

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Bicknor Farm, Maidstone, Kent

Site Code: BIC-EV-19

NGR Site Centre: 579528 152518

Planning Application Number: 16/503775/FULL



Report for Redrow Homes Limited

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V02

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bicknor Farm, Maidstone Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 48 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in identifying the presence of ditches, pits, postholes and a possible 'trample layer' associated with the Iron Age and Roman-British periods. Archaeological features were recorded in 14 Trenches out of the 48 excavated. Features associated with these trenches appear to represent agrarian settlement rather than domestic or industrial, with linear ditches representing former field boundaries and possible agricultural enclosures. No evidence for any associated substantial structures and/or domestic activity was found within the site.

This evaluation has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer and Planning Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bicknor Farm, Maidstone, Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (16/503775/FULL) was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) for the development of the site to accommodate 271 dwellings, together with associated access road, car parking, landscaping, open space and amenity areas (Figure 5). The Heritage & Conservation Department at Kent County Council (KCC), who provide an archaeological advisory service to the MBC Planning Department, recommended that an archaeological investigation took place in advance of any development work. This recommendation was subsequently added as a Condition to the planning approval, which stated that;

No development shall take place until the following has been secured:

- i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority;*
and
- ii) Following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.

(16/503775/FULL, Condition 26, 19/01/2019)

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the proposed archaeological evaluation was prepared and submitted to KCC in May 2018. Following this, a geophysical survey, commissioned

by SWAT Archaeology, was carried out by SUMO Survey in March 2019 and is summarised within this report (Section 2.2).

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 48 trenches measuring between 10m and 50m in length and 1.8m in width, was carried out in March 2019 (see Table 1 below) in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (2018), prior to commencement of works. Variations in the length and number of trenches stipulated within the WSI was necessary so that features of archaeological interest could be properly examined.

1.2 Timetable

1.2.1 A timetable for the archaeological programme of works, to date, is provided below;

Task	Date	Personnel/Company
Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment	December 2014	CgMs Consulting
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	May 2018	CgMs Consulting
Geophysical Survey	March 2019	SUMO Survey
Archaeological Evaluation - Fieldwork	11 th June 2018 – 22 nd June 2018	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document	SWAT Archaeology

Table 1 *Timetable for the archaeological programme of works*

1.3 Site Description and Topography

1.3.1 The site is centred on NGR 579528 152518 and is situated on agricultural ground of approximately 10.7ha in area, located on Sutton Road between Maidstone, to the west and Langley to the east. The northern and western boundaries follow extant hedgerows and ditches, while the eastern boundary is demarcated by a farmer's trackway. The southern boundary of the development area is bounded by Bicknor Farm with vehicular access provided by a corridor to Sutton Road within the south-eastern corner of the site (Figure 1).

1.3.2 Ground levels are relatively level and a height of approximately 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales Sheet 288, Maidstone) shows that the site is set on Hythe Beds of Lower Greensand comprising Sandy Limestone and Calcareous Sand.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 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 Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment produced by CgMs Consulting (2014). In addition, and prior to the archaeological evaluation, a geophysical survey was carried out by SUMO Survey, as detailed below (Section 2.2).

2.2 Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs Consulting 2014)

2.2.1 The Archaeological Desk-based Assessment states the following;

2.2.2 'The assessment has established that the site is considered to have low potential for remains of all archaeological periods. However, the site lies in a topographic position (on free draining land near a river stream) that would have been an attractive location for occupation, especially prehistoric and Romano-British. Therefore, while the site is considered to have low archaeological potential, the presence of archaeological remains cannot be entirely ruled out.

2.2.3 Should archaeological remains be present, they may be impacted by earthmoving operations such as topsoil stripping, cutting foundations, and the construction of infrastructure. However, on the present evidence, it is considered unlikely that such remains, if present would not be of more than local significance and therefore, as long as a suitable mitigation strategy was in place, would not be a constraint on development.

2.2.4 It is likely that further archaeological mitigation measures will be required at the site by the Kent County Council Archaeological advisor to further test the potential in an area where archaeological information is limited. However, as significant archaeological remains are not anticipated at the site, any intrusive fieldwork is likely to follow planning permission secured by a standard archaeological condition.

2.2.5 The proposed development will result in the removal of the lorry park to the east and north of Bicknor Farm and the demolition of one of the modern outbuildings. These elements of the current setting of the farmhouse has a significantly negative contribution to the significance of the listed building. Therefore, their removal will be an enhancement of the current setting. In the area adjacent to the farm house complex will be housing with rear gardens facing toward Bicknor Farm. This will result in the softening of the edge of the development in the area closest to the listed building. This will also result in the houses being set back from the boundary of the farm. Intervisibility will be reduced by the intervening buildings that will be retained in the

farmyard complex. Therefore, therefore, there will be a high magnitude of change within the immediately vicinity of Bicknor Farm. However, this will be an improvement on the exiting setting and thereby reduce the negative contribution that the existing setting has to the significance of the listed farmhouse.

2.2.6 The development will result in the wider setting changing from being farmland to residential housing. This will result in the loss that this element of the setting has to the significance of the listed farmhouse. However, the positive contribution that this element of the setting has to the significance of the farmhouse, is very limited as its direct historical link with the farmhouse has already been severed. This effect has been extenuated by the lorry park and modern existing outbuildings. Therefore, the proposed development will result in the loss of an element of the setting that already has only a very limited contribution to the significance of the farmhouse. Therefore, it is concluded that the proposed development will result in a minor adverse impact on the setting of the farmhouse, which, due to the combined slightly positive and significantly negative contribution to the significance of the farmhouse, will have a negligible impact on the significance of the listed farmhouse itself.

2.2.7 The proposed development is considered to be beyond the setting of other designated heritage assets within the study area. Therefore, there will be no impacts arising on the significance of these assets.

CgMs Consulting (2014: Section 5.3.2-5.3.7)

2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations on Site

2.3.1 A detailed geophysical survey, commissioned by SWAT Archaeology on behalf of Redrow Homes Limited and conducted by SUMO Survey, was carried out in March 2019. The magnetometry survey concluded that *'the survey at Bicknor Farm has not identified any anomalies of definite archaeological interest, however a few anomalies of uncertain origin have been mapped, including two subannular responses. A rectangular-shaped area of increased magnetic response and possible ditch-type features are also of uncertain origin. A former track has been identified, along with areas of ferrous disturbance and underground services'* (2019: 7.1).

2.3.2 A copy of the Figures detailing geophysical anomalies has been provided in this report with overlying archaeological evaluation trenches (Figure 3).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2018) as stated below;

The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the ClfA' Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a) and KCC Manual of specifications Part B: Trial trenching requirements, are:

- *To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and*
- *To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.*

(CgMs Consulting 2018: 3.1)

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation are:

- *To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;*
- *To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;*
- *To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and*
- *To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.*

(CgMs Consulting 2018: 3.2)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (ClfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 A total of 48 evaluation trenches were proposed within the extents of the Site, six more than originally stipulated within the WSI (CgMs 2018). Additional trenches, Trenches 43-48, were required to examine a large ditch revealed within Trenches 3-6 located within the northern extent of the site (details below).
- 4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned by metal detector for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° 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.
- 4.2.3 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 ClfA 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.
- 4.2.4 On completion, the trenches were made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. Backfilling was carried out once all recording, survey and monitoring had been completed.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 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 project archive.
- 4.3.3 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 as [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.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 48 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned in order to cover as many areas of the site as possible, whilst taking into consideration geophysical anomalies identified in the earlier survey. Individual trench results are discussed below.

5.1.2 The site was divided into five areas, as shown on Figure 2 which includes the trench layout and distribution of archaeological features. Figure 3 and Figure 4 provides an archaeological plan overlaying the results of the geophysical survey with proposed development shown on Figure 5. Figures 6-13 illustrate the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. In addition to the plans provided, this report also contains representative sections for selected excavated features (Figure 14 – Figure 17).

5.1.3 Plates 1-19 consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.

5.1.4 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches.

5.1.5 It should be noted that the frequency of archaeological features encountered was relatively high. It was therefore not considered necessary to investigate every feature at this stage, but to record a representative selection of features so that dating could be established. This investigation strategy was agreed with KCC. It was clear that additional works *i.e.* areas of strip, map and sample excavation would be required following the evaluation and that features not investigated could be considered once the extents had been fully exposed.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of dark brown clay silt, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of medium orange brown colluvial silt. Natural geology comprised mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning with occasional sub angular sandstone and sandstone gravel outcrops (Hythe Beds).

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Negative trenches

5.3.1 Of the 42 trenches originally planned Trenches 1-3, 7, 9, 11-12, 15-25, 27, 30, 32-36, 38-39, 41 and 42 were all blank (Plates 69-71). The remaining 14 trenches had features of archaeological interest and are described in more detail below. An additional five trenches (Trenches 42-48) were excavated to investigate a large ditch revealed within the northern extent of the site (Figure 2).

Trench 4 (Figure 6, Plates 5-6)

5.3.2 Within the northern extent of the site, Trench 4 was excavated on an N-S alignment and measured 50m in length with a maximum depth of 0.46m (Figure 6). Within the southern area of the trench an E-W aligned ditch [405] measured 2.64m in width and contained two fills; the upper (403) consisting of mottled mid orange and brown silty clay sealing the lower fill which comprised mottled mid orange brown silty clay (404) (Figure 14, Section 1, Plate 5).

5.3.3 To the immediate south a second parallel ditch, [409] measured approximately 2.71m in width with an exposed depth of 1m (Figure 14, Section 2, Plate 6). The single fill of this feature comprised redeposited (slumped) natural clay silt (409). A small post hole, [408] was recorded directly adjacent to the northern edge of the ditch.

5.3.4 Within the northern extent of the trench the third possible ditch, [411], measured 1.85m in width with an exposed length of 1.8m. This feature was not investigated at this time but was cut by modern pit [413].

Trench 5 (Plate 7)

5.3.5 Adjacent to the northern boundary of Area 1, Trench 5 was excavated on an E-W alignment, measured 50m in length, 0.45m in depth and contained three potential linear features, none of which were investigated at this stage (Plate 7).

Trench 6 (Figure 6, Plate 8)

5.3.6 Trench 6 was located adjacent to the eastern extent of the Area 1 (Figure 2) and was excavated on a N-S alignment. This trench measured 50m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.4m (Figure 6).

5.3.7 A single E-W orientated ditch, [605], was recorded within the central area of this trench, which is assumed to be related to Ditch [405] in Trench 4 to the west. The ditch measured

approximately 2.7m in width (Plate 8), with a depth of 0.85m (Figure 14, Section 3). The two fills within this feature, (603) and (604), were similar to those recorded within [405].

5.3.8 Two land drains were recorded within the southern extent of this trench.

Trench 8 (Figure 6, Plate 19)

5.3.9 Located within the central western extent of Area 1 (Figure 2), Trench 8 contained the remains of three pits (Figure 6).

5.3.10 Within the central area of the trench the first pit, [804], was circular in plan with a diameter of approximately 1.07m and depth of 0.2m (Figure 14, Section 4, Plate 19). The fill of this feature, which consisted of mid brown clay silt with frequent charcoal and occasional lumps of burnt clay (805) suggested that this feature represented a former ire pit. The heat-stained natural clay (803) directly below the fill suggested that burning took place *in situ*.

5.3.11 Within the northern extent of the trench the two remaining pits, [806] and [808] were investigated but heavily truncated by a modern land drain [810]. Both features cut through a layer of colluvium (811) within the northern extent of the trench.

Trench 10 (Figure 7)

5.3.12 Located within the south-western extent of Area 1 (Figure 2), Trench 10 was excavated on a N-S orientation and measured 50m in length with a maximum depth of 0.4m (103.15m aOD).

5.3.13 Three features were present within this trench; two linear features, [1005] and [1006] and the possible terminus, or end of a ditch [1004]. These features were not investigated.

Trench 13

5.3.14 Adjacent to the eastern boundary of Area 1, Trench 13 was excavated on an E-W alignment, measured 50m in length, 0.53m in depth and contained a modern pit and post-medieval ditch, neither of which were investigated at this stage.

Trench 14 (Figure 7, Plates 9 & 10)

5.3.15 Located adjacent to the eastern Area 1 boundary this trench measured 50m in length with a maximum depth of 0.53m (103.95m aOD). The trench was oriented N-S and revealed the presence of three linear features, a post hole and a modern pit.

5.3.16 The first linear feature [1404] was the southern-most of the three linear features and was aligned NE-SW (Plate 10). Investigation of the ditch revealed a relatively shallow concave profile, with a width of 0.4m, a depth of 0.18m and a single fill (1405) that comprised compact mid grey

brown clay silt with occasional iron panning (Figure 15, Section 6). Pottery associated with the ditch has provisionally date to the Middle-Late Iron Age (c.150BC – AD50).

5.3.17 To the north, an E-W orientated ditch [1406] contained a fill which consisted of firm mid grey brown clay silt with occasional stones (1407), although no dateable finds. This feature measured 0.76m in width with a depth of approximately 0.25m (Figure 15, Section 5).

5.3.18 Within the northern extent of the trench, ditch [1410] was the most substantial (Plate 9) of the three linear features and measured 1.55m in width with a depth of approximately 0.47m (Figure 15, Section 7). Pottery dating to the Middle/Late Iron Age – Early Roman period was retrieved from the single fill (1411).

5.3.19 To the south of ditch [1410] a small discrete post hole [1408] measured 0.39m by 0.49m with a depth of approximately 0.15m. the single fill consisted of mid grey brown clay silt with no dateable finds (1409).

Trench 24 (Figure 11, Plate 11)

5.3.20 Trench 24, which was excavated on an E-W orientation and located within the southern extent of Area 2 (Figure 2, Plate 11), measured 35m in length with a maximum depth of 0.55m. Two ditches were recorded within this trench; [2405] and [2406] both of which contained Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery sherds (Figure 11 and Figure 15, Sections 8 and 9).

Trench 26 (Figure 7)

5.3.21 This trench was located within the southern extent of Area 2 and measured 50m in length with a depth of 0.6m (105.3m aOD). Four linear ditches [2606, 2612, 2618 and 2634], seven pits [2608, 2610, 2622, 2624, 2626, 2638 and 2639] and five post holes [2604, 2614, 2616, 2620 and 2632] were recorded within this trench (Figure 7) which surface finds dating to the Middle Iron Age – Early Romano British periods.

5.3.22 It was clear that the density of archaeological features within this trench meant that extensive works, at the evaluation stage, may hinder more extensive investigation should later works be required. It was therefore decided that archaeological features present within this trench be dealt with during further excavation works and so remain in situ until larger areas can be opened and extents of archaeological deposits assessed.

5.3.23 A single feature was investigated; a small channel associated with ditch [2612] within the northern extent of the trench.

