

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT:
CANADA FARM, WINTERBORNE STICKLAND, BLANDFORD FORUM,
DT11 9AD

NGR: ST 851 049
Local Planning Authority: North Dorset District Council
Planning Ref.: 2/2013/0770/PLNG
Site code: CFDX 14
PCAS job no.: 1222

Report prepared for
British Solar Renewables

By

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Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site location and description	2
3.0 Geology	2
4.0 Planning background	2
5.0 Archaeological and historical background	3
6.0 Methodology	4
7.0 Results	5
8.0 Discussion and conclusion	8
9.0 Effectiveness of methodology	9
10.0 Site Archive	9
11.0 Acknowledgements	9
12.0 Bibliography	9

Figures

Fig. 1: Site location map. Scale 1:25 000. Development site highlighted in red (O.S. copyright licence no: 100049278).

Fig. 2: Plan (1:2500) showing position of Areas 1A, 1B, and 2; and Trenches 4.1-4.4.

Fig. 3: Plan (1:200) and sections (1:20) of Area 1A.

Fig. 4: Plan (1:200) of Area 1B.

Fig. 5: Plan (1:200) and sections (1:20) of Area 2.

Fig. 6: Plan (1:50) and sections (1:20) of Trenches 4.1 and 4.2.

Fig. 7: Plan (1:50) and sections (1:20) of Trenches 4.3 and 4.4.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Colour plates

Appendix 2: Context summary

Appendix 3: OASIS form

Plates

- Plate 1: Shot of Area 1A excavated (looking SE).
- Plate 2: Section of pit [1003] (looking NNW).
- Plate 3: Section of pit [1006] (looking NE).
- Plate 4: Section of pit [1012] (looking NW).
- Plate 5: Section of ditch terminus [1014] (looking ENE).
- Plate 6: Section of ditch [1017], which is part of group [1033] (looking NE).
- Plate 7: Section of ditch [1019], which is part of group [1033] (looking WSW).
- Plate 8: Section of ditch [1021], which is part of group [1034] (looking WSW).
- Plate 9: Section of ditches [1023], part of [1034], and [1025], part of [1035] (looking WSW).
- Plate 10: Shot of fully excavated post hole located at end of ditch [1034] (looking WSW).
- Plate 11: Section of ditch [1031], part of [1035] (looking ENE).
- Plate 12: Shot of Area 1B. Note large quarry pit in the centre (looking ENE).
- Plate 13: Section through quarry pit in Area 1B (looking NW).
- Plate 14: Shot of Area 2 during excavation (looking WNW).
- Plate 15: Area 2 excavated (looking NE).
- Plate 16: Section of pit [2002] (looking NW).
- Plate 17: Section of pit [2004] (looking NW).
- Plate 18: Longitudinal section of pit [2006] (looking N).
- Plate 19: Section of pit [2008], already partially excavated during evaluation phase (looking E).
- Plate 20: Section through [2010] (looking N).
- Plate 21: Section of posthole/pit [2012] (looking S).
- Plate 22: Section of ditch [4101] in Trench 4.1 (looking ENE).
- Plate 23: Section of ditch [4201] in Trench 4.2 (looking ENE).
- Plate 24: Section of ditch [4301] in Trench 4.3 (looking WNW).
- Plate 25: Section of ditches [4304] and [4306] (looking WNW).
- Plate 26: Section of ditch [4401] and pit [4403] (looking SW).

Summary

Planning permission was granted for the 'Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure' on land at Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland, Blandford Forum, Dorset, centred on NGR: ST 851 049. A condition attached to the granting of permission stipulated the need for a programme of archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and dissemination of the results.

Previous site investigations, including an archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching revealed likely prehistoric features, a possible medieval boundary ditch and potential settlement remains in the south-eastern corner of the site.

The current excavation focused around areas of archaeological potential that had been highlighted by the preceding scheme of trial trenching. Two areas were opened; the first around evaluation Trench 1, and the second in between Trenches 5 and 6. A smaller area was excavated around Trench 13, and then four small 10m x 2m trenches were excavated in order to track the purported medieval boundary ditch running across the site.



Fig. 1: Site location, with development area outlined in red. Scale 1:25 000
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1.0 Introduction

Planning permission was granted for the 'Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure' on land at Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland, Blandford Forum, Dorset. A condition attached to the permission stipulated the need for a programme of archaeological fieldwork together with post-excavation work and the dissemination of the results (as presented in this report).

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS), was commissioned by British Solar Renewables (BRS) to undertake a scheme of archaeological mitigation. This included the excavation of two archaeological 'Strip, Map, Record' zones and a limited programme of further trenching. This document presents the results of this investigation. The methodology employed was subject to the approval of the Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council, acting as advisor to North Dorset District Council.

2.0 Site location and description (Figs. 1 & 2)

Winterborne Stickland lies within the parish of Blandford St Mary in Dorset, approximately 7km west of the town of Blandford Forum. The proposed development site is located to the south-west of Blandford Forum and east of Winterborne Stickland. It is bounded to the north by Fair Mile Road and to the west by Lady Caroline's Drive. The field falls gently to the south and south-east, from a maximum height of 130m AOD to meet the northern edge of a shallow dry valley. The site has a mean elevation between c.100m and 125m AOD.

The site is centred on NGR ST 851 049.

3.0 Geology

The underlying solid (bedrock) geology of the area is the Seaford Chalk formation and Newhaven chalk formation (undifferentiated) - chalk. No drift geology is recorded for the area of the site but west of Lady Caroline's Drive clay-with-flints formation - clay, silt, sand and gravel is recorded (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/>; BGS, 1995).

4.0 Planning Background

On 27 March 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replaced PPS5. The NPPF places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Local planning authorities now need to be assured by those applying for planning permission that any such remains are not under threat. As a result, developers are required to produce a definitive method of mitigating the effect of development on the historic environment within the planning process.

On 4th March 2014, planning permission was granted to British Solar Renewables by North Dorset District County Council for the *'Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure, including PV solar panels, mounting frames, supporting buildings, inverters, transformers and 2m security fencing'* on c.15

hectares of land at Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland, Blandford Forum, Dorset,
DT11 9AD.

