

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND OFF JAWBONE LANE, MELBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE

Planning Reference: 9/2014/1145

NGR: SK 3902 2593

AAL Site Code: MEJL 14

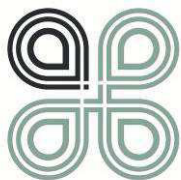
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Report prepared for Prospect Archaeology Limited
on behalf of Linden Homes

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number AAL2015030

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Allenarchaeology



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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology Limited on behalf of Linden Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Jawbone Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire, in support of a planning application for proposed residential development.
- There is some limited evidence for prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site. A preceding geophysical however did not identify any features of potential archaeological interest.
- A trenching strategy was agreed with South Derbyshire District County Council for six 30m by 1.6m wide evaluation trenches, to be excavated across the proposed development site, focussed mainly on the northern part of the site, beyond the extent of the geophysical survey.
- The evaluation trenching revealed no significant archaeological remains; however, a southeast-northwest orientated linear feature was recorded in Trenches 1 and 5, crossing the site, which related to a former boundary shown on late 19th and early 20th century mapping. Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 contained no archaeological finds or features.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology Limited on behalf of Linden Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Jawbone Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire, in support of a planning application for A proposed residential development.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation*' (CIfA 2014) and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to Derbyshire Museums Service within twelve months of the completion of the project.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Melbourne is located approximately 11km south-southeast of central Derby. The proposed development area is to the northeast of Melbourne town centre and south of King's Newton, and is bisected by Jawbone Lane. A smaller triangular plot extending to 1.8ha is to the south of Jawbone Lane and east of its junction with Station Road.
- 2.2 The area investigated by evaluation trenching is situated north of Jawbone Lane and is an irregular shaped plot measuring c.3.1ha, which is bounded to the northwest by a public footpath to the northeast by Blakefield House, and to the south by Jawbone Lane.
- 2.3 The local bedrock geology consists of Chatsworth Grit Formation sandstone and Morridge Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, with no superficial geology recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Linden Homes has submitted an outline planning application to South Derbyshire District Council for a residential development of land at Jawbone Lane, Melbourne. This was supported by a Heritage Assessment (Prospect Archaeology 2014) and a previously completed geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2014).
- 3.2 Due to the potential impact on archaeological remains and the northernmost part of the site being inaccessible for geophysical survey, the Derbyshire County Council County Archaeologist recommended a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in order to provide further information concerning the nature and extent of the archaeological resource.
- 3.3 The approach adopted is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A comprehensive Heritage Assessment (Prospect Archaeology 2014) has been previously undertaken for this site and a summary is included below.
- 4.2 The earliest evidence of human activity was recorded first in excavations in 1973 around Castle Street, 600m southwest of the site, exposed pits containing a decorated Neolithic pottery vessel along with three fragments of quartzite axehead. Later fieldwalking in 1999 on the east side of Jawbone Lane produced a small number of flint flakes.
- 4.3 Roman activity is represented by the discovery of a stone disc quern found northwest of Jawbone Lane, three Roman coins found to the east of Jawbone Lane, and a single coin of Decentius (AD350-353) found at the crossroads between Jawbone Lane and Main Street.
- 4.4 There is limited evidence of Saxon occupation in the area, however two pieces of copper alloy strap ends, depicting zoomorphic animals dated to the 9th century have been found east of Jawbone Lane. A Saxon burial site is rumoured to have been found during railway construction works in 1866, however recent fieldwalking has failed to provide any further evidence of this site.
- 4.5 The Domesday Book of 1086 first mentions Melbourne as '*Milebyrne*', meaning mill stream or pond. A royal manor house in the parish underwent fortification in 1311 with the intention of creating Melbourne Castle, however it was never finished and the site is now occupied by Castle Farm.
- 4.6 During the post-medieval period the village of Melbourne grew through the manufacture of silk, with Kendrick silk factory located on Chapel Street half a kilometre to the southwest. A later railway ran to the east of the site, closing in 1980.
- 4.7 A preceding geophysical survey (Bunn 2014) was undertaken across the area of land to the east of Jawbone Lane, and the southern part of the plot of land to the west of Jawbone Lane. Dense vegetation in the northern part of the site precluded survey. The survey identified few features of interest, other than traces of former field boundaries, modern services and cultivation trends.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 A strategy for the evaluation of the site, comprising six 30m long by 1.6m wide trench was agreed by Prospect Archaeology and the County Archaeologist. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 were located within an area previously subject to geophysical survey, with Trenches 2, 3 and 4 located outside of the surveyed area. The fieldwork was undertaken by a team of three experienced field archaeologists during the week commencing Monday 2nd March 2015, and were supervised by Iain Pringle.
- 5.2 The trenches were located using a Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS, allow centimetre accurate real time precision. Topsoil was removed in spits no greater than 0.1m in thickness, using a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, until the first archaeologically significant horizon or natural was exposed. All further excavation was then by hand.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL trench recording sheets and context record sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn in plan and section (at appropriate scales), with Ordnance Datum (OD) heights displayed on each class of drawing. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, with photographs referenced with an identification board, scales and a north arrow.

