

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
**TRIAL TRENCHING OF LAND AT MALT PARK, OFF MALKILN LANE
IN NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Planning Reference: O9/01765/FUL
NGR: SK 8029 5478
Site Code: NEML 10
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-75064



Report prepared for BSA Design Ltd
On behalf of T. Balfe Construction Ltd

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number 2010018

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Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by BSA Design Limited, on behalf of T. Balfe Construction Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed retail development on land at Malt Park, off Maltkiln Lane in Newark, Nottinghamshire.
- The site is situated to the east of the River Trent on the site of the former Bairds Malting complex. The proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area containing Romano-British activity, a medieval leper hospital c.100m to the east-south-east and the post-medieval Exeter House at the Spittal sited to the east of the site. The Civil War period King's Sconce was located to the west of the site.
- Two trenches were excavated, with the most significant activity exposed comprising two ditches orientated broadly north – south. Handmade brick within the backfill of one of the ditches suggested the material was deposited in the 18th century at the earliest.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by BSA Design Limited, on behalf of T. Balfe Construction Ltd, to carry out an archaeological evaluation by trial excavation on land at Malt Park, off Maltkiln Lane, Newark, Nottinghamshire.
- 1.2 The excavating, 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). All appropriate English Heritage guidance on archaeological practice was also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to an appropriate receiving museum within twelve months of the completion of this report.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Newark is situated on the River Trent, approximately 26km east-north-east of the centre of Nottingham. The site is to the north of Newark town centre, on the north-east side of Trent Lane, and to the north-west of Maltkiln Lane, centred on NGR SK 8029 5478.
- 2.2 The site lies at a height of approximately 15m OD, and is situated on a solid geology of Mercia Mudstone, sealed by superficial deposits of River Gravel (British Geological Survey 1966).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted to Newark and Sherwood District Council for the erection of a new retail development (Planning Reference 09/01765/FUL). The application was refused on several grounds, including there being insufficient information to allow for an adequate determination of the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. In order to provide this information, a programme of archaeological trial trenching was requested.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, although a Bronze Age axe head has been found *c.*250m to the south-west (National Monuments Record (hereafter NMR) Reference 324254).
- 4.2 There is abundant evidence of Romano-British activity in the area however. A cremation cemetery of probable 2nd century date was recorded in 1938, approximately 250m to the south-west of the site (*ibid*). Archaeological evaluation trenching nearby have exposed ditches and gullies of Roman date, as well as building debris and coins (NMR Reference 894719). Further Romano-British activity, of 3rd and 4th century AD date has been recorded in the south-western part of the Civil War period King's Sconce, comprising a post-built structure, ditched enclosures and an inhumation (NMR Reference 1447004). The depth of the stratigraphy and density of the features in these areas has led to the suggestion that this is a site more typical of a small town, rather than dispersed rural settlement (Knight et. al. 2004).

- 4.3 There is limited evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site, although a 5th/6th century cremation cemetery of 85 individuals has been identified at Millgate in Newark, c.1.7km to the south-west (Smith 1906). Newark appears to have developed as an important fortified centre, probably during the 10th century, controlling important transport routes via the River Trent, and the former Roman Fosse Way (Elliott et. al. 2004). The place name is of Old English origin, meaning ‘*new work, fortification*’ referring to this newly fortified settlement (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~aezins//kepn.php>).
- 4.4 Prior to the Norman Conquest, Newark was owned by Countess Godgifu, or Godiva, wife of Leofric, the Earl of Mercia. After the Conquest, it passed to the Bishop of Lincoln, along with two outlying estates at Farndon and Balderton. Newark is recorded as having ten churches at this time, as well as a mill and a fishery (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 4.5 The current site is believed to lie well beyond the urban area of the medieval town. A medieval leper hospital, dedicated to St. Leonard has been partially excavated on a site c.100m to the east-south-east however. The excavations in 1929 exposed a pit containing 90 skulls, wall foundations a tomb, a chalice of 13th century date and a range of other small finds of medieval date. The hospital was founded c.1130, and continued to operate as a bede-house until it was replaced in 1640 (NMR Reference 324280). Possible building foundations associated with this structure were also recorded in the area of the King’s Sconce, 100m to the west (NMR Reference 1447004).
- 4.6 Approximately 100m to the west was the former site of Exeter House at the Spittal that was used as a field headquarters. This house was subsequently demolished for the construction of the King’s Sconce (the Dutch word for a fort), a Civil War earthwork with internal buildings constructed during the siege of Newark in 1645 and used by the Royalist forces (Brown 2004). The site was destroyed in 1887 by the industrial development of Farrar’s boiler works (NMR Reference 324317 and Warner 2000).
- 4.7 As the urban extent of the town expanded during the 19th century, the area around the current site developed as an industrial zone, with particular emphasis on the malting and brewing industry. The site once housed the former grain stores of the Bairds Maltings that was constructed in 1879 for James Hole and Company. The maltings were last used in 1975 and were subsequently utilised as an antiques warehouse before it was destroyed in a fire on the night of 22nd December 1990 (Stephens 1993).
- 4.8 Much of this industrial heritage in this area of Newark has now been lost and the area is currently under redevelopment.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by a team of two experienced field archaeologists in the week beginning 15th March 2010. A single interconnecting 72m long x 1.60m wide trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. A second smaller trench (4m in length x 1.60m wide) was investigated along the southern boundary of the site (Figure 2).
- 5.2 The excavation was carried out with a tracked excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket, and was monitored under close archaeological supervision. The demolition overburden within Trench 1 was removed in spits not exceeding 0.10m in depth until the natural clay was identified. A small sondage was excavated within the south-western portion of the

trench to assess the natural stratigraphy. At a depth of 2.20m it was confirmed the natural clay was not re-deposited. A single linear ditch was encountered within the central part of the site truncating the natural clay. This was excavated by hand.

