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Polo Fields, Moreton-in-Marsh

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

During late March and early April 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on land west of Evenlode Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, centred on SP 21442 31979. The trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey, which indicated a dense array of enclosures and related features in the northern and western parts of the site, where the ground was slightly higher. Trenches targeted on these anomalies revealed a series of ditches and pits that proved to be of middle to late Iron Age date. Although pottery was fairly sparse, fragments of fired clay may derive from ovens or hearths and could indicate that the site was used for settlement. Environmental samples contained the occasional charred remains of cereals and other grains. Large geophysical anomalies proved to represent a later phase of gravel extraction, likely to be of post-medieval date. A scattering of other undated linear features may be the remains of a system of plough furrows or drainage ditches.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The fieldwork was directed by Becky Peacock, who was supported by Peter Vellet, BJ Ware, Rachel Legge, Bernadetta Rzadek and Ben McAndrew. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Peter Vellet and Ben Brown. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land at Polo Fields, Evenlode Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (the site; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application. Although a brief for the work was not set, discussions with Charles Parry, the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Archaeologist, established the scope of work required, and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (OA 2017a) detailing the work necessary to inform the planning process: this document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2014).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies at the south-eastern end of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and is centred on SP 21442 31979 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by Evenlode Road to the west, housing and the Cotswold Business Village to the north, and fields to the south and east. A small works yard occupies the south-west corner of the field, and was excluded from this investigation.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of a single field under grass, which is bisected by a north-west to south-east aligned public footpath. The site measures around 7 hectares in area.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Chalmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Wolfold Heath Member (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is discussed in the desk-based assessment (OA 2017b) and is summarized below.

1.3.2 No previously known archaeological remains have been recorded within the site; however, it is considered to have the potential to contain archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age, Roman and later medieval periods due to the presence of numerous cropmarks known near to the site, the nature of which have been confirmed by a number of archaeological investigations. There is also the potential for installations relating to the Second World War to be present on the site. The site has been regularly ploughed since at least the 1940s, and it is likely that this activity has adversely impacted upon any archaeological remains.

1.3.3 A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out over the entire site by Magnitude Surveys in February 2017 (Fig. 2). This identified an area of probable settlement activity to the north and east of the site comprising numerous enclosures, ditches and possible pits. The nature of these conform with known Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlements in the

region, and are consistent with cropmarks within the study area. Other possible archaeological features were indicated in the western area of the site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- 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.
- viii. To test the results of the geophysical survey.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 24 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.9m, were excavated using a 14 tonne 360 tracked mechanical excavator. The trenches were set out at locations agreed by the GCC Archaeologist, Charles Parry, and all were opened to their full length. This represented a 2% sample of the site.

2.2.2 The trenches were targeted on anomalies from the geophysical survey, and also to test 'blank areas'.

2.2.3 The trenches were machined under close archaeological supervision to the top of the archaeological horizon or the sterile natural geological horizon, whichever was the highest. The topsoil and any buried ploughsoil (subsoil) were removed in regular spits and spoil was stored at a safe distance from the trench edges.

2.2.4 A site monitoring visit from the County Archaeologist took place once all the trenches were open to allow excavation sampling strategies to be agreed.

2.2.5 Where archaeological deposits were identified, a sample of the revealed features was hand excavated. Finds were retrieved and environmental samples taken where appropriate, and the features were recorded in line with the standards outlined in the WSI. A sample of features assumed to be of recent date, as agreed with the County Archaeologist, were excavated by machine to determine their depth and extent and for the retrieval of finds.

2.2.6 On completion of the excavation and recording of the trenches, they were backfilled with the arisings in reverse order of excavation, and compacted using the mechanical excavator.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates form the content of Appendix B, and environmental sample results can be found within Appendix C. Plans, sections and plates are located at the end of the document.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence within all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology manifested as sandy gravels with silty patches and was overlain by a buried ploughsoil (subsoil) of mid brownish-orange sandy silt with frequent small to medium flint gravel inclusions, and ranging from 0.03-0.20m in depth. This in turn was overlain by a ploughsoil of mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium flint gravel inclusions, ranging from 0.18-0.30m deep.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. All features were sealed by the buried ploughsoil, unless otherwise noted.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1-5, 9-12, 14, 15 and 18-24. The features were largely concentrated in the northern and eastern parts of the site. This strongly corresponds to the plot of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2).

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 contained a single large pit, 106 (Figs 2, 3 and 7). The pit had undulating edges and base and was filled with friable yellowish-brown patchy largely sterile sandy silts, 103, 104 and 105. It was sealed by the subsoil, and cut earlier pit 108, which was steeper sided, and contained a single mid orange-brown sandy silt fill 107. Both features were interpreted as gravel extraction pits.

3.4.2 A linear ditch 112 was orientated broadly west-east was located to the north of pit 106. A further feature 110 to the south of the trench was more irregular in plan. A piece of flat iron strip or sheet and a sherd of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the surface of the fill (111). Neither feature was further investigated.

3.4.3 There was little correlation between the archaeological features and the geophysical anomalies, although there were areas of strong magnetic responses in the vicinity of the trench. No Finds were recovered from any of the fills.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 The trench contained two linear ditches, 203 which was orientated north-east to south-west, and 205 which ran north-west to south-east (Figs 2, 3 and 7). The ditches coincided on the southern side of the trench, but the relationship between them was not investigated. Ditch 203, the easternmost of the two, had a flat base which sloped up to the north-west and fairly steep sides. The single fill, 204, was a friable dark greyish-brown sandy silt. Ditch 205 had a more irregular profile, and also contained a single fill, 206, a dark yellowish-brown sandy silt. Two small sherds of late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill, and could well be residual.

3.5.2 There was little correlation between the ditches uncovered and the geophysical anomalies, although linear trends were noted to the south of the trench.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 contained a single plough scar, 303 (Figs 2 and 3). This broadly correlated with a linear feature plotted during the geophysical survey.

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 A curvilinear ditch, 408, was present within the northern end of the trench, which correlated with a linear anomaly from the geophysical survey (Figs 2, 3 and 7). The ditch had a broad concave profile and diffuse edges, and contained a single fill, 407, a grey-brown sandy silt containing lenses of gravel. A single small sherd of possible Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill, and could be residual.

3.7.2 A small posthole, 404, was located just to the north of 408, and the single fill, 403, was a grey-brown sandy silt.

3.7.3 At the southern end of the trench a large pit, 406, had irregular undulating sides and base and correlated with a large geophysical anomaly, which probably represents a gravel extraction pit. The fill, 405, was similar to the other feature fills within this trench and contained two sherds of post-medieval pottery. A further sherd of pottery of similar date was recovered from the topsoil 400.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 A narrow steep-sided and flat-based ditch, 502, was located in the northern half of the trench, and contained a single mid grey-brown sandy silt fill (Figs 2, 3 and 7). There was no correlation between the ditch location and geophysics, and no finds were recovered from the fill. The feature was thought to be of recent date.

3.9 Trench 9

3.9.1 Trench 9 contained a series of linear features broadly orientated NNW-SSE (Figs 2, 4 and 8), which reflected the results of the geophysics, but were more numerous than anticipated. At the southern end of the trench, ditch 905 was orientated north-west to south-east and had steep sides, slightly stepped on the north-eastern side, and a flat base. The lower fill, 904, was an orange-brown gravel rich silt, and was overlain by 903, a dark orange-brown sandy silt. Neither fill contained any finds. To the north of 905, a wide ditch 913 correlated with a linear anomaly, as did ditches 909 and 911 to the north of this. A further wide feature,

907, which continued beyond the confines of the northern end of the trench and was not reflected by the geophysics. Features 907, 909, 911 and 913 were recorded in plan, but not further investigated. All had similar dark orange-brown fills to 903, but did not appear to extend into adjacent Trench 10. No finds were recovered from the trench.

3.10 Trench 10

3.10.1 The trench contained numerous features (Figs 2, 4 and 8), and the correlation with the results of the geophysical survey was generally poor. At the western end of the trench a linear feature, 1005, had steep sides and a flat base. The lower fill, 1003 was an orange-brown sandy silt, and was overlain by 1004, a similar deposit, but including a greater amount of gravels. Neither fill contained any datable material. To the east of 1005, a series of large features, 1009, 1011, 1013 and 1015 were interpreted as areas of gravel extraction, possibly relating to the two areas of (dark blue) indeterminate anomalies from the geophysics (Plate 1). These all had similar grey-brown silty upper fills.

3.11 Trench 11

3.11.1 Ditch 1107 was located just to the north of the centre of the trench, and was orientated west-east (Figs 2, 4 and 8). The ditch has a slightly flared 'V' shaped profile, and the single fill, 1104 was a dark orange-brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the ditch. Immediately to the north, ditch 1114 was on a similar alignment, and the two ditches met close to the eastern trench edge. The fill, 1115, was similar to 1104, but was not further investigated. A third ditch, 1107, also on a similar alignment, was present a few metres to the north. The ditch had a concave profile, and the lower fill, 1108, was an orange-brown clay silt. This was overlain by 1109, a darker sandy silt. Immediately to the north a shallow pit or terminal end of a ditch, 1105, had a steep sides and a flat base. The fill, 1106, was a dark brown clay silt which contained several sherds of mid to late Iron Age pottery and a fragment of fired clay. Two more pits or ditch terminals, 1116 and 1118, were present to the north of 1105, and had similar fills. A further ditch or linear feature 1120 was present at the extreme northern end of the trench. Feature 1120 correlated well with a geophysical anomaly. At the southern end of the trench amorphous features 1110 and 1112 both had friable mid orange-brown sandy silt fills. Neither correlated well with the results of the geophysical survey. Features 1110, 1112, 1116, 1118 and 1120 were not further investigated.

3.12 Trench 12

3.12.1 The trench contained three linear ditches all oriented north-west to south-east (Figs 2, 5 and 8). The central ditch, 1204, matched the location of a geophysical anomaly, and had a shallow concave profile reminiscent of a plough furrow (Plate 2). The single fill, 1203, was a dark grey-brown silty sand. The two remaining ditches, 1205 and 1207, were not excavated. No finds were recovered from the trench.

3.13 Trench 14

3.13.1 Trench 14 contained two ditches on the same alignment as those in Trench 12 (Figs 2, 5 and 8), and the southern example, 1404, is probably the same as ditch 1207. Ditch 1404 had a shallow irregular profile, and the fill 1403 was a dark grey-brown silty sand. Ditch 1406 to the north-east was probably a continuation of ditch 1204 in Trench 12. No finds were recovered from the trench.

3.14 Trench 15

3.14.1 The trench contained one ditch and a small pit or tree-throw hole (Figs 2, 5 and 8), neither of which was represented on the geophysical survey results. The ditch, 1504, was orientated north-west to south-east, and was likely a continuation of ditch 1404 in Trench 14. The ditch had a dark grey-brown silty sand upper fill, 1503, and an irregular concave profile. The pit or tree-throw, 1506, was located immediately to the east of, and appeared to be cut by the ditch. It had a shallow undulating base and gently sloping side profile. The fill, 1505, was similar in colour and composition to 1503. No finds were recovered from either feature.

