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Alleviation Scheme  
Pound Lane

Marlow  
Buckinghamshire



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Archaeological  
Evaluation Report



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# Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme, Lower Pound Lane

NGR: SU 8414 8539

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## Summary

*In November 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a field evaluation for Halcrow Group Limited, on behalf of The Environment Agency, in Harleyford Field and Yela Bina Field on Lower Pound Lane, immediately to the west of Marlow in Buckinghamshire. Twenty evaluative trenches were excavated in order to assess the archaeological implications for undertaking flood alleviation works at the Site. The trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies and variations in the sub-surface topography identified from a previous borehole survey.*

*The Site is located on the edge of a gravel island within the Thames floodplain on the south side of the river. Significant early prehistoric archaeology has been previously identified on the island and around its margins, which includes three possible Bronze Age barrows and evidence of earlier Neolithic activity. The current phase of work constitutes a second phase of evaluation in the area and was designed to establish whether this activity extended to the southern edges of the island.*

*The trenching refined the evidence from an existing paleotopographic model for two palaeochannels separated by a smaller gravel island that cross the Site from SW – NE and converge further to the East. Fills of these channels were seen to have limited archaeological and environmental potential.*

*A low density of potential archaeological features were recorded across the northern and western parts of the Site. These included pits, post holes and ditches, most of which contained no finds, but a limited number contained material of Neolithic date. Most of the features were dug through an alluvium in the low-lying areas associated with the palaeochannels. The position, date and form of a Neolithic rectangular enclosure located on the southern edge of the gravel island to the north of the Site was confirmed in Trench 33.*

*Trenches within Harleyford Field demonstrated that modern ploughing had probably significantly truncated archaeological features and abundant struck flint, and a single sherd of Neolithic pottery was observed within the ploughsoil. This level of truncation was not observed in the pasture land of Yela Bina Field.*

*Apart from the ditch in Trench 33 there appeared to be little correlation between geophysical anomalies and the archaeology. The trenching suggested that the geophysical responses were probably caused by geological and pedological changes and bear little resemblance to the distribution of archaeological features identified.*

*The most recent phase of work on the Site has identified further evidence for Neolithic monuments and possible settlement activity on the island prior to the construction of the round burrows. This may suggest that rather than the barrows representing the peak of activity on the Site, it appears that they may have been the final stages of a much longer lived phase of earlier activity based on the island.*



## Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme, Lower Pond Lane.

### Phase 2 Evaluation.

#### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a second phase of field evaluation on land adjacent to Lower Pond Lane, Marlow, Buckinghamshire (site centred on NGR: SU 8414 8539, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the Environment Agency in advance of the creation of a flood alleviation scheme (Planning Application 09/01571/FUL). This will involve the excavation of an area to provide compensatory flood-water storage within the floodplain. The north-eastern section of this area was evaluated in 2005, this report documents the evaluative works on the more substantial south-eastern part, henceforth referred to as the 'Site'.
- 1.1.2 Prior to the start of the fieldwork Halcrow Group Limited (Halcrow) produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (Halcrow, 2009) on behalf of the Environment Agency (EA), detailing how the work would be completed in accordance with a brief set by the Archaeology Service of Buckinghamshire County Council.
- 1.1.3 Trench numbering followed on from the first phase of evaluation. Both phases of evaluation form a single archive with the Buckinghamshire County Museum Accession Code 2005.36.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is situated on the south side of the River Thames, 300m from the current course of the river on a gravel island towards the edge of the floodplain. It is located to the west of the end of Lower Pond Lane, on the south-west margins of Marlow, and extends over two fields, Harleyford Field to the south and Yela Bina Field to the north. The current land use of these fields is arable and pastoral respectively. The Site boundary encloses approximately 7.8 ha.
- 1.2.2 The Site is relatively level with a trend to slope very gently down from the low SW-NE running ridge to its north-west towards the River Thames to the south-east; heights within the fields range between 28.48m OD and 29.09m OD. There is a slight dip in the fields towards the south-east.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology is mapped on the BGS sheet 255 (1:50,000) as floodplain gravels and surrounding alluvium. A previous geoarchaeological assessment of the Site undertaken by ArchaeoScapes (2006) identified the presence of two buried early Holocene channels running SW-NE across the area.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The Site lies in an area of known archaeological potential, and the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) contains records relating to cropmarks within Harleyford Field, to the north-west of the Site. These are interpreted as ring ditches





enclosing prehistoric round barrows. The Site has been subject to numerous previous archaeological interventions and these are summarised below.

### ***Field walking survey***

- 1.3.2 Since 1999 Marlow Archaeological Society (MAS) has carried out an extensive series of investigations in Harleyford Field, to the north-west of the Site. In 1999, 2000 and 2001 field walking surveys were focused on the area of the cropmarks. Substantial amounts of struck flints were recovered dating from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery was also recovered. A further fieldwalking exercise was undertaken in 2004 (OA, 2004).

### ***Geophysical survey***

- 1.3.3 In 2003 and 2004 both resistivity and magnetometry surveys were commissioned by MAS in the areas to the north-west and north-east of the Site. The work carried out over the barrow area indicated features within the ring ditches, interpreted as possible secondary burials.
- 1.3.4 In 2005 OA commissioned West Yorkshire Archaeological Service (WYAS) to undertake a magnetometry survey in the north-west of the area within Yela Bina Field. The results were inconclusive (WYAS, 2005).
- 1.3.5 In 2008 Halcrow commissioned Wessex Archaeology (WA) to undertake a gradiometer survey of the eastern part of Harleyford Field and the western half of Yela Bina Field (WA, 2008). The ring ditches and a rectangular enclosure were identified within Harleyford Field, and a possible roundhouse to the north-eastern extent of the survey within Yela Bina Field. Numerous linear anomalies, possibly relict field boundaries, and clusters of pit like features were also identified, although some of these responses may have been caused by near surface pedological and geological changes.

### ***Borehole survey***

- 1.3.6 In 2006 Halcrow commissioned ArchaeoScape to undertake a borehole survey of the Site. In total 259 boreholes were augured, these were regularly distributed on a grid at 20m intervals. The survey recorded the depths at which the terrace gravels were located. The data was used to construct a topographical model which suggested the presence of two palaeochannels running in a north-east to south-west orientation across the surveyed area. One of the boreholes (BH228) identified waterlogged seeds in a deposit at a depth of between 0.59m and 1.10m below the current ground surface.

### ***Excavation and evaluation***

- 1.3.7 Marlow Archaeological Society have undertaken a number of small scale excavations, mainly focusing on an area adjacent to the northern edge of Harleyford Field. In total nine trenches were opened between 2001 and the 2007. The results of these investigations (especially from Trench 7) show Neolithic activity, potentially associated with the tanning of hides. A pit contained Neolithic pottery and carbonised wood and hazelnut shells. The wood yielded a mid to late Neolithic radio carbon date. Stake holes were identified and struck and burnt flints were recovered.
- 1.3.8 In 2005 OA carried out Phase 1 of the evaluation, which focussed on the eastern area of the development area, in the north-western corner of Yela Bina Field. In total 27 trenches were opened, their locations targeted on the WYAS geophysics results. The evaluation uncovered several pits, ditches and tree throws which, where dated, were of



early Neolithic date. One pit (within Trench 3) contained struck flint and carbonised hazelnut shells and emmer/spelt wheat grains.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

### 2.1 General

#### 2.1.1 The aims of the Evaluation

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, date, nature, function, and phasing of any archaeological remains present within the development boundary.
- When encountered, suitable archaeological deposits should be sampled to establish their environmental potential.
- To investigate the results of the geophysical survey within the cut area by proving or otherwise the results of that phase of the evaluation.
- To attempt to characterise the nature and sensitivity of any deposits within the palaeochannels which may be present within the site.

### 2.2 Evaluation Methodology

- 2.2.1 The evaluation comprised a total of 20 trenches, numbered Trench 28 – 47 (Fig. 2). Eighteen of these (Trenches 28 – 32 and 34 - 46) measured 50m long by 1.8m wide. Trench 33, originally of the same dimensions was widened westwards by c. 2.5m at its north-western end for a length of 15m, to reveal further the extents of the rectangular geophysical anomaly Number 4007 (WA, 2008). Trench 47 was excavated to establish the location of Borehole 228 (Archaeoscapes, 2007) which had previously produced waterlogged seeds, this measured 2.9m by 2.9m. Together the trenches represent a c. 4% sample of the Site.
- 2.2.2 Deeper sondages, measuring 3m long by 2m wide were excavated by machine to investigate the potential channel and alluvial sequences at the ends of four trenches 39 (N end), 40 (S end), 45 (N end), 46 (N end).
- 2.2.3 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket, to the uppermost archaeological horizon or natural geology, depending upon which was encountered first.
- 2.2.4 The extents of gravel and alluvial deposits within the trenches were surveyed. Exposed archaeological horizons and features were cleaned by hand and sample excavated to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples where relevant.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features were planned at 1:50 and excavated sections drawn at scales of 1:20. Features were photographed using digital and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson 1992).
- 2.2.6 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. In addition, struck flints were noted within the surrounding ploughsoil, finds from the surface of the ploughsoil were not systematically recovered but when retrieved they were allocated to the nearest trench.
- 2.2.7 Environmental samples were taken from a range of features and deposits in order to examine the potential for Palaeo-environmental evidence.



## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 This section of the report outlines the significant findings from the evaluation, and describes the sequence of deposits and archaeological remains from those trenches where archaeological deposits were encountered. Those trenches without archaeological remains have not been described in detail except where they relate to the channel sequence which are discussed in Section 3.7. An inventory of all finds and contexts including measurements not presented within the text are provided in Appendix B.

### 3.2 Soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The site is principally located on arable land, a small proportion of which had been ploughed prior to the evaluation. Trench 28 was located in Yela Bina Field an area currently used for pasture. Topsoil in this field was 0.15 m deep and ploughsoils in all the other trenches located in Harleyford Field recorded depths of between 0.20 m to 0.32 m. Within (Harleyford field) the ploughsoil directly overlay an orange-brown alluvial deposit, or gravel. Any archaeology present was cut through these deposits. Where the orange-brown alluvium was encountered it generally overlay a whitish bleached sand deposit, which in turn overlay the gravel. In Yela Bina Field the thin layer of topsoil overlay a buried post-medieval ploughsoil which in turn overlay a mixture of alluvial silts and gravel deposits.

3.2.2 Fills of archaeological features were similar in nature and colour to the alluvium, these were identified and marked immediately after they were revealed by machine stripping.

3.2.3 Ground conditions were generally good, although there was heavy rain on several days which led to the temporary waterlogging of some trenches.

### 3.3 Distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 A total of 7 trenches contained potential archaeological features and finds these are described in numerical sequence. These features appeared to be mostly concentrated to the north-eastern part of the Site at the edge of the island, and to the west at the edges of the channels. Depths and the extent of potential archaeological deposits are recorded in the context inventory table in Appendix B.

### 3.4 General description of archaeological deposits

#### *Trench 28*

3.4.1 Trench 28, the only trench located in pasture in Yela Bina Field, contained a single prehistoric treethrow (2805), filled by a fairly loose dark brown clay sand (2806) contained a single struck flint. This was overlain by subsoil and then topsoil, both measuring 0.15m in depth.

