BLACKBERRY LANE, IBSTOCK, LIECESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Planning Ref.:	N/A
Archive acc. no.:	X.A141.2017
Site code:	LRIE 17
PCAS job no.:	1990

Prepared for

CgMs Limited

by

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Summary

- *PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by CgMs Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the north of Leicester Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire. The aim of this scheme was to determine the date, character, survival condition, and significance of anomalies identified during a preceding geophysical survey.*
- *The site is located close to a Roman nucleated settlement or 'small town' (HER MEL9016).*
- *Archaeological remains have been identified on the site; however no evidence of buildings were recorded during the evaluation. It therefore, appears more likely that the ladder system relates to paddocks and small agricultural fields, rather than an area of extensive Roman settlement.*

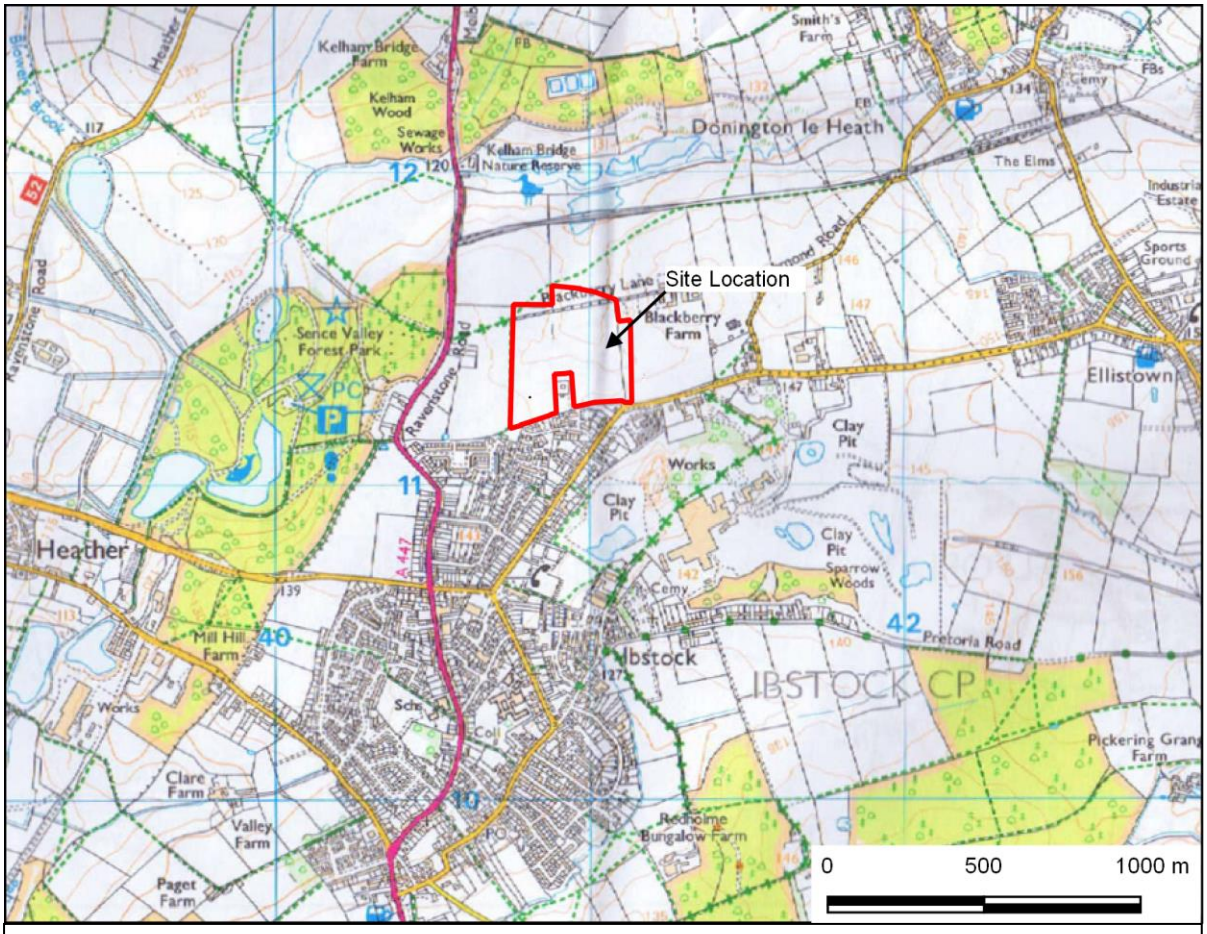

Figure 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The area of the proposed development site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by CgMs Ltd to archaeologically evaluate land to the north of Leicester Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire; to determine the date, character, survival condition, and significance of magnetic anomalies identified during a preceding geophysical survey and evaluate the Roman settlement recorded on the site (HER MEL9016).

This document details the fieldwork methodology of the evaluation trenching and the post-excavation reporting and archiving procedures.

The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (CIfA 2014), and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015). All relevant local guidelines outlined were also followed, as was a specification for the works prepared by CgMS Ltd. (Flitcroft 2017).

2.0 Site Location and Description (*Figures 1 and 2*)

The site is located to the north side of Ibstock, Bounded by Ravenstone Road to the west and existing development and Leicester Road to the south and agricultural land to the east and north. It comprises 27 hectares of land, centred on National Grid reference SK 409 114.

3.0 Topography and Geology

The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the area comprises Radcliffe Member mudstone; overlain by superficial glaciofluvial sands and gravels, and Oadby Member clay-silt-sand-and-gravel (British Geological Survey).

The overlying soils are classified in the Wick 1 Association, which are characterised as deep, well-drained coarse loams and sands (British Geological Survey).

4.0 Planning Background

The proposed development of the site includes residential and associated development. The plans for the proposed development are being prepared and this investigation will inform the development masterplan for this area of the site.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A historic background for the site was produced in the written scheme of investigation (CgMs 2017) and will not be reproduced within this report.

6.0 Methodology

Twenty-seven trenches were excavated across the site, each measuring 30m long by 2m wide. Fieldwork was undertaken over a period of 14 working days between November 20th and December 18th 2017 by Simon Savage of PCAS archaeology.

Trenches were located using a Leica GS08 GPS unit receiving RTK corrections and excavated under archaeological supervision with a JCB wheeled 3CX excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. In each trench topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed in spits no greater than 0.1m in thickness, until the first archaeologically significant horizon, the natural substrate or the maximum safe working depth was encountered. All further excavation was then undertaken by hand.

A total of 29 trenches were originally planned to be excavated, but this was reduced to 27, with the agreement of the planning Archaeologist as Trenches 28 and 29 were located within overgrown land. Trench 27 was moved 15m west so as to be clear of a public footpath. After consultation, Trench 24 was also extended to the west in order to investigate the full extent of a large pit identified during initial excavation.

This current investigation is an initial phase of trial trenching to provide additional information on the extent, nature and degree of preservation of archaeological remains within the central-western part of the proposed site. A subsequent programme of trial trenching will be defined and commissioned to evaluate the archaeological potential of the remaining central and eastern parts of the proposed site (CgMs 2017).

A full written, drawn and photographic record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard PCAS context recording forms. Significant deposits were then recorded in plan and section at an appropriate scale (1:10; 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100) with OD heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique context number and given a written description, and a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Numerical identifiers within square brackets denote cut features, e.g. [203].

A photographic record in digital format, supplemented where appropriate with colour slide or monochrome photography, was maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention. Where appropriate these photographs incorporated an identification board, scale and directional arrow.

7.0 Results

Each trench exposed a broadly consistent stratigraphic sequence, comprising a dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil (up to 0.42m blg), overlaying natural geology. In twelve trenches, a subsoil of dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel was also encountered.

Blank Trenches

Of the excavated trenches, eight were devoid of any archaeological remains, (Trenches 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 26 and 27). A series of north to south oriented furrows were noted in Trenches 5, 13, 15, 17, 23 and 25.

Trench 2 (Figure 3)

Trench 2 was located to the north of the site and was broadly north to south orientated.

It identified a single north-east to south-west oriented linear feature, [203], from which no dating evidence was recovered. The feature does however align with an anomaly identified by geophysical survey.

Trench 6 (Figure 3)

Trench 6 was located to the east of the site and was broadly north to south orientated.

Towards the southern end of the trench, a northeast to southwest oriented linear ditch, [603], was exposed. This contained a single silting deposit of mid brown silty sand with frequent pebbles, (604), from which 13 sherds of Roman pottery was recovered. A soil sample was also taken for environmental sampling purposes and produced a small assemblage of seeds/fruits of common herb species as well as a low density of charred cereal grains.

This feature broadly corresponds to a faint anomaly identified by geophysical survey.

Trench 7 (Figure 4)

Trench 7 was located to the east of the site and was east to west orientated.

To the west of the trench a west-northwest to east-southeast oriented ditch, [703], was recorded. It contained a single silting deposit of mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, 704, from which seven sherds of Roman pottery dating to the late 3rd to 4th century were recovered as well as a single residual Mesolithic bladelet. A soil sample was also taken for environmental sampling purposes and produced a small assemblage of seeds/fruits of common herb species as well as a low density of charred cereal grains.

This feature broadly corresponds to anomalies identified by geophysical survey, and may form part of the eastern edge of the Roman ladder settlement identified to the west of the site.

Plate 1: Southeast facing section of ditch [703], scale 1m

Two furrows were also noted, [705] to the east of the trench and [707] towards the centre.

Trench 8 (Figure 4)

Trench 8 was located to the southeast of the site and was north to south orientated.

Three features were identified, comprising a broadly east to west oriented linear [807], and an intercutting pit, [805], as well as a southwest to northeast oriented ditch, [803].

A single flint flake was recovered from the fill of pit [805].

These features correspond to faint geophysical anomalies (Figure 2), Ditch [807] may be a continuation of the Roman field system identified within Trench 18.

Trench 12 (Figure 5)

This trench was located towards the south of the site and was north to south orientated.

To the north of the trench a single northwest to southeast oriented ditch, [1203], was identified. It contained no datable material and no corresponding magnetic anomaly had been identified by geophysical survey.

Trench 14 (Figure 5)

Trench 14 was towards the south of the site, orientated north to south.

To the north of the Trench, two ditches were recorded which shared the same west-northwest to east-southeast alignment. Ditch [1403] was the southernmost and measured 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep with a steep concave profiled. Roman pottery was recovered from its single fill.

Ditch [1405] to the extreme north of the trench may have possibly been a recut to [1403] - no clear relationship could be established.

Trench 16 (Figure 6)

Trench 16 was orientated north to south.

Stratigraphically, the earliest recorded feature to cut the natural was gully [1609]; located towards the centre of the trench and orientated northeast to southwest. This feature was filled by (1610), a friable mid grey brown silty sand. This fill was itself cut by an oval pit [1611] to the east and centre of the trench, filled by (1612), a friable mid brown sandy clay silt. Four further features were noted in Trench 16: to the south of the trench was a circular pit [1603]. To the north of this was ditch [1606], a northwest to southeast orientated feature. This latter had two fills; the base fill (1607) was a mid grey brown with occasional small stones, sealed by (1608), a mid grey brown clay sand with occasional small stones. Ditch [1613] was situated to the north of pit [1611] in the northern half of Trench 16: this was orientated west-northwest to east northeast. The final feature to the far north of the trench was [1616], a northeast to southwest orientated ditch. No artefacts were recovered from these features.

The geophysical survey may have indicated [1606] to the south and [1616]; these features possibly forming part of the Roman ladder settlement enclosure.

Trench 17 (Figure 7)

Trench 17 was orientated east to west.

Cutting the natural were three features [1703], [1705], [1707]. No stratigraphic relationships existed between them, and it is surmised that [1707] was a natural feature, possibly of glacial origin. Ditch [1703] was situated to the east of the trench and was aligned north to south and contained a single fill (1704). Ditch [1705] to the west of [1703] was orientated northeast to southwest and contained fill (1706). From the geophysical data it is probable

that [1703] forms one side of an enclosure to the ladder settlement. No artefacts were recovered from these features.

Trench 18 (Figure 8)

Trench 18 was orientated north to south.

Four features were cut into the natural geology (1802).

Pit [1803] was situated to the south of the trench, extending beyond its east edge. This contained fill (1804), a mid grey sandy silt which yielded pottery dated to the 3rd-4th centuries. A soil sample was also taken for environmental sampling purposes and produced a small assemblage of seeds/fruits of common herb species as well as a moderately high density of charred cereal grains.

To the north of this, gully [1805] was aligned southeast to northwest and contained a single fill (1806).

Continuing north, the next feature encountered was a shallow ditch [1807] orientated northeast to southwest and contained fill (1808).

The final feature was to the far north of the trench: ditch [1810] was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast and possibly continued into Trench 19. This feature contained three fills: (1811), (1812) and (1813). Deposits (1811) and (1812) yielded pottery dated to the late 3rd to 4th century. A soil sample was also taken from deposit (1812) for environmental sampling purposes and produced a small assemblage of seeds/fruits of common herb species as well as a moderately high density of charred cereal grains.