3.15 Trench 18

3.15.1 The trench contained two linear features, a pit, a posthole, and a ditch terminal, or tree throw hole (Figs 2, 4 and 9). At the northern end of the trench the possible ditch terminus or tree-throw, 1805, had a slightly irregular concave profile. The lower fill, 1806, was a dark orange-brown sandy silt. This was overlain by 1807, a small patch of very dark brown sandy silt. Neither fill contained any datable material. A few metres to the south a posthole, 1803, also had an irregular concave profile. The single fill, 1804, was a yellow-brown sandy silt. A ditch, 1808, was located around the centre of the trench, and was orientated north-west to south-east. At the southern end of the trench a pit, 1810, and a broadly west-east orientated ditch, 1812, were present. Ditch 1812 correlated well with an annular geophysical anomaly, but the remainder of the features in the trench did not correlate closely. Ditch 1808 may represent the southern arm of an enclosure indicated by the geophysics, but the ditch and plotted position of the linear anomaly were several metres apart.

3.16 Trench 19

3.16.1 Trench 19 was targeted on two enclosures indicated by linear geophysical anomalies, and the correlation with revealed features was good (Figs 2, 4 and 9). At the northern end of the trench a north-west to south-east orientated ditch, 1903, matched the position of a similarly aligned anomaly. The ditch had a flared concave profile, and the lower fill, 1904, was an orange-brown clay silt, possibly representing material from a bank which had entered the ditch from the south-western side. The upper fill, 1905, was a darker orange-brown sandy silt. Neither fill contained any finds, but the ditch is almost certainly mid to late Iron Age in date.

3.16.2 At the southern end of the trench a pit, or ditch terminus, 1906, had a sharp upper break of slope and a flat base. The single fill, 1907, was a dark orange-brown sandy silt, which contained frequent sub-rounded stones averaging around 0.1m in diameter. Feature 1906 was cut by a ditch, 1908, on its southern side. Ditch 1908 correlated well with a linear geophysical anomaly, and had a steep-sided, flat-based profile. The lower fill, 1909, was a grey-brown clay silt, and was overlain by 1910, a dark orange-brown clay silt. An environmental sample (Sample 7) recovered from this fill contained fragmentary charred cereal grains (possibly wheat), and two legume seeds. A fragment of shale armlet and small piece of fired clay were recovered during the flotation process. The upper fill, 1911, was a darker orange brown sandy silt, and Sample 8 from this deposit contained further charred wheat grains. Further fragments of fired clay, and three sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery were also recovered from this fill. At the northern end of the trench a pit, or ditch terminal, 1912, was not further investigated.

3.17 Trench 20

The trench was located in the area of a large geophysical 'spread' anomaly, and contained an area interpreted as being utilised for gravel extraction (Figs 2, 6 and 9). At the western end of the trench a large feature, 2007/2008, comprised a series of alternating tip lines of redeposited gravels and silts. Towards the eastern end of the trench a similar sequence, 2005 (filled by 2006) was investigated by machine sondage. A struck flint of late Neolithic date was recovered, and is certainly residual. No other datable material was recovered from the fills and it is thought that these represent the rapid backfilling of a post-medieval gravel pit. A further pit, 2003, at the east end of the trench was steep-sided and may also represent quarrying, although the fill, 2004, was slightly different, an orange brown sandy silt that contained a two sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery.

3.18 Trench 21

3.18.1 Trench 21 was located in an area of dense geophysical anomalies (Figs 2, 6 and 10). At the eastern end of the trench a north-west to south-east aligned ditch, 2102, correlated well with a linear geophysical anomaly. The ditch had stepped sides and a flat base, the steps possibly indicating a recut, although this was not noted by the excavator. The lower fill, 2104 was a light grey sandy silt that contained a flint side scraper of probable late prehistoric date, and a further flint flake. The upper fill, 2103, was an orange-brown sandy silt and a further two struck flints were recovered from this deposit. Ditch 2102 cut a pit or ditch terminal, 2105, on the western side (Plate 3). This feature had a steep break of slope at the surface, becoming vertical with depth, and a flat base. The lower fill, 2107, was a mottled grey-brown sandy silt, and was overlain by 2106, an orange-brown sandy silt. Neither fill contained any finds.

3.18.2 Towards the western end of the trench a further ditch, 2108, was orientated NNW-SSE, and also broadly correlated with a linear geophysical anomaly. The ditch was steep-sided and flat-based, and the lower fill, 2110, was a brown-grey sandy silt. This was overlain by 2109, an orange-brown sandy silt. Neither fill contained any finds. A pit, or ditch terminal, 2114, to the west of 2108, and a similar feature, 2116, to the east were not further investigated. A possible wide linear feature, 2112, also remained unexcavated, and could correlate with a geophysical anomaly situated just to the north-west of the trench.

3.19 Trench 22

3.19.1 A north-west to south-east orientated ditch, 2204, ran across the centre of the trench, and correlated with the southern part of a semi-circular geophysical anomaly, perhaps representing the gully of a roundhouse (Figs 2, 6 and 10). The ditch had undulating sides, and a narrow 'V' shaped base. The single fill, 2203, was a dark grey-brown silty sand which contained 15 sherds of abraded probable Iron Age pottery, and a fragment of burnt flint. An environmental sample (Sample 9) contained two degraded fragments of cereal grain and a single fragment of oat. A few metres to the north, a ditch on a similar orientation, 2208, had fairly gently sloping sides and a flat base. The fill, 2207, was a grey-brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. The ditch was cut on the northern side by pit 2206, which was steep sided and flat based. The fill, 2205, was a grey-brown silty sand, with large cobbles present towards the surface. No finds were recovered from ditch 2208 or pit 2206. A further west-east orientated ditch, 2209, was located towards the northern end of the trench and two

pits, 2211 and 2213, within the southern end of the trench were not further investigated, and did not appear to be represented by the geophysics.

3.20 Trench 23

3.20.1 A ditch at the north-eastern end of the trench, 2303, was orientated north-west to south-east (Figs 2, 6 and 10). The ditch had a slightly flared 'V'-shaped profile, and the lower fill, 2307, a grey-brown silty sand, may represent a former bank that slumped into the ditch from the south-western side. The upper fill, 2304, was a grey-brown sandy silt, which contained a flint flake of later prehistoric date. A series of ditches, 2308, 2310, 2312, 2305, 2314 and 2316 were present to the south-west of ditch 2303, and several are likely to have been represented in Trench 22 to the west. These were not further investigated.

3.21 Trench 24

3.21.1 A large feature, 2403, was located at the north-western end, and may represent a large area of disturbance by quarrying, indicated on the geophysical survey to the north of the trench (Figs 2, 6 and 11; Plate 4). The feature was investigated by machine sondage to a depth of 0.9m below ground level, and proved to be steep sided on the south-eastern edge, with the base seen to undulate and the fill 2404 present in intermittent patches below this depth. The north-west extent of the feature was not visible within the limits of the trench. Fill 2404 was patchy dark orange brown clay silt containing pockets of gravel, and contained no finds.

3.21.2 A north-east to south-west orientated ditch, 2408, was present to the south, beyond the limit of gravel extraction (Plate 5). The ditch had a gently sloping side, which only survived to the south-east. The primary fill, 2409, was a brownish-grey clay silt. This was overlain by 2412, an orange-brown clay silt in turn sealed by the upper fill, 2413, which was of similar hue but had a high sand content. Five sherds of mid to late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill. An environmental sample (Sample 6) contained occasional charcoal fragments, but no charred seeds. Ditch 2408 was cut on the north-western side by similarly orientated ditch 2410, which had a gently sloping north-western side, and a steeper south-eastern edge. The primary fill, 2411, was a yellow sandy silt. This was sealed by 2414, a grey-brown sandy silt, in turn sealed by 2415, a grey-brown clay silt. The upper remaining fill of the ditch was 2415, an orange-brown deposit of similar composition to the underlying fills. No finds were recovered from any of the ditch fills. Ditch 2410 had been re-cut by a broad shallower ditch, 2426, which also truncated fill 2413 from ditch 2408. Ditch 2426 contained a single fill, 2417, a dark orange-brown clay silt, from which three sherds of mid to late Iron Age pottery were recovered.

3.21.3 A pit, 2405, was only partially present within the confines of the trench, continuing to the west, beyond the limit of excavation. The pit had a flared concave profile, and the lower fill, 2406, was a light yellow-grey clay silt. This was overlain by 2407, a brownish-grey clay silt. Neither fill contained any finds. Immediately to the east a similar feature, 2418 was not investigated. A narrow ditch, 2424, and two further pits at the southern end of the trench, 2420 and 2422, were recorded in plan, but not excavated.

3.22 Finds and environmental summary

3.22.1 Relatively few finds were recovered from the evaluation, given the number of features investigated. A total of 36 sherds of pottery likely to be of late prehistoric date, and five sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. No animal bone had survived, almost certainly due

to the acidic nature of the deposits encountered. A single fragment from a shale armlet is likely to be of Iron Age date. A few struck flints are probably residual finds, and a single iron object was from a post-medieval feature.

3.22.2 Four environmental samples were processed for the recovery of charred plant remains and small artefacts. The samples produced very little in terms of artefacts or charred material, and molluscs and bone were entirely absent. However, the presence of charred remains from features of late prehistoric date indicates that these do survive within the site.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during fair weather conditions, with no flooding of the trenches. The revealed features were generally easy to identify against the underlying natural deposits. The geophysical survey results proved to be of variable accuracy, although where densities of anomalies were plotted, these were generally also present within the trenches. A representative sample of the revealed features was hand excavated, and datable material was recovered from several pits and ditches.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The locations, extent, date and character of the archaeological remains was evaluated, and their relative depths recorded, to provide an indication of their vulnerability to future development. The veracity of the geophysical survey results was tested, and the potential for the site to retain ecofacts of archaeological interest was tested. The results of the evaluation will be disseminated through this report, which will in due course be uploaded to the OA digital library for public access.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The geophysical survey recorded a dense array of linear and discrete anomalies forming a series of enclosures which covered an area of around 250m by 100m, within the northern and eastern parts of the site (Fig. 2). This area of the site may have been chosen for occupation as it was slightly higher at c 129 to 130m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), than the southern parts of the field (c 128m aOD), although the gentle slope was barely perceptible on site. The series of rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures and pits were, where dated, of middle to late Iron Age date, with a single feature possibly of late Iron Age or early Roman date. The prehistoric pottery, generally derived from thick walled jars, or storage vessels (see Appendix B.1) was poorly preserved, suggesting that it may have undergone a few episodes of deposition. This may be an effect of the longevity of the site, and there was evidence of more than one phase of late prehistoric activity in several trenches, for example in Trench 24, where a large ditch had been re-defined on two occasions. The fragment of shale armlet from Trench 19 and fired clay potentially derived from ovens or hearths from Trenches 11, 19 and 21, were all recovered from Iron Age contexts, and suggest that the site may have had a domestic function.

4.3.2 Later phases of activity were represented by undated field boundaries, or the bases of plough furrows in Trenches 12, 14 and 15, and by probable gravel extraction pits in, for example, Trenches 2, 4, 10, 20 and 24. The areas of gravel extraction were shown by the dark blue hatched areas on the geophysical survey, although the trenching showed that these were actually more extensive than indicated.

