Culham Battery Storage Site

Culham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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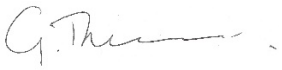
Signature:	

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Culham Battery Storage Site, Culham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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SUMMARY

Between 2nd October and 15th October 2024, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Statera Energy Ltd to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at Culham Battery Storage Site, Culham, Oxfordshire. The work was undertaken in advance of submission of a planning application.

The evaluation programme involved the investigation of 43 trenches, which targeted potential archaeological features and areas indicated as being devoid of archaeological remains. Archaeological features were identified in 10 of the 43 evaluation trenches.

The evaluation results have demonstrated that the south-western part of the site was occupied during the late Roman period. The site subsequently remained largely unoccupied until the late post-medieval period, during which time it retained its rural character, as highlighted by evidence of ridge-and-furrow cultivation. The site was subsequently incorporated into the Royal Naval Air Station in the mid-20th century.

The Roman pottery assemblage dates to the late Roman period, with more closely dated pottery pointing towards site occupation during the 4th century. The assemblage includes imported amphora and finewares, suggesting a settlement of at least moderate status.

Post-medieval rural activity and the succeeding occupation of the site as a modern military base is reflected by the post-medieval pottery assemblage, which predominantly dates to the 19th century and includes domestic pottery commonly found on post-medieval sites in the Oxford area, as well as the glass assemblage, which includes modern items such as fragments of a soda or sauce bottle, a storage jar and a probable medicine bottle.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Becky Peacock. The fieldwork was directed by Jim Mumford, who was supported by Katya Essam, Eric Hagglund, Emily Knight, Daniel Taylor and Julia Unser. Survey and digitising were carried out by Daniel Taylor, Will Baker and Caroline Souday. Thanks are also extended to the teams of Oxford Archaeology staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Statera Energy Ltd to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of Culham Battery Storage Site, Culham, Oxfordshire.

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken between 2nd and 15th October 2024 to inform the planning authority in advance of a submission of a planning application. A specification was set by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (OA 2023a) detailing the scope of work required. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023b).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of the Culham Science Centre, east of Culham, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 52906 96519.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of *c* 6.6ha of arable fields. It is defined by Thame Lane to the south, the Cherwell Valley railway line to west, and arable fields and woodland to the north and east.

1.2.3 The site consists of a low-lying and fairly flat area of the Thames floodplain and sits on average at 65m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with a maximum height of 69m aOD towards the north-east.

1.2.4 The site lies over bedrock comprising sedimentary Lower Greensand sandstone, formed between 126.3 and 100.5 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. There is no information recorded on superficial geology (BGS nd).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site has been subject to previous archaeological investigations.

1.3.2 Three phases of geophysical survey have been undertaken within the site (HA 2016; MS 2022; AS 2023). The surveys identified an area of archaeological activity within the southern part of site. The anomalies identified are indicative of rectilinear enclosures and a droveway. Other potential ditches indicative of field systems were also noted, along with areas of magnetic disturbance probably associated with modern and historic land use. Anomalies identified by the geophysical surveys probably represent a continuation of some of the activity identified within the site (OA 2023a).

1.3.3 A trial-trench evaluation was undertaken in 2022 on land immediately to the south and west of the site (OA 2023b). The evaluation uncovered Roman ditches and enclosures systems to the west of the site. No archaeological features were identified in the evaluation to the south of the site.

1.3.4 The following section provides an archaeological background of the site and has been drawn from the archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) (OA 2023c) that has been prepared for the site.

Prehistoric

1.3.5 The site is located within a landscape of high archaeological potential dating to the prehistoric period. Palaeolithic stone tools have been found along the river, especially in the area of gravel extraction north of the Isis River, *c* 950m to the north of the site (OA 2023c, 19).

1.3.6 Activity on the gravel terraces over the north bank of the river continued during the Mesolithic period and into the Neolithic. Over 1700 Mesolithic and Neolithic flints and animal bones were found during construction carried out without a previous mitigation strategy. In particular, a nature pond was dug in 2002, *c* 1km to the north of the site. The OCC Historic Environment Record (HER) documents microliths and pieces of a polished axe, and suggests that the density and size of the flints points to flint working and settlement on the site in the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The finds were found on top of the gravel geology, overlaid by a crumbly alluvial clay (Ainslie 2002, 38).

1.3.7 Bronze Age activity is reflected by the discovery of several sherds of Beaker pottery *c* 910m to the north-west of the site, after topsoil had been stripped for gravel digging. A possible Bronze Age barrow was identified in the 2016 geophysical survey (HA 2016) as a geophysical anomaly with a single discrete anomaly within the feature, located *c* 940m to the east of the site (OA 2023c, 19).

1.3.8 A substantial Iron Age presence in the site area is suggested by cropmarks and excavated sites. The 2016 geophysical survey revealed the presence of two series of enclosures, consisting of a feature aligned SW-NE and the other SSW-NNE, a possible trackway, and probable barrow (HA 2016, Ill. 17, and 42). This area is partly located within the southern portion of the site.

1.3.9 Some archaeological features including ditches, gullies, and pits dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods had been revealed at *c* 1km to the southeast of the site (OA 2023c, 19).

Romano-British

1.3.10 A probable Romano-British enclosure system and associated potential settlement activity have been identified *c* 200m to the north-west of the site by geophysical survey (OA 2023c, 21). The field-system was partly re-used in the early medieval period. Discrete features, mainly pits, were recorded across the network of enclosures (OA 2023b, 31-2).

1.3.11 Other investigations have included the discovery of multi-phase series of ditches and pits, possibly part of a Romano-British settlement, *c* 320m to the north-east of the site. A gully that contained a complete Romano-British flagon surrounded by cremated human bones was also excavated *c* 700m to the north-west of the site (Wilson *et al*. 1984, 3).

Early medieval

1.3.12 Culham is not mentioned in the Domesday Book (compiled 1085-6). The placename Culham suggests an Anglo-Saxon origin for the settlement, as Culham means 'Cula's hamm' and refers to the village's position in a bend of the Thames (VCH 1962, 27-39). During the early medieval period, a royal residence was built on Andersey Island (ibid.), located *c* 2.2km to the west of the site (OA 2023c, 21-2).

1.3.13 There is little archaeological evidence dating to the early medieval period in the site area. In 1892, drainage works in fields north of Clifton Hampden, located *c* 1.3km to the south-east of the site, uncovered several Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials with individuals buried with battle axes, swords and other iron artefacts (OA 2023c, 21-2).

Later medieval

1.3.14 Little is known of Culham before the post-medieval period, except that it was part of the property of Abingdon Abbey's in the medieval period (VCH 1939, 373-95). The manor of Culham remained part of the Abingdon Abbey properties until the Dissolution in 1538, when it was seized by the Crown. The manor seems to have comprised the bulk of the land in the parish. It is probable that during the medieval period the site was largely either pasture or heathland, particularly given the scarcity of evidence for ridge-and-furrow cultivation (OA 2023c, 22).

Post-medieval

1.3.15 The site appears from cartographic and historical resources to be within Culham Heath in the earlier post-medieval period, and it was probably part of common land for some time preceding this period as well (OA 2023c, 23).

1.3.16 The site appears to have remained within heathland into the late post-medieval period. From the mid-18th century, the site was located in the environs of a watercourse and, coming up to the turn of the century, it was situated either within or on the border of Nuneham Park and Garden, Oxfordshire (OA 2023c, 23).

1.3.17 During the early 19th century, the southern part of the site was incorporated into two fields owned by Sir Cecil Bishopp, Lord of the Manor of Culham and Bishop of Oxford. The western field was used as a manorial allotment, and the eastern field was an allotment on the heath called 'Culham Poor'. The northern part of the site was situated within wood that was possibly connected to the Lock Wood of Nuneham Park. It therefore appears that, at the beginning of the 19th century, the site was mainly used as a manorial allotment, with a small portion to the east on the heath allotted to the poor, and another small portion possibly part of Lock Wood (OA 2023c, 23).

1.3.18 The railway line from Didcot to Oxford was completed to the west of the site in 1844 (VCH 1962, 27-39).

Modern

1.3.19 The site remained largely as fields, with small, wooded areas, into the mid-20th century, with the addition of a tree-lined estate road that ran across the site and connected to the railway station (OA 2023c, 24).

1.3.20 In 1944, an Aircraft Receipt and Despatch Unit for the Royal Navy was commissioned and built within the site's environs, including the eastern part of the site, the remaining wooded area, and into Nuneham Park. Known as Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS Culham) or HMS Hornbill, this airfield was operational as part of the Fleet Air Arm between 1944 and 1953. The ground layout was characterised by three runways, many hangars, and two encampments (OA 2023c, 24).

1.3.21 In the late 1950s, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority identified Culham as suitable for the construction of a new laboratory for plasma physics and fusion research that officially opened in 1965 (https://culham.org.uk/about-us/). All the buildings and roadways were dismantled, and the estate handed back to the original owners. It is currently the Culham Science Centre (OA 2023c, 24).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.

ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.

iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.

iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.

v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.

vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.

vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.

viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity.

ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

x. To assess the results and reliability of the geophysical survey.

2.1.2 The specific project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey.

ii. To establish the relationship between any archaeological remains identified within this site and those previous identified immediately to the west.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The evaluation involved trial-trenches targeted to provide a good spatial coverage of the site, whilst also ground-truthing the results of geophysical survey (HA 2016; MS 2022; AS 2023). The trial-trenches targeted potential archaeological features and areas indicated to be devoid of archaeological remains (Figs 2-9). The evaluation equated to a 2% sample of the proposed development area. The excavation of 26 trenches was proposed with a contingency for additional trenches up to the equivalent of a further 2% sample of the development area. A total of 43 trenches were excavated, measuring 30m x 1.8m.

2.2.2 The trenches were laid out using GPS with sub-15mm accuracy, except where minor adjustments were required owing to ground conditions or site obstructions.

2.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. The machine excavation was undertaken in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending upon which was encountered first.

2.2.4 Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation was carried out by hand. A sample of each feature or deposit type, for example ditches and pits, was excavated and recorded. All features and deposits were issued unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual.

2.2.5 Sections of features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. The absolute height (m OD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines, were calculated and indicated on the drawings.

2.2.6 Finds were recovered by hand and bagged and labelled with their relevant context number for washing and processing.

2.2.7 Environmental bulk samples were collected from select archaeological features for further analysis and allocated unique sample numbers. Sample sections were located using either GPS unit or total station and coordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

2.2.8 Digital photos were taken of any archaeological features, deposits and the excavation work in general.

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 features can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B and the environmental data in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural sandy silt geology was overlain by a sandy silt or clayey silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good and largely dry, although rainfall occurred over a number of days, resulting in damp conditions on site. The excavation of Trench 42 was halted due to the discovery of asbestos. Archaeological features, where present, were identifiable against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in 10 trenches (Figs 10–15). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in Trenches 1–6, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18–22, 24, 26, 28–41, 43 and 44 (Plates 1-4). Trench 27 was descoped and therefore not opened.

3.3.2 The site was occupied during the late Roman period, during which time it was probably part of a settlement of at least moderate status. The site subsequently remained largely unoccupied until the late post-medieval period, prior to its incorporation into the Royal Naval Air Station in the mid-20th century (see Figs 10–15). Late Roman activity was concentrated in the south-western part of the site (Trenches 7, 8, 14, 15, 23) and probably continued further south beyond the site limits. Ridge-and-furrow cultivation, which would have taken place on site in the late post-medieval and/or early modern periods, was evidenced by plough scars and furrows in the central evaluation area (Trenches 10, 25). An undated, isolated posthole was also excavated in the central part of the evaluation (Trench 17). Post-medieval or modern quarry dumping was identified in the western part of the site (Trench 11). Remains associated with the Royal Naval Air Station were recorded in the south-eastern corner of the site (Trench 42).

3.4 Trench 7

3.4.1 The trench revealed three ditches (Fig. 10).

3.4.2 Two intercutting ditches (705, 707) were located in the northern part of the trench (Plate 5). The ditches were both NW-SE aligned and extended beyond the trench in both directions. The earliest ditch (707) measured 1.4m wide x 0.47m deep and contained a orangey-brown sandy silt fill (708) that produced late Roman pottery (AD 300–410). It was cut along its northern side by ditch 705 (Fig. 16, section 702). This was V-shaped and measured 1.10m

wide x 0.52m deep. It had one greyish-brown sandy silt fill (706) that contained late Roman pottery (AD 240–410 date).

3.4.3 A ditch (703) was located in the southern part of the trench. The ditch was V-shaped and orientated NW-SE. It measured 1.06m wide x 0.32m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It is probable that the ditch is a north-western continuation of ditch 1403 in Trench 14, which had comparable steep sloping sides (Fig. 16, section 700). Ditch 703 contained a dark greyish-brown sandy silt fill (704) that yielded late Roman pottery (AD 240-410 date) and an undated flint flake.

3.5 Trench 8

3.5.1 The trench revealed one ditch terminus and two modern land drains (unexcavated) (Fig. 10).

3.5.2 A shallow ditch terminus (803) was located in the central part of the trench (Plate 6). The ditch terminus was NE-SW aligned, measured 0.58m wide x 0.07m deep and extended beyond the trench limit to the west. The ditch terminus was probably horizontally truncated by ploughing. It contained a dark brownish-grey sandy clay fill (804) that produced late Roman pottery (AD 240-410 date) and fired clay fragments that may have derived from an oven or hearth (Fig. 16, section 800). The fill (804) also contained an iron hobnail which, although possibly Roman in date, may have also been an intrusive modern example, dating 1800–1950.

3.6 Trench 10

3.6.1 The trench revealed three plough scars and one plough furrow.

3.6.2 The plough scars and the furrow were all E-W aligned and contained greyish-brown sandy silt fills, which may have been the result of natural infilling and were devoid of finds.

3.6.3 A plough furrow (1009) was located at the northern end of the trench, which measured 1.3m wide x 0.14m deep.

3.6.4 Three plough scars were located in the southern area of the trench. The northernmost plough scar (1003) measured 0.55m wide x 0.07m deep. Immediately to the south was plough scar 1005, which measured 0.58m wide x 0.09m deep. The southernmost plough scar (1007) measured 0.49m wide x 0.08m deep (Plate 7).

3.7 Trench 11

3.7.1 The trench revealed three quarry dump pits and one modern land drain (unexcavated) (Fig. 12).

3.7.2 Three intercutting quarry dump pits were located in the south-western part of the trench and were recorded largely in section (Fig. 16, section 1100). The earliest pit (1107) was 0.91m deep and contained a dark orangey-brown silty sand fill (1108) that did not produce finds. The middle pit (1105), which cut pit 1107, was 0.88m deep and had one blackish-brown silty sand fill (1106) that did not yield finds. The latest pit (1103), which cut pit 1105, was 0.79m deep and had one orangey-brown silty sand fill (1104) that contained a post-medieval roof tile and a piece of unworked slate that may have derived from

a medieval or post-medieval roof slate (Plate 8). The fill (1104) also produced a lead alloy vessel sheet, from a tin bucket or similar, dating 1800–2000, as well as a glass bottle sherd of late 19th/early 20th century date, and a glass jar fragment dating to the 20th century.

3.8 Trench 14

3.8.1 The trench revealed three ditches (Fig. 10).

3.8.2 A shallow ditch (1405) was located in the north-eastern area of the trench. The ditch was NW-SE aligned, measured 1.72m wide x 0.07m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. The ditch was probably horizontally truncated by ploughing. It contained a orangey-brown sandy silt fill (1406) that was devoid of finds (Fig. 17, section 1401).

3.8.3 Two ditches (1403, 1407) were located in the south-western part of the trench. The northernmost ditch (1403) was orientated NW-SE, measured 0.7m x 0.2m deep, and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It is probable that the ditch is a south-eastern continuation of ditch 703 in Trench 7, which had a comparable profile. Ditch 1403 had one greyish-brown sandy silt fill (1404) that contained late Roman pottery (Fig. 17, section 1400).

3.8.4 The southernmost ditch (1407) was also NW-SE aligned, measured 0.6m wide x 0.17m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions (Plate 9). The ditch contained a greyish-brown sandy silt fill (1408) that produced late Roman pottery (Fig. 17, section 1402).

3.9 Trench 15

3.9.1 The trench revealed three ditches (Fig. 14).

3.9.2 A ditch (1503) was located in the north-eastern part of the trench. The ditch was NW-SE aligned, measured 1.3m wide x 0.38m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It contained a reddish-brown sandy silt fill (1504) that was devoid of finds (Fig. 17, section 1500).

3.9.3 Two ditches (1505, 1507) were located in the south-western part of the trench. The northernmost ditch (1505) was orientated NW-SE, measured 1.92m wide x 0.26m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It had one reddish-brown sandy silt fill (1506) that contained late Roman pottery (Fig. 17, section 1501). The southernmost ditch (1507) was E-W aligned, measured 1.16m wide x 0.3m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions (Plate 10). It contained a brownish-grey sandy silt fill (1508) that yielded late Roman pottery (Fig. 17, section 1502).