#### *Trench 30*

3.4.2 Although no archaeological features were present within this trench a struck flint flake was recovered from the surface of alluvial layer (3002). Context (3003) was assigned to finds located in the recently ploughed area of the field in close proximity to this trench, a single Neolithic flint was recovered.

**Trench 31 (Fig. 4)**

- 3.4.3 At the eastern end of Trench 31 a segment of 'L-shaped' ditch and pit were located cutting the gravel. The two perpendicular arms of ditch (3103) were orientated NE-SW, and NW - SE and had a concave profile 0.54m wide and 0.14m deep. The single fill (3104) was a mid orangey-brown silty clay very similar to the natural alluvial layer (3102). No finds were recovered from the fill. The pit (3105), also had a regular concave profile and was 1.85m wide and 0.3m in depth, and appeared contained within the angle of 'L-shaped' ditch (3103). The fill was very similar to (3104), and also contained no finds. It is possible that despite the regularity of the profiles of these features may be of natural origin.

**Trench 33 (Fig. 5)**

- 3.4.4 Trench 33 contained a small sub-circular feature, interpreted as a tree throw (3307), which was truncated by ditch (3303). This contained a single dark brown sandy clay fill (3308) which contained no finds. Three features were revealed at the base of the ditch (3311, 3313, 3314) their fills were notably more gravelly than the siltier ditch fills and were truncated by the ditch cut. Features (3311) and (3313) were sealed, in part, by alluvial deposit (3302). Although these features were similar to post-holes their stratigraphic position, the gravelly nature of the fills, and the lack of finds suggest they may be of geological origin.
- 3.4.5 Ditch (3303) formed the south-west corner of a rectangular enclosure, identified previously by the WA geophysical survey (Number 4007; WA, 2005). Only a small part of this feature was initially revealed within the original limits of the trench and a full profile could not be excavated, therefore the trench was extended to the west. After extension the south-western curvilinear corner of the enclosure ditch was identified, cutting alluvial layer (3302). The ditch was 2.24m wide and reached a maximum depth of 0.5m. Three fills were identified, all of which were similar in colour and composition to the surrounding alluvium (3302). The primary fill, (3306), was a mid orange-brown sandy clay and had slumped into the ditch from the west, i.e. from outside the enclosure and may have been derived from bank material. This deposit was 0.34m thick and contained a single struck flint and two pieces of burnt flint. This was overlain by (3305), which was 0.4m thick, and of a similar composition and colour but a slightly lighter hue and with a lower clay component. Twenty struck flints and thirty four pieces of burnt flint were recovered from fill this. Where diagnostic the struck flint is considered to be Neolithic in date. The upper fill of the ditch (3304) also an orange brown silty clay and contained no finds.

**Trench 35 (Fig. 6)**

- 3.4.6 A single linear ditch (3505) was noted running on a north-east to south-west alignment. The ditch had a slightly irregular concave profile and was 0.85m wide and 0.2m deep. Its single fill, (3506), was a dark orange-brown silty clay and contained a single piece of burnt flint. The ditch cut alluvial layer (3502) and it is likely that the fill was derived from this material. A single posthole was excavated immediately south of the ditch. This feature (3503) measured 0.2m in diameter and had a depth of 0.12m. The single fill (3504) was a dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and contained no finds.

**Trench 39 (Fig. 7)**

- 3.4.7 A single irregular sided feature (3905) was identified cutting alluvial layer (3902). Interpreted as a tree throw the feature measured 2.6m wide and 0.25m deep. The



upper fill (3906) was a dark orange-brown sandy clay up to 0.15m in depth, and contained a single burnt flint. The lower fill (3907) was darker in colour, gravel rich and contained no finds.

### ***Trench 45***

- 3.4.8 Trench 45 contained no archaeological features cutting the alluvial layer (4502) which lay directly below the ploughsoil. On removal of an area of (4502) a pale sandy layer (4513) was encountered at 0.7m below current ground level. A number of circular soil marks were visible at this level which were filled by orange brown compact sandy clays. These features (4503, 4505, 4507, 4509 and 4511) were all half sectioned and recorded but no finds recovered. It is however unclear whether these are of archaeological origin and if so then they are sealed by the alluvial layer that elsewhere is cut by archaeological features of probable Neolithic date.

### ***Trench 46 (Figs 8 and 9)***

- 3.4.9 Trench 46 contained nine postholes, situated from the centre to the north-western end. These were all cut through, although difficult to distinguish from, alluvial layer (4624). They did not appear to form part of any obvious structure. All the postholes had dark orange brown silty clay fills and an average depth of less than 0.08m. A single struck flint was recovered from one post hole, and a fragment of burnt flint from one other.
- 3.4.10 A ditch orientated south west to north east was identified in the central area of the trench. The ditch (4621) measured 0.24m wide and 0.15m deep, and had a concave profile. The single fill (4622) consisted of a dark orange-brown silty clay and produced no finds.
- 3.4.11 A single tree throw was also excavated (4605). This was irregular in plan and 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with a dark greyish-orange silty clay fill, from the surface of which two small struck flints were recovered.
- 3.4.12 A few very small pieces of possible Neolithic pottery were recovered from the topsoil, as were post-medieval tile fragments.

### ***Trench 47 (Fig. 10)***

- 3.4.13 Trench 47, measured 2.9m by 2.9m, and was located from coordinates in the ArchaeoScape borehole survey report, in an attempt to examine the deposits identified by Borehole 228. The trench was excavated through the topsoil and orange brown alluvial layers (4701 and 4702 respectively) and into the underlying pale sand deposit (4703). At this level several irregularly shaped features were identified filled by material similar in nature to, although of greater compaction than, the overlying alluvium (4702). One of these features was sampled for environmental evidence but none was present. Although the trench was located on the coordinates for Borehole 228 in the Archaeoscape report no physical evidence for its position was found.

## **3.5 Finds**

- 3.5.1 A total of 50 worked flints were recovered from eight contexts and frequent struck flint was noted within the ploughsoil (some were retained). The material was dominated by waste flakes, but material which was chronologically diagnostic all belonged to the Neolithic period. In addition, a total of 38 pieces of burnt flint weighing 630g was recovered from four contexts. The full assessment report can be found within Appendix C.



- 3.5.2 The assemblage was in generally good condition: some pieces display patination and a number of the flints are broken, but generally the assemblage is fresh and unrolled. A variety of raw materials were exploited, but a good quality brown coloured flint predominates. This material is probably fairly local in origin.
- 3.5.3 The majority (50%) of the material recovered consisted of waste flakes from the latter stages of the core reduction sequence. There is a relatively high number of core maintenance pieces, many of which have narrow blade scars on their ventral surfaces, suggesting a Neolithic date. Likewise the blade shatter and microdenticulated flake are of probable Neolithic date. The end and side scraper recovered are also likely to be of this date.

### **3.6 Environmental evidence**

- 3.6.1 Six bulk environmental samples were taken from a range of features for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and waterlogged material. The samples were processed and assessed using accepted standard methodologies. The full CPR assessment can be found within Appendix D.
- 3.6.2 The samples produced very limited plant remains, few of which appeared charred. Sample <21> (3906), <22> (3506), and <25> (3104) all produced seeds from Rumex sp. (docks) in high numbers, while all samples apart from <22> (3506) and <23> (3305) produced Chenopodium sp. seeds (oraches), and samples <20> (4604) and <22> (3506) contained fewer than 5 examples of Rubus sp. (blackberry/raspberry) each, however all the seeds displayed a tan colour and were not convincingly charred, suggesting they are recent in origin. Charcoal was present in all samples, however the fragments were too small to be identifiable. All of the samples suggested some amount of modern intrusion, with plant root, insects and insect casts present.
- 3.6.3 The evaluation samples suggest that charred plant remains, although minimal, are preserved and that ancient molluscs may be preserved, but are rare. It also appears that the deposits and features sampled had been subject to some form of modern intrusion, most likely as a result of ploughing, with the inclusion of insects, snails, modern plant root, and abundant seeds which demonstrate a modern appearance.

### **3.7 Description of channel sequences**

- 3.7.1 The evaluation was partly targeted on the channel sequences that were identified in the borehole survey (Figure 4, ArchaeoScapes, 2005). The data from Trenches 37, 39, 43, and 46 confirmed that the Site is crossed by two fluvial channels running from the SW - NE converging towards east of the Site. The channels were found to be filled with fluvial sands overlain by reddish brown silty and sandy clays. These clayey deposits are believed to be alluvial deposited infilling the low-lying areas around the former channels.
- 3.7.2 The trench data did however highlighted some discrepancies between the location of the interpreted channel sequences and undulations within the gravels. Trench 43 was targeted on the northern channel near Boreholes 238 and 237, but comprised only of topsoil overlying gravel. Similarly Trenches 31 and 32 did not appear to be located on a gravel high as suggested by the ArchaeoScapes interpretative gravel plot. An updated plot of gravel surface using both the borehole and trench data is shown in Figure 3. This provides the most recent interpretation of the underlying Site palaeotopography.



- 3.7.3 The channels appear to have been seasonally active during the prehistoric period and some localised flooding is recorded in the trenches on the Site prior to the creation of the Neolithic features.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 In general the investigation is thought to be reliable, however it should be noted that many of the archaeological deposits were difficult to identify, as the fills were of similar nature to the natural deposits into which they were cut. Although it rained on several occasions over the course of the evaluation, features were identified prior to this, on initial machining of the trenches.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The results of the evaluation successfully identified the presence or absence of archaeological features and deposits across the Site. It has also helped to establish the relationships of the archaeology to the alluvial and fluvial deposits identified on the Site.
- 4.2.2 The majority of archaeological deposits were sampled for environmental evidence. Limited potential for the survival of ancient charred plant remains and molluscs was noted, although much of the environmental evidence appeared to be of recent origin and therefore intrusive.
- 4.2.3 When the geophysical survey results were compared with the locations of the features uncovered during the evaluation, there appeared to be little correlation between anomalies and the archaeology, with the exception of rectangular anomaly 4007 revealed as ditch 3303 in Trench 33. It is thought that many of the geophysical responses were caused by geological changes and bear little resemblance to the distribution of the more ephemeral archaeological features, such as postholes and small ditches.
- 4.2.4 The channel deposits, essentially fluvial sands were identified in several trenches, and were always sealed and surrounded by the orange-brown alluvial material which was cut by features of probable Neolithic date. The sands were not observed to contain any cultural material and are thought to date from the Late Pleistocene/early Holocene.

### 4.3 Discussion and Conclusion

- 4.3.1 Significant early prehistoric archaeology has been previously identified to the north of the Site on top of the gravel island. At least three ring ditches potentially indicating Bronze Age round barrows have been identified as crop marks and within the geophysical surveys. Neolithic settlement activity including hearths, rack structures and cereal remains were also identified to the north of the gravel island by the Marlow Archaeological Society and in the Phase 1 evaluation (OA, 2005).
- 4.3.2 Surviving archaeological activity appeared to be concentrated in the northern and western parts of the Site in the areas of Trenches 31, 33, 39, and 46. Sporadic remains were noted within the alluvial areas, the vast majority of the features consisted of isolated pits, postholes with a few ditches/gulleys. The concentration of post/stake holes, potentially representing structures in the area of Trenches 46 and 39 appear to be associated with the upper alluvial sequence of the two palaeochannels.
- 4.3.3 A significant archaeological feature (3303) was identified at the northern limit of the Site in Trench 33 at the southern edge of the gravel island that forms the low ridge where a



linear group of ring-ditch monuments are located. The trench confirmed the presence of a rectangular Neolithic enclosure, with an external bank, whose form had been previously identified in the geophysical survey (anomaly 4007). This adds to the previous evidence from the first phase of evaluation that significant Neolithic activity was occurring on the Site associated with both ceremonial monuments and semi-permanent settlement activity prior to the construction of the round barrows.

