



# Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches, Salisbury Plain, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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# **Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches Salisbury Plain, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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# Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches Salisbury Plain, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# **Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches Salisbury Plain, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Defence Infrastructure Organisation to undertake a trial trench evaluation on a complex of World War I practice trenches at Perham Down, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 425050 146050.

The geophysical survey and small-scale investigations of the WWI Bedlam practice trenches on Perham Down have provided results which have considerably exceeded initial expectations.

The gradiometer survey has proved very successful at showing the layout of the trenches and is capable of revealing considerable detail, which in this case could be easily related to the layout shown on a 1915 Field map which included this part of the 'German' trenches. Also, with hindsight, the presence of a relatively large quantity of WWII (and later) debris disposed of in the 'Front Line' can be discerned on the gradiometer survey.

In terms of the physical remains, the work has shown that even small-scale excavation, employing standard excavation techniques, can provide a significant (and perhaps surprising) amount of information, particularly where few or no (as in this case) earthworks survive. Excavations in 2016 targeted the Front, Support and Reserve Lines, a Supply Trench, Shelters, an Aid Post and a Latrine, all lying within a single arable field. The trenches in all cases were well preserved and have not suffered from ploughing, and most have been dug to full depth, as prescribed in contemporary field manuals. It is also clear that internal features, such as the benches in the Aid Post and Shelters, have been properly formed with, for example, the requisite revetting in place, some elements of which have survived. Other elements relating to the use of the trenches included the trample deposits in the base, the location of a brazier in the Aid Post, the construction of the latrine and a small assemblage of finds, amongst which are several screw pickets, a number of .303 blank cartridges and a variety of food and drink tins.

In the case of the Front Line, it was evident that there was a relatively complex sequence of trench use, sap construction with subsequent abandonment and blocking and, following this, the creation of a new fire step during the continued operation of the trench. Such changing use was also apparent in the alterations made to the fire step arrangements in the Reserve Line, reflecting practicing converting a defensive position into one of attack. One or two features apparent from the gradiometer survey, but not shown on the 1915 Field map, also attest to subsequent development of the trench system, perhaps responses to specific requirements for training.

In addition to the geophysical and archaeological work, the discovery of field orders and a contemporary detailed plan from 1915 has considerably enhanced our understanding of the WWI Bedlam practice trenches. Through these and other strands of research it is possible to link the archaeology to real people and events, and this has been enhanced by the discovery of a chalk plaque in the 'German' Front Line trench which records the presence of recruits belonging to the King's Liverpool Regiment, specifically a battalion of the Liverpool Pals.



# Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches Salisbury Plain, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### Acknowledgements

We would principally like to thank all the ex-servicemen who took part in the Perham Down investigations and made it such a success. In particular, Richard ('Dickie') Bennett of Breaking Ground Heritage, who provided much logistical support throughout the two weeks on site, Matt Smith, Owen Hughes, Rob Steel, Phil Kimber and Jason White. It is sad to record here also that Perham Down was the last excavation that Scott Hawkes ('Scotty') took part in, having discovered archaeology through Operation Nightingale and then been involved in a variety of projects since 2012.

The Ministry of Defence granted permission for the excavation to take place, and the cost of the programme of archaeological work was generously covered through Conservation Stewardship funds obtained by Richard Osgood (Senior Archaeologist, Defence Infrastructure Organisation). Landmarc administered the funds for the excavation and post-excavation work and Tom Theed and Clare Rayward helped with several matters in this and other respects. Mr Parsons, the tenant farmer, is thanked for his efforts in harvesting the crop as soon as possible prior to our investigations. Information used in Figure 1 was kindly supplied by Chris Maple (BI Planning Manager, Defence Infrastructure Organisation), based on data held by Wiltshire Council and Historic England, whilst the 1915 field map reproduced in part in Figure 2 is provided courtesy of the National Archives.

Special thanks go to Mark Khan for his constant presence on site and identifying a variety of World War I and World War II debris recovered during the course of the excavations. In this he was advised, where necessary, by Major (ret'd) Ian Jones MBE and Mick Hibberd.

The fieldwork strategy was developed by Richard Osgood, who obtained all the necessary consents, Phil Andrews and Ruth Panes (Wessex Archaeology), whilst David Hopkins approved the work on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

The excavation was directed by Phil Andrews, with invaluable assistance from Dave Murdie and Bryony Lalor. In addition, Kathy Garland, Jayne O'Connell, Neil Reading, Roger Collins, Carlos Rocha, Janine Peck, Vicky Vizard, Jan Oke, Nicky Parsons and Molly Bennett all gave freely of their time and helped us achieve somewhat more than originally anticipated, and we are especially grateful for their support.

The geophysical survey was carried out by Jennifer Smith, Rebecca Hall and Rok Plesnicar, who also wrote the report and prepared the drawings, with the work quality controlled by Nicholas Crabb and managed by Lucy Learmouth.

We would also like to thank Sean Davis and his 'cherry picker' which enabled us to see the site from above, and Neil Hunter and Ross Deyzel of Iris for their drone photography and video work which have contributed to the record of the excavations.

The finds were dealt with subsequently at the offices of Wessex Archaeology by a dedicated team of volunteers, and we are grateful for all their help in this respect. Rachel Brown (Wessex





Archaeology) set up and looked after this part of post-excavation work, as well as helping with publicity for the project. Bob Davies undertook the RTI photography of the chalk plaque, which clearly revealed its significance. Mark Khan researched and produced an illuminating report on the battalion movements at Perham Down using the 1915 Field orders, and also identified and reported on the ammunition. Richard Broadhead provided a morning of World War I re-enactment and traced the names and photographs of at least 30 recruits who trained at Perham Down but were subsequently killed or died of their wounds from the Battle of the Somme.

Finally, we are grateful for being invited by Alex Rowson of 360 Production to take part in a Digging for Britain programme, subsequently shown by BBC Four in December 2016, which attracted a great deal of interest in the work on the WWI practice trenches.

This report has been prepared by Phil Andrews, incorporating information provided by Mark Khan and Richard Osgood on the military finds, Roger Collins and Kathy Garland on the glass and pottery, Lorrain Higbee on the animal bone, with illustrations by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Ruth Panes.





# Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches Salisbury Plain, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to undertake archaeological investigations on a complex of World War I practice trenches at Perham Down, Hampshire. The practice trenches are centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 425050 146050 on the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) and are hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The investigations comprised geophysical survey and targeted excavation of 'German' practice trenches known as the 'Bedlam Trenches', part of a more extensive system of practice trenches surviving as earthworks or visible as cropmarks in this part of Salisbury Plain (see **Figure 1**). The excavations were carried out in conjunction with the DIO as part of Operation Nightingale with logistical and other support from Breaking Ground Heritage [BGH].

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the investigation (WA 2016a) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and submitted to, and approved by, DIO and, subsequently, Hampshire County Council, prior to the start of the fieldwork. The investigation was undertaken in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2009) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014a).

1.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken from 11th to 26th July 2016.

#### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is situated on the eastern edge of the Defence Training Estate on Salisbury Plain, approximately 1 km to the east of Shipton Bellinger and 2.5 km to the south of Tidworth and Perham Down (**Figure 1**). It lies at around 126 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), within a largely flat sub-rectangular arable field (800 m x 300 m) to the south of the Bedlam Plantation, where earthworks associated with the Bedlam Trenches still exist. The Old Coach Road forms the south boundary of the field, and a green lane delineates the eastern extent. Hedgerows line all sides of the field.

1.2.2 The Bedlam Trenches on the Site are not visible as earthworks on the ground, though they show distinctly as crop and soil marks given suitable conditions. Furthermore, some upstanding remains survive within areas of scrub and woodland to the north and elsewhere in the vicinity.

1.2.3 The Site has a strong military history and was developed during World War I (hereafter 'WWI') as the Perham Down Military Trench System. A series of trenches were excavated to reproduce, in part, the layout of the Somme trenches in order to facilitate training and military planning (McOmish *et al* 2002, 137–142; WA 2012; see also WA 2013).



- 1.2.4 The soils underlying the Site are listed as well drained flinty to fine silty soils of the 571 m Charity 2 soil association (Ordnance Survey 1983). The bedrock geology is listed as chalk that was formed approximately 66 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, with the superficial geology listed as Head, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey on-line Viewer).
- 1.2.5 Soils derived from such geological parent material have been shown to produce magnetic contrasts acceptable for the detection of archaeological remains through gradiometer survey.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Historic England's Heritage Gateway details several find spots and possible monuments in the area dating from the prehistoric to the modern period. Within a 1 km range of the Site there is a Bronze Age Bowl barrow (NMR No: SU24 NW25) to the south-west, Bronze Age to Iron Age boundary ditches and linear earthworks (NMR No: SU 24 NW 18) to the south, and an Iron Age settlement to the west which was excavated in 1938–40. A Romano-British settlement (NMR No: SU 24 NW 28) is listed to the west of the Site within the same field.
- 2.1.2 East of the Site a Palaeolithic implement was found by O.G.S Crawford in 1924 (NMR No: SU 24 NE 13), and south of the Site an Acheulean ovate hand axe has been found (NMR No: SU 24 NW 26).

### 2.2 World War I

- 2.2.1 There has been an army presence on Salisbury Plain since 1898. The area now known as the Defence Training Estate, Salisbury Plain, was created through a series of land purchases by the MOD prior to World War II.
- 2.2.2 The Bedlam Trenches were dug as a replica of part of the Western Front, providing Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener's recruits with the opportunity to learn how to construct trenches, learn trench warfare tactics, and practice attacking the 'German' lines that they would face in forthcoming engagements in France that have now become known as the Battle of the Somme.
- 2.2.3 Field orders from October 1915 provide rare insights into the practice activities, and confirm that training was provided to the new recruits some time in advance of the Battle of the Somme. Contemporary field plans provide exceptionally useful information, detailing the position of the various components such as shelters, latrines and dug-outs as well as the function of the various trenches (National Archives, ref: 100<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde War Diary WO95-2428 Oct 1915) (**Figure 2**).
- 2.2.4 Battalions practicing in the Bedlam Trenches included the *Kings Royal Rifle Corps*, now *The Rifles* (incidentally, significantly involved in Operation Nightingale), the 13th Essex Regiment, and the 16th and 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, the latter being the renowned 'Footballers' regiment.
- 2.2.5 Aerial photographs from the 1920s show extant and very well defined trenches, whilst extensive crop and soil marks are evident in subsequent and recent aerial photographs.
- 2.2.6 The archaeological potential of this area is high with the possibility of archaeological remains from the prehistoric to the present day being encountered. It is, however,



considered highly likely that the disturbance caused by the development of the Perham Down Military Trench System (NMR No: SU 24 NW 164) will have impaired the detection of earlier archaeological remains with geophysical methods.

- 2.2.7 A geophysical survey was undertaken in April 2015 within the northern part of the proposed gradiometer survey area for 2016 (**Figure 3**), carried out by Wessex Archaeology as part of the Jon Egging Trust Blue Skies initiative. The survey area covered 0.3 ha and included gradiometer and earth resistance survey. The results revealed details about the layout of the WWI trenches, in particular the gradiometer results show the lines of the trenches as well as substantial ferrous disruption that is likely to be a result of the metallic components of the shelters and trench shoring (WA 2015).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 The Site is under consideration for designation by Historic England, and desk-based research on the nature of holding of WW1 practice trenches in England has been commissioned. As such, there is a requirement to establish the nature of surviving deposits and provide the DIO with cultural heritage data on the Site which will enable them to consider any designation aspirations.
- 3.1.2 The investigations are also to provide an important opportunity for the Army's 'Operation Reflect' whereby service personnel and families commemorate the actions of the Great War, which in this case was Mission Specific Training for the Battle of the Somme, and to gain a better sense of place as part of their accommodation around the Plain.
- 3.1.3 The general aims of the investigations are thus listed as follows;
- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and, should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
  - To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
  - To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
  - To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
  - To prepare an excavation report on the archaeological investigations; and
  - To relate the archaeological results to their local, county and regional context.
  - Provide a suitable project for Operation Nightingale, supported by Breaking Ground Heritage, in that the technical and social skills involved in field archaeology are similar in various ways to those required by the modern soldier, and involvement in the Perham Down WW1 Practice Trenches project can help in the recovery and skill development of soldiers injured in conflict (Walshe *et al* 2012).
  - Provide an important opportunity for Operation Reflect to commemorate the actions of the Great War, in particular the Mission Specific Training for the Battle of the Somme and to gain a better sense of place as part of their accommodation around the Plain.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Health and Safety**

- 4.1.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.



- 4.1.2 The Site was never a live firing template, but if ordnance was found then the Site was cleared and specialist Explosive Ordnance Device (EOD) staff brought in.
- 4.1.3 Appropriately trained first-aid and mental health staff were present on Site.
- 4.1.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

## 4.2 Geophysical survey

- 4.2.1 The area designated for geophysical survey in the WSI (WA 2016a) covered approximately 2.3 ha and was situated within a single arable field (**Figure 1**). More particularly, it was located within the area of WW1 German Somme practice trenches known as the 'Bedlam Trenches' at the eastern end of the field.
- 4.2.2 It was proposed that a detailed gradiometer survey be undertaken on the Site prior to excavations. However, this proved not to be practical as the crop in the field could not, because of unseasonably wet conditions, be harvested until the weekend before the commencement of excavations. Furthermore, only the southern half of the field was harvested then, with the remainder of the crop not taken off until more than a week later.
- 4.2.3 Therefore, the gradiometer survey was undertaken in two parts, the first in the south-eastern part of the field and concurrent with the commencement of excavations, and the second in the northern-eastern part of the field during the second week of excavations. Together, a larger area of the WWI practice trenches was surveyed than was initially proposed (5.07 ha) and, furthermore, the opportunity was taken during the second week to undertake additional survey at the western end of the field where it was known from fieldwalking and cropmarks that a Romano-British and possibly earlier complex of enclosures and related features exists (see **Figure 1**).
- 4.2.4 The gradiometer survey was conducted using a Bartington Grad601-2 fluxgate gradiometer instrument, which has a vertical separation of 1 m between sensors. Data was collected at 0.25 m intervals along transects spaced 1 m apart with an effective sensitivity of 0.03 nT, in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2008). Data was collected using the zigzag method.
- 4.2.5 Data from the gradiometer survey was subject to minimal data correction processes. These comprise a zero mean traverse function ( $\pm 5$  nT thresholds) applied to correct for any variation between the two Bartington sensors used, and a de-step function to account for variations in traverse position due to varying ground cover and topography. These two steps were applied to all survey areas, with no interpolation applied. Where required, further data processing was undertaken to reduce the effect of periodic errors within the data resulting largely from ground conditions.
- 4.2.6 The geophysical survey results were interpreted and the results presented in an interim report greyscale plot during the course of the archaeological excavations. These results were particularly useful in informing on the broader context of the WWI features revealed in the excavation trenches, but came too late to assist in the precise setting out of the trenches.
- 4.2.7 The southern part of the greyscale plot is included here as **Figure 3**, with the excavation trenches superimposed. Full details of the geophysical and survey equipment, methods,

processing and interpretation are provided in a separate report, which also includes the complete gradiometer greyscale plot and interpretation (Wessex Archaeology 2016b).

