making sense of heritage

Milkwell Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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archaeology

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Land off Milkwell Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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* I= Internal Draft; E= External Draft; F= Final

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation of a proposed residential development on land at Milkwell Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland. The evaluation area covers an area of *c.*11.63ha and comprises uncultivated grassland centred on NGR: 398980, 565235.

Ridge and furrow was present within the western fields of the proposed development area. This was recorded using LiDAR data and the results discussed within this report. Small sections of wide ridge and furrow interspersed with the narrow ridge and furrow suggests that this area was used during the medieval period and into the post-medieval period.

Fifty trenches of varying sizes were excavated to determine the archaeological potential of the Site and to inform any mitigation strategy. An additional extension to Trench 5 and excavation in Trench 31 were also excavated at the request of the Local Planning Archaeologist (LPA), in order to further characterise archaeological features revealed in the initial trenches.

The evaluation revealed archaeological features which preceded the medieval ridge and furrow agricultural activity. A line of six closely spaced post holes were uncovered at the west of the Site which may have formed a stockade or substantial fence line. A single amber bead recovered from one of the fills may be Romano-British. Three undated linear features, one with a recut, were identified as drainage/field boundaries. A charcoal and burnt stone filled pit was also uncovered. Possible prehistoric activity in the form of a dump of fire waste on the edge of a natural escarpment and Roman pottery (samian ware, dated between the later 1st to 2nd century AD, and a badly abraded sherd of a probable Roman date) recovered from the colluvium fill of a second escarpment were also identified. A fourth linear V-shaped ditch contained pottery dating between the end of the 18th to the early 20th century. This pottery was intrusive from a stone lined drain which truncated the ditch at its southern end. Similar pottery was recovered from two separate stone lined and capped land drains across the Site.

The project archive has been compiled according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and is fully cross-referenced and indexed. It is currently held by Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield under the project code **108720** and will be transferred to The Great North Museum under a relevant accession number in due course.

Land off Milkwell Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and are grateful to Emily Mercer in this regard.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Karen Derham and Nick Best, Planning Archaeologists for Northumberland County Council, and Dr Rob Young (Historic England) for their involvement in the project.

The Fieldwork was directed by Neil Dransfield with the assistance of Emma Carter, Hannah Holbrook, Micheal Howorth, Michael Keech, and Lucy Reddin. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.

The report was compiled by Neil Dransfield with contributions by Lorraine Mepham (finds) and Phil Harding (flints). The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Alix Sperr.

Land off Milkwell Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of the determination of a planning application for residential development on land off Milkwell Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland, centred on NGR: 398980, 565235 (hereafter 'the Site'). A topographic survey of extensive ridge and furrow within the western fields of the proposed development area was also commissioned (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The current phase of works followed on from a Heritage Statement (CgMs 2014) and geophysical survey (GSB Prospection 2014). The Heritage Statement and geophysical survey identified a low to moderate potential for the proposed residential development to impact on isolated finds or earthworks of local interest. In response to the possible impact the development may have had on undesignated archaeological assets CgMs (Emily Mercer) and the Planning Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council (NCC) agreed upon a scheme of archaeological works to assess the nature and extent of any archaeological features ahead of development. The archaeological works were to comprise the topographic survey of extant ridge and furrow at the west of the scheme and the excavation of fifty evaluation trenches across the breadth of the proposed development (**Figure 1**).

1.1.3 An approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2015) set out the strategy and methodology by which Wessex Archaeology carried out the works. All works undertaken conformed with industry guidance for best practice (EH 2006; CIfA 2014a-c)

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site comprises three fields, currently used for pasture, covering approximately 11.68 hectares. The northwest field of the Site has substantial ridge and furrow earthworks surviving within it. The Site is bound to the north by the A69, to the west by garden plots associated with properties along Priory Gardens and Corbridge Middle School. To the south the Site is bounded by residential developments and to the east by Milkwell Lane, with the Corbridge Pottery Works immediately to the east of Milkwell Lane. A Public Right of Way (PROW) runs through the western part of the Site.

1.2.2 The topography of the proposed development Site is undulating with a general trend for the northern half of the Site to slope down to the west from a height of *c.* 72m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to *c.* 50m AOD. The southern half of the Site slopes towards the south from a height of *c.* 62m AOD to *c.* 52m AOD.

1.2.3 The drift geology of the Site comprises Devensian Diamicton Till with Devensian Glaciolacustrine Deposits on the west side of the Site. The Solid geology comprises bands of Stainmore Foundation Mudstone, Sandstone and Limestone, Stainmore Foundation Sandstone and Corbridge Limestone.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is summarised from the Heritage Statement produced by CgMs (CgMs 2014) and is based on evidence from the Northumberland Historic Environment Record, the Northumberland County Archive Service and Brough Local Studies Collection at Hexham Library. A study area of 1km around the proposed development area was considered.

2.1.2 No designated heritage assets have been identified within the Site although two Grade II Listed Buildings and two Grade II* Listed Buildings are located to the eastern edge of the Site. The Grade II* Listed Buildings (Bottle Kilns) are associated with the Corbridge (Walker) Pottery Works and are also Scheduled Monuments. The Corbridge Roman Station and Town, which is also Scheduled, lies to the west of the Site.

2.1.3 No non-designated HER assets are recorded within the Site, although extant ridge and furrow earthworks survive within the northwest field of the Site. An overview of the numerous non-designated HER assets contained within the wider study area is described below.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Mesolithic flints associated with tool manufacture have been identified *c.* 340m and *c.* 750m to the east of the Site.

2.2.2 A Neolithic polished axe has been recovered from Priory Gardens immediately to the west of Site. A further small stone axe has been identified on the site of the Roman Fort to the west.

2.2.3 A Bronze Age Cist was identified in the 1920s in the vicinity of Stagshaw Road to the southwest of the Site. To the south of the Tyne several Bronze axes, of both bronze and stone, have been identified along with fragments of sword.

2.2.4 Excavations at Corstopitum, the nearby Roman Town and Station have revealed evidence of prehistoric occupation in the form of palisaded enclosures and ring gullies of Bronze Age or Iron Age origin. A cremation pit has also been identified.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The area surrounding the Site has numerous Roman finds recorded, associated with the nearby Scheduled Roman Fort and activity associated with the frontier zone of Hadrian's Wall.

2.3.2 To the west of the Site lies the Corbridge Roman Station or Fort and Town within a larger Scheduled area. The Scheduled area included a portion of Dere Street Roman Road and the remains of the associated Roman Bridge across the Tyne, to the south of the Fort. A Roman cemetery, bath house, Marching Camp and numerous find spots were also recorded within the Scheduled area and Fort's defences.

2.3.3 Beyond the Fort, boundary ditches and inhumations have been recorded from Well Bank, to the south, as well as gravestones and a coffin from Trinity Terrace. Further human remains have been recorded at Orchard Vale. A boundary ditch has also been recorded on the north side of St Helen's Street to the east of the Site.

2.3.4 Numerous examples of the re-use of Roman masonry have been identified within the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Corbridge.

2.4 Saxon / Medieval

2.4.1 The Roman Fort was abandoned during the 5th century during the re-ordering of the Empire and retreat from Britain. However, it would appear that the town associated with the Fort continued to be settled following the departure of the Roman military. Excavations at the Fort have produced material dating to *c.* AD 700. Inhumations dating to the 5th and 6th centuries have also been identified within the Fort.

2.4.2 A pre-conquest settlement was eventually established to the east of the Fort. The settlement of Et Carabrige was recorded in the Northumbrian Annals of AD 786. The Roman Road on Dere Street bridge across the Tyne continued in use, but for how long is uncertain.

2.4.3 The Grade I Listed Church of St Andrew within Corbridge dates to the early medieval period, with the earliest construction dated to the late 7th century and incorporated stone from the Roman Fort. Elsewhere within Corbridge, evidence for early medieval metal working has been recorded beneath the Angel Inn. Several buildings relating to this period have also been excavated. In AD 914 it has been suggested that the town was destroyed by the Danes following victory over the local Northumbrians.

2.4.4 Post-Conquest, the town of Corbridge was re-settled and maintained its status as a borough and administrative centre. In AD 1201 the town was granted the status of a royal borough due to its position along major trading routes from Newcastle to Carlisle. The Dere Street bridge over the Tyne was eventually rebuilt in AD 1293.

2.4.5 By the 13th century, the town was the second largest borough town in the region, with Newcastle being the largest. However, following plague and damage associated with the Border Wars during the first half of the 14th century the town began a process of decline. By AD 1663 the market had disappeared and the Dere Street bridge had fallen into disrepair.

2.4.6 North of the proposed development Site was Manor Hall, built *c.* 1296 and possibly constructed on the grounds of an earlier manor house. Manor Hall was abandoned in the mid-14th century following a Scottish raid.

2.4.7 Within the development area, the surviving ridge and furrow suggests that the Site was in use as agricultural land outside of the medieval core of the town.

2.5 Post-medieval

2.5.1 The post-medieval town remained of a similar layout and size until the 18th century, with a slight expansion associated with turnpiking of the Newcastle Road in AD 1752, which passes by the southern end of Milkwell Lane.

2.5.2 Most of the HER entries for the period are associated with rebuilding during the 18th century. A number of Civil War burials were also recorded immediately west of the Site.

2.5.3 During the 19th century the building plots of the town become more densely concentrated. However, throughout this period the Site itself remained in agricultural use with only small drove roads recorded crossing the development area and alterations to field boundaries. The current field boundaries appear to date from at least AD 1776 and are recorded on the Inclosure map of this date.

2.5.4 The Corbridge (Walker's) Pottery Works, located to the east of the Site, was established *c.* 1840. The Works comprised a mixing mill, engine bed, moulding and drying sheds, workshops and at least one cottage along with the Grade II* and Scheduled East and West Bottle Kilns and the Grade II Newcastle Horizontal and Downdraught Kilns. The Works were closed in 1914.

2.5.5 The Site itself remained unchanged until the Ordnance Survey map of 1963, showing the construction of Corbridge County Secondary School to the southwest and encroaching residential development. To the north, the A69 was constructed in 1977.

2.6 Geophysical Survey

2.6.1 The Site was subject to a geophysical survey (GSB Prospection 2014), which, along with the Heritage Statement (CgMs 2014), has provided information that has informed the current trenching strategy. The geophysical survey identified several potential archaeological features within the northern half of the Site, which the evaluation trenching was designed to target and test the validity of (**Figure 11**). The trenching strategy also tested 'blank' areas and weak geophysical trends identified by the survey.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- *to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered within the evaluation trenches;*
- *to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed within their local, regional and national contexts;*
- *to produce an accurate and comprehensive archive and report of any archaeological deposits identified;*
- *to provide sufficient information to inform any requirements for further archaeological works.*

3.2 Specific

3.2.1 The specific aims of the project were:

- *to record any earthworks associated with ridge and furrow through topographic survey;*
- *to test the results of the geophysical survey against the archaeology identified within the evaluation trenches;*
- *to identify, record and better understand any Roman activity associated with the nearby Fort and settlement;*

4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological works comprised the topographic survey of extant ridge and furrow earthworks within the northwest field (**Plate 1**) of the development area, as well as the excavation of fifty evaluation trenches across the Site. The evaluation trenching comprised the excavation of forty-one trenches measuring 25m by 2m, two trenches measuring 25m by 4m and a further seven trenches measuring 50m by 2m, equating to c. 3000m^2 of trenching. Trench 4 was moved to the west to avoid digging through an existing Public Right of Way (PRoW). Trench 5 was also re-aligned to avoid the same PRoW. The trench was carefully located to examine a potential quarry site and extended in an L-shape at the southern end to assess the extant earthworks. An additional extension to Trench 5 and excavation in Trench 31 were also excavated at the request of the local planning authority, in order to further characterise archaeological features revealed in the initial trenches (**Figure 1**).

4.2 Topographic survey

4.2.1 LiDAR data at a 1m point density was obtained in raw ASCII format from the Environment Agency. The ASCII data was converted into a raster file within ArcGIS10.2.2 to create a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) which was subsequently analysed using the 'Hillshade' function to cast artificial light over the DTM from various azimuths and altitudes in order to highlight any low features which may be present.

4.2.2 The Hillshade model for the Site (**Figure 2**) has been created by combining two other Hillshade models whose artificial light source has been directed from an azimuth of 195 degrees at an altitude of 30 degrees and an azimuth of 115 degrees at an altitude of 30 degrees. These images were subsequently processed using the 'Difference' function within the 'Image Analysis' toolbar in ArcGIS 10.2 to create a composite image allowing for the display of earthworks visible from several directions.

4.3 Monitoring

4.3.1 Nick Best, Planning Archaeologists for Northumberland County Council, and Dr Rob Young (Historic England) visited the Site on the 13th April 2015, when fieldwork was under way. A second visit was carried out by Nick Best on the 17th April, once all trenches were open and he requested supplementary trenching as outlined above (Section 4.1.1).

4.4 Machine excavation

4.4.1 Topsoil was removed using an 360˚ mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil and overburden were 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.

4.4.2 Ridge and furrow was reinstated using the mechanical excavator during the backfilling of the trenches.

4.5 Hand excavation

4.5.1 Archaeological features or deposits were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define their extent. These were hand excavated, with care taken not to compromise their integrity. However, excavation was sufficient to understand and record the full stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits.

4.6 Recording

4.6.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.

4.6.2 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or - 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.

4.6.3 A photographic record was maintained using digital images and 35mm monochrome film equipment.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Archaeological features and geological and bioturbatory features, some corresponding to geophysical survey anomalies, were identified in Trenches 1, 4, 5, 11, 27, 30, 31, 36, 37 and 48. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological features although remnant furrow soil and land drains of varying types were noted in Trenches 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 25, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 45, 46, 49 and 50. Summaries of the trenches with archaeological features identified can be found below, with a full context inventory found in **Appendix 2**.

5.1.2 Within all the trenches the natural sandy clay found in low lying areas and the degraded sandstone and sandy clay on higher ground was revealed between *c.* 0.4m and *c.* 0.6m below ground level (bgl). The natural was overlain by a 0.1 – 0.2m thick layer of brownish grey silty sand subsoil which was indistinguishable from the fills within the furrows on Site. The overlying relic plough soil and the existing topsoil was on average 0.25 - 0.3m thick.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 A shallow 1.25m diameter sub-rounded pit 104 was revealed in the western end of Trench 1. The feature had an irregular edge and base, measuring 0.12m deep and was filled with charcoal rich clay 105. The feature probably represented the remains of a burnt tree bowl (**Plate 2**).

