

Archaeological evaluation at Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, Staffordshire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for Orion Heritage Ltd

July 2019



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PENDEFORD MILL LANE, BILBROOK, STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological evaluation report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name: Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, Staffordshire

Local planning authority: South Staffordshire Council

Planning reference: 18/00710/FUL

Central NGR: SJ 88325 03145

Commissioning client: Orion Heritage Ltd

Client project reference: PN1433/2

WA project number: P5628

WA report number: 2721

Oasis reference: fieldsec1-359490

Museum accession number: STKMG:2019.LH.60

| DOCUMENT CONTROL PANEL | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|--|-------------|
| Version | Date | Author | Details | Approved by |
| 1 | 16/07/2019 | Peter Lovett | Draft for comment | Tom Vaughan |
| 2 | 18/07/2019 | Peter Lovett | Amended with client's comments | Tom Vaughan |
| 3 | 30/07/2019 | Peter Lovett | Amended with client's further comments | Tom Vaughan |

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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----------|
| SUMMARY | 1 |
| REPORT | 2 |
| 1 INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| 1.1 Background to the project | 2 |
| 1.2 Site location, topography and geology..... | 2 |
| 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND | 2 |
| 2.1 Introduction | 2 |
| 2.2 Previous archaeological work on the site | 2 |
| 3 PROJECT AIMS | 3 |
| 4 PROJECT METHODOLOGY | 3 |
| 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS | 4 |
| 5.1 Introduction | 4 |
| 5.2 Trench and deposit descriptions..... | 4 |
| 5.2.1 Natural deposits across the site..... | 4 |
| 5.2.2 Modern deposits..... | 4 |
| 5.2.3 Trench 2 | 4 |
| 5.2.4 Trench 4 | 4 |
| 5.2.5 Trench 7 | 4 |
| 5.2.6 Trench 10 | 4 |
| 5.2.7 Trench 14 | 4 |
| 5.2.8 Trench 15 | 4 |
| 5.2.9 Trench 17 | 4 |
| 5.2.10 Trench 19 | 5 |
| 5.2.11 Trench 20 | 5 |
| 5.2.12 Trench 21 | 5 |
| 5.2.13 Trench 22 | 5 |
| 5.2.14 Trench 23 | 5 |
| 5.2.15 Trench 24 | 5 |
| 5.2.16 Trench 25 | 6 |
| 5.2.17 Trench 26 | 6 |
| 5.2.18 Trench 27 | 6 |
| 5.2.19 Trench 28 | 6 |
| 5.2.20 Trench 29 | 6 |
| 5.2.21 Trench 30 | 6 |
| 5.2.22 Trench 31 | 7 |
| 5.2.23 Blank trenches..... | 7 |
| 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE, BY ROB HEDGE | 7 |
| 6.1 Artefact methodology | 7 |
| 6.1.1 Recovery policy | 7 |
| 6.1.2 Method of analysis | 7 |
| 6.1.3 Discard policy | 7 |
| 6.2 Artefactual analysis | 8 |
| 6.2.1 Quantification | 8 |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| 6.2.2 | Discussion | 9 |
| 6.2.3 | Context dating | 10 |
| 6.3 | Synthesis | 11 |
| 6.3.1 | Research frameworks | 11 |
| 6.4 | Significance | 11 |
| 6.5 | Recommendations | 11 |
| 6.5.1 | Further analysis and reporting | 11 |
| 6.5.2 | Discard and retention | 11 |
| 7 | ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE, BY ELIZABETH PEARSON | 11 |
| 7.1 | Environmental methodology..... | 11 |
| 7.1.1 | Recovery policy | 12 |
| 7.1.2 | Method of analysis | 12 |
| 7.1.3 | Discard policy | 12 |
| 7.2 | Environmental analysis | 12 |
| 7.3 | Significance | 13 |
| 8 | DISCUSSION | 14 |
| 9 | SIGNIFICANCE | 15 |
| 10 | CONCLUSIONS | 15 |
| 11 | PROJECT PERSONNEL | 15 |
| 12 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 15 |
| 13 | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 16 |

FIGURES

PLATES

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF PROJECT ARCHIVE

Archaeological evaluation at Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, Staffordshire

By Peter Lovett

With contributions by Rob Hedge and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in June and July 2019 at Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 88325 03145). The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd on behalf of Bloor Homes, in advance of a proposed residential development. Planning permission has been granted by South Staffordshire Council and the decision notice has been issued with Condition 8 addressing archaeological requirements (Planning Reference 18/00710/FUL).

Thirty-two evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. These trenches targeted geophysical anomalies identified from a survey, which mainly related to medieval agricultural practices in the form of furrows. The evaluation revealed Roman activity on the eastern side of the site, defined by a probable enclosure ditch with a possible associated droveway, and was indicative of domestic settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. A number of small ditches on the interior of the enclosure probably represent internal sub-divisions. The pottery recovered from the site was in good condition and with a higher than average sherd size, and suggested a main period of activity in the 2nd to mid-3rd century. Environmental evidence was poor, with no preservation of bone and only a small amount of charred cereal crop, though hammerscale was present, suggesting some level of metal working in the vicinity.

The site of a possible Second World War anti-aircraft emplacement was identified on the site, defined by an area of made ground and serviced by a now defunct electricity cable.

The evaluation demonstrates that a Roman enclosure of probable 2nd to mid-3rd century date survives, which may help to further the understanding of the hinterlands of nearby urban centres and the relationship between rural settlement and the Roman road network.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in June and July 2019 at Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 88325 03145). This comprised 32 evaluation trenches. The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd on behalf of Bloor Homes, in advance of a proposed residential development. Planning permission has been granted by South Staffordshire Council and the decision notice has been issued with Condition 8 addressing archaeological requirements (Planning Reference 18/00710/FUL).

No brief was provided but pre-application discussions were held with Debbie Taylor at Staffordshire County Council (SCC). A WSI was prepared by Orion Heritage Ltd (Orion Heritage 2019) in line with those discussions, and approved by SCC in March 2019. The evaluation also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Pendeford Mill Lane, on the eastern side of Bilbrook. It is bounded on the west by residential properties and to the south and east by agricultural land. The River Penk flows c 500m to the south and east of the site, whilst Moat Brook runs c 400m to the north.

The site is 6.3ha in size, and sits on the Helsby Sandstone Formation of sandstone and pebbly bedrock (BGS 2019). No superficial deposits are recorded. The site is generally flat across the central area, at around 115.5m AOD, dropping off slightly in the south to 114.80m and sloping more to 109.50m in the north-east. The land is currently laid to grass for grazing in the west, paddocks in the north, and for hay in the east.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by Orion Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Bloor Homes (Orion Heritage 2017). The findings presented in the DBA are summarised below.

No archaeological interventions have been recorded within the site or within the wider 1km study area. As such, the baseline knowledge of the site may be skewed by a dearth of data. However, no findspots of prehistoric or Roman date have been recorded in the study area, suggesting that the landscape had not seen a great deal of activity within these periods. A Roman road is mapped running north to south, 1km east of the site. This is projected to run between the Roman Greensforge fort (c 14.5km south) and the town at *Pennocrucium* (c 7km north). No other Roman activity has been recorded in the area.

The village of Bilbrook is recorded in Domesday, and the historic core is most likely to have been located to the north-west of the site, as shown in the earliest historic mapping. The site occupies what was the surrounding agricultural land. A low to moderate potential for agricultural remains dating to the medieval period was identified, with a low potential for all other periods.

2.2 Previous archaeological work on the site

As part of the preparation of the DBA, a geophysical survey was undertaken (MS 2017). No features of archaeological potential were identified beyond possible medieval agricultural activity in the form of furrows.

3 Project aims

The principal aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains
- Determine the character, extent, date, complexity, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any archaeological remains present, therefore ensuring their preservation by record
- To provide robust baseline information to inform the scoping of a mitigation strategy, should this be required.

The general objectives were to ensure:

- The protection and recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works
- That any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified
- The recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Orion Heritage (Orion Heritage 2019) and approved by SCC in March 2019. Fieldwork was undertaken between 24 June and 2 July 2019.

Thirty-two trenches, amounting to 1,935m² in area, were excavated over the 6.3ha site, representing a sample of 3%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. The site was divided into 13 areas for the purposes of the geophysical survey, the first six of which were investigated during this evaluation.

The trenches were non-gridded and positioned either to interrogate a number of geophysical anomalies identified in the survey (MS 2017), or to assess impacts of the proposed residential development across the site. Trenches 7, 10, 14, 15, and 17 were positioned to test possible furrows, whilst Trenches 9, 16, 20, 23, 24, and 26 were positioned to test other linear features. Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 31 and 32 were moved slightly to avoid fences and rabbit hutches. The feature sampling strategy was discussed and agreed between Orion Heritage and WA on site.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was undertaken through a combination of structural, artefactual and environmental evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The features recorded in the trenches are shown in Figures 2-10. The trench and context inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

The structural analysis is described by trench, with trenches that contained no archaeological deposits listed at the end.

5.2 Trench and deposit descriptions

5.2.1 Natural deposits across the site

The natural strata generally consisted of a mid orangey red sand, with occasional patches of pink clay or gravels. Reddish sandstone outcrops were present, predominantly in the east and south of the site.

5.2.2 Modern deposits

A subsoil of various thicknesses (0.1m to 0.4m) was overlain by a topsoil of dark brown sandy loam (0.25m to 0.4m thick).

5.2.3 Trench 2

Three features were present in this trench; two small curvilinear features running roughly north to south, and a small pit (Plates 2 and 3). None contained any dateable material. All three features were filled with material that was indistinguishable from the subsoil, at a depth of 0.6m from the surface. The pit was 0.96m wide and 0.38m deep, whilst ditch 205 was 0.44m wide and 0.25m deep. Ditch 203 ran partially into the edge of the trench so its width was not fully revealed, but it was excavated to 0.66m wide and 0.22m deep.

5.2.4 Trench 4

A small undated ditch, 1.15m wide and 0.15m deep was excavated in this trench. It corresponds closely with a geophysical anomaly. The feature was 0.68m below the current surface.

5.2.5 Trench 7

Here there was a small ditch, close to a north-south alignment, that terminated at the northern end. It was 0.41m wide and 0.09m deep, and was 0.43m from the ground surface (Plate 4). It contained no dateable material.

5.2.6 Trench 10

Two linear features were recorded in this trench, both lining up with the anomalies identified on the geophysical survey as furrows. One of the furrows was excavated, and was 0.08m deep. They were 0.58m below the current surface.

5.2.7 Trench 14

Trench 14 was similar to Trench 10, in containing two linear features that were likely to be furrows. Neither was excavated. They were 0.52m below the ground surface.

5.2.8 Trench 15

Trench 15 contained an unexcavated linear feature that aligned well with a projected furrow on the geophysical survey. It was 0.54m from the ground surface.

5.2.9 Trench 17

A further unexcavated linear feature that corresponds to a furrow from the geophysical survey was present, along with an undated pit 1703 that was probably of natural origin. The trench was 0.45m deep.

5.2.10 Trench 19

A single linear feature was present. It measured 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep, and was aligned roughly east to west, along the same line as the field boundary 15m to the south. No dating was recovered. It was 0.7m below the current surface.

5.2.11 Trench 20

A small linear feature, measuring 1.4m wide and 0.24m deep was excavated. It contained a single homogenous fill, and remained undated. The geophysical survey had indicated an anomaly at the western end of the trench, which was revealed to be a modern feature. The trench was 0.64m deep.

