

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Bellway Homes

Land southeast of Wingate
Wingate
County Durham

archaeological evaluation

report 5277
February 2020

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of a proposed development on land to the southeast of Wingate, County Durham. The works comprised the excavation of 47 archaeological trial trenches.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Bellway Homes and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 No significant archaeological resource was identified. The remains of plough furrows and historic field boundaries were recorded.

Recommendations

- 1.4 No further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located on land to the southeast of Wingate village, County Durham, (NGR centre: NZ 4066 3780). It covers an area of approximately 19 ha. Open lands lie to the east, west, and south, with new housing being constructed directly to the north.

Development proposal

- 2.2 A residential development is proposed for the site.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the development.

Research Objectives

- 2.4 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region. The scheme of works was designed to address agenda items Riv: Roman native and civilian life; Rix: Roman landscape and environment; MDi: Later medieval settlement; MDii: Later medieval landscape.

Specification

- 2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS19.635) and approved by the planning authority.

Dates

- 2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken between 29th January and 12th February 2020. This report was prepared for February 2020.

Personnel

- 2.7 Fieldwork was conducted by Adam Mean, Meghan McCarthy, Jenny Richards, and Mark Randerson (supervisor). This report was prepared by Mark Randerson, with illustrations by Janine Watson. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The site code is **WIN20**, for **Wingate 2020**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the County Durham Archaeological Archives in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-384855**

Acknowledgements

- 2.9 Archaeological Services Durham University is grateful for the assistance of Mr Len Worrall of Avant Homes in facilitating this scheme of works.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of this evaluation, the proposed development area comprised two arable fields, ploughed but not under crop.
- 3.2 The area was predominantly level, with a mean elevation approximately between 125m OD and 130m OD. To the south, the ground level rose, climbing a low, north-facing ridge. Shallow undulations and hollows were evident across the eastern part of the area, with the ground level falling into a shallow dene directly to the east.
- 3.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the area comprises dolostone of the Ford Formation, which are overlain by Devensian diamiction till.

4. Historical and archaeological background

Previous archaeological works

- 4.1 The study area has been subject to a detailed heritage assessment and a programme of geomagnetic survey. The results of these projects are summarised below.

The prehistoric and Roman periods (up to 5th century AD)

- 4.2 A Neolithic long cairn and a Bronze Age barrow are known in the surrounding district, with a potentially later prehistoric or Roman rectilinear enclosure recorded at Castle Eden. Stray finds of Roman material have also been recovered from the Castle Eden golf course.

The medieval and post-medieval periods (5th century to 1899)

- 4.3 The place-name *Winde gatum* is recorded in 1071, referring to the area between Wheatley Hill and Deaf Hill. Medieval settlement is recorded at Old Wingate, to the west, and Castle Eden, to the east. The area surrounding these settlements was used as agricultural land, with some evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation recorded on the northern part of the site. The area remained agricultural in character throughout the post-medieval period. The geomagnetic survey identified former field boundaries and a drain, many of which were shown on historic Ordnance Survey mapping.

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 4.4 Modern services, field drains, and plough textures were also identified by the geomagnetic survey.

5. The evaluation trenches

Introduction (Figure 2)

- 5.1 47 trial trenches were excavated across the area. Two of these, Trenches 42 and 44, were moved slightly south of their specified locations in order to avoid a current fenceline. Several of the trenches were positioned to investigate previously-identified geomagnetic anomalies. The remainder were distributed across the site to provide a representative sample of the area.
- 5.2 Detailed trench information is provided in Table 1.2 (Appendix 1).

