

Land at Wingfield Bank
Northfleet
Gravesend
Kent



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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SUMMARY

In July 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on Land at Wingfield Bank, Northfleet, Kent (NGR TQ 6222 7257) on behalf of Chinacorp Seven Ltd. The work was in respect of a planning application for a non-food retail unit and garden centre (Ref: GR/2004/0270 and Appeal Ref: APP/K2230/A/06/2024882).

The evaluation revealed evidence of a field system dating to the 1st or 2nd century AD. Undated enclosure boundaries were also revealed, which were on a similar alignment to known 12th-century ditches to the south of the site. Undated postholed structures, or fencelines were also revealed that may have been contemporary with the medieval ditches. A post-medieval field boundary was also recorded. Testpits were excavated at the ends of the evaluation trenches, to investigate the Palaeolithic potential of the site. The revealed sediments were of an unknown date and no finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In July 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land at Wingfield Bank, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent (NGR TQ 6222 7257). The work was on behalf of Chinacorp Seven Ltd, in respect of a planning application for a non-food retail unit, including a garden centre (Ref: GR/2004/0270 and Appeal Ref: APP/K2230/A/06/2024882). A brief (HCG\KCC 2007), outlining the archaeological requirements of the work, was set by Wendy Rogers Kent County Council Archaeologist (KCC), in accordance with PPG16 and Condition 6 of the planning consent. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by OA (OA 2007), outlining how the requirements of the brief would be met.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development site lies *c* 2 km south of the core of Northfleet, and is bounded by an access road to the west, Springhead Road to the east, an electricity sub-station to the south and a superstore (Sainsbury's) to the north. The site is located on the southwestern edge of a headland overlooking the Ebbsfleet Valley to the west, and the site of the Roman town of Springhead to the southwest.
- 1.1.3 The site lies on Cretaceous Upper chalk, with overlying caps of Palaeocene Thanet Beds. The drift geology comprises Pleistocene Head Deposits (sand, chalky clay and flinty gravel). The proposed site is *c* 1.3 ha in size and lies at *c* 33 m OD, and comprised waste land.

1.2 Palaeolithic background

Prehistoric

- 1.2.1 The Pleistocene fluvial deposits preserved between Dartford Heath and Northfleet are rich in significant Palaeolithic archaeological remains. Two lower Palaeolithic hand axes were found at St Ebbe's Church, and prehistoric postholes were revealed during excavations to the west of the proposed site. The BGS records some 'plateau gravels' to the north west which contained two palaeolithic flint flakes. 'Coarse flinty gravel' was recorded during the sub-station excavations to the south, which may be associated with the 'plateau gravels.'
- 1.2.2 Sequences of sediments containing both archaeological remains and palaeoenvironmental material have long been known in the Swanscombe/Northfleet area (e.g. see Wenban-Smith, 1995; Conway *et al.*, 1996; Wenban-Smith and Bridgland, 2001; Wenban-Smith *et al.*, 2006). Traditionally those deposits at higher elevations (20-40 m OD) have been correlated with an interglacial thought to be the Hoxnian, which has been associated with both Clactonian and Acheulian archaeological remains, while those deposits at lower elevations (5-15 m OD) have been equated with a later interglacial (MIS 7). Today it is clear that in the Northfleet area (Wenban-Smith and Bates, in prep) the story is considerably more complicated, with deposits spanning at least 3 interglacials now known to be present.
- 1.2.3 Of particular relevance to the Wingfield Bank site are deposits preserved on the opposite bank of the Ebbsfleet at Southfleet Road, and deposits to the north between Wingfield Bank and the sewage works. Deposits west of the Ebbsfleet have recently been described by Wenban-Smith *et al.* (2006) at Southfleet Road, where a succession of fluvial and lacustrine sediments between 24 m and 29 m OD contain evidence for interglacial conditions. Preserved within the sequence were the remains of a straight-tusked elephant (*Palaeoloxodon antiquus*) and associated Clactonian artefacts. Northwards towards the sewage works Wenban-Smith (pers. comm. 2007) has described fluvial gravels at elevations around 5-15 m OD.

1.3 Later archaeological background

General

- 1.3.1 In 1999 Oxford Archaeological Unit (Now OA) undertook an excavation of the site of the electricity sub-station, which lies immediately to the south of the proposed development site. The following information comprises a summary of the archaeological and historical background, found in the publication of the sub-station excavation results (Hardy and Bell 2001), and the information contained in the specification (HCG\KCC 2007).

Roman

- 1.3.2 The site lies north and east of Springhead (*Vagniacae*), a small Roman town sited along the Roman road of Watling Street. Recent archaeological work suggests Roman activity was focused on this settlement, with limited Roman occupation remains in the immediately surrounding area. Extensive cemeteries, including that at Pepperhill, are known to the south of Springhead.

Saxon

- 1.3.3 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered at Northfleet in the mid-19th century, the cemetery included both inhumations and cremations. A small group of similarly dated burials have been found 300 m west of the site, during the Channel Tunnel Rail Link excavations.

Medieval

- 1.3.4 OA located medieval remains on the adjacent sub-station site (Hardy and Bell 2001), which were possibly associated with the medieval settlement of Wingfield Bank (*Wenifalle*). The remains included evidence for timber framed buildings and two possible cellar pits.
- 1.3.5 Watling Street continued in use into the medieval period, being the main route from London to Canterbury.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.6 The Tithe Map locates the post medieval settlement of Wingfield Bank just to the north of the site of interest. The remains of the Chatham & Dover Railway Line, first noted on the 2nd Edition OS map, lie on the western boundary.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1 General

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To determine what level of further archaeological mitigation, if any, is required.

2.2 Site specific aims:

- To assess the nature and significance of any Pleistocene deposits, and Palaeolithic remains through trial pitting.
- To establish the distribution and depth across the site of the Pleistocene deposits.

- To identify the northern extent of the medieval settlement, which lies to the south of the site.
- To clarify the presence and character of any medieval activity.

2.3 Specific Palaeolithic aims:

- To investigate for the presence of any Pleistocene deposits and Palaeolithic remains.
- To establish their nature and distribution, if present.
- To assess their significance, if present.
- Determine the presence and potential of lithic artefact and vertebrate remains.
- Determine the presence and potential of other biological/palaeo-environmental remains.
- Determine the presence of, or potential for, undisturbed primary context Palaeolithic occupation surfaces.
- Develop an understanding of the sequence, sedimentological character and 3-dimensional geometry of any Pleistocene deposits.
- Interpret the mode of formation of any Pleistocene deposits.
- Interpret the depositional and post-depositional history of any artefactual or biological remains.
- Establish chrono-stratigraphic correlations of any Pleistocene deposits with regional sequences and the national framework.
- Assess in local, regional and national terms, the significance of any Pleistocene deposits and Palaeolithic remains encountered, and their potential to fulfil current research objectives, including their potential for dating.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of seven trenches (5% of the proposed development area), six measuring 30 m by *c* 2 m, and one measuring 20 m by *c* 2 m (Trench 6 was shortened to avoid blocking the main site access). Four additional trenches will be excavated in the west of the site later this year. The trenches were located to target any known features revealed within the adjacent sub-station excavation site (Fig. 1). Following discussions with Wendy Rogers (KCC), Trenches 5 and 6 were extended to clarify the nature of the revealed archaeological features.

3.1.2 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavation ceased at the top of the highest archaeological horizon, or natural geology, whichever was reached sooner.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Palaeolithic testpitting

3.3.1 Five deep sondages (Appendix 5) were excavated at the ends of Trenches 1-5 to address questions regarding the nature of the Palaeolithic archaeology of the site (Figs 2, 3 and 5). Each sondage was dug by a JCB with a *c* 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Each sondage was one bucket-width wide, approximately 3 m long and up to *c* 3 m deep. Excavation ceased at a shallower depth if Pleistocene deposits were not present, and when pre-Quaternary deposits were reached.

3.3.2 Each sondage was taken down in horizontal spits of 0.1 m or 0.2 m, respecting the interface between sedimentary units when unit changes were encountered. The work was done under the supervision of Dr Martin Bates (University of Wales) a recognised specialist in Palaeolithic archaeological excavation with experience of recording and interpreting Pleistocene sediments. The sequence of sedimentary units was recorded as excavation progressed following standard descriptive practices. Sondages were entered at the maximum safe depth to record the upper stratigraphy. After excavation progressed beyond this depth, recording took place without entering the trench.

