
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT
LONDON ROAD,
QUARRINGTON, SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(QULR 13)**

Work Undertaken For
CgMs

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological trial trenching was undertaken on land at London Road, Quarrington, Lincolnshire. Prior geophysical survey had identified deposits of possible archaeological origin and evidence for Neolithic and Early to Middle Saxon occupation has been identified 200m to the west, off Town Road.

The evaluation revealed an enclosure ditch of probable 1st century AD Late Iron Age date, matching geophysical anomalies, along with a ditch, gullies and a pit indicative of Roman occupation. The presence of Roman roofing tile suggests a tiled roofed building in the vicinity. One of the ditches was of very late Roman, possibly early 5th century, date. Many of the geophysical anomalies in the eastern and southern parts of the site were found to be of natural, agricultural or modern origin.

Artefacts retrieved included Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, ceramic building material including Roman roof tile, quernstone and animal bone. Analysis of environmental samples from the fills of a Roman ditch indicates nearby domestic occupation. Snails from the possible Iron Age enclosure are of predominantly open grassland communities but with a significant component of shade loving species.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a

specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological trenching evaluation on land at Quarrington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. This followed an earlier geophysical survey (Marsh 2013). The work was carried out between 27th August and 11th September 2013.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Quarrington is located 16.5km northeast of Grantham and 2km southwest of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development area, comprising 58 hectares, is located in fields to the south of Sleaford and to the east of Quarrington village, set in a wider landscape of gently undulating heathlands at NGR TF 064 443 (Fig. 2).

The site is bounded to the north by part of the urban area of New Quarrington north of London Road, and to the northeast by a late 20th century housing estate. The fields are currently under arable cultivation. The ground surface slopes gently down from the north, at approximately 21m AOD, towards a large drain running through the centre of the proposed development area at approximately 10m AOD. From this watercourse the land rises gently to the south. Local soils are of the Aswarby Series, typically fine loamy brown calcareous earths (George and Robson 1978, 44) developed upon Cornbrash formation limestone (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Evidence for early prehistoric occupation of the site was recovered in the form of a thin scatter of worked flints found within East Field in the centre of the proposed development area (LHER64063), during a walkover survey along the proposed route of a pipeline (Dawson 2013). These may date either to the Mesolithic or the Neolithic periods.

Approximately 200m to the west of the proposed development a possible Neolithic cremation burial was recorded (Walker and Lane 1996). A stone axe and isolated flints were found in the same area.

Old Sleaford, some 2km to the northeast, was the focus of a high status late Iron Age site which was the site of a mint and probably a sub-capital of the local tribe, the Corieltavi (Elsdon 1997). Other investigations on the outskirts of Sleaford have discovered several enclosures of middle and late Iron date. The enclosure identified from aerial photographs at the western limit of the site (LHER63943), adjacent to London Road, may be of this period.

The late Iron Age site at Old Sleaford persisted into the Roman period although the bulk of Roman sites investigated appear to date to the 3rd and 4th centuries, suggesting that development into a small town (Burnham and Watcher 1990, 9) probably dates to this period (Taylor 2005). Typically small towns attract settlement to their hinterland and several isolated Roman finds, including coins, have been noted at 57 London Road (LHER65251), 500m to the north of the proposed development area and at 84 London Road (LHER6525), 20m to the north. In addition Roman ceramics have been recovered from Manor Farm (Mellor 2009) and at Town Road (Walker and Lane, 1996).

A sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found within the southwest corner of the proposed development area (LHER60914). Early and Middle Saxon evidence has been found at Town Road 200m to the west of the proposed development area. Settlement features and evidence of Saxon metalworking suggest the location of a significant settlement, though the absence of Late Saxon evidence suggests that the focus of later Saxon activity shifted further west to the medieval core of Quarrington (Walker and Lane 1996). The settlement may have been associated with an inhumation cemetery that lay to the northwest.

Quarrington is first mentioned in a charter of 1051. Referred to as *Querenton* and later in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Corninctone*, *Corninctune* and *Cornintone* the name is derived from the Old English and means the 'farmstead of the place with a quern' (Cameron 1998, 99). The charter details the granting of land at Quarrington, Cranwell and Sleaford to Ramsey Abbey (Hart 1966, 242). At the time of Domesday, the land was held by the King, the Bishop of Lincoln and Ramsey Abbey and contained 2 churches, a mill and at least 74 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is St Botolph's church which has elements dating to the 13th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 605).

Throughout the post medieval and modern period the proposed development area has remained in agricultural use (Dawson 2013).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the

archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site and to establish whether further archaeological excavation is required to preserve the archaeological resource by record.

The objectives were to establish the type of archaeological activity that might be present within the site, to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, their state of preservation, spatial arrangement and the extent to which surrounding archaeological features extended into the application area, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Twenty-nine trenches, each measuring 40m long by 1.6m wide (Fig. 3), were excavated by mechanical excavator,

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the trenches was surveyed using a Thales Global Positioning System

(GPS).

Following excavation, the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Area 8, trenches 1 -4 (Fig 4)

These trenches were located over the geophysical anomaly of a probable enclosure adjacent to London Road.

Trench 1 (Fig 8)

The firm limestone brash natural deposit (100) was cut by three archaeological features.

Midway along the trench, matching the geophysical enclosure anomaly, northwest-southeast aligned ditch [103] (Fig 11, Section 2; Plate 2) was steep sided with a flattish base. Measuring 1.3m wide and 0.73m deep, it was filled by mid reddish brown silty sand (102) which contained a sherd of probable 1st century Late Iron Age pottery, animal bone and two residual Bronze Age flint flakes.

Processing of an environmental sample from this fill recovered limited archaeological material comprising a small amount of charcoal, with rare charred weed seeds, a couple of charred hazel nutshell fragments and a few small fragments of very eroded or burnt animal bone. This indicates that the area was probably not close to domestic settlement. However, some indications of the contemporary environment were provided by the abundance of snail shells in the sample. These were dominated by open

country taxa but with a significant component of shade loving or woodland species. This may indicate the presence of a hedge along the edge of the enclosure ditch (Rackham, Appendix 3). The sparsity of aquatic species indicate that the ditch rarely held water.

A few metres to the north, sub-circular pit [107] (Fig 11, Section 5) had uneven sides and base and was 1.24m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a mix of yellow brown sandy silt and limestone fragments (106).

Close to the north end of the trench was north to south aligned ditch [105] (Fig 11, Section 4; Plate 3). This also matched a geophysical anomaly and had steep sides and an irregular base. It measured up to 2m wide and 0.55m deep and was filled with mid reddish brown silty sand (104).

The features were sealed by 0.45m thick topsoil (101).

Trench 2 (Fig 8)

In this trench the looser natural limestone brash (204) was cut by a single linear feature matching the enclosure anomaly on the geophysical survey.

Ditch [203] (Fig 11, Section 3; Plate 4) had fairly steep sides and a rounded base. Measuring 1.8m wide and 0.43m deep it was filled with 0.2m thick mid yellow brown sandy silt (201) overlain by 0.23m thick dark yellow brown silt (202).

The feature was sealed by 0.3m thick topsoil (200).

Trench 3 (Fig 4)

Positioned to locate possible internal features of the enclosure, Trench 3 revealed only slight variations in the natural limestone brash (302). This was overlain by 0.4m thick topsoil (301).

Trench 4 (Fig 8)

Cutting the firm limestone brash (403), in this trench, northwest-southwest aligned ditch [402] (Fig 11, Section 1; Plate 5) also matched the geophysical enclosure anomaly. Steep-sided with a rounded base, it was 1.1m wide and 0.5m deep and filled with reddish brown sandy silt (401).

Immediately adjacent to the ditch, on its north, outer, side, was circular post hole [405] (Plate 6). This had near vertical sides and a rounded base and was 0.4m in diameter and 0.22m deep. Its fill was dark yellow brown sandy silt (404).

The features were sealed by 0.3m thick topsoil (400).

Area 9, trenches 5 - 10 (Fig 5)

These trenches were located over various linear geophysical anomalies.

Trench 5 (Fig 8)

The firm yellowish brown limestone brash (500) natural deposit was cut by two linear features.

North-south aligned ditch [503] (Fig 11, Section 9) measured 1.12m wide and 0.3m deep with irregular sides and base. It was filled by mid brownish yellow silty sand (502).

Sixteen metres to the east, NNW-SSE aligned ditch [505] (Fig 11, Section 14) had irregular sides and base and was 1m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled by limestone fragments mixed with silty sand (504).

The features were overlain by 0.46m thick topsoil (501).

Trench 6 (Fig 9)

The natural loose yellowish brown limestone brash (608) was cut by two features.

Near the west end of the trench, roughly

northeast-southwest aligned curvilinear gully [604] (Fig 11, Sections 7, 8) was steep sided and a rounded base. It was at least 3m long, 0.33m wide and 0.2m deep and filled with dark orange brown silty sand (603).

East of this, north-south aligned ditch [607] (Fig 11, Section 12; Plate 7) matched a linear geophysical anomaly. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base and measured 3.1m wide and 0.45m deep. Lower fill (606) was 0.15m thick orange brown silty sand containing late 4th to early 5th century Roman pottery, including Dalesware and two unusual vessels of Native Tradition type, and animal bone.

An environmental sample from (606) produced firecracked stone and a little burnt and unburnt bone among which a calcined sheep phalanx 2, a wood mouse jaw and a frog/toad synsacrum were identified. The flot included charred cereal grains, among which wheat, *Triticum* sp., appears to predominate. The charred cereals are accompanied by a charred pea or bean, some smaller legumes, and a number of 'weed' seeds. A fragment of nutshell, probably hazel is also present. The assemblages suggests a domestic rubbish context with the cereals and pea/bean probably becoming charred by accident during food preparation (Appendix 3).

This deposit was sealed by a 0.3m thick upper fill of brownish orange silty sand (605) also containing later Roman pottery along with tegula roofing tile, a fragment of quernstone and animal bone.

Cumulatively, the fills (605 and 606) of ditch [607] contained a substantial quantity of late Roman pottery, 98 sherds from 38 sherds.

The features were sealed by a 0.4m thick

layer of reddish brown clayey silt (602), probably medieval headland material. This was overlain by 0.26m thick topsoil (601).

Trench 7 (Fig 9)

The loose yellowish brown limestone brash natural (704) was cut by several features.

A northeast-southwest aligned gully [703] (Fig 11, Sections 6, 10; Plate 9) terminated within the trench and had shallow sides and an uneven base. It was at least 15m long, 0.53m wide and 0.13m deep and filled with yellow grey brown sandy silt (702)/(705) which contained 8 sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone. This feature was cut by a roughly oval pit [707] (Fig 11, Section 15; Plate 10) which had shallow sides and an uneven base and measured 2.16m by at least 0.7m and 0.19m deep. It was filled by mid brown sandy silt (706) from which 12 sherds of 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery, tegula roofing tile, a squared burnt stone, possibly from the base of a hearth or fire, and animal bone was retrieved.

South of these features was an east to west aligned ditch [709] (Fig 11, Section 16). This had steep sides and an uneven base and was 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep. Yellow brown sandy silt (708) fill contained five sherds from a single Roman vessel and animal bone.

The features were overlain by an up to 0.35m thick spread of mid grey brown sandy silt (710). This was sealed by a 0.37m thick layer of reddish brown sandy silt (702) (Fig 12; Plate 8), similar to (602) and probably a medieval headland, seen as a low ridge running roughly east-west across the field at this point.

Trench 8 (Fig 5)

This trench contained no archaeological features, the natural yellowish brown limestone brash (802) being overlain by

0.35m thick topsoil (801).

Trench 9 (Fig 9)

Cutting the natural yellowish brown limestone brash (900) in the centre of this trench was roughly west-northeast aligned curvilinear gully [903] (Fig 13, Section 18; Plate 11). With steep sides and a flat base, the feature was at least 7m long, 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep. The fill of reddish grey sandy silt (902) contained a single sherd of undiagnostic Roman greyware pottery and animal bone. It was sealed by 0.35m thick topsoil (901).

Trench 10 (Fig 9)

The natural limestone brash (1006) was cut, towards the centre of the trench, by a WNW-ESE aligned gully [1005]. This had shallow sides and an uneven base and was 0.36m wide and 0.05m deep. The fill was yellow brown/grey brown sandy silt (1004). This gully was cut by a small sub-circular pit [1003] (Fig 13, Section 19) which had steep sides and an uneven base. Measuring 0.9m in diameter and 0.2m deep it was filled with yellow brown/grey brown sandy silt (1002). This contained Roman pottery including probably residual Samian ware of mid 1st to early 2nd century date.

The features were sealed by 0.16m thick yellow brown sandy silt subsoil (1001) overlying which was a 0.3m thickness of topsoil (1000).

Area 1, trenches 11-12

Trench 11 (Fig 3)

This trench contained no archaeological features, the natural yellowish brown limestone brash (1102), with sandier patches, being overlain by 0.35m thick topsoil (1101).

Trench 12 (Fig 3)

In this trench the natural yellowish brown limestone brash (1202), was overlain by

0.35m thick topsoil (1201). There were no archaeological features.

Area 2, trenches 13-14

Trench 13 (Fig 3)

This trench contained no archaeological features, the natural yellowish brown limestone brash (1302) being overlain by 0.3m thick topsoil (1301).

Trench 14 (Fig 3)

In this trench the natural yellowish brown limestone brash (1402), was overlain by 0.34m thick topsoil (1401). There were no archaeological features.

Area 3, trenches 15-17

Trench 15 (Fig 3)

The natural deposits comprised alternating bands of yellowish grey limestone bedrock (1503) and yellowish brown limestone brash (1502) overlain by 0.35m thick topsoil (1501). The trench contained no archaeological features.

Trench 16 (Fig 3)

Over most of this trench the natural deposits comprised light yellowish grey limestone bedrock (1603) with yellowish brown limestone brash (1602) at the north end. There were no archaeological features and the deposits were overlain by 0.35m thick topsoil (1601).

Trench 17 (Fig 3)

The natural deposits comprised mainly yellowish brown limestone brash (1702) with a band of light yellowish grey limestone bedrock (1703) towards the southwest end. There were no archaeological features and the deposits were overlain by 0.34m thick topsoil (1701).

Area 7, trenches 18 - 19

Trench 18 (Fig 3)

In this trench the natural yellowish brown limestone brash (1802), was overlain by 0.34m thick topsoil (1801). There were no archaeological features.

