Archaeological Evaluation on Land between Arthur Baker Playing Field and Ashford Road, Charing, Kent TN27 0JJ

Site Code: CHAR-EV-18

NGR Site Centre 595543 143970

Planning Application Number: 14/01486/AS

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land between Arthur Baker Playing Field and Ashford Road, Charing in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in October/November 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2018) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 21 trenches, which encountered Early Roman cremations, pits and ditches. A relatively common stratigraphic sequence was revealed comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Charing in Kent (**Figure 1**).The land has planning permission (14/01486/AS) for the build of affordable housing and age restricted bungalows.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to Ashford Borough Council (ABC), requested that the programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken (Condition 27).

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in October/November 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2018), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The site is situated with a frontage to the A20 Maidstone to Ashford road. To the north are playing fields, fresh water springs and Alder beds. The PDA is south of the historic large village of Charing and on the south facing slope of the North Downs. To the south east is the Charing Crematorium, to the north east the Pilgrims Way and the railway station is to the south west. On the basis of current information from BGS, the site lies on Bedrock Geology of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation-Chalk. The Superficial Deposits are Head Clay and Silt, Sand and Gravel. Ground levels are about 92maOD at the north of the site and 89maOD to the south.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.2 Introduction

1.2.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the WSI Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2018).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2018)

2.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018) and were to:

2.1.2 *'The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the adjacent Roman remains and later archaeological activity.*

2.1.3 *The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with a geophysical survey and evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements'.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2018: 6)

2.2 General Aims

2.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 A total of 21 evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2, 3).

3.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the

overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

3.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights. These are retained in the site project archive.

3.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the site project archive.

3.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e*. Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A total of 21 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

4.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

4.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising a mix of topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of yellow orange sandy clayey silt overlaying the natural sand.

4.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-20 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-14 include selected site photographs.

4.3 Overview

4.3.1 The 21 trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

5 FINDS

Early Roman cremation finds were retrieved from Trenches 7 and 17 and fragments of medieval roof tiles from Trenches 14, 19, 20 (Appendix 2).

6 Discussion

6.1 Archaeological Narrative

No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 2, 5, 9, 12.

6.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 lay on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured approximately 22.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 22cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (100). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (103) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (106) of a linear feature [104], interpreted provisionally as a ditch or hedgerow (Figure 4).

6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 lay on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured approximately 21.00m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 24cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (300). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (303) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (305) of a linear feature [304], interpreted provisionally as a ditch (Figure 5).

6.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 22.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 25cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (400). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (403) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (406) of a linear feature [404], interpreted provisionally as a ditch (Figure 6).

6.5 Trench 6

Trench 6 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 21.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 25cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (600). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (603) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. Three linear features were revealed. The fill (605) of a linear feature [606], interpreted provisionally as a ditch running north-west/south-east, a curved linear [604] and a linear [608] as part of a earthwork feature (Figure 7).

6.6 Trench 7

Trench 7 lay on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured approximately 22.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 20cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (700). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (701) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (706) of a linear feature [707], interpreted provisionally as a ditch (see below) and located in the near centre of the trench, was cut by two small pits ([703] and [705]). Pit [703] was roughly circular with gentle inward-sloping sides measuring measured 60cm by 50cm and with a slightly concave base. Its 2cm-thick fill (702) consisted of friable black charcoal with moderate small chalk pieces, occasional fragments of calcined bone and small burnt flint inclusions. This pit intersected the centre of an earlier feature, interpreted with confidence as a cremation pit [705], and could therefore be interpreted as either a secondary cremation burial or, possibly, the result of disturbance to the original cremation burial, possibly to remove grave goods. Both interpretations are consistent with the presence in the fill (704) of the original cremation pit of 19 scattered potsherds derived from a single vessel (date-range *c*. 25 BC – *c*. AD 50).

The cut of the original cremation pit was roughly rectangular in plan and had vertical sides and a flat base, the whole measuring 60cm by 91cm. Its 7cm-thick fill (704) consisted of very compact mottled dark and light grey clay with frequent charcoal and small chalk pieces, occasional fragments of daub, large angular flints, burnt flint and potsherds as described above, all inclusions being evenly distributed throughout the fill. Around the outside edges of the earliest cremation (and therefore undisturbed by the later pit), were the remains of three truncated and/or broken vessels, along with as four complete miniature ceramic vessels, the latter lying along the north-eastern edge of the later cut and having a date-range of *c.* AD 43 – *c*. 100.

The linear feature [707] as discussed above intersected another linear feature [709] at an approximate right-angle, the right-angle suggesting that the two were at some contemporaneous, with such an arrangement implying that linear feature [707] had necessarily been cut later than

linear feature [709] in order to join it. In addition, two separate phases of construction were suggested by the linear feature's markedly different profiles in section, along with their respective differing fill sequences. The arrangement of these features overall was indicative of a 'T' junction formed by the right-angle intersection of two ditches, presumably drainage ditches, boundary markers or both.

Linear feature [709] had the form of a narrow 'U'-shape in profile, measuring 0.82m wide at the top and 0.65m deep. Its single fill (708) consisted of compact mid-light grey-brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk fragment inclusions. The intersecting linear feature [707] had a basal and primary fill (713) of compact light orange-yellow clay with frequent flint inclusions. This underlay a secondary and partly basal fill (712) of compact mid-light grey-brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk fragment inclusions, effectively identical in appearance to fill (708). A layer of mid clay-brown clay (706) with occasional chalk fragment inclusions sealed deposit (712) and represented the features uppermost fill.

As this uppermost fill of this feature, which was almost certainly part of a ditch, was cut by the primary cremation pit described above, Trench 7 can be seen to have exposed features in a clear stratigraphic sequence, pointing to multiphase occupation/settlement on the site. As discussed above, the four complete miniature pots vessels and four of the potsherds have a date-range of *c.* AD 43 – *c*. 100, but 19 potsherds in what appears to have been a later burial derive from a single vessel with a date-range of *c*. 25 BC – *c*. AD 50. In addition, it can be safely assumed that the underlying ditch is of prehistoric date but no precise date can be ascribed at present in the absence of further evidence date.

A linear feature (711), again almost certainly a ditch, appeared (at least in the area of this trench) to have followed the same approximate line of, and to have cut the fill of, linear feature [709]. The intercutting feature's fill (710) of light grey, brown-tinged loam contained frequent flints and occasional unabraded tile fragments of late medieval or, more likely, post-medieval appearance. It was interpreted as part of a wide-spread ditch system, many parts of which were exposed in the other evaluation trenches and which appear to form part of a ditch system shown on late nineteenth and twentieth century map of the area (Figure 8 & Plates 1- 5).

6.7 Trench 8

Trench 8 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 24.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 23cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (800). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (803) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (805) of a linear feature [804],

interpreted provisionally as a ditch. To the south-west a linear comprising chalk blocks and a water channel has been interpreted as an undated field drain [806]. (Figure 9).

6.8 Trench 10

Trench 10 lay on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured approximately 23.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 20cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1000). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (103) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (1105) of a linear feature [1004], interpreted provisionally as a ditch (Figure 10).

6.9 Trench 11

Trench 1 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 20.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 22cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1100). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (1103) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (106) of a thin linear feature [1104], interpreted provisionally as a ditch (Figure 11).

6.10 Trench 13

Trench 13 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 22.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 20cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1300). This sealed a 42cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (1303) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (1305) of a linear feature [1304], interpreted provisionally as a ditch and part of an existing earthworks (Figure 12).

6.11 Trench 14

Trench 14 lay on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured approximately 21.00m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 22cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1400). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (1403) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (1405) of a linear feature [1404], interpreted provisionally as a ditch (Figure 13).

6.12 Trench 15

Trench 15 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 23.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 24cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1500). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (1503) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (1505) of a linear feature [1504], interpreted provisionally as a ditch and part of earthworks (Figure 14).

6.13 Trench 16

Trench 16 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 23.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 23cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1600). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (1603) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (1605) of a linear feature [1604], interpreted provisionally as a ditch and part of earthworks (Figure 15).

6.14 Trench 17

Trench 17 lay on a south-west/north-east alignment and measured approximately 16.4m by 1.8m. The trench was sealed by a 17cm-thick layer of black brown, slightly clayey silt topsoil with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1700). This sealed 46cm-thick mid grey brown silty clay subsoil with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking (1701). In most of the trench this overlay a natural ground geological deposit consisting of mixed chalk and mottled light blue-tinged grey and light orange clay (1709).

However, the deposit sequence differed in the south-west end of the trench, where part of a rectangular cremation cut [1706] was exposed and revealed to have vertical sides and a flat base, the exposed part measuring 70cm by 0.64cm and observed to cut down through the subsoil (1701) and into natural clay mixed with chalk (1709). Its appearance immediately below plough soil indicated that it had been previously been truncated, presumably by protracted plough-share erosion.

The upper fill of the cremation (1702) consisted of 6cm-thick soft dark grey, slightly silty clay with occasional chalk flecking, charcoal and very occasional small angular flint inclusions. Underlying this were two adjacent fills, one (1704) being an 8cm thick-deposit of cremated human bone and charcoal located in the south-west corner of the feature cut. This deposit also contained three small copper-alloy objects, identified as lion-head box studs with a date-range of *c*. AD 43 – *c*. 100 and three largely intact vessels, a flagon and two samian dishes, with a date-range of *c*. AD 85 –

c.100. It was surrounded by 7cm-thick soft mottled light grey/dark blue-grey, slightly silty clay (1703) containing occasional chalk flecks, charcoal flecks and fragments and occasional pieces of cremated bone. Also present in this fill were three metal, hooped, ring-like objects, identified as copper-alloy box rings. The date-range of these artefacts overall was therefore *c*. AD 85 - *c*. 100, indicating that the cremation dated to the Early-Roman period.

The primary and basal fill of the cremation pit (1705), underlying deposits 1703 and 1704, consisted of a 4cm-thick layer of soft mottled clay with occasional chalk fleck inclusions and which varied in colour from dark grey to light grey to light orange-brown (Figures 15, 19 & Plates 6-12).

6.15 Trench 18

Trench 18 lay on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured approximately 22.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 20cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1800). This sealed a 42cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (1803) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (1805) of the terminal of a linear feature [1804], interpreted provisionally as a ditch and part of an existing earthworks (Figure 16).

6.16 Trench 19

Trench 19 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment and measured approximately 22.5m by 1.8m. The uppermost deposit within it consisted of 20cm-thick topsoil made up of black- dark brown slightly clay- silt with high humic content and with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (1900). This sealed a 40cm-thick subsoil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (1903) with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking. The fill (1905) of a linear feature [1904], interpreted provisionally as a ditch (Figure 16).

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are likely to impact on archaeological remains.

6.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is likely to impact on archaeological remains.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

8.1.2 Paul Wilkinson MCIfA supervised the archaeological evaluation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

9 REFERENCES

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Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance: for field evaluation.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 12/12/2018

1 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 17	Dimensions: 16.4 x 1.8m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1700	Friable layer of black brown slightly clayey silt with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions.	Topsoil	0.00-0.17
1701	Mid grey brown silty clay with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking.	Subsoil	0.17-0.63
1702	Soft dark grey slightly silty clay with occasional chalk flecking, charcoal and very occasional small angular flint inclusions.	Upper fill of cremation [1706]	0.63-0.69
1703	Soft mottled light grey/ dark blueish grey slightly silty clay with occasional chalk flecking, charcoal, moderate manganese and very occasional cremated bone inclusions. Contained three metal, hooped, ring-like objects, identified as copper-alloy box rings	Fill of cremation [1706]	0.69-0.76
1704	Soft mottled light grey/ dark blueish grey slightly silty clay with moderate manganese, occasional chalk flecking and frequent charcoal and deposited cremated human bone. Contained three small copper-alloy objects, identified as lion-head box studs with a date-range of *c*. AD 43 – *c*. 100 and three largely intact vessels, a flagon and two samian dishes	Deposit of cremated human bone in cremation [1706]	0.69-0.77
1705	Soft mottled dark grey/ light grey/ light orange brown clay with occasional chalk fleck inclusions.	Primary fill of cremation [1706]	0.77-0.81
1706	Square cut of cremation with vertical sides and a flat base.	Cut of cremation	-
1707	Light grey, brown-tinged loam containing frequent flints and occasional unabraded tile fragments of modern appearance, fill of [1708] (linear feature)	Fill of linear [1708]	0.55-0.77
1708	Cut for the above, linear feature, probably a ditch	Cut of linear	-
1709	Mix of chalk and mottled light blueish grey/ light orange clay.	Natural	0.77

