Archaeology Wales

Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest

Archaeological Evaluation

By
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Report No. 1219

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Summary

In March 2014 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a trenched evaluation within two fields at Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, near Haverfordwest, hereafter 'the site'. Investigation of the site, which forms part of a larger development area, was commissioned by The Farm Energy Partnership on behalf of Vogt Solar Ltd, on the recommendation of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust as a condition of a planning application (13/0278/PA) for the construction of a photovoltaic solar farm.

The two fields (labelled Field 7 and 8) were identified by a previous geophysical survey (Poucher 2013) as having the greatest archaeological potential within the development area. The survey identified the outline of a possible Iron Age enclosure, with an additional outer enclosure ditch and associated features, within Field 8, and some features of unknown provenance within Field 7.

The evaluation comprised the archaeological investigation of eight, machine excavated, trenches located across the two fields. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded in Field 7, so it is concluded that the archaeological potential of this field is low. Within Field 8, however, the relatively well-preserved remains of a probable Iron Age circular ditched enclosure were recorded. Parts of a rampart as well as internal features, such as the base of a possible kiln structure, a gully and possible occupation hollow, were recorded. An associated outer enclosure ditch was identified, which truncated the backfills of an earlier pit. No features of clear archaeological significance were identified in areas located beyond these features, although a palaeochannel was recorded running from the main enclosure down the field. The position of the channel suggests it had a relationship with the enclosure, although no archaeological material was recovered from its fills.

The form of the enclosure fits well with the general size and layout of other Iron Age enclosures identified within the surrounding part of Pembrokeshire (Murphy et al 2007). The seemingly good survival internal features mark it out as a feature of at least local, and potentially regional, importance.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW), in response to a request by Parker Dann and The Farm Energy Partnership, on behalf of their clients Vogt Solar Ltd, to provide an archaeological evaluation of the potential impacts of a proposed development at Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, near Haverfordwest (Archaeology Wales Project Number 2193, site code CHW/14/EV).

1.2 The site consists of two field located to the east of Fenton Home Farm; NGR SM 9921 1732, see figures 1 - 4. A planning application has been submitted to develop the site and construct a solar powered farm (photovoltaic panels) across several fields around Fenton Home Farm (planning reference 13/0278/PA). The two fields subject to the archaeological evaluation cover an area of approximately 11.8ha. They have been used for both grazing and crop production and are bounded by mature hedgerows.

1.3 A previous archaeological desk-based assessment of the development area was produced by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2013). This was followed by a geophysical survey of the whole site by Archaeology Wales (Poucher 2013). The geophysical survey identified potential archaeological features surviving within two fields (identified within the report as Fields 7 & 8).

1.4 As a result of these findings, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services (DAT-PS), in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Pembrokeshire County Council), recommended that an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in order to assess the potential for the archaeological resource at the site. Consequently, a condition was placed on the planning permission decision notice (dated 05 Dec 2013) to this affect.

1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation was produced by Archaeology Wales and approved by DAT-PS (see Appendix III). The subsequent evaluation used strategically placed trial trenches to locate and describe archaeological features present within the development area. The work was designed to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The trenches were largely focused on features identified by the geophysical survey, i.e. they were in areas where there was considered to be the greatest potential for archaeological activity.

1.6 The excavations took place between the 17th February and the 7th March 2014. The work was managed by Phil Poucher and carried out under the supervision of Andrew Shobbrook.

1.7 All work conformed to the IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 1994, revised 2008 with updates Nov 2013) and was undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Site description

2.1 The two fields requiring archaeological work lie to the east of Fenton Home Farm, Crundale (Figure 2 - 4), which itself lies to the northeast of Haverfordwest (SM 9921 1732). The fields are hereafter referred to as Field 7 and Field 8, as identified within the previous geophysical survey report (Poucher 2013). The fields are currently in agricultural use, surrounded by hedgerows, and generally slope downwards in a south to south-westward direction towards Fenton Brook. The underlying geology comprises Ashgill shales and Llandovery conglomerates overlain by freely draining slightly acid loamy soils.

2.2 Field 7 lies to the east of the farmstead complex and is separated from it by a small wooded valley through which a stream runs. It covers an area of 5.8 hectares and is currently covered in improved pasture and grazed largely by sheep (Photo 1). There is a gradual southward slope to the field, which becomes more pronounced roughly midway along. The ground also begins to drop off into the valley to west, close to the field boundary. The field is bounded by hedgerows, with trees along its western boundary. A farm track runs immediately to the north and northwest, and a stream runs to the west. To the south lies a large pond, with Fenton Brook beyond that.

2.3 Field 8 is the adjoining field to the east, and covers an area of 6 hectares (Photo 16). There is a gradual slope to the south which begins to get slightly steeper roughly halfway down the field. There is also a shallow wide channel that runs south-south-east down the centre of the field where the ground begins to get steeper. The field has, until recently, been partially under a beet crop and was being grazed. The field is bounded on all sides by hedgerows. A farm track runs immediately to the north of the field, and Fenton Brook lies to the south. There is a small fenced enclosure in the northwest corner, close to which lies a circular cattle feeder.

3 Historical Background

3.1 A previous archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the development area by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2013) identified a possible Iron Age enclosure, visible as a crop mark identified from aerial photographs, within Field 8. No other archaeological sites were identified within the bounds of the two fields.

3.2 In the wider landscape, there is some evidence of activity during the Neolithic period (*c*.4400 BC – *c*.2300 BC), largely in the form of a flint working site over a kilometre to the east, although evidence of activity increases during the Bronze Age *(c*.2300 BC – *c*.700 BC). Several Bronze Age burial mounds are recorded within 2km of the site area (Wessex Archaeology 2013) as well as possible standing stones to the west and south. Evidence of settlement activity during this period is fragmentary, although several burnt mounds, often dated to the Bronze Age period and sometimes regarded as good indicators of settlements (Hodder 1990, 2002), have been recorded within the wider landscape. The closest being a site 980m to the west (PRN 3332).

3.3 During the Iron Age (*c*.700 BC – *c*. AD 43) there is greater evidence of settlement activity in the landscape, largely in the form of defended enclosures, many of which exhibit similar form and size to the enclosure identified within Field 8. Within 1.5km of the site nine Iron Age defended enclosure are recorded within the HER, many of which are described as sub-circular ditched enclosure between *c.*40m and *c.*50m in diameter (Murphy et al 2007), and often with concentric annexes, occupying slightly sloping ground. The enclosure as identified on the geophysical survey within the site area would appear to conform to this general pattern. These enclosures are all largely dated to the Iron Age, although the only one in the vicinity to be partially excavated (Merryborough Camp to the east, PRN 3554) recorded a single find of Roman Samian ware pottery.

3.4 There is little recorded evidence of activity in this area during the Roman period (*c.*AD 43 – *c.*AD 410). Although it is likely that the landscape was settled and utilised during this period evidence of this is only recently coming to light. A Roman fort has recently been discovered and investigated in Wiston to the east, and a Roman road is likely to pass through this area running west from the fort. Although the westernmost recorded section of this road lies some 2km to the northeast of the site the projected continuation of the road would bring it within 1km to the north of the site. As evidence from the Merryborough Camp to the east suggests there is some indication of Iron Age defended enclosures continuing in use, or being re-used, during the Roman period.

3.5 Similarly there is scant evidence of remains dating to the early medieval period (410 – 1086). Following the end of the Roman era this area of Wales appears to have been subject to major immigration from Ireland. The kingdom of Dyfed emerged in the 5th century, split into smaller areas with this area lying within the Castell Gwis commote within the cantref of Deugleddyf. By the early 10th century Dyfed had merged with a neighbouring kingdom to form the kingdom of Deheubarth, within which it remained until the Norman invasion in the late 11th century (Wessex Archaeology 2013).

3.6 During the medieval period this area is likely to have been part of the rural hinterland surrounding the main local administrative centre at Wiston. However, to the southeast of the site, on the opposite side of Fenton Brook, lies a moated platform (PRN 10389), that is believed to be of medieval origins, and which is now a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (Pe465). This moated platform was presumably associated with a homestead.

3.7 Fenton Home Farm itself is recorded as a post-medieval mansion site (PRN 17762). The fields in question are likely to have also been laid out sometime in the post-medieval period. The boundaries to the fields, as they currently exist, have changed little since they were first accurately recorded on mid-19th century mapping. Internally however Field 7 has seen the removal of two field boundaries during the 20th century.

4 Previous investigation

4.1 Following completion of the desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology, 2013), a geophysical survey was undertaken across the entire development area (Poucher 2013). This survey identified numerous features, largely of limited archaeological potential, such as post-medieval field boundaries, modern features and features of natural origin. However, features of potential archaeological importance were identified within Field 7 and a possible Iron Age enclosure and associated features were identified within Field 8. The geophysical survey results for these two fields are reproduced in Figures 3 and 4.

4.2 Within Field 7, Features 701 and 702 were readily identifiable as post-medieval field boundaries and Feature 705 was considered to be of modern origin. The provenance of Features 703 and 704 was unclear from the survey results alone.

4.3 Within Field 8, Feature 801 was interpreted as a ditch defining a circular enclosure. Feature 802 was interpreted as an outer enclosure ditch, probably associated with main enclosure, while features 803 and 804 were more ephemeral features, possibly associated with the main enclosure, although their exact form and function was unclear. Features 805 and 806 had the appearance of naturally occurring features, such as palaeochannels, although their positional association with the main enclosure indicated archaeological significance. Feature 807 was identifiable as a modern service pipe.

5 Methodology

5.1 Prior to the evaluation taking place, a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced detailing the methodology for the archaeological evaluation. This was agreed by DAT-PS and a copy is included in Appendix III. The agreed evaluation area was concentrated within Field 7 and Field 8 (Poucher 2013) to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information identified by the geophysical survey and to ensure that the archaeological resource was understood.

5.2 Eight machine excavated evaluation trenches were cut across the site, Trenches 1 – 4 in Field 7, and Trenches 5 – 8 in Field 8 (Figures 3 & 4).

5.3 Trench 1 was 28m long and 2m wide, orientated NNW – SSE and located towards the northern end of the field. Its position was designed to investigate linear feature 704, as identified on the geophysical survey results.

5.4 Trenches 2 and 3 were located in the central part of the field. Both trenches measured 49m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west. Their positions were designed to investigate deposits and any potential archaeological features located within the centre of the field. Although no features were shown in this area on the geophysical survey results the trenches were positioned to test the efficacy of the geophysical survey in recording features of archaeological interest, as well as providing useful information should any further archaeological work be required within this field.

5.5 Trench 4 was located towards the southern end of the field. The trench was L-shaped and measured 2m wide by 30m orientated SW-NE and 20m orientated SE-NW. Its position was designed to investigate potential feature 703 as identified on the geophysical survey results.

5.6 Trench 5 was located towards the northern end of Field 8. This trench measured 71m long by 2.5m wide, orientated east – west. Its position was designed to encompass the full width of the potential Iron Age enclosure 801, encompassing the main enclosure ditch and potential internal features as well as an external linear feature 803, as identified on the geophysical survey results. This trench was shortened on its eastern side to avoid overhead power lines.

5.7 Trench 6 was located towards the northern end of the field, 40m to the south of Trench 3. This trench measured 60m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west. Its position designed to investigate the area in front of a possible southern entrance to the circular enclosure (feature 801), as well as a possible palaeochannel and hollow way to the south (feature 805) and a potential outer enclosure ditch (feature 802).

5.8 Trench 7 was located centrally within the field. This trench measured 63m long by 2.9m wide, orientated east – west. Its position designed to investigate the possible palaeochannels 805 and 806.

5.9 Trench 8 was located towards the southern end of the field. This trench measured 60m long by 2.8m wide, orientated east – west. Its position designed to investigate the southern end of the possible palaeochannels, as well as general deposits at the lower end of the field where potential archaeological features may have been better protected from ploughing activity.

5.10 The trenches were all excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated to the top of identified archaeological deposits or the natural soil horizon.

5.11 All areas were hand cleaned to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. Sample excavation was undertaken on most of the identified archaeological features. Recording was carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

5.12 Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail were maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs were taken using cameras with resolutions of 5 mega pixels or above.

5.13 Plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, see Figures 5 – 15.

5.14 Seven soil samples were taken during the course of the excavation which have been assessed for environmental remains. This report is included in Appendix I (Carruthers 2014).

5.15 The fieldwork was undertaken between 17th February and the 7th March 2014.

5.16 A site monitoring visit was undertaken by a representative of DAT-PS on 6th March 2014, prior to any backfilling activity.

6 Results

6.1 *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was located at the northern end of Field 7. It measured 28m long by 2m wide and was orientated NNW-SSE. Its position was designed to investigate a linear feature identified on the geophysical survey (Poucher 2013 – Feature 704). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m (Figure 5, Photos 2 - 4).

The topsoil (1000) consisted of a loose, dark brown silty-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions and rare small fragments of coal. This topsoil appeared consistently throughout the trench, typically between 0.12m and 0.18m thick. This deposit contained one sherd of post-medieval pottery.

Beneath topsoil (1000) was a subsoil deposit (1001) of moderate, mid greyish-brown silty-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions. This deposit appeared consistently throughout the trench and varied between 0.1m and 0.18m thick. It was at its thickest at the southern end. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded within this deposit, it is assumed to be a naturally-occurring subsoil deposit.

Geophysical feature 704 was identified by deposit 1003, sitting within interface 1004. This feature had relatively straight and parallel edges, set 8.4m apart. The infilling material (1003) consisted of a moderate, light to mid brown silty-clay with common small fragmented shale inclusions. No finds, charcoal or other indication of human activity was identified within this deposit. Combined with the fact that subsoil deposit 1001 overlay this feature, it is interpreted as a naturally-occurring palaeochannel, draining into the nearby stream-course to the west.