6.0 Results (Figures 2-5)

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 6.1 Trench 1 extended northeast from the edge of the previously surveyed area (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 was mid greyish brown sandy silt, 101, interpreted as natural geology, and was sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of topsoil, 100.
- 6.3
- 6.4 Trench 1 contained a single northwest – southeast oriented gully, [103], measuring 0.64m wide by 0.12m deep. The gully contained a dark greyish brown sandy silt fill, 102, sealing a mid brownish grey sandy silt, 104. The gully also contained a modern, ceramic doorknob in its upper fill. No other finds were recovered.



Plate 1: Northwest-facing section of gully [103], 1m scale

Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 (Figure 5)

- 6.5 The stratigraphic sequences recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 were the same: a layer of 0.3–0.5m thick topsoil, overlying mid brown orange sandy silt natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were recorded and no artefacts were recovered from any of these trenches.

Trench 5 (Figure 4)

- 6.6 Trench 5 was located with approximately half of the trench crossing the area of geophysical survey with the northeast end of the trench extending outside of the surveyed area.

- 6.7 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 5 was mid-greyish brown sandy silt, 501, interpreted as natural geology, which was sealed by a 0.45m thick layer of topsoil, 500.
- 6.8 A northwest – southeast oriented gully, [503], measuring 1.00m wide and 0.30m deep, was recorded towards the centre of the trench. The feature contained a single fill of compact dark grey sandy silt, 502, which produced a small group of modern finds.



Plate 2: Southeast-facing section of gully [503], 1m scale

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The evaluation trenching revealed a sequence of topsoil overlying natural silty sand throughout the site. Two recent linear features were recorded, one in Trench 1 and one in Trench 5, both producing small quantities of modern finds. This is likely to represent part of the same boundary, running along the edge of the area subject to geophysical survey. This suggests a modern field boundary between the pasture and the more overgrown land to the northeast, which could not be surveyed. This was not visible on the site but appears to be present on Ordnance Survey mapping from 1882 to 1922 but is not shown on mapping after this date.
- 7.2 The evidence suggests a negligible archaeological potential for the site.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The trial trenching methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has identified a negligible archaeological potential for the site, and suggests that the impact of the proposed development will be similarly negligible.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Prospect Archaeology Limited and Linden Homes for this commission and CW Plant hire for providing the plant for this project.

10.0 References

Bunn, D., 2014, *Archaeological Geophysical Survey, Jawbone Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire*, Lincoln, Pre-Construct Geophysics

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Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Friable, black, sandy silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
101	Layer	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with occasional pebbles	Natural
102	Fill	Friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of gully [103]
103	Cut	Linear shape in plan, E - W oriented with gradual sides and flat base	Cut of gully
104	Fill	Friable, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks	Basal fill of gully [103]

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Friable, black, sandy silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
201	Layer	Compact, mid brownly orange with very occasional pebbles	Natural

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Friable, black, sandy silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
301	Layer	Compact, mid brownly orange with very occasional pebbles	Natural

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
400	Layer	Friable, black, sandy silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
401	Layer	Compact, mid brownly orange with very occasional pebbles	Natural

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
500	Layer	Friable, black, sandy silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
501	Layer	Compact, mid brownly orange with very occasional pebbles	Natural
502	Fill	Compact, dark grey sandy silt	Fill of gully [502]
503	Cut	Linear shape in plan, NW - SE oriented with gradual sides and flat base	Cut of gully

