molluscan assemblage present in a sample was recommended, the residues were retained in order that they be available for detailed sorting by a molluscan specialist. Bone fragments were also particularly abundant in sample 3 and so only the >2mm fraction was sorted for bone. The <2mm fraction was retained in order for further sorting to be carried out should the bone assemblage be selected for further analysis.

7.2.2 A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning using a stereo-binocular microscope (x10 - x65) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. This data is recorded in **Appendix 11.2** below. Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the reference collections at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and various reference works (e.g. Cappers *et al* 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).



- 7.2.3 Low proportions of intrusive roots were present in all of the samples. Charred cereal grains were present in every sample, although the cereal grains were generally poorly preserved, being puffed and distorted and lacking epidermis. Some of the cereal grains were however better preserved with epidermis intact and low levels of distortion. Wood charcoal was present in all of the samples with a particularly high density present in sample 3 from Roman ditch fill **706**. The wood charcoal fragments were generally well preserved.
- 7.2.4 Sample 1 from medieval ditch fill **405** contained a very low proportion of intrusive roots and just over fifty charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size which were of both diffuse and ring porous taxa. Less than thirty charred stems which were morphologically similar to heather (cf. *Calluna vulgaris*) were also present. Just over thirty charred cereal grains were present, largely consisting of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) some of which could be identified as the hulled variety, along with some indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and a single oat. Less than five wild or weed plant seeds were present including dock (*Rumex* sp.), vetch / pea (*Vicia* / *Lathyrus*) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*). Around thirty land snail shells (Mollusca) were present.
- 7.2.5 Sample 2 from undated paleochannel fill **602** contained a low proportion of intrusive roots and just less than fifty charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size which were of predominantly diffuse porous taxa. Less than ten charred stems which were morphologically similar to heather were also present. Just less than thirty charred cereal grains were present consisting largely of barley, some of which could be identified as the hulled variety, along with wheat some of which could be identified as the free threshing wheat type. One culm node was present. Over one hundred land snail shells (Mollusca) were present.
- 7.2.6 Sample 3 from Romano-British ditch fill **706** contained a low proportion of intrusive roots and over five hundred charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size which were of both diffuse and ring porous taxa. Over one hundred charred stems which were morphologically similar to heather were also present, along with more than ten charred tubers or rhizomes. Around twenty charred cereal grains were present, largely consisting of wheat, some of which could be identified as possible spelt wheat type (*Triticum* cf. *spelta*) along with barley some of which could be identified as the hulled variety. One large seeded legume, one culm node and two fragments of hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) were also present. Just over thirty wild or weed plant seeds were present, including various large and small seeded grasses along with sedges (*Carex* spp.), docks, bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and a number of other taxa which were not identified at this preliminary stage. Over one hundred land snail shells (Mollusca) were present along with over one hundred bone fragments, many of which were burnt.
- 7.2.7 Sample 4 from medieval ditch fill **207** contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots and just over one hundred charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size which were of both diffuse and ring porous taxa. Over thirty charred cereal grains were present, largely consisting of wheat, some of which could be identified as free threshing wheat type and possible spelt wheat type. Less than five bread wheat rachis internodes were also present. Less than five charred wild or weed plant seeds were present including large seeded grasses and stinking mayweed. Over one hundred land snail shells (Mollusca) were present.
- 7.2.8 Sample 5 from medieval gully or small ditch fill 504 contained a low proportion of intrusive roots and just less than thirty charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size. Around fifty charred cereal grains were present, largely consisting of wheat, some of which could be identified as the free threshing wheat type along with hulled barley and oats. Less than



five bread wheat rachis internodes were also present. One fragment of hazel nutshell was present. Just less than thirty charred wild or weed plant seeds were present, including vetch / pea, dock, goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), sedges, and grasses.

- 7.2.9 Hulled barley, wheat and oats were present in the charred crop assemblage. The presence of bread wheat chaff in medieval ditch fills **207** and **504** suggests that the free threshing wheat grains present in those deposits represent bread wheat. Possible grains of spelt wheat were also present in both the Romano-British and medieval deposits although no spelt wheat chaff was identified. No oat chaff was present so it is not possible to determine whether the oat grains present in medieval ditch fills **405** and **504** represent wild or cultivated oats. The crop types represented are typical of the Romano-British and medieval periods in England. Spelt wheat was the dominant wheat type cultivated in Northern England during the Romano-British period with hulled barley also being an important crop (Huntley 2002, 88-89). Bread wheat had become the dominant wheat type cultivated in Britain by the medieval period, with oats and hulled barley also being important crops (Moffett 2006, 47-50). The cereal grains present are likely to have been charred accidentally during food preparation or parching prior to dehusking, milling or storage.
- 7.2.10 The assemblage of wild or weed plant seeds present in the samples includes some typical crop weeds or taxa commonly associated with fertile disturbed soils such as goosefoot, docks, bedstraw and stinking mayweed. Due to the association of these seeds with charred cereal grains, it is likely that the seeds were harvested along with cereal crops and charred as crop processing waste. Other sources of charred wild or weed plant seeds may however also include kindling, animal fodder and waste roofing or flooring material.
- 7.2.11 Small diameter roundwood stems which were morphologically similar to heather were present in sample 1 from ditch fill **405**, sample 2 from paleochannel fill **602** and were particularly abundant in sample 3 from ditch fill **706**. Charred tubers or rhizomes were also present in sample 3, along with a wild or weed plant seed assemblage which includes sedges and a number of different grasses. Such an assemblage would be consistent with heathland and it is possible that this material may be representative of the use of turves as fuel. The presence of the remains of charred turves in archaeobotanical assemblages has been suggested where similar taxa have been recovered at Iron Age and Roman sites in Northern England (Hall 2003).
- 7.2.12 Palynological evidence from Northern England indicates various phases of woodland clearance occurred during the Roman period (Huntley 1995, 42) and it is likely that pressure on woodland resources for fuel was increasing during both the Romano-British and medieval periods. The possible evidence for the use of turves as fuel in sample 3 may also relate to a local shortage of wood for use as fuel.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The evaluation results appear to indicate there are two phases of archaeological activity represented on the Site with the focus of Romano-British activity on the lower terrace (**Trenches 7 and 8**) and medieval activity on the upper terrace (**Trenches 1-9**). The artefacts recovered included Romano-British (2nd to 3rd century AD) and medieval ceramics (primarily 12th to 14th century), animal bone (cattle, sheep, horse, dog and pig), and small quantities of fired clay, ironworking slag and ceramic building material (CBM).

Informative environmental evidence was present in features from both phases; the crop types represented are typical of the Romano-British and medieval periods in England and there is potential evidence in the plant assemblage for the use of turves as fuel in the Romano-British phase.