- 4.3.4 The results suggest a continuation of the activity previously identified to the north and north-east of the gravel island. This is supported by the presence of residual material in hollows and tree throws coupled with a number of isolated features. Trench 33 (fill 3313 of ditch 3303) produced the most significant artefact assemblage and has securely dated the enclosure to the early Neolithic. Trench 31 also yielded a small flint assemblage of Neolithic date. However the limited number of finds and the paucity of the environmental evidence has not increased our knowledge of the activities that were being carried out at the Site.
- 4.3.5 Evidence from the profile of Trench 28, which was located on pasture land in Yela Bina Field, showed the presence of a thin topsoil overlying a preserved subsoil (possibly a former pre-modern ploughsoil) in turn sealing the fills of a tree-throw and the alluvial silts and gravel deposits at a depth of 0.30m below ground level. It is suggested that this profile had been present in Harleyford field, however all the trenches located in this field demonstrated that these layers had been significantly truncated by modern ploughing to a depth of up to 0.20m. This would explain the relative shallowness of all the archaeological features (except (3303)), and the presence of prehistoric pottery, and struck flints (incl tools) within the modern ploughsoil in Harleyford Field.
- 4.3.6 Therefore all archaeological features which would have been apparent from the former level of the natural will have been significantly truncated or entirely removed in areas affected by modern ploughing in Harleyford Field, and less truncated by pre-modern ploughing in the area of Yela Bina Field. Preservation could be better at the edges of the fields where the effect of ploughing may not be so pronounced. Preservation of archaeological features in the pastureland of Yela Bina Field was much better and the potential of this area was more fully realised in the first phase of evaluation (OA, 2005). Ploughing has affected the distribution of the archaeological features discussed above
- 4.3.7 The presence of features within the Site remains a strong probability, specifically in the north and west. If present these features may prove important for the generation of additional information in order to place the nearby monumental structures, and the evidence from previous phases of archaeological works within a wider archaeological context.

## APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 28   |       |           |           |                       |       |         |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | ENE-WSW |
| Trench contained a single prehistoric tree throw which was sealed by topsoil and a post-medieval subsoil. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 0.3     |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.6     |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | 50      |
| Contexts  |       |           |           |                       |       |         |
| context no  | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment               | finds | date    |
| 2801  | Layer | -         | 0.15      | Topsoil               | -     | -       |
| 2802  | Layer | -         | 0.15      | Subsoil               | -     | -       |
| 2803  | Layer | -         | -         | Natural               | -     | -       |
| 2804  | Cut   | 0.7       | 0.22      | Tree throw            | -     | -       |
| 2805  | Fill  | 0.7       | 0.22      | Fill of 2804          | Flint |         |

| Trench 29  |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | NE-SW |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying an orange brown alluvial layer |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 0.4   |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.6   |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | 50    |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
| context no   | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment               | finds | date  |
| 2901   | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Topsoil               | -     | -     |
| 2902   | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium              | -     | -     |

| Trench 30   |       |           |           |                       |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | NNW-SSE   |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying an orange-brown alluvial layer. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 0.4       |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.6       |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | 50        |
| Contexts  |       |           |           |                       |       |           |
| context no  | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment               | finds | date      |
| 3001  | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Topsoil               | -     | -         |
| 3002  | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium              | Flint | Neolithic |



|      |           |   |   |   |       |           |
|------|-----------|---|---|---|-------|-----------|
| 3003 | Finds ref | - | - | Flint from plough soil in vicinity of trench. | Flint | Neolithic |
|------|-----------|---|---|---|-------|-----------|

| Trench 31  |       |           |           |                       |         |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | WNW-ESE |      |
| Trench contained a small undated ditch and pit which cut the gravels at the eastern end. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.35    |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6     |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50      |      |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |         |      |
| context no   | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment               | finds   | date |
| 3101   | Layer | -         | 0.28      | Topsoil               | -       | -    |
| 3102   | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium              | -       | -    |
| 3103   | Cut   | 0.54      | 0.14      | Ditch                 | -       | -    |
| 3104   | Fill  | 0.54      | 0.14      | Fill of 3103          | -       | -    |
| 3105   | Cut   | 1.85      | 0.3       | Pit                   | -       | -    |
| 3106   | Fill  | 1.85      | 0.3       | Fill of 3105          | -       | -    |
| 3107   | Layer | -         | -         | Gravel                | -       | -    |

| Trench 32   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |      |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying an orange brown alluvium. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.38  |      |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6   |      |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |      |
| Contexts  |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| context no  | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment               | finds | date |
| 3201  | Layer | -         | 0.28      | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 3202  | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium              | -     | -    |

| Trench 33   |      |       |       |                       |          |      |
|---|------|-------|-------|-----------------------|----------|------|
| <b>General description</b>  |      |       |       | <b>Orientation</b>    | NW-SE    |      |
| Trench contained part of rectangular ditch of Neolithic date, and was extended to reveal more of this. The ditch cut alluvial layer 3302, and a tree-throw. Layer 3302 sealed two gravel rich features thought to be of natural origin. |      |       |       | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.35     |      |
|   |      |       |       | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6- 4.0 |      |
|   |      |       |       | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50       |      |
| Contexts  |      |       |       |                       |          |      |
| context   | type | Width | Depth | comment               | finds    | date |



| no   |       | (m)  | (m)  |                 |                    |           |
|------|-------|------|------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 3301 | Layer | -    | 0.28 | Topsoil         | -                  | -         |
| 3302 | Layer | -    | 0.46 | Alluvium        | -                  | -         |
| 3303 | Cut   | 2.24 | 0.5  | Ditch           | -                  | -         |
| 3304 | Fill  | 1.9  | 0.22 | Fill of 3303    | -                  | -         |
| 3305 | Fill  | 1.64 | 0.34 | Fill of 3303    | Flint, Burnt flint | Neolithic |
| 3306 | Fill  | 0.6  | 0.3  | Fill of 3303    | -                  | -         |
| 3307 | Cut   | 0.72 | 0.31 | Tree throw      | -                  | -         |
| 3308 | Fill  | 0.72 | 0.31 | Fill of 3307    | -                  | -         |
| 3309 | Layer | -    | -    | Fluvial sand    | -                  | -         |
| 3310 | Fill  | 0.62 | 0.1  | Fill of 3311    | -                  | -         |
| 3311 | Cut   | 0.62 | 0.1  | Natural feature | -                  | -         |
| 3312 | Fill  | 0.68 | 0.13 | Fill of 3313    | -                  | -         |
| 3313 | Cut   | 0.68 | 0.13 | Natural feature | -                  | -         |
| 3314 | Cut   | 0.59 | 0.52 | Natural feature | -                  | -         |
| 3315 | Fill  | 0.59 | 0.52 | Fill of 3314    | -                  | -         |

| Trench 34   |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | NW-SE |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying an orange brown alluvium. This in turn overlay a creamy white fluvial sand deposit which sealed gravel. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 0.36  |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.6   |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | 50    |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
| context no  | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment               | finds | date  |
| 3401  | Layer | -         | 0.32      | Topsoil               | -     | -     |
| 3402  | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Alluvium              | -     | -     |
| 3403  | Layer | -         | 0.42      | Fluvial sand          | -     | -     |
| 3404  | Layer | -         | -         | Gravel                | -     | -     |

| Trench 35   |      |       |       |                       |       |      |
|---|------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>  |      |       |       | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | N-S  |
| Trench contained a small ditch and a posthole which cut an orange brown alluvium. |      |       |       | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 0.38 |
|   |      |       |       | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.6  |
|   |      |       |       | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | 50   |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |      |       |       |                       |       |      |
| context   | type | Width | Depth | comment               | finds | date |



| no   |       | (m) | (m)  |          |   |   |
|------|-------|-----|------|----------|---|---|
| 3501 | Layer | -   | 0.28 | Topsoil  | - | - |
| 3502 | Layer | -   | -    | Alluvium | - | - |
| 3503 | Cut   | 0.2 | 0.12 | Posthole | - | - |

|      |      |      |      |              |             |   |
|------|------|------|------|--------------|-------------|---|
| 3504 | Fill | 0.2  | 0.12 | Fill of 3503 | -           | - |
| 3505 | Cut  | 0.85 | 0.2  | Ditch        | -           | - |
| 3506 | Fill | 0.85 | 0.2  | Fill of 3505 | Burnt flint |   |
| 3507 | Cut  | 0.15 | 0.04 | Plough scar  | -           | - |
| 3508 | Fill | 0.15 | 0.04 | Fill of 3507 | -           | - |

| Trench 36   |       |           |           |          |                       |      |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           |          | <b>Orientation</b>    | N-S  |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer, and in the centre and south of the trench, gravels. |       |           |           |          | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.4  |
|   |       |           |           |          | <b>Width (m)</b>      | -1.6 |
|   |       |           |           |          | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50   |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |       |           |           |          |                       |      |
| context no  | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment  | finds                 | date |
| 3601  | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Topsoil  | -                     | -    |
| 3602  | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium | -                     | -    |
| 3603  | Layer | -         | -         | Gravel   | -                     | -    |

| Trench 37   |       |           |           |          |                       |       |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|-------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           |          | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer. |       |           |           |          | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.37  |
|   |       |           |           |          | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6   |
|   |       |           |           |          | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |       |           |           |          |                       |       |
| context no  | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment  | finds                 | date  |
| 3701  | Layer | -         | 0.28      | Topsoil  | -                     | -     |
| 3702  | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium | -                     | -     |

| Trench 38                  |  |  |  |  |                    |         |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------------|---------|
| <b>General description</b> |  |  |  |  | <b>Orientation</b> | NNE-SSW |



|   |                       |                  |                  |                |              |             |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.35             |                  |                |              |             |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6              |                  |                |              |             |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50               |                  |                |              |             |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |                       |                  |                  |                |              |             |
| <b>context no</b>   | <b>type</b>           | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>comment</b> | <b>finds</b> | <b>date</b> |
| 3801  | Layer                 | -                | 0.25             | Topsoil        | -            | -           |
| 3802  | Layer                 | -                | -                | Alluvium       | -            | -           |

|   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Trench 39</b>  |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>General description</b>  |             |                  |                  | <b>Orientation</b>    | N-S          |             |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer. This sealed a creamy white fluvial sand deposit which overlay gravel. The trench contained a single tree throw. |             |                  |                  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.34         |             |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6          |             |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50           |             |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>context no</b>   | <b>type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>comment</b>        | <b>finds</b> | <b>date</b> |
| 3901  | Layer       | -                | 0.3              | Topsoil               | -            | -           |
| 3902  | Layer       | -                | 0.47             | Alluvium              | -            | -           |
| 3903  | Layer       | -                | 0.51             | Fluvial sand          | -            | -           |
| 3904  | Layer       | -                |                  | Gravel                | -            | -           |
| 3905  | Cut         | 2.6              | 0.25             | Tree throw            | -            | -           |
| 3906  | Fill        | 2.6              | 0.15             | Fill of 3905          | Burnt flint  | -           |
| 3907  | Fill        | 0.85             | 0.2              | Fill of 3905          | -            | -           |

|   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Trench 40</b>  |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>General description</b>  |             |                  |                  | <b>Orientation</b>    | NNE-SSW      |             |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer, and to the NE gravel. |             |                  |                  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.4          |             |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6          |             |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50           |             |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>context no</b>   | <b>type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>comment</b>        | <b>finds</b> | <b>date</b> |
| 4001  | Layer       | -                | 0.3              | Topsoil               | -            | -           |
| 4102  | Layer       | -                | -                | Alluvium              | -            | -           |
| 4103  | Layer       | -                | -                | Gravel                | -            | -           |



