Land at Sherwood Farm, Binley Woods, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land at Sherwood Farm, Binley Woods, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In March 2019 Oxford Archaeology South undertook an archaeological evaluation, consisting of 23 trenches, for Pegasus Group on behalf of Lioncourt Strategic Land at Sherwood Farm, Binley Woods, Warwickshire, as part of a proposed housing development. The results of the evaluation suggest that the site has very limited potential to contain significant archaeological remains, an interpretation supported by the results of a previously completed geophysical survey.

The evaluation revealed a few undated features, including a charcoal pit, a narrow ditch, a post-hole, and two possible pits.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Lioncourt Strategic Land for commissioning this project in consultation with Donald Sutherland of Pegasus Group, and to John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire, for monitoring the work and for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Mariusz I. Gorniak who was assisted on site by Emma Winter and Elizabeth Connelly. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Mariusz I. Gorniak and Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA Staff that processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson and prepared the site archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Pegasus Group on behalf of Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd to undertake an evaluation of the site of a proposed residential development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority has not set a brief for the work, discussions between Donald Sutherland of the Pegasus Group and John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council, established the scope of work required. The scope of works required was outlined in the written scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2019). The results of these works are outlined in this document.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (CIfA 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Binley Woods, a suburb of Coventry, centred on NGR: SP40036 77530 (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development measures *c* 4.75ha and consists mainly of fields and paddocks of varying sizes separated by wooden post and rail fencing. A pond is located in the centre of the site. The site is confined by hedge/tree lines, and is bounded to the south by Rugby Road, woodland to the north, and agricultural fields and residential properties to the west.

1.2.3 The site is relatively flat, with a gradual slope falling from 95m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south to 91m aOD in the north-west.

1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group, a type of sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 201–252 million years ago during the Triassic Period. There are two types of superficial geology in the surrounding area (BGS Website):

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the Desk-Based Assessment (Pegasus Group 2018) and will not be reproduced here. The following summary provides a context for the works.

Prehistoric (pre-AD43) and Romano-British (AD 43–410)

1.3.2 Limited prehistoric or Roman settlement remains have been documented within 1 km of the site. A group of linear cropmarks is located *c* 750m north-east of the site. Although there are no diagnostic features, they may relate to prehistoric or Romano-British enclosures.

Medieval (AD 410–1540)

1.3.3 There are three medieval landmarks in the wider landscape. The 12th-century Cistercian Monastery of Coombe Abbey is situated *c* 2km north of the site, and the medieval settlement of Brandon and a 12th-century motte-and-bailey castle are located *c* 1km and 1.7km to the south respectively. It is possible that the site formed part of the medieval woodland landscape that is recorded in the wider vicinity from the 12th century (but which is probably older) when it appears to have been subject to common grazing rights. Wood banks, a possible brickworks and evidence of ancient coppicing are recorded in the wider vicinity. Medieval or post-medieval fishponds are also recorded *c* 500m north of the site.

Post-medieval (1540–1800) to modern

1.3.4 Several landscape changes occurred in the post-medieval and modern periods. Coombe Abbey was disbanded in the 16th century following the Reformation. Parks which border the site to the north and south/east were laid out surrounding the old abbey as well as the Brandon estate. There was a gradual shift from woodland to agricultural land use. Old Lodge Farmhouse was established *c* 800m north-west of the site during the 17th century.

1.4 Geophysical survey

1.4.1 A geophysical survey was carried out in early 2019. The survey identified the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation but did not identify any other anomalies of archaeological interest (Fig. 2; Sumo 2019).

1.5 Archaeological potential

1.5.1 The Desk-Based Assessment concluded that there is low potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site beyond those associated with post-medieval agriculture and coal extraction. This conclusion was supported by the results of the geophysical survey.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

2.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features, and to report on the findings to inform the planning process.

2.2 Specific

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains that may survive
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
iii. To ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey
iv. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other
v. means
vi. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains
vii. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy
viii. To assess the associations and significance of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape
ix. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may survive
x. To determine the significance of any remains with reference to the economy, status and function
xi. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present

2.3 Methodology and scope of work

2.3.1 The works comprised the excavation of 23 trial trenches measuring 1.65m wide and between 15m and 50m in length. This equates to a 4% sample of the proposed development area. The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 to provide an even coverage of the site and to target the results of the geophysical survey, as agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

2.3.2 Site-specific methodologies were as follows:

- The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy and in accordance with the location proposed in the WSI, except where minor adjustments were made due to ground conditions or site obstructions.
- The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoils were stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, trench edges.
- Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was

encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.

- The exposed surfaces were cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type (for example pits, postholes, and ditches) was excavated and recorded.
- Upon agreement with John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council, the trenches were backfilled.

2.3.3 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and environmental samples allocated unique identifying numbers.

2.3.4 Black-and-white photographs, supplemented by digital photographs, were taken of all archaeological features, deposits, trenches, and evaluation work in general. The black-and-white negatives and digital photographs form part of the project archive.

2.3.5 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale (normally 1:50 or 1:100) with larger scale plans of features as necessary. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and 1m-wide sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plan/s. The absolute height (m aOD) of all principal strata and features and the section datum lines were calculated and indicated on the drawings.

