

Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	6
1.1	SCOPE OF WORK.....	6
1.2	LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	6
1.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	6
2	AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	7
2.1	AIMS.....	7
2.2	METHODOLOGY	7
3	RESULTS	8
3.1	INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS.....	8
3.2	GENERAL SOILS AND GROUND CONDITIONS.....	8
3.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	8
3.4	TRENCH 4-6 (PLATES 1-2)	8
3.5	TRENCHES 8-11 (PLATES)	9
3.6	TRENCH 12-16 (PLATES)	9
3.7	FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARIES	9
4	DISCUSSION	10
4.1	RELIABILITY OF FIELD INVESTIGATION	10
4.2	EVALUATION OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS	10
4.3	SIGNIFICANCE	10
5	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	11
APPENDIX A	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY	12
APPENDIX B	FINDS REPORTS	17
B.1	POST-ROMAN POTTERY	17
B.2	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	19
B.3	SLAG.....	19
B.4	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	20
APPENDIX C	SITE SUMMARY DETAILS.....	21

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Archaeology and geophysics
Figure 3	Archaeology and geophysics, trenches 4-9
Figure 4	Archaeology and geophysics, trenches 8-12
Figure 5	Archaeology and geophysics, trenches 12-16
Figure 6	Selected sections

List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 6 looking southwest (1x1m and 1x2m scales)
Plate 2	Gully 602 looking northeast (0.20m scale)
Plate 3	Trench 8 looking east (1x1m and 1x2m scales)
Plate 4	Ditch 803 looking southeast (0.2m scale)
Plate 5	Ditch 805 looking northeast (1m scale)
Plate 6	Trench 9 looking east (1x1m and 1x2m scales)
Plate 7	Ditch 903 looking southeast (0.5m scale)
Plate 8	Trench 10 looking northwest (1x1m and 1x2m scales)
Plate 9	Ditch 1003 looking northeast (1m scale)
Plate 10	Furrow 1102 looking west
Plate 11	Ditch 1104 looking west (0.5m scale)
Plate 12	Trench 12 looking southwest (1x1m and 1x2m scales)
Plate 13	Furrow 1202 looking southwest (1m scale)

SUMMARY

In January 2024 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Avant Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a consented new residential development off Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire (Planning ref: APP/K2420/W/23/3321670). The evaluation included 16 trenches representing a 3% sample of the development area.

The evaluation aimed to assess the archaeological potential of the site, based on the geophysical survey and historical background of the area. No significant archaeological finds nor features were detected during the evaluation. Out of 16 trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies, 12 trenches produced post-medieval or modern field boundary ditches, furrows and small undated gullies. The evaluation identified a low density of archaeological remains indicative of post-medieval and modern agricultural activity on site. No evidence of activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was uncovered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Simon Mortimer, RPS, on behalf of Avant Homes for commissioning this project. Thanks, are also extended to William Kelly who monitored the work on behalf of Leicestershire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Ben Slader, who was supported by Laura Mitchell and Robert Neeson. Survey and digitising were carried out by Carolin Souday and Matt Bradley. Thanks, are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Avant Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire. A programme of 16 trenches were undertaken to investigate the geophysical anomalies and test blank areas of the site.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to further the archaeological condition attached to the planning consent (planning ref. APP/K2420/W/23/3321670). The evaluation was completed in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation produced by RPS (2023) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the south of Lychgate Lane on the south-eastern edge of Burbage, Leicestershire (centred at National Grid Reference SP 4488 9229; Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The site is located on the south-eastern slope of Sketchley Hill and slopes eastwards from a high of c.110m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to a low of c.105m AOD. The nearest watercourse to the site is the Soar Brook, located c.1.5km to the south.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as mudstone belonging to the Mercia Mudstone Group. The bedrock geology is overlain by superficial deposits of clay and silt of the Bosworth Clay Member (ibid.). (BGS Online 2024).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the Heritage Statement (RPS 2022), which incorporated the results of a geophysical survey. The geophysical survey identified several anomalies assessed to be of an undetermined origin, meaning an archaeological origin cannot be discounted. The most relevant points of these works are summarised below.

Prehistoric Activity (10,000 BC – AD 43)

- 1.3.2 There is an absence of Early Prehistoric remains within vicinity of the site, with the nearest known being a Bronze Age cemetery (HER reference MLE23172) and sporadic flints (MLE7235, MLE9344, MLE17704, MLE18018 & MLE18737) recorded at least 500m away from the site. The site's potential for Early Prehistoric remains was considered to be low.

Romano-British Period (AD 43 - 410)

- 1.3.3 No Iron Age to Roman HER entries are within the site or found within the vicinity. The nearest known areas of Iron Age to Roman activity includes an Iron Age enclosure along with Roman features (MLE21696), c.550m to the south-west. The Heritage Statement assessed the geophysical anomalies on site as unlikely to be of an Iron Age to Roman date.

Saxon and Medieval period (AD 410 - 1540)

- 1.3.4 The historic settlement of Burbage (MLE2848), located c.250m west of the site, is of at least Saxon origin and is recorded in 1086 Domesday Survey as 'Burbece'. The name derives from the Old English burh, meaning 'a fortified place'. Poorly preserved earthworks are recorded within the western half of the site. The site is located outside of the historic core of Burbage and was evidently ploughed during the medieval period.
- 1.3.5 The geophysical survey identified anomalies representing a former post medieval to modern field system within the site. The undetermined anomalies were assessed to be likely associated with this field system. A review of historic mapping shows the site was in agricultural use from at least the medieval period, given the survival of medieval ridge and furrow.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**2.1 Aims**

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:
- To confirm the veracity of the geophysical survey results and investigate the undetermined anomalies;
 - To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, and level of significance of any archaeological remains that are present;
 - To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - To inform discussions with the LPA's archaeological advisors over any further works that are necessary;
 - To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire & Rutland HER
- 2.1.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by 'East Midlands Heritage: A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment' (compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community by D. Knight, B. Vyner and C. Allen) and the earlier Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands 'The Archaeology of the East Midlands' edited by N. Cooper (2006).