- 8.1.2 The results of the archaeological trial trenching correlated to some extent with the geophysical survey results (GSB 2015) although not all anomalies were seen in the ground and additional features were present in some trenches. Archaeology was largely confined to the northeast of Site, that is, in the area of the upper terrace. This substantiates the results of the geophysical survey, which shows a high density of archaeology on the upper terrace. A lower density of features was seen on the lower terrace. The interpretation of the geophysics report which suggested that small scale industrial activity may have taken place on the lower terrace was not substantiated; the only slag recovered from the Site was from the north-eastern end of **Trench 4** in a medieval context. Large palaeochannels were present on the lower terrace in **Trenches 4, 6 and 10** which may account for some of the anomalies in this area.
- 8.1.3 The general absence of structural features, only a single posthole was observed, may suggest that the focus of settlement during the Roman and medieval periods lies in the wider vicinity of the Site. The absence of pits and post-holes, and the relatively low quantity of ceramics and finds recovered, do not appear to substantiate the presence of a Deserted Medieval Settlement as recorded in the HER. The trackway indicated by historic mapping and geophysical survey appears to be defined by sections of ditches on either side (**Trenches 1, 2 and 9**), rather than being a sunken holloway. This trackway likely led to the former Sutton Grange.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with York Museums Trust. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under an accession code to be determined.

9.2 Archive

- 9.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by York Museums Trust and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; UKIC 2001; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014c:). All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.
- 9.2.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **108240**. The archive will be deposited with York Museums Trust under an accession number to be determined. An OASIS form, number **wessexar1-207580** has been prepared (see **Appendix 3** below) and will be completed at the time of deposition.

9.3 Discard policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be



fully documented in the project archive. The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011); on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



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10.2 Online sources

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Trench 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
101	Topsoil: black clay sand	0-0.3
102	Subsoil: black to greyish black sand with gravel	0.3-0.8
103	Natural: yellow brown sand with fine gravel	0.8+
104	Cut: east-west ditch 1.85m wide and 0.6m deep.	0.8-1.4
105	Fill of 104: brownish black sand with 15% gravel, bone and pot	0.8-1.4
106	Cut: east-west ditch, 0.75m wide and 0.7m deep	0.8-1.5
107	Fill of 106: brownish black sand with 15% gravel	0.8-1.5

Trench 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
201	Topsoil: dark brown loamy sand with 5% gravel	0-0.34
202	Subsoil: yellowish medium brown loamy sand with 10% gravel	0.34-0.5
203	Natural: beige sand with 40% gravel	0.5+
204	Cut: northwest-southeast ditch, 1.74m wide and 0.52m deep	0.5-1.02
205	Fill of 204: dark greyish brown loamy sand with 10% gravel, bone and pot	0.5-1.02
206	Cut: northwest-southeast ditch 3.8m wide and 0.43m deep	0.5-0.93
207	Fill of 205: medium greyish brown loamy sand with 15% gravel	0.5-0.93

Trench 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
301	Topsoil: brownish black sand with 10% gravel	0-0.5
302	Natural: reddish brown sand with patches of light yellow sand and gravel inclusions	0.5+
303	Cut: northwest-southeast gully 0.55m wide and 0.17m deep	0.5-0.67
304	Fill of 303: light brown sand with gravel	0.5-0.67
305	Cut: northwest-southeast gully 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep	0.5-0.75



306	Fill of 305: brown sand with gravel and bone	0.5-0.0.75
307	Cut: northwest-southeast ditch 0.97m wide and 0.1m deep	0.5-0.6
308	Fill of 307: brownish black sand with gravel and bone	0.5-0.8
309	Cut: northwest-southeast gully 0.53m wide and 0.14m deep	0.5-0.64
310	Fill of 309: light brown sand with gravel	0.5-0.64

Trench 4		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
401	Topsoil: dark grey silt, rare gravel	0-0.48
402	Subsoil: mid greyish brown clayey silt with common gravel	0.48-0.8
403	Natural: light greyish brown silty clay with gravel in west	0.8+
404	Cut: northwest-southeast ditch 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep	0.8-1.25
405	Fill of 404: mid grey brown silty clay with common gravel, pot and slag	0.8-1.25
406	Layer: black silty organic fill of paleochannel	0.7+

Trench 5		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
501	Topsoil: dark brown loamy sand with 10% gravel	0-0.38
502	Natural: yellowish beige sand with 40% gravel	0.38+
503	Cut: northeast-southwest ditch 0.79m wide and 0.29m deep	0.38-0.67
504	Fill of 503: medium yellowish brown loamy sand with 10% gravel, bone and pot	0.38-0.67
505	Cut: north-south gully 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep	0.38-0.48
506	Fill of 505: brownish black sand with gravel and pottery	0.38-0.48
507	Cut: posthole 0.3m diameter, 0.25m deep	0.38-0.53
508	Fill of 507: brownish black sand with gravel	0.38-0.53
509	Cut: northeast-southwest ditch 1m wide and 0.15m deep	0.38-0.53
510	Fill of 509: medium greyish yellowish brown loamy sand with 10% gravel and bone	0.38-0.53



Trench 6		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
601	Topsoil: dark brown clayey silt with rare gravel	0-0.3
602	Layer: dark greyish brown silty clay with common gravel and organic content	0.3-0.6
603	Natural: white chalk gravel	0.6+

Trench 7		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
701	Topsoil: black clayey silt	0-0.3
702	Subsoil: mid-brown silty clay with gravel	0.3-0.5
703	Natural: chalk gravel with occasional clay	0.5+
704	Cut: northeast-southwest ditch 1.1.3m wide and 0.3m deep	0.5-0.8
705	Fill of 704: light greyish blue clay with chalk and bone. Primary fill	0.5-0.8
706	Fill of 704: black silty clay with gravel, burnt bone and pot. Secondary fill	0.5-0.8
707	Cut: unexcavated feature	0.5+
708	Fill of 707: unexcavated	0.38-0.53

Trench 8		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
801	Topsoil: black clayey silt with gravel	0-0.35
802	Natural: chalk gravel with occasional blue-grey clay	0.35+
803	Cut: northwest-southeast ditch 1m wide and 0.3m deep	0.35-0.65
804	Fill of 803: black silty clay with common gravel, animal bone and pot	0.35-0.65

Trench 9		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
901	Topsoil: dark brown loamy sand with 5% gravel	0-0.35
902	Subsoil: uneven thin layer yellowish beige and brown loamy sand with 10% gravel	0.35-0.4
903	Natural: yellowish beige sand with 40% gravel	0.4+
904	Cut: northeast-southwest gully 0.9m wide and 0.27m deep	0.4-0.67



905	Fill of 904: mid brown sand with gravel inclusions and pot	0.4-0.67
906	Cut: southeast-northwest ditch 1.24m wide and 0.58m deep	0.4-0.98
907	Fill of 906: medium brown loamy sand with 20% gravel and pot	0.4-0.98

Trench 10		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
1001	Topsoil: dark brown loamy sand with 15% gravel	0-0.30
1002	Subsoil: dark brown sandy silt loam with 15% gravel	0.3-0.47
1003	Layer: black silt loam, no inclusions	0.47-0.54
1004	Layer: rusted brown silt loam with 5% coarse sand and gravel	0.54-0.71
1005	Layer: base of paleochannel, black silt loam 35% gravels	0.71+
1006	Natural: grey with yellow and white streaks clay loam with up to 50% gravel	0.68+