Plate 2: East facing section of ditch [1810], scales 1m and 0.5m

This feature probably corresponds to an anomaly present on the geophysical report, possibly forming an enclosure boundary to the ladder settlement. The other features are not apparent in the survey.

Trench 19 (Figure 9)

Trench 19 was orientated east to west.

The base of this trench was formed by the natural (1902), a mid orange sandy gravel, which in turn was sealed by a mid orange sandy silt colluvium to the west of the trench. Features [1907] and [1910] to the east of the trench were both cut into the natural (1902).

Linear ditch [1907] was orientated northwest to southeast, forming a possible boundary as indicated by geophysics. This was filled by (1906), a mid brown grey clay silt which contained 12 sherds of mid 3rd century Roman pottery.

Gully [1910] was orientated west-northwest to east-southeast and contained two fills, (1909) and (1910), both of which of grey brown sandy silt. A soil sample was taken from deposit (1909) for environmental sampling, it produced no notable archaeobotanical remains.

Ditch [1905] was oriented north to south and had cut features [1907] and [1910]. This had a single fill, (1904), a mid grey silty sand, from which mid 3rd century pottery was recovered. Layer (1903), a compacted gravel to the centre of the trench was noted as sealing (1906), the fill to linear [1907]. This layer could be a natural deposit but its location regarding information from geophysics suggests that it may have been a deposit forming part of a central trackway to a possible Roman ladder settlement.

Trench 20 (Figure 10)

Trench 20 was located to the west of the site and orientated north to south.

A single northeast to southwest oriented ditch, [2004], was identified. Its position corresponds well with the northern edge of the Roman ladder settlement identified by geophysical survey. No artefacts were recovered from this feature and it remains undated.

Plate 3: West facing section of Ditch [2004], scales 2m and 1m

Trench 21 (Figure 11)

Trench 21 was located towards the centre of the site and orientated east to west.

The natural (2101) was cut by linear gully [2106] which was orientated southwest to northeast. This feature was in turn cut to the west by [2104], a linear ditch orientated north to south, and to the east by [2108], a north to south orientated linear ditch. Three other features were noted in this trench cutting into the natural (2101), all of which were orientated

north to south. To the far west, linear ditch [2102] may possibly form the eastern edge of part of the Roman ladder settlement to the north of the central trackway.

The two final features, [2110], a north to south orientated gully and [2112] a gully sharing the same alignment but 0.53m wide and 0.12m deep.

No artefacts were recovered from within any of the features within this trench.

Trench 22 (Figure 12)

Trench 22 was located towards the centre of the site and orientated north to south.

The natural was cut by features [2215] to the south and [2204] to the centre of the trench. Linear [2215] was orientated northeast to southwest and was filled by (2214), a light grey-white silty clay. On investigation it was surmised this feature was of natural, probably glacial, origin. It was cut by linear [2208], also orientated northeast to southwest, and also interpreted as a possible glacial feature. A rectangular Pit [2211] also cut into [2215] to its southeast edge. Ditch [2204] towards the centre of the trench was aligned west to east, and was cut by [2213], a linear ditch orientated northwest to southeast. This ditch was cut by a gully [2206] orientated northeast to southwest.

The geophysical data at this location is a little obscure but it is feasible that [2204] / [2213] may represent an edge to the ladder settlement - the north edge of one of the enclosures.

Trench 24 (Figure 13)

Trench 24 was located towards the north of the site and orientated north to south.

A large, shallow, rounded pit-like feature, [2403], was identified towards the centre of the trench, and this broadly corresponds with anomalies identified by geophysical survey. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

8.0 Artefactual Evidence

The Roman Pottery

by I.M. Rowlandson

Introduction

Forty seven sherds (0.908 kg, 0.83 RE) were retrieved. This small assemblage suggested activity on the site during the 2nd to 3rd century and perhaps into the 4th century AD. The range of pottery present was fairly typical for a low status Roman rural site from this area with most of the vessels being made locally. Although the site is in the vicinity of a proposed Roman 'small town' this evaluation produced a limited, and predominantly functional, rural type assemblage.

Methodology

The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004) using the Leicestershire Museum codes commonly in use (see Pollard 1999, Clark 1999 etc.). Additional codes have been introduced on the basis of those recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997) and those in use for the East Midlands (Knight 1998). The report was produced on the basis of a context list. The archive record (see below) is an integral part of this report and will be curated in an Access database, available from the author in a digital format. Detailed sherd record and dating summary is presented in the tabulated data below. Further sherds from soil samples were integrated with this report in April 2018. The dates presented below are on the basis of the sherds presented for study only: the main report should be consulted to establish the date attributed by the excavator for each deposit.

Pottery by context

A quantified description of the pottery by context is presented below.

LRIE17 Dating Summary					
Context	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
0604	L3-4	A small group including sherds from a wide mouthed bowl and a wide mouthed bowl with a deep neck. A single coarse oxidised sherd was present probably in the 'Proto-Derbyshire' ware tradition.	13	418	52
0704	Roman	A grey ware base perhaps trimmed to a disc, sherds from a Central Gaulish samian vessel and a sherd from a Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium both from sample 4.	7	94	0
1404	Roman	A coarse grey ware base probably trimmed to a disc.	1	76	0
1804	3-4C	A small group including a colour-coated sherd from a bowl or dish and a grey ware sherd with stabbed decoration.	6	66	2
1811	L3-4?	A single sherd from a Black Burnished ware 1 dish with a plain rim.	1	67	12
1812	Roman	A small group of grey ware.	2	8	0
1816	Roman	A single grey ware sherd.	2	22	0
1904	M3	A small group including a samian basal sherd and a Derbyshire ware jar base.	3	56	0

1906	M3	A small group including grey ware and sherds from a Black Burnished ware 1 type jar with obtuse lattice (broadly as Gillam 1976 Fig. 1.8).	12	101	17

The assemblage

LRIE17 Fabric Summary							
Fabric code	**Fabric group**	**Fabric details**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE %**
SAMCG	Samian	Central Gaulish	6	12.77%	24	2.64%	0
MO4	Mortaria	Fine Mancetter fabric with meta sediment trits	1	2.13%	27	2.97%	0
C2	Fine	Colour coated with 'white' fabrics	2	4.26%	18	1.98%	0
DBY	Oxidised	Derbyshire ware	2	4.26%	44	4.85%	0
OW3	Oxidised	Sources inc. Verulamium & Midlands. Coarse sandy	1	2.13%	5	0.55%	0
WW4	Oxidised	Verulamium. Medium sandy	1	2.13%	6	0.66%	0
GW1	Reduced	BB1 type copies	10	21.28%	147	16.19%	29
GW5	Reduced	Medium sandy grey ware	9	19.15%	205	22.58%	17
GW6	Reduced	Moderately coarse wheel made grey ware	13	27.66%	415	45.70%	35
MG1	Mixed grit	Coarse	1	2.13%	5	0.55%	2
MISC	Misc	Misc uncategorised	1	2.13%	12	1.32%	0

LRIE17 Forms Summary							
Form	**Form Type**	**Form Description**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE %**
5C.2	Bowl	Vestigial neck	4	8.51%	284	31.28%	35
4A	Bowl/Jar	Everted/recurved	1	2.13%	67	7.38%	12
4B.2	Bowl/Jar	Necked/beaded, rolled, everted	1	2.13%	75	8.26%	17
CLSD	Closed	Form	1	2.13%	6	0.66%	0
3	Jar	Unclassified	8	17.02%	237	26.10%	0
3H.3	Jar	Curved/cavetto	7	14.89%	58	6.39%	17
M	Mortaria	Unclassified Form	1	2.13%	27	2.97%	0
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	24	51.06%	154	16.96%	2

Iron Age and Iron Tradition wares

A single sherd in ‘mixed grit’ fabric group MG1 was recorded from context 1804 suggesting little activity on the site prior to the middle of the 1st century AD.

Samian

Six sherds from a maximum of two plain ware vessels were presented for study. This low level of samian is what might be expected from a rural site in Leicester (Cooper 2004).

Amphora

No amphora were present amongst this small assemblage which is common amongst small rural groups from Leicestershire where amphora seldom make up more than 1% of an assemblage (Cooper 2004, Table 1). It is possible that exotic foodstuffs may have been transported to the site in barrels or bought in smaller quantities from larger settlements (Score 2010) but this cannot be proven on the basis of this assemblage.

Mortaria

A single sherd from a Mancetter-Hartshill type mortarium (MO4) mortaria were present from context 704. The low level of mortaria sherds present was also unsurprising for a low status rural site of this period (Cooper 2004).

Other fine wares

Two sherds from a Nene Valley type colour-coated bowls or dishes was retrieved from context 1804 (one of the sherds was presented for study after the initial assemblage was recorded). The low level of fine ware present is typical of low status rural sites in the Leicestershire area.

Oxidised wares

A sandy white ware base from a jar or flagon (WW4) was retrieved from context 1804). Iron rich oxidised wares present included a coarse sand-gritted fabric (classified as OW3) that was probably 'proto-Derbyshire' ware (context 0604) and sherds of Derbyshire ware (context 1904). The proximity of this site to the core distribution of these wares in Derbyshire makes their presence in this assemblage unsurprising.

Reduced wares

The reduced wares present included a Black Burnished ware 1 type jar with obtuse lattice decoration and a cavetto rim along with a sherd from a jar with an everted rim in a similar fabric. The majority of the grey ware present could be classified within the GW5-6 codes and included sherds from jars and a bowl with a vestigial neck. With the exception of the sherds with obtuse lattice decoration that were probably of late Roman date there was little diagnostic material amongst this group although the highly burnished grey ware sherd from context 1804 was probably also of late Roman date. Complete bases from two vessels in the GW5 fabric group were noted from contexts 704 and 1404 that may have been reused as discs.

Production of Roman pottery is known from the nearby Ravenstone Open Cast Coal mine site (Lucas 1981) and it is possible that the grey ware from this site may have been made at a local kiln. The published interim offers little information on the pottery found and therefore it is not certain that the material from this evaluation was produced locally.

Miscellaneous

A single ceramic fragment could not be identified with certainty and has been categorised under the MISC code (context 1804)

Conclusions

This small assemblage from a known area of Roman activity and pottery production provides further evidence of activity within the area evaluated. Any further investigations on the site would be likely to produce more significant groups of Roman pottery. At present little more can be said about this small assemblage.

Recommendations

- This small assemblage should be deposited with the relevant local museum. The pottery was stable and ready for deposition.
- In the event of further excavation the material recorded for this assessment ought to be included as part of any final report.

- Comparison with any extant material from the Ravenstone Open Cast Coal mine site (Lucas 1981) should be made before any final report on the pottery from this site to see if the reduced wares were produced at the local kiln site.

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LRIE17 Full Sherd Archive										
Context	**Fabric**	**Form**	**Decoration**	**Vessels**	**Alt**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight**	**Rim diam**	**Rim eve**
0604	GW6	5C.2		1	ABR	RIM	4	284	29	35
0604	OW3	-		1	ABR	BS; OXIDISED PROTO-DERBYSHIRE WARE FABRIC	1	5	0	0
0604	GW5	4B.2		1		RIM SHLDR; FORM AS 4B.2(5) NO. 138 EQUIVALENT TO LINCOLN BWM3	1	75	24	17
0604	GW5	-		1		BS	3	17	0	0
0604	GW6	-		1	ABR	BS	3	12	0	0
0604	GW5	-		1	ABR	BS	1	25	0	0
0704	SAMCG	-		1		BS; BOWL OR DISH?	5	12	0	0
0704	GW5	3		1	ABR; DISC?	BASE FTG; WHOLE BASE 69MM DIA	1	55	0	0
0704	MO4	M		1	ABR	BS	1	27	0	0
1404	GW6	3		1	ABR; DISC?	BASE FTG; WHOLE BASE 80MM DIA	1	76	0	0
1804	WW4	CLSD		1	ABR	BASE FTR	1	6	0	0
1804	MG1	-		1	ABR	RIM; JAR?	1	5	0	2
1804	C2	-		1	ABR	BS; BOWL OR DISH	1	7	0	0
1804	GW5	3	STAB	1		BS; STAB ZONE ALSO PRE-FIRING SCRATCHES PERHAPS FROM BROADER ZONE OF DECORATION; HIGH BURNISH LATE ROMAN?	1	25	0	0
1804	MISC	-		1	VAB	VESSEL OR FIRED CLAY	1	12	0	0
1804	C2	-		1	ABR	BS; BOWL OR DISH	1	11	0	0
1811	GW1	4A		1		RIM BASE	1	67	16	12
1812	GW5	-		2	ABR	BS	2	8	0	0
1816	GW1	3	LO	1	ABR	BS	2	22	0	0
1904	SAMCG	-		1	ABR	BASE FTR; BOWL OR DISH?	1	12	0	0
1904	DBY	3		1		BASE	2	44	0	0

The Ceramic Building Material

by Zoe Tomlinson BSc. MSC.