Trench 27 (Figure 11, Plates 12-13 and Plate 16-18)

- 5.3.24 Directly north of Trench 26, this trench was excavated on an E-W orientation and measured 50m in length with a maximum depth of 0.6m. Six linear ditches [2705, 2709, 2711, 2713, 2715 and [2727], two pits [2707 and 2717] and four post holes [2715, 2721, 2723 and 2725] were recorded within this trench (Figure 7) which surface finds dating to the Late Iron Age – Romano British periods (Figure 17, Sections 10-17).
- 5.3.25 Of the six linear features [2711], within the eastern extent of the trench was relatively discrete with a length of 2.7m and width of 0.3m. To the immediate west two much larger ditches, [2705, 2709, 2713 and 2715] formed a cross-shaped in plan with the ditches set out on and N-S and E-W axis. With the western extent of the trench feature [2727] was recorded as a ditch terminus.
- 5.3.26 The first of the two pits, [2707] was located within the eastern extent of the trench and measured 0.94m in length and 0.7m in width with a concave base (Figure 17, Section 17) and single undatable fill comprising mid orange brown clay silt (2708). Partially beneath the southern extent of the site, pit [2717] measured 2.7m in length. No further investigation was carried out on this feature.
- 5.3.27 The cluster of four post holes were located within the central eastern extents of the trench [2719, 2721, 2723 & 2725]. All had relatively diagnostic profiles with [2725] containing one fragment of slightly abraded pottery dated to c.50BC-AD100. The confines of a relatively narrow evaluation trench mean that it is difficult [to determine the purpose of these features, although the proximity and arrangement may suggest the presence of a possible Iron Age/Romano-British structure (Plates 17 and 18).
- 5.3.28 Of particular interest within this trench is the presence of layer (2704) which contained 51 sherds (698g) of pottery dating to c.70-150/200 (Plate 16). This layer, which seals the natural geology, also covered linear [2711] and pit [2707], along with adjacent ditch [2705].

Trench 28 (Figure 8, Plates 17-18)

- 5.3.29 Adjacent to the eastern boundary of Area 2, Trench 28 was excavated on an N-S alignment, measured 150m in length, 0.6m in depth and contained three linear features.
- 5.3.30 Linear feature [2804] was situated at the northern extent of the trench. Aligned N-S, the ditch had a width of 1m (Figure 12, Section 33), a length of 10.8m and contained a fill (2805) of mid brown grey clay silt (Figure 17, Section 18). Immediately to the south ditch (2806) had an exposed length of 11.8m and a width of 1.16m (Figure 17, Section 19) with a mid-brown clay silt fill (2807). The alignment of these two features may suggest the presence of a small enclosure,

with an east facing entranceway. Within the southern extent of the trench, ditch [2808] was exposed to a length of 7.78m with a width of 1.5m. The single fill (2809) comprised mid brown clay silt that had been truncated by a modern land drain [2810].

5.3.31 No dateable finds were associated with any features within this trench.

Trench 29 (Figure 8, Plates 14-15)

5.3.32 Trench 29 was located within the southern extent of Area 2, adjacent to Trenches 27 & 28. This trench was excavated on a N-S orientation, for a distance of approximately 50m, and was positioned in order to target a potential circular feature identified within the geophysical survey (Feature 3, Figure 4).

5.3.33 With a maximum depth of 0.68m the natural Head deposits (2903) was truncated by two features of archaeological interest. Both of these features were located at the point of the above-mentioned geophysical anomaly.

5.3.34 The northernmost feature consisted of a relatively small linear gully/ditch [2917] that measured 0.83m (Figure 17, Section 18, Plate 15) in width with a single undatable fill (2918). Approximately 12m to the south the second ditch, [2905], was much more complex (Figure 17, Section 22, Plate 14). Measuring approximately 2.43m in width this feature was excavated to a depth of 1.7m. The steep sloping sides and concave base gave way to multiple fills (2906-2914 incl.) which largely comprised silty clays containing finds dating the feature to the early Romano-British period. There is a case for the presence of a possible phase of recutting of the ditch; on the interface between fills (2909) and (2910) although the presence of a modern land drain [2915] has partially truncated this relationship. Either way finds retrieved from the lower fills are of a similar date to those retrieved from the upper fills; if the ditch was recut then it is entirely likely that it was carried out within the same period.

5.3.35 The presence of the 'trample layer' (2904) is limited to the southern extent of the trench, and, as with Trench 28, contains a relatively high frequency of early Roman pottery.

Trench 31

5.3.36 Located centrally within Area 2, Trench 31 was excavated on an WNW-ESE alignment, measured 50m in length, 0.55m in depth and contained a modern ditch terminus [3105] and spread of modern building debris (3104), neither of which were investigated at this stage.

Trench 40

- 5.3.37 Adjacent to the eastern boundary of Area 2, Trench 40 was excavated on an E-W alignment, measured 50m in length, 0.50m in depth and contained two post-medieval/modern, neither of which were investigated at this stage.

Trenches 44-48 (Figure 13 and 13, Plates 17-18)

- 5.3.38 Trenches 44 to 48 were all located to target a large ditch identified in Trench 4 and Trench 6. It was considered important, at this evaluation stage, to determine the extent of the feature within the proposed development area.
- 5.3.39 All five trenches confirmed the presence of the ditch which was orientated broadly on an E-W alignment, tapering towards the east and turning towards the north with the western area of the site (Figure 12). No additional investigation of this feature was carried out in any of the trenches, although cut and fill characteristics were recorded and are listed within Appendix 1.

6 FINDS

6.1 Quantification of Archaeological Material

- 6.1.1 Finds comprised of 229 sherds of pottery (weighing 3,006g), which included Coarse Late Iron Age and Roman fabrics, along with fine Roman wares, *mortaria* and post-medieval material.

6.2 Pottery Identification and Spot Dating

Fabrics

Coarse Late Iron Age/Roman

- C1. Handmade fabric with profuse projecting <2.00 mm. crushed calcined-flint filler.
- C2A. Handmade grog-tempered ware
- C2B. Handmade grog-tempered ware with white siltstone grog.
- C3. Handmade glauconitic fabric
- C4. Handmade black fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler
- C5. Handmade black fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. iron-stained quartz-sand filler
- C6. Handmade very-fine-sanded brown-black fabric, reddened externally; with <0.20 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler.
- C7A. Coarse Thameside grey ware with profuse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler
- C7B. Fine Thameside grey ware with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler.
- C8. North Kent BB2
- C9. North Kent Shell-tempered ware.
- C10. Wheel-turned rough orange fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand

filler.

C11.Wheel-turned rough pink fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler.

C12.Chaff-tempered salt briquetage fabric

Fine Roman

F1A.South Gaulish La Graufesenque Samian

F1B.Central Gaulish Samian

F2A.North Kent Fineware

F2B.Oxidised Hoo St.Werbergh fabric

Mortaria

M1.Rough cream fabric with sparse <0.50 mm. iron-stained quartz-sand inclusions and white quartz-sand trituration grits.

Post-Medieval

PM1.Hard red earthenware

PM2.Salt-glazed stoneware

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm	Comments
4	C2A		c.50BC-AD.200	1	3G	Fresh
811	C6	Closed	?Roman but could be Medieval	1	15G	Fresh
[1404] 1405	C3		c.50BC-AD60	4	12G	Abraded and fresh
[1410] 1411	C3	Jar	c.50BC-AD60	1	19G	Slightly abraded
[2405] 2404 ploughed	C1 C2A F1A	Jar closed forms	c.43-70 c.50BC-AD200 c.43-110	1 15 1	21 86 6	
TOTAL			c.43-100	17	113G	
[2405] 2404B	C3	Closed	c.50BC-AD60	8	22G	Fresh
[2405] 2404C	F1A F2A	Dr.24/25 beaker	c.43-70/80 c.43+	3 2	4 1	Fresh fresh
TOTAL			c.43-70/80	5	5G	
[2405] 2404	C2A C2B C3 C10 MISC	Necked jar flagon	c.50BC-AD100 c.50BC-AD100 c.50BC-AD60 c.50-100	5 2 1 1 1	30 28 2 3 2	Fresh and sl abr fresh abraded fresh fresh
TOTAL			c.50-100	10	65G	
[2620] 2621	C3	B2-2 jar	c.50BC-AD60	1	10G	Fresh

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm	Comments
[2634] 2635	C3	Necked jar	c.50BC-AD60	11	93G	Fresh
2704	C2A	Necked-jarsx4	c.25BC-AD200			Fresh
		B1-1	c.0-70	34	535	fresh
	C2B	jarsx2	c.70-200	2	35	fresh
	C7A	L5 lid		2	22	fresh
	C7B	Ev rim jar	c.70-100	3	17	fresh
	C8	jar base	c.100-140	1	10	fresh
	F1A	lid-seated	c.43-85	1	2	fresh
	F1B	jar	c.120-150	3	59	fresh
	F2A	7A2 dish		1	2	fresh
	F2B	Dr 29		1	3	fresh
	MISC	Dr 18/31R Beaker		3	13	
TOTAL			c.70-150/200	51	698G	
[2705] 2706	C2A	Dish	c.70-150	1	31G	Fresh
[2709] 2710	C2A OX		c.50BC-AD200	1	6	Fresh
	C2B	?Storage jar	c.50BC-AD200	3	39	fresh
TOTAL			Not closely datable	4	45G	
[2715] 2716	C4		c.0-80	1	4G	Fresh
[2725] 2726	C2A	Necked jar	c.50BC-AD100	1	16G	Sl abraded
[2727] 2728	C2A		c.50BC-AD70	1	7G	Fresh
2904	C2A		c.50BC-AD200	3	14	Abraded
	C3		c.50BC-AD60	4	14	abraded
	F2A	Beaker	c.43-250	1	1	fresh
TOTAL			Early Roman	8	29G	
[2905] 2906	C1	3G bead-rim jar	c.40-70	14	270	Fresh
	C2A		c.50-100	8	95	fresh
	C2B	B1-1 jar	c.25BC-AD100	10	138	fresh
	F1A	B1-1 jar	c.43-80	1	6	fresh
		Dr 15/17				
TOTAL			c.43-80/100	33	509G	
[2905] 2907	C2A	Jars	c.50-100	7	68G	Fresh
[2905] 2908	C2A		c.50BC-AD70	1	4	Fresh
	C3		c.50BC-AD60	2	4	abraded
	C4	Jar basal	c.50-80	1	129	fresh
TOTAL			c.50-80	4	137G	
[2905] 2909	C2A	Jar		2	15	Fresh
	C2B	open form	c.43-100	1	12	fresh
	C5	closed	c.43-100	1	10	fresh
	C11		c.50-150/200	1	5	abraded
TOTAL			c.50-150	5	42G	
[2905] 2910	C2A	Briquetage container	c.50BC-AD200	3	44	Fresh
	C12		c.0-100	1	22	

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm	Comments
TOTAL			c.0-100	4	66G	
[2905] 2911	C2A	Necked jar	c.25BC-AD150			Fresh
		B2-2 jar	c.25BC-AD60	11	116	fresh
	C2B	jar		4	118	fresh
	C3	jar	c.50BC-AD60	1	17	fresh
	C5	jar		1	18	fresh
	C7B	2B2.3	c.50/70-90	2	22	fresh
	C9	butt-	c.43-170	1	17	fresh
	C12	beaker	c.0-100	2	51	fresh
	F1A	storage-jar	c.43-110			fresh
		Briquetag	c.70-110	3	17	fresh rivetted
	F2A	e	c.90-130			fresh
		Dr 27	c.43-120	2	11	fresh
	F2B	Dr 36		1	2	sl abraded
	M1	4H1 bowl	c.50-80	1	167	fresh spout
		4J1 bowl				
		flagon				
		mortarium				
TOTAL			c.70-130	29	556G	
[2905] 2912	C2A	Necked-	c.50BC-AD150	7	140	Fresh
	C2B	jarsx2	c.50BC-AD150	6	155	fresh
	C10	Necked jar	c.70-150	1	9	fresh
	F2A	neck-	c.90-130	2	8	fresh
		cordoned				
		jar				
		4H1 bowl				
TOTAL			c.70-130/50	16	312G	
[2905] 2914	C2A	Jar	c.50BC-AD150	1	30	Fresh
	C2B	necked jar		1	12	
	C3	bead-rim	c.50BC-AD60	3	17	
	C10	jar	c.70-150	1	5	fresh
	PM1	jar as in	19 th c	1	24	fresh
		2912				
TOTAL			c.70-19 th c	7	88G	
3304	PM2	Jar	19 th c.	1	197G	

Table 2 Quantification of Ceramic Material

- 6.2.1 In order to facilitate the urgency of the submission of this report, archaeological features have been spot dated by a specialist so that chorological phasing of archaeological features can be assessed.
- 6.2.2 In the event that there is further fieldwork, it is recommended that the archive created from this evaluation be added to future archives so that a more complete assessment can be made.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Bicknor Farm, Maidstone, Kent, has demonstrated the presence of archaeological activity within the extents of the proposed development area. The natural geology was encountered at an average depth of approximately 0.5m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying a subsoil sealed by the existing topsoil, within an undulating rural landscape. Rapid cartographic regression suggests that the site has been relatively undisturbed throughout the past 150 years, confirmed during the evaluation, as any modern truncation was limited to low impact land drains and rooting.

7.1.2 The geophysical survey, carried out by SUMO Services Limited, suggested that the presence of archaeological features would be limited, although the presence of a 'sub-circular response, linear responses and rectangular area of enhanced response are of undetermined origin' was suggested (2019:2). The archaeological evaluation therefore targeted potential features, as well as blank areas, and was successful in confirming the presence of possible ditches associated with field systems.

7.2 Archaeological Narrative

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in identifying the presence of ditches, pits, postholes and a possible 'trample layer' associated with the Iron Age and Roman-British periods. Significant archaeological features were recorded in 14 Trenches out of the 48 excavated.

7.2.2 Trenches 24, 26, 27 and 28, within the southern extent of Area 2, identified the presence of archaeological features positively dated from the Middle Iron Age to the Early Romano-British periods. Features associated with these trenches appear to represent agrarian settlement rather than domestic or industrial, with linear ditches representing former field boundaries and possible agricultural enclosures. Post holes within such a landscape are commonly expected and indicate that temporary fencing, hurdling, corralling and other activities associated with the control and management of livestock may be present. Small structures, such as raised grain stores would also be expected within this environment. The dense pattern of features is also present further north within Trench 14 (Area 1) provided two areas of increased activity within a largely rural environment.

7.2.3 No evidence for any associated substantial structures and/or domestic activity was found within the site. That said, the large enclosure ditch within the northern extent of the site is clearly of interest. Identified within eight trenches, this feature is broadly contemporary with activity to the south. At this stage, there is nothing to suggest that this feature is associated with any

military works, although the size of the ditch would warrant further investigations before more conclusive definitions can be given.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Areas of archaeological interest have been recorded across the site, with specific concentrations recorded within the southern extent of Area 2, the eastern extent of Area 1 and the northern extents of Area 1 and Area 2.

7.3.2 This evaluation has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer and Planning Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

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

8.1.2 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. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

8.2 Recommendations

8.2.1 In the event that finished ground levels remain constant, the depth of impact associated with future development is likely to require the excavation of material exceeding 0.50m in depth. In the absence of ground raising, proposed impacts to archaeological horizons throughout the site are expected.