Trench 7	Dimensions: 22.5 x 1.8m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
700	Friable layer of black brown slightly sandy silt with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions.	Topsoil	0.00-0.20
701	Mid grey brown silty clay with very frequent angular flint gravel inclusions and occasional chalk flecking.	Subsoil	0.20-0.60
702	Friable black charcoal with moderate small chalk pieces, occasional fragments of bone, cremated bone and small burnt flint inclusions.	Fill of circular cremation cut [703]	0.60-0.62
703	Cut of shallow depression with gentle inwards sloping sides and a slightly concave base, possibly a cremation cutting [705]. Contained remains of three truncated and/or broken vessels and four complete miniature ceramic vessels (date-range of *c.* AD 43 – *c*. 100).	Cut of cremation	-

704	Very compact mottled dark and light grey clay with frequent charcoal and small chalk pieces, occasional fragments of daub, large angular flints, burnt flint and abraded pot evenly distributed throughout the fill. Contained 19 potsherds derived from a single vessel (date-range *c*. 25 BC – *c*. AD 50).	Fill of cremation [705]	0.62-0.69
705	Square cut of cremation with vertical sides and a flat base.	Cut of cremation	-
706	Mid clay-brown clay (706) with occasional chalk fragment inclusions, over (712)	Top Fill of linear [707]	0.55-0.77
707	Cut of linear feature with three fills, 713, 712 & 706	Cut of linear	-
708	Compact mid-light grey-brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk fragment inclusions, fill of [709]	Fill of linear [709]	0.29-0.75
709	Cut of linear feature with single fill (708)	Cut of linear	-
710	Light grey, brown-tinged loam contained frequent flints and occasional unabraded tile fragments, fill of [711]	Fill of linear [711]	0.37-0.69
711	Cut of linear feature with single fill (710)	Cut of linear	-
712	Compact mid-light grey-brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk fragment inclusions, secondary fill in [707]	Fill of linear [707]	0.31-0.55
713	Compact light orange-yellow clay with frequent flint inclusions, primary fill of [707]	Primary fill of linear [707]	0.31-0.43
714	Mix of chalk and mottled light blueish grey/ light orange clay.	Natural	0.69

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land between Arthur Baker Playing Field and Ashford Road, Charing, Kent

SWAT Site Code: CHAR/EV/18

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the of car parking whereby Ashford Borough Council requested that Archaeological works be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed Roman cremations, pits and ditches

District/Unitary: Ashford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 595543 143070

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: October/November 2018

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation- Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land abetween Arthur Baker Playing Field and Ashford Road, Charing, Kent TN27 0JJ

