

# Land at Fiddington Ashchurch Gloucestershire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



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**Land at Fiddington, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire**  
**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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*Illustrated by Julia Collins and Gary Jones*

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## **Summary**

*Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Robert Hitchins Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Fiddington, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SO 9209 3303) ahead of proposed development.*

*The work was undertaken between 18th March and 12th April 2013. A total of 24 trenches were excavated across the site.*

*Features of probable 1st-2nd century Roman date were found in the north-western part of the site, with some activity continuing into the 3rd century. The exact nature of the activity is unclear, but it is probable that it represents the remains of a small agricultural settlement. Some evidence was recovered suggesting that the settlement may have originated in the late Iron Age, although this is very uncertain.*

*A number of furrows and ditches that probably date to the medieval and post-medieval periods were recorded across the site, the remnants of arable agriculture, but no settlement remains of these periods were present.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Robert Hitchins Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Fiddington, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire. This report has been prepared for Robert Hitchins Ltd and its successors in title to the land.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application for the development of the area.
- 1.1.3 Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council, established the scope of work required. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2013) was submitted to, and approved by, Charles Parry.
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (revised 2008) and local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies east of the M5 (south-east of Junction 9), south of the A46/A438 and west of the Cheltenham - Worcester railway line. To the south are further areas of arable land.
- 1.2.2 The site (centred on NGR SO 9209 3303) is approximately 18ha in extent (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.3 The site is low-lying, on arable land. The Tirlle Brook forms the southern boundary of the site.
- 1.2.4 The Tirlle Brook itself is within a small valley / floodplain. North of it the ground rises relatively rapidly from approximately 13m aOD to over 19m aOD. South of the brook the ground rises more gradually to c 19m aOD.
- 1.2.5 The underlying geology largely comprises deposits of Liassic Clay. A previous evaluation at the site demonstrated that the clay was variable over the area and there were pockets of silt, sand and gravel within it.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within a landscape which contains a number of Scheduled Monuments, as well as a Registered Battlefield (Tewkesbury to the west). The Scheduled Monuments comprise Margaret's Camp, a moated site with associated remains (to the west), Deerhurst monastic site and multi-period settlement (to the west), Moat House moated site (to the south), a deserted medieval village (to the west) and the site of St Mary's Abbey (to the west).
- 1.3.2 Archaeological investigations in 1996-7 along the route of the Tewkesbury Eastern Relief Road (Walker *et al.* 2004), to the west, revealed a series of Bronze Age and Roman sites located along a low clay ridge, surrounded on three sides by the floodplains of the Tirlle Brook and the River Swilgate. Within the four excavation areas, three distinct locations also produced earlier prehistoric pottery (late Neolithic/Beaker/early Bronze Age), albeit in very small quantities.
- 1.3.3 As part of the construction of the Gloucester Security of Supply Pipeline, Oxford Archaeology carried out excavations and a watching brief. The nearest excavation site was at Fiddington, c 3.5km to the south-east, where a complex of enclosures, probably



on the periphery of a more extensive rural settlement, occupied from the 1st to the 4th century AD, was recorded. A single early Saxon pottery sherd was also recovered.

- 1.3.4 A recent evaluation 5km to the south at Cursey Lane, Hardwicke (Oxford Archaeology 2012) encountered no features of archaeological significance. It did, however, confirm the presence of furrows within the full extent of the evaluation area. Artefacts recovered from these suggest that they were in use into the post-medieval period. Several abraded sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of *tegula* recovered from the furrow fills suggested a Roman presence within the vicinity, although no features of this date were encountered.

## 1.4 Previous archaeological work at the site

- 1.4.1 **Oxford Archaeology 1992:** The site was the subject of historical research, fieldwalking and an archaeological evaluation undertaken in January 1992 (Oxford Archaeology 1992). In general, the results of the earlier evaluation suggested that there were relatively few archaeologically significant features or finds, although a focus of activity was identified in the west of the area.
- 1.4.2 In the following summary of the results, and on Figure 2, the previous trench numbers have been prefixed with a 'P' (P1, P2 etc) to distinguish them from the current trenches.
- 1.4.3 In the western part of the site there was evidence of 1st - 3rd century AD occupation, with a possible medieval component. Most of the area was probably peripheral to actual settlement, and the evidence suggested that the focus of the settlement, if it existed within this area, would have lain to the north of the excavated trenches. There was some indication that features might extend towards the south in the lower area of the site, around Trenches P78, P79, P83 and P85. The remains included two probable Romano-British inhumations.
- 1.4.4 In a number of trenches (P61, P65, P73 and P75), broad shallow ditches thought to be medieval field boundaries were detected.
- 1.4.5 **Stratascan 2013:** Prior to the current evaluation a geophysical survey was undertaken across the site (Fig. 2). This identified linear features consistent with historic ridge and furrow cultivation across much of the site, away from the floodplain of the Tirlle Brook. There were also two foci of anomalies indicative of archaeological features. One series of anomalies coincided with the previously discovered Roman activity in the western part of the site. In addition, a series of anomalies was recorded in the north-eastern corner of the site.

## 1.5 Acknowledgements

- A.1.1 Robert Hitchins Ltd funded the project and Steve Weaver of CgMs acted as consultant. Charles Parry, the Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council, monitored the work. The fieldwork was conducted by Vix Hughes assisted by Al Zochowski, Matt Fenn, Alex Latham, Jim Harriss and Michael McLean. The report was written by Vix Hughes. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ken Welsh.



## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 General

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, were:

- (i) To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- (ii) To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- (iii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- (iv) To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- (v) To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- (vi) To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- (vii) To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire HER.

### 2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (viii) To investigate and characterise various anomalies identified through geophysical survey that may represent archaeological features;
- (ix) To examine areas identified by the geophysical survey and previous evaluation as being blank.

### 2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 An array of 24 trenches (numbered 50-61 and 72-83), each 50m x 2m, was excavated across the site (Fig. 2). The trenches were positioned in order to avoid known services and to investigate geophysical anomalies revealed by the January 2013 survey. Trenches were also located in blank areas where no geophysical anomalies were recorded and where there were no findings from previous evaluation.
- 2.3.2 All trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist.
- 2.3.3 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with standard OAS practices (Wilkinson 1992).
- 2.3.4 Features correlating with furrows recorded during the geophysical survey were present in a number of trenches and were sampled: such features were not excavated in every trench where they occurred.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with a summary of the trench results, followed by a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. An index of all trenches is presented in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 The site is divided into two fields and the trench results are presented by field, below.

#### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The underlying geology consisted of a pale yellowish brown clay seen in all trenches. Archaeological features were all cut into the pale yellowish brown clay layer and were sealed by the ploughsoil which was, on average, 0.3m thick. A subsoil was only present in the northern part of Trench 54 and the eastern part of Trench 57.
- 3.2.2 The ground conditions were generally good although some trenches partially flooded following excavation.

#### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Of the 24 trenches excavated, six contained archaeological features (Trenches 53, 54, 57, 61, 77 and 80) and the remaining 18 contained no features other than field drains or natural features. All of the features recorded were linear in form. The archaeological remains were cut from immediately beneath the topsoil, unless otherwise stated.
- 3.3.2 The trenches that contained no significant remains, and are not further discussed below, were as follows: 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 81, 82 and 83.
- 3.3.3 Roman period remains were confined to Trench 57 and Trench 53.
- 3.3.4 Trenches 53, 61, 77 and 80 contained furrows which were of probable medieval to early post-medieval date. Trench 54 contained a post-medieval field boundary.



### 3.4 Trenches in the Western Field (Fig. 2)

3.4.1 A total of 12 trenches were positioned in the field and of these four contained archaeological remains (Trenches 53, 54, 57 and 61). The remaining eight trenches were either blank or contained only field drains. The field sloped gently downwards from north to south.

#### ***Trench 53 (Figs 3 and 9)***

3.4.2 This trench contained two ditches and a series of six plough furrows, one of which was excavated.

3.4.3 Feature 5303 was 1.03m wide and 0.16m deep with a shallow broad profile. It contained no artefactual evidence. Its broad, shallow profile suggests that it is a plough furrow. However, it lies on a similar alignment to a geophysical anomaly recorded further to the north. A ditch corresponding to this anomaly was recorded in the earlier evaluation (Oxford Archaeology 1992) where it was 2.2m wide and 0.8m deep and produced pottery of Iron Age or Roman date.

3.4.4 Ditch 5305 (Plate 1) was 2m wide with a stepped profile that narrowed to 0.45m wide at the base. The ditch was 0.65m deep and contained three fills; 5304, 5306 and 5309. Fills 5304 and 5306 each produced two small sherds of Roman pottery. The ditch corresponded to the position of a linear anomaly on the geophysical survey.

3.4.5 Ditch 5308 (Plate 1) was located to the immediately to the west of ditch 5305. It was 1.05m wide and 0.28m deep. It had a shallow asymmetrical profile and was steeper to the east. The single fill (5307) contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery and two nail fragments. The feature may have been the base of a furrow.

#### ***Trench 54 (Figs 4 and 10)***

3.4.6 Ditch 5403 (Plate 2) was aligned E-W and had a broad shallow profile. It was 0.95m wide by 0.36m deep and contained two fills, 5405 and 5404. Fill 5404 contained an iron bucket handle mount of post-medieval date and a fragment of animal bone.

3.4.7 A very shallow subsoil (5401), visible in the section, had accumulated or been preserved to the north of the ditch.

#### ***Trench 57 (Figs 5, 10 and 11)***

3.4.8 The trench contained 11 linear features (Plate 3): 5702, 5704, 5706, 5708, 5710, 5713, 5716, 5718, 5720, 5722 and 5724.

3.4.9 Ditch 5702 (Plate 4) was 1.3m wide by 0.38m deep and had a U-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (5703) which contained six sherds of Roman pottery, a fragment of tile along with animal bone. It was on a similar alignment to a geophysical anomaly

3.4.10 Ditch 5704 (Plate 5) was the earliest of three inter-cutting ditches. It measured 1.4m wide by 0.5m deep. The single fill (5705) contained two sherds of Roman pottery and an animal bone. The western side had been truncated by the later ditch, 5716.

3.4.11 Ditch 5716 (Plate 5) measured 0.75m wide by 0.3m deep. The single fill (5717) contained two fragments of post-medieval tile as well as animal bone. The western side had been truncated by the later ditch, 5718.

3.4.12 Ditch 5718, measured 0.55m wide by 0.32m deep. The single fill (5719) contained a sherd of Roman pottery and fragments of horse skull and teeth.