The trenches

- 5.3 Natural glacial subsoil [1] was exposed across the base of all trenches. This was a changeable deposit, showing natural geological variation across the site. It was mainly characterised as either a mottled light yellow-brown heavily compact stiff silty clay, or an orange-brown sandy clay, with inclusions of occasional well-rounded to sub-angular large stones and cobbles. The deposit was mottled with large irregular lenses of dense grey and purple-grey clay, orange-brown coarse sand, and light grey/white sandy silt.
- 5.4 An irregular horizon of subsoil was present across the site, and was identified in Trenches 5, 11, 13, 14, 18-23, 27, 31-34, 37, and 43. This deposit [3: up to 0.5m thick] was a moderately compact, friable red-brown clayey sandy silt containing inclusions of occasional pea grit and well-rounded to sub-angular gravel. It was generally encountered in areas of lower-lying ground, suggesting that it had collected in depressions and hollows in the glacial subsoil, reflecting natural topographical variations. In the central and eastern parts of the site, these lower-lying areas formed shallow, linear depressions, visible across the surface of the study area, running downhill to the east and suggesting the remains of archaic water channels. Similar sub-linear depressions were noted in the areas of Trenches 13-14 and 19-20, overlying geological changes in the natural glacial subsoil.
- 5.5 In Trenches 21, 23, and 31, a deposit of stiff, heavily compact light and mid blue-grey fine silty clay [4] was observed, filling the base of the hollows underneath subsoil horizon [3]. This was a waterborne deposit which accumulated in the base of the archaic channel noted here. A substantial French land drain had been constructed along the length of this channel.
- 5.6 The remains of a former field boundary ditch were observed in Trenches 3 and 42, crossing the site on an east/west alignment (Figures 3 and 4). In Trench 3, this ditch [F11: 1.7m wide, 0.45m deep] had moderately-sloping sides, with a linear, steeply-sided drainage channel cut along a flat, smooth base (Photograph 1). It contained a primary fill of moderately compact dark grey medium fine gravel [9: 1.15m wide, 0.45m thick]. This was laid over a large ceramic field drain which was set on the southern edge of the cut: presumably, this drain had been laid in the ditch directly before the feature was backfilled. A homogenous secondary fill of yellowish-grey sandy silt [10: 1.7m wide, 0.35m thick] sealed the ditch. This feature was far shallower to the east, where the continuation of the boundary had been identified by the geomagnetic survey. Here, the ditch [F13: 1.2m wide, 0.25m deep] had moderately-sloping to steep sides and a flat, smooth base. It contained a homogenous fill of greyish-brown sandy clay [12].
- 5.7 Another former field boundary ditch was exposed in Trench 13 (Figure 3). This ditch [F15: 1.73m wide, 0.2m deep as excavated] had moderately-sloping sides: the base of the feature contained a large, operational ceramic land drain and was therefore not excavated (Photograph 2). It was sealed by a homogenous deposit of moderately compact grey sandy clay [14], which was in turn overlain by a deposit of subsoil [3].
- 5.8 A further former field boundary, again identified by the geomagnetic survey, was investigated by Trenches 22, 23, and 34 (Figures 3 and 4). In Trench 23, this ditch [F6: 1.15m wide, 0.16m deep] had gently-sloping, even sides and a flat, smooth base. It contained a single fill of friable yellow-grey sandy clayey silt [5]. A later field

drain had been inserted into this fill, following the line of the ditch. To the east, a similar ditch cut was identified in Trench 34, although this feature [F8: 1m wide, 0.2m deep] had a more rounded base and did not contain any later drain (Photograph 3). The boundary was not excavated in Trench 22.

- 5.9 The remains of four plough furrows were exposed in Trench 3, where the natural subsoil was cut by furrow bases aligned roughly east/west (Figure 3). At the south end of the trench, these furrows were evenly spaced, each approximately 1m wide and 4m - 5m apart. They were filled by a red-brown clayey silt, similar to subsoil horizon [3]. Modern field drains were identified across the whole of the investigated area, cutting through the glacial subsoil, with frequent plough scarring and disturbance also noted.
- 5.10 A layer of dark grey-brown slightly sandy clayey silt ploughsoil sealed all the trenches and extended across the whole of the area. This layer [2: up to 0.4m thick] contained moderate small to medium well rounded to sub-angular gravel and occasional pea grit and larger cobbles. Fragments of 19th- and 20th-century pottery and glass were present in this layer, presumably deposited through manuring: these were discarded on site. No further archaeologically significant features were identified.

6. The artefacts

- 6.1 No artefacts were recovered.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 Across the site, results from the evaluation trenches indicate that the area has been truncated by modern ploughing activity. No significant archaeological resource has been identified.
- 8.2 No archaeological deposits were recorded in the majority of trenches. Furrows, the remains of medieval or post-medieval ploughing, were recorded in Trench 3, cutting into the glacial subsoil, and elements of former field boundary ditches were exposed in Trenches 3, 13, 22, 23, 34, and 42.