4.3.3 Other geophysical anomalies plotted as orange linear and curvilinear features in the western and southern parts of the site were, where tested, actually variations between gravels and silts in the underlying natural geology.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The dense areas of geophysical anomalies (shown in red on Fig. 2 etc.) uncovered by the trial trenches indicate the area of a previously unknown late prehistoric settlement. Any future development of the site will need to take this into account, potentially through a programme of detailed intrusive archaeological investigation and publication.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained large cut in the centre of the trench that upon excavation was a series of intercutting pits or small gravel quarry cuts. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid brownish orange, gravelly sand, lenses of pure sand.	-	-
103	Fill	4.0	0.4	Top fill of 106, likely pit fill. Friable, mid orange-brown sandy silt, frequent small stones, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional flint.	-	-
104	Fill	0.96	0.3	Soft, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional small stones, occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of 106.	-	-
105	Fill	1.7	0.2	Friable, light yellow-brown, sandy silt, frequent small stones, occasional flint. Fill of 106.	-	-
106	Cut	4.0	0.61	Intercutting features, likely pits. Sub oval, irregular in plan, very irregular base and sides. Relationships very unclear so recorded as one feature.	-	-
107	Fill	0.5	0.51	Only fill of 108. Friable, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, moderate small stones, occasional flint, very occasional charcoal flecks.	-	-
108	Cut	0.5	0.51	Pit. Sub square, steep sloped sides, flat base. Full extent not seen, truncated by 106.	-	-
109	Fill	2.0	-	Fill of 110. Feature not excavated. Friable, mid orange-brown sandy silt.	-	-
110	Cut	2.0	-	Linear. Not excavated. Irregular edges.	-	-

111	Fill	1.2	-	Fill of 112. Friable, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, frequent large charcoal flecks. Not excavated. Finds recovered from surface.	Pottery, metal	AD 1780-1840
112	Cut	1.2	-	Linear, not excavated.	-	-

Trench 2

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two linear features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sands and gravels.					Length (m)	30.5
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellow-orange sand and gravel patches.	-	-
203	Cut	1.64	0.32	Ditch. Moderate sloped sides, flat base. NE-SW aligned.	-	-
204	Fill	1.64	0.32	Friable, dark grey-brown, sandy silt, moderate stones.	-	-
205	Cut	2.6	0.44	Ditch. NE side steep slope, SW side shallow slope, slightly concave base. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
206	Fill	2.6	0.44	Only fill of 205. Friable, dark yellow-brown, sandy silt, moderate stones.	Pottery	Late Iron Age

Trench 3

General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Plough scars visible running northwest-southeast. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
302	Fill	0.13	0.11	Fill of 303. Soft, dark grey-brown, sandy silt.	-	-
303	Cut	0.13	0.11	Plough scar. Linear, flat base, straight moderate sloped sides. Cuts subsoil.	-	-
304	Layer			Natural. Orange-brown sandy gravel.	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one curvilinear ditch, one post hole and one large irregular feature. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravels.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	Pottery	AD 1780-1840
401	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid brown-orange sandy gravel.	-	-
403	Fill	0.29	0.12	Only fill of post hole. Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
404	Cut	0.29	0.12	Post hole. Sub oval, steep sides, concave base.	-	-
405	Fill	5.0	0.25	Friable, mid grey-brown, sandy silt, moderate charcoal flecks, frequent small stones, larger stones towards base of fill.	Pottery	AD 1820-1900
406	Cut	5.0	0.25	Large feature, full extent not visible in trench. Irregular sloped sides, shallow towards top and steep towards limit of excavation.	-	-
407	Fill	1.6	0.28	Soft, mid grey-brown with bands of brownish orange, sandy silt with lenses of sandy gravel, frequent small stones.	Pottery	Iron Age?
408	Cut	1.6	0.28	Curvilinear, irregular edges, steep sides, concave base.	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained one ditch and one modern service trench. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravels.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
502	Cut	0.28	0.26	Ditch. Flat base, near vertical straight sides. Aligned NE-SW.	-	-

503	Fill	0.28	0.26	Only fill of 502. Soft, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional small stones, occasional charcoal flecks.	-	-
504	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid orangish brown sand and gravel patches.	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy silt and gravel.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.34	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench contained one large feature which was not excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and gravels.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.33	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid brownish orange gravel with light sandy gravel patches.	-	-
703	Cut	5.3	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
704	Fill	5.3	-	Fill of 703. Mid brown sandy clay fill with frequent gravel inclusions.	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel, silty clay and flint cobble patches. Contained a possible feature of remnant topsoil or subsoil 10m from NE end which upon investigation had no distinct depth or edges.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural. Patches of pale greyish yellow sandy gravel	-	-

				and orange-brown silty clay patches, fine sand and cobble patches.		
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Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained one ditch and four quarry pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
903	Fill	2.12	0.4	Upper fill of 905. Soft, dark orange-brown, sandy silt, moderate small stones, moderate flint.	-	-
904	Fill	1.10	0.28	Base fill of ditch. Friable, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, small stones and gravel, occasional flint, occasional charcoal flecks.	-	-
905	Cut	2.12	0.4	Ditch. Steep sloping sides, flat base. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
906	Fill	5.5	-	Fill of 907, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
907	Cut	5.5	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
908	Fill	2.85	-	Fill of 909, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
909	Cut	2.85	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
910	Fill	1.75	-	Fill of 911, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
911	Cut	1.75	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
912	Fill	5.5	-	Fill of 913, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
913	Cut	5.5	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one ditch and five quarry pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

1000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid brownish orange gravels and sand patches.	-	-
1003	Fill	1.15	0.18	Base fill of 1003. Soft, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1004	Fill	2.85	0.45	Upper fill of 1003. Friable, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, frequent small stones.	-	-
1005	Cut	2.85	0.63	Ditch. Steep to near vertical sides, flat base. NE-SW aligned.	-	-
1006	Fill	1.2	-	Fill of 1007, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
1007	Cut	1.2	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
1008	Fill	6.0	-	Fill of 1009, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
1009	Cut	6.0	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
1010	Fill	3.15	-	Fill of 1011, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
1011	Cut	3.15	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
1012	Fill	4.0	-	Fill of 1013, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
1013	Cut	4.0	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
1014	Fill	10.5	-	Fill of 1015, unexcavated. Orange-brown sandy silt with dark brown bands.	-	-
1015	Cut	10.5	-	Quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained three linears, one pit, one possible linear and four other features which extended beyond the limits of the trench. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid orange-brown sandy gravel.	-	-
1103	Cut	0.86	0.38	Ditch. Steep sided v-shaped profile. NW-SE aligned.	-	-

1104	Fill	0.86	0.38	Only fill of 1103. Friable, dark orange-brown, sandy silt, moderate stones.	-	-
1105	Cut	1.25	0.20	Pit. Oval, continued beyond limit of trench. Very steep sides, flat base.	-	-
1106	Fill	1.25	0.20	Fill of 1105. Friable, dark blackish brown, clayey silt, occasional stones.	Pottery, Fired clay	Middle-late Iron Age
1107	Cut	0.9	0.32	Ditch. Steep sides, concave base. N-S aligned.	-	-
1108	Fill	0.56	0.12	Base fill of 1107. Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey silt, moderate stones.	-	-
1109	Fill	0.9	0.22	Upper fill of 1107. Friable, dark orange-brown, sandy silt, moderate stones.	-	-
1110	Cut	3.5	-	Cut of amorphous linear, unexcavated	-	-
1111	Fill	3.5	-	Upper fill of 1110	-	-
1112	Cut	6.2	-	Cut of amorphous feature, unexcavated	-	-
1113	Fill	6.2	-	Upper fill of 1112	-	-
1114	Cut	2	-	Cut of ditch, unexcavated	-	-
1115	Fill	2	-	Upper fill of 1114	-	-
1116	Cut	1.5	-	Cut of pit or ditch terminal, unexcavated	-	-
1117	Fill	1.5	-	Upper fill of 1116	-	-
1118	Cut	1.1	-	Cut of pit or ditch terminal, unexcavated	-	-
1119	Fill	1.1	-	Upper fill of 1119	-	-
1120	Cut	2	-	Cut of ditch or pit, unexcavated	-	-
1121	Fill	2	-	Upper fill of 1120	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench contained three linears. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand with occasional gravel patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light brownish yellow silty sand with occasional gravel patches.	-	-

1203	Fill	1.46	0.19	Fill of 1204. Soft, dark grey-brown, silty sand, occasional stones.	-	-
1204	Cut	1.46	0.19	Ditch. Shallow, sloped sides with flat base.	-	-
1205	Cut	2	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
1206	Fill	2	-	Upper fill of 1206	-	-
1207	Cut	1.2	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
1208	Fill	1.2	-	Upper fill of 1207	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two modern features were present. One linear with concrete and brick rubble in the fill and one buried dump of burnt agricultural waste. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid orange sandy gravel with frequent gravel and sand patches.	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two linear features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand with gravel patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light brownish yellow, silty sand with occasional gravel patches.	-	-
1403	Fill	1.2	0.2	Only fill of 1404. Soft, dark grey-brown, silty sand, occasional stones.	-	-
1404	Cut	1.2	0.2	Ditch. Shallow, irregular moderately sloped sides. NW-SE aligned.	-	--
1405	Cut	2	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
1406	Fill	2	-	Upper fill of 1405	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	E-W
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9

Trench contained one ditch and one tree throw. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and gravel patches.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light brownish yellow, silty sand with occasional gravel patches.	-	-
1503	Fill	1.5	0.26	Only fill of 1504. Soft, dark grey-brown, silty sand, occasional stones.	-	-
1504	Cut	1.5	0.26	Ditch. Moderate sloped, slightly irregular sides on west side, east side truncated by tree throw. Concave base.	-	-
1505	Fill	0.5	0.10	Only fill of 1506. Soft, dark greyish brown, silty sand, occasional stones.	-	-
1506	Cut	0.5	0.10	Irregular in plan, irregular sides and base.	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel with clay patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural. Patchy yellow-brown sandy gravel with pale grey silty clay patches.	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid orange-brown sandy gravel and pale brownish grey silty patches.	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a linear feature, a possible pit, a possible ditch and a tree throw. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural. Dark yellowish orange, sandy gravel.	-	-
1803	Cut	0.42	0.12	Post hole. Steep sides, concave base.	-	-
1804	Fill	0.42	0.12	Only fill of 1803. Friable, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, occasional stones.	-	-
1805	Cut	0.82	0.15	Tree throw. Sub oval, steep irregular sides, concave, slightly irregular base.	-	-
1806	Fill	0.6	0.15	Fill of 1805. Friable, dark orange-brown, sandy silt, moderate stones.	-	-
1807	Fill	0.22	0.06	Upper fill of 1805. Friable, dark, blackish brown, sandy silt, occasional stones, high concentration of charcoal flecks.	-	-
1808	Cut	1	-	Cut of ditch, unexcavated	-	-
1809	Fill	1	-	Upper fill of 1808	-	-
1810	Cut	1.5	-	Cut of pit, unexcavated	-	-
1811	Fill	1.5	-	Upper fill of 1810	-	-
1812	Cut	3.5	-	Cut of linear feature, unexcavated	-	-
1813	Fill	3.5	-	Upper fill of 1812	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two linear features, one pit and one possible linear terminus. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid brownish orange, sandy gravel. Gravel patches.	-	-