3.4.13 Feature 5722 (Plate 9) was aligned N-S and was 1.6m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill (5723) contained two sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of tile. Its broad, shallow profile suggests it may have been a plough furrow.

3.4.14 Ditch 5706 (Plate 6) was aligned N-S and was 2.3m wide and 0.6m deep. It contained two fills (5707 and 5726). Fill 5707 contained nine sherds of Roman pottery as well as



animal bone. Fill 5726 contained a possible sherd of Roman pottery although this may be tile. It corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly.

- 3.4.15 Two parallel features, 5713 and 5708, of similar form in plan were on a NW-SE alignment (Plate 7). Ditch 5713 had a single fill, 5714, which contained seven sherds of Roman pottery as well as animal bone. These features coincided with a geophysical anomaly with a similar sinuous form.
- 3.4.16 Ditch 5713 was truncated by a later feature 5708. This was 3.6m wide by 0.6m deep, with a broad U-shaped profile. It contained two fills, 5715 and 5709. Fill 5715 contained a sherd of Roman pottery, a fragment of fired clay and animal bone. Fill 5709 contained 11 sherds of Roman pottery as well as animal bone.
- 3.4.17 Ditch 5724 was aligned NW-SE and was 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep. The single fill (5725) contained two fragments of fired clay.
- 3.4.18 Feature 5720 (Plate 8) was aligned N-S and was 1.6m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill (5721) contained four sherds of Roman pottery and two fragments of fired clay. Its broad, shallow profile suggests it may have been a plough furrow.
- 3.4.19 Feature 5710/5711 was a spread of silty clay, 4.3m wide and less than 0.1m deep. Although it coincides with a geophysical anomaly, there was no evidence to suggest the presence of ditch. A sherd of Roman pottery and three fragments of animal bone were recovered from the layer.

**Trench 61** (Figs 6 and 12)

- 3.4.20 The trench contained two N-S aligned furrows (6103 and 6105). Furrow 6103 (Plate 10) was 2.45m wide by 0.26m deep and had a very broad gentle U-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (6104) which produced a fragments of fired clay.
- 3.4.21 The second furrow (6105) was located 7.5m to the east. It was 3.8m wide by 0.16m deep and was filled by 6106. The furrow produced no artefactual material.

### 3.5 Trenches in the Eastern Field (Fig. 2)

- 3.5.1 A total of 12 trenches were located in this field and of these, two contained archaeological remains (Trenches 77 and 80). The remaining 10 were either blank or contained only field drains. A geophysical anomaly was targeted by Trench 83 but no corresponding archaeological features were present. The field sloped gently downwards from north to south.

**Trench 77** (Figs 7 and 13)

- 3.5.2 The trench contained six N-S aligned furrows, of which two were excavated. The furrows were spaced at regular intervals of 5-6m throughout the trench.
- 3.5.3 Furrow 7702 measured 2.1m wide by 0.2m deep and had a single fill 7703 that contained 11 small fragments of fired clay.
- 3.5.4 Furrow 7704 was of 0.9m wide and 0.2m but did not produce any artefactual material.

**Trench 80** (Figures 8 and 13)

- 3.5.5 The trench contained four N-S aligned furrows of which one, 8002, was excavated (Plate 11). The furrow was 1.75m wide by 0.14m deep but the single fill 8003 contained no artefactual material.

### 3.6 Finds Summary

- 3.6.1 A small quantity of artefactual material was recovered from the features recorded in the evaluation. The range of material included pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), fired clay, metal and animal bone. A fuller description of the finds can be found in Appendix B.



- 3.6.2 The pottery assemblage consists of Roman material (72 sherds, 993g) and post-medieval material (9 sherds, 206g). The pottery was in moderate condition with the majority of sherds being only slightly abraded. The great majority of the Roman pottery (92% by weight) came from Trench 57.
- 3.6.3 A total of 13 pieces (747g) of certain and probable ceramic building material was recovered. Of this total, seven fragments may have been of Roman date. Seventeen fragments (148g) of fired clay was recovered and it is likely that the majority were from structures such as ovens although diagnostic features were almost entirely absent.
- 3.6.4 A total of 42 animal bones were recovered, the vast majority (35 bones) from features of Roman date in Trench 57.
- 3.6.5 Three metal objects were recovered, including two nail fragments and an iron bucket handle mount. A single fragment of undiagnostic slag was also recovered.
- 3.6.6 The only deposits which may potentially have contained material suitable for palaeo-environmental reconstruction were those in Trench 57, although none contained visible charred remains. However, due to the incursion of groundwater into excavated features in this trench, no soil samples could be taken.



## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in reasonable conditions, although groundwater affected some locations, in particular Trench 57. However, ground conditions were sufficiently good in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features.
- 4.1.2 It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate representation of the evaluation area as a whole.

### 4.2 Evaluation results in relation to the project objectives

- 4.2.1 The evaluation aimed to investigate and characterise the various anomalies identified by geophysical survey and thought to represent archaeological features. Trenches were also positioned to test areas thought to be blank.
- 4.2.2 Of the 24 trenches, three (Trenches 53, 57 and 83) were positioned to examine anomalies thought likely to result from the presence of archaeological features other than the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture.
- 4.2.3 A focus of Roman activity had been located during the previous evaluation and further defined by anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey. The current evaluation confirmed that the features in this area were indeed of Roman date and that the extent of this activity was reasonably well-represented by the geophysical survey.
- 4.2.4 The evaluation also confirmed that there were very few archaeological features, other than the remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture, across the rest of the site.
- 4.2.5 No archaeological features that corresponded to the geophysical anomalies in the north-eastern corner of the site were revealed in Trench 83. These anomalies may be the result of recent activity at the entrance to the field, which lies immediately adjacent to the trench, and from a modern service trench which was evident in the trench.

### 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The results from the current evaluation confirms and enhances those of the previous investigations at the site. Evidence was found for activity dating to the Roman period (with, perhaps, its origins in the late Iron Age) in the western part of the site, and for agricultural activity of medieval and post-medieval date across the site.

#### ***Roman***

- 4.3.2 Evidence of Roman activity, presumably a settlement of some kind, was recorded in Trench 57, possibly in Trench 53 and in Trenches P78, P79, P83 and P85 of the previous evaluation. The form of the settlement is unclear but the geophysical survey appears to show a N-S trackway with a series of possible enclosures set off its eastern side. Ditches possibly forming the two sides of the trackway were recorded in Trenches P70, 53 and P85. A small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from the ditches and, in Trench P85, two inhumation burials were recorded, perhaps cut into the silted ditches. To the east of the putative trackway, a series of ditches were recorded in Trenches 57 and one in P78. Although some of these corresponded reasonably well with geophysical anomalies, not all of them did, making interpretation of the form of the settlement difficult.
- 4.3.3 The pottery recovered from both the current and the previous evaluations is not closely datable, comprising, as it does, locally-produced Malvernian products and Severn Valley ware. The lack of distinctive middle or late Roman wares suggests an early





Roman (1st-2nd century) date for most of the activity, although some of the Malvernian material could date to the late Iron Age and a few sherds suggest that the activity could continue into the 3rd century.

- 4.3.4 Despite these uncertainties, what is clear is that a tightly focused area of Roman activity is present in the western part of the site, with the extent of the recorded geophysical anomalies providing a good indication of its extent, if not of its form. The limited range and character of the pottery assemblage suggests a low status, presumably agricultural, settlement. The occasional sherds of medieval or post medieval pottery found in both evaluations in this area probably derive from plough disturbance during these periods.

***Medieval to post-medieval***

- 4.3.5 Plough furrows were recorded in Trenches 53, 61, 77 and 80 and more generally as geophysical anomalies. The furrows occur across the site, with the exception of the low-lying area adjacent to the Tirl Brook. This area was, presumably, too wet for arable agriculture and was, indeed, denoted as 'bog' on 19th century mapping (Oxford Archaeology 1992, Fig. 3). No evidence of medieval or later settlement was recorded on the site.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

### A.1 Trench Descriptions

Trench 50						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Trench devoid of archaeology. A single field drain was seen, aligned WNW-ESE. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay. Sondage excavated at west end to a depth of 0.75m. This determined that the pale yellowish brown was indeed the natural sediment and was over 0.4m thick.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	49.5	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5000	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
5001	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 51						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two field drains was seen, aligned NW-SE. Irregular areas of deposit variation were investigated and found to be geological variations and bioturbation. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay, which overlay mid grey clay at the southern end.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	49.5	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5100	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
5101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 52						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. A single field drain was seen, aligned NW-SE at the southern end. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay. Sondage excavated at north end to a depth of 1m. This determined that the pale yellowish brown was indeed the natural sediment and was 0.65m thick. Below this was a mid blueish grey clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	49.8	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5200	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-



5201	Layer	-	0.65	Natural; pale yellowish brown clay	-	-
5202	Layer	-	-	Natural; mid blueish grey clay	-	-

Trench 53		
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench contained 5 furrows aligned N-S and three identified and excavated features. In addition a single field drain was seen, aligned N-S. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay, which varied to a mottled dark yellowish orange – grey brown clay at the west end.	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
	<b>Length (m)</b>	49.75

Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5300	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
5301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5302	Fill	1.03	0.16	Fill of 5303; mid brownish grey clay, rare charcoal flecks	-	-
5303	Cut	1.03	0.16	Uncertain linear feature; N-S aligned, filled by 5302	-	-
5304	Fill	2	0.2	Fill of 5305; mid brownish grey silty clay	Pottery, Animal bone	
5305	Cut	2	0.65	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5304, 5306 and 5309	-	-
5306	Fill	1.42	0.44	Fill of 5305; mid greyish brown silty clay	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	
5307	Fill	1.05	0.28	Fill of 5308; mid greyish brown silty clay	Pottery, Iron	
5308	Cut	1.05	0.28	Uncertain linear feature; N-S aligned, filled by 5307	-	-
5309	Fill	2	0.12	Fill of 5305; mid brownish grey silty clay		

Trench 54		
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench contained a single E-W aligned ditch of post-medieval date. A very shallow subsoil appeared to have accumulated or been preserved to the north of this. A single field drain was seen, aligned E-W, towards the southern end. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
	<b>Length (m)</b>	49.5