9. Impact assessment

- 9.1 Development of the site is unlikely to impact on any archaeological deposits.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 No further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

11. Sources

- Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham
- Archaeological Services 2016 *Land south-east of Wingate, Wingate, County Durham: heritage assessment*. Report 4125, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2017 *Land south-east of Wingate, Wingate, County Durham: geophysical survey*. Report 4427, Archaeological Services Durham University

Appendix 1: Data tables

Table 1.1: Context data

No	Trench	Description
1	1 - 48	Natural glacial subsoil
2	1 - 48	Ploughsoil
3	5, 11, 13, 14, 18 – 23, 27, 31 – 34, 37, & 43	Subsoil horizon
4	21, 23, 31	Waterborne channel fill
5	22 & 23	Fill of F6
F6	22 & 23	Cut of former field boundary
7	34	Fill of F8
F8	34	Cut of former field boundary
9	3	Lower fill of F11
10	3	Upper fill of F11
F11	3	Cut of former field boundary
12	42	Fill of F13
F13	42	Cut of former field boundary
14	13	Fill of F15
F15	13	Cut of former field boundary

Table 1.2: Trench data

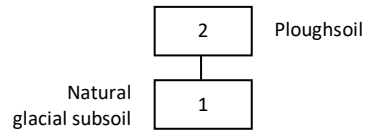
Trench	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Glacial Geology	Subsoil	Furrows				Field Drains- number and orientation	Features
					Number	Spacing (m)	Orientation	Width (m)		
1	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow-orange/brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: 1 E/W, 1 N/S	0
2	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow-orange/brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: 1 E/W, 1 N/S	0
3	50	0.35-0.8	Yellow/yellow-grey silty clay	None present	4	4-5	E/W	1	3: 2 N/S, 1 E/W	Ditch [F11]
4	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow- and purple-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	4: N/S	0
5	50	0.35-0.65	Yellow and yellow-grey silty clay	Present for 12m	-	-	-	-	3: N/S	0
6	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow-orange/brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	10: 8 N/S, 1 NW/SE, 1 irregular	0
7	50	0.25-0.35	Yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	3: 2 N/S, 1 E/W	0
8	50	0.3-0.35	Yellow-orange/brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	4: N/S	0
9	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow-brown to yellow-grey silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: N/S	0
10	50	0.3-0.4	Yellow-brown to yellow-grey silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	5: N/S	0
11	50	0.3-0.6	Yellow-brown to yellow-grey silty clay	Present for 18m	-	-	-	-	3: N/S	0
12	25	0.3-0.35	Yellow-brown to yellow-grey silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: N/S	0
13	30	0.35-0.4	Yellow-brown to grey-brown silty clay	Present for 6m	-	-	-	-	3: 2 E/W, 1 N/S	Ditch [F15]
14	50	0.3-0.4	Yellow-brown sandy clay and yellow sand	Present for 9m	-	-	-	-	3: N/S	Geological variation
15	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	4: 2 NE/SE, 2 N/S	0
16	50	0.25-0.35	Brown and yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: N/S	0
17	50	0.25-0.35	Yellow-brown silty clay and gravel	None present	-	-	-	-	6: N/S	0
18	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow and brown silty clay	Present for 7m	-	-	-	-	5: N/S	0