3.3.3 Spit-samples of at least 150 litres were set aside at regular intervals as excavation progressed through Pleistocene sands/gravels. Each sample was numbered, its position in the stratigraphic sequence recorded, and 100 litres from each sample was dry-sieved on site through a 10 mm mesh for recovery of lithic artefacts and faunal remains.

3.3.4 No sediments suitable for sampling for palaeo-environmental remains or OSL dating were encountered.

3.3.5 A representative section from each sondage was photographed in colour (digital) once excavation reached its full depth, and at appropriate stages in the course of excavation when features of interest were revealed.

- 3.3.6 Each sondage was dug in turn, and backfilled level with the pre-existing ground surface as soon as possible following excavation and the completion of recording. No sondages were left open untended or overnight.
- 3.3.7 Full details of the recorded sediments, assigned context numbers and depths of units are presented in Appendix 5. Details of spits sampled for sieving for artefacts are also presented. A brief interpretation of the sequences are shown for each test pit.
- 3.3.8 In total 16 spits were sieved for artefacts. One hundred litres were sieved from each spit equating to 1600 litres of sediments or 1.6 tonnes.

3.4 **Finds**

- 3.4.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.5 **Palaeo-environmental evidence**

- 3.5.1 No deposits of environmental significance were encountered. The deposits predominantly comprised homogenous brown sily clay ditch fills, which on initial assessment appeared to be devoid of organic matter or charred plant remains.

3.6 **Presentation of results**

- 3.6.1 Section 5 comprises a detailed description of the archaeological deposits within each trench, including individual context descriptions, with archaeological features described from earliest to latest. General context information is summarised in the inventory (Appendix 1).

4 **RESULTS: GENERAL**

4.1 **Soils and ground conditions**

- 4.1.1 The site was located on Pleistocene Head Deposits (sand, chalky clay and flinty gravel), which were overlain by a probable cultivation soil. The archaeological features were filled with material derived from these deposits.

4.2 **Distribution of archaeological deposits**

- 4.2.1 Roman and possibly medieval or post-medieval boundary ditches were revealed across the site, and undated postholes were revealed in Trenches 5 and 7. The Roman ditches were well dated, however, no medieval pottery was recovered from the site. The ditches were generally phased on the basis of their alignment.
- 4.2.2 The archaeological deposits were overlain by a sandy clay buried cultivation soil (1000, 2001, 3002, 4002, 5001, 6002 and 7002) and the modern topsoil (1001, 2000, 3001, 4001, 5000, 6001 and 7001).

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4)

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-south and natural clayey sand (1002) was revealed at *c* 32 m OD, 0.35 m below ground level (BGL). A WNW-ESE aligned ditch (1006) was revealed in the centre of the trench, measuring 1.8 m wide and 0.6 m deep. It was filled by clayey sands (1005 and 1007) that contained Romano-British ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone. To the south of ditch 1006 a NE-SW aligned gully terminus (1004) was revealed, measuring 0.53 m wide and filled by an orange grey clayey sand. Its alignment and fill type were similar to other Roman features and the gully was not excavated.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4)

- 5.1.2 Trench 2 was aligned west-east and natural sandy clay (2002) was revealed at *c* 31.35 m OD (0.3 m BGL). A NE-SW aligned ditch (2006) was revealed in the centre of the trench, measuring 2 m wide and 0.45 m deep. It was filled by slumped natural (2005) on the western side, possibly indicating the presence of a bank. This was overlain by dumps of silty and sandy clay (2003 and 2004) that contained CBM dating from the 14th to 16th centuries, and residual Roman pottery.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4)

- 5.1.3 Trench 3 was aligned north-south and natural gravelly clay (3003) was revealed at 31.3 m OD (0.3 m BGL). A WNW-ESE aligned ditch (3004) was revealed in the north of the trench, measuring 1 m wide and 0.3 m deep. It was filled by slumped clayey-sand (3012) on its northern edge, possibly indicating the location of a bank, below a dump of silty clay (3005) that contained Romano-British CBM.

Trench 4 (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.1.4 Trench 4 was aligned NE-SW and natural gravelly clay (4003) was revealed at 31.6 m OD (0.25 m BGL). A meandering, west-east aligned root hole, or possibly a gully, (4004) was revealed in the southern end of the trench, measuring 0.25 m wide and 0.1 m deep. It was filled by an undated gravelly silt (4005), if the feature was a gully its alignment suggested a medieval date.

Trench 5 (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.1.5 Trench 5 was aligned NW-SE and natural gravelly clay (5003) was revealed at 31.15 m OD (0.35 m BGL). An irregular tree root hole (5011) filled by a light sandy clay (5010) was revealed in the northern part of the trench. The root hole was cut by a NE-SW aligned ditch (5009), measuring 2 m wide and 0.25 m deep. It was filled by silty and sandy clays (5002 and 5008), fill 5002 contained three sherds of pottery dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD.

- 5.1.6 In the south of the trench a north-south aligned ditch (5013) was revealed, measuring 2 m wide and 0.6 m deep. It was filled by a clayey sand (5014) below a chalk rich sandy silt (5012). No finds were recovered, although the alignment of the ditch indicated a medieval date. Two postholes (5005 and 507) were revealed on either side of the ditch, measuring 0.3 m wide and up to 0.15 m deep. They were filled with light sandy clays (5004 and 5006).

Trench 6 (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.1.7 Trench 6 was aligned west-east and natural gravely clay (6003) was revealed at 30.5 m OD (0.4 m BGL). A WNW-ESE aligned ditch was revealed at the eastern end of the trench, measuring 3 m wide and 0.8 m deep. It was filled with silty and sandy clay (6008 and 6009) that contained 11 sherds of pottery dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, and Romano-British CBM. The ditch had an unclear relationship with ditch 6004 to the east, and it was possible that they formed part of the same feature. Ditch 6004 was over 1 m wide and 0.15 m deep, and was similar in profile to the upper part of ditch 6007, and was also similarly filled (6005). The ditch fills were overlain by a silty clay cultivation soil (6010), the base of which (6006) contained Romano-British CBM.

Trench 7 (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.1.8 Trench 7 was aligned north-south and natural gravely clay (7003) was revealed at 29.9 m OD (0.3 m BGL). A NW-SE aligned ditch terminus (7008) was revealed in the north of the trench, measuring 1 m wide and 0.1 m deep. It was filled with a sandy clay and was perpendicular to ditch 7004 to the south. Ditch 7004 measured 0.9 m wide, 0.25 m deep and was filled with a silt clay that contained fragments of Romano-British CBM.
- 5.1.9 A north-south aligned ditch (7006) was revealed in the south of the trench, measuring over 0.9 m wide and over 0.3 m deep. It was filled with a silt clay (7007) that was cut by a posthole (7010) on the western side of the ditch. The alignment of the ditch indicated a medieval date. The posthole (7010) was 0.5 m wide, 0.25 m deep and filled with sandy clay (7011), no dating evidence was recovered.

5.2 Palaeolithic testpits

- 5.2.1 The sediments revealed during the field project can be broken down into three broad groups of sediments consisting of:
- A complex of recent topsoil/subsoil deposits.
 - Gravels and sands of Pleistocene age.
 - Sands correlated with the Tertiary Thanet Sand.
- 5.2.2 No comment is made here regarding the nature of the topsoil/subsoil sequences (see above). Bedrock Thanet Sand was present in the base of all trenches.
- 5.2.3 Pleistocene gravels were located in 4 of the 5 sondages excavated. Only in Trench 1 (Appendix 5) was gravel absent. Here the surface of the Thanet Sand lay at 32.84 m

OD. Elsewhere the gravel and sand varied in thickness but nowhere was the Pleistocene sediments more than 0.9 m thick. The base of the gravels ranged in elevation from 31.64 m OD. to 30.94 m OD (Fig. 7).