An archaeological condition was attached to the planning permission because: *'The area is of archaeological importance and the archaeology should be preserved by record in accordance with policies 1.29 and 1.30 of the North Dorset District Wide Local Plan (First Revision).'*

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

A preliminary archaeological and heritage assessment of the site was carried out between October 2012 and February 2013 to determine the potential implications of the proposed solar energy farm. The work, commissioned by British Solar Renewables, identified a total of seven heritage assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record contained within the site boundary (Archaeodia 2013) which included;

1. **Prehistoric Enclosure** at ST 8560 0490: cropmarks which appear to represent a sub-triangular enclosure are recorded on aerial photographs. The enclosure has an entrance on its western side, from which a broad trackway extends westward. A further concentric ditch to the south (outside the site) could be contemporary or represent a separate phase of development. A recent geophysical survey on the site by PCG suggests that modern cultivation methods have had a significant detrimental impact on the enclosure and associated features (Bunn 2013).
2. **Trackway (undated)** at ST 8533 0482: cropmarks representing parallel ditches flanking a trackway are visible on recent aerial photographs extending northward from the western edge of The Plantation (at 8525 0451). The trackway may be associated with a Romano-British settlement which lies to the south of The Plantation. It was not identified during the recent geophysical survey.
3. **Field System (Iron Age)** at ST 855 050: An extensive prehistoric field system covering over 100 acres, visible as a cropmark. A number of the fields identified within the proposal site may alternatively represent elements of an enclosure.
4. **Quarry (possibly 19th century)** at ST 8533 0490: an 'Old Quarry' marked on the OS map of 1887 and still visible on aerial photographs of 1947.
5. **Parish boundary (early medieval) at ST 8540 0510 / 8516 0482**: the north and west site boundaries respect the parish boundaries of Blandford St Mary, with Bryanston (to the north) and Winterborne Stickland (to the west).
6. **Struck flints (prehistoric)** at ST 854 049: worked prehistoric flint, including tools identified at on the site during a previous site visit. Further flint

was noted in the north-western corner of the site during the recent geophysical survey (Bunn 2013).

7. **Various archaeological features suggested by geophysical survey at ST 854 049:** a number of probable archaeological features were indicated by the recent geophysical survey by PCG; considered likely to be pits, postholes, ditches or other settlement or agricultural features of prehistoric and later date.

An archaeological evaluation of the proposed development zone was carried out by PCAS Ltd in October 2013. This identified archaeological remains in the form of likely prehistoric features, a possible medieval boundary, and potential settlement remains in the south-eastern corner. Seventeen trial trenches (30m x 2m) excavated across the site were targeted on the results of the preceding geophysical survey. Eight of the trenches (2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16) proved archaeologically negative, whilst seven (1, 4a, 4b, 8, 12, 13, and 17) contained two features or less. Three trenches (3, 5 and 6) exposed several archaeological features, with Trenches 5 and 6 (in the south-east corner of the site) containing the most convincing evidence of occupation. However, no dating evidence was recovered. Many of the features appeared to represent several phases of agricultural activity; in the form of field boundaries and lynchets.

6.0 Methodology

The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within the Specification as agreed with the Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council, acting as advisor to North Dorset District Council.

The specific aims of the mitigation fieldwork were:

- To identify and record all archaeological structures, deposits, features and artefacts exposed by the development works;
- To determine their form and function;
- To recover stratified dating evidence;
- To establish the sequence of archaeological remains on the site;
- To interpret the archaeological remains in the context of known archaeological remains in the vicinity.

Initial stripping excavations were completed using a 24 tonne tracked machine fitted with a smooth bladed bucket. All machining was carried out under constant supervision.

The excavation areas were hand cleaned and all features and deposits were investigated and recorded. Context sheets were completed for each feature/deposit, and multi-context drawings were produced in both plan (located by GPS) and section (1:20). Colour slide and digital photographs were taken to complement these accounts, a selection of which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

Following completion of the fieldwork, all artefacts and records were returned to PCAS offices for processing.

7.0 Results

The results are presented separately and then synthesised in the conclusion. There were three areas excavated; Area 1, Area 1B and Area 2. These strip, map, record areas were supplemented with four small 10m x 2m trenches; Trenches 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

Area 1A

Area 1A was excavated around Trench 1 of the evaluation phase to the west of the site. This was determined as having an archaeological potential as a number of discrete features were exposed during evaluation. Therefore it was hoped that area excavation would elaborate on the nature and significance of these remains.

The archaeology encountered was exposed beneath the stripped modern topsoil (1000) and subsoil (1001); the combined depth of which was c. 0.4m. The natural substrate (1002) was the earliest horizon encountered. All archaeological remains were discrete features, cut directly into this natural chalk.

The archaeological remains identified consisted of fourteen cut features, recorded as 29 contexts, excluding overlying modern soils and natural geology. The cut features were broadly concentrated towards the southern half the stripped area. Two linears extended beyond the eastern and western Limit of Excavation (hereafter L.O.E).

In the southern half of the excavated area, five pits of unknown function were exposed. The shape and size of these differed quite significantly, ranging from a 2m to 0.5m diameter and depths between 0.18m and 0.52m. All were filled by homogenous silty deposits, and no finds were recovered. There is a possibility therefore that these features were of natural origin.

Multiple linear features were identified in this area; most likely former field boundaries.

A ditch terminus, [1014], was located on the eastern edge in the south eastern corner of the stripped area, on an E-W alignment. This had very steep sides and a fairly even, concave base. It was 2m long, 1m wide, 0.41m deep and filled by two deposits; neither of which produced dateable finds. This feature was situated to the south the other such features exposed in this area.

A ditch (group number [1033]) on an E-W alignment ran across the southern half of the excavated area. This was located just to the north of the linear terminus [1014]. The observed profile across the length of this ditch varied slightly. To the west the cut, [1017], had steep, stepped sides that ran into a shallow concave base. It was 2.1m wide, 0.38m deep and was filled by a single silty deposit. To the east the cut, [1019], had a steep but stepped eastern edge, and a more even western edge, with a shallow concave base. It was 1.2m wide, 0.3m deep and filled with a single silty deposit. No finds were retrieved from either section.

Two further ditches, also on an E-W alignment, were located in the northern half of the stripped area. One of these (group number [1034]) ran across almost the entire width, terminating in the north east corner, whilst the other, [1035], protruded from the eastern baulk and was cut by [1034].

The profile of [1034] was fairly consistent across its length, with steep even edges and a narrow concave base. It ranged from 0.52m to 0.72m wide, and 0.19m to 0.3m deep. It was filled by a single silty deposit, which produced no finds.

Ditch [1035] was located directly to the south of, and cut by [1034]. This feature also had shallow sides with a broad concave base. It ranged from 0.68m to 1.1m wide and 0.12m to 0.24m deep, containing a single silty fill. Again, no finds were recovered from this feature, thought to be the same ditch that extends approximately E-W across the whole site, and observed in Trenches 4.1 – 4.4 (below). Due to its proximity to ditch [1034] to its north, it would appear likely that the two were broadly contemporary.

A small post hole, [1029] in the north eastern corner of the excavated area was circular in plan, with steep sides and a concave base; 0.22m in diameter, 0.16m deep and filled by a single deposit from which no dateable finds were recovered.

Area 1B

Area 1B was centred on a large quarry pit that been identified by geophysical survey and sampled by evaluation trenching (Trench 13). A 12m x 12m square was excavated.

The archaeology encountered was exposed beneath the modern topsoil (1100) and subsoil (1101), the combined depth of which was c. 0.55m. The natural substrate (1102) was the earliest horizon encountered.

As anticipated, one feature, the quarry pit [1103], was exposed. Due to its size, a machine slot was excavated through the centre of the feature.