2.3.6 The trench and sample sections were located using a GPS.

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. The full details of each trench with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, e.g. layer 1401 is a horizon within Trench 14, while layer 1300 is a deposit/horizon within Trench 13.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 There was little variation in the soil sequence across the site (Plates 2 and 7–10). The topsoil/ploughsoil consisted of a dark brown silty/sandy clay with a moderate amount of small to medium-sized quartzite pebbles (0.25–0.35m thick). It overlay a 0.03–0.15m-thick subsoil deposit, composed of mixed clayey soils and patches of light brownish-grey silty clay, light brownish-yellow slightly sandy clay, and brownish-red clay. The subsoil was only present in isolated patches, suggesting the layer was an infill of natural shallow depressions and perhaps the remains of shallow ridge and furrow. The natural geology was formed of a brownish-red clay with patches of greyish and yellowish silty and sandy clay material (Plate 1). Only Trenches 20 and 21 exposed different soil sequences to this general pattern.

3.2.2 Trench 20 was located in the south-eastern part of the site, in a paddock with the ground level slightly higher than its surroundings. Topsoil was sandier here than in other trenches and is suspected to have been imported. It overlay a loose, 1.3m-deep layer of dark greyish, brown-blackish sandy clay containing a large amount of rubble (concrete blocks and slabs, frogged red bricks, pieces of tarmac, and asbestos). The current land-owner informed the site team that there was a depression in this area which was infilled a few decades ago during the construction of a neighboring house. This deposit overlay the former land surface, which comprised a 0.25m-thick layer of dark brown, compacted silty clay that sealed the natural geology.

3.2.3 The soil sequence in the western half of Trench 21 was comparable to the other trenches. However, the eastern part had a 1.2m-thick layer with modern building rubble material, very similar to the one uncovered in Trench 20.

3.2.4 Where present, building-material deposits were only partially excavated due to the depth of the deposits and the identification of possible asbestos-containing materials.

3.2.5 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were variable and a few trenches got partially flooded with ground water almost immediately after being excavated. Visibility was good and features were well distinguishable within the exposed natural geology surface (Plates 1–6).

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Only Trenches 9, 14, and 16 contained features of potential archaeological origin.

3.3.2 Located in the centre of Trench 9, pit 902 measured 0.92m wide and 0.09m deep (Figs. 3, 4 and 5 – Section 900; Plate. 11). It had moderately steep sides and a flat base. The

single fill consisted largely of charcoal, but no artefactual material was present. The deposit was fully excavated and an environmental sample collected (Section 3.4 and Appendix C).

3.3.3 Feature 904 was located at the eastern end of Trench 9. In plan, the feature was sub-oval and extended northwards beyond the limits of the trench. Measuring 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep (Figs. 3, 4 and 6; Plate 12), it had asymmetric sides and an irregular base. It contained two fills, but no finds. The feature was recorded as a possible pit, although a natural provenance is more likely due to the irregular nature of the feature.

3.3.4 Trench 14 had only one feature which was a sub-oval in plan and located in the eastern half of the trench . The feature, 1402, extended northwards beyond the limit of the trench, and measured 1.6m wide and 0.4m deep. It had asymmetric, moderately steep sides and a slightly undulating base (Figs. 3, 5 and 6; Plate 13). Two fills were recorded within the excavated part, but no artefactual evidence was recovered. As with feature 904, it was interpreted on site as a possible pit, but is suspected to be of natural origin due to the absence of artefactual evidence and it's irregular nature.

3.3.5 Trench 16 had two features. A narrow NW-SE ditch (1604) measured 0.56m wide and 0.12m, and had moderately steep sides and a flat base (Figs. 3, 5 and 6; Plate 15). No artefacts were recovered from the sole fill. Although not certain, it is believed that the feature is the remains of a drain.

3.3.6 The second feature in Trench 16 was a 0.44m wide and 0.2m deep post-hole (1602). It had vertical sides, a flat base and contained a single fill with no post-pipe apparent (Figs. 3, 5 and 6; Plate 14). The feature was devoid of finds.

3.4 Finds and environmental summary

3.4.1 One environmental sample was taken from the single fill of pit 902 in Trench 9.

3.4.2 The sample produce a large flot of approximately 2450ml of which 250ml has been scanned. A large quantity of charcoal was present in the flot, consisting predominately of oak. No charred seeds or grain were present in the scanned portion. The material is clearly the result of a fire, although the date of the deposit is not known at this time.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in mixed weather with some localised flooding after prolonged periods of rain. Despite this, the conditions were sufficient to enable the identification of archaeological features.

4.1.2 It is, therefore, felt that the small number of features present provides an accurate reflection of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation can be considered to have achieved the aims outlined in Section 2 above. The absence of significant archaeological remains suggests the site is of low archaeological potential. This is supported by the geophysical survey results and the notable absence of artefactual remains, even from topsoil deposits.

4.2.2 The geophysical survey did identify the presence of ridge and furrow agriculture within part of the site. However, beyond possible subsoil depressions no evidence of this activity was recorded during these works.

TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. One land-drain with ceramic pipes running diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying a thin layer of subsoil above natural geology of clay. The trench had to be repositioned, because its proposed location ran into a thick hedgerow					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology).	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Four land-drains with ceramic pipes running diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying a thin layer of subsoil above natural geology of clay. The trench had to be repositioned, because its proposed location run into a tree.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil. Thin layer of B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology).	-	-
202	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay		

				and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Four land-drains with ceramic pipes running diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Thin layer of B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology).	-	-
302	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two land-drains with ceramic pipes running across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Thin layer of B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology).	-	-
402	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 5

General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Six land-drains with ceramic pipes running across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below. The trench had to be repositioned, as its proposed location run into a hedgerow.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil. Thin layer of B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology).	-	-
502	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two land-drains with ceramic pipes running across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Thin layer of B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology).	-	-
602	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 7		
General description	Orientation	NNE-SSSW
	Length (m)	15.75