11.2 Appendix 2: Environmental Data

Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
404	405	1	30	20	10	A*	C	C	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled) grain. <i>Avena</i> sp. grain. <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain Cereal indet. grain. <i>Triticum</i> sp. rachis internode. <i>Vicia</i> / <i>Lathyrus</i> . <i>Rumex</i> sp. <i>Anthemis cotula</i>	10/45	Mollusca (A*) cf. <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> stems (A*)	Charred plant remains
n/a	602	2	30	100	25	A	C		<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled) grain. <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. <i>Triticum</i> sp. grain (free threshing type). > 2mm Culm node	7/43	Mollusca (A**) cf. <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> stems (B)	Mollusca? (if deposit can be dated)
704	706	3	20	200	25	A	C	A*	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled) grain. <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> grain. Cereal indet. grain. Large seeded legume. Culm node <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell. <i>Rumex</i> spp. <i>Galium</i> sp. <i>Carex</i> sp. > 2mm Poaceae. > 2mm Poaceae unidentified wild seed. Tubers / rhizomes spp.	25/>500	Mollusca (A**) Bone fragments (A*) cf. <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> stems (A**)	Charred plant remains Wood charcoal Mollusca
206	207	4	20	40	25	A*	C	C	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled) grain. <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> grain <i>Triticum</i> sp. grain (free threshing type). <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. <i>Triticum aestivum</i> rachis internode <i>Anthemis cotula</i> >2mm Poaceae	16/94	Mollusca (A**)	Charred plant remains Wood charcoal Mollusca
503	504	5	20	20	20	A*	C	A	<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	2/25		Charred



								(hulled). grain. <i>Avena</i> sp. grain <i>Triticum</i> sp. grain (free threshing type). <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. Large seeded legume. <i>Corylus</i> <i>avellana</i> nutshell. <i>T.</i> <i>aestivum</i> rachis internode <i>Vicia</i> / <i>Lathyrus</i> . <i>Rumex</i> spp. <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. <i>Carex</i> sp. <2mm Poaceae. >2mm Poaceae			plant remains
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11.3 Appendix 3: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-207580

Project details

Project name	Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of evaluation trenching on land located at Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire (centred on NGR 4796 4703) to inform proposed residential development. The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015) and a geophysical survey (GSB 2015), which demonstrated good potential for archaeological features being present on the site. A Method Statement (Wessex Archaeology 2015) for the evaluation was prepared and submitted to the Client and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) prior to groundworks commencing. The evaluation results appear to indicate there are two phases of archaeological activity represented on the site with the focus of Romano-British activity on the lower terrace (Trenches 7 and 8) and medieval activity on the upper terrace (Trenches 1-9). The artefacts recovered included Romano-British (2nd to 3rd century AD) and medieval ceramics (primarily 12th to 14th century), animal bone (cattle, sheep, horse, dog and pig), and small quantities of fired clay, ironworking slag and ceramic building material (CBM). Informative environmental evidence was present in features from both phases; the crop types represented are typical of the Romano-British and medieval periods in England. The results of the archaeological trial trenching correlated reasonably well with the geophysical survey results (GSB 2015) although not all anomalies were seen in the ground and additional features were present in some trenches.</p>
Project dates	Start: 09-03-2015 End: 13-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	108240 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	T19997 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded



Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH YORKSHIRE RYEDALE NORTON ON DERWENT Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire
Postcode	YO17 9QQ
Study area	3.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	SE 79654 70375 54.1228781913 -0.781088895548 54 07 22 N 000 46 51 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30.00m Max: 30.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	R. O'Neill
Project supervisor	S. Fairhead
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

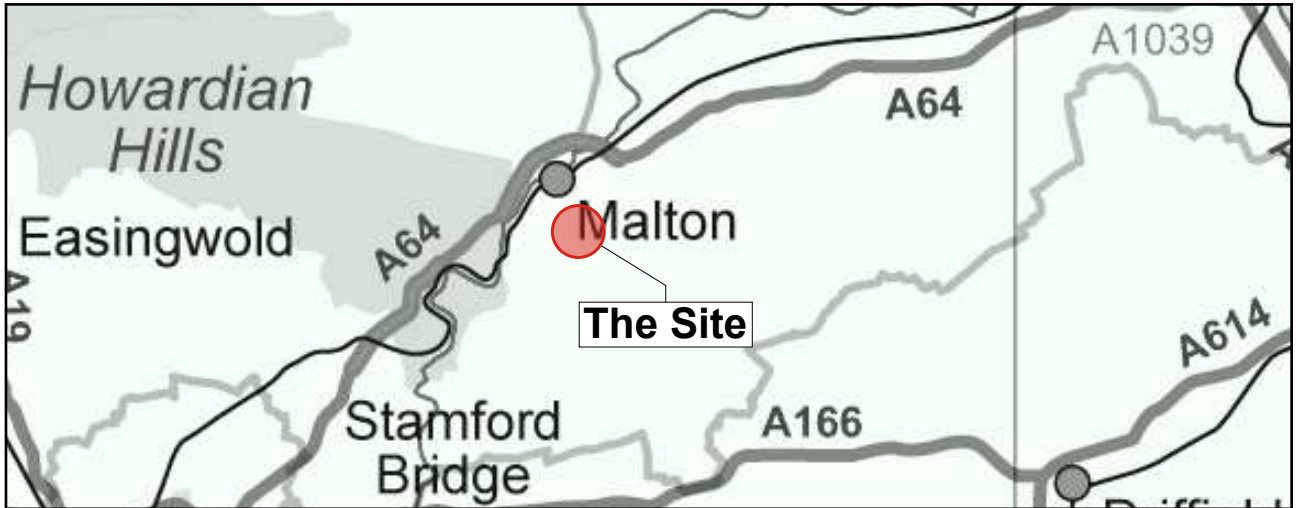
Physical Archive recipient	York Museums Trust
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	York Museums Trust
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	York Museums Trust
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"