5.2.12 Trench 21

Six features were recorded in Trench 21 (Fig 4; Plates 13-15); three ditches and three pits, at a depth of 0.5m below the current ground surface. Ditch 2103 was a narrow but very deep gully that was cut through sandstone, and may have been partially caused by water erosion. It was 0.5m wide but 0.73m deep, tapering to a narrow base. It was undated but potentially Roman by association with other features adjacent.

Pit 2109 was 1.3m across and 0.22m wide. If it was a storage pit it was considered likely to have been quite truncated. It had an uncertain relationship with posthole 2107 at its eastern end, which was similarly shallow, at 0.11m deep. An unexcavated posthole, 2105, lay 0.5m to the south-east. Pit 2113 was also unexcavated but was of a similar size and shape to 2109. Small ditch 2111 lay between the two pits and was also unexcavated.

Ditch 2117 and pit 2115 shared an uncertain relationship at the north end of the trench. The pit, 0.72m wide and 0.17m deep, just clipped the edge of the ditch, which was 1.18m wide and 0.15m deep. Neither feature returned any dateable material but both are considered to be broadly Roman based on the general dating of the site.

5.2.13 Trench 22

Small ditch 2205 was aligned roughly north to south, and measured 0.75m wide and 0.27m deep (Fig 5; Plate 8). At the eastern end of the trench were two postholes and a cluster of possible pits. Of these, posthole 2203 was excavated (Plate 7). It was 0.62m wide and 0.17m deep, and contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. A spread of material (2211) some 5m across in the middle of the trench was investigated but remains inconclusive. It was conjectured during fieldwork to be weathered natural sand over sandstone bedrock. The trench was 0.5m deep.

5.2.14 Trench 23

At the eastern end of the trench was a shallow and amorphous pit, 2304, 0.17m deep. It was considered to be the result of tree rooting. At the western end, there was a thick deposit of modern made ground overlying the subsoil. This was 0.73m thick, and is related to a Second World War structure. It corresponds with a large anomaly on the geophysical survey, and can be seen as a rise in topography on the surface. The trench was 1.17m deep at the western end, shallowing to 0.64m at the eastern end.

5.2.15 Trench 24

Eight features were revealed in this trench, four of which were excavated (Fig 6). All five ditches present were aligned roughly north to south, including possible terminus 2417. Ditch 2404 was 1.27m wide and 0.38m deep, with a slightly irregular rounded profile. Ditch 2407 cut pit 2409, and measured 1.12m wide and 0.52m deep (Plate 12). It contained Roman pottery. Pit 2405 was a wide but very shallow pit, being only 0.1m deep, and contained Roman pottery. The trench was 0.32m deep. An obsolete electric cable was uncovered at the western end of the trench, which relates to the Second World War feature in Trench 23.

5.2.16 Trench 25

A small, slightly curving ditch was present at the northern end of the trench. It was 0.64m wide and 0.17m deep, and undated, although was considered likely to be Roman by association. It may be the same as a ditch in Trench 26. At the southern end of the trench was a larger feature (2503) that went beyond the limits of excavation at the south and eastern edges. As such it was difficult to determine its form but it was thought to be a continuation of ditches seen in Trench 26 and 30. Several large sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the surface during machining. It was not excavated, and was 0.58m from the surface.

5.2.17 Trench 26

Four linear features were revealed, three of which were excavated (Figs 7 and 8; Plates 5 and 6). All of the ditches were aligned roughly north to south. Ditch 2606 is likely to be a continuation of ditch 2503, and was 2m wide and 0.84m deep, containing several sherds of Roman pottery. It contained three fills, all of which were soft sandy deposits, likely to have been formed via low energy processes. No deliberate backfilling or slighting of the feature was discernible. The other excavated ditches were smaller, being around 0.8m wide and c 0.3m deep. Ditch 2609 showed some evidence for slighting, with a large lump of clay mixed into an otherwise sandy upper fill, suggesting it may have been pushed in from the bank material. The ditch contained Roman pottery, and was 0.5m below the surface.

5.2.18 Trench 27

Three linear features were present in this trench (Fig 9). One of the ditches was only identified after the trench had been open for a number of days, and had weathered out. The natural bedrock in this part of the site was very sandy, and the fills of the ditches were very similar to it. The northernmost ditch was 0.44m wide and 0.13m deep, and was slightly curving from north to south-west (Plate 10). The two larger features to the south were 0.84m wide and 0.28m deep, and 1.08m wide and 0.34m deep. No dateable material was recovered but all are considered to be Roman. The trench was 0.73m deep.

5.2.19 Trench 28

Aside from a shallow furrow running east to west, only one probable archaeological feature was present. This was a large oval pit, cut through solid sandstone. It measured 2.7m by 1.5m before it went beyond the limits of the trench edge, and remained unexcavated. It is probably Roman in date, and may well be a small quarry pit to extract stone. The trench was 0.6m deep.

5.2.20 Trench 29

Two furrows were present in this trench, aligned east to west. A large modern pit backfilled with brick rubble was also noted, 0.43m below the surface.

5.2.21 Trench 30

Three ditches and two discrete features were present, of which three were excavated (Fig 10). Possible posthole 3004 was a shallow and irregularly edged feature (Plate 9), whilst ditch 3006 was 0.13m deep and 0.55m wide. Neither contained dateable material. A possible ditch terminus 3008 was unexcavated. Ditch 3016 was aligned north-east to south-west, and contained three distinct fills of slowly accumulated silty sands. Several large and well preserved sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from near the base of the lowest fill, none of which appeared to have been deliberately placed. The ditch is considered to relate to the ditch seen in Trenches 25 and 26 (2503 and 2606). A large linear feature (3012) (Plate 11) filled by gleyed material, ran down the slope, roughly north to south, and over the north-eastern end of ditch 3016. This may be an historic water channel. It post-dates the Roman ditch, but was otherwise undated. The trench was 0.85m deep.

5.2.22 Trench 31

No archaeological features were present in this trench, but post-medieval or later dumping of brick rubble as consolidation of damp ground was observed along the length of the trench. A sondage 1.5m deep at the southern end of the trench showed it to be 0.4m thick, over gleyed natural sands. This in turn sat on solid sandstone bedrock. The only land drain observed on the site was located at the northern end of the trench, highlighting the issue of water run off down the slope.

5.2.23 Blank trenches

The following trenches contained no archaeological deposits:

1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 18, and 32.

6 Artefactual evidence, by Rob Hedge

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

6.1 Artefact methodology

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findswork by ClfA (2014b), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

6.1.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

6.1.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on Microsoft Access database.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined and included in the analysis.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form. In the absence of a county-wide fabric reference system for Roman pottery in Staffordshire, codes follow the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org), drawing on relevant local fabric series (e.g. Leary 2008 and Evans 2015) where possible.

6.1.3 Discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). All artefacts will be collected from stratified excavated contexts, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain such as local production. Such material may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

6.2 Artefactual analysis

6.2.1 Quantification

The artefactual assemblage is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The assemblage came from 10 stratified contexts, and was almost entirely Roman in date, with the exception of a single residual prehistoric flint flake. Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good; whilst some of the softer fabrics were abraded due to soil conditions, others were in excellent condition. At 22.4g, the mean sherd weight was considerably above average for a rural site in this area.

| Period | Material class | Object specific type | Count | Weight(g) |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| prehistoric | flint | flake | 1 | 0.2 |
| Roman | ceramic | pot | 48 | 1073 |
| | slag | hammerscale | 20 | 0.21 |
| | stone | counter | 1 | 11 |
| | slag | clinker | 7 | 0.1 |
| undated | igneous rock | burnt stone | 1 | 4.4 |
| | | Totals | 78 | 1088.91 |

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

| Broad period | Worcs fabric | Redhill fabrics (Evans 2015) | M6 Toll fabrics (Leary 2008) | Fabric common name | Count | Weight(g) |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|
| Roman | 12 | O6 | SV1 | Severn Valley ware | 31 | 738 |
| | 12.2 | O12 | SV2 | Oxidised organically tempered Severn Valley ware | 5 | 102 |
| | 13 | O1/O2 | O1 | Sandy oxidized ware | 1 | 7 |
| | 14 | R4 | R16 | Sandy grey ware | 8 | 196 |
| | 29 | OXFRCC | - | Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated ware | 1 | 19 |
| | 43 | - | - | Samian ware | 1 | 3 |
| | 98 | - | - | Sandy self-slipped oxidised ware | 1 | 8 |
| | | | Totals | 48 | 1073 | |

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

6.2.2 Discussion

Prehistoric

The only artefact pre-dating the Roman period was a single prehistoric worked flint flake, residual within an environmental sample of fill (2110) of pit [2109].

Roman

Environmental samples of deposits within Trench 21 yielded small quantities of clinker and flake hammerscale – indicating the presence of iron-smithing waste.

The remainder of the assemblage comprised Roman pottery. It was present within stratified deposits in Trenches 22, 24, 25, 26, and 30. As noted above, the condition was generally very good, with large sherds showing little sign of post-depositional disturbance. They are highly unlikely to be residual, and are likely to indicate settlement activity in the near vicinity.

Fabrics

The assemblage is dominated by Severn Valley wares (fabric 12). Due to their consistency across the region it is rarely possible to confidently ascribe these wares to specific production sites, but kilns at Perry Barr and Wroxeter were likely to have served this area. The presence of organic-tempered *variants* (fabric 12.2) is generally an indication of a 1st or 2nd century date. Similarly, Samian ware is more common prior to the mid-3rd century, although the single sherd present on this site was somewhat abraded. Other (probably local) oxidised (fabric 13) and grey (fabric 14) coarsewares span the Roman period. The sole sherd that might suggest a later date is the rim of a flanged bowl with unusual surface treatment. It closely resembles Oxfordshire (fabric 29) products of the mid-3rd to 4th century, but this identification is far from certain. One further sandy oxidised sherd with a dark grey surface could not be confidently identified, but bears some similarity to wares from the Cheshire or Lancashire plains (L Griffin, pers. comm.).

Forms

Narrow-mouthed jars (Webster type 1, 3, and 5) dominate the diagnostic forms, although wide-mouthed jars (Webster type 19, 21, and 23) and tankards (Webster type 43) are also present. The everted rims lack the 'hooked' profile more typical of later 3rd and 4th century vessels. The overall character of the assemblage suggests that the majority of material was produced between the later 1st to the mid-3rd century. The presence of large conjoining sherds, especially in the fill (3015) of ditch [3016], suggests it was deposited in the features soon after breakage and within the vicinity of a settlement.