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

Roman cremations, pits and ditches were found

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

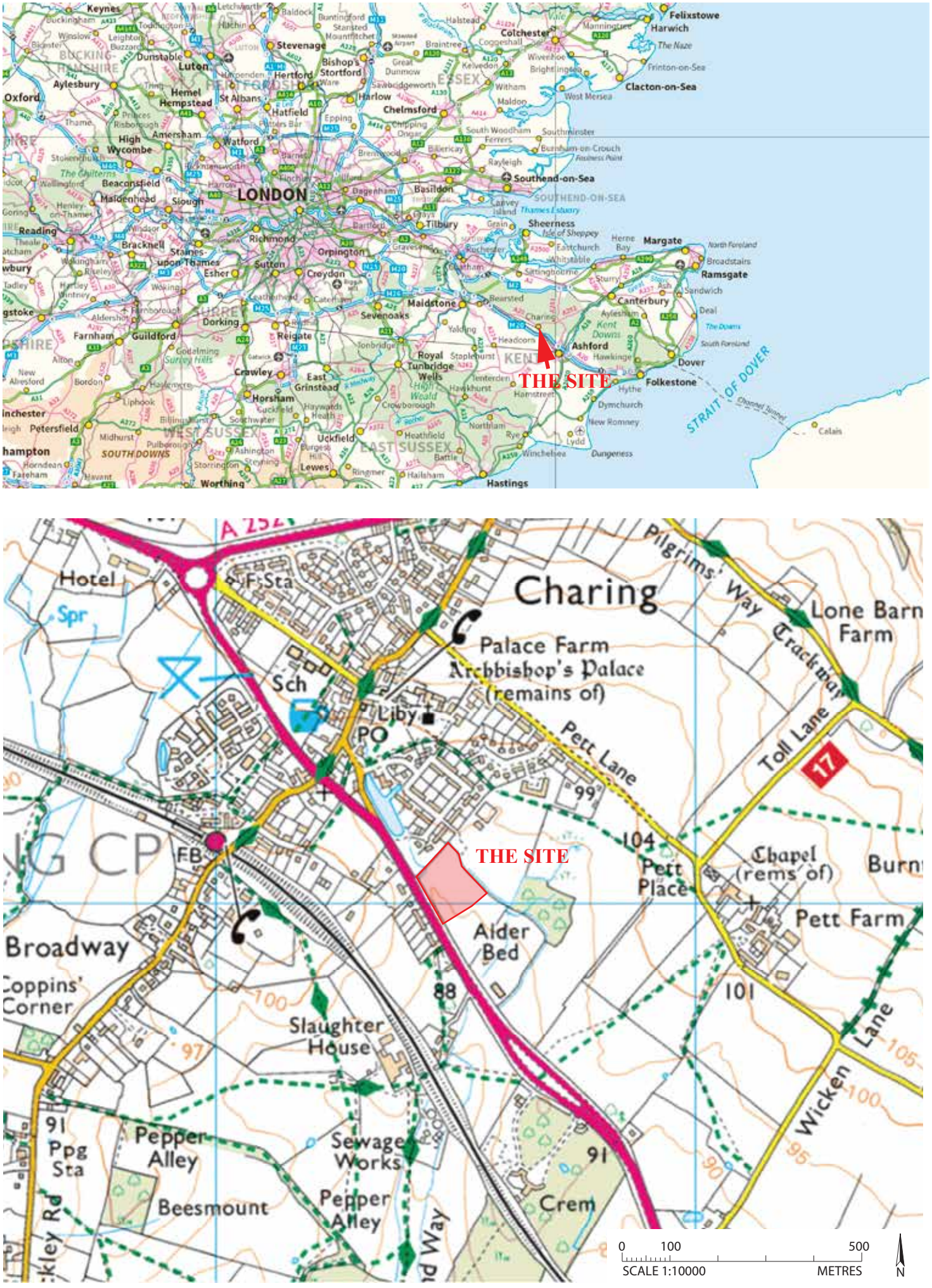


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

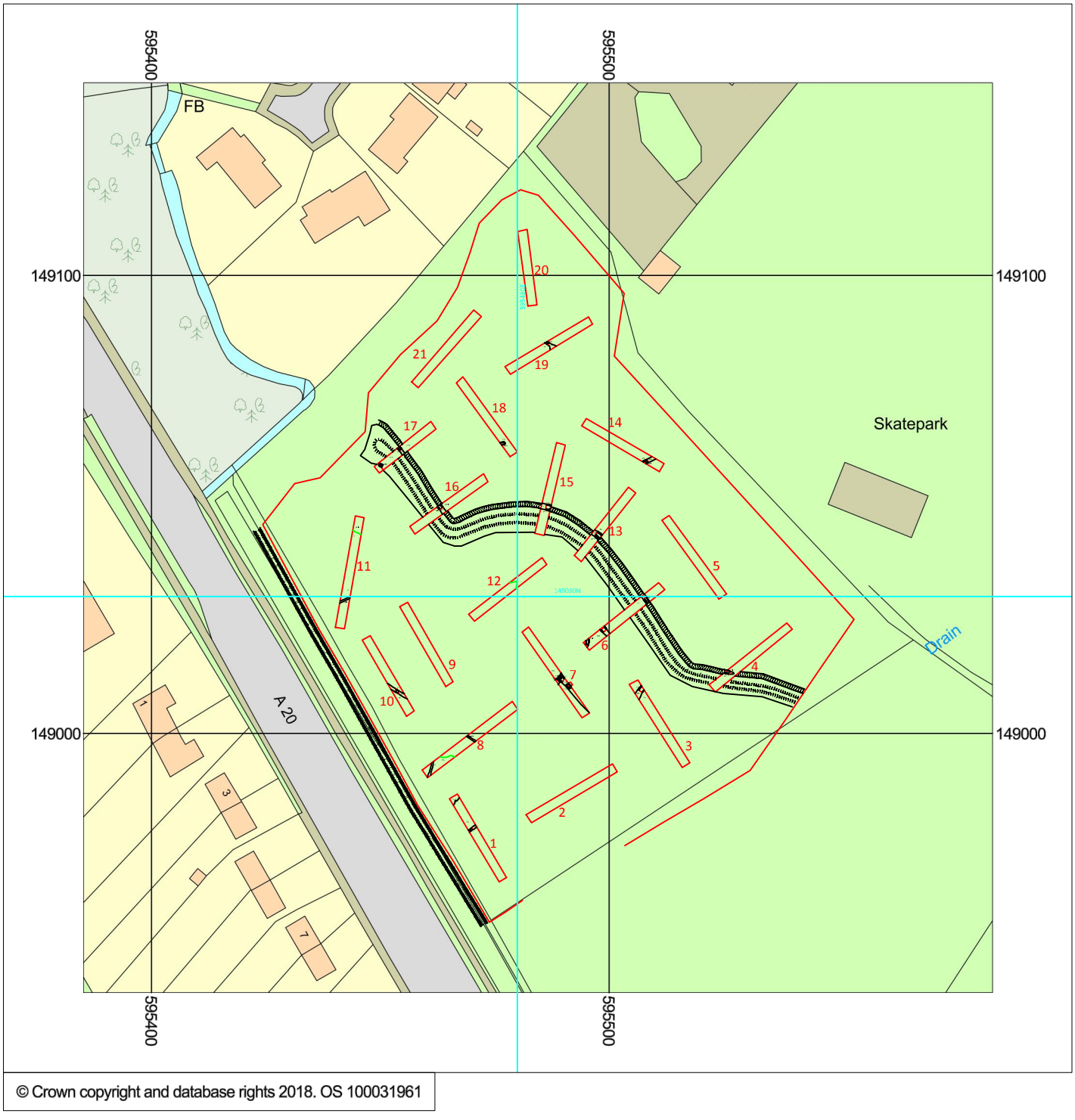


Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map