Trench 19 (Fig 9)

Towards the south end of the trench, the natural mid yellowish brown clayey silt (1905) was overlain by an up to 0.5m thick deposit of bluish grey alluvial clay (1904).

North of this, a WSW-ENE aligned ditch [1903] (Fig 13, Section 20) had steep sides and an uneven base. Measuring 0.83m wide and 0.29m deep, it was filled with mid brown silty clay (1902). The feature was sealed by 0.31m thick topsoil (1901).

Area 6, trenches 20-22

Trench 20 (Fig 3)

In this trench, the natural orange/light grey clayey sand (2003) was overlain by a layer of blueish grey clay (2002), mottled with orange/light grey sandy clay. This layer thickened from 0.33m at the west end to 0.65m at the east end. At the east end of the trench it was cut by a water main which was overlain by 0.22m thick topsoil (2001).

Trench 21 (Fig 3)

The natural deposit was light brownish yellow, with grey mottles, clayey sand (2103). This was overlain, at the north end of the trench, by up to 0.09m thick dark grey silty clay alluvium (2102). There were no archaeological features and the deposits were overlain by 0.36m thick topsoil (2101).

Trench 22 (Fig 3)

This trench contained no archaeological features, the natural mottled greyish brown/light grey clayey sand (2202) being overlain by 0.32m thick topsoil (2201).

Area 5, trenches 23-26

Trench 23 (Fig 10)

Cutting the natural brownish orange silty clay (2300) towards the west end of this trench was north-south aligned ditch [2303]. This V-shaped ditch was 0.48m wide and 0.2m deep and filled with light grey sandy clay (2302). It was recut by much larger north-south ditch [2305] (Fig 13, Section 24; Plate 12). Measuring 2.15m wide and 0.48m deep, this ditch was filled with brownish grey sandy clay (2304).

Towards the east end of the trench was an irregular sub-rectangular pit [2307] (Fig 13, Section 26). This was at least 1m long, up to 0.45m wide and 0.19m deep and was filled with dark grey silty sand (2306).

The features were sealed by 0.35m thick topsoil (2301).

Trench 24

This trench was not opened as the site supervisor was informed by an Anglian Water representative that it was on the line of the water main encountered in Trench 20.

Trench 25 (Fig 10, Plate 13)

Several features cut the natural yellow brown sandy silt (2505) in this trench.

Towards the south end of the trench circular post hole [2502] (Fig 13, Section 21; Plate 14) had steep sides and a flattish base and was 0.56m in diameter and 0.47m deep. It was filled with grey brown sandy silt (2501).

Immediately to the north, northeast-southwest aligned ditch [2504] (Fig 13, Section 25) was steep-sided with a rounded base. Measuring 0.93m wide and 0.23m deep it was filled with grey brown sandy silt (2503).

North of, and parallel to [2504], ditch terminus [2507] (Fig 13, Section 27; Plate 15) had gradually sloping sides and an uneven base and was 0.65m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled with light grey brown sandy silt (2506). Less than a metre separated this feature from a further ditch terminus [2509] (Fig 13, Section 28). With concave sides and a rounded base, this was 0.73m wide and 0.12m deep and filled with grey brown sandy silt (2508).

The features were overlain by a 0.3m thickness of topsoil (2500).

Trench 26 (Fig 10)

The mottled orange/light grey clayey sand (2607) natural deposit in this trench was cut by two features.

At the west end of the trench was NNE-SSW aligned ditch [2604] (Fig 13, Section 22) which was steep sided and at least 2.4m wide and at least 0.95m deep. The lower fill (2603) of redeposited natural mixed with dark greyish brown clayey silt was overlain by 0.7m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt (2602).

Further east in the trench, NNE-SSW aligned ditch [2606] (Fig 13, Section 23) had fairly steep sides and a flat base and was 0.7m wide and 0.28m deep. It was filled with mid brown silty sand (2605).

The features were sealed by up to 0.37m thick topsoil (2601).

Area 4, trenches 27-29

Trench 27 (Fig 7)

The natural deposit in this trench was firm mid yellow brown sandy silt (2701). It was cut by several parallel features including a boundary ditch and a clay-filled service trench of clearly modern date. Two probable plough furrows were on the same alignment. None of these features were excavated, a sample furrow being

investigated in Trench 28.

The features were overlain by 0.3m thick topsoil (2700).

Trench 28 (Fig 10)

The natural deposit of orange sand and gravel (2807) was cut by several archaeological features.

At the east end of the trench one of several NNW-SSE aligned agricultural furrows was excavated. Furrow [2803] (Fig 13, Section 29; Plate 16) had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base and was 3.4m wide and up to 0.15m deep. It was filled with light greyish brown silty clay (2802).

Immediately west of this was irregular shaped feature [2806] (Fig 13, Section 30). This had slightly convex, steep sides and a rounded base and was 1.55m wide and 0.6m deep. Lower fill (2805) was 0.55m thick mid yellowish grey clayey silt overlain by 0.6m thick dark grey ashy silty clay (2804). Its irregular shape suggested that this was probably a burnt-out tree-throw.

Overlying the features was up to 0.38m thick topsoil (2801).

Trench 29 (Fig 10)

Apart from further agricultural furrows, the natural brownish orange sandy clay (2900) was cut by a single north-south aligned ditch [2903] (Fig 13, Section 31). With a moderately sloping V-shaped profile, the ditch was 1.25m wide and 0.35m deep and filled by mid greyish brown sandy silt (2902) which contained a single iron nail.

The feature was sealed by 0.45m thick topsoil (2901).

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposit in the north and west parts of the site was limestone brash with some solid limestone bedrock appearing in Trenches 15-17. In the south and east, it was a mix of sand, silt and clay.

Changes in the natural deposits probably account for the geophysical anomalies in Trenches 3, 8, 11-18, 21 and 22, there being no archaeological features in these trenches. In addition, there were several land drains in Trenches 21 and 22.

A layer of bluish grey clay overlying the natural deposit in the relatively low-lying Trenches 19-21 might represent a former flooded area.

The earliest archaeological feature was probably the enclosure ditch in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 which matched the geophysical anomaly and was dated to the Late Iron Age, probably 1st century AD, by a sherd of pottery from the Trench 1 segment. A small undated post hole adjacent to the Trench 4 segment may or may not be related to this enclosure. Assessment of an environmental sample from the enclosure ditch suggests that domestic occupation was not in close proximity. However, the presence of abundance snail fauna indicates an open grassland environment and that the enclosure may have had a hedge following the ditch.

Although the dating of the enclosure ditch is based on a single sherd and must be considered tentative, there are examples of similar ditched enclosures of Middle to Late Iron Age date in the Sleaford area. In 1998 an archaeological evaluation of a site to the north of the town recorded a waterlogged ditch surrounding an enclosure of similar type, although this was definitively linked with domestic occupation (Herbert 1998). However, an undated enclosure in the same area

excavated in 2002 contained little evidence for habitation and provides a closer parallel (Thompson 2002).

A large ditch in Trench 6 and smaller features in Trenches 7, 9 and 10 provided evidence of Roman occupation in the vicinity.

The bulk of the late Roman ceramics were recovered from the fills of the large north-south aligned ditch [607], including several fresh, smashed vessels of late 4th to early 5th century date. Two vessels of Native Tradition type suggested possible continuation of occupation into the 5th century, possibly suggesting a link with the Early Saxon occupation excavated 200m to the west. The ditch also contained tegula roofing tile, a fragment of quernstone and sheep/goat and cattle bones.

A pit in Trench 7 also produced tegula roofing tile suggesting the presence of a tiled roofed building in the vicinity during the Roman period. There was also burnt stone indicative of a hearth or fire from this feature. Narrow linear features in Trenches 7 and 9 and a small pit in Trench 10 were also broadly dated to the Roman period.

In Trenches 6 and 7, the features had been buried by a probable headland from the medieval ridge and furrow system.

Parallel ditches in Trench 25 and an adjacent post hole were indicative of some activity in this part of the site (Area 5) but were undated.

In Trenches 27-29 (Area 4) in the far east of the site was a pattern of parallel furrows, which although undated were probably part of the medieval/early post-medieval ridge and furrow system.

A large boundary ditch in Trench 26

contained redeposited natural fill suggestive of a late date and there was also a feature matching a recently defunct boundary in Trench 27.

All but one of the finds, an undated iron nail from Trench 29, were retrieved from Trenches 1-9 (Areas 8 and 9), adjacent to London Road.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken on land at London Road, Quarrington, Lincolnshire as geophysical survey had identified anomalies of probable archaeological origin and the proximity of an extensive settlement of early to middle Saxon date.

The evaluation revealed an enclosure ditch of probable 1st century AD Late Iron Age date matching geophysical anomalies. There was also a ditch, gullies and two small pits indicative of Roman occupation. The presence of roofing tile suggested a tiled roofed building in the vicinity. The largest ditch was of very late Roman, possibly early 5th century, date, suggesting possible continuation of occupation with the Early Saxon site a short distance to the west.

Many of the geophysical anomalies in the eastern and southern parts of the site were found to be of natural, agricultural or modern origin.

Artefacts retrieved included Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, ceramic building material including Roman roof tile, quernstone and animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Dawson of CgMs for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