6.2.3 Context dating

| Context | Material class | Object specific type | Count | Weight(g) | Start date | End date | Interpreted TPQ date |
|---------|----------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|------------|----------|----------------------|
| 2110 | flint | flake | 1 | 0.2 | -10000 | 43 | AD 43 - 400 |
| | slag | hammerscale | 13 | 0.2 | 43 | 400 | |
| 2118 | igneous rock | burnt stone | 1 | 4.4 | | | AD 43 - 400 |
| | slag | clinker | 7 | 0.1 | | | |
| | slag | hammerscale | 7 | 0.01 | 43 | 400 | |
| 2204 | ceramic | pot | 1 | 5 | 43 | 400 | AD 43 - 400 |
| 2406 | ceramic | pot | 1 | 8 | 43 | 400 | AD 43 - 400 |
| 2408 | ceramic | pot | 2 | 36 | 43 | 200 | AD 43 - 220 |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 3 | 43 | 220 | |
| 2504 | ceramic | pot | 2 | 13 | 43 | 200 | AD 120 - 300 |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 7 | 43 | 400 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 2 | 39 | 120 | 200 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 39 | 120 | 300 | |
| 2603 | ceramic | pot | 10 | 121 | 43 | 400 | AD 120 - 300 |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 53 | 120 | 300 | |
| | stone | counter | 1 | 11 | 43 | 400 | |
| 2610 | ceramic | pot | 1 | 22 | 43 | 200 | AD 43 - 200 |
| 2611 | ceramic | pot | 1 | 11 | 43 | 200 | AD 240 - 400 |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 19 | 240 | 400 | |
| 3015 | ceramic | pot | 1 | 56 | 43 | 200 | AD 100 - 275 |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 57 | 43 | 275 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 10 | 112 | 43 | 400 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 6 | 160 | 43 | 400 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 8 | 43 | 400 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 3 | 236 | 100 | 300 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 1 | 68 | 175 | 300 | |

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6.3 Synthesis

The pottery assemblage is typical of a rural settlement in this region, with the majority seeming to indicate activity in the 2nd to mid-3rd centuries. Although the sandy site soils have caused some post-depositional abrasion, the condition of the pottery is good, suggesting that much of the material was deposited soon after breakage.

The presence of hammerscale is also noteworthy, suggesting metalworking was taking place in the near vicinity.

6.3.1 Research frameworks

In the light of the absence of reported findspots of Roman date in the local area (Orion Heritage 2017), it is tempting to view the presence of a well-stratified pottery assemblage as unusual. However, as Esmonde Cleary (2011, 141) notes, a "largely pastoralist economic basis" characterised this area throughout the Roman period. Across the southern part of the West Midlands, many of the findspots that flag Roman activity are the result of artefacts entering the ground via muckheaps, through processes such as manuring of arable fields. With relatively little arable cultivation in the north of the region, fewer findspots can be expected: a pattern borne out by the data. This may not be a true reflection of settlement patterns, and this site has the potential to be an informative insight into rural life along the Watling Street corridor.

6.4 Significance

Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

With no prior Roman findspots recorded by the HER nearby (Orion Heritage 2017), the finds represent the first hint at the nature of Roman activity in the area.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

With few fieldwalking assemblages from the area, artefacts from this site are a useful window into rural settlement along the Watling Street corridor.

Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The fresh condition of much of the pottery suggests that survival of artefacts elsewhere on the site is likely to be good.

6.5 Recommendations

6.5.1 Further analysis and reporting

Full analysis of this assemblage could usefully be incorporated into any further stages of work on this site.

6.5.2 Discard and retention

Given that this assemblage represents substantial activity on a hitherto unrecognised site, the finds are considered sufficiently significant to warrant retention. The final decision rests with the Potteries Museum as the receiving institution.

7 Environmental evidence, by Elizabeth Pearson

Environmental sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

7.1 Environmental methodology

The environmental project conforms to guidance by ClfA (2014a), guidance by English Heritage (2011) and Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995).

7.1.1 Recovery policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). Samples were taken by the excavator from deposits considered to be of highest potential for the recovery of environmental remains. A total of two samples (each of up to 20 litres) of Roman date were taken from the site (Table 4).

7.1.2 Method of analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

7.1.3 Discard policy

Remaining sample material and scanned residues will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

7.2 Environmental analysis

The samples are summarised in Tables 5 and 6.

Only occasional unidentified charred wheat (*Triticum* sp) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp) grains, along with a small quantity of unidentified charcoal fragments were recorded from fills (2110 and 2118) of pit [2109] and ditch [2117] respectively. Although pit [2109] was interpreted as a storage pit, little interpretation could be made of these remains, and there was no evidence to suggest bulk storage of cereal grain.

As only a very small quantity of charred cereal waste was recorded from the 32 trenches, it suggests that limited cereal crop processing was undertaken on the settlement. This would be consistent with a location on soils of low fertility (freely draining slightly acid loamy soils; Cranfield Soil and AgriFood Institute 2019), where arable cultivation is likely to have only been a minor component in a more pastoral economy.

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

| Context | Sample | Feature type | Description | Fill of | Provisional date | Sample volume (L) | Volume processed (L) | Residue assessed | Flot assessed |
|---------|--------|--------------|--------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2110 | 1 | Pit | Fill of pit 2109 | 2109 | Roman | 20 | 20 | Yes | Yes |
| 2118 | 2 | Ditch | Fill of ditch 2117 | 2117 | Roman | 10 | 10 | Yes | Yes |

Table 4: List of bulk samples

| Context | Sample | Charcoal | Charred plant | Uncharred plant | Hammerscale | Artefacts | Comments |
|---------|--------|----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2110 | 1 | occ | occ | abt* | occ | occ fired clay, Fe slag**, chert | **=smithing slag -with hammerscale, |
| 2118 | 2 | occ | occ | occ* | occ | occ coal, clinker, heat-cracked stone, | |

Table 5: Summary of environmental samples; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive

| Context | Sample | Preservation type | Category remains | Quantity/diversity | Species detail |
|---------|--------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| 2110 | 1 | unch* | seed | +/low | <i>Chenopodium album</i> |
| 2110 | 1 | unch* | misc | +++/low | unidentified root fragments (herbaceous) |
| 2110 | 1 | ch | grain | +/low | <i>Triticum</i> sp grain, Cereal sp indet grain |
| 2110 | 1 | ch | misc | +/++/low | unidentified wood fragments |
| 2118 | 2 | unch* | seed | +/low | <i>Fumaria</i> sp, <i>Chenopodium album</i> |
| 2118 | 2 | ch | grain | +/low | cf <i>Triticum</i> sp grain, <i>Bromus</i> sp grain |

Table 6: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

| Preservation | Quantity |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| ch = charred | + = 1 - 10 |
| unch* | * = probably modern and intrusive |

7.3 Significance

Environmental remains from Roman contexts are considered to be of low significance.

8 Discussion

The results of the archaeological evaluation demonstrate a clear focus of activity on the eastern side of the site. The few features that were identified in the western half of the site that were not related to medieval agricultural activity were undated and dispersed, with no continuation in nearby evaluation trenches. The dated features were universally Roman, with the pottery assemblage suggesting a 2nd to mid-3rd century period of activity. The preservation of the pottery was good, and indicative of domestic settlement activity in the immediate vicinity, although no evidence for such was found during the evaluation. Whilst only ten contexts contained dateable material, it is considered that the features in the central area are contemporary due to their similar forms and fills. The majority of these features were small ditches, with only occasional discrete features such as pits and postholes dotted across the area. None of these pits were deep, and environmental remains were scarce; not a single animal bone was recovered. However, the sampling of two features in the southern half of the area of activity revealed the presence of hammerscale, suggesting that some level of metalworking was being undertaken in the vicinity. A possible stone quarry pit was unexcavated during the evaluation, but it hints at further small scale industrial activity in the area. The small ditches probably represent partitions and sub-divisions of the larger enclosure, probably for stock control and the separation of various activities.

A general idea of the morphology of the site can be discerned from the various linear features. The three largest ditches also contained the largest assemblages of pottery, and are conjectured to form an enclosure ditch (Fig 3). It is possible that the smaller ditches in Trenches 25 and 26 represent a driveway around the western exterior of the enclosure. This would have a width of c 7m if correct. The solitary ditch excavated in Trench 22 could also relate to such a feature. The southern and eastern extents of the conjectured enclosure ditch remain undefined. The projected line of the ditch to the south would take it through Trench 22, where there was no ditch of comparative size or alignment. There was a spread of material c 5m across that was considered to be weathered natural overlying bedrock, but it is possible that a continuation of the ditch was within this spread. If this is the case, the enclosure would be at least 160m in length. No return to the east was identified, although it could have passed somewhere between Trenches 20, 23 and 24. The enclosure almost certainly continues beyond the site into the neighbouring fields to the east. There was a clear drop off in activity in the south-eastern corner of the site, with one undated ditch of possible Roman origin in Trench 20, and a probable tree hole in Trench 23. The single ditch in Trench 19 runs parallel to the existing field boundary.

The depth of the trenches was variable, depending on the underlying bedrock. Rocky outcrops were nearer to the surface, whilst the subsoil was thicker on softer natural strata. The archaeology was encountered between 0.4m and 0.85m depth, except for where the ground had been made up in the recent past, where the overburden was up to 1.2m thick. There were very few stratigraphic relationships that could be tested through excavation, and where there were, the homogenous nature of the fills made clarity difficult.

The results from the geophysical survey were mixed. Furrows generally corresponded well to the survey, as did modern services, but none of the Roman features were identified. This may in part be due to the greater depth of subsoil over Roman features compared to where the furrows were located.

The possible palaeochannel identified in Trench 30 was stratigraphically later than the Roman ditch, and as can be seen by modern consolidation of the ground in Trench 31, water runoff from the slope into the north-east corner of the site has been an issue in the recent past.

The modern made ground in the eastern part of the site, as identified in Trench 23 and defined on the geophysical survey, has been linked to a Second World War anti-aircraft installation (Mr Clarke, pers. comm.). The factory to the east of the site built airplanes during the War, and this installation was part of the defence system. Mr Clarke had been told about the emplacement by the former landowner, who had also mentioned an electricity cable feeding it. The cable was discovered running through two

trenches. Such military installations were not routinely mapped at the time, and were frequently removed without record after the War.

9 Significance

The archaeological remains identified on the eastern side of the site are indicative of domestic Roman settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. Later activity is limited to low level medieval or later agricultural practices, and is considered to be of little significance. Roman rural activity is common on a national scale, but is less common in the local area, as has been noted in the desk-based assessment (Orion Heritage 2017). This site may therefore help to illuminate the extent, nature and chronology of Roman rural occupation and activity in the hinterlands of *Pennocrucium*, and along the wider Watling Street corridor.

Pottery preservation was good, with above average sherd size for this type of site. Whilst the assemblage was generally unremarkable for form and fabric types, some sherds were less common and hinted at a more varied market than might be expected for a small rural settlement.

Environmental remains were poor, with no bone recovered and little charred cereal crop present. This correlates with the known pastoral dominance of the rural economy in the region, although bone preservation is affected by the sandy nature of the natural bedrock.

10 Conclusions

The evaluation revealed Roman activity on the eastern side of the site, defined by an probable enclosure ditch with a possible associated droveway, and was indicative of domestic settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. A number of small ditches on the interior of the enclosure probably represent internal sub-divisions. The pottery recovered from the site was in good condition and with a higher than average sherd size, and suggested a main period of activity in the 2nd to mid-3rd century. Environmental evidence was poor, with no preservation of bone and only a small amount of charred cereal crop, though hammerscale was present, suggesting some level of metal working in the vicinity.

The site of a possible Second World War anti-aircraft emplacement was identified on the site, defined by an area of made ground and serviced by a now defunct electricity cable.

The site demonstrates a Roman enclosure of probable 2nd to mid-3rd century date survives, which may help to further the understanding of the hinterlands of nearby urban centres and the relationship between rural settlement and the Roman road network.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

11 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Peter Lovett (ACIfA), assisted by Richard Bradley (MCIfA), Elspeth Iliff (PCIfA), Beth Williams (PCIfA) and Jess Wheeler (ACIfA).

The project was managed by Tom Vaughan (MCIfA). The report was produced and collated by Peter Lovett. Artefact analysis was by Rob Hedge (PCIfA). Environmental analysis was by Elizabeth Pearson (ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (MCIfA).

12 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following: Cathy Patrick (Orion Heritage Ltd), the Chandlers and the Clarkes (landowners).