- 5.2.4 The gravels exhibited only very limited bedding, and no indication in any of the sondages suggested that these gravels contained evidence for deposition by moving water. In fact the gravels appeared to represent a spread of gravels that in places were likely to be contorted into the underlying Tertiary bedrock through cold climate cryoturbation processes. Supporting evidence for such an interpretation comes from the orientation of some clasts within the recorded units.
- 5.2.5 The gravels that were present consisted largely of very well rounded flint clasts, and only very limited numbers of angular/sub-angular clasts (that had been rolled) were encountered. This suggests that nearly all the flint was derived from older Tertiary sediments and that little or no flint was derived directly from the Chalk.
- 5.2.6 Therefore, it is likely that the gravels preserved here represent sediments that, while they may have originally arrived at the site through fluvial activity, now show no evidence for such fluvial transport. Likely processes impacting on the sediments include cold climate cryoturbation (freeze/thaw, frost heave) mixing gravels.
- 5.2.7 No sediments were encountered that were suitable for OSL dating. No sediments suitable for sampling for contained palaeoenvironmental material were encountered.
- 5.2.8 The age of the sediments cannot be accurately assessed however, comparison with the elevations of the deposits at the nearby sites at Southfleet Road (Wenban-Smith *et al.*, 2006) and Swanscombe, Barnfield Pit (Conway *et al.*, 1996), indicate that the gravels at Wingfield Bank are considerably higher than those at Southfleet Road and only overlap with the highest sediments at Barnfield Pit. The deposits here at Wingfield Bank are therefore likely to be older than those at Southfleet Road. Additionally it should be noted that the Wingfield Bank deposits are at higher elevations than the gravels to the north discovered by Wenban-Smith.

5.3 Finds

Roman Pottery (Edward Biddulph - OA)

- 5.3.1 A total of 19 sherds of pottery weighing 688 g was recovered. With the exception of a possible Verulamium-region amphora (context 2003), all the pottery had been manufactured in the North Kent area. This included, in context 5002, fine reduced ware that was produced soon after AD 43, and, in contexts 2003, 5002 and 6009, fine oxidised ware, whose production commenced around AD 70. Both fabrics continued in use until the mid 3rd century. A sandy grey ware (Thameside grey ware), seen in contexts 6006 and 6009, was also of local manufacture. Production of local coarse grey wares spanned the entire Roman period, though the pieces present here are consistent with a 1st or 2nd century date.

- 5.3.2 Overall, the assemblage would appear to best fit a late 1st and 2nd century date range. The material is indicative of settlement near or on the evaluation site, which is set within a landscape of Roman activity, investigated most notably at the Roman town at Springhead, the villa at Northfleet, and the large cemetery at Pepper Hill.

Ceramic Building Material (Cynthia Poole - OA)

- 5.3.3 A total of 58 fragments (2778 g) of ceramic building material was recovered from eight contexts across six of the evaluation trenches. The assemblage divides into a concentration of medieval - post-medieval material from Trench 2 and Roman from all the remaining trenches (1, 3, 4, 6, 7).
- 5.3.4 The Roman tile fabrics can all be equated with types identified at Northfleet Roman Villa (Poole in prep a.). The Fabric B group was probably being produced fairly locally, whilst fabric E is a distinctive gritty fabric that was imported from an unknown source. It is likely that the tile was recycled material, obtained from one of the local higher status settlements such as Northfleet Villa, when buildings were being refurbished.
- 5.3.5 The medieval and post-medieval tile consisted entirely of roof tile, apart from some small shattered unidentifiable fragments. Some of the roofing could be positively identified as peg tile. Some of the roof tile was quite crudely made and had some organic impressions on the underside. It is possibly of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

Slag

- 5.3.6 Two fragments of slag weighing 4 grams were recovered from Roman ditch fill 7005.

Animal bones by (Lena Strid - OA)

- 5.3.7 A total of 20 animal bones were recovered, which included sheep/goat, pig and horse. The assemblage is too small to provide any meaningful data.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability

- 6.1.1 It is possible that some of the Roman ditches, dated solely on their CBM assemblages, were actually medieval in date. At the sub-station excavation site, to the south, residual Roman CBM was recovered from the medieval ditches. However, the alignment of the ditches revealed within the evaluation generally differed to that of the ditches seen in the sub-station excavation, and a Roman date appears more likely. Although residual finds were recovered from a post-medieval ditch, there did not appear to be any instances of intrusive finds in earlier features.

6.2 Conclusions

- 6.2.1 Somewhat surprisingly, considering the results of the 1999 electricity sub-station excavation to the south of the site, the evaluation primarily revealed evidence for a 1st or 2nd century AD enclosure system. The ditches were aligned NW-SE or NE-SW, and an isolated NW-SE aligned ditch was also revealed during the 1999 excavation to the south. This ditch was assigned a medieval date but in hindsight may have formed the southern limits of the Roman field system.
- 6.2.2 The finds assemblage indicates that any associated settlement was relatively modest in status, the buildings were roofed with locally made tiles and recycled material, and the pottery assemblage comprised mostly local wares. The relatively large CBM assemblage indicates that structures may have existed within close proximity of the site. Any buildings would have formed a small rural farmstead, possibly serving Springhead and/or associated with the villa at Northfleet.
- 6.2.3 Undated NNE-SSW aligned ditches were revealed in Trenches 5 and 7, which appeared to form a continuation of the central 12th-century boundary ditch seen in the sub-station excavation (Fig. 2). The WNW-ESE aligned root hole or gully, revealed in Trench 4, may have represented a similarly dated gully or hedgerow that divided two enclosures. It is also possible that the ditches were post-medieval in date. An early post-medieval ditch was revealed in Trench 2, however its alignment differed slightly from the ditches seen in the sub-station excavation and elsewhere in the evaluation.
- 6.2.4 The undated postholes revealed in Trenches 5 and 7 may form part of fence lines or structures. The Trench 5 postholes possibly form part of an ancillary structure associated with the central early medieval postholed structure seen during the excavation to the south. However, the lack of associated medieval dating evidence would suggest that they would not have formed part of dwellings or workshops.

6.3 Palaeolithic testpits

- 6.3.1 The main Pleistocene deposits seen were gravels (periglacial origin) probably directly reworked from Tertiary sediments with little or no input of flint direct from Chalk sources. No preserved palaeo-landsurfaces, and no preservation of fine-grained Pleistocene sediments that might have preserved any evidence of on-the-spot tool manufacture were encountered in the sondages.
- 6.3.2 Despite sieving 16 spits (1.6 tonnes of sediment) no artefacts were recovered. There is therefore no, or at best extremely low, potential for the preservation of undisturbed Palaeolithic remains at the site.
- 6.3.3 The lack of Palaeolithic remains, the fact that the sediments present are of an unknown time period (and consequently that any artefacts found would be of very

uncertain date) mean that the part of the site investigated by test pits is of very low significance, and there is no need for further investigation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comments	Finds	Date
1	1000	Layer		0.2	Buried cultivation layer		
	1001	Layer		0.1	Topsoil		
	1002	Layer			Natural		
	1003	Fill			Fill of gully 1004		
	1004	Cut			Gully		
	1005	Fill		0.4	Fill of ditch 1006	CBM/bone	RB
	1006	Cut	1.8	0.6	Ditch		RB
2	1007	Fill		0.2	Fill of ditch 1006	bone	
	2000	Layer		0.1	Topsoil		
	2001	Layer		0.2	Buried cultivation layer		
	2002	Layer			Natural		
	2003	Fill		0.3	Fill of ditch 2006	pot/CBM	PM
	2004	Fill		0.1	Fill of ditch 2006		
	2005	Fill		0.2	Fill of ditch 2006		
3	2006	Cut	2	0.45	Ditch		PM
	3001	Layer		0.1	Topsoil		
	3002	Layer		0.15	Buried cultivation layer		
	3003	Layer			Natural		
	3004	Cut	1	0.3	Ditch		RB
	3005	Fill		0.3	Fill of ditch 3004	CBM	RB
	3006	Layer			Natural		
4	3007	Layer			Natural		
	3008	Layer			Natural		
	3009	Layer			Natural		
	3010	Layer			Natural		
	3011	Layer			Natural		
	3012	Fill		0.3	Fill of ditch 3004		
	4001	Layer		0.1	Topsoil		
5	4002	Layer		0.15	Buried cultivation layer	CBM	
	4003	Layer			Natural		
	4004	Cut	0.25	0.1	Gully?		
	4005	Fill		0.1	Fill of gully?		
	4006	Layer			Natural		
	4007	Layer			Natural		
	4008	Layer			Natural		
5	4009	Layer			Natural		
	5000	Layer		0.15	Topsoil		
	5001	Layer		0.15	Buried cultivation layer		
	5002	Fill		0.15	Fill of ditch 5009	pot	RB
	5003	Layer			Natural		
	5004	Fill		0.1	Fill of posthole 5005		
	5005	Cut	0.3	0.1	Posthole		
5	5006	Fill		0.15	Fill of posthole 5007		
	5007	Cut	0.3	0.15	Posthole		
	5008	Fill		0.15	Fill of ditch 5009		
	5009	Cut	2	0.25	Ditch		RB
	5010	Fill		0.25	Root hole fill		
	5011	Cut	1.2	0.25	Root hole		