Trench devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below. The trench had to be moved eastwards from its proposed location, as otherwise it would be crossing a paddock fence.					**Width (m)**	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
702	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
802	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 9		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
The trench had one undated pit filled with a charcoal-rich deposit and part of a possible pit/natural feature. Seven land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	1.65
	Avg. depth (m)	0.31

consisted of topsoil overlying thin subsoil and natural geology of clay below.						
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
902	Cut	0.82	0.09	Circular with a moderately steep side and a flat base, cutting layer 901 and 902, filled with 903	-	-
903	Fill	0.82	0.09	Friable, dark grey-back sandy clay with large amount of charcoal, occasional rounded and sub-rounded small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles; single fill of pit 902	-	-
904	Cut	0.4	0.18	Possibly a pit but more likely a natural feature. Elongated, extending northwards beyond Tr9, a moderately steep and steep side, a flattish base, quite asymmetric, filled with deposits 905 and 906	-	-
905	Fill	0.4	0.14	Friable, greyish brown, sandy clay with occasional pebbles, upper fill of feature 904	-	-
906	Fill	0.3	0.18	Friable, grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, lower/primary fill of feature 904	-	-
907	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 10		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
	Length (m)	30

Trench devoid of archaeology. Three land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Width (m)**	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1002	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1102	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 12		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Four land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	1.65
	Avg. depth (m)	0.31

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1202	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Three land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.	Length (m)	40
	Width (m)	1.65
	Avg. depth (m)	0.28

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1302	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.		

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench with one possible pit/natural feature. Seven land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. A rectangular modern pit was uncovered at the western part of the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below. The trench had to have its western end moved southwards, as its proposed location run into a hedgerow.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.65
	Avg. depth (m)	0.31

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1402	Cut	1.6	0.4	Possible pit/natural feature. Semi-circular – extending northwards beyond Tr14, a moderately steep side (asymmetric) and a slightly undulating base; filled with 1403 and 1404	-	-
1403	Fill	1.6	0.16	Friable, light brownish grey sandy clay with occasional quartzite pebbles, overlaying 1404, fill of feature 1402	-	-
1404	Fill	1.4	0.24	Friable, light greyish and yellow (mottled) slightly sandy clay with occasional pebbles, overlain by 1403, primary fill of feature 1402	-	-
1405	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Four land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below. The trench had to have its western end moved southwards, as it originally ran into small trees.					**Length (m)**	33
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-

1501	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1502	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
The trench contained one undated post-hole and one narrow ditch. Eight land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below. The trench's western end had to be moved slightly northwards from its planned location, to avoid a metal fence.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1602	Cut	0.44	0.2	Post-hole with a vertical side and a flat base, filled with 1603	-	-
1603	Fill	0.44	0.2	Friable, greyish brown sandy clay with very occasional quartzite pebbles, fill of post-hole 1602 – single fill, no post-pipe.	-	-
1604	Cut	0.56	0.12	Narrow ditch, Linear, aligned NW-SE, gently sloping sides, an irregular flattish and concave base, filled with 1605	-	-
1605	Fill	0.56	0.12	Friable, mottled and patched light grey and brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles and very occasional charcoal	-	-

				flecks, fill of linear feature 1604		
1606	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Five land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1702	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Seven land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-

1802	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Seven land-drains with ceramic pipes run diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	40
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1900	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
1902	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology, but it contained a modern backfill with building rubble material in a deep depression in the natural geology. One land-drain with ceramic pipes was cut into the exposed natural geology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying the thick backfill material, which overlay old topsoil above natural geology of clay below. The trench had to be moved eastwards from its proposed location, as otherwise it would run into a standing shed. It was also shortened, because of H&S concerns over uncovered asbestos.					**Length (m)**	8.5
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	1.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2000	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Very dark brown silty clay with frequent small-small/medium sized mostly rounded and sub-rounded quantize pebbles; deposit brought from	-	-

				elsewhere to the site; overlaying deposit 2001		
2001	Layer	-	1.2	Building rubble material (red frogged bricks, pieces of tarmac, large concrete slabs, pieces of asbestos) in almost loose, dark brownish black silty clay; overlain by 2000, overlaying 2002	-	-
2002	Layer	-	0.25	Old topsoil. Friable sandy clay with occasional pebbles, overlain by 2001, overlaying 2003		
2003	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay. Sloping down northwards	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology, but it contained a modern backfill with building rubble material in a depression in the natural geology. One land-drain with ceramic pipes was cut into the exposed natural geology. The soil sequence consisted of topsoil overlying the thick backfill material, which overlay old topsoil above the natural geology of clay in the eastern part of the trench; topsoil overlay a thin B-Horizon above natural geology in the western part. Four land-drains with ceramic pipes run across the trench. The trench could not be excavated to its proposed width because of H&S concerns over the uncovered pieces of asbestos.					**Length (m)**	29
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Very dark brown silty clay in the eastern part and sandy clay in the western part of the trench, with frequent small-small/medium sized mostly rounded and sub-rounded quantize pebbles; thicker in the eastern part, overlaying 2101 (in the eastern part) and 2102 (in the western part)	-	-
2101	Layer	-	1.2	Building rubble material (red frogged bricks, pieces	-	-

				of tarmac, concrete slabs, pieces of asbestos) in almost loose, dark brownish black silty clay; overlain by 2100, overlaying 2103		
2102	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Mix of material from layer 2100 and 2103 – relatively recent B-Horizon; only in the western part of the trench; overlain by 2102, overlaying 2103		
2103	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay. Sloping down northwards	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. One land-drain with ceramic pipes ran diagonally across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.65
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2200	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
2202	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 23		
General description	**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Four land-drains with ceramic pipes run across the trench. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology of clay below. The trench had to be moved slightly eastwards from its proposed location, because otherwise it would run into a paddock fence.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	1.65
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized quartzite pebbles	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Thin layer of old topsoil and B-Horizon (mix of topsoil in bioturbations and natural geology)	-	-
2302	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish red clay with patches of light brownish yellow clay and brownish light grey slightly sandy clay.	-	-

APPENDIX A ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

A.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook and Julia Meen

Introduction

A.1.1 A 20l sample was taken during the evaluation. The sample originated from an undated circular pit (902) in Trench 9, comprising a sandy clay loam with infrequent stony inclusions. The sample was taken for the retrieval of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts.