Introduction

A single piece of ceramic building material weighing 110 grams was presented for examination. It has been catalogued and quantified by fragment count and weight and dated. The fragment was examined visually and then recorded using codenames. The resulting archive was then recorded on an Access database and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001) and the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2001).

The piece was recovered from deposit (1811), trench 18 the fill of ditch 1810 and is in a poor and abraded condition. The table below displays the CBM from the site and suggests a likely date range.

Codename	Full name	Total frags.	Total bricks or tiles	Total weight (g)	Suggested date
TEG	Tegula	1	1	110	Roman

The material

The piece is from a single Roman roof tile and appears to be part of a Roman tegula. The tile is 20mm thick and the flange is missing leaving a scar on the surface of the tile. It has a typical knife trimmed edge and is sand bedded. The fragment has a part oxidised core and is a course sandy fabric with rounded and sub-angular quartz and occasional small clay pellet inclusions.

Conclusion

This small fragment of Roman tile is part of a Roman tegula. The material is from a site with a known Roman settlement close by. As the only fragment of ceramic building material from the site I suggest it is retained.

The Flint assemblage

by Tom Lane

Introduction

Two flints were submitted for assessment.

Condition

Both the flake and bladelet are mildly abraded.

No conversion measures arerequired before storage.

Results

Context number	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Date
804	Flake. Early removal from core. Much cortex remaining on dorsal surface. Also two flakes removed from dorsal surface. Hinge fracture. No patination. 36 x 22 x 8mm	1		Bronze age
704 <4>	Bladelet. Possible unfinished microlith. Notched near distal end. Unpatinated. 14 x 6 x 3mm	1		Mesolithic

Range

Two flints were submitted with a wide date range.

Potential

That only a two pieces of debitage were collected in a site of 27 trenches suggests strongly that little lithic material was present in the area.

The items confirm that at least two passing flintworkers were in the immediate vicinity during the Mesolithic and the Bronze Age but there is no other evidence for flintworking. Therefore, there is little potential for further significant flint debris at the site.

The Archaeobotanical remains

by Charles Simpson BSc(Hons) MA MRSB

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by PCAS Archaeology on land to the north of Ibstock in Leicestershire.

The evaluation was carried out via a number of trial trenches to determine the date, character, survival condition, and significance of anomalies identified during a preceding geophysical survey.

The site is located close to a Roman nucleated settlement or 'small town' (HER MEL9016). Excavations identified varying features including pits, linear features and ditches.

Five bulk samples from these features were submitted for processing and an evaluation of their archaeobotanical content.

Methodology

Samples were processed, following the procedures of Kenward et al. (1980), for the recovery of biological remains.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 250 micron mesh sieve. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and dried.

The processed flots were examined for plant macrofossils and other biological remains. The residues were sorted and re-sampled (due to large volumes) where necessary. Where present, these subsamples were also examined for larger plant macrofossils and archaeological finds which were noted down and bagged.

The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope using x10, x20 and x35 magnifications and the archaeobotanical remains noted were identified where possible and tabulated in Table 1 below, using the nomenclature of Stace (1997). Morphological criteria were used for the identification of plant species, based on modern reference material and seed identification manuals (e.g. Berggren 1981; Cappers et al. 2006; Martin & Barkley 2000).

Plant macrofossils were preserved mostly by charring / carbonisation. There were also a few seeds that had undergone mineral replacement.

The abundance (x = scarce <10; xx = moderate 10-50; xxx = frequent 50-250; xxxx = super abundant >250) of each archaeobotanical type was estimated and presented in Table 1.

As the same volumes of samples were processed, the results did not require normalisation in order that meaning comparisons may be made between samples.

Roots and other plant parts, snail shells, small animal bones along with insect & arthropod remains etc. were also noted, but were not removed from the flots. Any obvious modern contaminants were also noted along with any seeds that were not charred, mineral-replaced or waterlogged. The results are presented in Table 1.

Results

The broad composition of the assemblages was reasonably consistent throughout all samples of the site and fell into two more of less distinct groupings based on density of recovered remains. Those of higher densities (1804) and (1812) and those of lower densities (604) and (704). Only one sample (1909) contained no recovered material.

Seeds/fruits of common herb species (primarily weed, grassland and marginal species) were present in the samples. They included Atriplex patula (common orache), Anthemis cotula (stinking mayweed), Bromus hordeaceus (soft brome), Carex sp. including C. pendula (pendulous sedge) and C. viridula (little green sedge), Chenopodium sp. (goosefoots), Crepis sp. (hawksbeards), Epilobium sp. (willowherbs), Ficus carica (fig), Juncus sp. (rushes), Lemna sp. (duckweed), Pedicularis sylvatica (common lousewort), Persicaria lapathifolia (pale persicaria), Persicaria maculosa (redshank), Poaceae indet. (grasses), Polygonum sp. (knotweeds), Prunus sp. (plums / cherries), Rumex sp. (docks), Sambucus nigra (elderberry), Stellaria media (chickweed), Vicea sp. (peas / vetches).

Many of the species listed above (Crepis, Epilobium, Persicaria, Polygonum and Rumex) are ruderal in nature. The relatively low density scatters of these species, may possibly suggest that low grade land was present in the locality up to a short distance from the site. As most of the species have a relatively ubiquitous nature with regard to distribution, being found on open, waste and broken ground, it may suggest the disturbance and reworking of nearby ground, by human or animal activity, was likely at some point.

The Bromus hordeaceus. (soft brome) is a very common grass species and can be found anywhere and everywhere and might have been part of waste hay / floor sweepings burnt on a fire.

The presence of Lemna sp. (duckweed) in the (1804) deposit is likely as a result of water gathering activities being an entirely aquatic taxon. The sedge nutlets recovered, especially Carex viridula (little green sedge) are indicative of areas of damp grassland. When considered together, they indicate a water margin, relatively close to the site.

The presence of edible plants such as a charred Prunus sp. (plums / cherries) endocarp, and Sambucus nigra (elderberry) seeds may indicate food stuff materials (other than cereals) being consumed although the densities were very low and non-charred in the case of the elderberry seeds. There is also a tentative identification of what may be Ficus carica (fig) seeds in deposit (1804). Whilst the Atriplex sp. (orache) and Chenopodium sp. (goosefoot) seeds recovered are segetal species and often harvested in conjunction with cereals, they also have a relatively ubiquitous nature with regard to distribution, being found in a wide range of habitats and soil types.

Charred cereal grains were noted in four of the five samples submitted for evaluation. The densities involved ranged from very low in the case of deposits (604) and (704) to high in (1804) and (1812). Preservation was also very varied, ranging from grade A – good preservation, with no visible damage to grade D – grain fragmented (Jacomet 2006). It is likely that these grains represent material characteristic of domestic occupation ie. charred grains from the parching process, encountered here within ditch bottoms and pit fills.

Some of the wheat (Triticum sp.), barley (Hordeum sp.) and oats (Avena sp.) found in samples (1804) and (1812) was well preserved enough to examine morphological features and key characteristics. Whilst there was very little processing chaff (i.e. husk, spikelet forks, glume bases and rachis nodes) it was possible to identify certain individual cereal species amongst the general collection.

The lack of wheat chaff of any significance meant there was no real evidence of wheat cereal processing found in the deposits examined and this lack of diagnostic material contributed to difficulties.

The wheat (Triticum sp.) recovered across the site was generally in a poor state with many of the grains puffed and fragmented. Much of it was not possible to identify past the genus (Triticum sp.) stage but some of it showed characteristics likely to be T. aestevum. Two of the samples (1804) and (1812) contained identifiable grains of Triticum spelta (spelt wheat) which is ubiquitous in deposits from Roman and Romano-British sites (Hall & Huntley, 2007). Sample (1804) also contained smaller quantities of Triticum aestivo-compactum (club wheat) and Triticum dicoccum (emmer wheat). It should be noted however, that there is considerable overlap in morphology between club wheat (T. aestivo-compactum) and common bread wheat (T. aestivum) (Moffett, 1986).

Barely (Hordeum sp.) was by far the most dominant cereal recovered outnumbering all other cereals by 3:1 in the two main cereal bearing deposits (1804) and (1812). Of the barley grains, the large majority were of the hulled variety (Hordeum vulgare var. vulgare L.). Some of the grains were asymmetrical (from the fertile lateral florets) indicating that 6-row hulled barley was present.

The small amounts of oat (Avena sp.) in deposits (1804) and (1812) are likely to be accidental bycrops harvested at the same time with the main crop and are not uncommon.

Modern rootlets were abundant in some samples. The evidence for extensive root action suggests that some disturbance of the deposits through bioturbation may have occurred.

Items removed from the residues of all samples are summarised in the table below.

Context	<Sample> number	Pottery	Flint	Iron Objects	Charcoal
1909	1				
1804	2	X		X	X
1812	3	X	X	X	X
704	4	X			X
604	5	X			

Discussion

The assemblages of plant remains from all samples are composed predominantly of mix density scatters of charred and mineral replaced macrofossils. The results included a varying quantity of cereals along with some ruderal and segetal weed species.

When considering the cereals found on site, it is tempting to think of a certain amount of ‘deposit churn’ as an explanation of the mix of grains found in deposits (1804) and (1812). The residual carbonise cereals, more typically found in Romano-British period deposits, such as emmer and spelt (Applebaum, 1958), being discovered in the same deposit with cereals more traditionally associated with later periods such as the free-threshing wheats (Pelling, 2003). However, as this material comes from a pit fill and a ditch bottom (both likely of Roman or Romano-British origin) rather than a later occupation deposit, this is unlikely. The more likely explanation comes from the fact that this material originates from a time of transition, where new species of cereals were being used alongside the more ancient grains. This is seen in many of the excavations of the Roman sites in the north of Britain (Hall & Huntley, 2007).

Whilst an analysis of grain size and morphology does suggest some differences between grains of the same species, the varied condition of the charred cereals and low number of samples, mean any conclusions drawn could not be relied upon on this occasion.

The presence of 6-rowed barley noted in deposits (1804) and (1812) is more expected in a Roman or late Roman assemblage owing to its greater yield of grains for consumption whether in brewing or use as a foodstuff (Van der Veen, 1992).

Some of the barley grain showed pop-corn like starch grains protruding from the sides and much of the wheat was also porous and fragmentous. These characteristics tend to signpost high temperatures. It is possible that this supports the theory of disposal of waste or spoiled grain in a fire rather than the slower heating of a corn dryer as part of the parching process. There was a high percentage of charcoal in the (1804) and (1812) deposits from which the majority of cereal remains were recovered.

The low count of "weed" seeds in relation to grain recovered, is argued by Van der Veen & Jones (2007) to be more indicative of grain that may already have been processed. A final element to consider is the evidence of grain destruction, in the form of grain weevil (Sitophilus granarius) damage, present in deposits (1804). The presence of infestation damage also supports the conclusions that this grain is being disposed of.

The presence of significant quantities of cereals and other food species (plum, fig and elderberry) in deposits (1804) and (1812) along with their respective locations as a pit fill and ditch fill – likely as disposal deposits – mark them as occupation related.

Charcoal and Wood Fragments - statement of potential

Charcoal was recovered from three of the samples submitted. The potential for carbon dating on this site is therefore good. The number of reasonably sized pieces necessary to conduct standard radiometric

C14 testing is possibly limited in some of the cases, but it should be possible to obtain C14 dating from any of the samples using advanced AMS techniques.

Recommendations

The results from this site were average to good in nature. Future excavations at this site should certainly be accompanied by a programme of sampling and assessment of suitable deposits to establish whether more substantial levels of preservation have occurred elsewhere in the area. Further study of these deposits may give better insights into the diet of the period along with changes in agricultural practices.

No further analysis of the macro-botanical remains recovered or the sample residues is warranted.

Conservation

The dried flots, and plant material from the residues, have no particular conservation requirements.

Retention and disposal

All samples from the deposits considered here have been returned to PCAS Archaeology for their retention / disposal.

Archive

A paper and electronic copy of this report has been supplied to PCAS Archaeology and a copy of the paper and electronic records pertaining to the work have been kept by Charles Simpson.