This feature cut into a compact layer of light orange-brown silty-clay and fragmented shale bedrock (1002), which would appear to represent a natural geological layer. This deposit was at its highest level in the centre of the trench, 0.26m below current levels, and at its deepest (0.36m below current level) at the southern end of the trench.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were noted within the trench.

6.2 *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was located within Field 7, within the northern half of the field. It measured 49m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west, with a maximum depth of 0.32m. The trench was positioned to examine general deposits within the field, it was not positioned to target any specific features visible on the geophysical survey results (Figure 6, Photos 5 – 7).

The topsoil (2000) consisted of a loose, light to mid brown silty-clay with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this deposit, the increased stone content is likely to be the result of ploughing activity. This deposit occurred consistently throughout the trench, varying between 0.23m and 0.32m thick.

Underlying the topsoil was a compact, light orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (2001) with abundant small sub-angular fragmented bedrock inclusions. This subsoil occurred consistently throughout the trench, excavation ceased at this level. No finds or features of archaeological interest were noted within this deposit.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were noted within this trench.

6.3 ***Trench 3***

Trench 3 was located within the southern half of Field 7. It measured 49m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west, with a maximum depth of 0.33m. The trench was positioned to examine general deposits within the field, it was not positioned to target any specific features visible on the geophysical survey results (Figure 7, Photos 8 – 10).

Similar to Trench 2 the topsoil (3000) consisted of a well-ploughed loose, dark brown silty-clay with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions. The topsoil was however thinner within this trench, between 0.08m and 0.12m thick. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Underlying the topsoil was a subsoil layer of moderate, light greyish-brown silty-clay (3001) with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions. This subsoil varied between 0.13m and 0.23m thick throughout the trench, generally around 0.2m thick but at its thinnest in the western 5m of the trench. This deposit is considered to be a plough-disturbed subsoil. No finds or features of archaeological interest were noted within this deposit.

Underlying the subsoil was a compact, light orange-brown silty-clay with patches of weathered and fragmented bedrock visible amongst it (3002). This would appear to represent the natural geological layer, and occurred at depths of between 0.2m and 0.33m below current ground levels, with overlying deposits at their shallowest at the western end of the trench.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were noted within the trench.

6.4 ***Trench 4***

Trench 4 was located towards the southern end of Field 7. It was an L-shaped trench, 2m wide and measuring 33m orientated SW – NE, and a further 22m SE – NW. It was positioned to investigate a possible feature identified on the geophysical survey results (Poucher 2013, Feature 703). This area was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.34m (Figures 8 & 9, Photos 11 – 15).

The topsoil (4000) consisted of a moderate, light greyish-brown silty-clay with common, small sub-angular stone inclusions. This deposit occurred consistently throughout the trench, between 0.17m and 0.26m thick.

Underlying the topsoil was a subsoil deposit of compact, light orange-brown silty-clay (4001) containing large amounts of small sub-angular stone.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were noted within the trench and no evidence of the feature identified in the geophysical survey results was revealed. It may be of note that this trench lies in close proximity to a modern water or drainage pipe that runs in a NNE-SSW direction across the field. The location of this pipe was not visible on the geophysical survey results, but was identified by the landowner. It is possible therefore that the survey picked up ground disturbance within the upper deposits associated with this pipe.

6.5 ***Trench 5***

Trench 5 was located towards the northern end of Field 8. It measured 71.2m long, and 2.5m wide, orientated east – west. This trench was positioned to investigate the main circular enclosure identified on the geophysical survey (Poucher 2013, Feature 801), encompassing the main enclosure ditch, possible internal features and an external feature (Poucher 2013, Feature 803) to the west of the main enclosure (Figures 10 & 11, Photos 17 - 35).

The topsoil (5000) consisted of moderate, dark brown silty-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions. The thickness of the topsoil varied, at its thickest (up to 0.4m thick) towards the western end of the trench but reducing to just 0.18m at the eastern end of the trench. Considering this trench was targeting the main archaeological feature within the evaluation area finds were relatively scarce from this deposit, and consisted only of four small fragments of unworked flint recovered from the surface (deposit 5000). Several features were revealed underlying the topsoil, described individually below.

The naturally occurring subsoil within the trench (5001) consisted of a compact, light yellow silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions. Bedrock deposits were also exposed in areas throughout the trench.

Enclosure Ditch and Bank (Photos 19 – 24)

The line of the main enclosure ditch, as depicted on the geophysical survey results (Feature 801), was readily visible within the trench, underlying the topsoil (5000) and cutting into the underlying subsoil (5001). Towards the western end of the trench this was visible as feature 5002, a slightly curvilinear feature running roughly north – south across the trench, 5.8m wide. This feature was unexcavated, but the upper recorded fill (5003) consisted of a moderate, dark brown silty-clay with the occasional small sub-angular stone inclusion. This feature occurred at a depth of 0.35m below current ground levels, no finds were recovered from deposit 5003.

At the eastern end of the trench the enclosure ditch was identified as feature 5017, at a depth of 0.3m below current ground levels. A slot 1m wide and up to 1.2m deep was excavated into this feature. This revealed a ditch cut 6m wide, with a relatively straight, moderate eastern (outer) edge, and a steeper, slightly concave western (inner) edge. The base of the ditch was not reached, excavation ceased at 1.2m. Seven fills were identified within the excavated section. The earliest, sequentially, was deposit 5025, which was revealed at the limit of the excavated depth. This was a mid grey-brown gravel deposit. Overlying this was a deposit (5020) of light brown-yellow silty-clay with fine gravel inclusions. This deposit was up to 1m thick, but only

occurred on the western (inner) side of the ditch. Similarities to possible internal rampart material (deposit 5016, see below) suggest this may be slumped rampart. Several very small fragments of unidentifiable bone were recovered from this deposit. Samples were taken from this deposit (Sample 7, see Appendix I). The environmental assessment recorded the presence of some spelt wheat, indicative of some small-scale cereal storage and processing activity likely associated with prehistoric settlement activity. The infilling deposit above (5019) was also sampled (Sample 8, Appendix I), this was a coarse gravel deposit in a mid-brown silty-clay matrix. One small iron object was recovered from this deposit. The object was initially thought to be a fragment of iron nail, however, a slight curve on the object may suggest it represents the remains of a different object, and further study of the object is recommended. The environmental assessment recorded further spelt as well as heath grass, often found on heaths, moors and mountains, although also found as an arable weed in prehistoric contexts. Overlying this deposit was a series of three stony silty-clay fills between 0.15m and 0.2m thick (5022, 5023 & 5024). The upper part of the ditch was then infilled by a 0.5m thick deposit of mid yellow-brown silty-clay (5018). No finds were recovered from any deposit above 5019.

Immediately to the west of enclosure ditch 5017, on the inner side of the ditch, a compact pinkish-yellow silty-clay (5016) was apparent, 6.9m wide and just 0.18m below the current ground surface. This deposit was also exposed in the section, with the profile indicating it represented the plough-flattened remains of a bank. Deposit 5016 was sampled. On its eastern side it was overlaid by deposit 5021, a compact mid to dark yellow clay, which was cut by the edge of enclosure ditch 5017. These two compact clay deposits would therefore appear to represent remains of an internal rampart. It seems likely that the rampart and ditch are contemporary, although clearly the internal rampart was at least partly constructed before the final extent of the ditch was cut, as evidenced by the relationship between deposit 5021 and ditch cut 5017.

This rampart material 5016 was cut by a feature (cut 5014) close to its inner eastern edge, and only partially revealed within the confines of the trench. It measured 1.03m across, protruding 0.85m into the trench with a curved sub-circular outline. As the full limits of the feature were not revealed within the trench it is not clear if this represents the remains of a pit, posthole or small ditch terminus, although a slight inward curve on the western edge before the edge of the trench may suggest either a pit or posthole. It remained unexcavated, although was partially revealed in the machined trench section, suggesting it had steep straight sides. A single fill was revealed (5015) of moderate, dark brown silty-clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. The interface with the ploughsoil (5000) was indistinct, it is possible therefore that this represents a relatively modern feature.

No evidence of an internal rampart was evident adjacent to the western section of enclosure ditch 5002. In this area the ploughsoil directly overlay the stony subsoil 5001, and it is possible evidence of an internal bank may have been removed through later ploughing. There was an area *c.*6m wide between the edge of the enclosure ditch 5002 and the first identified internal feature (gully 5004), which may provide enough room to accommodate an internal bank of similar dimensions to that exposed to the east.

The ditch segments enclose an area *c.*39m in diameter, which taking into account a potential internal bank encloses an available area of *c.*27m in diameter, dependent on the full dimensions of the bank.

Internal Deposit (Photos 26 – 28)

Underlying the ploughsoil and contained within the area defined by the enclosure ditch segments 5002 and 5017 was a deposit of fairly compact, dark greyish-brown sandy-silt (deposit 5007) with common small sub-angular stone inclusions. This deposit was located relatively centrally between the ditch segments and covered an area 12m across. No relationship could be directly established with internal rampart deposit (5016) or gully 5004 (see below), however, where it was excavated along both its eastern and western edges it was shown to overlie and infill cut 5006, and structure 5026 (see below). No finds were recovered from this deposit, although samples were taken for processing (Sample 6, Appendix I). The variety of seeds recorded suggest a damp habitat, although clearly the deposit had also been contaminated with modern manuring.

It would appear this deposit represents a gradual build-up of material across a slight hollow in the centre of the enclosure, with the environmental assessment suggesting the area may have become waterlogged during this period. The hollow may been the result of settlement activity within the enclosure and deposit 5006 is therefore likely to have built up within this hollow after the abandonment of the enclosure.

This deposit was also cut by a series of three small postholes or stakeholes (5008, 5010 & 5012). Cut 5008 was circular in plan, 0.3m in diameter, and filled with a charcoal-rich very dark, brownish-grey sandy-silt (5009). Cut 5010 was another circular cut, the largest of the three measuring 0.5m in diameter. It too contained a very similar charcoal-rich deposit (5011). Cut 5012 was a small circular feature, 0.1m in diameter, but again filled with a similar charcoal-rich material (5013). Each feature was set *c*.0.7m apart, forming a possible curvilinear feature orientated WNW – ESE. These feature presumably post-date the abandonment of the enclosure although their true date and function remain unclear.

Structure 5026 (Photos 29 – 31)

The eastern part of internal deposit 5007 was excavated, within a slot 2.6m long, which demonstrated deposit 5007 overlay structure 5026. This feature sat within an irregular hollow (cut 5030) with curved edges cut into the underlying stony subsoil 5001. As the structure was both only partly revealed within the trench (within a slot 2.6m long, and with the feature protruding 1.5m into the trench) and left *in situ* the full dimensions of the cut within which it sat was not recorded. Set within the cut were a series of large, relatively flat, stones (each between 0.4m and 0.6m across) in a curvilinear arrangement. Overlying the central stones, although clearly plough-damaged, was a fairly compact deposit of light yellow clay (5027) at most 0.2m thick, that had been heat-reddened, this reddening appearing in patches throughout the deposit. The area around the stones, within cut 5030, was infilled with a stony light brownish-grey silty-clay (5029).

No finds were recovered from any deposits associated with this structure, which was largely left *in situ* although the heat-reddened clay deposit was removed for environmental sampling (Sample 9, Appendix I). The environmental assessment recorded spelt and emmer/spelt along with some cereal grains. This would suggest the small-scale cereal storage and processing activity recorded from the nearby ditch fills was concentrated on this structure.

Gully 5004 (Photos 32 & 33)

A small curvilinear feature (cut 5004) was revealed within the western part of the enclosure, between the western enclosure ditch segment 5002 and the internal deposit 5007. This curvilinear feature measured 1.5m long, 0.4m wide and only 0.08m deep, with shallow concave sides and base. The shallow nature of the feature suggests further remains may have been completely truncated by later ploughing. It contained a single fill (5005) of stony mid brown sandy-silt, no finds were recovered.

Cut 5006 (Photos 34 & 35)

1.8m from gully 5004 the excavation of the internal deposit 5007 showed it to be at least partially infilling feature 5006. A 2m wide sondage was excavated into this feature, which demonstrated it cut 0.52m into the underlying stony subsoil 5001, with steep slightly concave edges onto a somewhat irregular base. The outline of the cut where exposed was irregular with a curved western end. It was infilled with deposit 5007.

No further features were identified within this trench. The possible feature to the west of the main enclosure identified on the geophysical survey (Poucher 2013, Feature 803) was not noted within the trench.

6.6 ***Trench 6***

Trench 6 was located 40m to the south of Trench 5 within Field 8. It measured 79.5m long and 2.5m wide, orientated east – west. This trench was positioned to investigate deposits to the south of the main enclosure around a possible entranceway into the enclosure, as well as a large feature running north – south down the field (Poucher 2013, Feature 805) and a possible outer enclosure ditch (Poucher 2013, Feature 802) to the west of the main enclosure (Figures 12 & 13, Photos 36 - 45).

The topsoil (6000) throughout the trench consisted of a moderate, dark brown silty-clay ploughsoil, with the occasional small sub-angular stone inclusion, and was typically 0.3m thick. The natural subsoil (6006) throughout the trench consisted of a fairly compact light orange-brown silty clay with abundant angular stone inclusions, clearly derived from the fragmented bedrock that was also exposed in various places within the trench. No finds were recovered from any of these deposits. Three features were revealed underlying the topsoil 6000 and cutting into the subsoil 6006, described below.