5.3 Trench 4

5.3.1 The southwest terminus of an irregularly based and edged southwest to northeast aligned linear feature 405 was uncovered at the western end of this trench. The feature clearly cut the subsoil and was later than the ridge and furrow agriculture. The single fill 406 contained a discrete area of burning; however, the irregular nature of the feature meant that the feature was likely to be bioturbatory in nature.

5.4 Trench 5

5.4.1 A total of six post holes (504, 506, 508, 510, 512 and 514) were uncovered to the northern end of this trench in a north-northwest to south-southeast alignment (**Figure 3, Plate 3**). The post holes were all of a similar diameter of 0.35 – 0.4m and 0.13 to 0.25m deep with a tapered rounded point. The fills (505, 507, 509, 511, 513 and 515) were all remarkably similar consisting of a light grey sandy clay. The posts were sealed by the subsoil indicating that they predated the ridge and furrow agriculture found across the Site. A

single amber bead recovered from post hole 514 in fill 515 (see Section 7.5) may be Romano-British.

5.4.2 Trench 5 was extended to locate the extent and form of the post alignment. Post 512 was the most northerly and no return either to the east or west could be located, suggesting that the posts formed a fence line rather than a house structure. This interpretation is corroborated by the closely packed arrangement at c. 0.3m spacing which would be unusual for a domestic structure.

5.4.3 The initial target of this trench was to examine a potential quarry earthwork. No evidence of quarry activity was uncovered. The existing earthworks in the immediate area consisted of three north-south ridges which ceased at a large east-west headland ridge (**Plate 4**). No evidence for ridges were evident to the north of the headland, however Trench 4 uncovered evidence of a furrow and subsoil at its eastern end suggesting the ridges had been levelled at some point.

5.5 Trench 11

5.5.1 A north-south aligned gully 1104 was uncovered running across the width of this trench. The gully measured 0.55m wide by 0.23m deep and contained a single sandy clay fill 1105. The gully was clearly truncated by ridge and furrow agricultural activity 1106 (**Figure 4**) and wheat grain fragments recovered from its fill (see section 8.2.3) may have been intrusive from the overlying furrow. The ditch aligns with the base of the nearby slope, which suggests a land division drainage function.

5.6 Trench 27

5.6.1 Ditch 2704, with recut 2706, was revealed to the southern end of this trench (**Figure 5**). Both ditches were aligned east to west, extending across the width of the trench. Ditch 2704 was 0.4m wide and filled with a loose sand 2705. Ditch 2706 measured 0.6m wide and was filled with a grey loose sand 2707. Both features were 0.35m deep, undated and were sealed by the subsoil agricultural layer. The ditches were at the top of an east-west slope which may indicate a land division/drainage function.

5.7 Trench 30

5.7.1 A V-shaped ditch 3005 was uncovered extending from the southern trench edge (**Figure 6**). The slightly curving ditch ran from the southwest to northeast and was truncated by stone lined land drains at the southern end. The alignment of the ditch matches the prevailing slope of the land at this location from the southwest to northeast and valley base. The ditch measured 0.65m wide by 0.3m deep and was filled by 3006 consisting of a dark grey sandy clay. Post-medieval pottery was uncovered in the fill (see Section 7.2.5), however this pottery was recovered close to the southwest drain location and was probably intrusive from the stone lined land drain. Similar pottery was recovered from two other stone lined and capped land drains uncovered in Trenches 43 (4304) and Trench 45 (4504). The profile of the ditch is suggestive of a possible Roman date for the feature.

5.7.2 The entire central portion of the trench 3007 (an extension of the natural escarpment recorded in Trench 31 below) was disturbed by working land drains from the earlier stone lined drains to more modern ceramic and plastic drains from varying directions feeding the main modern drainage system in the fields.

5.8 Trench 31

5.8.1 The earliest feature in this trench was a 15.9m wide natural escarpment 3108 which was aligned from south-southeast to north-northwest in this part of the field (**Figure 7**). The

escarpment was steeper along the eastern edge and contained a 0.6m thick incipient peat formation 3115 overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of grey silty sand 3116 similar to 3103 in the opposing section (see **Figure 7**). The peat was environmentally sampled and no charred or processed seeds were noted (see Section 8.4). The western edge of the slope (**Plate 5**) was overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of black clayey silt 3113 which extended 4.8m along the base of the slope (**Figure 7**). The deposit contained a high concentration of charcoal and burnt stones. Overlying this deposit was a sequence of light greyish clay 3111, silty sand 3112, sandy clay 3110 and 3109 and an early subsoil 3103. Deposit 3111, sealing deposit 3113, contained two worked flints, possibly of a Mesolithic date (see Section 7.4). The deposits 3111 and 3113 were sampled (see section 8.2.3) and no processed or man-made material was noted.

5.8.2 The latest feature in Trench 31 was a north-northwest to south-southeast U-shaped gully 3105 which cut through the upper fill 3116 of the valley side 3108 (**Figure 7**). The gully was filled by a light yellow clayey sand 3106 and sealed by the subsoil 3102.

5.9 Trenches 36 and 37

5.9.1 These two trenches contained distinct natural breaks of slope (3603, 3707) extending down to a flat plateau approximately 0.6m over a 1.6m distance from east to west (**Figure 8**). The location of the features correlated with a geophysical anomaly towards the eastern end of both trenches.

5.9.2 The slope in Trench 36 (3603) appeared to have been infilled by a large proportion of rounded boulders (3604). A Mesolithic microlith was uncovered at the eastern side of the fill and two residual heavily abraded sherds of Roman pottery (see Section 7.2.2/3) were recovered further west, towards the base of the slope. No large stones were evident in slope 3707, within Trench 37, where the lower fill (3703) was a light yellowish clayey sand overlain by the subsoil 3702. The subsoil was truncated by a 2.75m long linear cut 3705 which contained a dense concentration of large to medium sized rounded cobbles (**Figure 8**) which formed either a fairly modern soakaway or drainage solution in this part of the field.

5.10 Trench 48

5.10.1 A small pit 4805 measuring 0.6m in diameter was uncovered to the eastern end of this trench (**Figure 9**, **Plate 6**). The 0.1m deep pit was filled by 4804 which consisted of a greyish black charcoal-rich clayey sand with some possible burnt stone inclusions. The fill contained a moderate amount of mature and round wood charcoal pieces (see Section 8.3).

6 LIDAR ANALYSIS

6.1.1 The LiDAR data shows the western section of the Site to contain areas of well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks (**Figures 2** and **10**). In particular, a triangular area along the western boundary exhibits low earthworks that include examples of widely spaced ridges, approximately 8m between the tops of the ridges, in conjunction with more tightly spaced earthworks where the distance between the ridges is approximately 5m. In general terms, the wider the spacing between the ridges and furrows, the older the earthworks with wide ridge and furrow usually ascribed to the medieval period. The combination of the wide and narrow earthworks may indicate this field was used for agriculture over a considerable period of time from at least the medieval period. Along the eastern edge of the triangular

section runs a probable former field boundary which exhibits a 'Backwards-S' morphology typical of agricultural landscapes established during the medieval period.

6.1.2 To the east of the triangular section lie larger fields containing mainly narrow ridge and furrow earthworks likely dating to the post-medieval period. Within the most northern of these fields the earthworks are north to south aligned, with a linear earthwork along the southern edge likely representing a lynchet. Those within the southern field are aligned east to west with a likely lynchet present along the western edge. The area between these two fields is topographically lower and perhaps formed a natural boundary between the two.

6.1.3 The presence of small sections of wide ridge and furrow interspersed with the narrow ridge and furrow in these fields to the west of the triangular section broadly confirms the findings of the Heritage Assessment (CgMs 2014) that this area was used during the medieval period and into the post-medieval.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, consisting chiefly of modern ceramics, but also including some artefacts of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date. Finds derived from contexts in eleven of the trenches excavated. Quantities by material type and by context are given in **Table 1**.

7.1.2 In addition, a small number of metal objects were recovered by metal detector survey of the spoil heaps beside the trenches (not quantified in **Table 1**).

7.2 Pottery

7.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. Of the 62 sherds recovered, two are Roman, seven medieval, and 51 post-medieval/modern. Two sherds are undated.

Roman

7.2.2 Two Roman sherds were recovered from subsoil 3605. These comprise one body sherd of samian and one of fine oxidised ware. Both sherds are small and heavily abraded; the samian sherd has lost all of its surface slip, but can be dated to the later 1st to 2nd century AD. The oxidised sherd could originally have been colour coated (possibly an Oxfordshire product dating to the 4th century) but was so badly abraded positive identification beyond Romano-British was not possible.

7.2.3 Given the provenance and an associated prehistoric flint and medieval sherd, these Roman sherds were clearly residual finds.

Medieval

7.2.4 One body sherd in a coarse 'gritty ware', recovered from subsoil 3605, was almost certainly residual there. These gritty wares have a date range of later 12th to 13th century in the region (Vaughan 2007, fabric group [FG] 3). One body sherd from subsoil 402 and two conjoining from context 1704 are in sandy fabrics, reduced with buff surface, dated as 12th to 13th century (*ibid*., FG6.1), while the final three sherds (one from context 3107 and one from context 3604), are in a pale-firing (buff-pink) sandy fabric (*ibid*., FG4). Sherds from both contexts are from a jar rim with squared profile, of probable 13th or 14th century date.

Post-medieval/modern

7.2.5 The majority of the post-medieval/modern assemblage is made up of sherds in late glazed red earthenwares, internally white-slipped, some with manganese mottling. These sherds were found in small groups in Trenches 30 (context 3004, ditch 3005), 43 (drain 4304) and 45 (drain 4504). These white-slipped wares were used for jars and bowls of various sizes and profiles. Pottery of this type was made in the north Midlands and as far north as South Yorkshire, from the very end of the 18th century through to the early 20th century, but in this instance it may have a more local origin. One of the sherds from drain 4304 shows signs of overfiring (glaze blistered, clay body fired dark red/purple), and appears to represent a 'waster', presumably from nearby manufacture. Five sherds of unglazed red earthenware, in a similarly hard-fired dark red fabric (possibly overfired), from drains 4304 and 4504, could belong to the same industry.

7.2.6 There is further evidence for pottery manufacture in the 19th or 20th centuries in the presence of two sherds of biscuit-fired yellow ware, one from a flared bowl with white banded slip decoration, and a basal sherd of salt-glazed stoneware with a lump of coarse clay stuck to the underside, presumably acting as a 'spacer' in the kiln; these were also found in drain 4304, together with another ceramic spacer in the form of a tripod stilt. Corbridge, due to the abundance of clay in the area, is known as the location of several pottery works from the mid-19th through to the later 20th century, including Walker's pottery works on the other side of Milkwell Lane (operating 1840–1910), although this appears to have been producing primarily sanitary ware, bricks, tiles and chimney pots (internet source: Walker's pottery works; J. Jameson & Son Ltd).

7.2.7 The remaining post-medieval/modern pottery comprises a few small sherds of glazed red earthenware, stoneware and yellow ware. The yellow ware and stoneware belong to the modern period of manufacture (late 18th century onwards), while the red earthenwares (from subsoils 402 and 2502) could be slightly earlier.

Undated

7.2.8 Two conjoining sherds from context 105 are in a medium-grained sandy fabric. The sherds are heavily abraded, and have the appearance of being burnt. The fabric is not chronologically distinctive, and the sherds are completely undiagnostic. They remain undated.

7.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

7.3.1 This comprises two pieces of medieval roof tile (context 3111, subsoil 3202), one piece of post-medieval brick (subsoil 2502) and a small, abraded fragment which is completely undiagnostic (context 1704).

7.4 Worked flints

7.4.1 Five pieces of worked flint were recovered. The most likely source for the raw materials is marine flint, deposited along the coast northwards from Flamborough Head. Three out of the five pieces are of bladelike proportions (including one crested piece); the other two are flakes. One of the flakes and one of the blades are each possibly retouched. Firm comment on chronology is not possible on such a small sample, but the predominance of blade technology, and particularly the presence of the crested piece, could indicate a date in the Mesolithic period, which would be consistent with the identification of two Mesolithic flint scatters close to the Site.

7.5 Amber

7.5.1 Part of a small globular amber bead was recovered from context **515** (extracted from a sieved soil sample). The bead is not intrinsically datable, and there are no other datable finds from Trench 5, but the likelihood is that it is Roman. Amber beads, became more common in the late Roman period, although still not widely found.

7.6 Other evaluation finds

7.6.1 Other finds comprise four pieces of ironworking slag and one of fuel ash slag (of unknown date), and a large, slab-like piece of stone which shows no obvious signs of working but which might have been utilised as building material. There is no reason to suppose that this is of anything other than local origin.

7.7 Metal detector finds

7.7.1 These comprised 76 objects (18 iron; 44 lead; 12 copper alloy and 2 coins). The ironwork consists largely of nails, with one agricultural tool blade and a ring. Most of the lead comprises waste and offcuts, with two shot (one musket and one pistol). The copper alloy objects are mainly buttons, with one fragment from a cast vessel. The two coins are both late 20th century pennies. The datable objects (coins, buttons, vessel, lead shot) are all post-medieval.

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

Context	CBM	Flint (No.)	Pottery	Other Finds
105			2/14	
402			2/33	
407				1 slag
509				1 slag
515				1 amber
1704	1/25		2/23	
2502	1/186		1/9	
3002				1 stone
3004			12/300	
3006			1/29	
3107			1/6	
3111	1/6	2		
3202	1/57			
3603				
3604		3	2/7	2 slag
3605			3/19	1 slag
4304			25/1185	1 ceramic object
4504			11/338	
Total	**4/274**	**5**	**62/1963**	

CBM = ceramic building material

8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 A series of 16 bulk samples were taken from a range of features within the evaluation trenches to assess the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can provide an indication of the archaeological significance of these sampled features. Fifteen of these samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. The sample from peat deposit 3115 on the sloping edge 3108 in Trench 31 was processed for the recovery and assessment of waterlogged remains as well as charred plant remains and charcoal.