LHER Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record

AOD Above Ordnance Datum



Figure 1 - General location plan

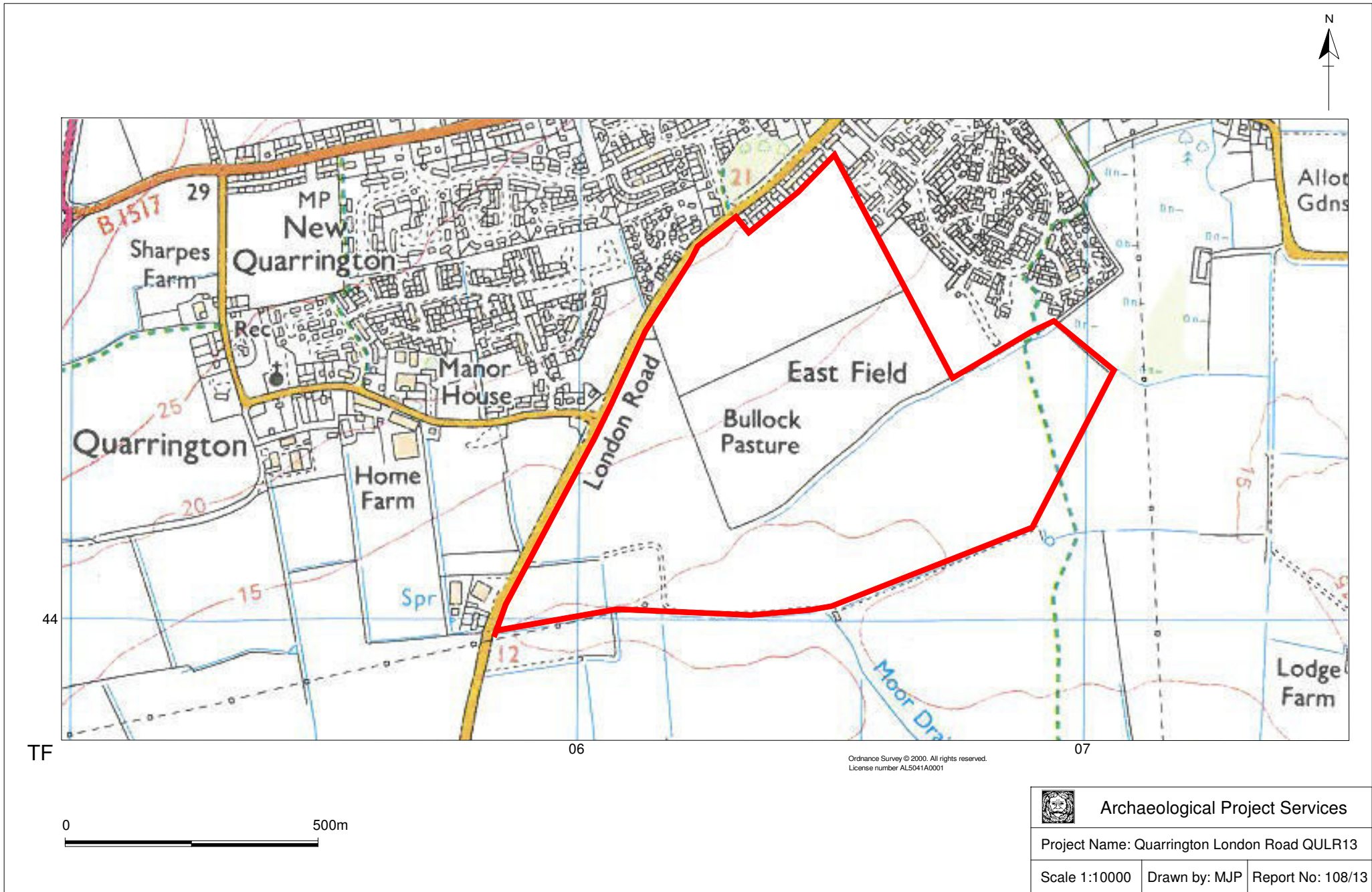


Figure 2. Site Location Plan

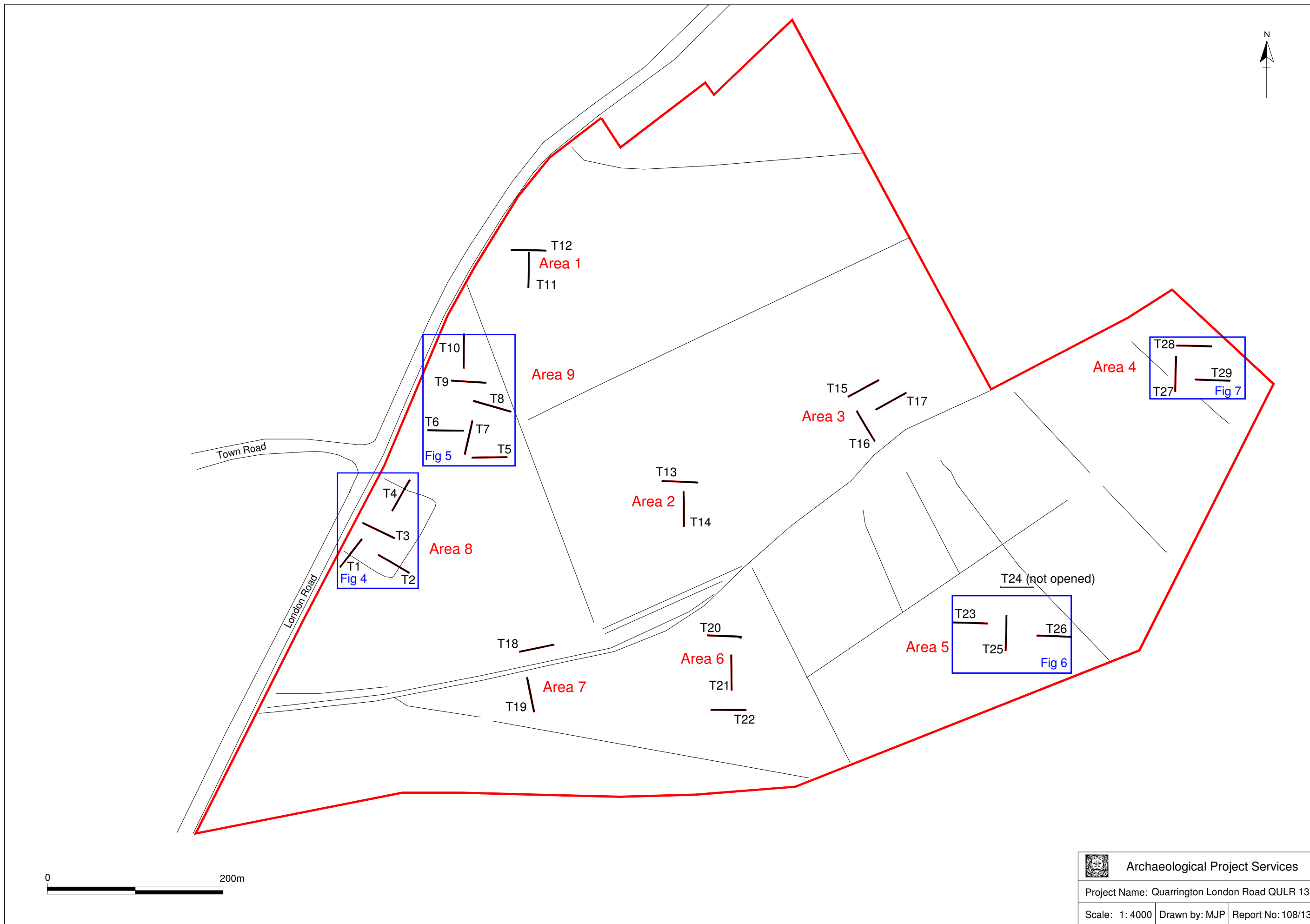


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan

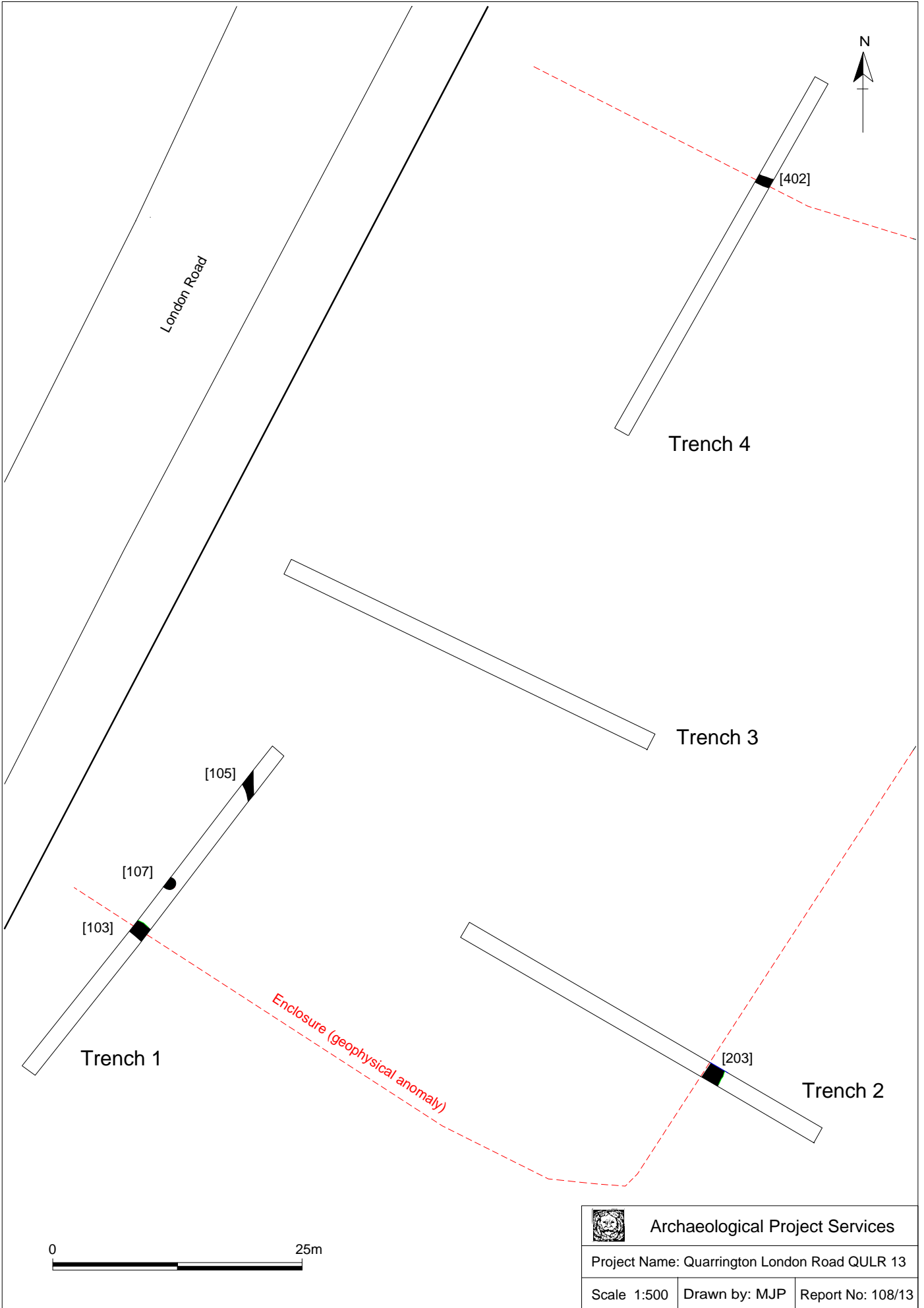


Figure 4. Plan of Area 8 trenches

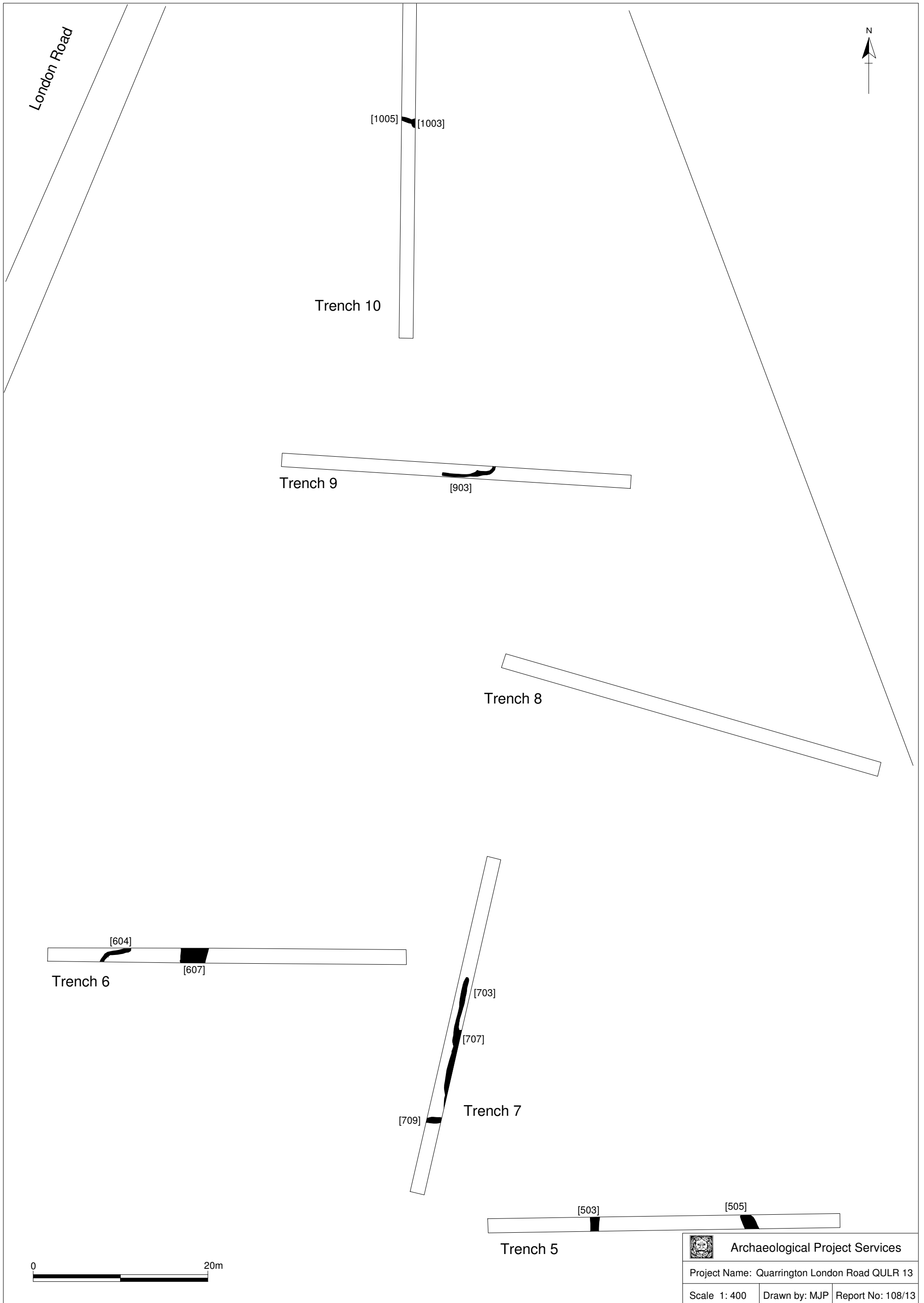


Figure 5. Plan of Area 9 trenches

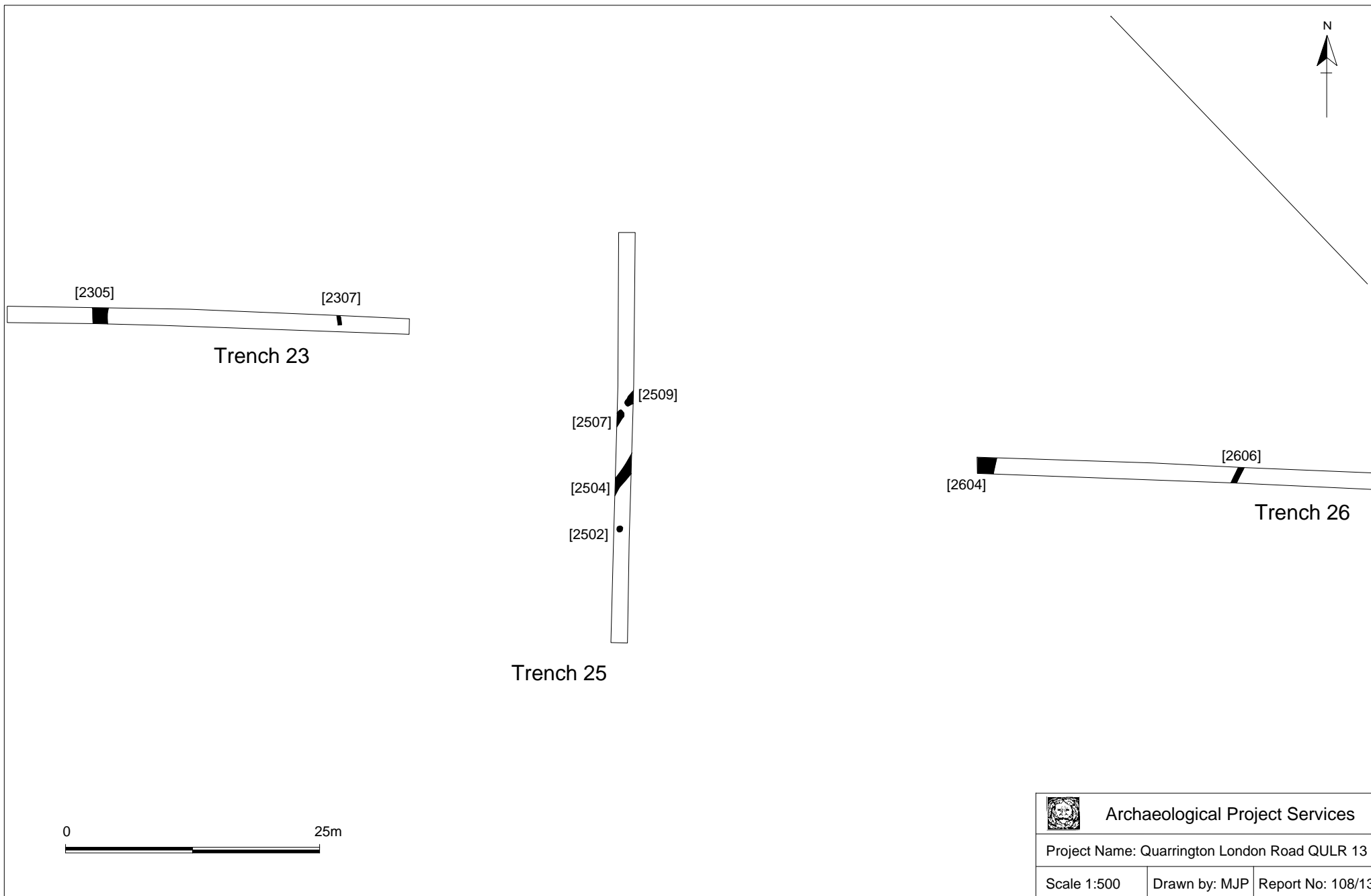



Figure 6. Plan of Area 5 trenches

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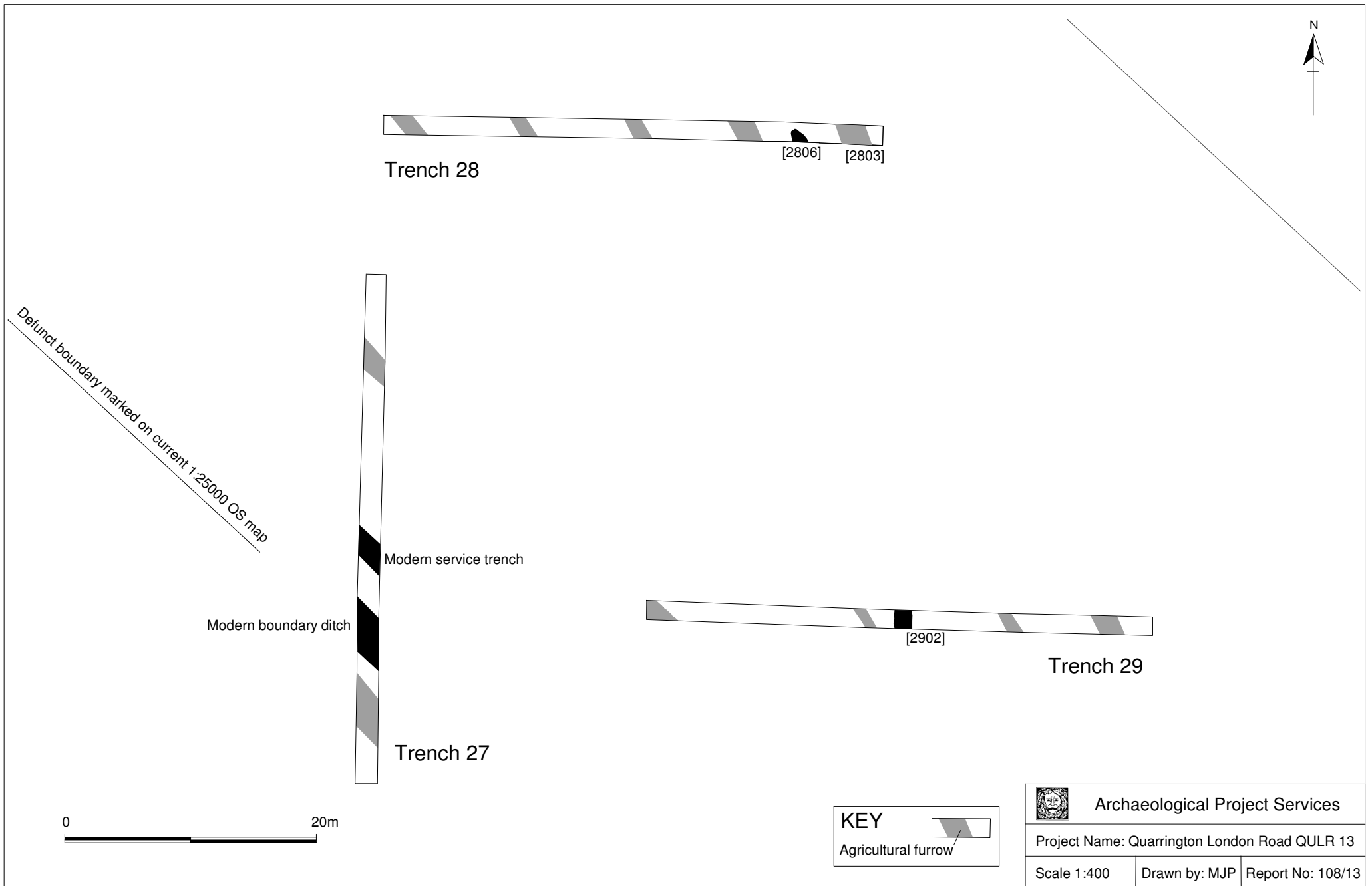