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Ten 30m x 1.8m trenches and six 15m x 1.8m trenches were excavated across the site representing a 3% sample of the 2.7ha development (Figures 2). A

- contingency for a further 1% was also allowed, should further trenches, or extensions be required. Trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored next to, but at a safe distance from the trench edges.
- 2.2.2 Machining continued in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.
- 2.2.3 The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. All potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded as outlined within the approved WSI (RPS 2023).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. The finds reports and associated tables can be found within Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was uniform. The natural geology of mudstone was overlain by a dark reddish-brown subsoil and topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained relatively dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 Archaeological results

- 3.3.1 A series of late post-medieval or modern features were detected during excavation and correlated with the geophysical results. These features were linear boundary ditches, small gullies and the remains of ridge and furrow. The archaeological features were present in Trenches TR4-6 and TR 8-14, with all other trenches being devoid of any archaeological remains.

3.4 Trench 4-6 (Plates 1-2)

- 3.4.1 A series of shallow 'U' shaped gullies were identified within Trenches 4-6 within subsoil deposits associated with weak geophysical signals identified in the survey. No finds were recovered from any of the gullies. A shallow gully (402) only 0.06m in depth and 0.21m wide, filled with a sterile fill (403), was investigated in Trench 4. A series of similar gullies (503 and 603) were also investigated within Trenches 5 and 6. These features were undated but did not penetrate through the subsoil into the natural mudstone and are believed to be late post-medieval or modern in date.

3.5 Trenches 8-11 (Plates 3-11)

- 3.5.1 Two northwest to southeast aligned ditches were investigated within Trench 8 associated with a potential field trackway identified in the geophysics (Plates 3-5). Ditch 803 was 0.32m wide and 0.09m deep, filled with dark brown clayey silt fill (804). It had a shallow profile with a concave base (Plate 4). Ditch 805 was just 2m to the west, 1.15m in width and 0.30m depth, filled with a similar clayey silt fill (806). Both ditch fills produced 18th-19th century pottery.
- 3.5.2 Ditch 903 running northeast by southwest appeared to be part of the same fieldsystem boundaries as those investigated within Trench 8 (Plate 6). The ditch was 0.5m in width and 0.06m in depth, forming a shallow 'U' shaped gully (Plate 7). The gully also produced late post medieval pottery.
- 3.5.3 Two field boundary ditches were also excavated in the northern ends of Trenches 10 and 11 (Plates 9 and 11). The field boundary had a ceramic field drain in the base of the ditch. The ditches aligned with the ridge and furrow earthworks preserved in the western part of the field. Furrows were also investigated within the southern ends of Trenches 10 and 11 (Plate 10).

3.6 Trench 12-16 (Plates 12-13)

- 3.6.1 The remains of furrows were identified within Trenches 12-16 and aligned with both the geophysics and ridge and furrow earthworks. Two furrows were investigated within Trench 12, and one east-west field boundary ditch was excavated in Trench 13. The furrows produced an assemblage of pottery, clay pipe and CBM, all of which dated to between the late 17th to 19th centuries.

3.7 Finds and Environmental Summaries

Pottery by John Cotter

- 3.7.1 A total of 14 sherds of pottery weighing 435g were recovered from 7 contexts from Trenches 8, 9, 10 and 12. Aside from a single sherd of probable medieval date the rest of the pottery is post-medieval and comprises common place post-medieval Staffordshire-type wares of the sort found all-over the Midlands and sometimes further afield.
- 3.7.2 The earliest piece here (1203) is a jug rim in an unglazed and unidentified medieval ware with a fine sandy orange-buff fabric. It may, perhaps, be medieval Nottingham ware, or something more local to the area. It probably dates between the 13th and 16th centuries but is very abraded and mostly likely residual within the feature.
- 3.7.3 Most of the rest of the assemblage comprises large fresh sherds of 17th-18th century Staffordshire-type earthen wares. These include a cylindrical mug in black-glazed Midlands Blackware (BLACK), three wide bowls in Staffordshire-type red-slipped glazed coarseware (STRSB COAR, c 1650-1800), and a press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type slipware (STSL) dating to c 1700-1800. The dating emphasis of the assemblage is roughly c 1650-1800. Some of these wares (STSL and STRSB COAR) have a remarkably similar orange-buff fabric which is redder than most slipwares with a true Staffordshire origin; they may, perhaps, be from a source closer to Leicester.

- 3.7.4 The latest item here is a small sherd of Staffordshire-type Pearlware (PEAR SLIP) from Trench 12, from a fine white tableware item dating to c 1780-1840 (1204).

Other finds by Tim Allen, Kirsty Smith and Bernice Jones

- 3.7.5 Other finds included one fragment of cattle bone from context 1605 (pottery spot dated 1650-1759) with chopmarks, fragments of slag, clay pipe and post medieval CBM were also recovered from the ditches and furrows.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Generally favourable conditions prevailed during the fieldwork with good ground and site conditions throughout. Machining was generally carried out cleanly, providing good visibility of features and deposits in the evaluation trenches.
- 4.1.2 The trenches provided good coverage of the site area and were located to maximise the potential for identifying archaeological remains. The overhead and buried services did limit access to some areas of the site, however sufficient coverage was achieved to meet the project aims. The evaluation results show the presence of a low density of archaeological remains associated with post-medieval and modern activity, primarily agricultural in nature.
- 4.1.3 The evaluation generally confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey results and established the post-medieval and modern origins of the targeted anomalies.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The trial-trench evaluation established and recorded the presence and extent of post-medieval and modern features in 12 out of the 16 trenches investigated. A low density and low complexity of features were recorded, comprising field boundaries, furrows and former trackways ditches.
- 4.2.2 Most features produced artefactual material and confirmed the dating of the activity. The field boundary or trackway noted in the middle of the site is not present on historic maps. However, the systems of boundary ditches clearly are associated and help date the ridge and furrow. No samples were taken during the evaluation due to the absence of significant archaeological remains pre dating the late post-medieval period.
- 4.2.3 The evaluation established the overall reliability of the geophysical survey results across the area investigated. The trenches were positioned to investigate and verify the results of the survey, which had identified no anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological features.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The evaluation has identified archaeological remains indicative of post-medieval and modern agricultural activity on site. No evidence of activity predating the post-medieval period was uncovered.