<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5400	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
5401	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil; pale grey silty clay, very thin at north end, thickened to 0.12m to the point where it was cut by ditch 5403. not present in southern end.	-	-
5402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5403	Cut	0.95	0.36	Ditch; E-W aligned, filled by 5404 and 5405	-	-
5404	Fill	0.95	0.26	Fill of 5403; dark grey silty clay	Iron, Animal bone	post-medieval
5405	Fill	0.7	0.1	Fill of 5403; mid grey silty clay	-	-

<b>Trench 55</b>						
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W				
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4				
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95				
	<b>Length (m)</b>	49.8				
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5500	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
5501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 56</b>						
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W				
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay. Sondage excavated at east end to a depth of 1.6m. This determined that the pale yellowish brown was indeed the natural sediment and was 1.25m thick. The mid blueish grey clay was seen below this.	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35				
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95				
	<b>Length (m)</b>	49.5				
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5600	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
5601	Layer	-	1.25	Natural; pale yellowish brown clay	-	-



5602	Layer	-	-	Natural; mid blueish grey clay	-	-
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**Trench 57**

<p><b>General description</b></p> <p>The trench contained a substantial amount of archaeology. This consisted of 11 cut features, all of which were linear in nature and predominantly aligned N-S.</p> <p>A single field drain was seen, aligned N-S, at the east end.</p> <p>Consists of ploughsoil overlying a pale brownish clay subsoil, present only in the eastern 10m of the trench, which overlay the natural of mid orange silty clay, with irregular blue-grey patches.</p>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
	<b>Length (m)</b>	49.8

**Contexts**

context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Iron	-
5701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5702	Cut	1.3	0.38	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5703	-	-
5703	Fill	1.3	0.38	Fill of 5702; mid grey silty clay	Animal bone	
5704	Cut	1.4	0.5	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5705	-	-
5705	Fill	1.4	0.5	Fill of 5704; mid brownish grey clay	Animal bone	
5706	Cut	2.3	0.5	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5707, 5726	-	-
5707	Fill	2.3	0.5	Fill of 5706; mid-dark grey silty clay	Animal bone	
5708	Cut	3.6	0.6	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5709, 5715	-	-
5709	Fill	3.6	0.36	Fill of 5708; mid grey silty clay	Animal bone	
5710	Cut	4.3	>0.1	Uncertain feature; N-S aligned, filled by 5711, possibly trench P84?	-	-
5711	Fill	4.3	>0.1	Fill of 5710; dark grey silty clay	Animal bone	
5712	Deposit	10	0.15	Subsoil; Pale -mid brow silty clay		
5713	Cut	0.6	0.3	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5714	-	-
5714	Fill	0.6	0.3	Fill of 5713; mottled grey silty clay	Animal bone	
5715	Fill	1.6	0.3	Fill of 578; mid greyish yellow silty clay	Animal bone	



5716	Cut	0.75	0.3	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5717	-	-
5717	Fill	0.75	0.3	Fill of 5716; mid brownish grey clayey silt, rare charcoal flecks	Animal bone	
5718	Cut	0.55	0.32	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5719	-	-
5719	Fill	0.55	0.32	Fill of 5718; mid blueish grey clayey silt	Animal bone	
5720	Cut	1.6	0.2	Furrow; N-S aligned, filled by 5721	-	-
5721	Fill	1.6	0.2	Fill of 5720; mottled grey clay		
5722	Cut	1.6	0.2	Furrow; N-S aligned, filled by 5723	-	-
5723	Fill	1.6	0.2	Fill of 5722; mottled greyish brown clay		
5724	Cut	0.5	0.12	Ditch; N-S aligned, filled by 5725	-	-
5725	Fill	0.5	0.12	Fill of 5724; mottled brownish grey clay		
5726	Fill	1.2	0.1	Fill of 5706; mid yellowish brown clay		

Trench 58						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5800	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
5801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 59						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>



5900	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		-
5901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

**Trench 60**

<p><b>General description</b></p> <p>Trench devoid of archaeology. A single field drain was seen, aligned NE-SW, towards the southern end. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.</p> <p>The southern end of the trench was excavated through the pale yellowish brown clay to the underlying mid blueish grey clay, to determine if there were any features beneath the upper natural.</p>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4-0.75
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
	<b>Length (m)</b>	50

**Contexts**

context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6000	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
6001	Layer	-	0.35	Natural; pale yellowish brown clay	-	-
6002	Layer	-	-	Natural; mid blueish grey clay	-	-

**Trench 61**

<p><b>General description</b></p> <p>Trench contained two N-S aligned furrows at the west end. In addition there was a single field drain was seen, aligned NE-SW, at the east end.</p> <p>Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish grey, with occasional bluer patches, clay.</p>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
	<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
	<b>Length (m)</b>	49.8

**Contexts**

context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Animal bone	-
6101	Layer	-	0.3	Natural; mid yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
6102	Layer	-	-	Natural; mid yellowish grey clay with bluer patches	-	-
6103	Cut	2.45	0.26	Furrow; N-S aligned, filled by 6104		
6104	Fill	2.45	0.26	Fill of 6103; mid brownish grey clay, rare shell and charcoal		
6105	Cut	3.8	0.16	Furrow; N-S aligned, filled by 6106		
6106	Fill	3.8	0.16	Fill of 6105; mid grey clay, rare CBM and shell flecks		



Trench 72						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellow clay, with occasional blue-grey patches.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.35
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.95
				<b>Length (m)</b>		49.85
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7200	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
7201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 73						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.35
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.95
				<b>Length (m)</b>		50.15
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
7301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 74						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. A single field drain was seen, aligned NW-SE. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.45
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.95
				<b>Length (m)</b>		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7400	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
7401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 75						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two field drains were seen; one aligned ENE-WSW and the other, at the east end, was aligned NE-SW. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale brownish yellow-grey clay, with yellower patches throughout.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.35
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.95
				<b>Length (m)</b>		49.5
Contexts						





context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7500	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
7501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
7502	Cut	0.3	>0.1	Field Drain; aligned ENE-WSW	-	-
7503	Fill	0.3	>0.1	Fill of 7502; segmented ceramic field drain	-	-

Trench 76						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
<p>Trench devoid of archaeology. There were five field drains; four were N-S aligned and one was NE-SW aligned, towards the east end. In addition there was a N-S furrow visible at the east end. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown – brownish yellow clay.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	1.95	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7600	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
7601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 77						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
<p>Trench contained six N-S aligned furrows. The westernmost and easternmost furrows were excavated. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	1.95	
				Length (m)	50.1	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7700	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
7701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
7702	Cut	2.1	0.2	Furrow; N-S aligned, filled by 7703		
7703	Fill	2.1	0.2	Fill of 7702; mid grey clay, rare charcoal flecks		
7704	Cut	0.9	0.18	Furrow; N-S aligned, filled by 7705		
7705	Fill	2.05	0.18	Fill of 7704; mid grey clay, rare charcoal flecks		

Trench 78						
General description				Orientation	E-W	



Trench devoid of archaeology. A single field drain was seen, aligned ENE-WSW.		<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35			
Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay, with blue-grey patches.		<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95			
		<b>Length (m)</b>	49.9			
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
7800	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
7801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 79</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two field drains were seen, aligned NE-SW, towards the northern end.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay, with irregular greyish patches.					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50.9
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
7900	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Animal bone	-
7901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 80</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench contained three N-S aligned furrows at the western end, of which the eastern one was excavated, as a sample.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.38
Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50.1
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no.</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
8000	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
8001	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
8002	Cut	1.75	0.14	Furrow; N-S aligned, filled by 8003		
8003	Fill	1.75	0.14	Fill of 8002; mid grey clay		

<b>Trench 81</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35
Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish grey clay.					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.95
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50.2
<b>Contexts</b>						



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
8100	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
8101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 82						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale greyish yellow clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.35
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.95
				<b>Length (m)</b>		49.6
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
8200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
8201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 83						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. A single N-S aligned service trench was visible as a very mixed patchy grey and yellow fill. In addition the backfill of the earlier trench P83 was seen crossing the central part of the trench on a N-S alignment. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of pale yellowish brown clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.3
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.95
				<b>Length (m)</b>		49.9
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
8300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
8301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Ceramic Finds

by Paul Booth

#### Introduction

B.1.1 Some 81 sherds of pottery, weighing 1199g, were recovered, along with 13 pieces (747g) of certain and probable ceramic building material (CBM) and 17 fragments (148g) of fired clay. These were recorded rapidly, mainly using standard codes defined in the OA system for recording later prehistoric and Roman pottery. Pottery fabrics were identified at a fairly broad level of precision (eg Severn Valley wares) and quantified in context groups by sherd count and weight. Vessel forms (where present) were also noted in terms of broad classes. Fired clay and CBM fabrics were not recorded, although characteristics of CBM fabrics were used as a guide to assessment of date.

#### Pottery

B.1.2 The pottery was in moderate condition. Mean sherd weight (11.1g overall) varied considerably from group to group, but all the groups were small, so this observation is of limited significance. Surface condition was also variable; the majority of sherds were generally only slightly abraded, but heavy abrasion was noted in a limited number of cases.

B.1.3 The assemblage comprised late prehistoric-Roman material, except for 9 sherds (206g) of post-medieval date. A limited range of late prehistoric/Roman fabrics was present, defined by OA codes (Table 1).

Fabric code	Description	No. of Sherds	Weight (g)
O20	Coarse sandy oxidised ware	1	11
O40	Severn valley ware	40	454
O41	Severn valley ware, organic tempered	1	9
R20	Sandy reduced coarse wares	1	7
R30	Medium sandy reduced coarse ware	3	17
G20	Malvernian fabrics undifferentiated	4	84
G21	Malvernian igneous tempered	14	131
C20	Limestone tempered fabrics (?Malvernian)	4	47
B30	Wheel thrown black-burnished ware imitation	4	233
Z30	'Cistercian type' ware	1	5
Z30	Post-medieval red wares	8	201
<b>Totals</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>1199</b>

Table 1: Quantities of pottery by fabric

B.1.4 The assemblage was almost completely dominated by wares which were certainly or probably locally produced: Malvernian products and Severn Valley ware. A range of fabrics was present in the latter grouping, but no systematic attempt was made to subdivide them at this stage and, as usual with such wares, precise sources cannot be assigned. All the Malvernian and probable Malvernian fabrics appeared to be hand made; there were no examples of the 'Romanised' reduced ware version of the Malvernian igneous fabric. Very small quantities of other unsourced, but probably local, coarse wares were also present - comprising a few fragments of sandy reduced coarse



wares. The sherds defined as fabric R30 might have been reduced Severn valley wares. The source of the black-burnished ware imitation fabric B30 is uncertain, but might well be within the Gloucestershire area.