Project



bibliography 1

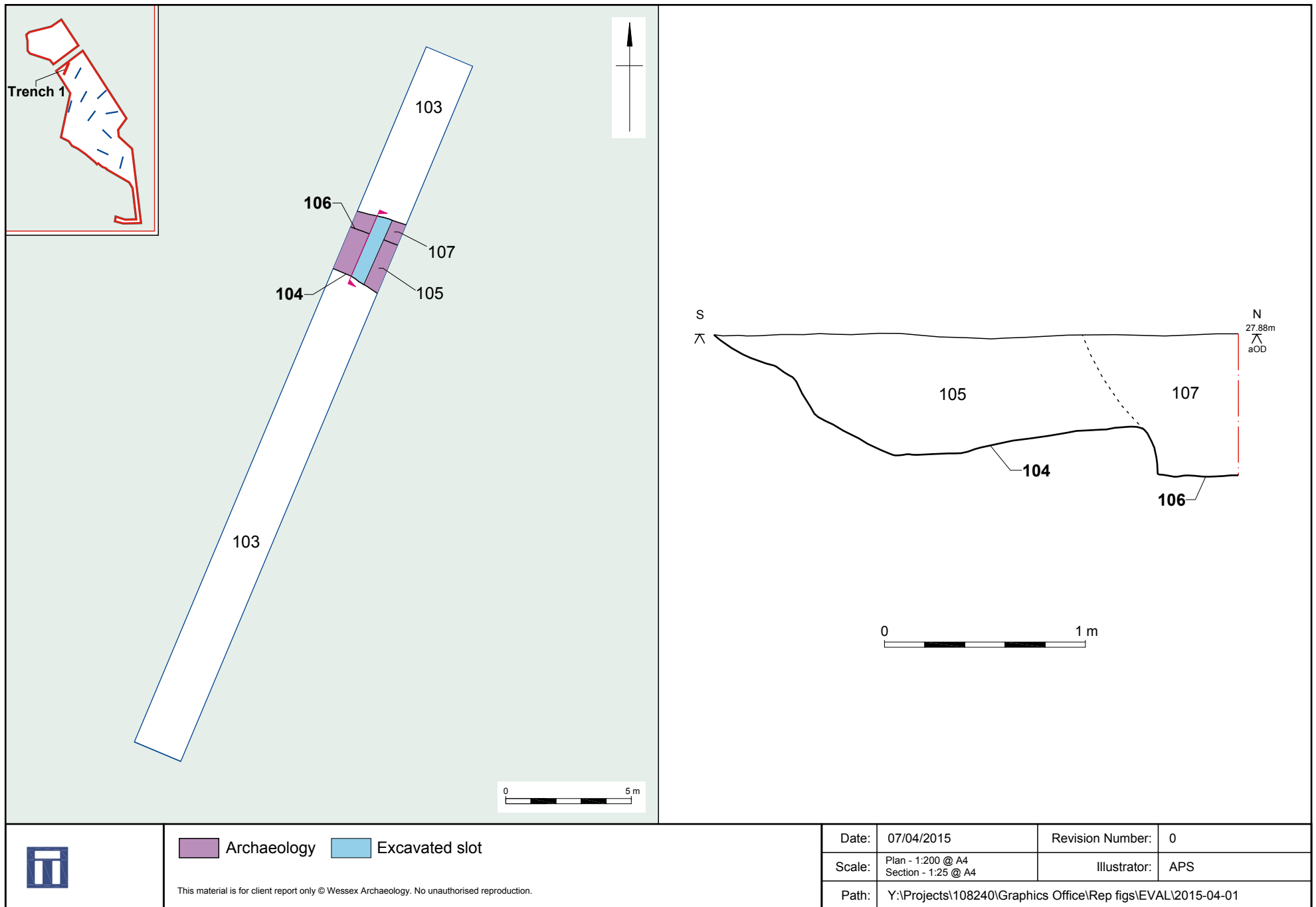
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Title	Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Tuck, A.
Other bibliographic details	108240.01
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	A4 comb bound laserprinted report
<hr/>	
Entered by	Richard O'Neill (r.oneill@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	9 April 2015
<hr/>	



	 Evaluation Area  Trenches			
	<small>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2015. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</small>			
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Path:		Y:\Projects\108240\Graphics Office\Rep figs\EVAL\2015-04-01		