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APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying clay geology. Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer					

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying a clay geology. Devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer			Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying clay geology. Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer			Natural		

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains a single gully.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-

401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
402	Cut	0.21	0.06	Gully		
403	Fill		0.06	Fill		

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains a single gully.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
502	Cut	0.25	0.03	Gully		
503	Fill		0.03	fill		

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains a gully.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
602	Cut	0.28	0.04	Gully		
603	Fill			fill		

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying clay geology. Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer			Natural		

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains one ditch.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

800	Layer	-		Natural	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	-	-
803	Cut	0.32	0.09	Gully	-	-
804	Fill			fill		
805	Cut	1.40	0.30	Ditch		
806	Fill			Deliberate backfill	pot	Pot med

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying clay geology. Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer			Natural		
903	Cut	0.50	0.06	Ditch		
904	Fill			Fill	Pot	Pot med

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains two furrows.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Cut	1.02	0.09	Furrow	-	-
1001	Fill	-	-	Fill	Pot	Post med
1002	Layer		0.21	Topsoil		
1003	Layer		0.12	Subsoil		
1004	Layer			Natural		
1005	Cut		0.90	Furrow		
1006	Fill			Fill		

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains two furrows.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1102	Cut	2.00	0.30	Ditch		
1103	Fill			Fill		
1104	Cut	0.80	0.12	Furrow		
1105	Fill	0.89	0.12	Fill		
1106	Cut	1.23		Furrow		
1107	Fill	1.23		Fill		

Trench 12						
General description Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains two furrows.					Orientation	N-S
					Length (m)	14
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1202	Cut	1.15	0.1	Furrow		
1203	Fill			Fill	Pot	Post med
1204	Cut	1.13		Furrow		
1205	Fill	1.13		Fill	Pot	Post med

Trench 13						
General description Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains one ditch.					Orientation	E-W
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1302	Cut	1.75	0.24	Ditch		
1303	Fill		0.06	Fill		
1304	Fill		0.16	Fill	Pot	Post med
1305	Layer		0.10	Other layer		

Trench 14						
General description Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains one ditch and two furrows.					Orientation	SE-NW
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1402	Cut		1.41	Ditch		
1403	Fill		1.41	Fill		

Trench 15						
General description Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains three furrows.					Orientation	N-S
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1502	Cut	0.89	0.05	Furrow		
1503	Fill	0.89	0.05	Fill	Clay pipe	Post med

Trench 16						
General description Trench consists of topsoil overlying clay geology. Trench contains one ditch and two furrows.					Orientation	SE-NW
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1602	Cut	0.56	1.41	Furrow		
1603	Fill	0.56	1.41	Fill		
1604	Cut			Natural		
1605	Fill			Fill	Pot	Post med

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Post-Roman Pottery

Pottery by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 14 sherds of pottery weighing 435g were recovered from 7 contexts. Aside from a single sherd of probable medieval date the rest of the pottery is post-medieval and comprises commonplace post-medieval Staffordshire-type wares of the sort found all-over the Midlands and sometimes further afield.
- B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is in a fragmentary condition, but most sherds are quite large and fresh, with some sherds joining.
- B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Post-medieval fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and therefore only summarised below.

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
806	c1700-1800	4	156	1 vessel. Fresh joining sherds. Press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type slipware (STSL). Unusual light orange-buff coal measures fabric - possibly local? 3 rim sherds with typical scalloped decoration on the lip. Interior decorated with broad white bands of trailed slip arranged across dish in parallel rows of almost zig-zag lines separated by loose sinuous/curvilinear lines, all trailed (not combed). White slip dec overlying dark brown slip under a clear glaze. Underside unglazed. Date could be within c1700-1750/60?
904	c1650-1800	2	72	1 vessel. 2 rims. Wide bowl with near-horizontal flanged rim & wall angle/carination just below rim. Staffs-type red-slipped glazed coarseware (STRSB COAR). Same orange-buff fabric as STSL dish in 806. Black glaze int over a dark brown slip (not on rim). Fresh.
1001	c1600-1800	1	22	Fresh body sherd from small bowl or lower wall of jug/jar? Thick-walled. Dense fine-medium sandy red fabric with internal black glaze. Misc blackware or Midlands Blackware (BLACK).

1203	13-16C?	1	9	Unidentified medieval or early post-medieval ware (MISC M). Probably a jug rim with a simple flat-topped rim on a slightly flaring neck. Fine sandy orange-buff fabric with abundant white quartz and possibly calcite inclusions, plus a few fairly coarse grains of mica. Unglazed. Fabric vaguely similar to medieval Scarborough-type ware (Type 1) and to medieval Nottingham ware (also vaguely similar to Spanish micaceous ware (SPAM)). Possible handle scar ext. Browner ext surface. Probably not Roman (E. Biddulph, pers comm). Slightly abraded.
1204	c1780-1840	1	1	Small body sherd probably from jug in Pearlware with brown slip bands ext and possibly mocha decoration (PEAR SLIP). Clear glaze int and ext. Abraded.
1304	c1650-1800	1	82	Wide bowl with broad horizontal flanged rim. STBRS COAR. Pink-buff fabric. Abraded. Traces of dark brown slip and black glaze int.
1605	c1650-1750	4	93	2 vessels. 2 sherds from wide bowl with flanged rim in STBRS COAR with int black glaze, abraded (very similar to bowl in 904). 2x fresh joining sherds from the pad base and cylindrical wall of a mug/drinking vessel in Midlands Blackware (BLACK) but overfired to near-stoneware hardness (as Midlands purple ware MPUR). Handle scar ext. Glossy dark brown-black glaze all-over int and partly ext. Probably 17-18C.
TOTAL		14	435	

Table 1: Description of post-Roman pottery by context

Discussion

- B.1.4 The earliest piece here (1203) is a jug rim in an unglazed and unidentified medieval ware with a fine sandy orange-buff fabric. It may, perhaps, be medieval Nottingham ware, or something more local to the area? It probably dates between the 13th and 16th centuries.
- B.1.5 Most of the remainder of the assemblage comprises large fresh sherds of 17th-18th century Staffordshire-type earthenware's. These include a cylindrical mug in black-glazed Midlands Blackware (BLACK), three wide bowls in Staffordshire-type red-slipped glazed coarseware (STRSB COAR, c 1650-1800), and a press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type slipware (STSL) dating to c 1700-1800. The dating emphasis of the assemblage is roughly c 1650-1800. Some of these wares (STSL and STRSB COAR) have a similar orange-buff fabric which is redder than most slipwares with a true Staffordshire origin; they may, perhaps, be from a source closer to Leicester?
- B.1.6 The latest item here is a small sherd of Staffordshire-type Pearlware (PEAR SLIP), from a fine white tableware item dating to c 1780-1840 (1204).