1903	Cut	1.84	0.4	Ditch. Moderate sloped sides, concave base.	-	-
1904	Fill	0.12	0.05	Base fill of 1903. Friable, mid brownish orange, clayey silt, occasional stones.	-	-
1905	Fill	1.84	0.4	Upper fill of 1903. Friable, dark orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional stones.	-	-
1906	Cut	1.15	0.22	Pit. Sub circular, steep sides, flat base.	-	-
1907	Fill	1.15	0.22	Only fill of 1906. Friable, dark orange-brown, sandy silt, moderate stones.	-	-
1908	Cut	1.8	0.78	Ditch. Steep sides, flat base. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
1909	Fill	0.38	0.22	Base fill of 1908. Friable, mid brownish grey, clayey silt, moderate stones.	-	-
1910	Fill	0.54	0.26	Middle fill of 1908. Friable, dark brownish-orange, clayey silt, moderate stones.	Fired clay	-
1911	Fill	1.8	0.3	Upper fill of 1908. Friable, dark orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional stones.	Pottery, Fired clay	Middle to late Iron Age
1912	Cut	1.3	-	Pit or ditch terminal, unexcavated	-	-
1913	Fill	1.3	-	Upper fill of 1912	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained three quarry pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand with coarse gravel patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid orange silty sand with patches of coarse flint gravel.	-	-
2003	Cut	2.25	0.58	Quarry pit. Not fully excavated. Irregular, steep sides, base unseen.	-	-
2004	Fill	2.25	0.58	Only fill of 2003. Friable, mid orange-brown, silty sand, moderate stones.	Pot	Late Iron Age-early Roman

2005	Cut	15.0	0.51	Quarry pit. Irregular, sub oval. Flat base, steep, near vertical, sides.	-	-
2006	Fill	15.0	0.51	Only fill of 2005. Soft, bands of dark greyish brown silty clay and mid brownish-orange silty sand, with frequent pea grit in the sand and frequent small gravel in the silty clay.	Flint	Late Neolithic
2007	Cut	8	-	Quarry pit, unexcavated	-	-
2008	Fill	8	-	Upper fill of 2007	-	-
2009	Cut	2	-	Quarry pit, unexcavated	-	-
2010	Fill	2	-	Upper fill of 2009	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	
Trench contained two ditches and one pit or possible ditch terminus. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand with gravels.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
2100	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
2102	Cut	2.8	0.78	Ditch. Flat base, moderately sloped sides.	-	-
2103	Fill	2.8	0.46	Upper fill of 2102. Soft, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional small to medium stones.	Flint	-
2104	Fill	1.43	0.3	Base fill of 2102. Soft, light grey sandy silt, frequent small to medium stones, charcoal flecks.	Flint	Late prehistoric
2105	Cut	0.76	0.42	Pit or possible ditch terminus. Irregular, sub oval, steep sides, flat base.	-	-
2106	Fill	0.66	0.16	Upper fill of 2105. Mid orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional small to medium stones.	-	-
2107	Fill	0.76	0.25	Base fill of 2105. Soft, mid greyish brown, mottled, sandy silt, occasional small to medium stones.	-	-
2108	Cut	0.96	0.47	Ditch. Steep sides, NE side convex, SW side concave, flat base, slopes down to NE.	-	-

2109	Fill	0.96	0.28	Upper fill of 2108. Soft, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional small to medium stones.	Fired clay	-
2110	Fill	0.6	0.2	Base fill of 2108. Soft, mid brownish grey, sandy silt, occasional small to medium stones.	-	-
2111	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid orange-brown silty sand with gravel patches.	-	-
2112	Cut	3.9	-	Linear feature, unexcavated	-	-
2113	Fill	3.9	-	Upper fill of 2112	-	-
2114	Cut	1.4	-	Pit, unexcavated	-	-
2115	Fill	1.4	-	Upper fill of 2114	-	-
2116	Cut	1	-	Pit, unexcavated	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench contained three ditches and three pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand with gravel patches.					Length (m)	29.4
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
2200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light brownish-yellow silty sand with gravel patches.	-	-
2203	Fill	1.9	0.42	Only fill of 2204. Soft, dark greyish brown, silty sand, occasional gravel.	Pottery, burnt flint	Iron Age?
2204	Cut	1.9	0.42	Ditch. Irregular undulating edges, moderate sloped sides, narrow concave base. NW-SE aligned.	Flint	Late prehistoric
2205	Fill	1.1	0.4	Only fill of pit 2206. Soft, dark greyish brown, silty sand, large cobbles in upper part of fill, moderate small gravel.	-	-
2206	Cut	1.1	0.4	Pit. Flat base, moderate sloped sides.	-	-
2207	Fill	0.54	0.35	Only fill of ditch 2208. Soft, mid greyish brown, silty sand, occasional gravel.	-	-

2208	Cut	0.54	0.35	Ditch. Flat base, moderate sloped sides. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
2209	Cut	0.9	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
2210	Fill	0.9	-	Upper fill of 2209	-	-
2211	Cut	1.8	-	Pit, unexcavated	-	-
2212	Fill	1.8	-	Upper fill of 2211	-	-
2213	Cut	2	-	Pit, unexcavated	-	-
2214	Fill	2	-	Upper fill of 2213	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained six linears and one feature of unknown extent. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and silty clay patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid greyish yellow fine and coarse gravel patches with pale greyish brown silty clay patches.	-	-
2303	Cut	0.7	0.4	Ditch. Narrow, flat base, v-shaped profile.	-	-
2304	Fill	0.44	0.3	Upper fill of 2303. Soft. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt, occasional charcoal, moderate small to medium stones.	Flint	-
2305	Cut			Not excavated. Continued and excavated in Trench 22	-	-
2306	Fill			Not excavated. Fill of 2305.	-	-
2307	Fill	0.12	0.10	Fill of 2303. On SW side of ditch.	-	-
2308	Cut	0.75	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
2309	Fill	0.75	-	Upper fill of 2308	-	-
2310	Cut	1.3	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
2311	Fill	1.3	-	Upper fill of 2310	-	-
2312	Cut	0.5	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
2313	Fill	0.5	-	Upper fill of 2312	-	-
2314	Cut	0.3	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
2315	Fill	0.3	-	Upper fill of 2314	-	-
2316	Cut	0.5	-	Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
2317	Fill	0.5	-	Upper fill of 2316	-	-

Trench 24		
General description		Orientation
		NW-SE
		Length (m)
		30

Trench contained two linear features, a post hole, four possible pits and a series of intercutting pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
2400	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish orange sandy gravel.	-	-
2403	Cut	4.0+	0.5+	Intercutting quarry pits. Irregular, variable.	-	-
2404	Fill	4.0+	0.5+	Fill of 2403. Friable, dark orange-brown, clayey silt, occasional stones.	-	-
2405	Cut	1.62	0.32	Pit. Sub oval, moderate sloped, concave sides and concave base.	-	-
2406	Fill	0.91	0.16	Base fill of 2405. Firm, light greyish yellow, clayey silt, occasional stones.	-	-
2407	Fill	1.62	0.16	Upper fill of 2405. Friable, mid brownish grey, clayey silt, occasional stones.	-	-
2408	Cut	0.76	0.9	Ditch. Steep sides, concave base. Cut by 2410.	-	-
2409	Fill	0.76	0.18	Base fill of 2408. Friable, mid brownish grey, clayey silt, frequent stones.	-	-
2410	Cut	2.9	0.92	Ditch. Moderately sloped sides, concave base. Re-cut of 2408.	-	-
2411	Fill	0.04	0.03	Base fill of 2408. Friable, mid yellowish orange, sandy silt, frequent stones.	-	-
2412	Fill	0.44	0.14	Fill of 2410. Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey silt, frequent stones.	-	-
2413	Fill	0.20	0.20	Fill of 2408. Friable, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, occasional stones.	Pottery, flint	Middle to late Iron Age
2414	Fill	0.52	0.20	Fill of 2410. Friable, mid brownish grey, clayey silt, frequent stones.	-	-
2415	Fill	0.1	0.18	Fill of 2410. Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey silt, occasional stones.	-	-
2416	Fill	1.0	0.1	Fill of 2410. Friable, dark brownish grey, clayey silt, occasional stones.	-	-

2417	Fill	4.4	0.45	Fill of 2426. Friable, dark orange-brown, clayey silt, moderate stones.	Pottery	Middle to late Iron Age
2418	Cut	0.9		Pit, unexcavated	-	-
2419	Fill	0.9		Upper fill of 2418	-	-
2420	Cut	1.1		Pit, unexcavated	-	-
2421	Fill	1.1		Upper fill of 2420	-	-
2422	Cut	1.3		Pit, unexcavated	-	-
2423	Fill	1.3		Upper fill of 2422	-	-
2424	Cut	0.7		Ditch, unexcavated	-	-
2425	Fill	0.7		Upper fill of 2424	-	-
2426	Cut	4.4	0.45	Recut of ditches 2410 and 2408	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Prehistoric pottery

by Edward Biddulph

B.1.1 Thirty-six sherds of pottery weighing 141g were recovered from the site. Context-groups were quantified by count and weight (g) and the pottery briefly described, allowing a spot-date to be assigned (below).

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
206	2	3	Body sherd in grog-tempered fabric	Late Iron Age
407	1	2	Small sherd in sandy fabric	?Iron Age
1106	4	12	Body sherds (12g) with frequent angular voids (formerly shell), and occasional sand and grog/clay pellets; sherds have burnt surfaces.	Middle/late Iron Age
1911	3	12	Body sherds with angular voids (formerly shell) and occasional sand and clay pellets/grog	Middle/late Iron Age
2004	2	3	Rim sherd from ?plain-rimmed lid; fine sandy fabric with grog; post-fired incisions on interior surface	Late Iron Age/early Roman
2203	15	21	Body sherds (c 7mm thick) in soft, calcareous fabric; abraded surfaces	?Iron Age
2413	5	68	Body sherds (c 10mm thick) with clay pellet/grog inclusions and angular voids (formerly shell)	Middle/Late Iron Age
2417	3	19	Body sherds (up to c 11mm thick) with fine sand and occasional grog/clay pellet inclusions	Middle/late Iron Age

- B.1.2 All the pottery except the small fragment from context 405 has an Iron Age, or probable, Iron Age date, with the emphasis on the later Iron Age. It is possible that the date of the pottery from context 2004 extends into the early Roman period.
- B.1.3 Four broad fabrics were identified – a fabric with angular voids (denoting leached-out shell) and varying proportions of sand and clay pellets or grog, a fabric with sand and grog or clay pellet inclusions, a calcareous fabric, possibly identical to the first, and a grog-tempered fabric without additional shell or sand.
- B.1.4 Some of the body sherds are relatively thick, suggesting thick-walled jars or storage jars.
- B.1.5 The condition of the pottery is poor. Surfaces are worn and the edges abraded, and the mean sherd weight (weight divided by sherd count) is just 3.9g, pointing to a highly fragmented assemblage that has undergone several episodes of redeposition.

B.2 Post-medieval pottery

by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
111	1 tin glazed earthenware (TGW) sherd, 1 pearl ware (PEAR) dish foot ring.	18 th century 1780 - 1840
400	1 sherd pearl ware (PEAR) dish with blue feather edged decoration.	1780 -1840
405	Single body sherd yellow ware (YELL) with blue mocha decoration. <2> small flake post medieval red ware (PMR).	1820 – 1900 16 th – 19 th century

- B.2.1 The post medieval pottery assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work

B.3 Fired clay

By Edward Biddulph

- B.3.1 Eight fragments of fired clay weighing 33g were recovered from four contexts.

Context	Frag	Weight (g)	Comments
1106	1	6	Fine sandy fabric, irregular surface
1910	1	3	Sample 3. Amorphous fragment, oxidised, occasional sand and ferruginous and/or argillaceous inclusions
1911	3	10	Amorphous fragment, fine fabric, no visible inclusions
2109	3	14	Fine fabric with elongated voids and occasional sand, Irregular surface

B.3.2 Fabrics were generally similar, being fine with occasional sand and clay pellet/grog or iron-rich inclusions. Fabrics from context 2109 had elongated voids from burnt out organic inclusions, probably grass.