B.1.5 Only ten Roman vessels were represented by rims, and few of these could be assigned to detailed types. The Malvernian sherds included three jar rims, including two simple forms of later prehistoric character. Severn valley ware types were a jar/bowl, two tankards (only one certain) and an unidentified rim, while there was a probable jar rim in fabric R20 and a flanged bowl or dish in fabric R30. This last, and the straight-sided dish in fabric B30, were the only pieces which might have been later than the 2nd century AD. The chronology of assemblages such as this one is always problematic because of the long date range assigned to Severn valley ware. The complete absence of distinctive middle and late Roman wares (such as black-burnished ware and Oxfordshire products), however, suggests an early Roman emphasis. While some of the Malvernian sherds could have been of middle or late Iron Age date the numerical dominance of Severn valley wares suggests that the bulk of the assemblage is of post-Conquest date. Overall a 1st-2nd century AD date range seems likely to account for most of the activity encountered, but vessels such as the dish in fabric B30 suggest that activity continued some way into the 3rd century AD.

B.1.6 All but one of the post-medieval sherds were from topsoil contexts and they do not suggest occupation of this period within the site area.

Context	No sherds	Wt (g)	Fabrics/wares	Context group date	Comment
5304	2	2	O40	RB	
5306	2	4	O40	RB	
5307	1	5	Z30	17C+	'Cistercian type' ware
5700	11	118	G20, O40, O41, R30	200-250?	
5703	6	71	G21, O40, R20	2C (or later?)	
5705	2	21	G21	1-2C	
5707	9	305	B30, C20, G21	3C	
5709	11	125	G21, O40, R30	late 2C or later	
5711	1	115	O40	1-2C?	
5714	7	56	C20, G21, O40	Mid 1C-mid 2C?	
5715	1	10	G21	1-2C	
5719	1	15	O40	1-2C?	
5721	4	17	C20, O40	1-2C?	
5723	2	19	O40	1-2C?	
5726	1	42	G20	1-2C?	Poss CBM?
5800	2	24	O40	1-2C?	
5900	2	16	O40, Z30	18C+	
6100	2	20	O40, Z30	18C+	
7300	2	30	Z30	18C+	
7400	6	34	O20, O40	1-2C?	



Context	No sherds	Wt (g)	Fabrics/wares	Context group date	Comment
7500	5	148	O40, Z30	17C+	
7900	1	2	G20	1-2C	
Total	81	1199			

Table 2: Roman Pottery

***Ceramic building material and fired clay***

- B.1.7 Just over half (7 fragments, 472g) of the CBM might have been of Roman date, but the identifications are rather tentative in the absence of distinctive forms. The majority of the certain and probable post-medieval material came from topsoil and subsoil contexts, but context 5717 produced two brick fragments of this date.
- B.1.8 The fired clay fabrics were variable, with differing quantities of sand. All of the fragments were more or less oxidised, mostly quite hard fired, but apart from a possible roughly smoothed surface on a couple of pieces diagnostic features were absent. It is likely that most of the fragments were from structures such as ovens. Pieces from Trench 59 occurred in Roman contexts, while the date of fragments from Trenches 61 and 77 is uncertain.

***Distribution***

- B.1.9 The great majority of the Roman pottery (56 sherds, 914g), amounting to 92% by weight, came from contexts in Trench 57. Minute quantities (4 sherds, 6g) came from Trench 53, while the few Roman sherds from Trenches 58, 59, 61, 74, 75 and 79 were entirely from topsoil. A very clear focus of Roman activity is indicated. This focus is supported to a lesser extent by the limited evidence of CBM and fired clay.

**B.2 Animal Bone**

*by Lena Strid*

***Introduction and methodology***

- B.2.1 A total of 42 hand-collected animal bones was recovered from 14 contexts from the site. A small proportion of them could be identified to species.

Context	Description	Number of fragments
5304	1 indeterminate fragment	1
5306	1 cattle tooth, 1 medium mammal vertebra, 1 indeterminate fragment	3
5404	1 medium mammal long bone	1
5703	1 horse mandible, 1 cattle radius BD81.2, 1 large mammal rib, 1 cattle ulna right, 1 cattle mandible M3 wear stage G, 2 large mammal long bone.	7
5705	1 cattle mandible	1
5707	2 large mammal rib, 1 sheep/goat metacarpal, 2 indeterminate fragments, 1 sheep/goat mandible, 1 sheep/goat M3 tooth, 1 cattle tibia BD55.6.	8
5709	1 sheep/goat humerus, 1 sheep/goat tibia BD23.1, 1 large mammal long bone in 4 fragments, 1 cattle pelvis ♀	7
5711	1 horse metacarpal, 2 medium mammal long bone	3
5714	1 cattle scapula, 1 large mammal long bone, 1 mammal tibia	3
5715	1 sheep/goat tooth, 1 mammal rib, 1 medium mammal long bone	3
5717	1 large mammal long bone, 1 medium mammal long bone	2
5719	Horse skull fragments and teeth	1+



Context	Description	Number of fragments
6100	1 indeterminate fragment	1
7900	1 large mammal long bone	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>42</b>

Table 3: Animal Bone

### B.3 Metal Finds and Slag

by Ian Scott

#### **Introduction and methodology**

B.3.1 There are 3 metal finds from 2 contexts, along with a fragment of slag. All items were hand collected during the excavation process.

#### **Date and nature of the assemblage**

B.3.2 The possible hobnails from 5307 are undiagnostic and a precise date cannot be given. The Iron bucket handle from 5404 is of probable post-medieval date. The slag is also undiagnostic and from a topsoil context.

B.3.3 The assemblage is generally of low potential and requires no further work.

Context	Description
5307	2 fragments nail, possibly hobnails, 2g
5404	Iron bucket handle mount with a heart shaped plate and curved strip with suspension loop. Traces of plate and rivets on mount back, 116g. 125mm long (mount 110mm).
5700	Single piece of slag, 16g
Total	4

Table 5: Metal Finds



## APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Oxford Archaeology 1992 Land at North Fiddington, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire; Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeology 2012 Cursey Lane, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire; Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeology 2013 Land at Fiddington, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Walker, G, Thomas A and Clifford, B, 2004, Bronze Age and Romano-British sites south-east of Tewkesbury: evaluations and excavations 1991–7. *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 122, 29–94

Wilkinson, D (ed), 1992 Fieldwork Manual, Oxford Archaeology





## APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Land at Fiddington, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire

**Site code:** FIDD 13

**Grid reference:** SO 9209 3303

**Type:** Evaluation

**Date and duration:** 18th March - 12th April 2013

**Area of site:** 18 hectares

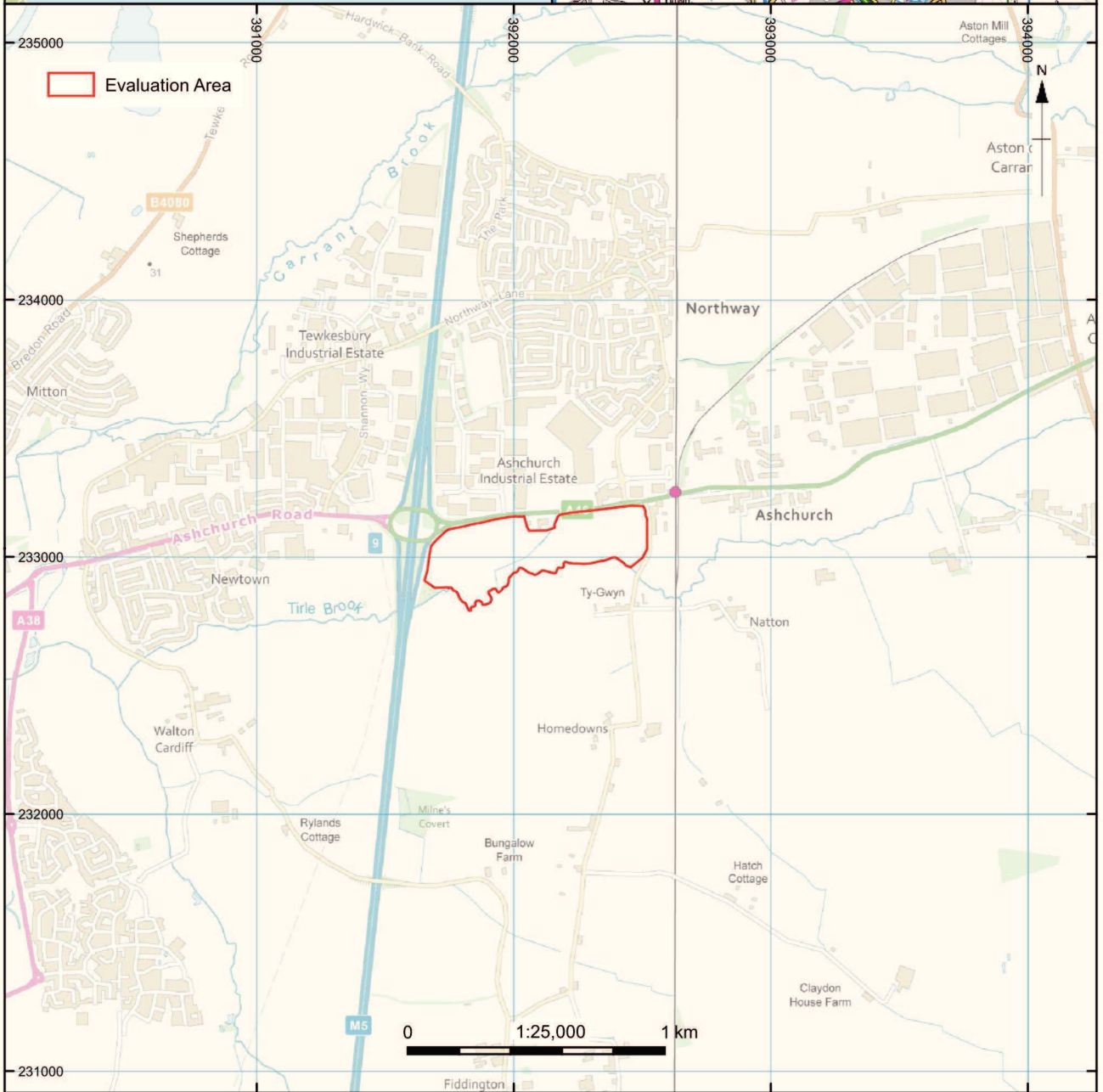
**Summary of results:** Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Robert Hitchins Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Fiddington, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SO 9209 3202) ahead of proposed development.

