

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING:

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO BRIDGWALTON QUARRY, MORVILLE, BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE

Planning Reference: 12/04824/EIA

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By
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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Shropshire Sand and Gravel to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bridgwalton Quarry, Morville, Bridgnorth in Shropshire. The archaeological works were undertaken to support a planning application for a proposed extension to the existing quarry, and followed a series of previous non-intrusive investigations of the site.
- The evaluation trenching has uncovered evidence of Romano-British and probably prehistoric activity on the site, and has confirmed the results of the previous geophysical survey. Areas that proved to contain no archaeological deposits of interest were Trenches 4 – 9 and 12 – 15.
- A rectilinear Roman enclosure was evaluated in Trenches 1 and 2, which produced substantial quantities of late 3rd century AD pottery, along with hobnails and environmental evidence for possible hearth sweepings from one of the ditches.
- The two sub-circular anomalies identified during the geophysical survey and evaluated in Trenches 10 and 11 resemble later Neolithic to Bronze Age funerary monuments. Whilst no artefactual evidence was recovered, morphologically these conform to known barrow monuments, which have been identified within the immediate area from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Shropshire Sand and Gravel to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bridgwalton Quarry, Morville, Bridgnorth in Shropshire (NGR SO 6856 9254). The archaeological works were undertaken to support a planning application for a proposed extension to the existing quarry, and followed a series of previous investigations.
- 1.2 The fieldwork, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IfA 1999, revised 2001 and 2008), the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006) and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2013). All appropriate English Heritage guidance on archaeological practice was also followed (www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted Shropshire Museum Services within six months of the completion of the project.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Bridgwalton Quarry is located approximately 2.9km to the west-southwest of the centre of Bridgnorth, in the County of Shropshire. The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') is c.18.3 hectares in area and is centred immediately to the southwest of Bridgwalton, centred on NGR SO 6856 9254. The site is bordered by a minor road to the northeast, fields to the northwest, southwest and southeast and woodland to the south. Towards the centre of the site is Bridgwalton House.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Lower Old Red Sandstone, overlain by superficial fluvio-glacial sands, gravels and clays (Cottam 2013). The site slopes gently downwards to the southwest 85m and 90m OD.

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted to Shropshire Council for an extension to the existing Bridgwalton Quarry (Reference 12/04824/EIA). Due to the archaeological potential of the site, it was requested that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to determination of the application (Mr Andy Wigley email comments 2013).
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being '*Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A preceding historic environment assessment identified the site as being of archaeological interest (Cottam 2013), with potential prehistoric funerary monuments being identified within the footprint of the proposed quarry. It was also noted that the putative cemetery may have seen reuse in the Iron Age, following the discovery of human remains in 2011.
- 4.2 A geophysical survey by magnetometry was undertaken on the site in February 2013, revealing a number of anomalies including two ring ditches and a rectilinear enclosure, as well as a number of anomalies that may be of archaeological interest (GSB 2013).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 A specification was prepared and agreed with Shropshire County Council (AAL 2013). A programme of trial trenching was agreed, comprising fifteen trenches, each measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide.
- 5.2 Fieldwork was undertaken by a team of experienced archaeologists between the 17th and 26th April 2013, supervised by the author. In each trench, topsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 10cm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. The trenches were located using a Leica GS-08 Netrover GPS, receiving RTK corrections.
- 5.3 A full written record of the stratigraphic sequence was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets, and a section drawing showing the stratigraphic sequence in each trench was drawn at an appropriate scale. Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow.

6.0 Results (Figures 2 – 8)

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was aligned northwest by southeast and positioned across a rectilinear enclosure highlighted by the preceding geophysical survey.
- 6.1.2 Ditch [103] was aligned northeast to southwest and formed the eastern side of the enclosure. This feature measured 1.04m wide by 0.46m deep and contained 42 sherds of late Roman pottery dating to the 3rd century AD or later (Appendix 2). A bulk environmental sample was taken and produced small quantities of charcoal (Appendix 4).
- 6.1.3 Ditch [105] was also aligned northeast by southwest and formed the western side of the same enclosure. This ditch measured 1.5m wide by 0.66m deep and a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery was recovered from the otherwise sterile gravel fill 106 (Appendix 2).

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 was aligned northeast to southwest and was also targeted on the same rectilinear enclosure as Trench 1 (Figure 2). Two ditches and a pit were revealed, with both ditches corresponding to geophysical anomalies.
- 6.2.2 Northwest to southeast aligned ditch [205] represents the northern arm of the enclosure and was revealed as a wide, shallow feature truncated by ditch re-cut [202]. The initial ditch [205] measured 2m wide by 0.5m deep and contained a single sherd of early 2nd century or later pottery. Environmental evidence from palaeoenvironmental samples proved to be very limited.
- 6.2.3 Re-cut [202] measured 0.9m wide by 0.5m deep with a concave profile and contained a large quantity of artefacts within the upper two of its three fills, 203 and 204. The lowermost silting fill 211 was devoid of finds, with the secondary backfill 203, containing over three hundred sherds of pottery of 3rd century onwards date (Appendix 2, Plate 4) along with a collection of iron hobnails, likely to represent at least one Roman shoe (Appendix 5). The uppermost backfill of the ditch 204 contained fifty sherds of pottery of similar date. Bulk environmental samples were also taken for further analysis and produced evidence for discrete disposal of material, probably hearth sweepings.
- 6.2.4 Samples from re-cut [202] included evidence of cereals, chaff, edible plants and hazelnuts along with reasonably large quantities of charcoal; all consistent with disposal of domestic hearth sweepings in a single event which included disposal of pottery sherds and footwear.
- 6.2.5 Ditch [209] ran parallel to ditch [205] and may be a further division in the enclosure. This feature measured 1.42m wide by 0.36m deep with a concave profile and a sterile, gravel fill which produced no artefacts. Sub-circular pit [208] truncated ditch [209] and measured 1.26m wide by 0.48m deep, with a sterile silt backfill that contained no artefactual material.

6.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

- 6.3.1 Trench 3 was aligned northwest to southeast targeted on a geophysical anomaly. Investigation revealed a modern land drain cut [304] that measured 0.4m wide by 0.6m deep and extended west-southwest by east-northeast across the trench, corresponding with a geophysical anomaly.
- 6.3.2 A possible tree bole [302] was also located near the north-western end of the trench and measured 0.7m by 0.9m by 0.13m deep with a mottled brown and black organic fill, 303.

6.4 Trenches 4 to 9 (Figure 6)

- 6.4.1 Trenches 4 – 9 were targeted over anomalies of potential archaeological significance detected during the geophysical survey, many of which could relate to recent agricultural activity. Hand cleaning revealed no archaeological remains; however the variable underlying geology of gravel with patches of sand may have affected the results.

6.5 Trench 10 (Figure 7)

- 6.5.1 Trench 10 was aligned northwest to southeast and positioned over a circular double-ditched feature highlighted by both geophysical survey and aerial photography.
- 6.5.2 Excavation revealed three closely spaced parallel ditches [1004], [1009] and [1010] that correlated well with the double-ditched feature, as well as an apparently unrelated linear feature with rounded terminus [1002] at the western end of the trench.
- 6.5.3 Ditch [1004] represents the outermost and largest of the three ditches and measured 2.45m wide by 0.75m deep with an irregular concave profile. This ditch contained a distinctive layer of tumbled stone 1006, which may represent the collapse of an associated bank, and overlies two silting episodes; 1007 and 1008. The putative bank collapse was then sealed by a further silting event 1005, which may represent the final abandonment of this feature.
- 6.5.4 Ditch [1009] represents the central feature and measured 1.6m wide by 0.6m deep with a similar profile to ditch [1004]. As with the previous feature, this ditch contained a sequence of three artefactually sterile silting events, but without the possible bank collapse.
- 6.5.5 The innermost and smallest feature, ditch [1010] measured 1.45m wide by 0.45m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base and contained very stony lower fills; 1013 and 1014, overlain by a final silting event, 1012.
- 6.5.6 Each of the three ditches [1004], [1009] and [1010] was sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains, with ditch [1009] producing low densities of charred cereal grains and charcoal. However, this is the uppermost fill and probably represents a period after the feature has gone out of use, and as such may include ecofacts from a range of dates and possible contamination from modern deep ploughing. None of the ditches produced any dateable artefacts.
- 6.5.4 An apparently unrelated linear feature [1002] was also recorded terminating in the trench and aligned approximately east - west. This ditch measured 0.72m wide by 0.45m deep and corresponds to an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. The ditch contained a single undated silting deposit, 1003.

6.6 Trench 11 (Figure 8)

- 6.6.2 Trench 11 was aligned northeast to southwest and positioned over a circular ditched feature identified during the geophysical survey.
- 6.6.3 Excavation revealed two ditches [1102] and [1111], which corresponded with the two sides of this circular feature, but they displayed markedly different profiles. Ditch [1102] measured 2.2m wide by 0.68m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base. The primary fill 1110, resembles a slump of gravel possibly from a collapsed bank. This was sealed by a thick deposit of stony silt 1108. Continued maintenance of the feature is represented by a re-cut [1115] measuring 1.22m wide by 0.4m deep with a bowl shaped profile. This re-cut was filled by two further deposits representing erosion of the feature sides and bank, 1106 and 1107.
- 6.6.4 Ditch [1111] was located approximately 15m to the north of [1102] and measured 1.65m wide by 0.9m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This feature contained two silting deposits again suggestive of gradual erosion of the feature side and possible bank material. The

uppermost fill, 1112, produced fragments of bone and burnt bone from environmental samples, which were too small to identify to species (Appendix 4).