Trench	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Glacial Geology	Subsoil	Furrows				Field Drains- number and orientation	Features
					Number	Spacing (m)	Orientation	Width (m)		
19	25	0.3-0.35	Yellow-brown sand/gravel to purple-grey silty clay	Present for 4m	-	-	-	-	3: N/S	Geological variation
20	50	0.3-0.35	Yellow-brown sandy clay to brown gravelly clay	Present in two bands, each 3m	-	-	-	-	6: 5 N/S, 1 E/W	Geological variation
21	50	0.35-0.7	Orange-brown sandy clay to yellow-grey silty clay	Present for 7m, deposit [4] also	-	-	-	-	4: 3 N/S, 1 E/W	Land drain
22	50	0.3-0.8	Yellow-grey & orange-brown silty clay	Present for 11m, deposit [4] also	-	-	-	-	1 N/S	Ditch [F6], Land drain
23	50	0.35-1	Yellow-orange/brown silty clay	Present for 6m	-	-	-	-	4: 3 NE/SW, 1 NW/SE	Ditch [F6], Land drain
24	50	0.3-0.35	Yellow- & orange-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	16: 15 E/W, 1 N/S	0
25	25	0.3-0.4	Yellow-brown gravelly clay to red-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	3: E/W	0
26	50	0.3-0.4	Yellow-brown silty & gravelly clay	None present	-	-	-	-	4: E/W	0
27	25	0.3-0.4	Yellow-brown silty clay	Present for 4m	-	-	-	-	1: E/W	0
28	50	0.3-0.35	Orange brown clay	None present	-	-	-	-	3: E/W	0
29	50	0.35-0.4	Yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	1: E/W	0
30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	50	0.35-1	Yellow sand & gravel, red-brown silty clay	Present for 14m, deposit [4] also	-	-	-	-	3: 1 NE/SW, 2 NW/SE	Land drain
32	50	0.35-0.95	Yellow-grey & red-brown silty clay	Present for 22m	-	-	-	-	4: N/S	Geological variation
33	50	0.35-0.7	Yellow-brown silty clay	Present for 10m	-	-	-	-	4: N/S	0
34	50	0.3-0.55	Yellow-brown silty clay	Present for 4m	-	-	-	-	1: NW-SE	Ditch [F8]
35	25	0.35-0.4	Yellow- & orange-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: N/S	0
36	50	0.3-0.4	Red-brown & yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	8: N/S	0

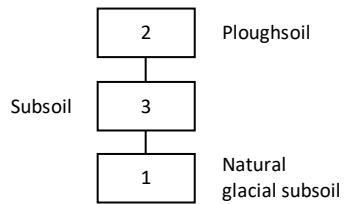
Trench	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Glacial Geology	Subsoil	Furrows				Field Drains- number and orientation	Features
					Number	Spacing (m)	Orientation	Width (m)		
37	50	0.35-0.5	Yellow-brown & yellow-grey silty clay	Present for 12m	-	-	-	-	12: 11 N/S, 1 E/W	0
38	50	0.3-0.35	Orange- & yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	3: N/S	0
39	50	0.35-0.4	Orange- & yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	3: N/S	0
40	50	0.3-0.4	Yellow to purple-grey silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: E/W	0
41	50	0.35-0.4	Orange- & yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	2: 1 NW/SE, 1 NE/SW	0
42	25	0.35-0.6	Orange- & yellow-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	3: E/W	Ditch [F13]
43	50	0.3-0.4	Orange- & yellow-brown silty clay	Present for 11m	-	-	-	-	3: NW/SE	0
44	25	0.3-0.4	Yellow-brown/brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	1: N/S	0
45	50	0.3-0.4	Yellow-brown/brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	3: N/S	0
46	50	0.25-0.4	Yellow-brown/brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	1: N/S	0
47	50	0.35-0.4	Orange-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	1: N/S	0
48	25	0.35-0.4	Red-brown silty clay	None present	-	-	-	-	8: N/S	0

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

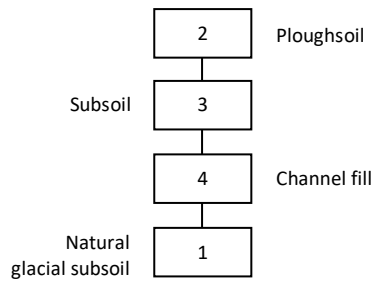
Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6, 7-10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 24-26, 28, 29, 35, 36, 38-41, & 44 - 48



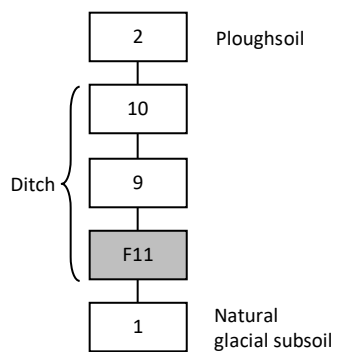
Trenches 5, 11, 14, 18-20, 27, 32, 33, 37, & 43