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
600	Layer	Friable, black, sandy silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
601	Layer	Compact, mid brownly orange with very occasional pebbles	Natural

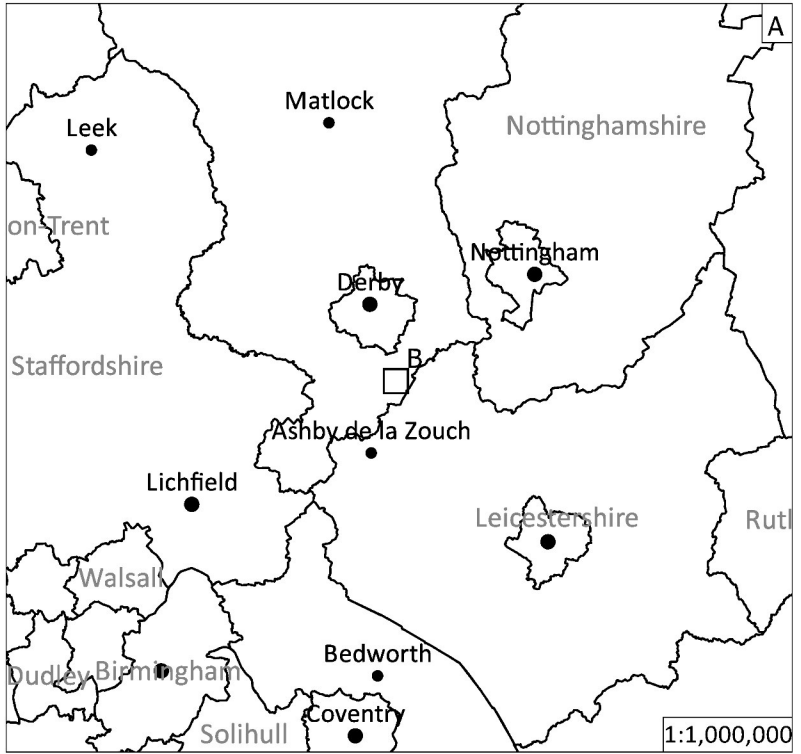
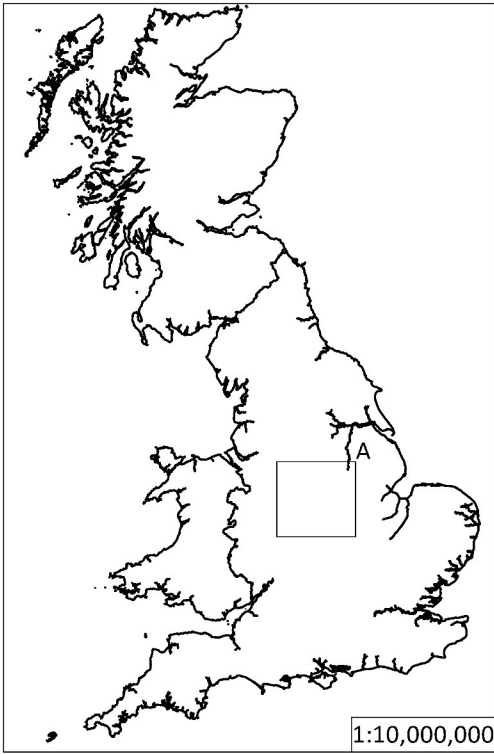


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	MEJL 15
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	D Connor
Date	06/03/15