6.7 Trenches 12 to 15 (Figure 9)

6.7.1 Trenches 12 to 15 were located over potential anomalies highlighted during the geophysical survey. Of these anomalies, a field drain was recorded in Trench 15, while the western edge of Trench 14 revealed the edge of a modern spread of marl, 1402, dug out when constructing the adjacent quarry access road and subsequently used to raise the edge of the field.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1 The evaluation trenching has uncovered evidence relating to Romano-British and probably prehistoric activity on the site, and has confirmed the results of the previous geophysical survey. Trenches 4 – 9 and 12 – 15 were placed over anomalies of potential archaeological significance but these trenches were devoid of archaeological features, suggesting a geological origin for the features.

7.2 Morphologically, the two sub-circular anomalies identified during the geophysical survey are likely to be of prehistoric date, resembling later Neolithic to Bronze Age funerary monuments. Trenches 10 and 11 were positioned across these two features and both exposed archaeological features that corresponded with the geophysical anomalies but were devoid of dateable artefactual material.

7.3 Trench 10 was positioned across a potential double-ditched feature with possible internal ring of large posts or pits. Three ditches running broadly north-northeast to south-southwest were encountered that are believed to form part of this monument, none of which contained any artefacts. Soil samples from the ditches were found to contain relatively abundant charcoal, some charred hazel and coal. A further ditch running east – west was found to terminate within the trench, and also seemed to relate to a linear geophysical anomaly. The ditch was undated and its function remains unclear.

7.4 Two ditches were uncovered in Trench 11 forming part of the sub-circular geophysical anomaly at this location. Palaeoenvironmental samples from the features were very similar to those from the other circular feature in Trench 10, with abundant charcoal and limited evidence for hazel and some coal. Upper fill 1112 of ditch [1111] however was found to contain burnt bone, although it was not clear if this was human or animal. If the former then it may indicate that a satellite burial was added to the ditch at some point after the creation of the monument.

7.5 Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned across a rectangular anomaly that was likely to be of later prehistoric or Romano-British date. The trenching showed that it dated to the latter period, with an unusual large quantity of pottery for the region, indicating it had been in use in the 3rd century AD onwards. The pottery was largely made up of Severn Valley wares with some Black Burnished ware and a small fragment of Samian ware also present. A poorly preserved single cattle tooth was recovered also; the limited recovery of animal bone is likely due to the soil conditions. In addition, at least one Roman shoe, represented by 77 iron hobnails, had also been discarded within the recut of a partition ditch within the enclosure (secondary fill 203 of ditch recut [202]). Palaeoenvironmental samples showed that hearth waste had been dumped into the enclosure ditches, with some evidence for wheat and grasses also present. Overall it would appear, based

on the artefactual and palaeoenvironmental evidence, that the enclosure had a domestic function and was in use in the 3rd century onwards. The group of pottery and other finds was concentrated within one intervention in the enclosure, with 353 of the 394 sherds along with the 77 hobnails from ditch cut [202], and seems likely to represent a single or a small number of discrete dumping events rather than accumulation over time.

- 7.6 No other archaeological remains were encountered, although this may in part be due to recent deep ploughing and subsoiling of the fields truncating more ephemeral features. It should also be noted that the local geology meant that it was very difficult to identify archaeological features in plan, and on occasion these were only visible after being left to weather for several days.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The methodology adopted was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has identified three main areas of archaeological remains, both of which were also identified in a recent geophysical survey. Areas of possible archaeological anomalies identified in the previous survey have now been positively identified as non-archaeological in nature, and reflect the changeable geology within the development site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Shropshire Sand and Gravel for this commission, and also AC Archaeology Ltd for their involvement in this scheme. The Principal Archaeologist at Shropshire Council, Andy Wigley, is also thanked for his help throughout the project.

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site looking northeast, taken from southwest corner of site



Plate 2: Trench 1, ditch [103] looking northeast. Scale is 1m



Plate 3: Trench 1, ditch [105] looking northeast. Scale is 1m



Plate 4: Trench 2, ditches [202] and [205] recovery of Roman pottery.



Plate 5: Trench 2, ditches [202] and [205] looking northwest. Scale is 1m



Plate 6: Trench 2, pit [208] looking northwest. Scales are 1m and 0.3m



Plate 7: Trench 10, ditches [1002], [1009] and [1010] looking southwest. Scales are 2m and 1m



Plate 8: Trench 11, ditch [1102] looking northwest. Scales are 1m and 0.3m



Plate 9: Trench 11, ditch [1111] looking northwest. Scales are 1m and 0.3m

Appendix 2: Roman Pottery Report

By I.M. Rowlandson

A significant group of Roman pottery was presented for study from the site (394 sherds, weighing 10.414kg, Rim equivalents RE3.84). The majority of the pottery is fresh with a few of the groups containing very large sherds from a limited number of vessels. The pottery has been discussed and recorded according to the requirements of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2044) using the fabric and form series developed for Wroxeter (Timby 2000).

The close dating of the pottery from this group is hindered by the broad date range of the local Severn Valley fabrics and forms (Timby 1990, Webster 1976). It does however appear that the majority of the pottery was deposited in the later 3rd century AD on the basis of the range of forms present. The dating summary and description by context is tabulated below. The full archive is presented at the end of this report.

Dating summary and description								
F No	F Type	Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %	
0103	Ditch	0104	L3+	A medium sized group including fragments from a Severn Valley ware narrow necked jars with a beaded rim (Wroxeter form JN4) and an example with a slight ledge beneath the neck (JN4.13), a fragment from a tankard with a double grooved handle. Dating the group are BB1 sherds from a jar with a cavetto type rim form (JC3.8).	38	338	72	
0105	Ditch	0106	Roman	A single Severn Valley ware sherd.	1	1	0	
0202	Ditch	0203	3C+	A large fresh group of sherds from nearly complete vessels mostly Severn Valley ware and a fragment from a plain rimmed dish BB1 dish with intersecting arc decoration (D3.11 form as Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, Fig. 32.59.3, joins context 0204). The Severn Valley forms present including: a large proportion of at least two large jars (JLS), at least three wide-mouthed jars (JW2.3, JW2.3 slight undercut and JW2.32) and fragments from two tankards with splayed walls one also present in context 204 and another with a trace of a red self-slip (TK4.41). In a coarse Severn Valley oxidised ware there are fragments from a jar and a handled jar or two handled flagon (F8.2). This group probably deposited in the later part of the 3 rd century. Given the fresh condition and the retrieval of hobnails from this feature it appears likely that this group is a primary and perhaps 'structured deposit'.	303	9655	246	
0202	Ditch	0204	3C+	A medium sized group including fragments of BB1 including a plain rimmed dish (D3.11 form as Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, Fig. 32.59.3, joins context 0203) and a jar. Along with a group of abraded Severn Valley ware and fragments from two tankards with a splayed walls (TK4.41, joining context 0203). This group probably date to the later part of the 3 rd century.	50	410	66	
0205	Ditch	0206	AD120+	A single BB1 sherd.	1	9	0	
1300	Topsoil	1300	AD120-200+	A single very abraded sherd of Central Gaulish samian.	1	1	0	

Fabric summary				
Fabric	Common name	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
BB1	Black Burnished ware (unspecified)	42	480	48
MALVH	Malvern metamorphic, handmade	2	11	0
MALVW	Malvern metamorphic wheel made	1	6	0
SAMCG	Samian, Central Gaulish	1	1	0
SVO	Oxidised Severn Valley ware- coarse	57	628	63
SVO?	Oxidised Severn Valley ware- coarse	1	4	0

SVOF	Oxidised Severn Valley ware (fine) typical fabric	287	9245	273
SVRF	Oxidised Severn Valley ware (fine) typical fabric	3	39	0

There are a limited range of fabrics present in this assemblage mostly and Severn Valley and Black Burnished ware class 1 type wares as is typical for groups of this period in this region (Evans 2007). A small number of Malvern rock gritted sherds are also present. The group may all be dated to the 3rd century or later with the exception of a tiny sherd of samian from context 1300 and perhaps the flagon or narrow necked jar in the SVO fabric (203). Other groups of Roman pottery have been published from the vicinity of Bridgnorth at Hay Farm, Eardington although that group represented Iron Age and early Roman occupation (Booth 2000).

The freshness of the group and the possibility that the pottery from Ditch 202 is a primary or 'structured deposit' (Hill 1995) makes this feature interesting. It offers an opportunity to see a significant sample of the pottery that was in use on the site and, if the deposit can be seen to be 'ritual', perhaps an insight into how pottery was viewed by the inhabitants and what other artefacts were deposited alongside these vessels. Indeed, in the event of further investigation of the site it would be important to comprehensively sample this feature to retrieve a large proportion of the artefacts from this deposit (cf. Chadwick 2008 a & b). In the event of a further significant deposit being encountered publication in a local journal might be advisable given the relatively small assemblages published from rural sites in this county outside of Wroxeter.

Recommendations

Given that there are few sizable groups of Roman pottery from this county this group is of local significance. Listed below are recommendations should further work be undertaken.

Further excavations on the site ought to target an area around Ditch 202 to recover a larger selection of finds from this significant deposit and to place it in context of the other features or possible structures in the vicinity. The importance of an intensive sampling methodology digging large proportions of a feature when faced with these types of deposits has been extensively discussed by Chadwick and others (2008 a & b).