8.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following areas:

Table 2: Sample Provenance Summary

Trench	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
1	1	9	pit
5	6	41	posthole
11	1	32	gully
27	2	40	ditches
31	4	70	ditch, sloping edge
36	1	32	bank deposit
48	1	4	pit
Totals	**16**	**228**	

8.2 Charred plant remains

8.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10–x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 3 (Appendix 1)**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, pages 28, 5 and 65), for cereals.

8.2.2 The flots varied in size and there were a low to moderate numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was poorly preserved.

8.2.3 Small charred plant assemblages were recorded in four of the samples. A few weed seeds including those of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) were recovered from post hole 510 in Trench 5, while a few wheat (Triticum sp.) grain fragments were noted in the sample from gully 1104 in Trench 11. The sample from deposit 3111 in sloping edge 3108 in Trench 31 contained a small number of weed seeds including those of oat/brome grass and brassica (*Brassica* sp.). The small assemblage from bank deposit 3603 in Trench 36 included free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain fragments, oat/brome grass seeds, hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments and heather (*Calluna/Erica* sp.) type stem fragments.

8.2.4 These small assemblages provide no clear indication of the date of the features and do not appear to be indicative of settlement activities in the immediate vicinity.

8.3 Wood charcoal

8.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 3 (Appendix 1)**. A large quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm was retrieved from deposit 3113 in sloping edge 3108 in Trench 31 and a moderate amount from pit 4805 in Trench 48. The charcoal included mature and round wood pieces.

8.4 Waterlogged plant remains

8.4.1 A sample of 1 litre from peat deposit 3115 in sloping edge 3108 in Trench 31 was processed for the recovery of waterlogged and charred remains. Laboratory flotation was undertaken with the sample retained on a 0.25mm mesh. The flot was visually inspected under a x10 to x40 stereo-binocular microscope to determine if waterlogged material occurred.

8.4.2 A moderate number of uncharred weed seeds, including those of crane's-bill (*Geranium* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), were recovered. No charred plant remains were noted. The uncharred weed seeds may be indicative of a rough damp grassland environment.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Summary

9.1.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed limited archaeological features across the Site including four linear features (Trenches 11, 27, 30 and 31), one with a recut (Trench 27). A closely packed line of six post holes (Trench 5) and two possible pits were uncovered (Trenches 1 and 48) and archaeological activity within natural features was also revealed.

9.1.2 Trench 5 uncovered a closely packed line of six tapered blunt-ended post holes, which were quite shallow and may have been truncated by the medieval agricultural activity. No east or west return could be identified at the northern extent of the line of post holes and no opposing line of post holes was identified that would have suggested a domestic building. Given the single row and closely packed nature of the post holes these have been interpreted as a stockade or substantial fence line. A small amber bead of possible Roman date was recovered from the fill of one of the post holes which indicates a possible date for the features.

9.1.3 A small gully uncovered in Trench 11 pre-dated the medieval ridge and furrow. The north-south alignment suggests that it was probably a drainage/field boundary from the slope extending to the north. The lack of finds on the area as a whole would seem to confirm that the feature was agricultural.

9.1.4 A small east-west aligned ditch was uncovered in Trench 27 which was later recut along the northern side. The ditches were sealed by subsoil indicating an earlier date than the medieval agriculture. No artefacts were found in the fills and the alignment heading downslope suggests that the ditches were agricultural drainage/field boundaries.

9.1.5 A V-shaped ditch was uncovered in Trench 30. The V-shaped profile is usually associated with ditches of the Roman period. The ditch was located at the bottom of a shallow escarpment and was oriented to the west where the focus of drainage on Site appeared to

centre. The fill contained a large proportion of post-medieval pottery which was probably intrusive from a later stone lined drain cutting its southern extent. Pottery of the same type was also recovered from working stone lined and capped drains in Trenches 43 and 45.

9.1.6 A U-Shaped ditch aligned north-northwest to south-southeast was uncovered at the eastern end of Trench 31. The ditch was sealed by the subsoil indicating an earlier date than the medieval agriculture. Later excavation revealed that the ditch was aligned along the infilled edge of a deeper escarpment, and the east-west alignment and fill suggest an agricultural drainage/field boundary.

9.1.7 Trench 48 uncovered a shallow circular pit-like feature with a charcoal-rich fill with burnt stones. The feature was interpreted as a truncated pit. A similar feature was uncovered in Trench 1.

9.1.8 Both sides of a natural escarpment were uncovered in Trench 31. The base of the western edge revealed a thick spread of charcoal-rich material containing burnt stones. The deposit was interpreted as a dump of domestic fire waste. The burnt deposit was sealed by a sandy clay which contained two worked flint artefacts suggesting that the fire waste was of prehistoric origin.

9.1.9 An escarpment uncovered in Trenches 36 and 37 was infilled by rounded boulders and colluvium. The fill of the escarpment in Trench 36 contained an intrusive Mesolithic microlith and well abraded Romano-British pottery.

9.2 Conclusions

9.2.1 Burnt stones associated with worked flints uncovered on the slope of a natural escarpment, indicate the disposal of fire waste of a possible prehistoric date. A mixture of worked flint and Roman pottery associated with a shallow natural escarpment, identified in two trenches, suggests this natural feature silted up over a significant period of time. Soil samples indicated only wild weeds and rough wet grassland environment during this phase confirming no agriculture in the immediate vicinity.

9.2.2 The area surrounding the Site has numerous Roman finds recorded, associated with the nearby Scheduled Roman Fort and activity associated with the frontier zone of Hadrian's Wall. Four of the linear features identified across the archaeological evaluation and a line of post holes preceded the subsoil and, therefore, the medieval agriculture evident across the whole area. Close analysis of the subsoil could not distinguish any difference between the subsoil in the extant furrows and the subsoil over the ridges. The linear features sealed by the subsoil contained no datable artefacts. The linear features were interpreted as being of agricultural and drainage use. The lack of arable grains in the infilled ditches indicates that the area was not farmed during the phase when the ditches went out of use. A small assemblage of heavily abraded Roman pottery recovered from the colluvium fill of a natural escarpment at the far west of the Site is suggestive that some form of, possibly agricultural settlement, was located in the near vicinity. This may relate to the vicus situated to the west of the Site.

9.2.3 Ridge and furrow agricultural activity was evident to varying degrees across the entire Site. The Site has obviously been subject to water management in the form of pre ridge and furrow drainage/field boundary ditches, as well as post-medieval stone lined and capped, ceramic and modern plastic field drains.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with The Great North Museum under an appropriate accession number. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

10.2 Preparation of archive

10.2.1 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 the Great North Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014d; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

10.3 Security copy

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.

11 REFERENCES

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11.2 On-line resources

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Walker's pottery works:
http://sine.ncl.ac.uk/view_structure_information.asp?struct_id=73

J. Jameson & Son Ltd:
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/27c36354-c911-4960-b450-c62b85b35ab2

12 APPENDICES

12.1 Environmental data

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal and waterlogged material

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1 - Undated Pit												
104	105	1	9	75	50	-	-	-	-	-	5/10 ml	Coal
Trench 5 - Undated Postholes												
504	505	2	9	60	60	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	Coal
512	513	9	8	40	50	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	Coal
508	509	10	6	35	40	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Coal
506	507	11	5	50	40	-	-	-	-	-	<1/2 ml	Coal
510	511	12	5	50	60	-	-	-	C	*Avena/Bromus*	<1/2 ml	Coal
514	515	13	8	60	60	-	-	-	-	-	<1/2 ml	Coal, Amber bead
Trench 11 - Undated Gully												
1104	1105	14	32	175	30	C	-	Wheat grain frag	-	-	2/8 ml	Coal
Trench 27 - Undated Ditches												
2704	2705	8	20	100	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Coal
2706	2707	7	20	80	30	-	-	-	-	-	<1/1 ml	Coal
Trench 31 - Undated Ditch												
3105	3106	4	26	150	20	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	Coal
Trench 31 - Undated Sloping Edge												
3108	3111	3	23	60	50	-	-	-	C	*Avena/Bromus, Brassica*	5/5 ml	Coal, Moll-t (C)
3108	3113	5	20	500	10	-	-	-	-	-	75/75 ml	Coal
3108	3115	16	1	60	n/a	-	-	-	-	(Uncharred (A) *Carex, Rumex, Ranunculus, Geranium*)	0/<1 ml	-
Trench 36 - ?Medieval Bank Deposit												
3603	3604	15	32	125	40	C	-	Free-threshing wheat + hulled wheat grain frags	B	*Avena/Bromus, Corylus avellana* shell frags, heather type stem frags	1/10 ml	Coal
Trench 48 - Undated Pit												
4805	4804	6	4	80	20	-	-	-	-	-	10/15 ml	Coal

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

12.2 Context tables

Trench 1		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.85m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
101	Topsoil – Dark brown silty clay. Heavy tree rooting.	0-0.43
102	Subsoil – Mid brown compact silty clay	0.43-0.73
103	Natural – Light greyish brown sandy clay, roots 5%	0.73+
104	Cut – Circular with straight sides and concave base. Possible burnt out tree bowl.	0.73 – 0.85
105	Fill – Black – red, clay and charcoal, burnt fill of pit.	0.73 – 0.85

Trench 2		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
201	Topsoil – Mid grey brown silt. 1% small gravel	0-0.23
202	Subsoil – Mid orange brown sandy silt loam	0.23-0.37
203	Natural – Mid greyish orange sandy clay with 1% manganese deposits	0.4+

Trench 3		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.88m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
301	Topsoil – Mid black brown clay, some rooting	0-0.3
302	Subsoil – Mid yellow brown sand. Some rooting.	0.3-0.52
303	Disturbed Natural – Mixed compact yellow brown sand. 10%charcoal 5% manganese	0.52 – 0.88
304	Natural – Mixed yellow grey sand clay 5% charcoal and sub rounded stones	0.88 +

Trench 4		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.53m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
401	Topsoil – mid orangey brown clay silt extensive bioturbation.	0-0.2
402	Subsoil – Mixed layer. Bioturbation created a layer of mixed subsoil, topsoil and natural. Freckled orange and grey.	0.2-0.34
403	Subsoil – Light yellow with brownish and grey flecks. Sandy clay loam. Green glazed pot sherd.	0.34-0.4
404	Natural – Light yellow with brownish grey flecks of sandy clay..	0.4+
405	Cut – Bioturbation feature.	0.4-0.53
406	Fill – Mid grey with orange flecks containing slag, burnt stone and 3% charcoal.	0.4-0.53

Trench 5		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.85m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
501	Topsoil – Dark brown silty clay	0-0.2
502	Subsoil – Mid yellow brown sand. Some rooting	0.2-0.6
503	Natural – Light yellow with brownish grey flecks of	1.5/0.6+

Trench 5		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.85m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
	sandy clay.	
504	Cut – Circular concave sides, Posthole.	0.5-0.85
505	Fill – Secondary fill of Post hole. Grey sandy clay 2% charcoal	0.65-0.85
506	Cut – Circular Post hole with straight steep sides.	0.65-0.85
507	Fill – Secondary fill of Post hole. Grey sandy clay with orange flecks.	0.65-0.72
508	Cut – Circular concave sides, Posthole.	0.65-0.72
509	Fill - Secondary fill of Post hole. Grey sandy clay with orange flecks.	0.65+
510	Cut – Oval straight steep sided posthole.	0.62-0.83
511	Fill - Secondary fill of Post hole. Grey sandy clay with orange flecks.	0.62-0.83

Trench 6		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.8m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
601	Topsoil – Mid black brown clay, some rooting.	0-0.44
602	Subsoil – Mid brown loamy sand 5% sub angular stones	0.44-0.74
603	Stoney lens – mixed layer of yellow sand & dark brown silty sand. 60% sub angular stone.	0.52-0.8
604	Natural – Yellow brown & grey clay sand	0.8+

Trench 7		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.6m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
701	Topsoil – Dark brown silty clay. Turf and grass rooting.	0-0.3
702	Subsoil – Mid brown. Silty clay very compact	0.3-0.55
703	Natural – Yellow brown sandy clay.	>0.6

Trench 8		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.54m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
801	Topsoil - Dark brown sandy clay. Turf and grass rooting.	0-0.25
802	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay very compact.	0.25-54
803	Natural – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Small rounded sand stone 2%.	>0.54

Trench 9		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.44m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
901	Topsoil – Mid black brown loamy sand. >3% sub-angular sandstone 10mm.	0-0.33
902	Natural – Mottled yellow and grey clay sand >3% sub-rounded stones 20mm.	033-0.44+

Trench 10		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.57m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1001	Topsoil – Dark brown silty clay. Turf and grass rooting.	0-0.35
1002	Subsoil – Dark brown silty clay. More compact.	0.35-0.57
1003	Natural – Yellow brown sandy clay.	>0.57

Trench 11		Dimensions: 25 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.58m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1101	Topsoil – Mid orange brown silt with sparse well rounded stones	0-0.25
1102	Subsoil – Mid orange brown clayey fine sand with occasional (3%) manganese deposits	0.25-0.35
1103	Natural – Mid brown orange sandy clay with yellow hues and grey clay patches.	0.35+
1104	Cut – Possible ditch/gully. Filled with 1105	0.35 – 0.58
1105	Fill – Dark grey with dark orange yellow flecks sandy silt with 1% well rounded stones. Fill of 1104	0.35 – 0.58
1106	Cut – Furrow. Filled with 1107	0.35 – 0.44
1107	Fill – Light grey sand with yellow and orange tones. Sparse inclusions of manganese and charcoal. Fill of 1106	0.35 – 0.44

Trench 12		Dimensions: 25 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.53m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1201	Topsoil – Mid back brown clay, 10% sub-angular stones 0.1mø	0-0.38
1202	Natural – Mixed mid brown and yellow brown sand clay. 10% sub-angular stones 0.15mø	0.38-0.53+

Trench 13		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.6m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1301	Topsoil – Dark brown sandy clay medium sized sub-angular stones 5%	0-0.27
1302	Subsoil – Dark brown sandy clay medium sized stones 5%	0.27-0.6
1303	Natural – patchy yellow brown sandy clay with 15% irregular large-medium sized stones.	0.60+