- 5.3 A second trench was requested by the Senior Archaeological Officer to investigate if the disturbance encountered within Trench 1 continued southwards. This trench was machine excavated in spits to a depth of 0.25m where archaeological layers/deposits were encountered and subsequently excavated by hand.
- 5.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:500, 1:100 and 1:20), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.5 Each deposit, layer or cut of potential archaeological origin was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 5. Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. Ditch [100]).

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Figures 3 and 4, Plates 1 – 5)

- 6.1.1 Machine excavation removed approximately 0.05m of very dark grey moderately friable sandy topsoil 103. This topsoil survived in isolated places across the site. The mottled red and light greenish grey compact clay with gypsum inclusions 104 was encountered partially underlying the topsoil, 103. It was also visible on the ground surface, where it was partially contaminated with brick and concrete rubble 109.
- 6.1.2 Several large modern extraction pits were noted across the site. These pits [107], [111], [115] and [119] were formed recently from the removal of the concrete foundations that once supported the stanchion posts for the former brewery storehouse. The fills of the first three features (108, 112 and 116) contained crushed concrete whilst fill 120 containing crushed brick, concrete and plastic within dark reddish brown sandy silt. A sub-rectangular trench [105] that was partially truncated by [107] contained dense quantities of loose mortared bricks, concrete and asbestos sheeting fragments interspersed within mottled black and dark grey silty sand, 106. This feature along with the four previous described extraction pits all related to the demolition of the brewery storehouses.
- 6.1.3 A thin (0.05m thick) layer of dark brown sandy silt, 110 was recorded within the north-western part of the site. This buried layer represents former topsoil that contained a mid/late 16th to mid 17th century late Cistercian cylindrical cup fragment and a butchered cattle bone.
- 6.1.4 A set of four isolated features (cuts [113], [117], [123] and [125]) and a drain [121] that related to the former brewery storehouses were investigated. Two rectilinear pits [113] and [117] contained brown sandy fill, 114 and 118 respectively, interspersed with bricks and concrete fragments. The backfilling of these two pits probably occurred during the demolition of the storehouses. A potential square pit [123] located to the north of pit [117] contained a similar fill to 118 with large quantities of grain present. The vertical cut of pit [125] related to the former

elevator shaft and was backfilled with brown sandy silt with wood planks, grain and complete bricks, 126. Several iron fittings were noted in this fill that may have been associated with the elevator.

- 6.1.5 Pit [117] truncated the eastern side of a linear ditch [100]. This ditch was orientated broadly north – south and had steep concave western side and a steep slightly convex eastern side with rounded base. This ditch contained re-deposited natural clay 102 within its base and this was sealed with medium brown silty clay 101 with occasional stone fragments. The upper portion of this deposit contained two articulated juvenile goose skeletons and the partially articulated remains of a dog. A single 13th to early/mid 14th century Beverley Orange ware jug fragment was also recovered. Further isolated animal (cattle, sheep/goat, pig and dog), bird (goose) and large and small mammal bones were interspersed throughout this fill. Some of these bones displayed evidence of gnawing by carnivores suggestive that the remains were left exposed to scavengers as part of or following the disposal process.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 5, Plate 6)

- 6.2.1 Machine excavation removed approximately 0.20m of very dark brown moderately compact topsoil 200. This overlay the friable greyish-brown sandy silt, 202 within the western limits of the trench. This deposit of re-deposited soil cut into the earlier 0.50m deep reddish-brown silty re-deposited natural clay 201, which in turn sealed linear [203] that was orientated north – south.
- 6.2.2 Ditch [203] cut into compact reddish-brown silty clay, 208 that contained a single pig bone and a further unidentified animal bone. The eastern slope of the ditch was at approximately 45^o, running to a rounded base. The primary fill consisted of compact yellow silty sand 207 with crushed stone at its base and five handmade brick fragments of 18th to mid 20th century date. This was sealed by moderately compact greyish-brown sandy silt 206 with occasional limestone inclusions and a mid/late 16th to mid 17th century Cistercian cylindrical cup fragment and a single dog tooth. The third deposit to accumulate within the central portion of Ditch [203] was pale yellow silty sand with crushed sandstone, ceramic building material (CBM) and large fragments of limestone, 205. This material was likely a dump from a nearby structure, as mortar was adhering to the building fragments. The final fill was moderately compact greyish brown sandy silt 206 with frequent limestone inclusions.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The two ditches identified in Trench 1 and 2 were both similarly orientated and were broadly similar in depth and profile. It was uncertain during the excavation if these ditches were part of the same continuous feature however.
- 7.2 Ditch [100] produced gnawed animal bone and a single small sherd of medieval pottery. The gnawed bone encountered suggested this ditch remained open to scavengers and was utilised at a later date for the interment of two goose burials and a single dog. Ditch [203] was either regularly cleaned or open for a short period of time before mortared building stone (limestone) and bricks of 18th – mid 20th century character were dumped within it. Subsequent silting or infilling included small quantities of animal bone and a single large piece of Cistercian pottery of post-medieval date.