The assemblage is fully quantified. Any other pottery found during this scheme from subsequent or previous investigations should be quantified in the same way following guidelines set up by Darling (2004) and the local fabric and form series (Timby 2000).

At the completion of the excavation this pottery should be discussed along with the pottery from any previous or subsequent investigations on the site. Given the nature of the deposit further parallels ought to be sought for this assemblage in published and 'grey literature' reports both from Shropshire and surrounding counties to further establish the nature and significance of this group.

Six vessels in this assemblage are suitable to illustrate in any final report and it ought to be expected that further vessels from other investigations on the site ought to be illustrated too.

Publication of this group of pottery alongside the other structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence ought to be considered at the end of the scheme, perhaps in the local journal, given the significance of this group for Shropshire.

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Appendix 3: Animal Bone Report

By Jen Wood

Introduction

A total of 1 (11g) refitted fragment of animal bone were recovered during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd at Bridgwalton Quarry, Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. The animal bone assemblage was recovered from Trench 1 ditch [103] dated from the Romano-British period.

Results

The remains were highly fragmentary and of a moderate overall condition, averaging between grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

No evidence of butchery, pathology, burning or gnawing was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Cut	Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
103	104	Cattle	Tooth	X	1	11	Fragmentary lower molar

As can be seen from Table 1, cattle were the only species identified within the assemblage.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation, save the presence of the animals/remains on site. In the event of further work the site is liable to produce more remains of a similar nature with a moderate potential to provide more information on the underlying husbandry practices and utilisation undertaken on site.

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Appendix 4: Palaeoenvironmental Report

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Bridgwalton Quarry, undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd, recorded two sub-circular enclosures of probable prehistoric date and a rectangular enclosure of Late Roman (third century A.D. or later) date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within both the prehistoric and Roman enclosure ditches, and eight were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). With the exception of a small number of fragments of mineral replaced wood, which were noted within the assemblage from sample 5, all plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recovered.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

With the exception of sample 2 (context [203]), the recovered assemblages are all small (i.e. 0.1 litre in volume or less) and principally composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments. The latter are also predominant within sample 2, but in this instance, circa 0.4 litres of material is present, probably suggesting that the remains are derived from a discrete deposit of material rather than from scattered detritus. The assemblage from sample 2 also includes cereals and chaff (including spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) glume bases) and a small number of brome (*Bromus* sp.) fruits. Cereals, onion-couch (*Arrhenatherum* sp.) type tubers, brome fruits and fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell are also recorded from elsewhere, but only as single specimens within an assemblage. Overall, preservation of the remains is quite poor, with most of the cereals, seeds and chaff elements being very fragmentary. In addition, much of the charcoal is abraded, possibly suggesting that it was exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to inclusion within the ditch fills.

A limited range of other materials is also recorded including fragments of charred root or stem, small pieces of bone (some of which are burnt/calcined), vitreous concretions and black porous and tarry residues. The latter are mostly thought to be derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, although some are hard and brittle, possibly suggesting that they are bi-products of the combustion of coal, small fragments of which are also present within five assemblages. It is considered most likely that these coal fragments are intrusive within the contexts from which the samples were taken, possibly being derived from either the spreading of night soil during the post-medieval period or the more recent use of steam implements on the land.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the assemblage from sample 2 may, in part, be derived from a small, discrete deposit of hearth waste, there is insufficient material from the Roman features to indicate whether the rectangular enclosure was used for domestic, agricultural or pastoral purposes, or for any more ephemeral industrial or ritual activity. Similarly, there are few indications within the plant macrofossil record of how the prehistoric enclosures may have functioned, although the presence of small

fragments of bone within the assemblage from sample 5 may possibly hint at some form of nearby funerary activity.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Context No.	104	203	204	1108	1112	1012	1011	1005
Feature type	Rectangular enclosure			Sub-circular enclosures/barrow				
Date	L3rdC+	3rdC+	3rdC+	?Prehistoric				
Cereals								
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)		xcf						
(glume base)		x						
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)		x						
Cereal indet. (grains)		x					xcffg	
Herbs								
<i>Arrhenatherum</i> sp.	xcf		xfg			xcf		
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		x	x					
Tree/shrub macrofossils								
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	xcf			x			x	xcf
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	x	xx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	xxxx	xxx	x	x	x	xxxx	x
Charcoal >5mm		xxx	x	x			xx	x
Charcoal >10mm		x					xx	
Charred root/stem	x	x	x	x			x	x
Indet.seed		x						
Mineral replaced wood					x			
Other remains								
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Black tarry material	x		x		x		x	
Bone					xx xb			
Small coal frags.	x		x		xx	x		x
Vitreous material	x		x			x		
Sample volume (litres)	28ss	28ss	28ss	24	24	26	26	26
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	0.4	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	25%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt ss = sub-sample L = late C = century

Appendix 5: Metal Finds Report

By Mike Wood

Introduction

A group of iron hobnails and a lead shot were recovered during an evaluation on land adjacent to Bridgwalton Quarry in Shropshire. The hobnails were collected from a Roman ditch in Trench 2, while the lead shot was found during metal detecting the topsoil in Trench 10.

Methodology

The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. A summary of the material is recorded in Table 1. All of the iron hobnails were subject to x-ray identification.

Assemblage

Context	Material	Object	Measurements	Date	Wt (g)	Comments
1000	Lead	Lead shot	22mm by 22m by 21m	Post-med	60	Casting seam visible
203	Iron	Hobnails	13mm by 12mm by 3mm	Roman	138	Sf 1. Seventy seven dome topped hob nails. Heavily corroded.

Table 1: Metal

Discussion

The assemblage contains a group of hob nails collected from a Roman ditch and a single lead shot.

During excavation, no obvious pattern was visible for the hobnails, which might suggest the shape of the footwear they were once part of and no leather has survived. The hob nails were loosely grouped together and may represent the fragments of more than one shoe or sandal, discarded along with domestic waste in this context. All the hobnails are badly corroded and further identification at this point is not viable.

The lead shot is a large, sub-rounded ball with white oxidisation and a visible casting seam. At 60g and circa 21-22m in diameter, this is a large shot and would have been too large for the standard British military land guns in the eighteenth century and Napoleonic campaigns, which were 0.75 calibre (c.18mm diameter shot).

Recommendations for further work

The hobnails are heavily corroded and may warrant conservation, while the lead shot is stable and requires no further work.

Appendix 6: Context Summary List

Trench 1			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Friable yet firm dark reddish brown sandy clay occasional medium to large pebbles, seals 101, 102	Ploughsoil
101	Layer	Loose mid orangeish brown gravel and sand, sealed by 100	Natural geology/ glacial out wash
102	Layer	Soft mid orange brown sand occasional rounded/ sub-rounded small pebbles, sealed by 100	Natural sand bar in the glacial out wash
103	Cut	Northeast to southwest aligned linear with sharp upper edges and fairly steep sides and no perceptible break of slope base, the base is concaved and narrow, filled by 104	Enclosure ditch
104	Fill	Firm yet friable dark orange brown slightly silty sand with frequent rounded/ sub-rounded small pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Sealed by 100	Single fill of ditch cut [103]
105	Cut	Northeast to Southwest aligned linear with sharp upper edges and fairly steep sides and no perceptible break of slope base, the base is concaved and narrow. Filled by 106 and cuts 101	Enclosure ditch
106	Fill	Moderate to loose, light grey to mid brown slightly silty sand with lots of gravel and occasional patch of reddish brown clay. Single fill of ditch [105]	Silting of ditch [105]
Trench 2			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Firm and friable dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional small to large pebbles, seals 201	Ploughsoil
201	Layer	Moderate dark orangeish brown silty sandy gravel, sealed by 200	Natural geology
202	Cut	Northwest to Southeast linear cut with fairly steep sides no perceptible break of slope base, the base is concaved and narrow. Re-cut of [205]. Filled by 203, 204 and 211	Enclosure ditch
203	Fill	Friable dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal and rounded pebbles. Sealed by 204 and seals 211	Secondary fill of ditch cut [202]
204	Fill	Firm but friable mid orangey brown silty sand with frequent gravel fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. Tertiary fill of ditch cut [202], sealed by 200 and seals 203	possible post-abandonment accumulation of material over time in ditch [202]
205	Cut	Northwest to southeast linear with sharp upper edges and fairly steep side to the north. No perceptible break of slope to a slightly convex base. Filled by 206, and later re-cut by [202]	Enclosure ditch
206	Fill	Firm mid orangey brown silty sand with frequent gravel and rounded pebbles. Fill of ditch [205]	Single fill of ditch [205]
207	Fill	Firm mid orangey brown sandy clay silt with rare sub-angular stones. Single fill of pit [208], sealed by 200	Backfill of pit [208]
208	Cut	Sub-circular cut with sharp upper edges and fairly steep sides to an imperceptible break of slope base the base is flat. Filled by 207 and truncates ditch fill 212	Pit of unknown function
209	Cut	Northwest to Southeast linear with sharp upper edges and fairly steep sides with no perceptible break of slope base, the base is concaved. Filled by 212 and 213	Enclosure ditch
210	Void	Void	Void
211	Fill	Firm mid orangey brown silty sand with very frequent stone gravel inclusions. Primary fill/ basal deposit within [202], sealed by 203	Silting of ditch [202]
212	Fill	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular stones. Secondary fill of ditch [209] and is truncated by pit [208] and seals 213	Silting of ditch [209]
213	Fill	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones. Primary fill of ditch [209], sealed by 212	Silting of ditch [209]