**Trench 41**

|   |                       |         |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| <b>General description</b><br><br>Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer, and to the NE gravel. | <b>Orientation</b>    | NNE-SSW |
|   | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.38    |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6     |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50      |

**Contexts**

| context no | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment  | finds | date |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|------|
| 4101       | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Topsoil  | -     | -    |
| 4102       | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium | -     | -    |
| 4103       | Layer | -         | -         | Gravel   | -     | -    |

**Trench 42**

|   |                       |         |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| <b>General description</b><br><br>Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer, and gravel patches. | <b>Orientation</b>    | NNW-SSE |
|   | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.4     |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6     |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50      |

**Contexts**

| context no | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment  | finds | date |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|------|
| 4201       | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Topsoil  | -     | -    |
| 4202       | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium | -     | -    |
| 4203       | Layer | -         | -         | Gravel   | -     | -    |

**Trench 43**

|  |                       |       |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| <b>General description</b><br><br>Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer to the SW and to the NE gravel. | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |
|  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.4   |
|  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6   |
|  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |

**Contexts**

| context no | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment  | finds | date |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|------|
| 4301       | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Topsoil  | -     | -    |
| 4302       | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium | -     | -    |
| 4303       | Layer | -         | -         | Gravel   | -     | -    |

**Trench 44**



|   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>General description</b>  |             |                  |                  | <b>Orientation</b>    | NW-SE        |             |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed gravel. |             |                  |                  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.4          |             |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6          |             |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50           |             |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>context no</b>   | <b>type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>comment</b>        | <b>finds</b> | <b>date</b> |
| 4401  | Layer       | -                | 0.3              | Topsoil               | -            | -           |
| 4402  | Layer       | -                | -                | Gravel                | -            | -           |

|  |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Trench 45</b>   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>General description</b>   |             |                  |                  | <b>Orientation</b>    | NW-SE        |             |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench contained topsoil which sealed an orange brown alluvial layer. Below this was a creamy white fluvial sand deposit which were cut several features containing material similar to the overlying alluvium. These are thought to be natural in origin. |             |                  |                  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.4          |             |
|  |             |                  |                  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6          |             |
|  |             |                  |                  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50           |             |
| <b>Contexts</b>  |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>context no</b>  | <b>type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>comment</b>        | <b>finds</b> | <b>date</b> |
| 4501   | Layer       | -                | 0.3              | Topsoil               | -            | -           |
| 4502   | Layer       | -                | -                | Alluvium              | -            | -           |
| 4503   | Cut         | 0.22             | 0.2              | Natural feature       | -            | -           |
| 4504   | Fill        | 0.22             | 0.2              | Fill of 4503          | -            | -           |
| 4505   | Cut         | 0.18             | 0.1              | Natural feature       | -            | -           |
| 4506   | Fill        | 0.18             | 0.1              | Fill of 4505          | -            | -           |
| 4507   | Cut         | 0.4              | 0.45             | Natural feature       | -            | -           |
| 4508   | Fill        | 0.4              | 0.45             | Fill of 4507          | -            | -           |
| 4509   | Cut         | 0.23             | 0.17             | Natural feature       | -            | -           |
| 4510   | Fill        | 0.23             | 0.17             | Fill of 4509          | -            | --          |
| 4511   | Cut         | 0.22             | 0.1              | Natural feature       | -            | -           |
| 4512   | Fill        | 0.22             | 0.1              | Fill of 4511          | -            | -           |
| 4513   | Layer       | -                | -                | Fluvial sand          | -            | -           |

|   |  |  |  |                       |       |  |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|-------|--|
| <b>Trench 46</b>  |  |  |  |                       |       |  |
| <b>General description</b>  |  |  |  | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |  |
| Trench 46 contained a number of postholes, a small ditch and a tree throw which were sealed by topsoil and cut an orange brown alluvial layer. This sealed a creamy white fluvial sand layer, which overlay gravel. |  |  |  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.38  |  |
|   |  |  |  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.6   |  |
|   |  |  |  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |  |





| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                |              |             |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>context no</b> | <b>type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>comment</b> | <b>finds</b> | <b>date</b> |
| 4601              | Cut         | 0.3              | 0.1              | Posthole       | -            | -           |
| 4602              | Fill        | 0.3              | 0.1              | Fill of 4601   | -            | -           |
| 4603              | Cut         | 0.48             | 0.1              | Posthole       | -            | -           |
| 4604              | Fill        | 0.48             | 0.1              | Fill of 4603   | Burnt flint  | -           |
| 4605              | Cut         | 0.52             | 0.1              | Tree throw     | -            | -           |

| <b>Trench 47</b>  |                       |                  |                  |                |              |             |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>General description</b>  | <b>Orientation</b>    | NW-SE            |                  |                |              |             |
| Small trench sited to try to locate borehole 228. Devoid of archaeology. Contained topsoil overlying alluvium which overlay fluvial sand. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.4              |                  |                |              |             |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 2.9              |                  |                |              |             |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 2.9              |                  |                |              |             |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |                       |                  |                  |                |              |             |
| <b>context no</b>   | <b>type</b>           | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>comment</b> | <b>finds</b> | <b>date</b> |
| 4701  | Layer                 | -                | 0.3              | Topsoil        | -            | -           |
| 4702  | Layer                 | -                | 0.42             | Alluvium       | -            | -           |
| 4703  | Layer                 | -                | -                | Fluvial sand   | -            | -           |



## APPENDIX C. FLINT REPORT

*By David Mullin (Oxford Archaeology South)*

### **Introduction**

- 4.3.1 A total of 50 flints were recovered from eight stratified contexts. The material was dominated by waste flakes, but material which was chronologically diagnostic all belonged to the Neolithic period. In addition, a total of 38 pieces of burnt flint weighing 630g was recovered from four contexts.

### **Methods**

- 4.3.2 The flint was catalogued according to a broad debitage, core or tool type. Information about burning and breaks was recorded and where identifiable raw material type was also noted. Where possible dating was attempted.
- 4.3.3 Cores were classified according to the number and position of their platforms, following Clark (1960) and core maintenance pieces were classified to the following criteria. Core rejuvenation flakes are pieces representing the removal of the top or bottom of a core in order to improve the flaking angle of the platform. Core trimming flakes are flakes which remove a substantial part of a core in order to aid working by removing an imperfection in the core, a miss-hit or other impediment to flaking. The nature of any remnant flake scars on the dorsal surface of core trimming flakes was noted.
- 4.3.4 Flakes were classified following Saville (1990, 155), which allows an identification of the stage in the core reduction process to which the flake belongs. Terminations such as hinge fractures were noted. Chips are defined as pieces measuring less than 10mm by 10mm. Flakes having a proportions length to breadth ratio of greater than 2:1 were classified as blade-like, those with a greater length to breadth ratio being classified as blades. Mid-sections of blades with no bulb of percussion were classified as blade shatter (Andrefsky 1998, 81-3).
- 4.3.5 Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (Bamford 1985, Healy 1988, Bradley 1999, Butler 2005).
- 4.3.6 No attempt was made at refitting or use-wear analysis.
- 4.3.7 The data was entered directly into an MS Access database.

### **Results**

- 4.3.8 The flint is generally in good condition: some pieces display patination and a number of the flints are broken, but generally the assemblage is fresh and unrolled.

### **Raw materials**

- 4.3.9 A variety of raw materials were exploited, but a good quality brown coloured flint predominates. This material is probably fairly local in origin.



**Technology and Dating**

4.3.10 The majority (50%) of the material recovered from the excavations consists of waste flakes from the latter stages of the reduction sequence. This material is not readily dateable to period and may span the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. There is a relatively high number of core maintenance pieces, many of which have narrow blade scars on their ventral surfaces, suggesting a Neolithic date. Likewise the blade shatter and microdenticulated flake are of probable Neolithic date. The end and side scraper is also likely to be of this date.

| Description                         | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Primary waste                       | 0     |
| Secondary waste                     | 5     |
| Tertiary waste                      | 18    |
| Chips                               | 0     |
| Cores                               | 0     |
| Core rejuvenation tablets           | 0     |
| Core trimming flakes                | 13    |
| Bladelet                            | 0     |
| Blade-like flakes and blade shatter | 11    |
| Microdenticulates                   | 1     |
| Scrapers (Neolithic)                | 1     |
| Borer                               | 1     |
| Burnt flint                         | 38    |
| TOTAL                               | 88    |

Table 1: lithics identification and quantification

**Discussion**

- 4.3.11 The highest number of flints from a single context (a total of 30) were recovered from context 3305. These included a microdenticulated flake of probable Neolithic date along with blades and blade shatter of a similar date. This context also contained 34 pieces of burnt flint weighing 532g.
- 4.3.12 Context 3306 contained two pieces of burnt flint weighing 52g and a single core trimming flake.
- 4.3.13 Context 3003 contained a total of nine flints, but these included a diagnostically Neolithic side and end scraper and a borer of a similar date. The context also contained five core trimming flakes and two tertiary flakes.
- 4.3.14 Flint tableContext 4623 contained a total of three pieces of flint including a core trimming flake, alongside small fragments of probably Neolithic pottery.
- 4.3.15 Two pieces of burnt flint weighing 44g and 2g respectively were recovered from contexts 3906 and 4604.