3.10 Trench 17

3.10.1 The trench revealed one posthole (Fig. 13).

3.10.2 A shallow, sub-circular posthole (1703) was located in the north-eastern part of the trench (Plate 11). The posthole measured 0.34m wide x 0.11m deep had one light greyish-brown sandy silt fill (1704) that did not yield finds (Fig. 17, section 1700).

3.11 Trench 23

3.11.1 The trench revealed three ditches, one gully and one modern land drain (unexcavated) (Fig. 14).

3.11.2 Three intercutting features, two ditches (2303, 2310) and one gully (2308), were located in the north-western part of the trench (Fig. 18, section 2300; Plate 12). Ditch 2303 was the northernmost of the three features. The ditch was NE-SW aligned, measured 1.78m wide x 0.7m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It had one light greyish-brown sandy silt fill (2304) that contained pottery dating to the 4th century, Roman ceramic building material (CBM), and an iron hobnail which is probably also Roman in date, although it may be an intrusive modern item.

3.11.3 The southern edge of ditch 2303 was cut by another NE-SW aligned ditch (2310), which may have been a ditch recut. Ditch 2310 measured 1.2m wide x 0.6m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It contained a brownish-grey sandy silt fill (2305) that produced late Roman pottery and a presumably intrusive iron nail shank of early modern–modern date.

3.11.4 To the south, ditch 2310 cut the northern section of a gully (2308). The gully was orientated approximately NW-SE, measured 0.42m wide x 0.16m deep, and extended beyond the trench limit to the south. It had one light greyish-brown sandy silt fill (2309) that yielded Roman pottery dating after *c* AD 270.

3.11.5 A ditch (2306) was located south of the three intercutting features, within the central area of the trench. The ditch was NE-SW aligned, measured 1.88m wide x 0.66m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It contained a brownish-grey sandy silt fill (2307) that produced late Roman pottery and a presumably intrusive iron tool of indeterminate form, dating 1800–2000 (Fig. 18, section 2301).

3.12 Trench 25

3.12.1 The trench revealed two plough furrows (Fig. 11).

3.12.2 A plough furrow (2505) was located in the north-eastern area of the trench. The furrow was NW-SE aligned, measured 1.3m wide x 0.21m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It had one orangey-brown sandy silt fill (2506) that did not yield finds (Fig. 18, section 2501).

3.12.3 A plough furrow (2503) was located in the central part of the trench (Plate 13). The furrow was orientated NW-SE, measured 2m wide x 0.91m deep and extended beyond the trench in both directions. It contained a dark orangey-brown sandy silt fill (2504) that produced a residual Roman roof tile and a post-medieval brick fragment (Fig. 18, section 2500).

3.13 Trench 42

3.13.1 The trench revealed modern features associated with the Royal Naval Air Station (Fig. 19).

3.13.2 A brick wall (4203) of a structure survived several courses high in an L-shape at the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 14). To the north, the return wall of the structure appeared to have been removed by a robber cut (4505).

Between the probable robber cut 4505 and the surviving brick wall 4203 was a demolition layer (4202) which was unexcavated due to asbestos.

3.13.3 Located elsewhere within the trench were layers associated with the construction (4204) and demolition (4207, 4208) of the Naval Station.

3.14 Finds and environmental summary

3.14.1 The Roman pottery assemblage (104 sherds, 1972g) dates to the late Roman period – predominantly the 4th century AD – and was recovered from features in the south-western part of the site, reflecting a concentration of late Roman activity in this area. The assemblage includes finewares, various wares of the Oxford industry, and imports such as South Spanish amphora. This suggests a settlement of at least moderate status, with access to economic networks with local/regional and international links.

3.14.2 The post-Roman pottery assemblage (35 sherds, weighing 883g) exclusively dates to the post-medieval period and is predominantly of 19th century date. The assemblage contains local pottery from the Oxford area and sherds from regional centres including Staffordshire and the Midlands.

3.14.3 The CBM assemblage (8 fragments, 49.75g) is of Roman, post-medieval and modern date, reflecting activity on site during these periods.

3.14.4 The fired clay assemblage (4 fragments, 31g) is undated. Three of the fragments derive from a late Roman ditch (803) and may have come from an oven or hearth.

3.14.5 The flint assemblage (2 struck flints and 9 burnt unworked flints, 24g) is undiagnostic and reflects undated flint-related activity in the site area.

3.14.6 The metal assemblage (6 objects, 199.3g) includes two hobnails from ditches dated to the late Roman period by pottery. The other metal objects are modern in date.

3.14.7 The slag (1 fragment, 76g) was found in a modern feature and is non-diagnostic, although it could have been Roman in origin. The slag may indicate small-scale ironworking of Roman date in the site area.

3.14.8 The glass assemblage (8 pieces, 428.2g) is of modern date and derived from modern features. The assemblage is probably largely contemporary with the Royal Naval Air Station and includes a storage jar, a soda or sauce bottle and a probable medicine bottle.

3.14.9 The stone assemblage (20 pieces, 250g) comprises unworked pieces. One small fragment of unworked slate, recovered from quarry dump pit 1103, is an import to the area and may have derived from a medieval or post-medieval roof slate.

3.14.10 Five bulk environmental samples were taken from ditches dated to the late Roman period. The samples show that charred plant remains are well preserved at the site and demonstrate Roman cultivation activities. Charred wheat was the most commonly found cereal, highlighting that wheat growing and/or storage took place in the site area. Chaff was also recovered and may indicate that crop processing was undertaken on site or nearby.

The presence of glume bases suggests that most or all the wheat is emmer or spelt, which reflects the Roman date of the ditches.

3.14.11 The animal bone assemblage (4 fragments, 16g) comprises three unidentifiable bones and a large mammal vertebra. The small assemblage derives from modern contexts and is largely undiagnostic.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation provided good coverage of the site area. The evaluation identified archaeological features in 10 of the 43 trenches, and these were sampled by hand-excavation. The trenches, which represent a 2% sample of the proposed development area, were able to ground-truth the results of geophysical survey on site (HA 2016; MS 2022; AS 2023). Given the level of coverage achieved, these results can be considered a good reflection of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.1.2 The period of fieldwork included days of rainfall, resulting in temporary damp and waterlogged site conditions. However, all the evaluation trenches were cleanly machined under supervision and, where present, archaeological features were identifiable against the natural geology.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The results of the evaluation demonstrate that the south-western part of the site was occupied during the late Roman period. The site subsequently remained largely unoccupied until the late post-medieval period, during which time it retained its rural character until it was incorporated into the Royal Naval Air Station in the mid-20th century.

4.2.2 The late Roman settlement activity was characterised by ditches, some of which may have formed field boundaries or possibly enclosures. The ditches predominantly appeared to have been linear and were variously orientated, most commonly on a NW-SE alignment. There appeared to be some ditch continuations across trenches, such as ditch 703 (Trench 7) with ditch 1403 (Trench 14), as well as ditch 1405 (Trench 14) with ditch 1503 (Trench 15), all of which were NW-SE orientated. Few features were intercutting, perhaps reflecting the relatively short span of the late Roman period (*c* AD 250–410) during which occupation took place. Intercutting features included two ditches (2303, 2310) and a gully (2308) in Trench 23, which all produced late Roman pottery.

4.2.3 The evaluation results broadly reflect the findings of geophysical surveys undertaken on site (HA 2016; MS 2022; AS 2023). The concentration of late Roman occupation in the south-western part of the site was identified as a distinct area of archaeological activity by geophysical survey (HA 2016, 5-6; MS 2022, 9). Here, some linear anomalies correspond to ditches and a gully revealed in Trenches 7, 8, 14, 15, 23, which were set on various orientations – most commonly NW-SE, as well as NE-SW and E-W alignments. The linear features probably formed field boundaries and/or enclosures. The geophysical findings demonstrate that such activity continued to the south

of the site, where a complex of rectilinear enclosures and other discrete features were located (MS 2022, 6-7). In the south-eastern part of the site, geophysical survey identified a large area of magnetic debris that corresponded with a rectangular area used for the modern dumping of spoil (AS 2023, 10). Trench 42 was located in this part of the site and revealed remains of an apparent rectangular structure of the Royal Naval Air Station and associated demolition and construction layers that reflect the geophysical findings (Fig. 19).

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The evaluation results demonstrate the presence of late Roman occupation concentrated in the south-western part of the site, where a series of ditches produced late Roman pottery and Roman CBM. Some of the ditches appear to have remained open for long periods of time and/or to have been disturbed by subsequent activity, as a few intrusive modern items were found within them. The ditches probably mainly represent field boundaries and/or enclosures, and this activity appears to have continued to the south beyond the site limits, where the focus of settlement may have been located. Three fragments of fired clay from a late Roman ditch (803) that could have derived from an oven or hearth, and a piece of possible Roman slag that may indicate small-scale ironworking, hint at such Roman settlement in the vicinity. Environmental samples taken from several late Roman ditches highlight the undertaking of Roman cultivation, including possible chaff crop processing and the growing and/or storing of wheat, as shown by the large presence of charred wheat and emmer or spelt wheat (evidenced by glume bases).

4.3.2 The Roman pottery assemblage dates to the late Roman period, with more closely dated pottery pointing towards site occupation during the 4th century. The assemblage includes imported amphora and finewares, such as South Spanish amphora, which suggests a settlement of at least moderate status. The presence of such pottery presumably highlights that the site benefitted from access to economic networks and/or nearby settlements with local/regional and international links.

4.3.3 A probable Romano-British enclosure system and possible associated settlement have been identified *c* 200m to the north-west of the site, and a multi-phase series of ditches and pits, also possibly part of a Romano-British settlement, have been located *c* 320m to the north-east of the site. The site findings and these discoveries demonstrate rural settlement patterns during the Roman period in the wider landscape.

4.3.4 Occupation on site during the post-medieval period remained rural in character, up until the establishment of the Royal Naval Air Station in the mid-20th century. Ridge-and-furrow cultivation took place on site in the late post-medieval period and/or early modern periods, as evidenced by plough scars and furrows in the central evaluation area (Trenches 10, 25). The post-medieval pottery assemblage predominantly dates to the 19th century and includes domestic pottery commonly found on post-medieval sites in the Oxford area. The metal assemblage includes post-medieval and modern objects such as nails, and the modern glass items found, such as fragments

of a soda or sauce bottle, a storage jar and a probable medicine bottle, further reflect rural activity or the succeeding occupation of the site as a modern military base.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1

General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench revealed several plough furrows (unexcavated). Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying a redeposited natural layer and a post-medieval/modern spread, which were above sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.71
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish-grey clayey silt.	-	-
101	Layer			0.09	Subsoil. Friable mid brownish-grey sandy silt.	-	-
102	Layer			0.12	Other Layer. Loose redeposited natural. Mid-yellowish-brown silty sand.	-	-
103	Layer			0.22	Other Layer. Post-medieval/modern spread. Friable dark brownish-grey sandy silt.	-	-
104	Unex-cavated Feature		5.5		Plough Furrow or Scar. NE-SW aligned. Friable mid brownish-yellow sandy silt fill.	-	-
105	Layer				Natural. Friable mid reddish-brown sandy silt, mottled with yellow.	-	-

Trench 2

General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 3

General description						**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer			0.4	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
301	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

302	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 4							
General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 5							
General description						**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 6							
General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology; revealed two modern land drains (unexcavated). Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer			0.25	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer			0.3	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer				Natural	-	-

Trench 7							
General description						**Orientation**	N-S
Trench revealed three ditches and one modern land drain (unexcavated). Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
701	Layer			0.36	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

702	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
703	Cut		1.06	0.32	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear.	-	-
704	Fill	703	1.06	0.32	Secondary Fill. Soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt.	Pottery; Struck & burnt flints (undated); Unworked stone (undated)	LRO
705	Cut		1.1	0.52	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear, V-shaped.	-	-
706	Fill	705	1.1	0.52	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	Pottery	LRO
707	Cut		1.4	0.47	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear. Excavated width recorded.	-	-
708	Fill	707	1.4	0.47	Secondary Fill. Soft mid orangish-brown sandy silt. Excavated width recorded.	Pottery	LRO

Trench 8

General description						**Orientation**	N-S
Trench revealed one ditch terminus and two modern land drains (unexcavated). Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer				Topsoil. Soft mid greyish-brown clayey silt.	-	-
801	Layer				Subsoil. Friable mid orangey-brown sandy silt.	-	-
802	Layer				Natural. Loose mid brownish-yellow sandy silt.	-	-
803	Cut		0.58	0.07	Ditch. NE-SW aligned. Probably truncated by ploughing.	-	-
804	Fill	803	0.58	0.07	Secondary Fill. Soft dark brownish-grey sandy clay.	Pottery; Hobnail; Fired clay (undated)	LRO; ?RO / 1800-1950

Trench 9

General description						**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
901	Layer			0.3	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

902	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 10							
General description						**Orientation**	N-S
Trench revealed three plough scars and one plough furrow. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer			0.18	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1001	Layer			0.3	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1002	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1003	Cut		0.55	0.07	Plough Scar. E-W aligned.	-	-
1004	Fill	1003	0.55	0.07	Secondary Fill. Soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1005	Cut		0.58	0.09	Plough Scar. E-W aligned.	-	-
1006	Fill	1005	0.58	0.09	Secondary Fill. Soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1007	Cut		0.49	0.08	Plough Scar. E-W aligned.	-	-
1008	Fill	1007	0.49	0.08	Secondary Fill. Soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1009	Cut		1.3	0.14	Plough Furrow. E-W aligned.	-	-
1010	Fill	1009	1.3	0.14	Secondary Fill. Soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 11							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench revealed three quarry dump pits and one modern land drain (unexcavated). Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer				Topsoil. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1101	Layer				Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1102	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, mid yellowish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1103	Cut			0.79	Other Cut. Quarry dump pit.	-	-
1104	Fill	1103		0.45	Primary Fill. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown silty sand.	Pottery; CBM; Pb vessel; Glass; Slate	c 1750-1800; PM; 1800-

							2000; 20th c.; ?M or ?PM;
1105	Cut			0.88	Other Cut. Quarry dump pit.	Glass	Late 19th / early 20th c.
1106	Fill	1105		0.22	Primary Fill. Soft course-grained, mid blackish-brown silty sand.	-	-
1107	Cut			0.91	Other Cut. Quarry dump pit.	-	-
1108	Fill	1107		0.31	Primary Fill. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown silty sand.	-	-
1109	Unex-cavated Feature			1.1	Other Cut. Land-drain, E-W aligned. Soft course-grained mid blackish-brown sandy silt fill.	-	-

Trench 12

General description						**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 13

General description						**Orientation**	W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	23
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 14

General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench revealed three ditches. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1401	Layer			0.28	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

1402	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1403	Cut		0.7	0.2	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear.	-	-
1404	Fill	1403	0.7	0.2	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	Pottery	LRO
1405	Cut		1.72	0.07	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear.	-	-
1406	Fill	1405	1.72	0.07	Secondary Fill. Mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1407	Cut		0.6	0.17	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear.	-	-
1408	Fill	1407			Secondary Fill. Mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	Pottery	LRO

Trench 15

General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench revealed three ditches. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Layer			0.39	Topsoil. Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt.	-	-
1501	Layer			0.12	Subsoil. Friable dark yellowish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1502	Layer				Natural. Loose mid brownish-yellow sandy silt.	-	-
1503	Cut		1.3	0.38	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear.	-	-
1504	Fill	1503	1.3	0.38	Secondary Fill. Friable mid reddish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1505	Cut		1.92	0.26	Ditch. NW-SE aligned linear.	-	-
1506	Fill	1505	1.92	0.26	Secondary Fill. Friable mid reddish-brown sandy silt.	Pottery	LRO
1507	Cut		1.16	0.31	Ditch. E-W aligned linear.	-	-
1508	Fill	1507	1.16	0.31	Secondary Fill. Friable mid brownish-grey sandy silt.	Pottery	LRO

Trench 16

General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1601	Layer			0.3	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1602	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 17							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench revealed one posthole. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer			0.4	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1701	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1702	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
1703	Cut		0.34	0.11	Posthole. Sub-circular, shallow.	-	-
1704	Fill	1703	0.34	0.11	Secondary Fill. Soft light greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 18							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 19							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 20							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.58

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 21							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 22							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology; revealed two natural features. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2200	Layer		30	0.29	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2201	Layer		30	0.39	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, light orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2202	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2203	Cut		1.56	0.15	Natural Feature.	-	-
2204	Fill	2203	1.57	0.23	Secondary Fill. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2205	Cut		2.34	0.62	Natural Feature.	-	-
2206	Fill	2205	2.34	0.24	Secondary Fill. Loose course-grained, dark greyish-brown sandy silt.	Nail; Struck flints (undated)	20th c.