Recommendations regarding the conservation[discard and retention of material]

- B.1.7 The pottery here has some potential as good examples of their type and could be used for display or teaching purposes. It is therefore recommended that the assemblage be retained – or at least some of the larger pieces and the medieval jug rim.

B.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe

- B.2.1 Context (1503) produced a single piece of 17th-century clay pipe stem weighing 5g. Description: Chunky early pipe stem (17C) with large stem bore diameter (4mm). Length 42mm. Fine white 'chalky' fabric. Fairly fresh.
- B.2.2 As the pipe has been adequately recorded, it may be discarded if so desired.

B.3 Slag*by Tim Allen**Introduction and methods*

- B.3.1 Two small fragments of a piece of slag together weighing 5g were recovered from context 1204, fill of a furrow, at this site.
- B.3.2 The slag was washed, dried and sorted using largely visual criteria (cf Historic England 2015). The material was sorted into various categories based on colour and surface morphology (and occasionally on an assessment of density and/or magnetic response).

Description

- B.3.3 The fragments of slag came from a piece with a slightly convex and fairly smooth face 24mm by at least 18mm across and at least 13mm high, having the appearance of half of a sub-circular shape with rounded edges surviving, and sides rising at 90 degrees and beginning to curve back in at about 11mm high, though not enough survived to be sure of the overall shape. The piece was magnetic, had an orange-brown colour on the surface and was dark brown in the break, with frequent orange-brown ferrous lumps up to 2mm across and common glassy patches with a flowing appearance from 0.5-3mm across. The piece was light and vesicular with common bubbles 2-3mm across.

Interpretation

- B.3.4 Although the shape might suggest a slag cake, the surviving fragment is too small, and too light, to have formed a cake, and can only be characterised as non-diagnostic ferrous slag (Historic England 2015, 23).

B.4 Ceramic building material*By Kirsty Smith*

- B.4.1 Seven fragments of ceramic building material (119g) were recorded in contexts 1204 and 1605. The fragments are made from an orange silty sandy clay with occasional ferruginous grits and quartz fragments.
- B.4.2 The two fragments (65g) from context 1204 include one larger fragment with two surfaces at 90 degrees from each other, one of which is burnt. This probably originated from a brick of post-medieval date.
- B.4.3 The five fragments from context 1605 (51g) are amorphous flakes and a larger fragment of uncertain date. It is possible the larger fragment may be a highly eroded flange from a Roman tegula roof tile.

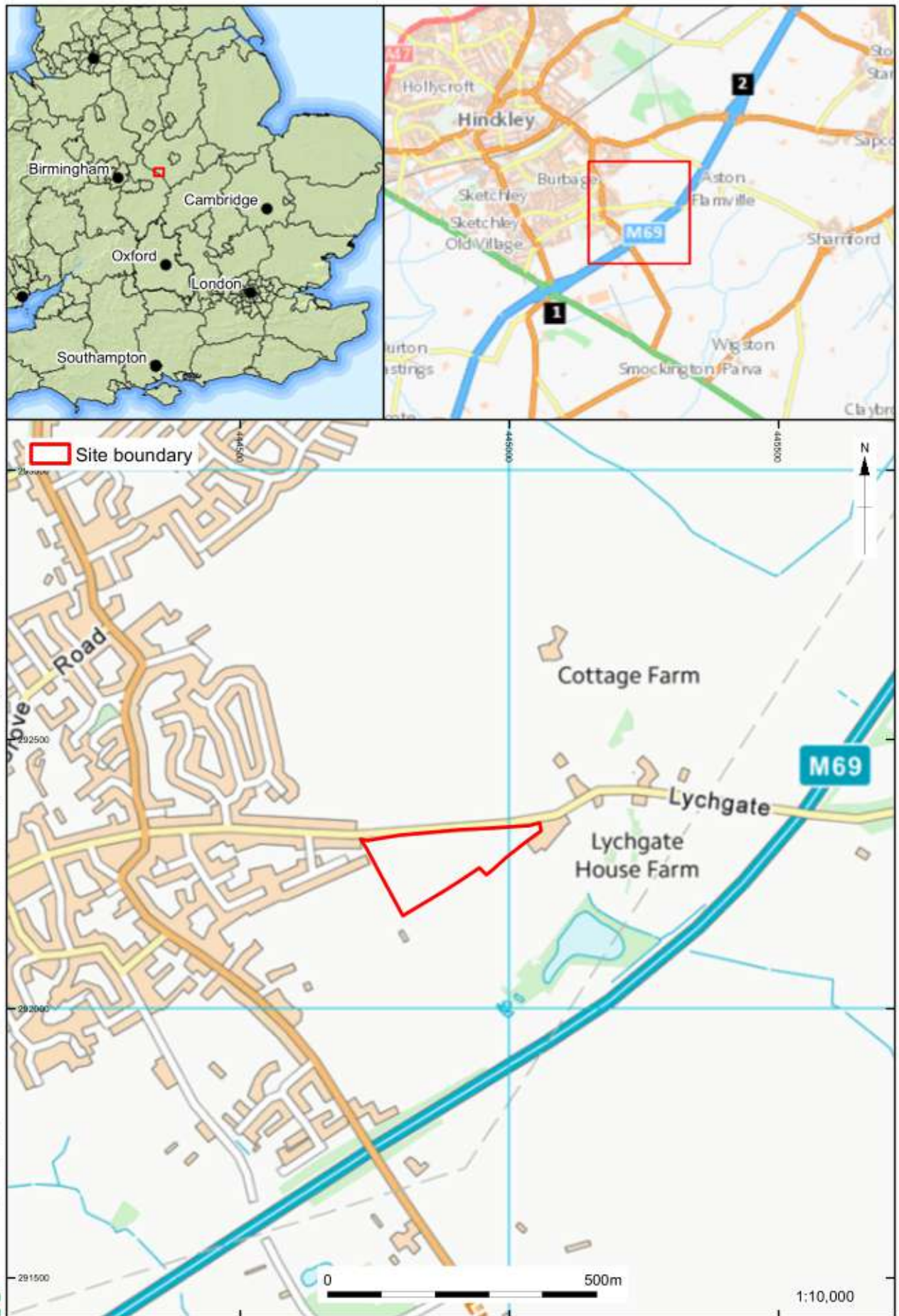
Recommendations

- B.4.4 The CBM is not significant in themselves so they can be discarded when the project is finished.