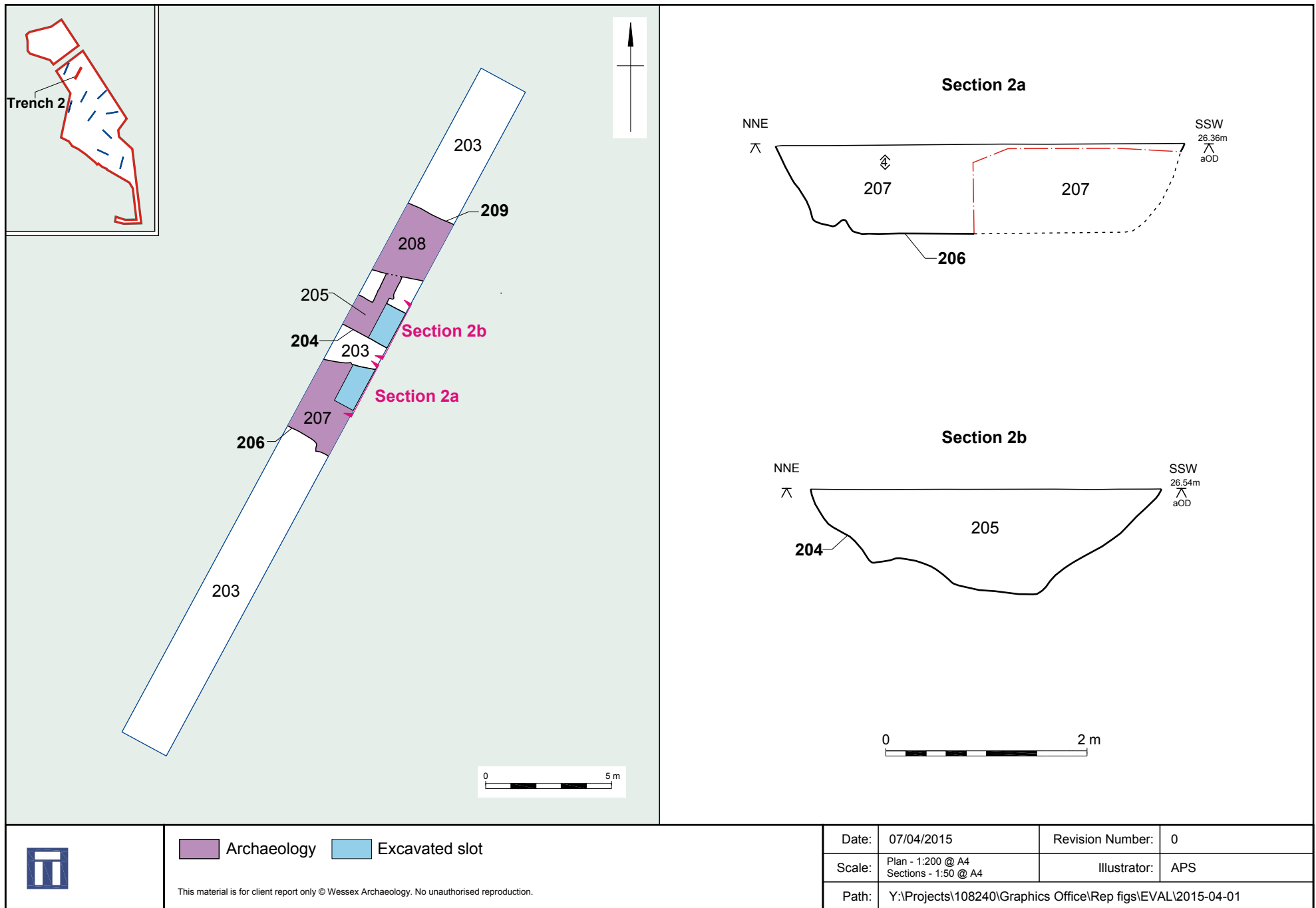
Site location

Figure 1



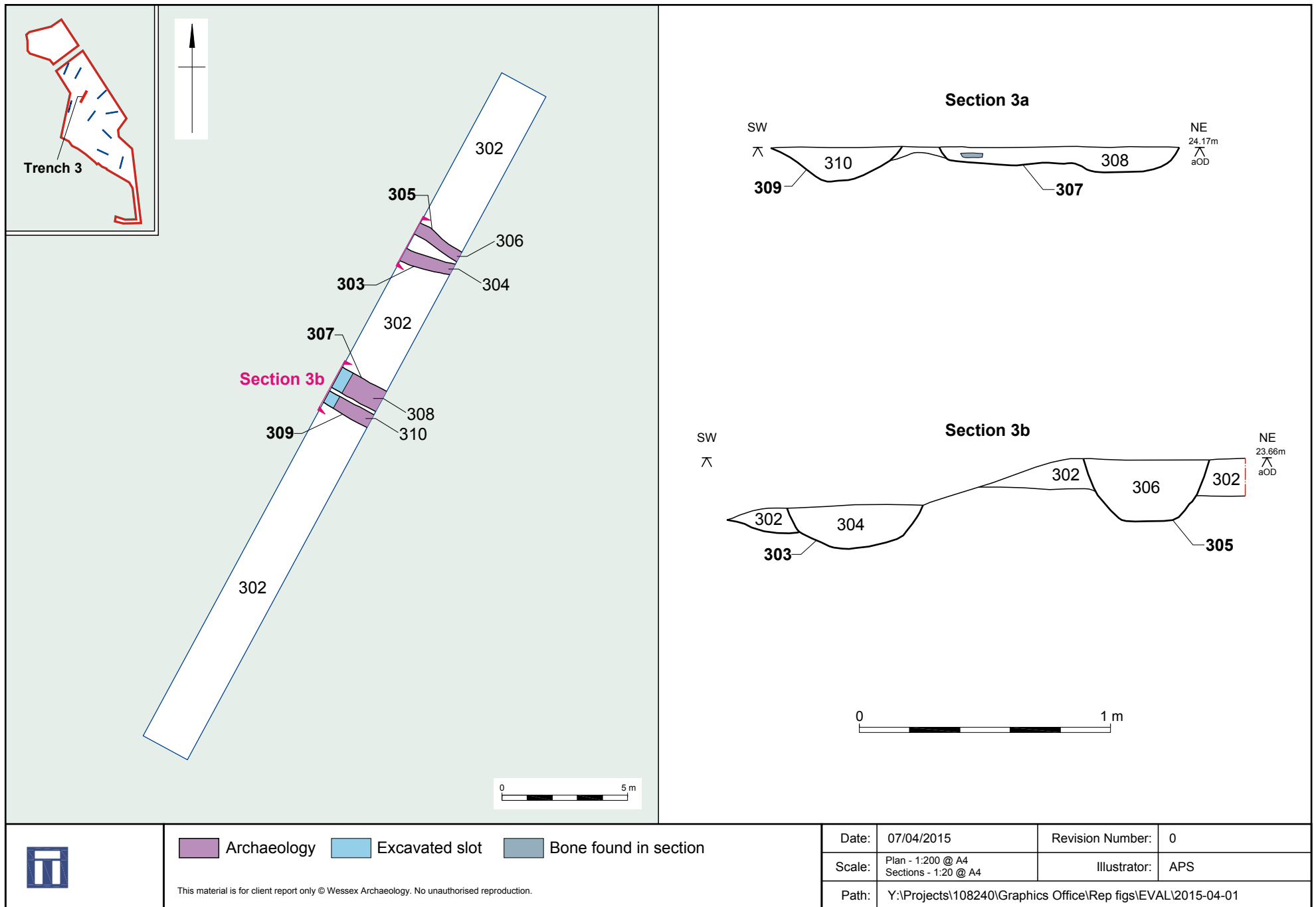
Plan of Trench 1 and section of ditches 104 and 106

Figure 2



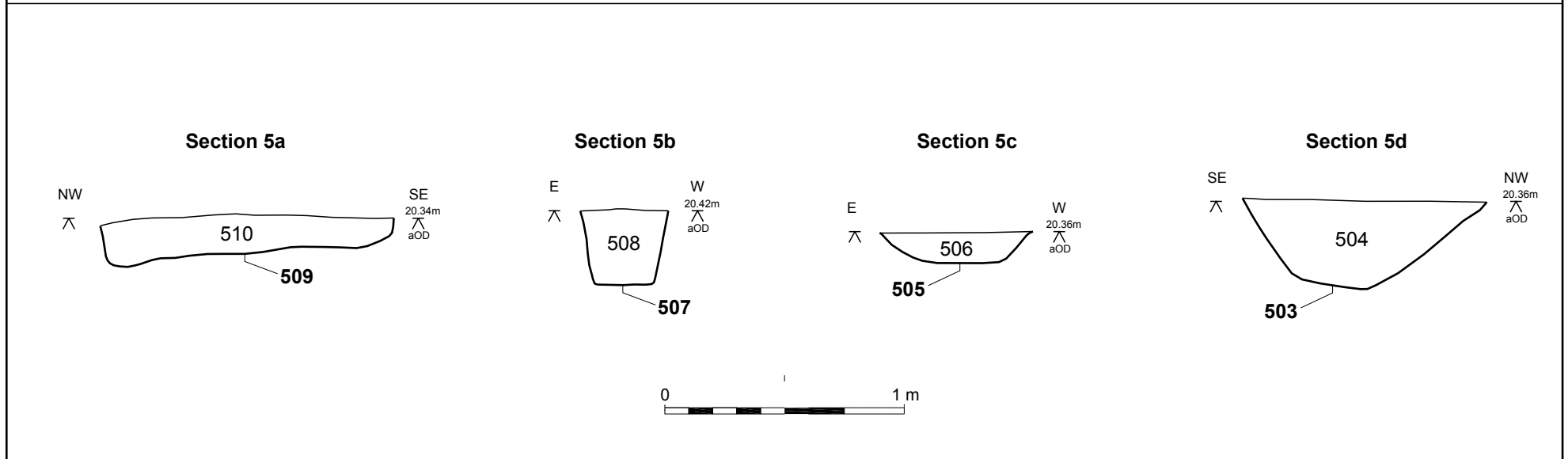
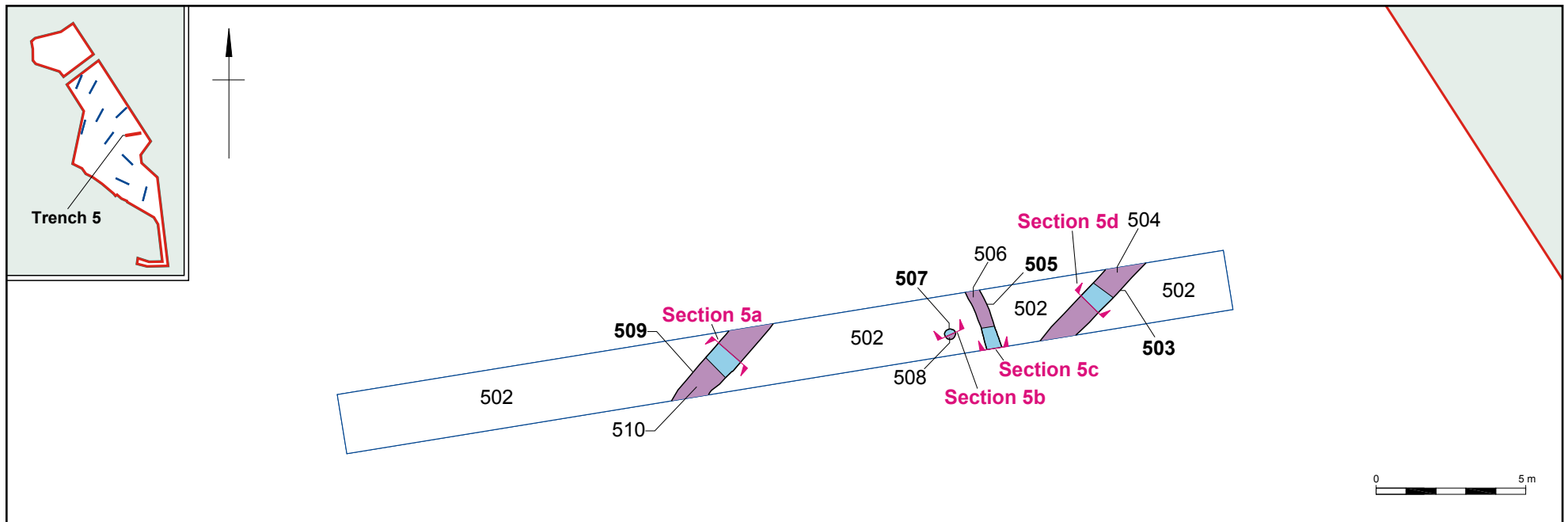
Plan of **Trench 2** and section of ditches **204** and **206**