Trench 23							
General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench revealed three ditches, one gully and one possible modern land drain (unexcavated). Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2300	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt.	-	-
2301	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2302	Layer				Natural. Loose mid orangeish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

2303	Cut		1.78	0.7	Ditch. NE-SW aligned linear. Truncated by ditch 2310.	-	-
2304	Fill	2303	0.6	0.64	Secondary Fill. Friable light greyish-brown sandy silt, mottled with yellow.	Pottery; CBM; Hobnail; Burnt flint & unworked stone (undated)	LRO; RO; ?RO / 1800-1950
2305	Fill	2310	1.2	0.6	Secondary Fill. Friable mid brownish-grey sandy silt.	Pottery; Nail	LRO; Early modern /modern
2306	Cut		1.88	0.66	Ditch. NE-SW aligned linear.	-	-
2307	Fill	2306	1.88	0.66	Secondary Fill. Friable mid brownish-grey sandy silt.	Pottery; Tool	LRO; 1800-2000
2308	Cut		0.42	0.16	Gully. N-S aligned linear. Truncated by ditch 2310. Excavated width recorded due to section extending beyond trench limit.	Pottery	LRO
2309	Fill	2308	0.42	0.16	Secondary Fill. Friable light greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2310	Cut		1.2	0.6	Ditch. NE-SW aligned linear. Truncated ditch 2303 and gully 2308.	-	-
2311	Unex-cavated Feature		0.5		Other Cut. Probable land drain, NE-SW aligned. Friable mid brownish-grey sandy silt fill, with moderate stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 24

General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 25

General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench revealed two plough furrows. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2500	Layer			0.29	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt	-	-
2501	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

2502	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2503	Cut		2	0.91	Plough Furrow. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
2504	Fill	2503	2	0.91	Secondary Fill. Loose course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	CBM	RO & PM
2505	Cut		1.3	0.21	Plough Furrow. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
2506	Fill	2505	1.3	0.21	Secondary Fill. Loose course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 26							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 27							
General description						**Orientation**	-
Trench unexcavated– no longer required.						**Length (m)**	-
						Width (m)	-
						Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
Trench unexcavated							

Trench 28							
General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeological features. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying a redeposited natural layer, which overlay three post-medieval/modern spreads that were above sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.69
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2800	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish-grey clayey silt.	-	-
2801	Layer			0.08	Subsoil. Friable mid brownish-grey sandy silt.	-	-
2802	Layer		1		Other Layer. Redeposited natural. Friable mid yellowish-brown silty sand.	Pottery	*c* 1830-1900
2803	Layer			0.22	Other Layer. Post-medieval/modern spread. Friable dark brownish-grey sandy silt.	-	-
2804	Layer				Other Layer. Post-medieval/modern spread.	-	-

					Friable dark brownish-grey sandy silt.		
2805	Layer				Other Layer. Post-medieval/modern spread. Friable dark brownish-grey sandy silt.	-	-
2806	Layer				Natural. Friable mid orangey-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 29							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench revealed intercutting modern rubbish pits. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2900	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Friable course-grained mid brown sandy silt.	-	-
2901	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Sofy course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
2902	Fill	2905		0.2	Secondary Fill. Upper fill(s) of intercutting modern rubbish pits. Soft course-grained, dark blackish-brown sandy silt.	Pottery; Pipe; Fired clay (undated); Glass	c 1850-1900; late 19th – early 20th c. & mid-20th c.
2903	Fill	2905		0.41	Secondary Fill. Basal/lower fill(s) of intercutting modern rubbish pits. Soft course-grained, mid brown sandy silt.	CBM (residual); Slag (residual); Glass	RO; ?RO; late 19th/ early 20th c.
2904	Layer				Natural. Coursegrained soft mid orangish brown sandy silt	-	-
2905	Cut		2.1	0.62	Modern Cut. Cuts of intercutting modern rubbish pits. Cut into subsoil along hedgerow field boundary. Recorded in plan.	-	-

Trench 30							
General description						**Orientation**	E-W
Trench revealed modern landscape terracing and two modern land drains (unexcavated). Consisted of topsoil overlying a redeposited natural layer and a post-medieval/modern spread, which overlay subsoil and sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3000	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3001	Layer			0.2	Other Layer. Redeposited natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

3002	Layer			0.1	Other Layer. Post-medieval/modern spread. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	Pottery	*c* 1830-1900
3003	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3004	Layer			0.03	Subsoil. Soft mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 31

General description						**Orientation**	E-W
Trench revealed modern landscape terracing and one associated land drain. Consisted of topsoil overlying a redeposited natural layer and a made ground layer, which overlay subsoil and sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3100	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3101	Layer			0.05	Other Layer. Redeposited natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3102	Layer			0.1	Other Layer. Possible made ground surface, overlain by redeposited natural 3101. Soft course-grained, mid brownish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3103	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-red brown sandy silt.	-	-
3104	Layer				Subsoil. Soft mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3105	Cut				Modern. Land drain. Cut redeposited natural (3101).	-	-
3106	Fill	3105			Deliberate Backfill. Soft dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 32

General description						**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3200	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3201	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3202	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 33							
General description						**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 34							
General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.72
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3400	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3401	Layer			0.42	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3402	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 35							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3500	Layer			0.24	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3501	Layer			0.33	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3502	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 36							
General description						**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.55

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Soft course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3601	Layer			0.35	Subsoil. Soft course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
3602	Layer				Natural. Soft course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 37

General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 38

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 39

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 40

General description						Orientation	W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 41							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 42							
General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench revealed modern post-war structures and deposits. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy silt geology. Excavation ceased due to asbestos.						**Length (m)**	24
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4200	Void						
4201	Layer		24	0.48	Topsoil. Soft, loose and course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-
4202	Layer		1.53	0.1	Other Layer. Demolition layer for modern structure on SE side of trench. Friable course-grained, light greyish-brown silty sand. Not excavated due to asbestos.	-	-
4203	Structure		0	0	Structure. Modern brickwork structure on SE side of trench.	-	-
4204	Layer		4.69	0.1	Other Layer. Base of airfield construction layer. Soft course-grained, light greyish-brown silty sand.	-	-
4205	Cut		1.43	0.02	Other Cut. Probable robber cut for brick wall. SW-NE aligned linear. Not excavated due to asbestos.	-	-
4206	Fill	4205	0.24	0	Secondary Fill. Loose course-grained, dark orangish-brown sandy silt. Not excavated due to asbestos.	-	-
4207	Layer		2.64	0.02	Other Layer. Demolition layer from removal of the concrete apron. Loose course-grained, mid greyish-brown sandy silt. Not excavated due to asbestos.	-	-
4208	Layer		1.85	0.15	Other Layer. Second demolition layer from removal of the concrete apron. Loose course-	-	-

					grained, mid grey-brown sandy silt. Not excavated due to asbestos.		
4209	Layer		24	0.21	Natural. Loose course-grained, mid orangish-brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 43							
General description						**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
No deposits/features encountered							

Trench 44							
General description						**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Defunct electrical service trench located at NW end of the trench, probably associated with the old airfield.						**Length (m)**	30
						Width (m)	2.1
						Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	**Type**	**Fill Of**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4400	Layer				Topsoil	-	-
4401	Layer				Subsoil	-	-
4402	Layer				Natural	-	-
4403	Cut		0.58	0.37	Modern. Modern cut of a service trench probably associated with the old airfield.	-	-
4404	Fill	4403	0.58	0.37	Deliberate Backfill. Friable dark grey-brown silty sand. Included two dead electrical cables associated with the old airfield.	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery

By Kate Brady

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 104 sherds (1972g) of pottery recovered from the evaluation were dated to the late Roman period.

B.1.2 The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, provide spot dates and make recommendations for the treatment of the material. Roman-period fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2019). Each context-group was quantified by sherd count and weight (grammes).

B.1.3 The following late Iron Age/Roman fabrics were noted (NRFRC codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) in brackets):

- A11 South Spanish amphora (BAT AM 1/2)
- B11 Black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)
- C10 Shell-tempered ware
- F51 Oxford red-slipped ware (OXF RS)
- M22 Oxford whiteware mortaria (OXF WH)
- M41 Oxford red-slipped mortaria (OXF RS)
- O10 Fine sandy oxidised ware
- O20 Sandy oxidised ware
- Q21 Oxford white-slipped ware (OXF WS)
- R10 Fine sandy reduced ware
- R20 Coarse sandy reduced ware
- R30 Medium sandy reduced ware
- W23 Oxford burnt whiteware (OXF WH)

Description

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Description	Spot date
704	9	86	F51, R30, B11	240-410
706	7	136	F51 footring base, R20 bowl with rim defined by groove, damaged flaked off surface, C10, O10	240-410
708	4	90	F51 C72 bowl with a roulette band under rim and traces of painted decoration (300-410). F51 C55 bowl (240-410) with overhanging bead rim, R30, B11	300-410
804	5	51	R30, B11, F51	240-410
1404	25	340	C10, A11, R30, R90 everted rim jar, B11 bead and flange bowl/dish, O10	240-410
1408	1	28	F51 flanged bowl (C51 slip almost totally worn away)	240-410
1506	6	21	C10, O10, F51 plain rim prob from bowl	240-410
1508	9	98	M41 body sherd, R20, R30, R20 rim Jar/bowl	240-410
2304	3	201	F51, R30, O20	300-410

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Description	Spot date
2305	27	869	F51 bowl (Young C51) C10, R30, B11 CK small with upright everted rim, Base WC3.1 bowl in white-slipped ware (Q21) with red paint roundel dec (wall-sided carinated bowl), bases from two other F51 vessels, large bowl/dish with foot-ring, body sherd with roulette dec. Burnt whiteware (W23) jar (BW2.1), R30 jar	240-410
2307	4	15	R10, F51 body sherd indented (beaker?)	240-410
2309	4	37	M22 body sherd (burnt), F51 wide-mouthed necked jar (C18), M41 body sherd	270-410
Totals	**104**	**1972**		

Table B.1.1: Description of the Roman pottery by context

Forms and fabrics

B.1.4 The assemblage is entirely late Roman in date with the most common diagnostic forms and fabrics being red-slipped products of the Oxford industry (F51). Some vessels are closely dated, including a necked, round-bellied bowl (Young 2000, 164, form C72) with rouletted decoration under the rim and traces of painted decoration on the body. This vessel is 4th century in date. There is a wide-mouthed necked jar, which is dated to AD 270-400/10 (Young 2000, 152, form C18). Other vessels in the same fabric date broadly to the late Roman period (and the span of the Oxford red-slipped ware industry). These include at least three curving-sided, flanged bowls (Young 2000, form C51) and a form C55 bowl (Young 2000, 160), with an overhanging bead rim. There are also body sherds from Oxford red-slipped mortaria.

B.1.5 Other forms and fabrics support a late Roman date for the assemblage. There is a necked jar in Oxford burnt whiteware (W23; Young 2000, 115, form BW2.1), which is late Roman in date. Body and base sherds in other late Roman fabrics include a large footring base, from a wall-sided carinated bowl in Oxford white-slipped ware (Q21), with a red-painted circular and lined design inside the base (as Young 2000, form WC3.1).

B.1.6 There is a small amount of material in Dorset black-burnished ware (B11) and in reduced and oxidised wares of varying degrees of sandiness (R10, R20, R30 and O10). There is also a small amount of leached-out shell-tempered wares (C10).

Discussion

B.1.7 The condition of the pottery is good, and includes some large sherds, although the colour-coat on several Oxford red-slipped vessels was very worn and only remains in small areas. The pottery has an overall mean sherd weight (weight divided by number of sherds) of 19g, indicating a moderately well-preserved assemblage. The presence of imported finewares and amphora suggests settlement activity of at least moderate status.

B.1.8 The material was recovered from ditches with a focus of activity in the southern part of the site. The largest pottery groups were recovered from two adjacent trenches (Trench 14 and Trench 23), suggesting a focus of activity in this location. Although much of the pottery is dated more broadly to the late Roman period, all of the more closely dated pottery suggests a date in the 4th century AD for the activity.

B.1.9 It is reasonable to conclude that the Roman pottery was recovered fairly close to the area of initial use and discard, although surface wear on some of the colour-coated sherds may suggest adverse soil conditions for preservation.

Recommendations

B.1.10 The Roman pottery assemblage has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and thus it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the 'Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

B.2 Post-Roman pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.2.1 The evaluation produced a total of 35 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 883g, from a total of four contexts. All of the pottery is post-medieval and mainly dates to the 19th century. The condition of the material was generally very good, with many large fresh sherds present and one or two profiles.

Methodology

B.2.2 All the pottery was scanned during 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 (in Excel). 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 (e.g. decoration etc.). Fabric codes used here (all post-medieval) are those of the of the Museum of London (MOLA 2024). The range of pottery is described in Table B.2.1 below and therefore is only summarised below.

Description

B.2.3 All the pottery in the assemblage is post-medieval and mainly of 19th-century date. It comprises ordinary domestic pottery forms, all typical of post-medieval sites in the Oxford area, although most of it is from the industrialised pottery centres of Staffordshire and the Midlands. The modern stonewares are probably from London or Bristol.

B.2.4 The earliest assemblage is that from the fill (1104) of a quarry dump pit (1003) which dates to *c* 1750-1800. This is also the only context that contained locally made pottery, including a bowl in Brill post-medieval slipware (BRSL, *c* 1650-1800) made at the village of Brill (Buckinghamshire), and two sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (PMR) which may possibly be from Brill too.

B.2.5 The other three contexts contained only mass-produced tablewares and storage vessels dating from the second half of the 19th century. None of

these bore a maker's mark. Most of the vessels here (plates, teacups, bowls etc.) are Staffordshire-type whitewares – including a few vessels in Staffordshire-type transfer-printed whiteware (TPW), and a few items in English porcelain (ENPO), including the base of a hollow statuette. Most of the site assemblage (30 sherds) came from pit fill 2902 of intercutting modern rubbish pits 2905. Perhaps the most unusual vessel here was a moulded, green-glazed vase or jardinaire (plant-holder) moulded into the shape of petals and leaves. Fuller details of the assemblage are given in Table B.2.1.

Context	Spot date	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
1104	*c* 1750-1800	3	132	2x bos (body sherds) late-looking post-medieval red earthenware (PMR). 1x large fresh sherd from near-profile from wide bowl in Brill post-med slipware (Oxford Fabric BRSL) - curved wall with large bead rim; white slip all-over int & also ext over bead rim, clear yellow glaze int; pale buff-brown fabric, base missing.
2802	*c* 1830-1900	1	70	Near-profile deep baking dish in Staffs-type refined white earthenware (REFW, c1805-1900). Probably sub-rectangular in plan. Plain flanged rim. Very crazed clear glaze, also matt/abraded on int surface - possibly from repeated baking use and abrasive cleaning of inside of dish?
2902	*c* 1850-1900	30	680	Large fresh sherds assorted 19C white tablewares and stonewares. 2x bos English stoneware with a Bristol-type glaze (ENGS BRST, c1835-1900) incl angled shoulder from large brown spirits-type flagon & bo from cylindrical preserve jar with vertical groove decoration. 5x sherds from broken profile of a moulded, phytomorphic, flower-like, vase or jardinaire (plant-holder) with petal-like rim, in a white fabric with deep green glaze all-over int/ext = coloured glazed refined whiteware (COLGE, c1800-1900) probably after c1850 - possibly after c1870? 3x sherds English porcelain (ENPO) including fluted jug rim with pouring-lip (bone china?); part of the base of a statuette in bisque porcelain with traces of green glaze & gilding, & saucer rim with moulded/beaded rim dec. 4x sherds Staffs-type transfer-printed whiteware (TPW) = 3 vess incl large rim frag from soup-dish with dark blue-grey floral/fruit dec incl bouquets or swags (c 1850+); teacup rim with blue Willow pattern dec; dish base sherd with trace of green transfer dec. 16x REFW incl plain plate/dish rims; teacup rim & base; mug bo; bowl footring base; saucer rim and side-plate rim both with gilding on rim tip.
3002	*c* 1830-1900	1	1	Plain upright rim from large teacup or sugarbowl in TPW. Only the outer surface survives - with traces of blue Willow Pattern decoration. Small chip/flake only.
Totals		**35**	**883**	

Table B.2.1: Description of the post-Roman pottery by context

Recommendations

B.2.6 There is nothing exceptional in the pottery assemblage, although the Brill slipware (BRSL) dish should be retained. The commonplace 19th century sherds could be discarded, if so desired.

B.3 Ceramic building material

By Kirsty Smith

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 A total of eight fragments of CBM weighing 398g was recovered from contexts 1104, 2304, 2506, 2902 and 2903 (Table B.3.1). The assemblage comprises small and moderately sized fragments of roof tile, brick and indeterminate fragments with a mean fragment weight of 49.75g. The assemblage consists of Roman and post-medieval/modern material.