Method

A.1.2 The sample was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf-style machine. The flot was 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 flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification before scanning at a higher resolution (up to x40) to identify the nature of the charcoal assemblage.

Results

A.1.3 The sample produced a large flot of approximately 2450ml of which 250ml was scanned.

A.1.4 The scanned portion of the flot contains large quantities of charcoal with over 500 fragments larger than 4mm in size. The charcoal has a robust appearance and is generally clean, although some fragments do have external encrustation and a slight metallic appearance as a result of mineral precipitate indicating that the feature is likely to have been damp.

A.1.5 The flot is almost entirely composed of oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal, with the characteristic large vessels of the earlywood, compound rays and dendritic pattern of the latewood clearly visible even in unfractured pieces. Two pieces with an obviously different structure were extracted and examined at a higher magnification, along with a small selection of pieces provisionally identified as oak in order to verify the identification.

A.1.6 Species identifications on the selected 15 charcoal pieces were made by fracturing and examining each piece on the transverse, radial and tangential sections at up to x400 magnification using a Brunel SP-400BD metallurgical microscope. Identifications were made on the basis of diagnostic anatomical characteristics, using criteria in Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990). Nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

A.1.7 No charred seeds or grain were present within the scanned portion.

A.1.8 The dried residues were sorted by eye to 2mm and produced no finds other than a small quantity of natural stones which showed some evidence of being heated.

Discussion and Recommendations

A.1.9 The material in this sample is undoubtedly the result of a fire. The assemblage is strongly dominated by oak, with many items showing tyloses in the earlywood vessels that indicate the presence of heartwood. Heartwood develops only in mature trees of *c* 35 years or older. The two non-oak fragments were identified as birch (*Betula* sp.) and *Maloideae* type (a group of closely related taxa that cannot be distinguished using anatomical characteristics alone, which includes hawthorn, apple, wild service and rowan) and these fragments would be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

A.1.10 The condition of the charcoal in this sample indicates that charred material survives well on this site. If further excavation should take place, this material may be worth considering for further work if it is possible to date the feature.

A.1.11 If further excavation is carried out, it is recommended that sampling should take place, ideally from a range of datable features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg OA 2017 and HE 2011).

A.1.12 The flot warrants retention until all works on the site are complete, although at this stage it is not expected that further work on the material will be required.

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX C SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Sherwood Farm, Binley Woods, Warwickshire
Site code:	BWSF19
Grid Reference	SP 40036 77530
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	18th–26th March 2019
Area of Site	4.75ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and is to be deposited with Warwickshire Museum, under the following accession number: T/1720
Summary of Results:	In March 2019 Oxford Archaeology South undertook archaeological evaluation consisting of 23 trenches, for Pegasus Group on behalf of Lioncourt Strategic Land on Land at Sherwood Farm, Binley Woods, Warwickshire, as part of a proposed housing development. The results of the evaluation suggest the site has very limited potential to contain significant archaeological remains, an interpretation supported by the results of a previously completed geophysical survey. The evaluation revealed a few undated features, including a charcoal pit, a narrow ditch, a post-hole, and two possible pits.