The pit was circular in plan, with very steep sides and a broad concave base. It was 6m in diameter, 2.1m deep and was filled with two silty deposits: (1104) was the primary fill of firm silty soil which contained frequent chalk fragments and flecks, whilst (1105), upper fill, was similar to (1104) without the chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered from either fill.

Area 2

Area 2 was in the south eastern corner of the site, between Trenches 5 and 6 of the evaluation (Brocklehurst 2014). This was investigated as this area had been identified as having a high potential for domestic activity, due to the number of pits identified.

The archaeology encountered was beneath the modern topsoil (2000), the depth of which was 0.3m. The natural substrate (2001) was the earliest horizon encountered.

The archaeological remains identified consisted of six cut features, recorded as ten contexts, excluding overlying modern soil and the natural geology. Three features identified during the evaluation were exposed. These were the continuation, to the south west, of a ditch terminus and the lynchet exposed in Trench 5 that extended beyond the south eastern L.O.E. and the other half of a pit exposed in Trench 6.

Multiple pits of varying shape and size were exposed; all concentrated towards the southern extent of the excavated area, just to the north of a lynchet that was excavated during the evaluation phase of works. These pits were all broadly oval in shape, had steep sides that ran into either a wide concave or a flat base. The size of

the pits ranged from 1.8m to 0.82m long, 0.4m to 0.6m wide and 0.21 to 0.4m deep. They all contained a single silty fill, devoid of finds.

A circular posthole/pit, [2012] with near-vertical edges was located towards the southern extent of the area. It was 0.4m in diameter, 0.3m deep and filled with a single silty deposit (2013). No dateable finds were recovered.

A ditch, [2010], on an approximately NE-SW alignment was exposed in the south eastern corner of the stripped area. It was 3.5m long, 0.62m wide and 0.12m deep. No dateable finds were recovered from its fill. The terminus of this feature was initially seen in Trench 5 of the evaluation, and it would appear that much of this feature was been destroyed by the lynchet running across the southern half of the area.

Trench 4.1

Trench 4.1 (10m x 2m) was orientated approximately N-S and was excavated to further investigate the boundary ditch that had been identified during the evaluation phase of works. It was excavated to a depth of 0.3m below ground level, exposing one ditch, [4101]. This ditch was on an E-W alignment; it was 1.3m wide, 0.42m deep and filled with a single silty deposit (4102). No finds were recovered. This feature was part of a boundary ditch and was the same as linear [1035] seen in area 1A. It was sealed beneath the topsoil and cut into the natural substrate.

Trench 4.2

Trench 4.2 (10m x 2m) was orientated approximately N-S and was excavated to further investigate the linear boundary ditch. It was excavated to a depth of 0.3m, exposing one feature [4201].

Ditch [4201] was on an E-W alignment; it was 1.17m wide, 0.39m deep and was filled with a single silty deposit (4202) from which no finds were recovered. This feature was part of the same as linear [1035] seen in Area 1A. It was sealed beneath topsoil and cut into the natural substrate.

Trench 4.3

Trench 4.3 (10m x 2m) was orientated approximately NNW-SSE; excavated to further investigate the boundary ditch. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m below ground level. Three ditches were exposed.

A ditch, [4301], on an approximately E-W alignment was exposed; 1.28m wide, 0.31m deep and filled with a single silty deposit. No finds were recovered from this feature, which was part of the boundary ditch being targeted - the same as linear [1035] seen in area 1a.

Two further intercutting ditches, [4304] and [4306], both on a NW-SE alignment were also exposed to the north of [4301]. The earlier feature, [4306], had been part destroyed by [4304]. The latter was also on a NW-SE alignment; 0.75m wide, 0.19m deep and filled with a single silty deposit. Both features yielded no finds.

The alignment of these features was significantly different to that of the principal boundary ditch [4301], which suggests that they were perhaps not contemporary, and probably indicate a separate phase of agricultural activity.

All features were sealed beneath topsoil and cut into the natural substrate.

Trench 4.4

Trench 4.4 (10m x 2m) was orientated approximately NNW-SSE. It also was excavated to further investigate the boundary ditch that had been identified during the evaluation. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m below ground level, exposing the anticipated boundary ditch, and also a small pit.

The ditch, [4401], on an E-W alignment, was at the southern end of the trench. It was 1.12m wide, 0.31m deep and filled with a single silty deposit, from which no finds were recovered. This ditch had cut one small feature, [4403] on its north western edge.

The small pit-like feature, [4403], was circular in plan; 0.4m in diameter, 0.19m deep and filled with a single silty deposit. Typically, no finds were recovered, and the use of this feature is unknown - it may even have been of natural origin.

All features were sealed beneath topsoil and cut into the natural substrate.

8.0 Discussion and conclusion

The expansion of excavations around trenches that contained archaeology enabled further features to be investigated. However, dating of these features is problematic: made impossible in fact by the absence of associated finds.

In Area 1a multiple linear features appear to represent several phases of agricultural activity. One of these [1035] seems to run across the northern half of the site, which is evidenced by its appearance in Trenches 4.1 – 4.4, as well as featuring as an anomaly on the geophysical survey (Bunn 2013).

Multiple pits were exposed in this area. The function of these is unknown, and due to the complete dearth of finds and their varying morphologies, it may be that they were of natural origin - there were frequent solution hollows littered across site; features that had formed naturally in the soft chalk natural substrate.

Area 2 contained the most convincing evidence of human occupation, with multiple pits and a ditch, [2010], being exposed. The ditch was on a different alignment to the other linears exposed on the site, and was potentially part of an enclosure ditch, with the pits being located to the east of/within it the enclosure. As with Area 1a, no finds were recovered from any of these features, so dating is impossible. The lynchet, an agricultural feature originally seen in Trench 5, extending across the southern half of the area, had cut through the possible enclosure ditch.

The only feature in Area 1B was a large pit. The sheer size of this would suggest that it was a quarry of unknown date. The paucity of discrete deposits within this feature suggests that it was not left open for long following its excavation; rather it was backfilled fairly quickly once its purpose had been served.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The strip, map and record excavation at the site was an appropriate method of archaeological investigation. It provided an opportunity to target and expand within specific areas that had the highest archaeological potential. Previously unknown

remains that would have otherwise have been destroyed without being recorded were exposed. However, the features identified by evaluation are little better understood.

10.0 Site Archive

The documentary and physical archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. Following the acceptance of the report, the archive will be prepared and deposited with a printed copy of this report with Dorset museums.

11.0 Acknowledgments

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank British Solar Renewables Ltd. and Alder King for this commission.