### 4.3 Excavation

4.3.1 The methodology for excavation is set out in more detail in the WSI (WA 2016a), and all works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014a), except where superseded by statements made below.

4.3.2 Excavations were supervised by professional archaeologists and undertaken by a team comprising soldiers as well as members of the local community.

4.3.3 The proposed investigations comprised five excavation areas, three measuring 5 x 5 m and two 10 x 10 m (WA 2016a, fig. 1). The precise locations were to be dependent upon the results of the geophysical survey as well as the layout of the practice trenches and related features visible in air photographs (including Google Earth), relating these to the layout shown on a contemporary (1915) plan of the 'Bedlam Trenches'.

4.3.4 In total, the proposed excavation areas were to include the following elements:

- an excavation trench across the 'front line';
- at least one shelter post;
- at least one aid post;
- at least one mortar pit;
- at least one latrine;
- at least one kitchen;
- at least one machine gun emplacement.

4.3.5 However, because of the presence of a crop in the northern half of the field, as well as it not being possible to undertake the geophysical survey in advance of the excavation, the proposed investigations had to be modified on a pragmatic basis to take account of these limitations. As a result, it was not possible to investigate a machine gun post, kitchen and mortar pit (no mortar pits were specifically indicated on the 1915 plan), but additional excavations were undertaken on a support trench, a supply trench to the 'front line' and a length of the reserve line.

4.3.6 Therefore, the actual excavation areas comprised the following elements (**Figures 2 and 3**):

- a support trench (Trench 1)
- an area of the 'front line' (Trench 2);
- an aid post (Trench 3);
- two shelter posts and associated trenches (Trench 4);
- a latrine (Trench 5);
- a supply trench (Trench 6);
- an area of the reserve line (Trench 7).

4.3.7 The excavations trenches were of various sizes, again pragmatically determined on the basis of extending the areas to encompass the full extent of certain elements of the system (trenches 3, 4 and 5) or of a size such that a suitably representative area was exposed (trenches 1, 2, 6 and 7). Also, without being able to accurately locate the above



areas prior to intrusive groundworks it was sometimes necessary to extend the trenches accordingly during machine stripping. Subsequently, the excavation areas (and geophysical survey) were tied in to the Ordnance Survey British National Grid coordinate system using Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) equipment working to a 3D accuracy of below 3 mm.

- 4.3.8 Topsoil and subsoil were mechanically excavated in 0.1 m spits using a wheeled JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels were exposed, generally the level of the natural chalk which lay at shallow depth. Machine excavation was under constant archaeological supervision by trained WA personnel.
- 4.3.9 The exposed surface of each spit and all spoil was scanned with a metal detector for archaeological finds and any fragments of ordnance etc, and all spoil was visually inspected for the recovery of finds.
- 4.3.10 Once the level of archaeological deposits had been exposed, cleaning of the excavation areas was undertaken by hand. Appropriate excavation of all archaeological features identified was carried out by hand.
- 4.3.11 Following completion of the excavations the trenches were backfilled and levelled with soil by machine, replacing the material in the reverse order to which it was removed.

#### **4.4 Recording**

- 4.4.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's pro forma recording system.
- 4.4.2 A complete written, drawn and photographic record of all excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled, as set out in the WSI (WA 2016a).
- 4.4.3 Overhead photography was undertaken from a 'cherry picker', as well as from a drone operated by external specialists (Iris), after having obtained appropriate security clearance.

### **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Natural deposits and soil sequences**

- 5.1.1 Natural chalk was encountered in all trenches, between 125.50 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the east of the Site (trench 2), and 133.00 m aOD to the west (trench 7). Overall, natural deposits were located between 0.2 m to 0.5 m below the current ground surface (**Figure 1**).
- 5.1.2 The natural stratigraphic sequence of the Site was seen to be largely uniform, differing only in the depth of the layers. Across the Site, the topsoil was typically a light greyish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk fragments, averaging 0.22 m in depth. This generally overlay a mid greyish brown/yellowish brown silty clay loam subsoil, averaging (where present, in trenches 1, 2 and 4) 0.2 m in depth.
- 5.1.3 In Trench 4, below the subsoil, a 0.2 m thick light yellowish grey fine clayey silt loam filled and extended over shallow pockets in the natural chalk, possibly representing a periglacial deposit.



## 5.2 Trench 1: Support Trench

- 5.2.1 This trench was intended to investigate a kitchen, but the extent of the existing crop precluded this. Instead, part of the associated Support Trench [119] was exposed and investigated (**Figures 2 and 3**), along with the small part of a further feature [120] which was not investigated but was probably a Shelter associated with [119].
- 5.2.2 A single section was dug across the junction of Support Trench [119] and probable Shelter [120], which showed that [119] was almost certainly the earlier, though they were certainly in use at the same time (**Figure 4**). Trench [119] was 1.45 m wide and 1.2 m deep, and in the base at its junction with probable Shelter [120] were a length of squared timber and part of a plank (115) representing the collapsed remains of what was probably framing for the revetment of the sides, the remainder presumably having been removed (**Plate 1**). The two pieces may have originally joined, as indicated by surviving nails in the end of the plank, but neither was fully exposed and they have been left in place.
- 5.2.3 A relatively complex sequence of subsequent infilling was revealed in trench [119], all relating to its post-WWI use (**Figure 4**), with (107), a thin layer of black silty ash approximately half way down, possibly representing burnt debris from the disposal of WWII material (see Trench 2).

## 5.3 Trench 2: 'Front Line'

- 5.3.1 This trench was intended to investigate a machine gun post on the 'front line' but, as with trench 1, the extent of the existing crop precluded this. Instead, a relatively large part of the 'front line' to the south was exposed and investigated (**Figures 2 and 3; Plate 2 and Back Cover**).
- 5.3.2 Three elements of the 'chain link' pattern of trenches comprising the 'German front line' were revealed (**Figure 5; Plate 3**), with excavation focused on two parts. To the south a section was dug across the junction of the front trench of one of the 'chain links' [235] and a sap which extended to the east [236], only a small part of which was exposed. This demonstrated a complex sequence of development with, initially, trench [235] being dug, 1.75 m wide and 1 m deep with a 0.5 m wide and 0.15 m high fire step on the east side (**Figure 5**); no evidence of the associated parapet or parados survived here, or anywhere else to the north on the 'front line'. Trample layer (234) in the base of the trench relates to this initial period of use, and from this came a discharged, blank .303 cartridge with a date stamp of 1915 (R1 on **Figure 5**).
- 5.3.3 Sap [236], at least 0.5 m wide (not fully exposed) and of similar depth to trench [235], was later dug extending east from the 'front line' (**Figure 5**). From a series of possible trample layers (232) in the base came a blank .303 cartridge with a date stamp of 1917 (R3).
- 5.3.4 Finally, sap [236] was blocked and apparently only partly backfilled. Timber plank (228) was used in this blocking, held in place vertically by small blocks of chalk on the east side, with further, smaller chalk fragments (227) then used to infill the bottom part of the sap (**Figure 5**). Probably immediately following this, trench [235] was remodelled and a new fire step created. Layer (226) was deposited over earlier trample layer (234), and it was at the interface of these two layers that the two fragments of carved chalk plaque (see below) were found (**Plate 4**); other fragments may still remain in the unexcavated parts of trench [235] to the north and south. Layers (229–231) to the east, together 0.25 m thick, formed the new firestep, which was 0.65 m wide and revetted to the west with squared timber (225) at least 1 m long, and itself held in place by three wooden stakes driven into the ground on the west side. Layer (230) contained traces of sand bags and at the



interface of this and layer **(231)** in the fire step came a blank .303 cartridge with a date stamp of pre-1917 (R2).

- 5.3.5 Above the second phase of fire step and was a series of later, post WWI infill layers **(220–224)** and **(234)** (**Figure 5**), the abundant chalk fragments presumably reflecting weathering and erosion of the trench sides after it had fallen into disuse and any timber or corrugated iron revetting removed. Certainly, the upper parts of the trench on the west side had been eroded.
- 5.3.6 Finally, at the top was a deposit of compacted chalk **(219)** which contained some WWII debris, including burnt and exploded small munitions, reflecting later use of this part of the 'front line' (see below).
- 5.3.7 A second part of the 'front line' was investigated 5 m to the north, in the adjacent element of the 'chain link' trench pattern (**Figure 5; Plate 5**). This appeared when stripped as a single oval area with no 'island' of natural chalk in the middle, and it was thought that this might be a machine gun post (though not marked as such on the 1915 Field map). However, although a small part of the WWI trench survived, most of the feature (of which a quadrant was excavated) proved to be later.
- 5.3.8 The original 'front line' trench **[216]** was 1.2 m deep, flat bottomed, and in the base was a series of trample deposits **(215)** up to 0.12 m thick (**Figure 5**).
- 5.3.9 Trench **[216]** had been substantially truncated (or rather enlarged) by pit **[209]**, a WWII feature used for the disposal (by burning) of small arms munitions and other items after 1945, a use corroborated by a local resident who remembered the chain of 'front line' trenches being still partly open then and containing military debris from this period. Pit **[209]** was oval, with smooth concave sides, and measured 8 m by 6.7 m and at least 1.8 m deep (not bottomed) (**Figure 5; Plate 6**). Around the top of the excavated quadrant was a line of at least eight chalk-filled 'sandbags' **(206)** (see **Figure 5**), the sacking having long since rotted away leaving the chalk 'bags', these presumably having served to help contain the burning and exploding munitions. Within the pit was a thin but clear layer **(212)** of burnt debris of WW II date, overlying a deposit of chalky material **(213)** perhaps derived from broken sand bags, and itself sealed by a possible capping layer **(205)**.
- 5.3.10 Finally, the upper fills of pit **[209]**, **(203)** and particularly **(204)**, contained a substantial amount of agricultural debris, including empty pesticide cans dating to the 1960s, as well as three WWI screw pickets which had presumably been later re-used as fence posts.
- 5.3.11 Further to the north, again on the 'front line', WWI Trench **[211]** had also been used for the disposal of WWII material, though the resulting pit here **[208]** was smaller than **[209]** (**Figure 5**). As discussed below, geophysical, photographic and oral evidence indicates that much of the former WWI 'front line' in the field where the 2016 investigations took place was still open and used for this purpose after WWII.

#### **5.4 Trench 3: Aid Post**

- 5.4.1 This trench investigated an Aid Post, shown on the 1915 Field map set back from the 'front line' and the Support Trench recorded in trenches 1 and 4 (**Figures 2 and 3**).
- 5.4.2 Aid Post **[307]** was rectangular in plan, measuring 4 m by 3.5 m and 1.5 m deep, and was half excavated (**Figure 6; Plate 7**). Access was from the south-east via a trench only 0.5 m or so wide at the bottom but 1.2 m wide higher up, with narrow 'shelves' on probably both sides enabling stretchers to be carried). Within the Aid Post, a 0.8 m wide bench was

revealed cut into the chalk on the south side, with another likely to be present on the (unexcavated) north side, presumably providing seating and/or to accommodate stretchers (**Plate 8**). The side of the bench in the deeper, central 'aisle' had been revetted (with timber), the evidence provided by four or five stake-holes [309] and a central square post-hole [311]. Voids left by the now rotted wood survived to bench level, where a tensioning wire still lay in position between the void left by the central post and those of the circular stakes on either side (see **Figure 6**).

- 5.4.3 In the south-west corner on the bench was evidence for a brazier [312] at least 0.65 m long and 0.55 m wide, with iron staining on the chalk side of the pit here, a line of shallow impressions in the chalk surface of the bench, and a deposit of ash and coal fragments which extended into the base of the central 'aisle' as layer (305), where it was up to 0.2 m thick, below which was a more extensive but much thinner trampled layer of similar material (306). In the south-west corner of Aid Post [307] was a small alcove, the lack of sooting indicating that this had not held a candle and it perhaps served as storage.
- 5.4.4 There was no surviving evidence for a roof over Aid Post [307], and following weathering and erosion of the exposed sides (layer 303) it appears to have seen a period of stabilisation, represented by a thin layer of pale/mid brown silty loam (304), perhaps reflecting turf development in the partly filled feature (**Figure 6**). Subsequently it may have been largely infilled (layer 302), probably deliberately, though the upper fill (301) containing fragments of plastic sheet indicate that it survived as a shallow hollow until levelled with chalk comparatively recently.

## 5.5 Trench 4: Shelters

- 5.5.1 This trench exposed one complete Shelter and a large part of a second, the Support Trench which ran through the centre of both, and the eastern end of the Supply Trench more fully investigated in trench 6 (**Figures 2 and 3**).
- 5.5.2 Shelter [405] was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 2.5 m by 2.3 m and 1.3 m deep (**Figures 7 and 8**). Benches for seating, 0.5 m wide, had been cut into the chalk on the long sides, with a central, deeper 'aisle' forming part of the Communications Trench [421/428] which was 0.8–1.1 m wide, up to 0.95 m deep and ran NNW/SSE (this was also investigated in trench 1). Entering the west side of Shelter [405] was a branch [425] of the Supply Trench which was 1.4 m wide and 1.11 m deep (another branch entered Shelter [430], see below).
- 5.5.3 Within the base of Shelter [405] were three post-holes, with another at the junction of this and Supply Trench [425] (**Figure 7**). Post-holes [408] and [434] at either end of the Shelter both contained packing and the surviving remains of timber posts, (409) and (445) in post-hole [434] and (443) in post-hole [434], these posts being associated with the revetting and/or roofing at the junction with Support Trench [421] and [428] respectively, though no trace of the revetting survived. Post-hole [419] lay towards the south end of Shelter [405] and post-hole [417] at the junction of this and branch [425] of the Supply Trench, the latter post-hole again clearly related to the timber revetting, none of which survived though gullies either side in the base of [425] indicate its former presence, and also that it was of timber.
- 5.5.4 The floor of Shelter [405] was covered in a series of trample layers (407) up to 0.18 m thick (**Figure 8**) which continued into the adjacent Communications and Supply Trenches. Above this was a relatively thick possible erosion deposit (416), on the top of which lay a complete sheet of corrugated iron (411) measuring 1.55 m by 0.86 m, at approximately the same level as the side benches (**Plate 9**); it is not clear whether this sheet represents

part of the collapsed roof covering or was discarded later from elsewhere in the partially infilled Shelter. Subsequent deposits probably comprised a mixture of naturally eroded material and deliberate backfill.

- 5.5.5 Approximately a quarter of Shelter [430] was excavated, this laying 2 m to the south of Shelter [405] and linked to it by Support Trench [428] (**Figure 7; Plate 10**). Only partly exposed, Shelter [430] was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring at least 2.2 m long by 2.3 m wide and 1.2 m deep. A chalk cut bench lay along the west side, at 0.30 m wide somewhat narrower than the benches in Shelter [405]. Communications Trench [428] ran through the centre and entering the west side was a second branch [432] of the Supply Trench, the first [425] linking to Shelter [405], see above). Subsequent excavation showed these two branches to curve round and join a short distance to the west (**Figure 7**), where they then linked to the main Supply Trench running west-east (see trench 6), this arrangement forming part of the 'one-way system' within the overall trench layout (indicated by arrows on the 1915 Field map; see **Figure 2**).
- 5.5.6 Within the base of Shelter [430] were two post-holes, both at the junction of this and Supply Trench [432]. Neither of post-holes [437] and [446] contained remains of posts, though again it is clear that they related to a no longer surviving timber revetting, indicated by gullies either side in the base of [432], with these gullies representing the positions of the timbers against which trample layer (441) had built up.