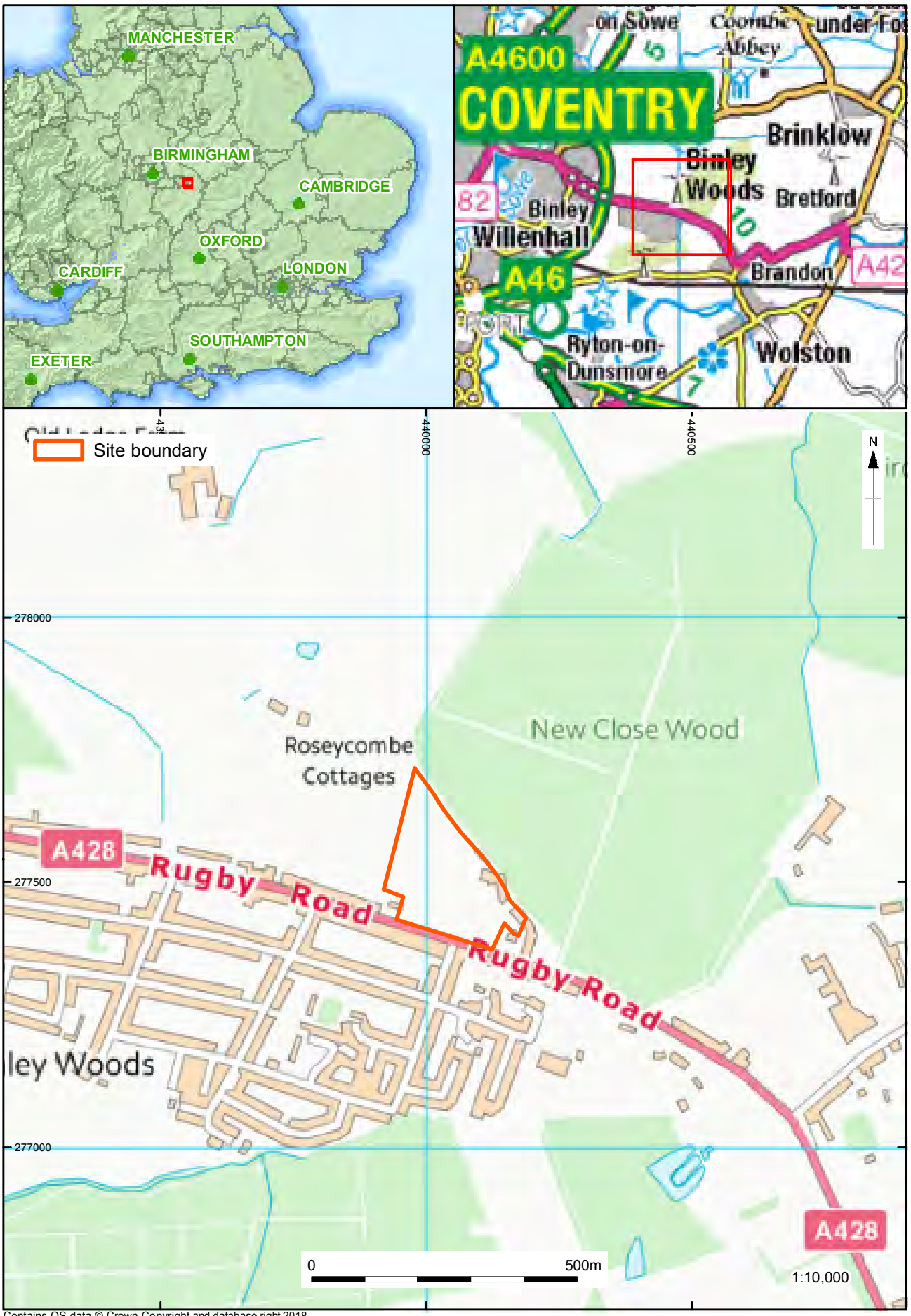

Figure 1: Site location

X:\b\Binley Woods Sherwood Farm\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\BWSFEV_figure2_(Updated).mxd**01/05/2019