Figure 7. Plan of Area 4 trenches

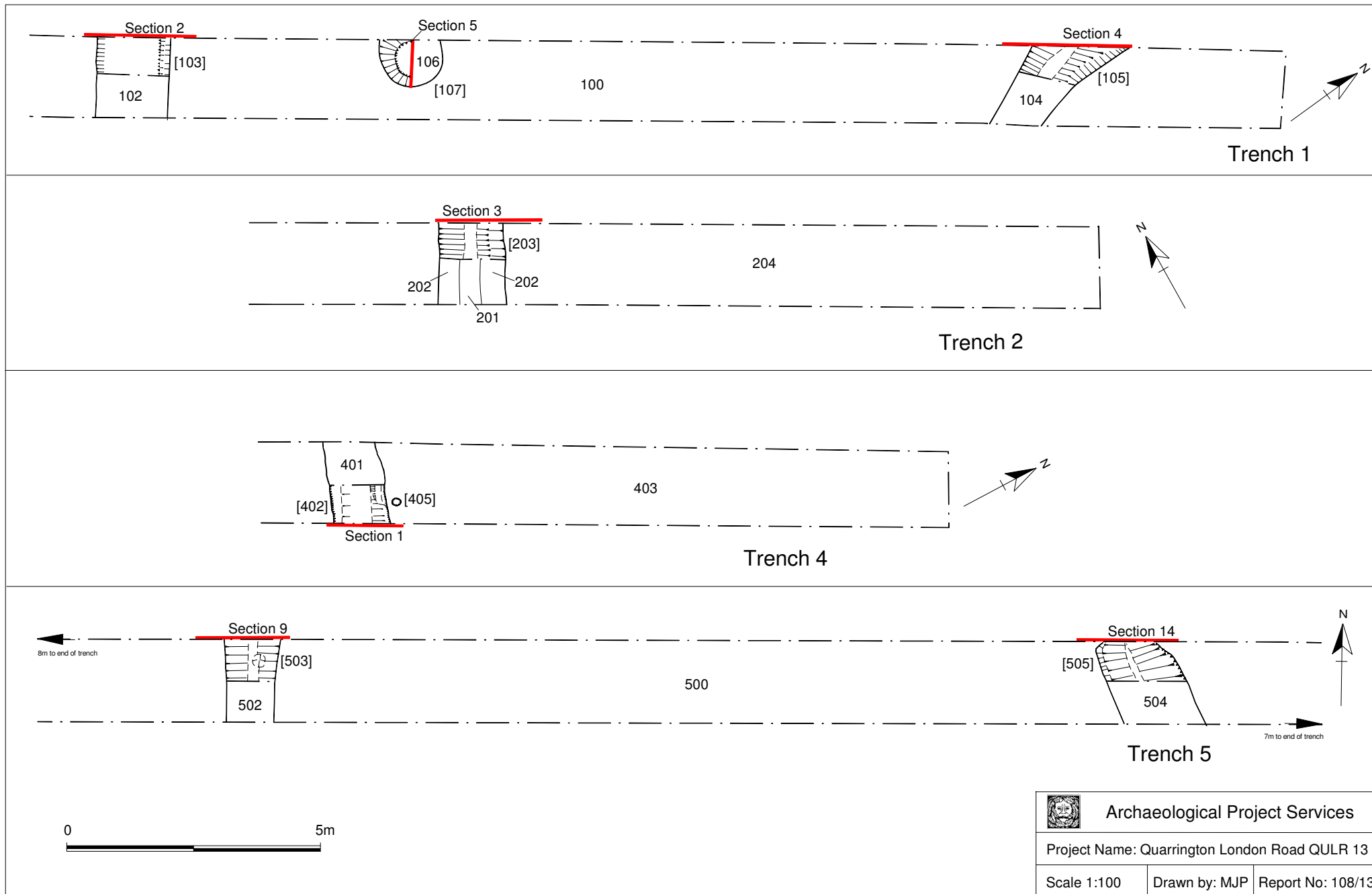


Figure 8. Plans of Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5

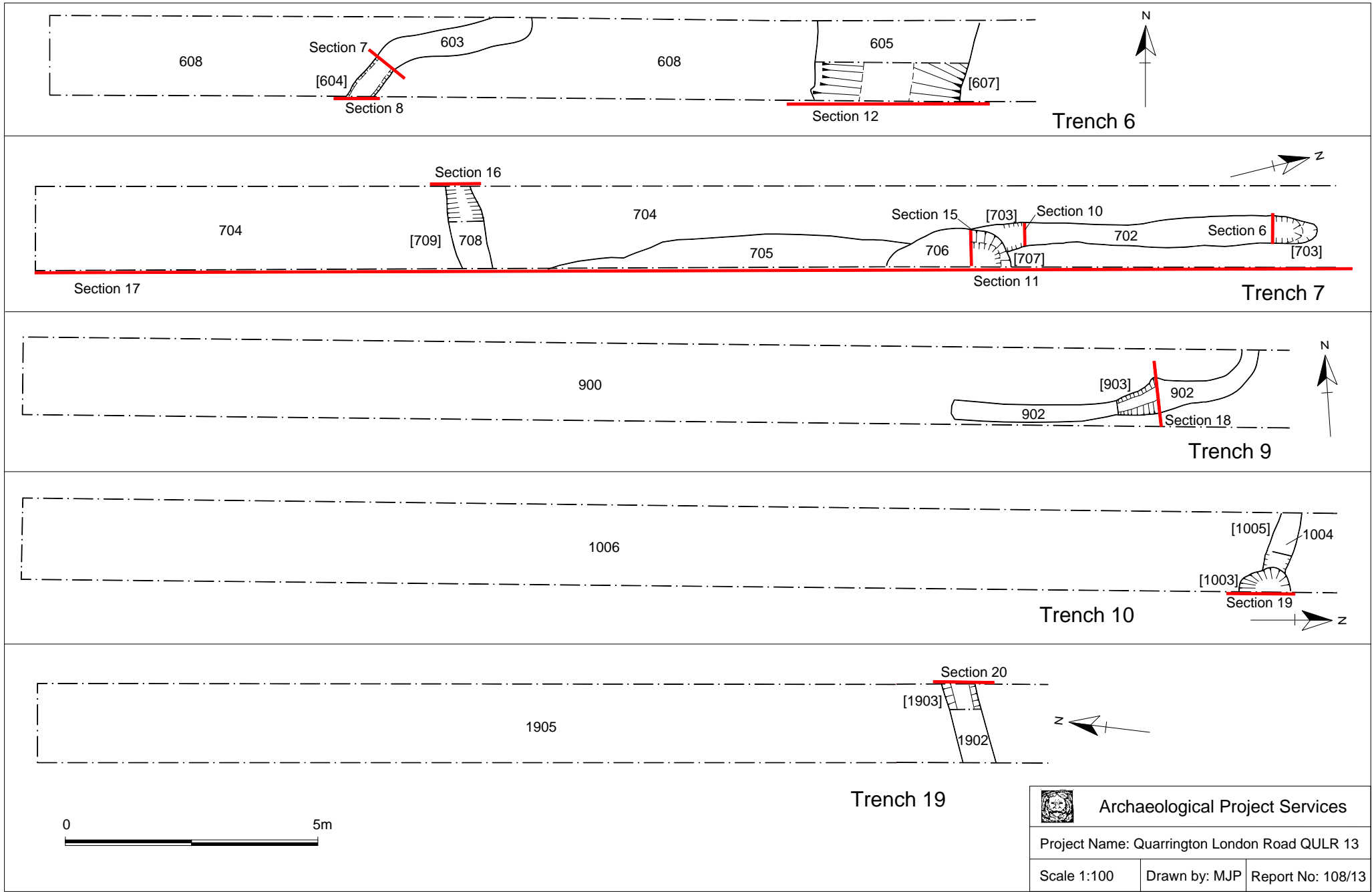


Figure 9. Plans of Trenches 6, 7, 9, 10, 19

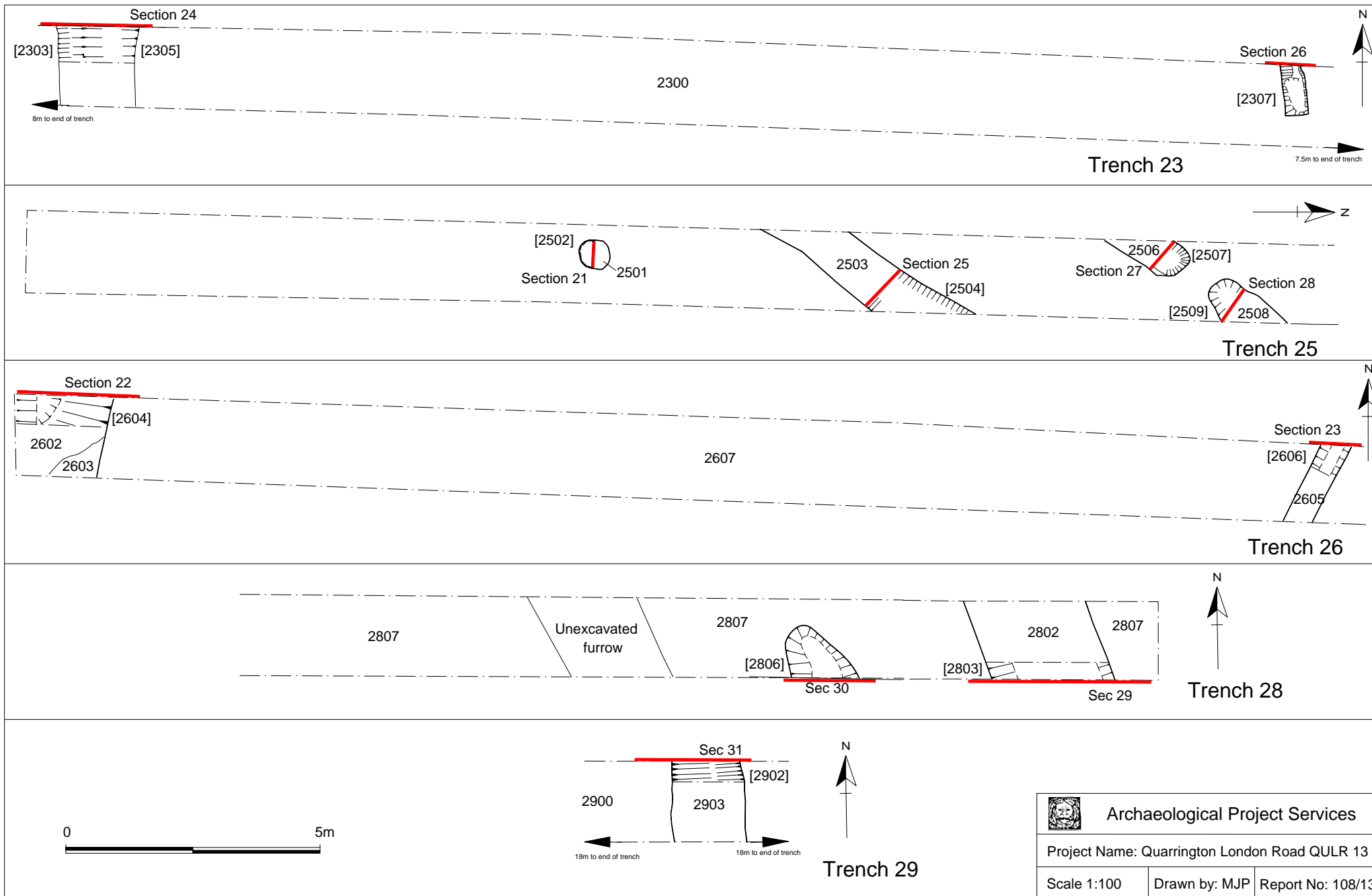