Trench 14		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.42m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1401	Topsoil – Mid brown humic sand clay with >5% sub-rounded stones 0.04m ø	0-0.22
1402	Subsoil – Mid yellow brown humic sand clay with 5% sub-rounded stones 0.1m ø.	0.22-0.38

Trench 14		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.42m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1403	Natural – Mixed mid yellow grey sand clay with >5% sub-rounded stones 0.04m ø	0.38-0.42+

Trench 15		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.75m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1501	Topsoil – Dark brown silty clay with rooting.	0-0.35
1502	Subsoil – Mid brown friable silty clay	0.35-0.60
1503	Natural – Grey sandy clay with yellow patches. Stones concentrated to the east of the trench	0.60-0.75+

Trench 16		Dimensions: 25x 2m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1601	Topsoil – Mid brown grey sand.	0-0.20
1602	Subsoil – Light yellow brown sand with 10% coarse gravel	0.20-0.30
1603	Natural – Grey yellow sand with orange tones. 40% pebble inclusions	0.30-0.40+

Trench 17		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.7m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1701	Topsoil – Mid black brown humic clay sand.	0-0.2
1702	Natural – Mixed grey brown sandy clay with 50% iron pan inclusions. The upper horizon is diffused due to rooting and plough activity.	0.2-0.7+
1703	Cut – for soakaway, filled with 1704	0.5-0.7+
1704	Fill – Deliberate backfill of loose stone rubble hard-core, allowing for drainage. Fill of 1703	0.5-0.7+

Trench 18		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.7m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1801	Topsoil – Dark brown sandy clay with rooting.	0-0.4
1802	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay with occasional (15%) medium sized sub angular stone inclusions.	0.4-0.69
1803	Natural – Light brown sandy clay. Frequent mediums sized stones with occasional large stone	0.69+
1804	Structure – Sandstone linear drain orientated N-S to the east of the trench	0.59-0.69+

Trench 19		Dimensions: 50 x 2m Max depth: 0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1901	Topsoil – Dark brown silty clay with rooting.	0-0.29
1902	Subsoil – Mid brown silty clay with regular large-medium stone inclusions	0.29-0.4+

Trench 19		Dimensions: 50 x 2m Max depth: 0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1903	Natural – Yellow brown sandy clay with very frequent mid-sized rounded stones	0.4+

Trench 20		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.7m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2001	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sand with sparse (3%) sub-rounded pebbles	0-0.35
2002	Subsoil – Light orangey brown sand with sparse (3%) sub-rounded pebbles	0.35-0.50
2003	Natural – Light orangey grey sandy with abundant (50%) sub-rounded cobbles	0.5-0.7+

Trench 21		Dimensions: 25 x 4m Max depth: 0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2101	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sand with 1% sparse rounded fine gravel	0-0.27
2102	Subsoil – Light yellow brown sandy silt with sparse (3%) sandstone fragments	0.27-0.40
2103	Natural – Light reddish brown sandy clay with occasional (10%) large well rounded cobbles and weathered sandstone fragments	0.4+

Trench 22		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.45m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2201	Topsoil – Mid brown humic sandy soil with sparse (5%) stone inclusions	0-0.32
2202	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay with 10% stone inclusions	0.32-0.45
2203	Natural – Mixed light yellow brown sandy clay with sandstone patches (15%) in the irregular upper surface	0.45+

Trench 23		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.45m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2301	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt with rare small-medium sub-rounded stone	0-0.32
2302	Subsoil – Light yellow brown sandy clay. Very mixed probably due to later ploughing	0.32-0.45
2303	Natural – Light reddish brown sandy clay with weathered limestone fragments throughout	0.45+

Trench 24		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 1.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2401	Topsoil – Mid black brown humic clay sand with 3% sub-angular stones 0.04mø	0-0.40
2402	Subsoil – Mid brown sand clay with 3% sub-angular stones 0.04mø	0.40-0.86
2403	Natural – Mid yellow brown mixed sand clay with 10% sub-angular stones of 0.2mø	0.86-1.40+

Trench 25		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.8m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2501	Topsoil – dark brown silt with sparse (5%) sub-angular to rounded stone/pebble inclusions 8-15mmø	0-0.30
2502	Subsoil – Light reddish brown silty sand with sparse sub-angular stone inclusions	0.30-0.80
2503	Natural – Greyish yellow silty sand with sandstone bedrock patches and occasional (10%) coal inclusions 8-15mmø and moderate sub-angular stone inclusions	0.80+

Trench 26		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.9m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2601	Topsoil – Mid black dark brown humic sandy clay with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0-0.45
2602	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay with sparse (>5%) angular stone inclusions 0.2mø	0.45-0.70
2603	Natural – Variable mid brown sand clay and 50% angular stones 0.2mø	0.70-0.90+

Trench 27		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.75m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2701	Topsoil – Mid black dark brown humic sandy clay	0-0.28
2702	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay with occasional (10%) sub-angular stones 20mmø	0.28-0.40
2703	Natural – Dark grey brown sandy clay with variable yellow and brown patches and frequent (50%) sub-angular stones 0.2mø	0.40-0.75+
2704	Cut – Linear ditch orientated E-W below medieval ridge and furrow. Filled with (2705)	0.40-0.75
2705	Fill – Variable grey yellow and grey brown loose sand with occasional (10%) angular sandstone inclusions. Fill of [2704]	0.40-0.75
2706	Cut – Irregular linear E-W ditch. Probably a narrower recut of ditch [2704]. Filled with (2707)	0.40-0.75
2707	Fill – Yellow grey loose sand with occasional (10%) sandstone angular stone inclusions 40mmø	0.40-0.75

Trench 28		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.55m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2801	Topsoil – Mid black brown humic sandy silt with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions 8-15mmø	0-0.30
2802	Subsoil – Mild brown sandy clay with occasional (10%) sub-angular – rounded stone/pebble inclusions 8-15mmø	0.30-0.55
2803	Natural – Mild clayey sand with large sandstone patching. Occasional (15%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0.55+

Trench 29		Dimensions: 25 x 4m Max depth: 0.5m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2901	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown medium sand with 1% made rounded fine gravel	0-0.30
2902	Subsoil – Light greyish brown sand with 15% moderate cobbles	0.30-0.50
2903	Natural – Weathered sandstone cobbles and boulders which are moderately well sorted and angular in a very fine mid brown sandy, clayey silt.	0.50+

Trench 30		Dimensions: 50 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.8m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3001	Topsoil – Rich brown humic sandy soil with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0-0.30
3002	Subsoil – Medium brown sandy silt with occasional (10%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0.30-0.50
3003	Natural – Greyish clumpy clay with patches of yellow sand and sparse sub-angular stone inclusions heavily mixed with a reddish brown sandy clay with occasional (10%) sub-angular – rounded pebble inclusions with additional stones scattered throughout	0.50-0.80+
3004	Fill – Dark grey sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. Pottery in this context is probably intrusive from an inserted land drain to the south. Fill of ditch [3005]	0.5-0.8
3005	Cut – curved ditch orientated SE-NW downhill. Filled with (3004)	0.5-0.8
3006	Fill – Black to light grey sandy silt, heavily disturbed fill of [3007]	0.5+
3007	Cut – SE-NW orientated linear cut of the western extent of the extensive land drain disturbance in the central lower part of the trench	0.5+

Trench 31		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 1.6m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3101	Topsoil – dark brown silty sand with sparse (1%) sub-rounded pebbles	0-0.30
3102	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown silty sand with heavy	0.30-0.80

Trench 31		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 1.6m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
	bioturbation and flecks of iron panning. Sparse sub-rounded pebble inclusions	
3103	Subsoil – Mid orange with grey hues and further bioturbation iron panning and sparse (3%) traces of manganese	0.50-0.90+
3104	Layer – Dark brown sandy silt with two deep concentrations of black sandy silt, possible result of flooding. This deposit is at the north of the trench only.	0.30-0.50
3105	Cut – E-W gully at the north of the trench. Filled quickly with water, possible drainage. Filled with (3106)	0.50-0.73
3106	Fill – Light yellow sand with pale grey patches. Possibly the same as (3111). Fill of [3105]	0.50-0.73
3107	Layer – Light grey geological discolouration evident in deposit (3103) which returned to texture and colour of (3103) on prolonged exposure to the air	0.60+
3108	Cut – Rectilinear E-W hollow that extends beyond the trench	0.60-1.60+
3109	Fill – Mid brownish grey sandy clay with sparse (5%) large poorly sorted sub-rounded coarse stones. Forms the hazy interface between (3103) and (3110) of hollow [3108]	0.80-0.9
3110	Fill – Light greyish silver sandy clay with orange flecks containing sparse (3%) small fragmented sandstone inclusions. Fill of [3108]	0.80-1.00
3111	Fill – Light grey blue clay with sparse (5%) fragments of sub-rounded orange sandstone. This is cut by gully [3105]. Fill of hollow [3108]. Two worked flints with signs of retouching found.	1.00-1.20
3112	Fill – Dark greyish black silty sand with sparse (1%) rounded small stone and charcoal inclusions. Fill of hollow [3108]	1.00-1.10
3113	Fill – Dark black silty clay with abundant burnt sandstone and charcoal inclusions. Fill of hollow [3108]	1.00-1.20
3114	Natural – Light yellow sand with orange flecks	1.20-1.60+
3115	Layer – Organic peat layer at the base of the NE edge of hollow [3108]	1.00-1.60
3116	Layer – Dark grey silty sand similar to (3109-3112) to the southwest of valley side. Fill of [3108]	0.85-1.00

Trench 32		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.54
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3201	Topsoil – Mid black brown humic sand clay with occasional (10%) sub-rounded stones 10mmø	0-0.25
3202	Subsoil – Mid brown sand clay with occasional (10%) sub-angular stones 20mmø	0.25-0.40
3203	Natural – Mixed 60% yellow brown friable clay sand with sub-angular stones 20% at 0.1mø and 20% at 0.3mø	0.40-0.54+

Trench 33		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.5
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3301	Topsoil – Dark brown humic silt with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0-0.30
3302	Subsoil – Mid brown silty sand with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0.30-0.50
3303	Natural – Dark blue brown grey clay with sandstone patches throughout	0.50+

Trench 34		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.6
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3401	Topsoil – Mid black brown humic sand clay with sparse (5%) sub-rounded stones 20mmø	0-0.25
3402	Subsoil – Mid brown sand clay with sparse (5%) sub-rounded stones 20mmø	0.25-0.50
3403	Natural – Mid brown clay sand and sand clay with moderately frequent (20%) sub-angular stones at 0.2mø	0.50-0.60+

Trench 35		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.6
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3501	Topsoil – Dark brown humic sand silt with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0-0.30
3502	Subsoil – Mid brown silty sand with sparse (5%) sub-angular to rounded stone inclusions	0.30-0.60
3503	Natural – Yellow brown sandy clay with occasional (10%) sub-angular moderate stone inclusions 0.08-0.2mø	0.60+

Trench 36		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.8
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3601	Topsoil – Mid black brown humic sand clay with sparse (5%) sub-rounded stones 20mmø	0-0.20
3602	Natural – Yellow course sand mixed with grey blue clay	0.70-0.80+
3603	Cut – Linear N-S possible natural hollow. Filled with stones (3604) and subsoil (3605)	0.50-0.80
3604	Fill – Sub-angular stone fill 0.3mø. Containing flint, slag and pottery sherds.	0.6-0.8
3605	Subsoil – Mid brown sand clay with sparse (5%) sub-rounded stones 20mmø	0.20-0.70
3607	Fill – Mid yellow brown sandy silt fill of 3608	0.70-0.80+
3608	Cut – Irregular feature - Tree throw	0.70-0.80+

Trench 37		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.83
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3701	Topsoil – Dark brown silty sand with sparse (5%) sub-angular stones	0-0.30
3702	Subsoil – Dark brown silty sand with occasional (10%) sub-angular stones	0.30-0.43
3703	Subsoil – Light yellow brown clayey sand with manganese, coal and sub-angular stone inclusions	0.43-0.75
3704	Natural – Grey blue clumpy clay with yellow sandy patches mixed with brown black silty clay and yellow brown sandy clay. Stone inclusions throughout	0.75+
3705	Cut – Modern cut probably used as a soakaway of for drainage. Cuts through subsoil (3702) Filled with (3706)	0.35-0.65
3706	Fill – Large rounded pebbles. Fill of [3705]	0.35-0.65
3707	Cut – Naturally cut linear feature orientated N-S. Filled with (3703)	0.43-0.83

Trench 38		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.37
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3801	Topsoil – Rich brown humic silty sand	0-0.27
3802	Subsoil – yellow brown silty sand with sparse (5%) sub-angular stones	0.27-0.37
3803	Natural – Brown yellow sand clay with sandstones patches and occasional (10%) sub-angular stones	0.37+

Trench 39		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.6
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3901	Topsoil – Rich brown humic silty sand	0-0.33
3902	Subsoil – yellow brown silty sand with sparse (5%) sub-angular stones	0.33-0.46
3903	Natural – Brown yellow sand clay with sandstones patches and occasional (10%) sub-angular stones	0.46+

Trench 40		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.5
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4001	Topsoil – Yellow brown sandy silt with sparse (5%) small-medium rounded pebble inclusions	0-0.25
4002	Subsoil – Mid brown grey silty sand with occasional small sub-angular rounded pebbles	0.25-0.40
4003	Natural – Light yellowish grey silty sand interface between the natural strata (4004) and subsoil (4002)	0.40-0.50
4004	Natural – Light grey clayey silt sand with strata of manganese and patches pf iron panning and sandstone boulders	0.50+

Trench 41		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.75
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4101	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown sandy silt with sparse (5%) small-medium rounded pebble inclusions	0-0.20
4102	Subsoil – Dark brownish grey sandy silt	0.20-0.26
4103	Subsoil – Mottled grey and orange sandy silt	0.28-0.34
4104	Subsoil – Light grey clayey sand	0.34-0.45
4105	Natural – Light grey sandy clay with frequent medium rounded sandstone cobbles with occasional sandstone boulders. To the northeast the deposit becomes more orange due to the presence of iron panning and manganese.	0.45+