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	Context number	1990	1804	1812	704	604
	Spot date	?	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
	Sample Number	4	30	30	30	30
	Volume (litres)					
Latin name	**Common name**					
Triticum sp.	Wheat		X	X	X	X
Triticumaestivo-compactum	Club wheat		X			
Triticum dicoccum	Emmer wheat		X			
Triticum spelta	Spelt wheat		X	X		
Hordeum vulgaris	Barley (hulled)		XXX	XXX		
Avena sp.	Oat		XX	X		
Cereals (indent)						X
Atriplex patula	Common orache		XX	X		X
Anthemis cotula	Stinking mayweed		X	X		
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft brome		X			
Carex sp.	Sedges			X		
Carex pendula	Pendulous sedge		X			
Carex viridula	Little green sedge		X			
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots		X	X		X
Crepis sp.	Hawksbeards					
Epilobium sp	Willowherbs		XX		X	
Ficus carica	Fig					
Juncus sp	Rushes		X		X	
Lemna sp	Duckweed		X			
Pedicularis sylvatica	Common lousewort		X		X	
Persicaria lapathifolia	Pale pericaria		X			
Persicaria maculosa	Redshank		X	X	X	
Poaceae indet	Grasses					X
Polygonum sp	Knotweeds					
Prunus sp.	Plum					
Rumex sp.	Docks					X
Sambucus nigra	Elderberry		X		X	
Stellaria media	Chickweed		XX		X	
Vicea sp	Peas/vetches					X
roolets			XX	XXX	XXX	
testa fragments				X		
insect rems.			X	XX	X	

9.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, being located close to a Roman nucleated settlement or 'small town' (HER MEL9016).

Of the 27 excavated Trenches only eight were devoid of any archaeological remains. The remaining Trenches exposed features indicative of Roman settlement activity (Trenches 2, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24) as well as evidence of later agricultural activity on the site (Trenches 5, 13, 15, 17, 23 and 25). The results indicate that the previous geophysical surveys (Walford, 2011; Fisher 2012; and Webb 2014) provides a reliable indication in regards to the density of archaeological remains, some of which can be seen to survive to depths of up to 0.68m (pit [1603] and ditch [1810]).

The evaluation has also indicated that the development site lies to the easternmost extent of the focus of settlement activity, with features associated with Roman activity being recorded primarily to the centre and west of the site (Trenches 16-22) but not continuing into Trenches 6-14 to the east and southeast of the site.

Datable material was recovered from eight features across the site and comprises an assemblage of Forty seven pottery sherds; a single fragment of Roman tegula and two worked flints which are most likely residual. The pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) recovered is fairly typical for a low status Roman rural site from this area, comprising mostly locally produced ware, and suggests that occupation occurred from the late 2nd to 3rd century and may have extended into the 4th century AD.

Environmental processing recovered a mixture of charred and mineral replaced macrofossils. Charred cereal grains were noted in four of the five evaluated samples, with densities ranging from very low in fills (604) and (704) to high in fills (1804) and (1812). These deposits are typically found in late Romano-British period deposits and, when considered with the presence of significant quantities of other food species (such as plum, fig and elderberry), are indicative of domestic occupation.

Cropmarks relating to a Roman town were clearly identifiable on c.2006 aerial photographs within the site. The geophysical surveys conducted on the site in 2011 and 2014 (Walford, 2011; and Webb 2014) also revealed a series of rectangular plots positioned to the north and south of the Roman road indicative of a Roman ladder system, which is a form of field division that often have routeways as key in their morphology. Ladder systems, and linear villages especially, are typically extended roadside complexes of settlement enclosures, paddocks and fields rather that a core focus of settlement activity (Williams 2011). As no evidence of buildings were identified during the course of the evaluation, it is likely that the ladder system identified on the site reflects this.

The East Midlands Research Agenda states that there is a need to research the process of urbanisation and the development of settlements such as Ibstock within the Roman period. This evaluation can provide information about the planning of the settlement and agricultural activities around Ibstock within the Roman period (Cooper, 2006).

10.0 Project Archive

The project archive, currently in the custody of PCAS, will be deposited with printed copies of the full report with Leicestershire county council museums archaeology collections, within 6 month of the completion of this report. Following deposition under accession number X.A141.2017

11.0 Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
100	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
101	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
200	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.38m thick	Topsoil
201	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
202	Fill	Mid orange brown friable silty sand with occasional small and medium rounded pebbles.	0.48m thick	Fill of ditch [203]
203	Cut	NE - SW oriented ditch with slightly concave sides and a gradual BOS to a concave base. Continuation of feature/group seen in trench 24	1.8m wide, 0.48m thick	Cut of ditch

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
300	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
301	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
400	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.42m thick	Topsoil
401	Layer	Light yellow-whitish coarse sand with occasional small and medium rounded pebbles, natural concentration of cobbles and larger pebbles at the south end of the trench.	-	Natural geology

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
500	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.4m thick	Topsoil

501	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
600	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
601	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel.	0.2m thick	Subsoil
602	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
603	Cut	NE-SW orientated ditch with regular sloped sides and a gentle BOS to a concaved base.	1.0. wide x 0.36m deep	Cut of ditch
604	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt, loose and fine grained. Frequent pebble stones throughout deposit.	0.36m thick	Fill of ditch [603]

Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
700	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
701	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.2m thick	Subsoil
702	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
703	Cut	WNW-ESE orientated ditch with regular sloped sides and a gentle BOS to a flat base.	0.4m deep	Cut of ditch
704	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt frequent pebble stones throughout deposit.	0.4m thick	Fill of ditch [703]
705	Cut	N-S oriented furrow with shallow sides and a gently BOS to a flat base.	2.40m wide and 0.1m deep	Furrow
706	Fill	Mid brown, Silty sand.	0.1m deep	Fill of furrow [705]
707	Cut	N-S oriented furrow with shallow sides and a gently BOS to a flat base.	2.6m wide and 0.2m deep.	Furrow
708	Fill	Mid brown, Silty sand.	0.2m thick	Fill of furrow [707]

Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
800	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
801	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.2m thick	Subsoil
802	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

803	Cut	NE-SW oriented ditch with shallows sides and a gentle BOS to a slightly concave base. Truncated by [805] to the north.	1.15m wide x 0.26m deep	Cut of ditch
804	Fill	Dark brown clayish silt with occasional pebbles.	0.26m thick	Fill of ditch [803]
805	Cut	Oval shape in plan with steep straight sides and a gentle BOS to a slightly concave base.	1.4+m wide x 2.9m long x 0.42m deep	Cut of pit
806	Fill	Dark brown clayish silt, With large pebbles, rare charcoal.	0.42m thick	Fill of pit [805]
807	Cut	E-W oriented gully with shallows sides and a gentle BOS to a slightly concave base.	0.9m wide x 0.12m deep	Cut of gully
808	Fill	Mid brown silty sand, loose, possibly wind-blown.	0.12m thick	Fill of gully [807]

Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
900	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.4m thick	Topsoil
901	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 10

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1000	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.4m thick	Topsoil
1001	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 11

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1100	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.4m thick	Topsoil
1101	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 12

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1200	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.36m thick	Topsoil
1201	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel. Subsoil.	0.2m thick	Subsoil

1202	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
1203	Cut	NW-SE oriented ditch with stepped sides and flat base	1.3m wide and 0.5m deep	Cut of ditch
1204	Fill	Compact mid grey brown sandy silt	0.5m thick	Fill of ditch [1203]

Trench 13

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1300	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.36m thick	Topsoil
1301	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.32m thick	Subsoil
1302	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
1303	Cut	N-S oriented furrow with shallow sides and a gently BOS to a flat base	1.5m wide x 0.12m deep	Furrow
1304	Fill	Light brown silty sand.	0.12m thick	Fill of furrow [1303]

Trench 14

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1400	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.4m thick	Topsoil
1401	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.3m thick	Subsoil
1402	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles, occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
1403	Cut	WNW- ESE oriented ditch with regular sloped sides and a gentle BOS to a concave base.	1.5m wide x 0.4m deep	Cut of ditch
1404	Fill	Mid brown friable sandy silt, occasional pebbles rare larger pebbles.	0.4m thick	Fill of ditch [1403]
1405	Cut	WNW- ESE oriented ditch with regular sloped sides and a gentle BOS to a concave base.	1.1m+ wide x 0.38m deep	Cut of ditch Possible recut of [1403].
1406	Fill	Light orange grey clay, compact occasional small and medium pebbles.	0.38m thick	Fill of ditch [1406]

Trench 15

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1500	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.36m thick	Topsoil
1501	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 16

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1600	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.39m thick	Topsoil
1601	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
1603	Cut	Circular shape in plan with straight steep sides and gentle BOS to a slightly concave base.	1.25m wide x 2.23m long x 0.6m deep	Cut of pit
1604	Fill	Dark brown grey sand clay with occasional medium glacial erratic's,	0.16m thick	Base fill of [1603]
1605	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt with frequent medium sized stones	0.44m thick	Fill of [1603]
1606	Cut	NW - SE oriented ditch with steep straight sides and a sharp BOS to a near vertical edge and a flat base.	2.48m wide x 0.68m deep	Cut of ditch
1607	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.22m thick	Fill of [1606].
1608	Fill	Friable, mid grey brown slightly clay sand with occasional small of medium sub-rounded and angular stones	0.46m thick.	Fill of ditch [1606]
1609	Cut	NE - SW oriented gully with shallow straight sides and gentle BOS to flat base.	0.6m wide x 0.08m deep	Cut of gully
1610	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand with infrequent small stones	0.08m thick	Fill of gully [1609]
1611	Cut	Oval shape in plan with shallow slightly concaved sides a gentle BOS to a flat base.	1.2+m wide x 1.26m long x 0.15m deep	Cut of pit
1612	Fill	Moderately friable mid brown sandy-clay silt with very infrequent charcoal flecks and small stones	0.15m thick	Fill of pit [1611]
1613	Cut	WNW - ENE oriented ditch with near vertical sides a gentle BOS to a slightly concaved base.	1.5m wide x 0.52m deep	Cut of ditch
1614	Fill	Loose dark grey brown gravel and sand with some medium stones	0.24m thick	Fill of ditch [1613]
1615	Fill	Moderate compacted mid brown silty sand with frequent stones	0.28m thick	Fill of ditch [1613]
1616	Cut	NE - SW oriented ditch with steep straight sides and a gentle BOS and a flat base.	1.78m wide x 0.54m deep	Cut of ditch
1617	Fill	Compacted and moderately gravelly reddish brown silty sand with very infrequent iron panning.	0.13m thick	Basal fill of ditch [1616]
1618	Fill	Compacted mid grey brown slightly clay sand with frequent gravel and small stones	0.41m thick	Fill of ditch [1616]

Trench 17

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1700	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.31m thick	Topsoil
1701	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.3m thick	Subsoil

1702	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
1703	Cut	N - S oriented ditch with stepped steep sides and a sharp BOS to a flat base.	2.2+m wide x 0.45m deep	Cut of ditch
1704	Fill	Friable, mid brown silty sand frequent gravel.	0.45m thick	Fill of ditch [1703]
1705	Cut	NE - SW oriented ditch with evenly sloping sides and a gentle BOS to a concave base.	1.2m wide x 0.4m deep	Cut of ditch
1706	Fill	Friable, mid brown silty sand with moderate gravel and rare charcoal.	0.4m thick	Fill of ditch [1705]
1707	Cut	N-S oriented furrow with shallow sides and a gently BOS to a flat base.	2.4m wide x 0.2m deep	Furrow
1708	Fill	Light brown silty sand and pea gravel	0.2m thick	Fill of furrow [1708]

Trench 18

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1800	Layer	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.31m thick	Topsoil
1801	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.2m thick	Subsoil
1802	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
1803	Cut	Oval sharp in plan with steep to vertical sides a sharp BOS with a flat base.	1.25+m wide x 1.95m long x 0.43m deep	Cut of pit
1804	Fill	Compact mid grey sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones	0.43m thick	Fill of pit [1803]
1805	Cut	SE - NW oriented gully with shallow concaved edges and a gentle BOS to a concaved base	0.82m wide x 0.16m deep	Cut of gully
1806	Fill	Friable mid brown silty sand with infrequent rounded stones	0.16m thick	Fill of gully [1805]
1807	Cut	NE - SW oriented ditch with shallow slightly concaved sides and a gentle BOS to a concaved base.	2.32m wide x 0.19m deep	Cut of shallow ditch
1808	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand with frequent small rounded and sub-rounded stones	0.19m thick	Fill of ditch [1807]
1809	Void	Void		Void
1810	Cut	NNW - SSE oriented ditch with steep straight sides and a sharp BOS to a flat base.	1.34m wide x 0.68m deep	Cut of ditch. May continue into Trench 19.
1811	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones	0.31m thick	Fill of ditch [1810]
1812	Fill	Dark brown grey clay silty with occasional charcoal and small stone	0.24m thick	Fill of ditch [1810]
1813	Fill	Dark soft grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks	0.18m thick	Fill of ditch [1810]