Ditch 6001 & Pit 6003 (Photos 38 - 43)

Towards the western end of the trench Feature 802, as identified on the geophysical survey, was identified in the evaluation as a shallow rock-cut ditch 6001, visible at a depth of 0.3m below current ground levels. In profile the ditch had steep straight eastern edge onto a concave base with a very shallow straight western edge, it measured at most 2.1m wide and 0.25m deep. The eastern edge was cutting into exposed bedrock deposits, however much of the shallower western edge was cutting into an earlier pit (6003). The outline of the ditch cut was somewhat irregular where it cut into the bedrock deposits, and there also appeared to be a rounded ditch terminus before the northern trench section, although the line of the ditch is suggested as continuing further north on the geophysical survey results. The ditch contained a single fill (6002) of moderate to firm dark brown silty-clay. This deposit contained several small fragments of a lightweight slag-type material, and one small fragment of hardened reddened clay, although none of these finds are closely dateable. Environmental samples were also taken for processing (Sample 1, Appendix I). The environmental assessment clearly indicate this deposit has been contaminated by modern manuring, however seeds typical of plants growing in semi-waterlogged conditions were also recorded. Charred gorse seeds were also recorded, which may suggest the presence of a gorse hedge around the enclosure ditch to aid in the stock proofing or defensive capabilities of the ditch.

The underlying pit 6003 measured 2.18m by 1.4m, sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners. It had steep sides, straight to the west and north, slightly concave to the east. It was excavated to a depth of 1m, further excavation prevented by the unstable loose infilling material. It was filled (6004) largely by a loose deposit of very stony grey silty-clay, which would appear to represent redeposited mixed natural subsoil and fragmented bedrock. The composition and uniformity of this deposit suggests an episode of deliberate backfilling, possibly soon after the initial excavation of the pit. No finds were recovered from this deposit, although samples were taken for environmental processing (Sample 5, Appendix I). Very little environmental evidence was contained within this very stony deposit, also indicative of deliberate backfilling. Towards the top of the pit a 0.06m thick band of dark brown silty-clay was also recorded (6007) that would appear to form a lens of redeposited topsoil amongst the more typical stony backfill.

Palaeochannel 6006 (Photos 44 - 45)

Geophysical feature 805 was identified as a 7m wide channel (cut/interface 6005) running north – south across the width of the trench. A sondage was excavated into the western side of the feature. This revealed an upper deposit of the light orange-brown subsoil (6006) partially covering this feature. Underlying this was a 0.24m thick deposit of moderate light-brown fine silty-clay alluvium (6008), samples were taken from this deposit for environmental processing (Sample 2 (mislabelled as context 6005), Appendix I). The environmental assessment suggested that this deposit was also contaminated by modern material, possibly as a result of deeper ploughing in the softer soil or water movement along the channel bringing in contaminants. Some evidence of plants from damp or stream-side environments were recorded. Below this, on the base of the channel within the sondage, was a light to mid grey clay (6009) containing abundant inclusions of small sub-angular

stone. The western edge of the channel was shallow and slightly concave, with a gentle break of slope onto a somewhat irregular base at a depth of 0.3m. No finds or evidence of human activity were recorded within these deposits. The finely sorted clays and covering subsoil deposit suggests this feature represents a palaeochannel.

6.7 ***Trench 7***

Trench 7 was located centrally within Field 8. It measured 63m long and 2.9m wide, and was orientated east – west. The trench was positioned to further investigate geophysical feature 805, along with the roughly parallel feature 806.

The topsoil (7000) consisted of a moderate, dark brown silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions, which suggested a well-turned over ploughsoil cutting into underlying subsoil and bedrock deposits. No finds were recovered from this deposit. This topsoil was relatively consistent throughout the trench, averaging 0.3m thick.

There was some variation in the underlying subsoil deposits. At the western end of the trench the subsoil consisted of a compact, light yellowish-brown silty-clay gravel (7002). This would appear to be a layer overlying the more consistent subsoil deposit of compact, light orange-brown silty-clay (7003) with frequent stone inclusions and occasional exposures of underlying bedrock.

Running centrally across the trench was deposit 7001, a friable dark brown, silty-clay with the occasional stone inclusion. This deposit was clearly the upper fill of cut/interface (7004), 17.4m wide and representing a continuation of the feature identified as a palaeochannel in Trench 6 (6006) and labelled on the geophysical survey results as Feature 805. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

To the east a band, 2.25m wide, of slightly lighter orange silty-clay (7005) was noted running north – south across the trench. It was very similar in both colour and composition to the surrounding natural subsoil (7003) and was therefore thought to represent a variation in the naturally occurring subsoil deposits in this area. This deposit would appear to correspond to Feature 806 as identified from the geophysical survey results.

6.8 ***Trench 8***

Trench 8 was located towards the southern end of Field 8, to investigate the southern end of Feature 805 in an area where a greater build-up of overlying ploughsoil may have helped preserve underlying deposits. This trench measured 60m long and 2.8m wide, orientated east – west.

The topsoil consisted of a typical dark brown silty-clay ploughsoil (6000), seen throughout the trench at a relatively consistent depth averaging at 0.28m. One small fragment of unworked flint was recovered from this topsoil. The underlying subsoil varied on either side of the central palaeochannel (cut/interface 8006), geophysical feature 805. To the west the subsoil consisted of a compact yellow clay (8004) with bands of underlying bedrock exposed at depths of around 0.3m in places. To the east the subsoil consisted of light orange-brown silty-clay (8005).

The palaeochannel (cut/interface 8006) was 6.8m wide with relatively straight edges, filled with a moderate, dark brown silty-clay (8003) with the occasional stone inclusion. Unfortunately, due its location towards the base of the hill this area soon became waterlogged during the course of the excavation, preventing any further investigations of this feature. A modern field drain (cut 8001) 0.17m wide was noted cutting through the centre and following the line of the palaeochannel.

6.9 ***Artefactual and Environmental Data***

Within Trenches 5, 6 and 8, all within Field 8, a total of six unworked flint fragments were recovered, all from topsoil deposits. Four were recovered from the topsoil of Trench 5 (deposit 5000) located towards the highest part of the field and in the area of the circular ditched enclosure. One was recovered from Trench 6 (deposit 6000) just to the south of the enclosure, with the final fragment recovered from Trench 8 (deposit 8000) towards the bottom of the natural slope within the field. These flints were unworked, and although possibly indicative of general prehistoric activity close dating of these finds is not possible.

Only one pottery sherd was recovered, again from a topsoil deposit. This was found within Trench 1 (deposit 1000), toward the northern end of Field 7. This sherd is a thin red earthenware, gravel-tempered, with an internal greenish glaze. Such fragments of pottery have a general post-medieval date, generally more frequent during the 18th century although know to still be in use throughout the 19th century.

Finds were recovered from only two features within the entire evaluation. Within the eastern segment of the main circular enclosure ditch, as identified within Trench 5, a very small amount (less than 5g) of fragmented bone was recovered from one of the lower ditch fills (deposit 5020). Four fragments in all were recovered, but too small to identify or use for dating purposes. Within an overlying deposit (deposit 5019), one small iron object was recovered. Initially thought to be a fragment of iron nail, it is recommended that further investigation of this object is undertaken to establish its origin and function. This deposit was clearly part of a later infilling of the enclosure ditch, possibly therefore dating from a period when the enclosure had been abandoned. Clearly at this stage the find can only be broadly dated to the Iron Age or later, and therefore provides little clue as to the date of the enclosure itself.

The remaining finds were recovered from the fill (deposit 6002) of a possible outer enclosure ditch to the west of the main circular enclosure. This consisted of six small fragments of metal slag (between 5g and 10g), likely to be iron, amorphous in shape and heavily corroded, and one small fragment of hardened and reddened clay (less than 5g), possibly a fragment of oven-lining or daub. This fragment was again too small and fragmented to identify positively.

Samples were taken from seven deposits across the site for environmental assessment. From within Trench 5 samples were taken from both deposit 5019 and 5020, two infilling deposits of the eastern segment of circular enclosure ditch (ditch 5017). A sample was also taken from deposit 5007, a general deposit that spread across much of the centre of the enclosure presumably after its abandonment, and

also from deposit 5027, a small deposit of heat-affected clay from a possible kiln structure 5026.

From within Trench 6 samples were taken from both the fill (deposit 6002) of the possible outer enclosure ditch (cut 6001) and the fill (deposit 6004) of the underlying pit (cut 6003). The final sample was taken from the main alluvial deposit (deposit 6005) filling the large palaeochannel (cut/interface 6006) that appears to run down the centre of Field 8.

The environmental assessment report (Carruthers 2014) is included as an appendix (Appendix I), and a brief description of the findings are included alongside the context descriptions within the main evaluation results section above.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation suggest that the potential of Field 7 (the westernmost of the two fields) is low. It is unlikely that features of archaeological significance exist within this field.

7.2 In contrast, however, the evaluation suggests that features of significant archaeological interest exist in Field 8. The features are confined to the main circular enclosure and an outer enclosure ditch located to its west. The evaluation confirmed the presence of many of the features identified during the previous geophysical survey (Poucher 2013).

7.3 Within Trench 5, two segments of the main enclosure ditch were identified, set *c*.39m apart. The geophysical survey suggests that these form opposite parts a circular enclosure. In addition, evidence of a possible internal bank was identified on the eastern side. No similar feature was identified in the west. However, an area *c*.6m wide devoid of any features was identified on the internal side of the western segment, which represents ample room for a corresponding feature. Evidence of heavy ploughing was observed across Field 8 and it is feasible that the internal rampart on this side had been ploughed away.

7.4 The internal area of the enclosure measures approximately *c*.27m in diameter and the evidence of the evaluation suggests that within this relatively well-preserved remains of occupation are likely to survive. A deposit, 12m across, appears to fill an internal hollow, and where excavated was shown to cover and infill internal features. In the west it was shown to infill an irregular feature, which may represent a possible house platform cut into the looser fragmented bedrock and subsoil. A small curvilinear gully, located 1.8m to the west of this, may therefore be the remnants of a drip-gully encircling a roundhouse, although these remains are fragmentary and only partially excavated. To the east of this, an internal deposit overlay the remains of a structure consisting of a curvilinear arrangement of large stones, set within a sub-circular hollow and partially covered in heat-affected clay. Such an arrangement is indicative of the base of a kiln. The exact composition of the kiln is uncertain, but it may represent some form of semi-industrial or agri-industrial activity. Environmental assessment suggest this may have been the focus of small-scale cereal storage and processing, indicative of prehistoric settlement activity.

7.5 The primary internal deposit appears to derive from post-use abandonment of the site, allowing the area and internal features to become covered in a build-up of soil in water-logged conditions. The ditch segments also show evidence of a gradual build-up of material following abandonment. Later activity on the site is, however, suggested by the presence of several possible post holes cutting into the internal deposit. Another possible post-hole is recorded cutting into the internal rampart. However, the nature of its fill indicates it is a more recent feature.

7.6 The previous geophysical survey suggested the presence of external features, likely associated with activity at the enclosure. The evaluation did not identify any features immediately outside the main enclosure. However, a long curvilinear feature thought to represent an outer enclosure ditch was identified within Trench 6. This consisted of a shallow ditch, which was possibly fragmented into sections, as a possible northern terminus was identified. The alignment of the ditch suggests it is

likely to be contemporary with the main enclosure, with the environmental assessment recording plant remains that are known on other Iron Age sites. The ditch cut into an earlier pit, the function of which is unclear. The uniform nature of the material filling it suggests it was deliberately backfilled, possibly soon after its original excavation.

7.7 A large irregular feature, running roughly north to south down the field to the south of the main enclosure, was identified as a possible palaeochannel. No finds or deposits of archaeological importance were noted within the channel, although its association with the circular enclosure is potentially significant. Although overlying subsoil deposits suggest that the palaeochannel predates the establishment of the enclosure, it may have acted as a contemporary water channel.

7.8 Finds and dateable material were scarce from the site. The only finds from secure contexts consist of very small fragments of bone, a small iron object, slag waste and a small fragment of reddened clay. These are unable to provide good dating evidence for any of the features identified on site. Charcoal fragments from the outer enclosure ditch were recovered that may be suitable for Carbon14 dating, however modern contaminants were also noted within this deposit. The potential for charcoal suitable for Carbon14 dating was also noted within the main enclosure ditch fills and overlying the possible kiln structure, although further excavation would be required to produce a more comprehensive sample from these deposits suitable for full environmental processing and dating. The form of the enclosure fits well with the general size and layout of other Iron Age enclosures identified within the surrounding part of Pembrokeshire (Murphy et al 2007).

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Poucher, P 2008 *Milford Haven Waterway Ports and Harbours Project* Cambria Archaeology Report for Cadw.