The work was undertaken between 18th March and 12th April 2013. A total of 24 trenches were excavated across the site.

Features of probable 1st-2nd century Roman date were found in the north-western part of the site, with some activity continuing into the 3rd century. The exact nature of the activity is unclear, but it is probable that it represents the remains of a small agricultural settlement. Some evidence was recovered suggesting that the settlement may have originated in the late Iron Age, although this is very uncertain.

A number of furrows and ditches that probably date to the medieval and post-medieval periods were recorded across the site, the remnants of arable agriculture, but no settlement remains of these periods were present.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Tewkesbury Museum in due course, under the following accession number: TBC.



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Figure 1: Site location plan

X:\Fiddington\010\Geomatics\03 GIS\current\001\_projects\Report 2013-04-12\Fiddington\_Report\_Fig1.mxd\gary.jones\*16/04/2013

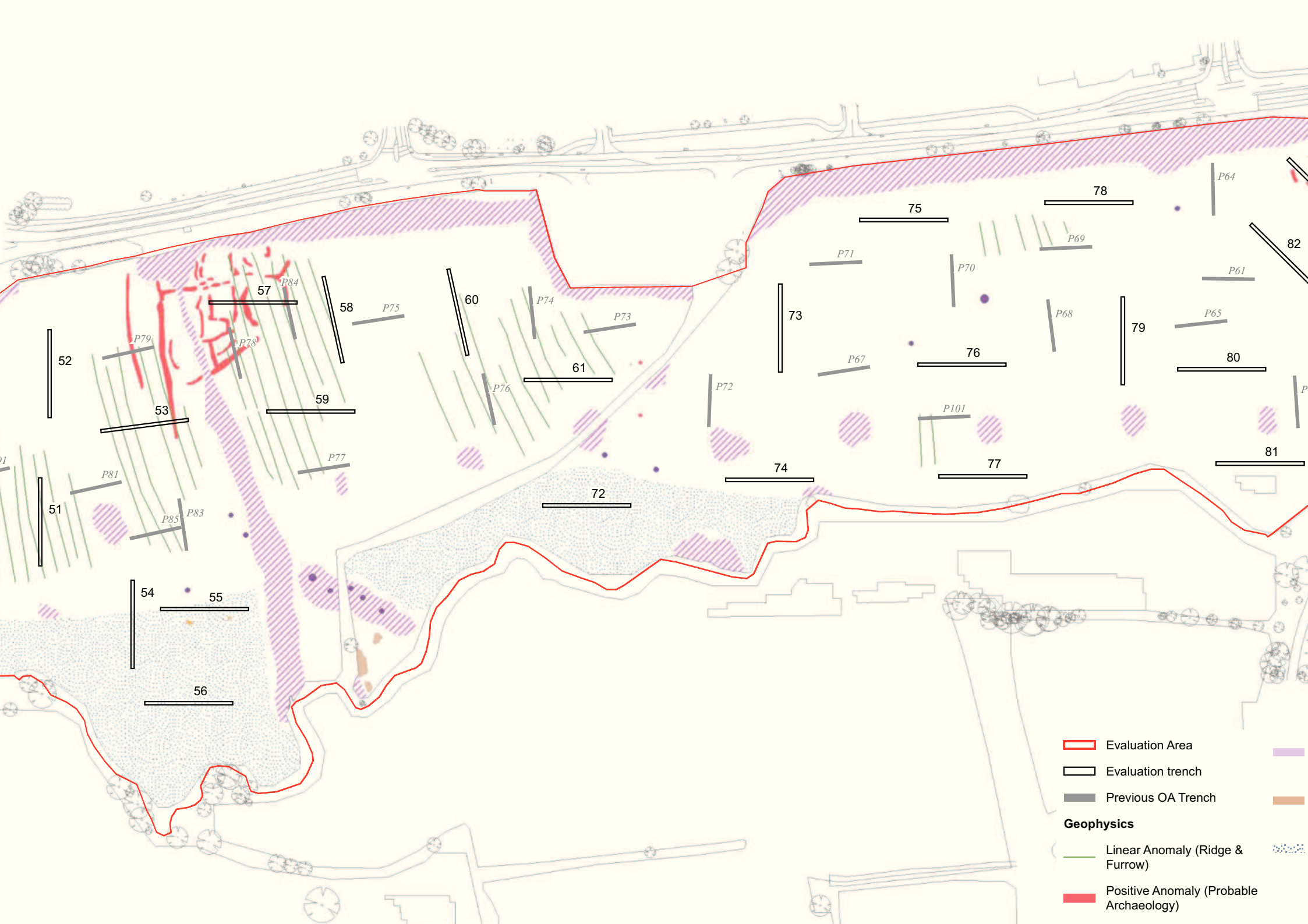
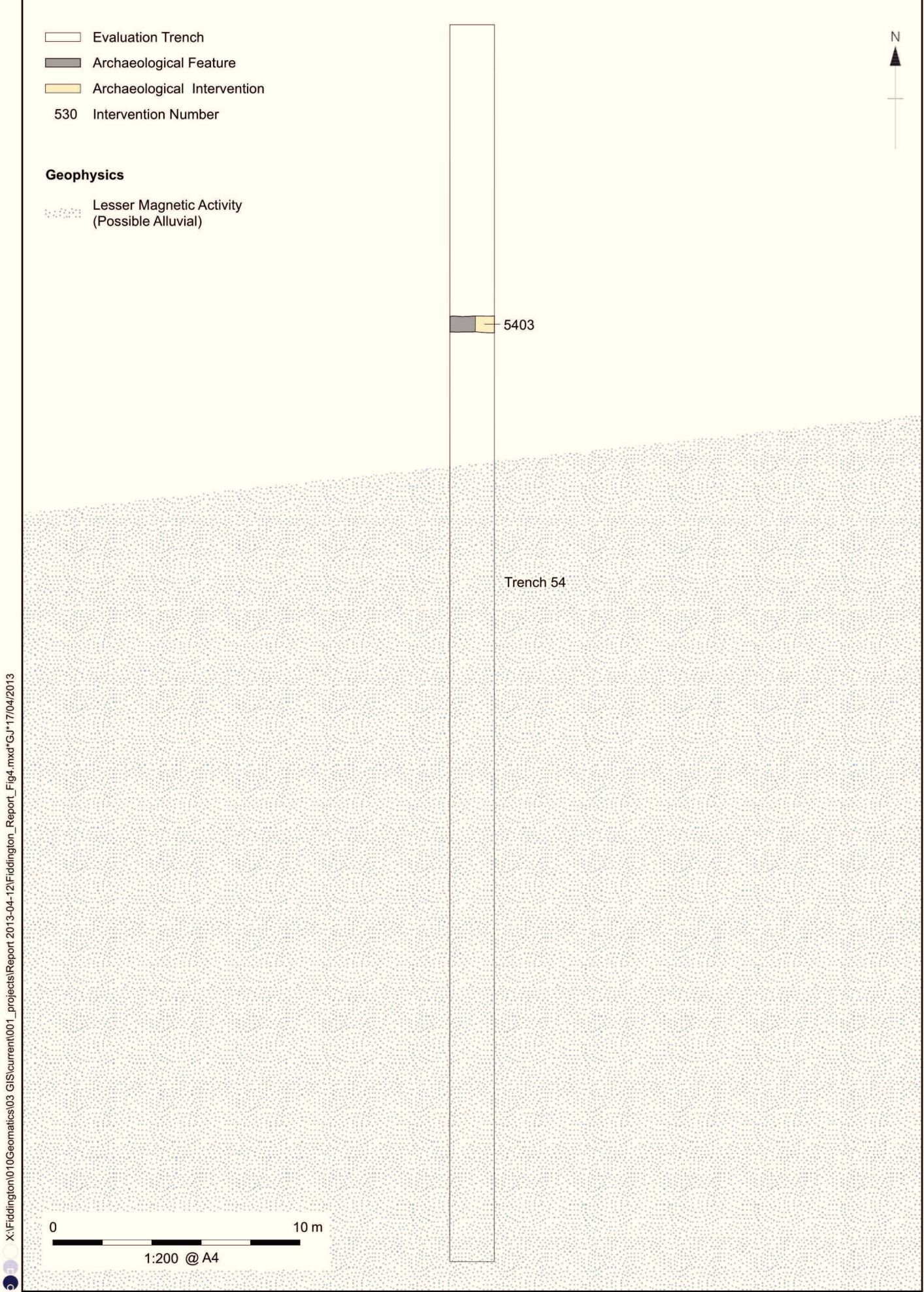