B.3.3 No forms were recognised, but the fragments are consistent with the remains of structural elements of ovens or hearths.

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction

B.4.1 A single shale armlet fragment with an internal diameter of 65mm was recovered from the fill of ditch 1908 (1910). It has dried out and laminated so that no surface features remain. It is likely to be Iron Age or Roman in date.

B.5 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.5.1 A small assemblage of seven struck flints and one piece of burnt unworked flint (2g) was recovered from this evaluation. The flints did not contain any diagnostic artefacts but some were quite typical of both earlier and later prehistoric assemblages. The flints are in very varied condition and are very likely to be residual material in later features

B.5.2 One flake from context 2006 displayed a faceted platform and thin, flat profile that are both strongly suggestive of it having been struck from a levallois core of late Neolithic date.

B.5.3 Two retouched pieces were recovered. The first was a side scraper on a distal trimming flake from context 2104. The second was recovered from sample 6, context 2413 and was a lightly retouched snapped bladelet. Whilst not microlithic as such, the piece could very easily date to the Mesolithic period, alternatively, an early Neolithic date could be equally valid.

B.5.4 The assemblage represents very limited flint-related activity from a range of periods. The flints do not suggest that significant flint assemblages should be expected in the proposed development area.

Methodology

B.5.5 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (eg Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
2006	flake	inner	Faceted bulb on flat flake likely to have been struck from late Neolithic levallois core	L Neo
2103	irregular waste			
2103	flake	inner		
2104	side scraper	distal trimming flake	Fairly crude side scraper with retouch upper and mid right	LPH
2104	flake	inner		
2203	burnt unworked		2g	
2304	flake	Distal trimming	Large hard-hammer struck flake	LPH
2413	Bladelet retouched	inner	Minor area of probable retouch lower left and distal in slight notch, clear bladelet form	EPH

B.6 Metalwork

By Ian Scott

B.6.1 There is single flat iron fragment from context 111. The fragment has one original straight edge. The remaining edges are irregular and broken. It could be a fragment of iron strip or sheet; it might have been part of blade, although that is unlikely. L: 43mm. The object is not closely datable.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

Four samples were taken from the evaluation.

Sample No	Context No	Cut No	Trench No	Feature Type	Period	Sample Volume (L)
6	2413	2408	24	Secondary fill of ditch (early phase)	Mid/Late Iron Age	37
7	1910	1908	19	Lowest fill of ditch	Mid/Late Iron Age	27
8	1911	1908	19	Upper fill of ditch	Mid/Late Iron Age	27
9	2203	2204	22	Single fill of ditch	Iron Age	40

Methodology

C.1.1 The samples were processed in their entirety by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification.

Results

C.1.2 All of the flots from these samples contain fine modern roots together with seeds and insects. Sample <9> especially included a large volume of modern material resulting in large flot volumes, although in reality the amount of charred material in these samples is fairly small with the charred component being closer to 10-20ml. For this reason, all flots were 100% scanned to ensure maximum retrieval of data. Charcoal is present in all flots although the majority of fragments are small (<4mm and often <2mm) and not suitable for further work such as wood species identification.

C.1.3 Sample <6> produced a flot of 10ml. The charcoal is small and includes no fragments large enough for wood species identification. No other charred material was noted.

C.1.4 Sample <7> produced a flot of 25ml. The majority of observed charcoal is small although a few fragments are potentially suitable for wood species identification. Three fragments of cereal grain are present and these are heavily damaged but are probably wheat (*Triticum* sp.), a single fragment of a glume base is also present but too fragmented to identify to species. A single heavily encrusted Caryophyllaceae seed and two legumes <2mm were also observed. Part of a shale object and a fragment of fired clay were retrieved from the heavy residues.

C.1.5 Sample <8> produced a flot of 25ml. The charcoal is small with no fragments large enough for wood species identification. Two wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) in poor condition and four heavily encrusted Caryophyllaceae seeds were observed. A single fragment of pottery was recovered from the heavy residues.

C.1.6 Sample <9> produced a flot of 250ml. The charcoal is small with no fragments large enough for wood species identification. Two fragments of indeterminate cereal grain and a single oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*) fragment were observed within the flot.

Discussion and Recommendations

C.1.7 The samples from this site produced very little in terms of artefacts or charred material and molluscs and bone were absent. This may be a result of the soil matrix which consists of sand and gravel which would be fairly free draining and not conducive to the preservation of organic material. It is also possible that the features sampled were at a distance from areas of crop processing or areas of domestic activity such as cooking and food production and consequently would only have received small amounts of charred material as secondary deposits.

C.1.8 No further work on these samples is required. However, while these features proved unpromising in terms of the preservation and abundance of interpretable ecofacts, charred material clearly does survive and better assemblages may be present in features more closely related to domestic activity. Consequently, any future excavation should include a comprehensive sampling strategy following standard guidelines (eg Oxford Archaeology 2005; English Heritage, 2011).

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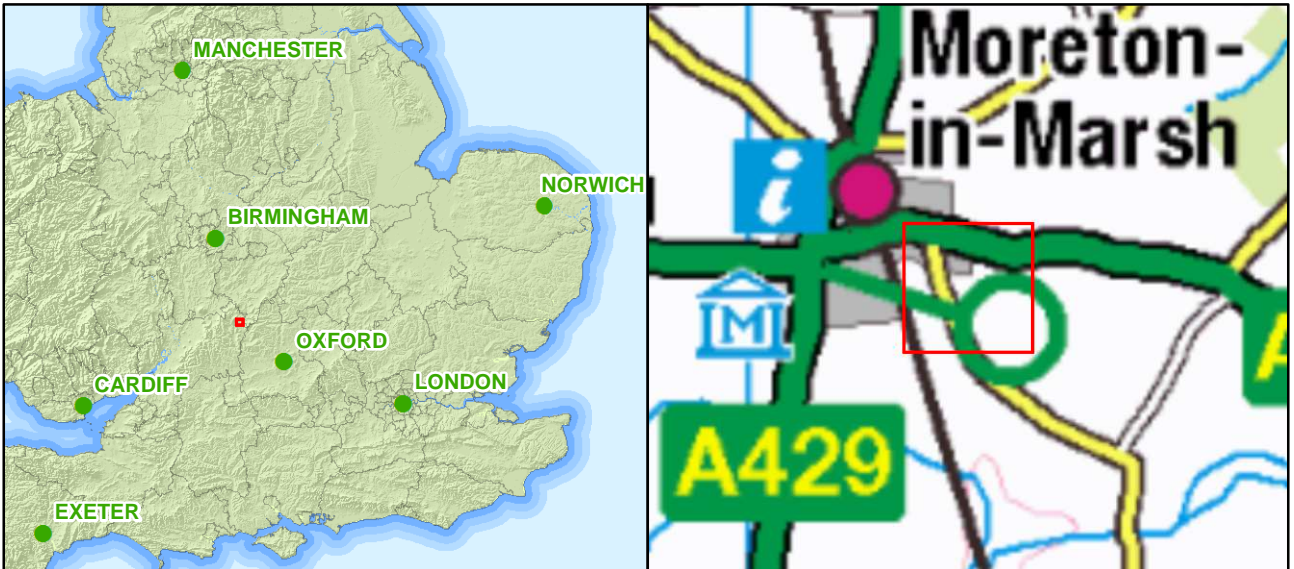
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APPENDIX E**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

Site name:	Polo Fields, Evenlode Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire
Site code:	OAMAPO17
Grid Reference	SP 21442 31979
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	27 th March to 6 th April 2017
Area of Site	7 hectares
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Corinium Museum in due course, under the following accession number: OAMAPO17.
Summary of Results:	During late March and early April 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on land west of Evenlode Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, centred on SP 21442 31979. The trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey, which indicated a dense array of enclosures and related features in the northern and western parts of the site, where the ground was slightly higher. Trenches targeted on these anomalies revealed a series of ditches and pits that proved to be of middle to late Iron Age date. Although pottery was fairly sparse, fragments of fired clay may derive from ovens or hearths and could indicate that the site was used for settlement. Environmental samples contained the occasional charred remains of cereal and other grains. Large geophysical anomalies proved to represent a later phase of gravel extraction, likely to be of post-medieval date. A scattering of other undated linear features may be the remains of a system of plough furrows or drainage ditches.



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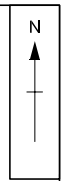
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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location

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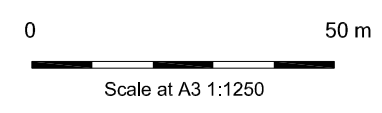
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--- Undetermined (Trend)	--- Archaeology Possible (Spread)	--- Natural (Strong)	--- Undetermined (Spread)
--- Ploughing	--- Archaeology Probable (Strong)	--- Natural (Weak)	
--- Agricultural (Strong)	--- Archaeology Probable (Weak)	--- Natural (Spread)	

--- Site boundary
--- Trench locations
--- Archaeological features
--- Archaeological intervention
--- Archaeological section