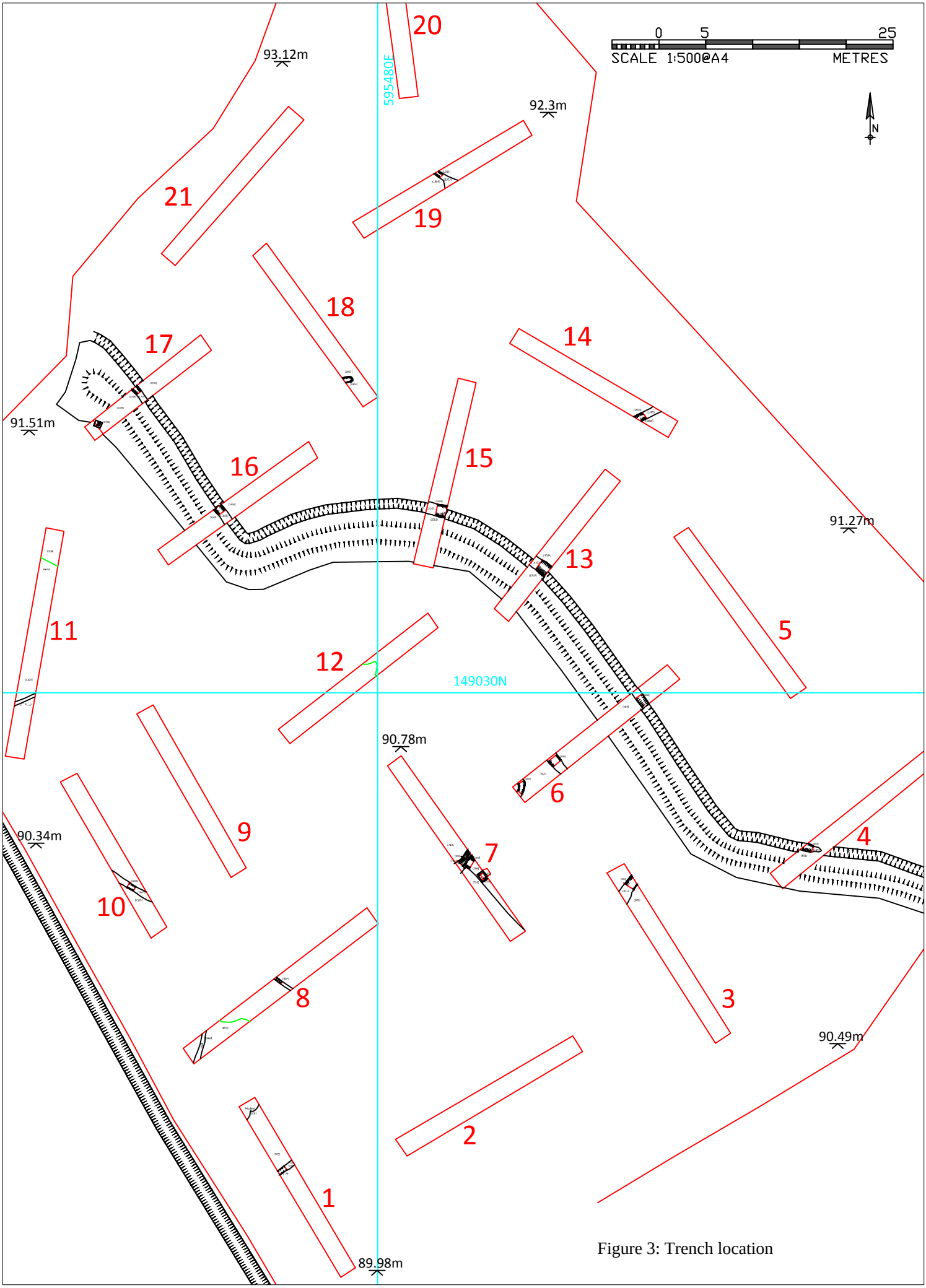


Figure 3: Trench location

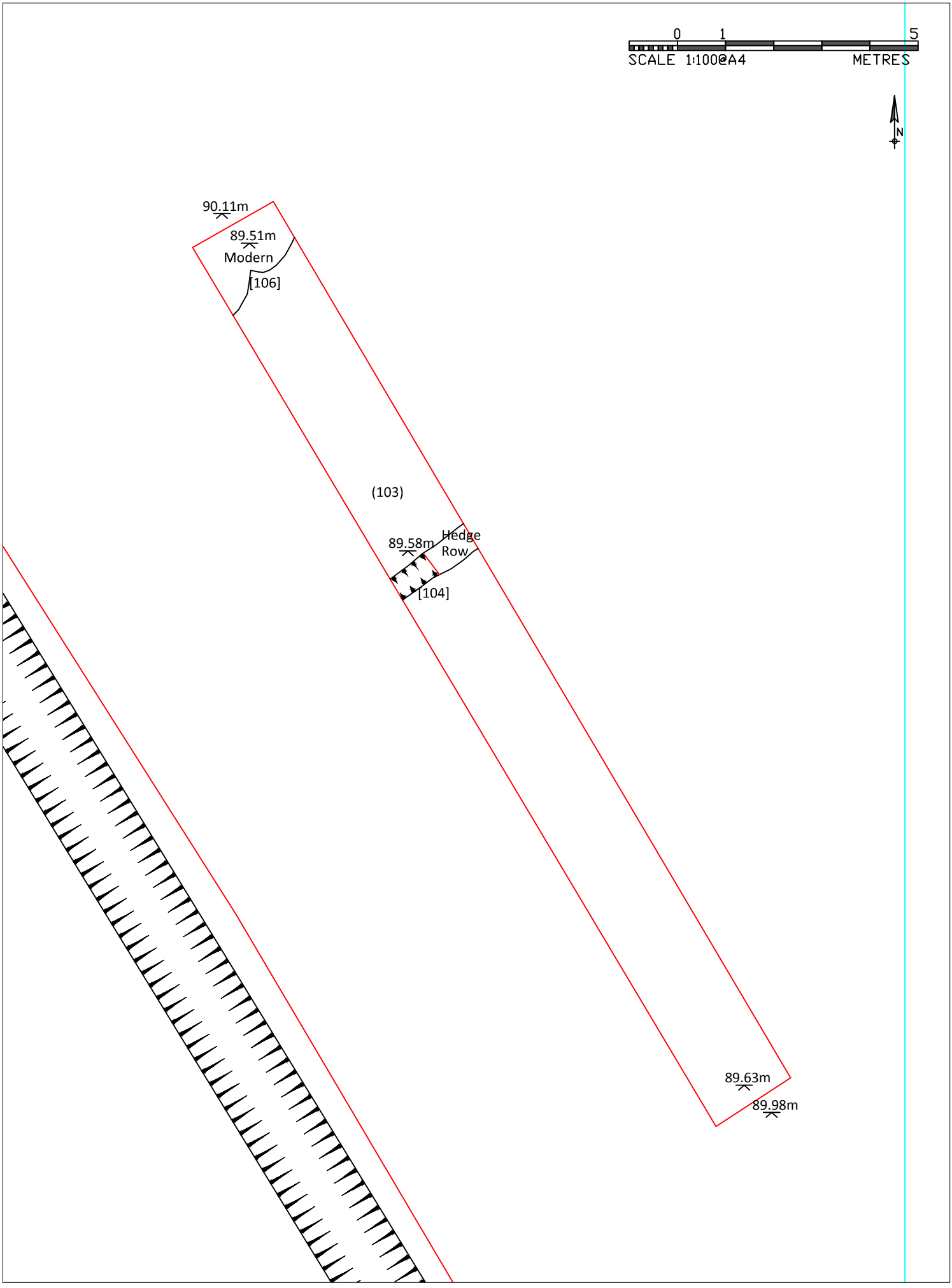


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 1

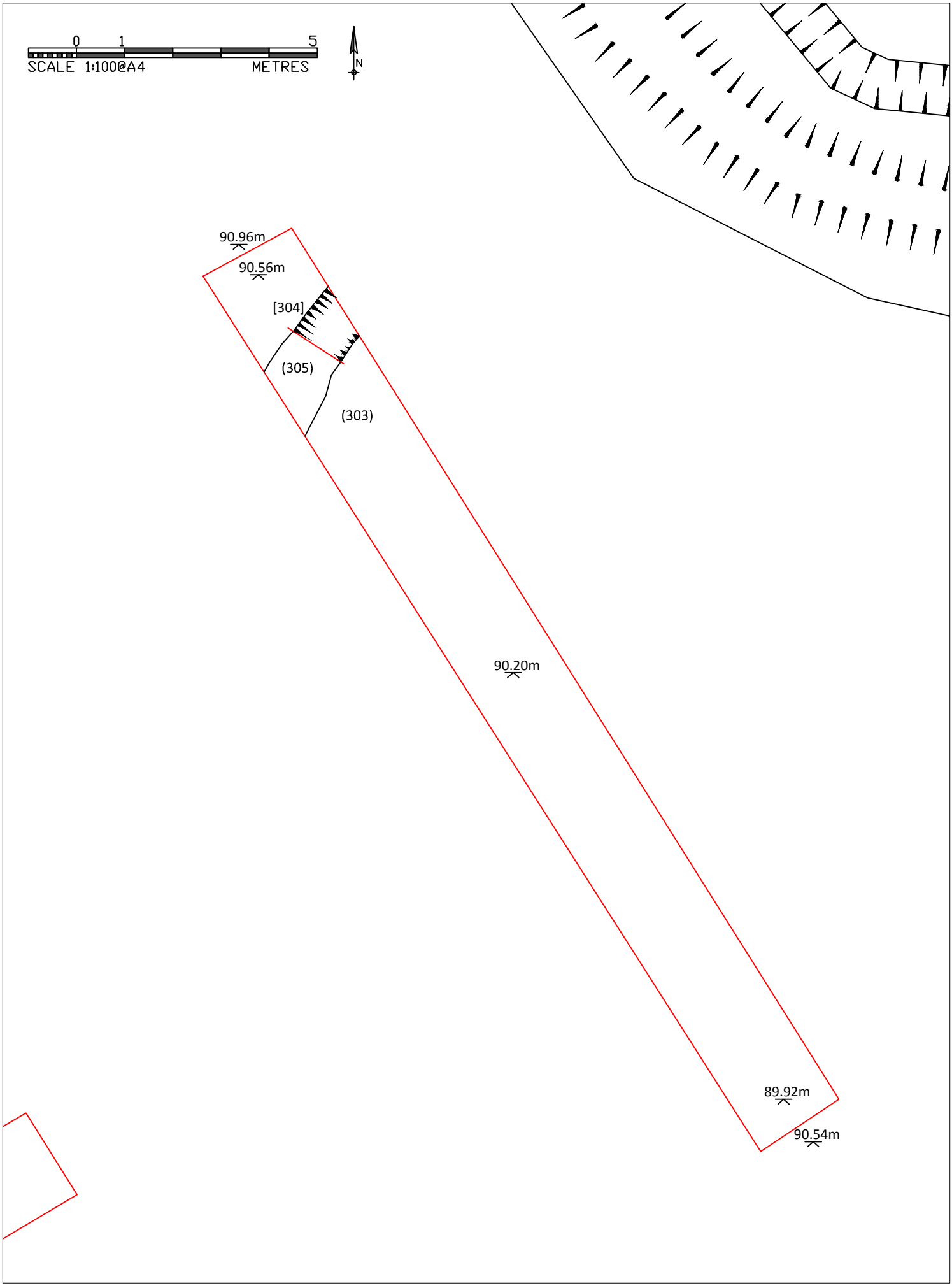


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 3

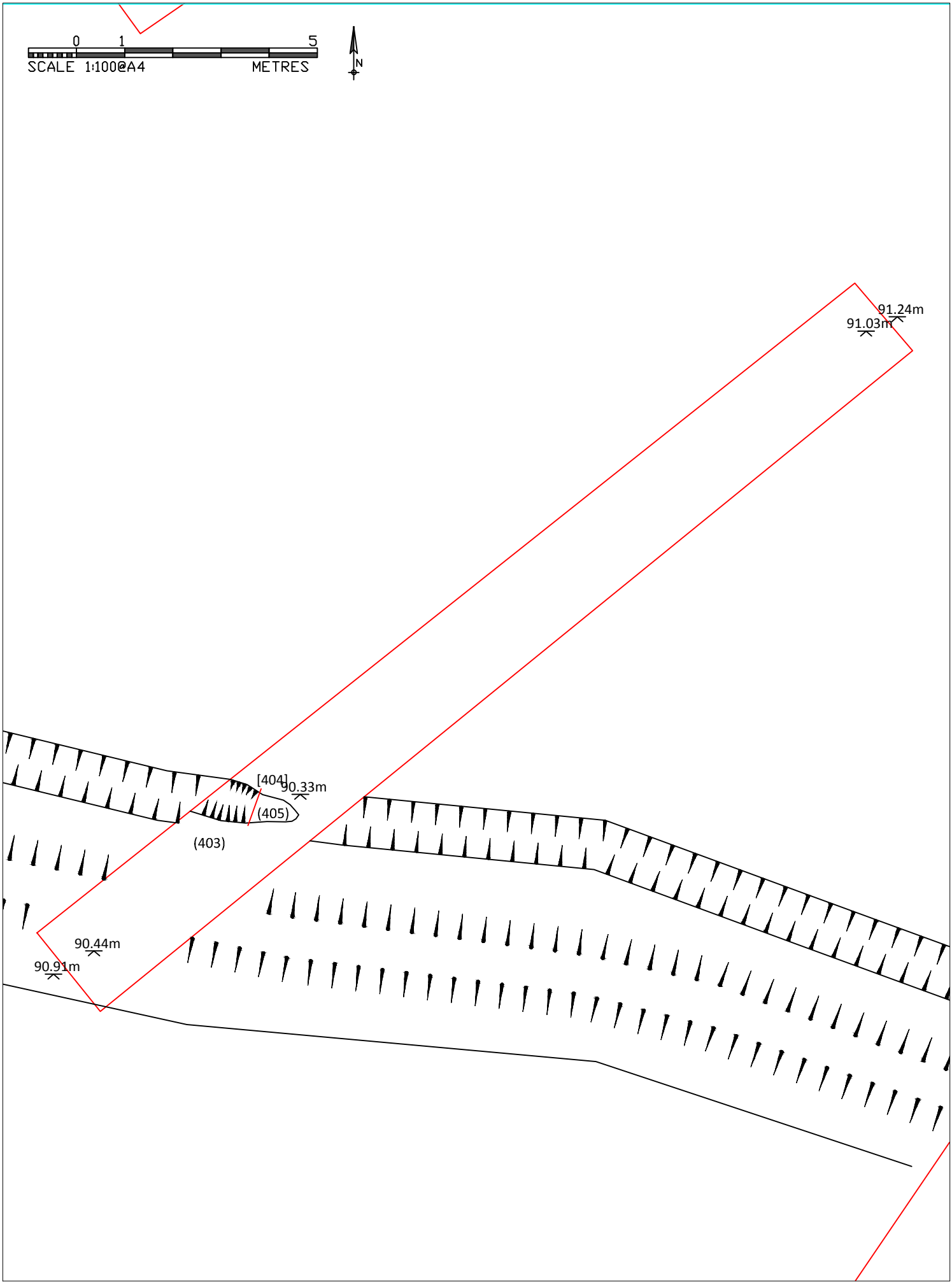