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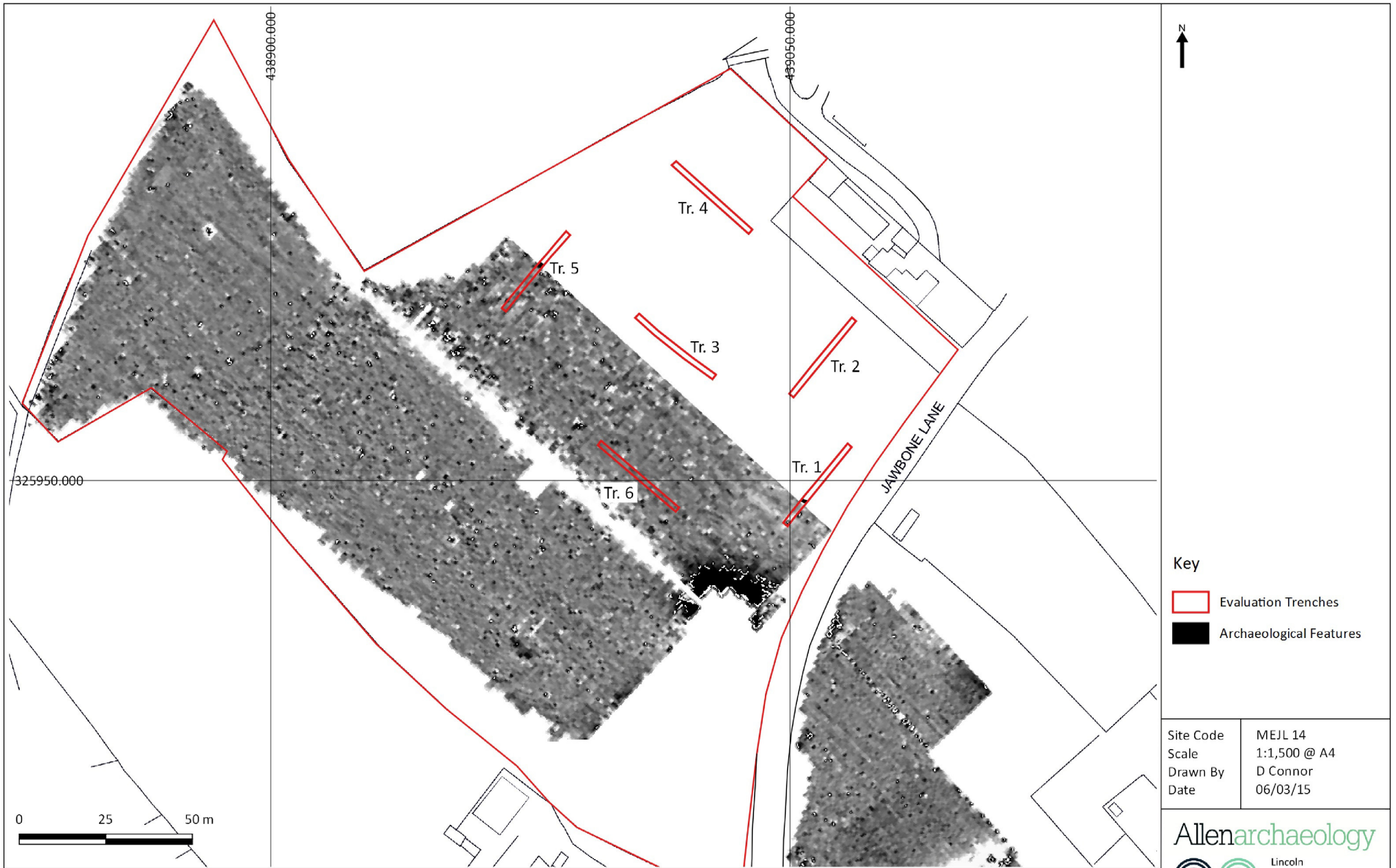
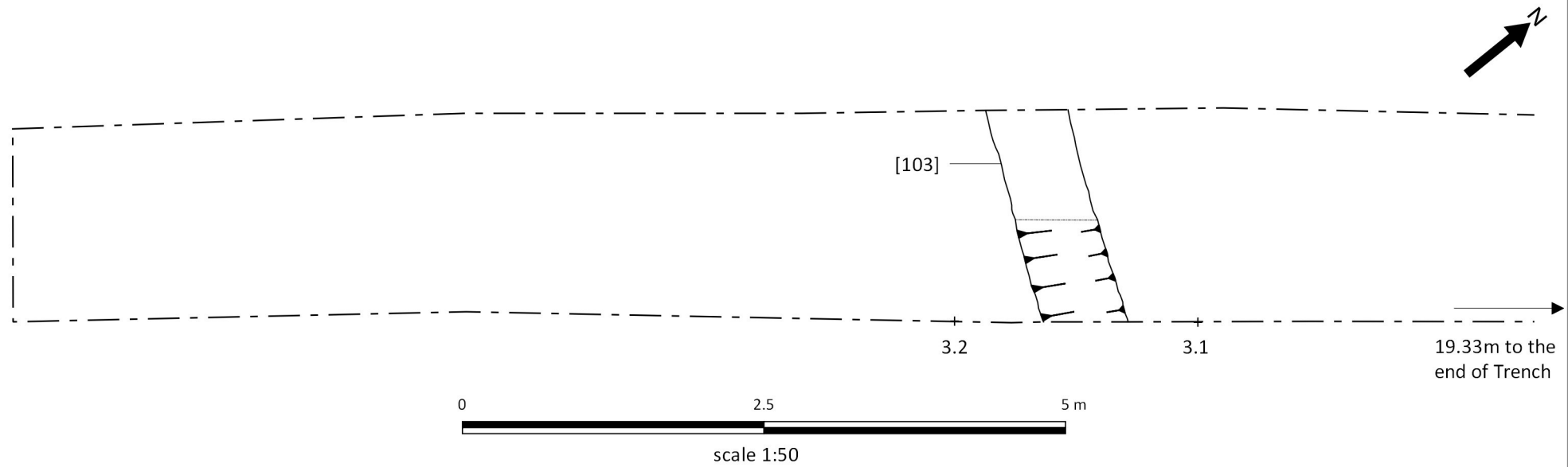
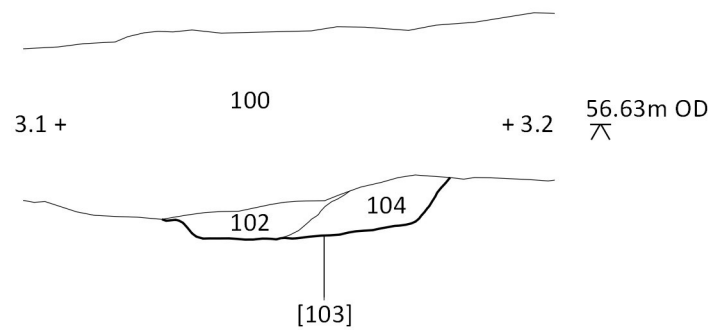