Table of worked flints

| Contex | Description          | Burnt | Utilised | Broke | Raw         | Date      |
|--------|----------------------|-------|----------|-------|-------------|-----------|
| 3305   | blade shatter        | No    | No       | No    | patinated   |           |
| 3305   | tertiary flake       | No    | No       | No    | patinated   |           |
| 3002   | core trimming flake, | No    | No       | No    | patinated   | Neolithic |
| 3003   | core trimming flake, | No    | No       | No    | brown flint |           |
| 3003   | core trimming flake  | No    | No       | No    | brown flint |           |
| 3003   | end and side         | No    | No       | No    | dark grey   | Neolithic |
| 3003   | borer                | No    | No       | No    | brown flint | Neolithic |



|      |                     |    |    |     |             |           |
|------|---------------------|----|----|-----|-------------|-----------|
| 3003 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 3003 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 3003 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 3003 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 3003 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | grey flint  |           |
| 2805 | secondary flake     | No | No | No  | dark grey   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | light grey  |           |
| 3305 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | blade shatter       | No | No | Yes | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | Yes | grey flint  |           |
| 3305 | distal blade        | No | No | Yes | brown flint |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | grey flint  |           |
| 3305 | narrow blade        | No | No | No  | grey flint  |           |
| 3305 | blade shatter       | No | No | Yes | brown flint |           |
| 3305 | microdenticulate    | No | No | No  | patinated   | Neolithic |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | narrow blade        | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | secondary flake     | No | No | Yes | brown flint |           |
| 3305 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | secondary flake     | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 3305 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 3305 | utilised flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | blade shatter       | No | No | Yes | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | grey flint  |           |
| 3305 | secondary flake     | No | No | No  | grey flint  |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | blade shatter       | No | No | Yes | grey flint  |           |
| 3306 | core trimming flake | No | No | Yes | patinated   |           |
| 4606 | blade shatter       | No | No | Yes | grey flint  |           |
| 4606 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 4623 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 4623 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | grey flint  |           |
| 4623 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 4702 | secondary flake     | No | No | No  | brown flint |           |
| 4702 | core trimming flake | No | No | No  | grey flint  |           |
| 3104 | retouched blade     | No | No | Yes | grey flint  |           |
| 3104 | blade shatter       | No | No | Yes | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |
| 3305 | tertiary flake      | No | No | No  | patinated   |           |



## APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

*by Laura Trafford (Oxford Archaeology South)*

### **Introduction**

- 4.3.1 This report describes six samples taken from the field evaluation at Marlow in November 2009. The six bulk environmental samples were taken from a range of features for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts, and come from a range of features, as follows:
- 4.3.2 Sample <20> (4604) was a post hole fill and consisted of a yellowish brown silty loam, with ~5% flint gravel. 5L was processed for the recovery of charred remains, bones and artefacts.
- 4.3.3 Sample <21> (3906) was a pit fill and consisted of a brown sandy silt loam. 37L was processed for the recovery of charred remains, bones and artefacts.
- 4.3.4 Sample <22> (3506) was a linear ditch fill, made up of a brown sandy silt loam with flint gravel. 37L was processed for the recovery of charred remains, bones and artefacts.
- 4.3.5 Sample <23> (3305) was a prehistoric enclosure ring ditch, consisting of a brown sandy silt, with ~10% flint gravel. 16L was processed for the recovery of charred remains, bones and artefacts.
- 4.3.6 Sample <24> (4702) was an alluvial deposit and consisted of a yellowish brown silty loam, with ~5% flint gravel. 8L was processed for the recovery of charred remains, bones and artefacts.
- 4.3.7 Sample <25> (3104) was a linear ditch fill, consisting of a brown silty clay, with ~40% flint gravel. 18L was processed for the recovery of charred remains, bones and artefacts.

### **Aims**

Sampling was undertaken to:

- Describe the soils and sediments.
- Determine whether ecofacts and environmental evidence (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present.
- Determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence.
- Recover and identify any small artefacts.
- Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

### **Methodology**

- 4.3.8 The bulk samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) sieved to 500µm. All flots and heavy residues were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned for charred plant remains (CPR) using a



binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Identifications were made without comparison to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and should, therefore, all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

## Results

### ***Bones and artefacts***

4.3.9 All finds from the residues have been passed to the relevant specialists.

### ***Molluscs***

4.3.10 Fragments of *Cecilioides acicula* were present in the flots of four out of the six samples (samples <21> (3906), <22> (3506), <23> (3305) and <25> (3104). These have been recognised and quantified, but cannot be used in interpreting the site because this species burrows deeply and provides no reliable information.

4.3.11 Sample <21> (3906) produced a few examples of *Vallonia Pulchella*, which is an open country species found on wet grasslands and floodplains. The snail assemblage from the samples is too small to provide useful information, however the presence of shells does indicate that snails are preserved on site, although their antiquity is unknown.

### ***Charred plant remains***

4.3.12 Table 1 summarises the assessment results for the charred plant remains. The samples produced very limited plant remains, few of which appeared charred. Sample <21> (3906), <22> (3506), and <25> (3104) all produced seeds from *Rumex* sp. (docks) in high numbers, while all samples apart from <22> (3506) and <23> (3305) produced *Chenopodium* sp. seeds (oraches), and samples <20> (4604) and <22> (3506) contained fewer than 5 examples of *Rubus* sp. (blackberry / raspberry) each, however all the seeds displayed a tan colour and were not convincingly charred, suggesting they are not in fact ancient. Charcoal was present in all samples, however the fragments too small to be identifiable. All of the samples suggested some amount of modern intrusion, with plant root, insects and insect casts present.

### ***Discussion and recommendations***

4.3.13 The evaluation samples suggest that charred plant remains, although minimal, are preserved and that ancient molluscs may be preserved, but are rare. It also appears that the deposits and features sampled had been subject to some form of modern intrusion with the inclusion of insects, snails, modern plant root, and abundant seeds which demonstrate a modern appearance.

4.3.14 While the range of charred plant remains from the samples was very limited, the presence of some charcoal implies that more significant charred remains could be more numerous in other features that have not yet been excavated. Larger samples from secure and potentially datable prehistoric deposits would be required in order to collect as much CPR material as possible; volumes of up to 40L-60L should be collected.

4.3.15 Future excavations should target a range of securely dated features across the site, and should be in accordance with the most recent Oxford Archaeology Sampling Guidelines (OA 2005) and English Heritage Sampling Guidelines (EH 2002).



## ***References***

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



## APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme**Site code:** MARFA09**Type of evaluation:** 20 trench evaluation**Date and duration of project:** 9<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> November 2009**Area of site:** 7.9 hectare

**Summary of results:** The trenching refined the evidence from an existing paleotopographic model for two palaeochannels separated by a smaller gravel island that cross the Site from SW – NE and converge further to the East. Fills of these channels were seen to have limited archaeological and environmental potential. A low density of potential archaeological features were recorded across the northern and western parts of the Site. These included pits, post holes and ditches, most of which contained no finds, but a limited number contained material of Neolithic date. Most of the features were dug through an alluvium in the low-lying areas associated with the palaeochannels. The position, date and form of a Neolithic rectangular enclosure located on the southern edge of the gravel island to the north of the Site was confirmed in Trench 33. Trenches within Harleyford Field demonstrated that modern ploughing had probably significantly truncated archaeological features and abundant struck flint, and a single sherd of Neolithic pottery was observed within the ploughsoil. This level of truncation was not observed in the pasture land of Yela Bina Field.

**Location of archive:**

The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the appropriate Museum Trust in due course.

**Document Type:** Evaluation Report  
**Issue/Version Number:** 1  
**Grid Reference:** 484140 185390  
**Planning Reference:** 09/01571/FUL  
**OA Job Number:** 4567  
**Site Code:** MARFA09  
**Invoice Code:** MARFAEV2  
**Receiving Museum:** Buckinghamshire County Museum  
**Museum Accession No:** 2005.36  
**Event No:** N/A

| Issue | Prepared by                                      | Checked by                  | Approved by                    | Signature |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1     | Gerry Thacker/Carl Champness<br>Project Officers | Ben Ford<br>Project Manager | Dan Poore<br>Head of Fieldwork |           |

Document File Location Projects on server 1:\Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme 2009\Report and Specialist stuff\Report\Final Report\MARFAEV2 Report  
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Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