12.0 Bibliography

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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Brocklehurst, L. 2014. *Canada Farm: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Unpublished report by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

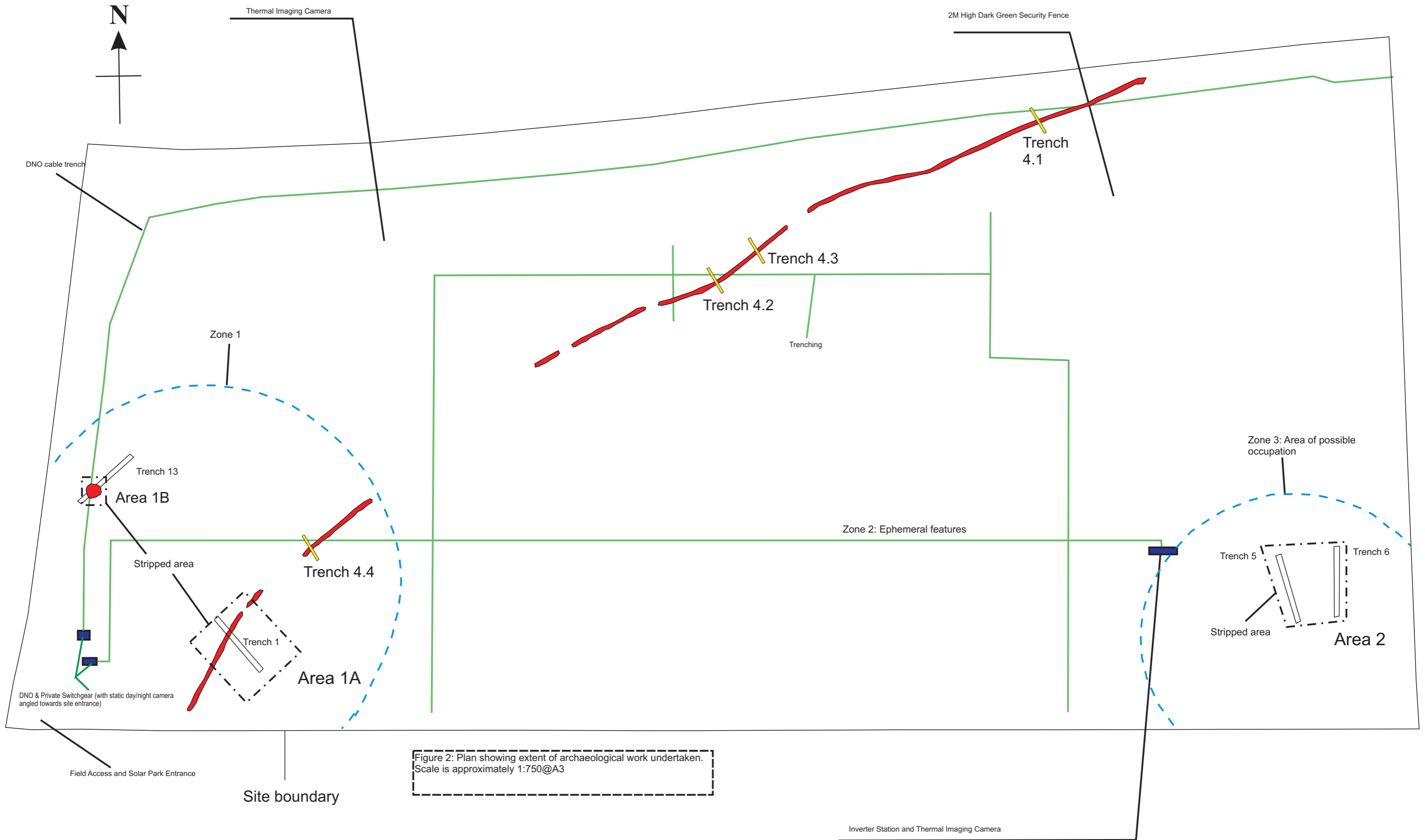


Figure 2: Plan showing extent of archaeological work undertaken.
 Scale is approximately 1:750@A3