Trench 19

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
1900	Layer	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.35m thick	Topsoil
1901	Layer	Compact mid orange sand and gravel.	0.4m thick	Subsoil
1902	Layer	Mid orange sand and gravel.	-	Natural geology
1903	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
1904	Fill	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones	0.5m thick	Fill of ditch [1905]
1905	Cut	N - S oriented ditch with straight moderately steep edges a sharp BOS to a concaved base.	0.5m deep x 1.9m wide	Cut of ditch
1906	Fill	Mid brown grey slight clay silt with infrequent small rounded stones	0.7m thick	Fill of ditch [1907]
1907	Cut	NW - SE oriented ditch with straight edges, slightly stepped NW edge, and a sharp BOS to a flat base, Truncated by [1905] to the east.	2.1m wide x 0.7m deep	Cut of possible boundary ditch
1908	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt	0.45m thick	Fill of ditch [1910]
1909	Fill	Fairly soft very dark grey brown sandy silt	0.04m thick	Fill of ditch [1910]
1910	Cut	WNW - ESE oriented gully with straight almost vertical sides and a sharp BOS to a flat base. Truncated by [1905] to the west	0.46m wide x 0.49m deep	Cut of ditch

Trench 20

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2000	Layer	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
2001	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.32m thick	Subsoil
2002	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
2003	Fill	Friable light of mid grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.34m thick	Fill of ditch [2004]
2004	Cut	E-W oriented ditch with gradual sloping sides and a gentle BOS to a concaved base	1.7m wide x 0.34m deep	Cut of possible boundary ditch

Trench 21

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2100	Layer	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.42m thick	Topsoil
2101	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
2102	Cut	N - S oriented ditch with gradual sloping sides, slightly steeper on eastern edge with a gentle BOS to a concave base.	1.82m wide x 0.49m thick.	Cut of ditch
2103	Fill	Mid grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.49m thick	Fill of ditch [2102]

2104	Cut	N - S oriented ditch with gradual sloping side and a gentle BOS to a concave base.	0.76m wide x 0.34m deep	Cut of ditch
2105	Fill	Friable grey sandy silt with occasional patches of brown and occasional gravel inclusions	0.34m thick	Fill of ditch [2104]
2106	Cut	NEE - SWW oriented ditch with gradual sloping side and a gentle BOS to a concave base. Cut by ditches [2104] and [2108].	0.5m wide x 6.6m long x 0.15m deep	Cut of ditch
2107	Fill	Grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions and frequent tiny sandstones inclusions	0.15m thick	Fill of ditch [2106]
2108	Cut	N - S oriented ditch with gradual sloping side and a gentle BOS to a concave base.	0.35m wide x 0.18m deep	Cut of ditch
2109	Fill	Friable grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions and frequent flecks of sandstone	0.18m thick	Fill of ditch [2108]
2110	Cut	N - S oriented ditch with gradual sloping side and a gentle BOS to a concave base.	0.49m wide x 0.2m deep	Cut of ditch
2111	Fill	Friable mid grey sand with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.2m thick	Fill of ditch [2110]
2112	Cut	N - S oriented ditch with gradual sloping side and a gentle BOS to a concave base.	0.52m wide x 0.12m deep	Cut of gully
2113	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	0.12m thick	Fill of gully [2112]

Trench 22

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2200	Layer	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.32m thick	Topsoil
2201	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.22m thick	Subsoil
2202	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
2203	Fill	Friable mid grey with brown specks, sand silt with occasional small stones inclusions.	0.23m thick	Fill of ditch [2204]
2204	Cut	E - W oriented ditch with irregular sloping sides and a gentle BOS to a slightly concave base. Cut by [2212] and [2213].	0.9m wide x 0.23m deep	Cut of ditch
2205	Fill	Friable, mid grey with specks of brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.12m thick	Fill of ditch [2206]
2206	Cut	NE - SW oriented gully with steep sides and a gradual BOS to a curved almost flat base. Cut by [2212] and [2213].	0.62m wide x 0.12m deep	Cut of gully
2207	Fill	Compact, light grey with specks of brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions.	0.22m thick	Fill of gully [2208]
2208	Cut	NE - SW oriented ditch with gradual sides and gentle BOS to a slightly concave base. Cuts [2215].	2.8m wide x 0.22m deep	Cut of ditch
2209	Fill	Compact dark grey clay with occasional large stones	0.12m thick	Fill of ditch [2215]
2210	Fill	Light grey silty clay with frequent small stones	0.18m thick	Fill of pit [2211]
2211	Cut	Rectangular shape in plan with gradual sides and sharp BOS to an almost flat base. Cuts [2215].	1.42m wide x 1.1m long x 0.18m deep	Cut of pit
2212	Fill	Compact dark grey silty clay.	0.12m thick	Fill of [2213]

2213	Cut	E - W oriented ditch with gradual sloping sides and a gentle BOS flat base. Cuts [2204] and [2206].	0.75m wide x 0.12m deep	Cut of ditch
2214	Fill	Friable light grey very silty clay with frequent stones	0.22m thick	Fill of [2215]
2215	Cut	NE - SW oriented ditch with gradual sides and gentle BOS to a slightly concave base. Cut by [2208]	1.6m wide x 0.22m deep	Cut of ditch

Trench 23

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2300	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.36m thick	Topsoil
2301	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 24

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2400	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
2401	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.3m thick	Subsoil
2402	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology
2403	Cut	Circular shape in plan with shallow sides and a gentle BOS to a broad concaved base.	2.2m wide x 0.35m deep	Cut of pit
2404	Fill	Loose light of mid silty sand with frequent gravel	0.35m thick	Fill of pit [2403]

Trench 25

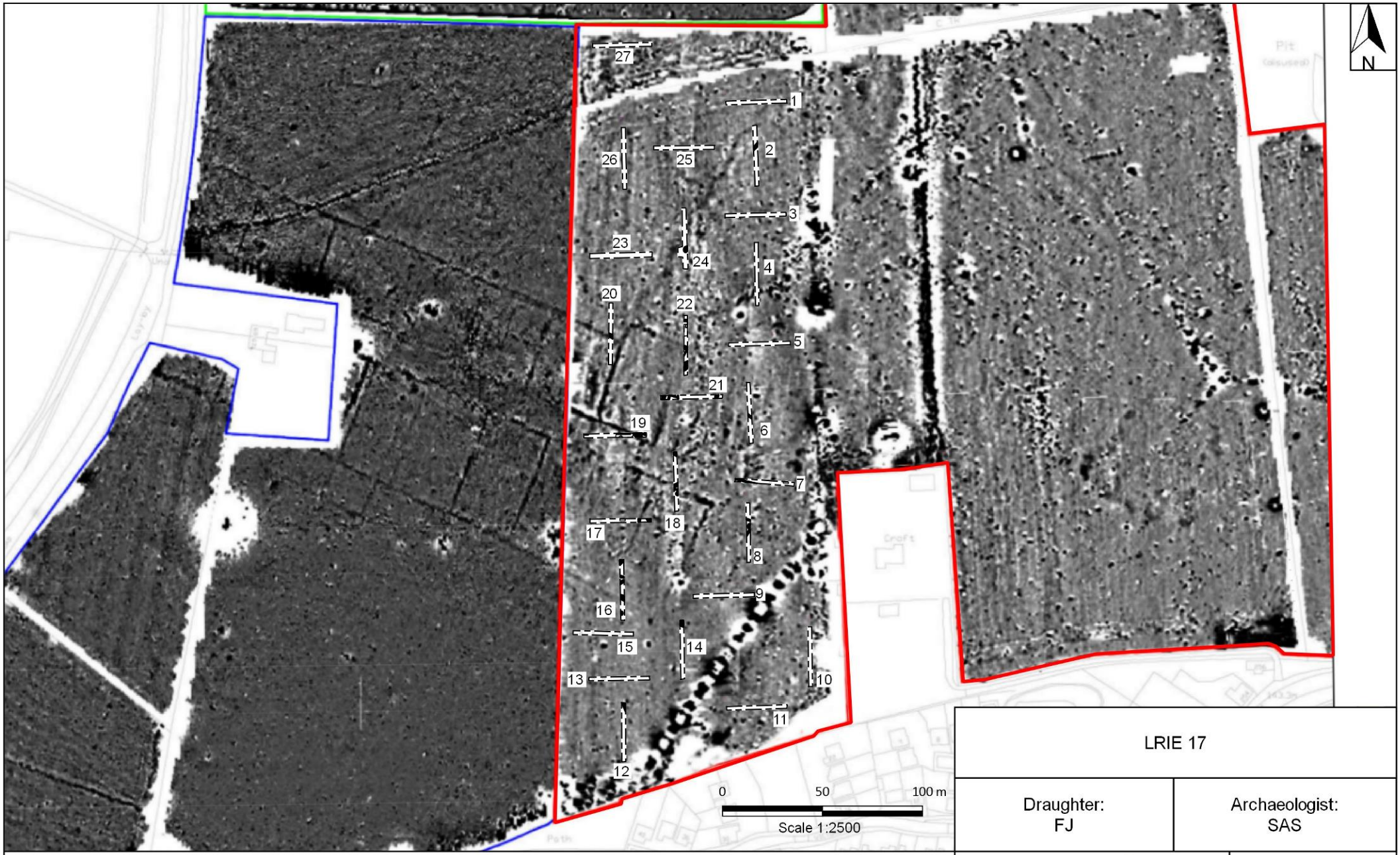
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2500	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.36m thick	Topsoil
2501	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 26

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2600	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
2601	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology

Trench 27

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
2700	Layer	Compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and gravel	0.3m thick	Topsoil
2701	Layer	Mid orange silty sand and gravel with frequent small and medium rounded pebbles and occasional large stones.	-	Natural geology



LRIE 17

Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS

Figure 2: Plan of site showing archaeological features in black, superimposed over geophysical survey provided by client. Site boundary outlined in red.