Trench 42		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.35
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4201	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent small-medium sized rounded pebbles	0-0.25
4202	Natural – Very mixed yellow and grey course sandy clay with mottling and frequent gravel and large sandstone boulder inclusions	0.25-0.35+

Trench 43		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.46
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4301	Topsoil – Mid brown humic silty clay with sparse sub-angular stone inclusions	0-0.36
4302	Subsoil – Yellowish brown silty sand with sparse sub-angular stones	0.36-0.46
4303	Natural – Greyish brown clay with yellow sandy patches and occasional (10%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0.46+
4304	Fill – Brown silt sand in stone lined drain with pottery. Fill of [4305]	0.35+
4305	Cut – Land drain cut and stone lined and capped running N-S across the trench	0.35+

Trench 44		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.33
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4401	Topsoil – Dark brown humic silty clay with sparse rounded stones inclusions	0-0.28
4402	Subsoil – Yellowish brown silty sand with sparse sub-angular stones	0.28-0.33
4403	Natural – Greyish blue clay with yellow sandy patches mixed with brown silty clay and frequent sub-angular stone inclusions	0.33+

Trench 45		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.46
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4501	Topsoil – Mid brown humic silty clay with sparse rounded stones inclusions	0-0.36
4502	Subsoil – Yellow brown silty sandy clay with sparse sub-angular stone inclusions	0.36-0.46
4503	Natural – Yellow brown sand clay with sub-angular stones inclusions	0.46+
4504	Fill – Brown silt sand in stone lined drainwith pottery. Fill of [4505]	0.36+
4505	Cut – Cut for and stone lined and capped field drain running N-S and curving to the SSW at the S end	0.36+

Trench 46		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.6
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4601	Topsoil – Dark brown silty sand with sparse round-sub-angular pebble and stone inclusions	0-0.33
4602	Subsoil – Yellow dark brown sandy silt with sparse sub-angular stone inclusions	0.33-0.60
4603	Natural – Yellow grey sandy clay with occasional (10%) sub-angular sandstone fragment inclusions	0.60+

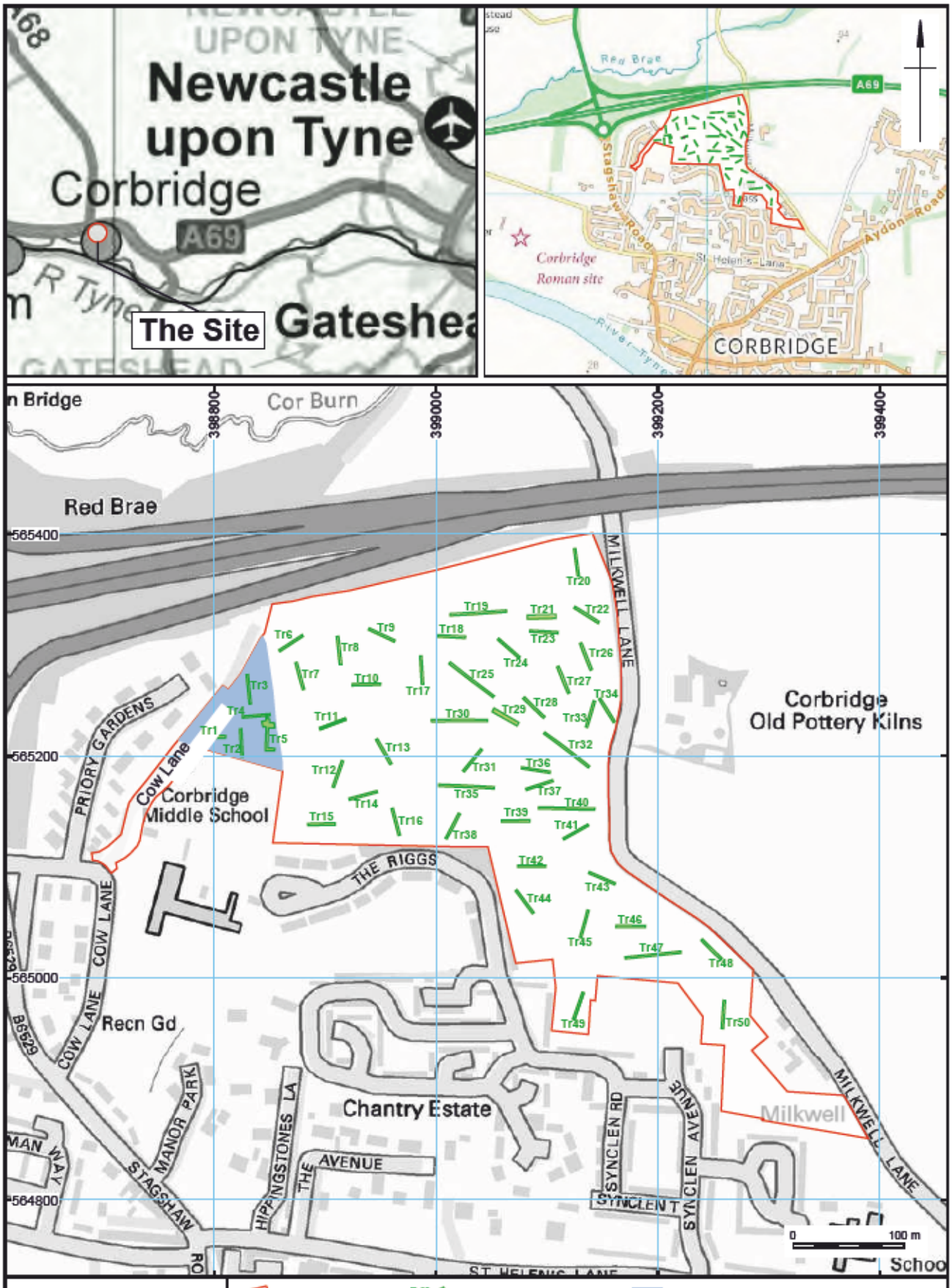
Trench 47		Dimensions: 50 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.5
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4701	Topsoil – Dark brown silty sand with sparse round-sub-angular pebble and stone inclusions	0-0.30
4702	Subsoil – Yellow dark brown sandy clay with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0.30-0.50
4703	Natural – Grey blue clay with yellow sandy patches mixed with brown silty clay and frequent sub-angular stone inclusions	0.50+

Trench 48		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.75
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4801	Topsoil – Dark brown silty sand with sparse round-sub-angular pebble and stone inclusions	0-0.30
4802	Subsoil – Yellow brown sandy clay with sparse (5%) sub-angular stone inclusions	0.30-0.65
4803	Natural – Orange yellow brown sandy clay with occasional (10%) stone inclusions	0.65+
4804	Fill – Black grey clayey sand with burnt stone and sparse round to sub-angular pebble and stone inclusions. Fill of [4805]	0.65-0.75
4805	Cut – Shallow oval pit cut into natural (4803), filled with (4804)	0.65-0.75

Trench 49		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.6
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4901	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty sand	0-0.30
4902	Subsoil – Mid orange brown sand	0.30-0.60
4903	Natural – Pale yellow sand and light blue-grey clay with iron panning and manganese throughout. To the south edge of the trench are sparse sub-rounded large sandstone cobble inclusions	0.60+

Trench 50		Dimensions: 25 x 2m Max depth: 0.7
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5001	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty sand	0-0.30
5002	Subsoil – Light orange brown sand with sparse (5%) large rounded cobble inclusions	0.30-0.50
5003	Subsoil – Light grey blue clay with sparse (5%) large rounded sandstone cobble inclusions	0.50-0.70
5004	Natural – Pale orangey yellow sand with course sandstone cobbles	0.70+

12.3 OASIS Form (OASIS ID: Wessexar1-210793)



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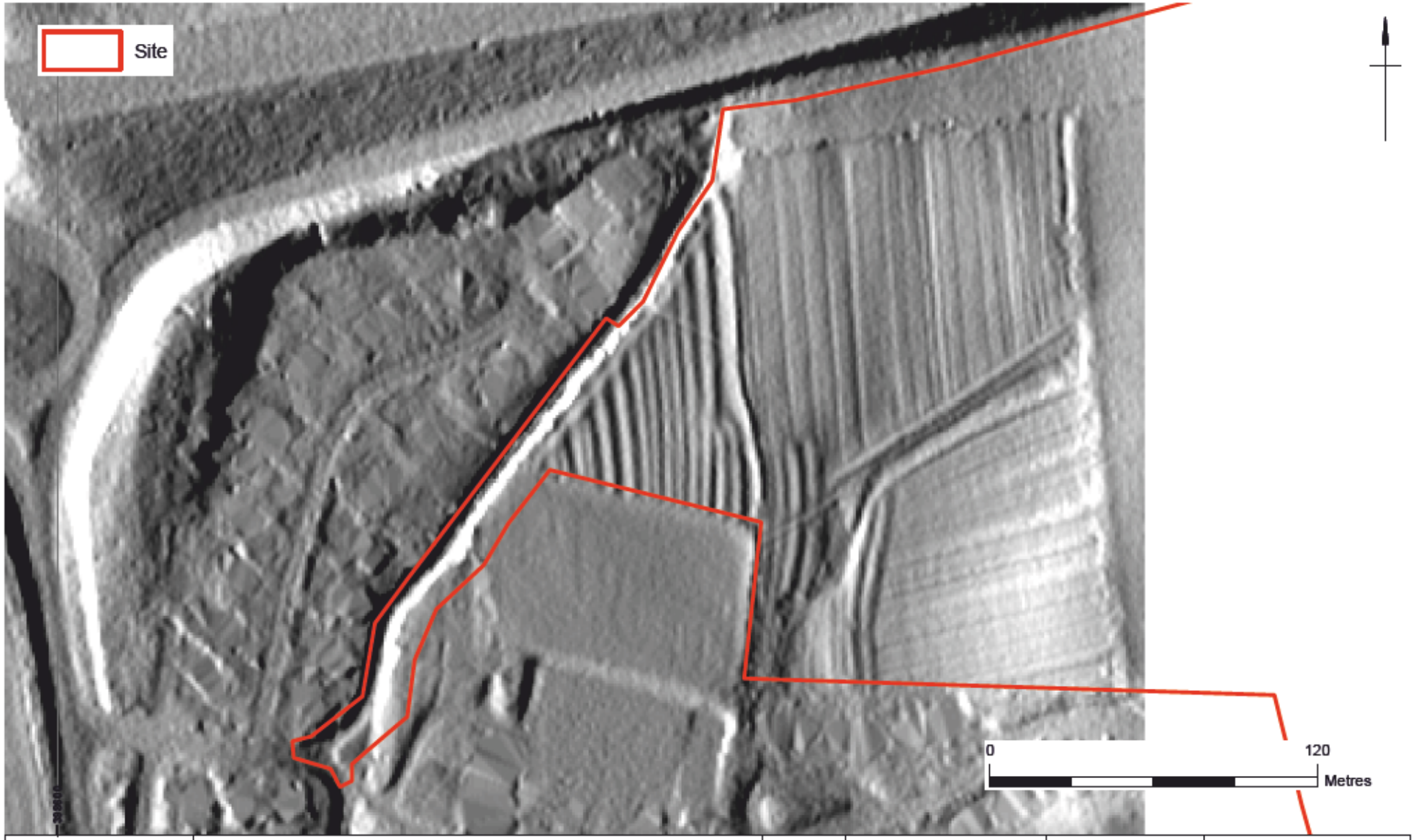
Site location and trench layout

Figure 1



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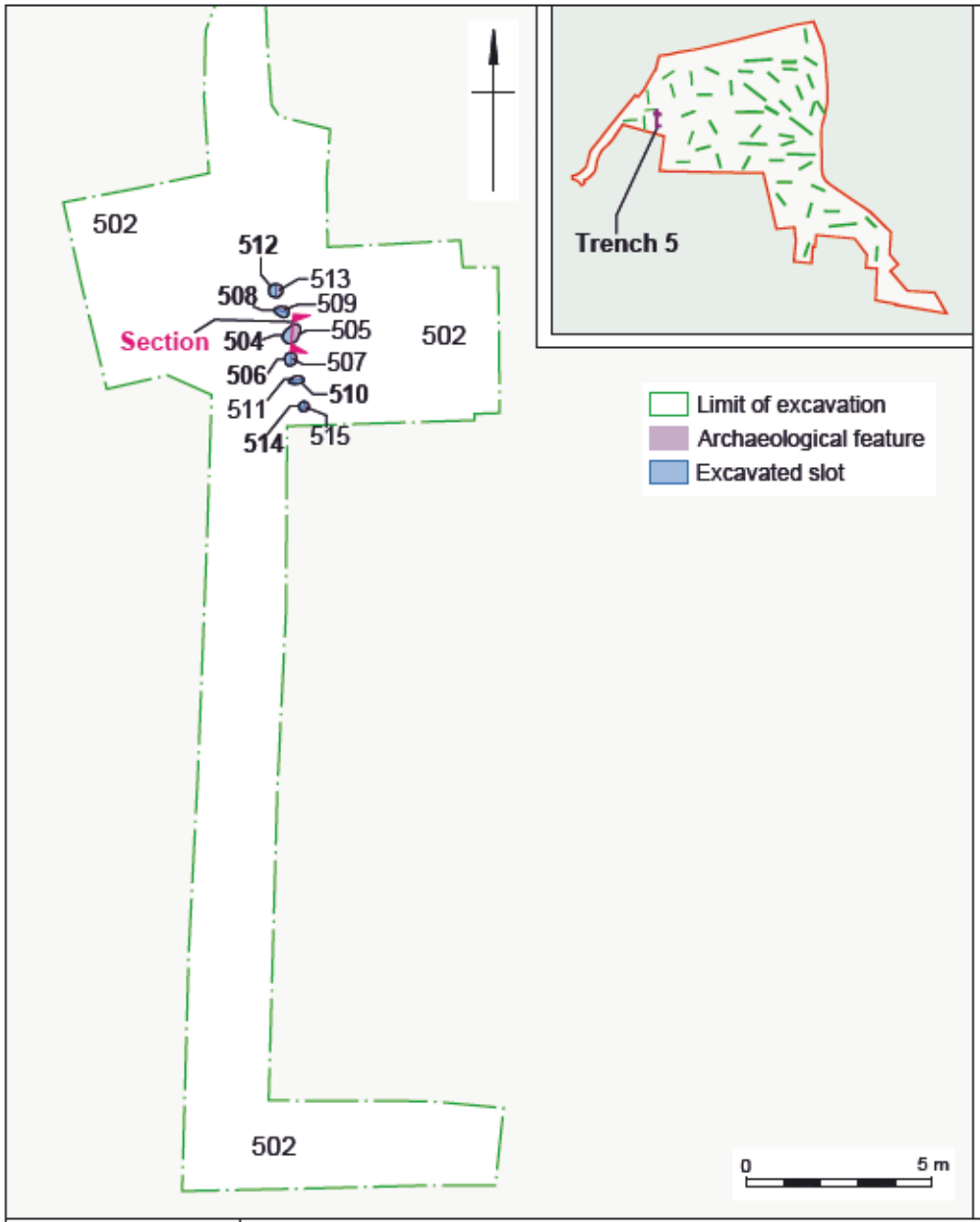
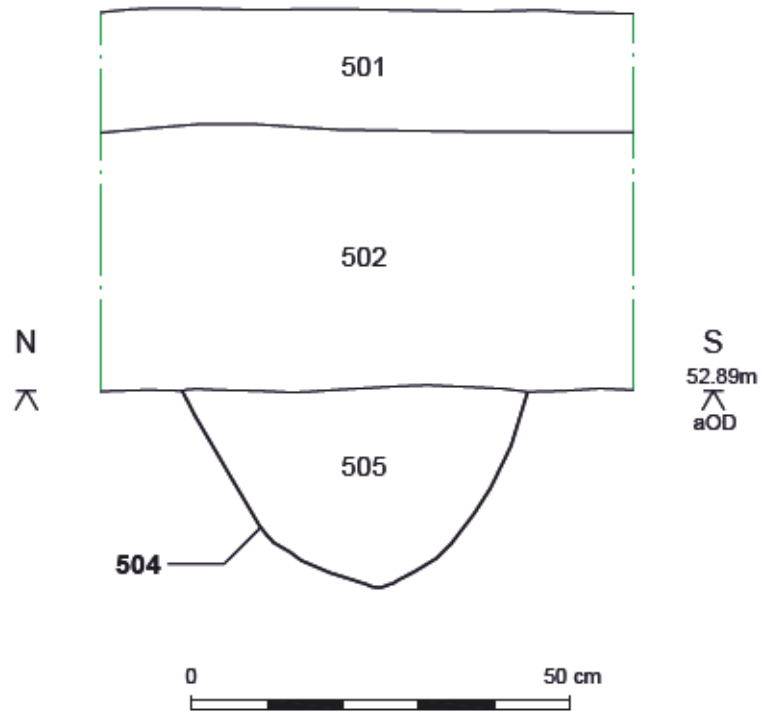
Hillshade plot of ridge and furrow earthworks using LiDAR data