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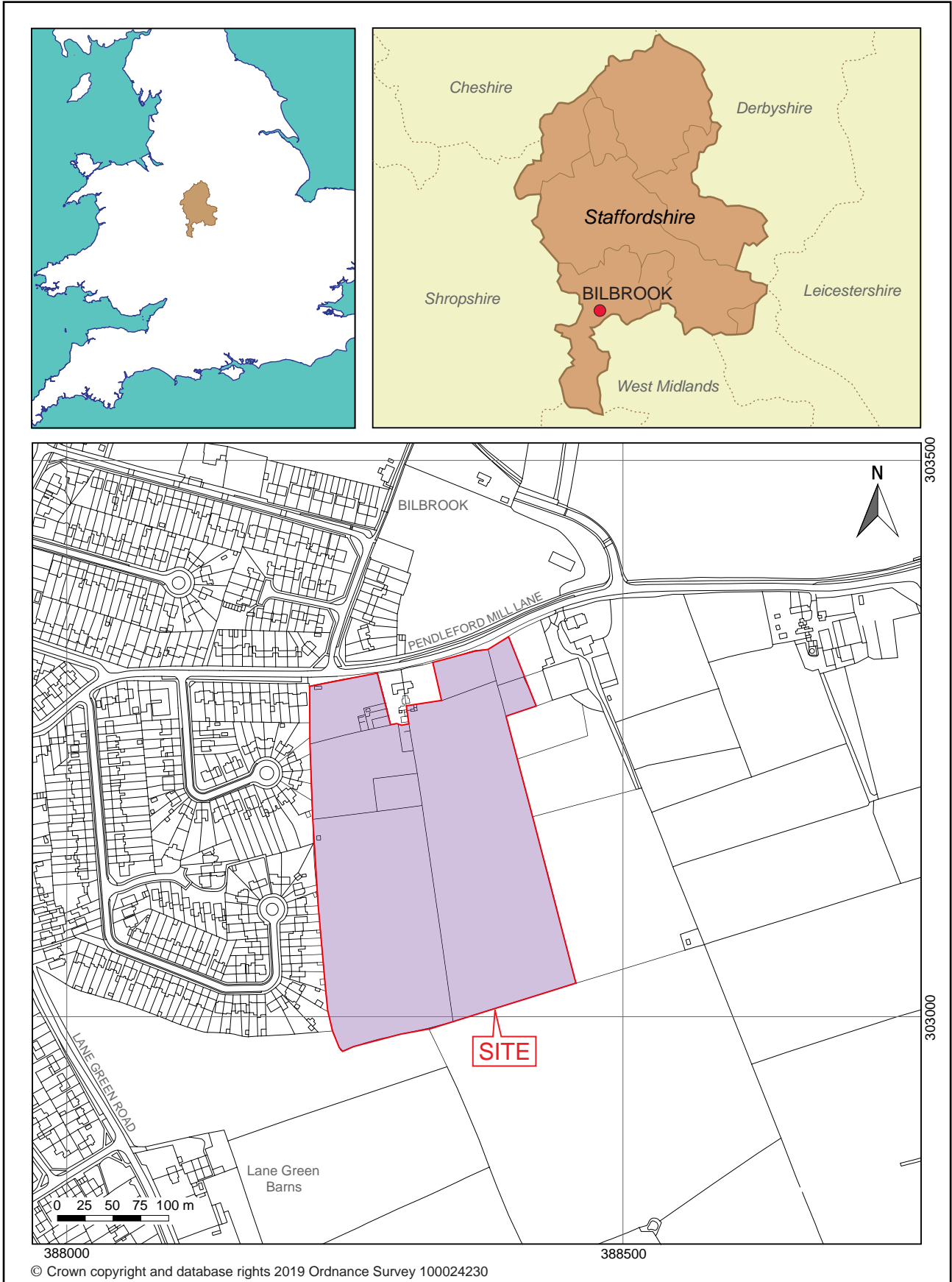
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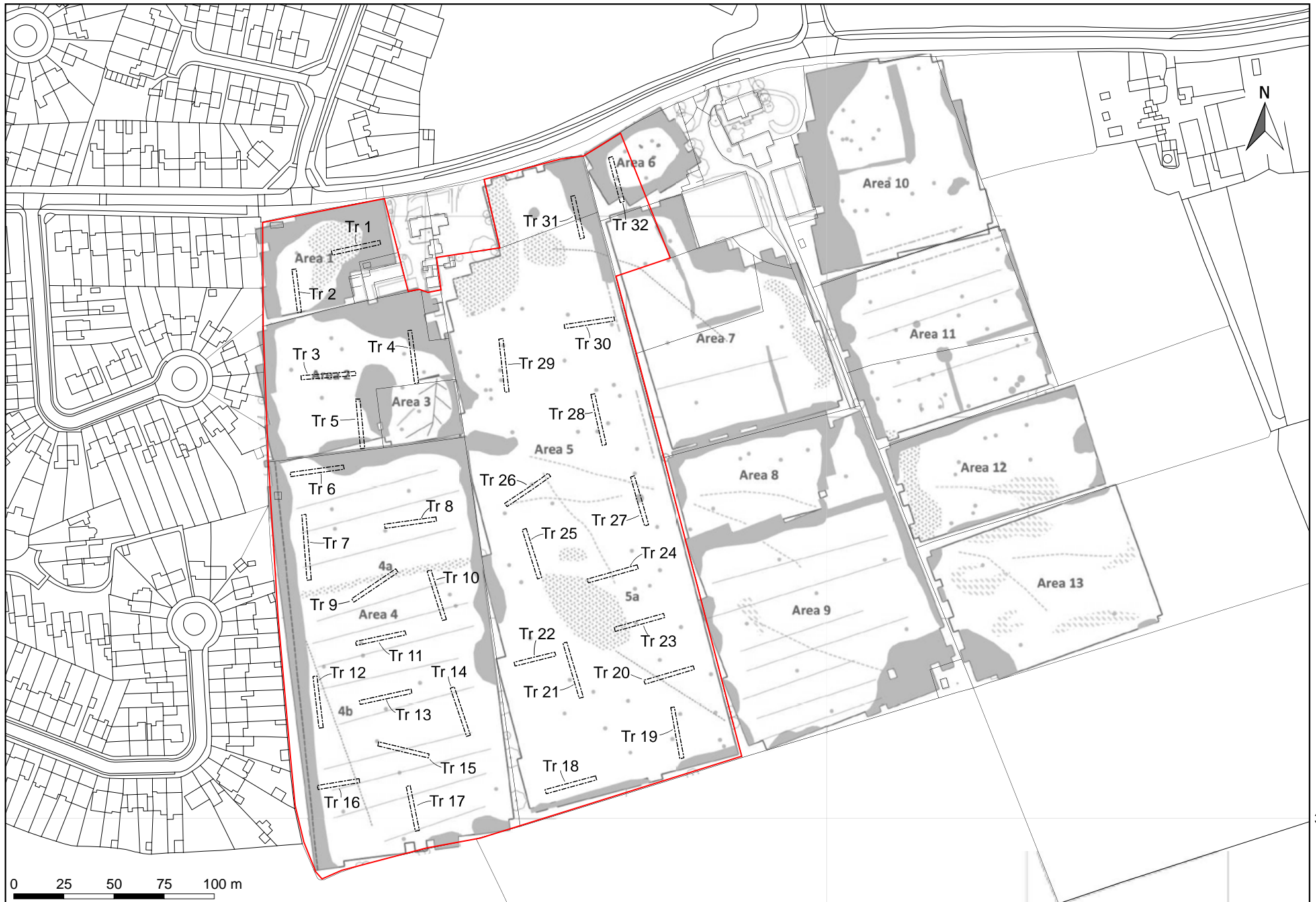
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Figures



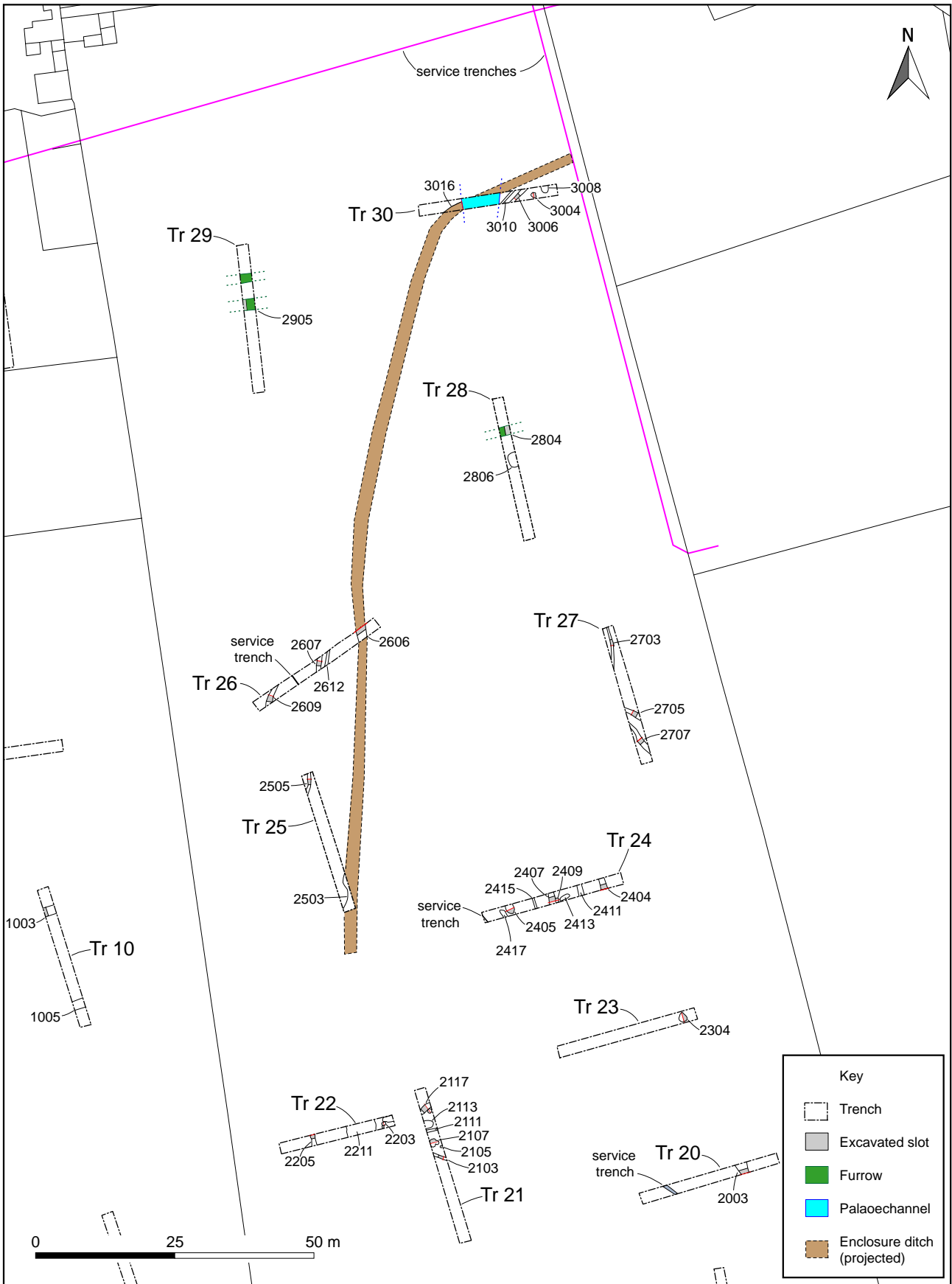
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench locations with underlying geophysical survey (Magnitude Survey Figure 16)

