



# Land adjacent to Common Road, Harthill, Rotherham

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 117140.01  
August 2017



# Land adjacent to Common Road, Harthill, Rotherham

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# **Land adjacent to Common Road, Harthill, Rotherham**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by ERM on behalf of INEOS to carry out archaeological trial trenching evaluation of land adjacent to Common Road, Harthill, Rotherham centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 450578, 380477. The evaluation forms part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works being undertaken in order to fulfil planning constraints attached to an upcoming development.

A detailed gradiometer survey of the Site demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin, following which, a programme of archaeological evaluation trial trenching was requested by SYAS.

Ten trenches targeted geophysical anomalies and a small area where no geophysical investigation was conducted. Ditches were identified in all trenches except one. These linear features correspond to elements of an extensive field systems visible as crop marks on aerial photographs confirmed by geophysical survey. The linear features may be a series of boundary ditches; some of the features form smaller plots, others, together with pits and postholes, may define a variety of subrectangular enclosures. The field systems may represent a rationalisation of the landscape and planned division, designed for efficient management of land and pastoral animal economy. If so, the scale of the boundaries reflects the size of the social group that constructed them and indicates the importance of the boundaries in the landscape.

The finds assemblage is extremely modest, with a limited range of materials present. One worked prehistoric flint was found, with two Romano-British fragments and one late medieval sherd forming the pottery assemblage.

The trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and indicated that the anomalies were predominantly archaeological features with a small number of geological variations. Therefore, based on professional experience, archaeological guidelines and the nature of archaeological deposits, a condition in any future planning approval would be appropriate to manage effects on cultural heritage. Such a condition would allow for the appropriate excavation and recording of any archaeological features which may be disturbed by the development (i.e. within the area subject to top soil strip).

The complete archive will be deposited with Clifton Park Museum. An accession number will be assigned on full deposition of the archive.



# **Land adjacent to Common Road, Harthill, Rotherham**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was directed by Stuart Pierson, assisted by Sam Bromage, Justyna Dekiert, Chris Hurst, Ifigenia Klopa, Oisin Mercer, Jack Peverall, Heather Tamminen, Daniel Webster and James Wright. Artefacts were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. Environmental samples were processed by Liz Chambers and Stavroula Fouriki. The flots were assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. This report was written by Milica Rajic, with illustrations by Joanna Debska and Alix Sperr.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Milica Rajic.





# Land adjacent to Common Road, Harthill, Rotherham

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by ERM on behalf of INEOS (hereafter “the project team”) to carry out archaeological trial trenching evaluation of land adjacent to Common Road, Harthill, Rotherham (hereafter “the Site”) centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 450578, 380477. The evaluation forms part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works being undertaken in order to fulfil planning constraints attached to an upcoming development.

1.1.2 The Site was previously subject to geophysical survey by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). Following on from this a programme of archaeological evaluation trial trenching was required by SYAS, archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2017b) was prepared for an initial programme of archaeological work, comprising excavation of ten trial trenches (Trenches 1-10). The WSI was submitted to and approved by SYAS in advance of fieldwork commencement. The format and content of the WSI was based on current national industry guidance (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a and 2014b; Historic England 2015). The historical and archaeological background for the Site, and the aims, objectives and methodology for the fieldwork can be found in the WSI.

1.1.3 The evaluation fieldwork took place between 12th and 23rd June 2017 and comprised the excavation of ten trial trenches, each measuring 25 m by 2 m which targeted geophysical anomalies and a small portion of the site outside the area of geophysical survey. This report summarises the results of that excavation.

#### 1.2 Site location and topography

1.2.1 The Site, covering an area of approximately 1.4 hectares (Figure 1), is located in Rotherham, 0.7 km east of the village of Harthill. The Site is bounded by open agricultural land to the north and west, a small parcel of woodland to the east, with a hedgerow and Common Road to the South.

1.2.2 The Site is on a gentle incline, sloping from 138 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the southern edge to approximately 136 m aOD at the northern edge.

1.2.3 The site is located within the East Rotherham Limestone Plateau Landscape Character Area (LCA), as defined within the Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study (RLCA; The Landscape Partnership 2010). This LCA forms part of the Southern Magnesian Limestone National Landscape Character Area (NCA).



## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is primarily based on information presented in the environmental report (ERM, 2017).

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 Numerous fragments of patinated flints and flint debris as well as small round scrapers, small cores, core trimmings, a double burin, a small black chert core and a fragment of a polished flint axe were recovered from a large area within a ploughed field on a south-facing promontory above Bondhay Dike, nearly 2 km to the south-east of the Site at Thorpe Common. The assemblage almost certainly relates to in situ tool production and is probably indicative of a Mesolithic hunting encampment.

2.2.2 A surface concentration of Mesolithic tools was found in an open field approximately 2 km to the south-east of the Site.

2.2.3 During a field walking survey around Loscar Farm, associated with a previous wind farm development, now operational, a large concentration of finds came from an area approximately 900 m to the south-east of the Site. Finds included a flint bladelet, a tranchet axe fragment and a flake dated to the Late Mesolithic period. Other finds included a flint knife, an 'axe thinning flake' and four other undiagnostic flint fragments dated Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic.

2.2.4 Approximately 400 m south from the Site a flint blade fragment dated to the Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic period was recovered.

2.2.5 Approximately 500 m to the east of the Site is Packman Lane, a north-south aligned road, which follows the boundary between the parishes of Harthill and Thorpe Salvin for 2 miles between Kiverton Park in the north and Bondhay Common in the south. The road is considered to be an early communication line, possibly of prehistoric origin although this evidence appears to be anecdotal and while the road itself is clearly of some antiquity, its origins cannot be reliably substantiated. Excavations in a field to the south of Kiverton Park railway station (approximately 1.7 km to the north of the Site) revealed traces of a cobbled road. This was encountered again recently along the southern edge of the same field; however, the alignment was not authenticated and nothing is now visible on the ground at these places.

### **2.3 Romano-British**

2.3.1 A cluster of Roman finds was recovered by metal detectorists approximately 600 m to the north of Thorpe Salvin. These included a trumpet brooch dated to the 1st half of the 2nd century, a late 1st to mid-2nd century enamelled brooch, a 2nd century bronze disc brooch with red and blue enamel, a coin and a lead spindle whorl. The number of Roman finds recovered between Thorpe Salvin and the Chesterfield Canal indicate an increased level of Roman activity, possibly indicative of some form of small Roman settlement or cemetery approximately 2 km to the northeast of the site.

2.3.2 Other find spots include Roman costume jewellery, coins and pottery, with a notable cluster of Roman finds to the north of Thorpe Salvin, possibly indicative of some form of Roman occupation approximately 2 km to the north-east of the Site.

2.3.3 A rectangular enclosure and field systems located approximately 800 m to the north-west of the site is considered to be of Roman origin.

## **2.4 Medieval**

- 2.4.1 The Site lies in the parish of Harthill, first mentioned in the form *Hertil(l)* in the Domesday book in 1086. The Site is located within the former manorial estate, with much of the adjacent land indicative of medieval open fields systems.
- 2.4.2 Evidence for Early-Medieval activity include two late Anglo-Saxon, 10th century copper alloy strap-ends found in arable fields approximately 600 m to the east and north-east of the Site.
- 2.4.3 The remains of a rectangular enclosure and field system of probable Medieval date can be identified from crop marks on aerial photographs at Thorpe Common.
- 2.4.4 An earthwork bank aligned north to south for 150-200 m, located approximately 800 m to the north of Thorpe Salvin, may relate to Medieval agriculture. Several metal objects dating to the Medieval period have been found in the open fields to the north of Thorpe Salvin.
- 2.4.5 Field walking survey around Loscar Farm, approximately 500 m to the south-east of the Site, identified a general scatter of pottery fragments dating from the 13th century through to the modern period, including two sherds dating to the 14th -16th centuries.

## **2.5 Post-Medieval**

- 2.5.1 Many of the buildings within the nearby villages of Harthill and Thorpe Salvin date to the Post-medieval period, with the predominant building material being the local Magnesian Limestone. Of particular note are the ruins of Thorpe Hall, with associated gate house and fishponds. Within Harthill there are several early non-designated buildings including a stone house at 1 Chapel Yard, a Post-medieval barn and an old schoolhouse dated 1721. An early to mid-18th century farmhouse and barn dating to the 19th century are located at the northern extent of the village of Thorpe Salvin.
- 2.5.2 Located approximately 90 m to the south-east of the Site on the opposite side of Common Road was Loscar Quarry. Work at the quarry commenced at some point after 1720 and had ceased by the end of the 19th century.
- 2.5.3 Other industry in the area is evident from the remains of lime kilns to the north of Thorpe Salvin, along the southern bank of the Chesterfield Canal which was constructed between 1771 and 1777.

## **2.6 Recent geophysical survey results**

- 2.6.1 A detailed gradiometer survey of the Site demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). These included a substantial number of ditch-like features that together may form a network of Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures (Figure 2). However, the anomalies were consistent with geological responses found on a similar dolostone geology at Clowne (Wessex Archaeology 2013) making a definite conclusion as to the origin difficult. A circular anomaly has been identified in the north-west of the Site which may be evidence of earlier Bronze Age activity; a round barrow or small enclosure. However, this could also be caused by natural features in the dolostone bedrock. Additionally, parallel trend anomalies consistent with modern ploughing were also identified.



## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 A detailed methodology for the work can be found in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). Wessex Archaeology procedures conform to industry best practice, as outlined in national standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-c) and Historic England (2015).
- 3.1.2 Ten trenches measuring 25 m in length and 2 m in width were positioned to both intercept geophysical anomalies and target a small portion of the Site outside the geophysically investigated area. Trenches 2, 3 and 6 were extended to try to establish the expanse of identified archaeological features.

### **3.2 Machine excavation**

- 3.2.1 Topsoil and subsoil were removed using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of suitably experienced archaeologists. Material was removed in a series of level spits 50-200 mm thick, down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first.

### **3.3 Sample excavation and recording**

- 3.3.1 Surfaces were cleaned to allow inspection and to define the extent of any archaeological features and deposits. Archaeological features were hand excavated (to 1.10m depth) and a full written, drawn and photographic record was made of the stratigraphy in each trench, even if no archaeological deposits were identified.
- 3.3.2 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. This written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. As per standard practice, excavated stratigraphic units were individually numbered and recorded, with the trench number forming the prefix for the context number.
- 3.3.3 All archaeological features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum and to the National Grid. Survey was undertaken using an RTK GNSS GPS system.

### **3.4 Finds**

- 3.4.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained and were treated in accordance with relevant industry guidance (English Heritage 2005).

### **3.5 Environmental samples**

- 3.5.1 All sealed and stratified archaeological contexts were sampled. The collection and processing of environmental samples was undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 General stratigraphy**

- 4.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded typically under mid reddish brown silty and sandy topsoil which was up to 0.20 m deep and a 0.10 m deep light reddish brown sandy clayey subsoil. Frequent limestone inclusions were present in both layers. The natural geology was Magnesian limestone recorded at 0.3 m below ground level (bgl).

## 4.2 Trenches 1-10

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 (Figure 1-3, Plate 1) was orientated east to west and was positioned to target south-east to north-west oriented linear feature identified by the gradiometer survey. The trench contained two north-east to south-west oriented 0.70 m wide, 0.15 m deep gullies (104 and 108), which were filled with greyish-brown firm sandy clay with some angular limestone inclusions (109) (Plate 2).
- 4.2.2 The north end of gully 104 was defined by a 0.69 m deep post-hole (105). The post-hole (Plate 3) was 1.10 m in diameter, with steep, almost straight sides, filled with a brown firm silty sand (106) and mid greyish brown firm sandy clay with some limestone inclusions (107).
- 4.2.3 Trench 2 (Figures 1, 2 and 4; Plate 4) was north-south oriented, 27 m long and 2 m wide and was targeting several linear anomalies identified by the geophysics survey. In the north end of the trench a pit/terminus (210) which correlates with one of the geophysical anomalies was found. This feature was sub-circular in plan, concave in section, 1.8m in diameter, 0.71 m deep, filled with light to mid brown sandy silt (211) and mid brown clayey silt with stone inclusions (212) (Plate 5).
- 4.2.4 Approximately 7 m to the south, in the central part of the trench was an east-west aligned ditch (204). The ditch, identified by the geophysics, was 2.5 m long, 1.20 m deep, 'V'-shaped at the base with vertical north side and gradually stepped south side (Plate 6). The ditch was filled with a pale-yellow silt (205), mid to light brown clayey silt (206), mid to pale brown clayey silt with limestone inclusions (207) and pale brown clayey silt with charcoal and fired clay inclusions (208) and mid-brown sandy silt (209) (Plate 7).
- 4.2.5 Further to the south in the same trench two linear intercutting features were recorded (213 and 214). These features were not investigated but most likely represent a 'corner' of a rectangular enclosure identified by geophysical survey.
- 4.2.6 In the south end of Trench 2 a small, irregular in plan feature was present. This feature seemed to be part of a semi-circular geophysical anomaly. The feature was shallow with irregular sides and base. It was confirmed to be geology.
- 4.2.7 Trench 3 (Figures 1, 2 and 5; Plate 8), 32 m long and 2 m wide south-west to north-east oriented, contained four archaeological features previously identified by geophysical investigation. In the north-east end of the trench a north to south running ditch (306) was identified. The ditch was 2.5 m wide and more than a 1m deep. The north-east side of the ditch was vertical; the south-west side was gradually sloped (Plate 9). The ditch contained five fills: mid brown sandy silt with some occasional charcoal flecks (311), mid-brown sandy clay with abundant limestone and some charcoal (310), mid-brown silty sand (309), mid brown silty sand with frequent limestone inclusions (308) and dark brown silty sand (307).
- 4.2.8 In the south west part of the trench three pits were found (305, 312 and 315).
- 4.2.9 Pit 305 was 2 m in diameter and 0.44 m deep, concave in shape and filled with dark brown sandy clay with limestone inclusions (304) (Plate 10).
- 4.2.10 Neighbouring the above feature were two intercutting pits (312 and 315). These circular features were 1.5 m in diameter, 0.86 m deep and concave in section (Plates 11-13). The lowermost fill (313) of pit 312 was dark brown clayey sand with some small stone inclusions. The two lowermost fills (322 and 316) in pit 315 were light yellow sandy clay and light brown sandy silt respectively. Both pits contained a layer that seem to be redeposited natural

(314/318) and both contained four other fills (317, 319, 320 and 321) – mid to light brown sandy silts. One of the fills (319) contained small flecks of charcoal.