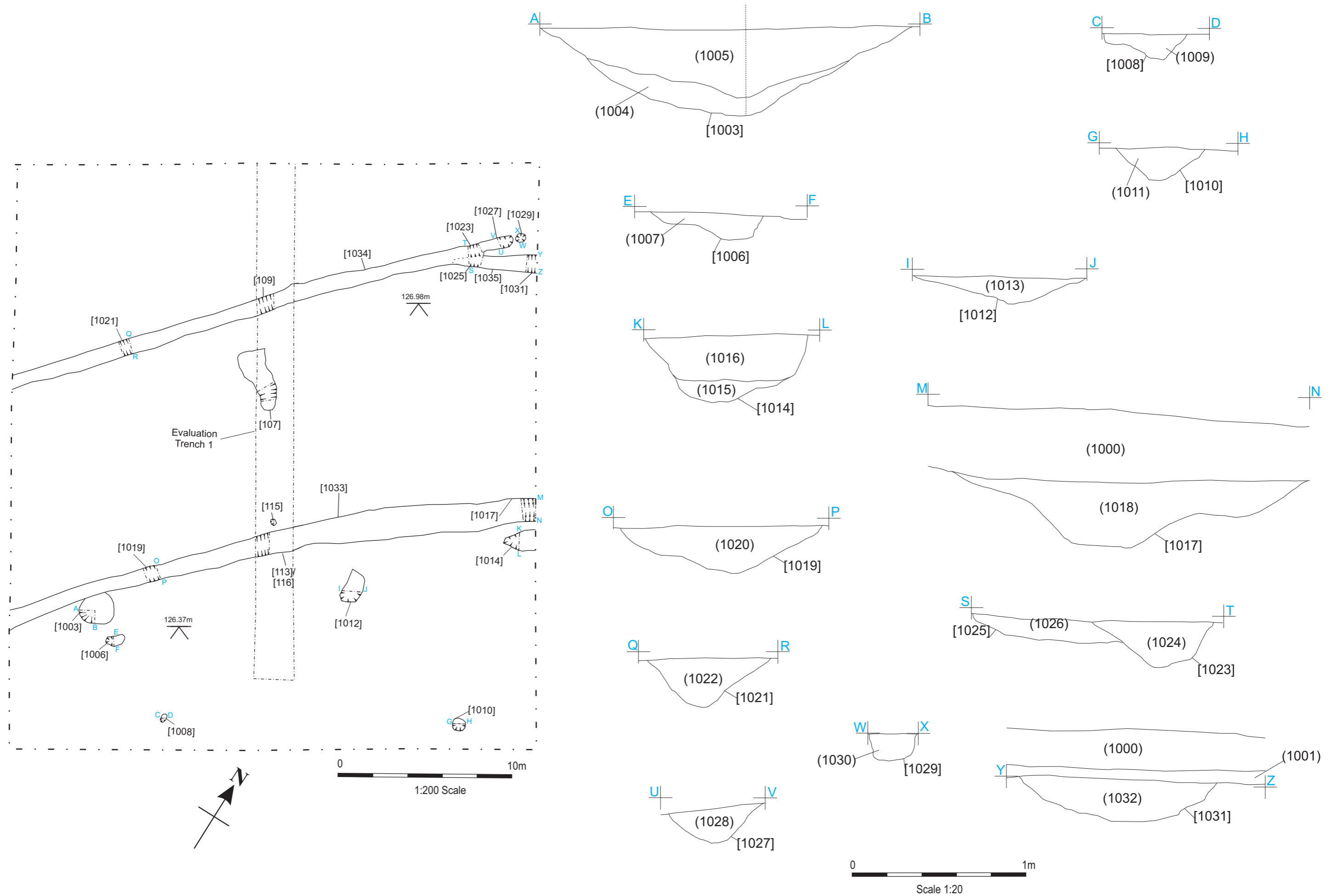
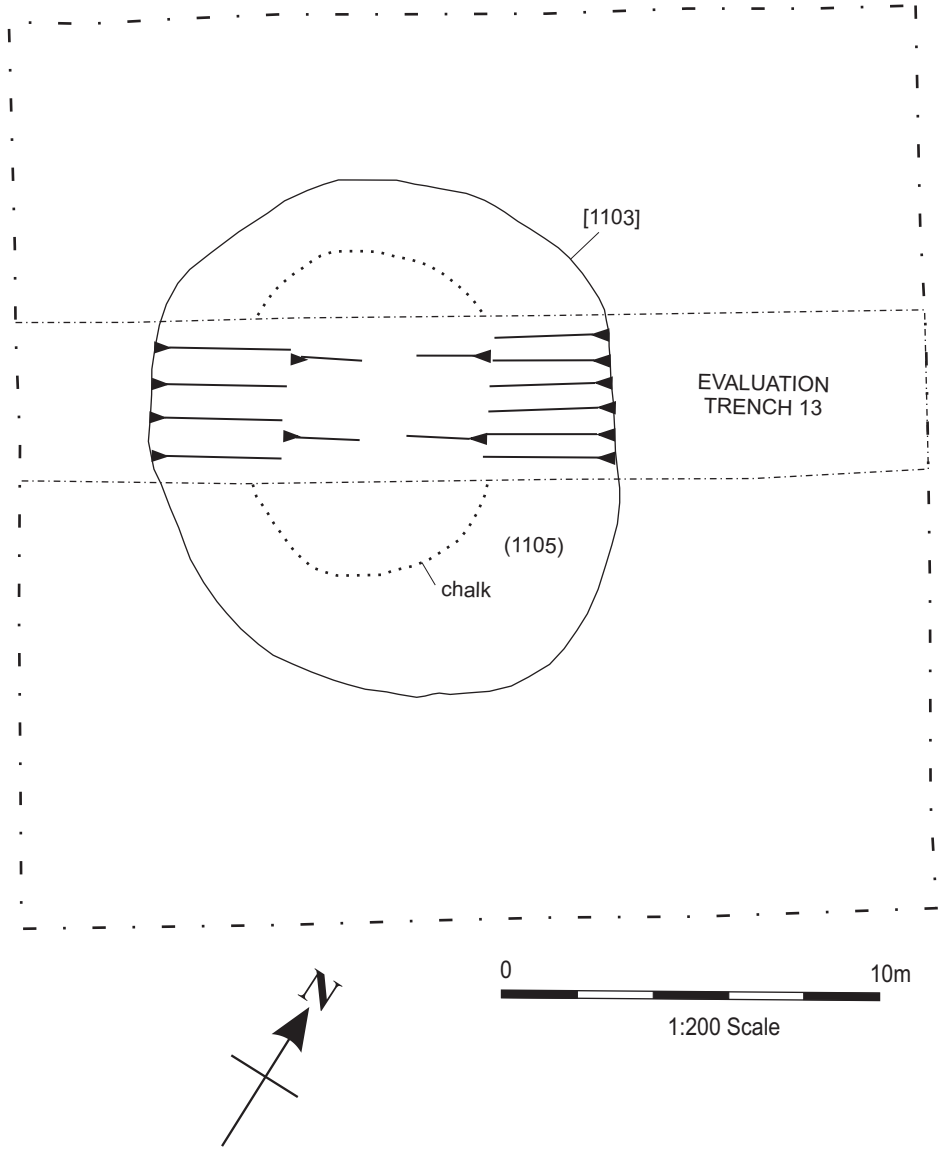


Figure 3: Plan (1:200) and sections (1:20) of Area 1a.

Figure 4 -
Plan of Area 1B (1:200).