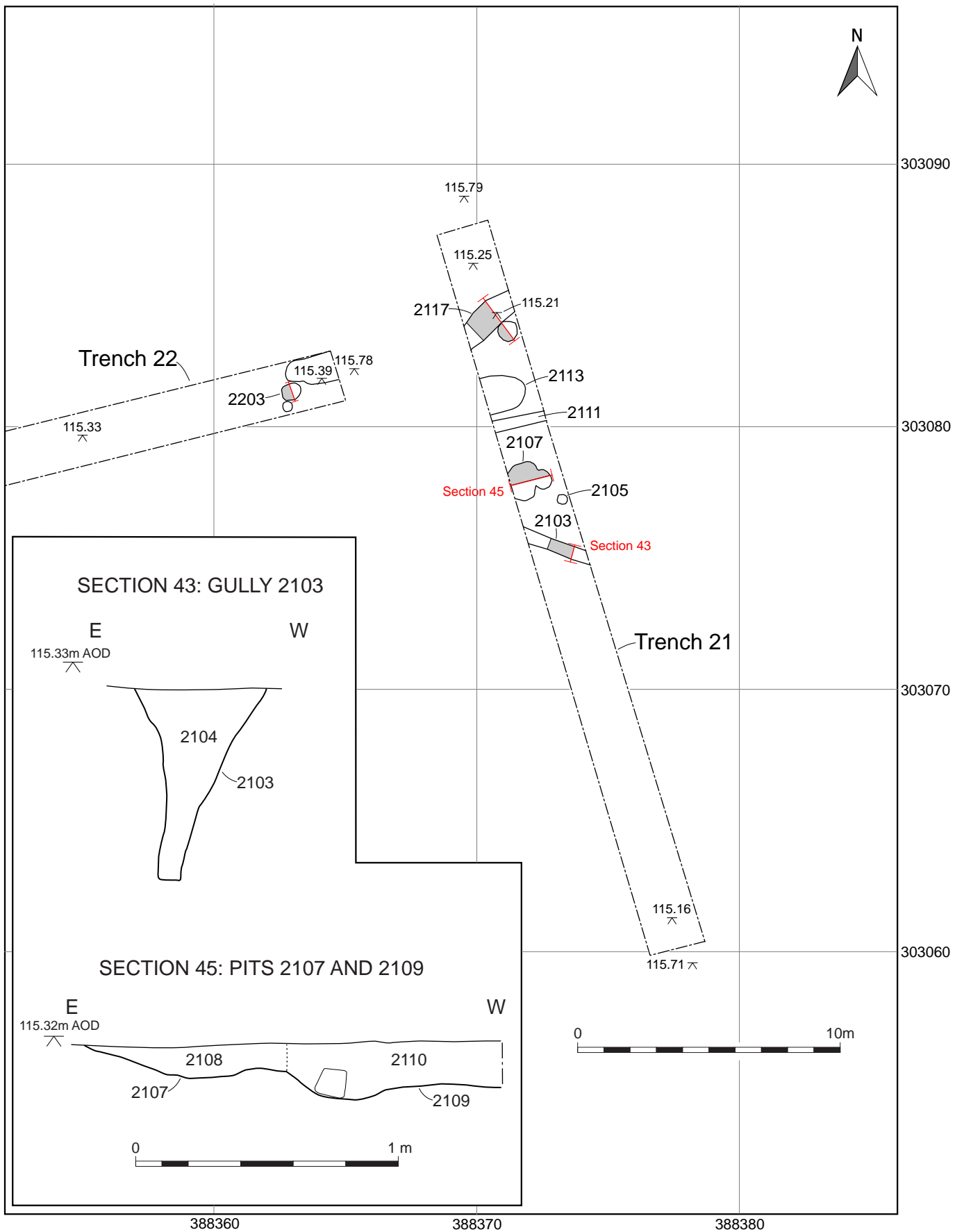
Figure 2



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Eastern field showing features and enclosure ditch

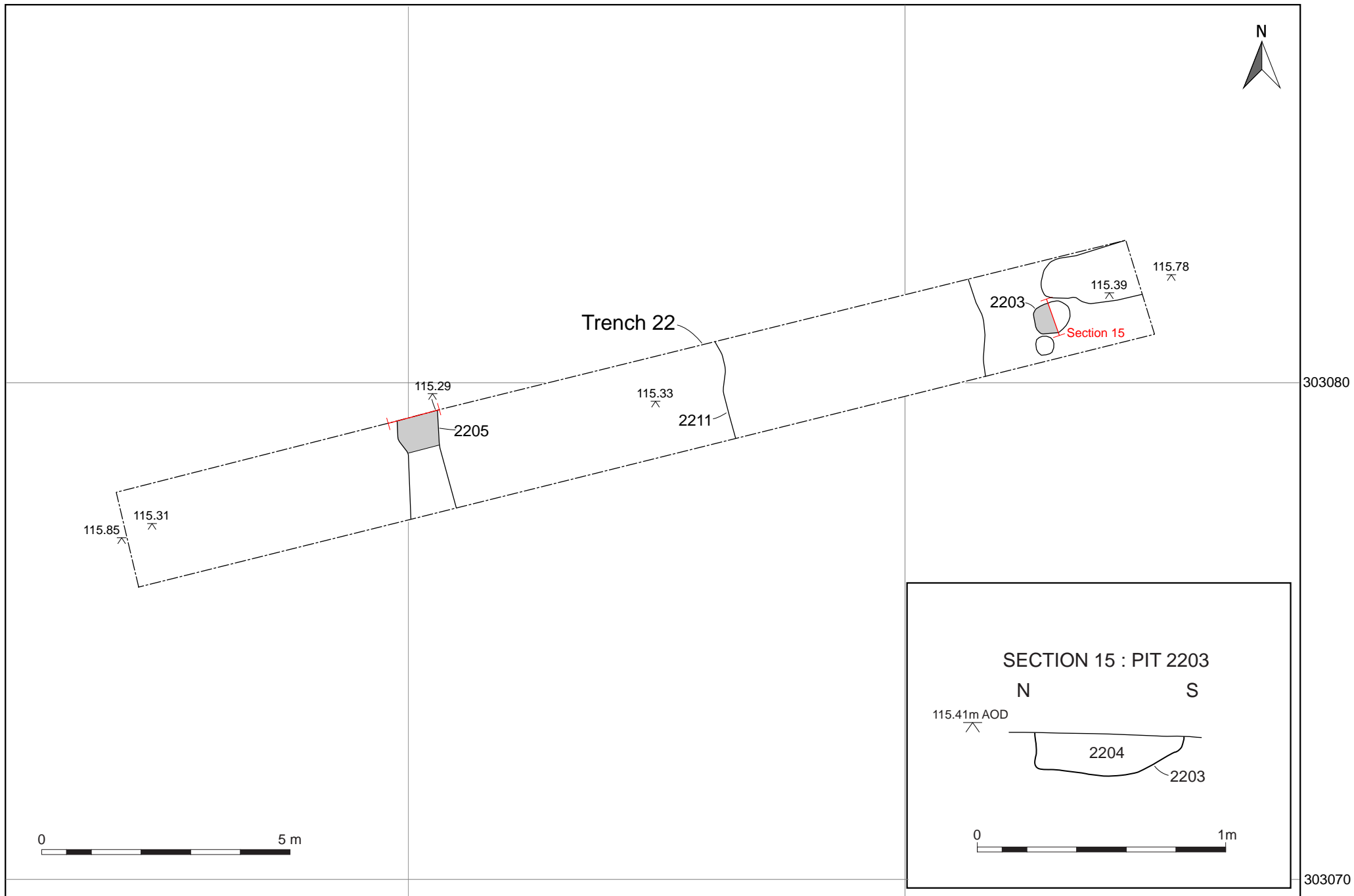
Figure 3

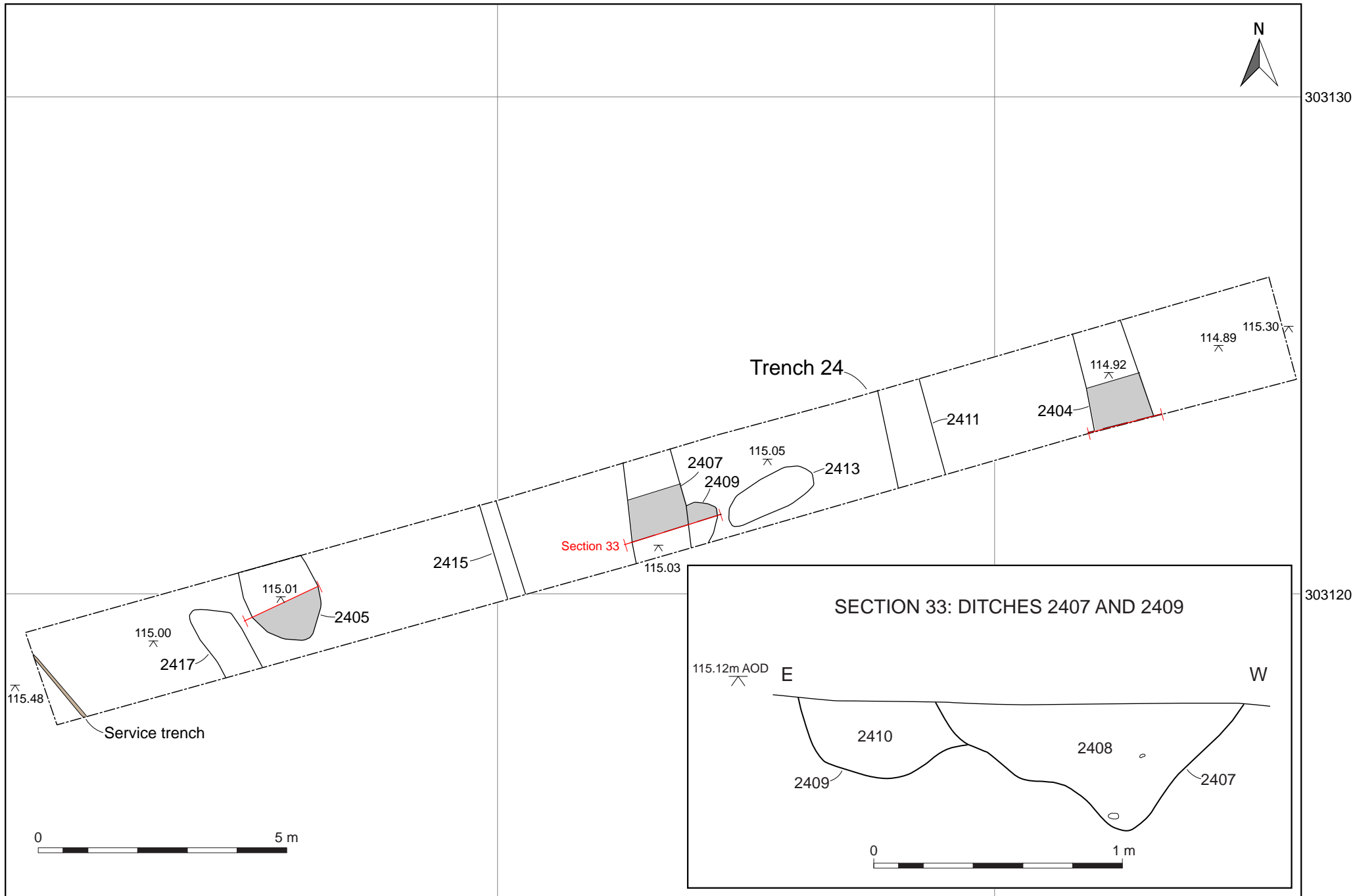


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Plan of Trench 21 and sections 43 and 45