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 4

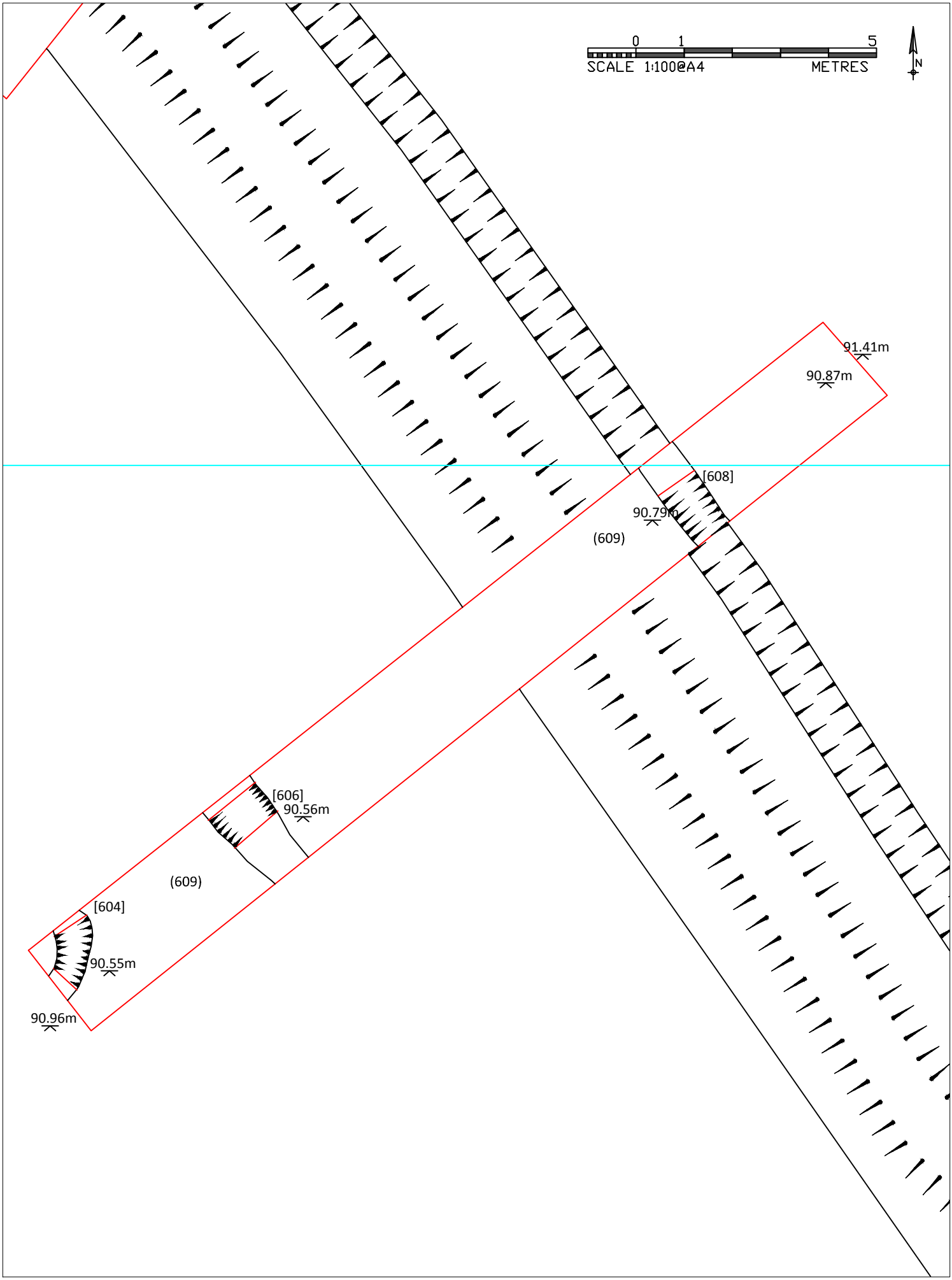


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 6

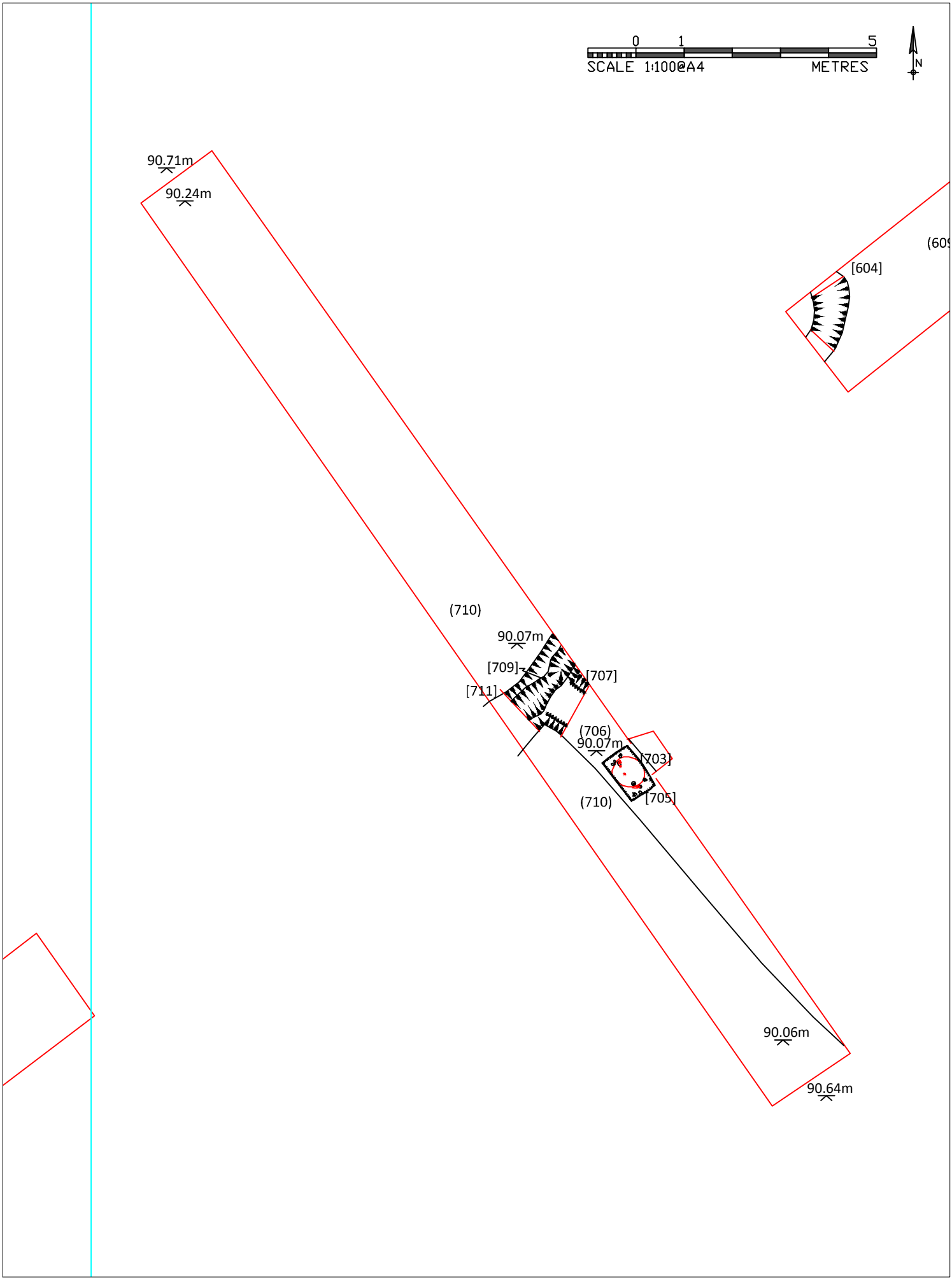


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 7

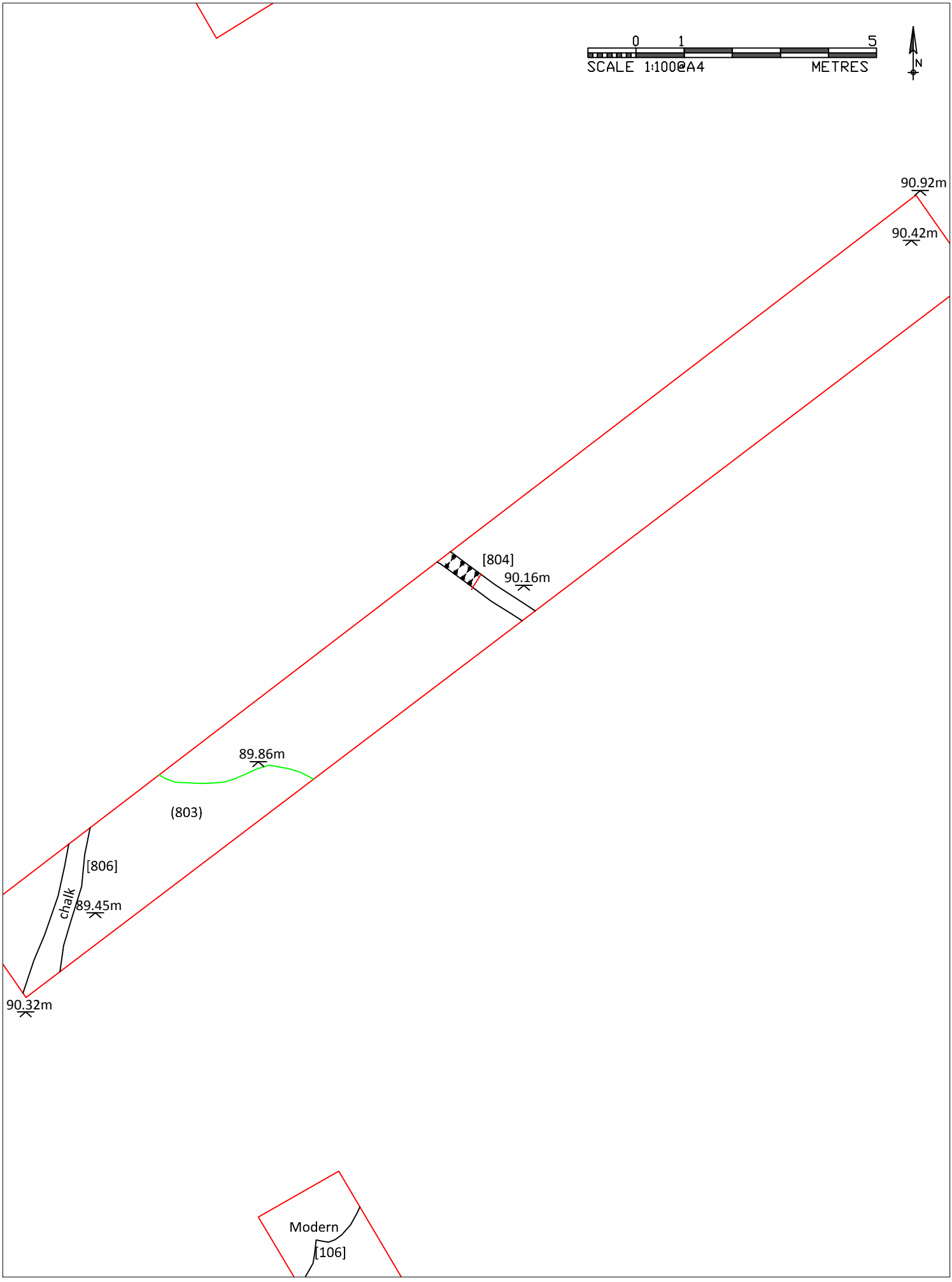


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 8