- 7.3 The dumping of the handmade bricks within ditch [203] shows that it was backfilled with demolition rubble no earlier than the 18th century, and quite possibly later. This would indicate the bricks are not from Exeter House in the Spittal which was demolished in 1664 following the siege by Sir John Meldrum (leader of the second siege of Newark). The presence of a single pottery sherd of late 16th – mid 17th century date from later backfill 206 must therefore be residual.
- 7.4 Following the demolition of Exeter House in 1644 the Kings Sconce was constructed to the south-west of the site, with subsequent cartographic sources depicting this area as open grassland (Brown 2004).
- 7.5 During the current archaeological investigations, the ditches encountered on the site show that there is some potential for features to survive within isolated areas of the site that have had little 19th and 20th century disturbances.
- 7.6 The construction of the brewery storehouses is likely to have caused some truncation to archaeological deposits that may have been present across the site.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation methodology was appropriate to allow an understanding the condition, extent and nature of the potential archaeological resource within the proposed development area of the Maltkiln Lane site. The current archaeological investigations have shown that the extensive disturbance caused by the construction of the former Bairds Brewery has potentially cleared some of the significant buried archaeological resource that may have been present within the proposed development area.
- 8.2 The survival of well stratified archaeological deposits along the southern boundary of the site suggests that the archaeology may extend eastwards under the tarmac that lies outside the development area (Cutler and Ramsey 2005).

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank BSA Design Limited and their client T. Balfe Construction Ltd, for this commission. Thanks are also extended to Ursilla Spence, Senior Archaeology Officer at Nottinghamshire County Council.

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11.0 Site Archive

11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeology Limited. It will be submitted to an appropriate receiving museum within twelve months of the completion of the project.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site during excavation, looking north



Plate 2: Natural deposits 104 within Trench 1, looking west



Plate 3: General view of Brewery and post-brewery disturbances within Trench 1, looking southwards



Plate 4: General view of Trench 1, ditch [100], looking north-north-east



Plate 5: South-south-west facing section through ditch [100] in Trench 1, looking northwards



Plate 6: North-east facing section through ditch [203], Trench 2

Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery Assessment

By Jane Young

Three post-Roman sherds were submitted for examination. Two are of late Cistercian type and come from cylindrical cups of mid/late 16th to mid 17th century date. Similar vessels have been found on a number of sites in Newark, including the Newark Castle site where the Cistercian ware included a few misfired vessels, possibly of local manufacture. The medieval sherd is a regional import from Beverley in East Yorkshire and comes from a jug of 13th to early/mid 14th century date.

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
101	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	Fabric B	jug	1	2	BS	glazed	13th to early/mid 14th
110	CIST	Cistercian-type ware		cylindrical cup	1	42	BS	thick walled;Midlands	mid/late 16th to mid 17th
206	CIST	Cistercian-type ware		cylindrical cup	1	29	BS	thick walled;Midlands	mid/late 16th to mid 17th

Appendix 3: The Post-Roman Brick Assessment

By Jane Young

Five handmade bricks in two different fabrics were submitted for examination. The size of the bricks and the manufacturing techniques used suggest that they are all of 18th to mid 20th century date. These bricks are not represented in the Type Series constructed from the NPLS 08 and TGNN 07 sites and should therefore be retained until complete examples are recovered. Mortar extending over the broken edges of four of the bricks indicate that they have been reused in rubble makeup

Fabric 1: This oxidised fabric has fine background quartz below 0.2mm and includes common mixed medium to coarse round to sub-round quartz (0.3-0.8mm)

Fabric 2: Oxidised fabric with an abundant fine quartz background below 0.2mm, sparse to moderate medium to coarse round to sub-round quartz (0.4-0.8mm) and lenses of cream clay.

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
207	BRK	Brick	Site Fabric 1	1	904	handmade;118x43mm;fine sand bedding;sanded sides;large pebble inclusions	18th to mid 20th
207	BRK	Brick	Site Fabric 2	1	1368	handmade;end;mortar incl on broken edges;slop	18th to mid 20th
207	BRK	Brick	Site Fabric 2	1	1103	handmade;50mm thick;fine sanded sides & bedding;corner;mortar incl breaks	18th to mid 20th
207	BRK	Brick	Site Fabric 1	1	537	handmade;110x43mm;mortar including over breaks;width	18th to mid 20th
207	BRK	Brick	Site Fabric 2	1	502	handmade;end;mortar incl over all breaks;110x48mm;sanded sides	18th to mid 20th

Appendix 4: Animal Bone Assessment

By Jen Wood

Introduction

A total of 71 (1056g) re-fitted fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during trial trench excavations undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd.

The remains were recovered from features and deposits from Trench 1, Ditch [100] and former topsoil (110) and Trench 2 Ditch [203] and re-deposited topsoil (208) all dated from the post-medieval period.