## 5.6 Trench 5: Latrine

- 5.6.1 This trench revealed a Latrine (note, not an Officers Latrine, as believed at the time of excavation), shown on the 1915 Field map set approximately 20 m back from the 'front line' (**Figures 2 and 3**).
- 5.6.2 Latrine [508] was reached via access trench/passageway [513] which together with the latrine itself was an estimated 6 m in length (the full extent was not exposed) (**Figure 9; Plate 11**). Passageway [513] was 1.46 m wide and 1.2 m deep, with a 0.15 m wide shelf 0.4 m from the base on the east side. A shallow gully along the base on this side may have held a trough that drained water (and/or urine?) into the deeper pit [508] at the southern end, possibly serving to help flush it.
- 5.6.3 Latrine [508] can be classified as a 'long drop' latrine, with a depth of 1.75 m and a maximum width of 1.46 m (**Figure 9; Plate 12**). It comprised an upper part with a fairly vertical but slightly rounded profile, most likely reflecting a degree of weathering and erosion of the exposed chalk sides following disuse. At a depth of 0.8 m there was a pronounced shelf around the edge, at a similar level to the shelf in passageway [513], and from here it continued down as a near-vertical shaft for approximately 1 m. The junction of the shaft and passageway was not revealed, but at the base of the shaft natural chalk was exposed on the north side, with a 0.1 m deep, vertical-sided channel (fill 507) entering from this side, perhaps linked to the channel recorded in passageway [513] (see above).
- 5.6.4 In the base of Latrine [508] was a 0.1 m thick layer of orange yellow sand containing medium sized fragments of butchered cattle and sheep (506) (**Figure 9**), together forming what was likely to be part of the soakaway arrangements. When first exposed, this deposit emitted a characteristic urine smell, surprising perhaps but a clear indication that the latrine had been used. Immediately above (506) was a deposit of chalk fragments (505), with some pieces larger than 150 mm in size and, therefore, unlikely to have eroded from the sides of the pit. It is more probable that these too were put there as another element of the soakaway arrangements. However, chalky layer (504) above was more characteristic of an erosion deposit, and this in turn was sealed by a mid/dark brown silty loam (503)

interpreted as a stabilisation layer. Finally, layers (502) and (501) are likely to represent subsequent deliberate infill and levelling.

- 5.6.5 A similar sequence of natural erosion, stabilisation and deliberate infill is likely to be represented by layers (512), (511) and (510) respectively in passageway [513] (Figure 9), with no clear evidence for trample layers in the base as seen, for example, in Shelters [405] and [430] in trench 4.

## 5.7 Trench 6: Supply Trench

- 5.7.1 This trench crossed what has been termed here a 'Supply Trench', which the geophysical survey and 1915 Field map show as a slightly sinuous feature approximately 120 m in length, running from the Reserve Line (see trench 7) or beyond in the west to the Support Trench and Shelters revealed in trench 4 to the east (Figures 2 and 3).
- 5.7.2 The Supply Trench in trench 6 comprised two parallel and adjacent elements, with that to the south designated [615] and that to the north [616] (Figure 10), these perhaps corresponding to [432] and [425] respectively in trench 4 (see above).
- 5.7.3 Trench [615] was the deeper of the two elements, with the base at 1.5 m, and at the top it was broader with a width of 2.6 m, including a 1 m wide shallower section on the south side (Figure 10; Plate 13). The somewhat concave profile below this was undoubtedly a result of post-abandonment weathering and erosion, but below 0.8 m it was near-vertical, approximately 0.8 m wide, with a narrow shelf 0.45 m above the base, perhaps to facilitate the carrying of stretchers (see trench 3 above for a similar feature). A slot filled with loose chalk (613) along the south side at the base reflects the former presence of a (timber) revetment, and it is likely that a counterpart existed along the north side (not fully excavated, to enable access). Between these slots was trample layer (614) 0.08 m thick.
- 5.7.4 Trench [616] to the north, in contrast, was only 0.35 m deep, but whether coincidentally or not this corresponded with the depth of the shallower part of [615] on the south side (Figure 10). Trench [616] was 1.8 m wide, had a gently sloping north side and a flat base which extended to the edge of [615]. It seems likely that this was intended to be the same depth as [615], but deliberately or otherwise was never completed. However, there is no doubt that trench [616] saw considerable use as the base had been worn smooth.
- 5.7.5 The fill sequence in trench [615] above trample layer (614) comprised two deposits comprising mainly small fragments of chalk (610 and 612), probably erosion deposits rather than deliberate backfilling, separated by stabilisation layer (611); the latter was probably part of the same horizon as layer (604) to the south and (605) in [616] to the north (Figure 10). Above layer (610) was approximately 1 m of deposits (603, 608 and 610) representing a combination of erosion, backfilling and levelling of the abandoned Supply Trench.

## 5.8 Trench 7: Reserve Line

- 5.8.1 This trench uncovered an area of the Reserve Line, here comprising what has been termed a 'Crenellated Trench', at its junction with the western end of the 'Supply Trench' investigated in trench 6. The geophysical survey and 1915 Field map show the Crenellated Trench extending north from this junction, following a somewhat sinuous course and linking at least two redoubts, the latter oval in plan and defined by continuations of the Crenellated Trench (Figures 2 and 3).
- 5.8.2 Altogether, 9 m of the Crenellated Trench [706] / [713] / [[716] was recorded and three sections dug across it (Figure 11; Plate 14). It was 0.85–1.1 m wide, with the trench



widening out at some corners to provide passing places, but it was a maximum of only 0.7 m deep, somewhat shallower than, for example, the Support Trench in trenches 1 and 4. The sides were moderately vertical though they had suffered some weathering and erosion, and the base was shown to have a 0.3–0.4 m wide fire step where investigated. However, the fire step was in both [706] and [713] on the west side, not the east side as would be expected for an attacking position facing east (as on the ‘Front Line’ in trench 2). The explanation must be that by digging the base deeper on the east side, creating a fire step to the west, the troops had practised what was required to turn an attacking position facing east to one facing west, necessary if they were to enter the enemy trenches and continue their attack from there.

- 5.8.3 A slot 0.1–0.15 m wide and 0.1 m deep, filled with loose soil (704 and 711), was clear along the east sides of Crenellated Trench [706] and [713], indicating the former presence of a (timber) revetment (Figure 11). Against this, a compact chalky trample layer (705 and 712) up to 0.1 m thick had built up in the base of the western side of the trench. Above this was a simple, consistent sequence of fills reflecting a combination of erosion and deliberate backfill, with no stabilisation layer clearly evident in any of the three sections.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 A fairly large number of finds were recovered, comprising a moderate range of material types, the vast majority of metal and of military origin. Most of the latter can be assigned to WWII or shortly after, but there is a significant group from WWI relating to the use of the Practice Trenches.
- 6.1.2 With the exception of the WWI material (Table 1), the finds are only summarised here, with further details contained in the site archive. Following discussion with DIO and Hampshire Cultural Trust it is anticipated that a selection of the finds will be kept, mainly comprising items of WWI date.

**Table 1: Summary of WWI finds by trench**

Trench	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
.303 blanks	2	9	5	1	1		2
Mills bomb (frags)		2	1 (striker)				
Screw picket		3					
T-section rail		1 (WWI?)					
Barbed wire		1 (WWI?)					
Tin			1 sardine	2 biscuit 1 food 1 milk			
Glass		1					
Chalk plaque		1 (2 frags)					
Wire tensioner			1				
Animal bone					Cattle/sheep		

- 6.1.3 The earliest material includes eight small sherds of probable late prehistoric pottery (four each from trenches 2 and 4) and four sherds of Late Iron Age–Romano-British pottery (from trenches 2, 4 and 5). There are also 25 undiagnostic pieces of worked flint, 16 from trench 7 and seven from trench 4, along with a dozen or so pieces of burnt flint. No pre-WWI features were identified, but this small assemblage attests to prehistoric activity in the vicinity, and a group of Romano-British and possibly earlier enclosures are known



from geophysics and fieldwalking approximately 750 m upslope to the west in the same field (see **Figure 1**).

- 6.1.4 The biggest group of material came from trench 2 on the 'Front Line', the largest trench, with most of the finds reflecting its subsequent use after WWII for the destruction by burning of a variety of military items including small ordnance. The WWI finds from here included 11 blank cartridges, three screw pickets and a short length of railway line (these amongst the post WWII agricultural debris, presumably later re-used for fencing), and two fragments of a carved chalk plaque described in more detail below. Five tins were recovered, two biscuit tins, a condensed milk tin and another food tin from the Shelters in trench 4, and a sardine tin from the Aid Post in trench 3. The latter trench also produced the *in situ* wire tensioner and a grenade no. 5 striker, while from the bottom of Latrine in trench 5 comes the small assemblage of butchered cattle and sheep bone used in the soakaway (a further 16 generally small fragments of animal bone came from various contexts in trench 4). There are small assemblages of modern pottery (21 sherds) and glass (13 sherds), but only a single Shippams paste jar has been identified as certainly of WWI or earlier date (1913, from the design grant registration number; [www.greatglass.co.uk](http://www.greatglass.co.uk)).
- 6.1.5 Twenty .303 blank cartridges were retained which are of WWI date or earlier (none was discarded; see **Table 1**), whilst a selected number of further .303 and several other types of blank cartridge are of inter-war or WWII date. All of the WWI or earlier .303 blank cartridges have legible date stamps (Khan 2017), with seven that are pre-1907, one each from 1910, 1913, 1914 and pre-1917, four from 1915, none from 1916, three from 1917 and two from 1918. Three cartridges from trench 2 provide the most secure contextual dating information, with one dated 1915 and one 1917 coming from near the base of a Front Line trench and sap (the other is pre-1917; see above, trench 2).
- 6.1.6 Regarding place of manufacture, all but one of the 20 WWI or earlier .303 blank cartridges could be assigned a source (Khan 2017). There are four each from the Birmingham Metal and Munitions Co Ltd and Kynoch and Co, Witton, Birmingham, the latter all pre-1907. Also from Birmingham are three from the Kings Norton Metal Co, with another three from the Royal Laboratory, Woolwich Arsenal, one pre-1907. There are also two from Eley Bros, Edmonton, London, and single examples from Greenwood and Batley, Leeds, Nobel's Explosives Co, Glasgow and the United States Cartridge Co, Lowell, Mass ( this example dated 1915).
- 6.1.7 The most significant object found came from near the bottom of the Front Line in trench 2 (see **Plate 4**) and comprises two (non-joining) fragments of a chalk plaque; only a 1 m wide section was excavated here and other fragments of the plaque are likely to lie nearby. The size and shape of the complete object is uncertain, as is where it was set up, though it seems likely that this was near where it was found. Its location, however, clearly demonstrates that it was broken and discarded during the use of the Front Line as it was found in a context which post-dated the first fire step and predated the second (see above).
- 6.1.8 Nothing is clear on the face of the smallest fragment of plaque, but on the smoothed face of the larger piece 'Kings Liverpool Regt' followed by a symbol is legible, fairly lightly inscribed with some skill, but in irregular lines and size (**Plate 15**). Above this is a small surviving element of what has been interpreted as the Eagle and Child regimental badge, with part of the child (upper body) in a basket or cradle to the right and part of a talon above; to the left is what appears to be the beak. Although subject to some abrasion during excavation and cleaning, the details are reasonably clear and have been enhanced through the RTI photography.



- 6.1.9 If this interpretation is correct then the badge is that of the Liverpool Pals who formed the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th (Service) Battalions of the King's Liverpool Regiment and are known to have practiced on the Plain in July–September 2015 (Maddocks 2014, 62–3). They disembarked for France in November 1915 and subsequently took part in the Battle of the Somme, suffering relatively few losses on the first day, but much more heavily later during 1916.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the fieldwork, though a sample of the orange yellow sand (**506**) from the soakaway in the base of Latrine Pit **[508]** has been retained.

## 8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 The geophysical survey and small-scale investigations of the WWI Bedlam practice trenches on Perham Down have provided results which have considerably exceeded initial expectations. Certainly, the work undertaken in 2016 has achieved the aim of establishing the nature of the surviving deposits and will provide DIO with cultural heritage data which will enable them to consider any designation aspirations. This is particularly pertinent given the currently ongoing work on a similar layout of WWI practice trenches at Larkhill, where archaeological monitoring is being undertaken as the fills of the trenches are removed as carefully as possible by machine, in advance of Army re-basing.
- 8.1.2 In their developed form, trench systems were composed of three distinct elements: a front line, support trenches and reserve line, all of which were connected by a further series of communication trenches, this arrangement designed to provide support to the troops in the front line in the event of an attack or withdrawal, with the rear line essentially the battalion reserve, its purpose being local counterattack (McOmish *et al.* 2002, 140).
- 8.1.3 With regard to the archaeological work undertaken in 2016 at Perham Down, it has been demonstrated that the gradiometer survey here has proved very successful at showing the layout of the trenches and is capable of revealing considerable detail, which in this case could be easily related to the layout shown on a 1915 Field map which included this part of the 'German' trenches. Where buried metal was present, particularly larger pieces, this is clearly reflected in the results, though in doing so it can obscure detail in some areas. Also, in relation to this, and with hindsight, the presence of a relatively large quantity of WWII (and later) debris disposed of in the 'Front Line' can be discerned on the gradiometer survey. It can be noted here that local knowledge concerning this later use of the WWI trenches has been demonstrated to be correct.
- 8.1.4 In terms of the physical remains, the 2016 and earlier work (WA 2012) has shown that even small-scale excavation, employing standard excavation techniques, can provide a significant (and perhaps surprising) amount of information, particularly where few or no (as in this case) earthworks survive. Though parapets and other upstanding elements have been levelled and/or ploughed flat, the trenches below are well preserved and have not suffered from ploughing in this arable field. Most have been dug to full depth, as prescribed in contemporary field manuals, with perhaps only the northern side of the Supply Trench (trench 6) and, possibly, the crenellated trench forming part of the Reserve Line (trench 7) being shallower in depth than would have been the case in the theatre of war. It can also be noted (from the gradiometer survey) that the Supply Trench was dug straighter than indicated on the 1915 Field map, where it is shown as a more sinuous feature, a form which would have lessened the effect of the blast from a shell exploding in the trench. Perhaps this may have simply been a pragmatic change, like the shallower



north side of the Supply Trench, where in the nature of practice trenches it may have been deemed unnecessary to dig both sides to full depth. In the case of the crenellated trench forming part of the Reserve Line (trench 7), it can be seen by comparing the 1915 field map (**Figure 2**) and the gradiometer survey (**Figure 3**) that it was actually dug in a straight rather than sinuous line between the Supply trench and redoubt to the north, and further to the east of the position shown on the map.