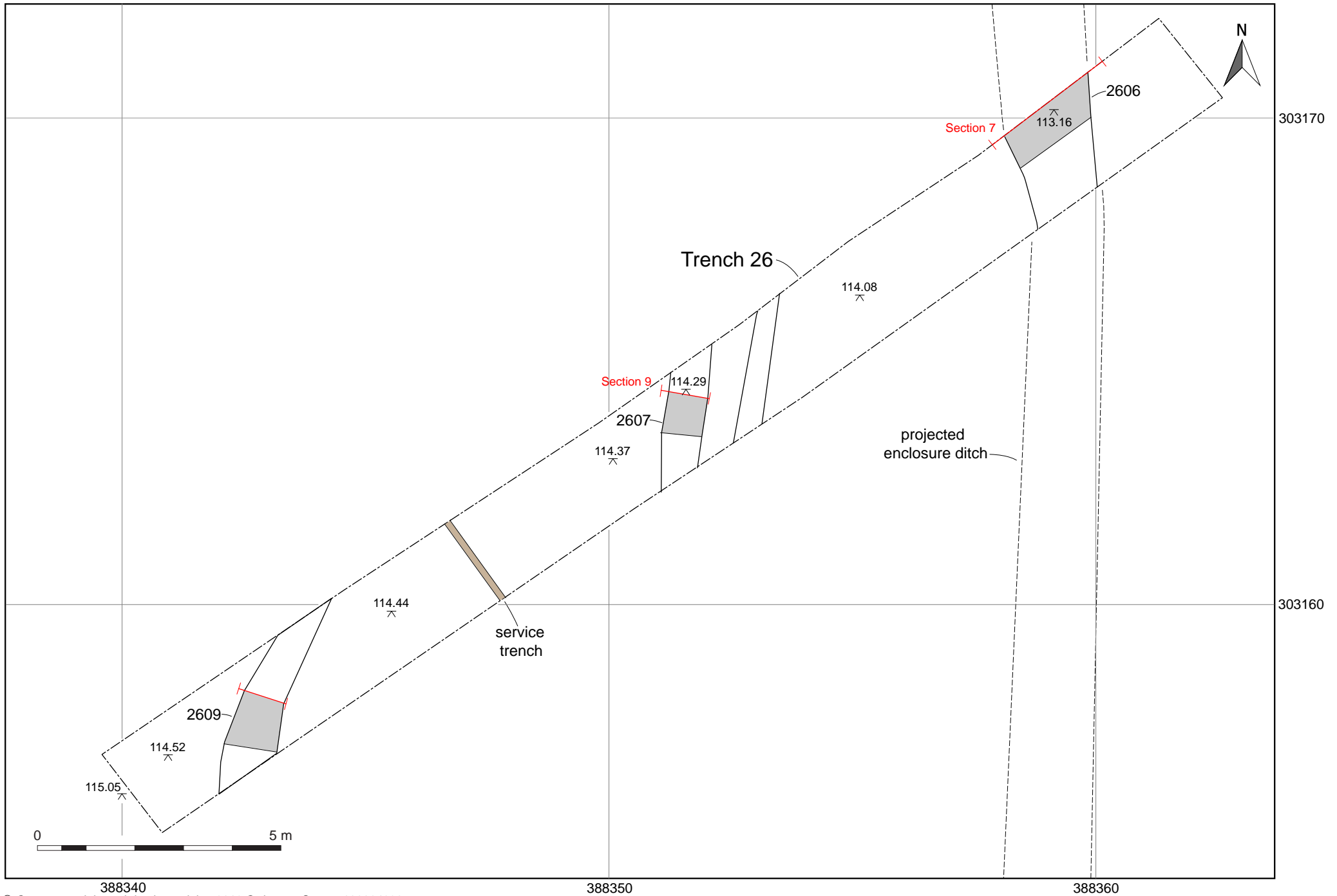
Figure 4





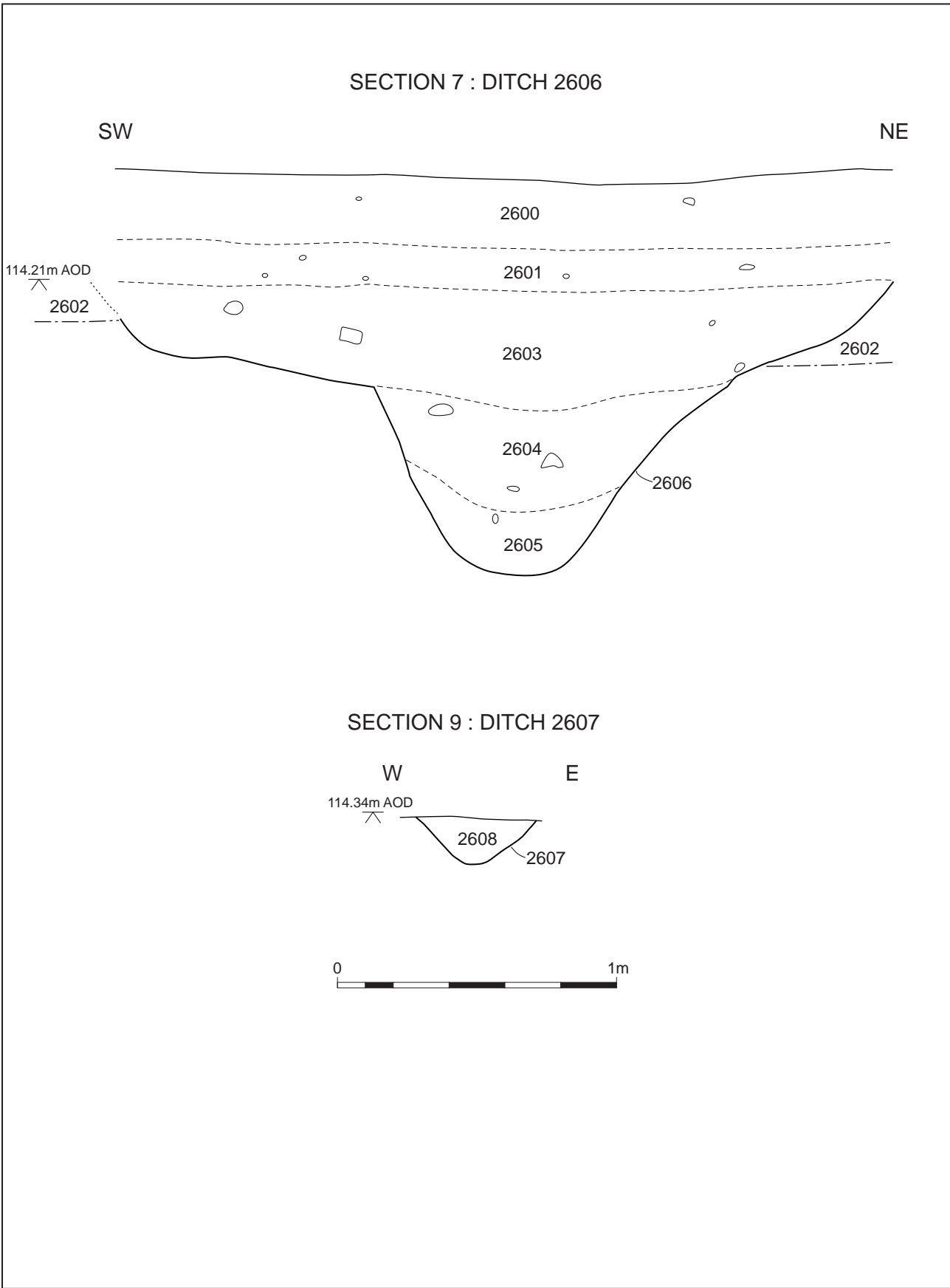
Plan of Trench 24 and section 33

Figure 6



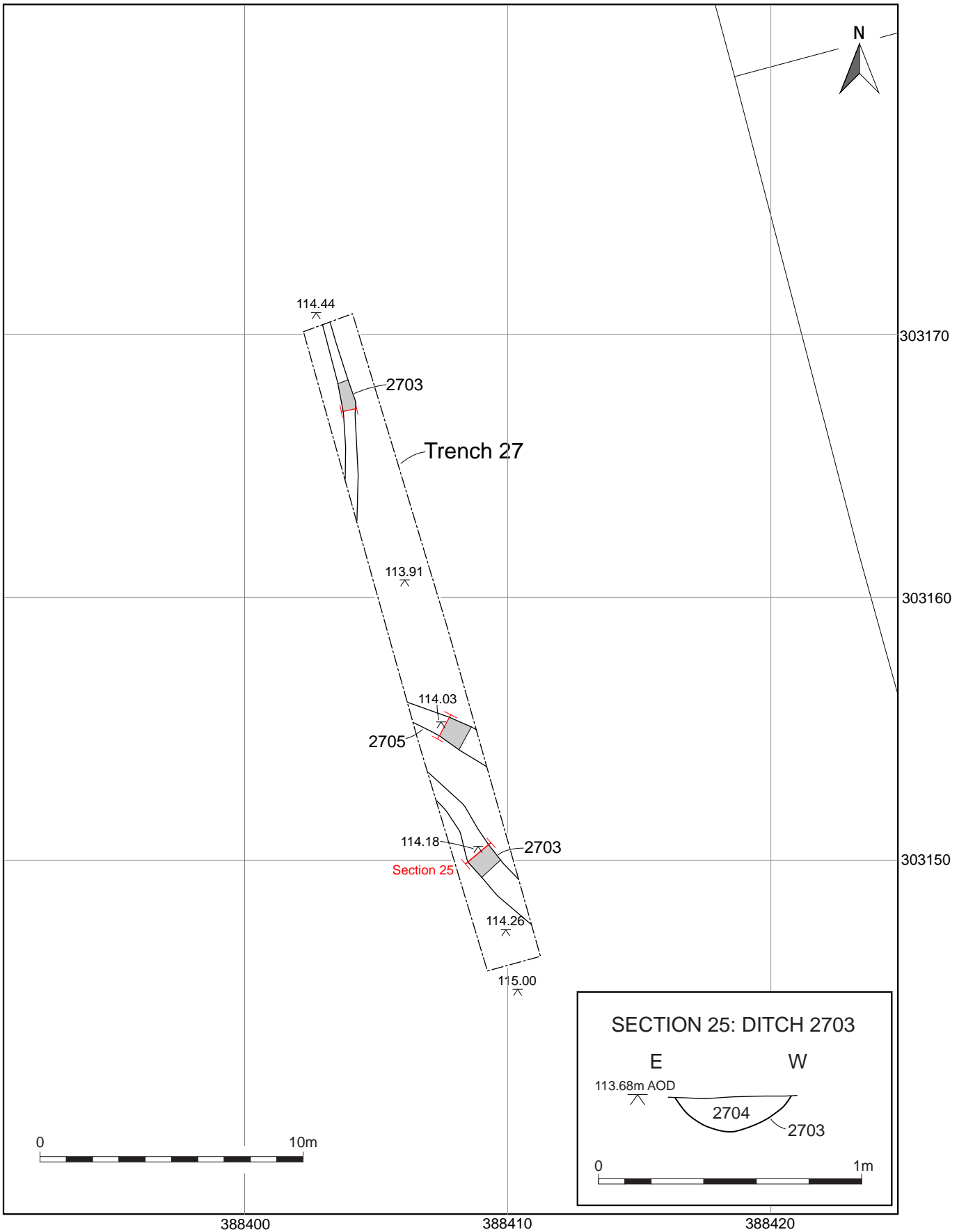
Plan of Trench 26

Figure 7



Trench 26: Sections 7 and 9

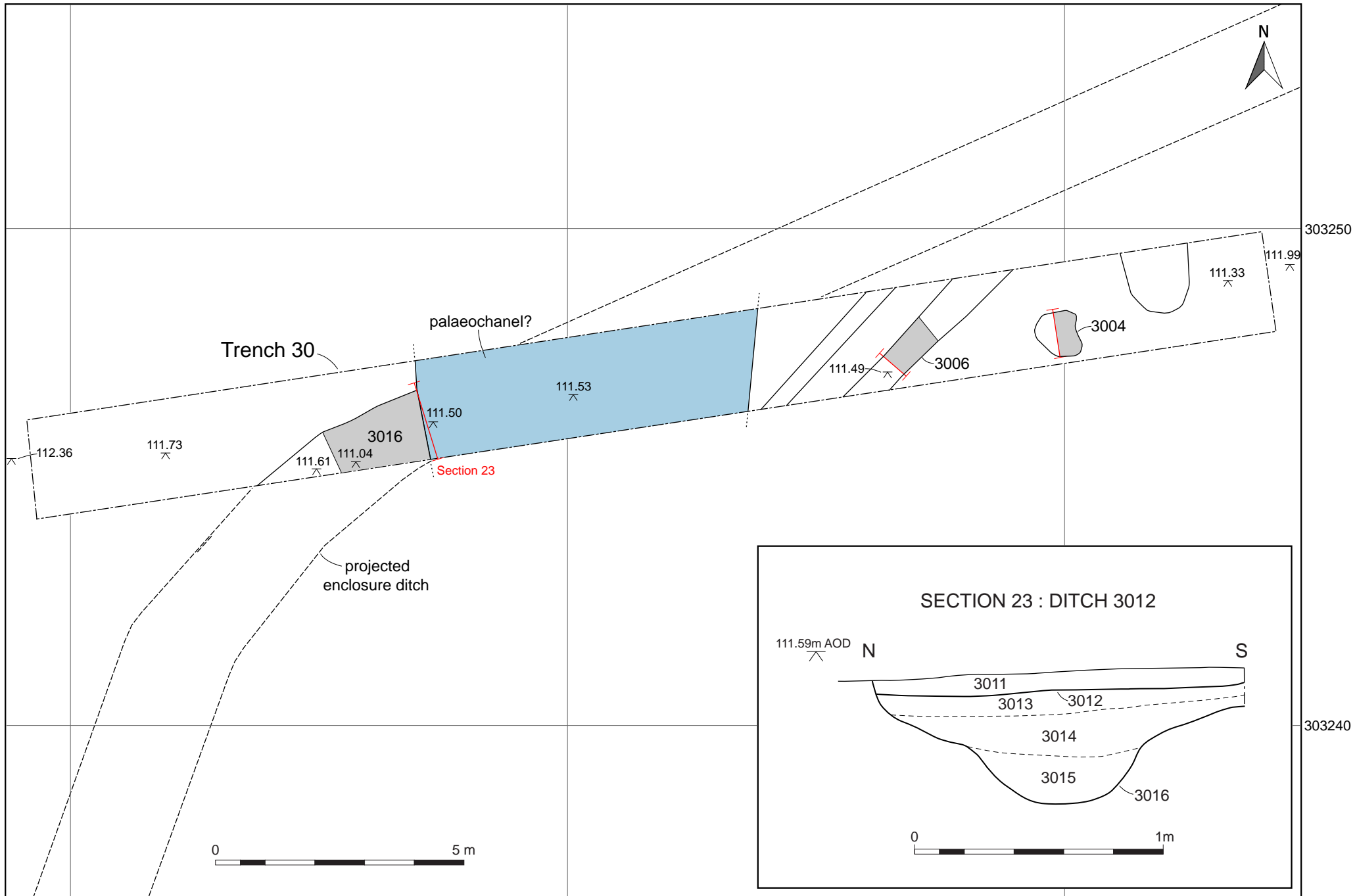
Figure 8



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Plan of Trench 27 and section

Figure 9



Plates



Plate: 1 A general view across site, looking south-east



Plate 2: East facing section of pit 207, 1m scale



Plate 3: General shot of Trench 2, looking south (1m scales)



Plate 4 North facing section of gully terminus 703 (0.4m scale)



Plate 5: South facing section of ditch 2606 (1m scale)



Plate 6: South facing section of ditch 2607 (0.5m scale)



Plate : West facing section of pit 2203 (0.4m scale)



Plate 8: General shot of Trench 22, looking east (1m scales)



Plate 9: East facing section of pit 3004 (0.4m scale)



Plate 10: North facing section of ditch 2703 (0.3m scale)



Plate 11: West facing section of ditch 3016, with gleyed layer beyond. (1m and 0.5m scales)



Plate 12: North facing section of ditch 2407 and pit 2409 (1m scale)



Plate 13: North-west facing section of ditch 2103 (0.4m and 0.5m scales)



Plate 14: North-west facing section of pits 2107 and 2109 (1m scale)



Plate 15: South-west facing section of ditch 2117 and pit 2115 (1m scale)

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 100 | Layer | Layer | Topsoil | 0.3m | Soft Dark greyish brown Silty sand |
| 101 | Layer | Layer | Subsoil | 0.12-0.16m | Soft Mid reddish brown Sand |
| 102 | Layer | Layer | Natural | | Soft Mid orangey red |

Trench 2

Length: 20 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 200 | Layer | Layer | Topsoil | 0.37m | Soft Dark greyish brown Silty sand |
| 201 | Layer | Layer | Subsoil | 0.13m | Soft Mid brownish orange Sand |
| 202 | Layer | Layer | Natural | | Soft Mid reddish orange Sand |
| 203 | | Cut | Cut of linear | 0.22m | |
| 204 | | Fill | Fill of linear 203 | 0.22m | Soft Light orangey brown Sand |
| 205 | | Cut | Cut of linear | 0.25m | |
| 206 | | Fill | Fill of linear 206 | 0.25m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 207 | | Cut | Cut of pit | 0.38m | |
| 208 | | Fill | Fill of pit 207 | 0.38m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |

Trench 3

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 300 | | Layer | Topsoil | 0.38m | Soft Mid greyish brown Silty sand |
| 301 | | Layer | Subsoil | 0.19m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 302 | | Layer | Natural | | Soft Orange Sands |

Trench 4

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 400 | | Layer | Topsoil | 0.4m | Soft Mid greyish brown Sand |
| 401 | | Layer | Subsoil | 0.28m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 402 | | Layer | Natural | | Soft Mid reddish orange Sand |
| 403 | | Cut | Cut of ditch | 0.15m | |
| 404 | | Fill | Fill of ditch 403 | 0.15m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |

Trench 5

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 500 | | Layer | Topsoil | 0.4m | Soft Mid greyish brown Silty sand |
| 501 | | Layer | Subsoil | 0.18m | Soft Mid brownish orange Sand |
| 502 | | Layer | Natural | | Soft Orange and red Sands and clays |

Trench 6

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: W-E

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 600 | | Layer | Topsoil | 0.25m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 601 | | Layer | Subsoil | 0.16m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 602 | | Layer | Natural | | Soft Greyish orange |

Trench 7

Length: 30 Width: 1.9 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 700 | | Layer | Topsoil | | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |

| | | | |
|-----|-------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 701 | Layer | Subsoil | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 702 | Layer | Natural | Soft Mid orangey red Sand |
| 703 | Cut | Cut of gully | |
| 704 | Fill | Fill of gully 703 | Soft Grey brown Sand |

Trench 8

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: W-E