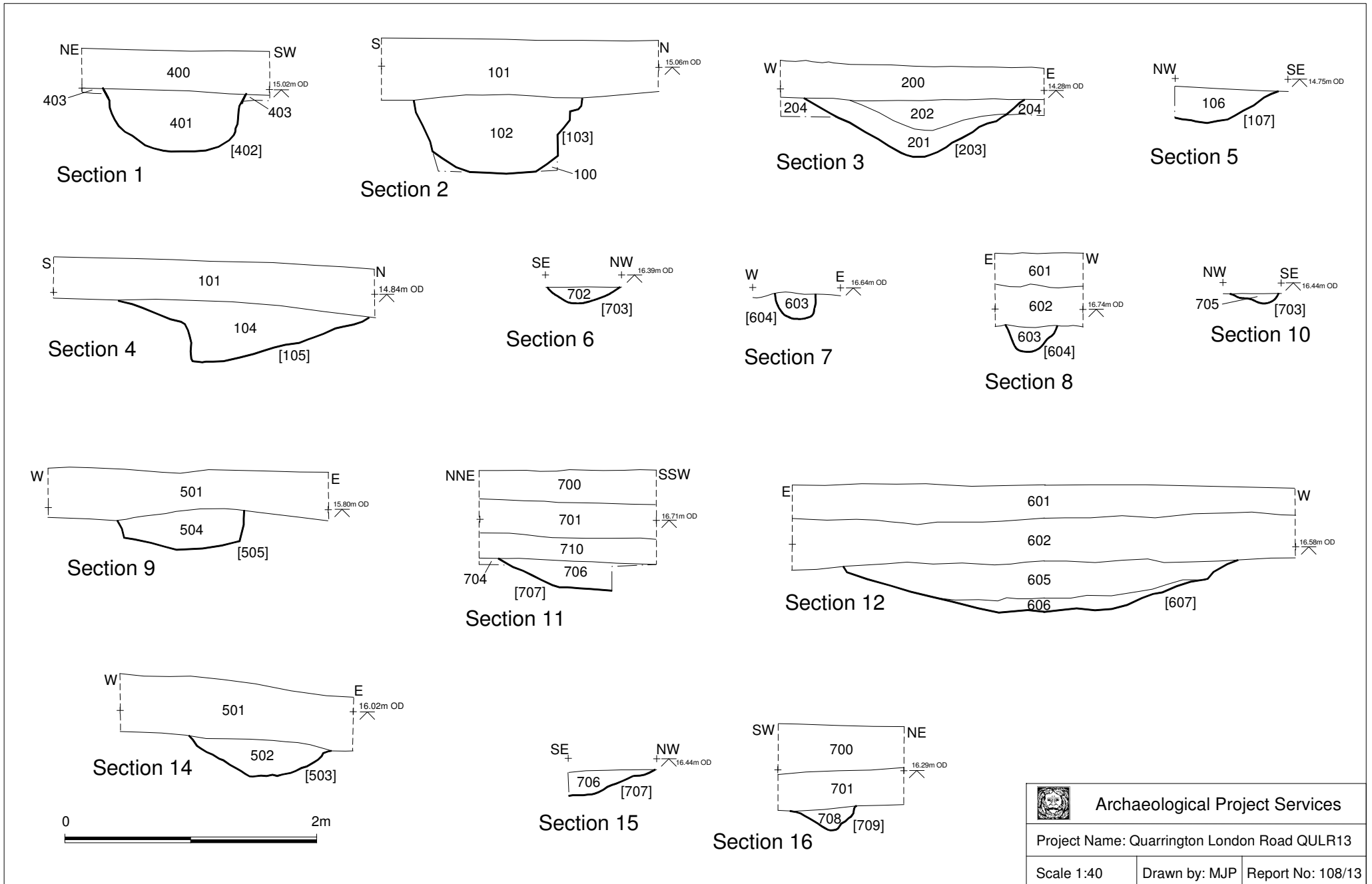


Figure 10. Plans of Trenches 23, 25, 26, 28, 29




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Figure 11. Sections 1-16

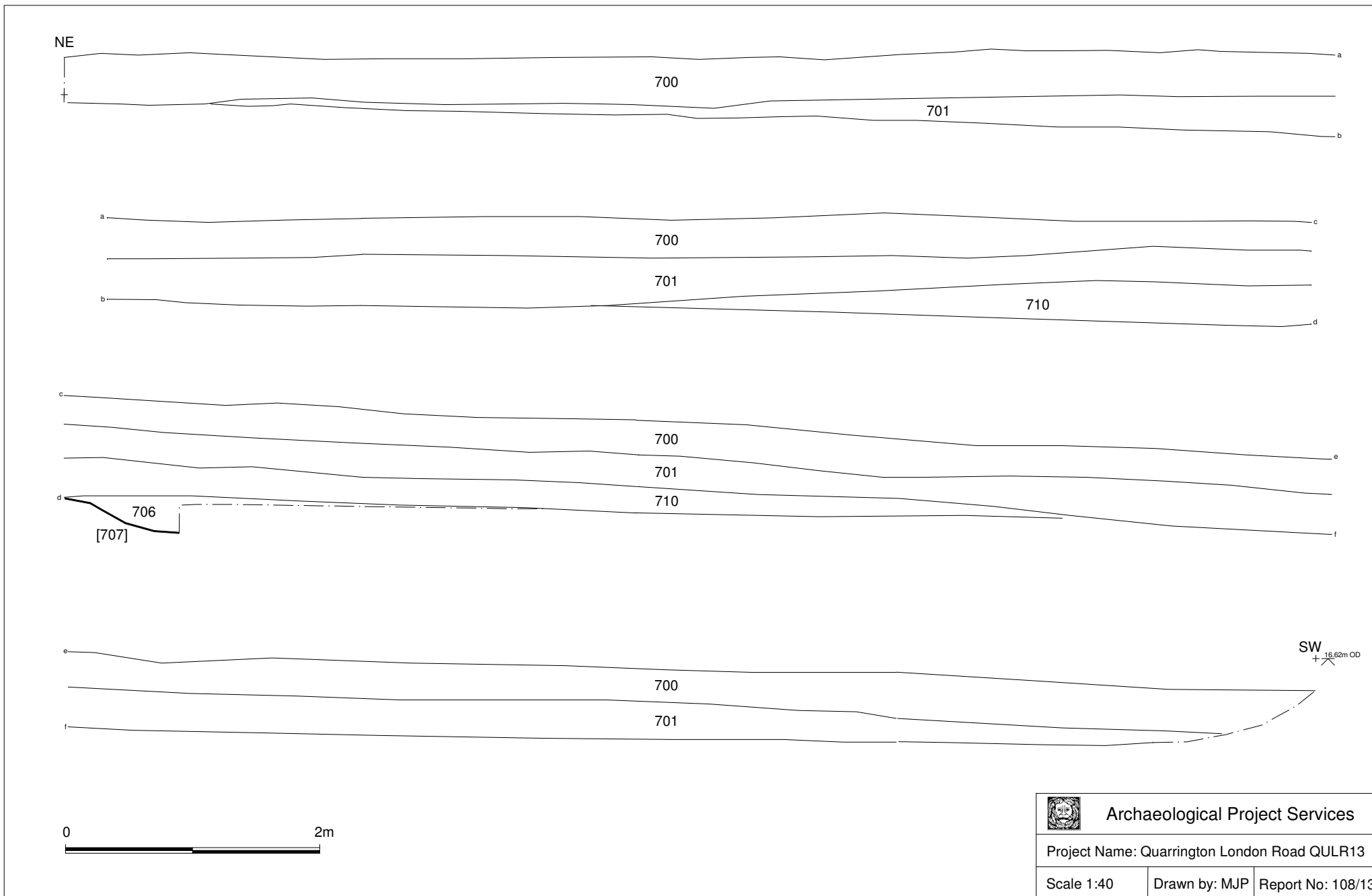
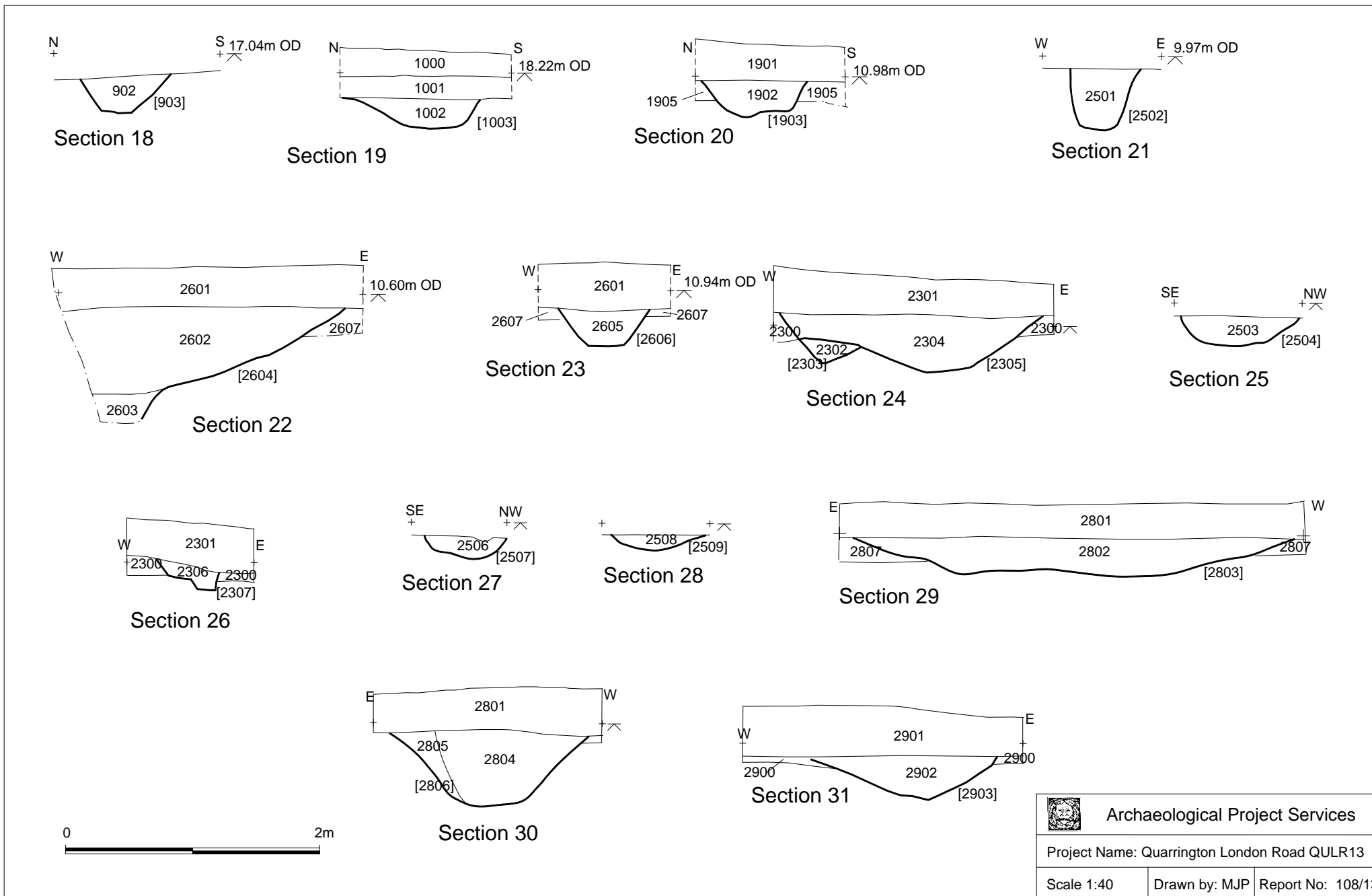