Results

The remains were generally of a good overall condition, averaging at grade 2 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

A single fragment of bone recovered from the re-deposited natural (208) displayed a single cut mark. It is not certain what butchery practice that this single could be associated with.

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

Carnivore gnawing was noted on two fragments of bone recovered from Ditch [100]. The presence of gnawing on the remains may suggest that the remains were left open to scavengers as part of or after the disposal process.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Taxon	Trench No.				Total
	1	2	3	4	
	(101) fill in Ditch [100]	(110) Former Topsoil	(206) Fill in Ditch [203]	(208) Re-deposited Natural	
<i>Equid</i> (Horse Family)	2				2
Cattle	3	1			4
Sheep/Goat	1				1
Pig	3			1	4
Dog (<i>Canis Sp.</i>)	4		1		5
Goose (<i>Anser Sp.</i>)	14*				14
Goose?	1				1
Bird	24				24
Large Mammal	2				2
Medium Mammal	6				6
Unidentified	7			1	8
N=	67	1	1	2	71

*MNI 2 individuals

As can be seen from table 1, the majority of the remains were identified as a goose. Closely followed by dog; with small numbers of cattle, pig, *equid* and unidentified bird identified within the assemblage.

The goose remains represented a minimum of 2 juvenile individuals. In addition, the dog remains were predominantly from a single individual, with a further single canine tooth from another animal. The represented species are relatively common to the post-medieval period.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence of the animals on site.

In the possible event of further archaeological works, the site would be liable to produce further remains of a similar condition and nature, with very good potential to provide further information on dietary economies and underlying husbandry practices for the site.

References

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Appendix 5: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Cut	NNW-SSE Linear cut moderately steep undulating SSW side to a flat base (NNE side not excavated). Contains 101 and 102	Possible linear ditch
101	Fill	Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional stone flecks/ fragments (contained dog remains). Sealing 102	Fill of [100]
102	Fill	Moderately compact pink to grey silty slate. Sealed by 101	Re-deposited natural forming lower fill of [100]
103	Layer	Moderately loose dark grey sandy soil sealing 104 and 106	Modern topsoil
104	Layer	Moderately compact and loose layers of red mottled light greenish grey clay with gypsum inclusions. Sealed by 103	Natural mudstone
105	Cut	N-S sub-rectangular cut with steep south, and steep tapered north sides. Containing 106	Cut of pit (foundation)
106	Fill	Moderately compact dark grey silty sand with black sandy inclusions and occasional brick, concrete, asbestos sheet fragments and iron fittings	Fill of [105]
107	Cut	E-W cut with steep south, and steep tapered north sides. Containing 108	Pit (station removal)
108	Fill	Moderately loose white to off grey crushed reinforced concrete	Fill of [107]
109	Layer	Moderately loose brown sandy demolition soil. Sealing 110	Modern brewery demolition soil
110	Layer	Moderately compact dark brown silty sand. Sealed by 109 sealing 114	Former topsoil
111	Cut	N-S sub-rectangular cut with near vertical sides to a flat base. Containing 112	Pit (station removal)
112	Fill	Moderately loose white to off grey crushed concrete with reinforcing bars	Fill of [111]
113	Cut	Cut with near vertical sides (base not excavated) truncated to the north. Containing 114	Brewery period pit
114	Fill	Brown sandy backfill with corporation brick and concrete fragments	Backfill of [113]
115	Cut	N-S rectangular cut with near vertical sides (base not excavated). Containing 116	Brewery period pit
116	Fill	Brown sandy backfill with brick and concrete blocks, nails, etc	Backfill of [115]
117	Cut	N-S rectangular cut with near vertical sides (base not excavated). Containing 118	Brewery period pit
118	Fill	Brown sandy backfill with brick and concrete fragments	Backfill of [117]
119	Cut	Possible linear cut with steep concave sides (base not excavated). Containing 120	Brewery period pit
120	Fill	Dark reddish brown sandy silt backfill with brick and concrete fragments	Backfill of [119]
121	Cut	E-W linear cut with near vertical sides to a flat base. Containing 122	Drainage trench
122	Fill	Moderately loose off white crushed concrete with a ceramic pipe	Fill of [121]
123	Cut	Cut with steep sides (base not excavated) continuing west out of trench area. Containing 124	Brewery period pit
124	Fill	Moderately loose brown sandy backfill with brick and grain	Fill of [123]

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
125	Cut	SW-NE cut with steep sides (base not excavated). Containing 126	Brewery demolition pit/ elevator pit
126	Fill	Moderately loose brown sandy backfill with brick wood iron fittings and grain	Fill of [125]