Trench 3			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Moderate to loose light to mid brown silty sand with unsorted small to medium pebbles, seals 301	Ploughsoil
301	Layer	Moderate compact mid dark brown silty sand gravel, sealed by 300	Natural geology
302	Cut	Sub-circular cut with sharp upper edges and irregular sides and base. Filled by 303	Tree bole
303	Fill	Moderately loose mid to dark brown with black slightly organic patches, silty sand with gravel. Fill of [302]	Fill of tree bole [302]
304	Cut	West-southwest to east-northeast aligned linear cut with sharp upper edges and vertical sides and a sharp break of slope base, the base is flat. Filled by 305	Field drain
305	Fill	Moderate mid brown silty sand with gravel and pebbles	Backfill of field drain [304]
Trench 4			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
400	Layer	Moderate dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, seals 400	Ploughsoil
401	Layer	Moderate mid brown orange sand with occasional patches of gravel with sub-angular small to medium stones, sealed by 400	Natural geology
Trench 5			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
500	Layer	Moderate dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, seals 501	Ploughsoil
501	Layer	Moderate reddish brown sand with occasional patches of gravel with sub-angular small to medium stones, sealed by 500	Natural geology
Trench 6			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
600	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent rounded/sub-rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, seals 601	Ploughsoil
601	Layer	Firm yet friable dark orangey brown silty sand with frequent small to large pebbles and stone fragments, sealed by 600	Natural geology
Trench 7			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
700	Layer	Moderate dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, seals 701	Ploughsoil
701	Layer	Moderate mid orangeish brown sand with frequent gravel patches, sealed by 700	Natural geology
Trench 8			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
800	Layer	Moderate dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded small stones, seals 801	Ploughsoil
801	Layer	Compact mid orangeish red sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, sealed by 800	Natural geology
Trench 9			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
900	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent rounded/sub-rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, seals 901 and 902	Ploughsoil
901	Layer	Firm yet friable yellowish orange to reddish brown, patches of sand, patches of well sorted small to medium rounded pebbles and patches of sandy silt and patches of manganese and occasional lenses of pea grit, sealed by 900	Natural geology
902	Layer	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand with frequent small to large pebbles, sealed by 900	Natural geology

Trench 10			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
1000	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, seals 1001	Ploughsoil
1001	Layer	Moderately firm, mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular stones, sealed by 1000. Cut by all features	Natural geology
1002	Cut	East – West linear terminus with sharp upper edges and a steep near vertical side to a sharp break of slope base to the south, the northern edge is gradual sloping with no perceptible break of slope base, the base is flat. Filled by 1003	Ditch terminus
1003	Fill	Firm mid orangey brown sandy silt moderate to frequent small to large rounded pebbles with occasional charcoal flecks and pea grit. Fill of ditch [1002]	Silting of ditch [1002]
1004	Cut	Northeast to southwest curving linear cut with sharp upper edges fairly steep sides with a concaved base. Filled by 1005 – 1008	Possible outer barrow ditch cut
1005	Fill	Firm dark orangeish brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stones. Tertiary fill of ditch [1004], sealed by 1000 and seals 1006	possible final silting of ditch [1004] after bank collapse
1006	Fill/Layer	Firm grey with patches of orangeish brown sandy silt, with very frequent rounded/ sub-round small to large pebbles. Tertiary fill of ditch [1004], sealed by 1005 and seals 1007	Slumping of edge of ditch [1004]
1007	Fill	Firm dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-rounded pebbles. Secondary fill of ditch [1004], sealed by 1006 and seals 1008	Silting of ditch [1004]
1008	Fill	Loose dark reddish brown sandy silt with very frequent small to medium sub-angular gravel. Primary fill of ditch [1004]. Sealed by 1007	Silting of ditch [1004]
1009	Cut	North-west to south-east curving linear cut with sharp upper edges and fairly steep sides and a concaved base. Filled by 1011, 1015 and 1016	Possible inner barrow ditch cut
1010	Cut	Northwest to southeast curving linear ditch with sharp upper edges and fairly steep sides to a concaved base filled by 1012 – 1014	Possible innermost barrow ditch cut
1011	Fill	Firm mid orangeish brown sandy silt with very frequent small to medium sub-angular stones. Tertiary fill of ditch [1009], sealed by 1000 and seals 1015	Silting of ditch [1009]
1012	Fill	Firm dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional medium sub-angular stones and frequent small angular stones. Tertiary fill of ditch [1010], sealed by 1000 and seals 1013	Silting of ditch [1010]
1013	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular stones. Secondary fill of ditch [1010], sealed by 1012 and seals 1014	Silting of ditch [1010]
1014	Fill	Firm greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones. Primary fill of ditch [1010], sealed by 1013	possible slumped in bank material in ditch [1010]
1015	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones. Secondary fill of ditch [1009], sealed by 1011 and seals 1016	Silting of ditch [1009]
1016	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular stones. Primary fill of ditch [1009], sealed by 1015	Silting of ditch [1009]
Trench 11			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
1100	Layer	Firm mid to dark orangeish brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent medium sub-rounded to sub-rectangular unsorted stones, seals 1101	Ploughsoil
1101	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate to frequent medium sub-rounded to sub-rectangular unsorted stones, sealed by 1100, cut by all features	Natural geology
1102	Cut	Northwest to southeast curving linear with sharp upper	Ditch cut possibly for a

		edges and fairly steep sides to a concaved base. Filled by 1107 – 1110	palisade on a barrow
1103	Void	Void	Void
1104	Void	Void	Void
1105	Void	Void	Void
1106	Fill	Light reddish orange to light grey stones (various types). Within [1115], sealed by 1107 and seals 1108	Possible packing stones within [1115]
1107	Fill	Firm mid orangey yellow brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium sub-rounded stones. Fill of ditch recut [1115], sealed by 1100	Silting of ditch [1115]
1108	Fill	Firm orangey brown coarse sandy gravel frequent pea grit/ gravel fragments and small rounded stones. Fill of ditch [1102], sealed by 1106, and seals 1110	Possible slumping from a degraded bank into ditch [1102]
1109	Void	Void	Void
1110	Fill	Moderate light grey to mid brown, pea gravel with occasional small rounded stones and mid course orangey brown sand surrounding the stones. Primary fill of ditch [1102], sealed by 1108	Silting of ditch [1102]
1111	Cut	Northwest to Southeast aligned linear with sharp upper edges gradual sloping sides to a concaved base. Ditch cut filled by 1112 and 1113	Possible ring ditch for a barrow
1112	Fill	Firm mid orangey brown sandy silt with occasional large and medium sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks. Secondary fill of ditch [1111], sealed by 1100 and seals 1113	Silting of [1111]
1113	Fill	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Primary fill of ditch [1111], sealed by 1112	Silting of [1111]
1114	Cut	Re-cut of [1102]. Filled by 1106 and 1107	Recut of ditch [1102]
Trench 12			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
1200	Layer	Moderate dark orange brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones, seals 1201	Ploughsoil
1201	Layer	Moderate mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded stones, sealed by 1200	Natural geology
Trench 13			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
1300	Layer	Moderate dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, seals 1301	Ploughsoil
1301	Layer	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stones, sealed by 1300	Natural geology
Trench 14			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
1400	Layer	Moderate mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, seals 1402	Ploughsoil
1401	Layer	Moderate dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, sealed by 1402	Natural geology
1402	Layer	Firm mid pinkish red clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, seals 1401	Re-deposited natural dump
Trench 15			
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
1500	Layer	Moderate mid orange brown sandy silt with large patches of natural gravel and pea grit frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, seals 1501	Ploughsoil
1501	Layer	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stones, sealed by 1500	Natural geology