Figure 3: Plan of Trench 53



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Figure 4: Plan of Trench 54

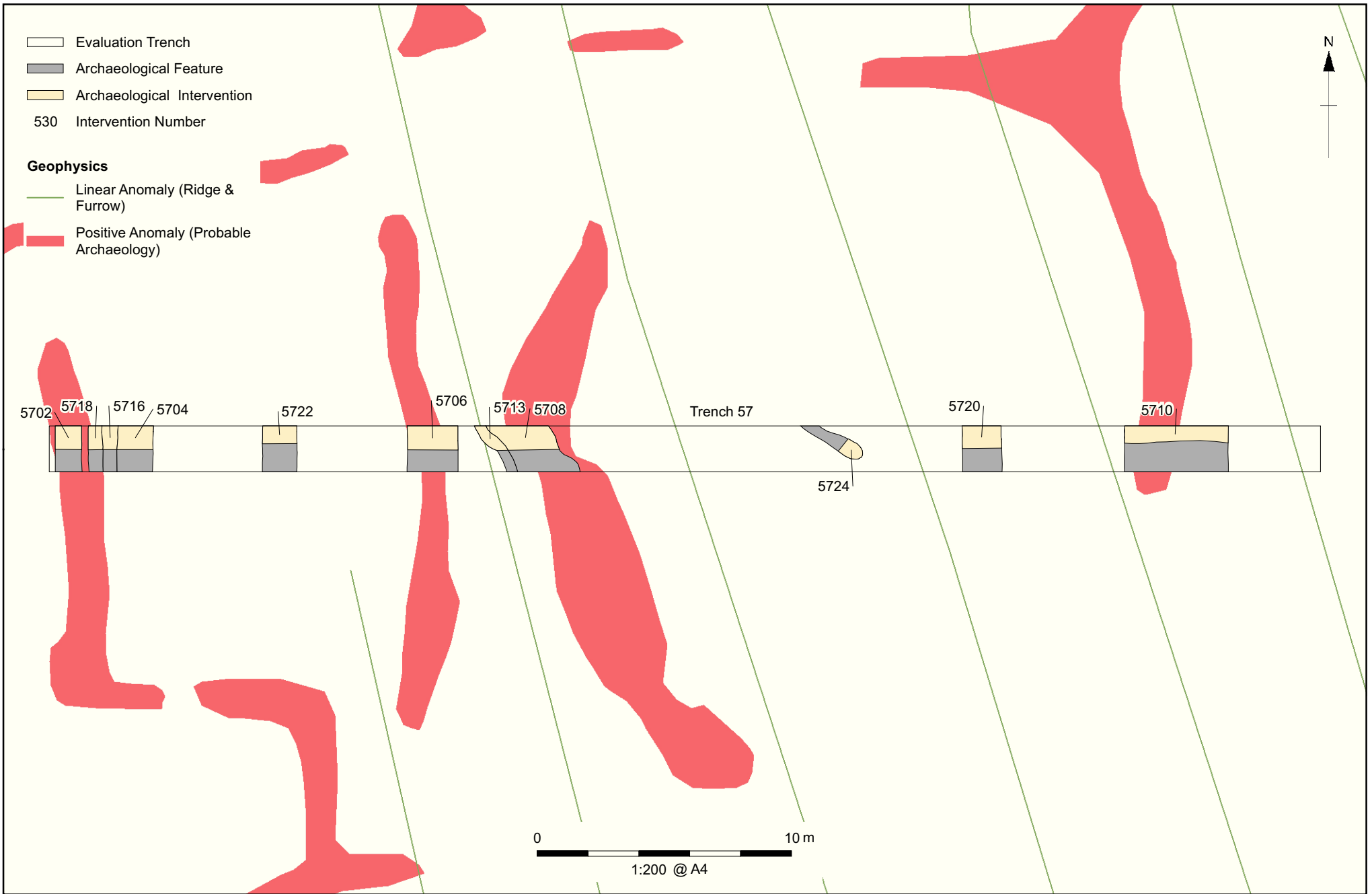


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 57

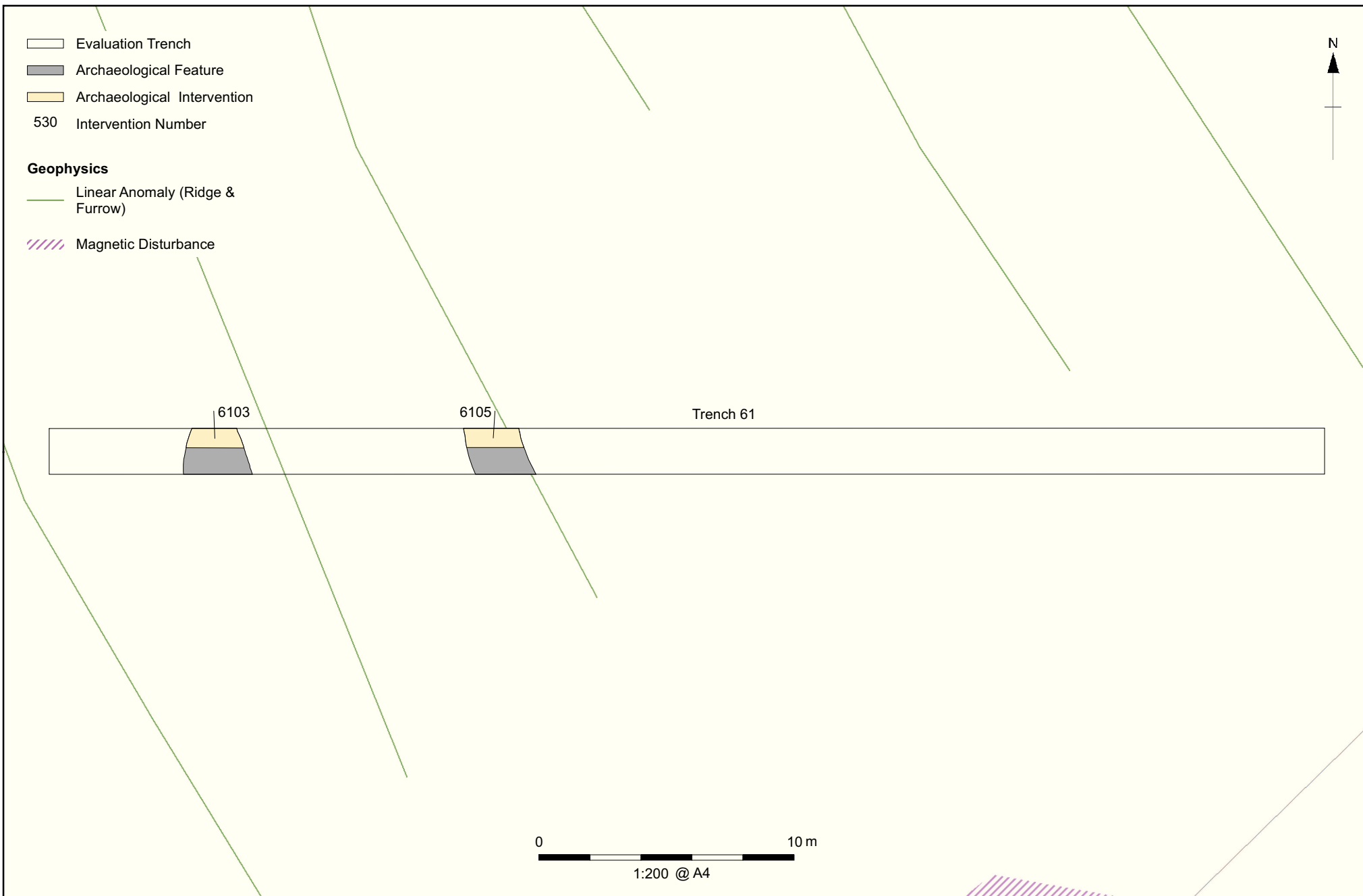


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 61

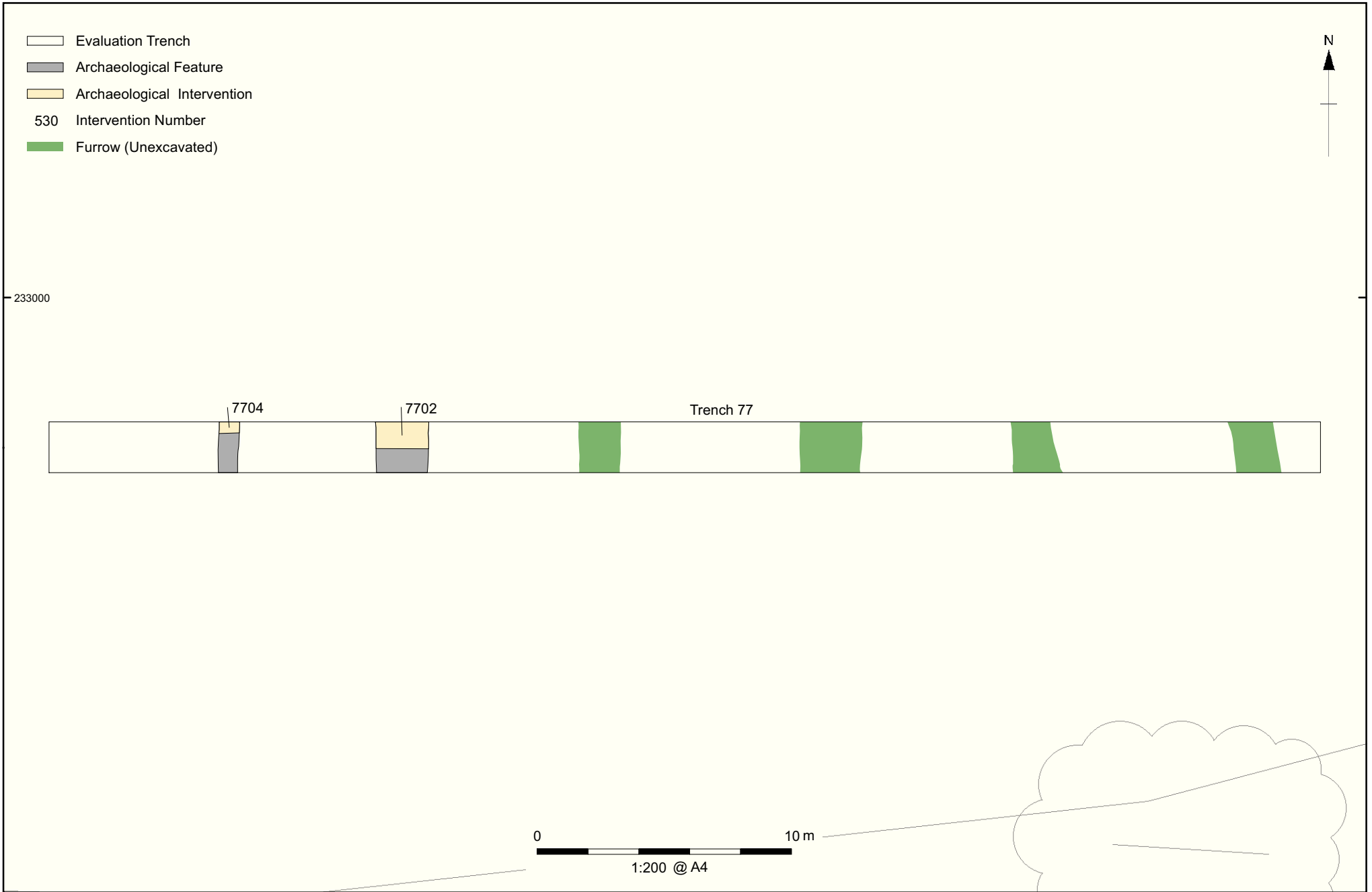


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 77



- Evaluation Trench
- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Intervention
- 530 Intervention Number
- Furrow (Unexcavated)

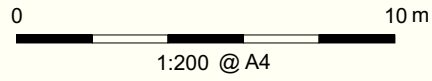
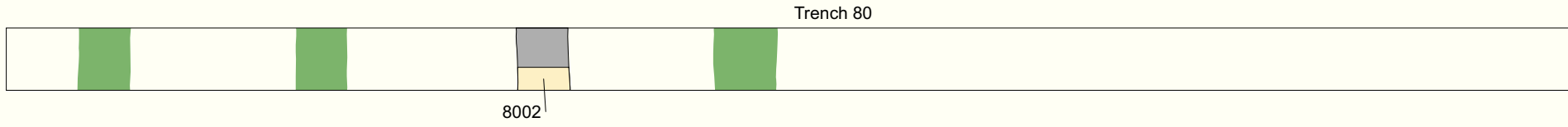