APPENDIX C SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

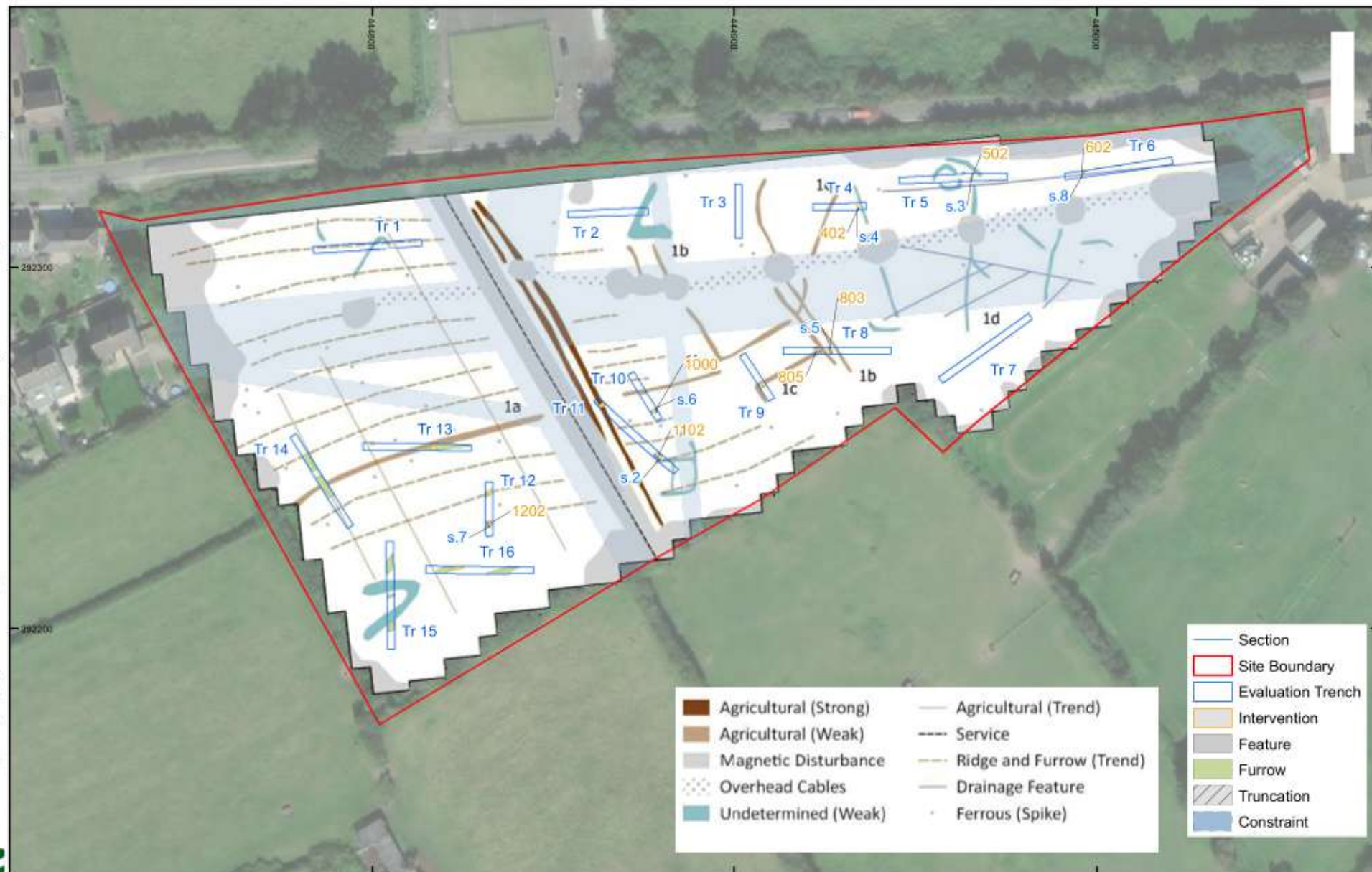
Site name:	Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire
Site code:	BURBGEV
Grid Reference	XA10.2024
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	22 nd -26 th January
Area of Site	10.04ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxfordshire and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: XA10.2024
Summary of Results:	In January 2024 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Avant Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a consented new residential development off Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire. The evaluation included 16 trenches representing a 3% sample of the development area. The evaluation aimed to assess the potential of the site, based on the geophysical survey and historical background of the area. No significant archaeological finds nor features were detected during the evaluation. Out of 16 trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies, 12 trenches produced post-medieval or modern field boundary ditches, furrows and small undated gullies. The evaluation identified a low density of archaeological remains indicative of post-medieval and modern agricultural activity on site. No evidence of activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was uncovered.

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Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023