Trench 2

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Moderately loose very dark brown silt with occasional rootlets. Sealing 201	Topsoil
201	Layer	Moderately compact red brown silty clay. Sealed by 200 abutting 202 and sealing 204	Re-deposited natural forming part of a made ground/ levelling layer
202	Layer	Friable greyish mid brown sandy silt. Sealed by 200 abutting 202 and sealing 204	Made ground/ levelling layer
203	Cut	NE-SW linear with sharp breaks at top to increasingly shallow slope on the SE side (NW not exposed) and a rounded base. Contains 204, 205, 206 and 207	Possible linear ditch (continuation of ditch observed in Trench 1)
204	Fill	Moderately compact greyish mid brown sandy silt with stone fragments. Sealed by 201 and 202, sealing 205	Upper fill of [203]
205	Fill	Loose pale yellow silty sand with crushed stone and CBM. Sealing 206, sealed by 204	Building rubble rich dumping layer forming part of the fill of [203]
206	Fill	Moderately compact greyish mid brown sandy silt with occasional lime stone fragments. A 17 th century pot fragment was recovered from this fill. Sealed by 205, sealing 207	Early fill [203] of laid down very shortly after 207
207	Fill	Moderately compact pale yellow silty sand with crushed stone spread down SE side of [203] not quite reaching the base. Sealed by 206	Primary fill of 203
208	Layer	Compact red brown silty clay with charcoal	Re-deposited natural, cut by [203] and relating to earlier phase of activity on site