Trench	Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comments	Finds	Date
	5012	Fill		0.3	Fill of ditch 5013		
	5013	Cut	2	0.6	Ditch		
	5014	Fill		0.3	Fill of ditch 5013		
	5015	Void			Void		
	5016	Layer			Natural		
	5017	Layer			Natural		
6	6001	Layer		0.1	Topsoil		
	6002	Layer		0.15	Buried cultivation layer		
	6003	Layer			Natural		
	6004	Cut	>1	0.2	Ditch		
	6005	Fill		0.2	Fill of ditch 6004		
	6006	Layer		0.12	Spread	pot/CBM	RB
	6007	Cut	3	0.8	Ditch		RB
	6008	Fill		0.55	Fill of ditch 6007		
	6009	Fill		0.15	Fill of ditch 6007	pot/CBM	RB
	6010	Layer		0.1	Buried cultivation layer		
7	7001	Layer		0.1	Topsoil		
	7002	Layer		0.2	Buried cultivation layer		
	7003	Layer			Natural		
	7004	Cut	0.9	0.2	Ditch		
	7005	Fill		0.2	Fill of ditch 7004	CBM/slag	RB
	7006	Cut	>1	>0.3	Ditch		
	7007	Fill		>0.3	Fill of ditch 7006		
	7008	Cut	1	0.1	Gully		
	7009	Fill		0.1	Fill of gully 7008		
	7010	Cut	0.5	0.2	Posthole		
	7011	Fill		0.2	Fill of posthole 710		

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY

By Edward Biddulph

A total of 19 sherds weighing 688 g was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was sorted by context into fabric-groups, which were quantified by sherd count and weight in grammes.

With the exception of the possible Verulamium-region amphora, all the pottery had been manufactured in the North Kent area. This included, in context 5002, fine reduced ware, which was produced soon after AD 43, and, in contexts 2003, 5002 and 6009, fine oxidised ware, whose production commenced around AD 70. Both fabrics continued in use until the mid 3rd century. A sandy grey ware (Thameside grey ware), seen in contexts 6006 and 6009, was also of local manufacture. Production of local coarse grey wares spanned the entire Roman period, though the pieces present here are consistent with a 1st or 2nd century date.

A fragment of an amphora was recovered from context 2003. The fabric corresponds closely to Verulamium-region white ware – made in the Brockley Hill area during the late 1st or early 2nd century (Castle 1978) – but the form, represented by part of the handle and neck, is unlike the Dressel 2-4-type amphora typically recorded in the fabric. However, the fabric was available to a lesser extent as Peacock & Williams form 60, a round-bodied amphora. If identified as such, a 2nd century date may be more appropriate.

Overall, the assemblage would appear to best fit a late 1st and 2nd century date range. The material is indicative of settlement near or on the evaluation site, which is set within a landscape of Roman activity, investigated most notably at the Roman town at Springhead, the villa at Northfleet, and the large cemetery at Pepper Hill.

Table A2.1 Pottery by context

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
2003	2	598	?Verulamium-region amphora	70-120
	1	1	North Kent (Upchurch) oxidised ware	
5002	2	6	North Kent (Upchurch) fine reduced ware	70-270
	1	1	North Kent (Upchurch) oxidised ware	
6006	1	5	Thameside grey ware	43-410
	1	3	Miscellaneous oxidised ware	
6009	10	73	Thameside grey ware (jar)	70-200
	1	1	North Kent (Upchurch) oxidised ware	
TOTAL	19	688		

APPENDIX 3 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Cynthia Poole

The assemblage of ceramic building material, amounting to 58 fragments weighing 2778 g, was recovered from eight contexts across six of the evaluation trenches. The assemblage divides into a concentration of medieval - post-medieval material from Trench 2 and Roman from all the remaining trenches (1, 3, 4, 6, 7).

Table A3.1 Incidence of ceramic building material

Roman	Nos.	Wt (g)	Fabrics	Contexts
Tegula	15	1665	B [10]	1005, 3005, 6006,
Brick	5	538	B [7]; E [4]	6006, 6009
Plain tile	5	327	B [10], D [8]	4002, 6009, 7005
Total	25	2530		
Med-postmed	Nos.	Wt (g)	Fabrics	
Roof/peg tile	14	229	Med C, Pmed D; Med/Pmed E	2003
Unid	19	19	Med C, Pmed D.	2003
Total	33	248		

The Roman tile

The Roman tile fabrics can all be equated with types identified at Northfleet Roman Villa (Poole in prep a.). The Fabric B group was probably being produced fairly locally, whilst fabric E is a distinctive gritty fabric that was imported from an unknown source.

Brick: Fragments of brick from contexts 6006 and 6009 measured 30-40 mm thick and all had surfaces burnt grey or sooted, suggesting they had been used as a hearth or oven floor.

Tegula: All the tegulae fragments were very similar made in the same fabric and with characteristics comparable to tegulae from Northfleet villa (Poole *ibid.*) in particular the wide

rounded flanges (23-36 mm wide, 44-50 mm high) comparable to flange type D and E at and the lower cutaways of types A3, A3a and C1. One had burning or sooting on the surface.

Plain tile: All pieces are fairly small and broken and range between 16 and 30 mm thick. The few characteristics present including a knife trimmed edge and very irregular underside are typical of the tegulae seen at Northfleet villa.

The medieval and post-medieval tile

This consisted entirely of roof tile, apart from some small shattered unidentifiable fragments. Some of the roofing could be positively identified as peg tile. These had square or sub-square peg holes measuring 11 and 14 mm wide. Some of the roof tile was quite crudely made and had some organic impressions on the underside. It is possibly of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

The post-Roman fabrics have not been examined in any detail, but were equated with the Roman fabric groups for the area.

Med /pmed C: coarse sandy clay

PMed D fine sandy - silty clay

Med/pmed E: sandy strongly laminated streaky clay.

A medieval or early post-medieval kiln producing roof tiles is known from Springhead (Poole in prep. b) and should the site proceed to full excavation, the medieval and later roof tile may derive from there.

Conclusions

The Roman building material is typical of tile found on rural farming settlements, where there is a preference for flat tile, which can be used in ovens, hearths or corn driers for floors, spanning flues or as a baffle for controlling air flow through vents. The evidence of burning on both tegulae and bricks confirms such a use here. It is likely that the tile was recycled material, obtained from one of the local higher status settlements such as Northfleet Villa, when buildings were being refurbished. The fabrics are the same as those found at Northfleet Villa, where it has been suggested these fabrics were possibly being produced locally, possibly specially for the villa.

The tegulae cutaway forms fall into groups C and D as defined by Warry (2006), who suggests these have a broadly 3rd-4th century date for production, though possibly earlier in London starting in the 2nd century AD.

The concentration of medieval /early post-medieval roof tile in context 2003 may indicate the presence of a building in the immediate area. The character of the tiles is consistent with those found at the tile kiln at Springhead, where some tiles had square peg holes and the tile fabric showed the same variation of characteristics as observed here. A date in the region of 14th to 16th century has been suggested for the Springhead kiln and the tiles from this site would fit within such a range.

APPENDIX 4 ANIMAL BONES*By Lena Strid*

A total of 20 animal bones were recovered from this site (Table A4.1). Most bones were in a good condition (see Behrensmeyer 1978 for definitions). Burnt and gnawed bones were absent.

The presence of sheep/goat, pig and horse in the assemblage is to be considered normal, regardless of time period.

Judging by the bone surface structure and tooth wear, the sheep/goat and horse bones derived from sub-adult or adult animals. The pig femur derived from a foetal pig.

Pathologies were found on a sheep/goat mandible, which displayed swelling and some porosities on the horizontal ramus.

No further information can be gained from such a small sample of bones, but the data should be further considered should the site proceed to full excavation in the future.

Table A4.1 Number of bones and weight per context.