- 8.1.5 It is clear that internal features, such as the benches in the Aid Post (trench 3) and Shelters (trench 4), have been properly formed with, for example, the requisite revetting in place. Some elements of this revetting have survived, most notably the timberwork and posts in the Support Trench (trench 1) and Shelters (trench 4) respectively, and the tensioning wire (and associated post- and stake voids) in the Aid Post (trench 3). Elsewhere the timbers (and corrugated iron sheet) has largely either rotted away or been removed for re-use following the abandonment of the practice trenches. Other elements relating to the use of the trenches have also been recorded including the trample deposits in the base, the location of a brazier in the Aid Post (trench 3) – perhaps here simply to keep recruits warm rather than a medical necessity, the construction of the latrine and the variety of finds. Notable amongst the latter are a number of spent .303 blanks, several food and drink tins and the chalk plaque.
- 8.1.6 In the case of the Front Line (trench 2), the dated .303 blank cartridges have corroborated a relatively complex sequence of trench use, sap construction with subsequent abandonment and blocking and, following this, the creation of a new fire step during the continued operation of the trench. Such changing use was also apparent in the alterations made to the fire step arrangements in the Reserve Line (the crenellated trench), reflecting practicing converting a defensive position into one of attack. One or two features apparent from the gradiometer survey, but not shown on the 1915 Field map also attest to subsequent development of the trench system. In particular, there is a very clear zig-zag trench to the north-west of the Aid Post (trench 3), a form of trench not seen elsewhere in the vicinity and perhaps a response to a specific requirement for training (see **Figure 3**). Another, perhaps unfinished length of trench lies further to the north-west, unconnected with any of the other elements.
- 8.1.7 The sequence of infilling in the trenches also provides information about their abandonment and disuse, reflecting in many places weathering and erosion of the sides, followed by a period of probable stabilisation and turf formation, and then deliberate infilling and levelling. This sequence can be seen from a series of aerial photographs held in the NMR showing the trenches over several decades following WWI, the ones in the Front Line remaining partially open and, as we now know, being used for the disposal of military material following WWII and, subsequently, agricultural debris.
- 8.1.8 In addition to the geophysical and archaeological work, the discovery (in the National Archives) of field orders and a contemporary detailed plan from 1915 has considerably enhanced our understanding of the WWI Bedlam practice trenches. From this information, Mark Khan has been able to reconstruct the progress of a particular exercise in a series of maps (Khan 2016), which show the main action taking place immediately north of the area investigated in 2016. Furthermore, Richard Broadhead's comprehensive ongoing research on Wiltshire's WWI soldiers, identifying a number of these and others who are known to have practiced in the trenches at Perham Down and subsequently died on the Somme ([www.wiltshiresoldiers.co.uk](http://www.wiltshiresoldiers.co.uk)), add another layer of poignant information to the story. Through these strands of research it is possible to link the archaeology to real people and events, and this has been enhanced by the discovery of the chalk plaque in the 'German' Front Line trench which records the presence of recruits belonging to the King's Liverpool Regiment, specifically a battalion of the Liverpool Pals.



## 9 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust. The Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code A2016.110.
- 9.1.2 Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner. The MOD may wish to display (or arrange for the display elsewhere) some of the finds from the Site; if that is the case, then this would be best achieved through a long term loan from Hampshire Cultural Trust.
- 9.1.3 Details of the archaeological evaluation will also be entered into the online "OASIS" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (**Appendix 2**).

### 9.2 Preparation of archive

- 9.2.1 The complete archaeological evaluation archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation*, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code **113940**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- 1 file/document case of paper records & A3/A4 graphics;
  - 2 A1 graphics;
  - Digital data (site photographs, drawings, Word and pdf files);
  - 3 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type, plus 8 unboxed items.

### 9.3 Conservation

- 9.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.
- 9.3.2 Given the relatively recent date of the metalwork, and the range of objects present, no objects are considered to warrant further conservation treatment. All objects, where practical, will be packaged securely for stable long-term curation (in airtight plastic tubs with drying agent).

### 9.4 Discard policy

- 9.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, the following categories have been subject to selective retention:
- *Metalwork*: selected items will be retained, following discussion with DIO and Hampshire Cultural Trust; this is likely to include some/most of the WWI material, but few/none of the later items (commonly occurring and well documented types);

- *Pottery*: selected diagnostic pottery retained; all other pottery will be discarded (commonly occurring and well documented types);
- *Ceramic building material (CBM)*: All CBM will be discarded (no research potential);
- *Clay pipes*: plain stem fragments only recovered, which will be discarded (no research potential for plain stem fragments);
- *Glass*: selected diagnostic vessel glass retained; all other glass will be discarded (commonly occurring and well documented types);
- *Shell*: no shell will be retained (no research potential for small context groups).

9.4.2 The selection/retention policy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.4.3 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

## 9.5 Copyright

9.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

## 9.6 Security copy

9.6.1 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.

## 10 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

TRENCH 1			Machine excavated
Dimensions: 9.7 m x 1.4 m		Max. depth: 1.4 m	Ground level: 128.50 m aOD
Co-ordinates: 425060E 146080N			
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
101	Layer	<b>Topsoil:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags	0-0.2
102	Layer	<b>Subsoil:</b> Greyish brown silty loam with some chalk frags	0.1
103	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam with some/common small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.2
104	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid brown silty loam with rare small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.15
105	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam with common/abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.15
106	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> White/pale grey fairly compact chalk. Sealing layer? Fill of [119]	0.1
107	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Black silty ash. WW II debris? Fill of [119]	0.02
108	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid brown silty loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.35
109	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam with common/abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.15
110	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid brown silty loam with occasional/some small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.2
111	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Yellowish brown silty loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.2
112	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale yellow silty loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.1
113	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale yellow silty clay loam with rare small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.12
114	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid brown silty loam with rare small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.15
115	Layer	<b>Fill/structure:</b> Two pieces of wood comprising remains of trench framing, at junction of Support Trench [119] and probable Shelter [120]; collapsed and not <i>in situ</i> . Fill of [119]	-
116	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale yellow silty loam with occasional chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.25
117	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.1
118	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [119]	0.2
119	Cut	<b>Support trench:</b> Incomplete section through trench, at 90° junction with probable Shelter [120]. Trench [119] runs behind and parallel to Front Line (see trench 2) and almost certainly part of the same Support Trench recorded in trench 4. Filled with (103-118)	1.2
120	Cut	<b>Probable Shelter:</b> Not excavated, and only a small part exposed; at 90° junction with Support Trench [119], which may be earlier.	Not exc



TRENCH 2			Machine excavated
Dimensions: 23.5 m x 19.5 m		Max. depth: 2.15 m	Ground level: 125.80 m aOD
Co-ordinates: 424090E 146050N			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
200	Layer	<b>Topsoil:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags	0-0.3
201	Layer	<b>Subsoil:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags and common angular flint frags	0.1
202	Layer	<b>Colluvial deposit:</b> Very light greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse small chalk frags	0.2
203	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional small chalk frags. Capping layer. Fill of [209]	0.7+
204	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Dark reddish grey brown silty clay loam with abundant small chalk frags. Includes dump of WWII small munitions etc, which have been burnt <i>in situ</i> , and later agricultural debris. Fill of [209]	0.5
205	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags. Capping layer. Fill of [209]	0.15
206	Layer	<b>'Sandbags':</b> Crescent-shaped arrangement of degraded chalk filled 'sandbags' around top of eastern edge of pit. Fill of [209]	-
207	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Includes dump of WWII munitions etc, which have been burnt <i>in situ</i> . Fill of [208]	Not exc.
208	Cut	<b>'WW II Disposal pit':</b> Sub-rectangular pit 4.2 x 1.6 m in top of WWI Practice Trench, dug to dispose of WWII munitions. Filled with (207)	Not exc.
209	Cut	<b>'WW II Disposal pit':</b> Sub-rectangular pit 8.0 x 6.7 m in top of WWI Practice Trench [216], dug to dispose of WWII munitions. Filled with (203-206) and (212-213)	1.0 +
210	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [211]	Not exc.
211	Cut	<b>WWI Practice Trench:</b> Group no. Forms part of the Front Line. Filled with (210)	-
212	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Very dark grey silty clay loam and ash. Includes dump of WWII munitions etc, which have been burnt <i>in situ</i> . Fill of [209]	0.05
213	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> White compact chalk, possibly derived from 'sandbags' (206). Fill of [209]	0.15
214	Layer	<b>Natural:</b> Chalk	-
215	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Alternate mid greyish brown silty clay loam and white chalky layers. Trampled deposits in base of WWI Practice Trench. Fill of [216]	0.12.
216	Cut	<b>WWI Practice Trench:</b> Small surviving element which forms part of the Front Line, largely removed here by 'WWII Disposal Pit' [209]. Filled with (215) (217) (218)	1.2
217	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Common small chalk frags. Fill of [216]	0.5
218	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Very light greyish brown silty clay loam. Abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [216]	0.3
219	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Compacted white chalk. Includes dump of WWII munitions etc, which have been burnt <i>in situ</i> . Fill of [235]	0.25
220	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid brown silty loam. Some small chalk frags. Fill of [235]	0.45
221	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam. Abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [235]	0.45
222	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam. Abundant/some small chalk frags. Fill of [235]	0.15
223	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale/mid brown silty loam. Common small chalk frags. Fill of [235]	0.2
224	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid brown silty loam. Rare/occasional small chalk frags. Fill of [235]	0.2





225	Layer	<b>Fill/structure:</b> Squared timber (1 m+ long), <i>in situ</i> , forming revetment at rear of fire step. Part of secondary phase of development within Front Line Trench, and post-dates sap [236]. Fill of [235]	-
226	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam. Some small chalk frags. Carved chalk block found in base of this deposit, on surface of (234). Fill of [235]	0.15
227	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> White chalk. Appears to partly comprise small squared blocks, 'stacked' in order to hold revetment (228) in place. Fill of [236]	0.4
228	Layer	<b>Fill/structure:</b> Timber plank (1 m+ long), <i>in situ</i> , poorly surviving, forming revetment for blocking of sap [236]. Part of secondary phase of development within Front Line Trench [236]. Fill of [235]	-
229	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam. Common/abundant small chalk frags. Traces of sand bags preserved within this deposit. Fill of [235]	0.12
230	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam. Some small chalk frags and traces of sand bags. Carved chalk block found in base of this deposit, on surface of (234). Fill of [235]	0.08
231	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam. Common small chalk frags.. Fill of [235]	0.08
232	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown/mid brown silty loam. Abundant small chalk frags. Possible trample layers in base of sap. Fill of [236]	0.2
233	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale grey silty loam. Abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [235]	0.25
234	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam. Common small chalk frags. Carved chalk block found on surface of this deposit, which is a compact trample layer. Fill of [235]	0.15
235	Cut	<b>WWI Practice Trench:</b> Forms part of the Front Line, of at least two phases, in addition to the construction/blocking of Sap [236]. Filled with (219–226) (229–231) (233–234)	1.0
236	Cut	<b>WWI Practice Trench:</b> Sap, >0.5 m wide, forming part of the Front Line, extending SE from Trench [235], post-dating it but subsequently blocked. Only a small part exposed and excavated. Filled with (227–228) (232)	1.05





TRENCH 3			Machine excavated
Dimensions: 6.5 m x 4.3 m		Max. depth: 1.75 m	Ground level: 128.80 m aOD
Co-ordinates: 425008E 146030N			
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
300	Layer	<b>Topsoil:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags	
301	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam with occasional small chalk frags. Overlain in places by white compacted chalk – recent levelling layer. Fill of [307]	
302	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale brown silty loam with common small chalk frags. Includes one quite large patch (0.65 x 0.25 m) of redeposited chalk. Fill of [307]	
303	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> White small/medium chalk frags and some finer material, probably representing weathered/eroded material. Fill of [307]	
304	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale/mid brown silty loam with rare small chalk frags. Stabilisation layer. Fill of [307]	
305	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Dark/very dark greyish brown silty loam with occasional small coal frags; at west end, probably related to brazier [312]. Fill of [307]	
306	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Very dark greyish brown/black silty loam with some small coal frags; trample layer at west end, probably related to brazier [312]. Fill of [307]	
307	Cut	<b>Aid Post:</b> Sub-rectangular pit (4.0 x 3.5 x 1.5 m deep) with stretcher benches/seating (probably on both long sides) and central, deeper 'aisle' from access trench to south-east. Stake-holes [308] + post-hole [310] indicate bench revetting and there is also evidence for a brazier [312] on bench in south-west corner (iron staining/ash & coal deposits). Filled with (301–306) (308–312)	
308	Cut	<b>Stake-holes:</b> Group no. assigned to 4/5 stake-holes for bench revetment in base of Aid Post [307]. No trace of stakes or revetment itself (timber?) survives, though several clearly indicated by voids. Filled with (309)	
309	Layer	<b>Fills:</b> Group no. Very dark greyish brown silty loam; upper parts survive as voids. Fills of [308]	
310	Cut	<b>Post-hole:</b> Rectangular, 0.14 x 0.1 m, forming part of revetment arrangement midway along base of Aid Post [307]; see also stake-holes [308]. Twisted wire links post void with stake-hole voids either side at top of bench level. Filled with (311)	
311	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Very dark greyish brown/black silty loam; upper part survives as void. Fill of [310]	
312	Structure	<b>Brazier:</b> Indirect evidence provided by iron staining/ash and coal deposits/shallow impressions in chalk bench of Aid Post [307], covering area of 0.65+ x 0.55 m; see also (305) and (306)	



TRENCH 4			Machine excavated
Dimensions: 12.3 m x 7.9 m		Max. depth: 1.5 m	Ground level: 127.60 m aOD
Co-ordinates: 425030E 146020N			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
401	Layer	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse small chalk frags	0-0.1
402	Layer	<b>Subsoil:</b> Mid yellowish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags	0.4 max
403	Layer	<b>Layer:</b> Light yellowish grey fine clayey silt loam with rare small chalk frags. Fills and extends over shallow pockets in the natural chalk. Periglacial deposit?	0.2
404	Layer	<b>Natural:</b> Light greyish white chalk	-
405	Cut	<b>Shelter:</b> Sub-rectangular pit (2.5 x 2.3 x 1.3 m deep) with benches/seating on both long sides and central, deeper 'aisle' forming part of Support Trench [421/428] which runs NE-SW through the centre; also linked to Supply Trench [425] which extends to the west. Filled with (406-407) and (411-416); see also [408] and [417]	1.3
406	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [405]	0.17
407	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Sequence of trample layers comprising reddish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [405] [421]	0.18
408	Cut	<b>Post-hole:</b> Sub-oval, 0.84 x 0.55 m, in base of shelter [405]. Filled with (409-410) and (444-445)	0.15
409	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Surviving lower part of rectangular (0.11 x 0.06 m) wooden post, with post-pipe (444) above. Fill of [408]	0.45
410	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with abundant small chalk frags; post packing. Fill of [408]	0.15
411	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Rectangular (1.55 x 0.86 m) sheet of corrugated iron – collapsed roof of Shelter [405]. Fill of [405]	-
412	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid yellowish brown silty clay loam with sparse small chalk frags. Fill of [405]	0.49
413	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish white chalk, at junction of Support Trench [428] between Shelters [405] and [430]. Fill of [405]	0.3
414	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with rare small chalk frags. Fill of [405]	0.32
415	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [405]	0.26
416	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate small chalk frags. Fill of [405]	0.4
417	Cut	<b>Post-hole:</b> Sub-oval, 0.12 x 0.08 m, in base of Shelter [405]. Filled with (418)	0.2 +
418	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [417]	0.2 +
419	Cut	<b>Post-hole:</b> Circular, 0.13 m diam., in base of Shelter [405]/adjacent Supply Trench [425] to the west. Filled with (420)	0.24 +
420	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [419]	0.26
421	Cut	<b>Support Trench:</b> Runs NE-SW, through Shelter [405] and continuing to south as [428]. 1.12 m wide. Filled with (407) and (422-424)	0.93
422	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [421]	0.71
423	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [421]	0.44
424	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> White chalk frags. Fill of [421]	0.26