PCAS Archaeology

Scale: 1:2500 @ A4
Date: 26/01/2018

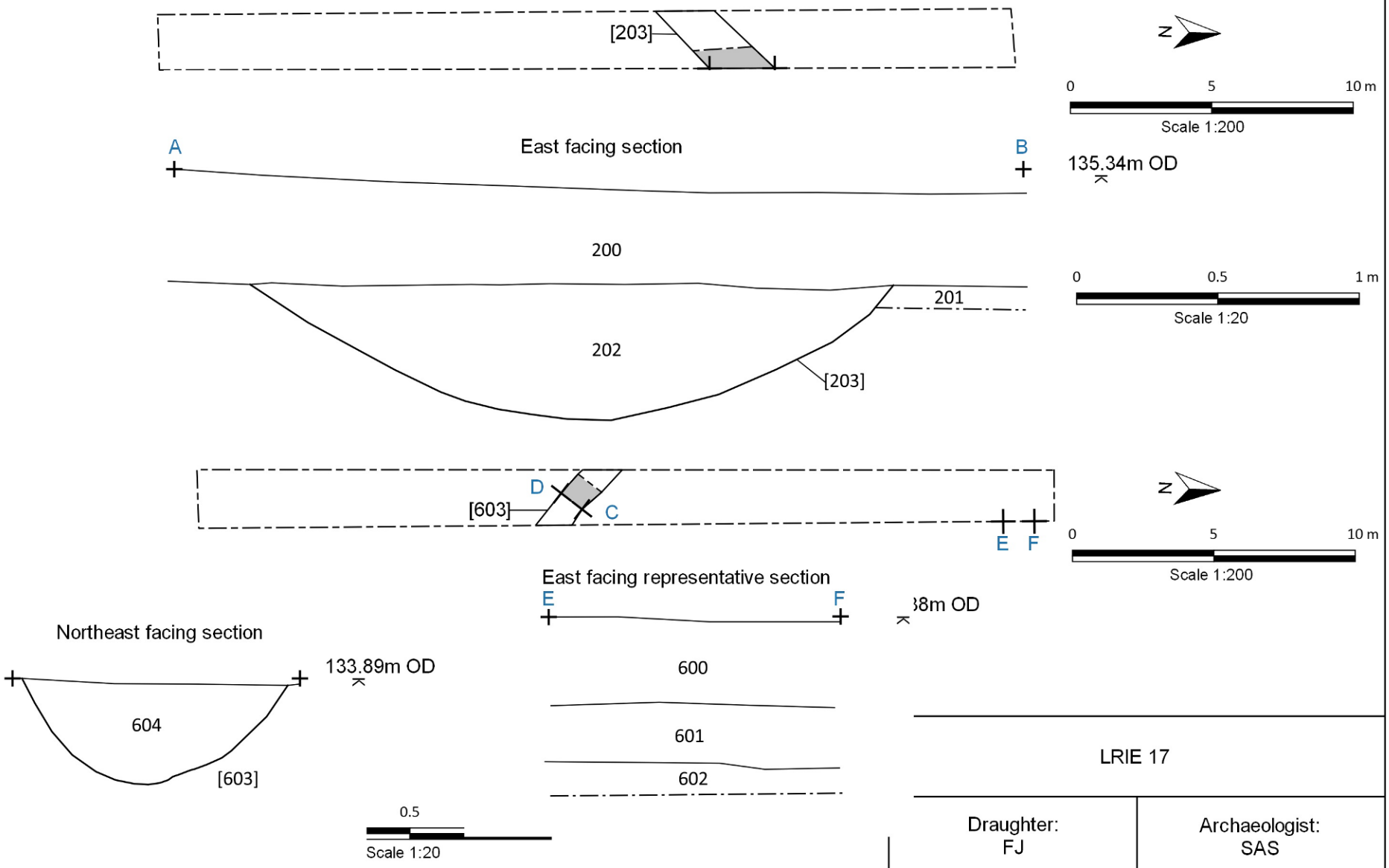
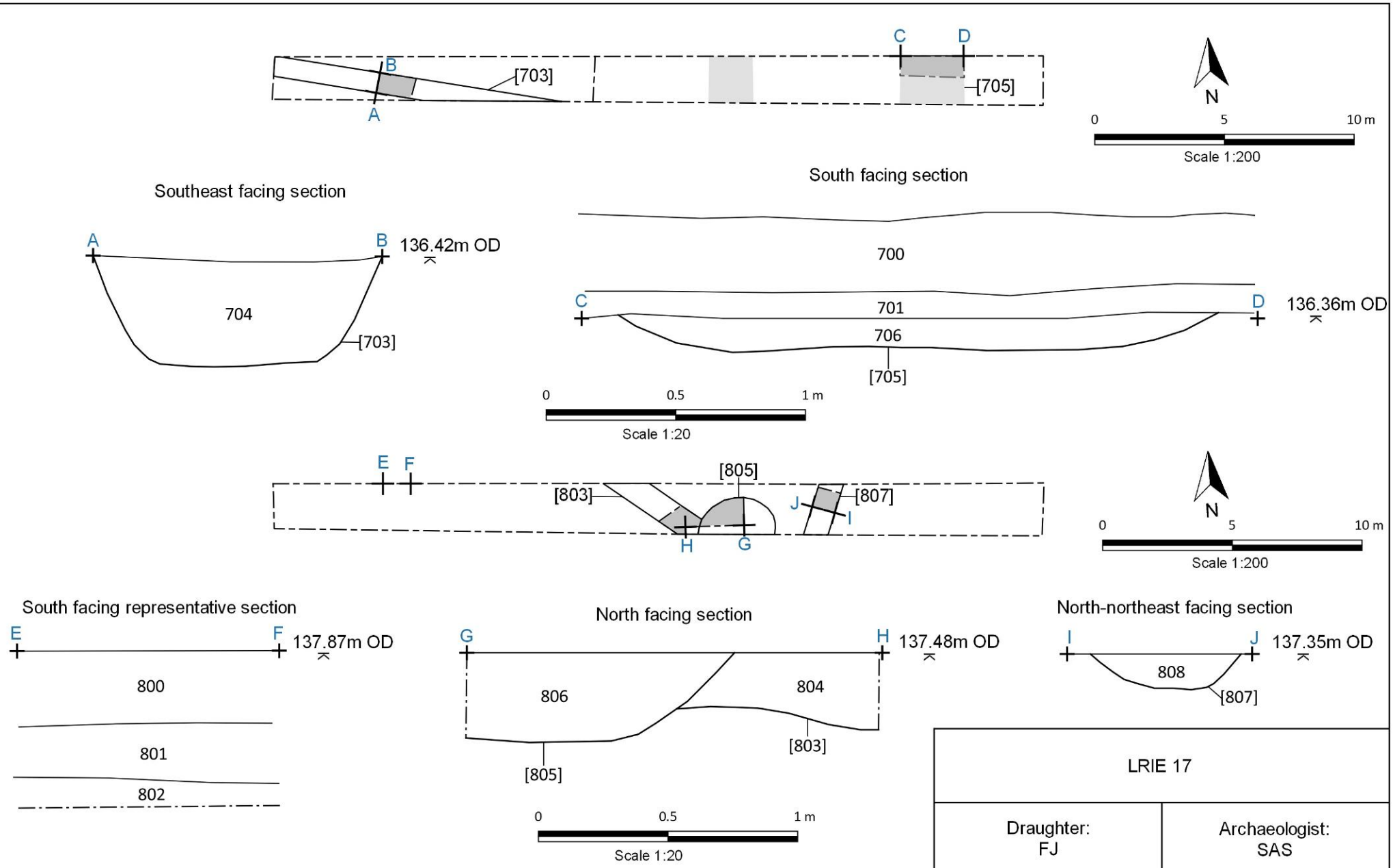


Figure 3: Plan and sections of Trenches 2 and 6



LRIE 17

Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS
PCAS Archaeology	Scale: 1:200 & 1:20 @ A4
	Date: 23/01/2018

Figure 4: Plan and section of Trenches 7 and 8

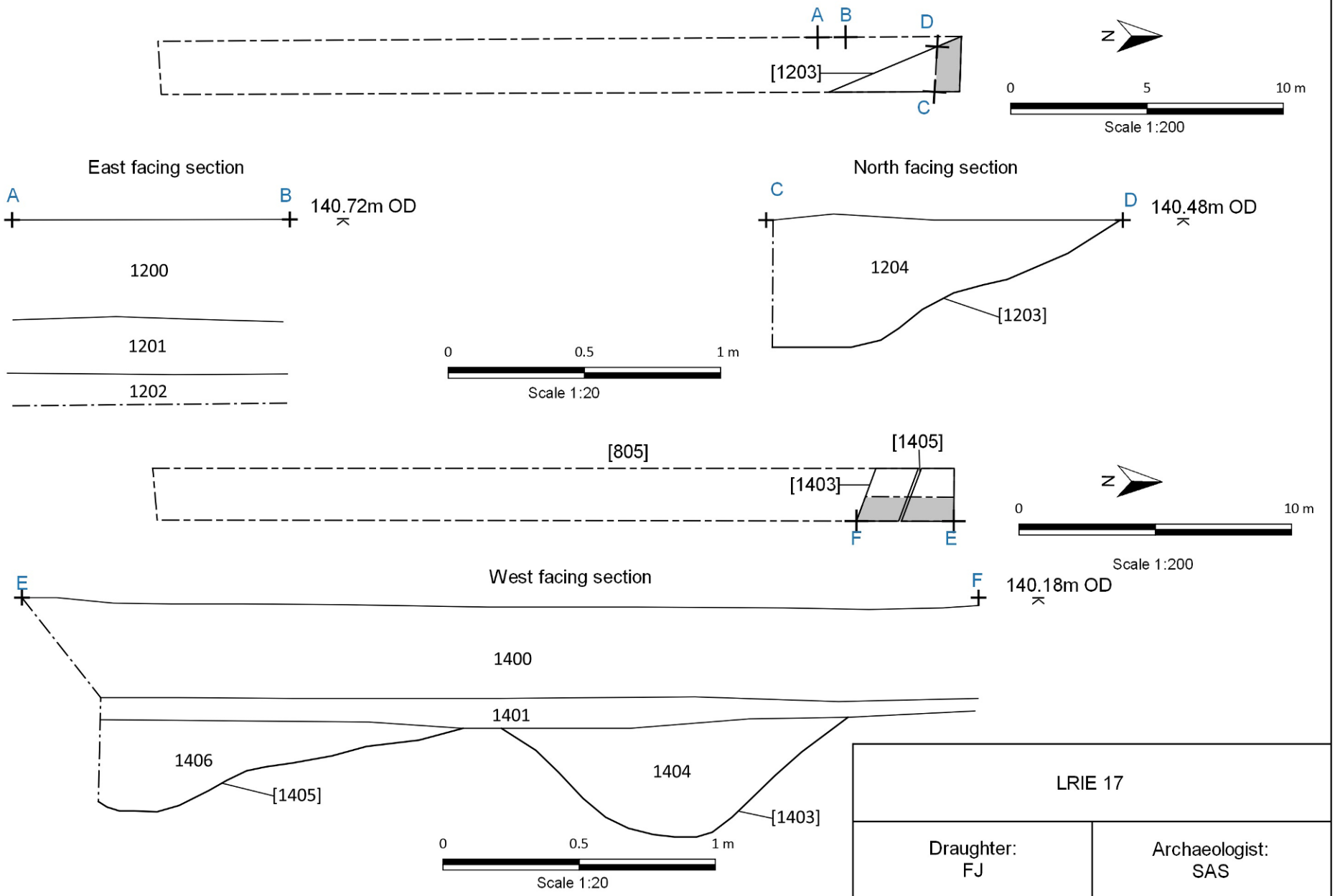


Figure 5: Plan and sections of Trenches 12 and 14

LRIE 17	
Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS
PCAS Archaeology	Scale: 1:200 & 1:20 @ A4
	Date: 23/01/2018

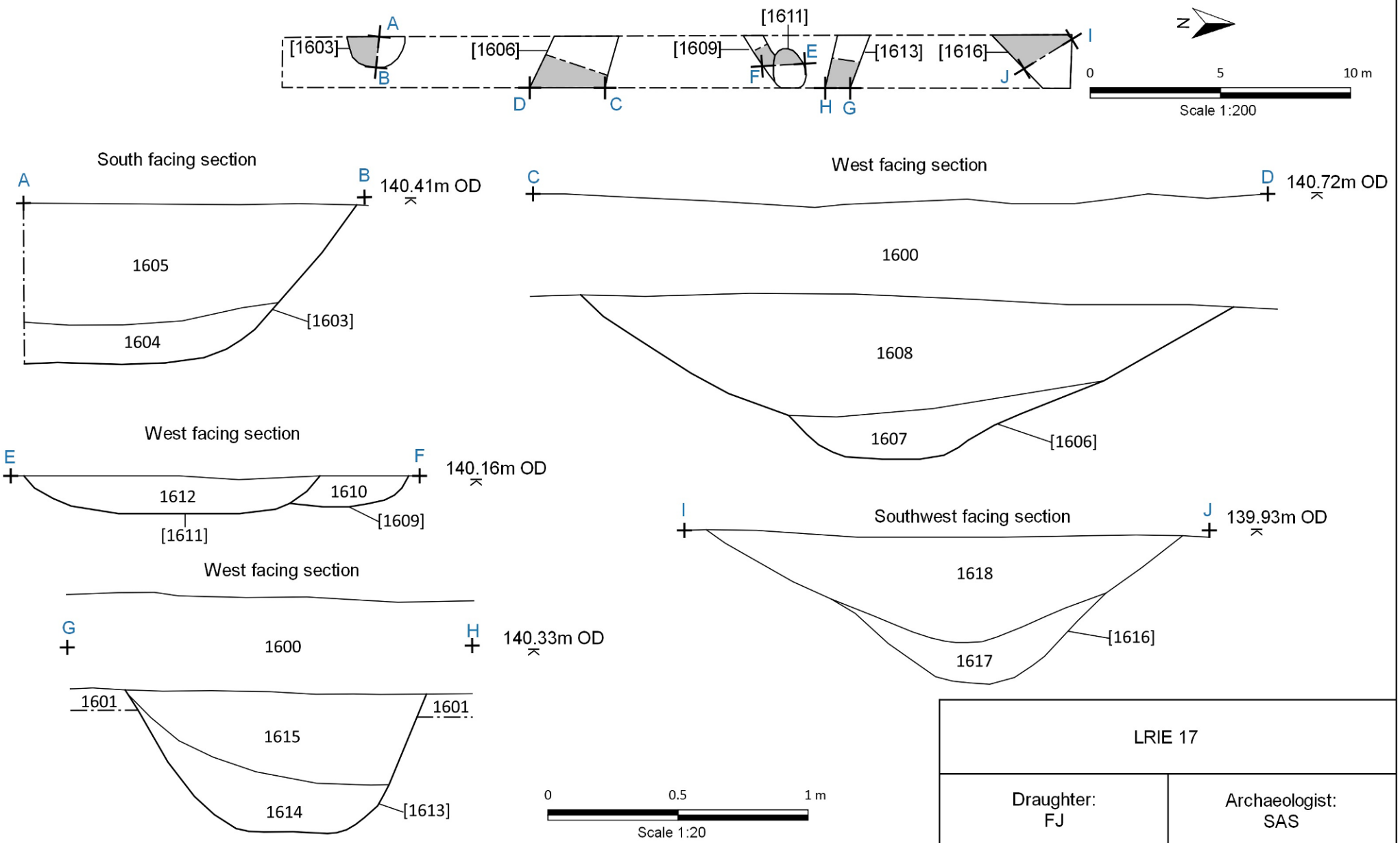


Figure 6: Plan and sections of Trench 16

LRIE 17	
Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS
PCAS Archaeology	Scale: 1:200 & 1:20 @ A4
	Date: 23/01/2018