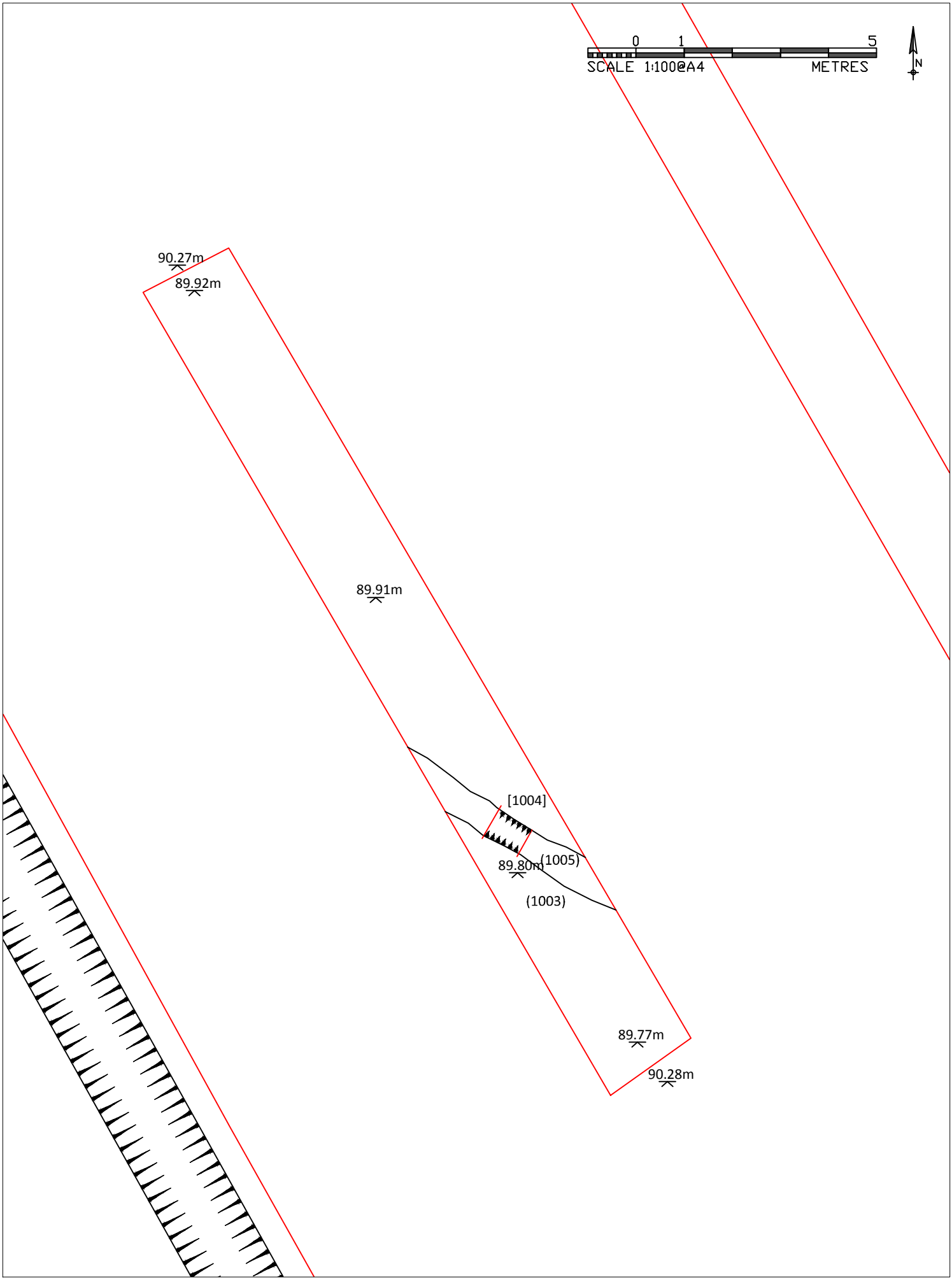


Figure 10: Plan of Trench 10

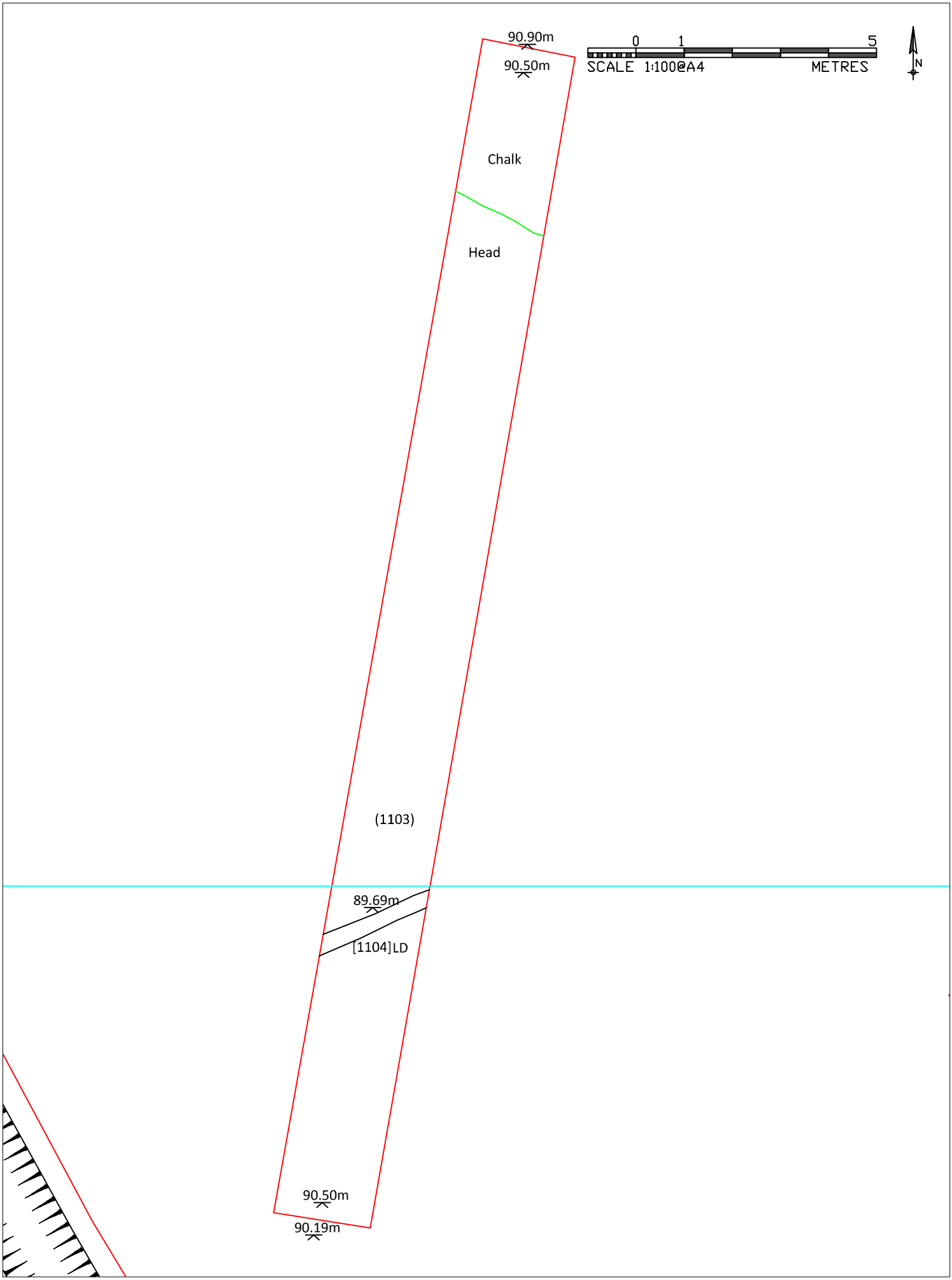


Figure 11: Plan of Trench 11

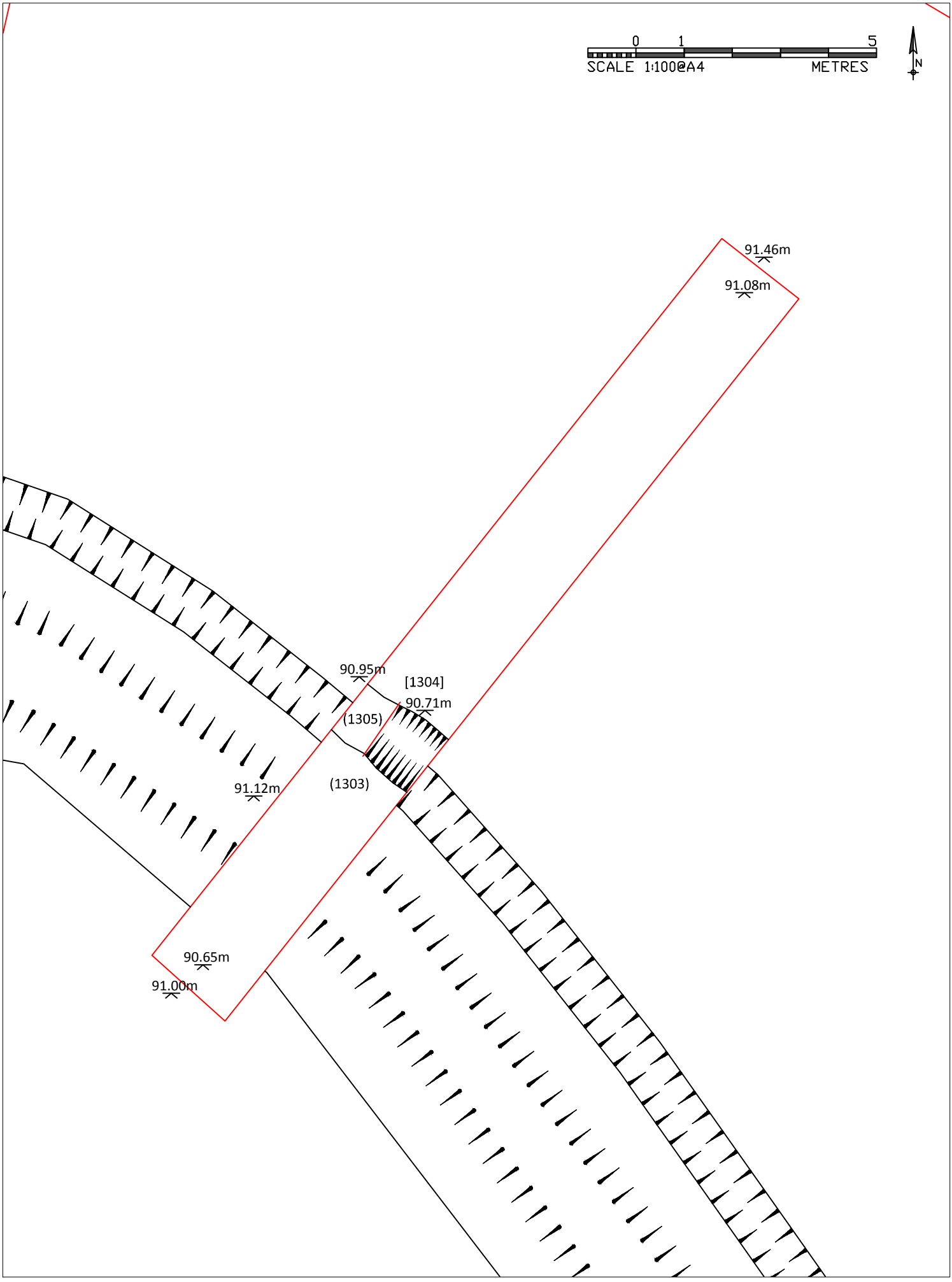


Figure 12: Plan of Trench 13

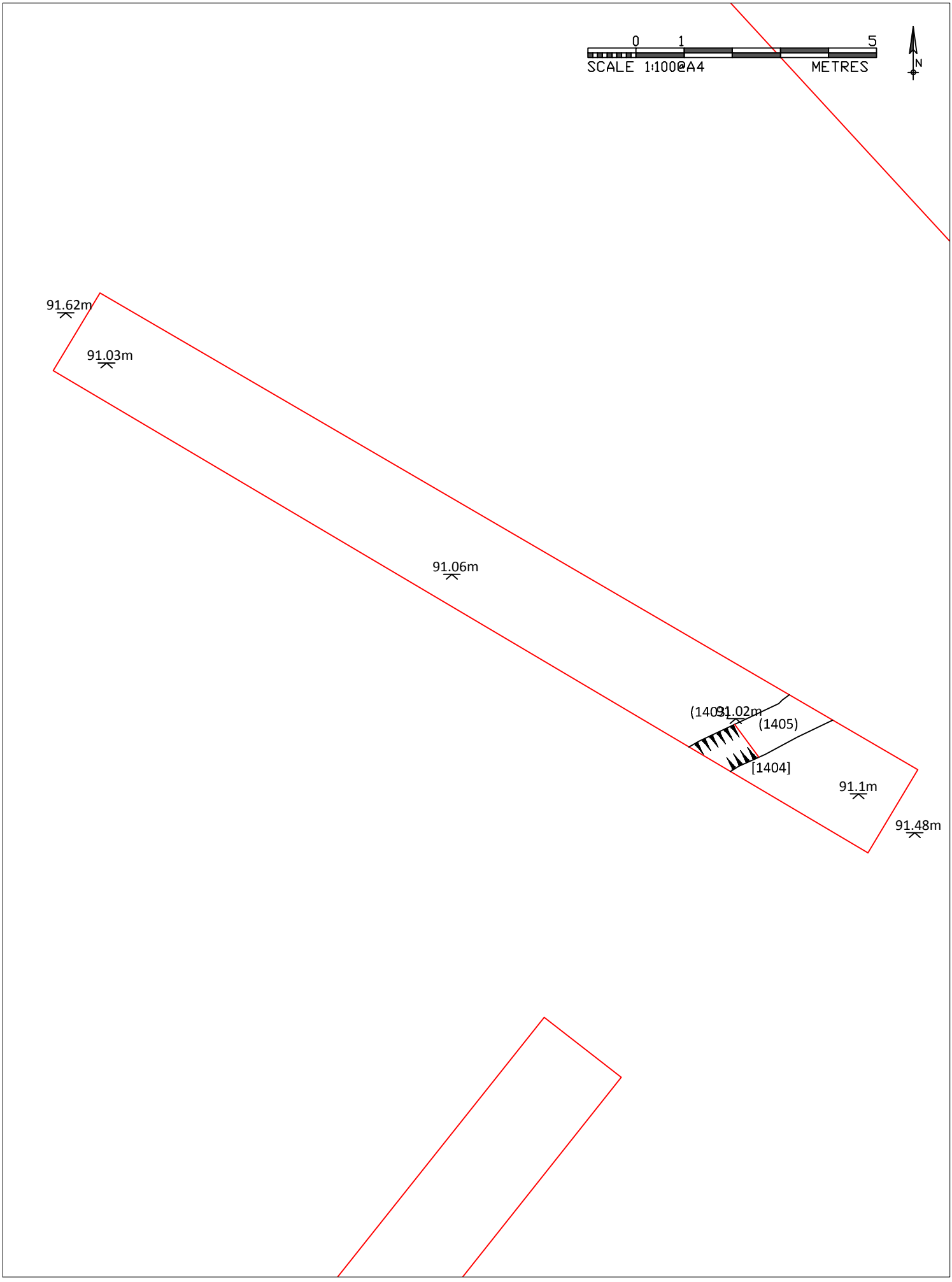


Figure 13: Plan of Trench 14

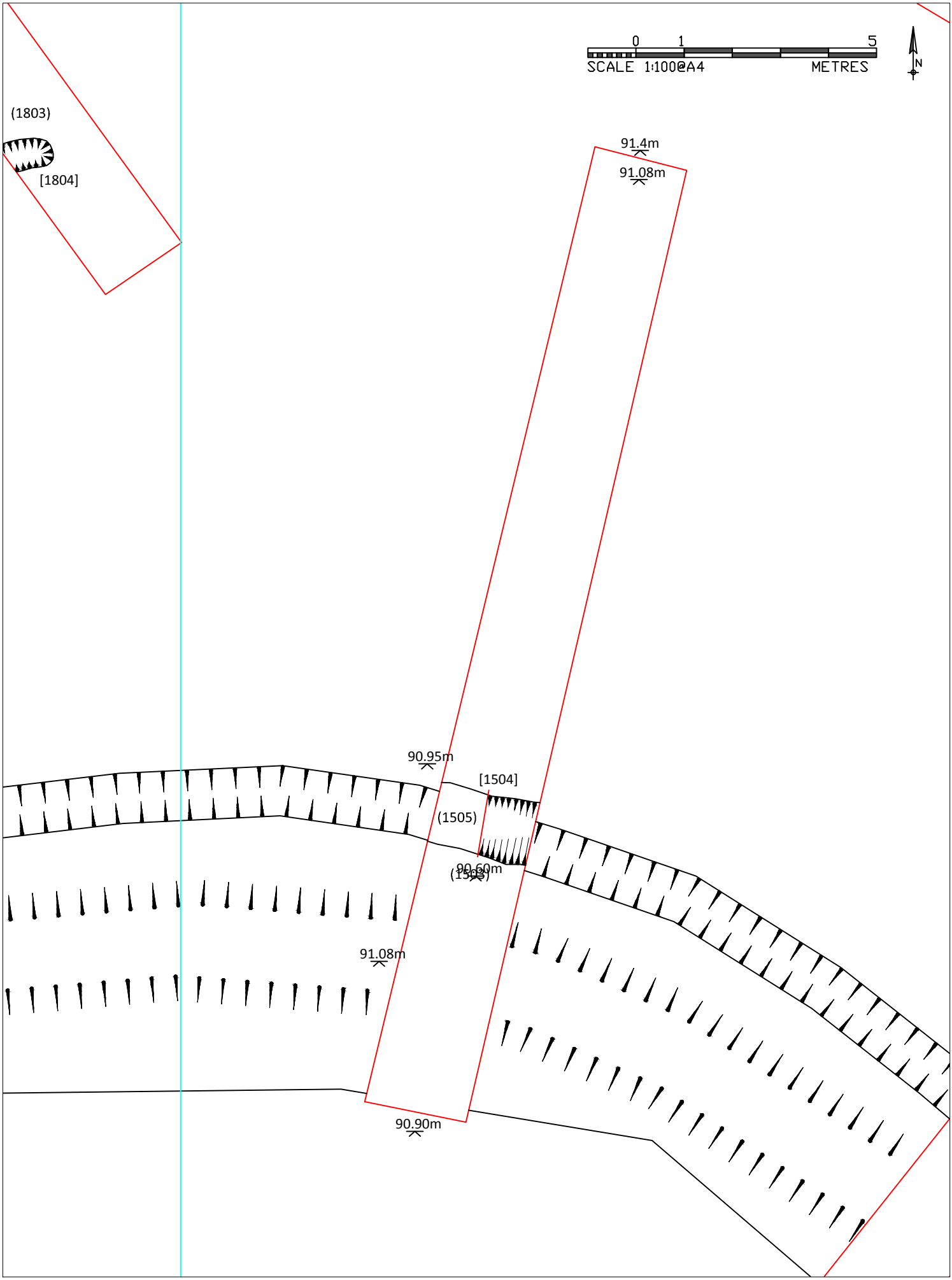


Figure 14: Plan of Trench 15