8.2.2 The archaeological evaluation has confirmed the presence of an Iron Age-Roman agrarian site within the proposed development area. Added to this, a large possible enclosure ditch within the northern area of the site may indicated the presence of possible settlement associated with the managed landscape. Given that the western extent if the ditch turns towards the north-east it is likely that if this feature does represent an enclosure then additional features may be present within the northern fringes of the site.

8.2.3 Development proposals are therefore likely to impact on archaeological remains within specific areas of the site. It is therefore recommended that further archaeological mitigation is focussed on targeted areas of excavation (as mentioned above in 7.3.1) which can be carried out as part of a planning condition. The nature and scope of any further archaeological mitigation will need to be determined in consultation with the Senior Archaeological Advisor at Kent County Council.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank Redrow Homes Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Tim Allen supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy and David Britchfield BA MCIfA produced the draft text for this report. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA.

10 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.48m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 102.4m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.3
102	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.3-0.45
103	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, occ. sandstone gravel outcrops.	0.45+
104	Land drain	WNW-ESE aligned land drain	0.48+
105	Root patch	Mid compaction, patches of dark brownish grey in mid orange brown, clayey silt with freq. roots	0.45+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 102.6m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.3
202	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.3-0.38
203	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, occ. sandstone gravel outcrops	0.38+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.46m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 102.7m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.32
302	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.32-0.45
303	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, moderate sandstone gravel outcrops.	0.45+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 102.7m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.27
402	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.27-0.4
403	Top fill of [405]	Mid compaction, mid brown mottled with orange-brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.4-0.7
404	Basal fill of [405]	Mid compaction, light brown mottled with orange-brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning	0.7-1

		and freq. sub angular sandstone, occ. charcoal flecks and pottery sherds.	
405	Cut of L.I.A. ditch	Linear E-W aligned with moderate side sloping and concave base. Width: 2.64m	0.4-1
406	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, occ. sandstone gravel outcrops	0.4+
407	Fill of [408]	Sandstone gravel with light brown clayey silt	0.4-0.57
408	Cut of post hole	Half of oval exposed in plan. Feature had steep sides and concave base. Width: 0.25m	0.4-0.57
409	Cut of ditch	Linear E-W aligned with moderate sides sloping and concave base. Width: 2.71m	0.4-1.4
410	Fill of [409]-backfill	Mainly re deposited natural (406) with patches of light brown clayey silt. Width: 2.71m.	0.4-1.4
411	Cut of ditch	Linear E-W aligned with moderate sides sloping and concave base. Width: 1.85m	0.4+
412	Fill of [411]	Mid compaction, mid brown clayey silt	0.4+
413	Modern pit	N-S aligned rectangular pit measuring 5.5m by 0.7m.	0-0.7

Trench 5	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 102.65m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
502	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.30-0.40
503	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, moderate sandstone gravel outcrops.	0.40+
504	Cut of ditch	Linear NNE-SSW aligned. Width: 1.27m	0.40+
505	Fill of ditch [504]	Mid compaction, mid brown clayey silt with occ. iron/manganese panning and sandstone	0.40+
506	Cut of ditch	Linear NNE-SSW aligned. Width: 1.4m	0.40+
507	Fill of ditch [506]	Mid compaction, mid brown clayey silt with occ. iron/manganese panning and sandstone	0.40+
508	Cut of ditch - S terminus	Linear NNE-SSW aligned. Width: 0.61m	0.40+
509	Fill of ditch [508]	Mid compaction, mid brown clayey silt with occ. iron/manganese panning and sandstone	0.40+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 103.62m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.27
602	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.27-0.4
603	Top fill of [605]	Mid compaction, mid brown mottled with orange-brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.4-0.98
604	Basal fill of [605]	Mid compaction, light brown mottled with orange-brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and freq. sub angular sandstone, occ. charcoal flecks and pottery sherds.	0.98-1.25

605	Cut of L.I.A. ditch	Linear E-W aligned with moderate side sloping and concave base. Width: 2.7m	0.4-1.25
606	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, occ. sandstone gravel outcrops	0.4+
607	Land drain	NE-SW aligned land drain	0.4-0.57
608	Land drain	E-W aligned land drain	0.4-0.57

Trench 7	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 103.2m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
701	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
702	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.30-0.40
703	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone.	0.40+
704	Modern pit	One of the rectangular pits partially backfilled by up cast from trench excavation. Feature measurements are 1.5 by 7 meters.	0-0.6
705	Land drain	N-S aligned land drain	0.3+
706	Modern pit	Large oval pit filled with dark brown clayey silt with occ. glass, CBM, wire, stone. Width about 4.5m	0.3+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 103m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
802	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.30-0.40
803	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, moderate sandstone gravel outcrops.	0.40+
804	Cut of pit	Circular pit with steep sides and flat base. Width: 1.07m	0.5-0.7
805	Fill of pit [804]	Mid compaction, mid brown clayey silt with freq. charcoal flecks and occ. small fragments of burnt clay	0.5-0.7
806	Cut of pit	Oval pit with moderate sides and slightly concave base. Half of the feature exposed. Feature truncated by land drain [810].Width: 1.53m	0.4-0.75
807	Fill of pit [806]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey clayey silt with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.4-0.75
808	Cut of pit	Oval pit with moderate sides and flat base. Half of the feature exposed. Feature truncated by land drain [810].Width: 0.86m	0.4-0.75
809	Fill of pit [806]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey clayey silt with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.4-0.75
810	Land drain	E-W aligned modern land drain	0.4+
811	Subsoil colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone), pot sherd recovered from top of the context.	0.4-0.6

		4.7m long and 0.6m wide trench has been excavated through the context.	
812	Subsoil colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone).4.1m long and 0.6m wide trench has been excavated through the context.	0.4-0.6

Trench 9	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 102.7m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
902	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.30-0.4
903	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, occ. sandstone gravel outcrops.	0.4+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 103.15m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1002	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.30-0.4
1003	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, occ. sandstone gravel outcrops.	0.4+
1004	Feature terminus	E- terminus. Width: 0.69m	0.4+
1005	Ditch	L shape ditch; SW-NE and N-S aligned. Width: 0.6m	0.4+
1006	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch. Width: 1.4m	0.4+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 103.35m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1101	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1102	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone)	0.30-0.45
1103	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone, occ. sandstone gravel outcrops.	0.45+

Trench 12	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 103.6m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1202	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
1203	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+

Trench 13	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.53m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 103.9m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1301	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1302	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and occ. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
1303	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
1304	Post medieval ditch	NNE-SSW aligned ditch. Width: 1.32m	0.45+
1305	Land drain	NNE-SSW aligned land drain	0.3+
1306	Modern pit	Rectangular pit partially backfilled by up cast from trench excavation. Feature measurements are 0.6 by 7 meters.	0-0.6

Trench 14	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.53m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 103.95m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1401	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1402	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and occ. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
1403	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
1404	Cut of Roman ditch	Linear NNE-SSW aligned ditch with moderate sides and concave base. Width: 0.4m	0.5-0.68
1405	Fill of [1404]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown clayey silt with freq. manganese/iron panning, occ. pottery sherd and sub angular sandstone.	0.5-0.68
1406	Cut of ditch	Linear E-W aligned ditch with moderate sides and concave base. Width: 0.76m	0.5-0.75
1407	Fill of [1406]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown clayey silt with freq. manganese/iron panning and sub angular sandstone.	0.5-0.75
1408	Cut of post hole	Oval post hole with steep sides and concave base measuring 0.39m by 0.49m.	0.5-0.65
1409	Fill of [1408]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown clayey silt with cc. charcoal flecks and sub angular sandstone.	0.5-0.65
1410	Cut of Roman ditch	Linear NW-SE aligned ditch with moderate sides and concave base. Width: 1.55m	0.5+

1411	Fill of [1410]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown clayey silt with freq. manganese/iron panning, occ. pottery and sub angular sandstone.	0.5+
1412	Modern pit	Rectangular pit partially backfilled by up cast from trench excavation. Feature measurements are 0.6 by 7 meters.	0-0.6

Trench 15	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 103.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1501	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1502	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
1503	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+

Trench 16	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 103.9m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1601	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1602	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
1603	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+
1604	Land drain	ENE-WSW aligned land drain	0.3+

Trench 17	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 104.1m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1701	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1702	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
1703	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+
1704	Modern pipe	ESE-WNW aligned small metal pipe	0-0.3
1705	Modern plastic pipe	ESE-WNW aligned elastic plastic pipe	0-0.6

Trench 18	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 103.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1801	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1802	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
1803	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+

1804	Ditch	Linear N-S aligned ditch. Width: 1.1m	0.4+
1805	Land drain	N-S aligned land drain	0.3+

Trench 19	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 103.9m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1901	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
1902	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
1903	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+
1904	Modern pipe	ESE-WNW aligned small metal pipe	0-0.3
1905	Ditch -terminus	W terminus of E-W aligned ditch was exposed at south end of the trench	0-0.6

Trench 20	Dimensions: 43m x 1.8m Depth: 0.6m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 106m OD Couple of features has been exposed: 5 pits, NNE-SSW aligned ditch, two NNE-SSW aligned ditch terminuses, Large modern pit		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2001	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
2002	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.5
2003	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.5+

Trench 21 and 22 couldn't be excavated.

Trench 23	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 105.2m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2301	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
2302	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.5
2303	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.5+

Trench 24	Dimensions: 35m x 1.8m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 105.1m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2401	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
2402	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.5
2403	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.5+

2404	Fill of LIA/Roman ditch [2405]	Mid compaction, mid greyish brown clayey silt with occ. sandstone and pottery sherd. Context divided into 0.1m deep spits – from top to bottom: A, B and C	0.5-0.8
2405	Cut of LIA/Roman ditch	Linear E-W aligned seems to turn to the south at east end. Feature had moderate side. Base hasn't been exposed.	0.5-0.8+
2406	Cut of ditch	Curvilinear SE –NW aligned ditch with steep sides and concave base	0.5-0.78
2407	Fill of [2406]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey clayey silt with freq, manganese/iron panning	0.5-0.78

Trench 25	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.50m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 105m OD Four NW-SE aligned land drains have been exposed.		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2501	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
2502	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
2503	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+

Trench 26	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.6m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 105.3m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2601	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
2602	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.55
2603	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.55+
2604	Cut of post hole	Oval post hole with step sides and concave base. Feature was 0.25m wide and 0.4m long.	0.55-0.65
2605	Fill of post hole [2604]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and charcoal flecks	0.55-0.65
2606	Cut of ditch	Linear E-W aligned ditch with moderate sides and concave base. Feature was 0.7m wide	0.55-0.89
2607	Fill of [2606]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with moderate iron/manganese panning occ. sandstone and charcoal flecks	0.55-0.89
2608	Cut of pit	Part of the pit exposed. Feature was 1m wide. Un excavated	0.55+
2609	Fill of [2608]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and manganese panning	0.55+
2610	Cut of pit	Part of the pit exposed. Feature was 1m wide. Un excavated	0.55-0.85
2611	Fill of [2610]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and manganese panning	0.55-0.85
2612	Cut of ditch	N-S aligned extension to the linear E-W aligned ditch. Feature had moderate sides, concave base and was 1m wide	0.55-0.8

2613	Fill of [2612] and [2636]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and manganese panning	0.55-0.8
2614	Cut of post hole	Circular post hole with step sides and concave base. Feature was 0.27m wide.	0.55-0.65
2615	Fill of post hole [2614]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and charcoal flecks	0.55-0.65
2616	Cut of post hole	Oval post hole with step sides and concave base. Feature was 0.34m wide and 0.55m long.	0.55-0.7
2617	Fill of post hole [2616]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and charcoal flecks	0.55-0.7
2618	Cut of ditch terminus	E – Terminus of E-W aligned ditch with moderate sides and concave base. Feature was 0.73m wide	0.55-0.87
2619	Fill of [2618]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and manganese panning	0.55-0.87
2620	Cut of double post hole	Two small abutted circular post holes with moderate sides and concave base	0.55-0.65
2621	Fill of post hole [2620]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and charcoal flecks	0.55-0.65
2622	Cut of pit	Oval pit measuring 0.63 by 0.77m	0.55+
2623	Fill of pit [2622]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone	0.55+
2624	Cut of pit	Exposed fragment of oval pit, 0.9m wide	0.55+
2625	Fill of pit [2624]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone	0.55+
2626	Cut of pit	Oval pit measuring 0.7 by 0.83m	0.55+
2627	Fill of pit [2626]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone	0.55+
2629	Tree throw hole	Partially exposed tree throw hole with moderate sides and concave base. Feature was 2m wide	0.55-0.85
2630	Primary fill of [2629]	Re deposited natural (2603)	0.55-0.85
2631	Secondary fill [2629]	Mid compaction, light grey silt	0.55-0.85
2632	Cut of post hole	Oval post hole with step sides and concave base. Feature was 0.4m long and 0.27m wide.	0.55-0.65
2633	Fill of post hole [2632]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with occ. sandstone and charcoal flecks	0.55-0.65
2634	Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW aligned ditch with moderate sides and concave base. Feature was 1.3m wide	0.55-0.85
2635	Fill of [2634]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown, clayey silt with moderate iron/manganese panning occ. sandstone and charcoal flecks	0.55-0.85
2636	Cut of short channel	The feature was located at the south side of the ditch and had shallow sides and slightly concave base, sloping down towards the ditch. Feature was 1.19m long, 0.7m wide and was N-S aligned.	0.3-0.45
2637	Modern trench	E-W aligned, 2.5m wide modern trench	0.3+
2638	Post hole	Kidney shape post hole measuring 0.64m by 0.25m	0.55+
2639	Pit	Fragment of pit. Width 1.7m	0.55+
2640	Pit	NW – SE aligned linear pit	0.55+