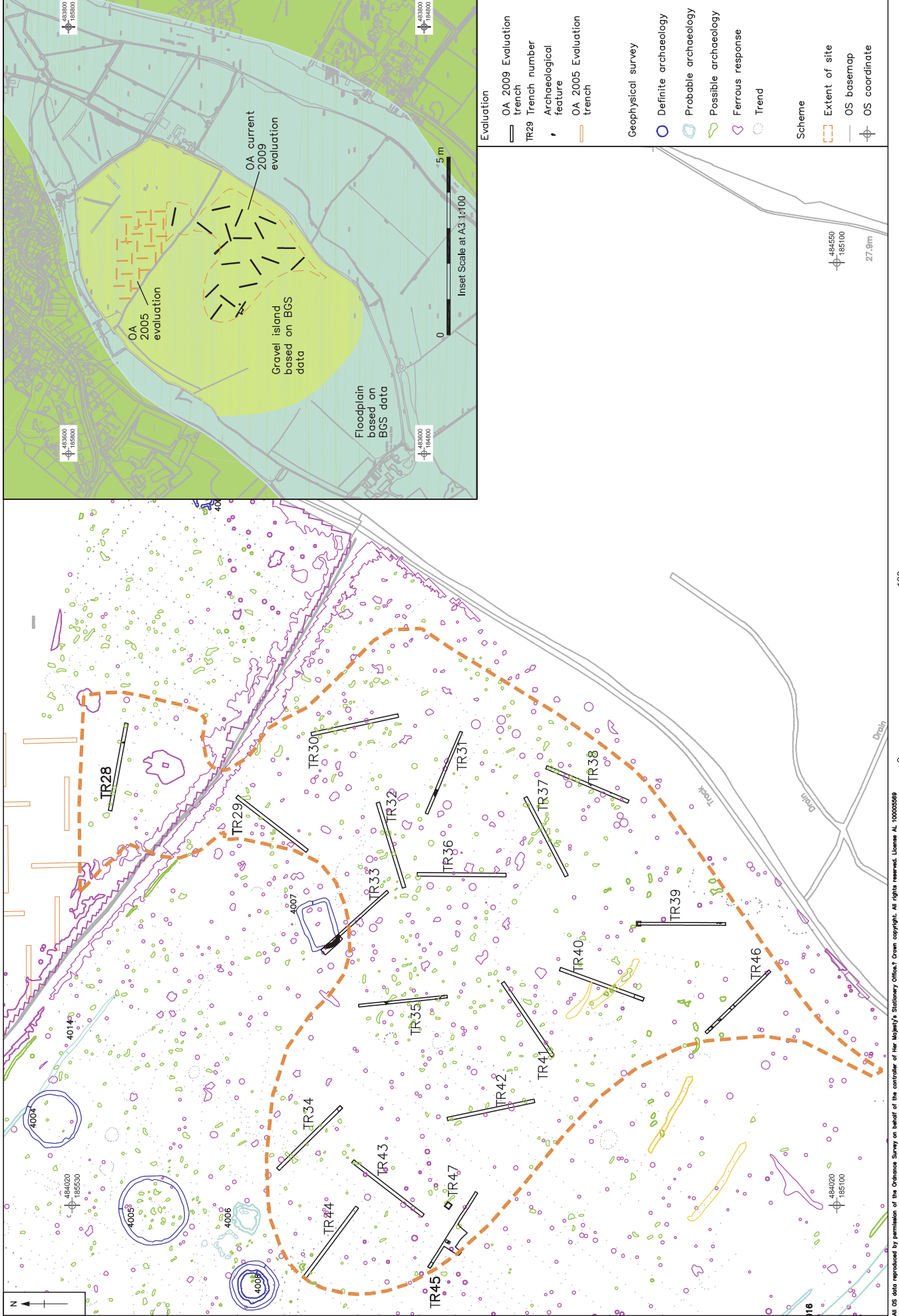


Figure 2: Trench Layout

Survey Data supplied by : Halcrow/WYAS/OA



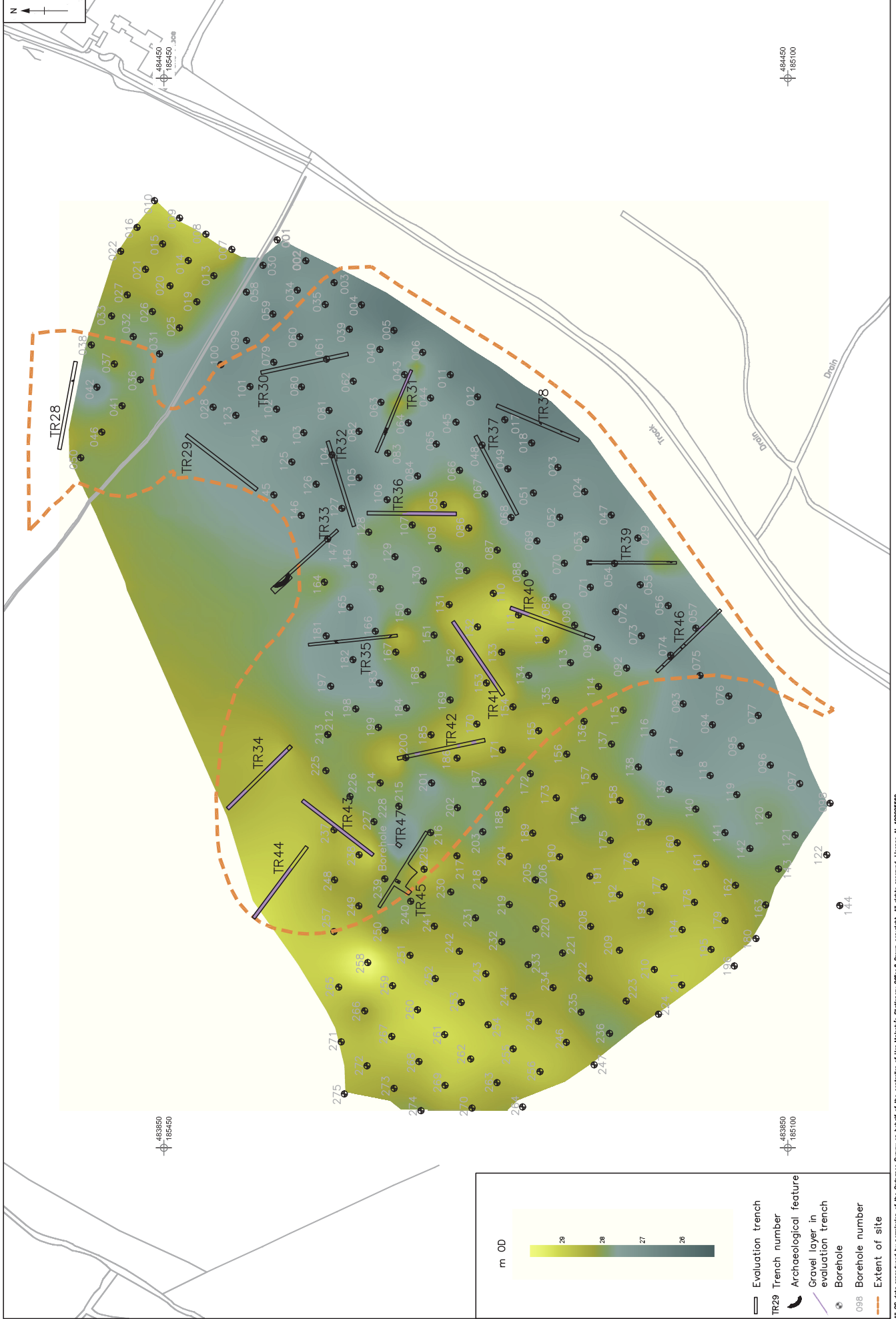


Figure 3: Trench plan showing archaeological features and gravel surfaces

Scale at A3 1:2000

Survey Data supplied by : Halcrow/MYAS/OA

0 100 m



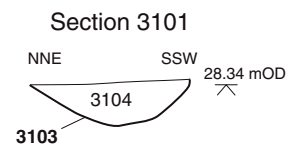
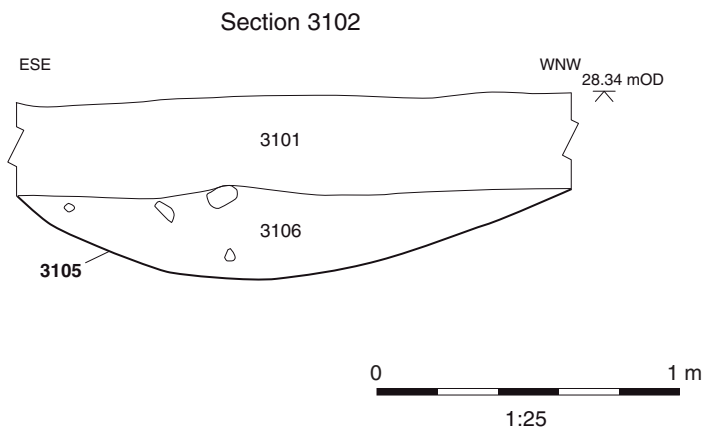
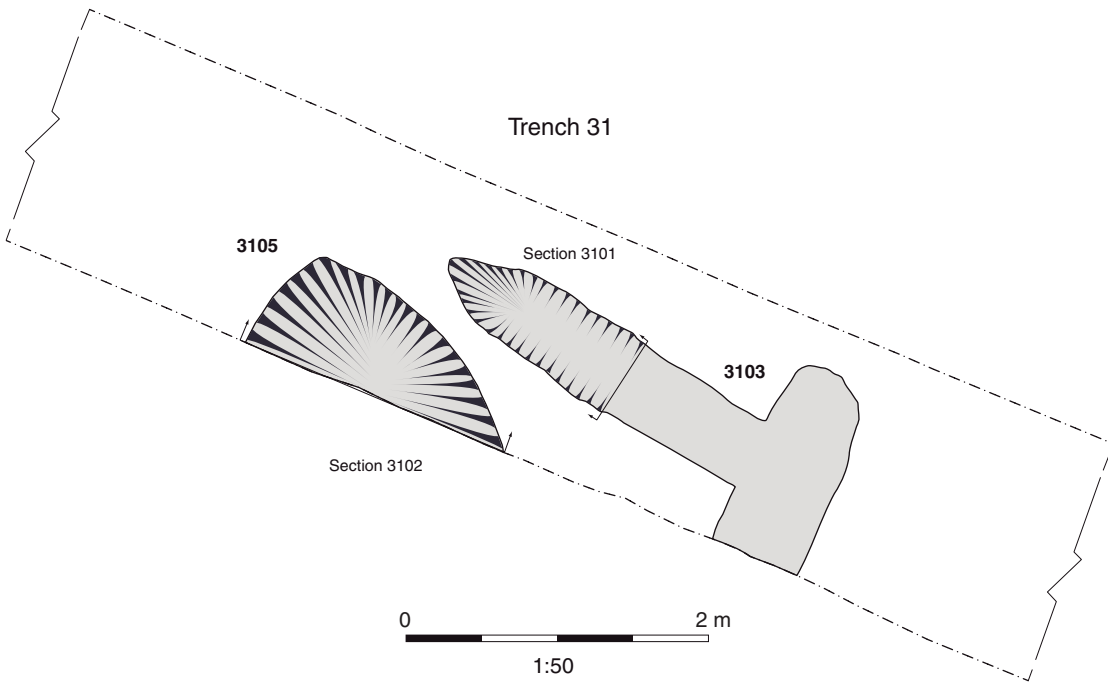
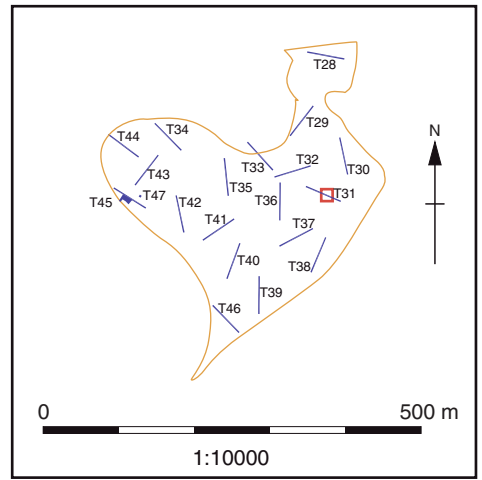