Figure 12. Section 17, Trench 7




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Figure 13. Sections 18-31



Plate 1. Pre-machining view of Area 9, Trenches 5-10, looking north



Plate 2. Trench 1, Ditch [103], Section 2, looking northwest



Plate 3. Trench 1, Ditch [105], Section 4, looking northwest



Plate 4. Trench 2, Ditch [203],
Section 3, looking northeast



Plate 5. Trench 4, Post hole [405], Ditch [402], Section 1, looking southeast



Plate 6. Post hole [405] seen from above



Plate 7. Trench 6, Ditch [607], Section 12, looking south



Plate 8. Trench 7 looking northeast.
Section 17 through headland on
right



Plate 9. Trench 7, Ditch terminus [703], Section 6, looking southwest



Plate 10. Trench 7, Pit [707], Section 15, looking southwest



Plate 11. Trench 9, curvilinear ditch [904], Section 18, looking east

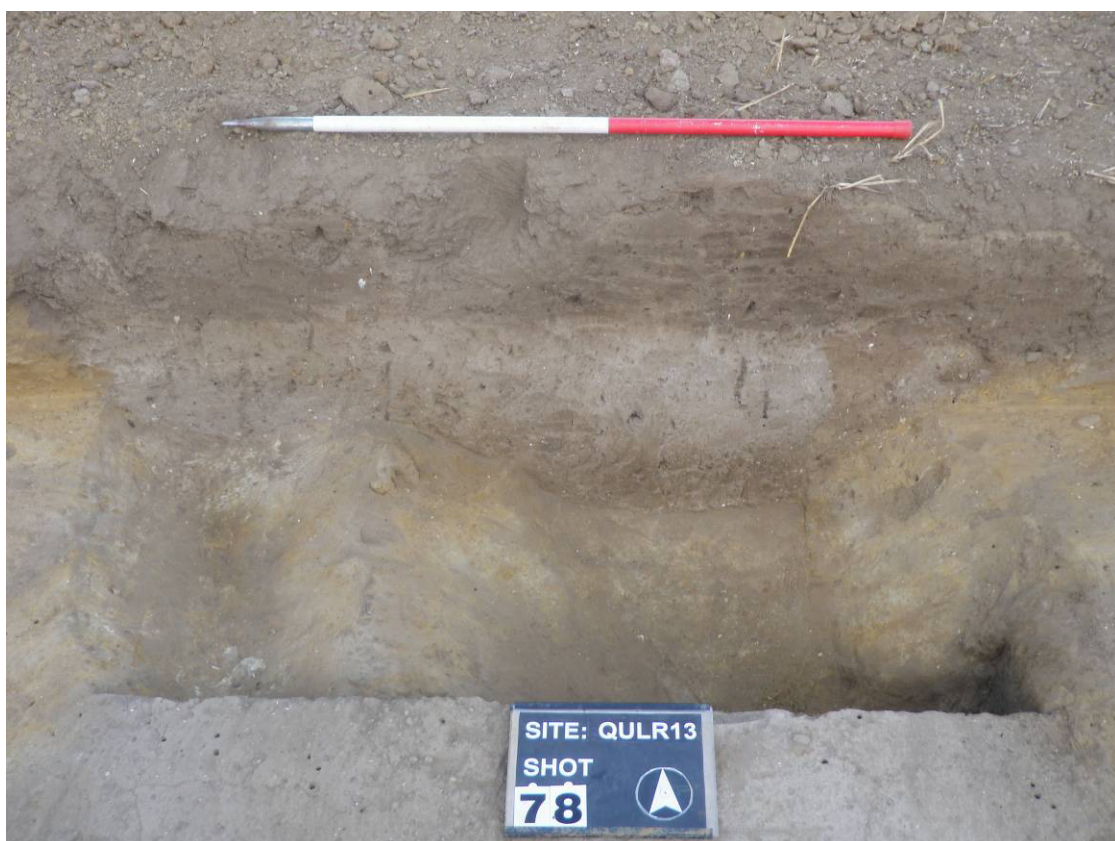


Plate 12. Trench 23, Ditches [2303] and [2305], Section 24, looking north

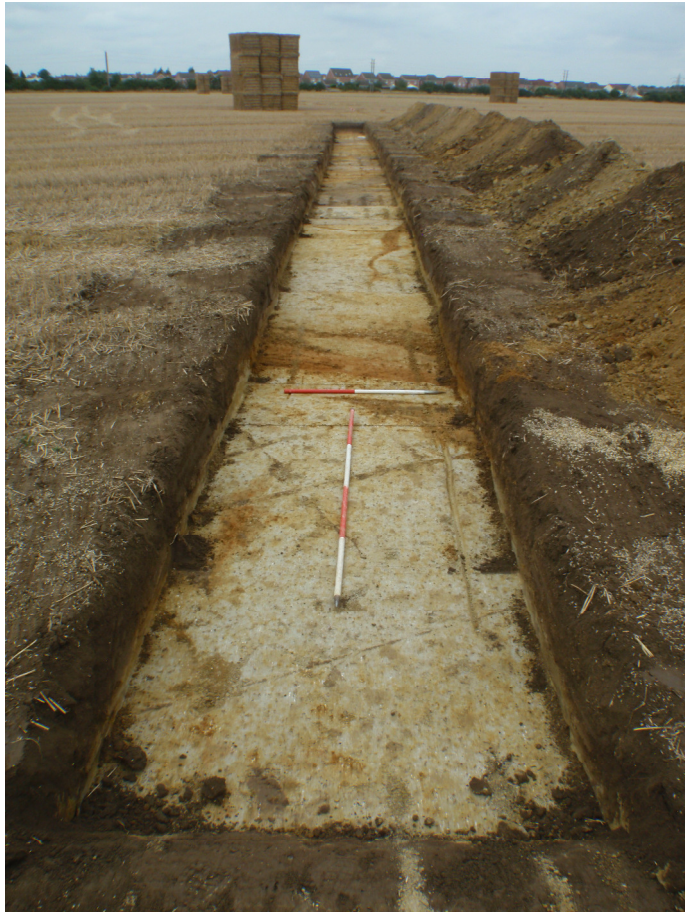


Plate 13, Trench 25 looking north



Plate 14. Trench 25, Post hole [2502],
Section 21, looking north



Plate 15. Trench 25, Ditch terminus [2507], Section 27, looking southwest



Plate 16. Trench 28, Furrow [2803], Section 29, looking south

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
100	1	Firm medium reddish brown limestone brash mixed with slightly silty sand	Natural	
101	1	Mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional limestone frags, 0.45m thick	Topsoil	
102	1	Firm mid reddish brown silty sand with 15% angular platy limestone frags and occasional charcoal flecks, 0.73m thick	Fill of [103]	Late Iron Age
103	1	NW-SE aligned cut with irregular steep sides and flat base, at least 1.6m long, 1.3m wide, 0.73m deep	Cut of enclosure ditch (suggested by geophysics)	Late Iron Age
104	1	Firm mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional limestone frags, 0.55m thick	Fill of [105]	
105	1	N-S aligned linear cut with steep sides and irregular flattish base, at least 1.6m long, 2m wide, 0.55m deep	Cut of ditch	
106	1	Hard mid yellow brown sandy silt (50%) and limestone frags (50%), 0.28m thick	Fill of [107]	
107	1	Sub-circular cut with uneven sides and base, 1.24m wide, 0.28m deep	Cut of small pit	
200	2	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
201	2	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags and frequent sub-angular small stones. 0.2m thick	Initial silting fill of [203]	
202	2	Firm dark yellow brown silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.23m thick	Fill of [203]	
203	2	NE-SW aligned linear cut with fairly steep sides and rounded base, 1.8m wide, 0.43m deep, same as [103] according to geophysics. Less compact natural may account for shallower sides	Cut of enclosure ditch	
204	2	Loose mid yellow brown limestone brash	Natural	
301	3	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil	
302	3	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
400	4	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
401	4	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.5m thick	Fill of [402]	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
402	4	NW-SE aligned linear cut with steep sides and rounded base, at least 1.6m long, 1.1m wide, 0.5m deep. Same as [103] and [203] according to geophysics	Cut of enclosure ditch	
403	4	Hard light yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
404	4	Hard dark yellow brown sandy silt with occasional stones, 0.22m thick	Fill of [405]	
405	4	Circular cut with near vertical sides and rounded base, 0.14m diameter, 0.22m deep	Small post hole on NE side of enclosure ditch [402]	
500	5	Hard mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
501	5	Friable dark brownish grey silty sand with occasional limestone frags, 0.46m thick	Topsoil	
502	5	Firm mid brownish yellow silty sand (80%), limestone frags (20%), 0.3m thick	Fill of [503]	
503	5	N-S aligned linear cut with irregular sides and base, at least 1.6m long, 1.12m wide, 0.3m deep	Cut of ditch	
504	5	Firm mid yellow limestone frags (60%)/ silty sand (40%) with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.3m thick	Fill of [505]	
505	5	NNW-SSE aligned linear cut with vertical east side and irregular west side and base, at least 1.6m long, 1m wide, 0.3m deep	Cut of ditch	
601	6	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.28m thick	Topsoil	
602	6	Friable dark slightly reddish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil, probably headland	
603	6	Compacted dark orange brown silty sand (70%)/limestone frags (30%), 0.2m thick	Fill of [604]	
604	6	NE-SW aligned linear cut with steep sides and rounded base, at least 3m long, 0.33m wide, 0.2m deep	Cut of gully	
605	6	Firm dark brownish orange silty sand (80%)/limestone frags (20%) with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.3m thick	Upper fill of [607]	Mid 4 th -early 5 th century
606	6	Firm light orange brown silty sand (90%)/limestone frags (10%), 0.15m thick	Lower fill of [607]	Mid 4 th -early 5 th century
607	6	N-S aligned linear cut with moderately steep sides and flattish base, at least 1.6m long, 3.1m wide, 0.45m deep	Cut of ditch	Mid 4 th -early 5 th century
608	6	Loose yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
700	7	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent	Topsoil	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
		limestone frags, 0.3m thick		
701	7	Firm dark slightly reddish brown sandy silt with occasional limestone frags, 0.37m thick	Subsoil, probably headland	
702	7	Hard light yellow grey brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.13m thick	Fill of [703]	Roman
703	7	NE-SW aligned cut with shallow sides and uneven base, at least 15m long, 0.53m wide, 0.13m deep	Ditch terminus	Roman
704	7	Loose yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
705	7	Hard light yellow grey brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.09m thick, same as (702)	Fill of [703]	Roman
706	7	Hard mid grey brown sandy silt (70%)/limestone frags (30%) with occasional burnt stone, 0.19m thick	Fill of [707]	3 rd - 4 th century
707	7	Oval cut with shallow sides and uneven base, 2.16m long, 0.7m wide, 0.19m deep	Cut of pit	3 rd - 4 th century
708	7	Hard mid yellow brown sandy silt (70%), limestone frags (30%), large stones towards top of deposit, 0.17m thick	Fill of [709]	Roman
709	7	E-W aligned linear cut with steep sides and uneven base, 0.5m wide, 0.17m deep	Cut of small ditch	Roman
710	7	Hard mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.35m thick	Spread sealing Trench 7 features	
801	8	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
802	8	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
900	9	Firm yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
901	9	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional limestone frags, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
902	9	Soft mid reddish grey slightly sandy silt with occasional limestone frags, 0.3m thick	Fill of [903]	
903	9	E-W aligned curvilinear cut with steep sides and flat base, at least 7m long, 0.7m wide, 0.3m deep, ploughed out at western end	Cut of ditch	
1000	10	Hard mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
1001	10	Hard dark yellow brown sandy silt with frequent limestone frags, 0.16m thick	Subsoil	
1002	10	Firm mottled dark yellow brown/dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone frags, 0.2m thick	Fill of [1003]	Late 1 st - early 2 nd century
1003	10	Sub-circular cut with steep sides and uneven base,	Cut of small pit	Late 1 st - early 2 nd century

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
		0.9m diameter, 0.2m deep		century
1004	10	Firm mottled dark yellow brown/dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone frags, 0.05m thick	Fill of [1005]	
1005	10	WNW-ESE aligned linear cut with shallow sides and uneven base, at least 1.55m long, 0.36m wide, 0.05m deep	Cut of gully	
1006	10	Firm yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1101	11	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
1102	11	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash with sandier patches	Natural	
1201	12	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
1202	12	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1301	13	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
1302	13	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1401	14	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil	
1402	14	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1501	15	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
1502	15	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1503	15	Solid light yellowish grey limestone bedrock	Natural	
1601	16	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
1602	16	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1603	16	Solid light yellowish grey limestone bedrock	Natural	
1701	17	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil	
1702	17	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1703	17	Solid light yellowish grey limestone bedrock	Natural	
1801	18	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil	
1802	18	Loose mid yellowish brown limestone brash	Natural	
1901	19	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.31m thick	Topsoil	
1902	19	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles, 0.29m thick	Fill of [1903]	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
1903	19	E-W aligned linear cut with steep, concave sides and uneven base, at least 1.6m long, 0.83m wide, 0.29m deep	Cut of gully, probably for drainage	
1904	19	Firm blueish grey clay, up to 0.5m thick	Alluvium	
1905	19	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt	Natural	
2001	20	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded pebbles, 0.22m thick	Topsoil	
2002	20	Firm blueish grey clay mottled with patches of orange/light grey sandy clay, thickens from 0.33m at west end to 0.65m at east end	Alluvium	
2003	20	Fairly firm mottled orange/light grey clayey sand	Natural	
2101	21	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.36m thick	Topsoil	
2102	21	Soft dark grey silty clay, 0.09m thick	Alluvium	
2103	21	Firm light brownish yellow, with grey mottles, clayey sand	Natural	
2201	22	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil	
2202	22	Firm mottled mid greyish brown/light grey clayey sand	Natural	
2300	23	Firm mid brownish orange, with patches of light greyish green, silty clay	Natural	
2301	23	Friable dark grey silty sand, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
2302	23	Very firm mid whitish grey slightly sandy clay, 0.2m thick	Fill of [2303]	
2303	23	N-S aligned linear cut with gradually sloping sides and V shaped base, at least 1.6m long, 0.48m wide, 0.2m deep	Cut of ditch	
2304	23	Firm mid brownish grey slightly sandy clay, 0.48m thick	Fill of [2305]	
2305	23	N-S aligned linear cut with steeper western side and flat abse, at least 1.6m long, 2.15m wide, 0.48m deep	Recut of ditch [2303]	
2306	23	Friable dark grey silty sand, 0.19m thick	Fill of [2307]	
2307	23	Irregular sub-rectangular cut with steep sides and flat base, at least 1m long, up to 0.45m wide, 0.19m deep	Cut of pit	
2500	25	Hard mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
2501	25	Firm dark grey brown/light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal, 0.47m thick	Fill of [2502]	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
2502	25	Circular cut with almost vertical sides and flattish base, 0.56m diameter, 0.47m deep	Cut of post hole	
2503	25	Firm light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, 0.23m thick	Fill of [2504]	
2504	25	NE-SW aligned linear cut with steeper SE side and rounded base, 0.93m wide, 0.23m deep	Cut of ditch	
2505	25	Hard light yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small stones	Natural	
2506	25	Firm light grey brown sandy silt with occasional limestone frags, 0.18m thick	Fill of [2507]	
2507	25	NE-SW aligned linear cut with gently sloping sides and uneven base, 0.65m wide, 0.18m deep	Cut of ditch terminus	
2508	25	Firm light grey brown sandy silt with occasional limestone frags and manganese flecks, 0.12m thick	Fill of [2509]	
2509	25	NE-SW aligned linear cut with concave sides and rounded base, 0.73m wide, 0.12m deep	Cut of ditch terminus, similar and adjacent to [2507]	
2601	26	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, up to 0.37m thick	Topsoil	
2602	26	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded pebbles, 0.7m thick	Top fill of [2604]	
2603	26	Soft mix of mottled orange /light grey silty sand (redeposited natural) and dark greyish brown clayey silt, at least 0.25m thick	Lower fill of [2604]	
2604	26	NNE-SSW aligned linear cut with fairly steep sides, not bottomed, at least 1.55m long, at least 2.4m wide, at least 0.95m deep	Cut of large ditch, probable post-medieval field boundary	
2605	26	Soft mid brown silty sand, 0.28m thick	Fill of [2606]	
2606	26	NNE-SSW aligned cut with fairly steep, straight sides and flatbase, at least 1.6m long, 0.7m wide, 0.28m deep	Cut of ditch, probably for drainage	
2607	26	Firm mottled orange/light grey clayey sand	Natural	
2700	27	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
2701	27	Hard mid yellow brown sandy silt with patches of gravel	Natural	
2801	28	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, up to 0.38m thick	Topsoil	
2802	28	Firm light greyish brown silty clay with occasional small angular to rounded stones, up to 0.15m thick	Fill of [2803]	
2803	28	NW-SE aligned linear cut with moderate sloping sides and uneven base, at least 1.6m long, 3.4m	Cut of plough furrow, one of several parallel	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
		wide, up to 0.15m deep	in this area	
2804	28	Fairly firm very dark grey ashy silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded pebbles, 0.6m thick	Top fill of [2806]	
2805	28	Fairly firm mid yellowish grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded stones, 0.55m thick	Lower fill of [2806]	
2806	28	Irregular shaped cut with slightly convex, steep sides and rounded base, at least 1m long, 1.55m wide, 0.6m deep	Natural feature, burnt tree throw?	
2807	28	Fairly firm orange sand and gravel with light yellowish grey clayey silt mottles	Natural	
2900	29	Firm light brownish orange sandy clay	Natural	
2901	29	Friable dark grey sandy silt, 0.45m thick	Topsoil	
2902	29	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.35m thick	Fill of [2903]	
2903	29	N-S aligned linear cut with moderate sloping V shaped profile, at least 1.55m long, 1.25m wide, 0.35m deep	Cut of ditch	

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

ROMAN AND LATE IRON AGE POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery was recorded using the codes and system developed for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious, forthcoming). A total of 135 sherds from 58 vessels, weighing 2813 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary of fabric types shown in Table 1 below.