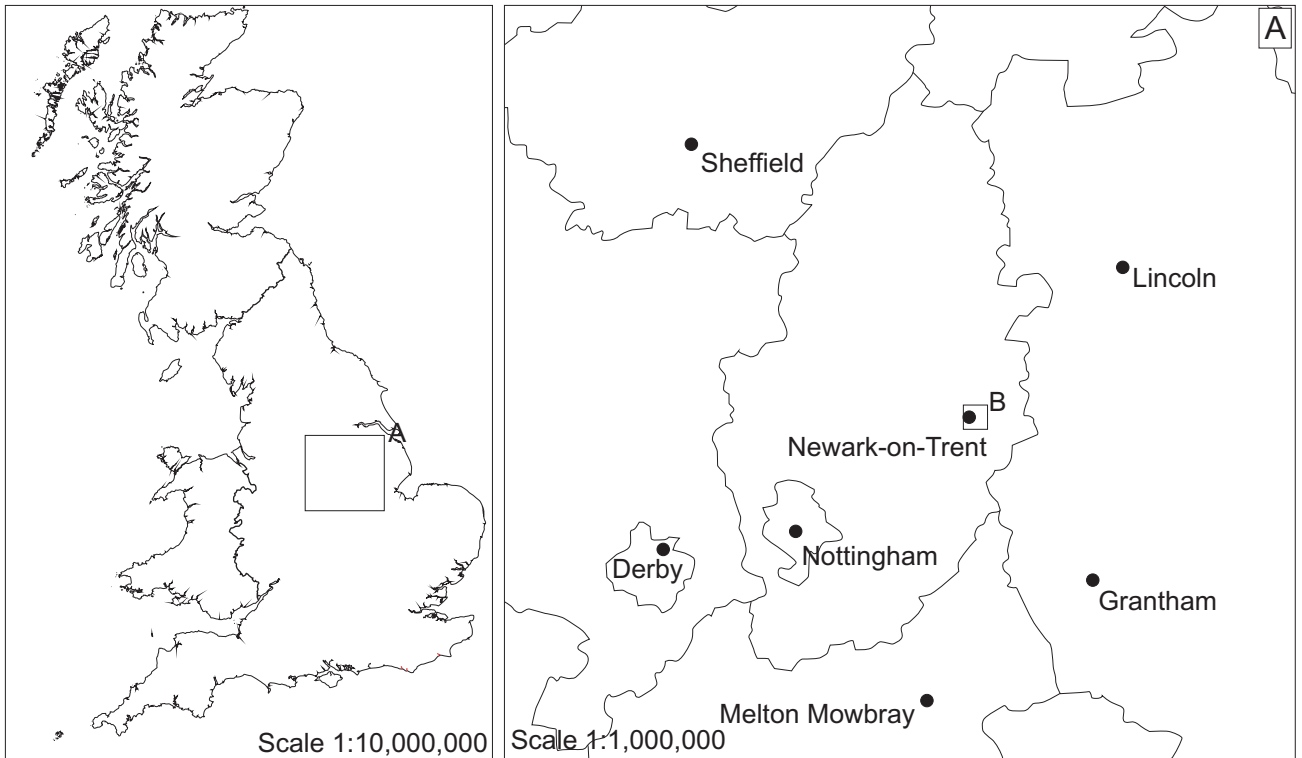


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site shown in red
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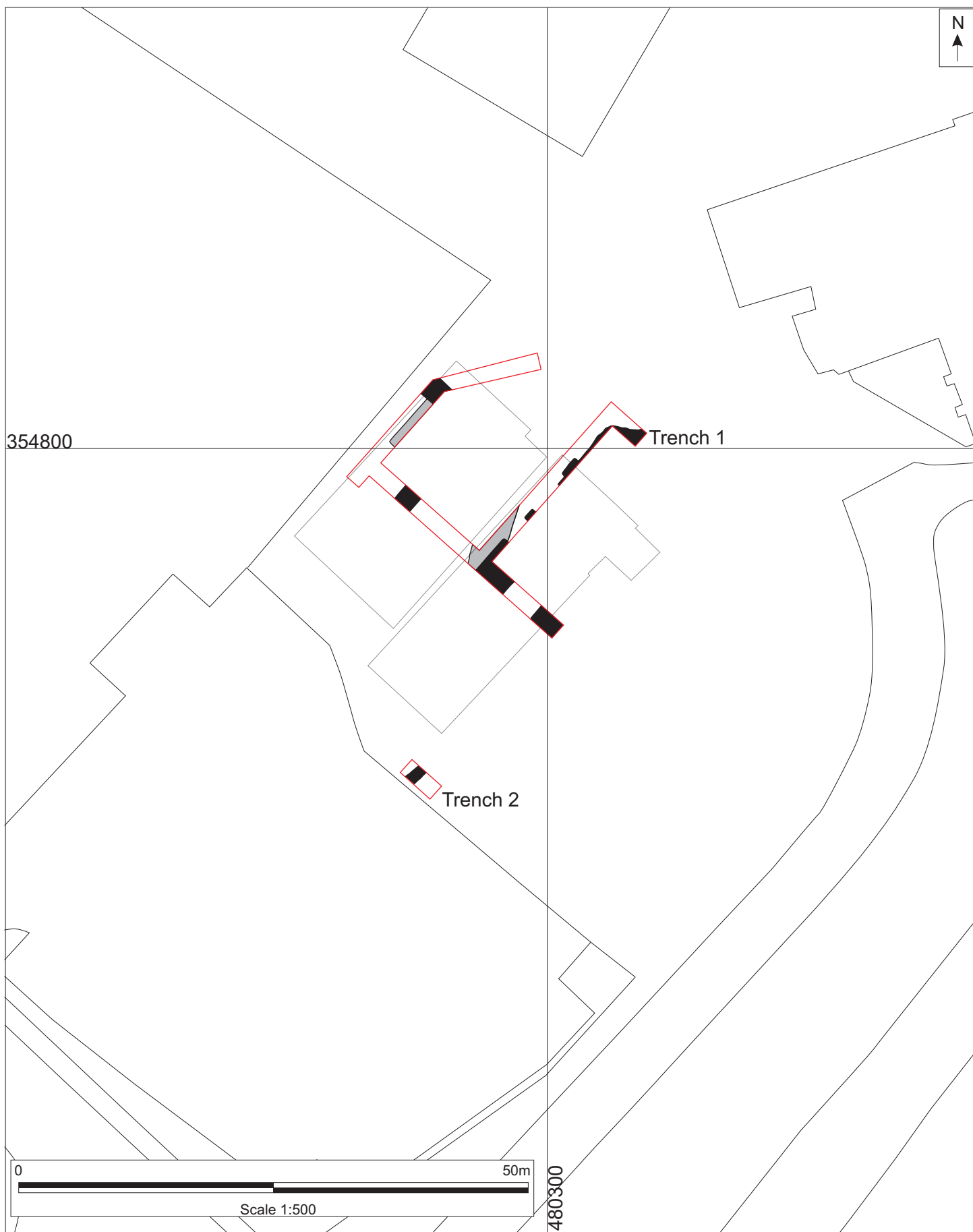