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 800 | Layer | Topsoil | Topsoil | 0.2m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 801 | Layer | Subsoil | Subsoil | 0.24m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 802 | Layer | Natural | Natural | | Soft Mid brownish orange Sand |

Trench 9

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 900 | Layer | Topsoil | Topsoil | 0.35m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 901 | Layer | Subsoil | Subsoil | 0.15m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 902 | Layer | Natural | Natural | | Soft Brown and orange Sand |

Trench 10

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1000 | Layer | Topsoil | Topsoil | 0.32m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 1001 | Layer | Subsoil | Subsoil | 0.26m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 1002 | Layer | Natural | Natural | | Soft Mid reddish orange Sand |
| 1003 | Cut | Cut of furrow | Cut of furrow | 0.08m | |
| 1004 | Fill | Fill of furrow 1003 | Fill of furrow 1003 | 0.08m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 1005 | Cut | Cut of unexcavated furrow | Cut of unexcavated furrow | | |

| | | | |
|------|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1006 | Fill | Fill of unexcavated furrow | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
|------|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Trench 11

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: W-E

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1100 | Layer | | Topsoil | 0.28m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 1101 | Layer | | Subsoil | 0.15m | Soft Mid pinkish brown Sand |
| 1102 | Layer | | Natural | | Orange and red Sand and clay |

Trench 12

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 1200 | Layer | | Topsoil | 0.3m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 1201 | Layer | | Subsoil | 0.22m | Soft Mid pink brown Sand |
| 1202 | Layer | | Natural | | Soft Orange and pink Sand with red clay marl |

Trench 13

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: W-E

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1300 | Layer | | Topsoil | 0.3m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 1301 | Layer | | Subsoil | 0.15m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 1302 | Layer | | Natural | | Orange and red Sand and clay |

Trench 14

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1400 | Layer | | Topsoil | 0.35m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |

| | | | | |
|------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1401 | Layer | Subsoil | 0.17m | Soft Reddish brown Sand |
| 1402 | Layer | Natural | | Soft Orangey red Sand |
| 1403 | Cut | Cut of unexcavated furrow | | |
| 1404 | Fill | Fill of unexcavated furrow 1403 | | |
| 1405 | Cut | Cut of unexcavated furrow | | |
| 1406 | Fill | Fill of unexcavated furrow 1405 | | |

Trench 15

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1500 | Layer | | Topsoil | 0.3m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 1501 | Layer | | Subsoil | 0.29m | Soft Mid pinkish brown Sand |
| 1502 | Layer | | Natural | | Soft Brown and pink Sand |
| 1503 | Cut | | Cut of unexcavated furrow | | |
| 1504 | Fill | | Fill of unexcavated furrow 1503 | | |

Trench 16

Length: 20 Width: 1.8 Orientation: W-E

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| 1600 | Layer | | Topsoil | 0.28m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 1601 | Layer | | Subsoil | 0.26m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 1602 | Layer | | Natural | | Soft Orange and red Sand and gravels |

Trench 17

Length: 20 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1700 | Layer | | Topsoil | 0.28m | Soft Dark grey brown |
| 1701 | Layer | | Subsoil | 0.17m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 1702 | Layer | | Natural | | Soft Orangey brown Sand |
| 1703 | Cut | | Cut of tree throw | 0.34m | |

| | | | | |
|------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1704 | Layer | Fill of tree throw 1703 | 0.34m | Soft Light grey brown |
| 1705 | Cut | Cut of unexcavated furrow | | |
| 1706 | Fill | Fill of unexcavated furrow 1705 | | |