- 4.2.11 Trench 4 (Figures 1 and 2) was positioned to target a large circular anomaly in the north-western corner of the Site, interpreted as possibly a round barrow or a small circular enclosure (Wessex Archaeology 2017a) (Plate 14). The absence of any archaeological features showed that the anomalies were natural in origin.
- 4.2.12 Trench 5 was north-east to south-west oriented and contained north-west to south-east orientated linear feature in the northern end of the trench (Plate 15). In addition, two shallow geological anomalies were recorded in the southern end of the trench. The linear feature (504), which is a continuation of ditch 707 recorded in Trench 7 was 2.5 m wide. Ditch 504 was not excavated.
- 4.2.13 Trench 6 (Figures 1, 2 and 6) was located in the west end of the Site, it was 28 m long, 2 m wide and contained an east-west running linear feature (604) cut by two pits (605 and 606) (Plates 16 and 17). In addition, two layers (612 and 613), related to a burning activity were recorded in the east section of the trench.
- 4.2.14 The linear feature (604) was 4 m wide and more than 1 m deep. Its two basal fills (607 and 608) were a mid-orange brown sandy silt and a light brown silty sand respectively. A small amount of coal and unworked stone was found in fill 607.
- 4.2.15 Two pits (605 and 606) cut into the linear feature contained three fills (609-611): a loose, mid orange brown sandy silt with slag inclusions; light grey to brown silty sand and gravity-brown sandy silt with small amounts of slag and unworked stone and coal respectively. A fragment of a bunghole spout belonging to the 14th-16th century cistern was found in fill 609. Two sherds of Romano-British sandy grey ware pottery were found in fill 610; Post-medieval glazed and unglazed clay pipe mouthpieces were found in fill 611.
- 4.2.16 Two layers (612 and 613) related to a burning activity only visible in the section of the trench were pale grey and red sandy soils respectively (Plate 18). A large amount (1503g) of burnt stone was found in both fills.
- 4.2.17 Trench 7 (Figures 1, 2 and 7) was south-west to north-east oriented and contained three ditches (704, 707 and 709) and a pit/terminus (712). The recovered features were identified by the geophysical survey.
- 4.2.18 Ditch 709 (also visible in Trench 5 (504)), was located in the south-west corner of Trench 7, aligned north-west to south-east and was 1.5 m wide and more than 1 m deep with steep, stepped sides. The ditch was filled with a light brown clayey sand (710) and dark brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium size stone inclusions (711). Two bands of redeposited natural soil were observed in fill 710 (Plate 19).
- 4.2.19 Approximately 5 m to the north-east of this feature was a pit/terminus (712). The pit/terminus was 4.60 m wide and 0.91 m deep and filled with light brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of stone (715), brown sandy silt with stone inclusions (714) and brown clayey silt with moderate stone inclusions (713) (Plate 20).
- 4.2.20 At the north-east end of Trench 7 two ditches (704 and 707) were excavated (Plate 21). Earlier ditch (707) was 1.30 m wide, 0.56 m deep with concave base and sides. The ditch was filled with light brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions (708). Ditch 704 was 1.45 m wide, 1 m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The ditch was filled with a light

brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions (705) and a dark brown sandy silt with some stone inclusions (706).

- 4.2.21 Trench 8 (Figures 1, 2 and 8) was in the central part of the Site. Three ditches (806, 812 and 814) and two pits (804 and 816) were found in this trench (Plate 22).
- 4.2.22 Pit 804 was 0.7 m in diameter, 0.11m deep, filled with mid brown sandy silt (805). A small tapering iron bar of Post-Medieval date was found in this fill.
- 4.2.23 To the south of the pit a south-east to north-west ditch (806) was found. The ditch was 2.30 m wide, 0.52 m deep and filled with reddish brown firm silty sand (807) and greyish brown silty clay with some charcoal inclusions (808) (Plate 23).
- 4.2.24 To the north of pit 804 two ditches (812 and 814) and a pit (816) were found (Plate 24). Pit 816 was circular in plan, 1.26 m in diameter, 0.30 m deep and filled with light brown sandy clay with stone inclusions (815). This was cut by a later ditch (814), which was filled with a light reddish brown sandy loam (813). This was further truncated by ditch 812, measuring 3.30 m wide and 0.50 m deep, and filled with a light brown sandy loam with frequent stone inclusions (811), a light brown sandy clay (810) and greyish brown sandy clay (809).
- 4.2.25 Trench 9 (Figures 1, 2 and 9) was located in the north-west part of the Site and targeted two intercutting linear features recorded during the geophysical survey (Plate 25). The linear features 904 and 906 were east-west oriented 2.5 m and 2.75 m wide and 0.75 m and 0.40 m deep respectively. Earlier ditch (906) was filled with mid brown silty clay (907) from which a prehistoric worked flint waste flake was retrieved. Ditch 904 was filled with dark brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusion. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were found in this fill.
- 4.2.26 Trench 10 (Figures 1, 2 and 10) was in the north-west part of the Site and contained two oval pits (1004 and 1007). Pit 1004 was in the central part of the trench and was 1.9 m long, 0.78 m wide, 0.2 m deep with steep, near vertical sides and flat base (Plate 26). The pit was filled with mid brown silty sand (1005). Pit 1007 extended outside the trench but a small part of it found within was 0.2 m deep, filled with light yellow silty sand with small stones inclusion (1008), mid brown silty sand (1009) and light brown silty sand (Plate 27).

## **5 FINDS REPORT**

### **5.1 Summary**

- 5.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered, in which datable material ranges from prehistoric to Post-medieval. Finds came from four of the trenches excavated (Trenches 6, 8, 9 and 10), with a concentration in Trench 6. Quantities by material type and by context are given in Appendix 1 below.

### **5.2 Pottery**

- 5.2.1 Of the five sherds of pottery recovered, four are Romano-British and one Late Medieval.
- 5.2.2 Two sherds from fill 610 (pits 605/606) are Romano-British, in a sandy greyware. The sherds are heavily abraded and the vessel form is unknown. Two sherds from fill 905 (ditch 904), also Romano-British, are in better condition and conjoining; these derive from a bead rim jar in a grog-tempered fabric.
- 5.2.3 The fifth sherd, from fill 609 (pits 605/606), is in a hard-fired fabric with a partial purple-brown glaze and can be identified as Coal Measures Purple ware, dating to the 14th –16th

century and ubiquitous on Late Medieval sites in the region. This sherd (part of a bunghole spout) belongs to a cistern. Potential sources are known at Rawmarsh and Firsby (Cumberpatch n.d.).

### **5.3 Stone**

5.3.1 None of the stone recovered was worked. Instead, it comprised 103 g of coal (from ditch 604 and pits 605/606), and 1503 g of burnt stone (layers 612 and 613). The date of deposition of this material is unknown.

### **5.4 Metalworking debris**

5.4.1 Slag was recovered from three contexts, amounting to 299 g. All fragments are in a similar grey, light, vesicular material which represents the by-product of some pyrotechnical activity, but not necessarily metalworking. Its date is unknown, although most of this small group came from a context (fill 609 of pits 605/606) associated with a late medieval pottery sherd.

### **5.5 Other finds**

5.5.1 Other finds comprise one small brick fragment from post-medieval brick; two clay pipe stem fragments (one from a green-glazed mouthpiece); one prehistoric worked flint waste flake (broken and heavily patinated); and two metal objects (copper alloy screw, small tapering iron bar). Apart from the worked flint, all these finds are either demonstrably or probably of post-medieval date.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Summary**

6.1.1 Twenty bulk samples were taken from a range of features, including pits and ditches, and layers, and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. The size of the samples varied between 4 and 40 l, and on average was around 30 litres.

### **6.2 Aims and methods**

6.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is the evaluation of the quality of plant remains preserved at the Site and the potential for further analysis to address specific site archaeological issues and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.

6.2.2 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions were detected, such as earthworm eggs and insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence/absence of other environmental remains such as molluscs is recorded in Appendix 2.

6.2.3 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of



remains is qualitatively quantified (A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

### 6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 The flots were generally large and there was a high rate of bioturbation, including roots, modern seeds, mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, earthworm eggs and insects, that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the high possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 6.3.2 Charred material was rare but well preserved, suggesting it is probably intrusive and not very old. The assemblages are relatively homogeneous and included taxa such as false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* subsp. *bulbosum*), grasses (Poaceae), ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), plantain (*Plantago* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), sedges (Cyperaceae), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.). A single fragment of possible barley (cf. *Hordeum vulgare*) was identified in one of the assemblages. Whilst these latter taxa were represented by seeds, the former and other taxonomically not identified, which constituted the greater part of the assemblages, were recorded as underground organs, including roots and tubers. Uncharred seeds of ivy-leaved speedwell were also present uncharred, suggesting the charred ones could be intrusive too.
- 6.3.3 Wood charcoal was noted from all the flots but in very small quantities. A moderate number of terrestrial mollusc was also noted in the flots, but little species diversity was observed.

### 6.4 Discussion and further potential

- 6.4.1 The environmental assemblages recovered so far have little potential and require no further analysis. Most of the charred plant material belong to wild taxa which might have been growing in the near environment and was accidentally charred as a result of burning activities carried out at the site during industrial activities.

## 7 DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 A total of ten trenches targeted geophysical anomalies and a small area where no geophysical investigation was conducted. The trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and indicated that the anomalies were predominantly archaeological features with a small number of geological variation.
- 7.1.2 Ditches were identified in all trenches except one. These linear features correspond to elements of an extensive field systems visible as crop marks on aerial photographs confirmed by geophysical survey. The linear features may be a series of boundary ditches; some of the features form smaller plots, others, together with pits and postholes, may define a variety of subrectangular enclosures. The field systems may represent a rationalisation of the landscape and planned division, designed for efficient management of land and pastoral animal economy. If so, the scale of the boundaries reflects the size of the social group that constructed them and indicates the importance of the boundaries in the landscape.
- 7.1.3 The finds assemblage is extremely modest, with a limited range of materials present. One worked prehistoric flint was found in Trench 9. Two Romano-British fragments of pottery came from each Trench 6 and Trench 9; one late medieval sherd came from Trench 6. Tobacco pipe fragment were found in Trench 6 and so was a small amount of slag. One ferrous and one copper alloy artefacts were recovered from Trenches 8 and 10 respectively.



- 7.1.4 The palaeoenvironmental sampling from all excavated features did not add to our understanding of these features. The remains identified are generally consistent with bioturbation and show a high possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.

## **7.2 Recommendation**

- 7.2.1 The trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and indicated that the anomalies were predominantly archaeological features with a small number of geological variations. Therefore, based on professional experience, archaeological guidelines (NPPF 2012, Historic England 2008) and the nature of archaeological deposits, a condition in any future planning approval would be appropriate to manage effects on cultural heritage. Such a condition would allow for the appropriate excavation and recording of any archaeological features which may be disturbed by the development (i.e. within the area subject to top soil strip).

## **8 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 The project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with Clifton Park Museum.

### **8.2 Preparation of archive**

- 8.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Clifton Park Museum and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014a-c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.
- 8.2.3 The completed archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with current guidelines. It is proposed in principle that, subject to the wishes of the landowner, the entire archive (including the finds) will be donated to and deposited with Clifton Park Museum. Provision has been made for the cost of long term storage in the post-fieldwork costs.
- 8.2.4 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology Northern Region in Sheffield.