Figure 2





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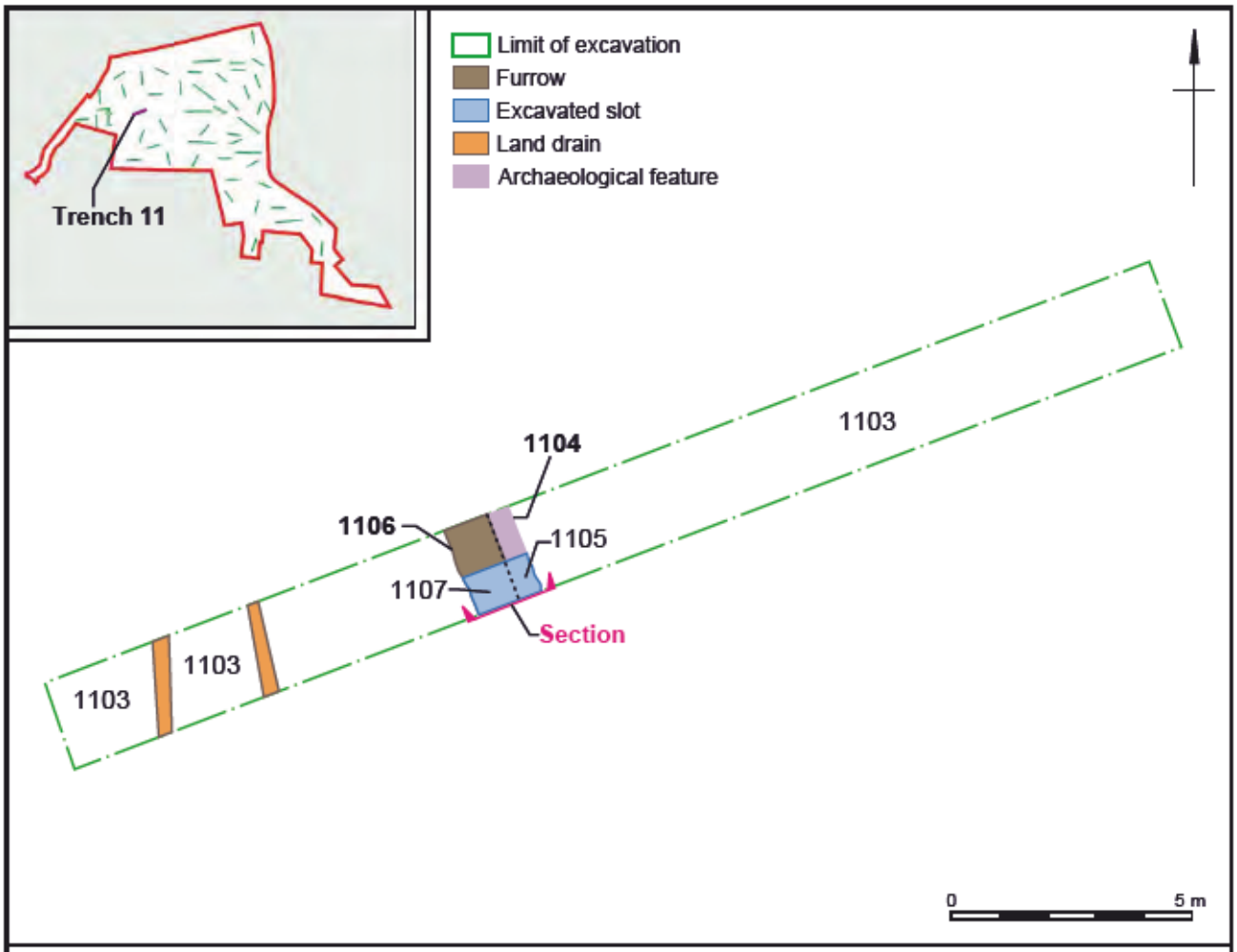
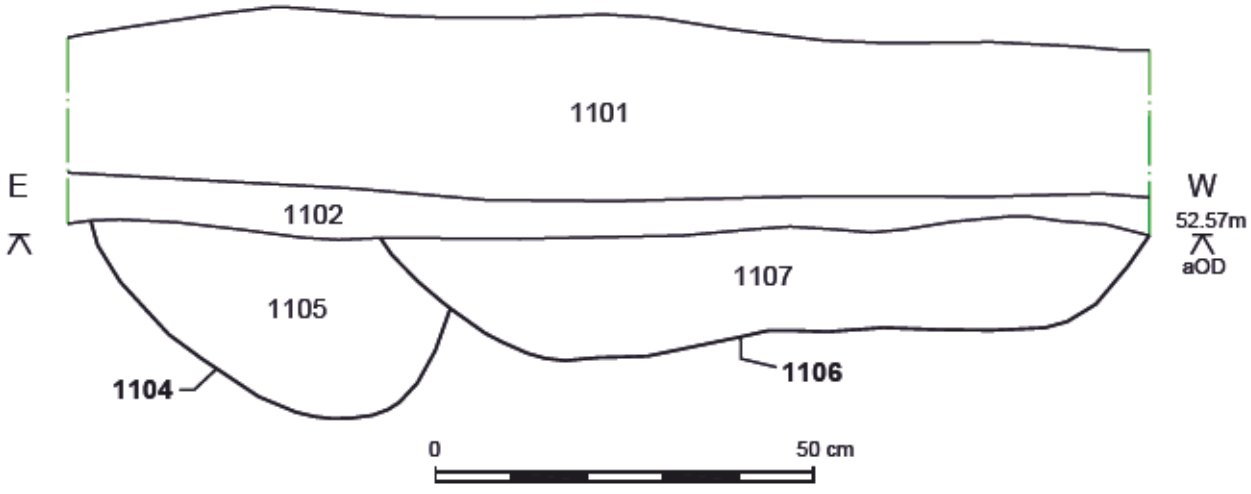
Trench 5 plan and section of post **504**

Figure 3





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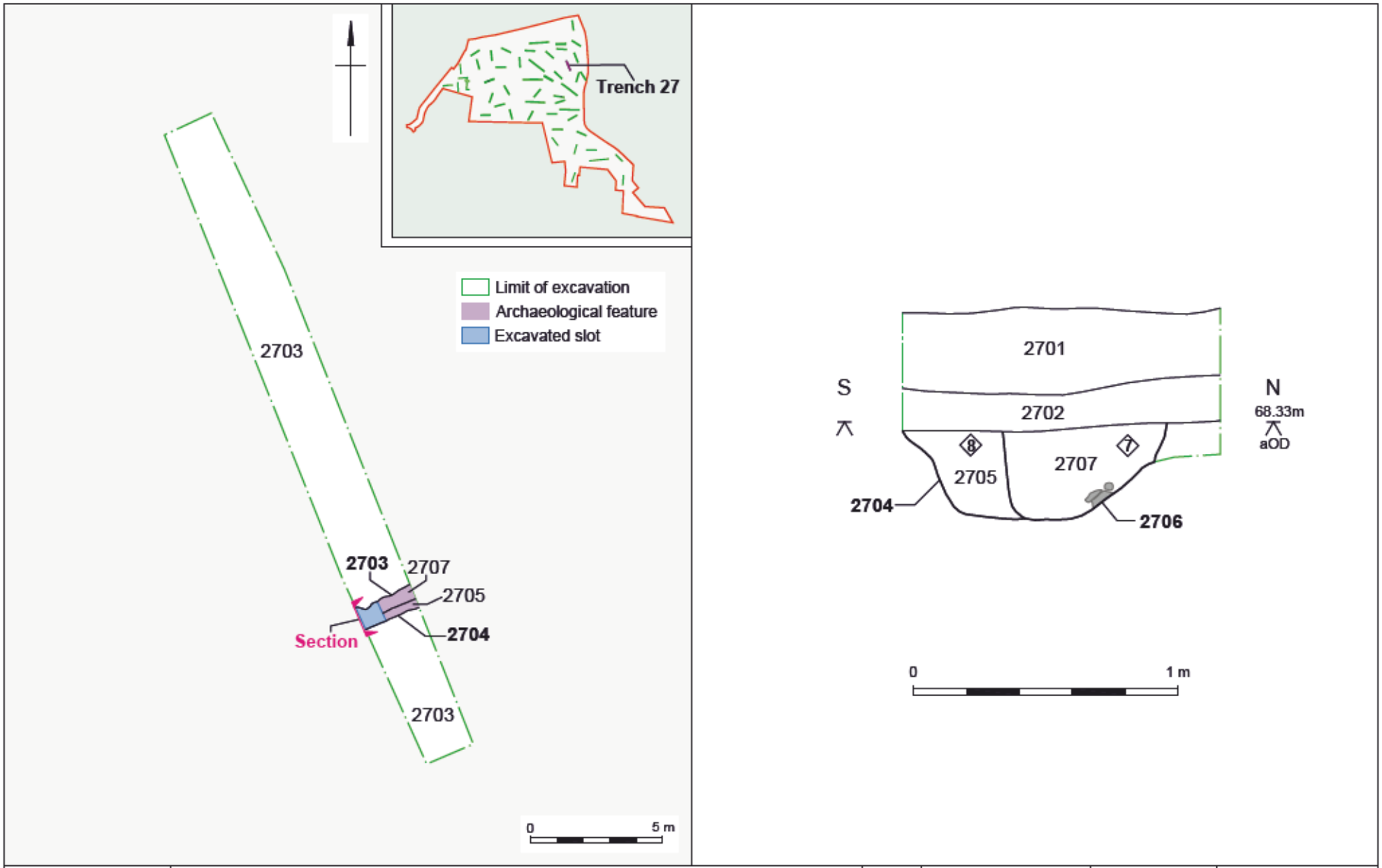
Trench 11 plan and section showing ditch **1104** cut by furrow **1106**