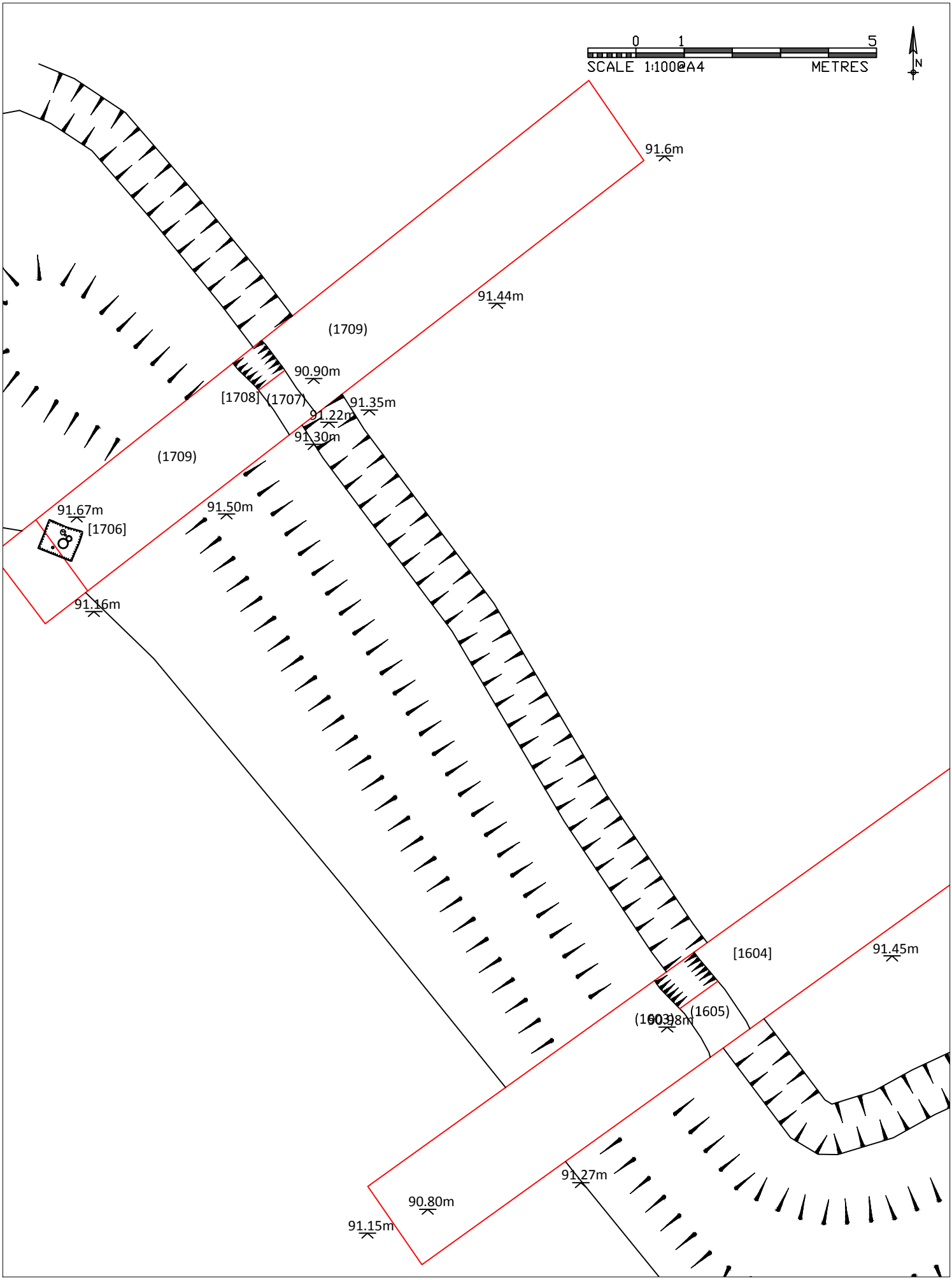


Figure 15: Features exposed in Trench 15 and 16

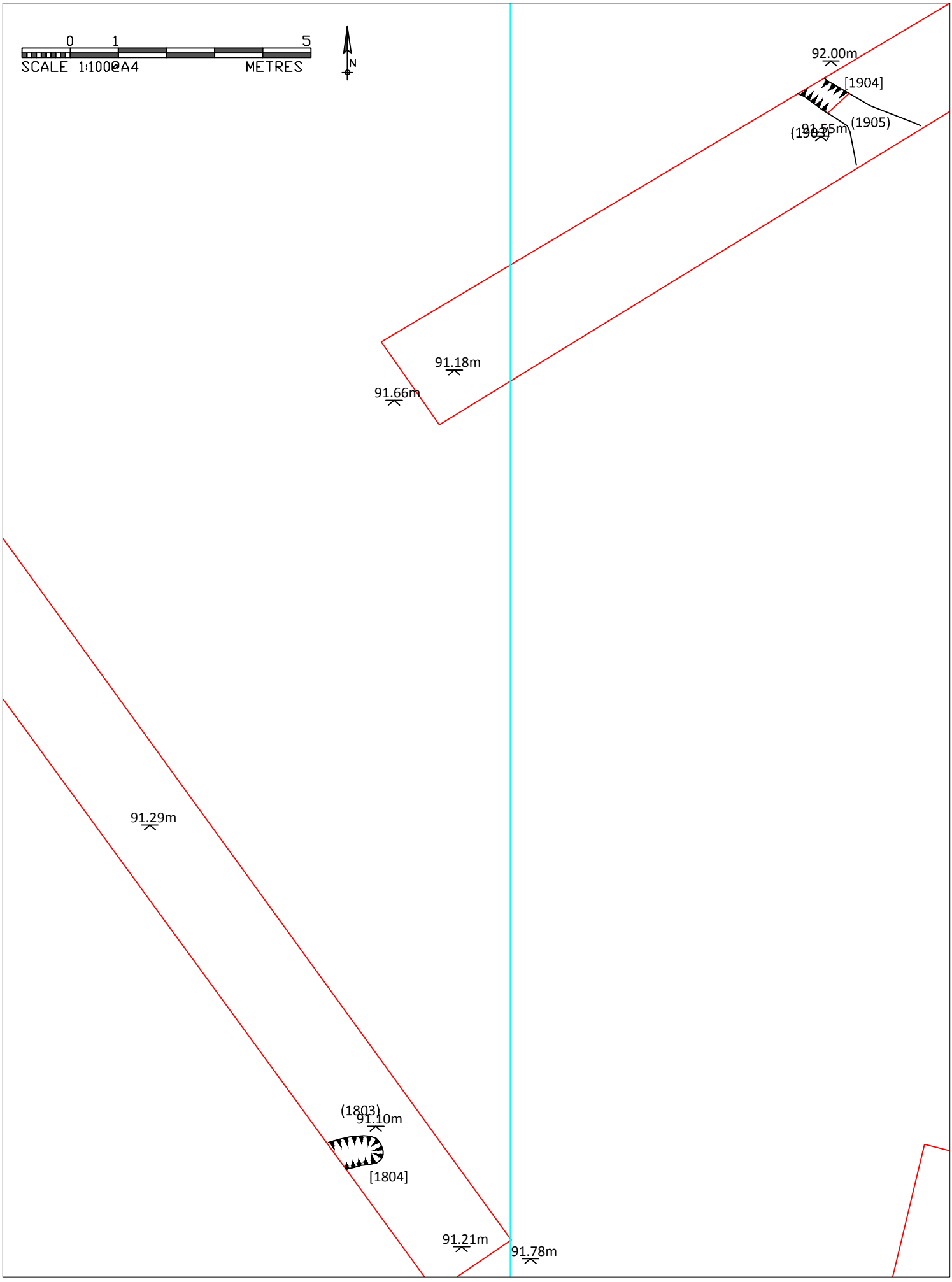


Figure 16: Features exposed in Trench 18 and 19

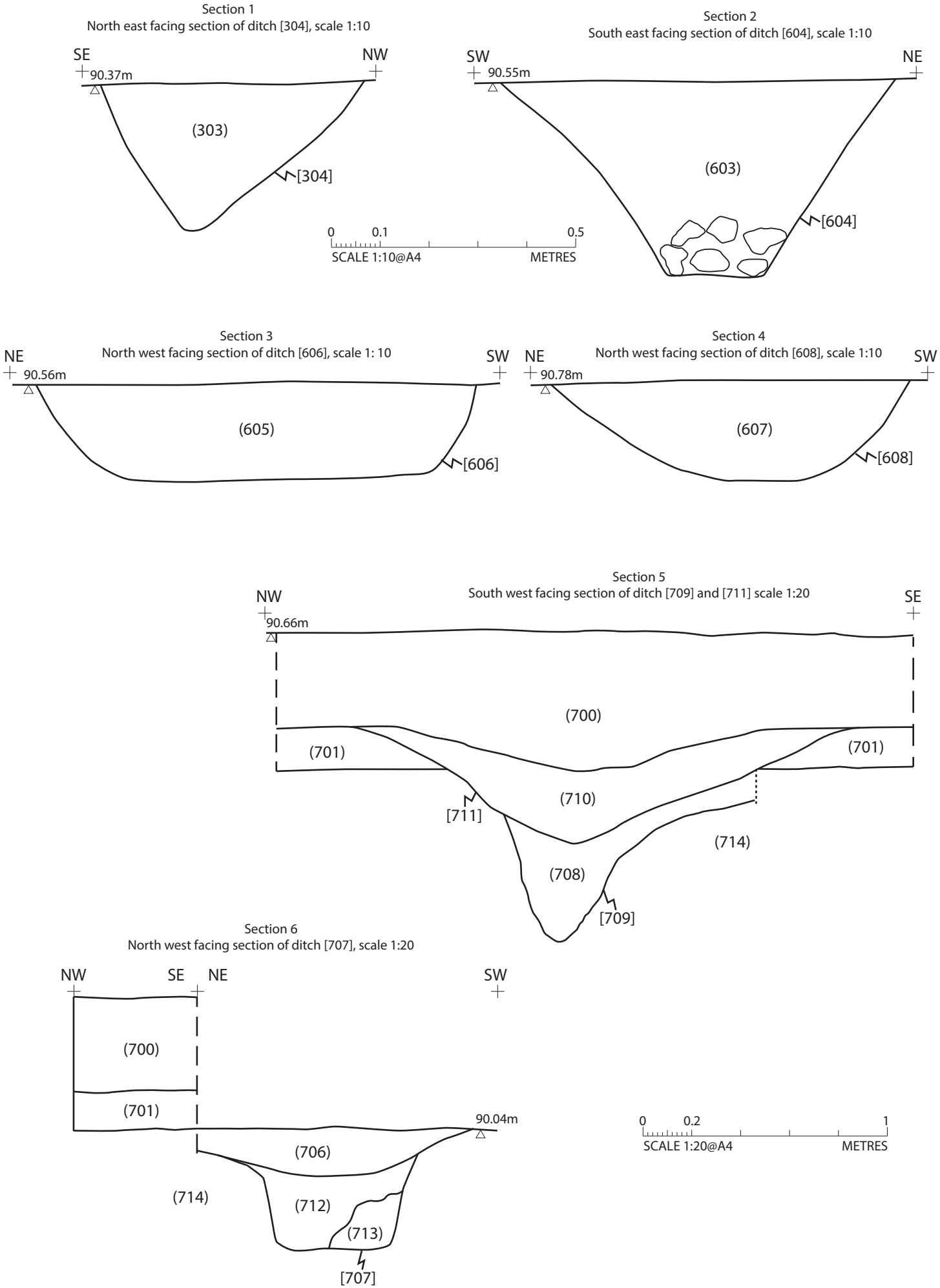


Figure 17: Features - sections

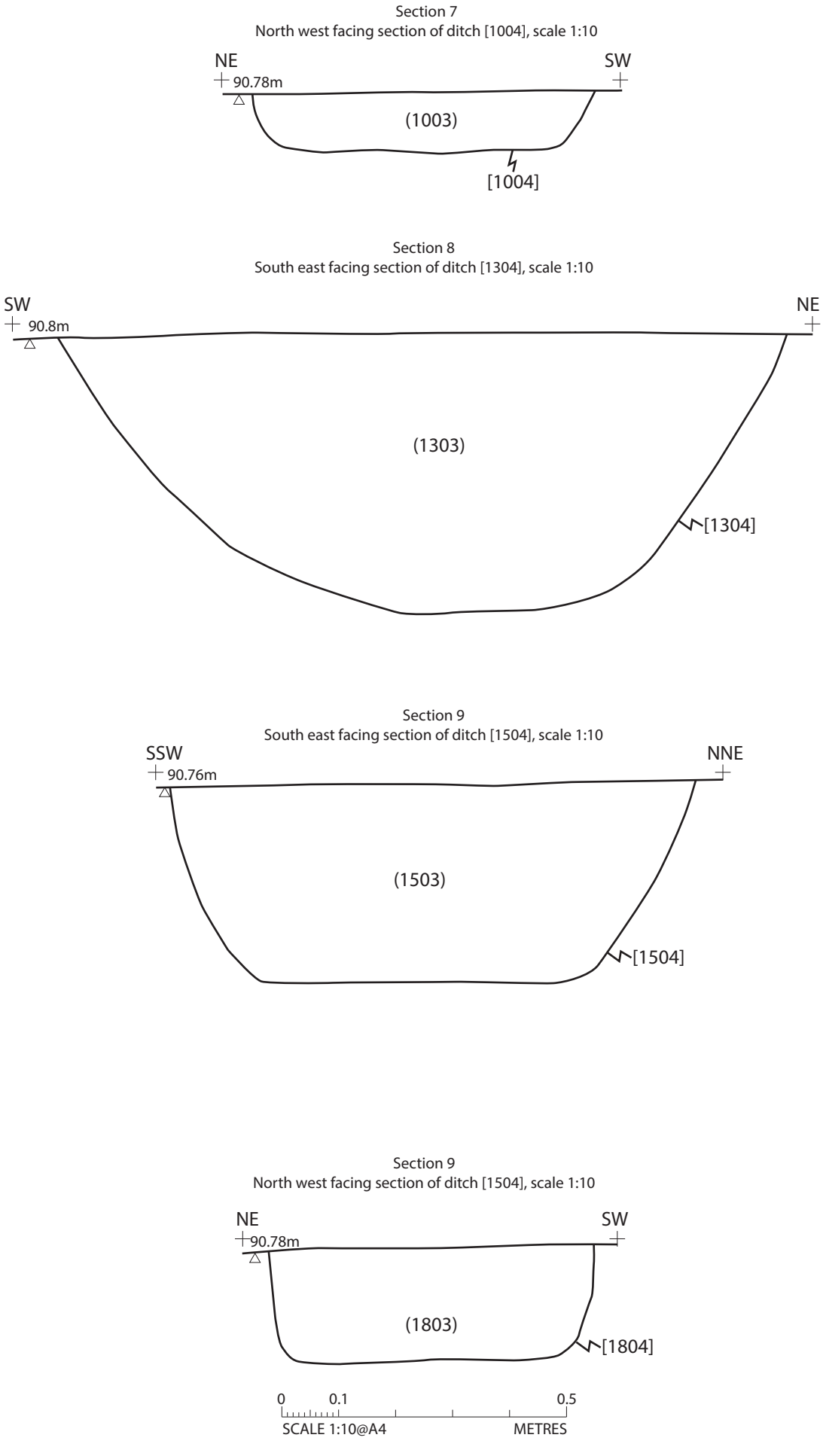
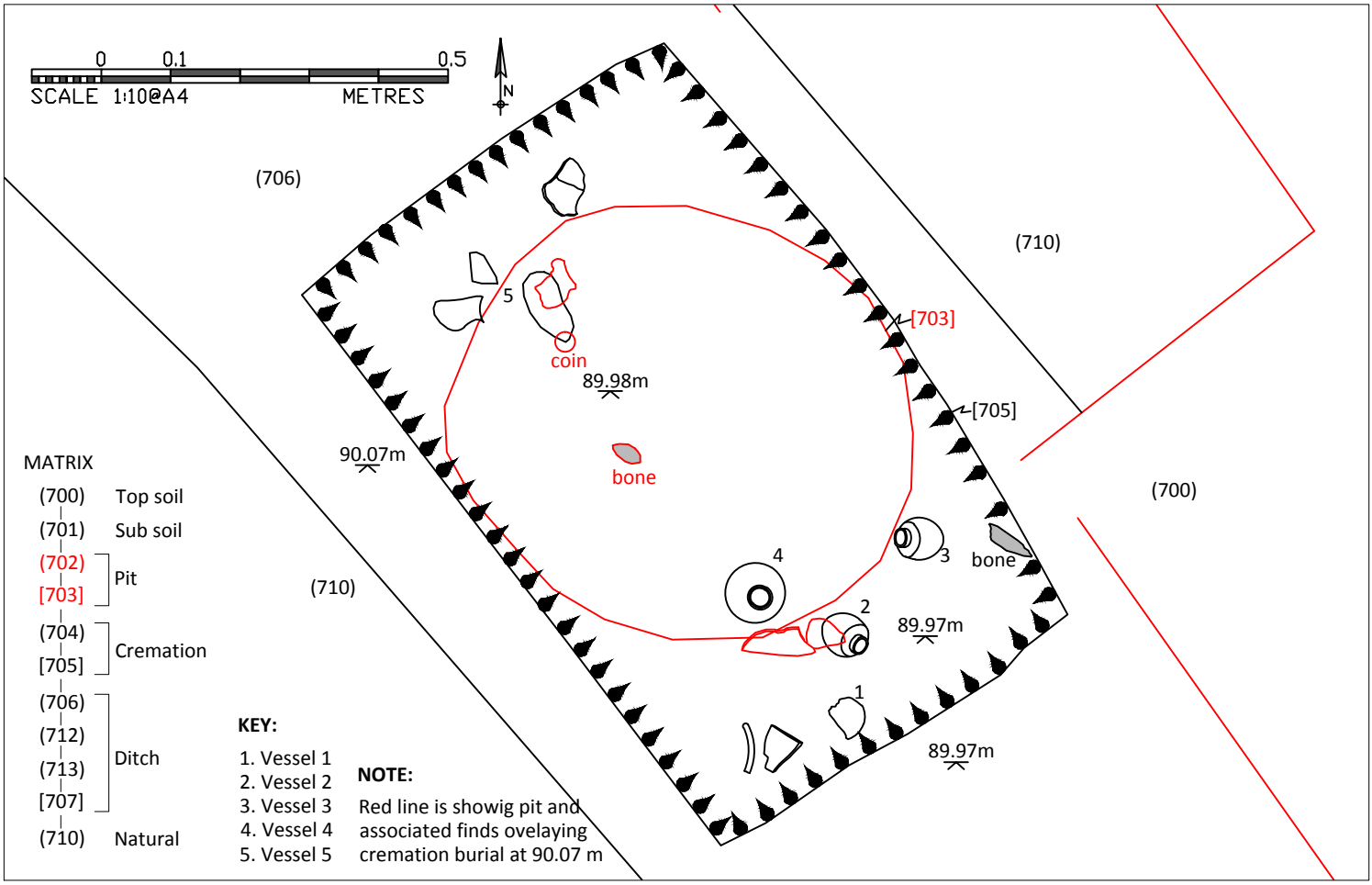