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 80

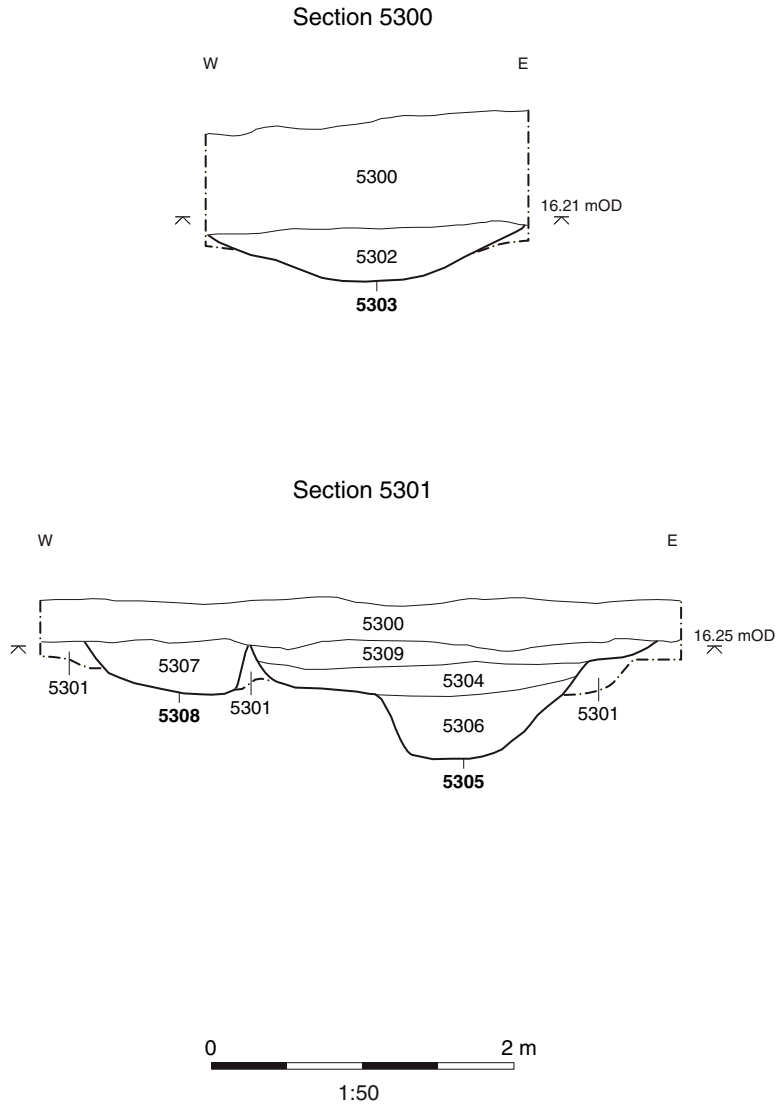


Figure 9: Trench 53, sections

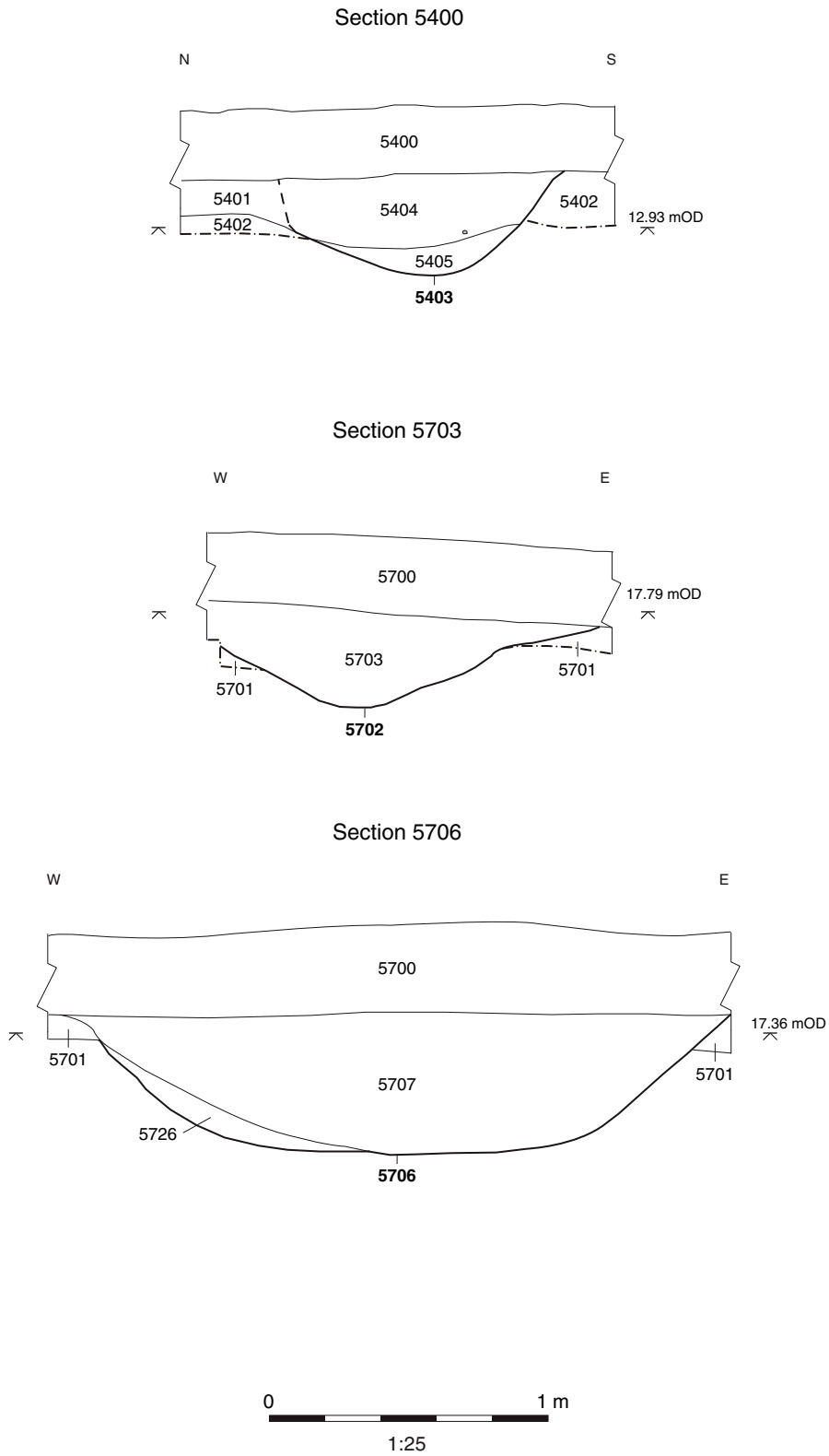


Figure 10: Trenches 54 and 57, sections

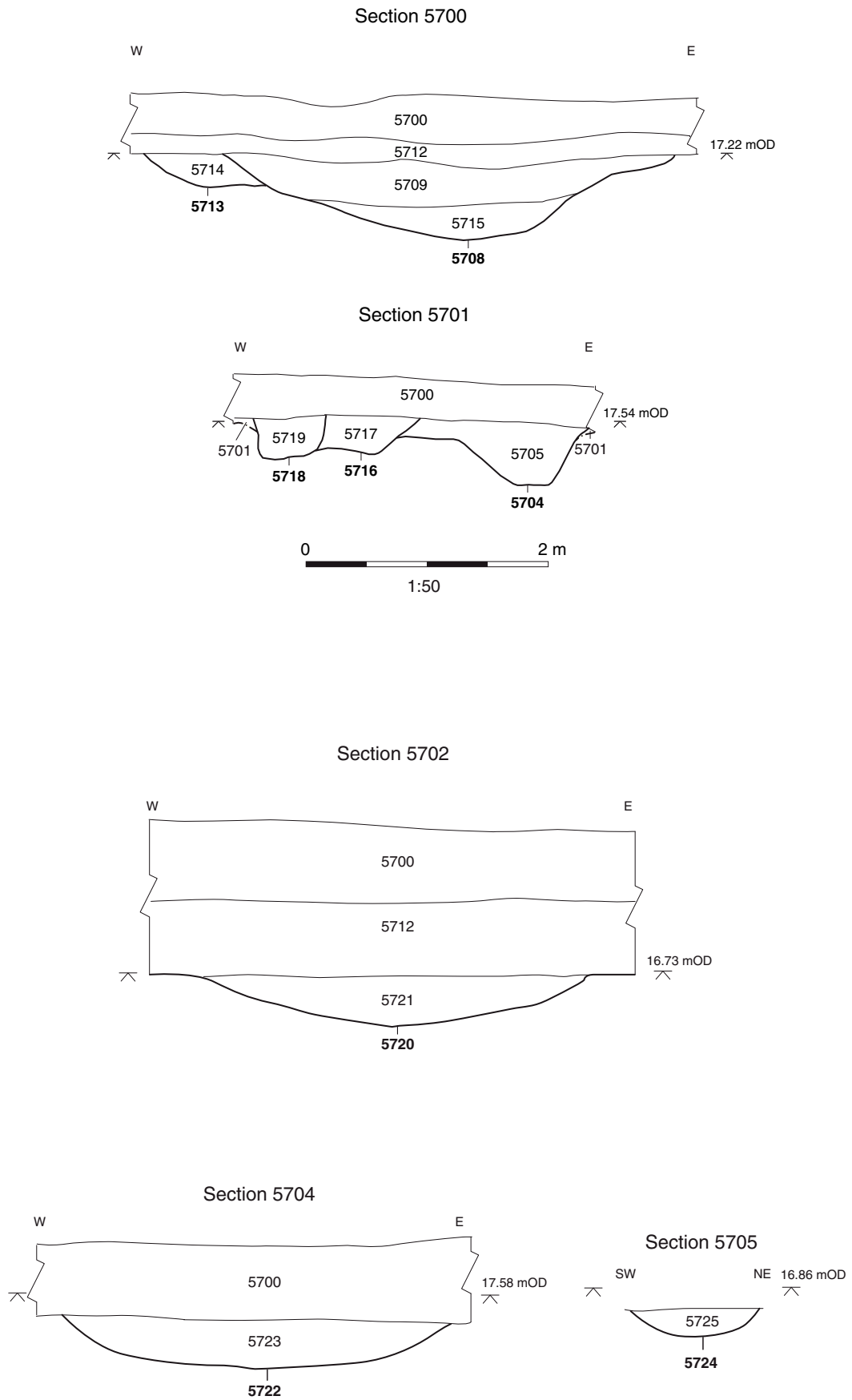


Figure 11: Trench 57, sections

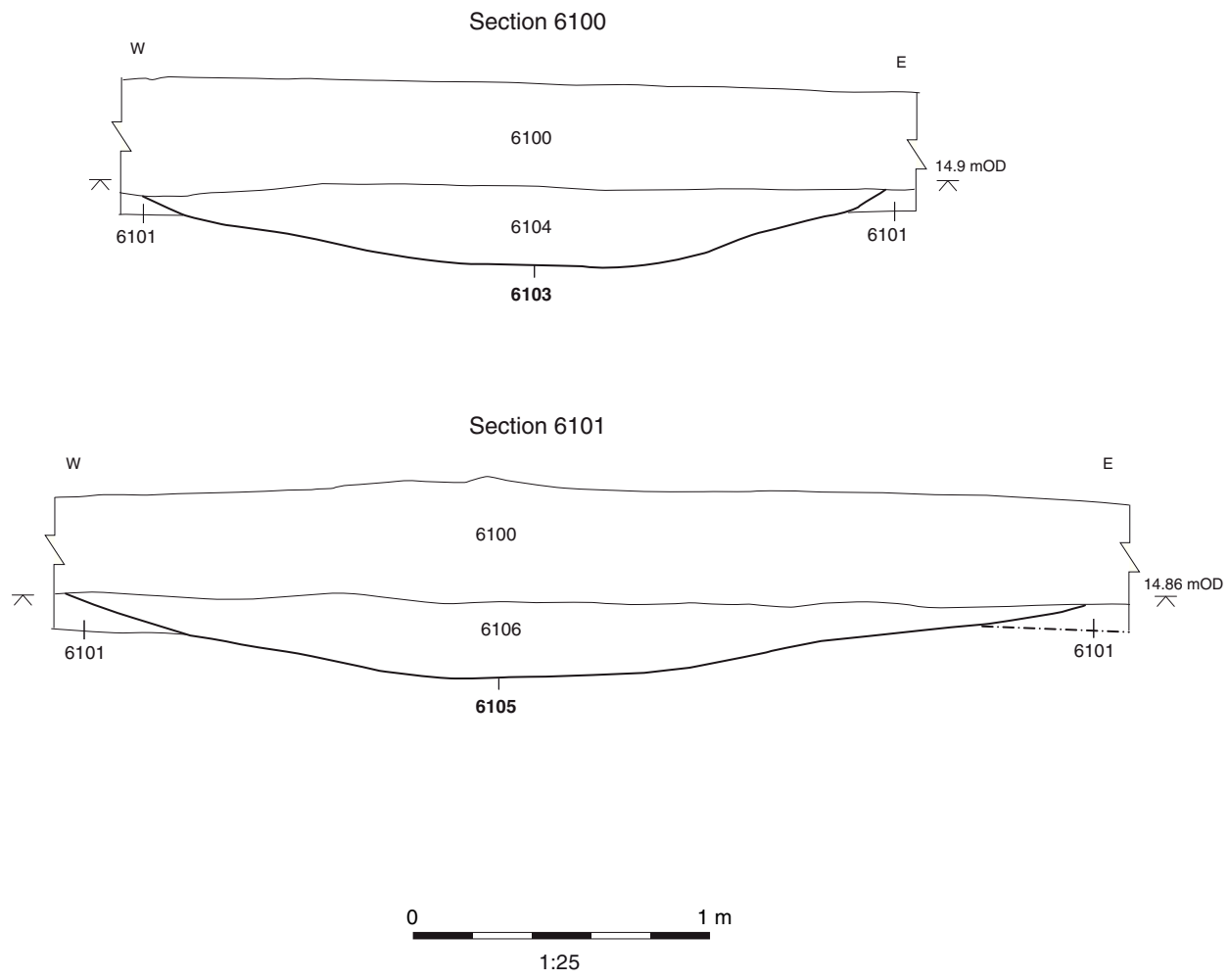


Figure 12: Trench 61, sections

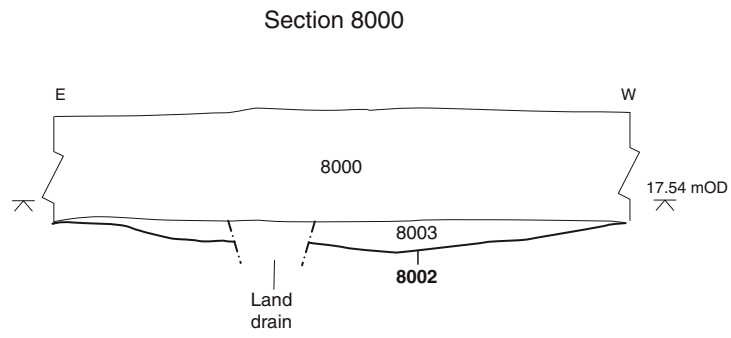
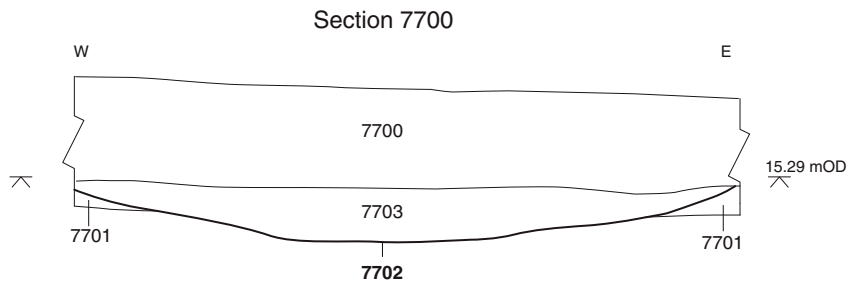


Figure 13: Trenches 77 and 80, sections



Plate 1: Trench 53: Features 5308 and 5305, looking north-east



Plate 2: Trench 54: Ditch 5403, looking east