Trench 27			
Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.6m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 105.4m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2701	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.23
2702	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.23-0.49
2703	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.49+
2704	Roman Occupation layer	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey clayey silt with freq. charcoal flecks, moderate pottery sherds, moderate. iron/manganese, occ. sub angular stone, iron object	0.49-0.6
2705	Cut of small ditch	Linear E-W aligned ditch with steep sides and slightly concave base. Width: 0.83m	0.7-0.88
2706	Primary fill of [2705]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occ. sub angular stone and pottery sherd	0.7-0.88
2707	Cut of pit	Oval shallow pit with shallow sides and concave base measuring 0.7m by 0.94m.	0.6-0.66
2708	Fill of [2707]	Mid compaction, mid orangish brown, clayey silt	0.6-0.66
2709	Cut of ditch	Linear N-S aligned ditch with step side was 2.3m wide. Contemporary with [2705]	0.5-1.1+
2710	Fill of [2709]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occ. sub angular stone and pottery sherd	0.5-1.1+
2711	Cut of gully	WNW-ESE aligned gully with shallow sides and concave base measuring 2.7m by 0.3m.	0.6-0.66
2712	Fill of gully [2709]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occ. sub angular stone and iron panning	0.6-0.66
2713	Cut of ditch	Southern edge of E-W aligned ditch has been exposed.	0.6-0.7+
2714	Fill of ditch [2713]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occ. sub angular stone and iron panning	0.6-0.7+
2715	Cut of gully	Linear E-W aligned gully with shallow sides and concave base. Width: 0.4m Feature is a western continuation of ditch [2705]. Parallel ditch to the north.	0.5-0.56
2716	Fill of gully [2713]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occ. sub angular stone and iron panning	0.5-0.56
2717	Possibly pit	Northern 2.7m long edge of possible pit	
2718	Fill of [2717]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occ. sub angular stone and iron panning	
2719	Cut of post hole	Sub circular post hole with steep sides and concave base measuring 0.37m in diameter	0.5-0.8
2720	Fill of post hole [2719]	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey clayey silt with occ. charcoal flecks and two rectangular stones (4cm by 10cm)	0.5-0.8
2721	Cut of post hole	Sub circular post hole with steep sides and concave base measuring 0.4m in diameter	0.5-0.76
2722	Fill of post hole [2721]	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey clayey silt with occ. charcoal flecks and rectangular stones	0.5-0.76
2723	Cut of post hole	Small oval post hole with moderate sides and concave base measuring 0.27m by 0.17m	0.5-0.56
2724	Fill of post hole [2723]	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey clayey silt with occ. charcoal flecks	0.5-0.56
2725	Cut of post hole	Sub circular post hole with steep sides and flat base measuring 0.52m in diameter	0.5-0.67

2726	Fill of post hole [2725]	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey clayey silt with occ. charcoal flecks.	0.5-0.67
2727	Ditch Terminus	Southern terminus of N-S aligned ditch. Width: 1.2m	0.5+
2728	Fill of [2727]	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey clayey silt with occ. charcoal flecks	0.5+

Trench 28	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.6m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 106m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2801	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
2802	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.55
2803	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.55+
2804	Cut of Roman ditch	Linear N-S aligned ditch with moderate sides and concave base. Feature was 10.8m long and 1m wide.	0.55-0.75
2805	Fill of [2804]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occ. sub angular stone and pottery sherd	0.55-0.75
2806	Cut of ditch	Linear NNE-SSW aligned ditch with steep sides and slightly concave base. Feature was 11.8m long and 1.16m wide.	0.55-0.95
2807	Fill of [2806]	Mid compaction, mid brown clayey silt with occ. sandstone and manganese/iron panning	0.55-0.95
2808	Cut of ditch	Linear NNE-SSW aligned ditch with steep sides and slightly concave base. Feature was 7.8m+ long and 1.5m wide. Feature was running out of trench limit to the south. Truncated by [2810]	0.55-0.95
2809	Fill of [2806]	Mid compaction, mid brown clayey silt with occ. sandstone and manganese/iron panning	0.55-0.95
2810	Land drain	E-W aligned land drain	0.3-0.9
2811	Fill of [2810]	Mid compaction dark grey clayey silt with ceramic pipe	0.3-0.9

Trench 29	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.50m-0.68m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 105.9m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2901	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
2902	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.5
2903	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.5+
2904	Trample layer	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. pottery sherds, occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and occ. iron/manganese panning	0.5-0.7
2905	Cut of Roman ditch	Linear E-W aligned ditch with step convex sides and concave base. Feature was 2.43m wide. Possibly re cut or backfilled with (2909-2914), truncated by land drain [2915].	0.5-1.7
2906	Primary fill of [2905]	Mid compaction, mid grey clayey silt with occ. iron/manganese panning, pottery sherds (some from very bottom)	1.4-1.7

2907	Primary fill of [2905]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey clayey silt with occ. iron/manganese panning, pottery sherds, soft sandstone, charcoal flecks, sub angular sandstone (iron/manganese)	1.28-1.4
2908	Secondary fill of [2905]	Mid compaction, mid brownish grey clayey silt with moderate iron/manganese panning, pottery sherds, soft sandstone (cobbles), charcoal flecks, sub angular sandstone (iron/manganese)	1.07-1.28
2909	Secondary fill of [2905] or backfill	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown clayey silt with freq. iron/manganese panning, occ. pottery sherds, charcoal flecks, sub angular sandstone (iron/manganese)	0-1.07
2910	Backfill of [2905] or possibly re cut deposit	Mid compaction, mid orangish brown clayey silt with moderate manganese panning, sub angular sandstone and occ. pottery sherds. Re deposited natural (2903)	0.92-1.19
2911	Backfill of [2905] or possibly re cut deposit	Mid compaction, dark bluish grey clayey silt with occ. iron panning, sub angular sandstone, moderate abraded burnt clay small fragments, freq. pottery sherds, charcoal flecks and small fragments	0.5-1.14
2912	Backfill of [2905] or possibly re cut deposit	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey clayey silt with occ. iron panning, sub angular sandstone, moderate abraded burnt clay tiny fragments, pottery sherds, charcoal flecks	0.68-1.02
2913	Backfill of [2905] or possibly re cut deposit	Mid compaction, mid brown with orangish brown patches clayey silt with moderate medium/small fragments of sub ceramic clay, manganese panning, sub angular sandstone and occ. pottery sherds.	0.64-0.9
2914	Backfill of [2905] or possibly re cut deposit	Mid compaction, dark grayish brown clayey silt with freq. iron/manganese panning, moderate charcoal flecks, occ. sub angular sandstone, pottery sherds.	0.49-0.8
2915	Cut of land drain trench	WNW-ESE aligned, 0.25m wide trench with vertical sides.	0.3-1.33
2916	Backfill of [2915]	Mid compaction mixed re deposited fills of truncated Roman ditch [2905]. Red ceramic pipe at the bottom	0.3-1.33
2917	Cut of ditch	NE terminus of NE-SW aligned ditch with steep sides and concave base. Feature was 0.83m wide.	0.5-0.88
2918	Secondary fill of [2917]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown with freq. iron/manganese panning, occ. sub angular sandstone	0.5-0.88

Trench 30	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 105.75m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3001	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3002	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3003	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+

Trench 31	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: WNW-ESE Ground level: 105.9m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3101	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3102	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.48
3103	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.48+
3104	Modern layer	Tarmac beads, some rubbish and burnt material	0.3-0.45
3105	Cut of ditch terminus	S terminus of NNE-SSW aligned, 0.6m wide ditch	0.45+
3106	Secondary fill of [3105]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown with freq. iron/manganese panning, occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+

Trench 32	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 105.28m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3201	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3202	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3203	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+

Trench 33	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 104.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3301	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3302	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3303	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+
3304	Land drain	NNE-SSW aligned modern land drain	0.3+

Trench 34	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 104.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3401	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3402	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3403	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+
3404	Land drain	N-S aligned modern land drain	0.3+

Trench 35	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE Ground level: 104.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3501	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3502	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.5
3503	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.5+
3504	Land drain	NNE-SSW aligned modern land drain	0.3+
3505	Land drain	NNE-SSW aligned modern land drain	0.3+
3506	Land drain	WNW-ESE aligned modern land drain	0.3+
3507	Land drain	N-S aligned modern land drain	0.3+

Trench 36	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level: 103.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3601	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3602	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3603	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+

Trench 37	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 104.4m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3701	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3702	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3703	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+
3704	Land drain	WNW-ESE aligned land drain	0.3+
3705	Land drain	WNW-ESE aligned land drain	0.3+

Trench 38	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 105m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3801	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3802	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3803	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+
3804	Land drain	NNE-SSW aligned land drain	0.3+
3805	Land drain	NNE-SSW aligned land drain	0.3+

Trench 39	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 105.5m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
3901	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
3902	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.40
3903	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.40+

Trench 40	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: W-E Ground level: 106.05m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4001	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4002	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4003	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4004	Cut of ditch	NNE-SSW aligned, 0.84m wide ditch	0.45+
4005	Secondary fill of [4004]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown with moderate iron/manganese panning, occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4006	Cut of ditch terminus	S terminus of NNE-SSW aligned, 1.3m wide ditch	0.45+
4007	Secondary fill of [4006]	Mid compaction, mid grayish brown with moderate iron/manganese panning, occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+

Trench 41	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW Ground level: 106.3m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4101	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4102	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.4
4103	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.4+
4104	Modern trench	E-W aligned open modern trench partially backfilled with up cast from trench excavation	0-0.6

Trench 42	Dimensions: 9m x 1.8m Depth: 0.6m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW Ground level: 104.2m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4201	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4202	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4203	Natural ?Head	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4204	Land drain	NNE-SSW aligned land drain	0.3+

Trench 43	Dimensions: Depth: Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 104.2m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4301	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4302	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4303	Natural	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+

Trench 44	Dimensions: Depth: Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 104.3m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4401	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4402	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4403	Natural	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4404	Ditch	WNW-ESE orientated ditch	-
4405	Fill of ditch	Fill of 4404 NOT EXCAVATED	-

Trench 45	Dimensions: Depth: Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 104.1m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4501	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4502	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4503	Natural	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4504	Ditch	WNW-ESE orientated ditch	-
4505	Fill of ditch	Fill of 4504 NOT EXCAVATED	-

Trench 46	Dimensions: Depth: Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 102.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4601	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4602	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4603	Natural	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4604	Ditch	WNW-ESE orientated ditch	-
4605	Fill of ditch	Fill of 4604 NOT EXCAVATED	-

Trench 47	Dimensions: Depth: Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 102.8m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4701	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4702	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4703	Natural	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4704	Ditch	WNW-ESE orientated ditch	-
4705	Fill of ditch	Fill of 4704 NOT EXCAVATED	-

Trench 48	Dimensions: Depth: Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 102.75m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
4801	Topsoil Ploughed soil	Mid compaction, dark brown, silty clay with occ. sandstone	0.00-0.30
4802	Subsoil Ploughed soil/ colluvium	Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty clay with occ. sub angular sandstone (manganese and iron stone) and freq. iron/manganese panning	0.30-0.45
4803	Natural	Mid orange brown, silty clay with freq. manganese panning and occ. sub angular sandstone	0.45+
4804	Ditch	WNW-ESE orientated ditch	-
4805	Fill of ditch	Fill of 4804 NOT EXCAVATED	-

11 APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Bicknor Farm, Maidstone, Kent

SWAT Site Code: BIC- EV-19

Site Address: As above

Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bicknor Farm, Maidstone Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 48 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in identifying the presence of ditches, pits, postholes and a possible ‘trample layer’ associated with the Iron Age and Roman-British periods. Archaeological features were recorded in 14 Trenches out of the 48 excavated. Features associated with these trenches appear to represent agrarian settlement rather than domestic or industrial, with linear ditches representing former field boundaries and possible agricultural enclosures. No evidence for any associated substantial structures and/or domestic activity was found within the site.

This evaluation has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer and Planning Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

District/Unitary: Maidstone Borough Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): prehistoric, Romano-British

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 579528 152518

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: June 2018

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

Geology: Hythe Beds of Lower Greensand (Sandy Limestone and Calcareous Sand)

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2019) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Bicknor Farm, Maidstone, Kent

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 17/06/2019

12 REFERENCES

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PLATES



Plate 1: Looking east-south-east at the site from NE corner of Area 1. Area 2 is visible in the background behind the trees



Plate 2: Looking south-south-west at the site from east side of Area 1



Plate 3: Looking west at Trench 1



Plate 4: Representative section showing stratigraphy exposed across the site. Looking east at section of Trench 12



Plate 5: Looking east at ditch [405] exposed in trench 4



Plate 6: Looking east at ditch [409] exposed in Trench 4



Plate 7: Looking east at two ditches and southern terminus of ditch exposed in east end of Trench 5

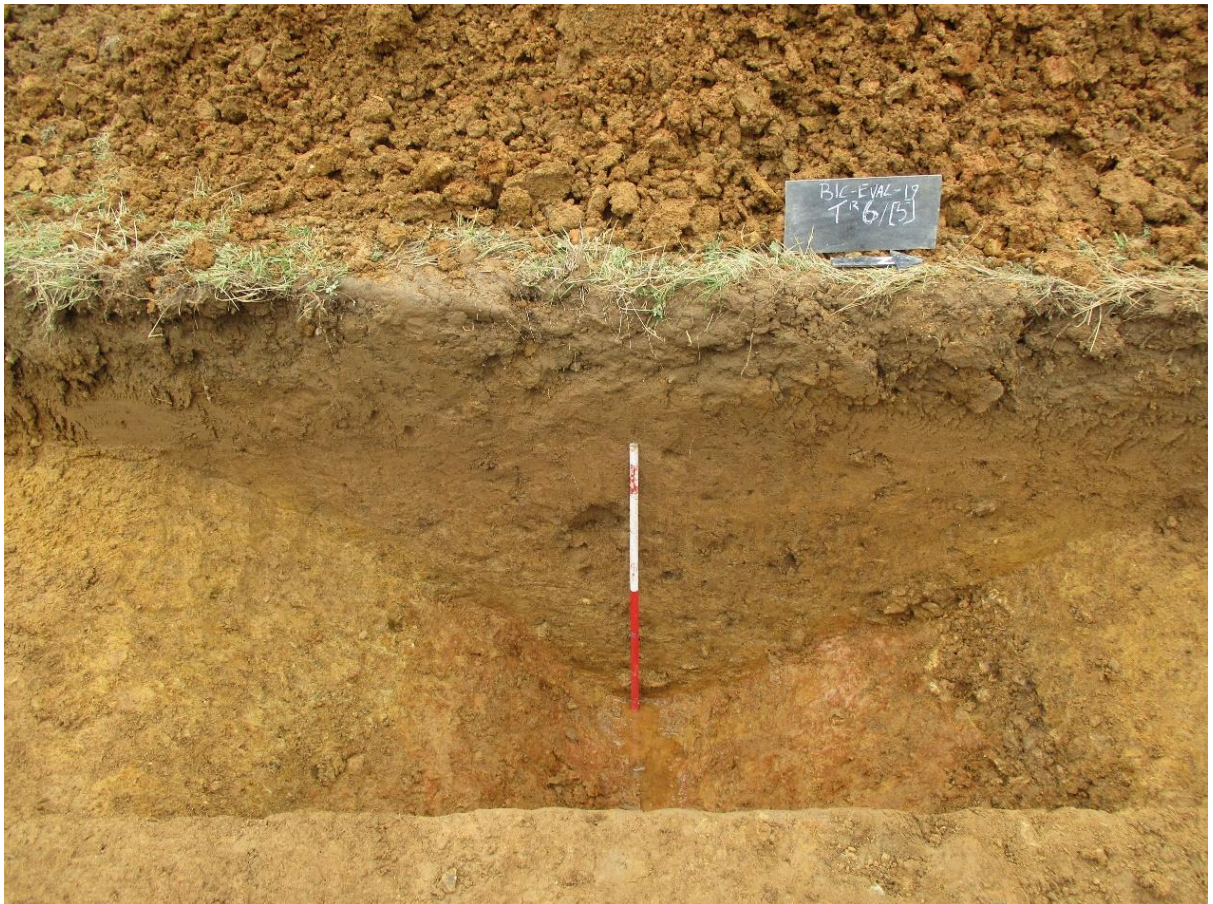


Plate 8: Looking west at section of ditch [605] exposed in Trench 6



Plate 9: Looking west at section through ditch [1410] and overlaying deposits



Plate 10: Looking south-south-west at section through ditch [1404]



Plate 11: Looking west-south-west at section through terminus of ditch [2406]



Plate 12: Looking west at ditch [2705] exposed in trench 27



Plate 13: Looking west at section of gully [2715] (on the left) and edge of ditch [2713]



Plate 14: Looking west at section of ditch [2905] truncated by land drain [2915].