### **8.3 Selection policy**

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.
- 8.3.2 Any decisions as to whether to discard or retain specific elements of the archive will be made in consultation with Clifton Park Museum.
- 8.3.3 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

### **8.4 Security copy**

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an

ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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## 10 APPENDICES

### 10.1 Appendix 1: Trench Index

<b>Trench 1</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
101	Layer	Topsoil: Mid reddish brown loamy sand with frequent limestone shards and rooting from crop	0-0.2
102	Layer	Subsoil: Light reddish brown sand clay with frequent limestone inclusions	0.2-0.3
103	Layer	Bedrock: Limestone solid with broken areas	0.3+
104	Cut filled with <b>102</b>	Gully	0.3-0.45
105	Cut filled with <b>106, 107</b>	Posthole	0.3-0.99
106	Fill of <b>105</b>	Brownish orange firm silty sand with common limestone inclusions	0.4-0.99
107	Fill of <b>105</b>	Mid greyish brown firm sandy clay with rare limestone inclusions	0.3-0.45
108	Cut filled with <b>109</b>	Gully	0.3-0.47
109	Fill of <b>108</b>	Mid greyish brown firm sandy clay with rare limestone inclusions	0.3-0.47
110	Cut filled with <b>111</b>	Gully; same as 108	0.3-0.47
111	Fill of <b>110</b>	Same as 109	0.3-0.47

<b>Trench 2</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
201	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown silty sand with rare limestone inclusions and light rooting	0-0.3
202	Layer	Subsoil: Light orange brown silty sand with common limestone inclusions	0.3-0.4
203	Layer	Bedrock: Limestone broken and solid with cracks	0.4+
204	Cut filled with <b>205-209</b>	Ditch	0.4-1.4
205	Fill of <b>204</b>	Pale yellow white silt (limestone dust)	1.35-1.4
206	Fill of <b>204</b>	Mid to light brown clayey silt, very rare limestone inclusions	1.12-1.35
207	Fill of <b>204</b>	Mid to pale brown clayey silt with very common limestone inclusions	0.88-1.12
208	Fill of <b>204</b>	Pale yellow brown clayey silt, very rare limestone inclusions	0.71-0.88
209	Fill of <b>204</b>	Mid brown sandy silt with common limestone inclusions	0.46-0.71
210	Cut filled with <b>211,212</b>	Pit	0.4-1.11
211	Fill of <b>210</b>	Light to mid brown, sometimes light yellow sandy silt with rare small stone inclusions	0.96-1.11
212	Fill of <b>210</b>	Mid brown clayey silt (clay loam) with common limestone inclusions	0.34-0.96
213	Ditch	Not excavated	
214	Ditch	Not excavated	



<b>Trench 3</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
301	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown sandy silt with rare limestone inclusions and light rooting	0-0.25
302	Layer	Subsoil: Light orange brown silty clay with common limestone inclusions	0.25-0.3
303	Layer	Bedrock: Limestone broken and solid with evident cracks	0.3+
304	Fill of <b>305</b>	Dark reddish brown sandy clay with common limestone inclusions	0.3-0.47
305	Cut filled with <b>304</b>	Pit	0.3-0.47
306	Cut filled with <b>307-311</b>	Ditch	0.3-1.3
307	Fill of <b>306</b>	Dark orangey brown silty sand	0.3-0.47
308	Fill of <b>306</b>	Mid brown silty sand with common limestone inclusions	0.47-0.73
309	Fill of <b>306</b>	Mid brown silty sand with rare limestone inclusions	0.73-1.03
310	Fill of <b>306</b>	Mid orangey brown sand with common limestone inclusions	1.03-1.28
311	Fill of <b>306</b>	Mid brown sandy silt	1.28-1.53
312	Cut filled with <b>313,314,317,319,320,321</b>	Pit	0.3-1.16
313	Fill of <b>312</b>	Dark reddish brown clay sand (quite firm) with rare stone inclusions	0.3-1.16
314	Fill of <b>312</b>	Light yellow limestone	0.3-1.16
315	Cut filled with <b>316,317,318,320,321,322</b>	Pit	0.3-0.96
316	Fill of <b>315</b>	Light brown sandy silt with rare stone inclusions	0.3-0.96
317	Fill of <b>312,316</b>	Mid brown sand with very common stone inclusions and some rooting	0.3-0.96
318	Fill of <b>315</b>	Light brown clay sandy limestone with common stone inclusions	0.3-0.96
319	Fill of <b>312,315</b>	Very dark brown sandy charcoal	0.3-0.96
320	Fill of <b>312,315</b>	Dark brown sand with very common stone inclusions	0.3-0.96
321	Fill of <b>312,315</b>	Dark brown sand with moderate stone inclusions	0.3-0.96
322	Fill of <b>315</b>	Light whitish yellow sand	0.3-0.96

<b>Trench 4</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
401	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown sandy silt with rare limestone inclusions and light rooting	0-0.25
402	Layer	Subsoil: Light orange brown silty clay with common limestone inclusions	0.25-0.3
403	Layer	Bedrock: Limestone broken and solid with evident cracks	0.3+

<b>Trench 5</b>			



Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
501	Layer	Topsoil: Mid to dark brown sandy silt with common limestone inclusions and heavy rooting	0-0.25
502	Layer	Subsoil: Light orange brown silty clay with common limestone inclusions	0.25-0.3
503	Layer	Bedrock: Limestone broken and solid with evident cracks	0.3+
504	Ditch	Not excavated	

Trench 6			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
601	Layer	Top soil: Mid brown sandy-silt, light rooting, rare limestone inclusions	0. -0.18m
602	Layer	Subsoil: Light orange brown silty clay w/ common limestone inclusions	0.18-0.3m
603	Layer	Bedrock: Limestone, broken and solid w/ obvious cracks	0.3m+
604	Cut filled with <b>607,611</b>	Ditch	0.3-1.3m+
605	Cut filled with <b>607,611</b>	Pit	0.3-1.08m
606	Cut filled with <b>607,611</b>	Pit	0.3-1.05m
607	Fill of <b>604</b>	Mid orange brown sandy silt	1.12-1.3+m
(608)	Fill of <b>604</b>	Light white yellow silty sand	1.02-1.12m
(609)	Fill of <b>604, 606</b>	Mid orange brown sandy silt	0.84-1.02m
(610)	Fill of <b>604, 606</b>	Light grey brown silty sand	0.49-0.84m
(611)	Fill of <b>604, 606</b>	Mid grey brown sandy silt	0.3-0.49m
(612)	Layer	Pale grey sandy soil	-
(613)	Layer	"Burnt" red clay – red sandy soil	-

Trench 7			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m BGL)
701	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown sandy silt with rare limestone inclusions and light rooting	0-0.25
702	Layer	Subsoil: Light orange brown silty clay with common limestone inclusions	0.25-0.3
703	Layer	Bedrock: Limestone broken and solid with evident cracks	0.3m+
704	Cut filled with <b>705, 706</b>	Ditch	0.3 – 1m
705	Fill of <b>704</b>	Light brown yellow sandy silt	0.3 – 1m
706	Fill of <b>704</b>	Dark to mid brown sandy silt	0.3 – 1m
707	Cut filled with <b>708</b>	Ditch	0.3-0.9
708	Fill of <b>707</b>	Mid orange brown sandy silt	0.3-0.9



709	Cut filled with 710, 711	Ditch	0.3-0.9
710	Fill of 709	Light brown clay sand	0.3-0.9
711	Fill of 709	Dark brown sand silt	0.3-0.9
712	Cut filled with 713, 714, 715	Pit	0.3-1.05
713	Fill of 712	Mid brown clayey silt	0.3-1.05
714	Fill of 712	Mid brown sandy silt	0.3-1.05
715	Fill of 712	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	0.3-1.05

<b>Trench 8</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
801	Layer	Topsoil : Mid brown silty sand with rare limestone and heavy rooting	0-0.26
802	Layer	Subsoil: Orange brown silty sand with rare limestone	0.26-0.38
803	Layer	Bedrock: Solid and broken limestone with evident cracks	0.38+
804	Cut	Pit	0.38-0.49m
805	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt and common limestone	0.38-0.49m
806	Cut filled with 807, 808	Ditch (possible terminus)	0.38-0.9m
807	Fill of 806	Mid red brown firm silty sandy loam	0.38-0.9m
808	Fill of 806	Mid grey brown firm silty clay loam	0.38-0.63
809	Fill of 812	Mid grey brown firm sandy clay	0.38-0.52
810	Fill of 812	Mid red brown sandy clay	0.38-0.78
811	Fill of 812	Light mixed yellow red brown sandy loam	0.78-0.88
812	Cut filled with 809, 810, 811	Linear, possible recut of field boundary	0.38-0.86
813	Fill of 814	Ditch	0.38-1.08
814	Cut filled with 813	Ditch	0.38-1.08
815	Fill of 816	Mid red brown sandy clay	0.38-0.68
816	Cut filled with 815	Pit	0.38-0.68

<b>Trench 9</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
901	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown silty sand with rare limestone inclusions and light rooting	0 – 0.2
902	Layer	Subsoil: Pale brown silty sand with common limestone inclusions	0.2-0.5
903	Layer	Bedrock: Solid and broken limestone with evident cracks	0.5+
904	Cut filled with 905	Ditch	0.5-0.79
905	Fill of 904	Dark brown silty sand	0.5-0.79





906	Cut filled with <b>907</b>	Ditch	0.5-0.79
907	Fill of <b>906</b>	Mid brown silty clay	0.5-0.79

<b>Trench 10</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
1001	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown silty sand with common limestone inclusions and heavy rooting	0-0.24m
1002	Layer	Subsoil: Pale brown silty sand with common limestone inclusions	0.24-0.28m
1003	Layer	Bedrock: Solid and broken limestone with evident cracks	0.28+m
1004	Cut filled with <b>1005, 1006</b>	Pit	0.24-0.84
1005	Fill of <b>1004</b>	Pale yellow silty sand	0.58
1006	Fill of <b>1004</b>	Mid brown silty sand, rusting inclusions	0.24-0.58m
1007	Cut filled with <b>1008, 1009, 1010</b>	Pit	0.32-0.63m
1008	Fill of <b>1007</b>	Pale yellow silty sand	0.62m+
1009	Fill of <b>1007</b>	Mid brown silty sand. Lower; few inclusions, rooting	0.52-0.62m
1010	Fill of <b>1007</b>	Mid brown silty sand. Upper, inclusions, rooting	0.32-0.52m



## 10.2 Appendix 2: Finds data

Context	Description	Pottery	Slag	Stone (Wt.)	Other Finds
602	Subsoil		1/27		1 CBM
607	Ditch 604			12g	
609	Pits 605/606	1/60	8/264		
610	Pits 605/606	2/5			
611	Pits 605/606		2/8	91g	2 clay pipe
612	Layer			915g	
613	Layer			588g	
805	Pit 804				1 metal
905	Ditch 904	2/20			
907	Ditch 906				1 worked flint
1010	Pit 1007				1 metal
<b>Total</b>		<b>5/85</b>	<b>11/299</b>	<b>1606g</b>	