Trench 18

Length: 25 Width: 1.9 Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| 1800 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.32 | Soft Mid greyish brown Sandy loam |
| 1801 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.2 | Moderately compact Light reddish brown Silty sand |
| 1802 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | Firm Mid pinky brown Sandy clay |

Trench 19

Length: 25 Width: 1.9 Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| 1900 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | | Loose Mid brown Silty sand |
| 1901 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | | Loose Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 1902 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | Compact/moderately compact Mid red Sand and sandstone |
| 1903 | Ditch | Cut | Cut of ditch | 0.1m | |
| 1904 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of [1903] | 0.11m | Loose Dark reddish brown Silty sand |

Trench 20

Length: 25 Width: 1.9 Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2000 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.32 | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy loam |
| 2001 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.34 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2002 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | Compact Mid pinky brown Sandstone |
| 2003 | Ditch | Cut | Cut of ditch | 0.24 | |

| | | | | | |
|------|-------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2004 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2003 | 0.24 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
|------|-------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------------------------|

Trench 21

Length: 25 Width: 1.9 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2100 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.35 | soft dark greyish brown sandy loam |
| 2101 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.15 | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2102 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | compact mid pinky orange sandstone |
| 2103 | Ditch | Cut | Deep gully | 0.73 | |
| 2104 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of gully 2103 | 0.73 | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2105 | Pit | Cut | Posthole | | |
| 2106 | Pit | Fill | Fill of posthole 2105 | | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2107 | Posthole | Cut | Small posthole | 0.11 | |
| 2108 | Posthole | Fill | Fill of posthole 2107 | 0.11 | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2109 | Pit | Cut | Pit | 0.22 | |
| 2110 | Pit | Fill | Fill of pit 2109 | 0.22 | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2111 | Ditch | Cut | Ditch | | |
| 2112 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2111 | | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2113 | Pit | Cut | Pit | | |
| 2114 | Pit | Fill | Fill of pit 2113 | | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2115 | Pit | Cut | Pit | 0.17 | |
| 2116 | Pit | Fill | Fill of pit 2115 | 0.17 | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 2117 | Ditch | Cut | Ditch | 0.15 | |
| 2118 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2117 | 0.15 | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |

Trench 22

Length: 20

Width: 1.9

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 2200 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.32 | Soft Dark greyish brown Silty sand |
| 2201 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.11 | Soft Mid yellow brown Silty sand |
| 2202 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | Mod compact Mid brownish red Sand and sandstone |
| 2203 | Pit | Cut | Cut of pit | 0.17 | |
| 2204 | Pit | Fill | Fill of pit 2203 | 0.17 | Soft Dark reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2205 | Ditch | Cut | Cut of ditch | 0.27 | |
| 2206 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2205 | 0.27 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2207 | Pit | Cut | Unexcavated pit | | |
| 2208 | Pit | Fill | Fill of pit 2207 | | Soft Dark reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2209 | Pit | Cut | Pit cluster. Unexcavated | | |
| 2210 | Pit | Fill | Fill of pit cluster 2209 | | Software Dark reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2211 | Layer | Layer | Layer of weathered sand natural? | | Soft Mid reddish brown sand |

Trench 23

Length: 25

Width: 1.8

Orientation: W-E

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|---|------------------|---|
| 2300 | | Layer | Topsoil | 0.33m | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy silt |
| 2301 | | Layer | Made ground | 0.73m | Moderately compact Dark blackish grey Sand |
| 2302 | | Layer | Subsoil | 0.34m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |
| 2303 | | Layer | Natural | | Moderately compact Mid pinky red Sands and sandstones |
| 2304 | | Cut | Cut of truncated pit/ possible tree throw | 0.17m | |
| 2305 | | Fill | Fill of 2304 | 0.17m | Soft Mid orangey brown Sand |

Trench 24

Length: 25

Width: 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--|------------------|---|
| 2400 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.26 | Soft Mid greyish brown Silty sand |
| 2401 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.1 | Soft Mid brown Silty sand |
| 2402 | Layer | Layer | Natural | 0.02+ | Mod compact Mid pinkish brown Clay sand |
| 2403 | | Fill | Fill of ditch 2404 | | Loose Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2404 | | Cut | Cut of ditch | | |
| 2405 | | Cut | Cut of shallow pit | 0.1 | |
| 2406 | | Fill | Fill of pit 2405 | 0.1 | Loose Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2407 | | Cut | Cut of ditch | 0.52 | |
| 2408 | | Fill | Fill of ditch 2407 | 0.52 | Loose Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2409 | | Cut | Cut of small pit | 0.32 | |
| 2410 | | Fill | Fill of pit 2409 | | Loose Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2411 | | Cut | Unexcavated ditch, parallel to 2404 | | |
| 2412 | | Fill | Unexcavated ditch fill, fill of 2411 | | |
| 2413 | | Cut | Oval pit, grave-shaped, unexcavated | | |
| 2414 | | Fill | Fill in oval elongated pit, unexcavated 2413 | | |
| 2415 | | Cut | Cut of linear gully, unexcavated | | |
| 2416 | | Fill | Fill in gully 2415, unexcavated | | |
| 2417 | | Cut | Cut of unexcavated | | |
| 2418 | | Fill | Fill in unexcavated terminus 2417 | | |

Trench 25

Length: 25

Width: 1.9

Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2500 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.35 | Soft Dark grey brown Sandy loam |
| 2501 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.2 | Soft Mid reddish brown |

| | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------------|---|
| 2502 | | Layer | Natural | | Silty sand Firm Reddish brown and yellow brown Clays and sands |
| 2503 | Ditch | Cut | Cut of ditch | Unexcavated | |
| 2504 | Ditch | Fill | Fill in 2503 | Unexcavated | Soft Light grey brown Silty sand |
| 2505 | Ditch | Cut | Ditch cut | 0.17 | |
| 2506 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2505 | 0.17 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2613 | Gully | Fill | Fill in 2612 | | Soft Light grey yellow brown Silty sand |

Trench 26

Length: 25 Width: 1.9 Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| 2600 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.33 | Soft Mid greyish brown Sandy silt |
| 2601 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.16 | Soft Mid brown Silty sand |
| 2602 | Natural | Layer | Natural | 0.20+ | Mod compact Light red and greyish yellow Clay and sand |
| 2603 | Ditch | Fill | Upper fill in 2606 | 0.42 | Soft Dark reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2604 | Ditch | Fill | Fill in 2606 | 0.42 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2605 | Ditch | Fill | Lower fill in 2606 | 0.4 | Soft Light brown Sand |
| 2606 | Ditch | Cut | Linear ditch | 1.04 | |
| 2607 | Ditch | Cut | Linear ditch | 0.34 | |
| 2608 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2607 | 0.34 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2609 | Ditch | Cut | Linear ditch | 0.34 | |
| 2610 | Ditch | Fill | Upper fill in 2609 | 0.26 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2611 | Ditch | Fill | Lower fill in 2609 | 0.08 | Soft Light yellow brown Silty sand |
| 2612 | Gully | Cut | Linear gully | Unexcavated | |

Trench 27

Length: 25 Width: 1.9 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|-------|--------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| 2700 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.32 | Soft Dark grey brown Silty sand |
| 2701 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.4 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2702 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | Compact Mid orangey brown Sandstone |
| 2703 | Ditch | Cut | Cut of ditch | 0.13 | |
| 2704 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2703 | 0.13 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2705 | Ditch | Cut | Ditch cut | 0.28 | |
| 2706 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2705 | 0.28 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2707 | Ditch | Cut | Ditch cut | 0.34 | |
| 2708 | Ditch | Fill | Fill of ditch 2707 | 0.34 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |

Trench 28

Length: 25 Width: 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| 2800 | | Layer | Topsoil | 0.25 | Loose Mid brownish grey Silty sand |
| 2801 | | Layer | Subsoil | 0.32 | Loose Mid brownish red Silty sand |
| 2802 | | Layer | Natural | | Mod compact Mid brownish red Silty sand |
| 2803 | | Fill | Fill of furrow 2804 | 0.18 | Loose Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2804 | | Cut | Cut of furrow | 1.8 | |
| 2805 | | Fill | Fill of quarry pit 2806 | | Loose Mid orangey brown Silty sand |
| 2806 | | Cut | Cut of quarry pit | | |

Trench 29

Length: 25 Width: 1.9 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2900 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.35 | Soft Mid greyish brown Sandy loam |
| 2901 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.12 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2902 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | Firm Pinky red Sandstone |
| 2903 | Furrow | Cut | Modern pit | 0.13 | |

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 2904 | Furrow | Fill | Fill of pit 2903 | 0.13 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2905 | Furrow | Cut | Cut of furrow | | |
| 2906 | Furrow | Fill | Fill of furrow 2905 | | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 2907 | Pit | Cut | Furrow | | |
| 2908 | Pit | Fill | Fill of furrow 2907 | | |

Trench 30

Length: 25 Width: 2 Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 3000 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.42 | Soft Dark grey Silty sand |
| 3001 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.29 | Soft Mid brown Silty sand |
| 3002 | Natural | Layer | Natural | 0.14+ | Mod compact Mid orange brown Clay sand |
| 3003 | Pit | Fill | Fill in pit 3004 | 0.22 | Soft Mid orange brown Silty sand |
| 3004 | Pit | Cut | Irregular pit/hollow | 0.22 | |
| 3005 | Gully | Fill | Fill in linear 3006 | 0.13 | Soft Mid brown Silty sand |
| 3006 | Gully | Cut | Shallow linear | 0.13 | |
| 3007 | Ditch | Fill | Unexcavated fill in terminus 3008 | | Soft Light grey brown Silty sand |
| 3008 | Ditch | Cut | Unexcavated linear terminus or pit | | |
| 3009 | Gully | Fill | Unexcavated fill in linear 3010 | | Soft Light orange brown Sand |
| 3010 | Gully | Cut | Unexcavated linear gully | | |
| 3011 | | Fill | Grey fill in wide spread | | Loose Mid yellowish brown Silty sand |
| 3012 | | Cut | Possible channel or spread | | |
| 3013 | Ditch | Fill | Upper fill in ditch 3016 | 0.1m | Loose Light reddish brown Silty sand |
| 3014 | Ditch | Fill | Fill in ditch 3016 | 0.19m | Loose Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 3015 | Ditch | Fill | Lower fill in ditch 3016 | 0.18m | Loose Light greyish brown Silty sand |
| 3016 | Ditch | Cut | Ditch cut | 0.46m | |

Trench 31

Length: 20 Width: 1.9 Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|-------|-------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| 3100 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.25 | soft dark grey brown sandy loam |
| 3101 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.4 | Soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 3102 | Layer | Layer | Made ground | 0.4 | soft mid reddish brown silty sand |
| 3103 | Layer | Layer | Glazed sand layer | 0.35 | soft light blue grey silty |
| 3104 | Natural | Layer | Natural sand | 0.15 | soft light reddish brown silty sand |

Trench 32

Length: 20 Width: 1.9 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

| Context | Feature type | Context type | Interpretation | Height/ depth | Deposit description |
|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3200 | Topsoil | Layer | Topsoil | 0.36 | Soft Mid grey brown Sandy loam |
| 3201 | Subsoil | Layer | Subsoil | 0.5 | Soft Mid reddish brown Silty sand |
| 3202 | Natural | Layer | Natural | | Soft Mid orangey brown Silty sand |

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive

| TYPE | DETAILS* |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Artefacts and Environmental | Animal bones, Ceramics, Environmental |
| Paper | Drawing, Plan, Report, Section |
| Digital | Database, GIS, Images raster/digital photography, Survey, Text |

*OASIS terminology