Plate 15: Looking south-west at section through ditch north-east terminus [2917]



Plate 16: Looking north at section through charred layer (2704) exposed at east end of trench 27. Shallow pit [2707] is visible on the left



Plate 17: Looking south at section through post hole [2721] and overlaying deposits. Post hole [2719] is visible at the front and post hole [2723] on the right



Plate 18: Looking east at section through post hole [2725]



Plate 19: Looking west at section through pit [804] and overlaying deposits exposed in trench 8

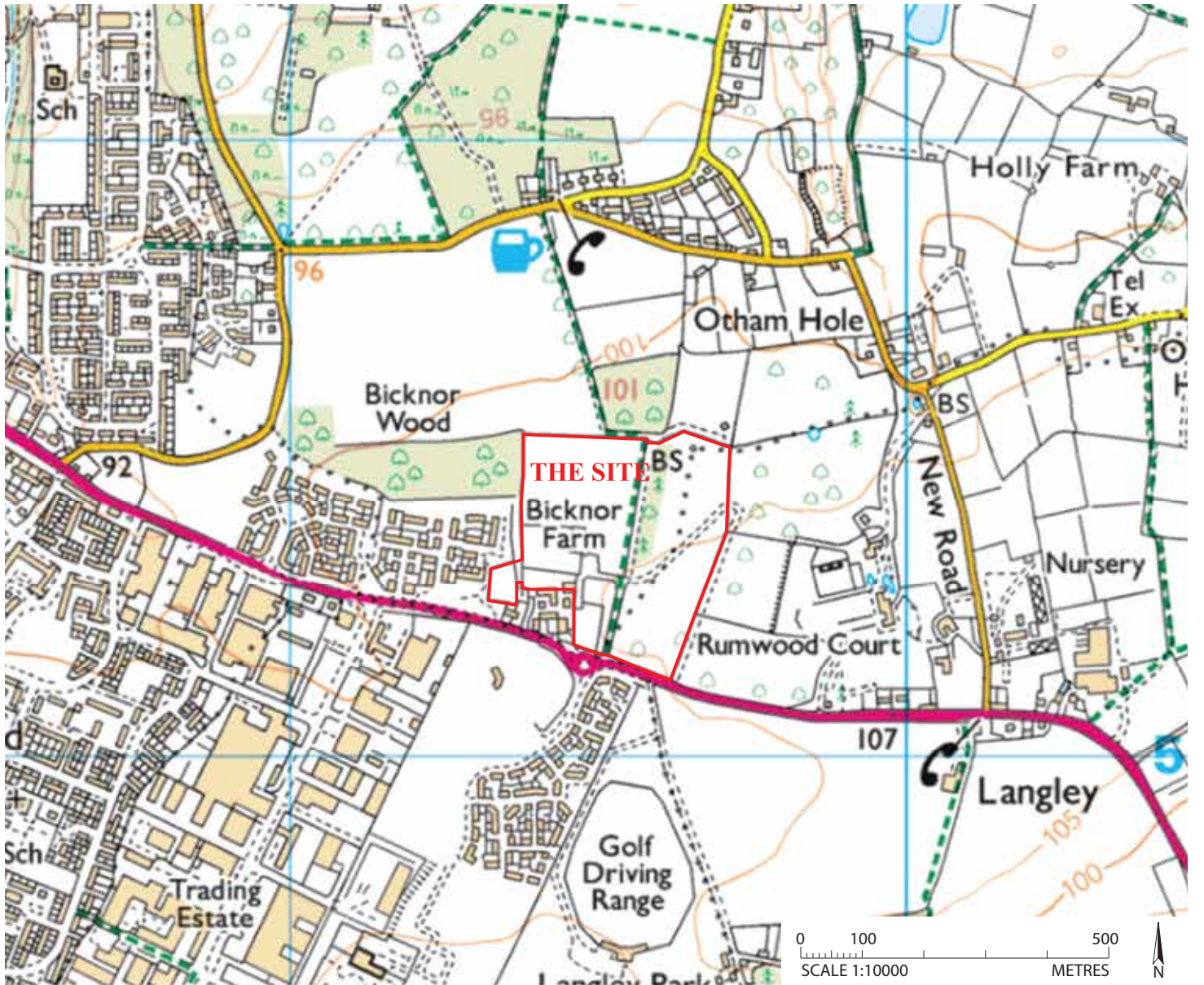


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

- KEY:**
- Extrapolated ditch
 - MIA-ER pottery recovered
 - Modern features and land drains

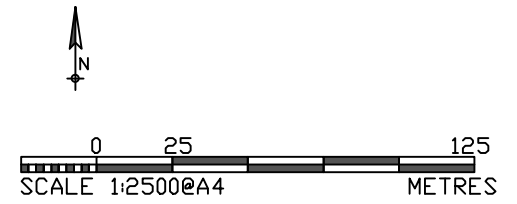
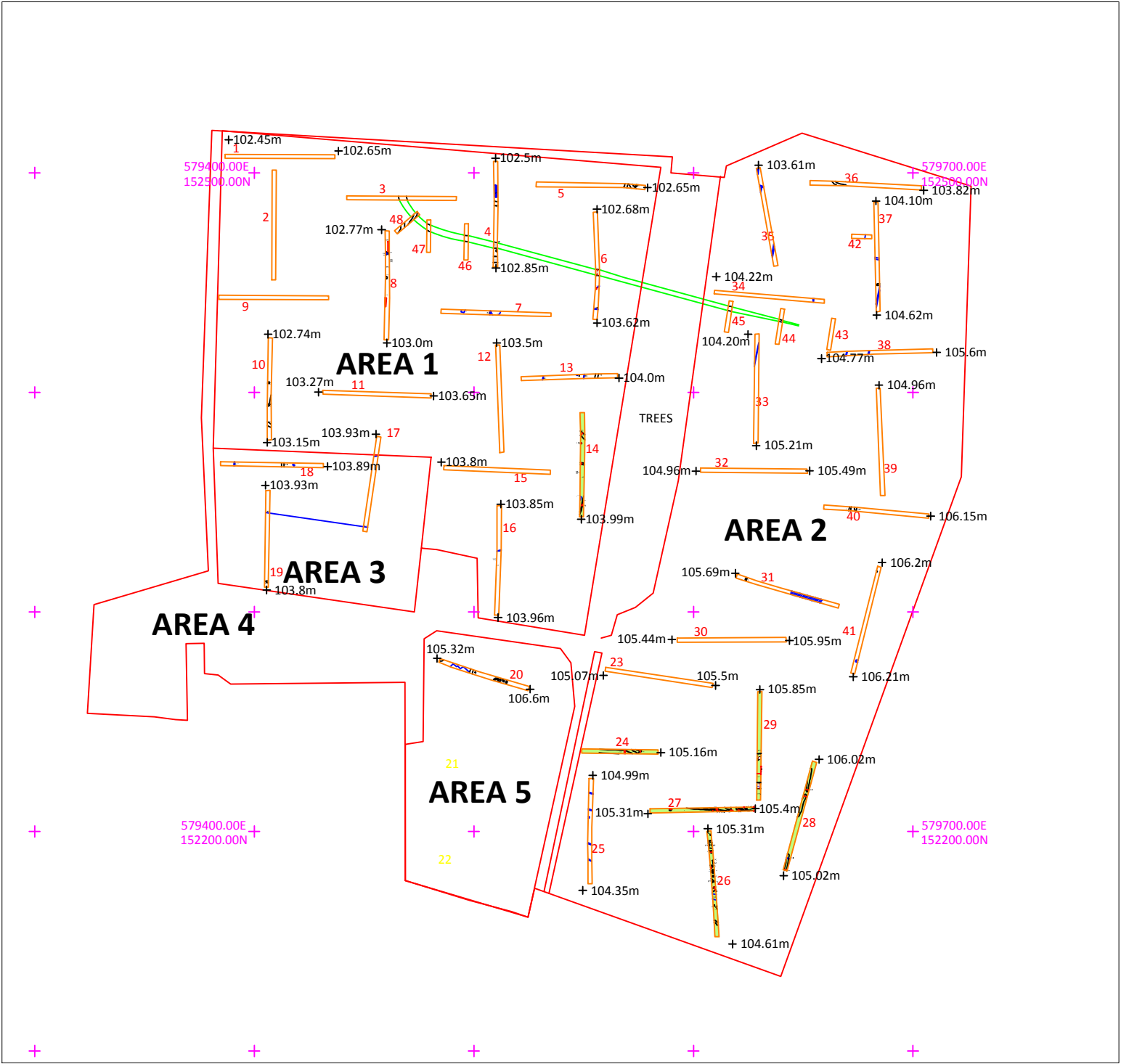


Figure 2: Trench location

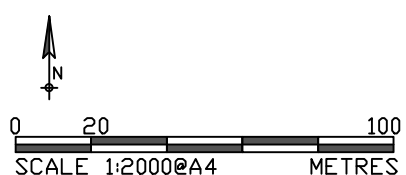
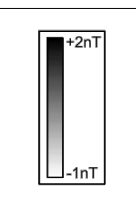
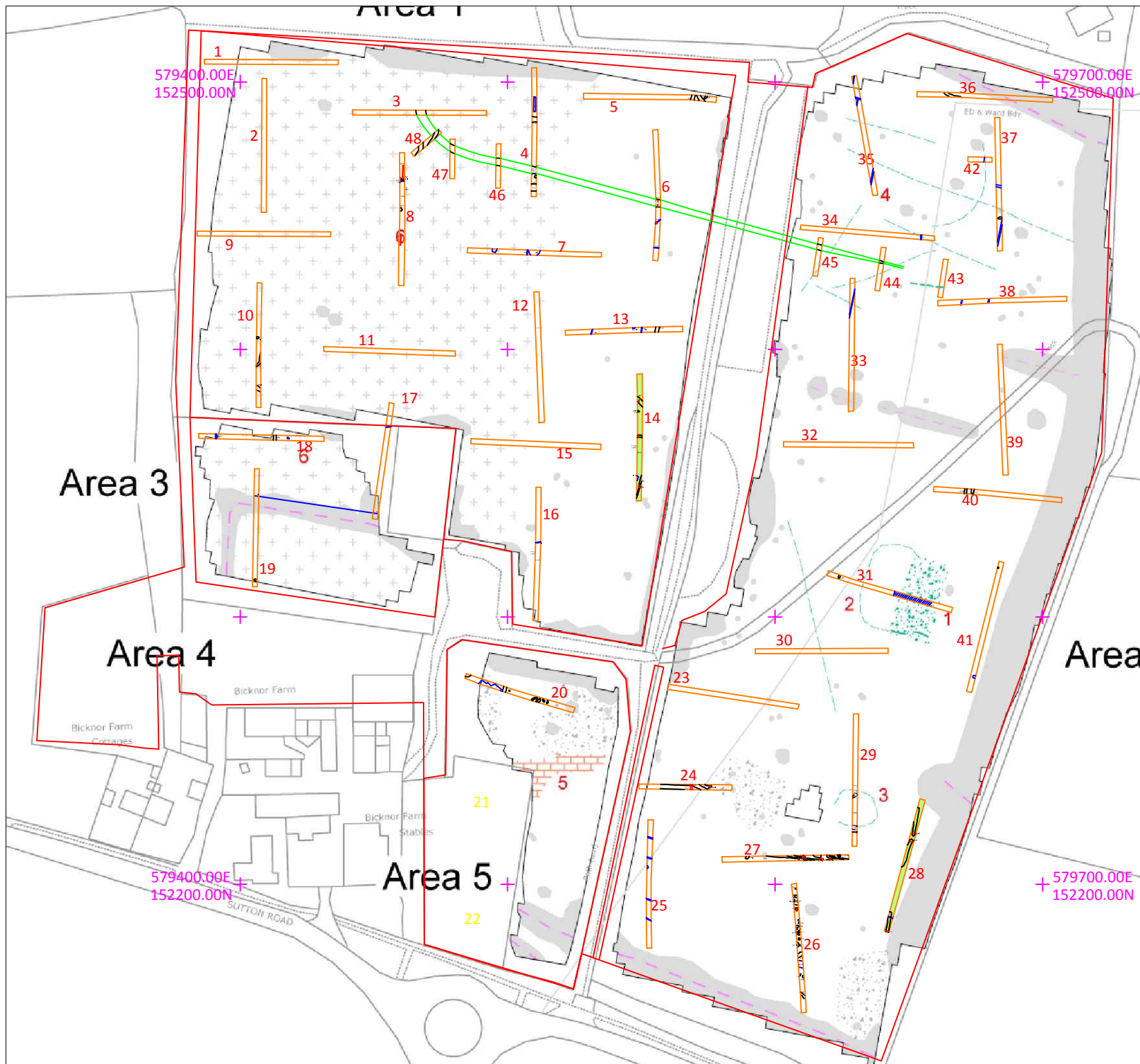


Figure 3: Trench location in relation to geophysical survey



KEY	
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / area of increased response)
	Former track (corroborated)
	Magnetic disturbance - possible former plantation
	Magnetic disturbance
	Service
	Ferrous



Figure 4: Trench location in relation to geophysical survey interpretation



PRIVATE PLOTS	
HERITAGE RANGE	HouseType
LURD	Luxury
WARR	Warwick
AMBLY	Ambury
LEMAN	Lemington Ave
S FRA	Shalford
GRAN	Gravelly
MARD	Martin
SRA & Conifers	Street
GRYP	Gravel
CAMB	Cambridge
SHAF	Shalford
CAMB	Cambridge
SUB TOTAL	

AFFORDABLE	
HERITAGE RANGE	HouseType
TAVY	Tony
TAVY	Tony
DART	Dart
DART	Dart
TEAC	Tea
TEAC	Tea
SUB TOTAL	