Context	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
1005	Horse	1	61
1007	Sheep/goat	14	89
	Pig	1	
	Medium mammal	4	

APPENDIX 5 PALAEOLOGIC TESTPITTING*By Martin Bates*

NRWB/07	562244 172506	
Tr 1.2	33.17m O.D.	16/7/2007
Depth below ground (metres)	Lithological description	Context number
0.00 – 0.10	Topsoil	1001
	---abrupt contact---	
0.10 – 0.32	10YR 4/3 dull yellowish-brown slightly sandy silt. Very common well rounded flint clasts (<1cm to >3cm). Occasional red CBM, roots and angular flint clasts (<2cm). Dense and compact.	1000
	---sharp, sub-horizontal contact---	
0.32 – 0.60	5YR 5/8 bright reddish brown slightly sandy silt to clay-silt. Very dense, compact and structureless. Common large (2cm wide) root canals present.	1002
	---diffuse contact---	
0.60 – 1.14	10YR 5/8 yellow-brown medium sand. Soft and loose with some clay-silt in patches towards top of unit. Vertical root canals continue from above. Some sub-horizontal banding of 10YR 5/8 bright brown colour.	1008
	---abrupt, dipping contact---	
1.14 – 2.20	10YR 5/4 dull yellowish-brown medium sand. Soft and unconsolidated.	1009
	---abrupt contact---	
2.20 – 2.25	7.5YR 7/1 light brownish grey medium sands. Soft and structureless.	1010
	---base of sondage 2.25m---	
	Spit samples: No gravel encountered and no spits taken.	
	Comments: This sequence represents modern topsoil and sub-soil (1001/1000) overlying bedrock Thanet Sand (1002-1008-1009-1010). The upper part of the Thanet Sand is heavily weathered and contains clay-silt that might have been translocated from above. The surface of the Thanet Sand lies at 32.84m O.D. No finds were made during the digging of this test pit.	

NRWB/07	562257 172546		
Tr 2.2	32.33m O.D.	16/7/2007	
Depth ground (meters)	below surface	Lithological description	Context number
0.00 – 0.07		Topsoil.	2000
		---abrupt contact---	
0.07 – 0.14		10YR 4/3 dull yellowish-brown sandy silt (fine sands). Poorly sorted flint clasts (<1cm to >6cm) mainly very well rounded but occasional sub-angular in shape. Compact and firm. Modern roots present.	2001
		---abrupt contact---	
0.14 – 0.33		10YR 6/6 with 10YR 4/6 brown very fine sand. Coarse and structureless.	2003
		---abrupt contact---	
0.33 – 0.70		5YR 5/8 bright reddish brown flint gravel. Very dense, compact and firm. Poorly sorted with clasts from <1cm to >8cm, typically sub-angular to very well rounded and rolled. Matrix supported with a matrix of clay-silt to clayey sand. Occasional discontinuous patches of clast free sand.	2002
		---diffuse, dipping northwards---	
0.70 – 0.90/1.10		5YR 5/8 bright reddish-brown flint gravel with slightly silty sand matrix. Matrix supported. . Poorly sorted with clasts from <1cm to >8cm, typically sub-angular to very well rounded and rolled.	2007
		---abrupt contact---	
0.90/1.10 – 1.20		7.5YR 6/8 orange red sand. Occasional grey patches. Soft and structureless.	2008
		---abrupt contact---	
1.20 – 2.00		10YR 5/6 yellowish brown sand. Soft and structureless.	2009
		---base of sondage 2.0m---	
		Spit samples: Spit 1, 0.5-0.6m (2002): 100 l, no finds Spit 2, 0.6-0.8m (2002/2007): 100 l, no finds Spit 3, 0.85-0.95m (2007): 100 l, no finds	
		Comments: This sequence consists of a series of modern topsoil and subsoil (2000, 2001, 2003) over Pleistocene gravels (2002, 2007). The Pleistocene gravels were less than 0.9m thick. Weathered Thanet Sand was present at the base of the sondage. The surface of the Thanet Sand lay at 31.43m O.D. Three spits were sampled, 300 l of sediment sieved and no finds were made.	

NRWB/07	562217 172558	
Tr 3.1	32.24m O.D.	16/7/2007
Depth below ground surface (meters)	Lithological description	Context number
0.00 – 0.07	Topsoil.	?3000
	---diffuse contact---	
0.07 – 0.26	10YR 4/3 dull yellowish brown fine sandy silt. Common flint clasts (<1cm to >6cm) well rounded to angular in shape. Sharp edges to many. Modern roots, structureless and massive.	3001
	---abrupt contact---	
0.26 – 0.45	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silt. Structureless. Common flint clasts (as above). Some flint s lying parallel to upper contact. Unit predominantly well rounded flint clasts.	3003
	---abrupt contact---	
0.45 – 0.65	10YR 5/4 dull yellowish brown sandy silt with 7.5YR 5/8 bright brown mottles. Dense and compact.	3006
	---abrupt contact---	
0.65 – 0.88	5YR 4/6 reddish brown clayey-sandy gravel. Matrix supported. Clasts <1cm to >8cm, rounded to sub-angular and rolled. Moderately cohesive, structureless.	3007
	---diffuse contact---	
0.88 – 0.99	As above but increasingly less gravelly with depth.	3008
	---abrupt contact---	
0.99 – 1.10	5YR 4/6 reddish brown slightly silty medium sand. Structureless and loose.	3009
	---abrupt contact---	
1.10 – 1.30/1.40	7.5YR 5/8 bright brown flint gravel. Matrix supported. Clayey sandy matrix. Clasts are well rounded, 2-6cm and rolled. Structureless and cohesive.	3010
	---abrupt contact---	
1.30/1.40 – 2.00	10YR 5/4 dull yellowish brown medium sand.	3011
	---base of sondage 2.00m---	
	Spit samples: Spit 1, 0.35-0.55m (3002): 100 l, no finds. Spit 2, 0.55-0.65m (3002/3007): 100 l, no finds. Spit 3, 0.70-0.85m (3007): 100 l, no finds. Spit 4, 0.85-1.00m (3008): 100 l, no finds. Spit 5, 1.15-1.35m (3010): 100 l, no finds.	
	Comments: This sequence consists of topsoil and sub-soils (3001/3003/3006) overlying Pleistocene gravels (3007/3008/3009/3010). Pleistocene gravels were less than 0.75m thick. Weathered Thanet Sand (3011) was present at the base of the trench. The surface of the Thanet Sand lay at 30.94m O.D. Five spits were sampled, 500 l of sediment sieved and no finds were made.	

NRWB/07	562204 172570		
Tr 4.1	32.89m O.D.	17/7/2007	
Depth ground (meters)	below surface	Lithological description	Context number
0.00 – 0.10		Topsoil.	4001
		---diffuse contact---	
0.10 – 0.34		10YR 5/3 dull yellowish brown slightly sandy silt. Common gravel clasts, very well rounded with occasion sub-angular examples. Coasts are poorly sorted <1cm to >4cm. Red CBM present, modern roots. Structureless, dense and compact.	4002
		---abrupt contact---	
0.34 – 0.70		7.5YR 4/4 brown gravel with silt matrix. Matrix supported. Dense, compact and firm., Clasts from 1cm to >8cm, rounded rolled with occasional sub-angular examples. No structure, dense and compact.	4006
		---abrupt contact---	
0.70 – 0.90/1.10		5YR 5/8 bright reddish brown flint gravel. Matrix supported with matrix of silty sand to sandy silt. Clasts are 1->6cm, rounded and rolled. Dense and contact. Structureless.	4007
		---abrupt contact---	
0.90/1.10 – 1.25		5YR 6/8 orange sandy gravel. Matrix supported with sandy matrix. Clasts are 2-4cm, rounded. Unit is structureless and loose.	4008
		---abrupt contact---	
1.25 – 1.60		10YR 6/6 bright yellowish brown fine to medium sand. Structureless, massive and relative loose.	4009
		---base of sondage 1.60m---	
		Spit samples: Spit 1, 0.40-0.60m (4006): 100 l, no finds. Spit 2, 0.60-0.80m (4006/4007): 100 l, no finds. Spit 3, 0.80-1.00m (4007/4009): 100 l, no finds. Spit 4, 1.00-1.20m (4008): 100 l, no finds.	
		Comments: This sequence consists of topsoil/subsoil (4001/4002) overlying Pleistocene gravel (4006/4007/4008). The Pleistocene gravels are no more than c.0.9m thick. Thanet Sand was present at the base of the trench. The surface of the Thanet Sand lay at 31.64m O.D. Four spits were sampled, 400 l of sediment sieved and no finds were made.	