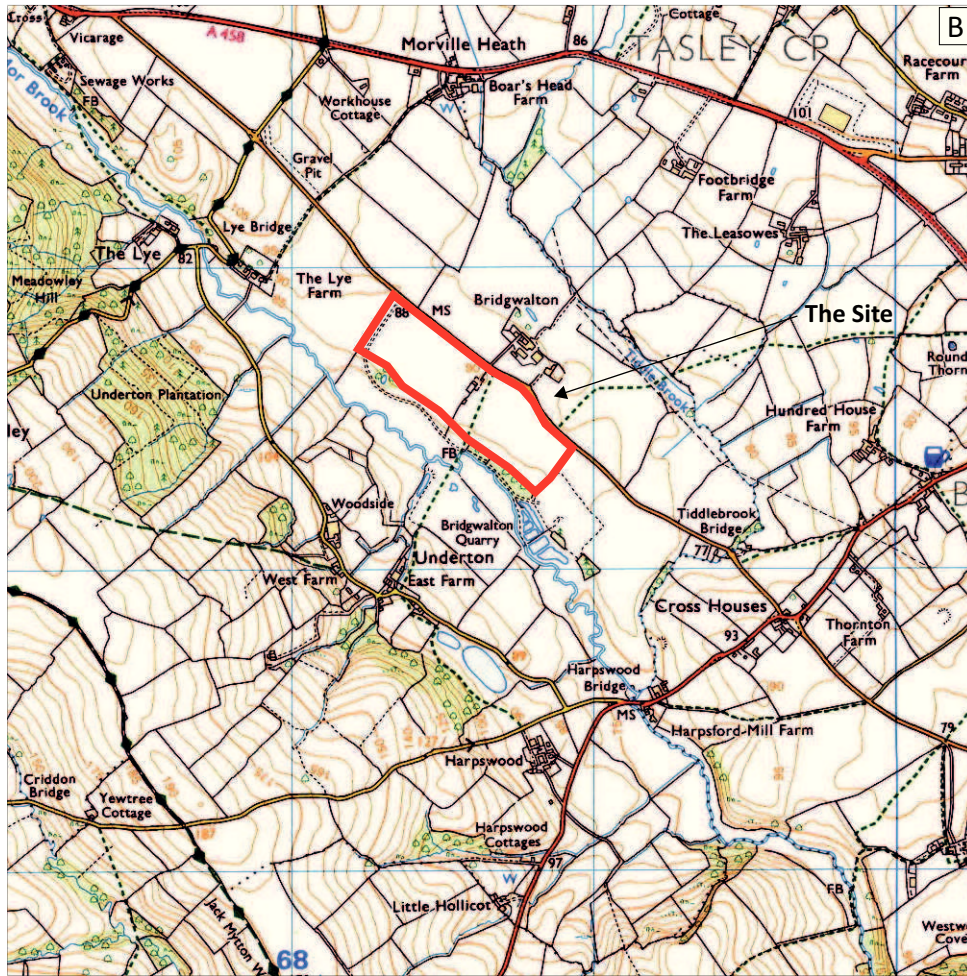
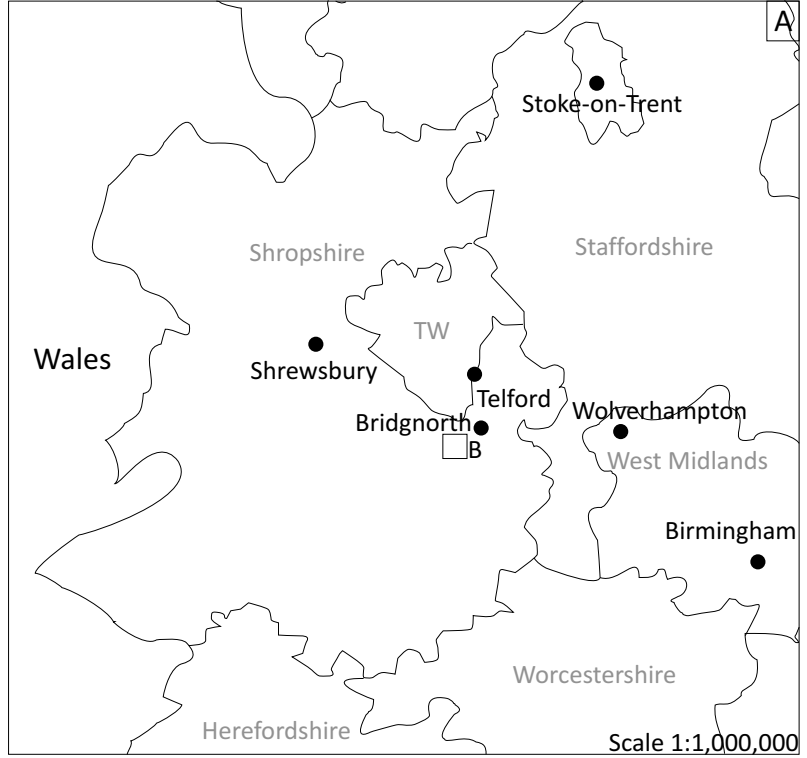
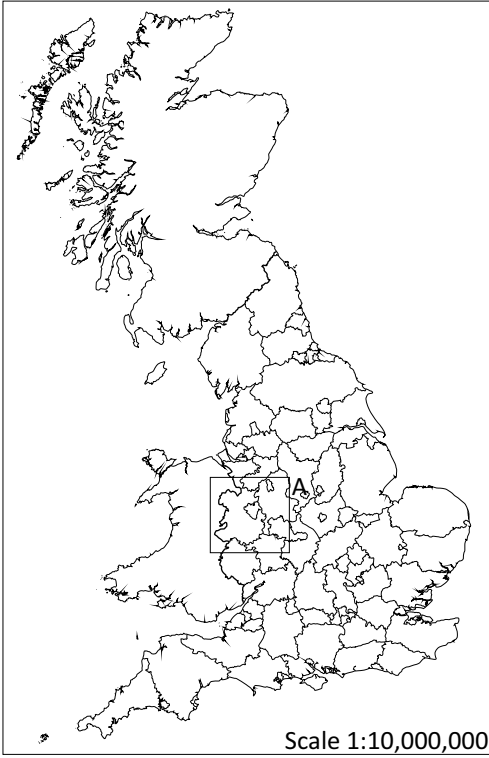


Figure 1: Site location in red

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Site Code	BRQU 13
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	M Wood
Date	03/06/13

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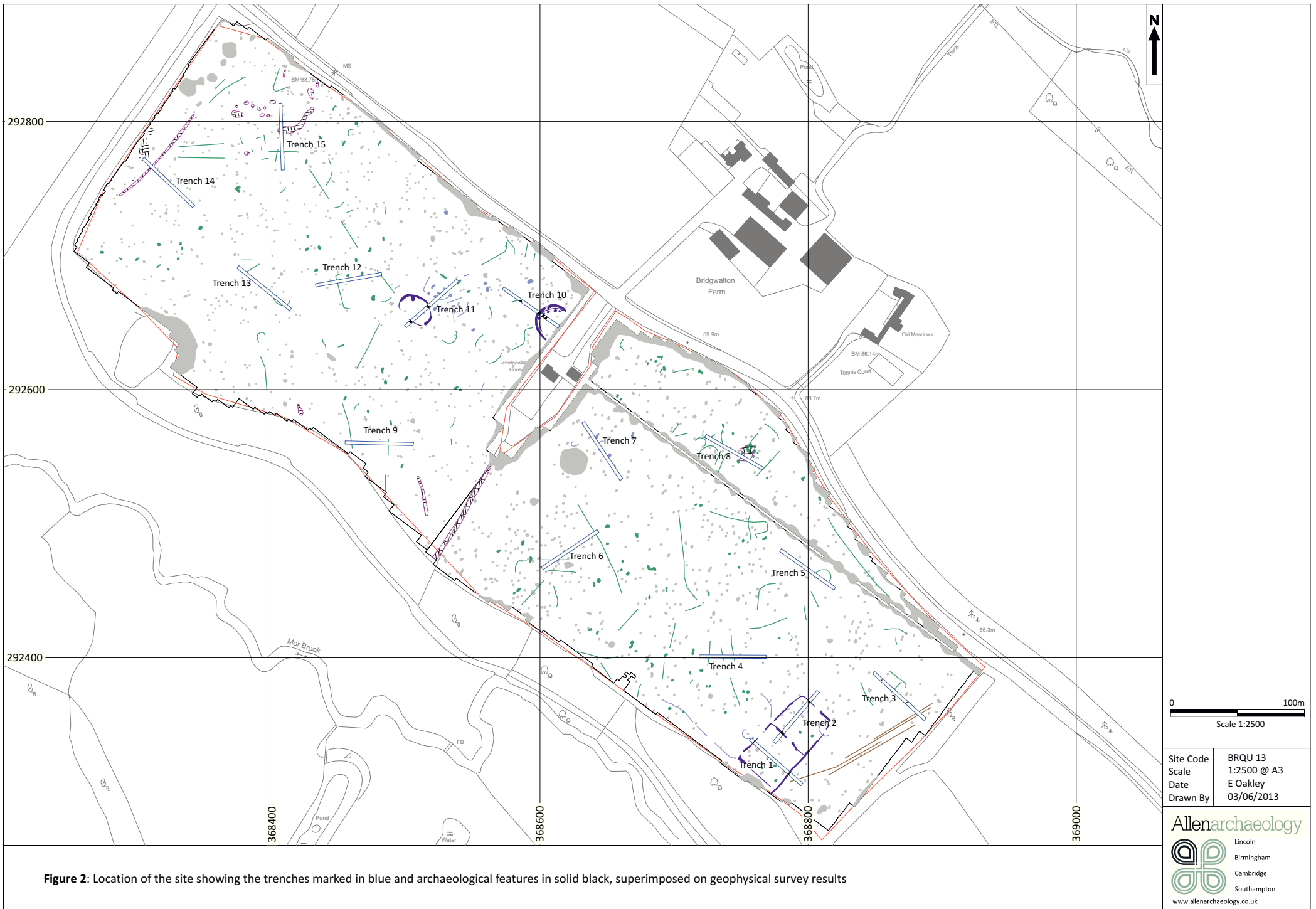
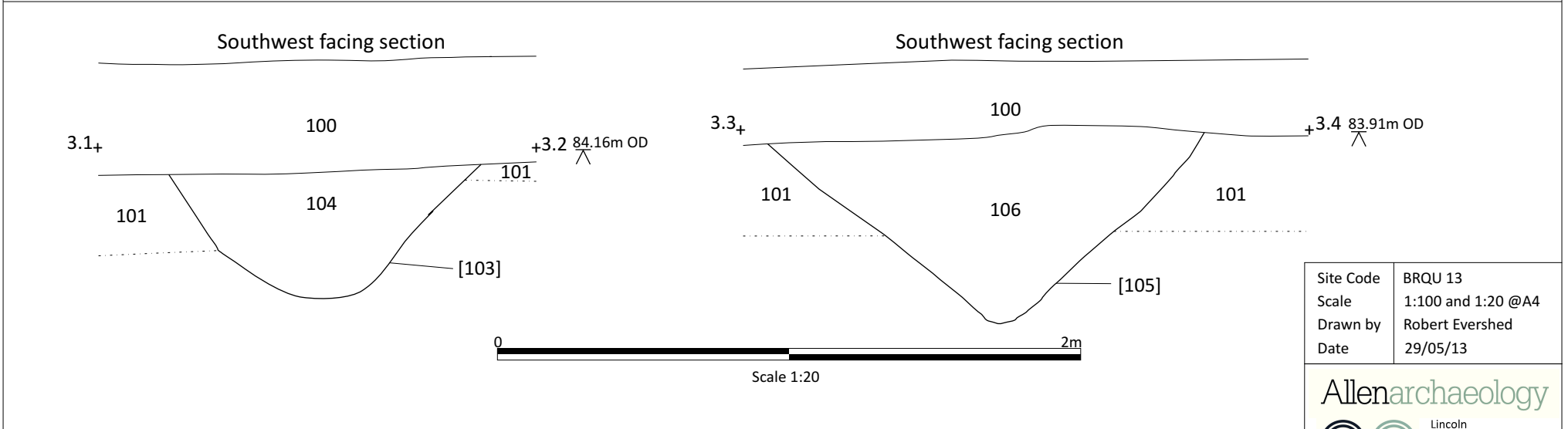
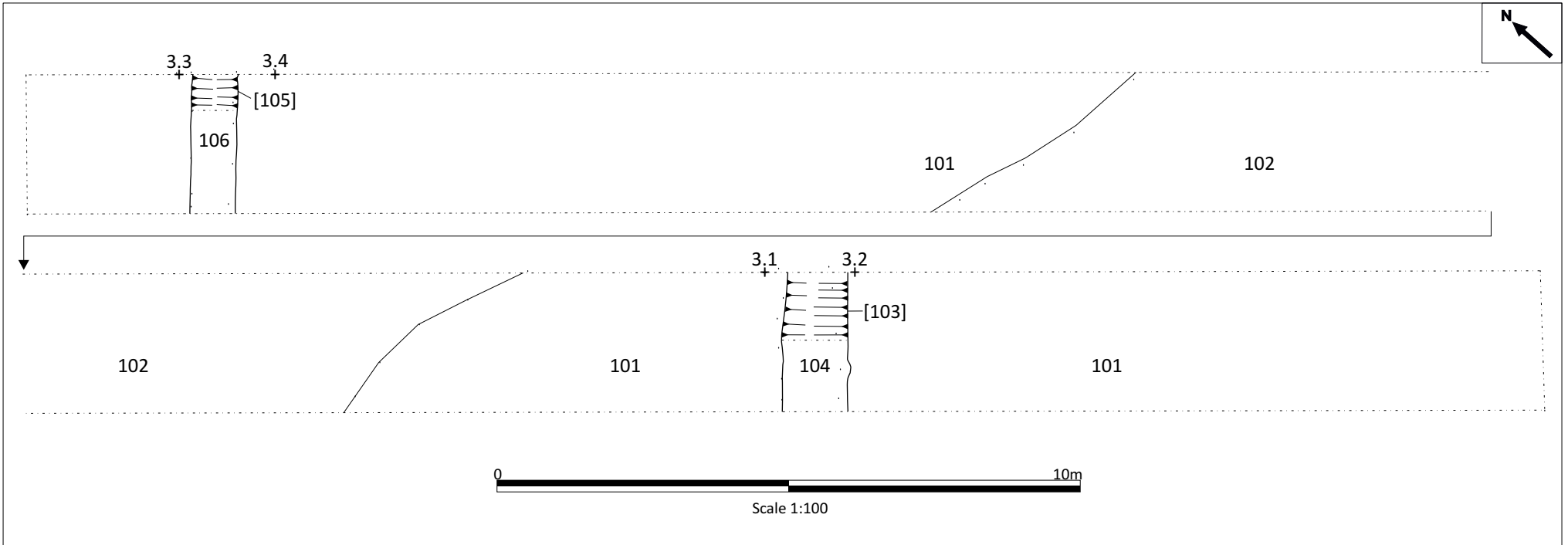