Condition

The condition of the pottery is mixed, but generally fragmentary, although there are a relatively high number of vessels represented by more than one sherd. The overall average sherd weight is moderately low at 21 grams and at least some of this material is likely to be redeposited and / or residual. Sherds from eight vessels are noticeably abraded, whilst seven are burnt or sooted over at least one broken edge. Fragments from five vessels show signs of use, with visible sooting suggestive of use over a hearth or fire.

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from five of the excavated trenches, all but one of which (Tr 1), were in Area 9. Ditches [103] in Trench 1, [607] in Trench 6, [703] and [709] in Trench 7 and [903] in Trench 9 produced material, as did pits [707] in Trench 7 and [1003] in Trench 10.

Range

Although a total of five trenches yielded material, the vast majority of the pottery (91%) came from features in Trenches 6 and 7.

Fabrics

There is a restricted range of pottery types; the assemblage is dominated by utilitarian greywares, which make up 71% of the total by vessel count. A high proportion of the greyware fabrics are blue-grey in colour, a characteristic feature of much of pottery of this kind, made in northern and western Lincolnshire during the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Pieces from just six vessels are classed as 'fineware' types; these include three vessels in Samian ware, all of which are likely to be residual within later contexts. Colour coated wares are notably lacking, with just a single piece recorded.

There is just one sherd in a Late Iron Age type Fabric (fine shell tempered) (IASHF), although the pieces of undifferentiated shell tempered pottery (SHEL) recorded are fragmentary and undiagnostic; it is possible that this category could in fact, contain some Iron Age material. Two unusual vessels in a handmade 'Native' type fabric (NAT) from Trench 6 are discussed in the distribution and dating section below.

Table 1, Summary of the Roman Pottery

Fabric	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Samian	SAMEG	East Gaulish Samian Ware	1	1	33
	SAMSG	South Gaulish Samian Ware	2	2	18
Fine	CC	Undifferentiated Colour-Coated	1	1	7
	NVCC	Nene Valley Colour-Coated	2	2	11

Fabric	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Oxidised	CR	Creamware	1	1	34
Reduced	BBT	Black Burnished Ware 1 Type	1	1	23
	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	90	41	2292
Various	NAT	Native Tradition Types	20	2	114
Shell	DWSH	Dalesware Late Shell Tempered	12	2	173
	IASHF	Iron Age Tradition Fine Shell-Tempered	1	1	11
	SHEL	Undifferentiated Shell-Tempered	4	4	97
Total			135	58	2813

Forms

This is an overwhelmingly domestic assemblage, and not one which could be classed as high status. There are just two beakers and no other vessels of the type associated with Romanised styles of cooking, and food consumption such as such as flagons, mortaria or amphorae. The forms here are mostly jars or coarse, greyware bowl types. Most of the diagnostically significant vessel forms are typically late Roman; these include Beaded and Flanged Bowls (BFL), Double Lid Seated Jars (JDLS), Bowls with Inturned Beads and Flanges (BIBF) and Jars with Dales Ware Type Rims (JDW).

Table 2, Summary of the Form Types Recorded

Form	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Beaker	BK	Unclassified Beaker	1	1	16
	BKBARB	Beaker with Barbotine Decoration	1	1	3
Jar	J	Unclassified Jar	14	10	320
	JCUR	Jar with Curved Rim	3	1	66
	JDLS	Jar with Double Lid Seated Rim	11	1	152
	JDW	Jar with Dales Ware Type Rim	1	1	5
	JEV	Jar with Everted Rim	18	1	104
	JL	Large Jar	3	2	245
	JLS	Lid seated Jar	5	1	75
Closed	CLSD	Closed Form	1	1	8
Jar/Bowl	JB	Unclassified Jar/Bowl	18	12	319
	JBCUR	Jar/Bowl with Curved Rim	3	3	28
	JBEV	Jar/Bowl with Everted Rim	2	1	10
	JBL	Large Jar/Bowl	10	2	287
Bowl	B	Unclassified Bowl	6	2	81
	BFB	Bead and Flange Rim Bowl	1	1	23
	BIBF	Bowl with Inturned Bead and Flange Rim	13	3	783
	BWM	Wide Mouthed Bowl	4	1	18
	BWM1	Early Wide Mouthed Bowl (Type 1)	5	1	134
	SAMB	Samian Bowl Form	1	1	33
Bowl/Dish	BD	Unclassified Bowl or Dish	1	1	4
	SAMBD	Samian Bowl or Dish Form	1	1	14
Undiagnostic	U	Undiagnostic of Form	12	9	85
Total			135	58	2813

Distribution and Dating – Area 8

Trench 1 - A sherd of Iron Age Type fine Shell Tempered pottery (IASHF) was recovered from Enclosure Ditch [103] within this trench. This handmade piece is Late Iron Age or perhaps Early Roman in date, and probably predates the 2nd century AD.

Distribution and Dating – Area 9

Trench 6 - Ditch [607] was the only feature in this Trench to produce pottery. A total of 98 sherds from 38 vessels were recovered from two fill contexts here, (605) and (606). This is an important late Roman ditch group with some fresh material, including smashed vessels. Fragments from vessel types including three Greyware (GREY) bowls with Inturned bead and flange profiles, and a double lid seated jar in shelly late Roman Dalesware fabric (DWSH), date this context to the very late Roman period, probably the mid 4th to early 5th century. Assemblages of this date are not common from rural sites in this region and the close proximity of this area to a known site of Saxon date is of special note.

Two vessels recorded as Native Tradition type ware (NAT) are very interesting and quite unusual. Both are handmade and have simple curved and everted rims. One, a jar with a slight shoulder or gentle carination below the neck, has shell and sand tempering whilst the second, either a jar or a bowl, is in a similar fabric without shell. Superficially these pieces would appear to be Iron Age in date, which they may be, but one of these, the jar vessel, comprises 17 sherds; a fresh item which seems unlikely to have been redeposited. The recovery of a smashed vessel of this type, within a context of very late Roman date, is of great interest, especially in the light of the continued production of handmade shell tempered pottery of the Dalesware type, in 4th century Lincolnshire. The vessels could be Saxon, although the smashed shell tempered vessel in particular, is quite atypical of that ceramic tradition in both fabric and form. In the south and southeast of England, handmade wares tempered with grog are known to have been produced in the later 4th century, with these industries believed to have continued, to some extent at least, well into the 5th; perhaps producing for decades after AD400 (Malcolm Lyne, Pers Comm.).

Trench 7- Pit [707] produced the largest amount of pottery within this trench, with 12 sherds recovered. All the material, with the exception of one tiny shell tempered piece (SHEL), derives from sandy greyware vessels of some type. A rim from a Dalesware Rim type Jar (JDW) is likely to be third or fourth century in date. Ditch [703] gave a total of eight pieces of pottery the only diagnostic sherd of which is a small abraded sherd in Nene Valley Colour Coated ware. This piece was produced between the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries but is quite probably residual. A total of five sherds from a single greyware jar or bowl, recovered from ditch [709], are also Roman.

Trench 9- A single sherd of greyware came from ditch [903] in Trench 9; the sherd is undiagnostic.

Trench 10- A total of ten fragments of Roman pottery, from three vessels, came from Pit [1003]. The only diagnostically significant piece is a very abraded body sherd from a bowl or dish in South Gaulish Samian Ware (SAMSG). This vessel was manufactured between the mid 1st to early 2nd century AD, but may well be residual.

Potential

Trench 6 produced a very interesting and unusual late Roman assemblage and Trench 7 also yielded stratified material, from a number of features, likely to be of a similar date. This area, Area 9, shows good potential for further discoveries which could help broaden our understanding of the Late Roman period in this area and might shed light on the nature of the Saxon transition in Quarrington and further afield. Further excavation of the ditch enclosure in Area 8 would hopefully allow a more precise date for this feature to be ascertained, while comparative analysis of the handmade ceramic assemblages which would hopefully be recovered from both the non-Roman and later Roman features here would also be beneficial. All of the pottery would certainly warrant re-examination in the light of any further work, especially the Native tradition fabrics (NAT).

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive; it is stable and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Three vessels have been chosen for illustration if another phase of work is carried out. All of the chosen vessels are from the late Roman ditch group recovered from within cut [607], within Trench 6. The recommended items are identified in

the 'Dr' column of the archive Catalogue with a capital letter 'Y'. A stamped Samian ware bowl sherd, also from this feature should be sent to a relevant Samian specialist for further identification.

Summary

A total of five trenches produced Roman or Late Iron Age pottery, with a range of ditch and pit features producing material. Trenches in Area 9, particularly numbers 6 and 7, yielded the bulk of the finds, with an important Late Roman assemblage recorded from here. A large enclosure excavated in Area 8 may be later Iron Age in date although just one small piece of pottery was recovered here.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of two sherds from two vessels, weighing 30 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 3 below. The pottery ranges in date from the later Medieval to the Post Medieval period.

Condition

There are three small sherds; none of the fragments are overly abraded.

Results

Table 3, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Part	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	101	BERTH	Brown Earthenware		Jar or Bowl	Base	17th-18th	2	1	27
9	902	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	SMOOTH	?	BS	15th-16th	1	1	3
Total								3	2	30

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1 (101) and ditch [903] in Trench 9.

Range

A piece of Bourne 'D' ware (BOU) from fill (902) in ditch [903] is small and may be intrusive; both this piece, and the Brown Earthenware (BERTH) from Trench 9, are common domestic types of the Later Medieval and Post Medieval period.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Two sherds of pottery dating from the 15th to 18th century were recovered during the evaluation.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 10 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 949 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 4 below.

Condition

The condition of the material is mixed, with both large fresh pieces and small abraded fragments recorded.

Results

Table 4, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Comment	Date	NoF	W(g)
1	101	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; medium-coarse sandy	Surfaceless flake	Roman or Post Roman	1	3
6	605	RTMISC	Unclassified Tile	Oxidised; medium sandy	Sanded all over; Medieval PNR?	Roman or Medieval	1	192
6	605	TEG	Roman Tegula	Oxidised; medium sandy; Fe Flint	Cloth marks	Roman	2	361
6	606	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	OX/R; fine; Ca	Single sanded surface	Roman or Post Roman	1	5
7	706	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; medium sandy	Single sanded surface; abraded; FCLAY?; sooted	Roman or Post Roman	2	2
7	706	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; fine	Single sanded surface; abraded; FCLAY?	Roman or Post Roman	1	3
7	706	RTMISC	Unclassified Tile	Oxidised; fine; Fe; Ca	Thin -15mm; IMB or TEG?; hard rounded Fe	Roman or Post Roman	1	88
7	706	TEG	Roman Tegula	Oxidised; fine; clay pellets; mica	Knife trimmed base and side; soot over break; white deposit	Roman	1	295
Total							10	949

Provenance

Ceramic building material was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1 (101) as well as ditch [607] in Trench 6 and pit [707] in Trench 7.

Range

Most of the material is undiagnostic. Pieces of tile were recovered from fills (605) in ditch [607] within Trench 6 and (706) in pit [707] within Trench 7. Both of these features produced Roman Tegula roofing tile (TEG), as well as unclassified tile (RTMISC), which could be either Roman or Medieval in date. The presence of roofing tile on the site suggests the existence in antiquity of a structure with a tiled roof nearby.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The ceramic building material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Two features, one in Trench 6 and a second in Trench 7, produced ceramic building material. All of the diagnostic material is Roman in date and includes roofing tile.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 86 (135g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Provenance

The animal bone was recovered from the fill of an enclosure ditch (102) in Area 8, and the fills of ditches (605, 606, 705, 708 and 902) and pits (706 and 1002) in Area 9.

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was variable with most of the bone in a poor state (grades 4 to 5), with good preservation from contexts (605) and (606), in the region of grade 1 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 5, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
102	cattle	molars	-	4	43	chalky
	cattle	incisor	-	1	1	chalky
	cattle	metatarsus	-	5 (join)	112	chalky
	large mammal	tarsals	-	2	16	chalky
	large mammal	?skull	-	3	2	chalky
605	cattle	scapula	Both	9	250	1 juvenile
	cattle	radius	L	2	198	
	cattle	metatarsus	L	1	181	
	large mammal	skull	-	1	13	
	sheep/goat	metatarsus	-	1	19	
	sheep/goat	metacarpus	-	1	11	
	medium mammal	humerus	-	1	19	cut mark
606	cattle	metatarsus	-	2	79	
	large mammal	skull	-	9	39	
	large mammal	long bone	-	7	20	
	sheep/goat	radius	-	2	15	
	sheep/goat	molar	-	1	3	
	medium mammal	humerus	-	1	6	
medium mammal	scapula	-	2	4		
705	large mammal	long bone	-	3	7	

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
706	cattle	molar	-	1	8	
	large mammal	long bone	-	1	16	
	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	3	
708	cattle	tibia	L	5 (join)	191	slightly chalky
	cattle	radius	L	1	59	
	large mammal	long bone	-	6	9	poss fragments from above
902	unidentified	-	-	1	2	
1002	large mammal	scapula	-	12	19	chalky/fragmentary

Summary

The assemblage is dominated by cattle and sheep/goat, with the large and medium mammal sized bones likely to belong to either of these two species. The presence of sheep/goat is mainly restricted to the ditch in Trench 6 which has been assigned a Roman date.