### 10.3 Appendix 2: Environmental data

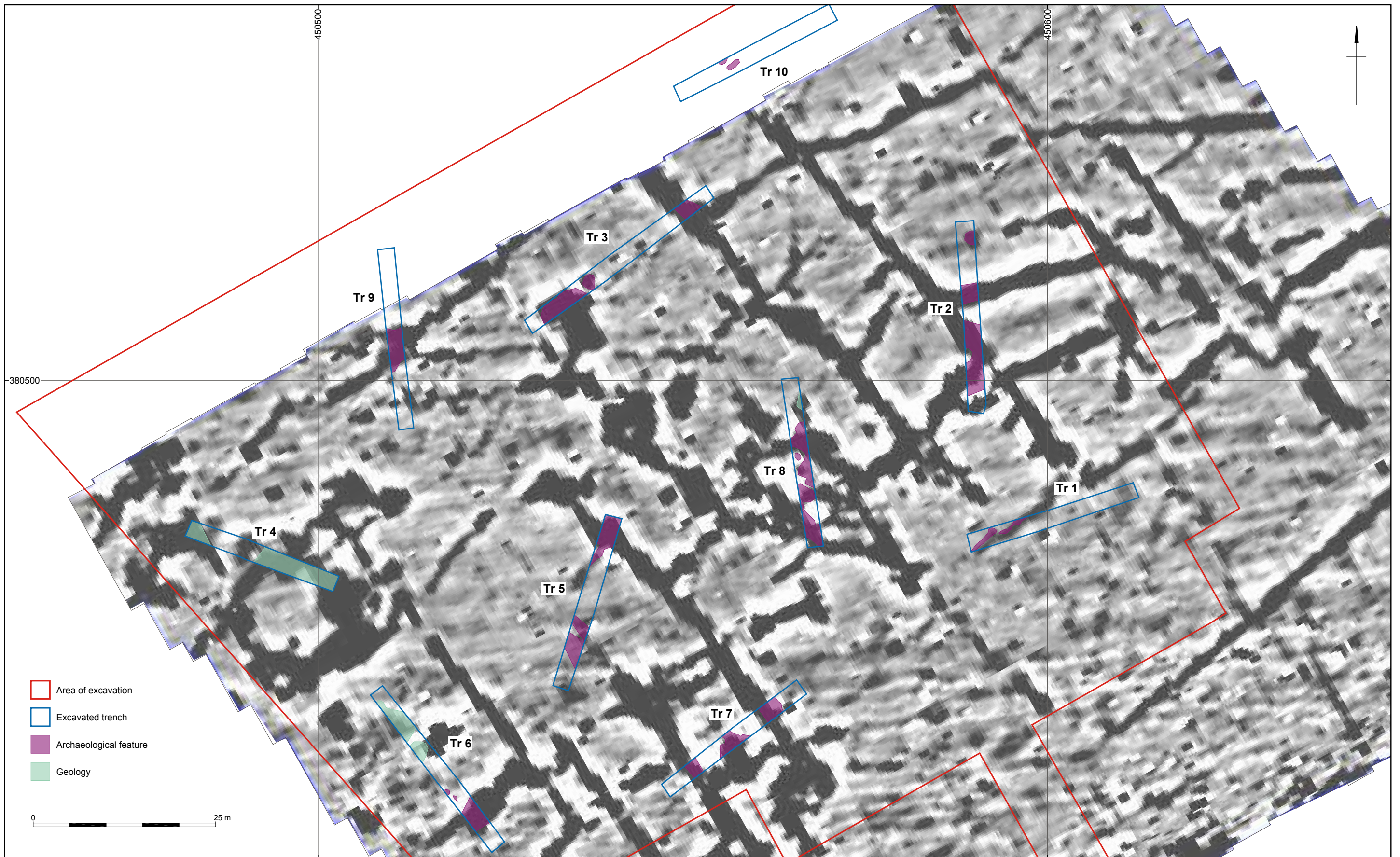
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
<b>Ditches</b>														
204	208	1	38	100	90% E, I (fly pupae)	-	-	-	A**	Roots (A**), Poaceae seed and culm fragments, <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> subsp. <i>bulbosum</i> , <i>Plantago</i> sp., Cyperaceae	5 ml	Mature	Moll-t	Vitrified
306	310	3	27	35	90%, A, I, F	-	-	-	C	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	<1 ml	Mature	Moll-t	Vitrified
707	708	8	35	175	90%, A, E, I	-	-	-	A**	Roots (A**), Poaceae seed, <i>Plantago</i> sp.	1 ml	Mature	Moll-t	Vitrified
604	607	10	36	15	90%, A, I, F	-	-	-	-	Poaceae culm, <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> subsp. <i>bulbosum</i>	5 ml	Mature	Moll-t	Vitrified
709	710	12	31	35	90%, A, E, I, F	-	-	-	C	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	5 ml	Mature + roundwood	Moll-t	Vitrified
904	905	13	34	100	90%. A, E, F	-	C	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> rachis	C	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i> , tuber	5 ml	Mature + roundwood	Moll-t	Vitrified
806	807	14	40	50	90%, A, F	-	-	-	C	cf. <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> subsp. <i>bulbosum</i> , <i>Veronica hederifolia</i> , indet.	<1 ml	Mature	Moll-t	Vitrified
<b>Pits</b>														
305	304	2	40	150	90% E, I (fly pupae)	-	-	-	C	Poaceae culm, <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> subsp. <i>bulbosum</i> , <i>Veronica hederifolia</i> , indet.	5 ml	Mature	Moll-t	Wood charcoal with phytophagous hole
210	212	4	33	55	90%, B, I, F	C	-	cf. <i>Hordeu</i>	C	Poaceae culm, <i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	1 ml	Mature	Moll-t	Vitrified



	Evaluation area     Excavated trenches	
	<small>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</small>	
	Date: 16/05/2017	Revision Number: 0
	Scale: 1:25000 & 1:5000 @ A4	Illustrator: JD
Path: S:\PROJECTS\117140\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2017_06_26		

Site location plan

Figure 1



- Area of excavation
- Excavated trench
- Archaeological feature
- Geology

0  25 m



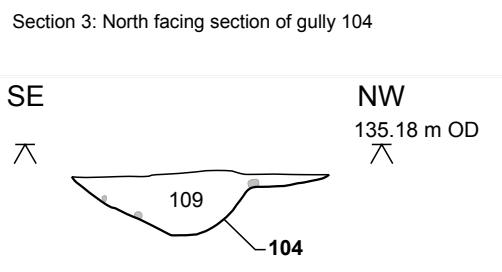
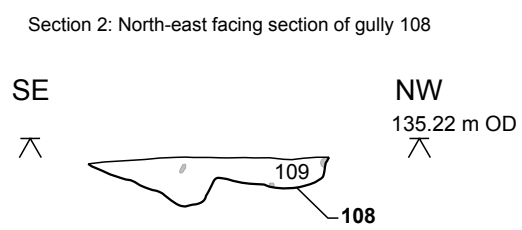
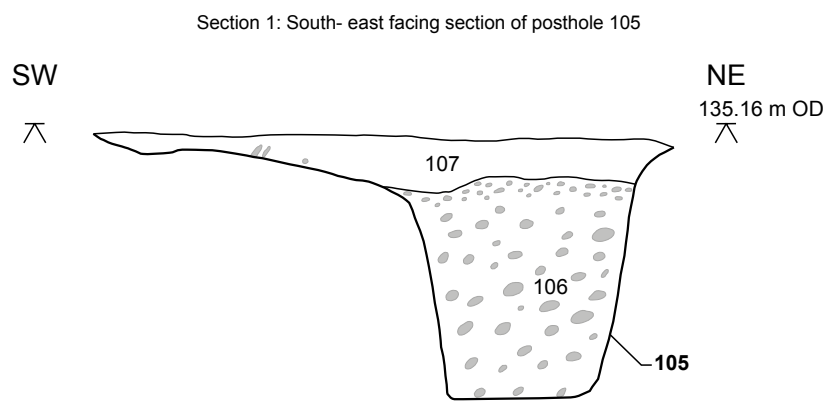
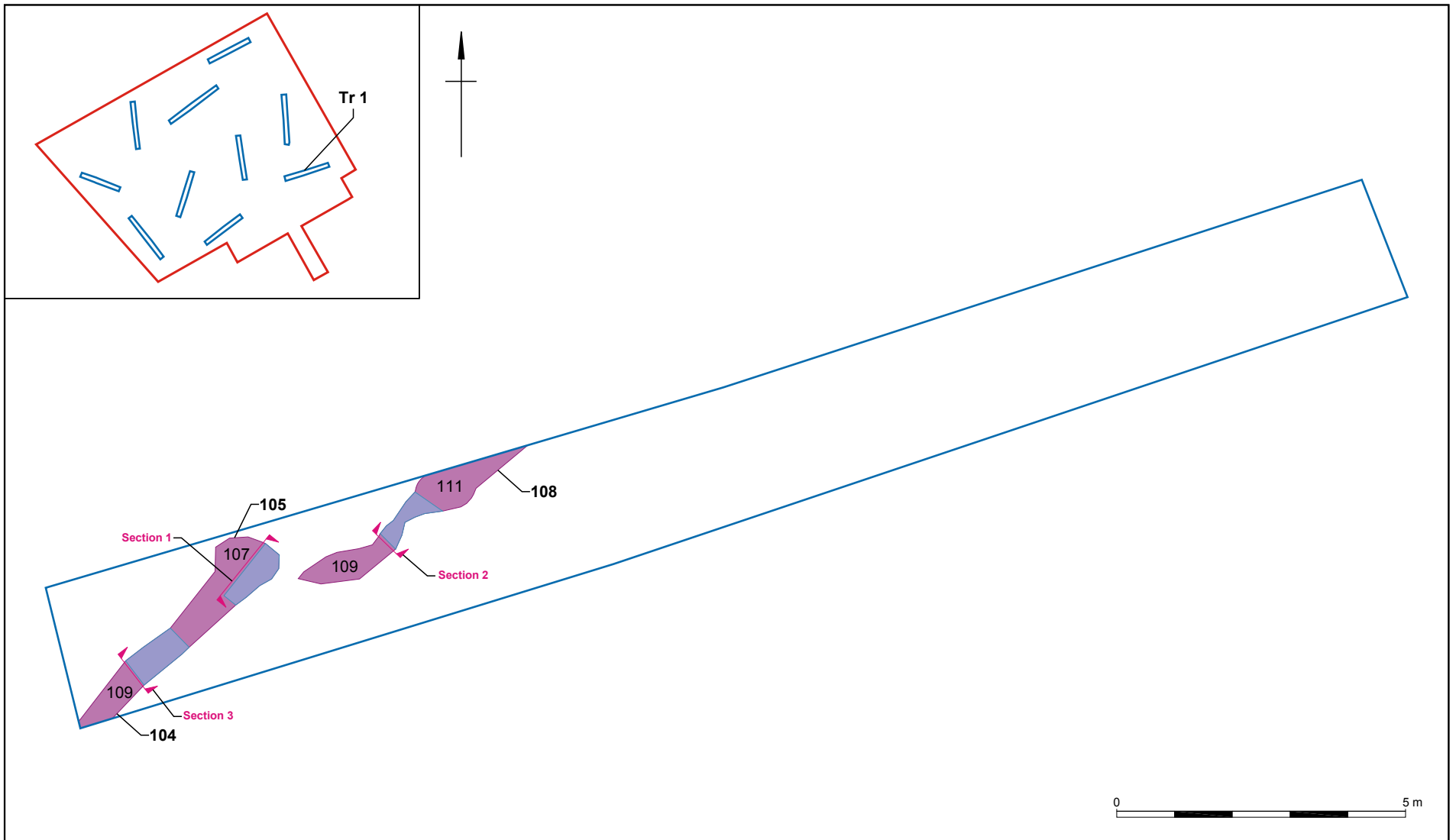
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General trench plan

Figure 2



- Area of excavation
- Excavated trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Stone



Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

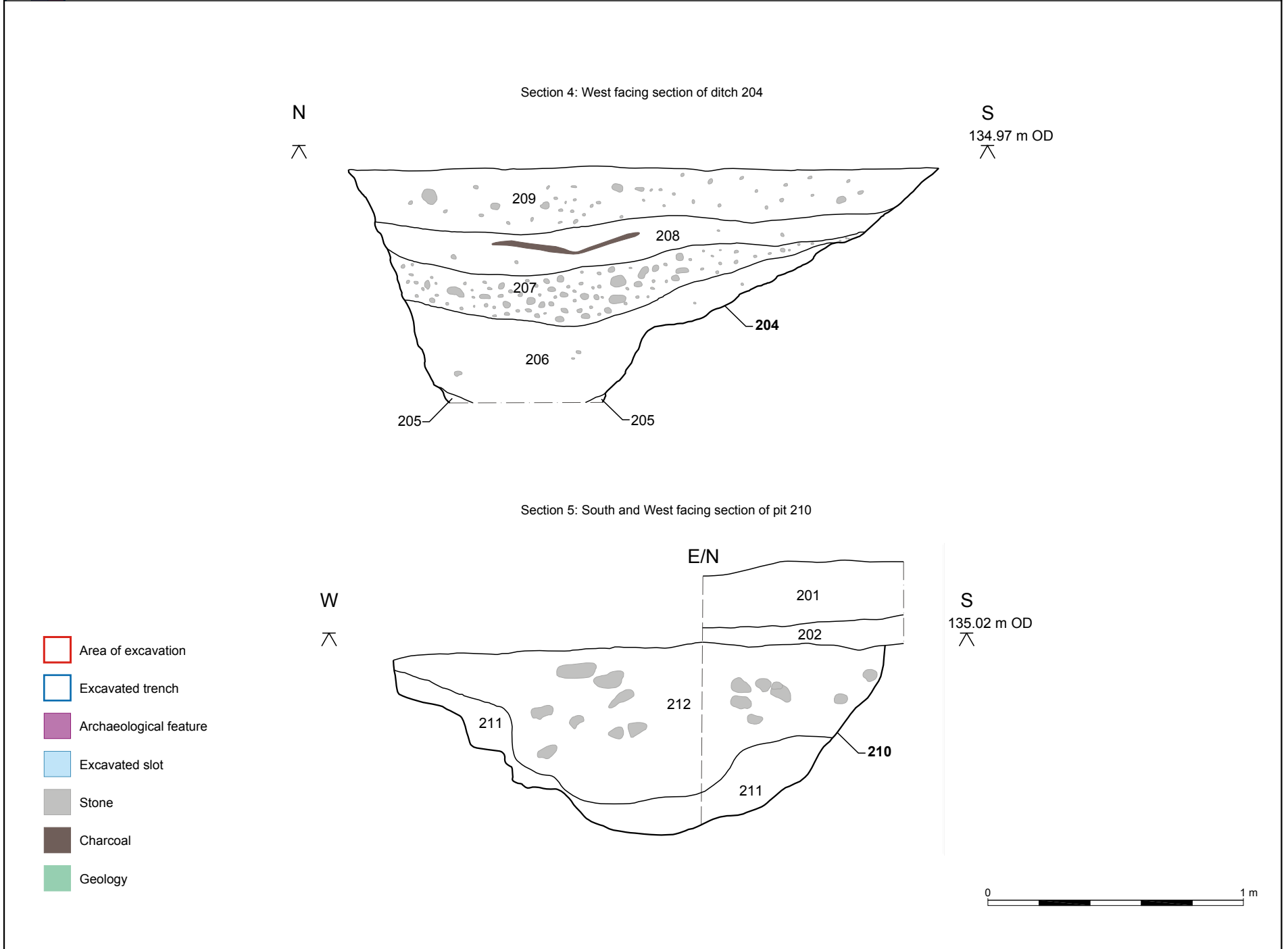


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Plan and sections of Trench 1