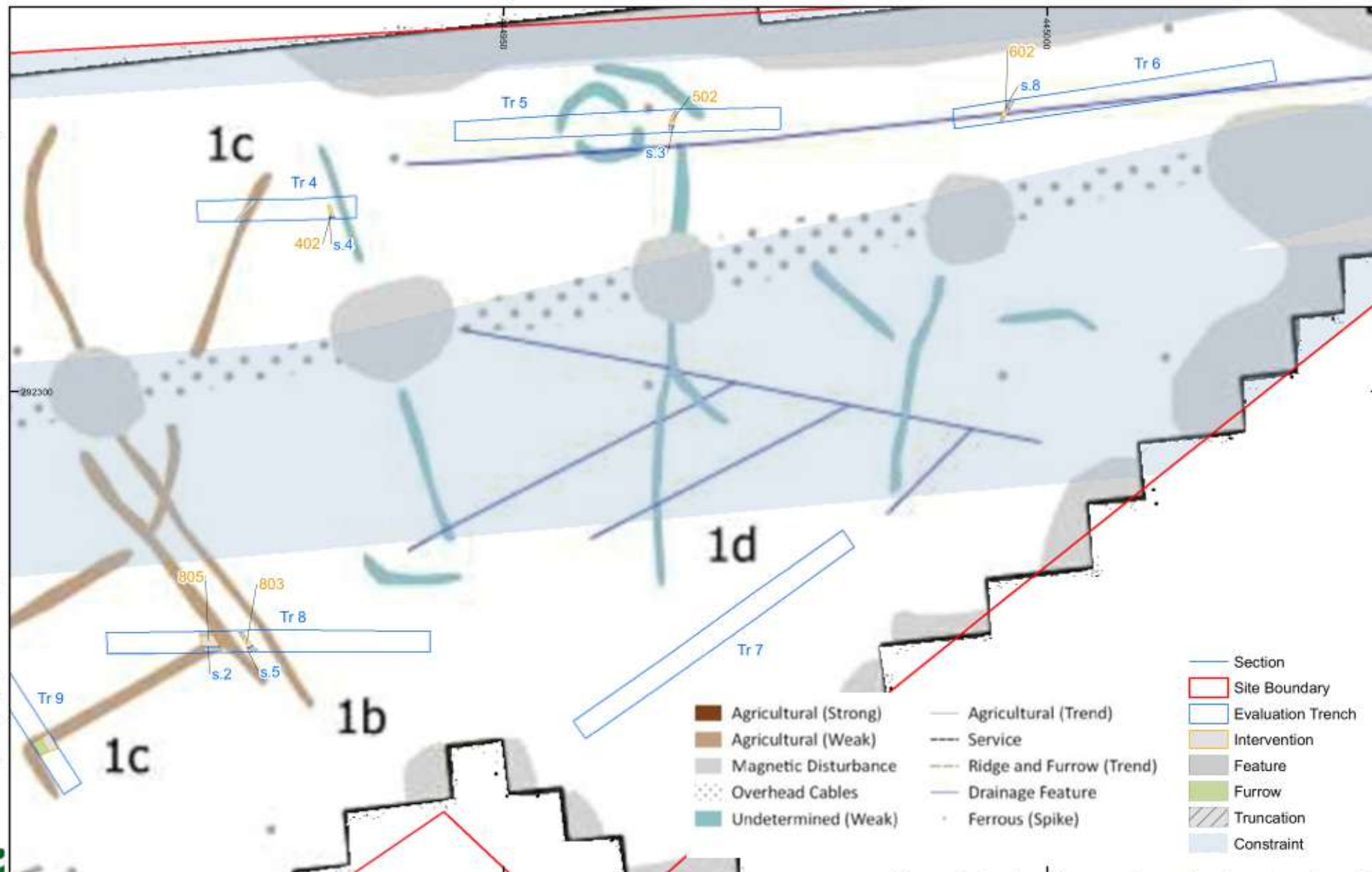
Figure 1: Site location



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community
Geophysics Copyright Magnitude Surveys 2021

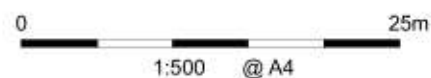
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Figure 2: Archaeology and geophysics



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Figure 3: Archaeology and geophysics, trenches 4-9