Wessex Archaeology 2013 *Fenton Farm, Crundale, Pembrokeshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Project No. 89230.02

Maps

British Geological Survey 1994 The Rocks of Wales 1;250,000

Ordnance Survey 1889 1st edition map Pembrokeshire 1;2500

Ordnance Survey 1902 2nd edition map Pembrokeshire 1;2500

Databases

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER)

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales National Monuments Record (NMR)

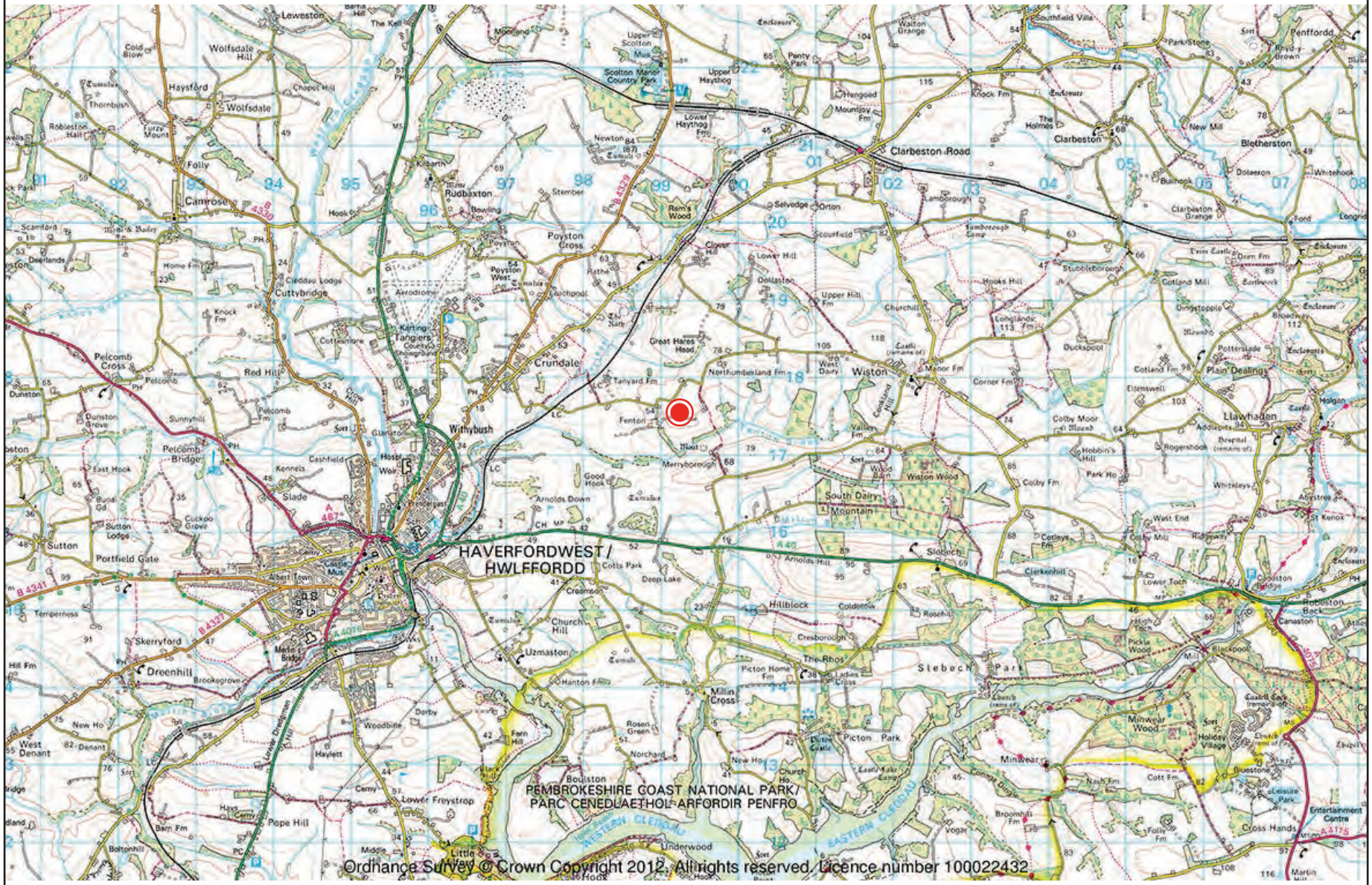

Fig.1: Site location, based on the Ordnance Survey 1;50000 map

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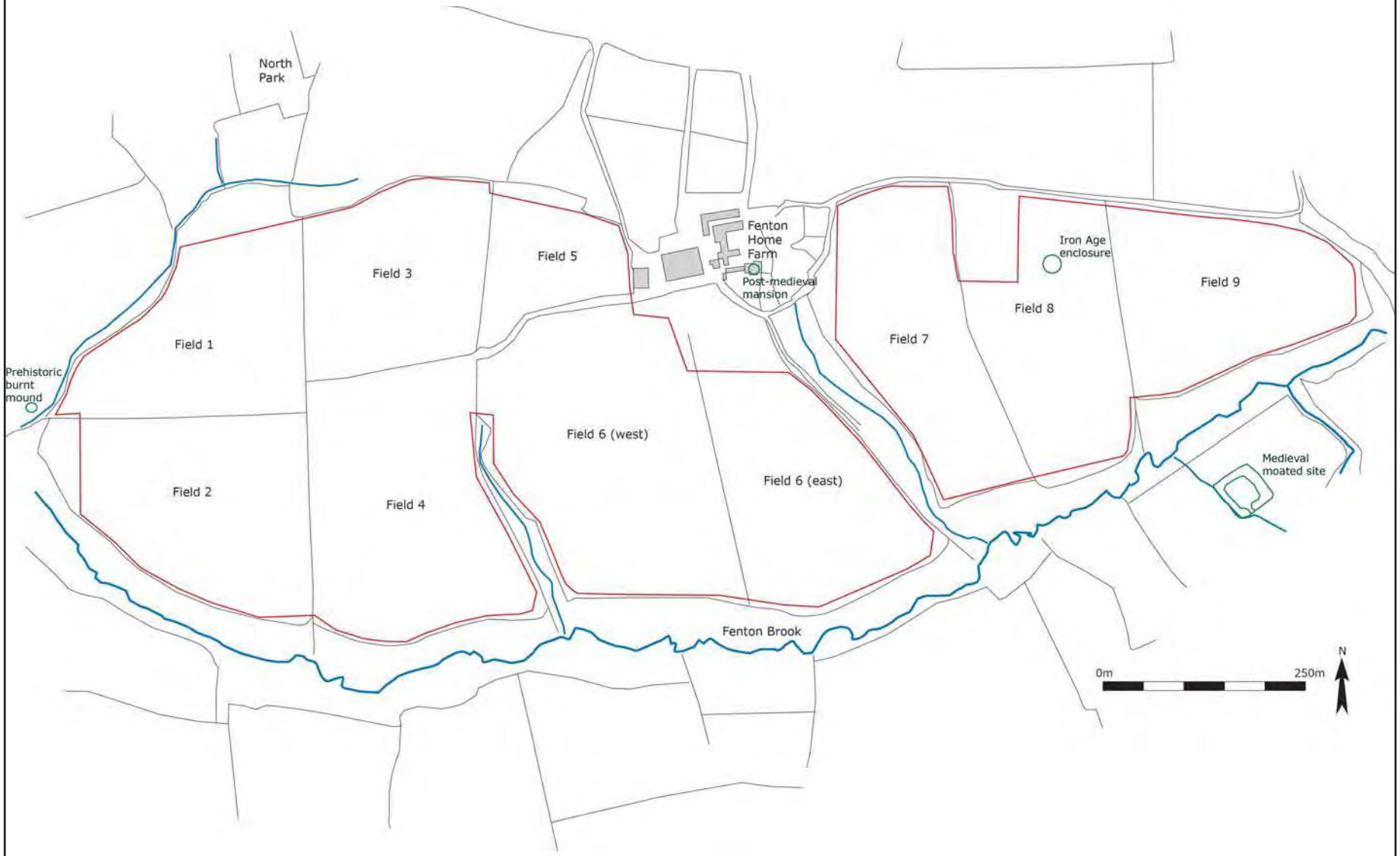

Fig. 2: Site plan, showing proposed development area (red) and field labels. The evaluation was undertaken in Fields 7 & 8

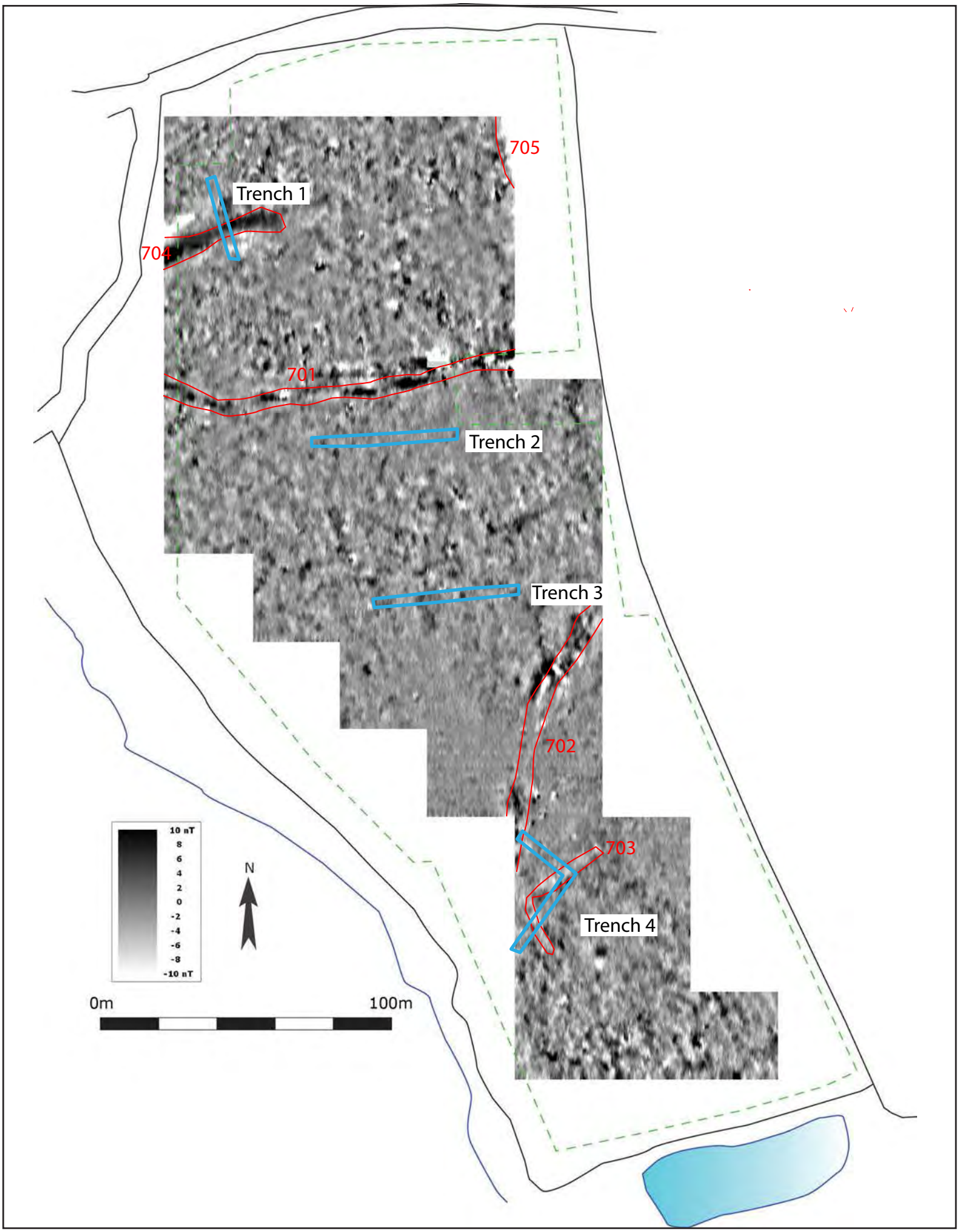

Fig. 3: Locations of archaeological evaluation trenches (trenches in Blue) in Field 7. Overlaid on the geophysical survey results with the main features identified in red. The feature numbers correspond to the numbers assigned in the geopysical survey report (Poucher 2013)

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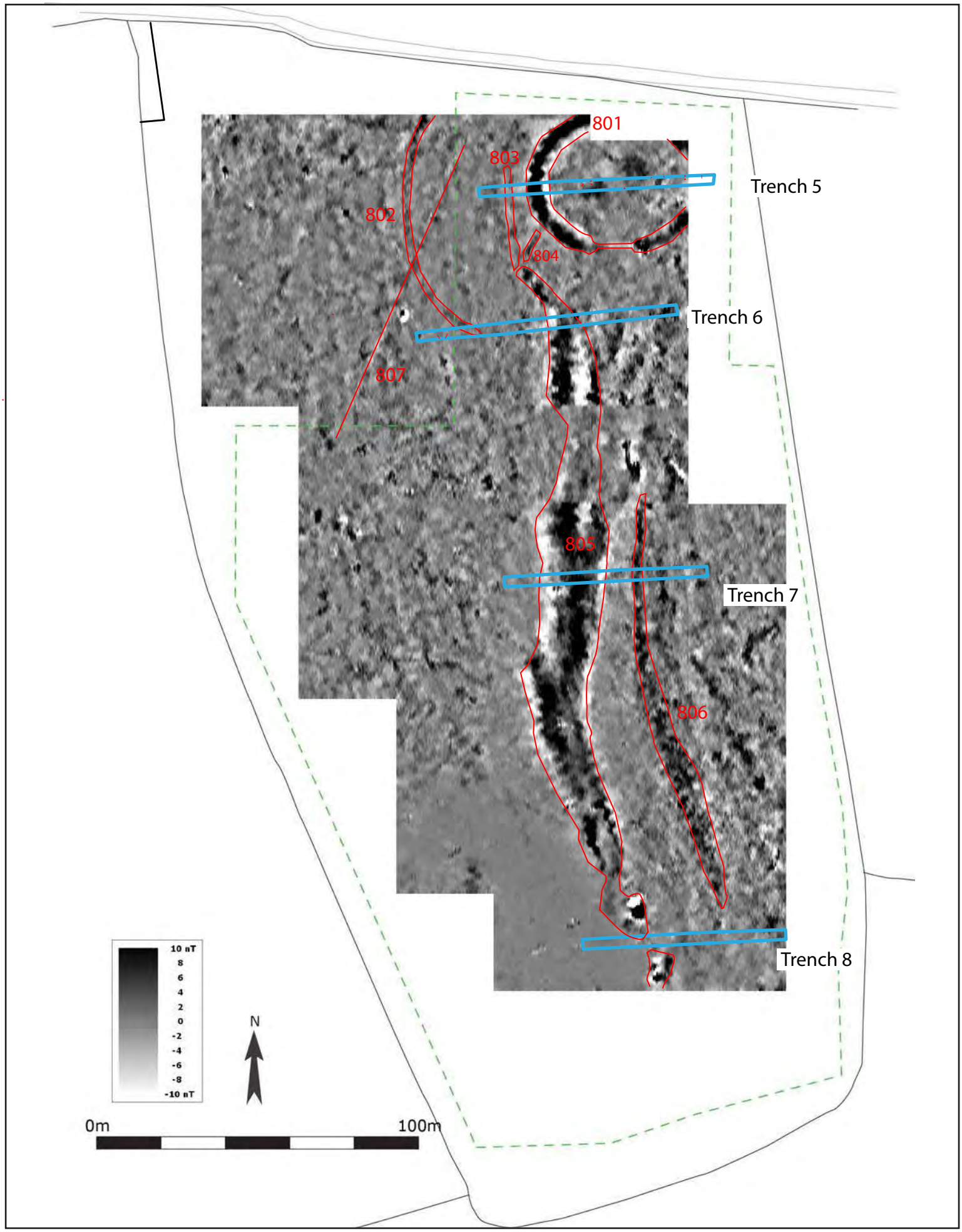