Figure 2: Trench location plan with archaeological deposits shown in black and grey, at scale 1:500

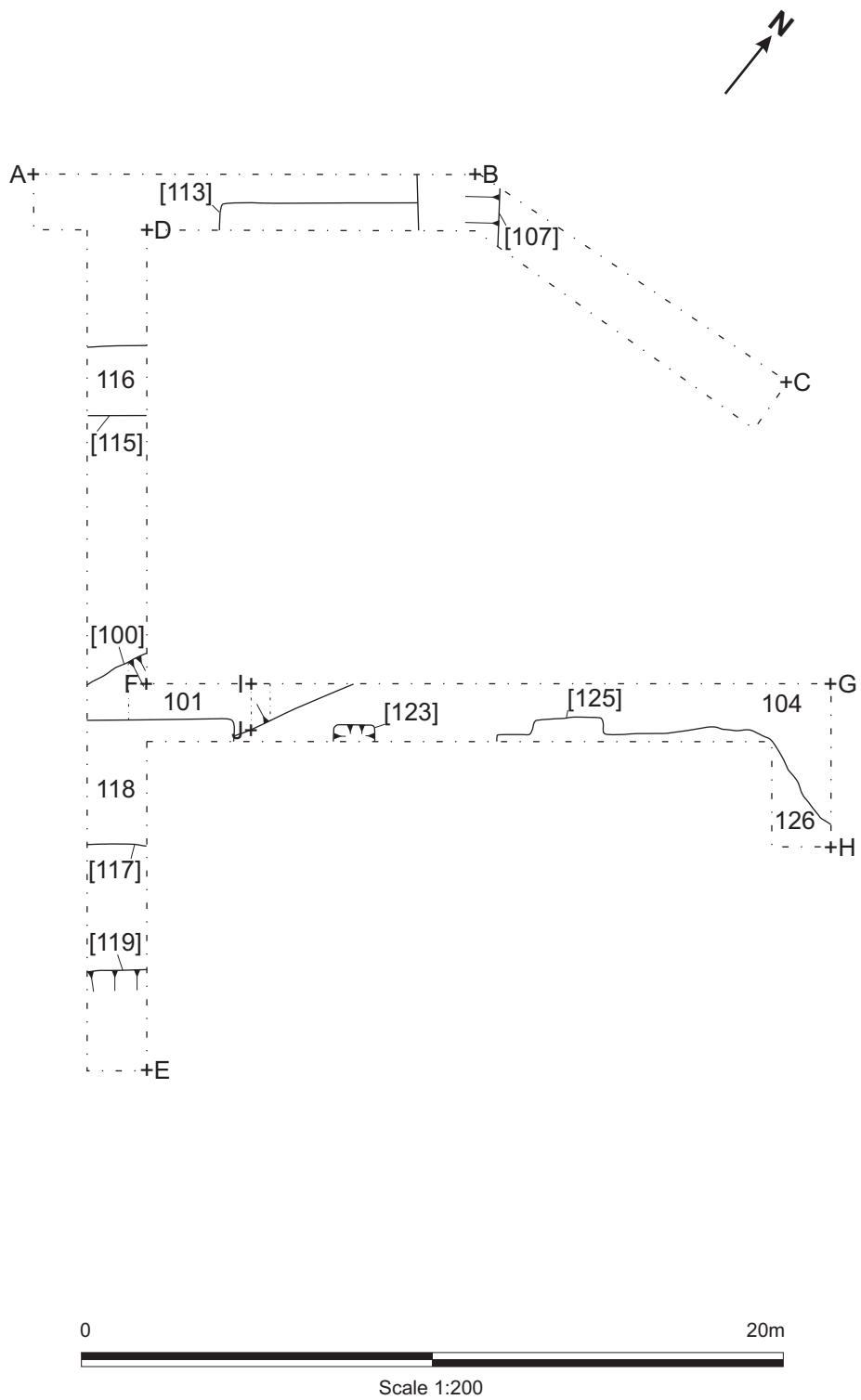
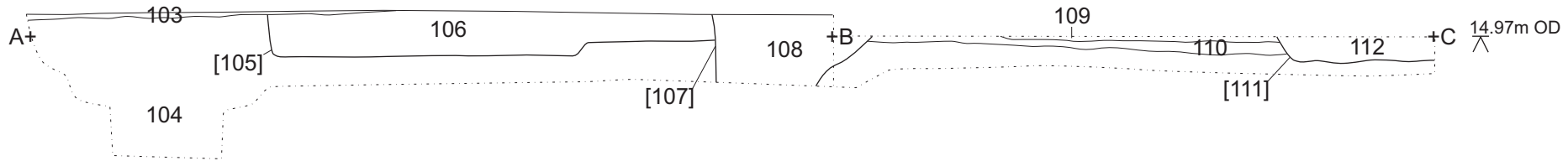