Figure 5: Trench location in relation to development

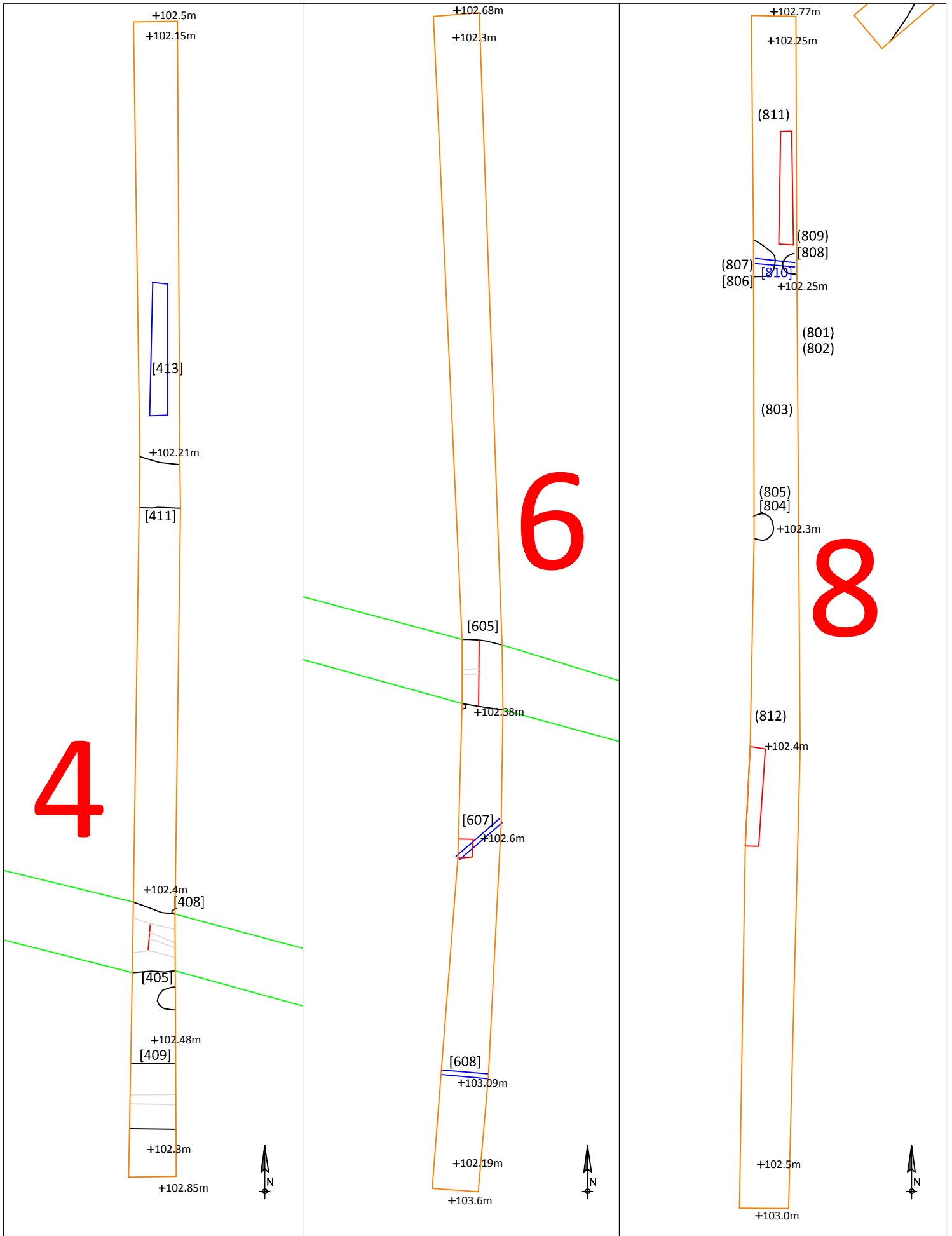
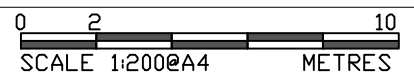


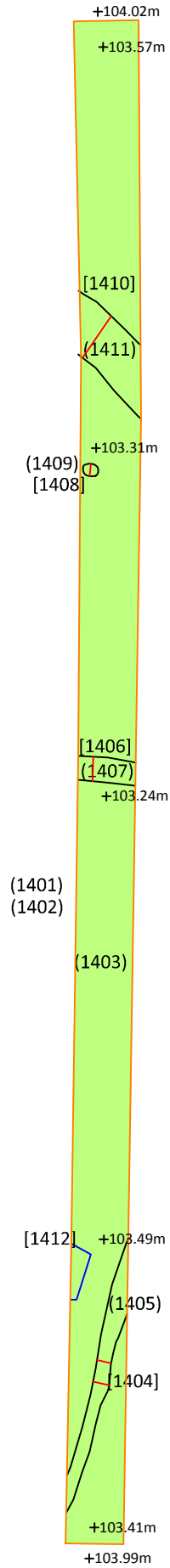
Figure 6: Plan of Trench 4, 6 and 8



10



14



26

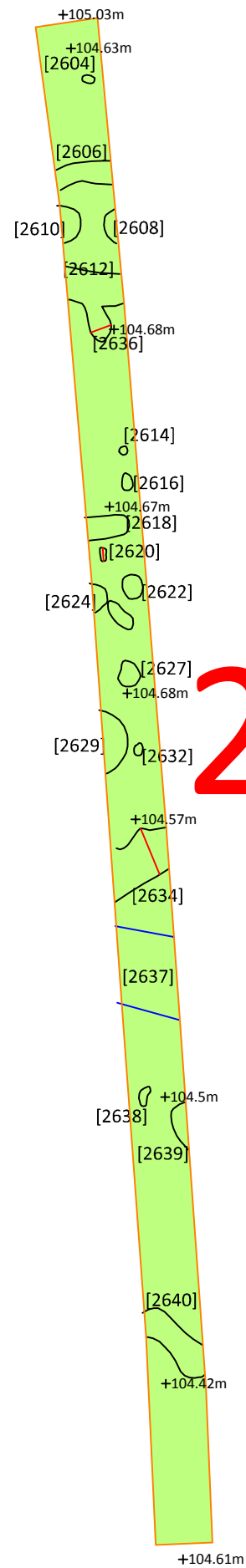
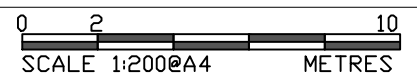


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 10, 14 and 26



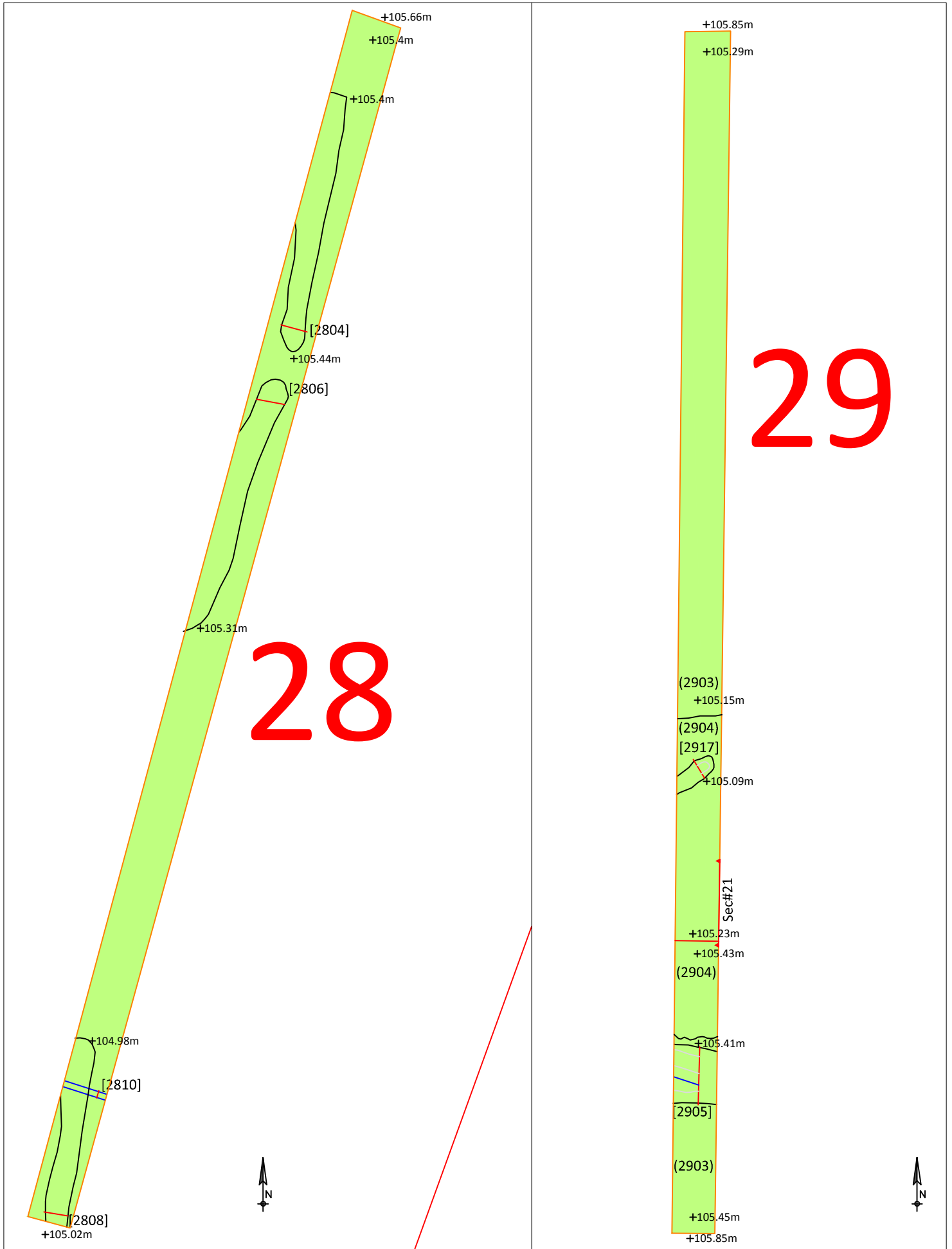


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 28 and 29

0 2 10
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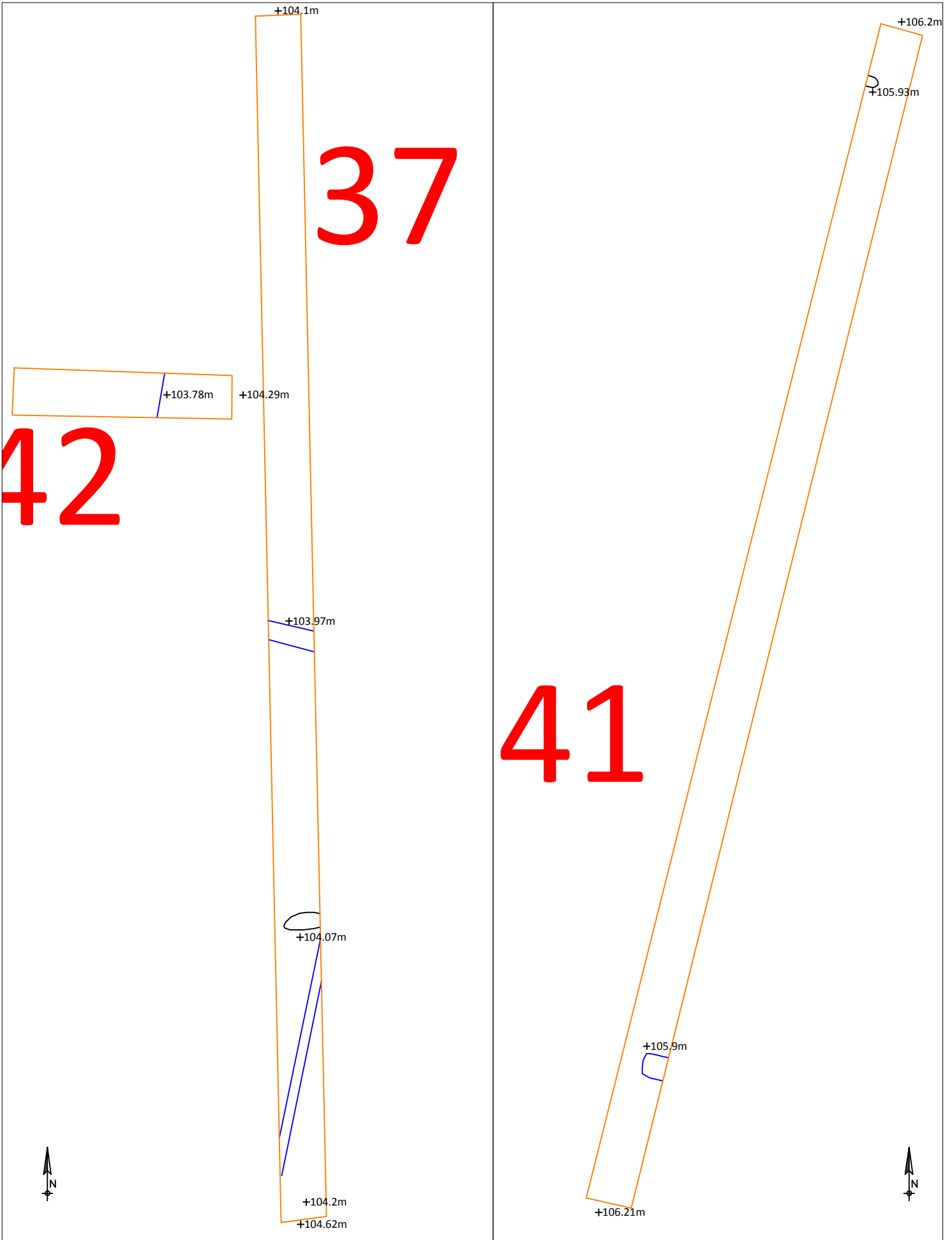