Context	Object count	Weight (g)	Class/Form	Period	Description	Notes
1104	1	115	Roof tile – flat	Post-medieval	Fabric OXP3. 14mm thick.	Fill of quarry dump pit 1103
2304	2	57	Indeterminate	Roman	Fabric B. Coarse moulding sand on the base.	Fill of ditch 2303
2504	1	65	Roof tile – flat	Roman	Fabric E. 17mm thick.	Fill of plough furrow 2503
2504	1	72	Brick	Post-medieval	Fabric OXP3. Orange silty sandy clay. Large fragments of rose and white quartz up to 2mm long, fragments of limestone up to 3mm long. Two flat surfaces at 90 degrees and grey interior.	Fill of plough furrow 2503
2902	1	33	Pipe	Later 19th/early 20th century	Pipe fragment. Stoneware buff dense clay with back grits. Dark brown glaze on both sides. 11mm thick.	Upper fill(s) of intercutting rubbish pits 2905
2903	1	16	Indeterminate	Roman	Fabric E. 16mm thick.	Lower fill(s) of intercutting rubbish pits 2905
2903	1	38	Indeterminate	Roman	Fabric E. Two flat surfaces at 90 degrees – may be a Roman brick fragment. 18mm thick.	Lower fill(s) of intercutting rubbish pits 2905
Totals	**8**	**398**				

Table B.3.1: Summary of the ceramic building material assemblage

B.3.2 The assemblage has been recorded within Table B.3.1 which includes quantification, details of fabric type, form, key measurements and a spot date. Fabrics were characterised on the basis of macroscopic features supplemented by the use of x20 hand lens.

Fabrics

B.3.3 The Roman fabrics are similar to the Oxford Archaeology Roman CBM fabrics B and E recorded during the Gill Mill excavations in Oxfordshire (Poole 2018, 464):

- Fabric B: a fine orange silty clay with occasional ferruginous grits up to 1mm wide.
- Fabric E: a fine orange silty clay with occasional ferruginous grits up to 1mm wide, cream pellets up to 3mm wide and cream laminations.

B.3.4 The post-medieval fabric (OXP3) is a red-orange coarse sandy fabric which is ubiquitous within Oxfordshire.

Roman CBM

B.3.5 Five fragments of Roman CBM were recorded in contexts 2304, 2504 and 2903. Aside from the Roman CBM in context 2304, the CBM in the other two contexts is probably residual as they comprise the fills of plough furrow 2503 and a fill of modern rubbish pits. The Roman CBM is mostly indeterminate in form, apart from a fragment of flat roof tile from context 2504, which probably originated from the flat section of a tegula roof tile.

Post-medieval/modern CBM

B.3.6 Post-medieval/modern fragments of CBM include a fragment of flat roof tile from pit fill 1104, a fragment of brick from plough furrow fill 2504, and a fragment of water or sewer pipe from pit fill 2902 of intercutting modern rubbish pits 2905.

Conclusions

B.3.7 The presence of Roman CBM suggests there may have been some Roman activity in the area, although the CBM may be residual in later features. The CBM is not significant in itself and is moderately to highly abraded.

Recommendations

B.3.8 The CBM should be retained for now pending further investigation and can be disposed of once the project is completed.

B.4 Fired clay

By Kirsty Smith

Introduction

B.4.1 Four fragments of fired clay were recorded weighing 31g. The fired clay cannot be dated in itself.

B.4.2 The fired clay includes three fragments from fill 804 (27g) of late Roman ditch 803. These amorphous fragments of orange/yellow silty clay are over 80% burnt (dark grey/black) and may have come from an oven or hearth.

B.4.3 One fragment (4g) was also recovered from pit fill 2902 of intercutting modern rubbish pits 2905. This small flake of orange silty clay with rose quartz grits may be fired clay or CBM.

Recommendations

B.4.4 The fired clay should be retained for now pending further investigation and can be disposed of once the project is completed.

B.5 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.5.1 Two struck flints and nine fragments of burnt unworked flint weighing 24g were recovered from the site (Table B.5.1). One flint side trimming flake from natural feature 2206 may have been utilised but the piece has clear post-depositional edge damage, and the use may simply be a product of this. Another side trimming flake was recovered from sample <700>, taken from fill 704 of late Roman ditch 703, alongside the burnt unworked fragments. None of these pieces are diagnostic to a specific period nor can they be attributed to a range of periods such as early/later prehistory.

Context	Feature	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
704	Ditch fill	Flake	Side trimming	From sample <700>	Indeterminate
704	Ditch fill	Burnt unworked	9 fragments	Generally small possibly derived from just two-three broken pieces. 24g from sample <700>	–
2206	Natural feature	Flake	Side trimming	Possible sue ventral left though probably just post-depositional damage	Indeterminate

Table B.5.1: The flint assemblage

Significance

B.5.2 The flints recovered from the site indicate very limited and undated flint-related activity here. There is a very low likelihood of significant flint-related activity being uncovered during any further works in the evaluation area.

Recommendations

B.5.3 The flint should be retained for now pending further assessment and can be disposed of once the project is completed.

B.6 Metals

By Anni Byard

Introduction

B.6.1 Seven pieces of metal from six objects were recovered from four trenches during the evaluation. The total weight of these objects is 199.3 grams (Table B.6.1).

Trench	Context	Sample no	SF no	Material	Count	Frag count	Weight	Function	Date	Description
8	804	800		Fe	1	1	0.9	Hobnail	Roman or 1800-1950	Hobnail with round, triangular profiled head, short shank with bent tip.
11	1104			Pb alloy	1	2	113	Vessel	1800-2000	Sheet of lead alloy with composite rim. Now flat but likely a tin bucket or similar.
22	2206		3	Fe	1	1	25	Nail	20th century	Long thin wire nail with flat rounded head. Modern 4" nail.
23	2304		1	Fe	1	1	1.4	Hobnail	Roman or 1800-1950	Hobnail with round, triangular profiled head, short shank with bent tip.
23	2305		4	Fe	1	1	5.2	Nail	Early modern / modern	Nail shank
23	2307		2	Fe	1	1	53.8	Tool	1800-2000	Encrusted, obscures full form. Shallow W shape, less encrusted end widens, flattens and curves (incomplete?).

Table B.6.1: The metals assemblage

Results

B.6.2 The majority, if not all, of the metalwork is relatively modern in date. The two hobnails are probably Roman in date, given they were found in ditch fills alongside other Roman materials. However, there is a possibility the hobnails could date to either the 19th century or early/mid-20th century and be related to the area being used as a military base during the Second World War. A large section of lead alloy sheeting with a composite rim is probably from a bucket or similar and is of modern date, as is an unidentified, encrusted iron tool.

Retention and disposal

B.6.3 The metal assemblage is predominantly modern in date and has no further potential. It can be discarded.

B.7 Slag

By Tim Allen

Introduction

B.7.1 A single piece of slag was recovered by hand from context 2903, a lower fill of intercutting modern rubbish pits 2905.

Methodology

B.7.2 The material was washed, dried and sorted using largely visual criteria (cf Historic England 2015a). The material was sorted into a category based on colour and surface morphology (and occasionally on an assessment of density and/or magnetic response). The categories of material discussed below include the following (Table B.7.1):

Slag cake (SC)	These are plano-convex (or concave convex) and approximately circular in plan. Slag cakes are usually identified as smithing slags (McDonnell 1991; Serneels and Perret 2003), although larger examples are identified as smelting slags (furnace bottoms).
Non-diagnostic slag (ND)	Most ironworking slag assemblages include a significant proportion of slag which lacks a diagnostic surface morphology that would allow the identification of the process(es) which produced them. In many cases, this is simply because the lumps of slag are small fragments of a larger whole; however, in some cases the lumps of slag are essentially complete but amorphous (Historic England 2015a, fig. 18).

Table B.7.1: Types of slag present on site

Results

B.7.3 The single fragment from pit fill 2903 is magnetic, and weighs 76g. It is amorphous but is very roughly pyramidal in shape with a large lump on one side, and is 67mm long and up to 47mm wide and thick. The fragment is light for its size and is vesicular with both large voids caused by gas bubbles and smaller holes in the surface. In colour it varies from purplish red through brown and light grey to dark grey/black and contains large white inclusions that appear to be calcareous shell, some stained orange from ferrous material. The surface is generally rough but has smooth glassy patches with a lava-like appearance, mainly corresponding to the dark grey/black areas. Although there are small broken patches in its surface, and it is possible that the large shell inclusions may have been exposed through larger breakages, this fragment appears to be largely intact. As such is too light to represent part of a slag cake and can only be characterised as non-diagnostic slag.

Discussion

B.7.4 This fragment of slag came from the lower fill (2903) of modern intercutting rubbish pits 2905. The upper fill (2902) contained 19th century and modern finds. The lower fills, however, produced only this fragment of slag and some Roman ceramic building material. It is therefore possible that the lower fill indicates disturbed Roman activity in proximity to the feature, as well as reflecting broader Roman activity in the site area.

B.7.5 The slag from the site is only a single lump. Although it is clearly the residue of metalworking, the quantity is too small to indicate the location of this activity, or to be confident that the material could not have been brought in from elsewhere.

Statement of potential

B.7.6 The slag appears to have only limited potential to advance our understanding of the site. Small-scale ironworking for tool maintenance and reworking are commonly found on settlements of Roman date.

Recommendations

B.7.7 No further work is recommended. The slag should be retained for now, for comparison with any material that may be recovered from further work on the site, and can be disposed of once the project is completed.

B.8 Glass

By Anni Byard

Introduction

B.8.1 Five glass objects in eight pieces weighing 428.2g were recovered from two trenches during the evaluation (Table B.8.1).

Trench	Context	Glass colour	Count	Frag count	Weight	Function	Date	Description
11	1104	Light green	1	2	103	Jar	20th century	Two re-fitting shards from a storage jar. Colour suggests some uranium in colourant?
11	1104	Clear	1	1	18.6	Bottle	Late 19th / early 20th century	Has slight pink tinge to glass. Body shard from cylindrical bottle. Clear and transparent.
29	2902	Light green	1	3	255.3	Sauce bottle	Late 19th / early 20th century	3/4 complete moulded bottle. Embossed around neck twice with 'HOLBROOK'. Side of bottle [HOLB]ROOK & Co. Glass stopper missing cork sleeve. Holbrook made Worcestershire Sauce
29	2902	Clear	1	1	45.5	Medicine bottle	Mid-20th century	Complete small medicine with Bakelite screw-top lid. Clear and transparent. Symbol of four diamonds in lozenge on base. Cannot identify symbol.
29	2903	Light green	1	1	5.8	Soda / Sauce bottle	Late 19th/ early 20th century	Small shard of a moulded, embossed soda or drinks bottle. Word 'Co' remains.

Table B.8.1: The glass assemblage

Results

B.8.2 All the glass is of modern date – from the late 19th to mid-20th century. The glass represents domestic products – a storage jar and cylindrical bottle from Trench 11, and a Worcestershire Sauce, drink and medicine bottle from

Trench 29. The small probable medicine bottle has a Bakelite lid and most likely dates from the 1940s or 1950s.

Retention and disposal

B.8.3 The glass is modern and has no further potential. It can be discarded.

B.9 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction and methodology

B.9.1 In total, 20 pieces of stone were retained and submitted for examination (Table B.9.1). This was done with the aid of a x10 magnification hand lens.

B.9.2 None of the stone is worked. Burnt local gritty Lower Greensand ("Culham Greensand") was recovered from two contexts and a small fragment of burnt flint from a third. A small piece of slate is unworked but is imported to the area and probably comes from a medieval or post-medieval roof slate.

Context	Feature	Function	Count	Weight (g)
704	Ditch fill	Burnt Culham Greensand (reddened)	3	56
2304	Ditch fill	Burnt Culham Greensand (reddened)	15	186
2304	Ditch fill	Burnt flint	1	3
1104	Quarry dump pit fill	Slate	1	5

Table B.9.1: Summary of the stone

Recommendations

B.9.3 All the stone can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Jeremy Briscombe

Introduction

C.1.1 Five bulk samples were taken for the retrieval and assessment of ecofacts and the recovery of artefacts.

Methodology

C.1.2 The samples were described prior to processing with soil colour description determined using a Munsell Soil Colour chart and soil texture described following published guidelines (Historic England 2015b).

C.1.3 The samples were then processed in their entirety at OA using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots was collected in a 250µm mesh and residues in a 500µm mesh and dried in a heated room. The residue fractions (i.e. the material which did not float) were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet. Flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

C.1.4 Nomenclature for identified species follows Stace (2010). Identifications are made with reference to Jacomet (2006) for cereals and chaff and Cappers *et al*. (2006) for non-cereal taxa.

Results

C.1.5 Sample descriptions and flot abundance data are presented in Table C.1.1.

Area/ Trench	Context no.	Sample no.	Feature/ Deposit	Spot date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Roots %	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Soil Description
7	704	700	703	240-410	40	100	25	+	++++	+++	+++	+	5YR 3/3 (dark reddish brown); sandy clay loam
8	804	800	803	240-410	9	100	20	++	++++	++	++	+	7.5YR 4/4 (brown); loamy sand
14	1404	1400	1403	240-410	36	50	90		++		+++		7.5YR 4/4 (brown); sand

Area/ Trench	Context no.	Sample no.	Feature/ Deposit	Spot date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Roots %	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Soil Description
23	2304	2300	2303	300-410	32	50	90	+	+		++		5YR 5/6 (yellowish red); loamy sand
23	2305	2301	2310	240-410	40	50	90	+			+		5YR 5/6 (yellowish red); sandy loam
Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+)													

Table C.1.1 Assessment of bulk samples

Trench 7

C.1.6 Sample 700 was from fill 704 of ditch 703. The sample contained a variety of charred plant remains, predominantly charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, along with glume bases and fragments of glume and rachis. Other charred grains included oat (*Avena* sp.) and barley (cf *Hordeum* sp.). A single charred cultivated seed of fig (*Ficus carica)* was also recovered. Identified charred weeds include chickweed (*Stellaria* sp.), corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), cornflower (*Centaurus* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), mayweed (*Tripleurospermum* sp.), speedwell (*Veronica* sp.) and willow weed (*Pesicaria lapathifolia*). A single charred legume seed (<2mm) was also present. Charcoal was observed but most of the quantifiable fragments fall into the <4mm size category increasing the likelihood of fragments having one or more planes <2mm and being unidentifiable.

C.1.7 Pottery fragments and flint debitage were also recovered from this sample.

Trench 8

C.1.8 Sample 800 was taken from fill 804 of ditch 803. The sample was fairly rich in charred plant remains, predominantly charred wheat grains along with glume bases, glume fragments and rachis fragments. Most of these specimens are heavily fragmented and possess a clinker-like appearance. Identified charred weeds include cornflower, dock, speedwell and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). A single charred legume (<2mm) is also present. Charcoal was observed but most of the quantifiable fragments fall into the <4mm size category, increasing the likelihood of fragments having one or more planes <2mm and being unidentifiable.

C.1.9 Burnt flint, burnt clay and an iron object were also recovered from this sample.

Trench 14

C.1.10 Sample 1400 was collected from fill 1404 of ditch 1403. The only identified charred grain is wheat, and the presence of glume bases and glume fragments indicated that this is emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). Most of these specimens are heavily fragmented and possess a clinker-like appearance. Weeds are the most prevalent charred ecofact in the flot from this sample, predominately speedwell, with a single example of yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) also present. Charcoal was observed but most of the quantifiable fragments fall into the <4mm size category, increasing the likelihood of fragments having one or more planes <2mm and being unidentifiable.

C.1.11 Pottery was also recovered from this sample.

Trench 23

C.1.12 Sample 2300 was taken from fill 2304 of ditch 2303. The only identified grain in the flot is charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Weed seeds are common and are mostly speedwell, with a single example of buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) also present. Charcoal was observed but most of the quantifiable fragments fall into the <4mm size category, increasing the likelihood of fragments having one or more planes <2mm and being unidentifiable.

C.1.13 No artefacts were recovered from this sample.

C.1.14 Sample 2301 came from fill 2305 of ditch 2310. No grains were observed in the flot from this sample but a small quantity of speedwell seeds were identified. Charcoal was observed but most of the quantifiable fragments again fall into the <4mm size category, increasing the likelihood of fragments having one or more planes <2mm and being unidentifiable.

C.1.15 Pottery was recovered from this sample.

Discussion

C.1.16 The recovered material from the samples is indicative of burning events and demonstrates that charred plant remains are well preserved at the site. The absence of visible *in situ* burning from the samples' respective features suggests the material may have been intentionally deposited into the features, or that the charred remains may have accumulated more gradually, perhaps from a nearby burning-location. This seems the more probable explanation since the recovered material was not recorded as being localised but appears to have been more widely distributed throughout the features' single fills.

C.1.17 Charred wheat was the most abundant cereal recovered and indicates wheat was grown and/or stored in the site's vicinity. The presence of chaff may also be indicative of crop processing occurring on site or nearby, which is supported by the weed assemblages. Since glume bases are present, it is probable that most or all of the wheat is emmer or spelt, which is consistent with the Roman spot dates.

C.1.18 One sample (700) contained other cultivated seeds, including examples of oat and barley, although whether the oats were cultivated is unclear since wild oats and cultivated oats cannot be distinguished from grain alone.