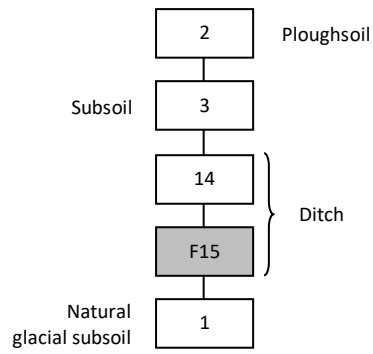
Trenches 21 & 31



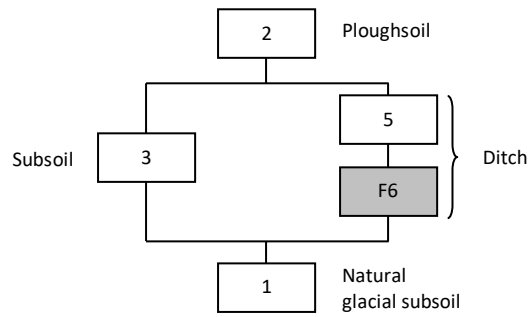
Trench 3



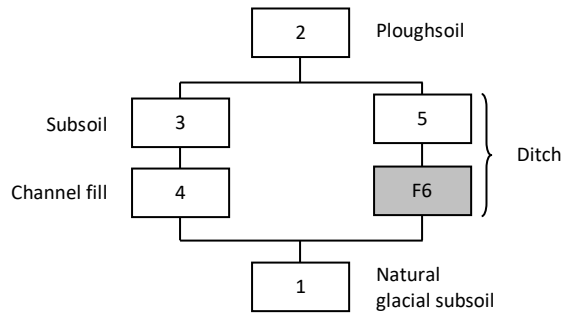
Trench 13



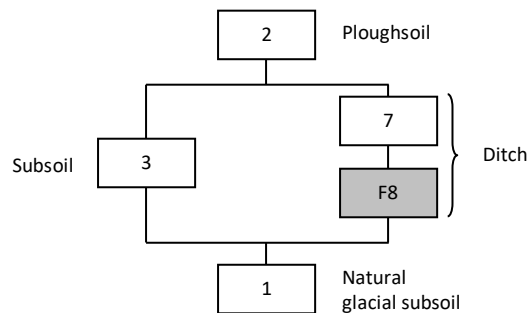
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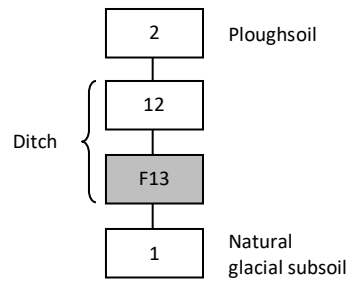
Trench 23