NRWB/07	562158 172564		
Tr 5.1	32.22m O.D.	17/7/2007	
Depth ground (meters)	below surface	Lithological description	Context number
0.00 – 0.20		Topsoil.	5001
		---diffuse contact---	
0.20 – 0.34		10YR 5/3 dull yellowish brown slightly sandy silt. Common gravel clasts (1-4cm) rounded and rolled. Occasional red CBM fragments, charcoal and roots. Structureless and cohesive.	5002
		---abrupt contact---	
0.34 – 0.49		10YR 5/3 dull yellowish brown flint gravel. Clast supported with fine sandy silt matrix. Clasts <0.5cm to >4cm, sub-angular and rounded. Clasts typically rolled. Dense, compact and firm.	5016
		---abrupt contact---	
0.49 – 0.72		10YR 4/3 dull yellowish brown clay silt with 7.5YR 5/8 bright brown mottles. Very dense, firm and compact. Possibly becomes slightly coarser towards the base with sand appearing. Occasional rounded flint clasts.	5003
		---abrupt contact---	
0.72 – 1.00/1.10		7.5YR 5/6 bright brown flint gravel. Variably matrix to clast supported. Matrix of sandy clay silt. Clasts 1 to >6cm rounded and sub-angular. All clasts rolled. Unit is dense and compact. Structureless.	5017
		---sharp, undulating contact---	
1.00/1.10 – 1.50		10YR 6/6 bright yellowish brown medium to fine sand.	5018
		---base of sondage 1.50m---	
		Spit samples: Spit 1, 0.40-0.60m (5003/5016): 100 l, no finds. Spit 2, 0.80-1.00m (5017): 100 l, no finds. Spit 3, 1.00-1.10m (5017): 100 l, no finds.	
		Comments: This sequence consists of topsoil/subsoil (5001/5002) overlying Pleistocene gravel (5016/5003/5017). The Pleistocene gravels are no more than c.0.75m thick. Thanet Sand was present at the base of the trench. The surface of the Thanet Sand lay at 31.22m O.D. Three spits were sampled, 300 l of sediment sieved and no finds were made.	

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APPENDIX 7 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land at Wingfield Bank, Northfleet, Kent

Site code: NFWB 07

Grid reference: NGR TG 6222 7257

Type of evaluation: Seven trench evaluation in advance of a new retail outlet.

Date and duration of project: 9th – 20th July 2007.

Area of site: 1.3 ha

Summary of results: Roman and probable medieval boundary ditches, possible medieval postholes and a post-medieval boundary ditch

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with an appropriate Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: tba