Figure 3



Plan of **Trench 3** and sections of gullies **303**, **307** and **309**

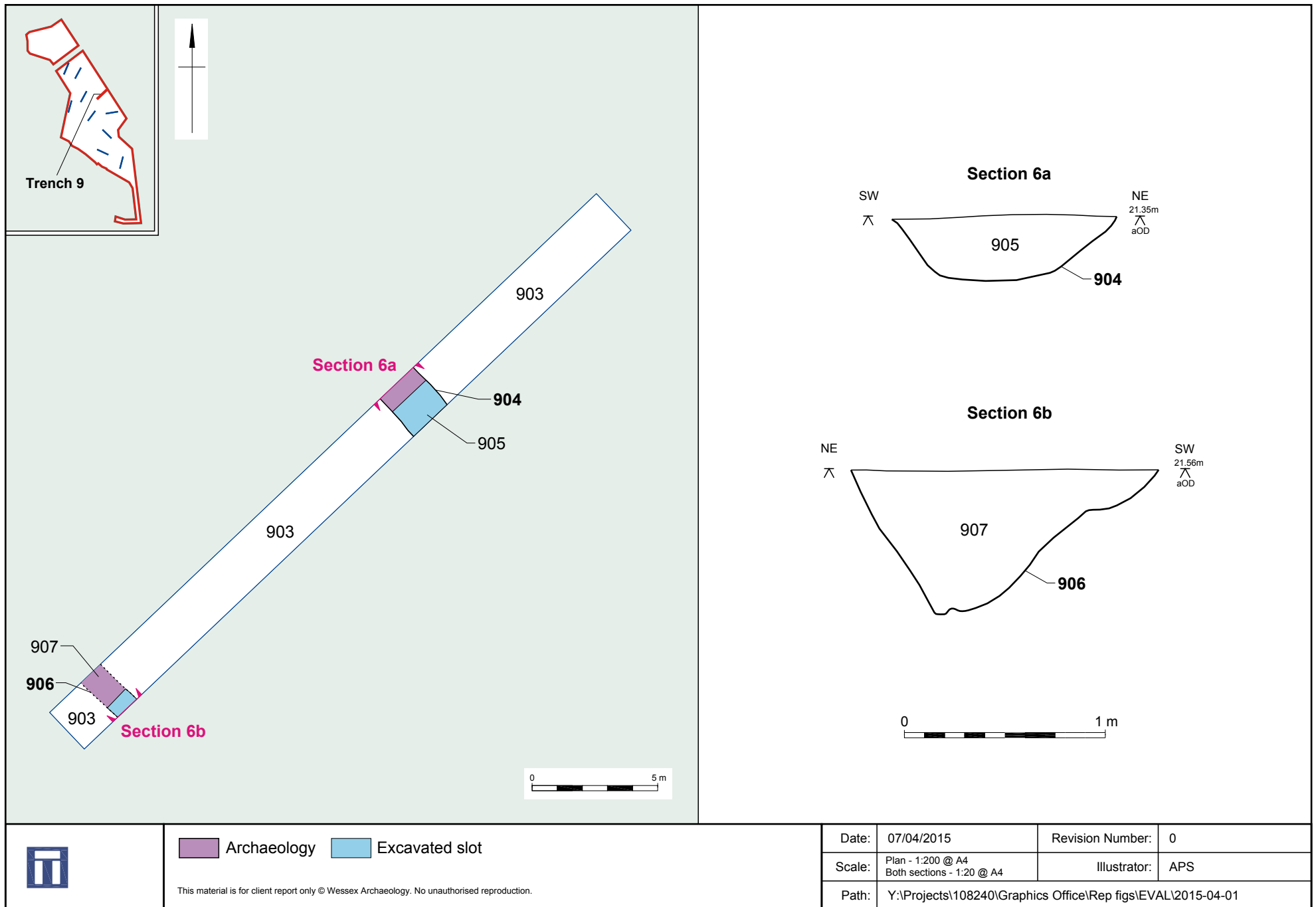
Figure 4



	<p>Archaeology (purple box) Excavated slot (blue box)</p> <p>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>	Date: 07/04/2015	Revision Number: 0
		Scale: Plan - 1:200 @ A4 All sections - 1:20 @ A4	Illustrator: APS
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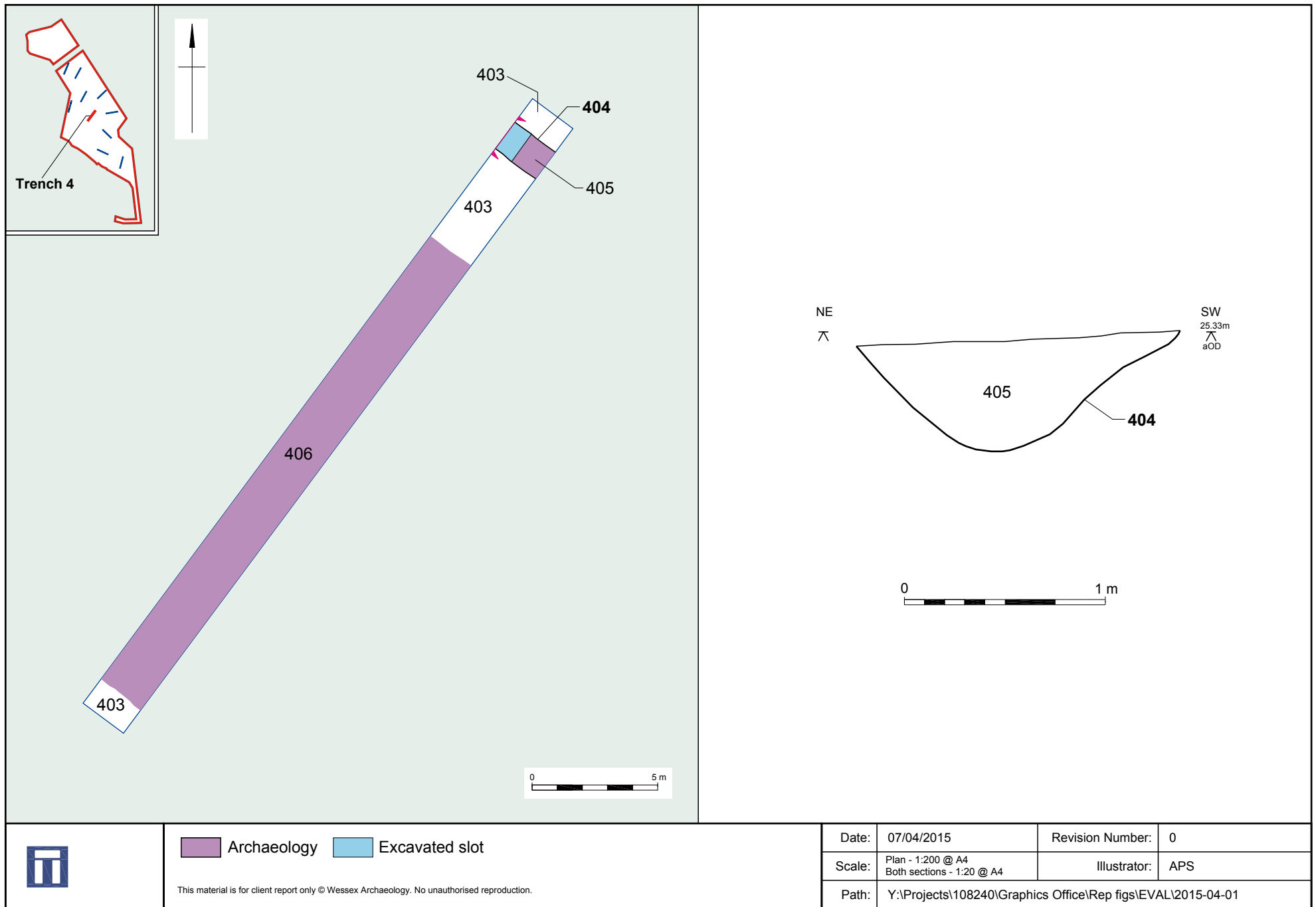
Plan of Trench 5 and sections of gullies 303, 307 and 309