Trench 34



Trench 42





Photograph 1: Former field boundary ditch [F11], facing west



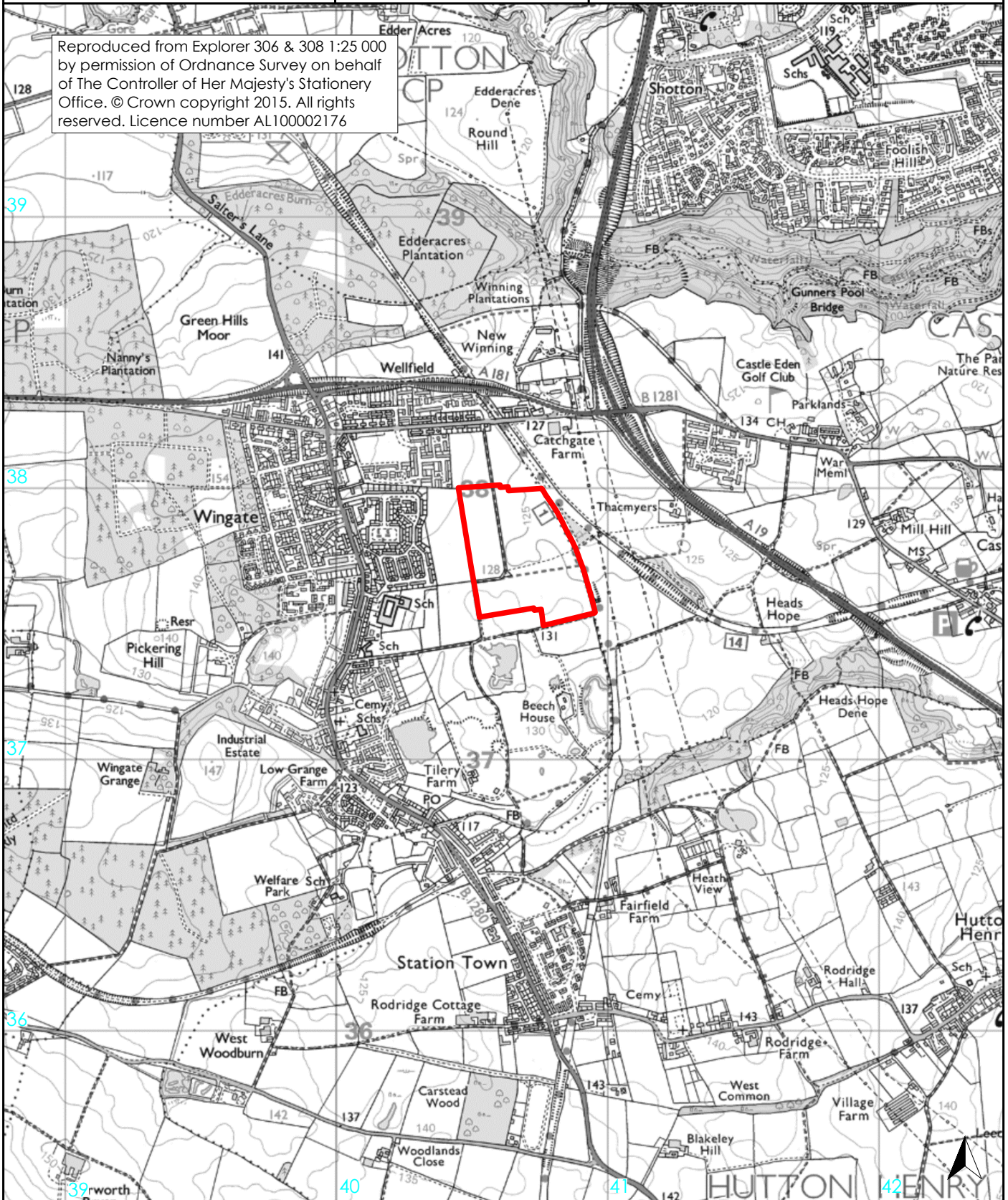
Photograph 2: Former field boundary ditch [F15], facing east