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Figure 1: Site Location

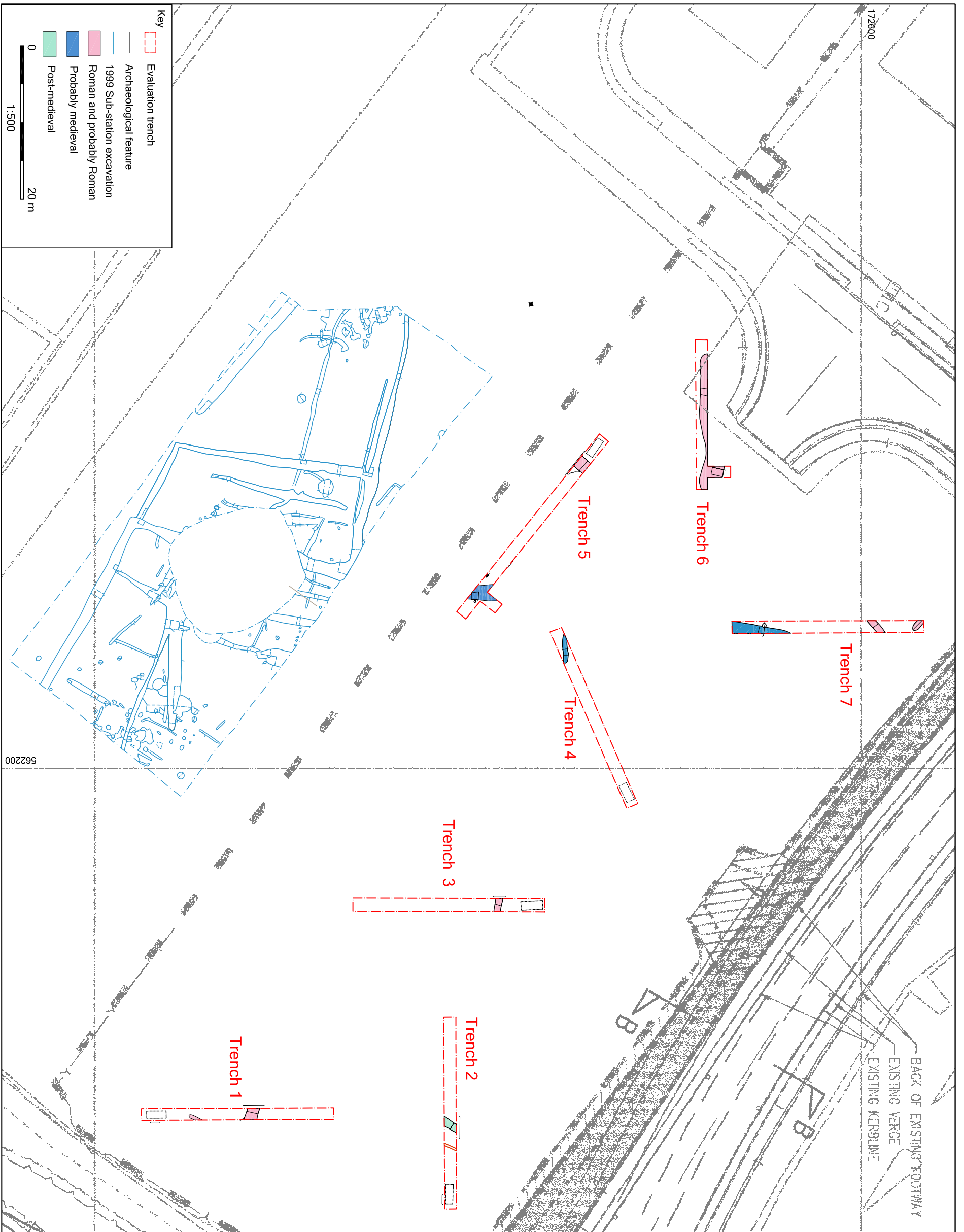


Figure 2: Trench location

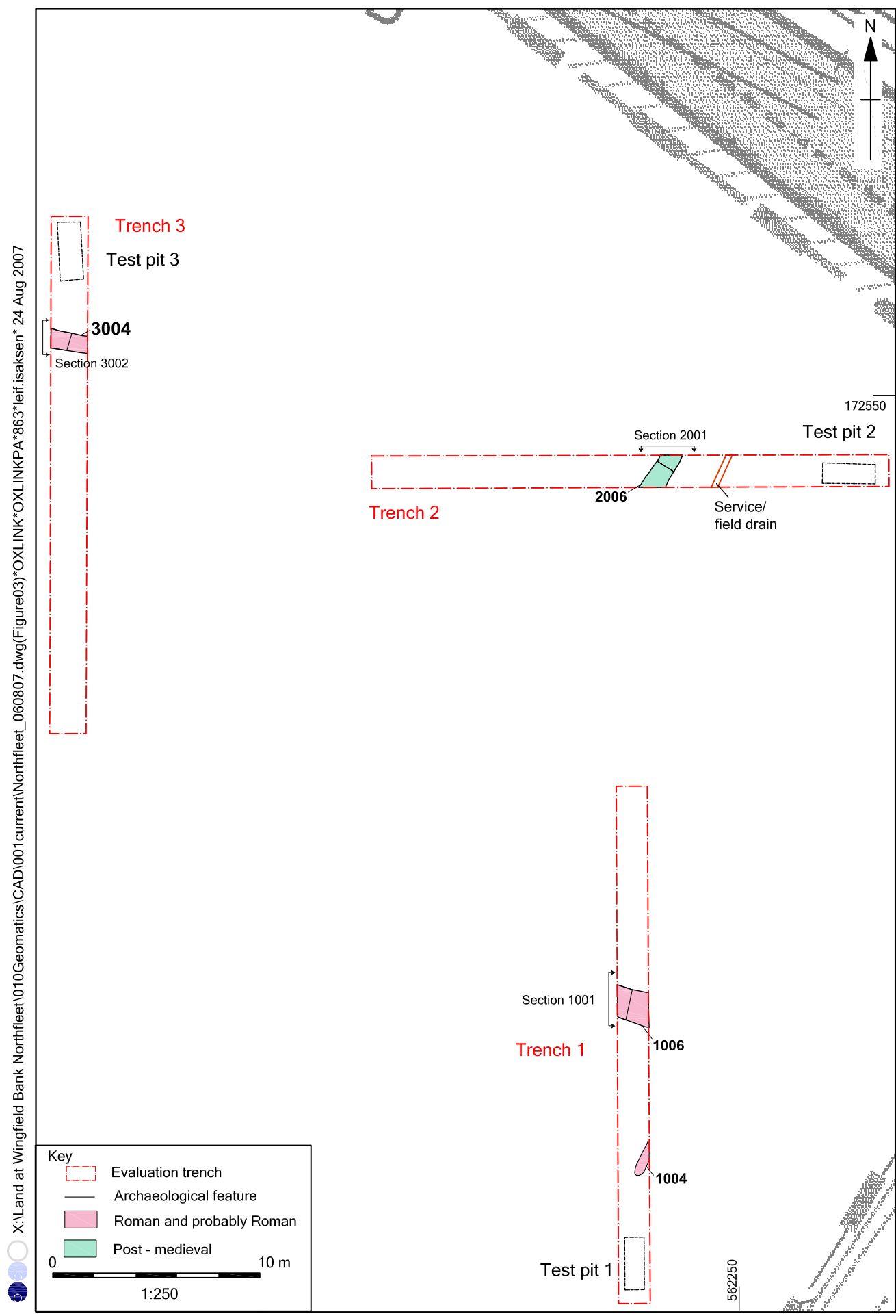


Figure 3: Trenches 1-3, plans

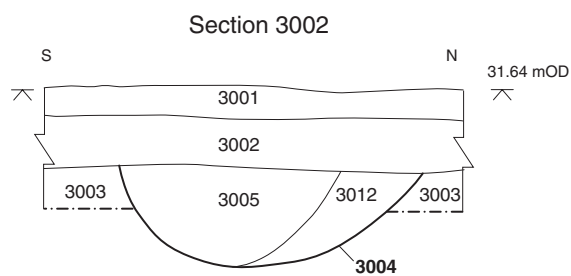
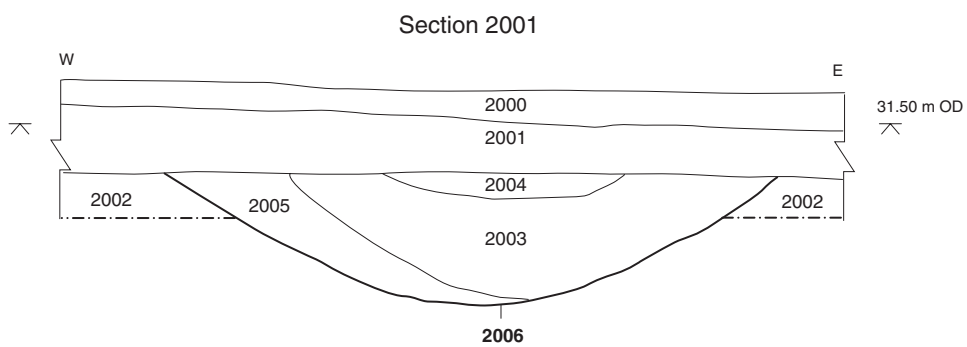
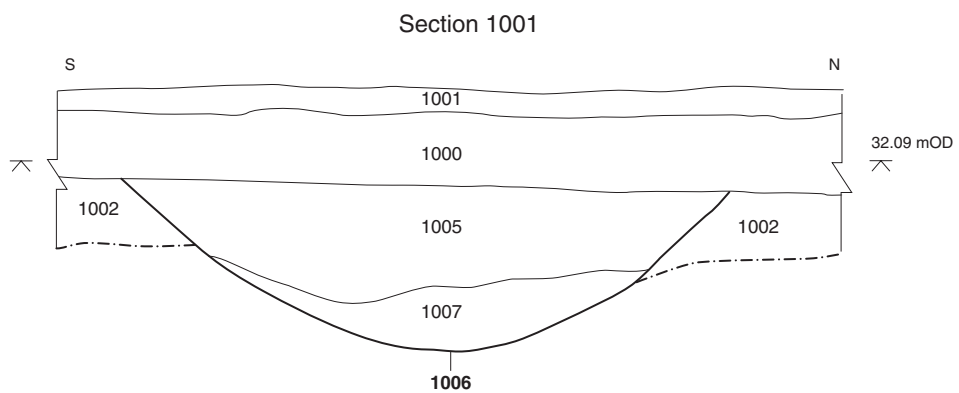