Figure 4: Trench 31





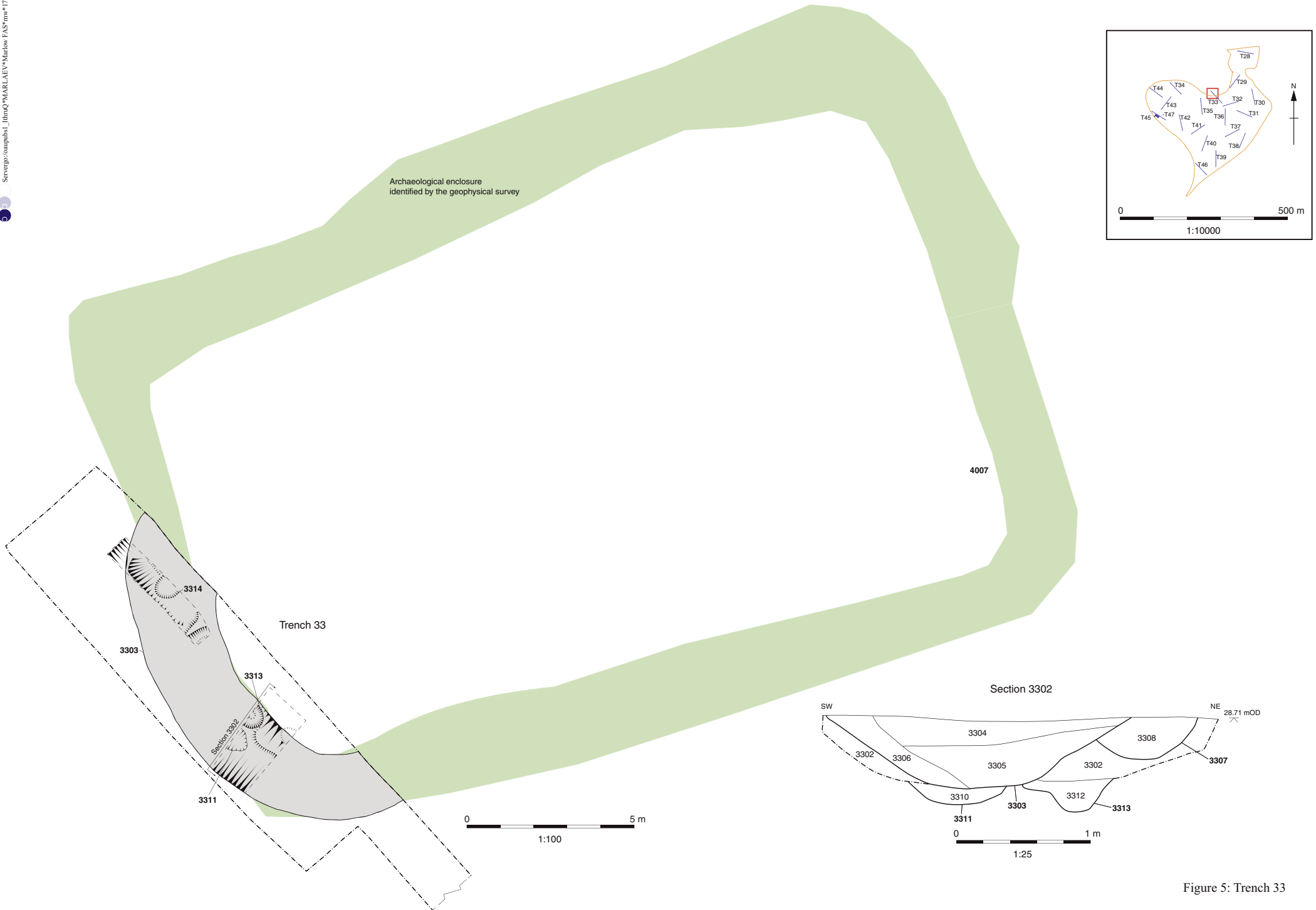


Figure 5: Trench 33



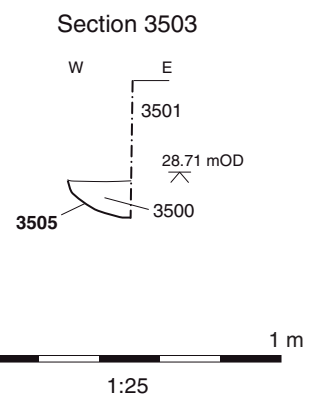
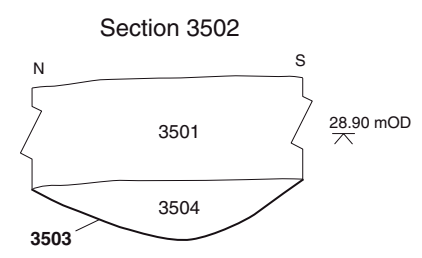
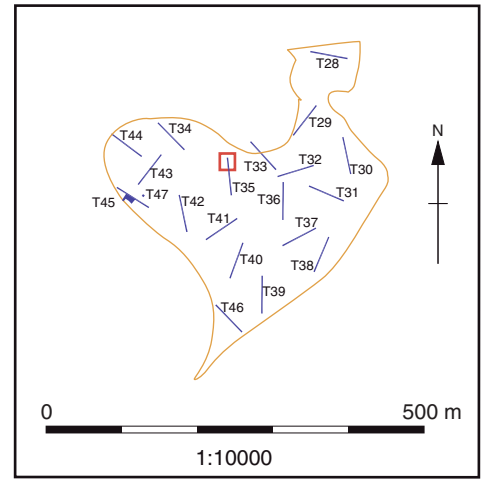
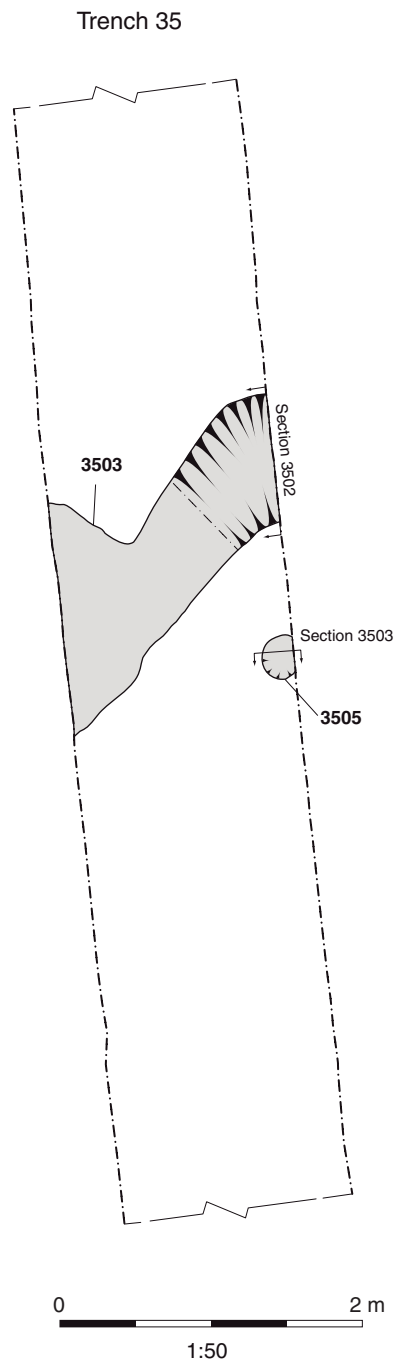
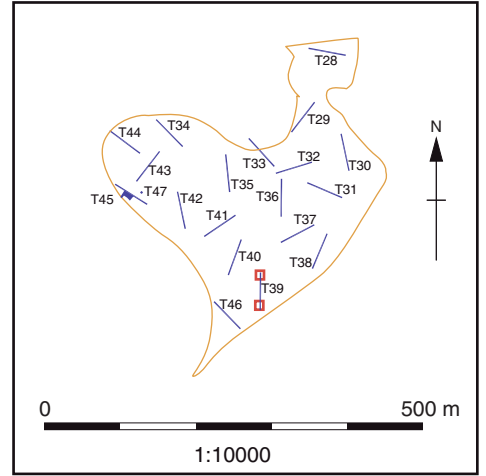
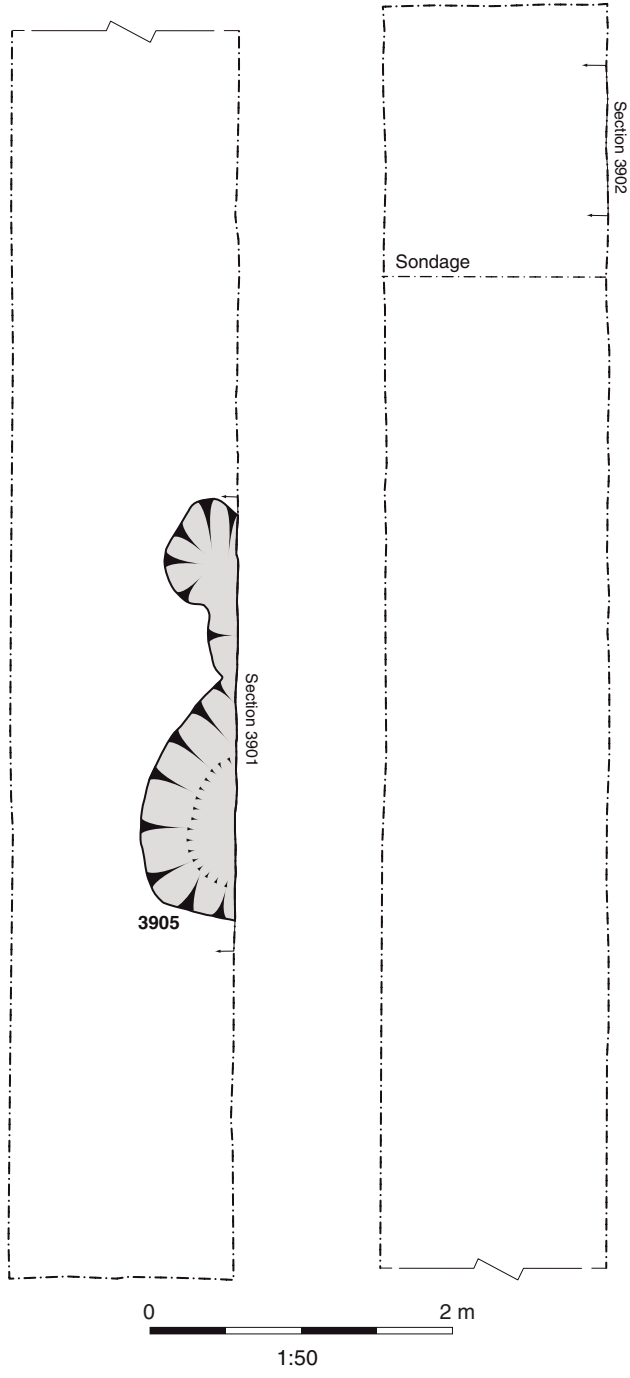