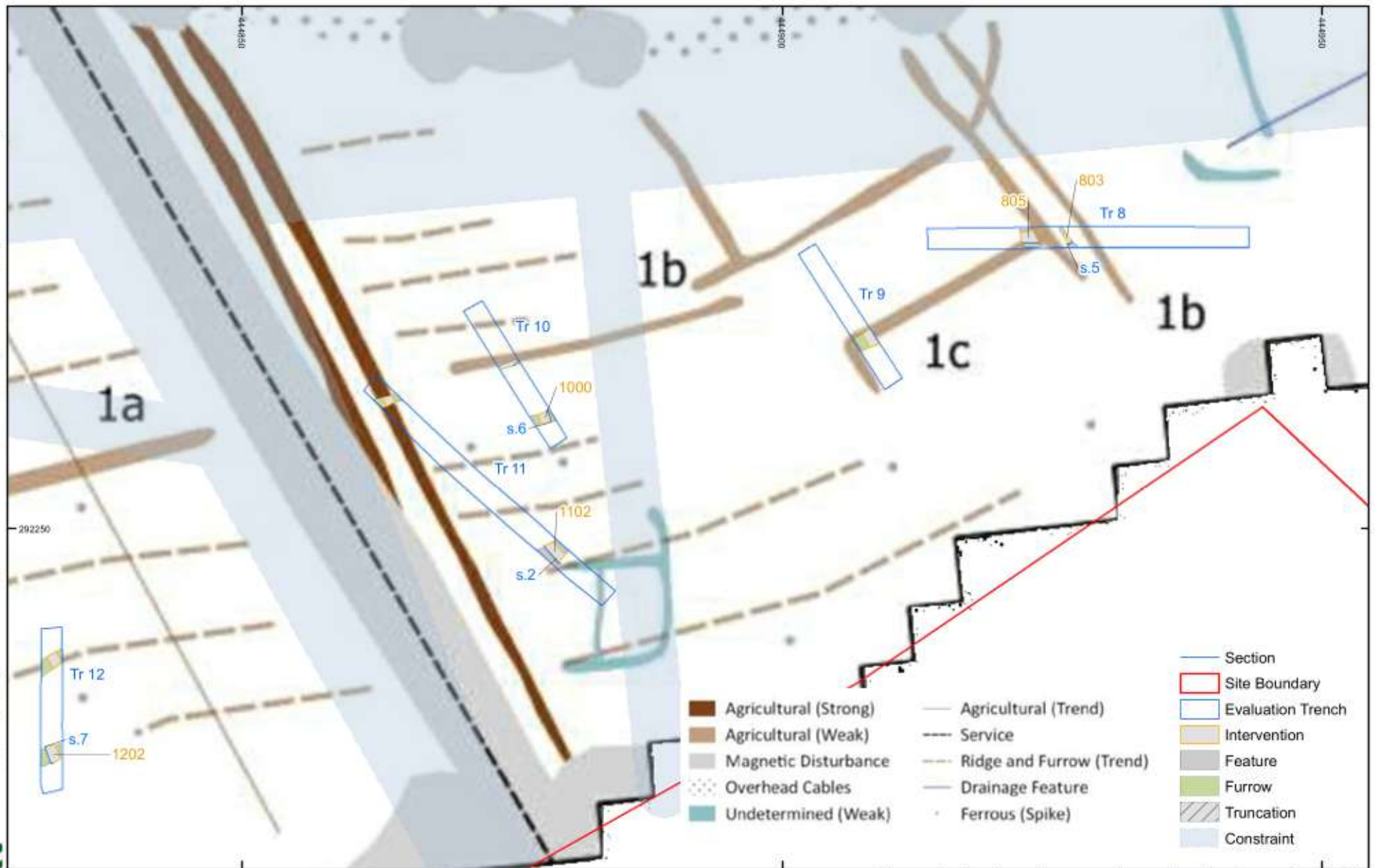
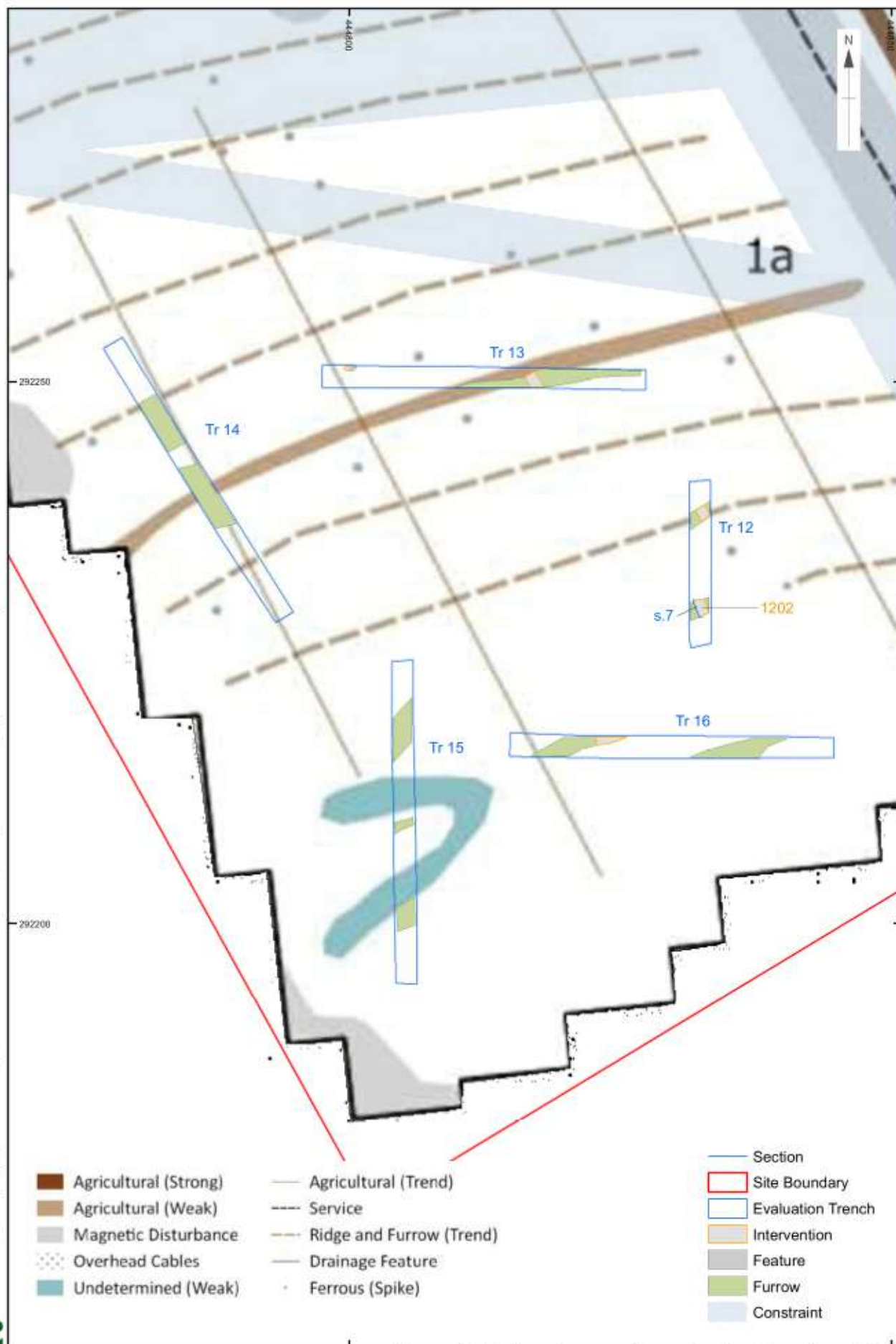


Figure 4: Archaeology and geophysics, trenches 8-12

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Geophysics Copyright Magnitude Surveys 2021