Figure 3



Coordinate system:  
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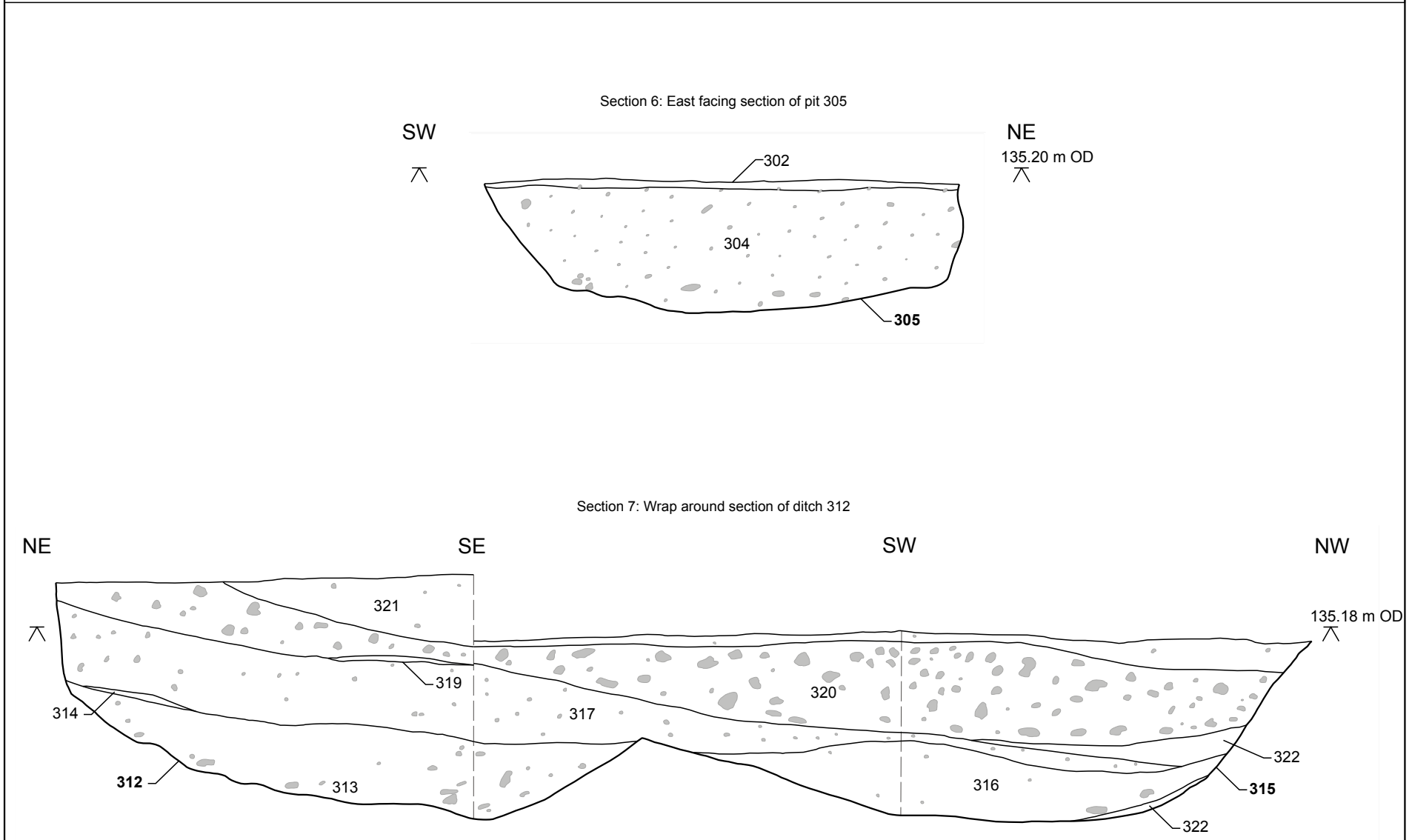
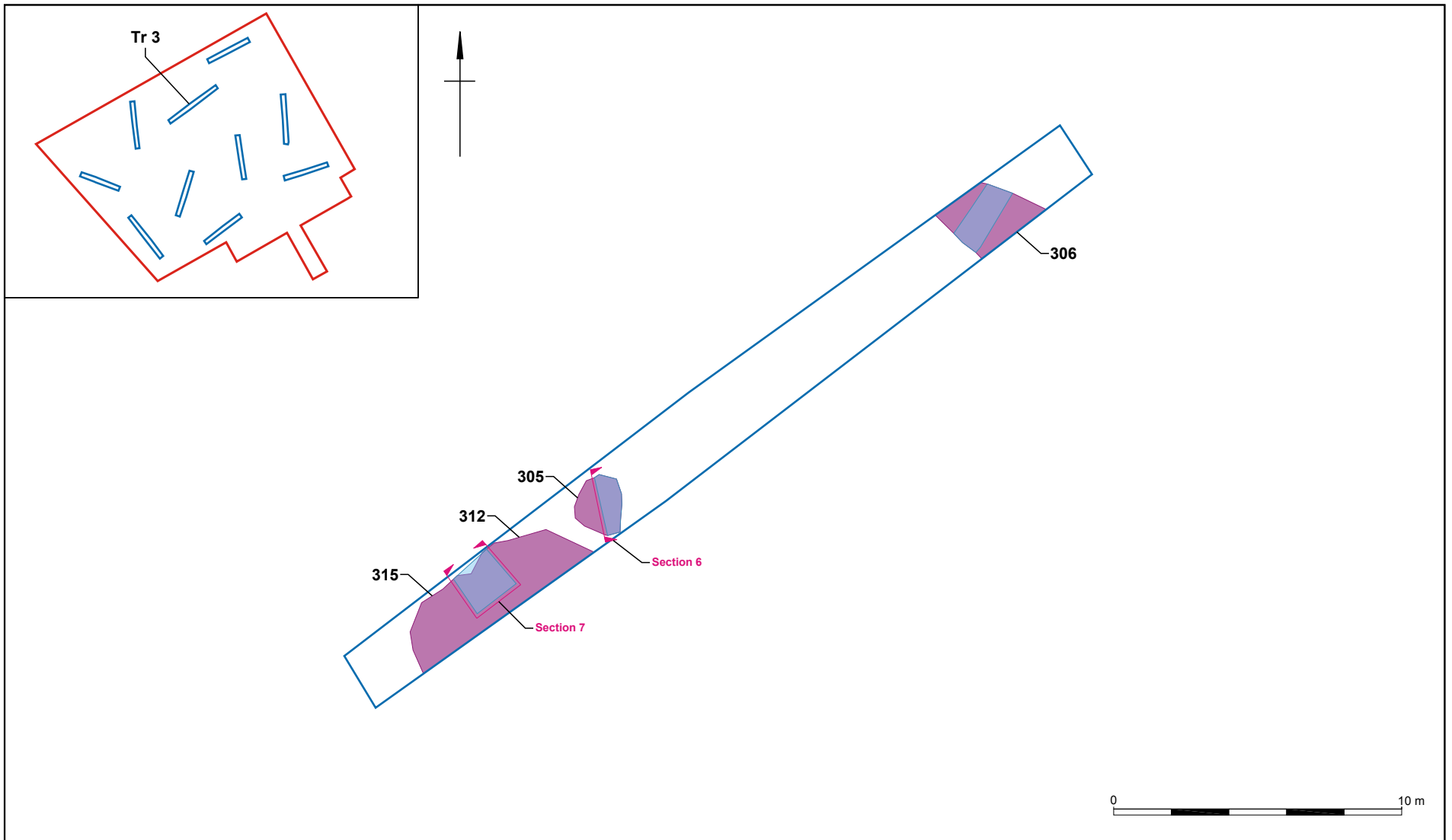


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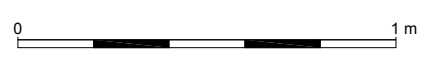
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Plan and sections of Trench 2

Figure 4



- Area of excavation
- Excavated trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Stone



Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)