C.1.19 Sample 700 also contained a charred corncockle seed, which is toxic to humans. The seeds are of a similar size to wheat grains which makes it difficult to separate them during processing and may suggest that the contemporary inhabitants of this site produced (at least mildly) toxic wheat-based products. The presence of a charred fig seed from the same sample is significant as it indicates that these fruits, which would almost certainly have been imported, were also consumed by the Roman population.

C.1.20 The concentration of charred plant remains from this archaeological evaluation highlights the potential for further ecofact recovery, including charred material originating from occupational activity.

Recommendations

C.1.21 The flots warrant retention until all assessment and reporting is complete. There is limited scope for further work on the charcoal from any of the samples as there is insufficient identifiable material for a full analysis.

C.1.22 Samples 700 and 800 contain charred ecofacts that would be suitable for full analysis at the post-excavation phase should the site proceed to full excavation.

C.2 Animal bone

By Bernice Jones

Introduction and methodology

C.2.1 The evaluation produced four fragments (16g) of hand retrieved animal bone.

C.2.2 The assemblage has been recorded in full, with the aid of the OA skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides.

Description

C.2.3 A single fragment of large mammal vertebra in excellent condition was recovered was recovered from pit fill 1104, of quarry dump pit 1103. It had been sawn paramedially, slightly to the left of centre, and was also sawn transversely through the cranial end of spinous process. It has also been cut on the right side of the spinous process. The butchery technique suggests a post-medieval date.

C.2.4 Three unidentifiable small fragments of bone in excellent condition were recovered from pit fill 2903, of intercutting modern rubbish pits 2905. There are three cut marks on one of the fragments.

Discussion

C.2.5 The assemblage is too small to be informative about animal husbandry practices at the site and derives from modern contexts.

Recommendations

C.2.6 The material may be discarded as it holds no research potential.

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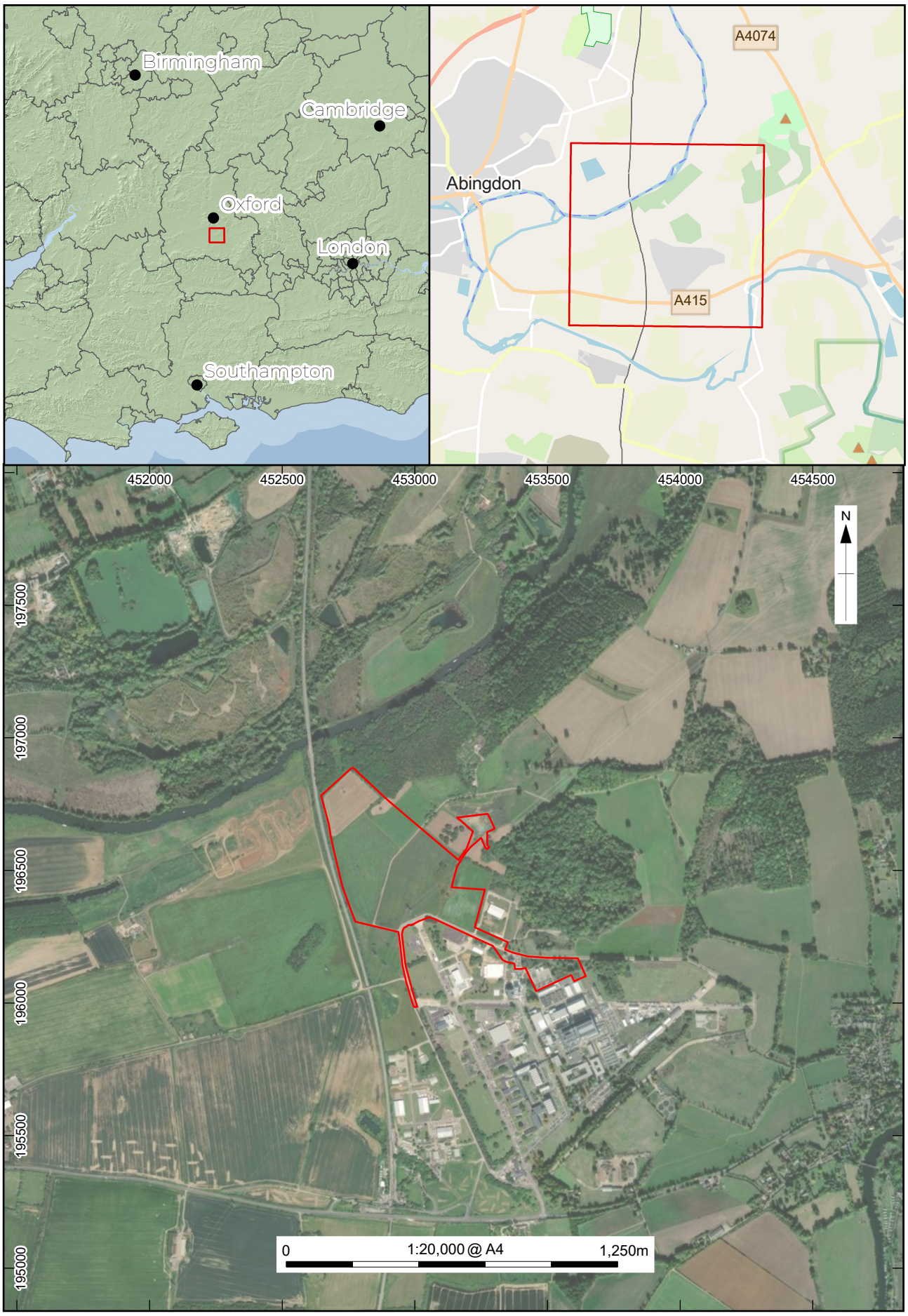
APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Culham Battery Storage Site, Culham, Oxfordshire
Site code:	CUBSEV
Grid Reference	SU 52906 96519
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	2nd to 15th October 2024
Area of Site	c 6.6ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: TBC
Summary of Results:	The evaluation results have demonstrated that the south-western part of the site was occupied during the late Roman period. The site subsequently remained largely unoccupied until the late post-medieval period, during which time it retained its rural character, as highlighted by evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation. The site was subsequently incorporated into the Royal Naval Air Station in the mid-20th century. The Roman pottery assemblage dates to the late Roman period, with more closely dated pottery pointing towards site occupation during the 4th century. The assemblage includes imported amphora and finewares, suggesting a settlement of at least moderate status. Post-medieval rural activity and the succeeding occupation of the site as a modern military base is reflected by the post-medieval pottery assemblage, which predominantly dates to the 19th century and includes domestic pottery commonly found on post-medieval sites in the Oxford area, as well as the glass assemblage, which includes modern items such as fragments of a soda or sauce bottle, a storage jar and a probable medicine bottle.



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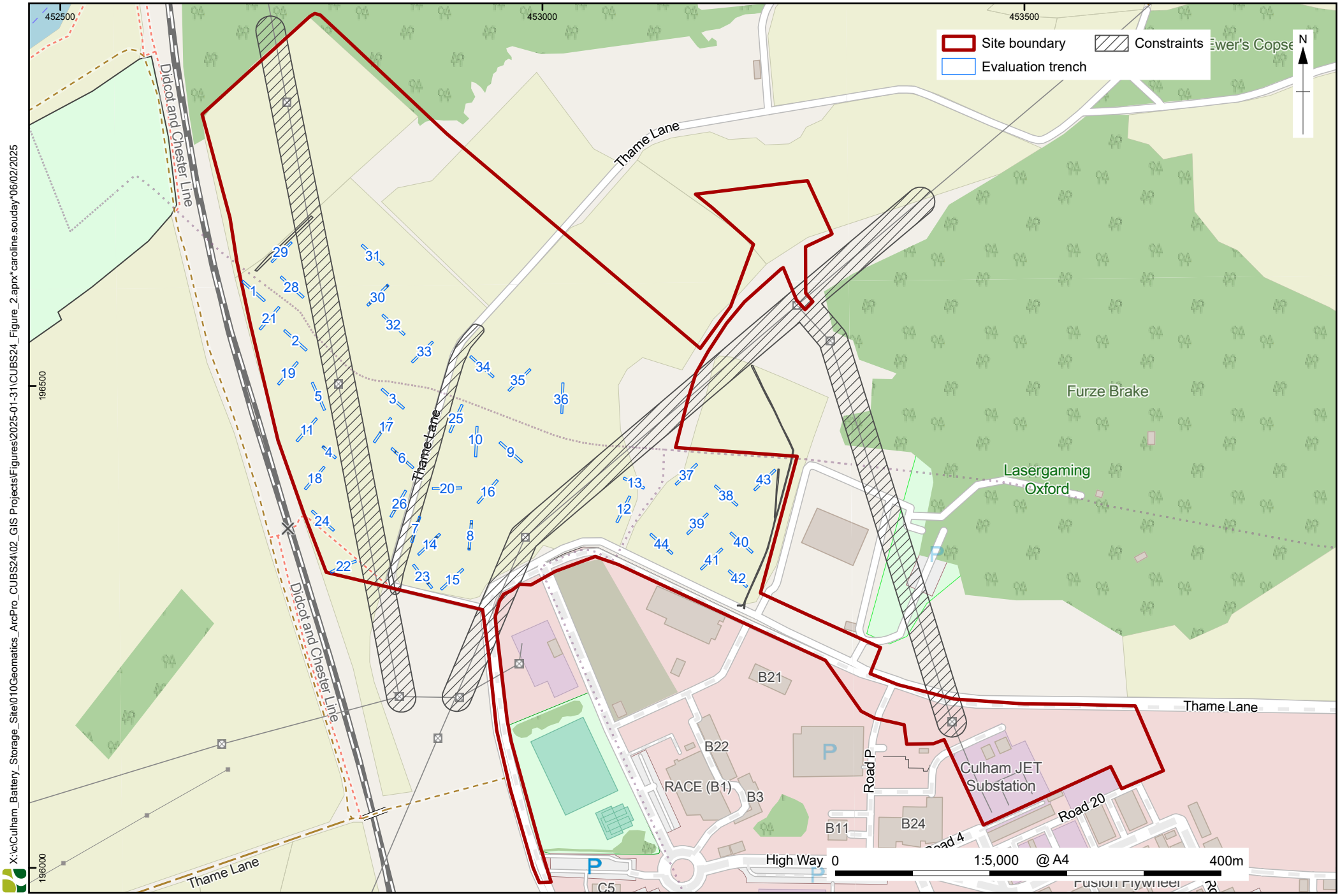
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
OpenStreetMap: Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

Figure 1: Site location



OpenStreetMap: Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches

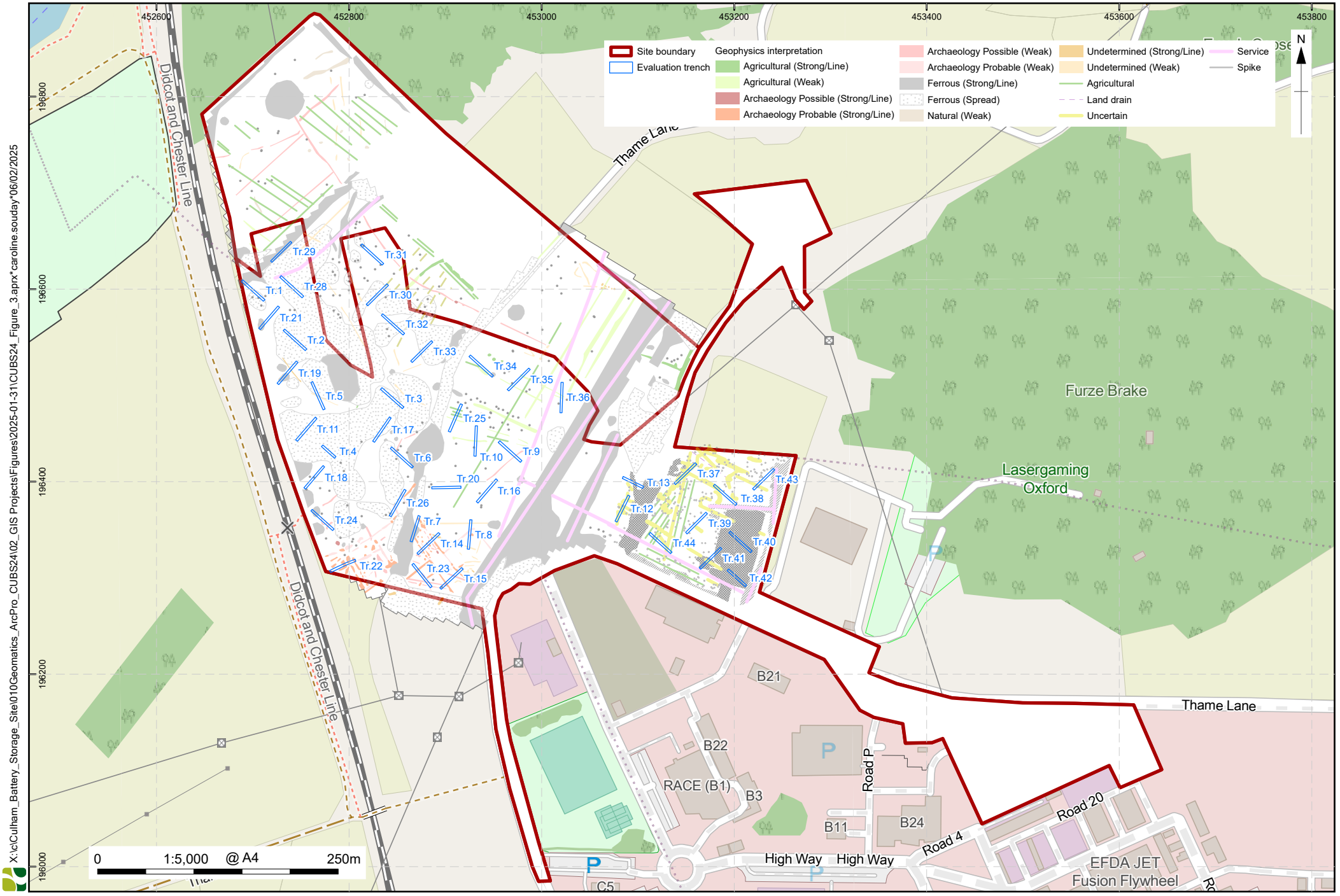


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Figure 3: The evaluation trenches and geophysical survey