425	Cut	<b>Supply Trench:</b> Runs east to west – but curvilinear – into west side of Shelter [405]. 1.39 m wide. Filled with (407), (426–427) and (436). See also [432]	1.11
426	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [425]	0.56
427	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish white silty clay loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [425]	0.6
428	Cut	<b>Support Trench:</b> Runs NE–SW, through Shelter [430] and continuing to north as [421] through Shelter [405]. 0.8 m wide. Filled with (429) and (439–440)	0.85
429	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with rare small chalk frags. Fill of [428]	0.77
430	Cut	<b>Shelter:</b> Sub-rectangular pit (2.18 + x 2.30 x 1.2 m deep), not fully exposed, with benches/seating on both long sides and central, deeper 'aisle' forming part of Support Trench [421/428] which runs NE–SW through the centre; also linked to Supply Trench [425] which extends to the west. Filled with (431)	1.2
431	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags. Relatively homogeneous fill of Shelter [405]. Fill of [430]	0.77
432	Cut	<b>Supply/Communications Trench:</b> Runs east to west into west side of Shelter [430]. 0.7 m wide. Filled with (433) and (441). See also [425]	0.65
433	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid yellowish brown silty clay loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [432]	0.65
434	Cut	<b>Post-hole:</b> Sub-oval, 0.6 x 0.34 m, in north corner of base of shelter [405]. Filled with (435) and (442–443)	0.26
435	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [434]	0.3
436	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [425]	0.3
437	Cut	<b>Post-hole:</b> Rectangular, 0.12 x 0.1 m, in base of shelter [430]. Not exc. Filled with (438)	?
438	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [437]	?
439	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with sparse small chalk frags. Fill of [428]	0.73
440	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Light greyish white chalk rubble. Fill of [428]	0.85
441	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Sequence of trample layers comprising light greyish brown silty clay loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [430]	0.1
442	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Post-pipe above and associated with post (443). Fill of [434]	0.3
443	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Surviving lower part of rectangular (0.12 x 0.09 m) wooden post, with post-pipe (442) above. Fill of [434]	0.17
444	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Post-pipe above and associated with post (409). Fill of [408]	0.15
445	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Surviving lower part of circular (0.08 m diam) wooden post, with post-pipe (444) above. Fill of [408]	0.22
446	Cut	<b>Post-hole:</b> Sub-circular, 0.16 x 0.12 m, in base of shelter [430]. Not exc. Filled with (447)	?
447	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [446]	?



TRENCH 5			Machine excavated
Dimensions: 6.5 m x 6 m		Max. depth: 1.9 m	Ground level: 126.80 m aOD
Co-ordinates: 425050E 146010N			
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
500	Layer	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse small chalk frags	0–0.20
501	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [508]	0.65
502	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam with sparse small chalk frags. Fill of [508]	0.7
503	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid/dark brown silty loam with rare small chalk frags; stabilisation layer. Fill of [508]	0.5
504	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish white chalk frags; weathered/eroded natural. Fill of [508]	0.6
505	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish white chalk frags, with some larger blocks >150 mm; forms part of the soakaway arrangements in the base of the latrine pit. Fill of [508]	0.25
506	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Orange yellow sand, containing fragments of butchered cattle and sheep bone; forms part of the soakaway arrangements in the base of the latrine pit. Fill of [508]	0.1
507	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam; fills small un-numbered gully (exposed in section only) which perhaps channelled urine down from the north into the soakaway arrangements in the base of the latrine pit. Fill of [508]	0.17
508	Cut	<b>Latrine Pit/Trench:</b> Long drop latrine, accessed by passage/Trench [513] from the north. Max 1.46 m wide and at least 5.8 m long including passage/Trench [513]. Filled with (501–507). See also [513]	1.75
509	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam with rare small chalk frags. Fill of [513]	0.52
510	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [513]	0.85
511	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid/dark brown silty loam with rare small chalk frags. Fill of [513]	0.48
512	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish white chalk with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [513]	0.55
513	Cut	<b>Latrine Trench:</b> Access Trench to long drop latrine [508] to the south. Max 1.46 m wide and at least 5.8 m long including Latrine pit [508]. Filled with (509–512)	1.2



TRENCH 6			Machine excavated
Dimensions: 24 m x 1.5 m		Max. depth: 1.85 m	Ground level: 129.20 m aOD
Co-ordinates: 424997E 146012N			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
600	-	<b>Finds:</b> Number assigned to Finds from cleaning	-
601	Layer	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse small chalk frags	0-0.25
602	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale greyish brown silty loam with common/abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [615]/[616]	0.25
603	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale greyish brown silty loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [615]	0.35
604	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid/dark brown silty loam with sparse small chalk frags. Stabilisation layer; see also (611) – part of same deposit. Fill of [615]	0.1
605	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid/dark brown silty loam with sparse small chalk frags. Stabilisation layer; see also (604) – part of same deposit. Fill of [615]	0.2
606	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Very pale greyish brown silty loam with common/abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [615]	0.1
607	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Very pale/pale greyish brown silty loam with common/abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [615]	0.2
608	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale greyish brown silty loam with common/abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [615]	0.4
609	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale greyish brown silty loam with common small chalk frags. Fill of [615]	0.3
610	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Comprises almost entirely small chalk frags. Weathering/erosion deposit? Fill of [615]	0.15
611	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid/dark brown silty loam with rare small chalk frags. Stabilisation layer. Fill of [615]	0.15
612	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Comprises almost entirely small chalk frags. Weathering/erosion deposit? Fill of [615]	0.25
613	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam with some small chalk frags. Fills 'void' probably left by removal/decay of timber/corrugated iron revetting along south side of trench. Fill of [615]	0.2
614	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Compact greyish brown silty loam with some small chalk frags. Trample deposit. Fill of [615]	0.08
615	Cut	<b>Supply Trench (south):</b> Runs east to west, 2.6 m wide, thought to be for bringing/taking troops, provisions etc to forward positions; extends as far east as Support Trench (see trenches 1 and 4) and continues at least (from geophysics) to Reserve Line (see trench 7). Designed as a 2-way route, one-up one-down, though it appears that only [615] has been dug to full depth, its parallel, adjacent counterpart [616] having only been dug to relatively shallow depth; both, however, appear to have seen extensive use based on trample/ smooth surface respectively. Filled with (602-604), (606) and (608-614).	1.5
616	Cut	<b>Supply Trench (north):</b> Runs east to west, 1.8 m wide, thought to be for bringing/taking troops, provisions etc to forward positions; extends as far east as Comms Trench (see trenches 1 and 4) and continues at least (from geophysics) to Reserve Line (see trench 7). See notes to [615]. Filled with (602), (605) and (607).	0.35



TRENCH 7			Machine excavated
Dimensions: 10 x 9.2 m		Max. depth: 0.85 m	Ground level: 133.30 m aOD
Co-ordinates: 424915E 146005N			
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
700	Layer	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid greyish brown silty loam with some small chalk frags	
701	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish/reddish brown silty loam/silty clay loam with common/abundant small chalk frags; same as (707). Fill of [706]	
702	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish/reddish brown silty loam with some small chalk frags; same as (708). Fill of [706]	
703	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish brown silty loam with abundant small chalk frags; same as (709). Fill of [706]	
704	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Reddish brown silty loam with common small chalk frags; same as (711). Fills 'void' probably left by removal/decay of timber/corrugated iron revetting along south side of trench. Fill of [706]	
705	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale greyish white/white silt with abundant small chalk frags; same as (712). Trample layer. Fill of [706]	
706	Cut	<b>Crenellated Trench:</b> Runs south to north from west end (?) of Supply Trench [615]/[616]/[716] and forms Reserve Line of Trench system. Between 0.85–1.1 m wide, with marked step down on east side to create new firestep on west side, converting defensive line facing east to attacking line facing west. See also [713] and [716] which are part of the same Trench. Filled with (701–705)	
707	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish/reddish brown silty loam/silty clay loam with common/abundant small chalk frags; same as (701). Fill of [713]	
708	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish/reddish brown silty loam with some small chalk frags; same as (702). Fill of [713]	
709	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish brown silty loam with abundant small chalk frags; same as (703). Fill of [713]	
710	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish brown silty loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [713]	
711	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Reddish brown silty loam with common small chalk frags; same as (704). Fills 'void' probably left by removal/decay of timber /corrugated iron revetting along south side of trench. Fill of [713]	
712	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Pale greyish white/white silt with abundant small chalk frags; same as (705). Trample layer. Fill of [713]	
713	Cut	<b>Crenellated Trench:</b> Runs south to north from west end (?) of Supply Trench [615]/[616]/[716] and forms Reserve Line of Trench system. 1.2 m wide, with marked step down on east side to create new firestep on west side, converting defensive line facing east to attacking line facing west. See also [706] and [716] which are part of the same Trench. Filled with (707–712)	
714	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish brown silty loam with some/common small chalk frags. Fill of [716]	
715	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish brown silty loam with abundant small chalk frags. Fill of [716]	
716	Cut	<b>Crenellated Trench:</b> Runs south to north from west end (?) of Supply Trench [615]/[616]/[716] and forms Reserve Line of Trench system. Here at this junction it is 0.7 m wide, but relationship is uncertain. Filled with (714–715)	
717	Layer	<b>Fill:</b> Greyish brown silty loam with some small chalk frags. Fill of [718]	
718	Cut	<b>Supply Trench:</b> Runs west to east from south end of Crenellated Trench [706] etc. Here at this junction it was only partly excavated and the relationship between the two is uncertain. Filled with (717)	





## APPENDIX 2 – OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-272867

### Project details

Project name	Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches Salisbury Plain, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Defence Infrastructure Organisation to undertake a trial trench evaluation on a complex of World War I practice trenches at Perham Down, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 425050 146050. The geophysical survey and small-scale investigations of the WWI Bedlam practice trenches on Perham Down have provided results which have considerably exceeded initial expectations. The gradiometer survey has proved very successful at showing the layout of the trenches and is capable of revealing considerable detail, which in this case could be easily related to the layout shown on a 1915 Field map which included this part of the 'German' trenches. In terms of the physical remains, the work has shown that even small-scale excavation, employing standard excavation techniques, can provide a significant (and perhaps surprising) amount of information, particularly where few or no (as in this case) earthworks survive. Excavations in 2016 targeted the Front, Support and Reserve Lines, a Supply Trench, Shelters, an Aid Post and a Latrine, all lying within a single arable field. In the case of the Front Line, it was evident that there was a relatively complex sequence of trench use, sap construction with subsequent abandonment and blocking and, following this, the creation of a new fire step during the continued operation of the trench.
Project dates	Start: 11-07-2016 End: 26-07-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	113940 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	PRACTICE TRENCH Modern
Significant Finds	CARVED CHALK PLAQUE Modern
Methods & techniques	"Geophysical Survey","Targeted Trenches"

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE TEST VALLEY SHIPTON BELLINGER Perham Down
Postcode	SP9 7TE
Study area	5 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 425050 146050 50.928779520138 -1.395118497784 50 55 43 N 001 23 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 126m Max: 133m

### Project creators





Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Ruth Panes
Project supervisor	Phil Andrews
Type of sponsor/funding body	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Name of sponsor/funding body	Defence Infrastructure Organisation

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Physical Archive ID	A2016.110
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive ID	A2016.110
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID	A2016.110
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

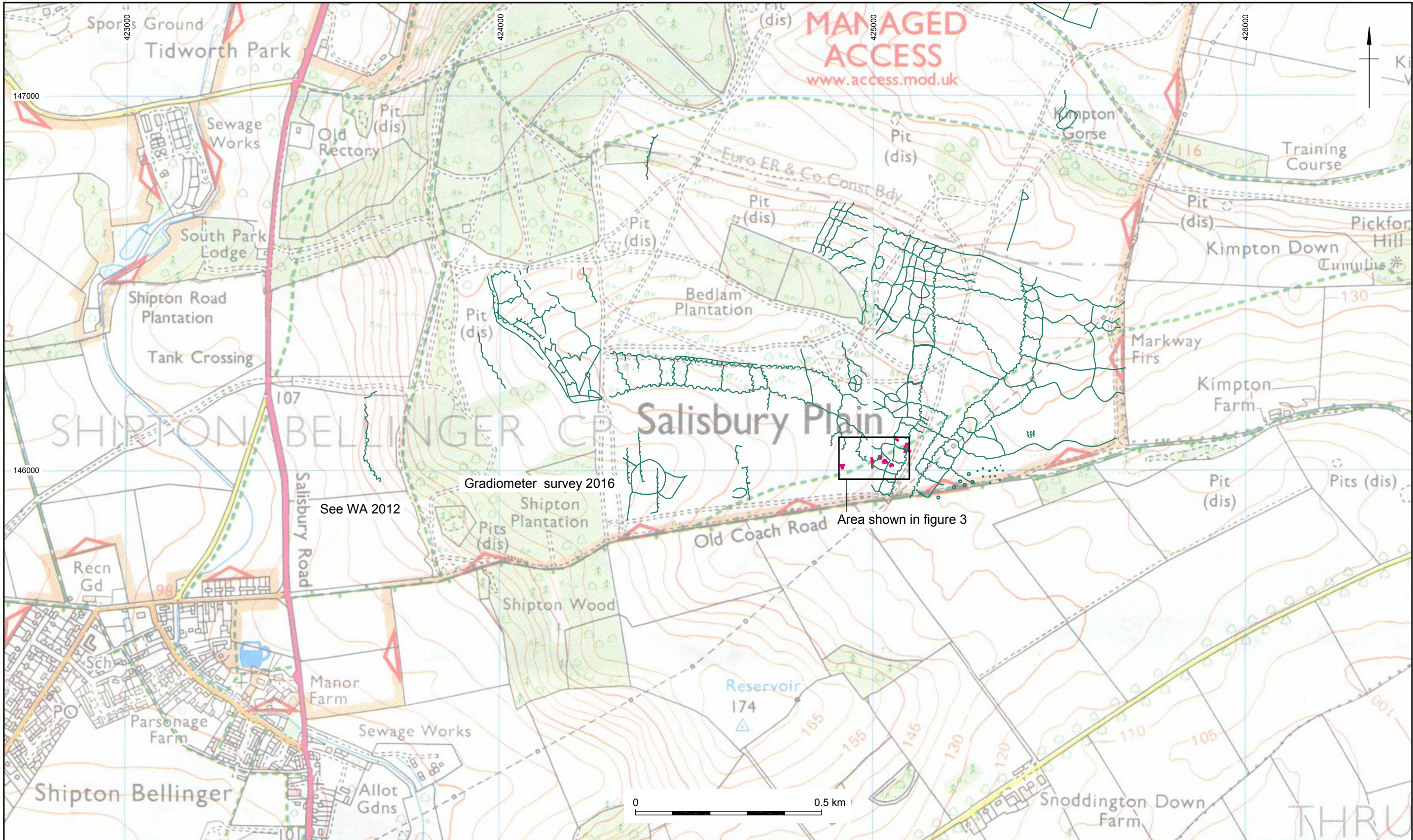
### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Perham Down World War I Practice Trenches Salisbury Plain, Hampshire Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wessex Archaeology
Other bibliographic details	113940
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology



Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	Two A4 bound Client reports
URL	<a href="http://www.oasis.ac.uk">http://www.oasis.ac.uk</a>





Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN02/OSGM02)

 WWI practice trenches taken from cropmark data

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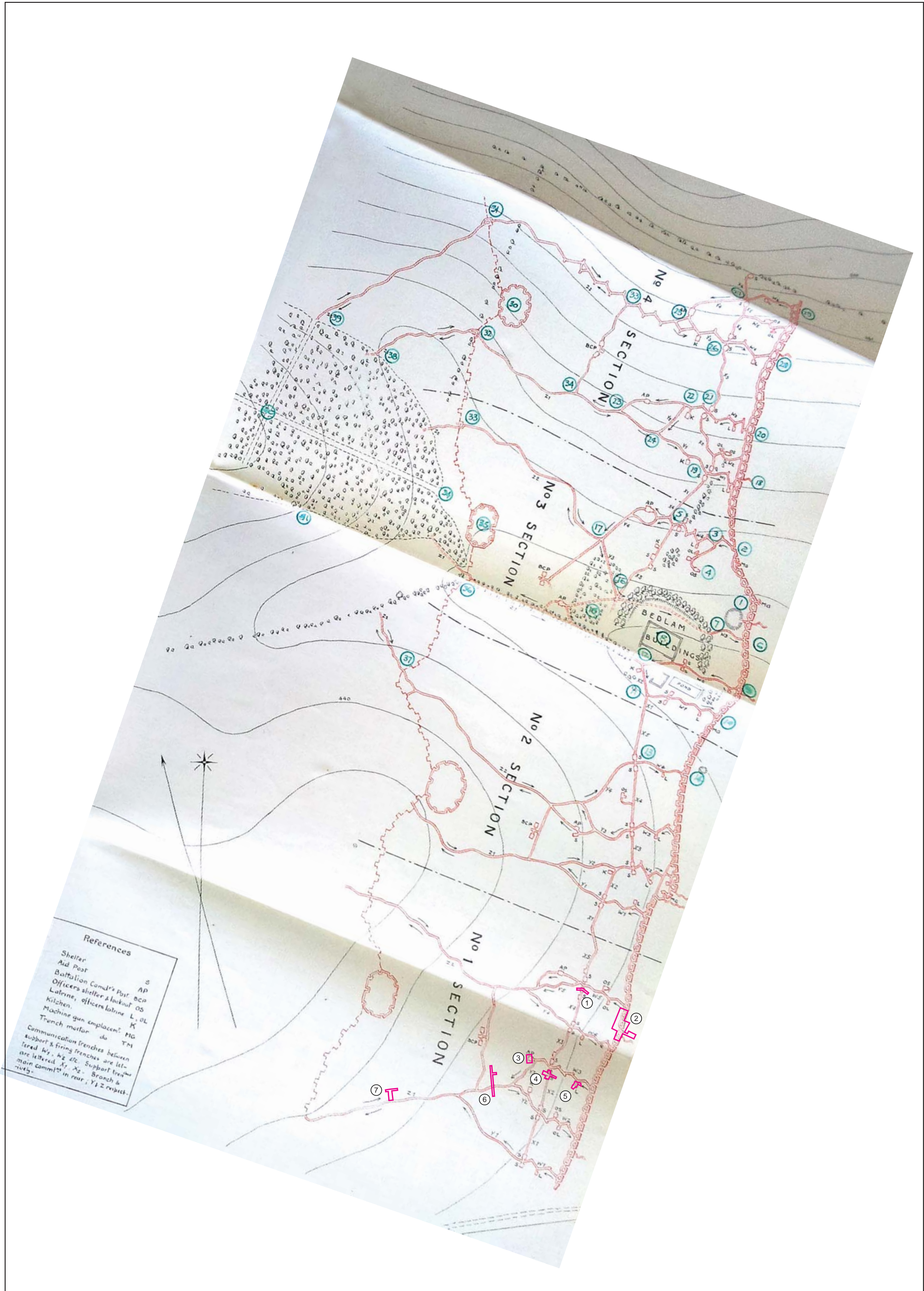
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Site location plan, showing cropmark plot of World War I practice trenches (information © Defence Infrastructure Organisation)

Figure 1





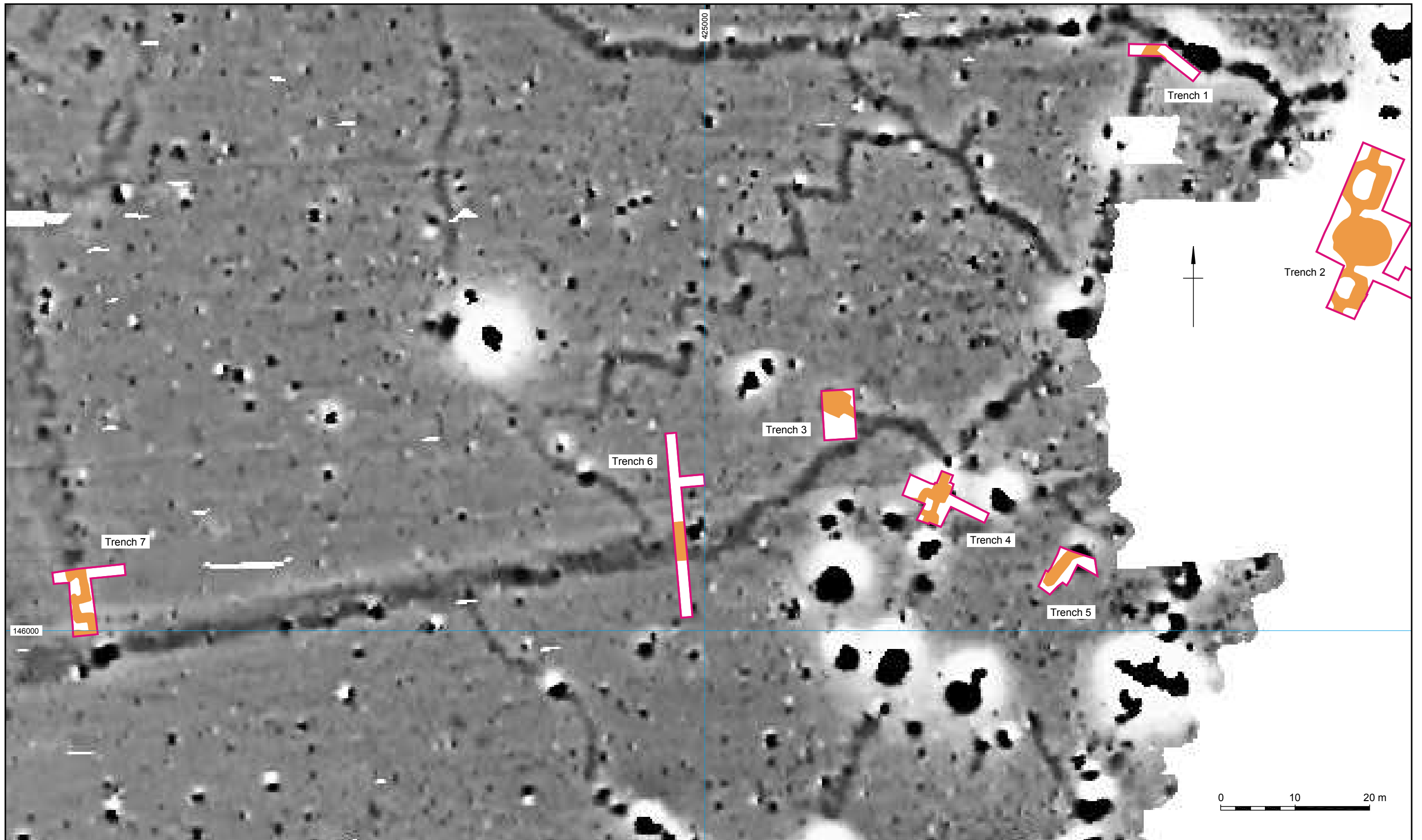
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Trench locations shown on 1915 field plan (© National Archives, ref: 100th Inf Bde War Diary WO95-2428 Oct 1915)

Figure 2



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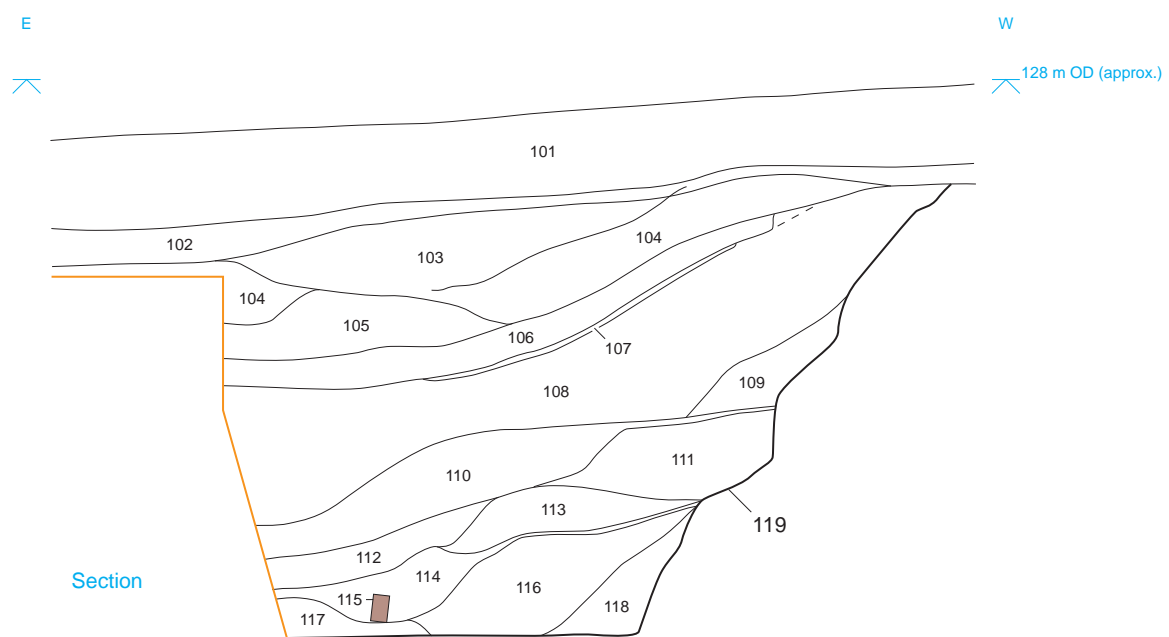
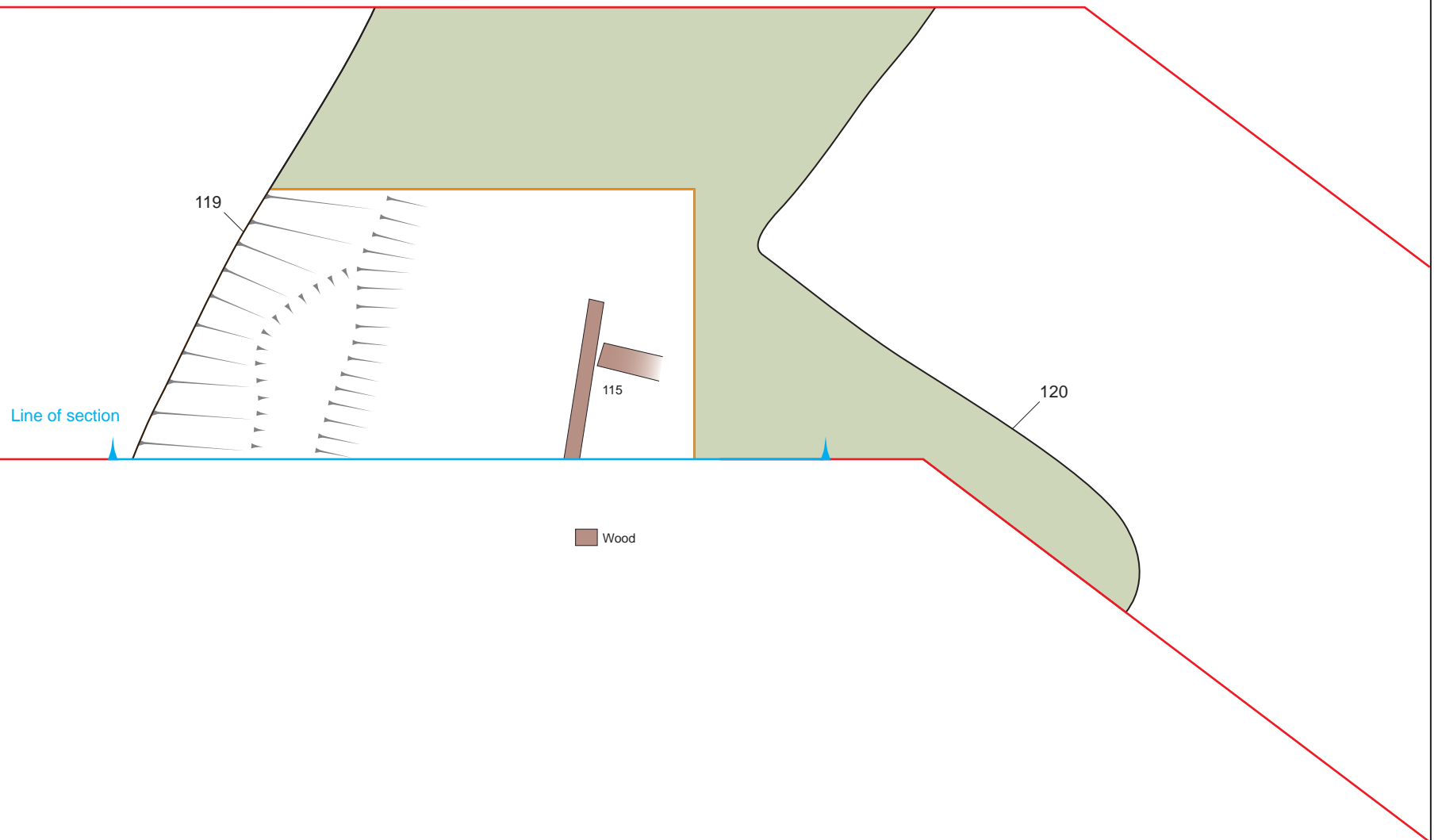
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Trench locations shown in relation to gradiometer survey results