Figure 4: Trenches 1 - 3, sections

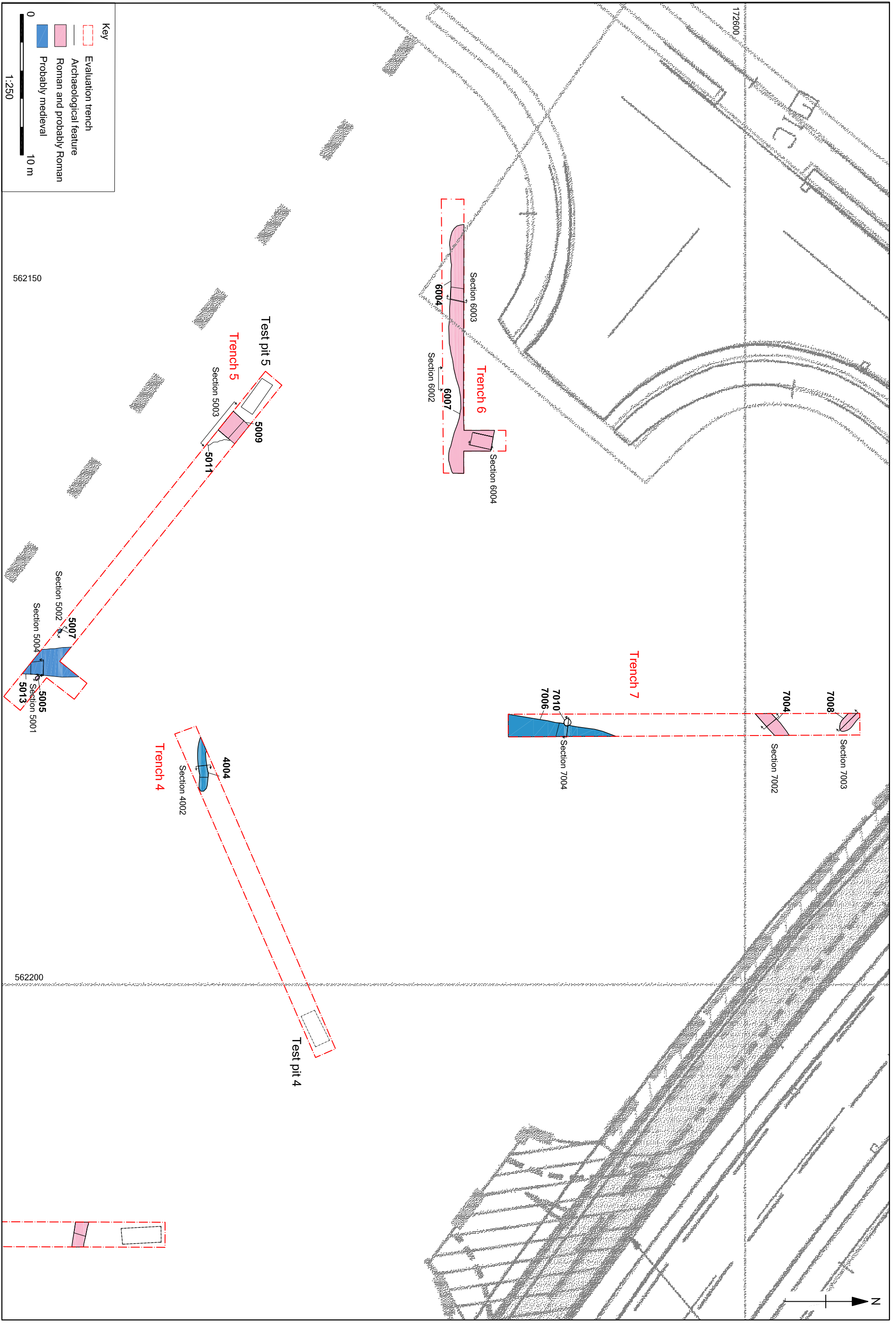


Figure 5: Trenches 4-7, plans

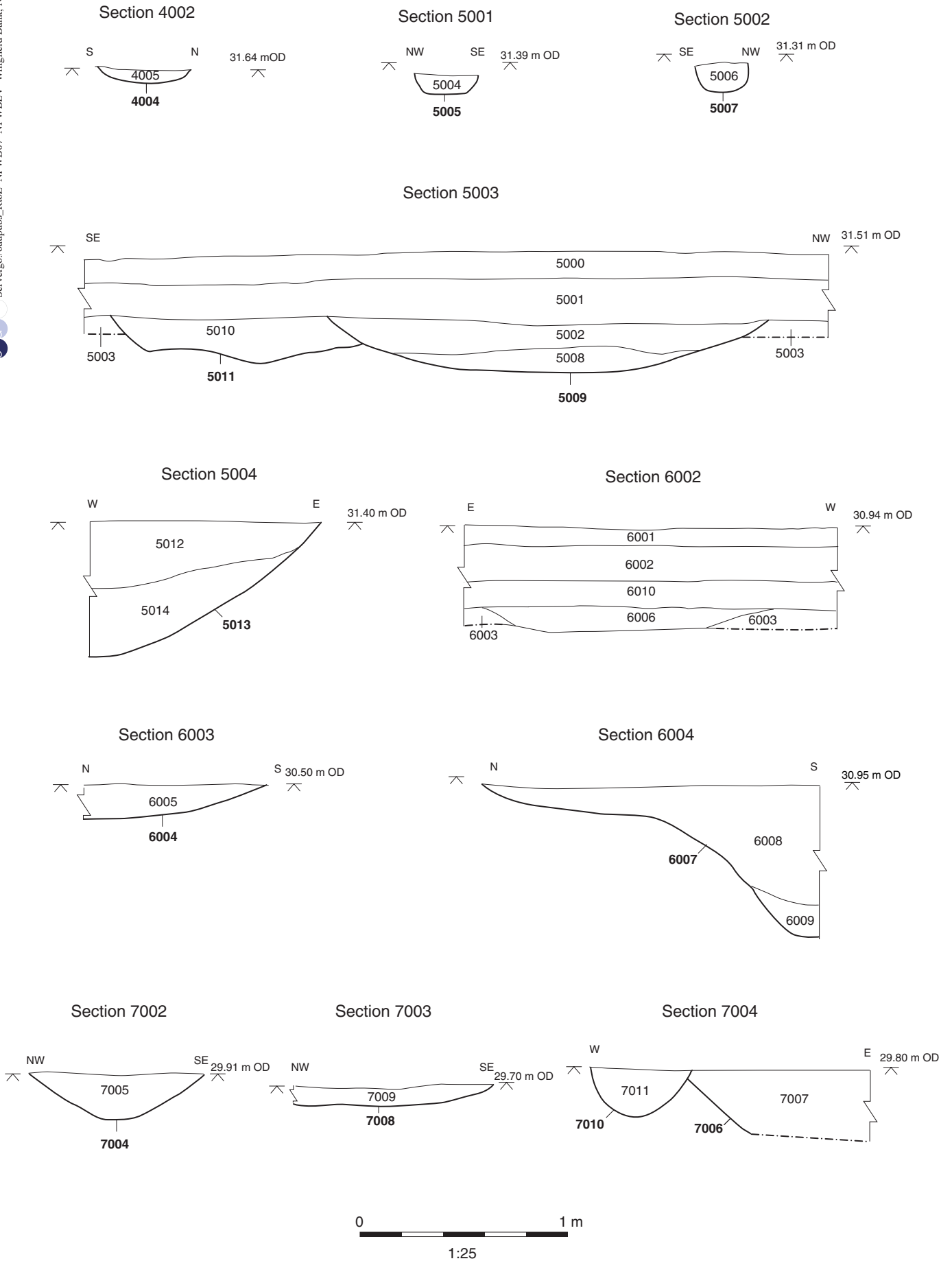


Figure 6: Trenches 4 - 7, sections

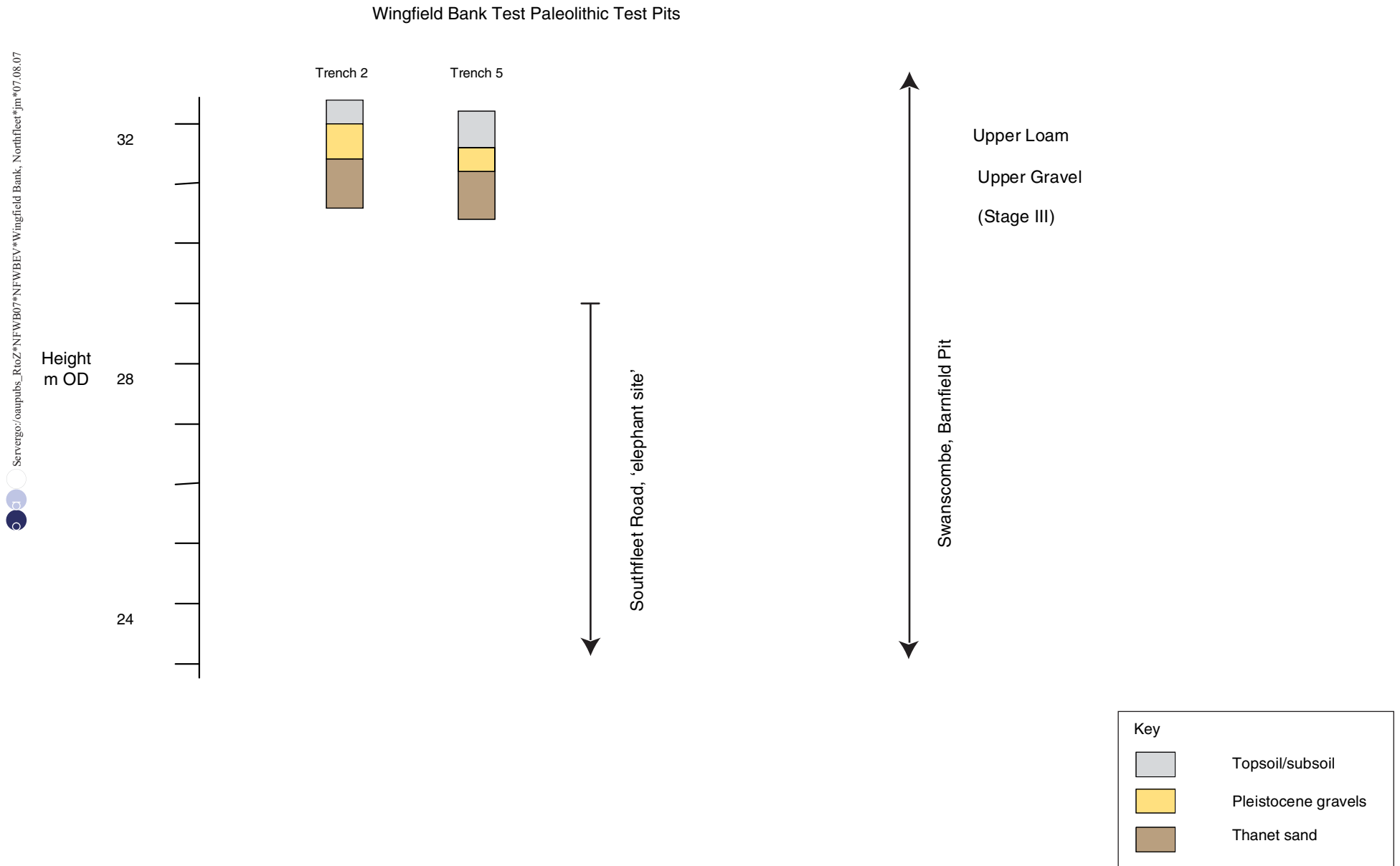


Figure 7: Representative logs from Wingfield Bank compared with the height distribution of sediments from Southfleet Road and Swanscombe, Barnfield Pit



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