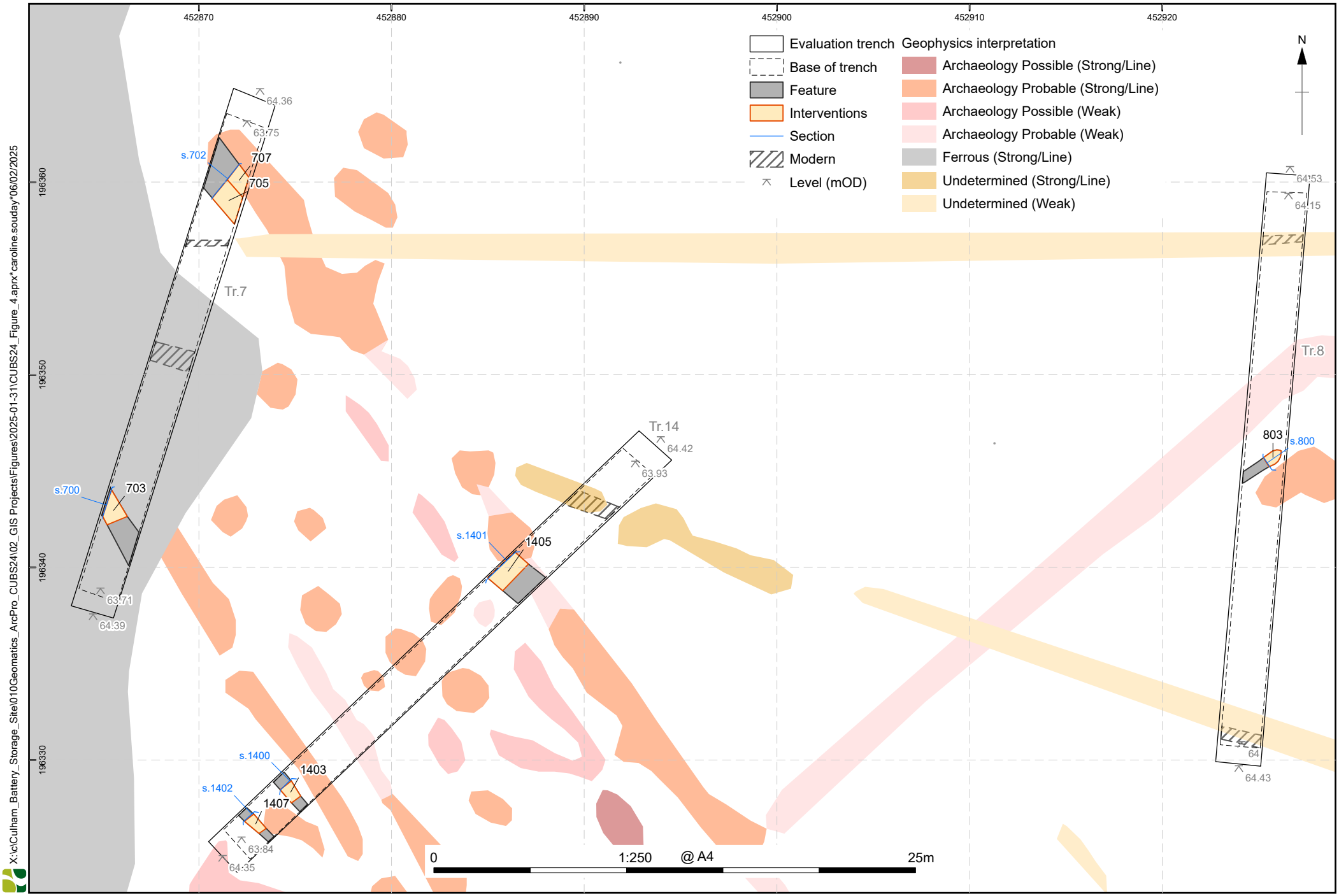

Figure 4: Plan of Trenches 7, 8 and 14 and geophysical survey

Figure 5: Plan of Trenches 10 and 25 and geophysical survey

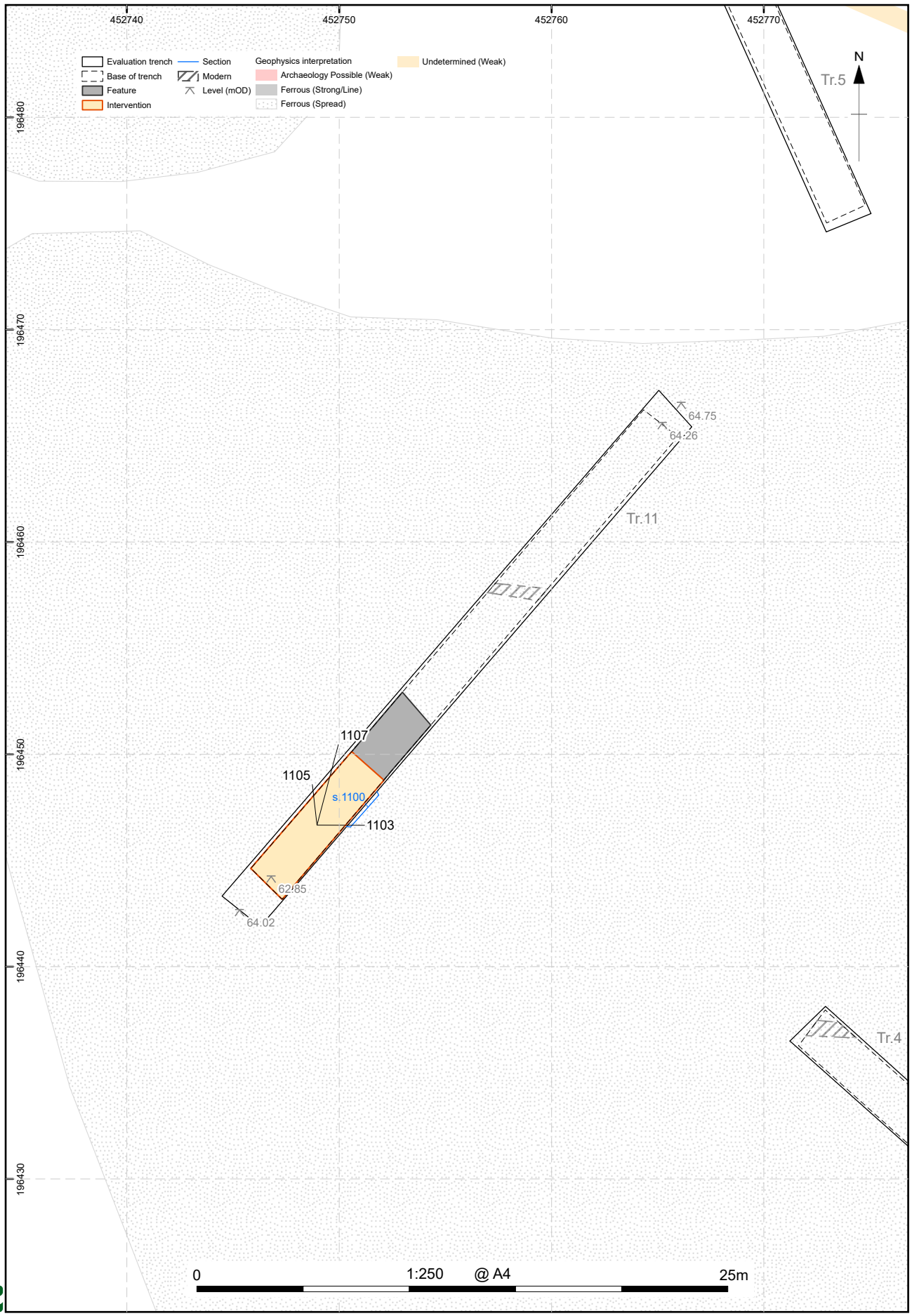

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Figure 6: Plan of Trench 11 and geophysical survey

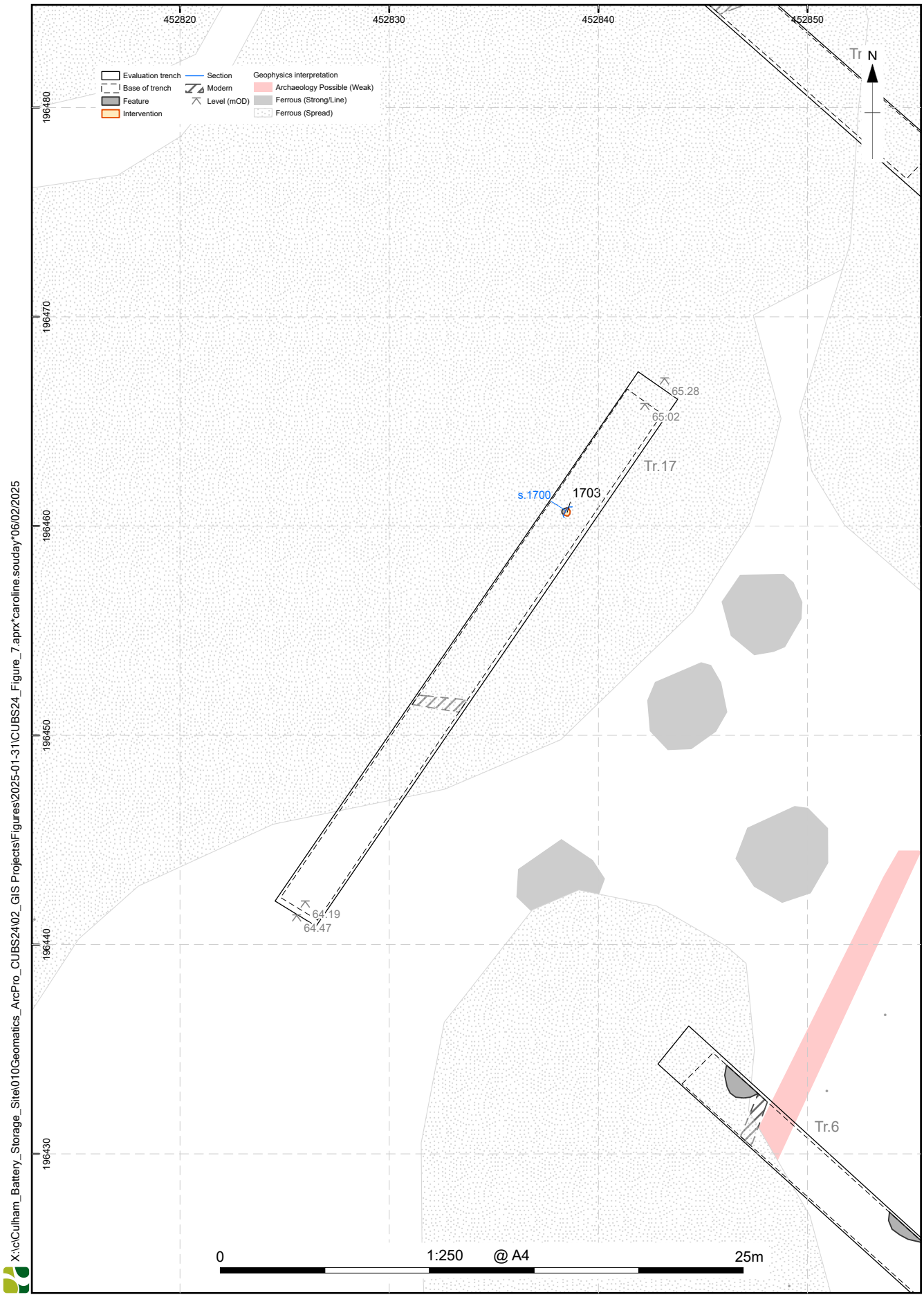

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Figure 7: Plan of Trench 17 and geophysical survey