Figure 3



Trench 1



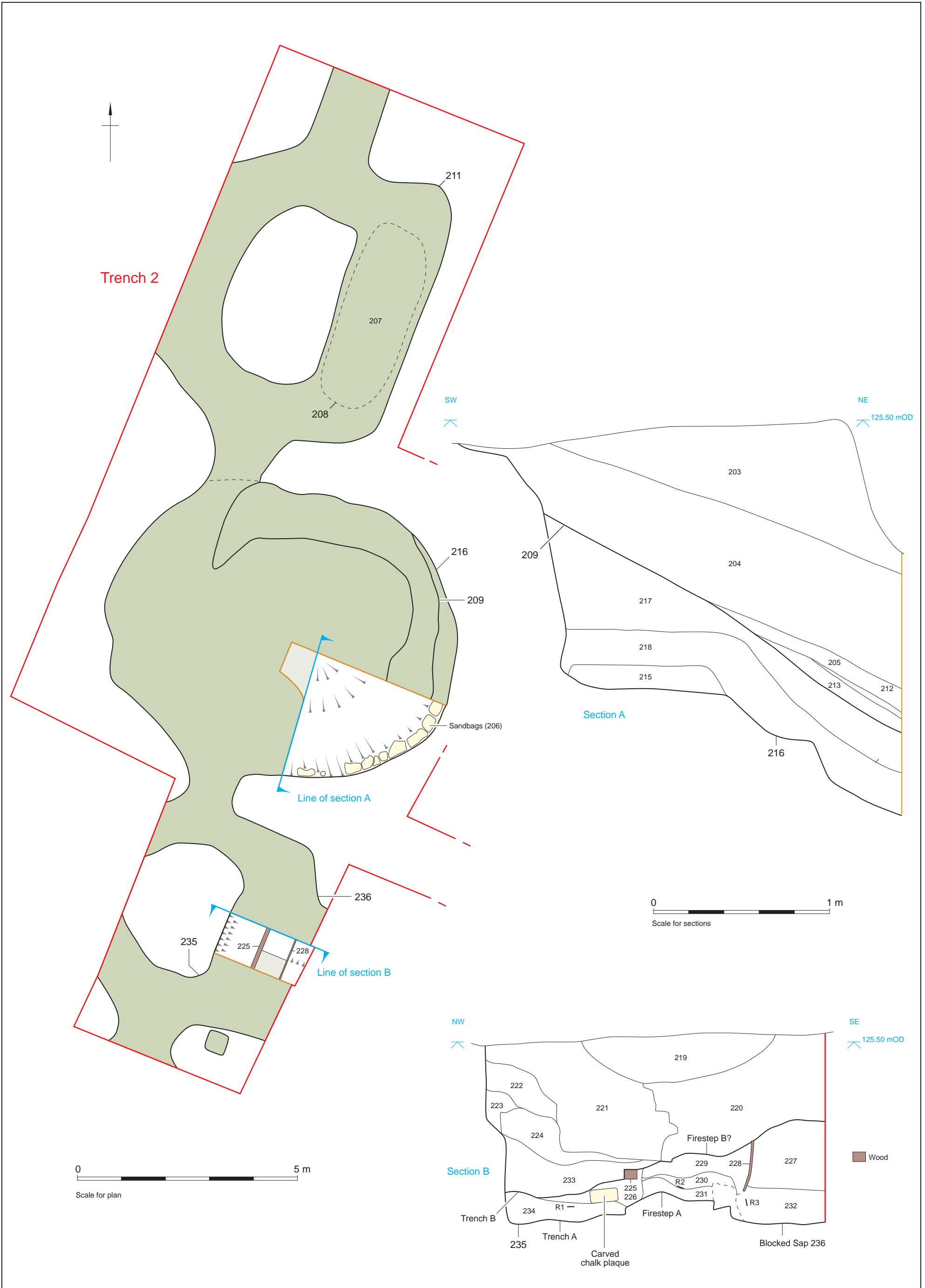
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Trench 1: Support Trench [119], plan and section

Figure 4

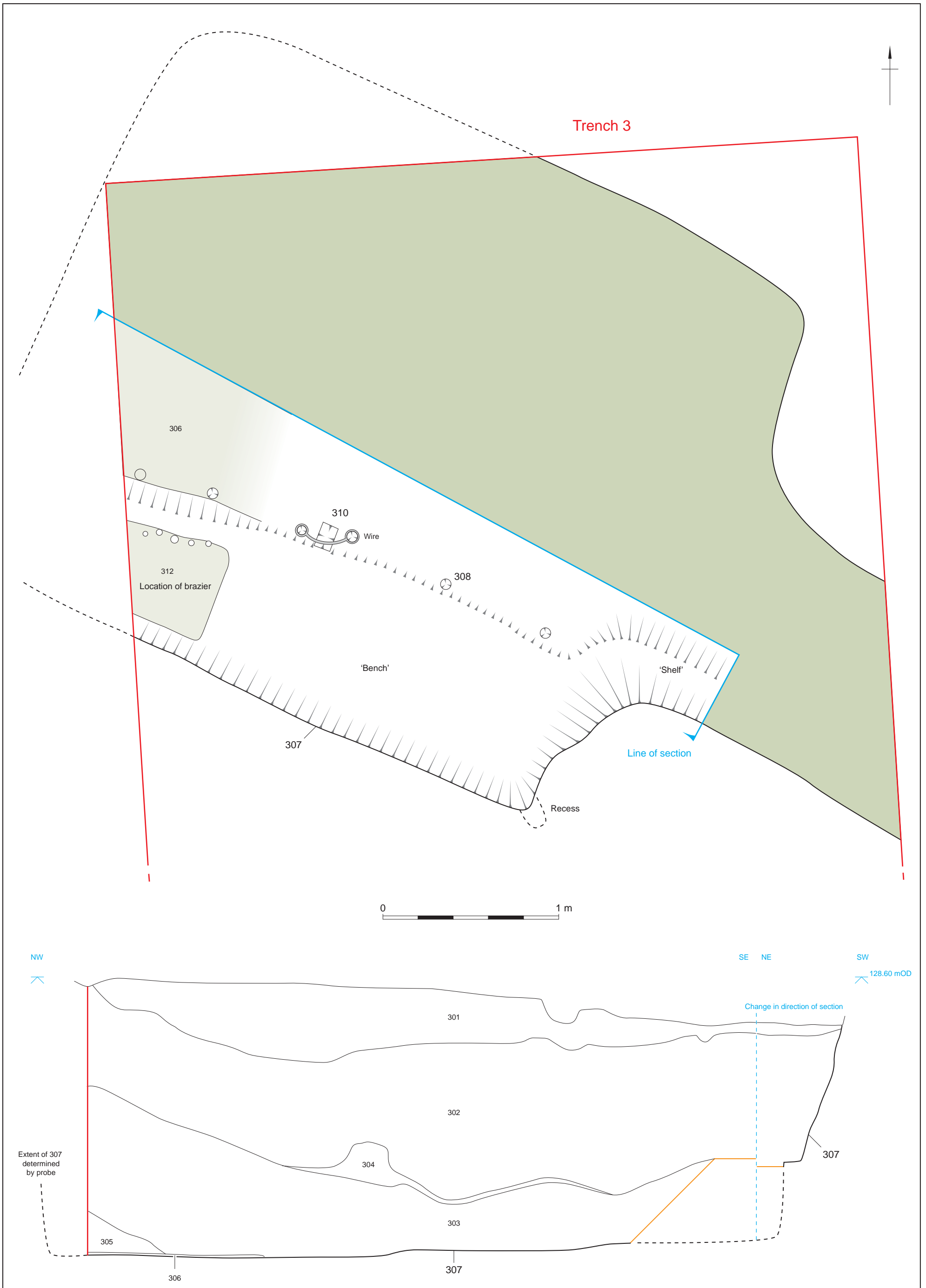





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Trench 2: Front Line, plans and sections

Figure 5

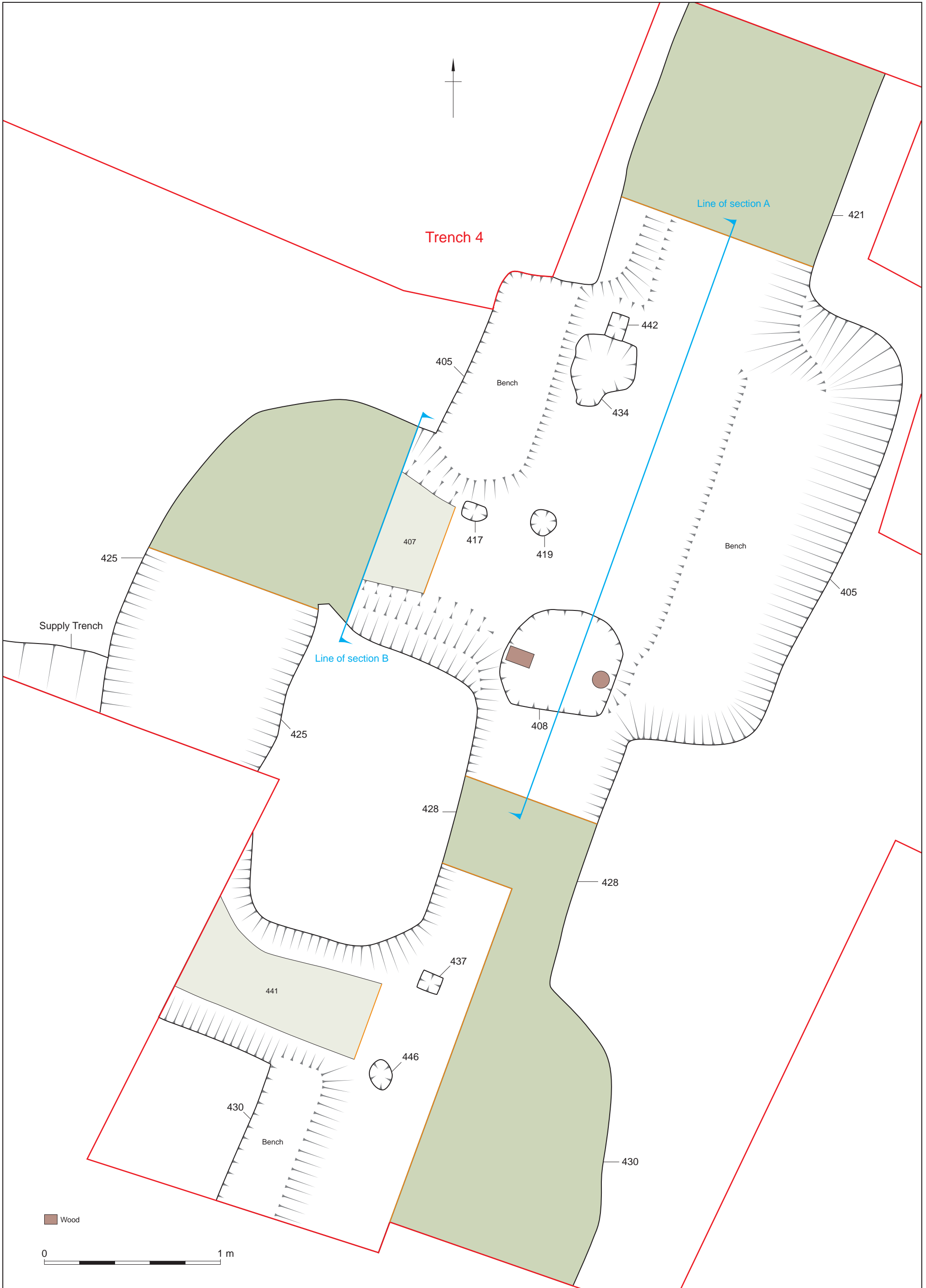



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Trench 3: Aid Post [307], plan and section

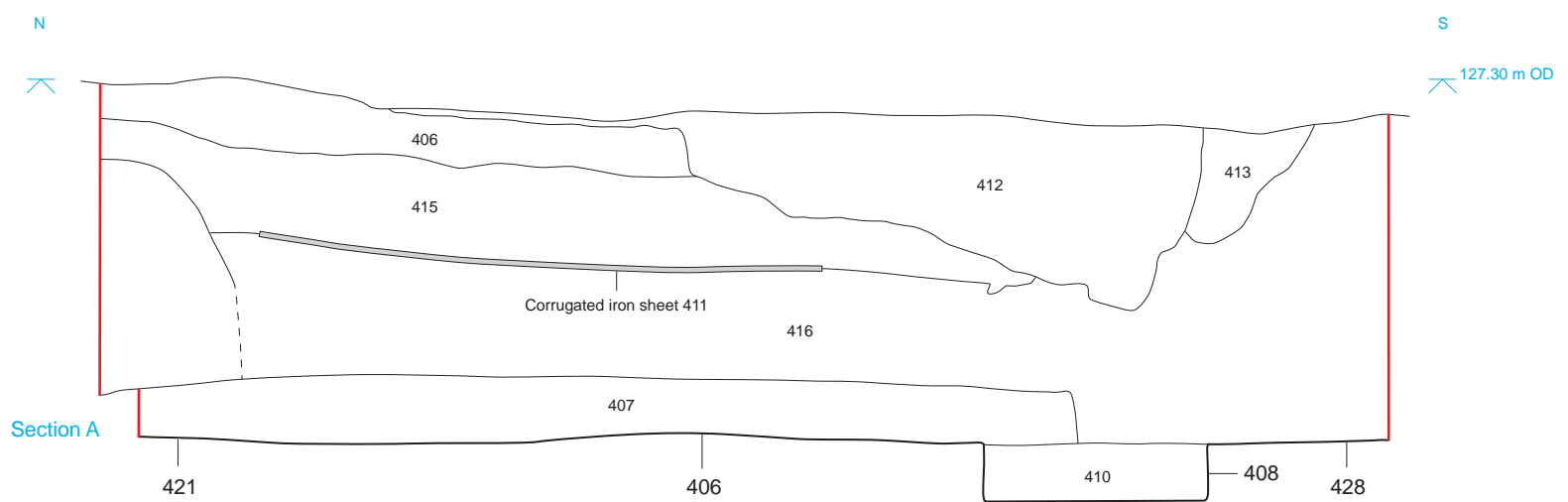
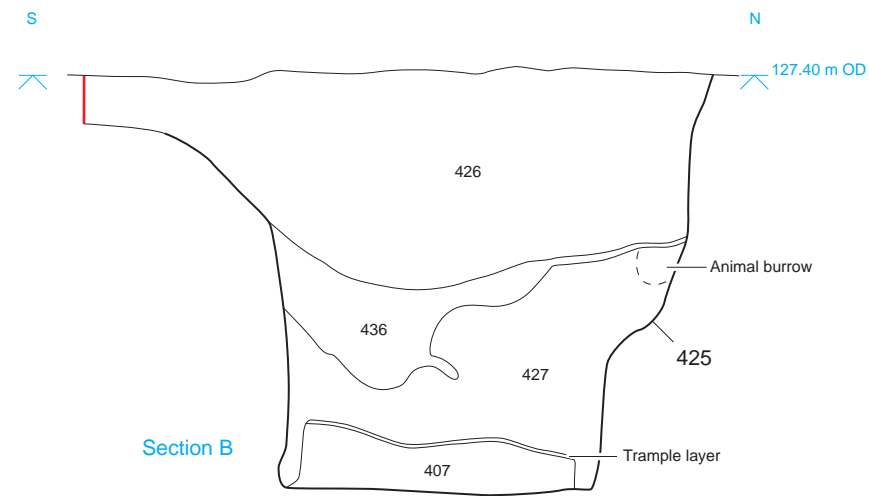
Figure 6