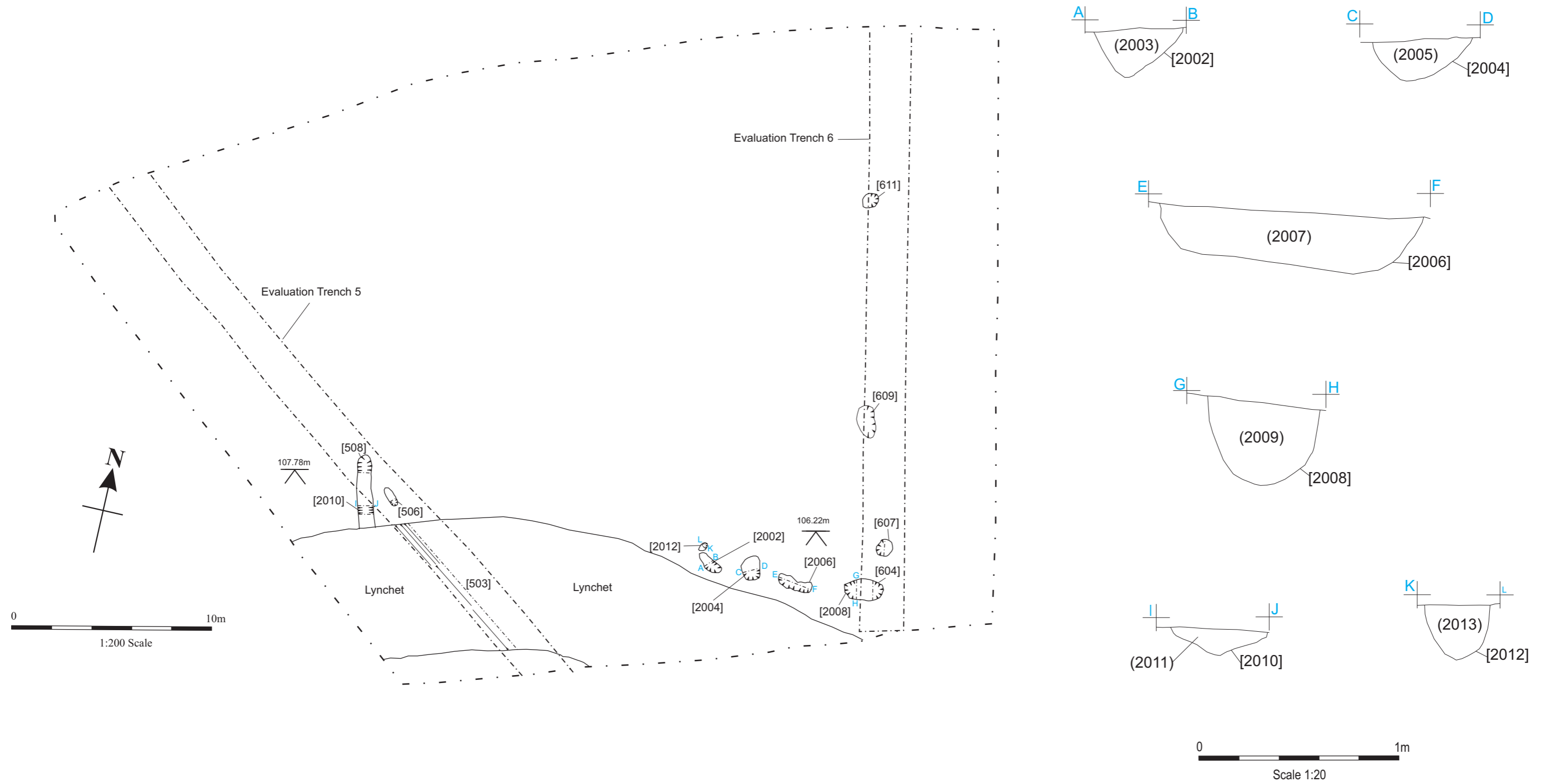


Figure 5: Plan (1:200) and sections (1:20) of Area 2.

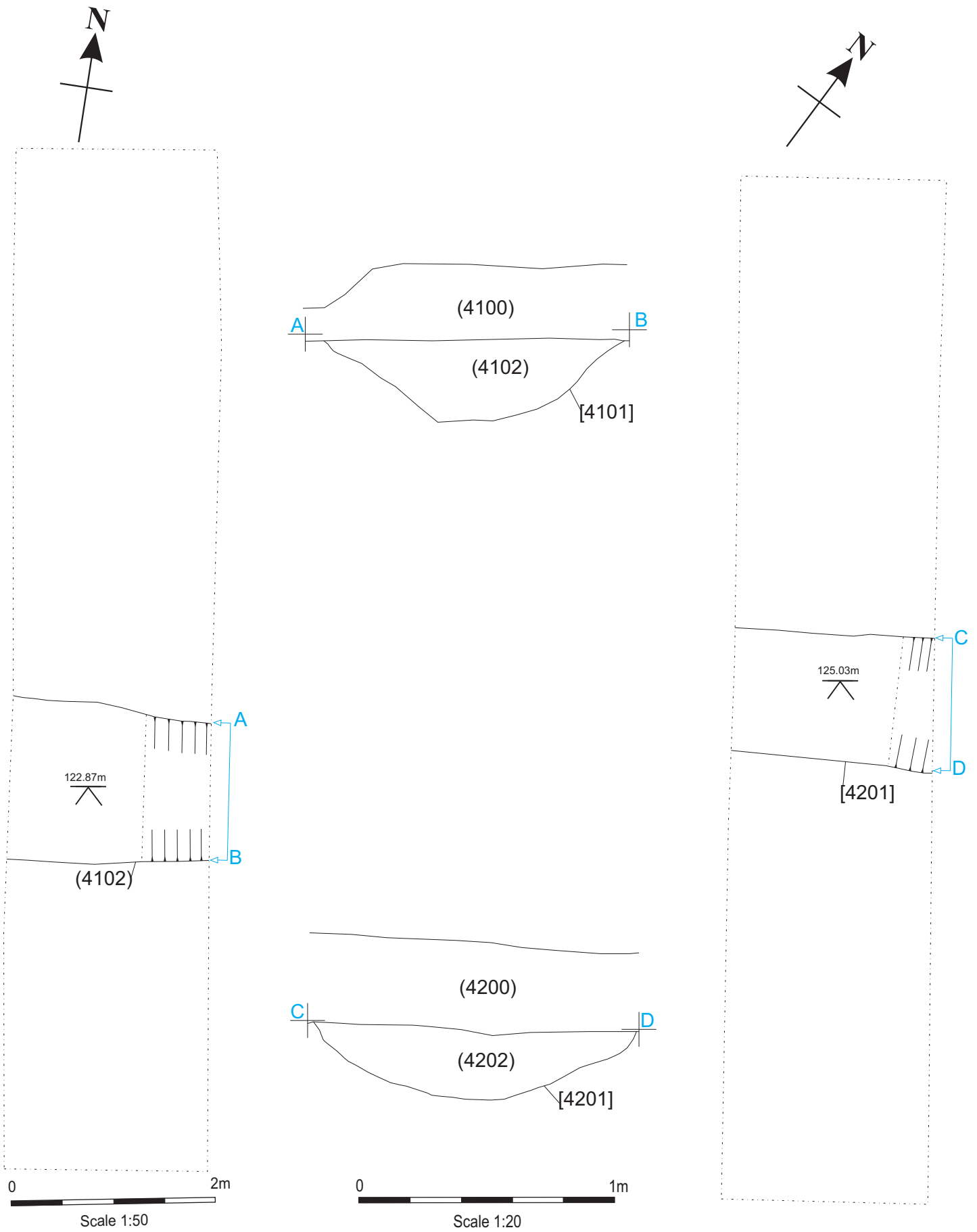


Figure 6: Trench 4.1 plan (1:50) and section (1:20); and Trench 4.2 plan (1:50) and section (1:20).