Figure 2: Trenches located over previous geophysical survey, with archaeological features from the evaluation trenching marked in solid black



Northwest Facing Section of [103]



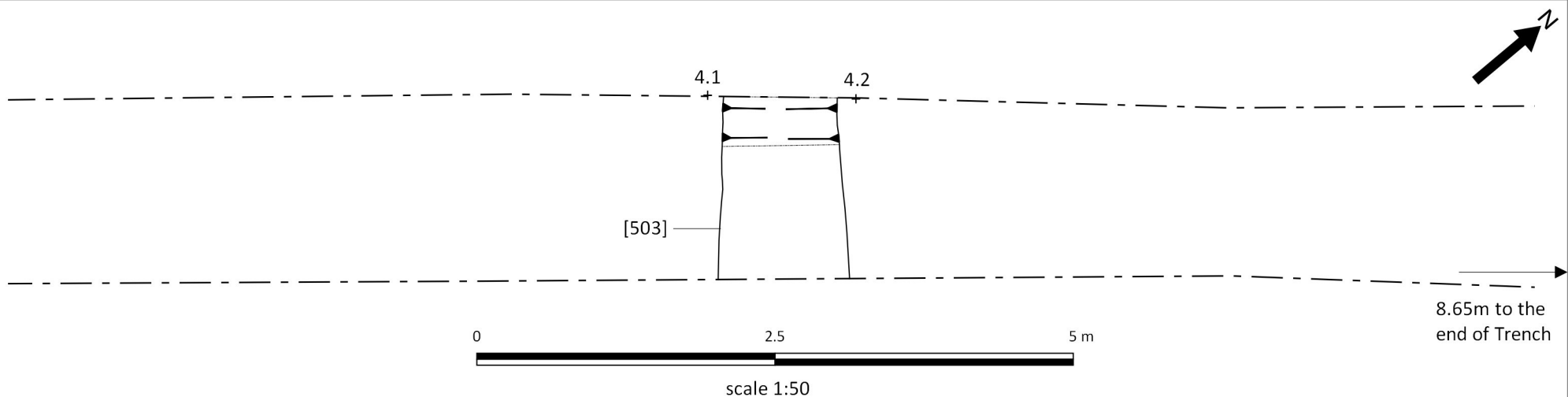
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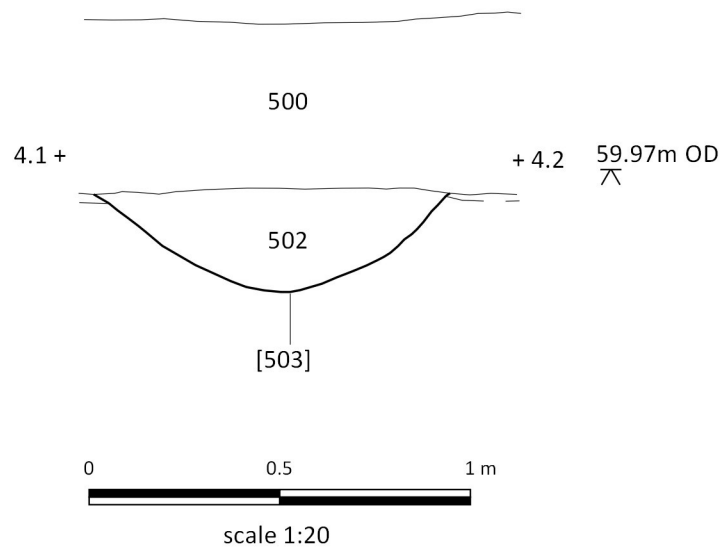