Figure 5



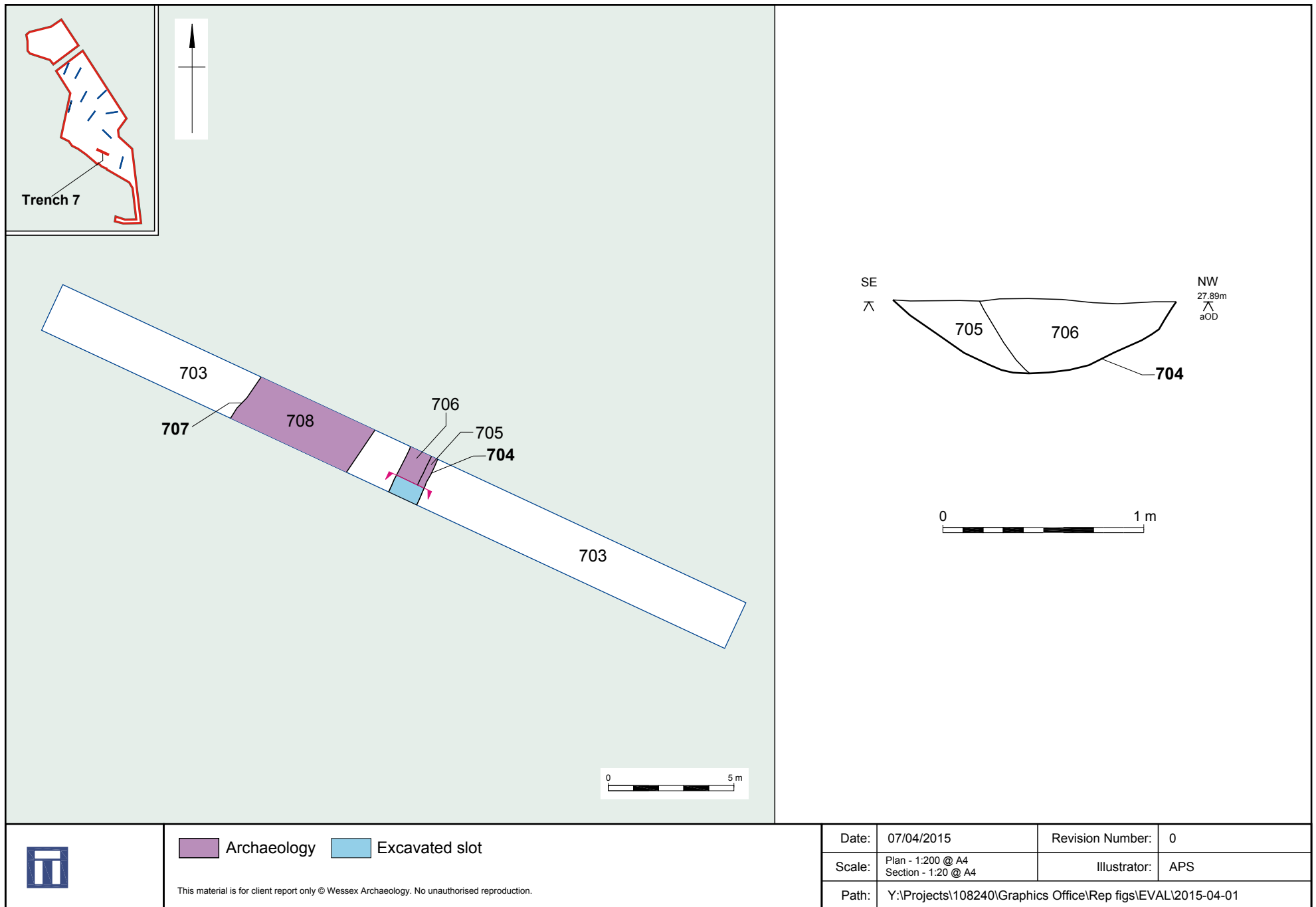
Plan of **Trench 9** and sections of gully **904**, and ditch **906**