Figure 2 - Trench layout and geophysical survey results

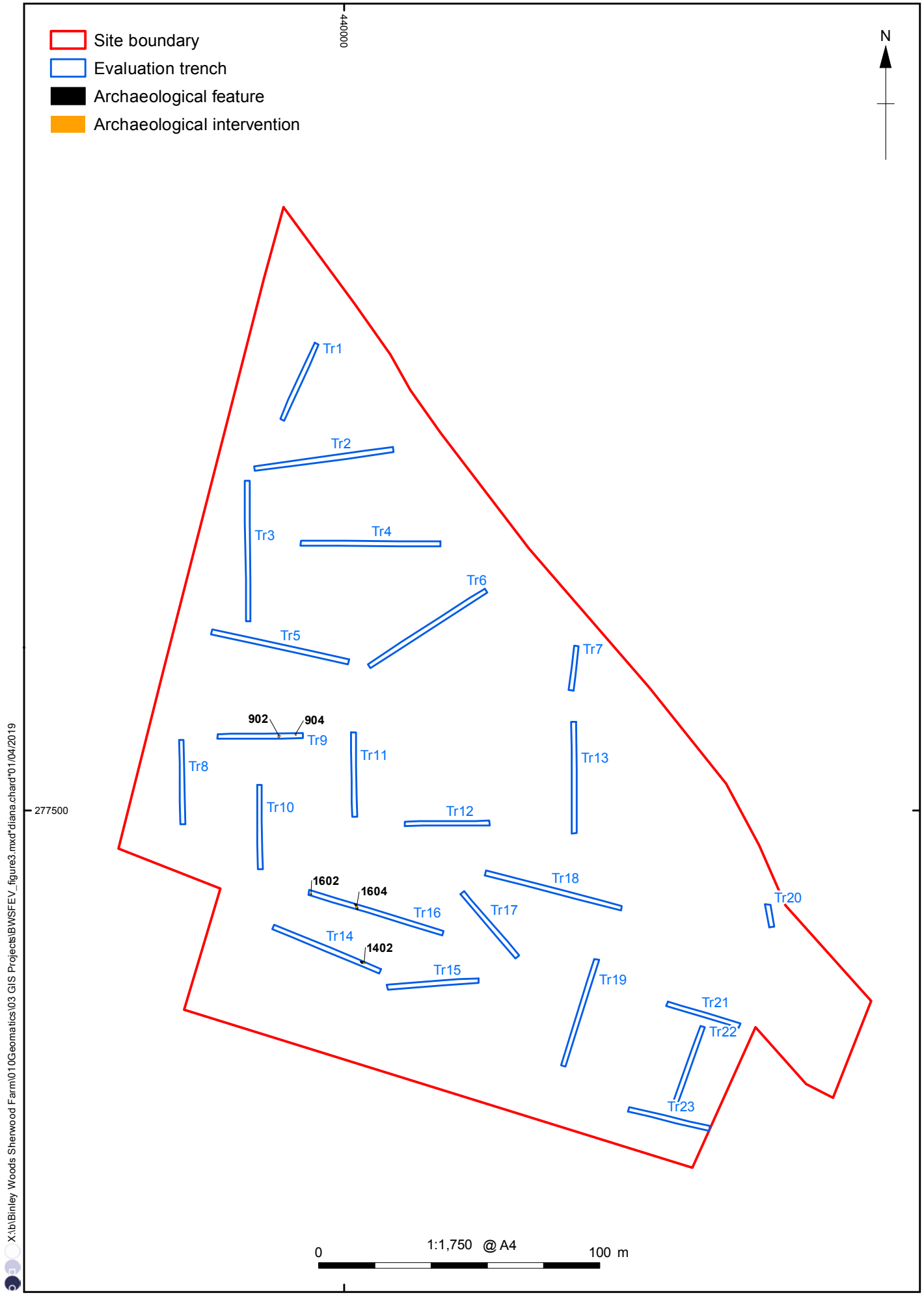

Figure 3 - Archaeological features and trenching results

X:\b\Binley Woods Sherwood Farm\010Geomatics\02 CAD\BWSFEV Sherwood Farm 2019-05-16.dwg(A4 Fig.4)*BWSF19*BWSFEV*Sherwood Farm, Binley Woods*conan.parsons* 16 May 2019