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Figure 3: Plan and section of Trench 1



Southeast Facing Section of [503]



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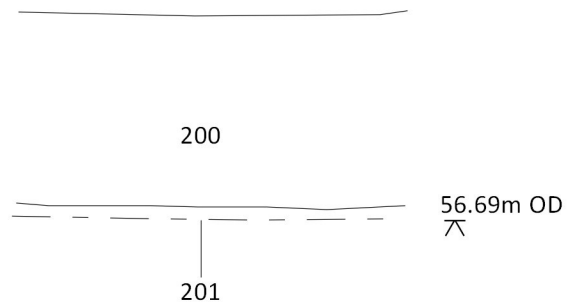
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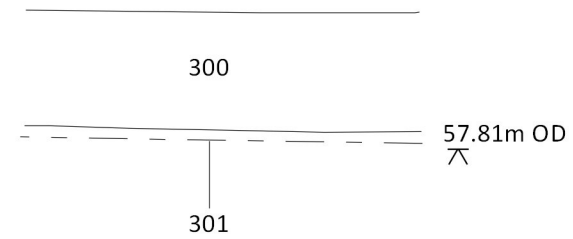
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Figure 4: Plan and section of Trench 5

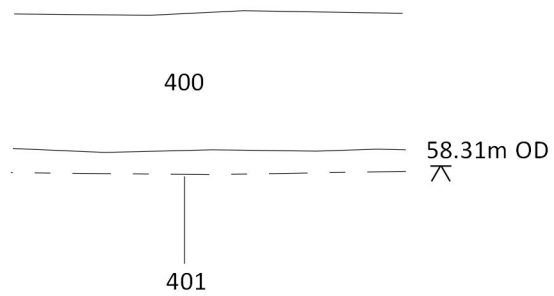
Northwest Facing Section of Trench 2



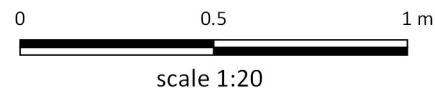
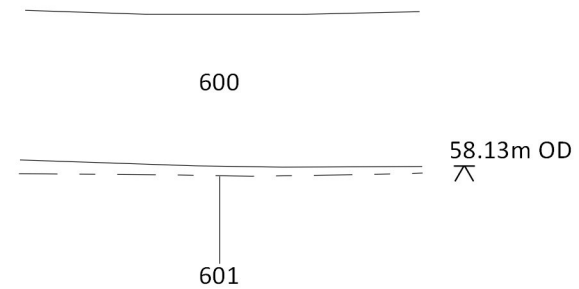
Northeast Facing Section of Trench 3



Northeast Facing Section of Trench 4



Southwest Facing Section of Trench 6



Site Code	MEJL 14
Scale	1:50 & 1:20 @ A4
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Figure 5: Representative sections of Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6



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