Figure 4



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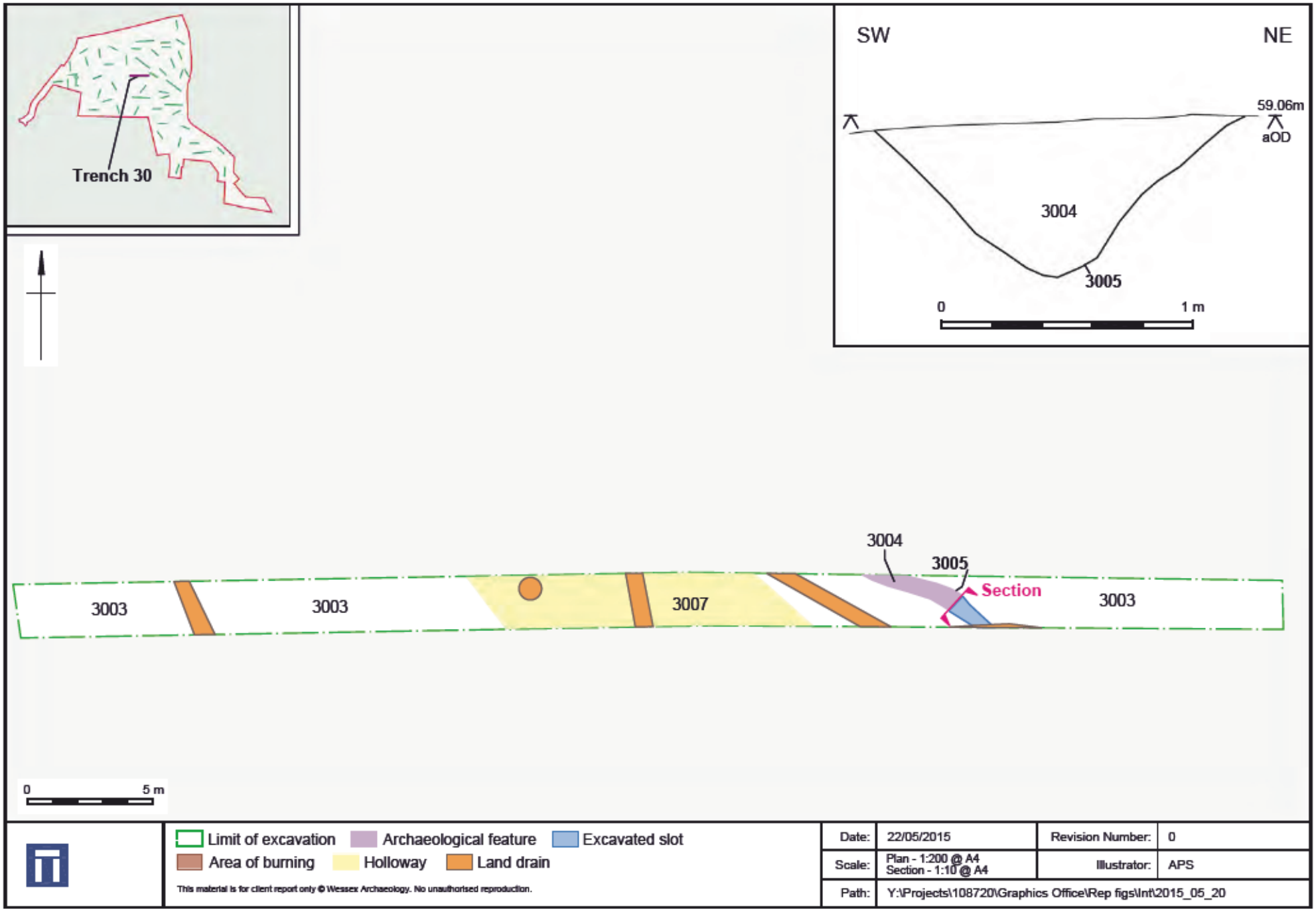
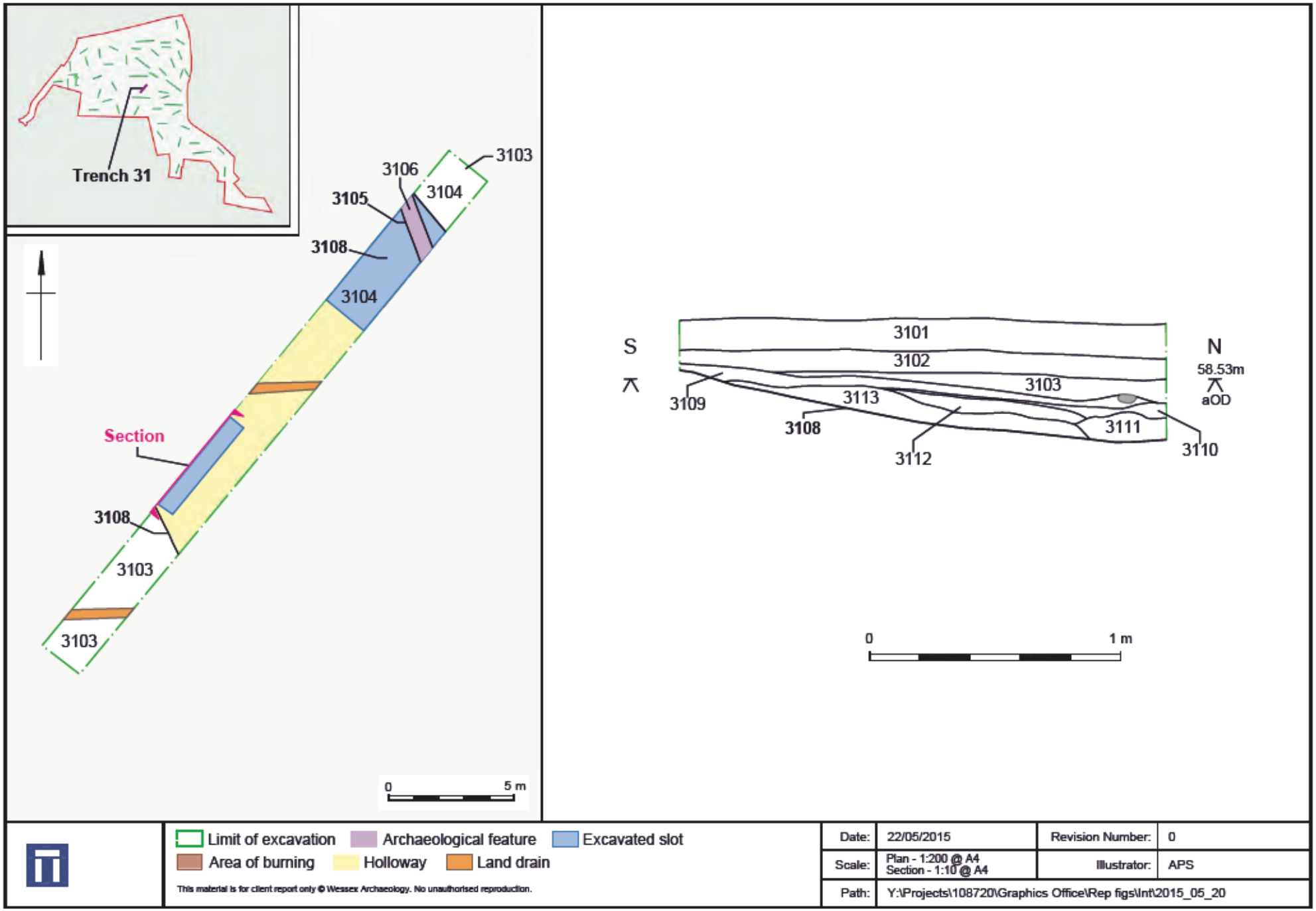
Trench 27 plan and section showing ditch **2706** cutting ditch **2704**

Figure 5



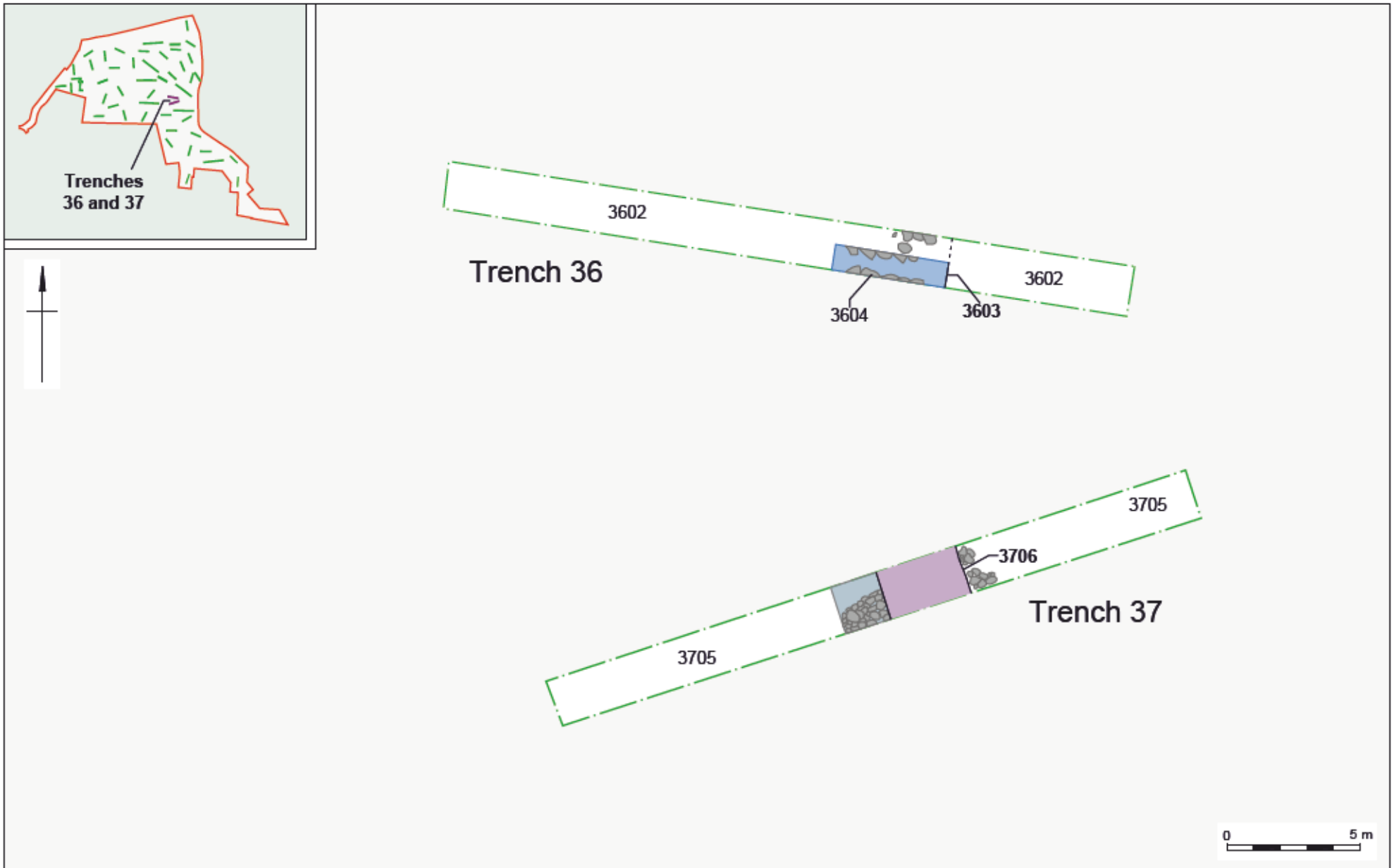
Trench 30 plan and section showing ditch 3005

Figure 6



Trench 31 plan and section

Figure 7

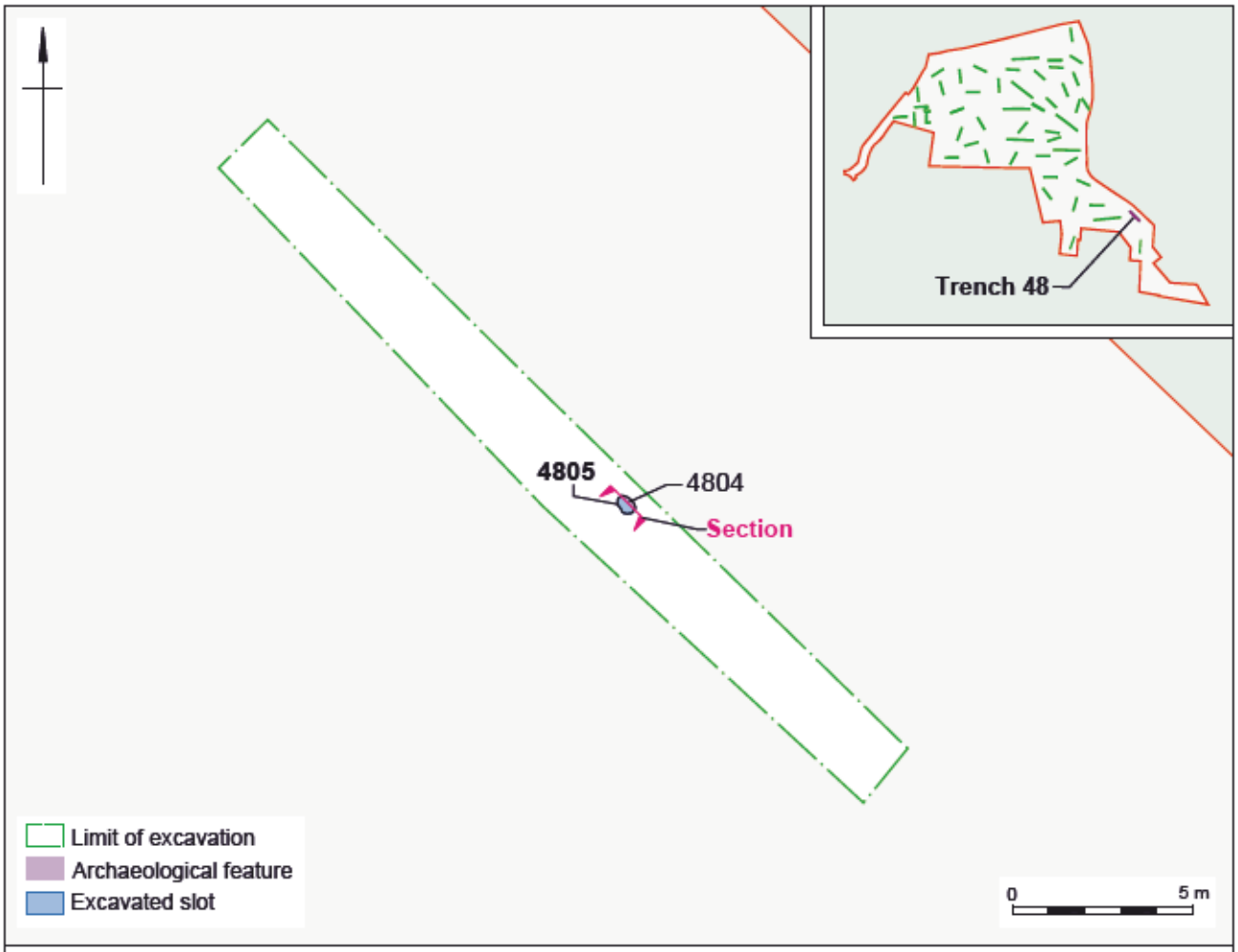


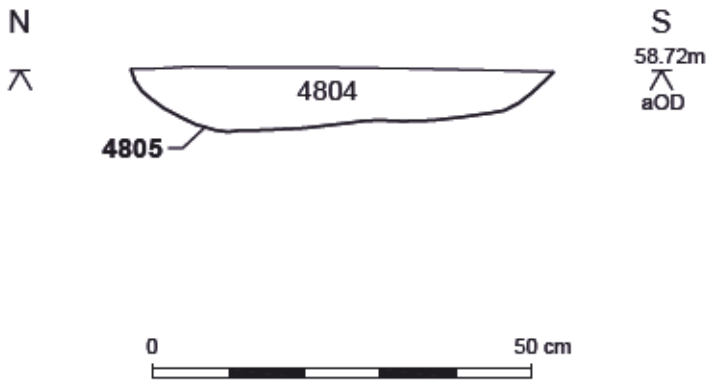
Limit of excavation | Archaeological feature, fully excavated | Excavated slot
Stones | Sondage