Fig. 4: Locations of archaeological evaluation trenches (trenches in Blue) in Field 8. Overlaid on the geophysical survey results with the main features identified in red. The feature numbers correspond to the numbers assigned in the geophysical survey report (Poucher 2013)

Fig. 5:Trench 1 Plan

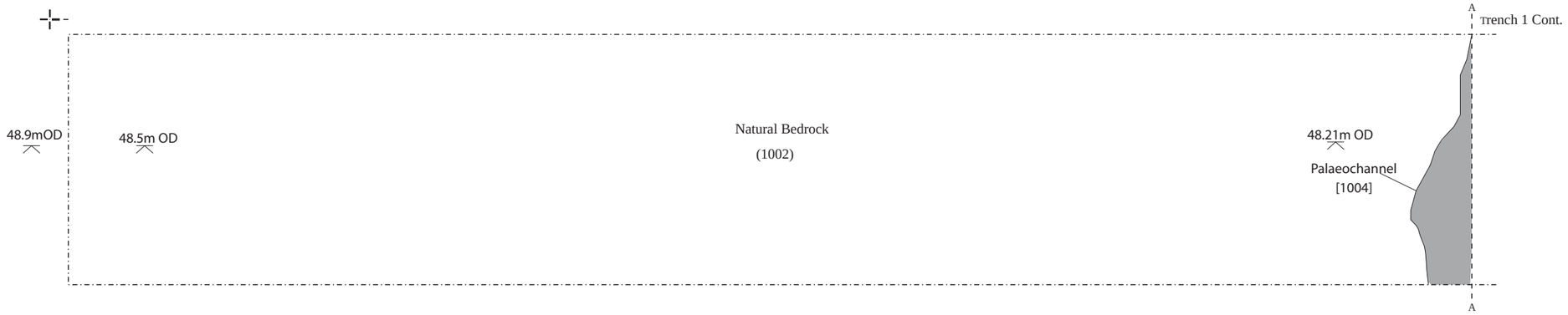
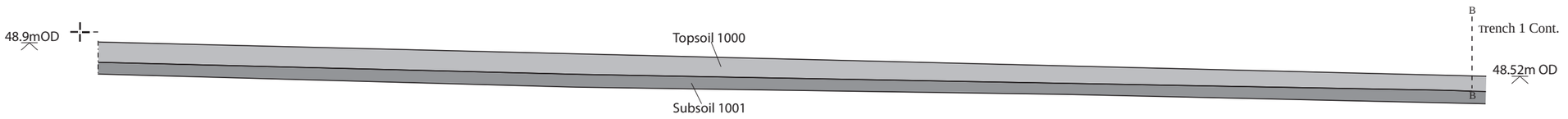


Fig. : Trench 1 Profile



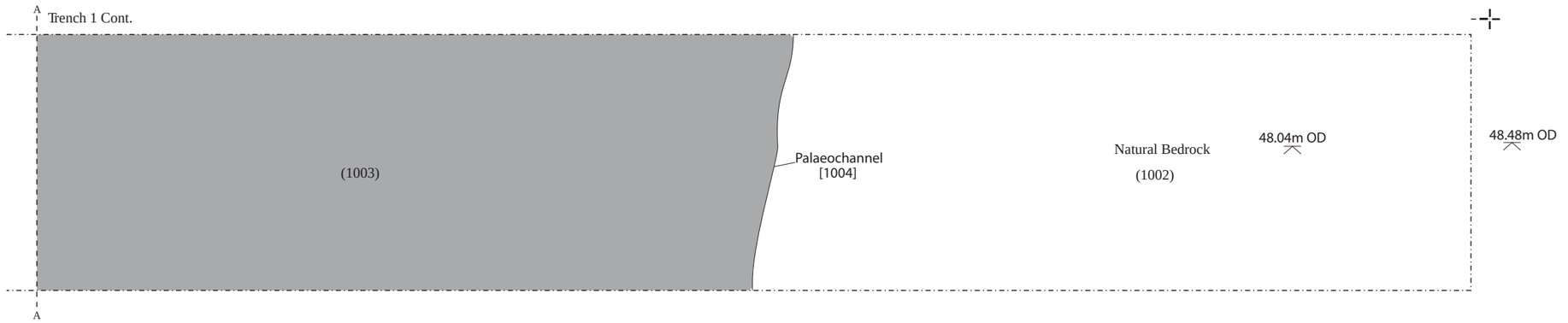


Fig. 5

Trench 1 Plan and Profile

scale
1: 50

Fig. 6:Trench 2 Plan

Fig. : Trench 2 Profile

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Fig. 6
Trench 2 Plan and Profile

scale
1: 50

Fig. 7:Trench 3 Plan

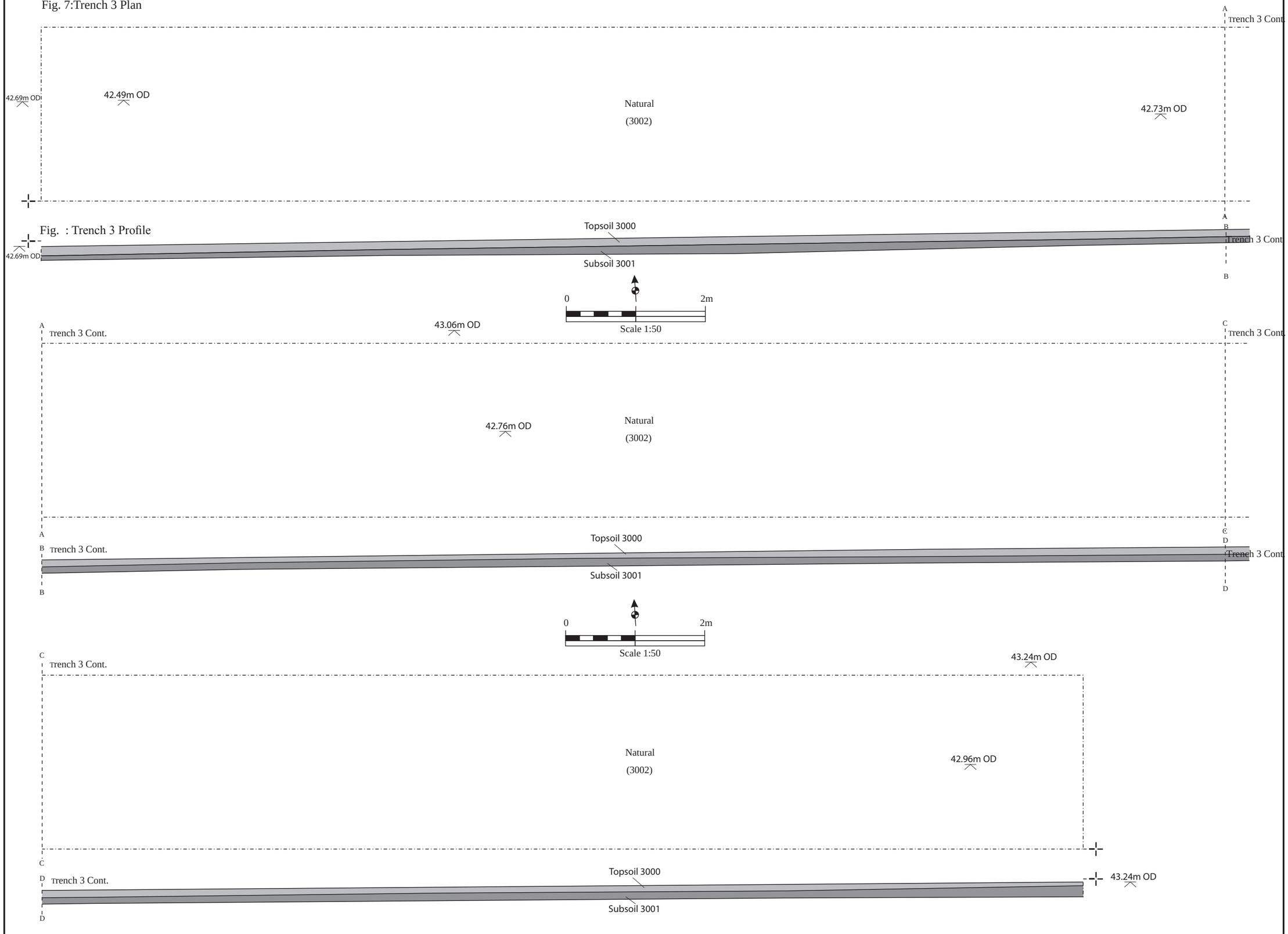

Fig. : Trench 3 Profile

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Fig. 7
Trench 3 Plan
and Profile

scale
1: 50

Fig. 8:Trench 4 Plan

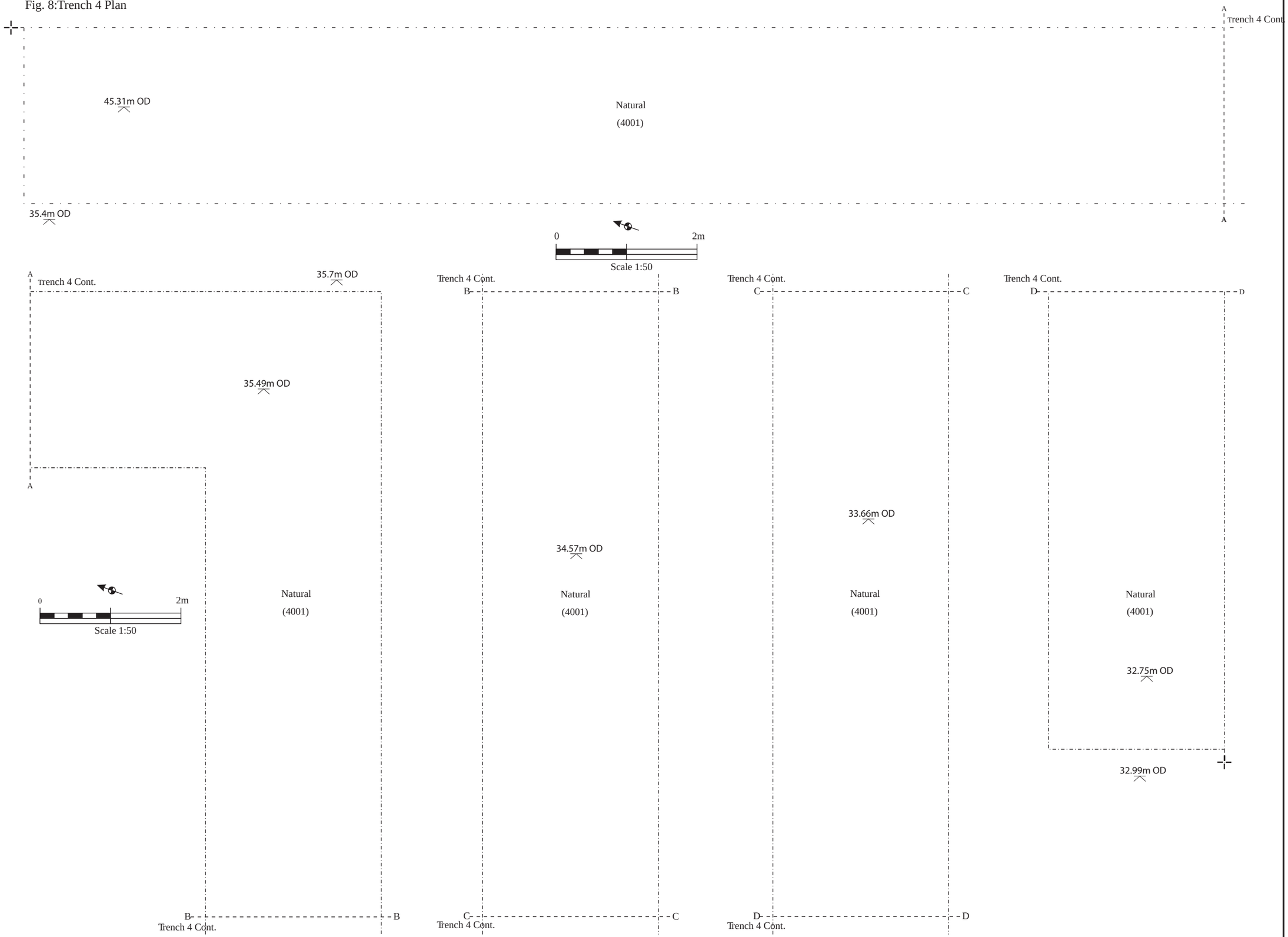
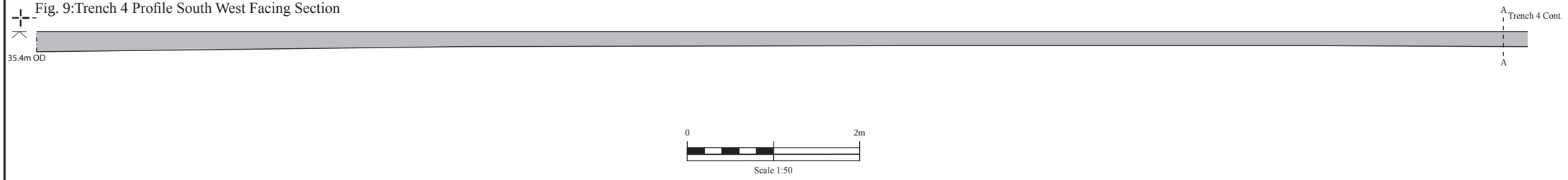
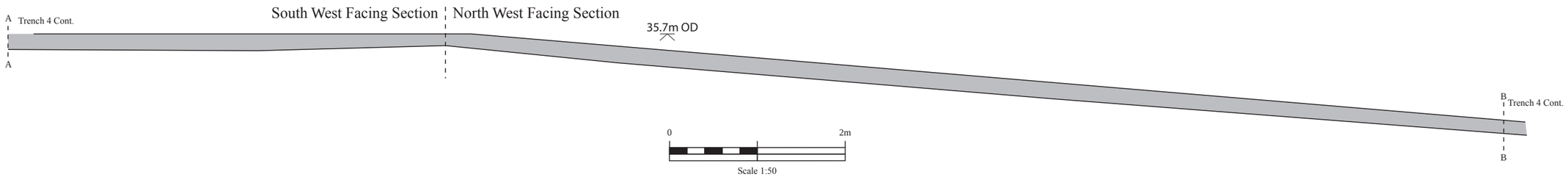