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 37, 41 and 42

0 2 10
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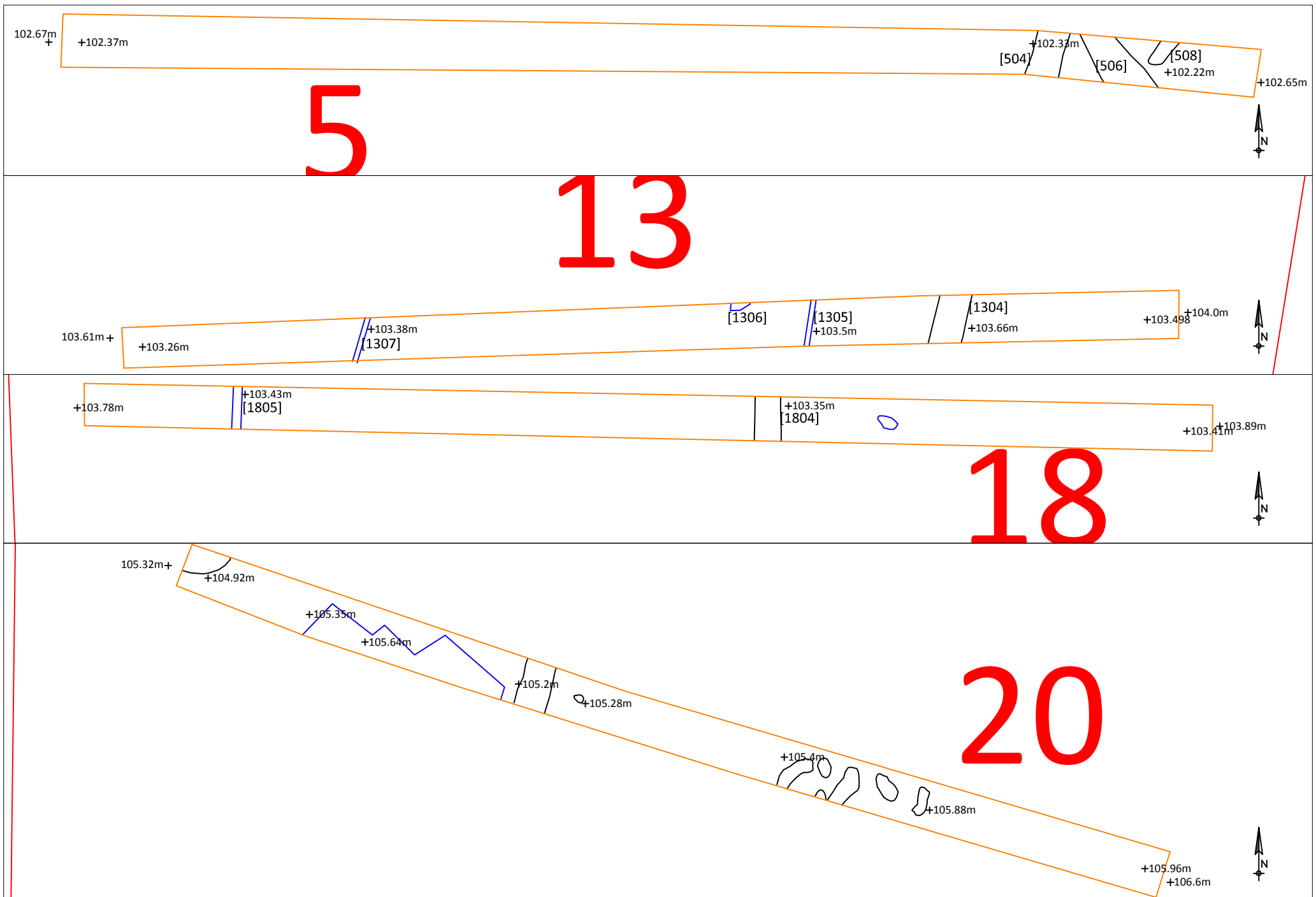


Figure 10: Plan of Trench 5, 13, 18 and 20

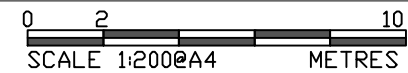
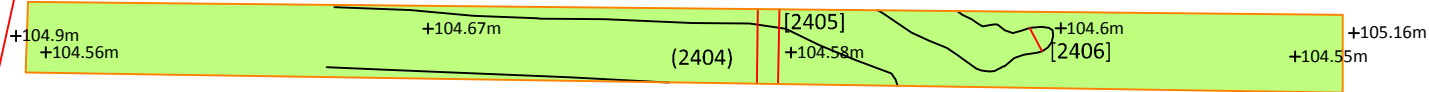
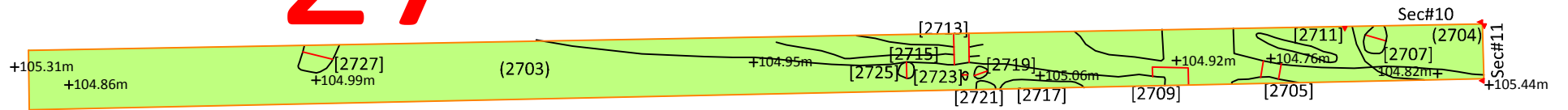


Figure 11: Plan of Trench 24, 27, 36 and 40

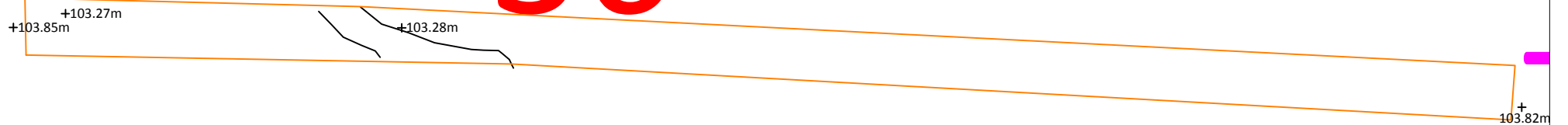
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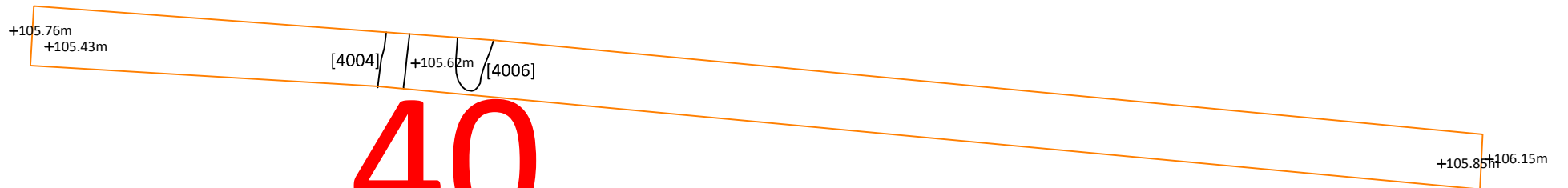
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36



40



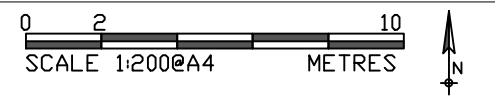
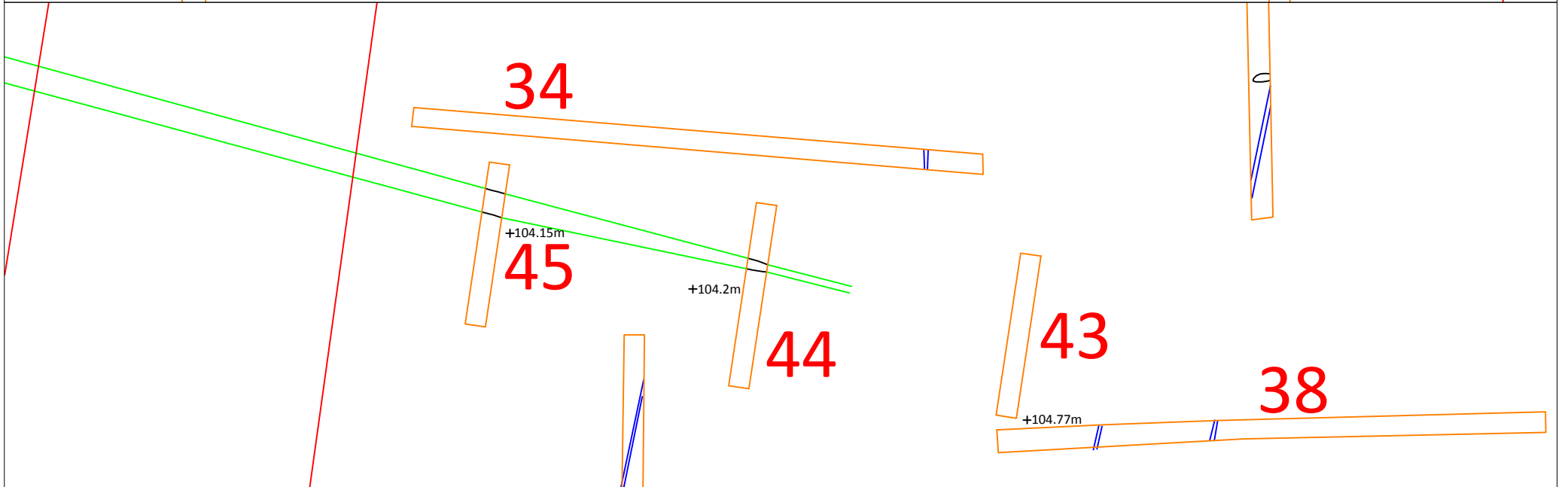
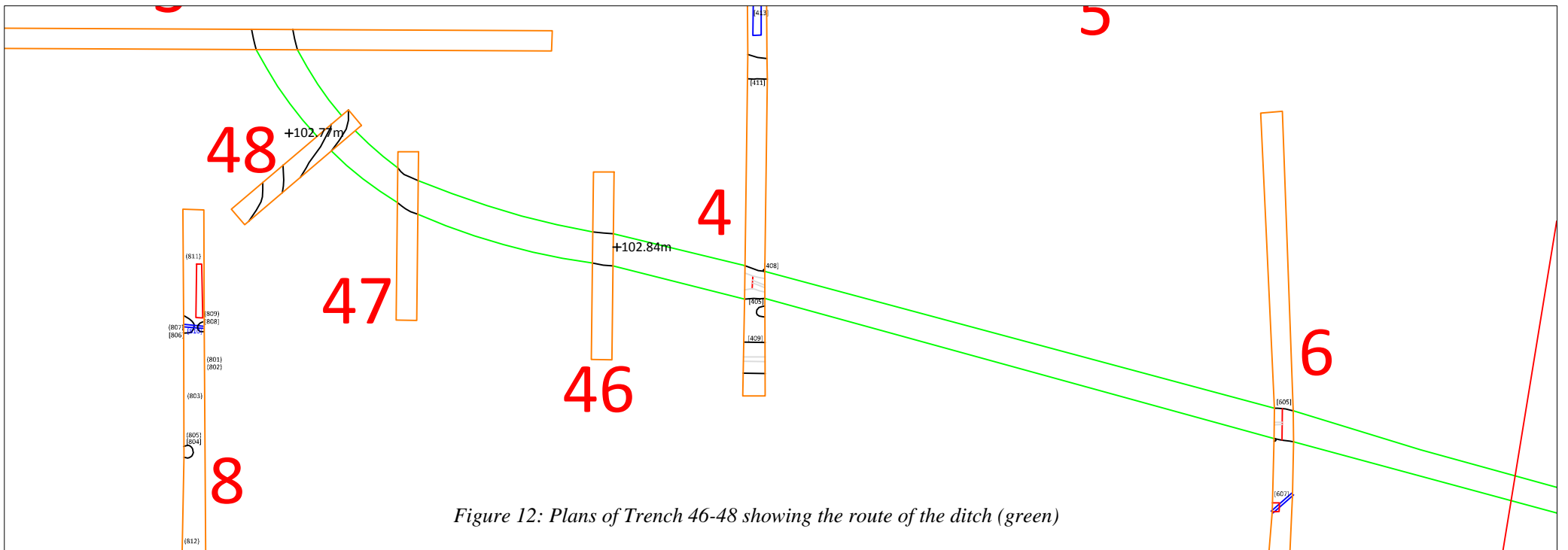
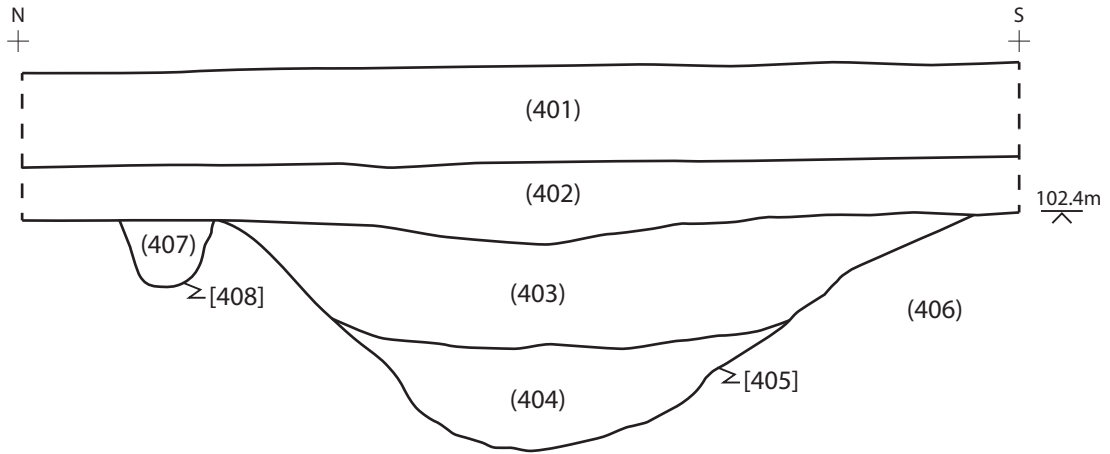
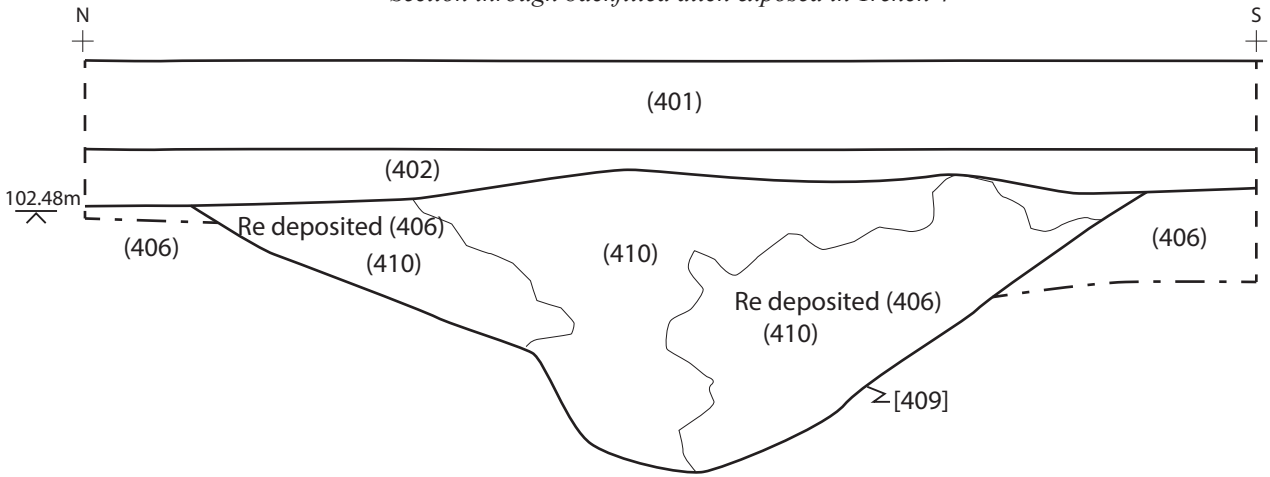


Figure 13: Plans of Trench 43-45 showing the route of the ditch (green)