Figure 5: Archaeology and geophysics, trenches 12-16

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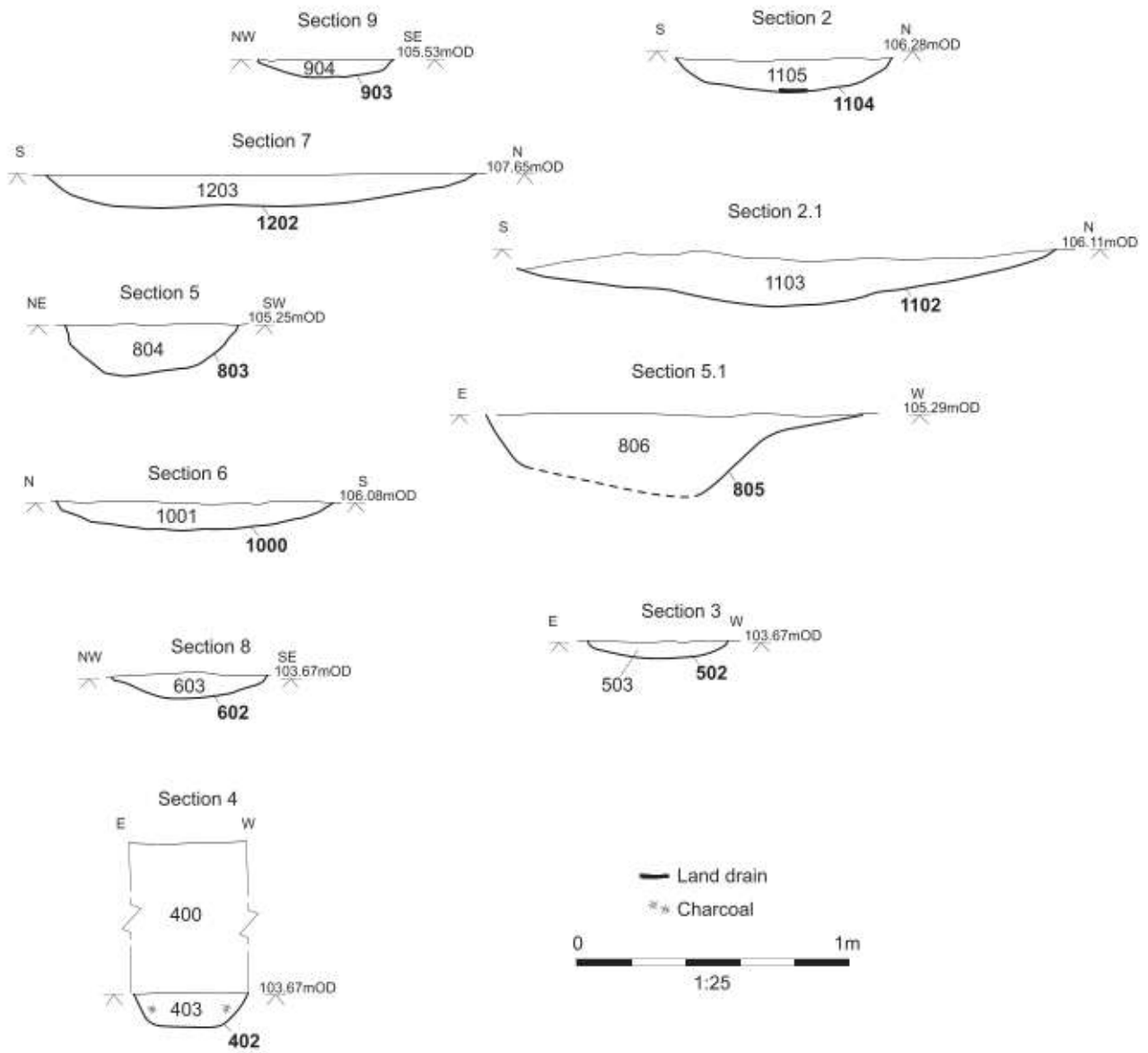


Figure 6: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 6 looking southwest (1x1m and 1x2m scales)



Plate 2: Gully 602 looking northeast (0.20m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 8 looking east (1x1m and 1x2m scales)



Plate 4: Ditch 803 looking southeast (0.2m scale)



Plate 5: Ditch 805 looking northeast (1m scale)



Plate 6: Trench 9 looking east (1x1m and 1x2m scales)

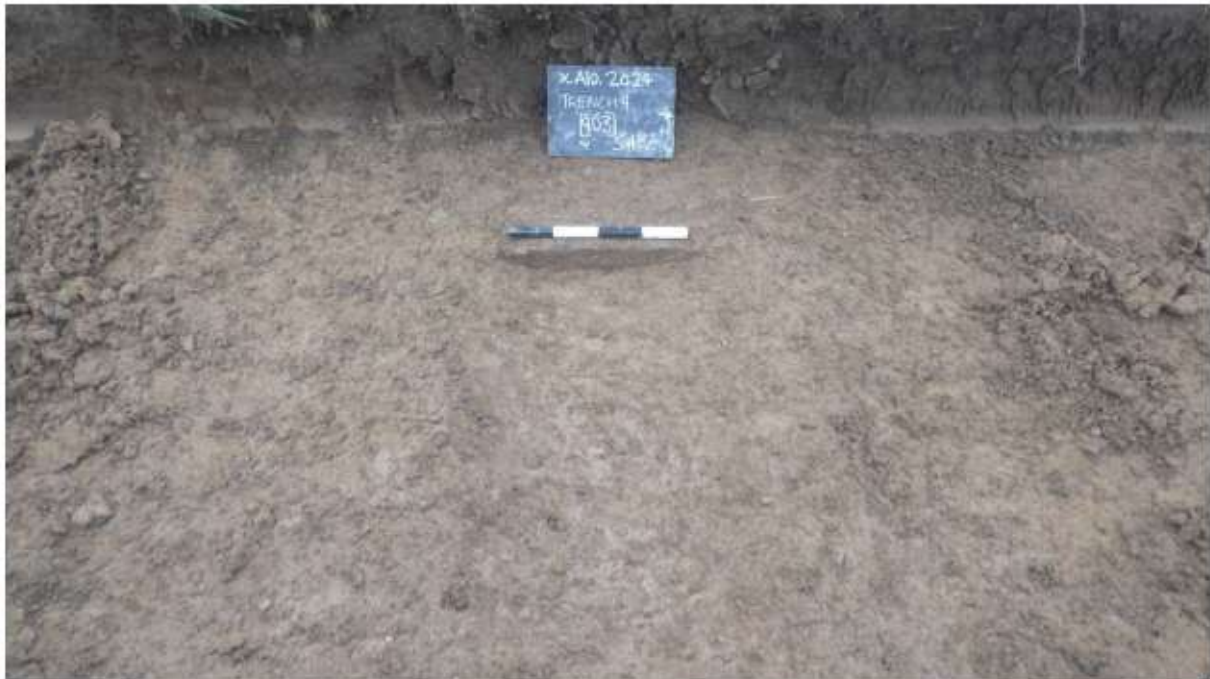


Plate 7: Ditch 903 looking southeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 8: Trench 10 looking northwest (1x1m and 1x2m scales)



Plate 9: Ditch 1003 looking northeast (1m scale)



Plate 10: Furrow 1102 looking west



Plate 11: Ditch 1104 looking west (0.5m scale)



Plate 12: Trench 12 looking southwest (1x1m and 1x2m scales)



Plate 13: Furrow 1202 looking southwest (1m scale)

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