Figure 2: Location of the site showing the trenches marked in blue and archaeological features in solid black, superimposed on geophysical survey results



Site Code	BRQU 13
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Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	29/05/13


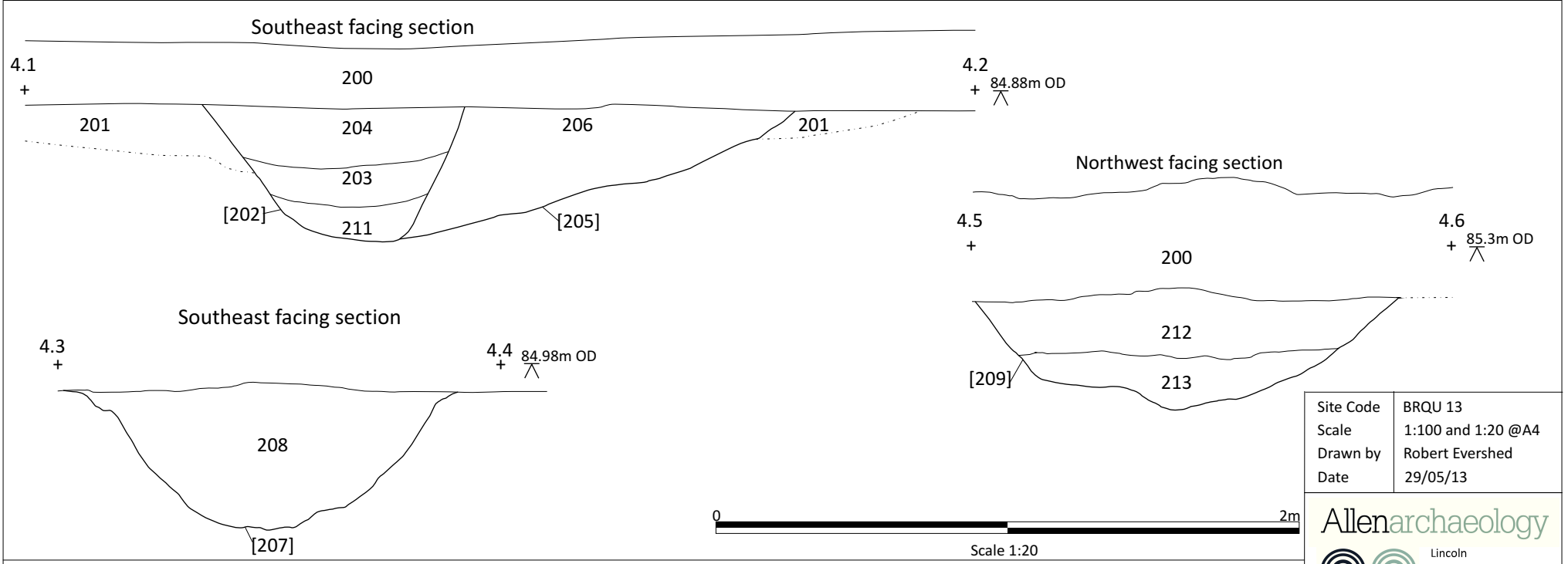
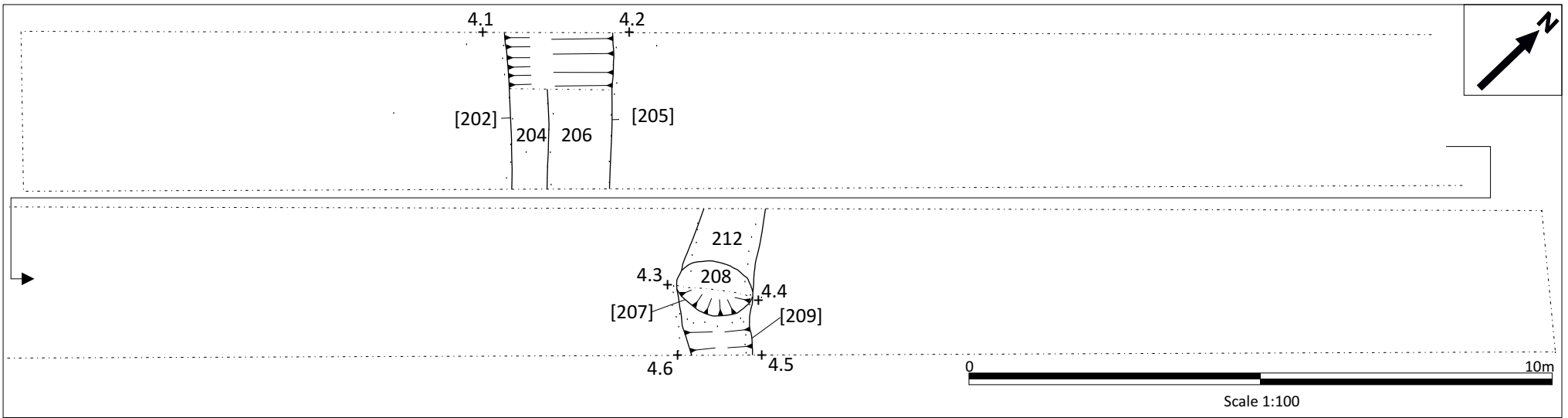

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Figure 3: Plans and sections of Trench 1



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Figure 4: Plans and sections of Trench 2