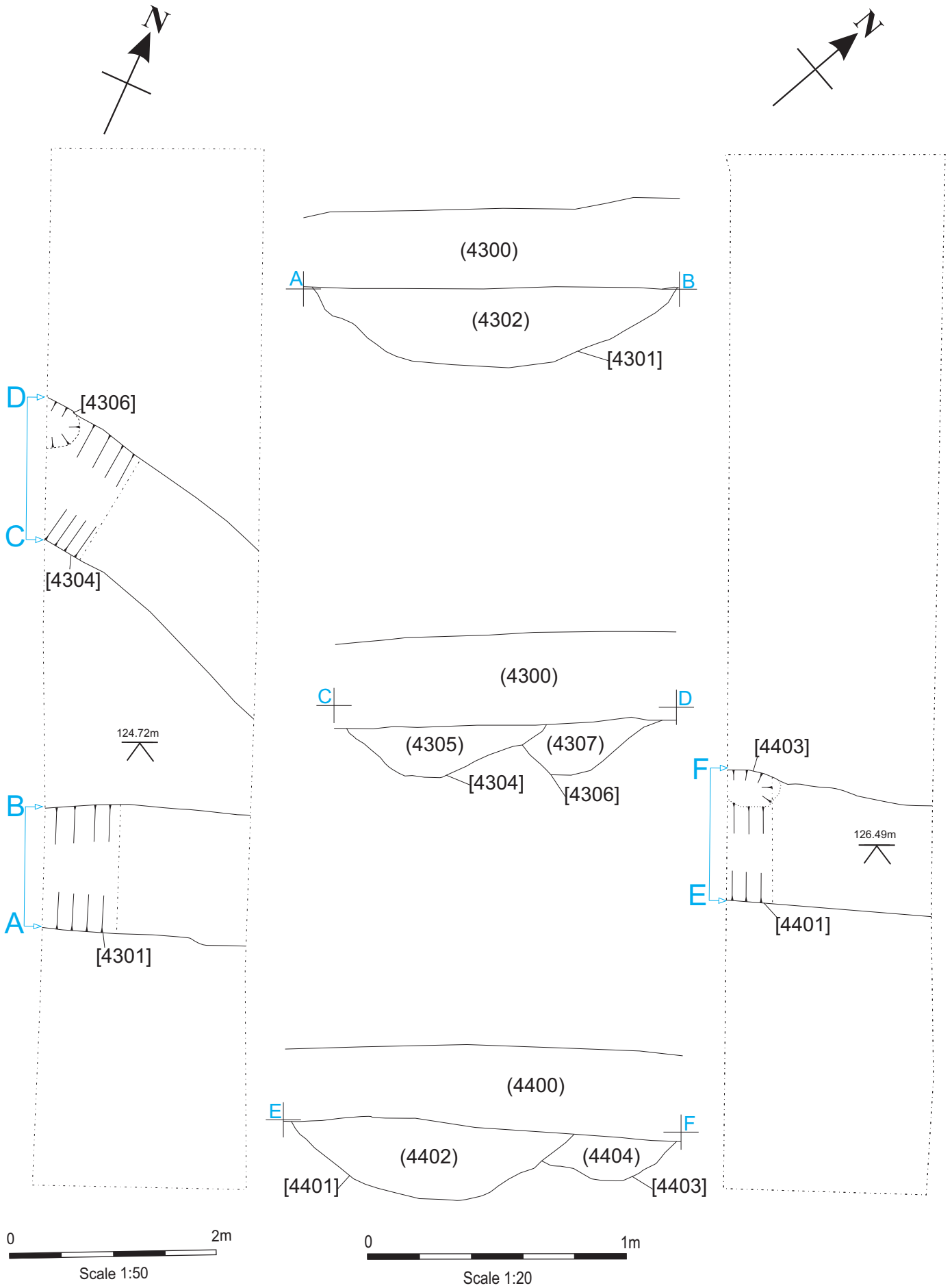


Figure 7: Trench 4.3 plan (1:50) and sections (1:20); and Trench 4.4 plan (1:50) and section (1:20).

Appendix 1 – Colour Plates

Area 1A and 1B



Plate 1: Shot of Area 1A excavated (looking SE).



Plate 2: Section of pit [1003] (looking NNW).



Plate 3: Section of pit [1006] (looking NE).



Plate 4: Section of pit [1012] (looking NW).



Plate 5: Section of ditch terminus [1014] (looking ENE).



Plate 6: Section of ditch [1017], which is part of group [1033] (looking NE).



Plate 7: Section of ditch [1019], which is part of group [1033] (looking WSW).



Plate 8: Section of ditch [1021], which is part of group [1034] (looking WSW).



Plate 9: Section of ditches [1023], part of [1034], and [1025], part of [1035] (looking WSW).



Plate 10: Shot of fully excavated post hole located at end of ditch [1034] (looking WSW).



Plate 11: Section of ditch [1031], part of [1035] (looking ENE).



Plate 12: Shot of Area 1B. Note large quarry pit in the centre (looking ENE).



Plate 13: Section through quarry pit in Area 1B (looking NW).

Area 2



Plate 14: Shot of Area 2 during excavation (looking WNW).



Plate 15: Area 2 excavated (looking NE).



Plate 16: Section of pit [2002] (looking NW).



Plate 17: Section of pit [2004] (looking NW).



Plate 18: Longitudinal section of pit [2006] (looking N).



Plate 19: Section of pit [2008], already partially excavated during evaluation phase (looking E).



Plate 20: Section through [2010] (looking N).



Plate 21: Section of posthole/pit [2012] (looking S).

Trenches 4.1 – 4.2



Plate 22: Section of ditch [4101] in Trench 4.1 (looking ENE).



Plate 23: Section of ditch [4201] in Trench 4.2 (looking ENE).



Plate 24: Section of ditch [4301] in Trench 4.3 (looking WNW).



Plate 25: Section of ditches [4304] and [4306] (looking WNW).



Plate 26: Section of ditch [4401] and pit [4403] (looking SW).

Appendix 2 – Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds
Area 1a			
1000	Layer	Topsoil. Very dark brown sandy silt. Loose and fine grained. Contains small fragments of chalk. 0.3m thick.	
1001	Layer	Subsoil. Mid brown sandy silt. Fairly loose and fine grained. Contained fairly frequent fragments of chalk. 0.25m thick.	
1002	Layer	Natural chalk substrate.	
1003	Cut	Pit. Circular in plan, with steep, but rounded edges and a concave base. 2m in diameter and 0.52m deep.	
1004	Fill	Of [1003]. Firm and compact clay silt. Reddish brown. Contains frequent chalk stone.	
1005	Fill	Of [1003]. Similar to (1004), however no chalk inclusions.	
1006	Cut	Small pit. Irregular circle in plan. Steep edges that are stepped on NW side into a concave base. 0.6m in diameter and 0.16m deep.	
1007	Fill	Of [1006]. Same as (1004).	
1008	Cut	Small circular pit. Fairly steep edges that are stepped on SW edge into a concave base. 0.5m in diameter and 0.18m deep.	
1009	Fill	Of [1008]. Same as (1004).	
1010	Cut	Circular pit in SE corner of area. Even, regular edges, into a fairly narrow concave base. 0.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep.	
1011	Fill	Of [1010]. Dark brown clay silt. Very firm. Contains some small chalk flecks.	
1012	Cut	Irregular shaped pit. Shallow edges with a broad flat base. 1m in diameter and 0.18m deep.	
1013	Fill	Of [1012]. Similar to (1011).	
1014	Cut	Ditch terminus. Very steep edges and an even concave base. Approx ENE-WSW alignment. 2m in length, 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep.	
1015	Fill	Of [1014]. Dark grey brown clay silt. Firm. Small chalk fragments.	
1016	Fill	Of [1014]. Mid to dark brown clay silt. Firm and tightly compacted. Some very rare chalk flecks.	
1017	Cut	Cut of southernmost ENE-WSW linear in Area 1A. Part of group [1033]. 2.1m wide and 0.38m deep.	
1018	Fill	Of [1017]. Mid orange brown sandy clay with chalk and stone inclusions.	
1019	Cut	Cut of southernmost ENE-WSW linear in Area 1A. Part of group [1033]. 1.2m wide and 0.29m deep.	
1020	Fill	Of [1019]. Same as (1018).	
1021	Cut	Cut of northernmost ENE-WSW linear in Area 1A. Part of group [1034]. 0.7m wide and 0.31m deep.	
1022	Fill	Of [1021]. Mid red brown silty clay with some small chalk inclusions.	
1023	Cut	Cut of northernmost ENE-WSW linear in Area 1A. Part of group [1034]. 0.68m wide and 0.24m deep.	
1024	Fill	Of [1023]. Same as (1022).	
1025	Cut	Cut of ditch located immediately to the south of [1034]. Partially cut by this feature. Part of group [1035]. Orientated ENE-WSW.	