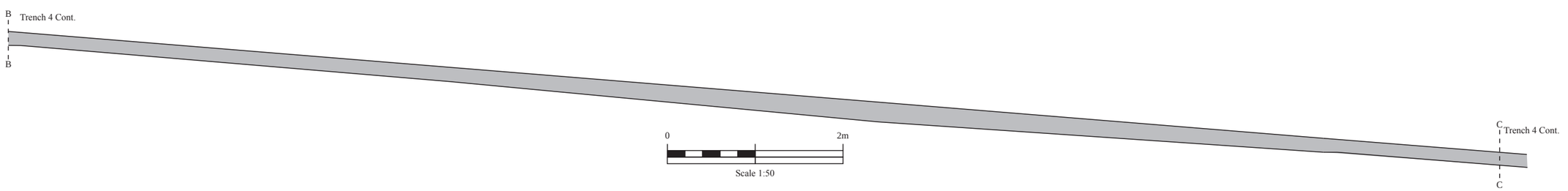
Fig. 8
Trench 4 Plan

scale
1: 50

Fig. 9:Trench 4 Profile South West Facing Section







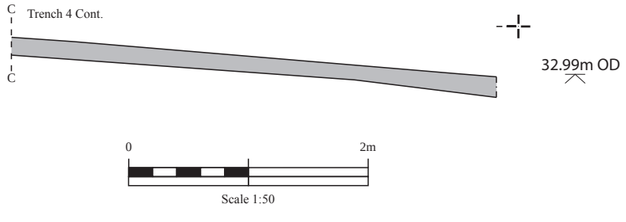


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Fig. 9
Trench 4 Profile

scale
1: 50

Fig.10: Trench 5 Plan

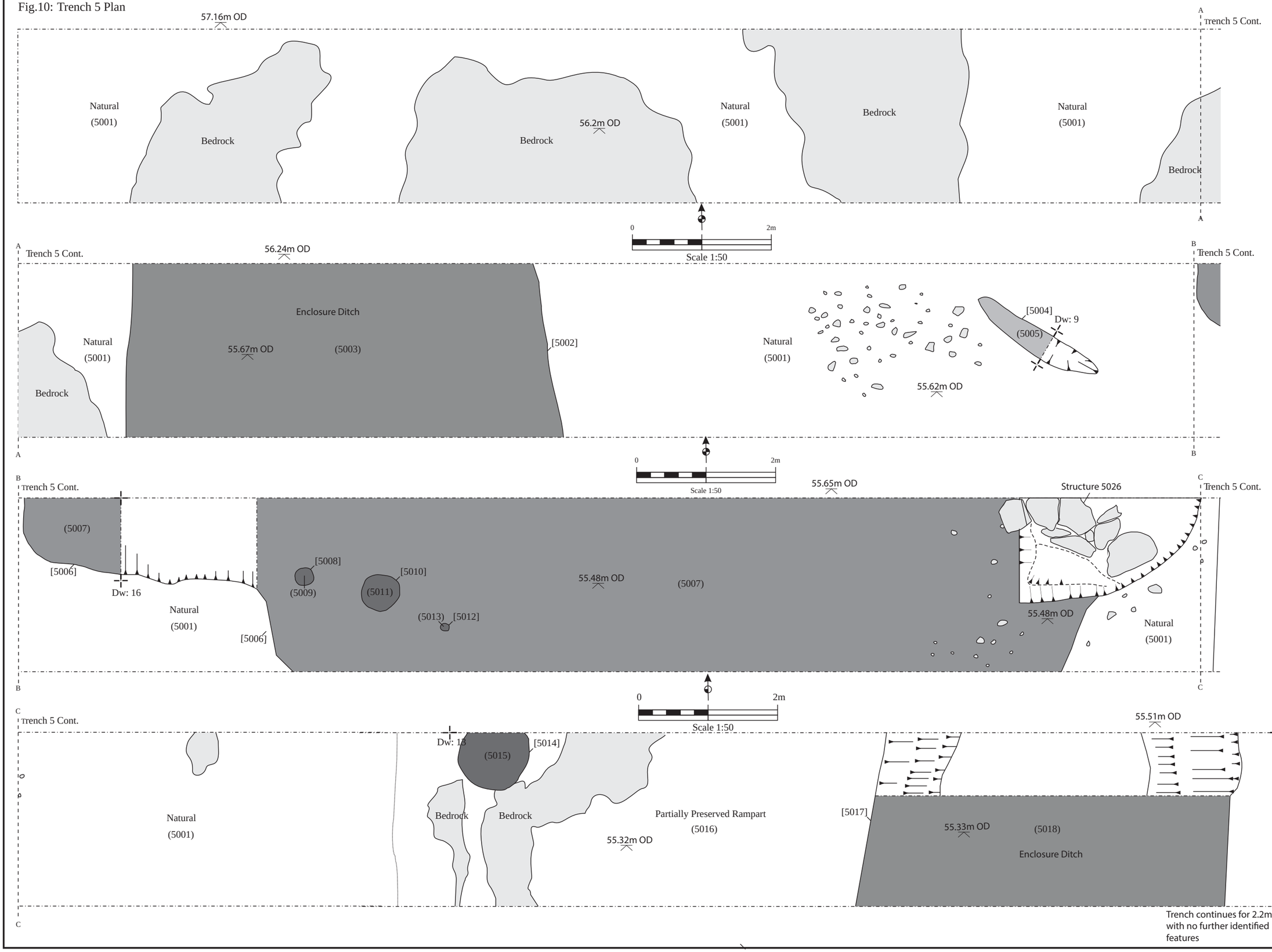

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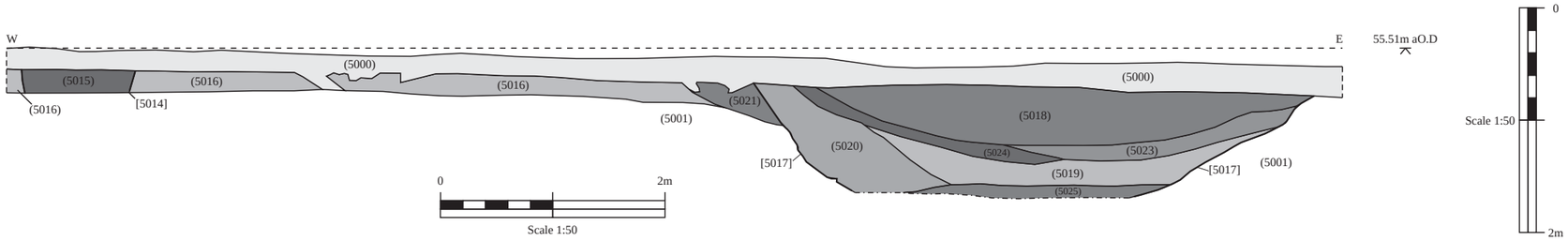
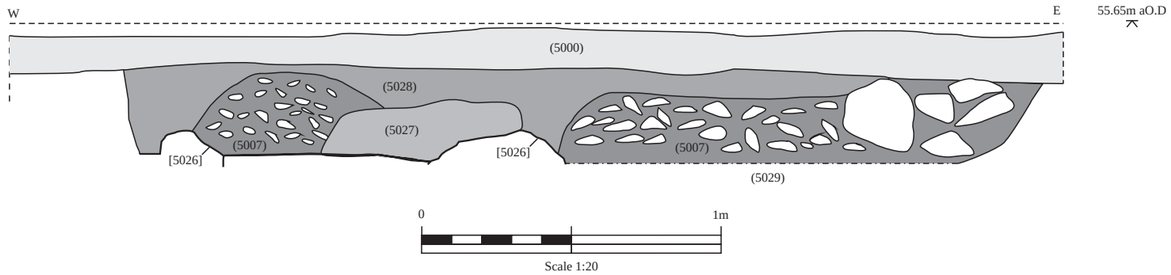
Fig. 10
Trench 5 Plan

scale
1: 50

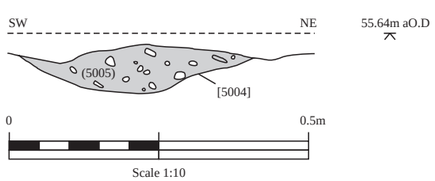
South Facing Section through Ditch Feature [5017] and Posthole [5014]



Dw: 15 South Facing Section through Structure [5026]



Dw: 9 South East Facing Section through Gully Feature [5004]



Dw: 16 East Facing Section through Feature [5006]