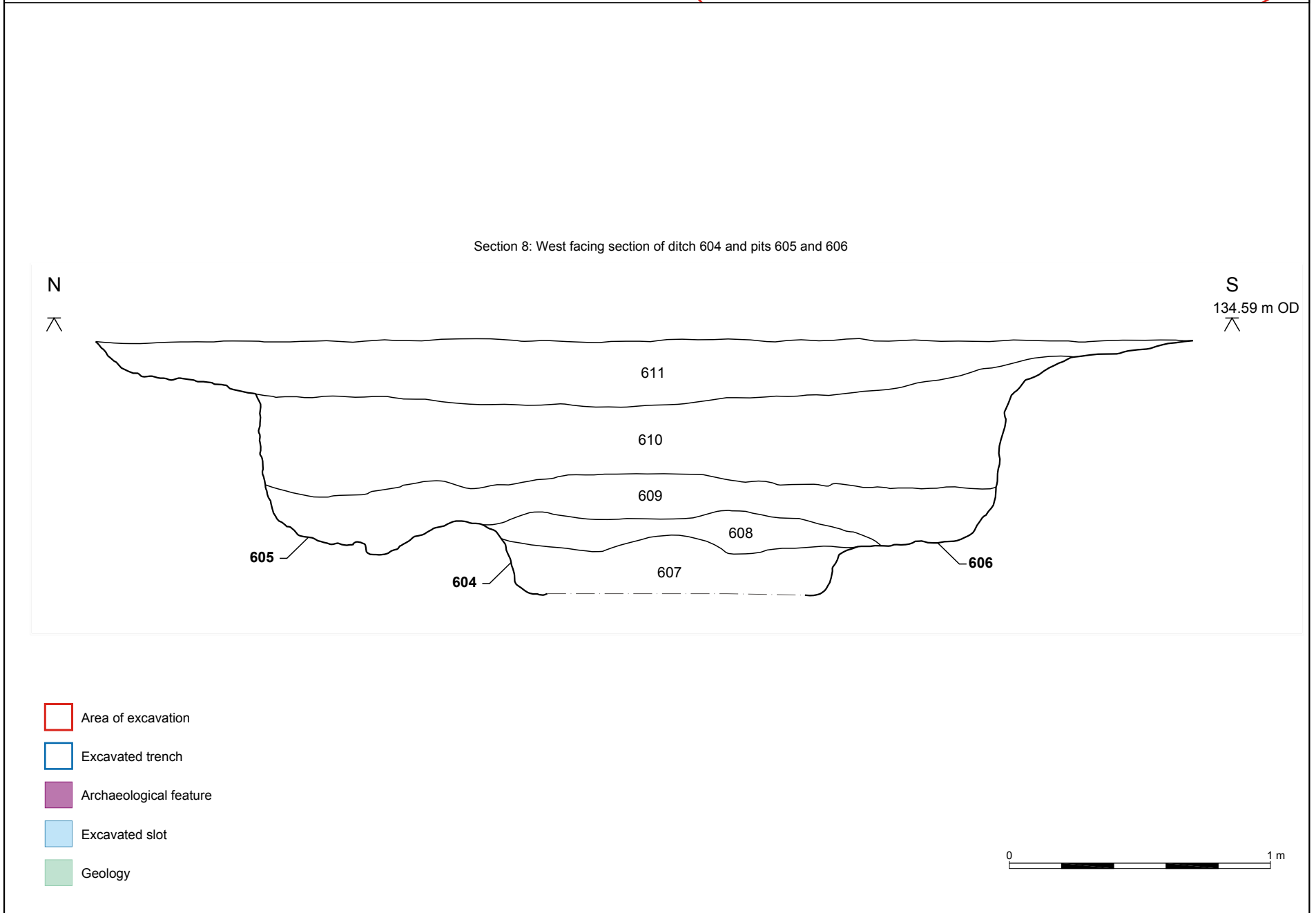
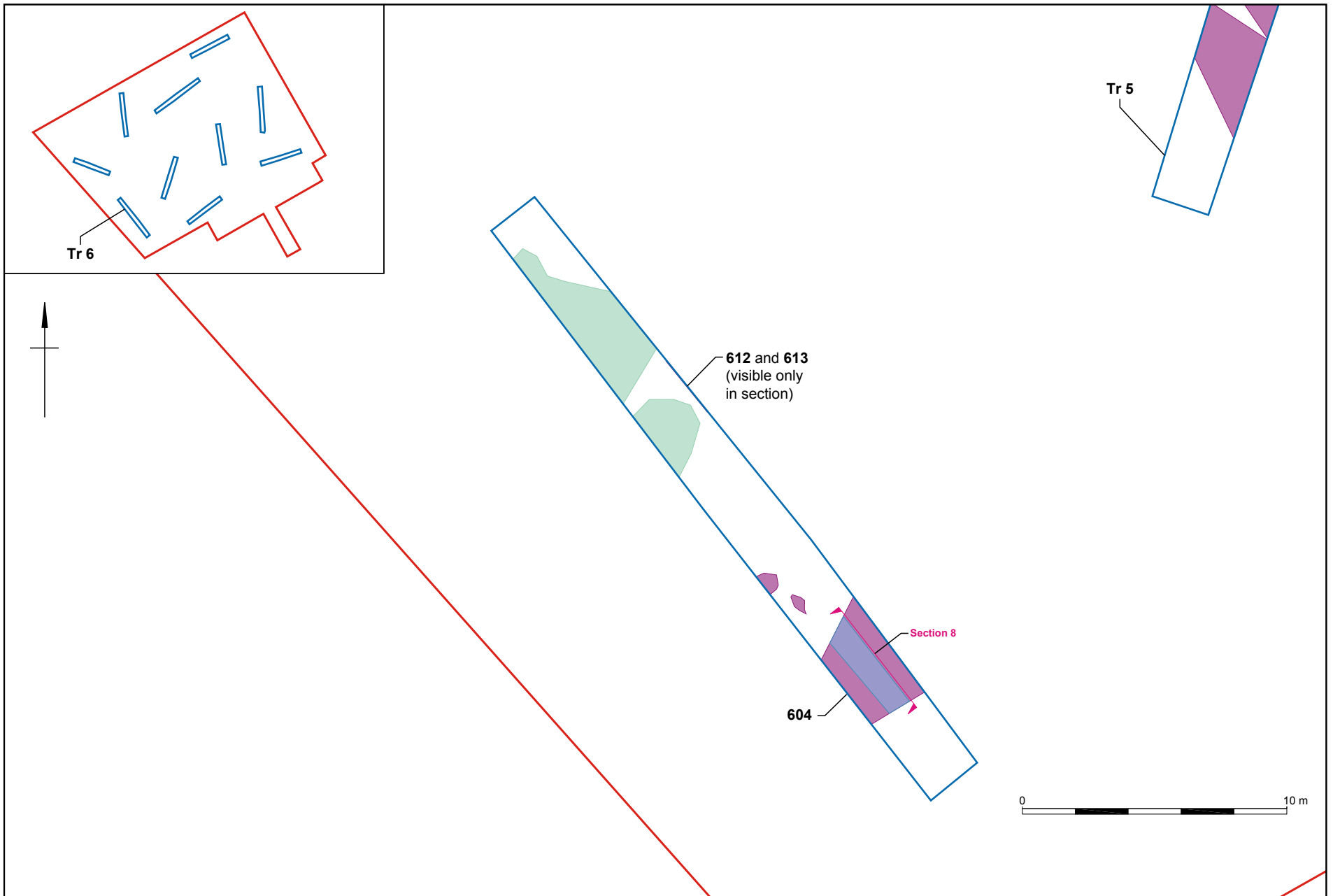
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Plan and sections of Trench 3

Figure 5





- Area of excavation
- Excavated trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Geology

Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

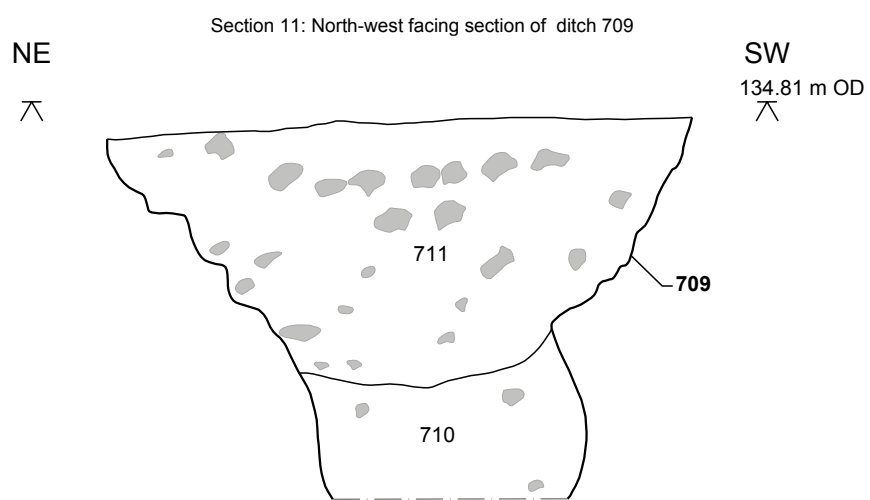
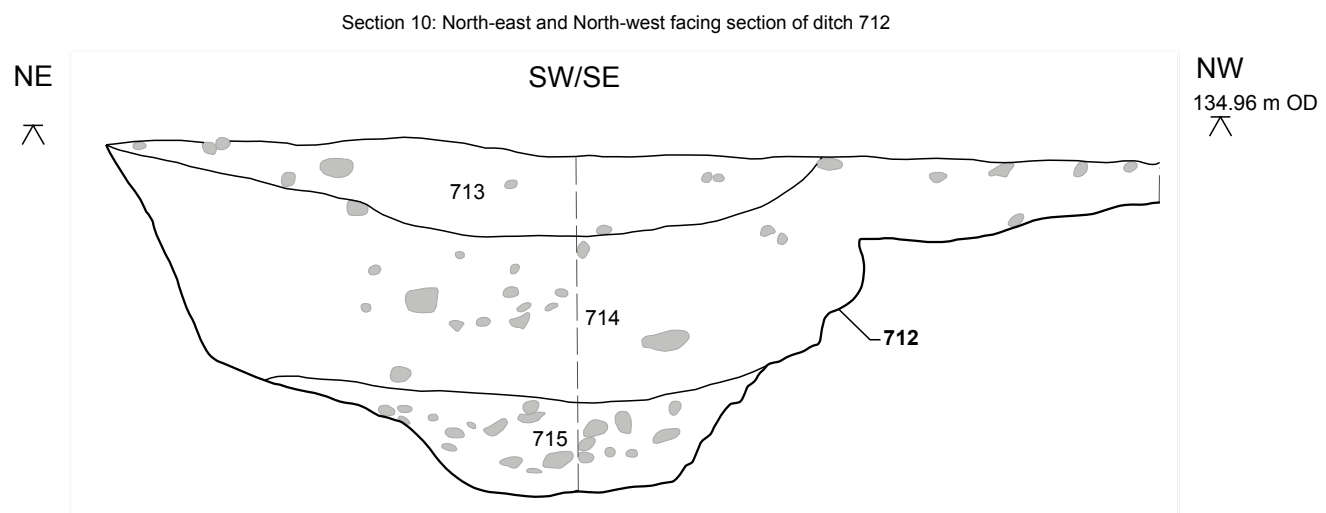
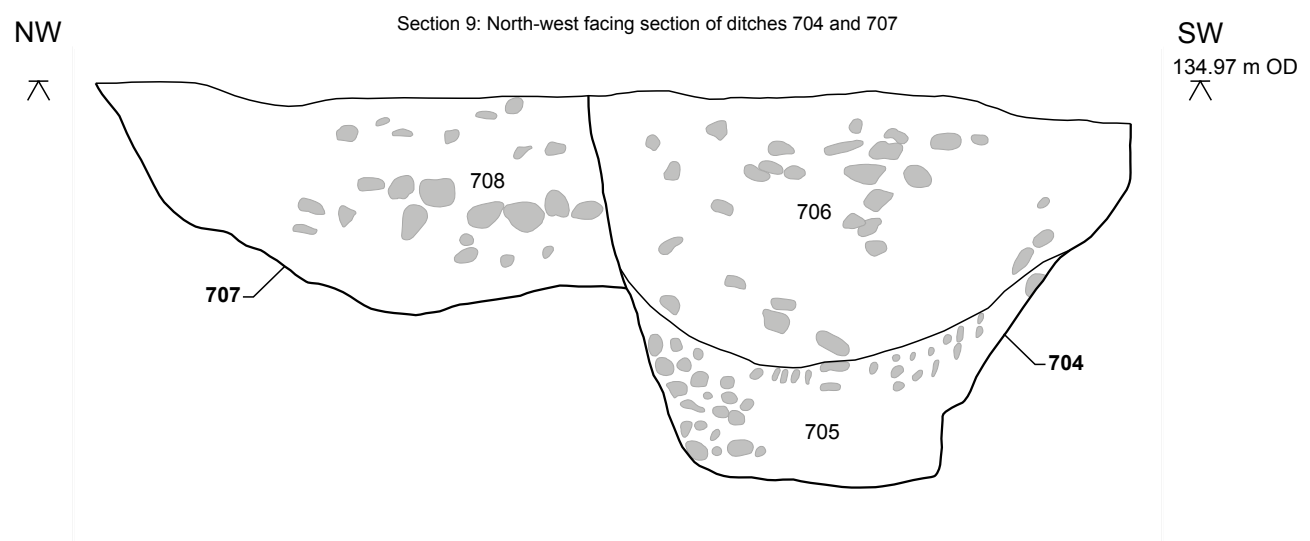
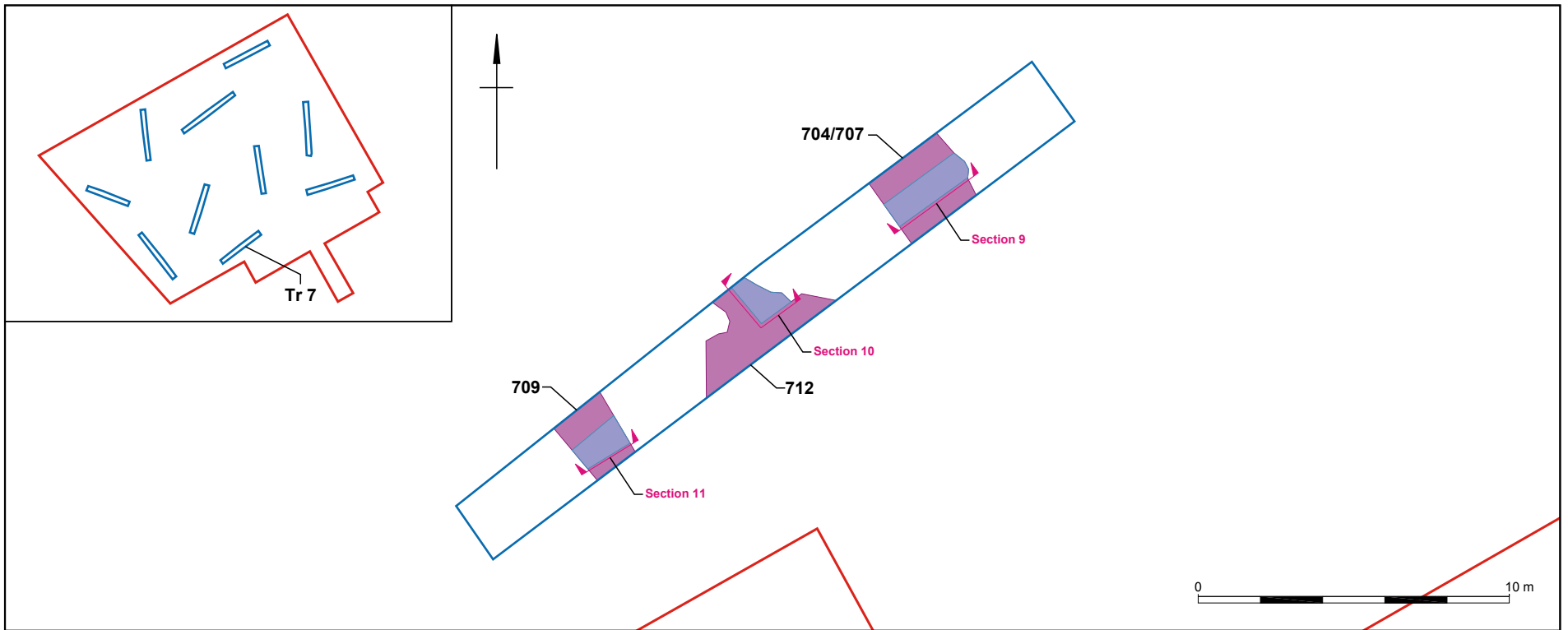