Photograph 3: Former field boundary ditch [F8], facing east

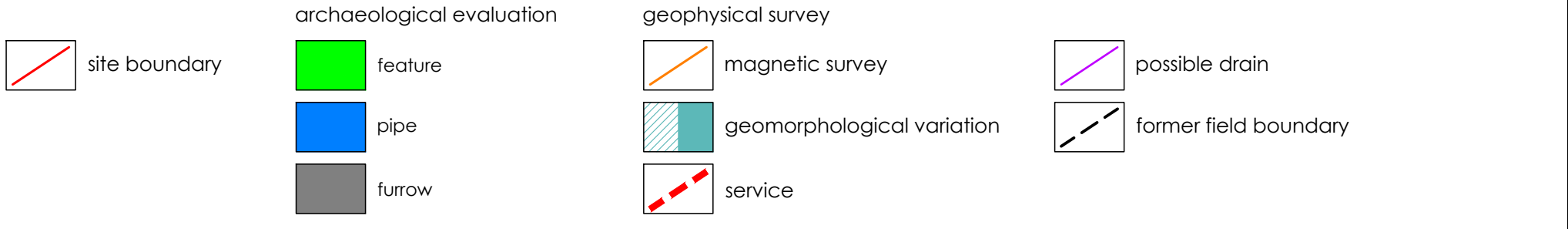
Figure 1: Site location

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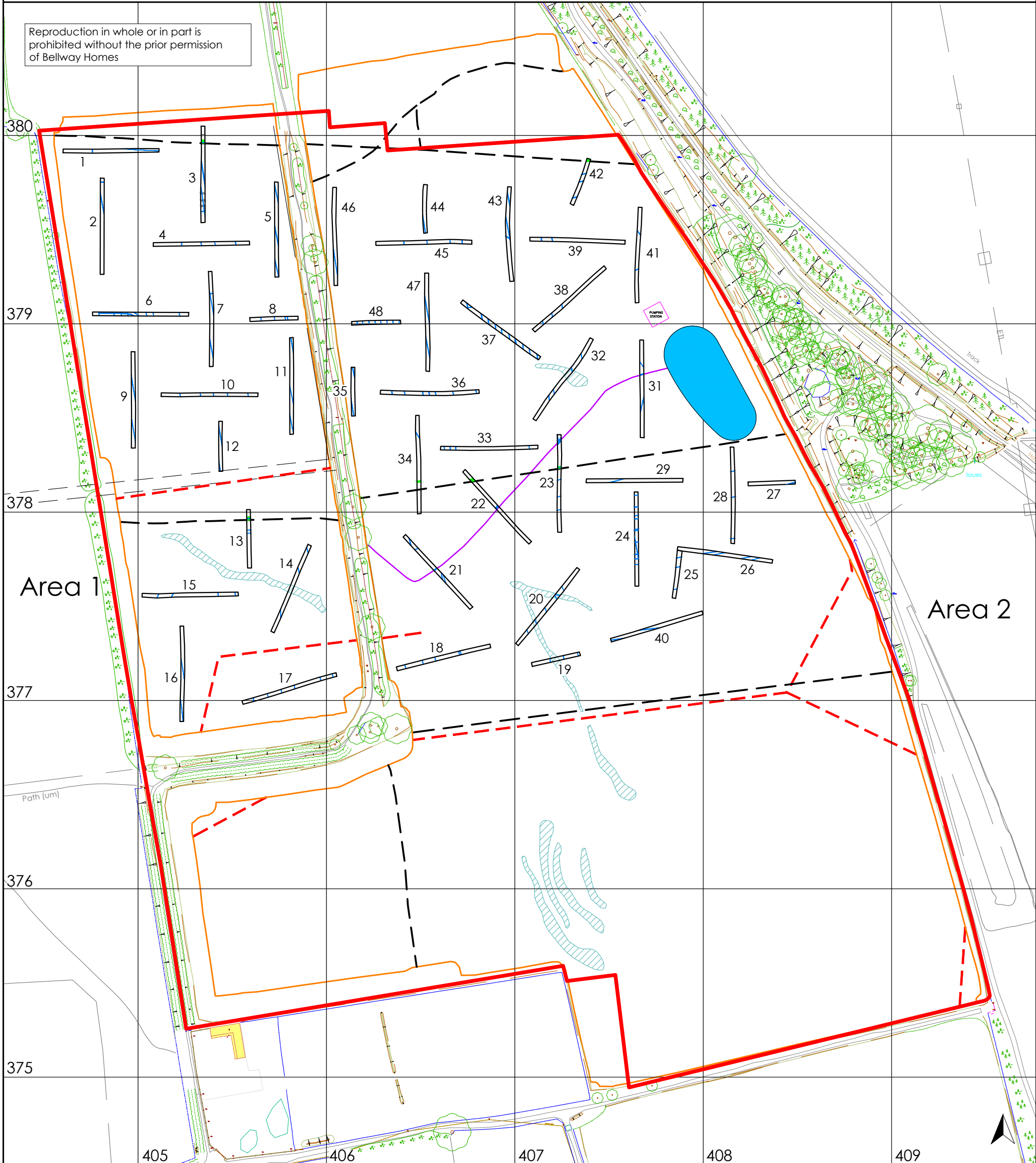