		0.8m wide and 0.1m deep.	
1026	Fill	Of [1025]. Mid red brown silt clay. Firm and compact. Some small fragments of chalk within deposit.	
1027	Cut	Terminus of ditch. Part of group [1034]. 0.52m wide and 0.2m deep.	
1028	Fill	Of [1027]. Same as (1022).	
1029	Cut	Posthole located immediately to the east of [1034]. Circular in plan, with steep edges and an uneven concave base. 0.24m in diameter and 0.12m deep.	
1030	Fill	Of [1029]. Similar to (1022).	
1031	Cut	Ditch located to the south of [1034]. ENE-WSW alignment. Part of group [1035]. 1.14m wide and 0.22m deep.	
1032	Fill	Of [1031]. Similar to (1026).	
1033	Group	Consists of cut numbers [1017] and [1019]. These make up the southern ENE-WSW linear in the area.	
1034	Group	Consists of cut numbers [1021], [1023] and [1027]. These make up the northernmost ENE-WSW linear in the area.	
1035	Group	Consists of cut numbers [1025] and [1031]. These make up the ENE-WSW linear, located in the north eastern corner of the excavated area, immediately below [1034].	
Area 1b			
1100	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (1000). 0.3m thick.	
1101	Layer	Subsoil. Same as (1001). 0.25m thick.	
1102	Layer	Natural chalk substrate.	
1103	Cut	Large quarry pit. Originally seen during evaluation phase of excavation. Circular in plan, with steep edges and a concave base. 6m in diameter and approximately 2m deep.	
1104	Fill	Primary fill of [1103]. Mid brown clay silt. Firm and contains frequent chalk flecks.	
1105	Fill	Upper fill of [1102]. Similar to (1104), however without the frequent chalk inclusions.	
Area 2			
2000	Layer	Topsoil. See (1000).	
2001	Layer	Natural chalk substrate.	
2002	Cut	Cut of pit in southernmost half of excavated area. Irregular oval in shape with steep edges and a narrow concave base. 1.2m long, 0.42m wide and 0.22m deep.	
2003	Fill	Of [2002]. Dark brown clay silt. Very compact and firm. Some small chalk fragments.	
2004	Cut	Cut of pit. Irregular oval in shape with steep edges and a narrow concave base. 0.8m long, 0.5m wide and 0.21m deep.	
2005	Fill	Of [2004]. Same as (2003).	
2006	Cut	Cut of elongated pit. Irregular oval in shape, with steep, uneven edges and a concave base. 1.3m long, 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep.	
2007	Fill	Of [2006]. Same as (2003).	
2008	Cut	Cut of pit. Initially seen in evaluation phase of excavation. Irregular oval in shape, steep sides and an uneven concave base.	

		0.6m wide and 0.42m deep.	
2009	Fill	Of [2008]. Same as (2003).	
2010	Cut	Cut of ditch initially seen in evaluation phase of excavation. Orientated NNE-SSW. Cut by the lynchet that runs along the southern edge of the area. 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep.	
2011	Fill	Of [2010]. Same as (2003).	
Trench 4.1			
4100	Layer	Topsoil. See (1000).	
4101	Cut	Cut of ENE-WSW orientated ditch. Rounded but steep edges and a concave base. 1.10m wide and 0.3m deep.	
4102	Fill	Of [4101]. Mid orange brown sandy silt. Firm. Contains some small chalk fragments.	
Trench 4.2			
4200	Layer	Topsoil. See (1000).	
4201	Cut	Cut of ENE-WSW orientated ditch. Rounded, but shallow edges, with a broad concave base. 1.09m wide and 0.21m deep.	
4202	Fill	Of [4102]. Same as (4102).	
Trench 4.3			
4300	Layer	Topsoil. See (1000).	
4301	Cut	Cut of E-W linear. It has shallow but curved edges and a broad concave base. It is 1.28m wide and 0.31m deep.	
4302	Fill	Fill of linear [4301]. Mid orange brown silty sand. Quite firm. Contained frequent chalk inclusions.	
4303	Layer	Mid orange brown silt. Subsoil that filled the natural solution hollows in the trench.	
4304	Cut	Cut of NW-SE linear. It has a steep southern edge, with a far more gradual north western edge. It has a flat base. It is 0.75m wide and 0.19m deep. Cuts [4306] to the north west.	
4305	Fill	Fill of [4304]. Mid orange brown silty sand. Quite firm. Moderate amounts of chalk inclusions.	
4306	Cut	Cut of NW-SE linear. It has a steep north western edge, whilst the south eastern edge has been destroyed by [4304]. It is 0.5m wide and 0.33m deep.	
4307	Fill	Fill of [4306]. Same as (4305), however contains far more chalk fragments.	
Trench 4.4			
4400	Layer	Topsoil. See (1000).	
4401	Cut	Cut of E-W linear. It has curved edges and a broad concave base. It is 1.12m wide and 0.31m deep.	
4402	Fill	Fill of linear [4401]. Mid orange brown silty sand. Quite firm. Contained frequent chalk inclusions.	

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OASIS ID: preconst3-196727

Project details

Project name	CANADA FARM, WINTERBORNE STICKLAND, BLANDFORD FORUM, DT11 9AD
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted for the 'Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure' on land at Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland, Blandford Forum, Dorset, centred on NGR: ST 851 049. A condition attached to the grant of permission stipulated the need for a programme of archaeological fieldwork together with post-excavation work and the publication of the results (as presented in this here). Previous site evaluations, including an archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching revealed remains in the form of likely prehistoric features, a possible medieval boundary ditch crossing the site and potential settlement remains in the south-eastern corner of the site. This excavation focused around areas of archaeological potential that had been highlighted during the scheme of trial trenching earlier in the year. Two large areas were opened; the first around Trench 1, and the second in between Trench 5 and 6. A smaller area was excavated around Trench 13, and then four small 10m x 2m trenches were excavated in order to track the potential medieval boundary ditch running across the site.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2014 End: 30-05-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CFDX 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project

location

Country England
 Site location DORSET NORTH DORSET WINTERBORNE STICKLAND Canada Farm,
 Winterborne Stickland, Dorset
 Postcode DT11 9AD
 Study area 0 Square metres
 Site coordinates ST 851 049 50.8428728909 -2.21164907476 50 50 34 N 002 12 41 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
 Project director/manager Will Munford
 Project supervisor L. Brocklehurst and J. Coles
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Dorset Museums
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Dorset Museums
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
 Entered by Leigh Brocklehurst (leigh@pre-construct.co.uk)
 Entered on 28 November 2014

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