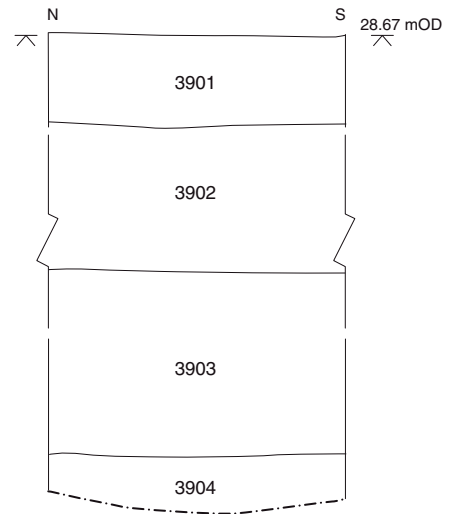
Figure 6: Trench 35



### Trench 39



### Section 3902



### Section 3901

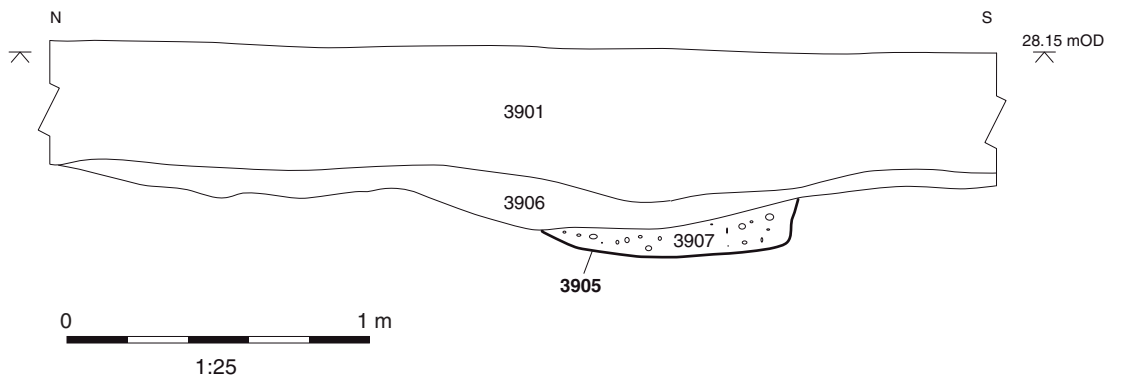


Figure 7: Trench 39



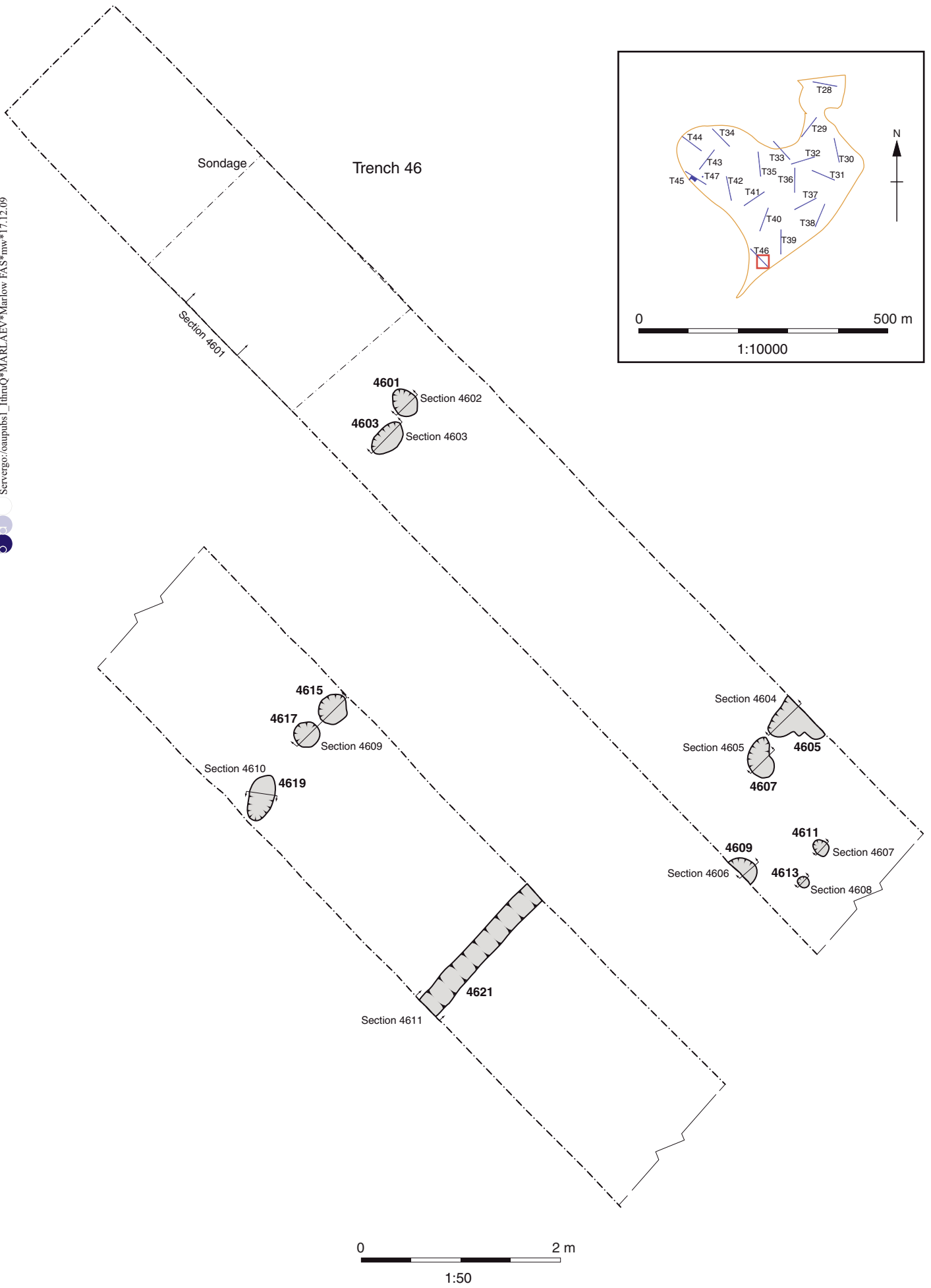


Figure 8: Trench 46, plan





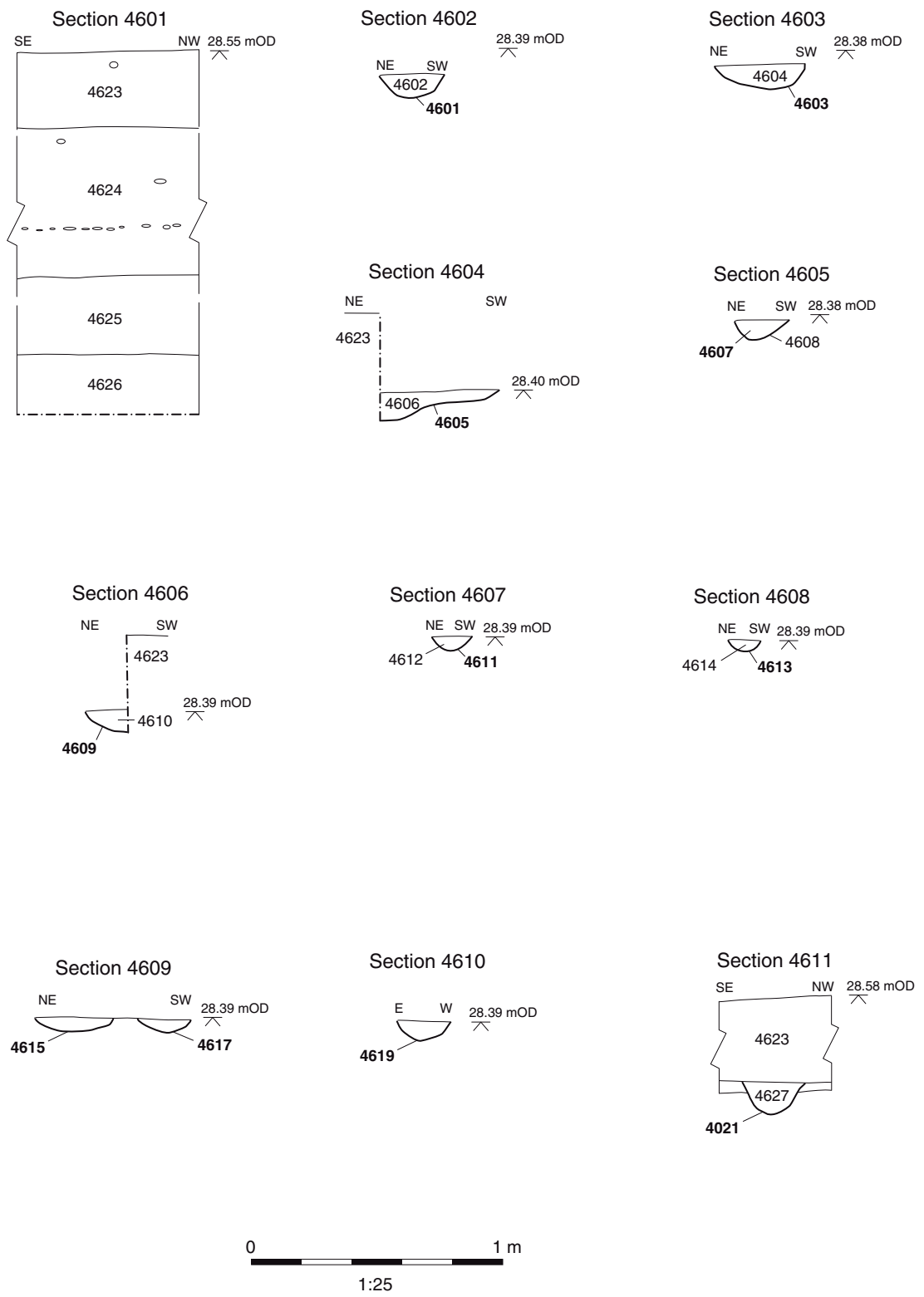


Figure 9: Trench 46, sections



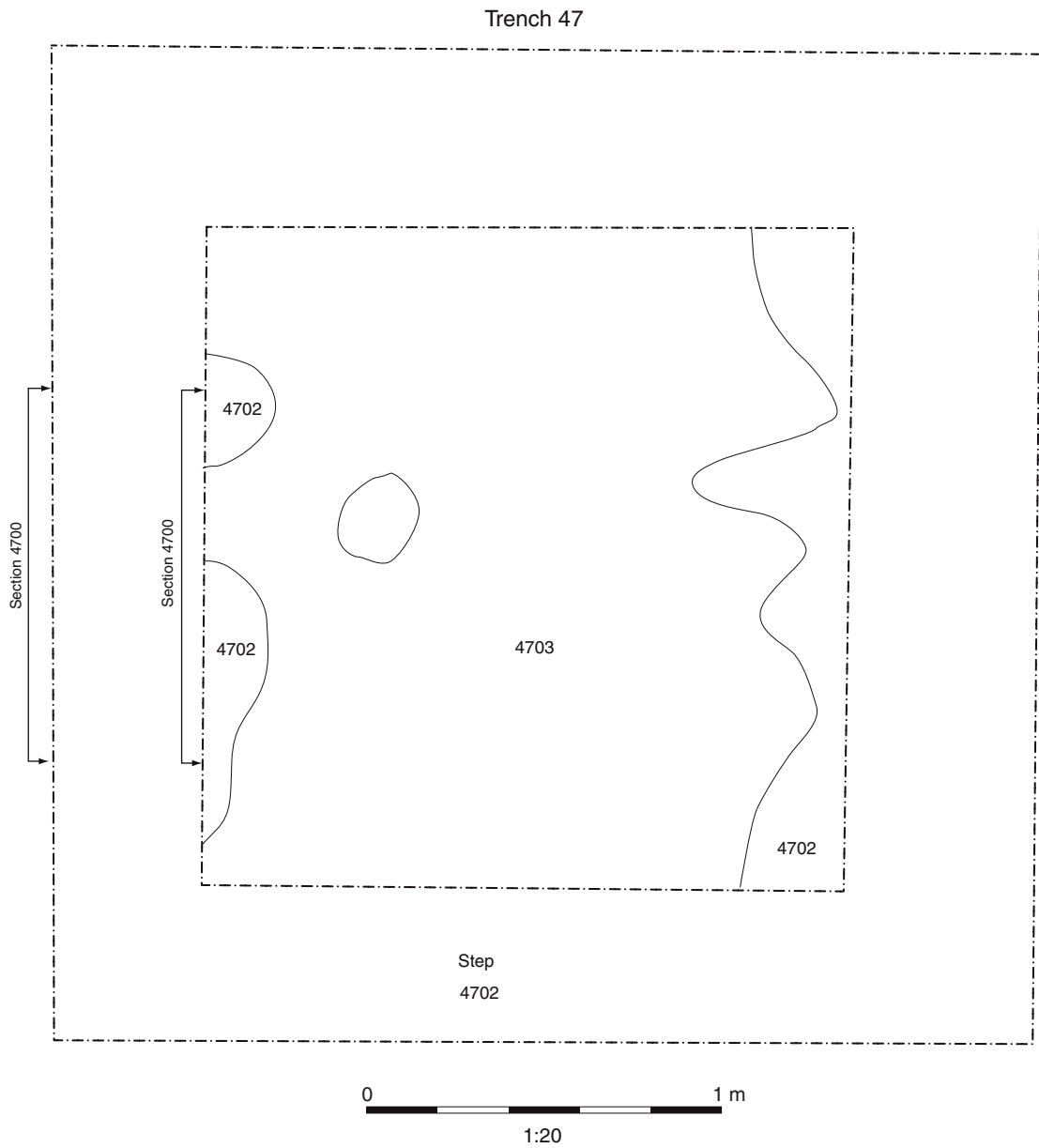
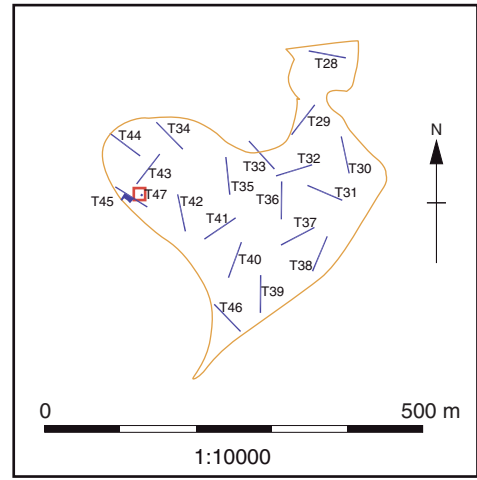
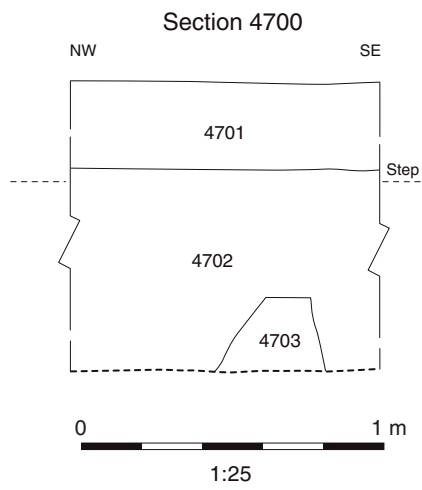


Figure 10: Trench 47







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