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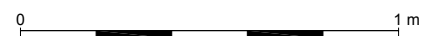
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Plan and section of Trench 6

Figure 6



- Area of excavation
- Excavated trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Stone



Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

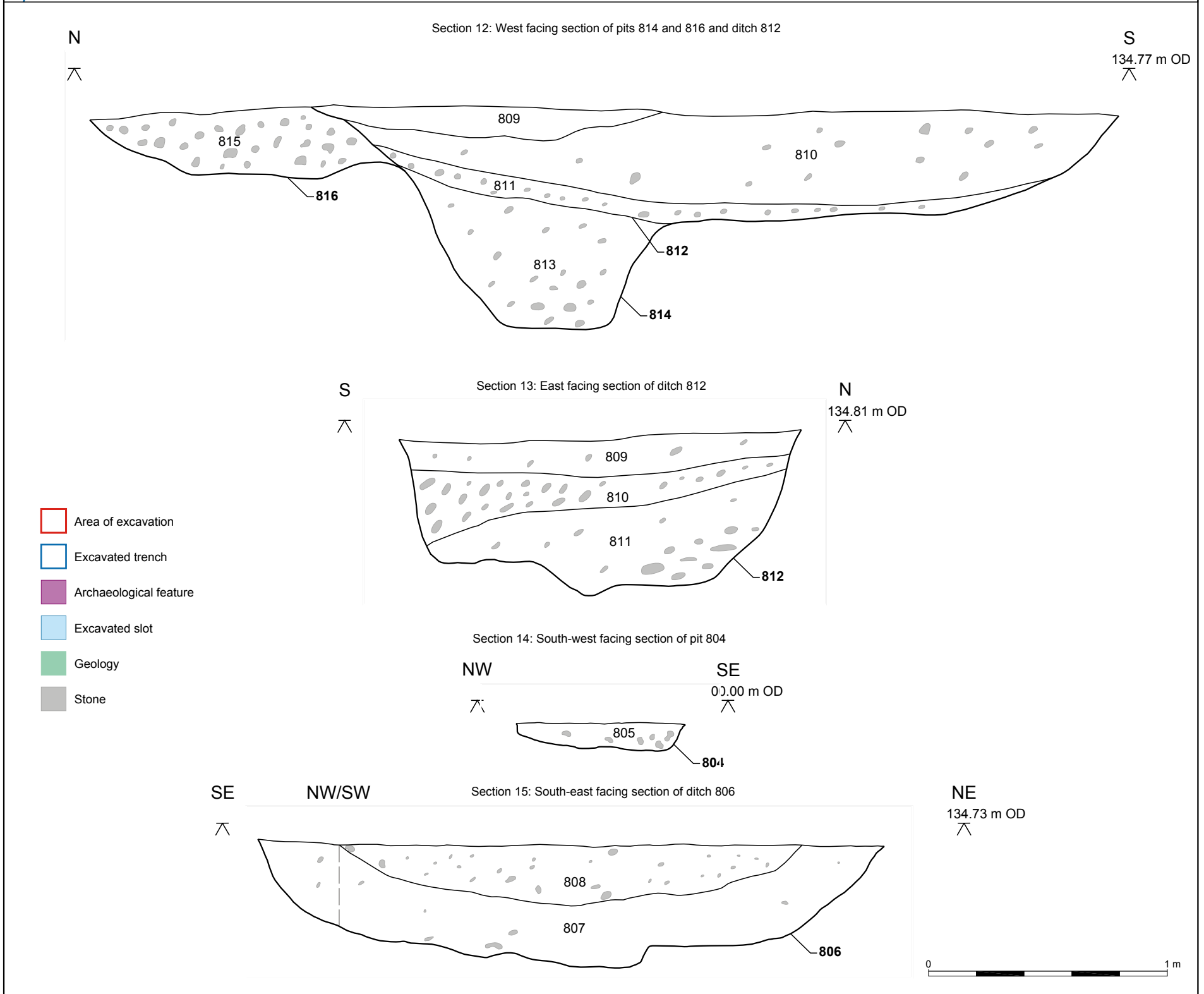
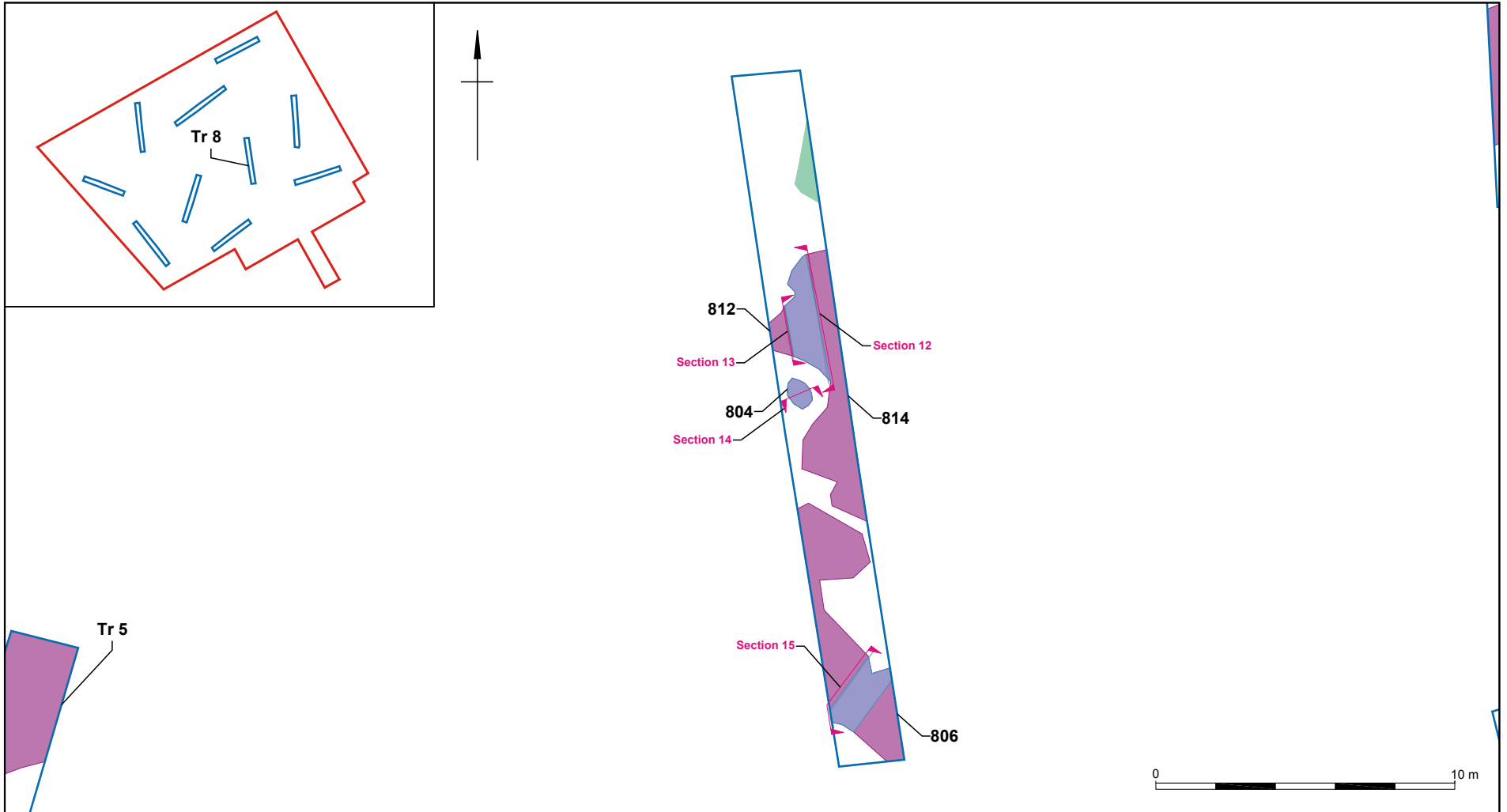


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Plan and sections of Trench 7

Figure 7



Coordinate system:  
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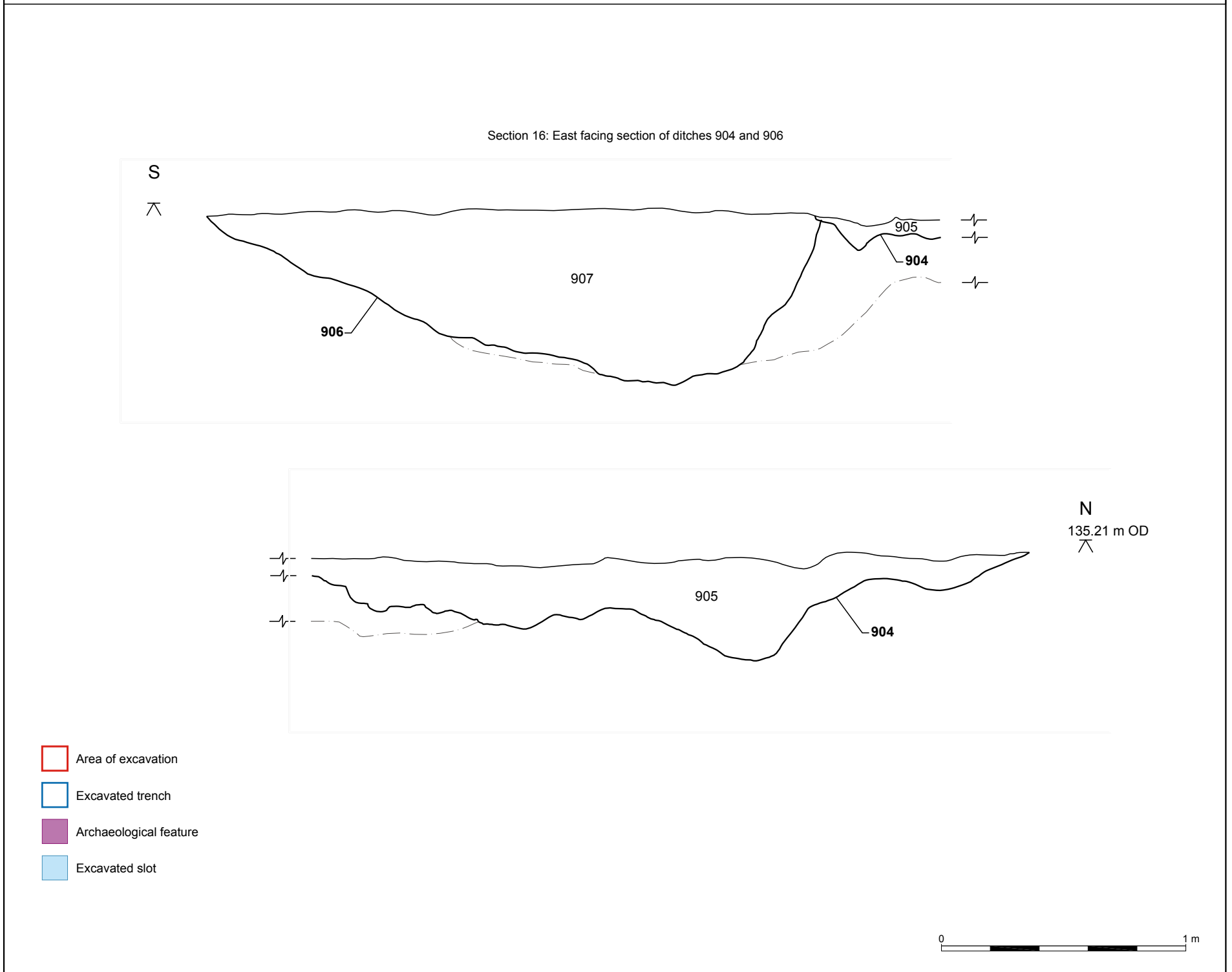
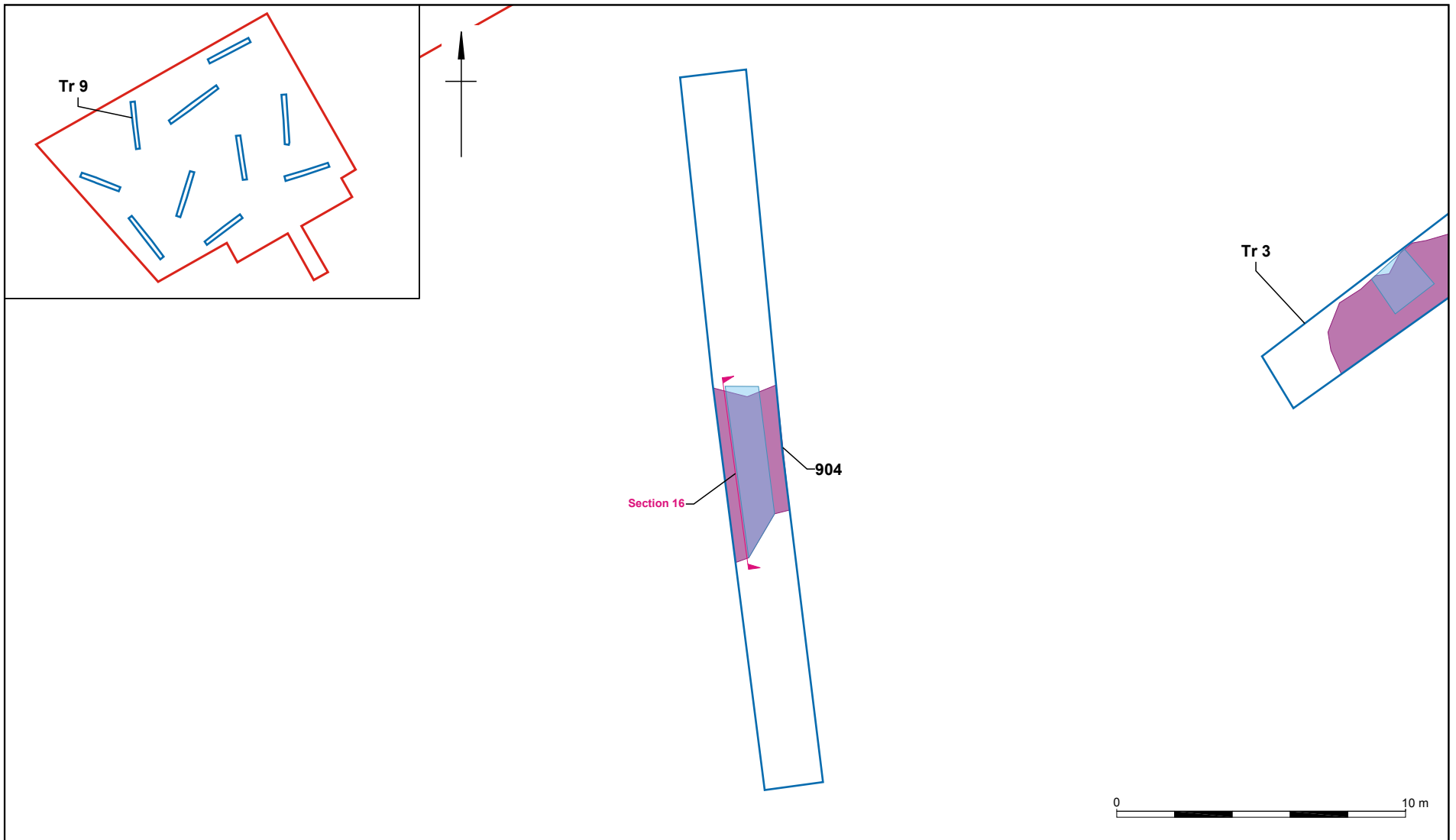