 site location

0 1km
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot



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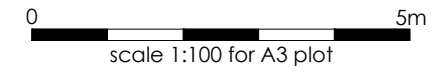
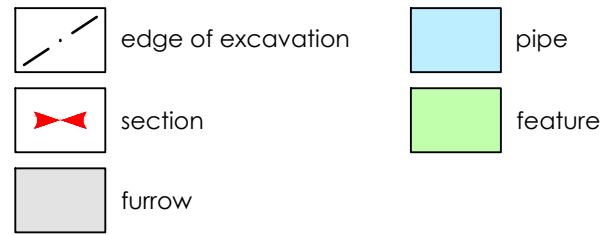
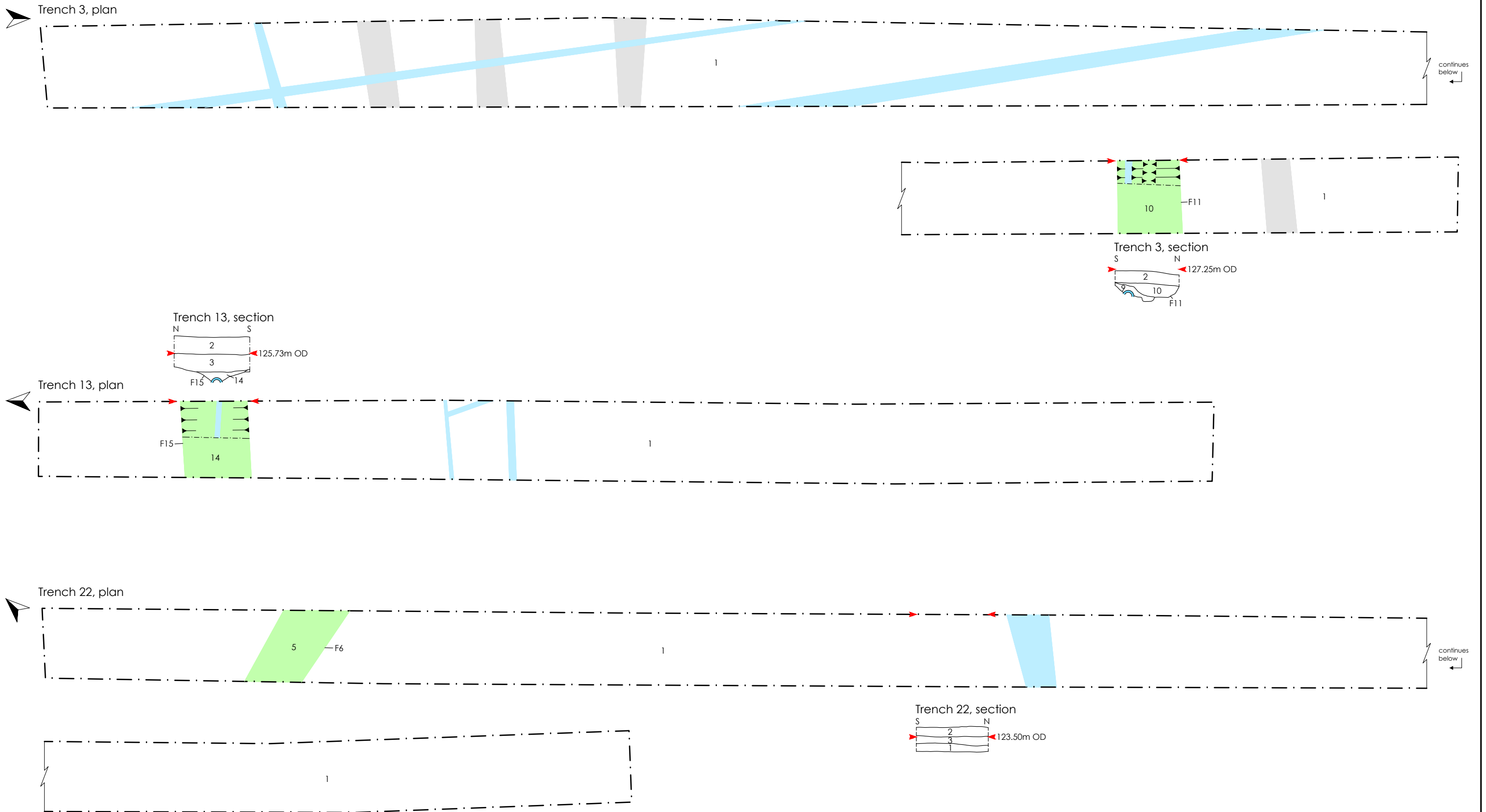


Figure 3: Trenches 3, 13 and 22, plans and sections



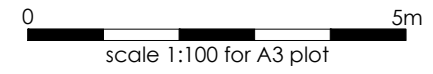
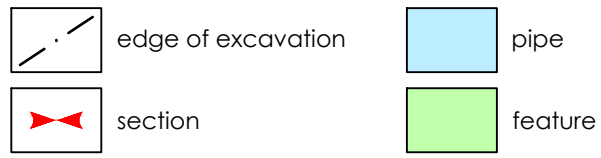


Figure 4: Trenches 23, 34 and 42, plans and sections