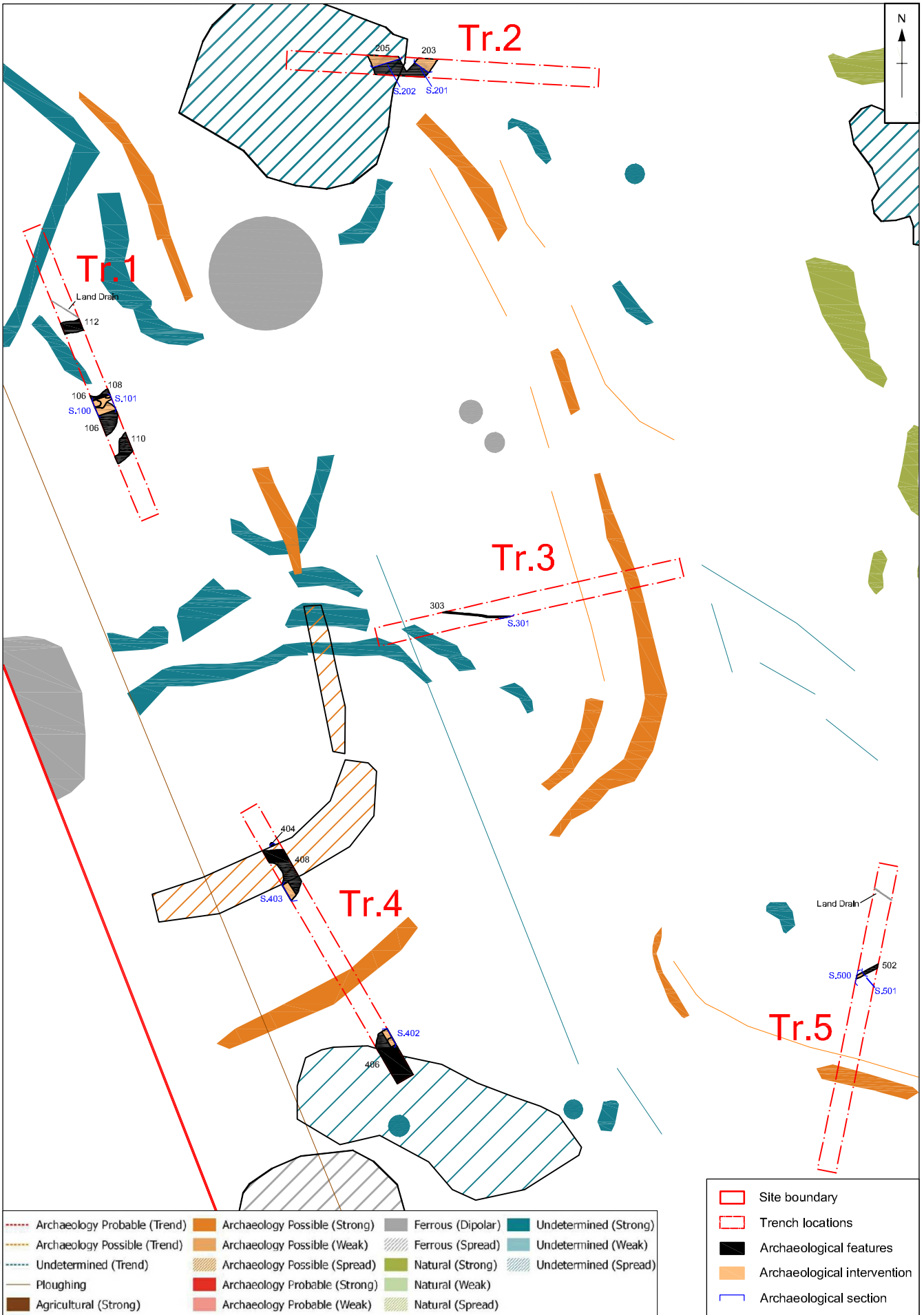


Survey Data supplied by :
Magnitude Surveys

Figure 2: Geophysical survey results and archaeological features

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Archaeology Possible (Trend)	Archaeology Possible (Weak)	Ferrous (Spread)	Undetermined (Weak)
Undetermined (Trend)	Archaeology Possible (Spread)	Natural (Strong)	Undetermined (Spread)
Ploughing	Archaeology Probable (Strong)	Natural (Weak)	
Agricultural (Strong)	Archaeology Probable (Weak)	Natural (Spread)	

Site boundary
Trench locations
Archaeological features
Archaeological intervention
Archaeological section

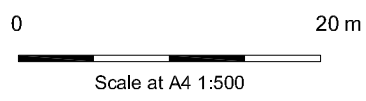
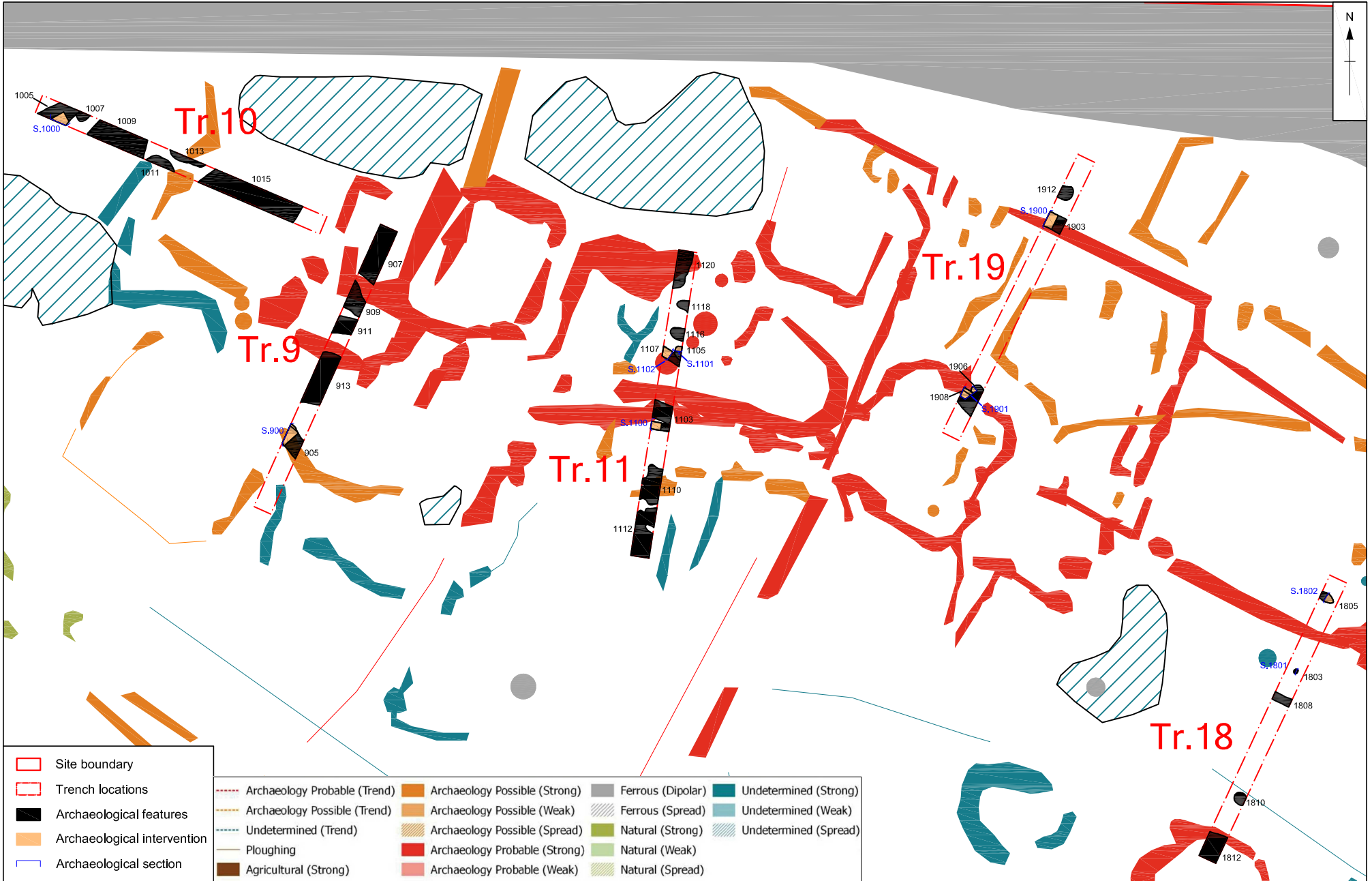


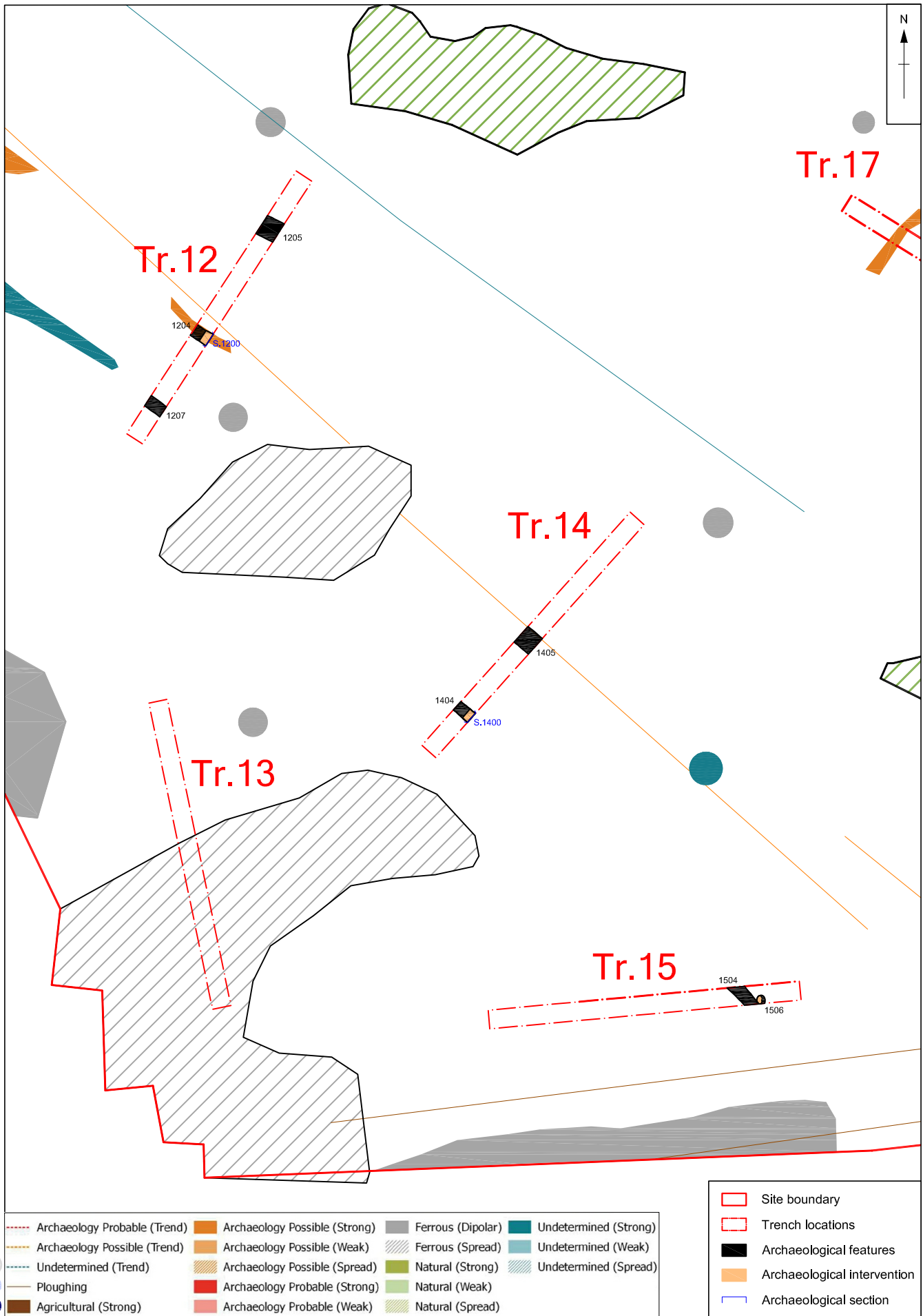
Figure 3: Trench plans for trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



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Figure 4: Trench plans for trenches 9, 10, 11, 18 and 19

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| --- Archaeology Possible (Trend) | Archaeology Possible (Weak) | ■ Ferrous (Spread) | ■ Undetermined (Weak) |
| --- Undetermined (Trend) | Archaeology Possible (Spread) | ■ Natural (Strong) | ■ Undetermined (Spread) |
| --- Ploughing | Archaeology Probable (Strong) | ■ Natural (Weak) | |
| ■ Agricultural (Strong) | Archaeology Probable (Weak) | ■ Natural (Spread) | |

- Site boundary
- Trench locations
- Archaeological features
- Archaeological intervention
- Archaeological section

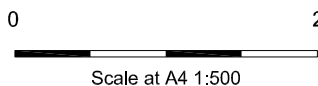


Figure 5: Trench plans for trenches 12, 14 and 15

CHECKED BY:

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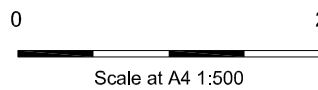
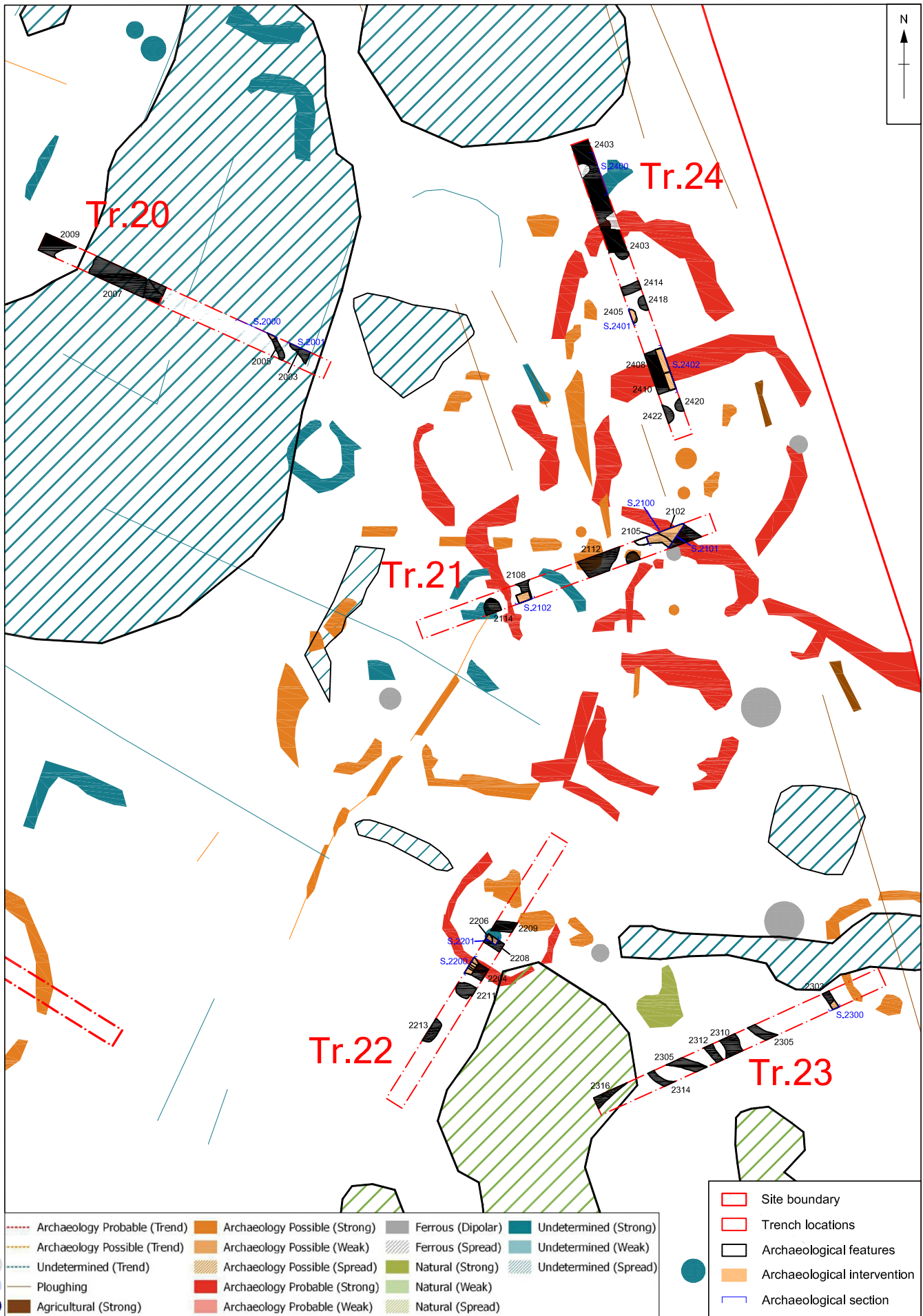


Figure 6: Trench plans for trenches 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24

CHECKED BY:

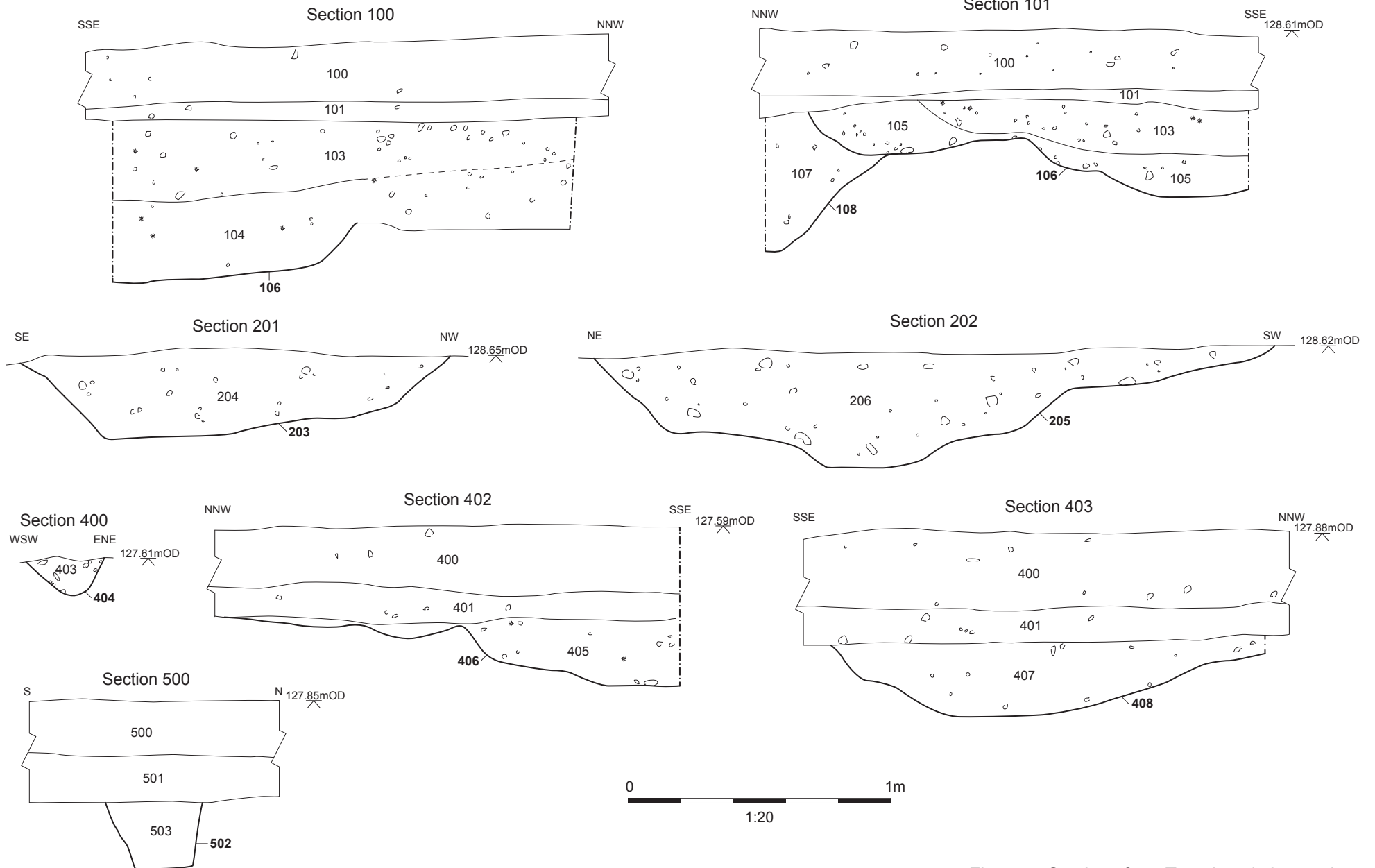


Figure 7: Sections from Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5

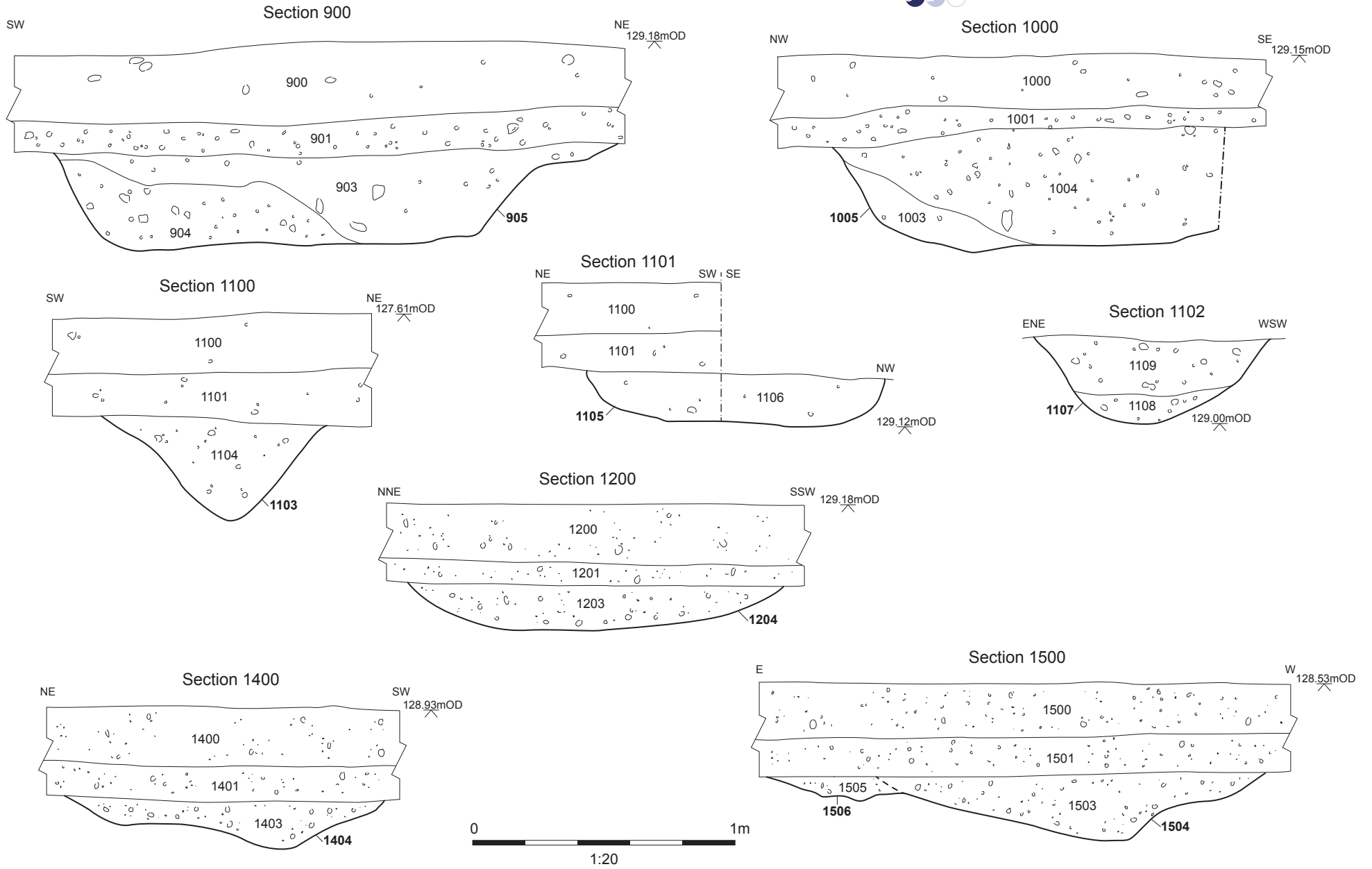


Figure 8: Sections from trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15