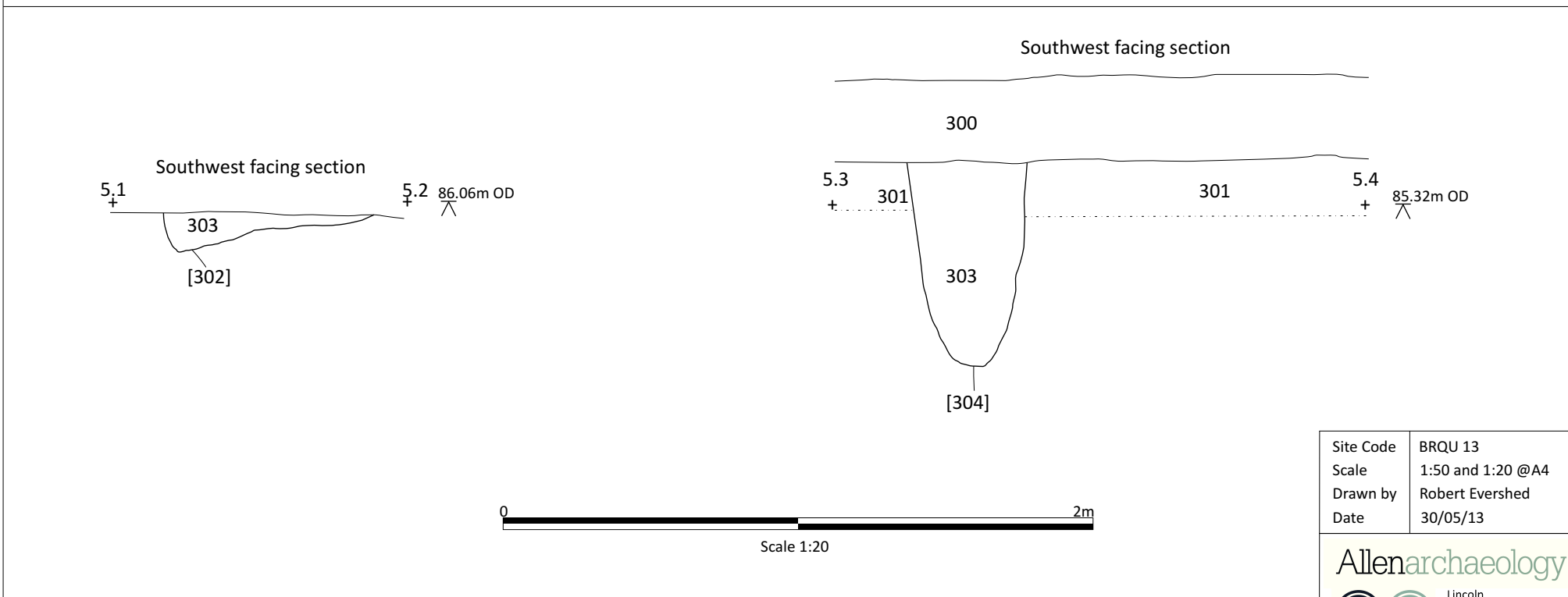
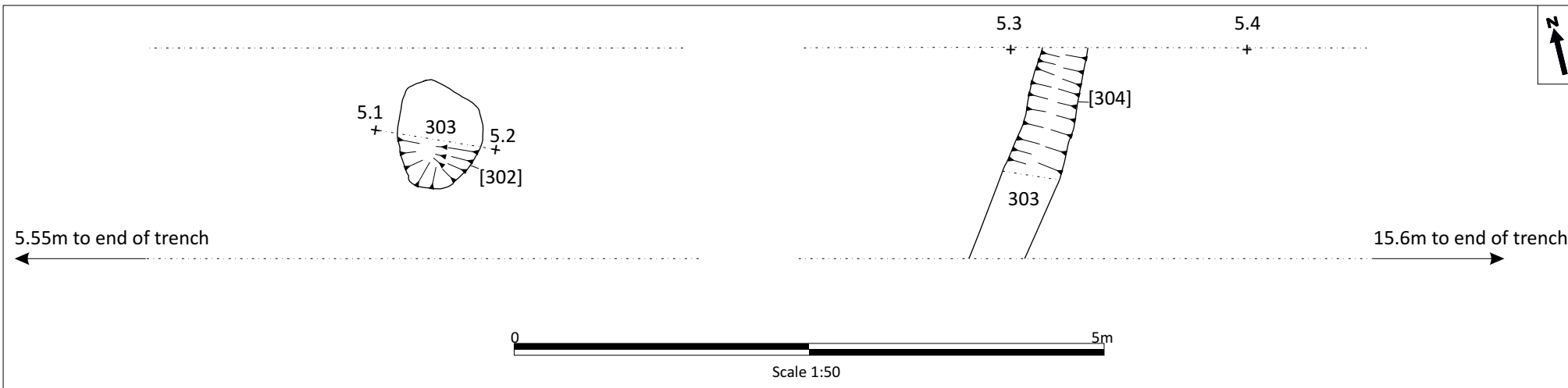
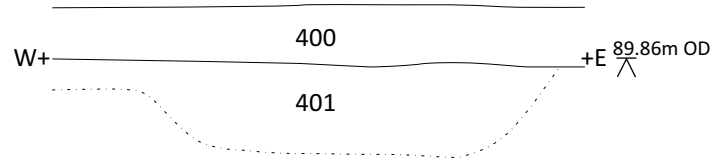
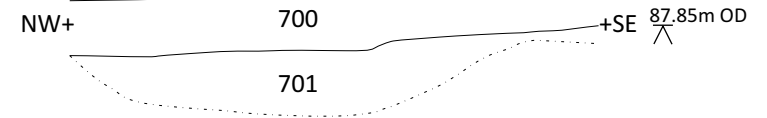


Figure 5: Plans and sections of Trench 3

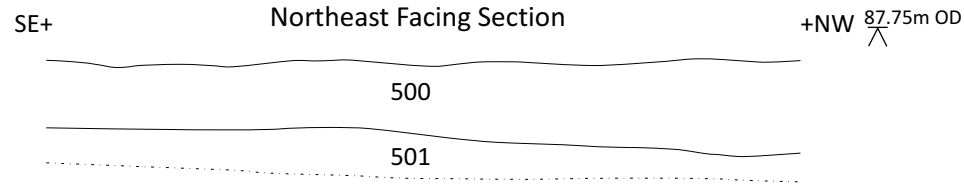
South Facing Section



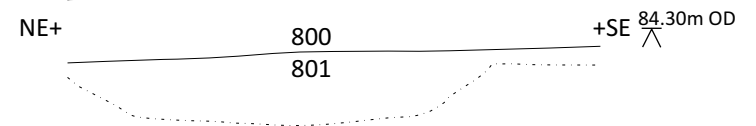
Northeast Facing Section



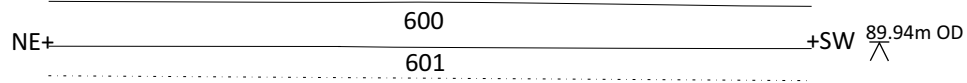
Northeast Facing Section



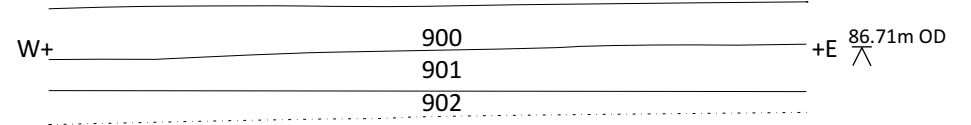
Southwest Facing Section



Northwest Facing Section



South Facing Section



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Figure 6: Representative sections in Trenches 4 to 9