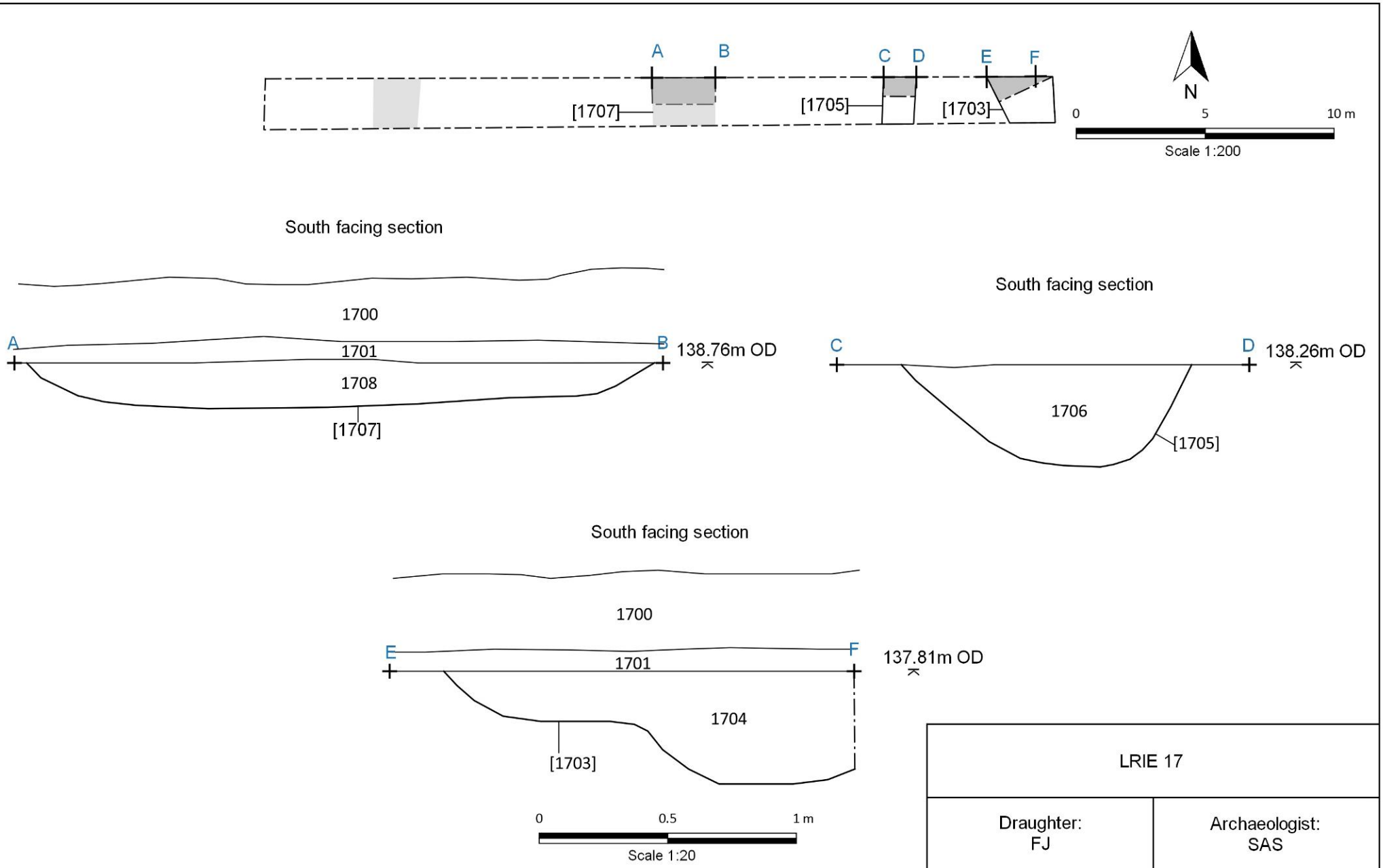


Figure 7: Plan and sections of Trench 17

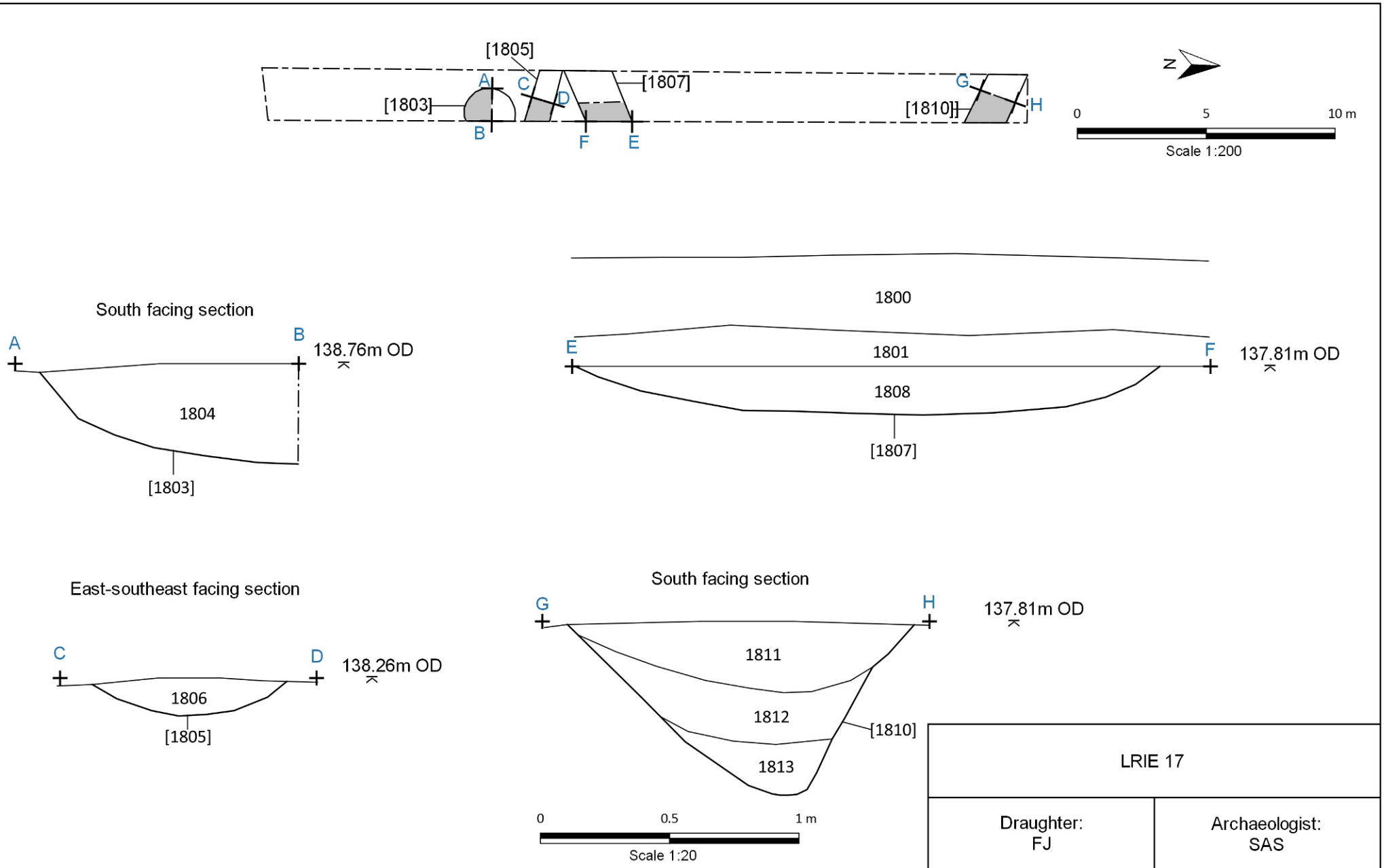


Figure 8 Plan and sections of Trench 18

LRIE 17

Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS

PCAS Archaeology

Scale: 1:200 & 1:20 @ A4
Date: 23/01/2018

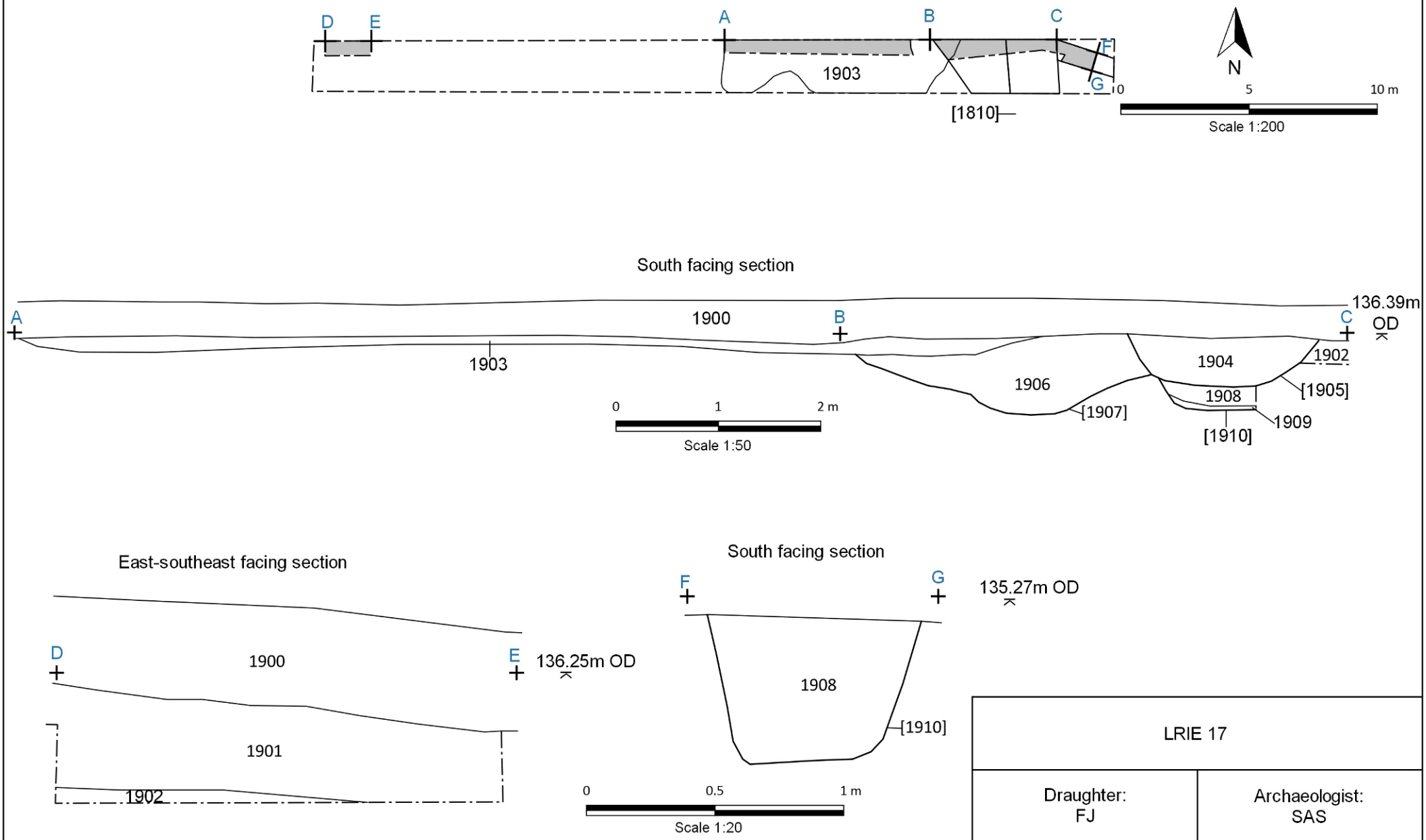
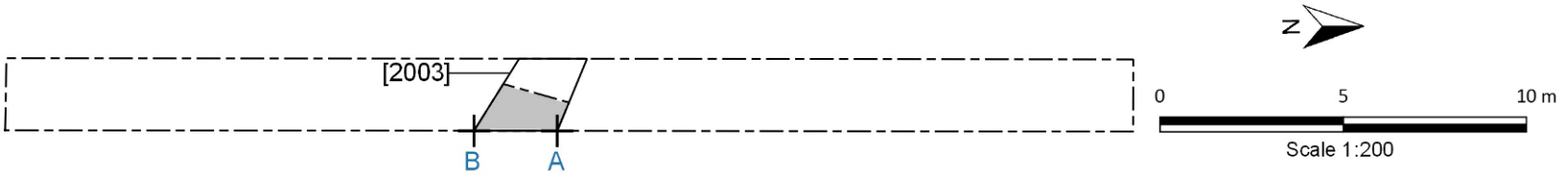
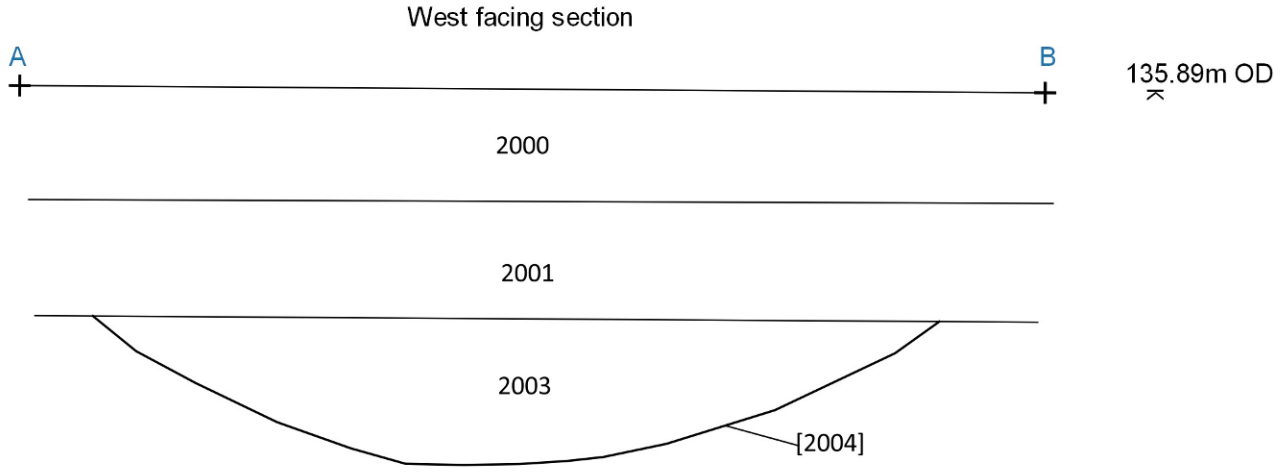
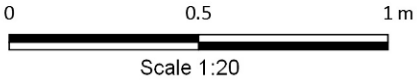