Excavations to the west of the site of an extensive Early to Middle Saxon settlement identified that cattle was the most common farm animal, with sheep/goat second and pig third. Pigs declined in favour of sheep/goat into the Middle Saxon period (Rackham 2003, 271-3).

Most of the animal bone was retrieved from Area 9 (trenches 6 to 10) with 15 fragments from the vicinity of Area 8, centred on an enclosure.

As a small assemblage, it falls below the minimum threshold for meaningful analysis. However, the bone should be retained as part of the site archive for which it is suitable. If further work is undertaken at the site, the bone may warrant re-examination.

WORKED FLINT

By Tom Lane

Introduction

Flints were retrieved from two contexts, (102) and (606), items from the latter being unworked and discarded.

Condition

The worked items are in moderate condition and present no problems for conservation.

Results

Table 6, Worked Flint Archive

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
102	Waste Flake. Patinated. 19 x 13 x 4mm	1	1	Prehistoric
102	Waste Flake. Patinated. 21 x 13 x 2mm	1	>1	Prehistoric
606	Two natural unworked flakes. Discarded	2		

Range

The items from (102) are both debitage, the remnants of tool making. Both date to the prehistoric period, most probably to the Bronze Age.

Potential

Other than indicating a presence in the period, the items do little to further knowledge of the prehistoric settlement of Quarrington.

Summary

Two prehistoric waste flakes, possibly dating to the Bronze Age, were collected from the fill of an enclosure ditch (102).

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Nine items weighing 1430g were recovered.

Condition

All of the other finds are in moderate-good condition, though the metal items are corroded.

Results

Table 7, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
102	Stone	Burnt	5	82	
605	Iron	Blade fragment	1	3	
	Stone	Rotary quern, lower stone, millstone grit	1	986	Roman
706	Stone	Burnt, c. 11cms x 8.5cms x 2.5cms, possibly roughly squared, moderately smooth on one face, possible paving/hearth base	1	343	
2902	Iron	Nail	1	16	
			9	1430	

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from ditch fills (102, 605, 2902) and pit fill (706).

Range

A probable fragment of an iron blade was recovered from (605). However, too little of the item survives to provide any indication of form.

Part of a stone quern was retrieved. This is a section of a lower stone and has a worn convex upper surface. It is similar to other millstone grit querns found at the Iron Age and Roman settlement of Baldock in Hertfordshire (Foster 1986, fig 79, nos. 802, 804).

Several burnt stones were found. One of these appears to have been roughly squared and is smoothed on one face. This may have been a piece of paving or perhaps the base for a fire or hearth.

Potential

The other finds provide some functional evidence, for fires/hearths and the grinding of foodstuffs, but otherwise are of limited potential.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 8 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 8, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
102	Late Iron Age	Possibly 1 st century AD
605	M4th-E5th Century	
606	M4th-E5th Century	
702	Roman	
705	Mid 2nd-3rd Century	Date on NVCC which is likely to be residual
706	3rd - 4th Century	
708	Roman	Possibly 2 nd to 3 rd
902	15 th -16 th	Based on a single sherd which could be intrusive
1002	L1st-E2nd	Based on a single sherd which is probably residual

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Roman Pottery

Area	Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Form	Decoration	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
8	1	102	IASHF		U		1			BS; FRESH	1	11
8	1	102	ZDATE							LIA		
9	6	605	CC		U		1	VABR		BS	1	7
9	6	605	DWSH		J	COL?	1			BS	1	21

Area	Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Form	Decoration	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
9	6	605	DWSH		JDLS	HM	1	SOOT INT AND EX	Y	RIMS; BSS	11	152
9	6	605	GREY		B	BWL	1			BS; BG	1	57
9	6	605	GREY		JBL		1	BURNT OXID		BSS;BG CORE	2	74
9	6	605	GREY		JL		1			BASES	2	211
9	6	605	GREY		BIBF		1	BURNT OXID		RIM; BG	1	41
9	6	605	GREY		BWM1	OVERLAPPING BWL	1			RIMS; BS; BG	5	134
9	6	605	GREY		JBCUR		1	ABR		RIM; BG	1	9
9	6	605	GREY		BIBF		1		Y	RIMS; BSS; BASE; BG	9	686
9	6	605	GREY		JB		1			BS	1	15
9	6	605	GREY		J		1			BS	1	11
9	6	605	GREY		JB		4			BSS; BG	4	36
9	6	605	GREY		JB		1			BS; BG	1	11
9	6	605	GREY		B		1			BSS; BG	5	24
9	6	605	GREY		JCUR		1	BURNT PART OXID; SOOR OBREAK		RIM; BSS	3	66
9	6	605	GREY		JB		1			BS; BLUE- GREY	1	56
9	6	605	GREY		J		1	STRING		BASES; BSS; BG	5	143
9	6	605	NVCC		CLSD		1			BS	1	8
9	6	605	SAMSG		SAMBD		1	ABR		BASE	1	14
9	6	605	SHEL		J	HM	1	ABR		BS	1	20
9	6	605	SHEL		J	HM	1	SOOT OBREAK		BS; DWSH	1	53
9	6	605	ZDATE							M4-E5C		
9	6	606	BBT		BFB		1			RIM; BB1 COPY; FINE SILTY FABRIC; HM?	1	23
9	6	606	CR		JL		1			BS; DOUBLE GROOVE - BELOW NECK?	1	34
9	6	606	GREY		J		1	SCALE/CESS INT		BASE WITH FTM	1	25
9	6	606	GREY		JB		1			BS	1	29
9	6	606	GREY		JLS		1	SOOT EX; SPALLED		RIMS; BS; BLUE- GREY; 1 PCS SAMPLE 2	5	75
	6	606	GREY	CLAY PELLE	BIBF		1			RIMS; BS; BLUE-GREY	3	56
9	6	606	GREY	LF	U		1			BS	1	5
9	6	606	GREY		U		1	SOOT EX		BS	1	10
9	6	606	GREY		U		1			BS	3	16
9	6	606	NAT	QUCM/SHCM	JEV	HM	1	SOOT EX	Y	RIMS; BSS; 1 PCS SAMPLE 2	18	104
9	6	606	NAT	QUSM	JBEV	HM	1			RIM; FLAKE	2	10

Area	Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Form	Decoration	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
9	6	606	SAMEG		SAMB		1	ABR		BASE WITH FTM; SOFT FABRIC; BOWL FORM WITH INTERNAL KICK AND LEDGE; STAMPED "V..."; SHOULD BE SENT TO SPECIALIST	1	33
9	6	606	SHEL		J		1	SOOT OBREAK		BASE; HM?; POSS LIA	1	20
9	6	606	ZDATE							M4-E5C		
	7	702	GREY		U		1	BURNT OXID		BSS	2	14
9	7	702	ZDATE							ROMAN		
9	7	705	GREY		JBCUR		1			RIM	1	7
9	7	705	GREY		U		1			BS	1	5
	7	705	GREY		JB		1	ABR		BSS	3	35
9	7	705	NVCC		BKBARB		1	BURN OXID; ABR		BS	1	3
9	7	705	ZDATE							M2-3C		
9	7	705	ZZZ							DATE ON NVCC WHICH IS ALMOST CERTAINLY RESIDUAL		
9	7	706	GREY		BK		1			BASE; BG	1	16
9	7	706	GREY		J	ROUZ?	1			BS	1	4
9	7	706	GREY		J		1			BS	1	8
9	7	706	GREY		J		1			BS	1	15
9	7	706	GREY		JB		1			BS	1	25
9	7	706	GREY		JB		1			BASE; BG	1	48
9	7	706	GREY		BWM		1			RIMS; BSS; BG	4	18
9	7	706	GREY		JDW		1	SOOT EX		RIM	1	5
9	7	706	SHEL		U		1			BS	1	4
9	7	706	ZDATE							3-4C		
9	7	708	GREY		JB		1			BASE WITH FTM; BSS; SANDY GREY BUT FINER FORM; 2- 3C?	5	64
9	7	708	ZDATE							ROMAN		
9	9	902	GREY	LF; COARSE; MICA	U		1			BS	1	13
9	9	902	ZDATE							ROMAN		
9	10	1002	GREY		JBL		1			BSS	8	213
9	10	1002	GREY		JBCUR		1			RIM; BG; BWM?	1	12
9	10	1002	SAMSG		BD		1	ABR		BS	1	4
9	10	1002	ZDATE							L1-E2C		
9	10	1002	ZZZ							SAMSG PROBABLY RESIDUAL		

APPENDIX 3

Environmental assessment by James Rackham

Quarrington, Sleaford – QULR13 Environmental Archaeology Assessment

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation conducted by Archaeological Project Services in Quarrington resulted in the sampling of two ditch features for environmental evidence. A late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure ditch fill 102, and a late Roman fill of ditch 607. The samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

Table 1. Quarrington – QULR13. Samples collected for environmental study

sample no.	context no.	feature	samp. vol (l).	sample weight (kg)	Context type	phase
1	102	Ditch	29	35	Single fill of enclosure ditch	LIA/EROM
2	606	Ditch 607	29	36	Fill of ditch 607	Late Roman

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residues and floats were dried, and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots were measured, and the volume and weight of the residues recorded.

The residues were sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheets and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residues in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerstone and prill. The residues were then discarded. The floats of the samples were studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheets. The floats were then bagged. The floats and finds from the sorted residues constitute the material archive of the sample.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Table 2.

Results

The two bulk samples washed down to a residue of coarse limestone brash, with occasional flint and rounded pebbles, ironstone and fossil shells.

Late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure ditch fill - 102

This sample produce very little evidence of occupation debris. A small scattering of charcoal, with rare charred weed seeds, a couple of charred hazel nutshell fragments and a few small fragments of very eroded or burnt animal bone is the limit of archaeological debris. Fragments

of eroded rodent incisors and a frog/toad vertebrae are also present with an abundance of terrestrial snails shells. The latter assemblage is dominated by shells of open country taxa such as *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *V. costata* and *Helicella itala*, but also includes a significant woodland or shade loving element with shells of *Oxychilus* in some numbers.

Table 2: Quarrington – QULR13– Archaeological and environmental finds from the samples

sample	cont	vol in l.	residue vol .in ml.	pot no/wt g	Flint no/wt g	Fire-cracked stone wt g.	magn. comp. g.	bone wt g.	flot vol. mls	char-coal \$	ch'rd grain *	ch'rd chaff	ch'rd seed *	snail */#	other
1	102	29	8500	-	-		3.4	1.8	21	2/3			1	5/3	Hazel nutshell, rodent, frog/toad, burnt and very eroded unburnt bone; <i>Cochlisopa</i> sp., <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> , <i>Vallonia costata</i> , <i>V. excentrica</i> , <i>Ena Montana</i> , <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vertigo</i> sp., <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> , <i>Truncatellina</i> sp.
2	606	29	6800	2/13.6	3/3.8	9	8	3	14	3/5	3		3	4/2	Flint-natural; charred wheat grain, indet cereal grain, pea/bean, legumes, <i>Danthonia decumbens</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., tubers, etc; Sheep, indet burnt bone, wood mouse, frog/toad; <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp., <i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>

\$ - frequency of >2mm/<2mm fragments of charcoal

* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=500-1000; 6+>1000

diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa

Although the sample is derived from a ditch fill the absence of aquatics, and damp ground taxa being represented only by a very few shells of *Lymnaea truncatula*, it is unlikely that the ditch often carried water. While the shade loving taxa might inhabit an overgrown ditch environment, they may possibly indicate that the enclosure was also hedged.

Late Roman fill of ditch 607

This ditch fill produced a large sherd of Roman pottery, a few grammes of firecracked stone and a little burnt and unburnt bone among which a calcined sheep phalanx 2, a wood mouse jaw and a frog/toad synsacrum were identified. The flot included a concentration of charred cereal grains, among which wheat, *Triticum* sp., appears to predominate, although many of the grains are in poor condition. The charred cereals are accompanied by a charred pea or bean, some smaller legumes, and a number of 'weed' seeds with *Rumex* sp. (docks), *Danthonia decumbens* (heath grass) and several other taxa present. A fragment of nutshell, probably hazel is also present. The assemblages suggests a domestic rubbish context with the cereals and pea/bean probably becoming charred by accident during food preparation.

A small assemblage of terrestrial snail shells that includes *Coclicopa* sp., *Pupilla muscorum*, *Cecilioides acicula*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Carychium* sp., *Trichia hispida*, *Vertigo* sp., *Punctum pygmaeum* and *Oxychilus* sp, tends to suggest an open grassland environment with the *Pupilla* and Vallonids most abundant.

Discussion

The samples have indicated that bone, snail shells, charcoal and other charred plant remains survive in an identifiable condition in the deposits. The snails are abundant and afford some palaeoenvironmental data that could be used to reconstruct the local environment on the site at different periods, although specific sampling for this objective (such as a column of samples through a ditch fill) is to be preferred to bulk samples. Grassland taxa dominate in the two samples, but a hedge along the ditch in Trench 1 could account for the woodland taxa present in deposit 102.

The material from ditch fill 102 has given very little palaeoeconomic information and may be located some distance from contemporary settlement, but the deposits in ditch 606 clearly have a reasonable concentration of domestic rubbish and contemporary buildings are likely to have been located fairly nearby. This deposit appears to reflect disposal after food processing and contains little or no evidence for earlier preparation or crop processing waste.

No evidence for iron smithing was present in either sample.

The results have shown that should further archaeological work be undertaken at the site sampling should be a routine element of the programme with both bulk sampling (30 litres) of a range of features with good dating, or potential dating, evidence and selected column sampling of any deeper dated ditch fills to recover molluscan assemblages that will allow local palaeoenvironmental reconstruction.

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Bibliography

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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Carucate	A unit of land, originally based on the amount that could be ploughed annually by a team of eight oxen. Generally taken to be about 120 acres.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Croft	A piece of enclosed ground used for tillage or pasture, often an arable field near a house.
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Headland	Strip of uncultivated land left between areas of ridge and furrow which was used for turning the plough. These strips provided access and often became lanes or roads.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Manuring Scatter	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

14	Context register sheets
74	Context record sheets
28	Trench record sheets
5	Photographic record sheets
1	Plan record sheet
2	Section record sheets
12	Daily record sheets
1	Sample record sheet
2	Environmental sample sheets
32	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number LCNCC: 2013.136

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: QULR 13

Oasis record no: archaeo11-159864

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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