Figure 18: Features - sections



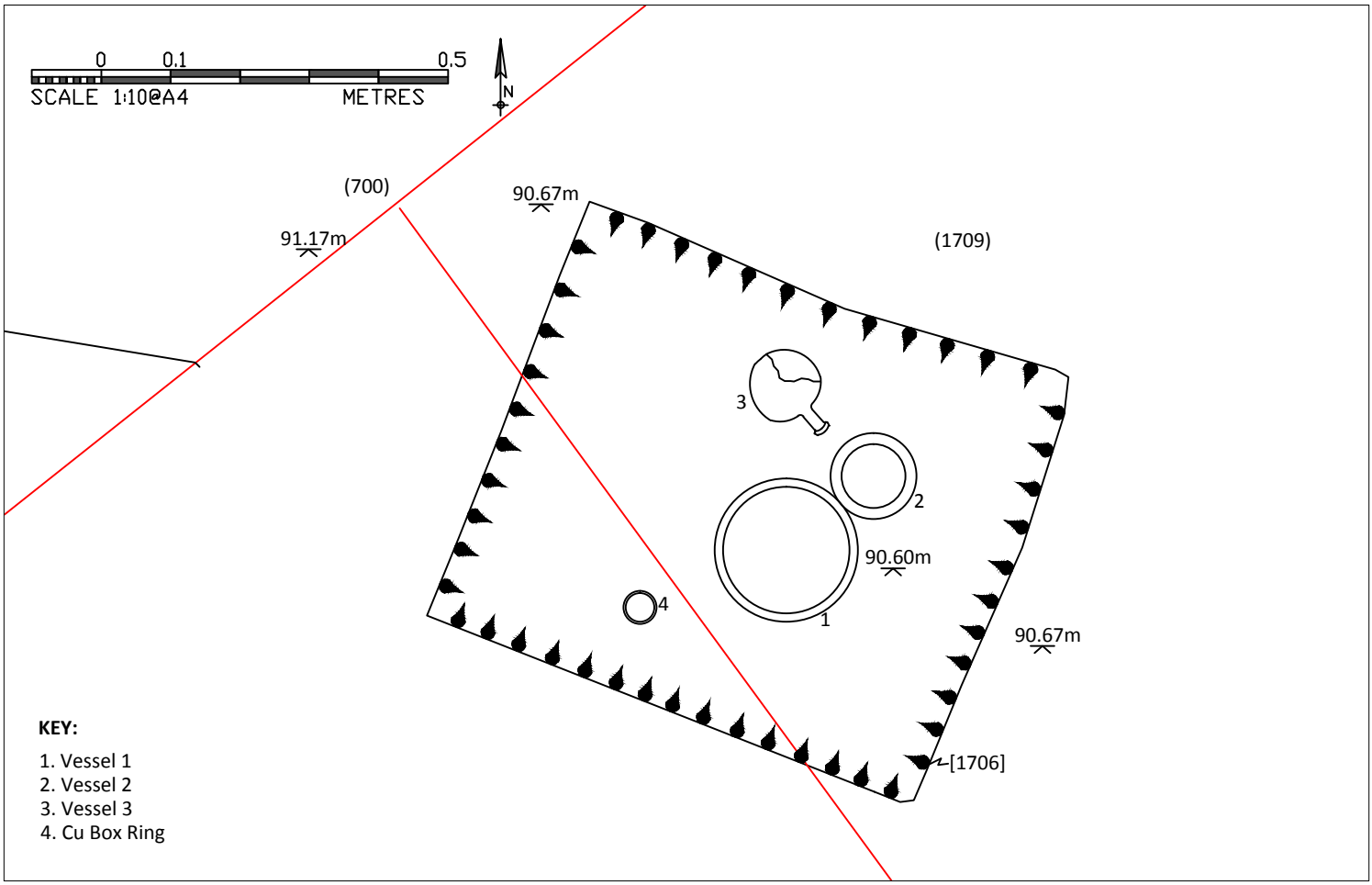
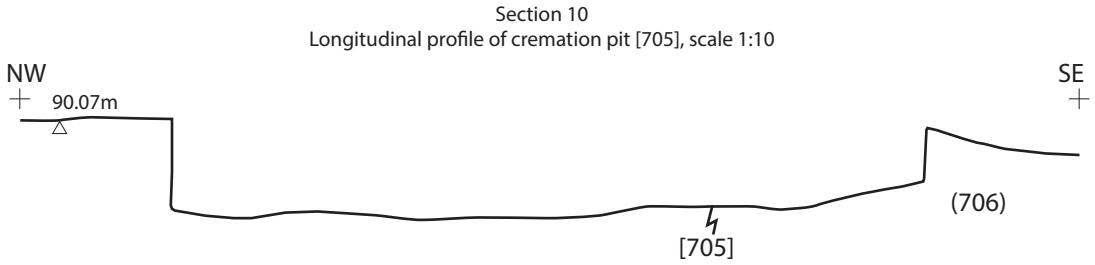


Figure 19: Cremation burials



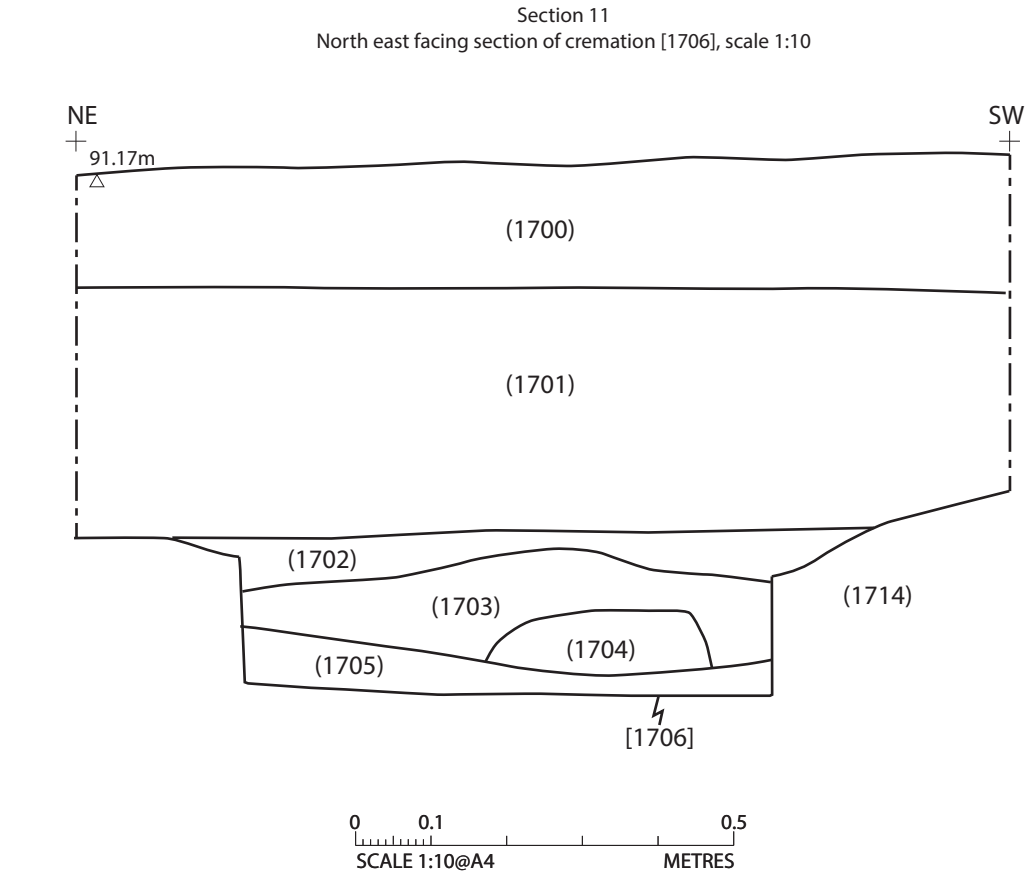


Figure 20: Cremations - sections

Plate 1. North-East facing pre-excavation photo of Cremation [703] and [705].

Plate 2. North-East facing mid-excavation photo of Cremation [705].

Plate 3. South-East facing photo of vessels within Cremation [705].

Plate 4. North-West facing photo of vessels within Cremation [705].

Plate 5. North-East facing full-excavation photo of Cremation [705].

Plate 6. South-west facing pre-excavation photo of cremation before reducing the LOE to get the full extent of cut.

Plate 7. South-west facing pre-excavation section photo of cremation before reducing the LOE to get the full extent of cut.

Plate 8. North facing pre-excavation photo of full extent of cremation

Plate 9. West facing pre-excavation photo of full extent of cremation

Plate 10. West facing pre-excavation section photo of full extent of cremation

Plate 11. North-west facing mid-excavation photo showing insitu metal work in (1703) and cremated bone deposit (1704).

Plate 12. West facing full-excavation photo of full extent of cremation.

Plate 13. Trench 2 (looking north)

Plate 14. Trench 10 (looking west)

Plate 15. Trench 8 (looking south-west)

Plate 16 Trench 13 (looking north)

Plate 17 Section Trench 10

Plate 18 Section Trench 11

APPENDIX 2

SPOT-DATING OF THE POTTERY AND SMALL-FINDS FROM THE EVALUATION ON LAND BETWEEN ARTHUR BAKER PLAYING FIELD AND ASHFORD ROAD CHARING, KENT (CHAR-EV-18)

By Malcolm Lyne

Assessment

All of the diagnostic pottery from the features excavated in this evaluation belongs to the period c.AD.43-100. The cremation from Pit 705 is of particular interest in that the cremated bone does not appear to have been placed in an urn. The ceramic grave goods had been rendered very fragmentary by being cut into and disturbed by later cremation Pit 703, but include sherds from a South Gaulish Samian Dr.35 dish, a North Kent Fineware beaker of uncertain type and a crude grog-tempered miniature vessel. The later cremation pit had, however, missed four further grog-tempered miniature pots arranged around the northern-eastern edge of Pit 705.

Such miniature pots are known from Frensham Surrey, Westhawk Farm Ashford Kent and elsewhere. The 53 examples from Frensham were associated with fragments from a priest's sceptre and a scatter of coins and, in some cases, yielded cannabis pollen from residues within them (Graham 2009). The Westhawk Farm pot came from the fill of Grave 8160, in association with a mass of freshly shattered pottery: this latter may be from a funerary meal (Lyne 2008, p.230).

It seems likely that some at least of these tiny pots were used to inhale the fumes of burning cannabis in order to communicate with the gods at funerals and other religious ceremonies.

The second cremation in Trench 17 is dated to c.85-100 anf comprises a South Gaulish La Graufesenque Samian Dr 18 platter and Dr 27 cup, and a ring-neck flagon in Verulamium Region Whiteware. The ashes of the deceased appear to have been deposited in a casket as the fills of the cremation (Contexts 1703 and 1704) also contained three copper-alloy lion-headed studs and a ring with the remains of an iron split spike for attaching it to the casket. Identical and slightly-larger lion-headed studs are known from elsewhere and were used to attach lock-plates to caskets and other types of box. Casket burials are rare in Britain, but seem to have been most popular in the Flavian period. Cremations 3 and 4 in Cemetery A at Puckeridge in Hertfordshire appear to have been of this type and included lion-headed studs, as well as rings identical to the Charing example with iron split spike attachments (Borrill 1981,312-318).

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Graham, D., Graham,A. 2009 'Roman miniature pots and their contents from Frensham Common, Surrey', *JRPS* **14**, 67-70.

Lyne,M. 2008 'The Roman and Medieval pottery', in **Booth,P., Bingham,A-M., Lawrence,S.**, *The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent, Excavations 1998-9*, Oxford Archaeology Monogr.**2**., 207-252.

APPENDIX 1

Fabrics

Late Iron Age-to-Roman

M/LIA 1. Handmade fabric with profuse <0.20 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand and sparse <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

B2. Coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware

B2.1. Coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware with additional siltstone grog filler

B3. Coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware with additional sparse calcined flint inclusions

B5. Coarse 'Belgic' grog and sand tempered ware

R15. Verulamium Region Whiteware

R16. North Kent Fineware

R42. South Gaulish La Graufesenque Samian

R100. Coarse sanded grey fabric fired rough black with profuse <0.50 mm. white and colourless quartz-sand filler.

R103. Coarse sanded oxidised ware

Medieval

M1.Wheel-turned fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand and sparse shell filler.

M2.Wheel-turned fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date range	No of sherds	Weight in gm	Comments
Surface	B2 B2.1 M1 M2 MISC *Tile*	Jar miniature pot cooking-pot etc cooking-pot jug	c.25BC- AD100 c.1250-1350 c.1250-1350 c.1250-1350 *19th-20th c*	2 1 4 5 1 *1*	43 11 86 43 7 *19*	
				13	209G	
			Trench 7			
(704) [705]	B2.1 B5 B2.1 B3 M/LIA1 B2 B2.1 R16 R42	Miniature pot Miniature pot Miniature pot Miniature pot Closed-form fragments Miniature pot jar closed form Dr.35	c.43-100 c.43-100 c.43-100 c.43-100 c.25BC-AD50 c.0-50 c.43-100 c.43+ c.70-110	1 1 1 1 19 1 4 3 5 2	42 110 140 136 32 13 54 53 19 25	Vessel 1 Vessel 2 Vessel 3 Vessel 4 Vessel 5 abraded fresh fresh fresh fresh
			c.70-100	38	624g	
(706) [707]	B2	Large necked jar	c.25BC-AD70	1	80g	
			Trench 10			
Ditch [4] (3)	R100 R103	Necked jar closed form	c.50-100	1 1	34 10	Fresh fresh
			c.50-100	2	44g	
			Trench 17			

1703	*Cu lion head studs from box*		*c.43-100*	*3*		
1704	R42 R15 *cu. box ring*	Dr 18 Dr 27 Flagon	c.70-80 c.85-100 c.70-100	10 1 19 *1*	295 119 375	OFMASV Vessel 1 Vessel 2 Vessel 3 part of rim missing
			c.85-100	30	789g	
			Trench 21			
2102	R42	Dr18	c.70—90	2	34g	Subsoil
			MISC			
7 IN 8	R16 *coin*	Biconical beaker *As*	c.43-130 *1st-2nd c*	3 *1*	8g	*v.worn*