Figure 9: Plan and sections of Trench 19

LRIE 17	
Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS
PCAS Archaeology	Scale:1:200, 1:50 & 1:20 @ A4
	Date: 23/01/2018







LRIE 17		
Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS	
PCAS Archaeology	Scale:1:200 & 1:20 @ A4	
	Date: 23/01/2018	

Figure 10: Plan and section of Trench 20

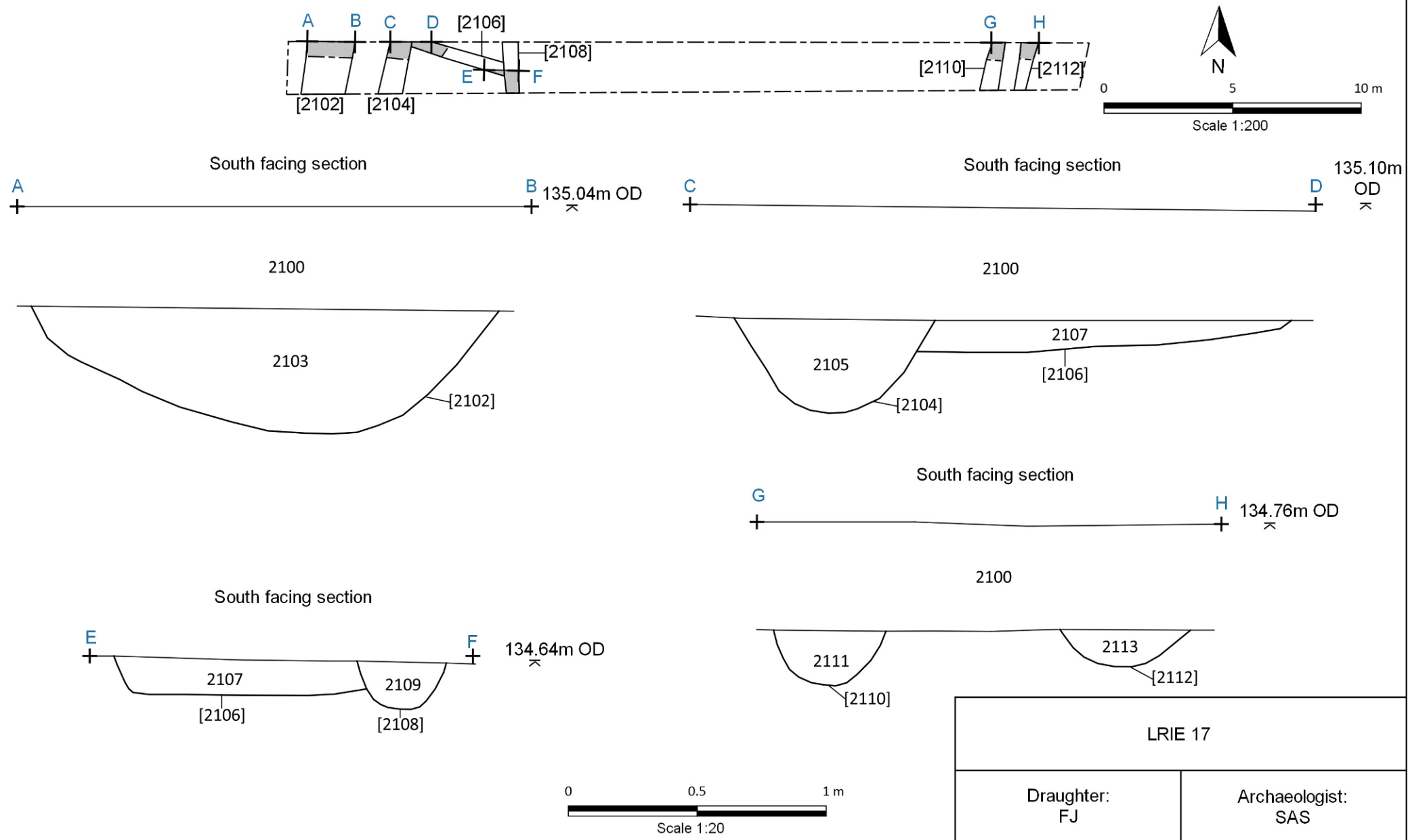


Figure 11: Plan and sections of Trench 21

LRIE 17	
Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS
PCAS Archaeology	Scale:1:200 & 1:20 @ A4
	Date: 23/01/2018

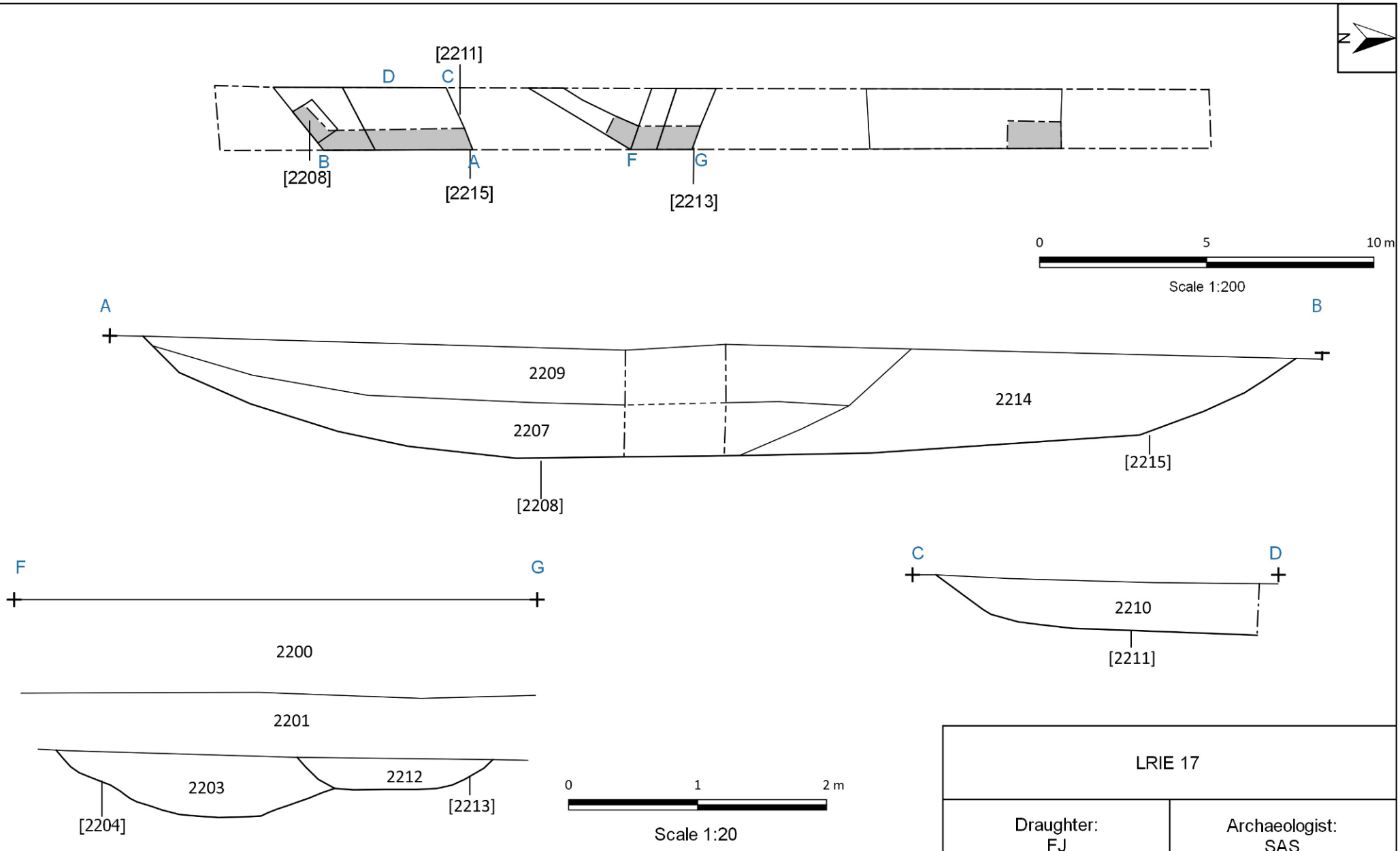


Figure 12: Plan and sections of Trench 22

LRIE 17	
Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS
PCAS Archaeology	Scale:1:200 & 1:20 @ A4
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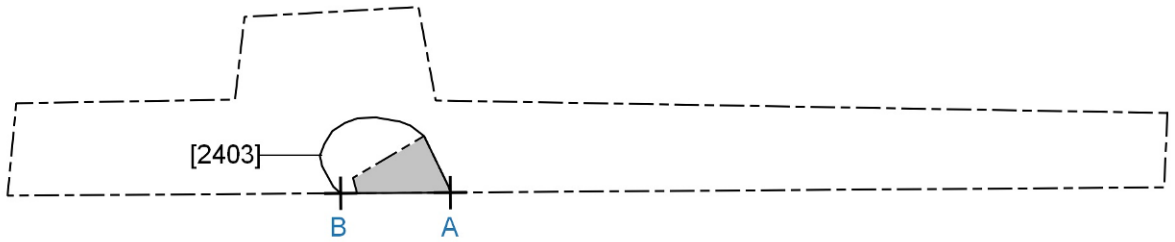

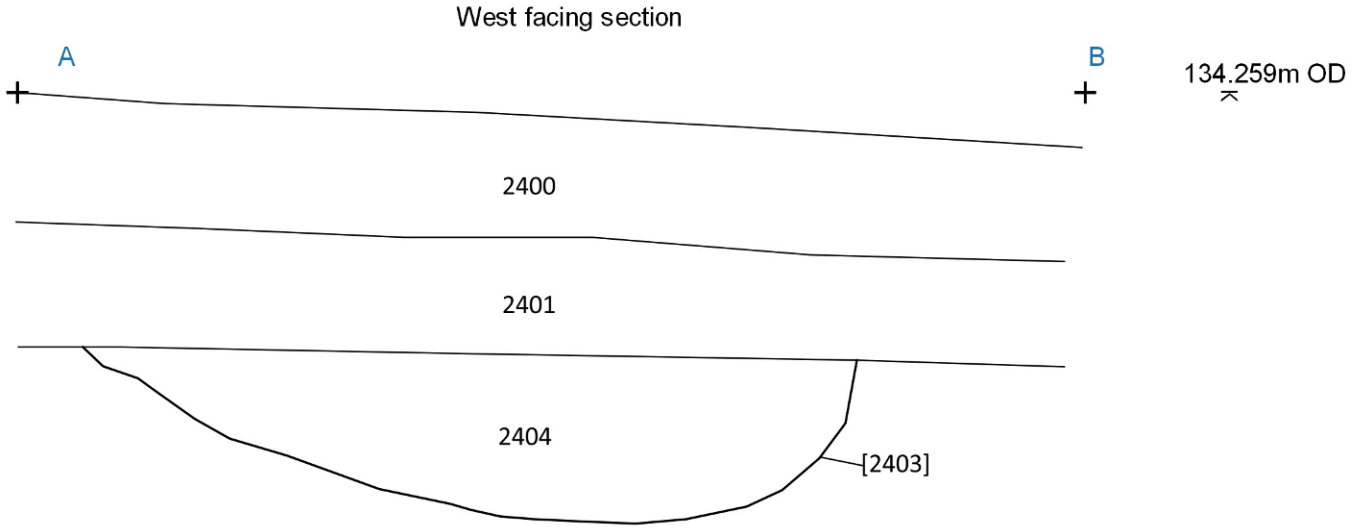

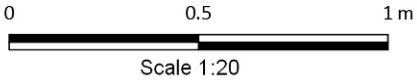

LRIE 17		
Draughter: FJ	Archaeologist: SAS	
PCAS Archaeology	Scale:1:200 & 1:20 @ A4	
	Date: 23/01/2018	

Figure 13: Plan and section of Trench 24