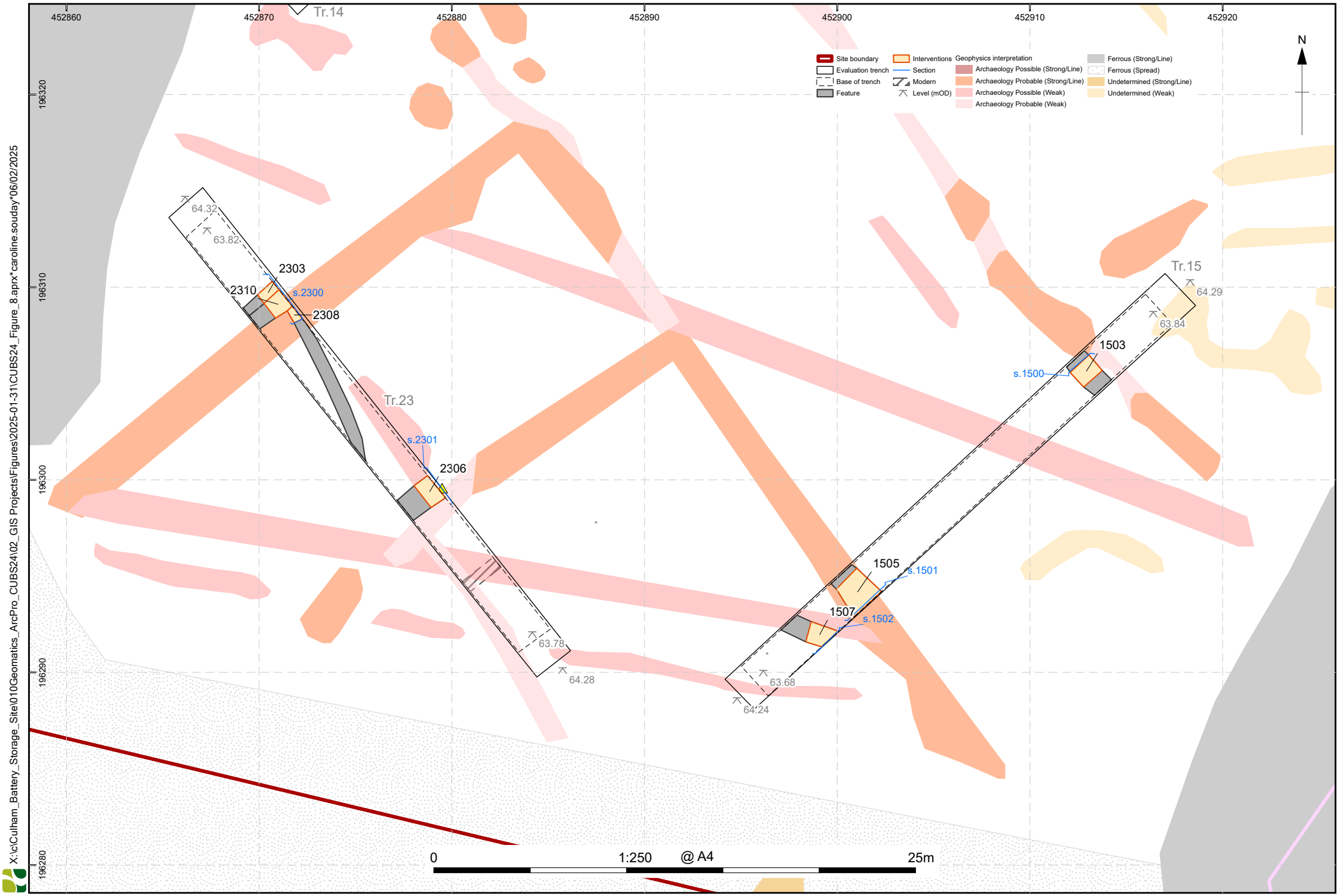

Figure 8: Plan of Trenches 15 and 23 and geophysical survey

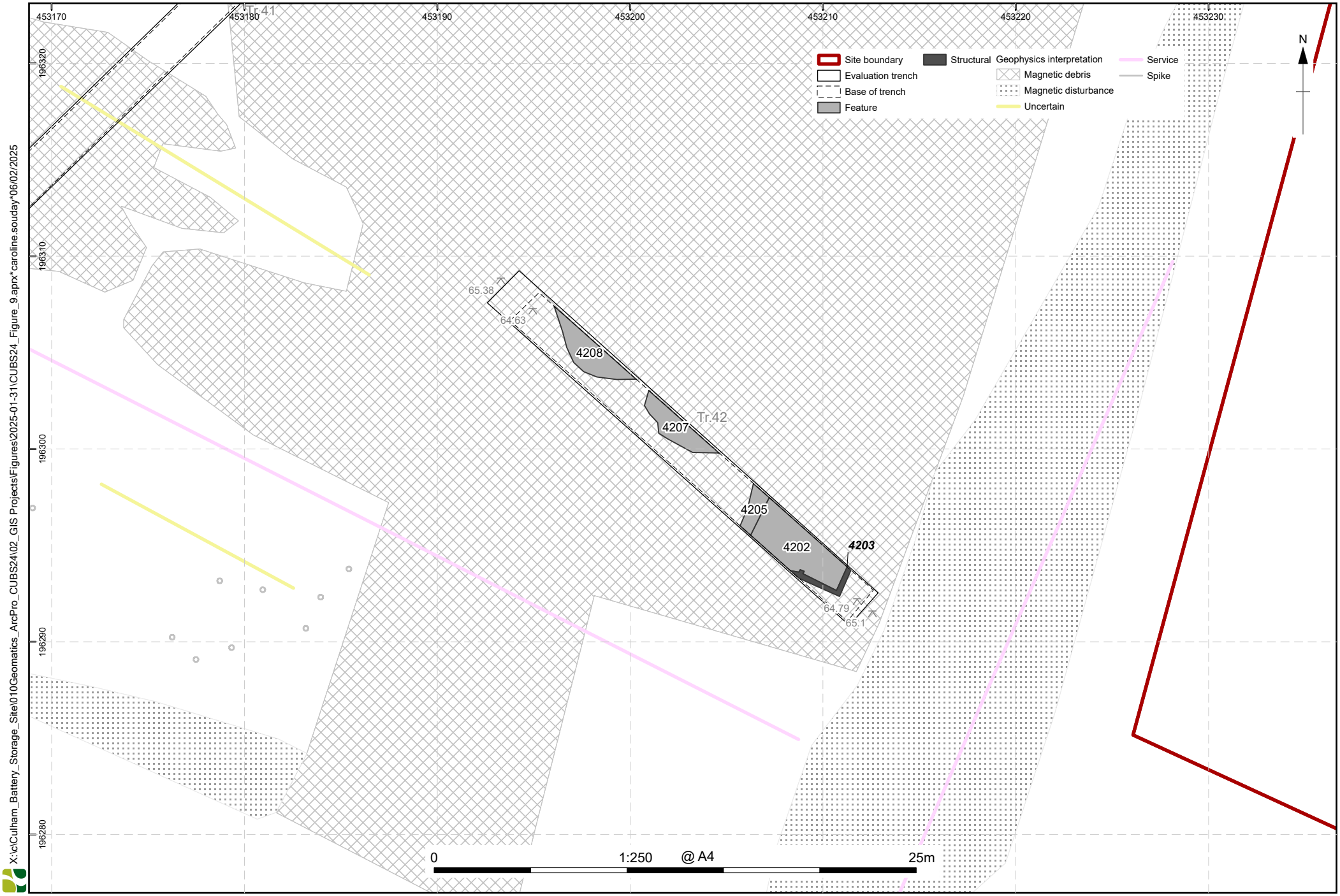

Figure 9: Plan of Trench 42 and geophysical survey

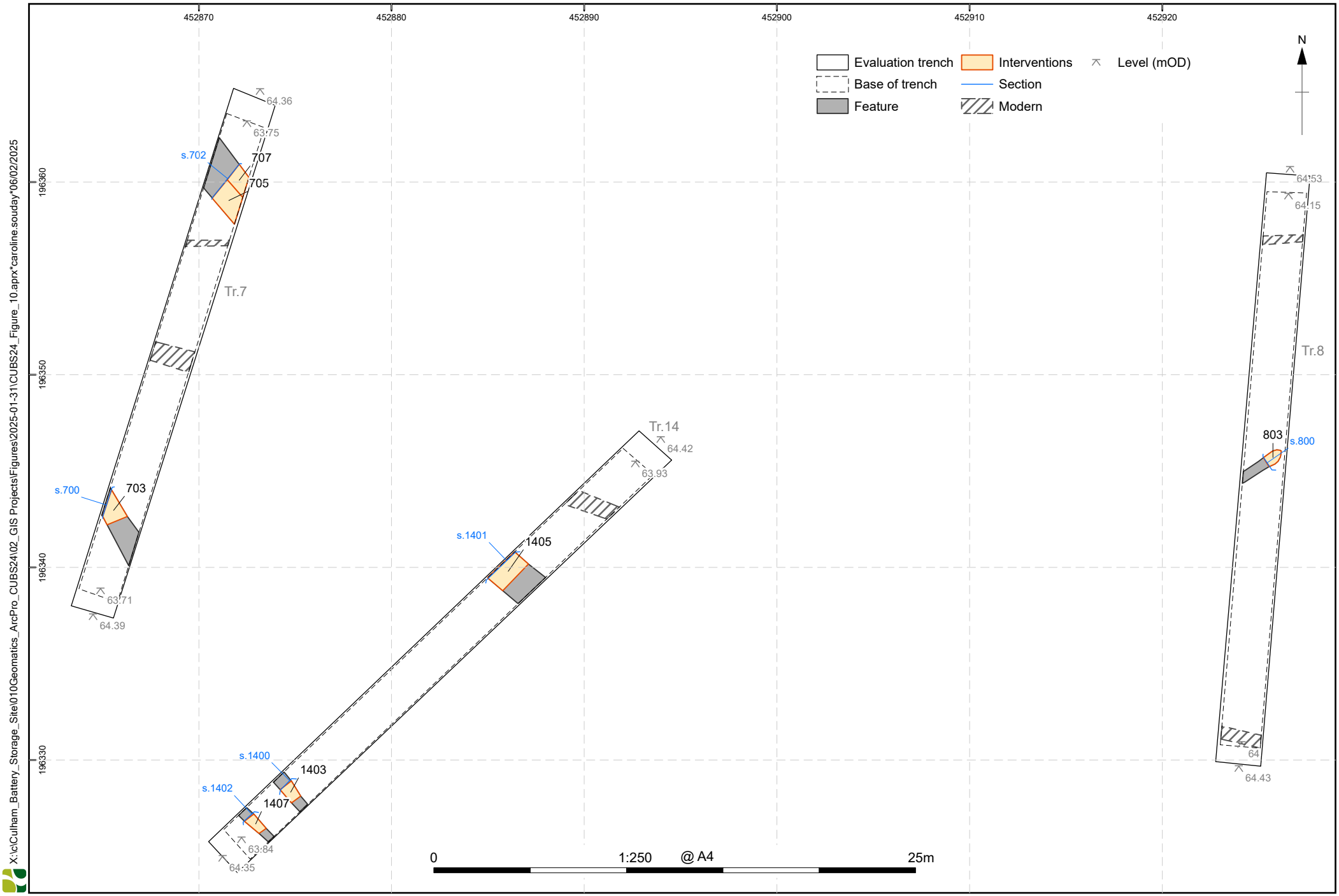

Figure 10: Detailed plan of Trenches 7, 8 and 14

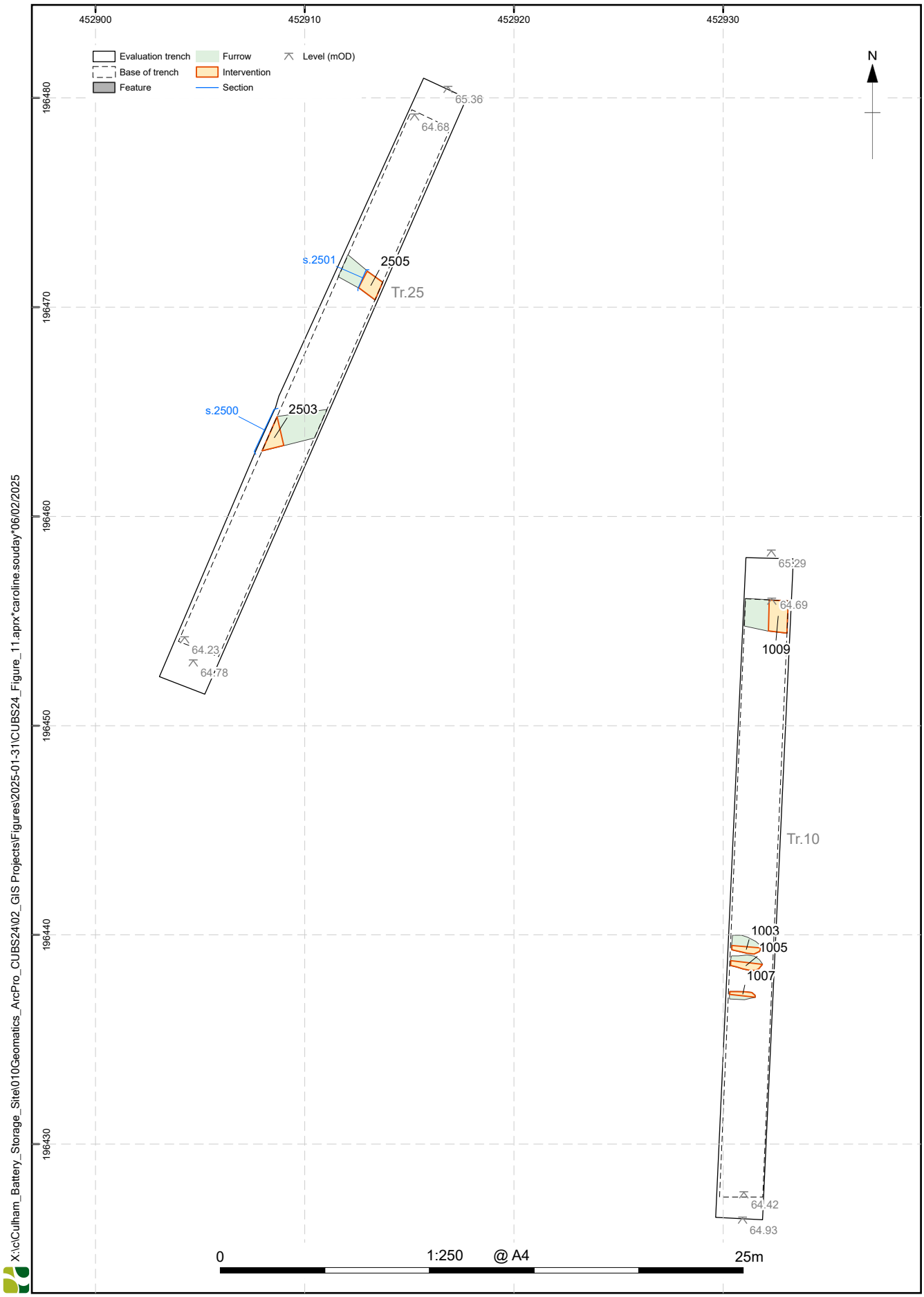

Figure 11: Detailed plan of Trenches 10 and 25

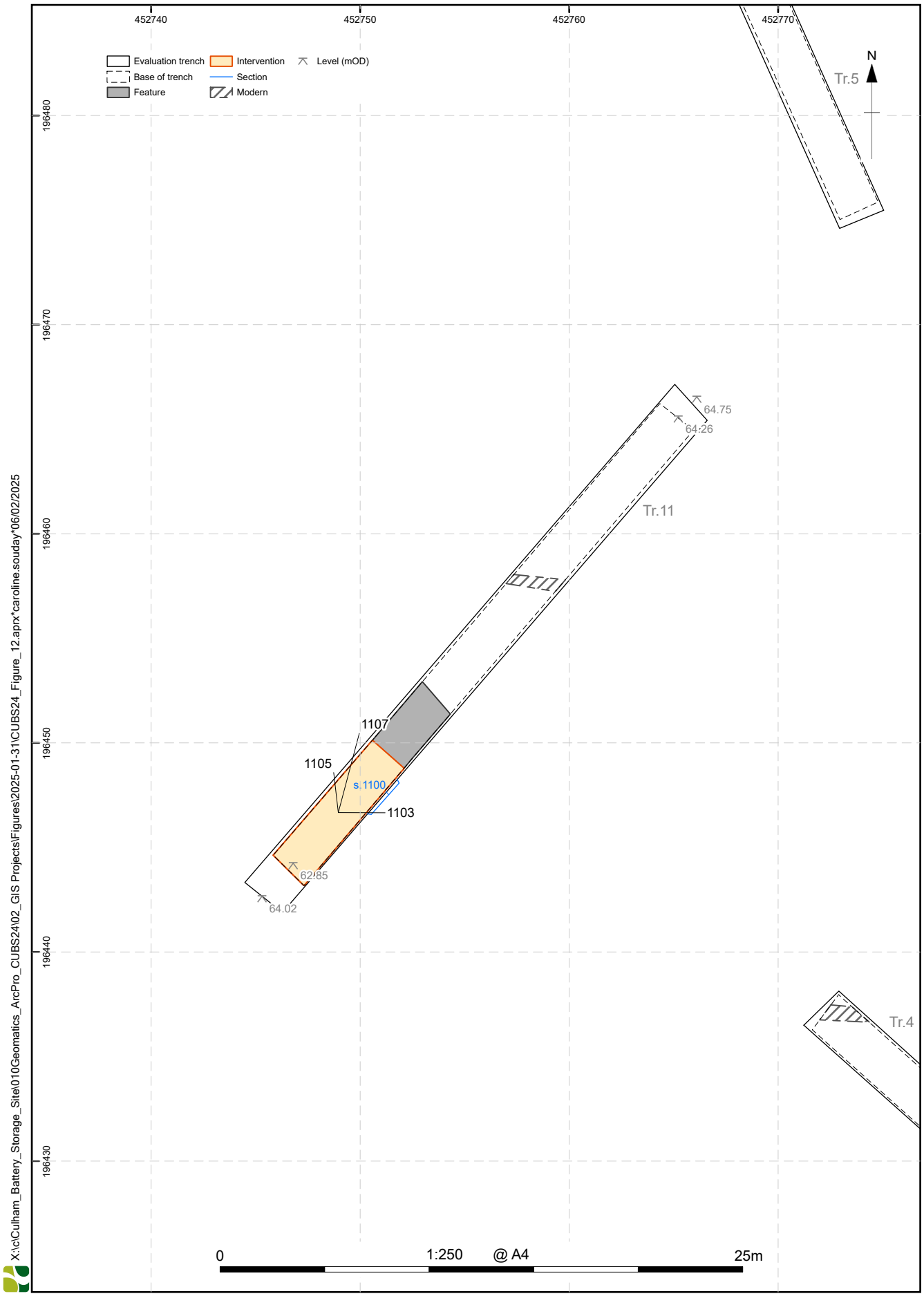

Figure 12: Detailed plan of Trench 11

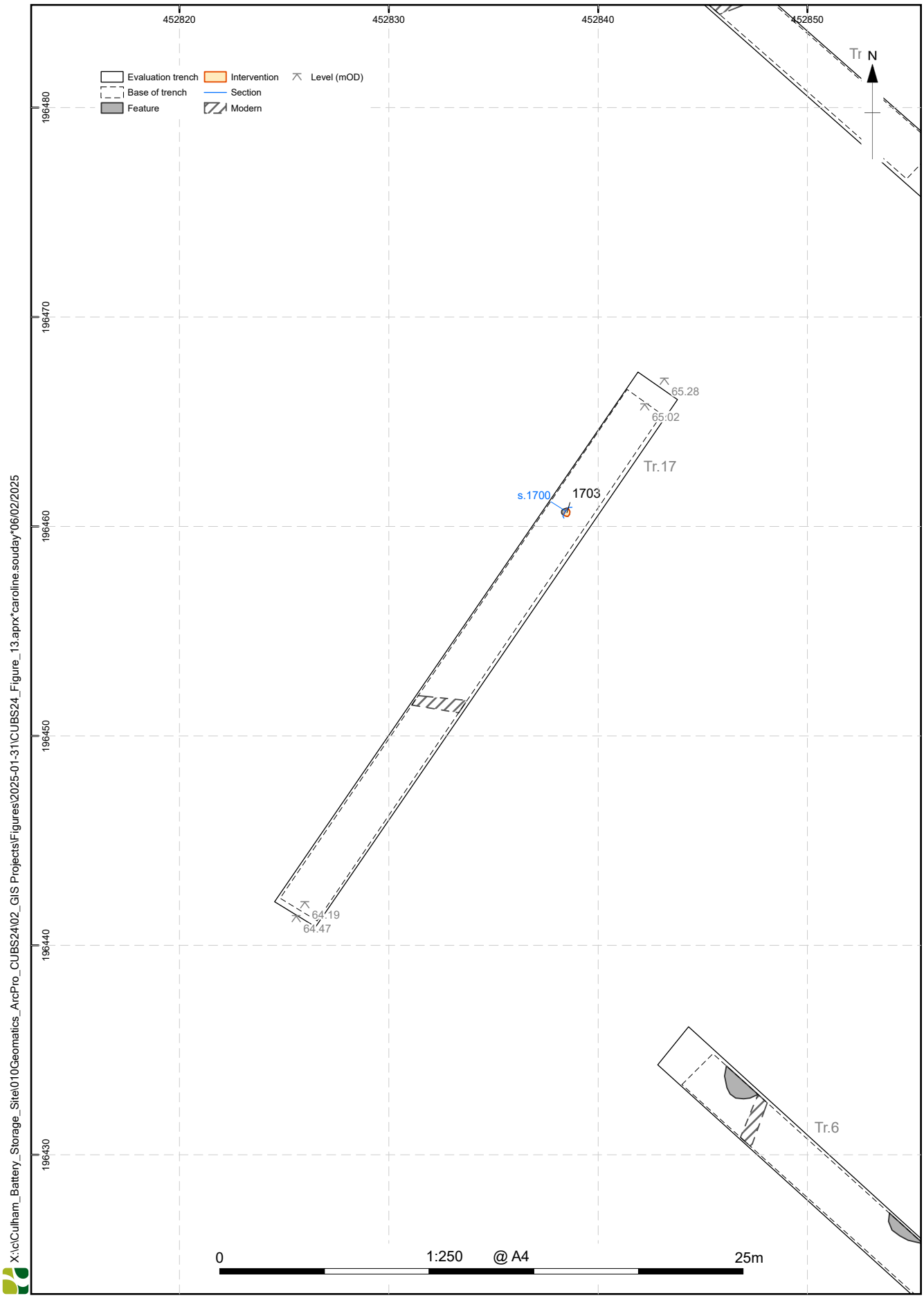

Figure 13: Detailed plan of Trench 17

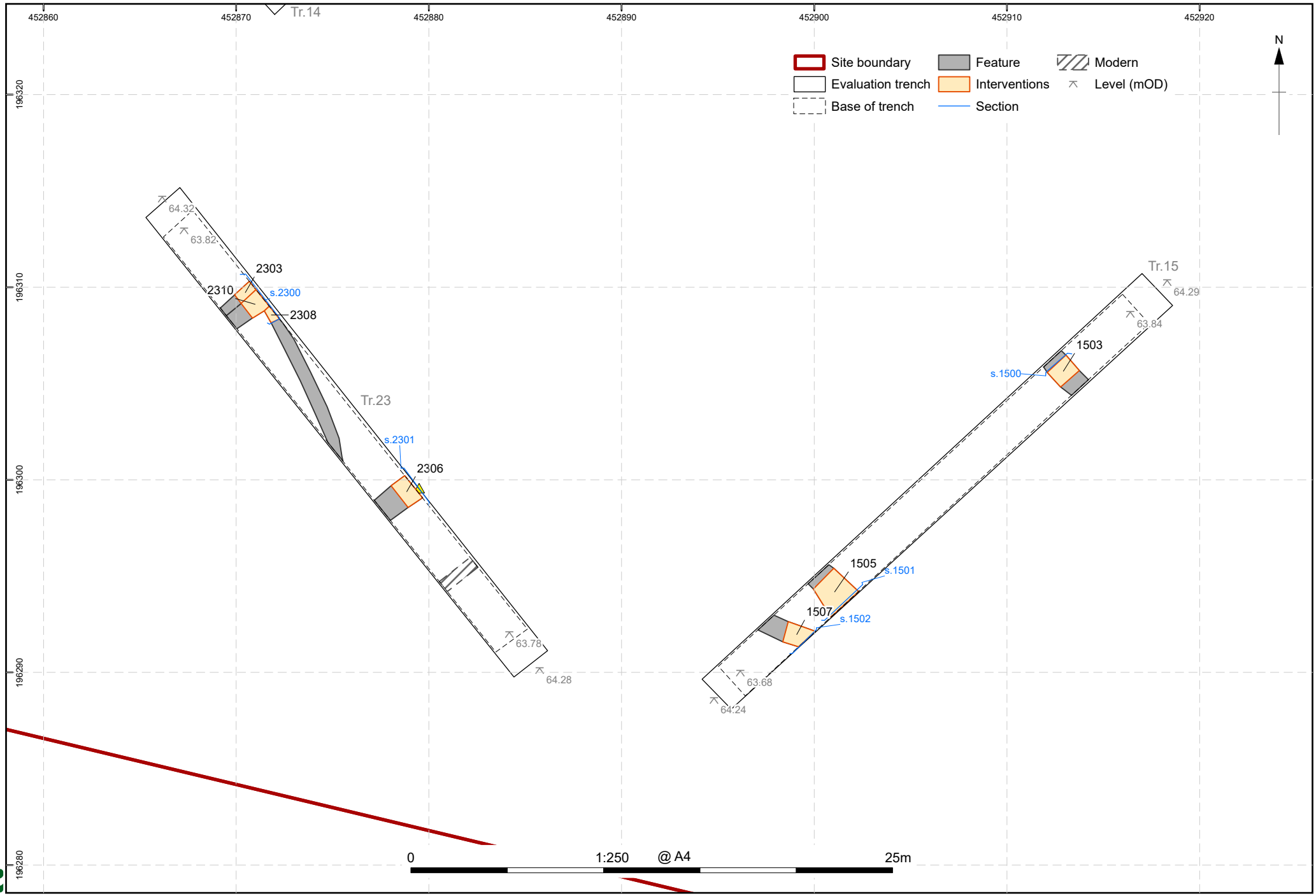

Figure 14: Detailed plan of Trenches 15 and 23

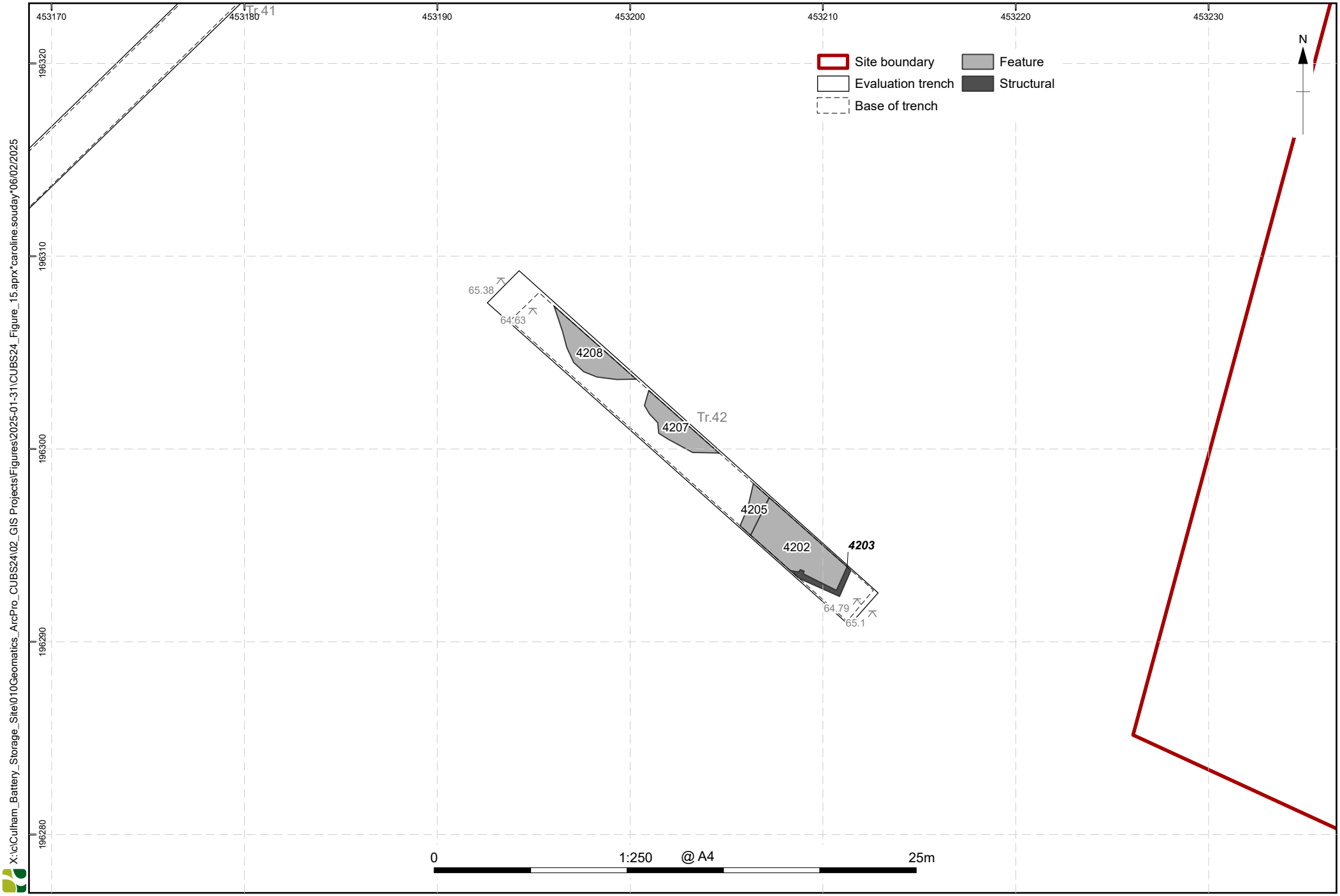

Figure 15: Detailed plan of Trench 42

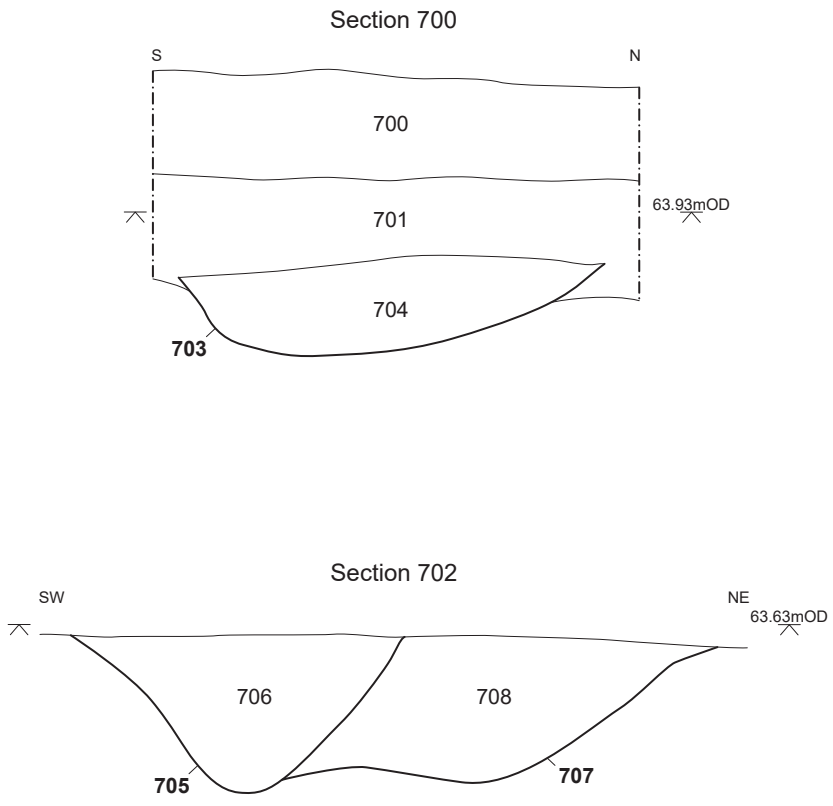

Figure 16: Sections through features in Trenches 7, 8 and 11

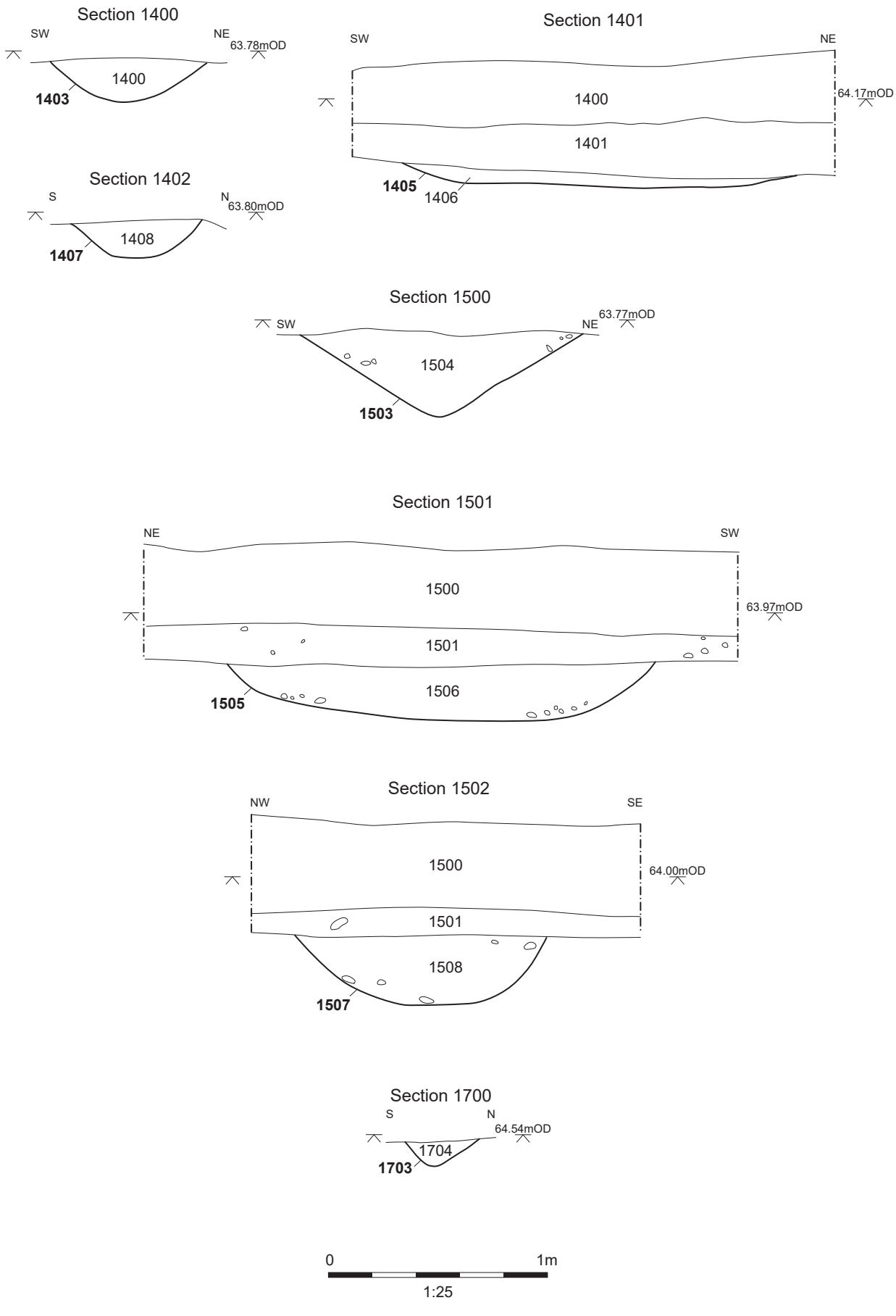

Figure 17: Sections through features in Trenches 14, 15 and 17

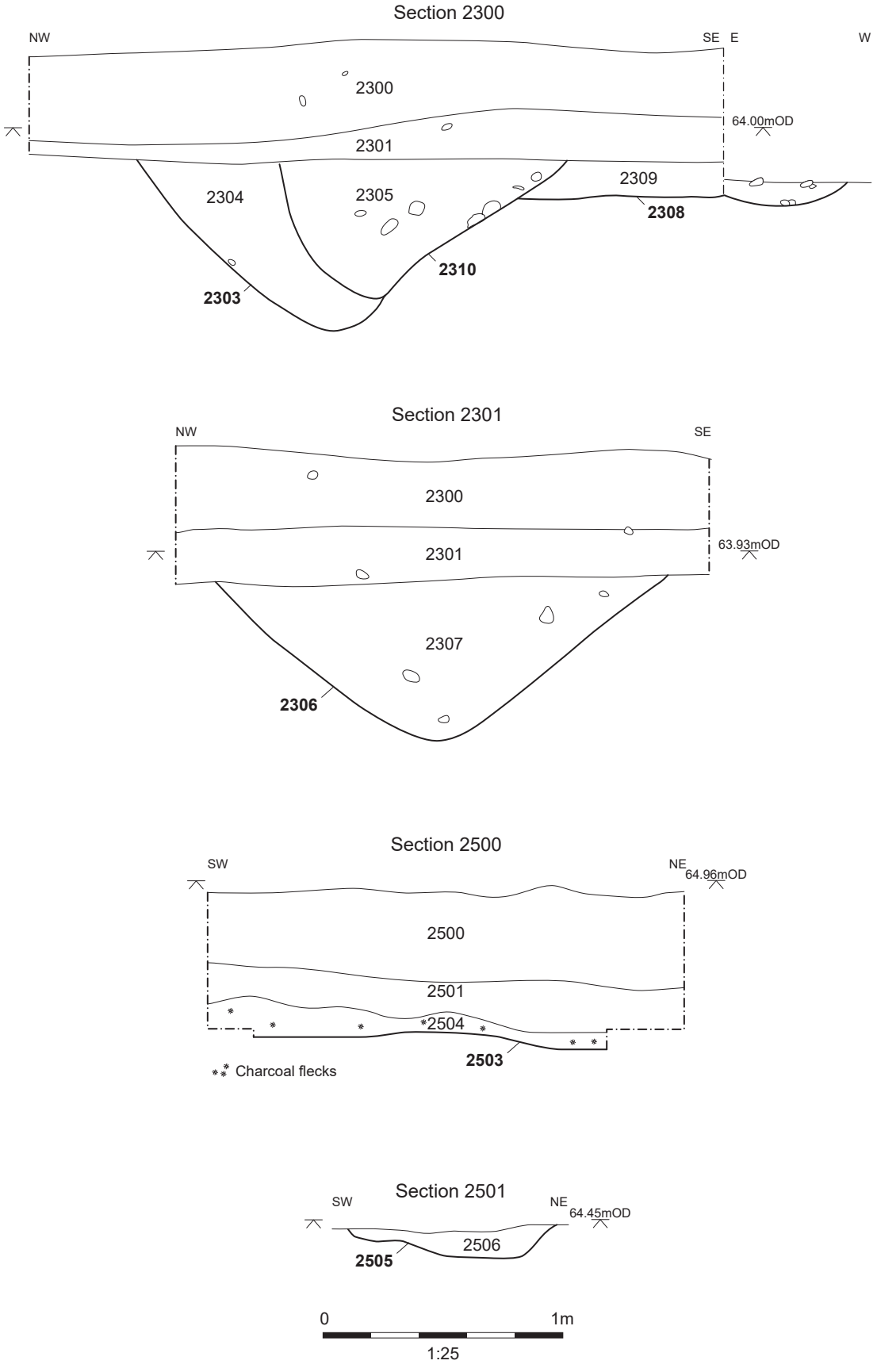

Figure 18: Sections through features in Trenches 23 and 25

Figure 19: Trench 42 and the Royal Naval Air Station
(APs Ref. RAF.106G.LA.59 as held by Historic England at Swindon Archive)

Plate 1: Representative shot of a trench without archaeological features; Trench 12. Looking north-west, 2 x 1m scales

Plate 2: Representative shot of a trench without archaeological features; Trench 28. Looking north-west, 2 x 1m scales