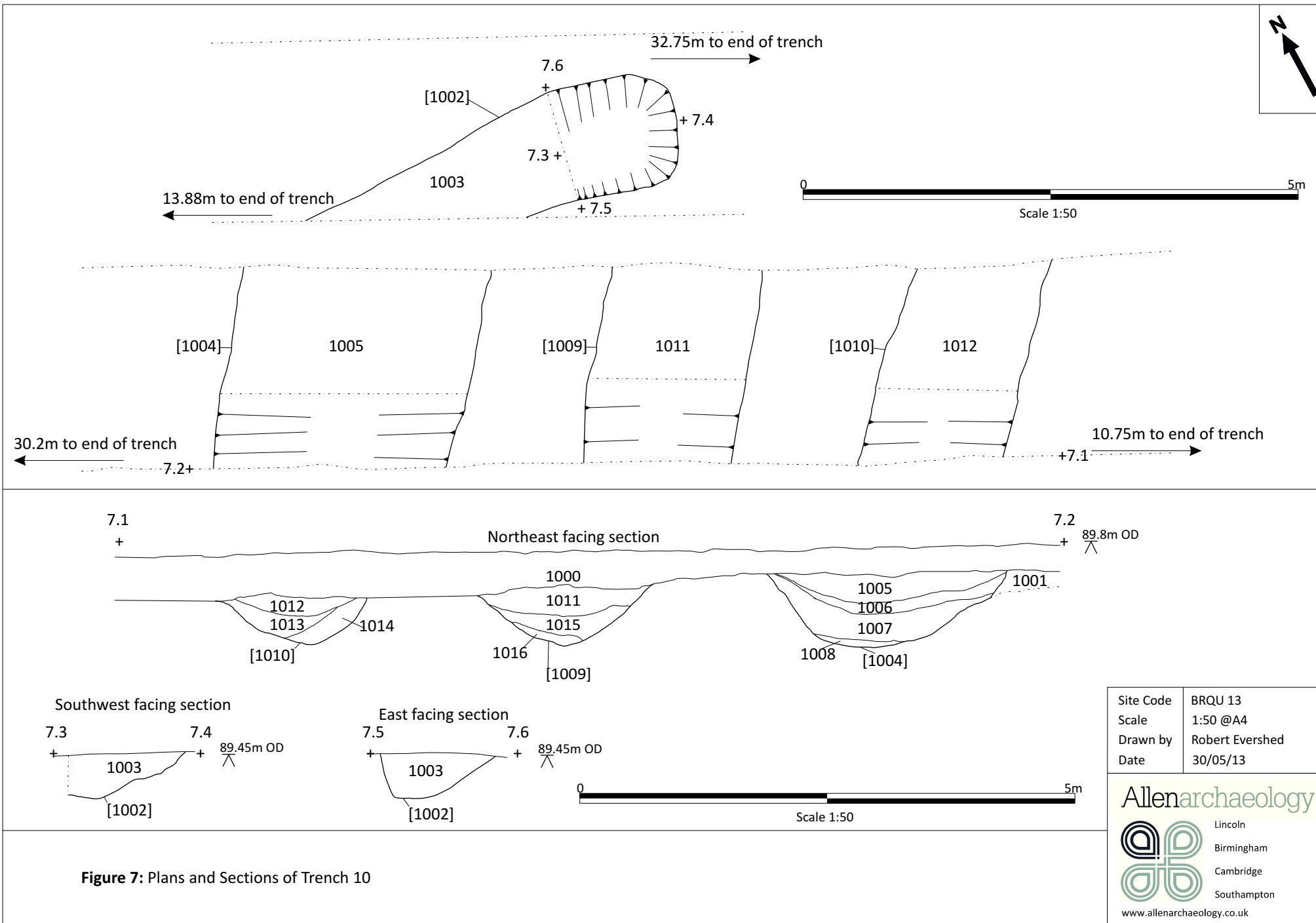
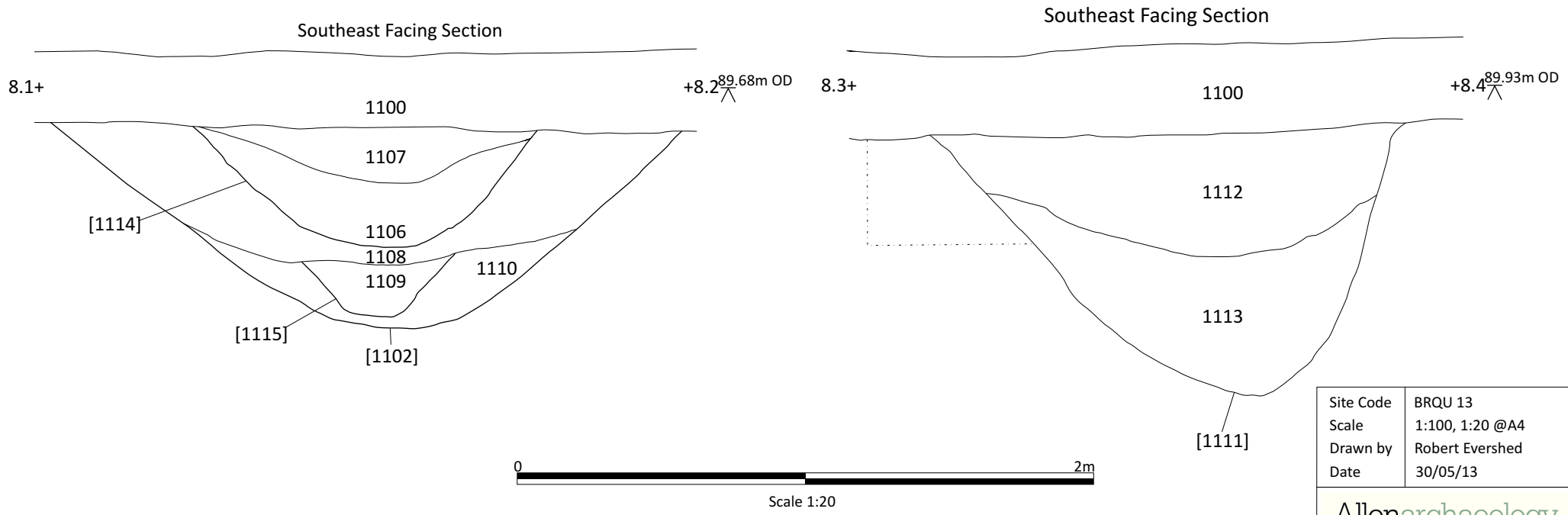
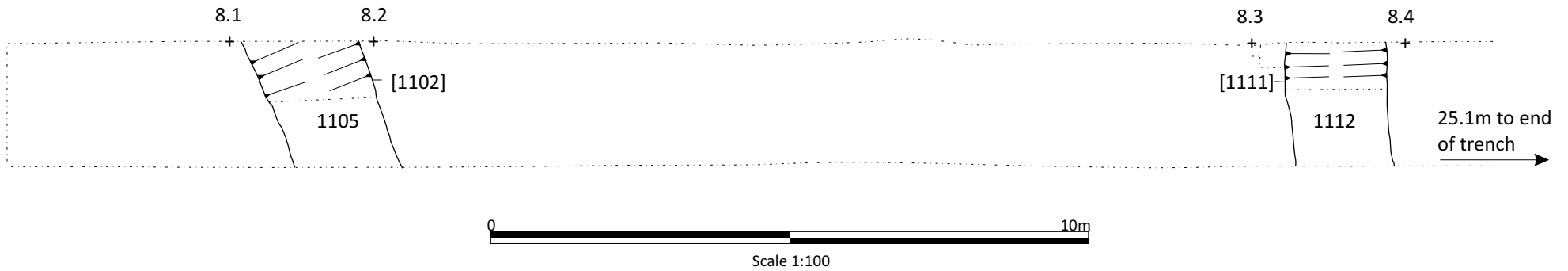


Figure 7: Plans and Sections of Trench 10



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Figure 8: Plans and Sections of Trench 11

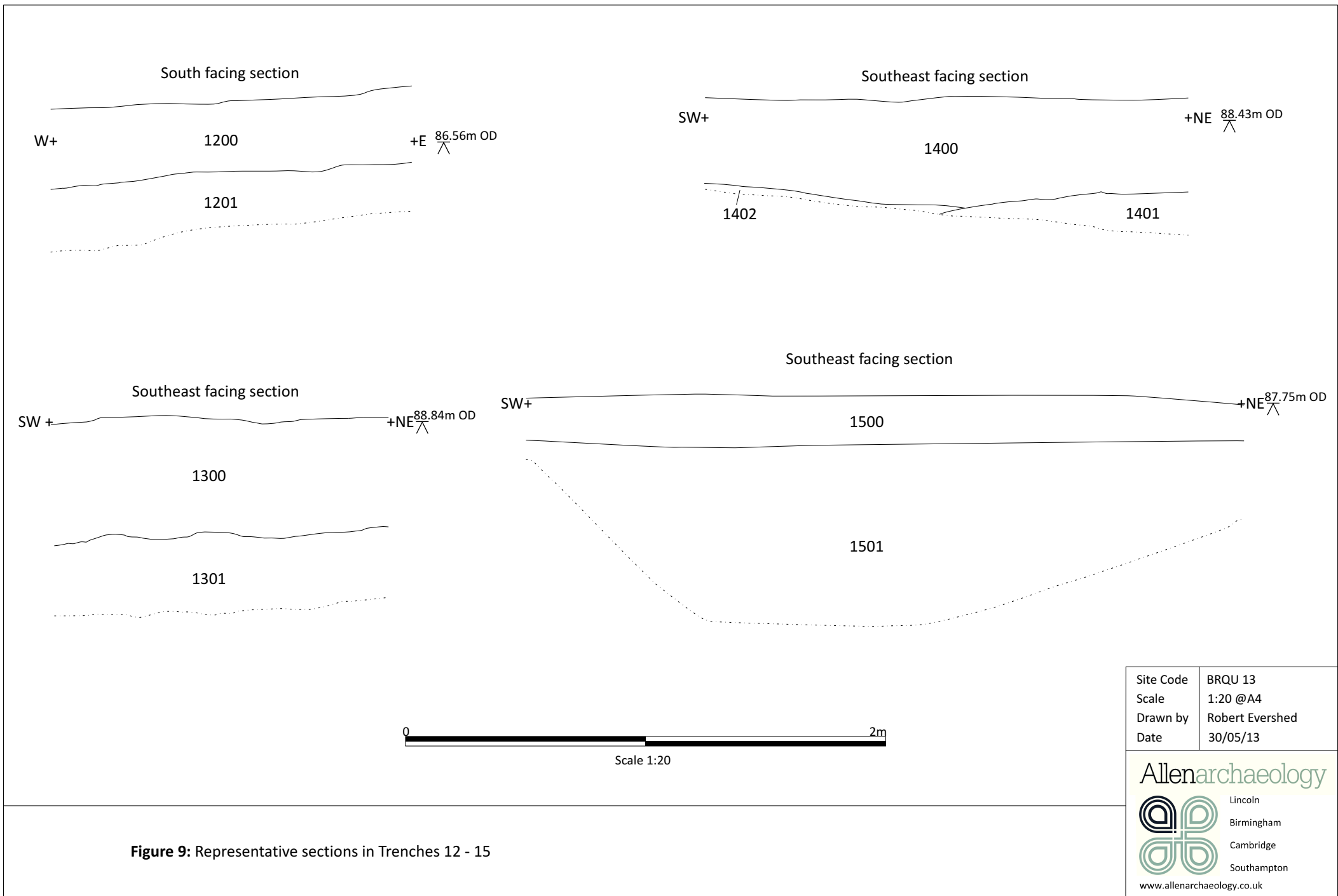


Figure 9: Representative sections in Trenches 12 - 15



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