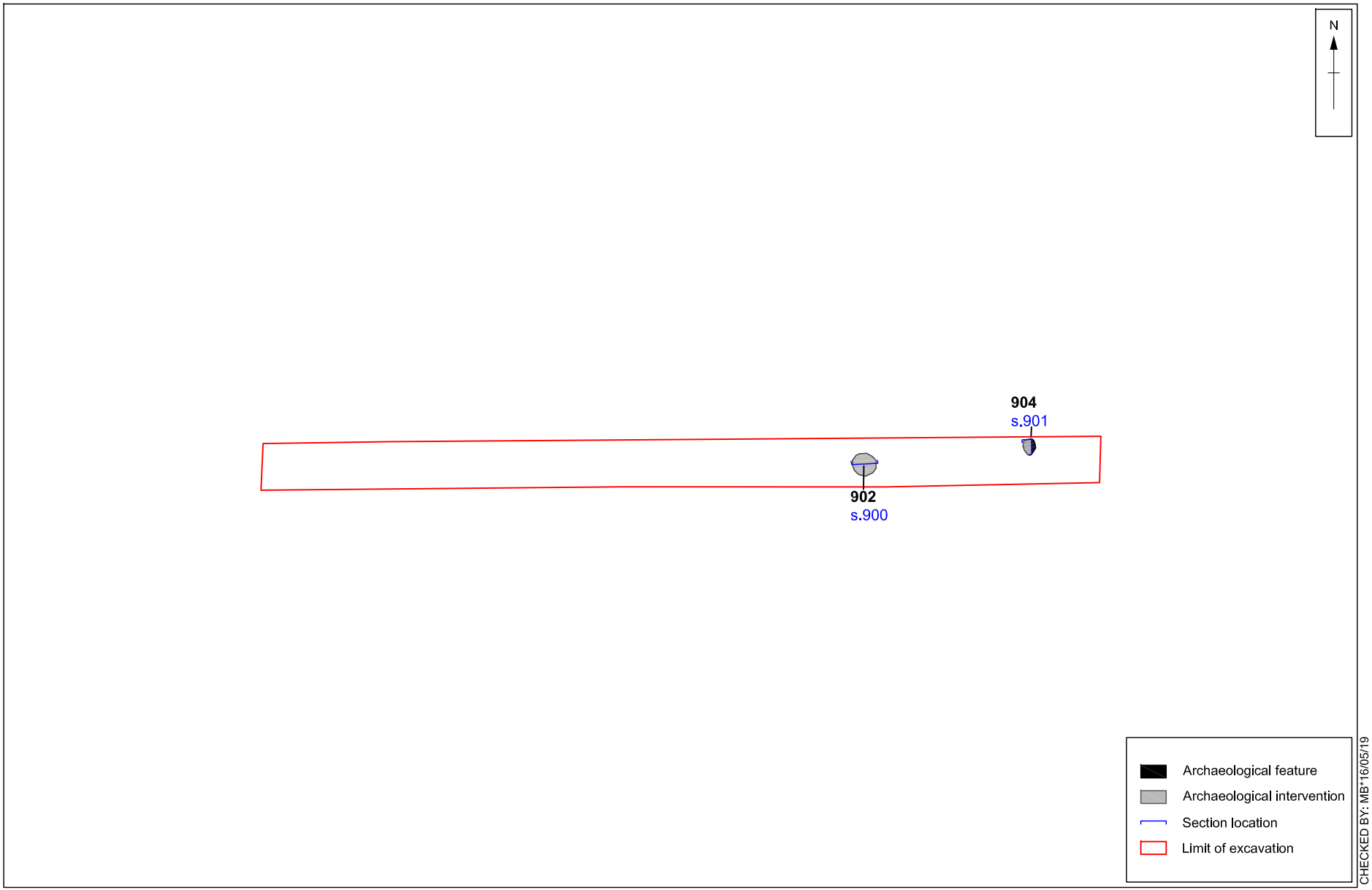

Figure 4: Trench 9

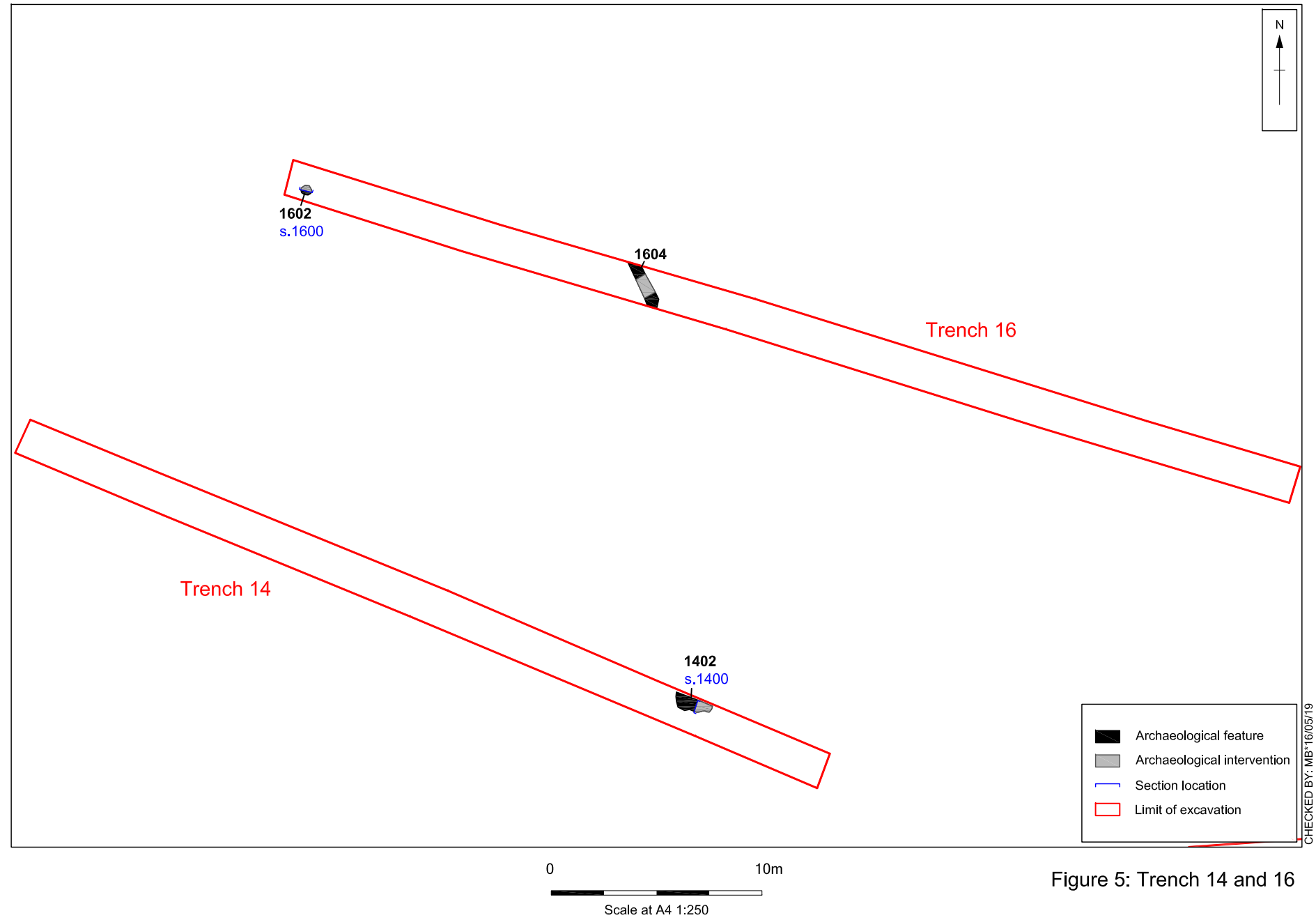

Figure 5: Trench 14 and 16

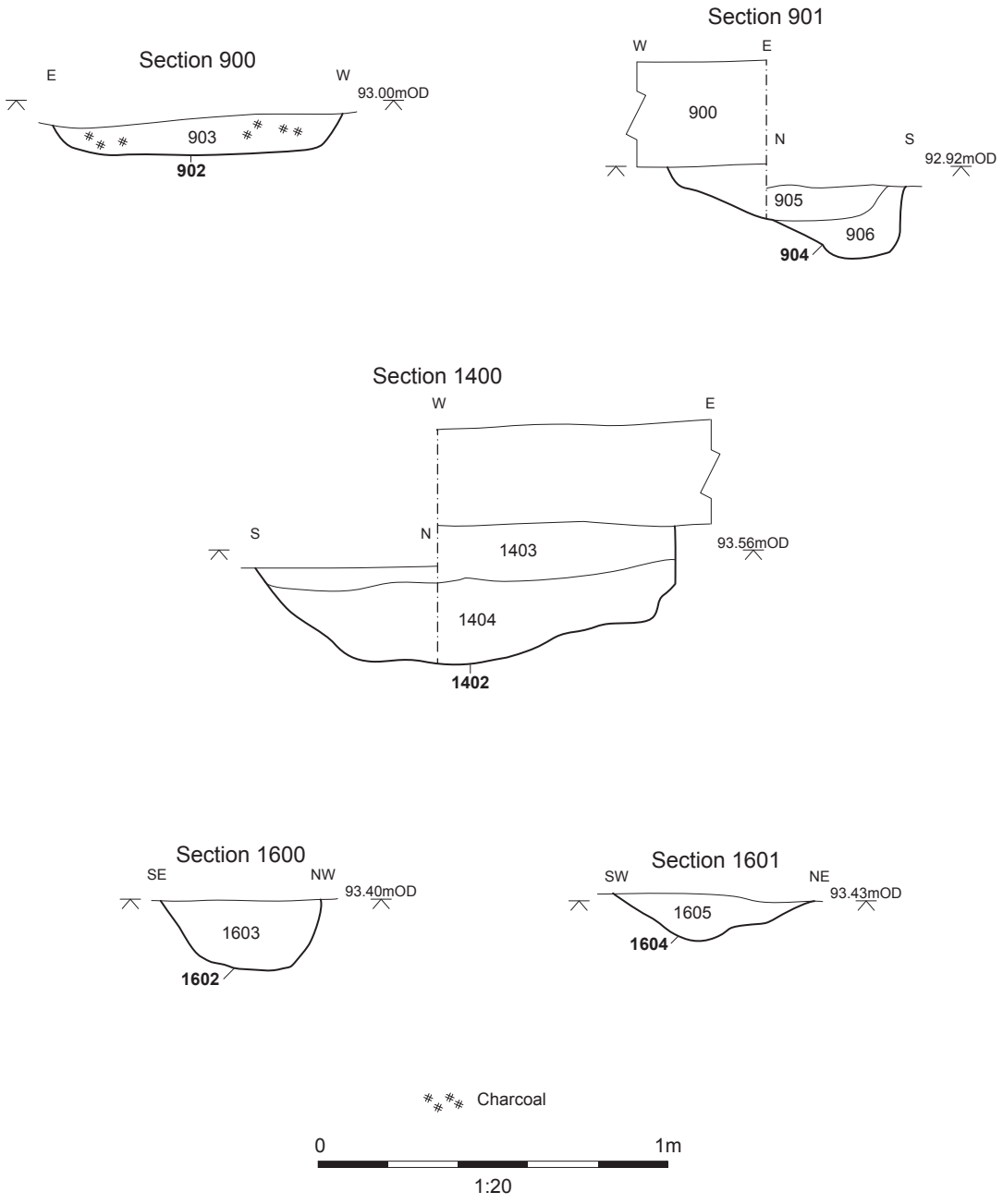

Figure 6: Sections 900, 901, 1400, 1600 and 1601

Plate 1: Trench 2, view to east

Plate 2: Trench 2, view to north

Plate 3: Trench 7, view to north

Plate 4: Trench 8, view to north

Plate 5: Trench 10, view to north

Plate 6: Trench 11, view to south