Plate 3: Representative shot of a trench without archaeological features; Trench 32. Looking west, 2 x 1m scales

Plate 4: Representative shot of a trench without archaeological features; Trench 39. Looking south-east, 2 x 1m scales

Plate 5: Section 702, intercutting ditches 705 and 707, which both produced late Roman pottery. Looking north-west, 2 x 1m scales

Plate 6: Section 800, ditch terminus 803, which produced late Roman pottery. Looking south-west, 0.40m scale

Plate 7: Plough scar 1007. Looking south, 1m scale

Plate 8: Section 1100, quarry dump pit 1103, which produced post-medieval and modern finds. Looking south-east, 1m scale

Plate 9: Section 1402, ditch 1407, which produced late Roman pottery. Looking north-west, 0.50m scale

Plate 10: Section 1502, ditch 1507, which produced late Roman pottery. Looking south-east, 1m scale

Plate 11: Section 1700, posthole 1703. Looking north-west, 0.25m scale

Plate 12: Section 2300, intercutting ditches 2303 and 2310 (left) and gully 2308 (right). All the features produced late Roman pottery. Looking north-east, 2m scale

Plate 13: Section 2500, plough furrow 2503. Looking south-east, 1m scale

Plate 14: Structure 4203 and demolition layer 4202. Looking north-west, 2 x 1m scales

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