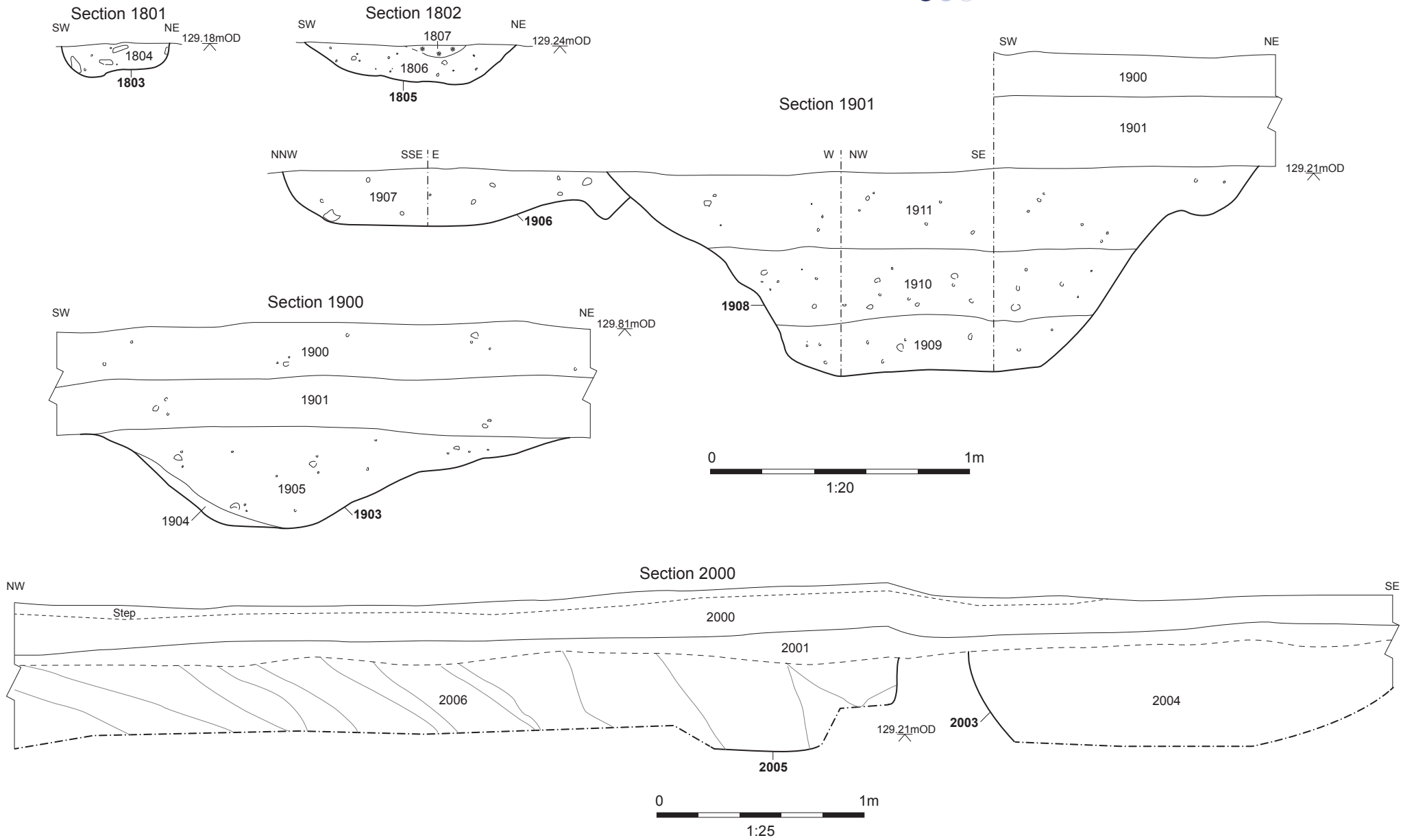


Figure 9: Sections from Trenches 18, 19 and 20

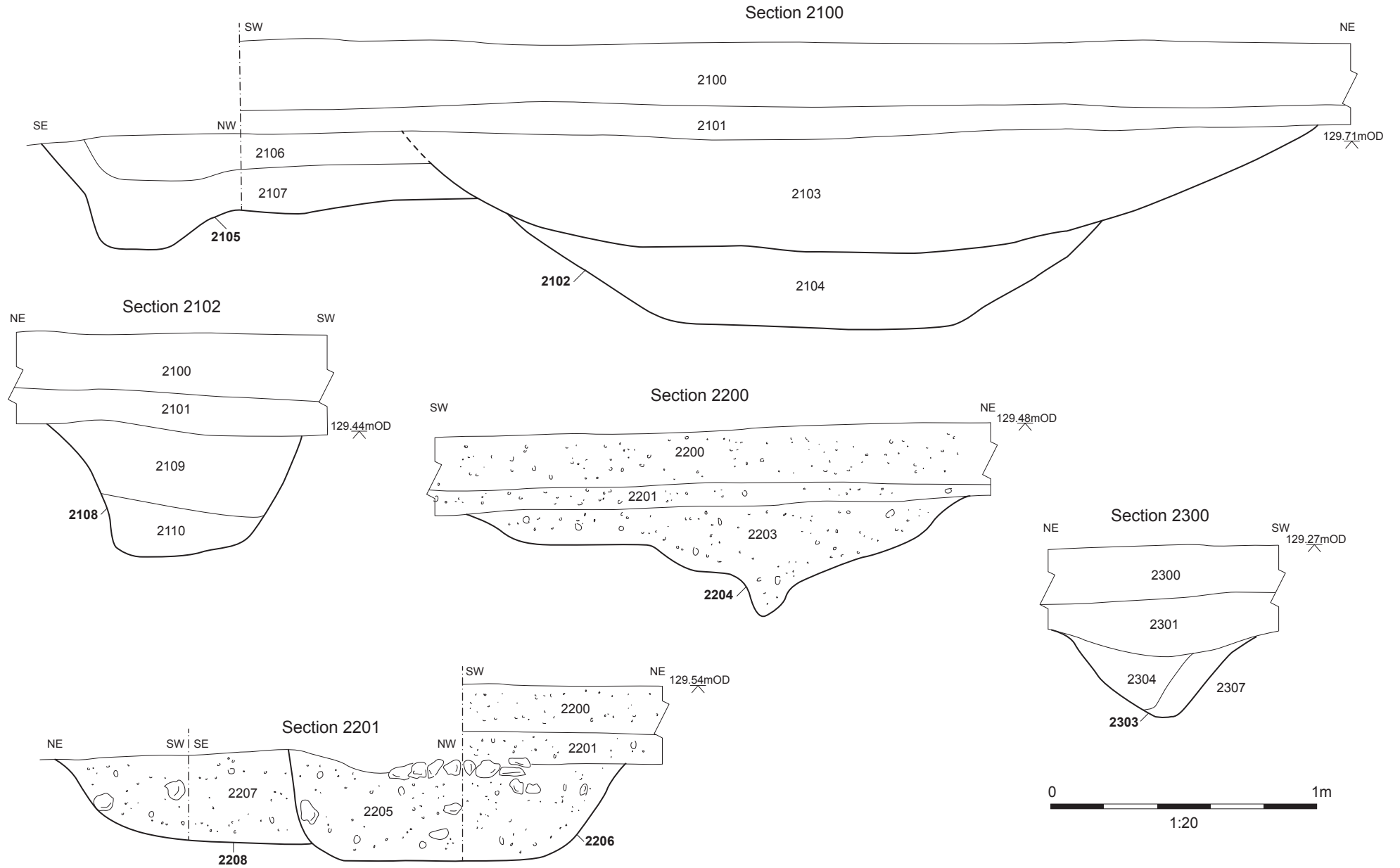


Figure 10: Sections from Trenches 21, 22 and 23

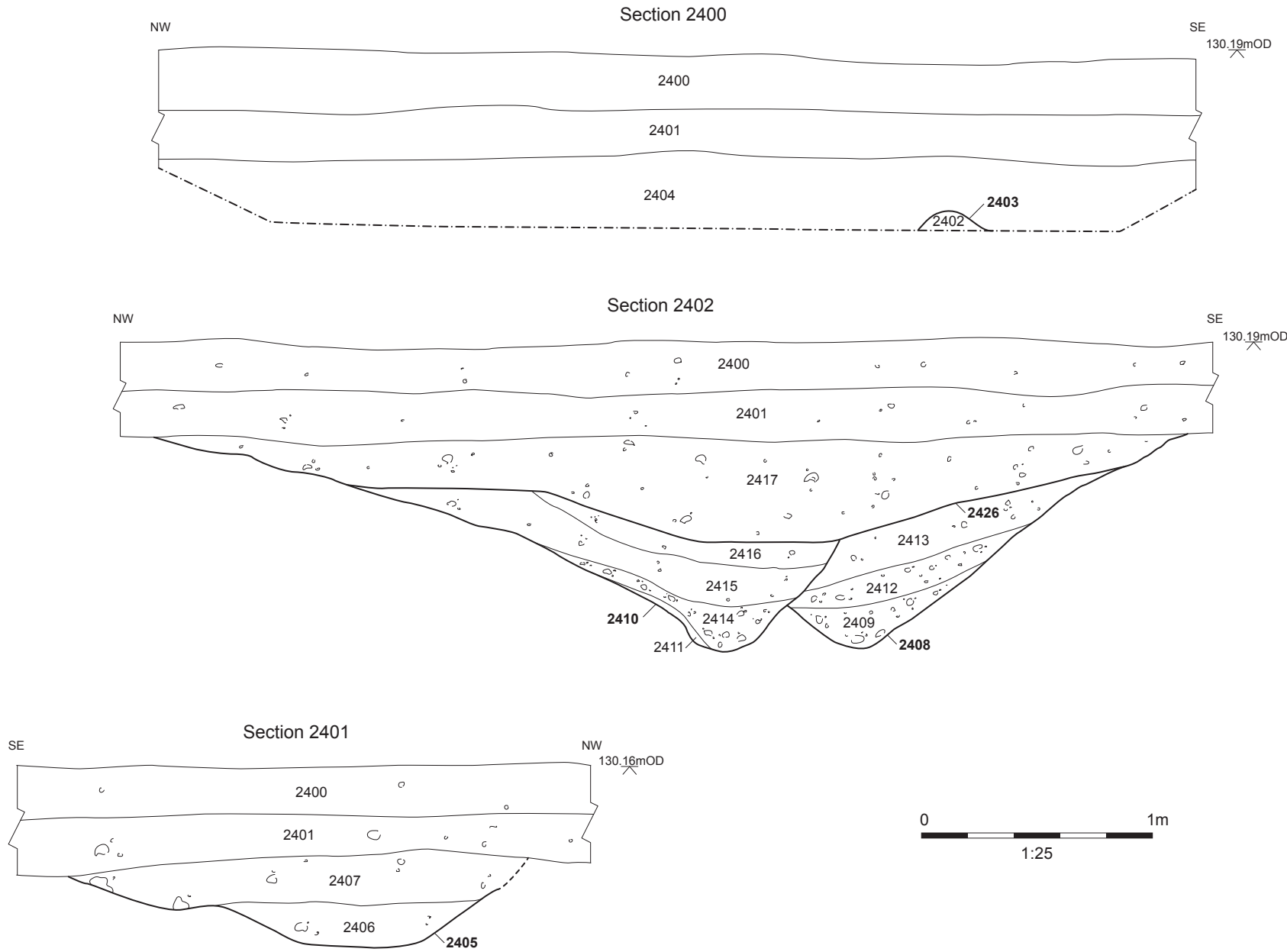


Figure 11: Sections from Trenches 24



Plate 1: Trench 10 quarry fills



Plate 2: Trench 12 Ditch 1204



Plate 3: Trench 21 Ditches 2102 and 2105



Plate 4: Trench 24 pre-excavation



Plate 5: Trench 24 intercutting ditches, oblique view



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