Figure 6



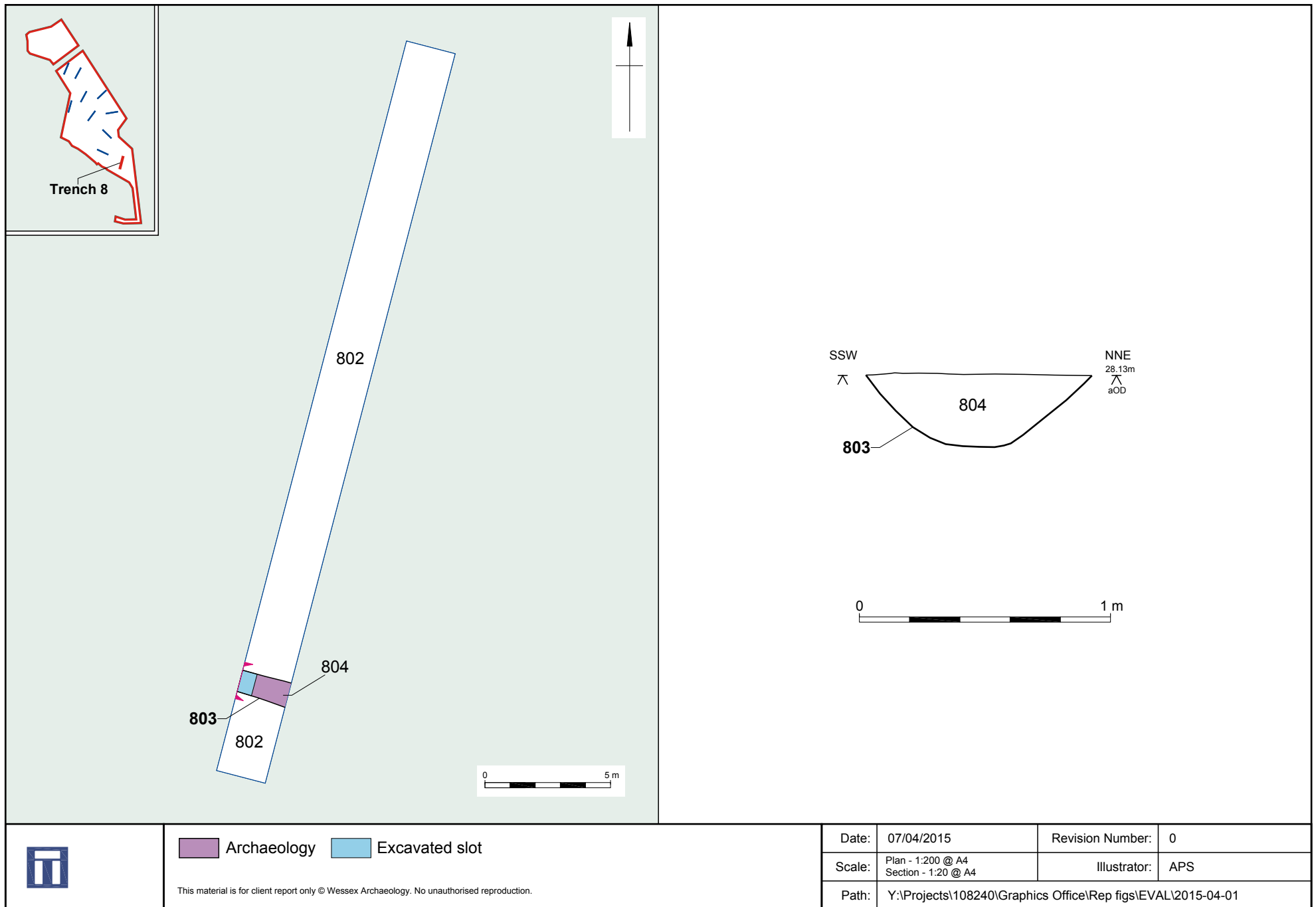
Plan of Trench 4 and sections of ditch 404

Figure 7



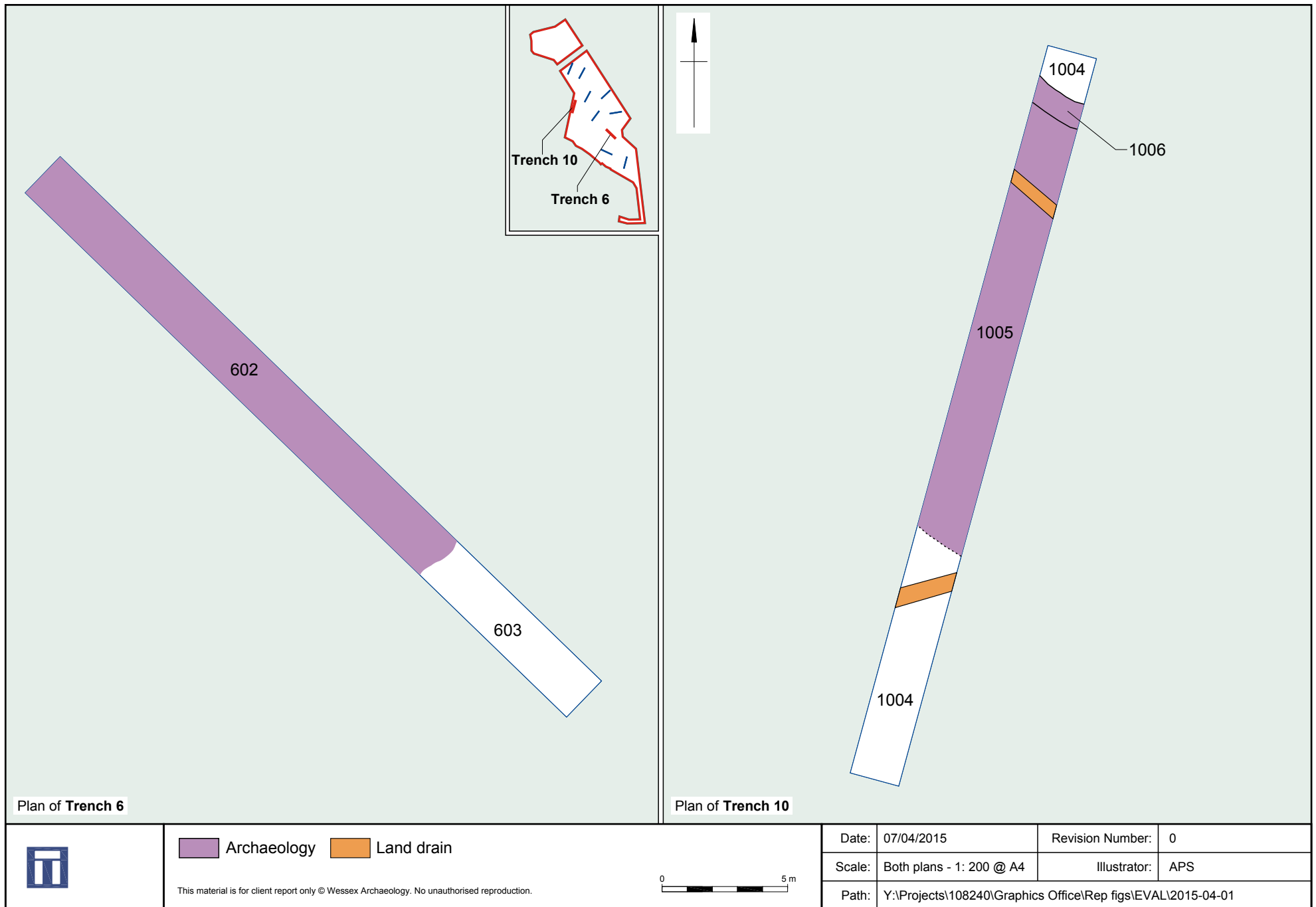
Plan of **Trench 7** and sections of ditch **704**

Figure 8



Plan of **Trench 8** and section of ditche **803**

Figure 9



Plan of Trench 6

Plan of Trench 10



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Plan of Trench 6 showing paleochannel 602, and Plan of Trench 10 showing paleochannel 1005

Figure 10



Plate 1: Ditches **104** and **106** from east



Plate 2: Ditch **204** from northwest


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Plate 3: Ditch **206** from northwest



Plate 4: Gullies **303** and **305** from southeast


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Plate 5: Gullies **307** and **309** from southeast



Plate 6: Ditch **503** from northeast


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Plate 7: Gully **505** from north



Plate 8: Posthole **507** from north


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Plate 9: Ditch **509** from southwest



Plate 10: Ditch **904** from east


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Plate 11: Gully **906** from west



Plate 12: Ditch **404** from southeast



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Plate 13: Ditch **704** from northeast



Plate 14: Ditch **803** from east

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