Section 1
Section through ditch and post hole exposed in Trench 4



Section 2
Section through backfilled ditch exposed in Trench 4



Section 3
Section through ditch exposed in Trench 6

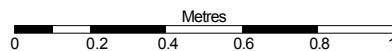
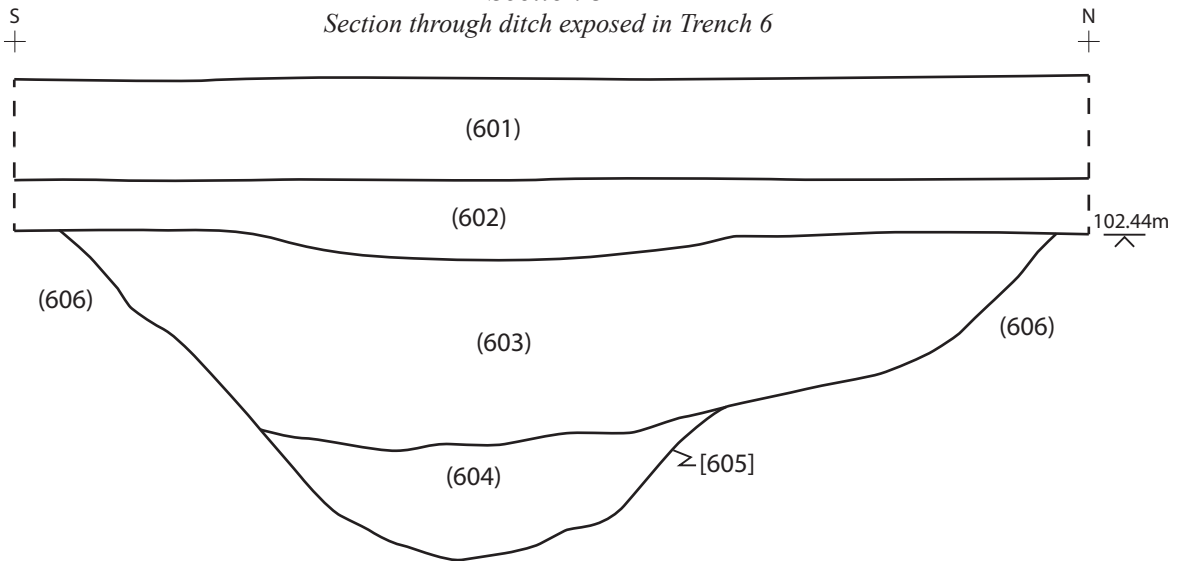


Figure 14: Sections exposed in trench 4 and 6, scale 1:20

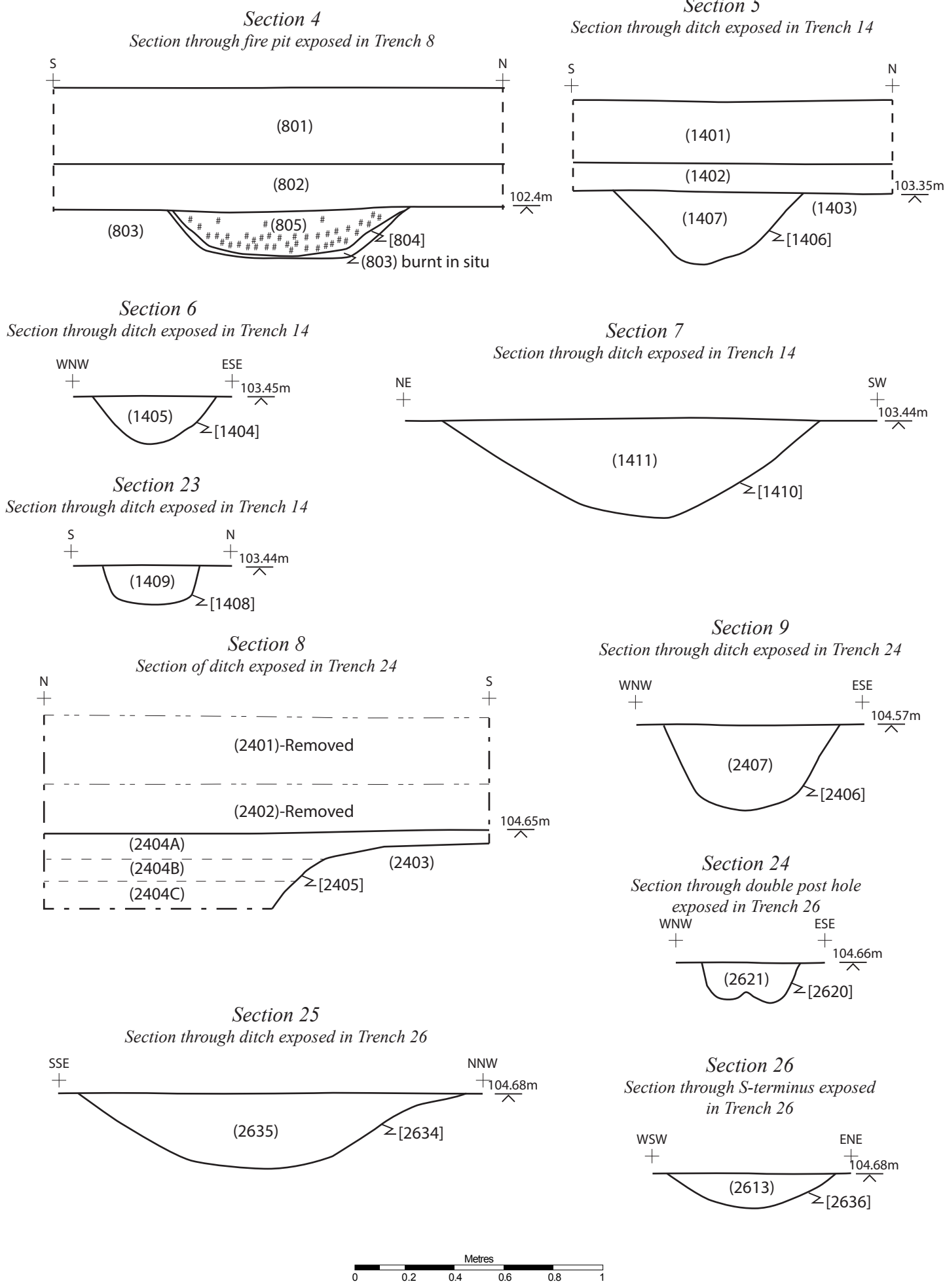
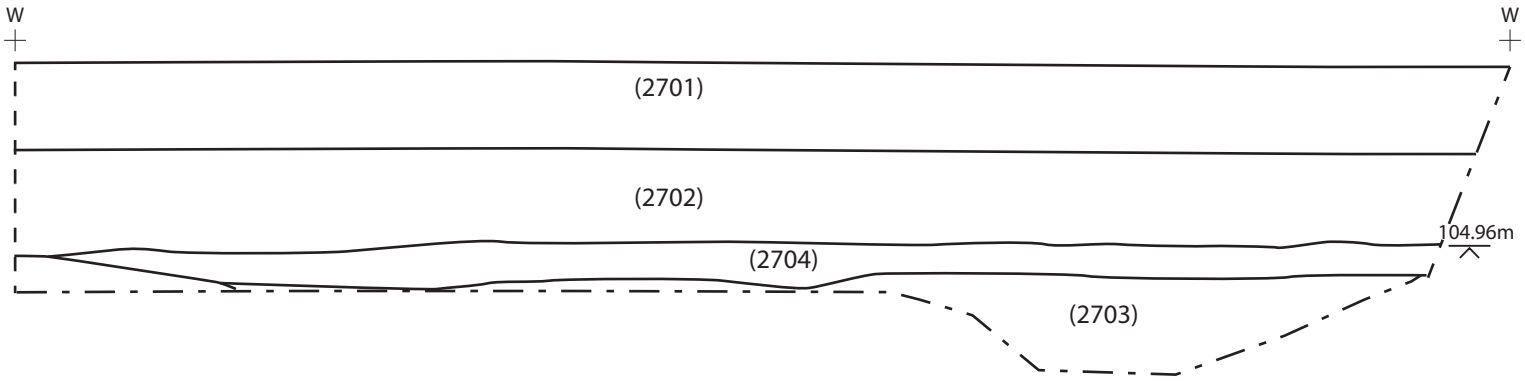
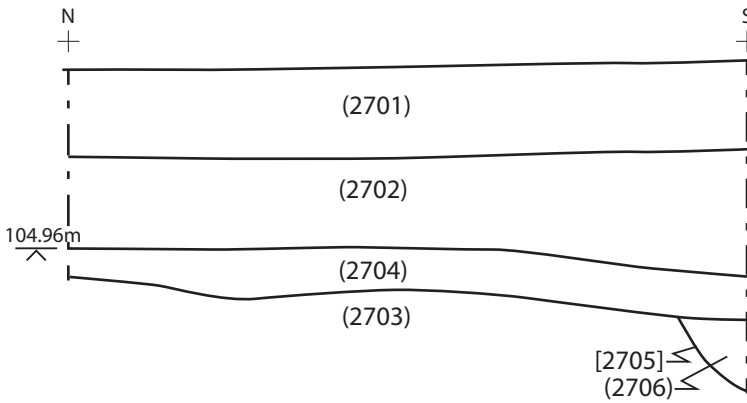


Figure 15: Sections exposed in trench 8, 14, 24 and 26, scale 1:20

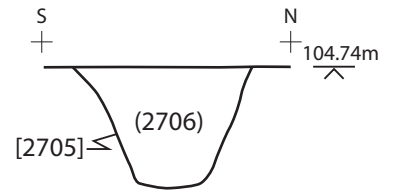
Section 10
Section through layer (2704) exposed in Trench 27



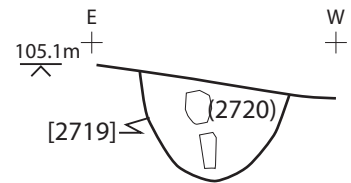
Section 11
Section of layer (2704) and ditch exposed in Trench 27



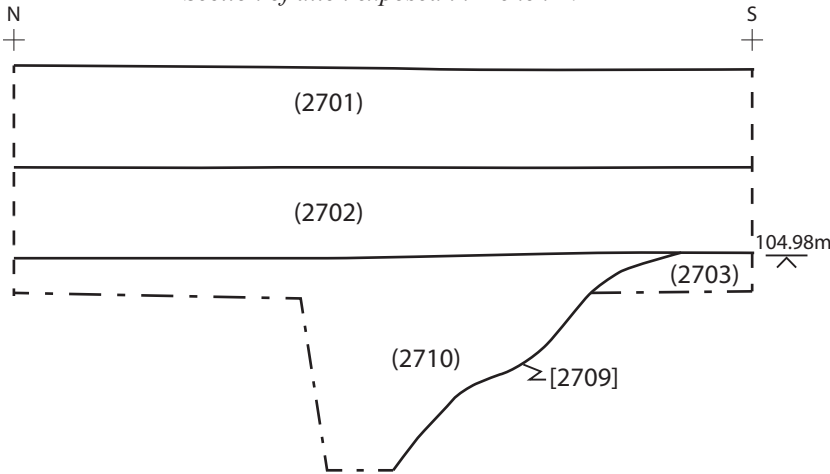
Section 12
Section through ditch exposed in Trench 27



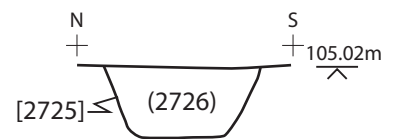
Section 14
Section through post hole exposed in Trench 27



Section 13
Section of ditch exposed in Trench 27



Section 15
Section through post hole exposed in Trench 27



Section 16
Section of gully [2715] and ditch [2713] exposed in Trench 27



Section 17
Section through pit exposed in Trench 27

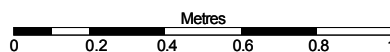
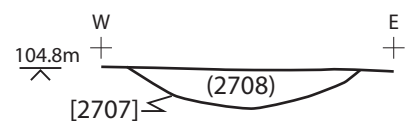


Figure 16: Sections exposed in trench 27, scale 1:20

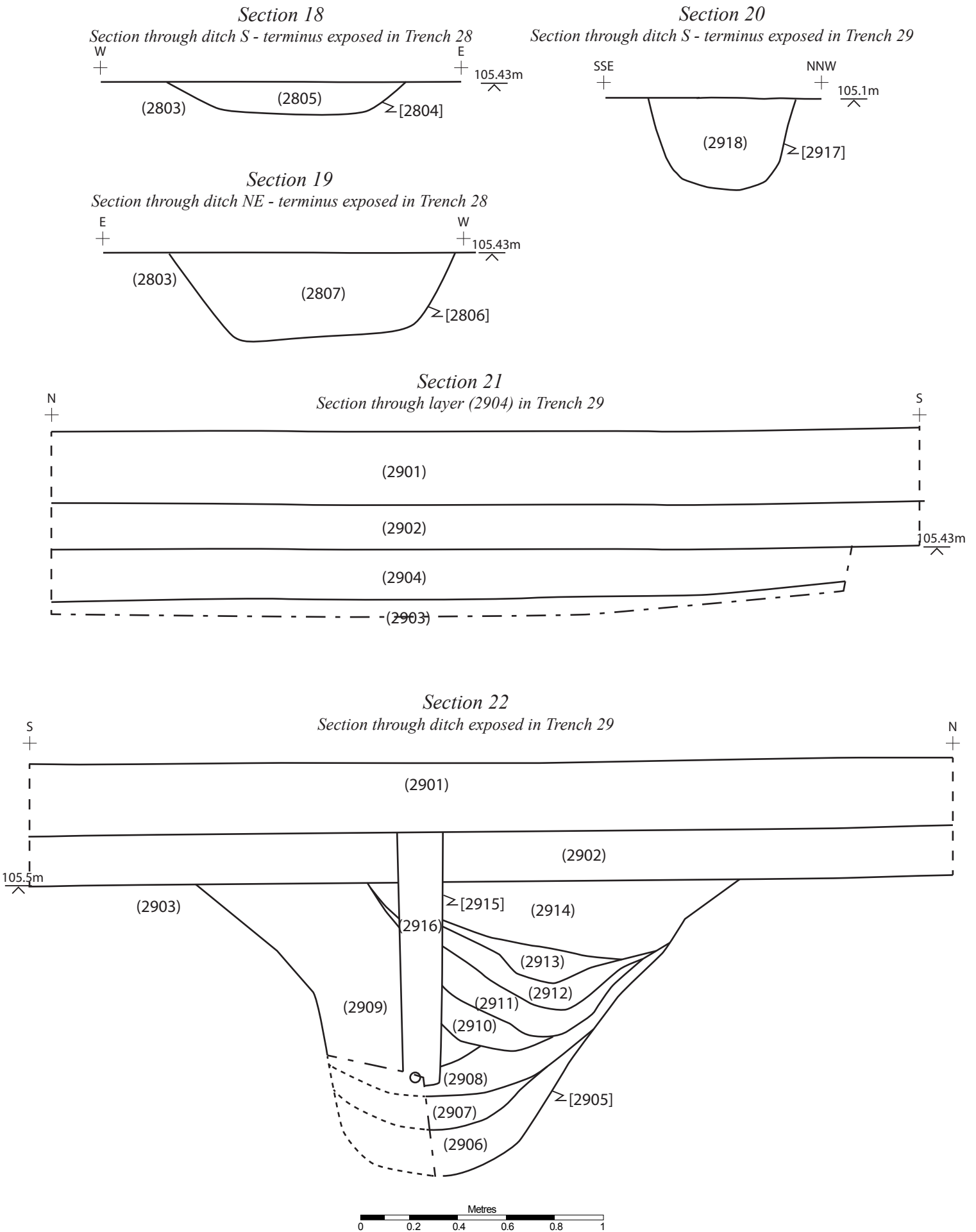


Figure 17: Sections exposed in trench 28 and 29, scale 1:20