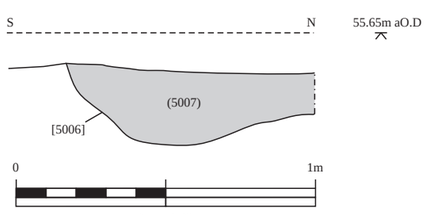


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Fig. 11
Trench 5 Sections

scale
Various - see individual sections

Fig.12 Trench 6 Plan

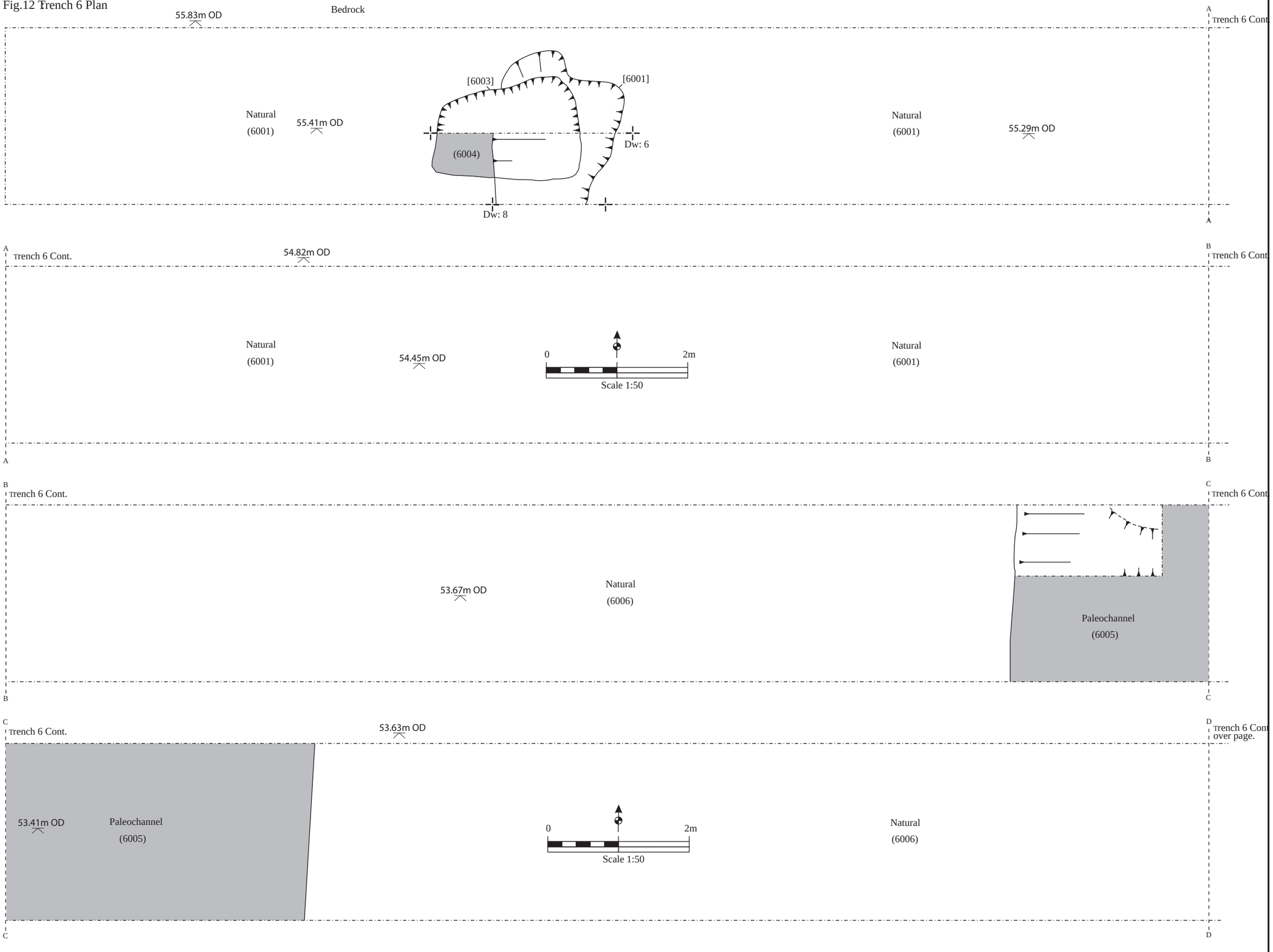

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Fig. 12
Trench 6 Plan

scale
1: 50

Fig.12 cont : Trench 6 Plan Continued

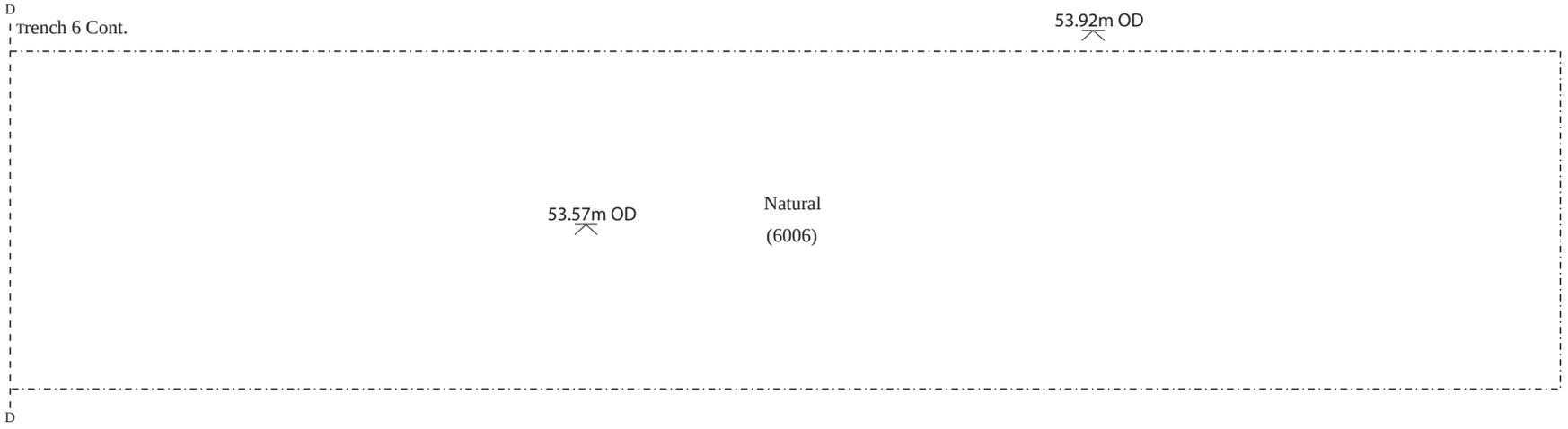

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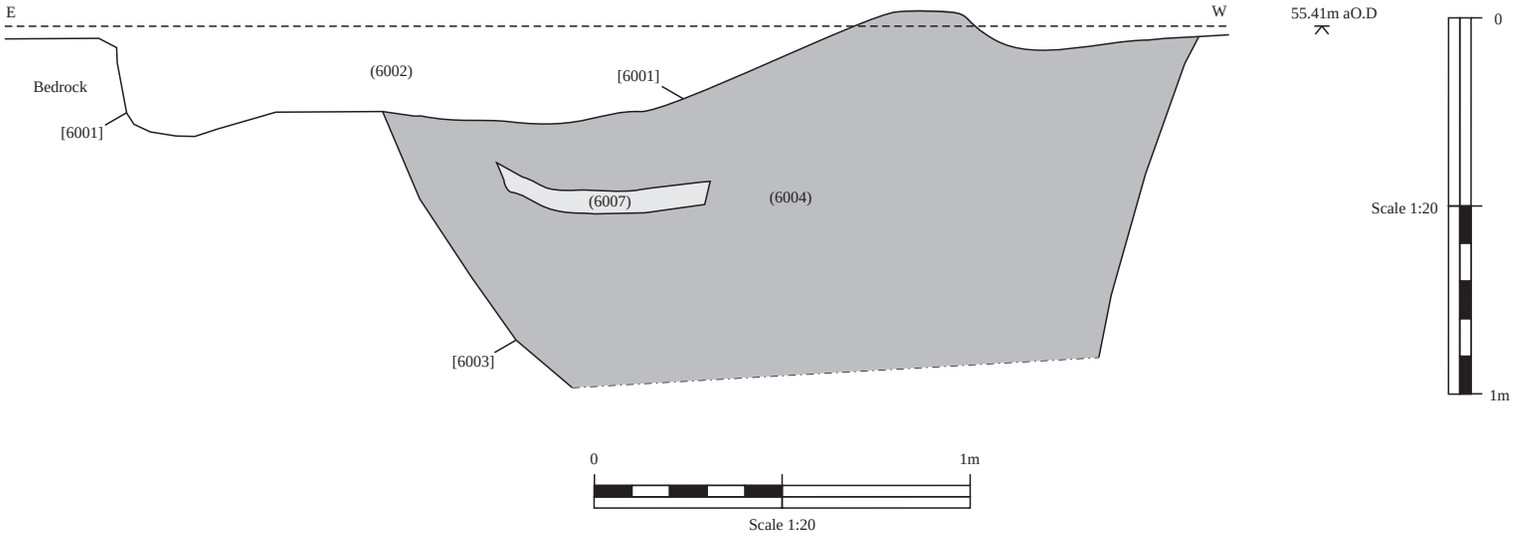
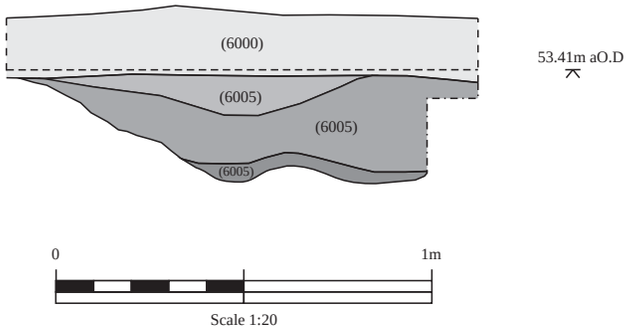
Fig.12 cont.
Trench 6 Plan
continuation

scale
1: 50

Dw: 6 North Facing Section through
Pit Feature [6003]



Dw: 7 North Facing Section through
Paleochannel Feature (6005)



Dw: 8 North Facing Section through
Ditch Feature (6001)

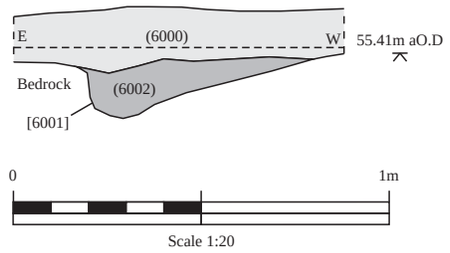


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Fig.13
Trench 6 Sections

scale
1: 20

Fig. 14 Trench 7 Plan

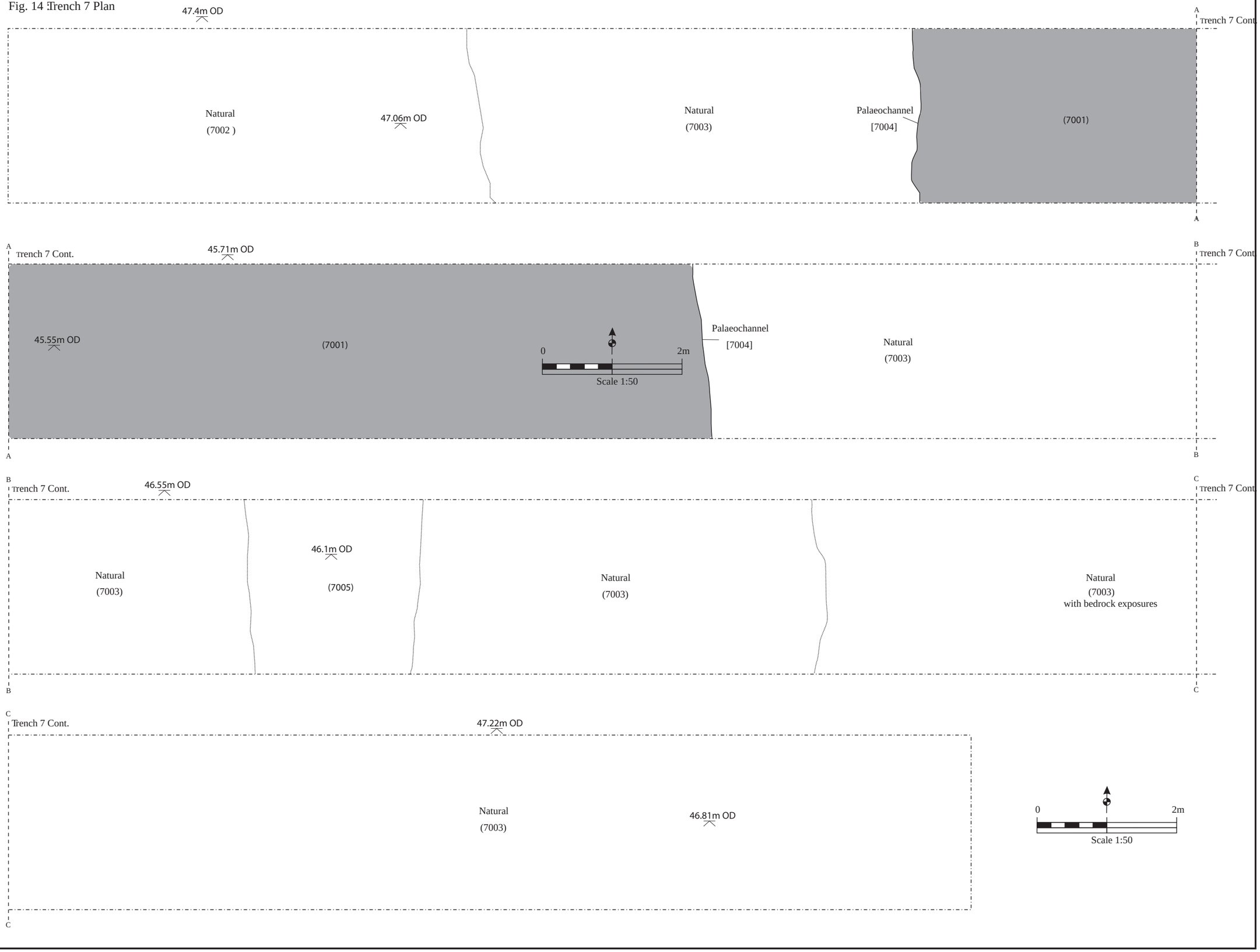

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Fig.14
Trench 7 Plan

scale
1: 50

Fig.15 Trench 8 Plan

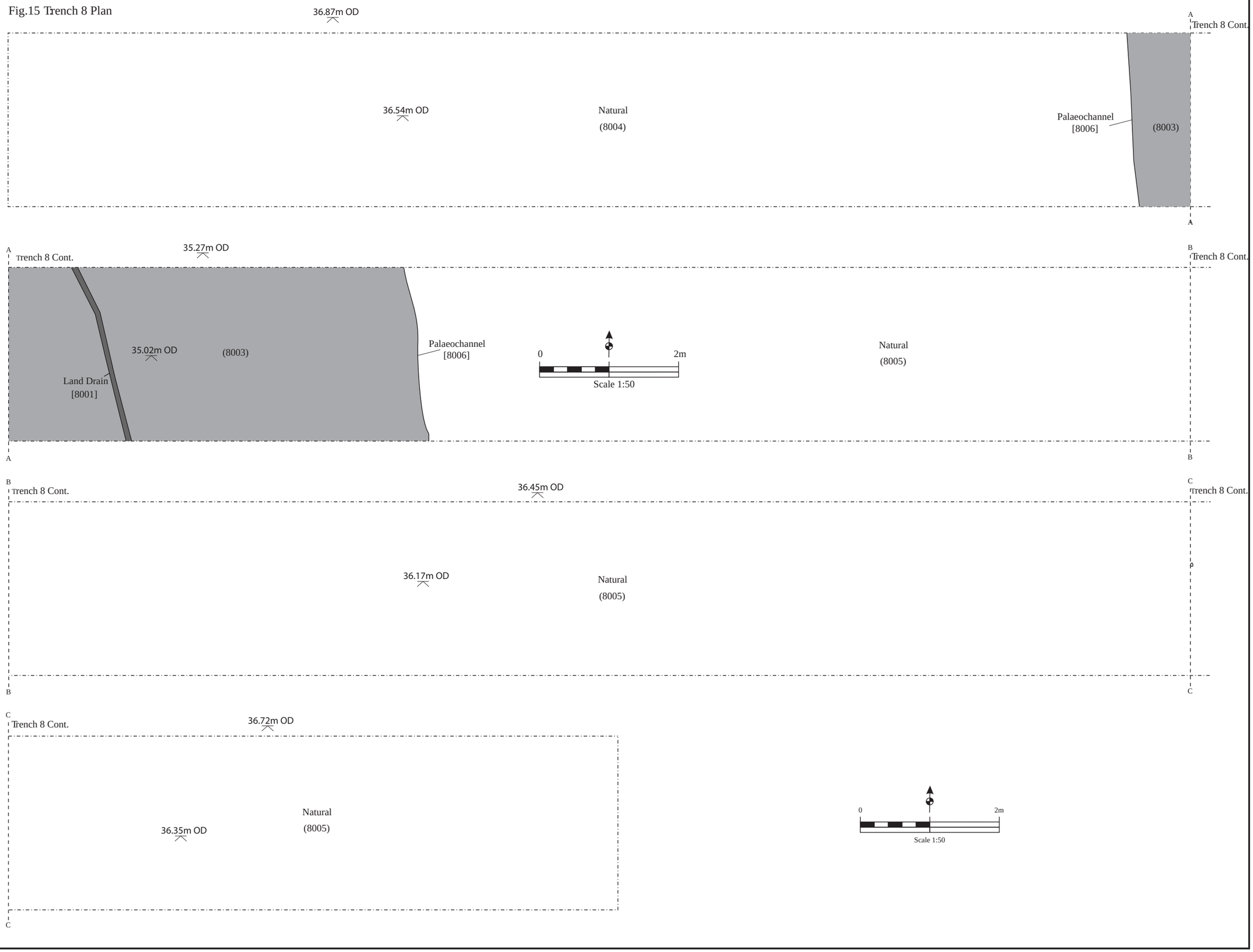

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Fig.15
Trench 8 Plan

scale
1: 50

Photo 1: Looking SE across Field 7 from the northern hedgeline. Photo taken during geophysical survey five months prior to excavation. Trench 1 was opened up in the foreground.