Plate 7: Trench 11, view to east

Plate 8: Trench 17, view to east

Plate 9: Trench 18, view to NNE

Plate 10: Trench 19, view to ESE

Plate 11: Pit 902, view to south

Plate 12: Pit 904, view to east

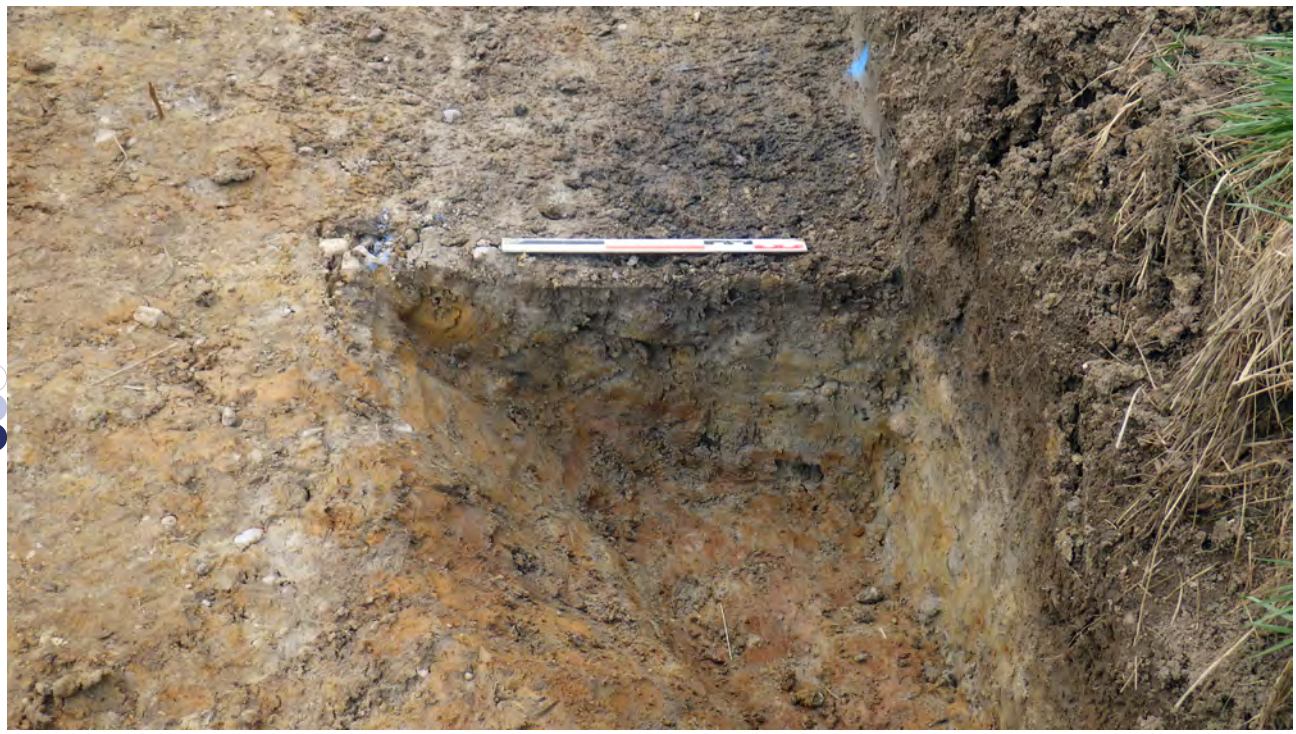

Plate 13: Pit 1402, view to west

Plate 14: Pit 1602, view to south-west

Plate 15: Ditch 1604, view to north-west

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