Plate 3: Trench 57: general plan view pre-ex, looking east



Plate 4: Trench 57: Feature 5702, looking north





Plate 5 Trench 57: Features 5704 and 5716, looking north



Plate 6: Trench 57: Feature 5706, looking north



Plate 7: Trench 57: Features 5708 and 5713, looking north



Plate 8: Trench 57: Feature 5720, looking north

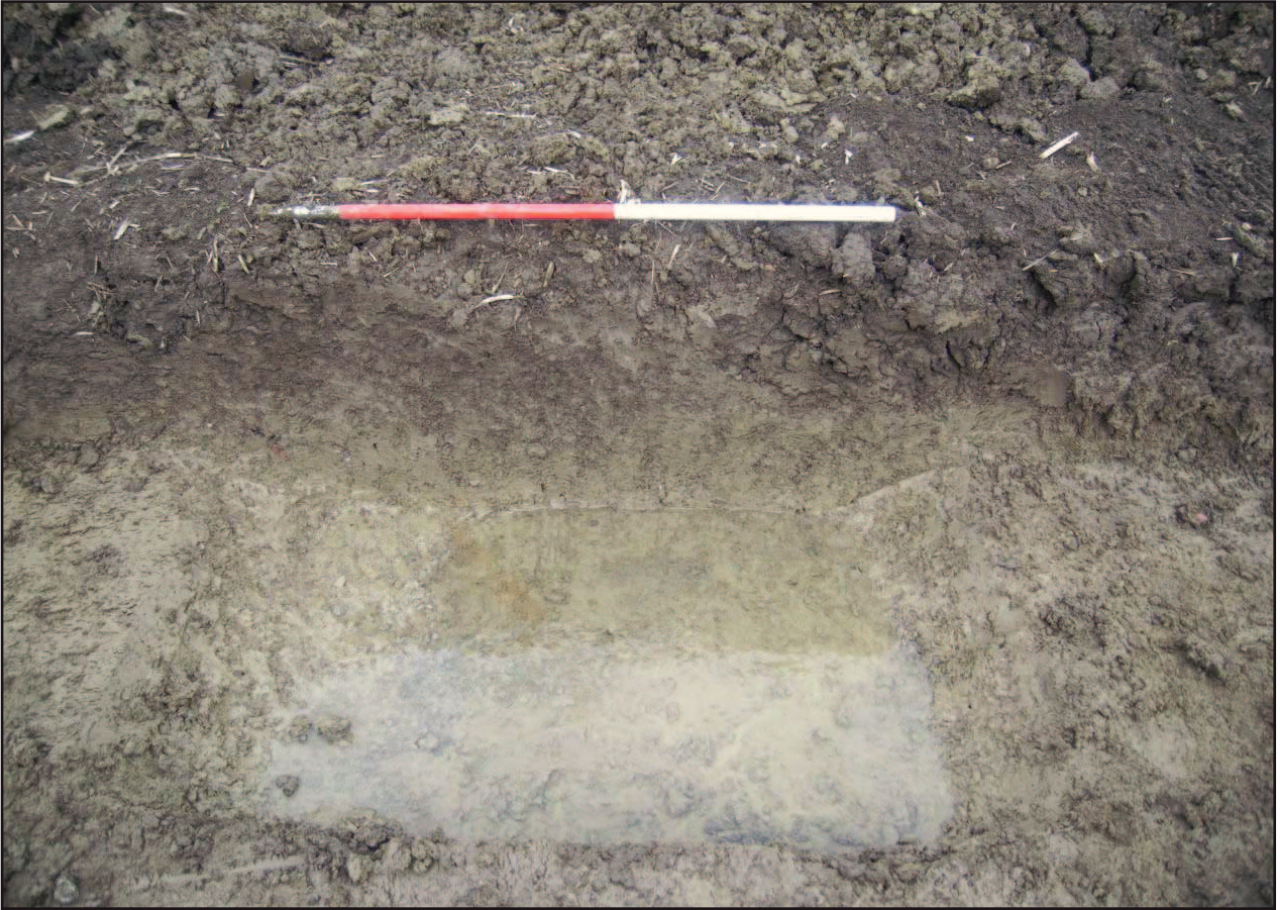


Plate 9: Trench 57: Feature 5722, looking north



Plate 10: Trench 61: Furrow 6103, looking north



Plate 11: Trench 80: Furrow 8002, looking south



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