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Plan and section of Trench 8

Figure 8



- Area of excavation
- Excavated trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot

Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

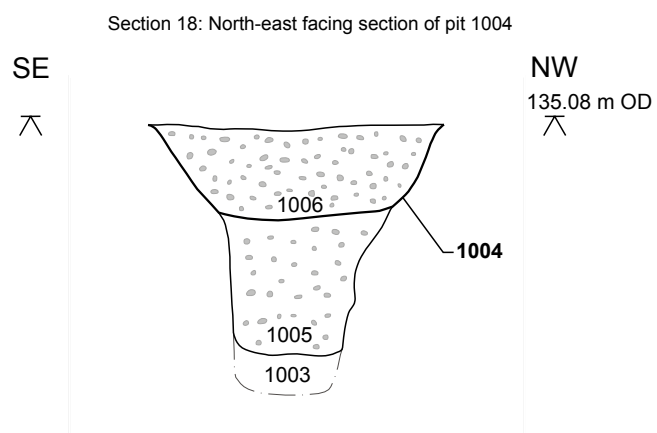
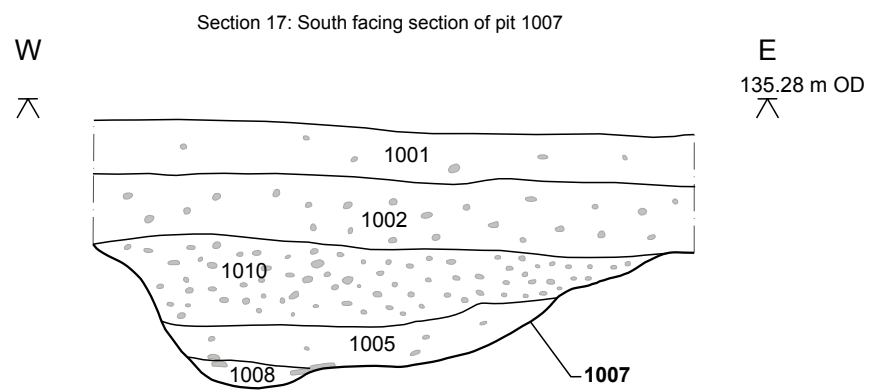
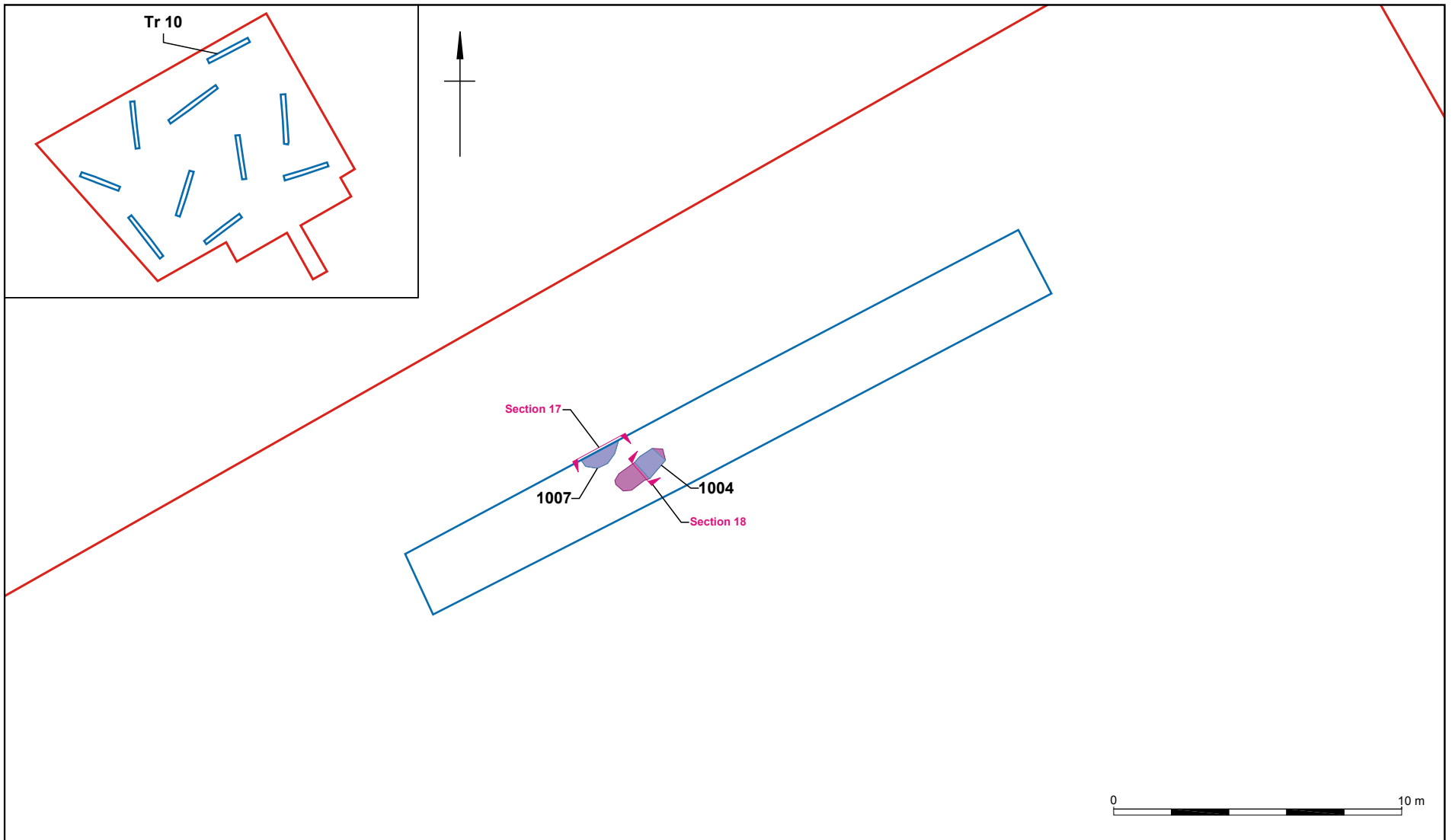


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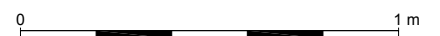
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Plan and section of Trench 9

Figure 9



- Area of excavation
- Excavated trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Stone



Coordinate system:  
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Plan and sections of Trench 10

Figure 10



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from the south-west

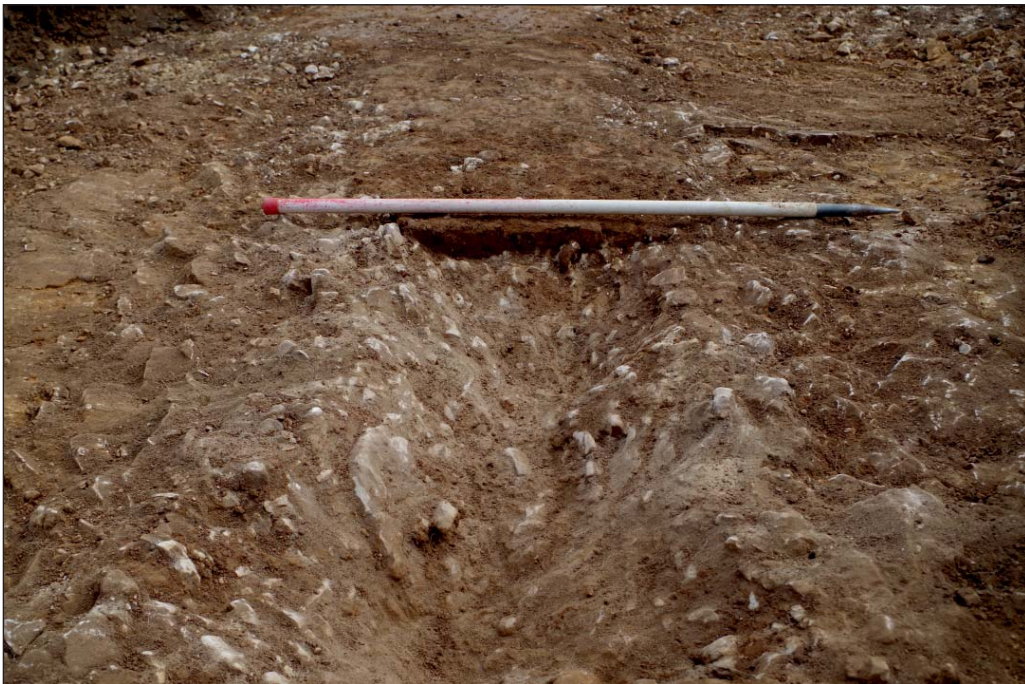


Plate 2: Gully 104, south-west facing section


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Plate 3: Post-hole 105, view from the west



Plate 4: Trench 2, view from the south


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Plate 5: Pit 210, north-facing section



Plate 6: Ditch 204, view from the east


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Plate 7: Ditch 204, view from the west



Plate 8: Trench 3, view from the south-west


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Plate 9: Ditch 306, view from south-east



Plate 10: Pit 305, east-facing section


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Plate 11: Pits 312 and 315, view from the east



Plate 12: Pit 312, east-facing section


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Plate 13: Pit 315, west-facing section



Plate 14: Trench 4, view from the north-west


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Plate 15: Trench 5, view from the south-west



Plate 16: Trench 6, view from the south


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Plate 17: Linear feature 604 cut by pits 605 and 606, south-facing section



Plate 18: Layers 612 and 613 in Trench 6


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Plate 19: Pit or terminus 712, view from the north



Plate 20: Ditch 709, south-facing section


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Plate 21: Ditches 704 and 707, south-east facing section



Plate 22: Trench 8, view from the south-west


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Plate 23: Ditch 806, south-east facing section



Plate 24: Ditches 812 and 814 and a pit 816 , view from the west


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Plate 25: Ditches 906 and 904, pre-ex, view from the south-west



Plate 26: Pit 1004, east-facing section



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Plate 27: Pit 1007, south-facing section

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