Date:	22/05/2015	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan - 1: 200 @ A4	Illustrator:	APS
Path:	Y:\Projects\108720\Graphics Office\Rep figs\Int\2015_05_20		

Plan of escarpment, **Trenches 36 and 37**

Figure 8





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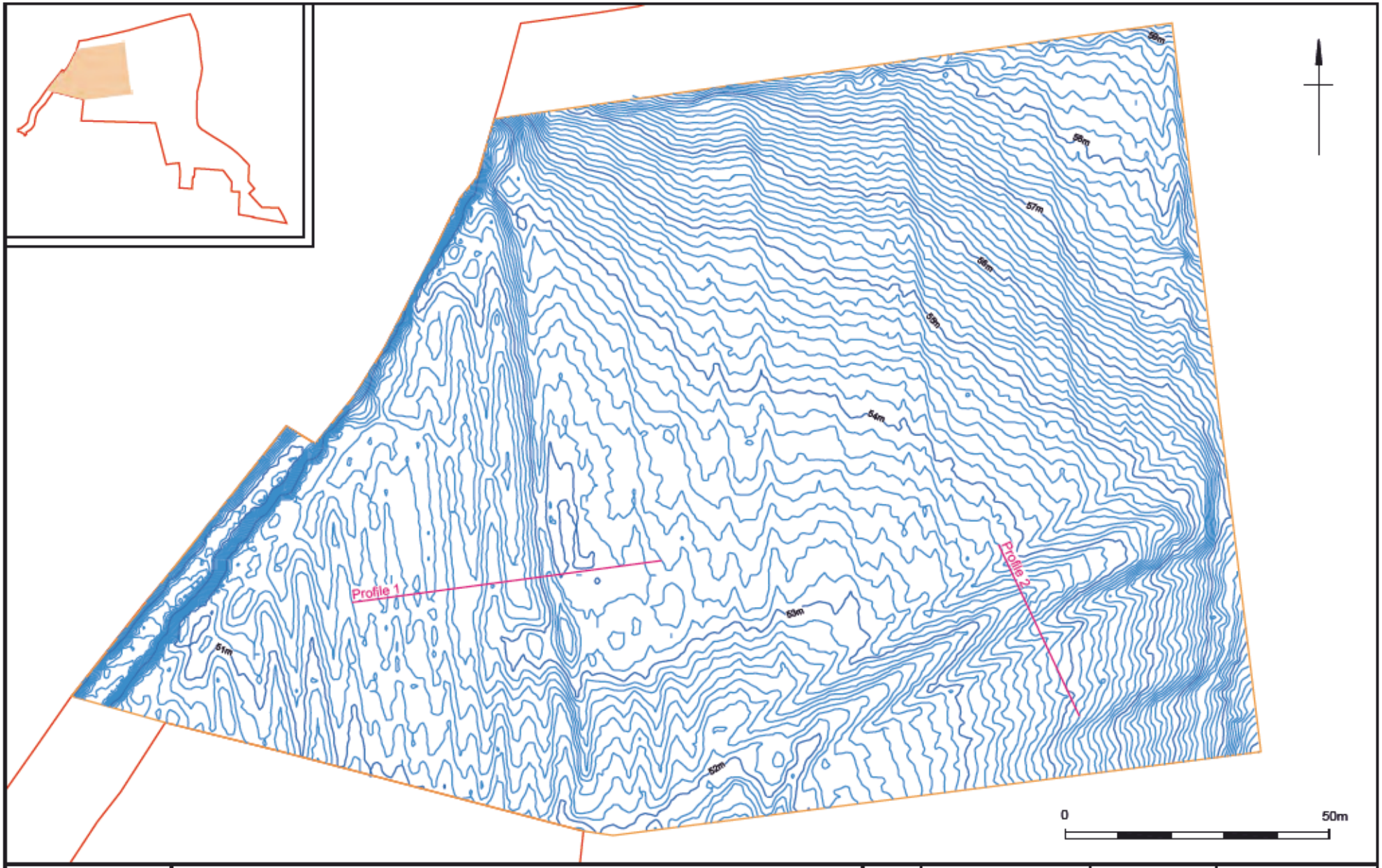
Trench 48 plan and section showing truncated pit **4805**

Figure 9



Date:	22/05/2015	Revision Number:	0
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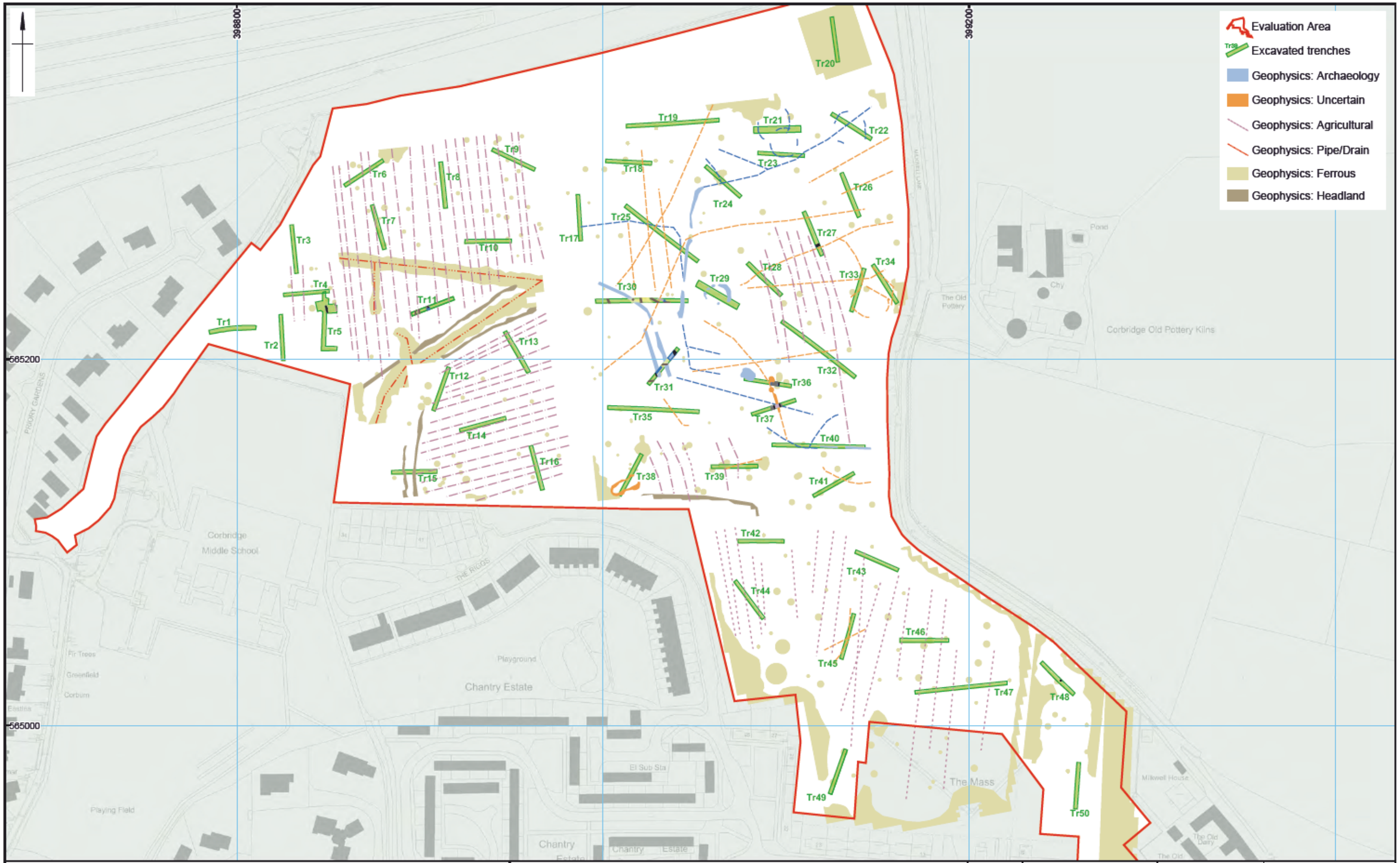
Contour plan

Figure 10



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Trench plan overlain on geophysical survey

Figure 11

Plate 1: General shot of ridge and furrow within western fields

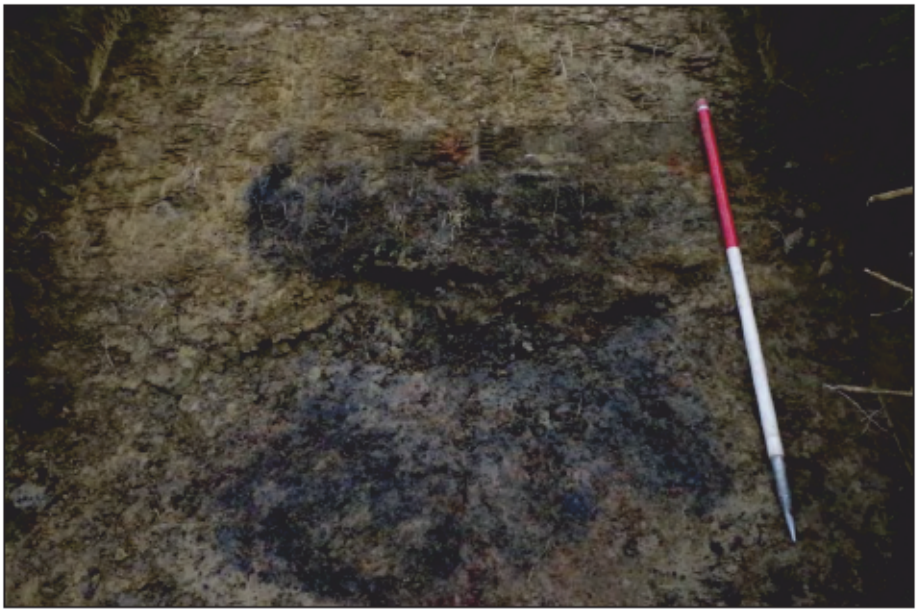

Plate 2: Detail shot of burnt pit **104** within **Trench 1**

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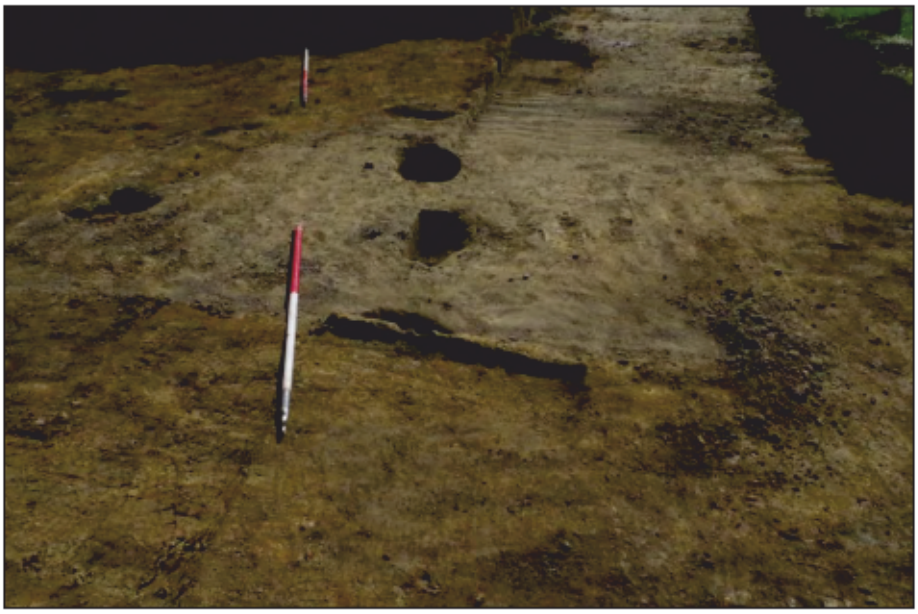

Plate 3: Detail shot of postholes within **Trench 5**

Plate 4: General shot of the east-west headland in **Trench 5**

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Plate 5: Detail shot of escarpment **3108** within **Trench 31**

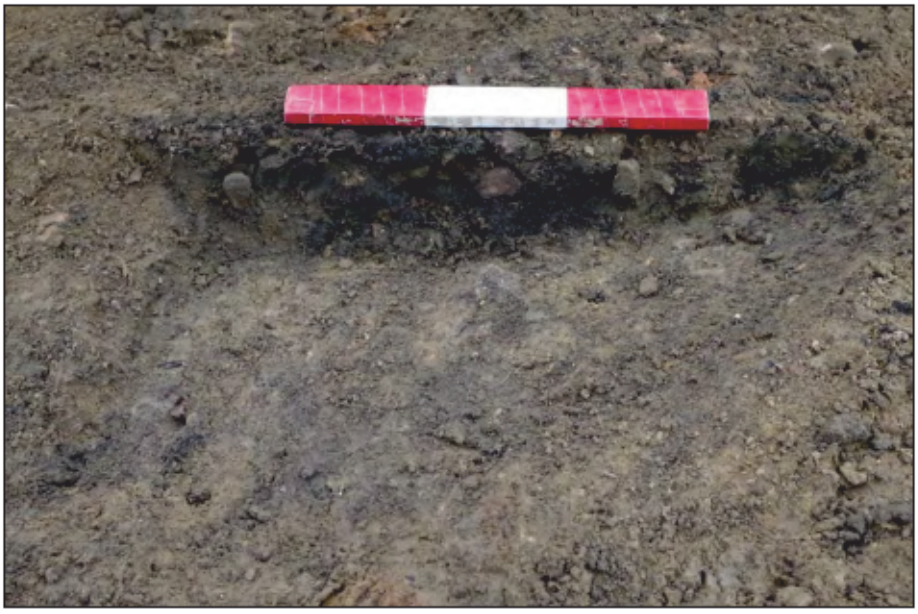

Plate 6: Detail shot of pit **4805** within **Trench 48**

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Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	APS
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