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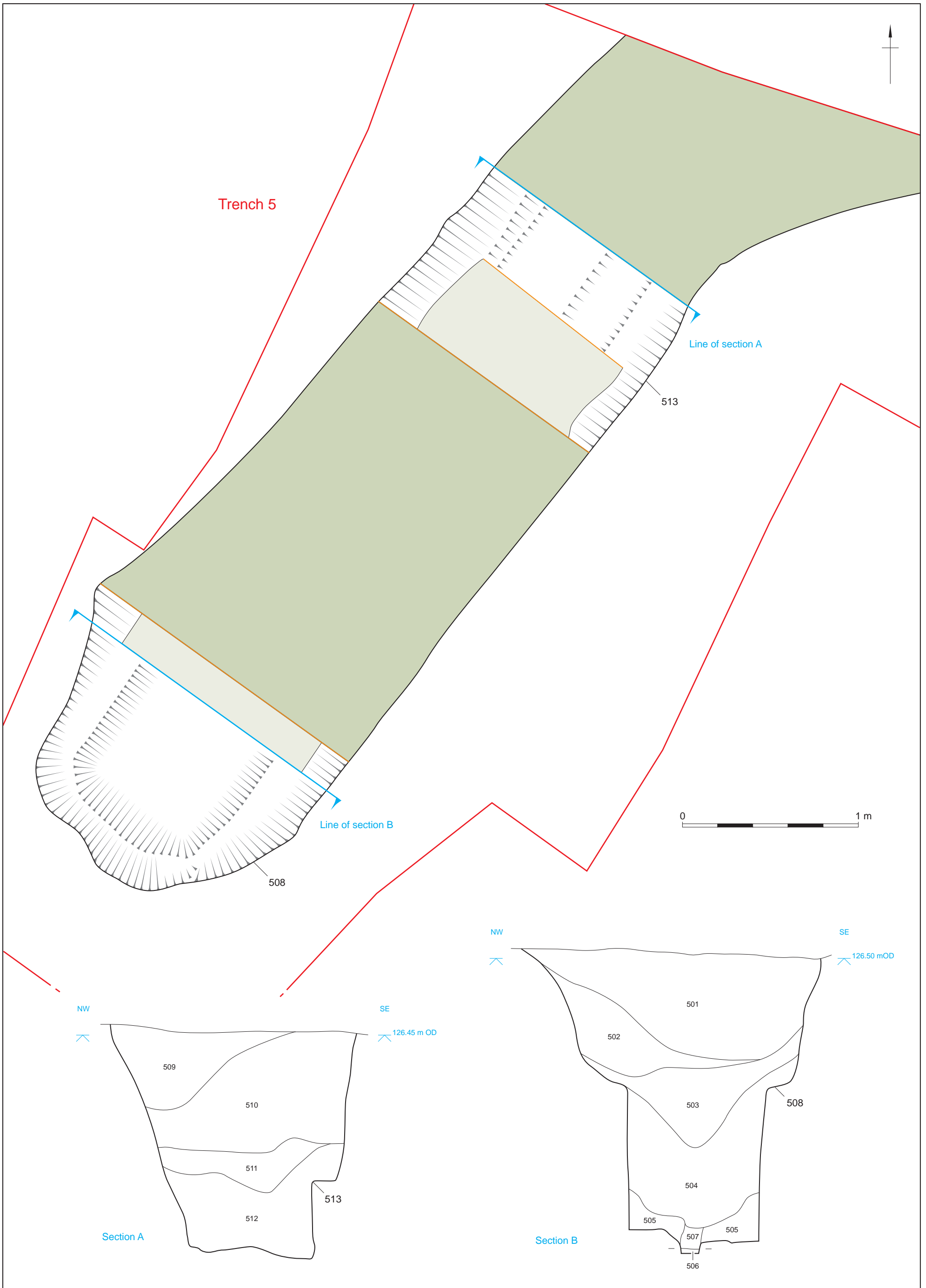
Trench 4: Shelters [428] and [430], plan


Figure 7



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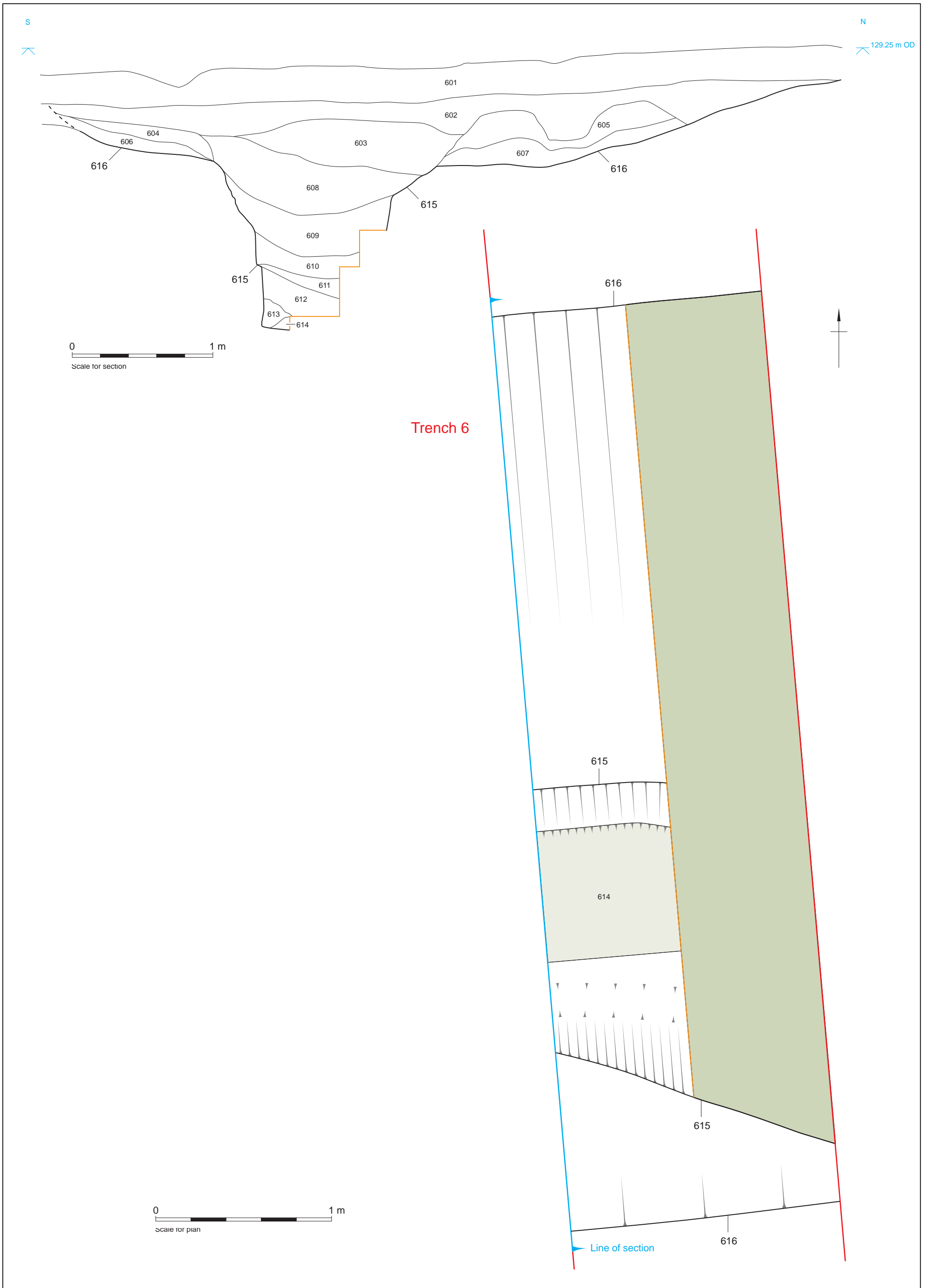
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Trench 5: Latrine [508] / [513], plan and sections

Figure 9

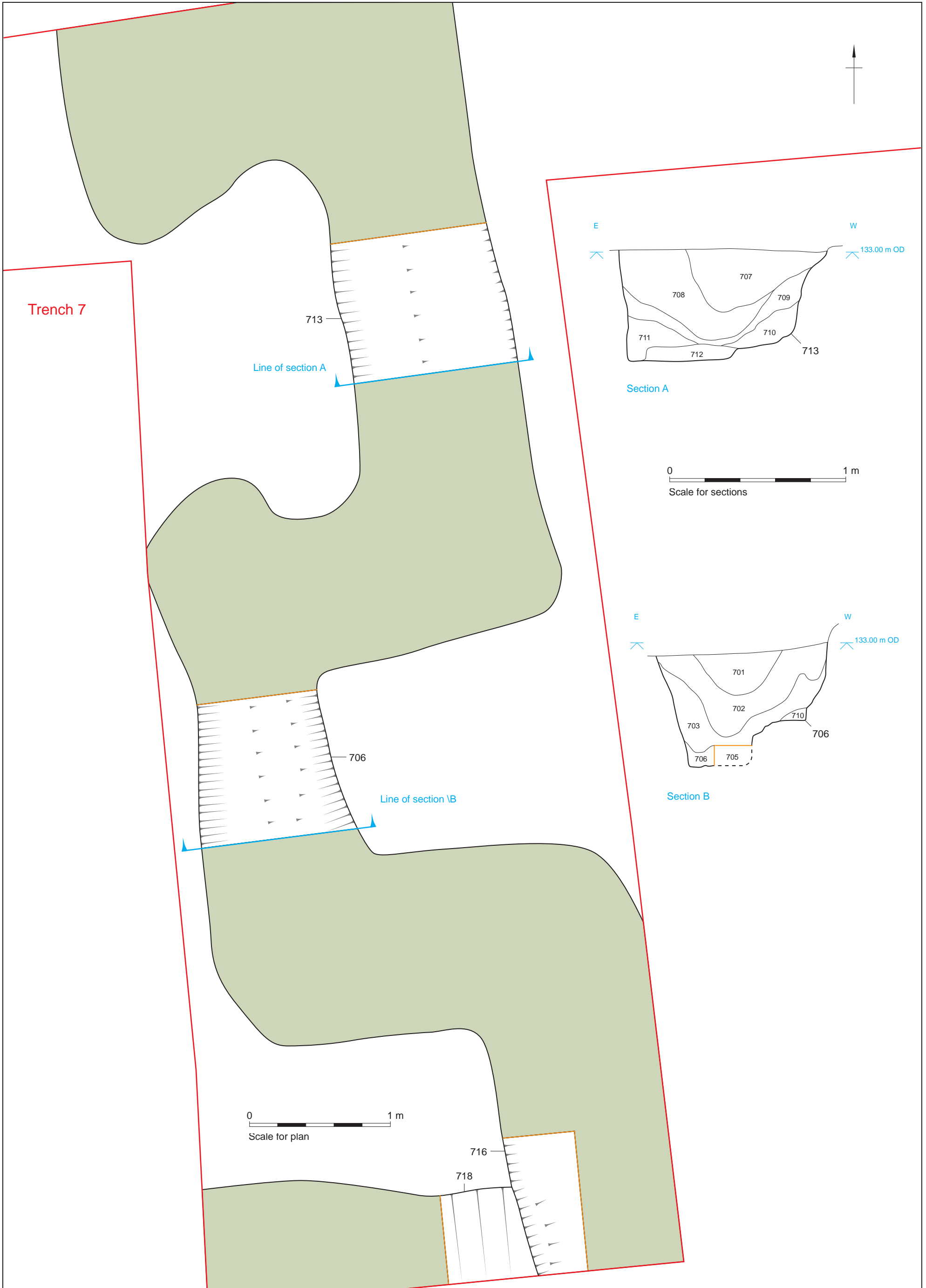



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Trench 6: Supply Trench [615] / [616], plan and section

Figure 10





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Trench 7: Reserve Line [706] / [713], plan and sections

Figure 11



Plate 1: Trench 1: Support Trench [119], view from north (scale = 1 m)



Plate 2: Trench 2: Front Line, overall view from south-west


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Plate 3: Trench 2: Front Line, overall view from west (courtesy Iris)



Plate 4: Trench 2: Front Line, Trench [235] and Sap [236]; note carved chalk plaque in section, view from south-east (scale = 1 m)


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Plate 5: Trench 2: Front Line, WWII disposal pit [216], view from south-east (scale = 1 m)



Plate 6: Trench 2: Front Line, WWII disposal pit [216], view from east (scales = 1 m and 2 m)



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Plate 7: Trench 3: Aid Post [307], view from east



Plate 8: Trench 3: Aid Post [307], view from east (scale = 1 m)

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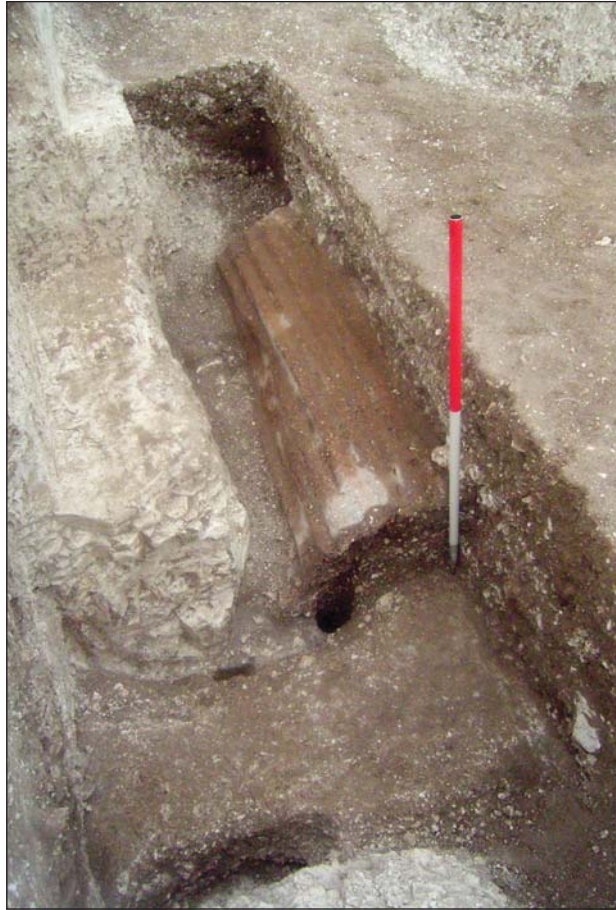


Plate 9: Trench 4: Shelter [428], half-excavated showing corrugated iron sheet in section, view from south-west (scale = 1 m)



Plate 10: Trench 4: Shelters [428] and [430], view from north-east


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Plate 11: Trench 5: Latrine [508] / [513], view from north-west



Plate 12: Trench 5: Latrine [508], view from south-west (scale = 1 m)


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Plate 13: Trench 6: Supply Trench [615] / [616], view from south-east (scale = 2 m)



Plate 14: Trench 7: Reserve Line [706] / [713] pre-excavation, view from south (scale = 2 m)



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Plate 15: RTI photograph of chalk plaque fragment from trench 2: Front Line

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