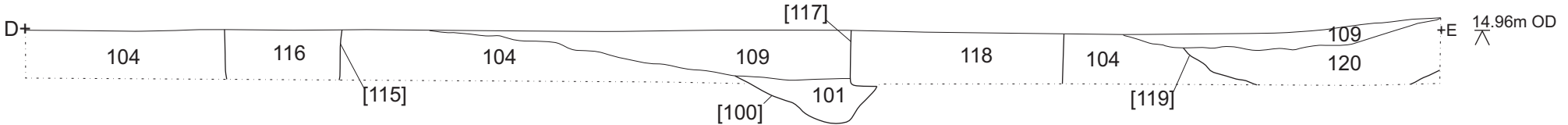
Figure 3: Trench 1 plan at scale 1:200. See Figure 4 for close-ups of sections

South-east facing

South facing section

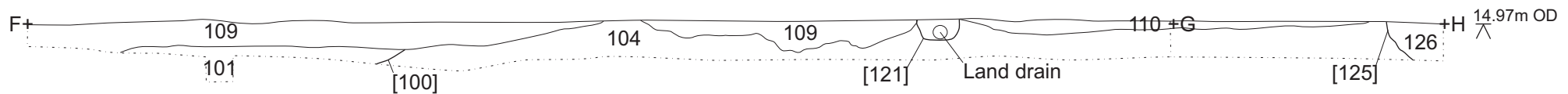


South-west facing section



South-east facing

South-west facing section



South-east facing section

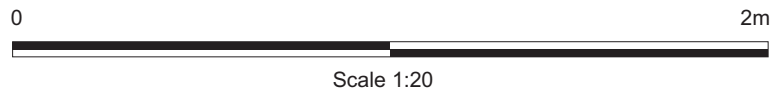
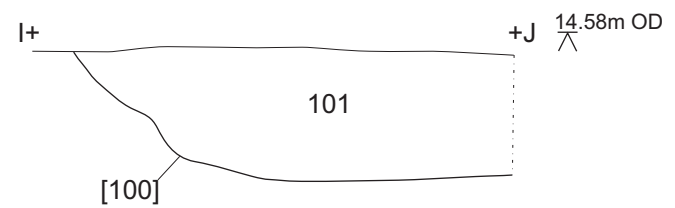
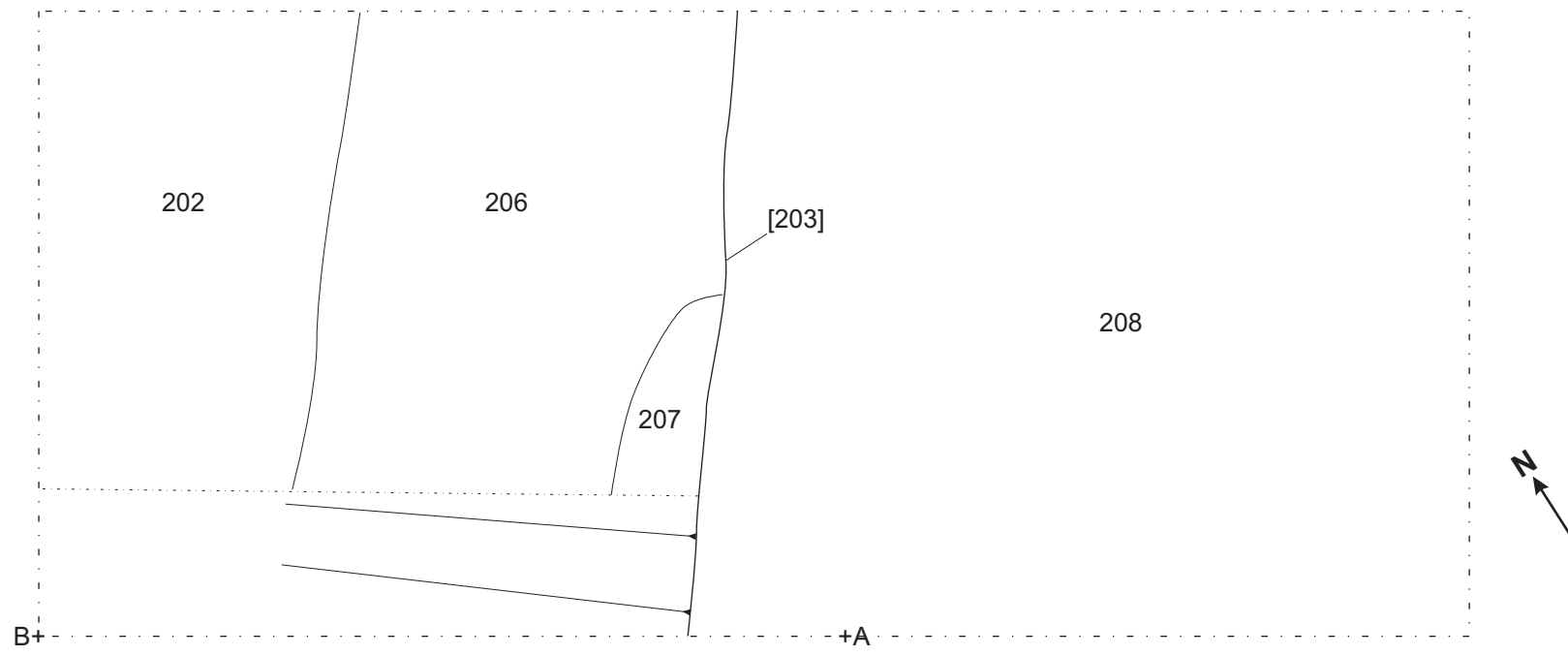


Figure 4: Trench 1 sections at scales 1:100 and 1:20. See Figure 3 for their locations



North-east facing section

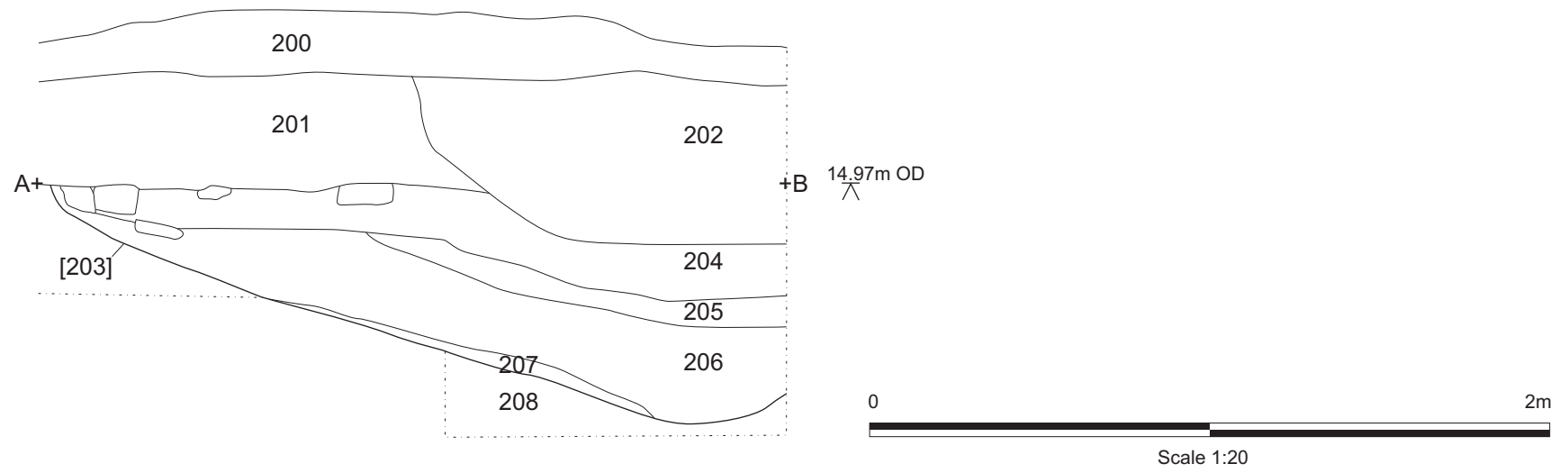


Figure 5: Trench 2 plan and section at scale 1:20



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