Photo 2: Looking SE along Trench 1, showing subsoil deposit 1002. 2m scales.

Photo 3: Looking NW along Trench 1, showing subsoil deposit 1002 and feature 1004 located centrally within the trench, defined by the darker brown infilling material 1003. 2m scales.

Photo 4: Representative north-east facing section of deposits within Trench 1. Showing topsoil 1000 and subsoils 1001 and 1002. 2m scale.

Photo 5: Looking east along Trench 2, showing subsoil deposit 2001. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 6: Looking west along Trench 2, showing subsoil deposit 2001. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 7: Representative south facing section of Trench 2, showing topsoil 2000 and subsoil 2001. 1m scale.

Photo 8: Looking east along Trench 3, showing subsoil deposit 3002. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 9: Looking west along Trench 3, showing subsoil deposit 3002 in the foreground, overlaid with remnants of subsoil deposit 3001 under the scales. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 10: Representative north facing section of Trench 3, showing topsoil 3000 and subsoil deposits 3001 & 3002. 1m scale.

Photo 11: Looking SE down a section of Trench 4, showing subsoil deposit 4001 overlaid by remnants of topsoil 4000 in the foreground. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 12: Looking NW along the same section of Trench 4, showing subsoil deposit 4001. 2m & 1m scale.

Photo 13: Looking SW down a section of Trench 4, showing subsoil deposit 4001. 2m & 1m scale.

Photo 14: Looking NE along the same section of Trench 4, showing subsoil deposit 4001. 2m & 1m scale.

Photo 15: Representative SW facing section of Trench 4, showing topsoil 4000 and subsoil 4001. 1m scale.

Photo 16: View NW across Field 8. Photo taken during geophysical survey 5 months prior to evaluation.

Photo 17: Looking west along Trench 5, pre-excavation. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 18: Looking east along Trench 5, pre-excavation. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 19: Looking NW along the line of ditch segment 5002. 1m scales.

Photo 20: Looking west, across ditch segment 5017 prior to excavation. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 21: South facing section of ditch 5017. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 22: As above, oblique.

Photo 23: South facing section of Trench 5, showing rampart deposit 5016. 2m scale.

Photo 24: Looking east across rampart material. Feature 5014 is visible in the foreground on the left, and ditch segment 5017 is visible as the dark area to the top of the photo. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 25: Looking north at feature 5014 cutting into the rampart material. 1m scale.

Photo 26: Looking east along Trench 5, showing gully 5004 in the foreground, and deposit 5007 as the darker area underneath the scales. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 27: As above, looking west.

Photo 28: Looking north at posthole 5010. 1m scale.

Photo 29: Looking WNW at structure 5026. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 30: As above looking west.

Photo 31: South facing section above structure 5026. 2m scale.

Photo 32: Looking NE across gully 5004 prior to excavation. 1m scale.

Photo 33: Looking NW at half-sectioned gully 5004. 1m scale.

Photo 34: Looking north at partially excavated cut 5006, containing deposit 5007. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 35: As above, looking east. 1m scales.

Photo 36: Looking west along Trench 6. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 37: Looking east along Trench 6. 2m & 1m scales.

Photo 38: Trench 6 looking west, a pre-excavation shot outer enclosure ditch 6001 and pit 6003. 1m scale.

Photo 39: As above, looking north

Photo 40: Looking south at ditch 6001, post excavation. The ditch section is visible in the trench edge, and pit 6003 is visible on the base of the trench. 1m scale.

Photo 41: North facing of ditch 6001. 1m scale.

Photo 42: Pre-excavation shot of pit 6003, looking north. 1m scales.

Photo 43: North facing section of pit 6003. 1m scale.

Photo 44: Looking north at the sondage into the Palaeochannel 6006. 1m scales.

Photo 45: Looking west at the sondage into the Palaeochannel 6006. 1m scales.

Photo 46: Looking east along Trench 7, showing the water gathering on the line of the palaeochannel 7004. 2m & 1m scale.

Photo 47: Looking west along Trench 7. 2m & 1m scale.

Photo 48: Representative south facing section of trench 7, showing topsoil 7000 and subsoil 7003. 1m scale

Photo 49: Looking east along Trench 8, showing subsoil deposits 8004 in the foreground, subsoil 8005 to the rear, with the dark palaeochannel 8006 crossing the trench in the centre. 2m & 1m scale.

Photo 50: Looking west along Trench 8, showing subsoil deposits 8005 at eastern end. 2m & 1m scale.

Photo 51: Looking NW across palaeochannel 8006, showing rapid ingress of water. 1m scale.

Photo 52: Looking west across palaeochannel 8006. 1m scale.

Photo 53: Representative south facing section of Trench 8, showing topsoil 8000 and subsoil 8004. 1m scale.

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APPENDIX I: Environmental Sampling Assessment

FENTON HOME FARM, CRUNDALE
Assessment of the environmental remains in seven soil samples
by Wendy J. Carruthers

Introduction

Excavations were carried out by Archaeology Wales at Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. The site, which is thought to date from the Iron Age, includes a ditched circular enclosure of around 40-45m diameter, an outer enclosure ditch and a palaeochannel. The main enclosure ditch was c.6m wide but the outer ditch was smaller. Internal features included an occupation layer, below which a possible hut circle and the base of a hearth or kiln were found. In addition, a palaeochannel was investigated, which may have emerged from a spring close to or possibly inside the enclosure. The only finds recovered from the excavations were possible burnt clay fragments and an iron nail.

The land had previously been used for arable cultivation. Prior to excavation it had been deep ploughed and sugar beet had been planted and grazed by sheep (Andy Shobbrook, pers. com.).

Environmental sampling and processing

Soil samples examined for this assessment came from the upper and lower fills of the main enclosure ditch [5017] (samples 7 and 8), from the single fill of the outer enclosure ditch [6001] (sample 1), from the occupation deposit covering a large area of the enclosure (sample 6), from heat-affected clay overlying the hearth/kiln (sample 9), from the fill of pit [6003] cut by enclosure ditch [6001] (sample 5) and from an ?upper fill of the palaeochannel (sample 2). Where large amounts of soil were taken (samples 1 and 6) a subsample of c.20 litres of soil was processed for assessment purposes (see Table 1).

The soil samples were processed using standard methods of floatation, with the largest samples (samples 1, 5 and 6) being processed in a Siraf type tank and the smaller samples being processed by bucket floatation. This was simply a matter of efficiency. Because the same mesh sizes were used for all samples (a 250 micron sieve to catch the flot and a 1mm mesh to retain the residue), and because both flots and residues are checked during the assessment, differences in the processing apparatus will not have affected the results. No chemicals were required to disaggregate the silty/clay soils though the addition of hot water during bucket floatation did help to soften soils that were clayey. Flots and residues were dried before being scanned. In the case of the residues, prior to scanning they were dry sieved for large stones (6.7mm mesh). After checking for finds and weighing, the large stones were discarded.

Because charred plant remains can be reluctant to float in clay soils (as they can become impregnated with clay particles and minerals), the residues were checked to see how much charred material had sunk and whether they would require re-floating. In all cases except sample 6 (see below) the initial floatation was found to have been efficient, and no second floatation was required.

When sample 6 from occupation layer (5007) was processed the large number of uncharred seeds being found in the flot alerted the author to the possibility that some

waterlogged organic remains may have been preserved. Because only robust seeds were observed and no wood or other organic material was found it is uncertain whether this represents partial waterlogging (i.e. some drying out leading to the loss of more delicate plant remains) or heavy contamination, perhaps with sewage. For these reasons the flot from sample 6 was not dried out but was kept wet, in 40% alcohol.

All of the flots, and subsamples of the dry residues, were rapidly scanned under an Olympus SZX7 stereoscopic microscope (x10) in order to assess the quantity and quality of the plant remains present, and determine whether any other environmental remains were present.

Results

The results of the assessment, together with recommendations for further work to be carried out, are presented in Table 1. It should be noted that during full analysis additional species may be recovered and full identifications will be made, so the assessment results should be seen as provisional observations only.

Survival of Environmental Remains

The soils in the area are too acidic for **bone** or **molluscs** to survive. Although burnt bone has the potential for surviving none was found. However, it is possible that some small fragments will be recovered from the residues when they are fully sorted.

Insect fragments were present in sample 6, but in the light of the results discussed below these are thought to probably be contaminants.

Charcoal and **charred plant remains** were not frequent in any of the samples but it should be borne in mind that the assessment samples were not large (maximum volume 22 litres, sample 1) and because only partial excavation of features was carried out, much larger volumes of soil could be processed in the future in order to maximise the amount of information recovered. Recommendations, taking this into consideration are given below. With regard to **charcoal analysis**, from the assessment of the assessment samples only samples 7 and 9 produced the recommended number of 'greater than 20 large fragments' (Rowena Gale, pers. com.). Much more soil would be available from sample 7, the lower fill of main enclosure ditch [5017] if further excavations took place, but unfortunately the 6 litre sample from the hearth was all that could be recovered from this feature.

Uncharred plant remains were abundant and quite diverse in samples 1 (ditch fill) and 6 (damp, occupation layer) and were common in sample 2 (palaeochannel). A spring was thought to originate from within the enclosure and damp soils were present on excavation. Because of the types of context involved and the possibility of at least partial waterlogging due to the spring the uncharred plant remains were at first thought to possibly be contemporary with the enclosure, though clearly only tough coated fruits and seeds had survived. However, the recovery of two very distinctive seeds of kiwi fruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*) from samples 1 and 6 have confirmed that these plant remains have most likely derived from sewage, or composted sewage sludge spread on the fields as fertiliser. Most of the species were common ruderal 'weeds' such as fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and persicary (*Persicaria* sp.) that are likely to grow in disturbed, damp soils

subjected to trampling and enrichment with dung. This type of vegetation may well have become established on the sewage sludge heaps at treatments plants. Because of this contamination no further work will be required on the uncharred plant remains.

Charred plant material and uncharred plant remains are outlined sample by sample below:

Sample 1, (context 6002); single fill of outer enclosure ditch [6001] – Uncharred seeds from a range of common ruderal species (e.g. fat hen, black bindweed) were frequent in this sample. Although it is possible that semi-waterlogged robust seeds like these might be recovered from a ditch fill, particularly as such assemblages have been recovered from a number of Iron Age enclosure ditches, the identification of a kiwi fruit seed confirmed that the seeds were modern and probably derived from sewage. Kiwi fruits were not introduced from Southern China until the C19th.

Several possible charred gorse seeds (*Ulex* sp.) were present, although these were not well-preserved, suffering some distortion as a result of the charring. Confirmation of this identification will be made at full analysis stage. If confirmed, it is possible that a gorse 'hedge' had existed around the outer enclosure ditch to create a stock-proof or defensive barrier. Gorse commonly grows on poor, acidic soils, particularly in abandoned pasture or open heathland. Unfortunately only a few fragments of identifiable charcoal were preserved with which to cross check this interpretation (around 7 fragments), but it is possibly worth carrying this out on this small assemblage.

Sample 2, (context 6005); ?upper fill of palaeochannel – As with sample 1, robust seeds such as fat hen were common but the limited range of taxa suggested that contamination rather than vegetation growing in and by the palaeochannel was represented. The only charred item was a slender fragment of possible lesser celandine tuber (*Ranunculus ficaria*). Lesser celandine grows in damp meadows, woods, hedgebanks and beside streams. Charcoal fragments were also frequent in the sample, although unfortunately most were too small for identification purposes. Either domestic waste had been deposited, or local vegetation had been burned. Clearly, if the palaeochannel had been flowing at this point material could have been washed in from a wide catchment area.

Sample 5 (context 6004); backfill of pit [6003], cut by enclosure ditch [6001] – The fill of this pit consisted predominantly of large stones with very little silt (81% stones by weight). No charred plant remains and only tiny traces of charcoal were present (unfortunately too small to identify and date). This supports the interpretation provided by Phil Poucher (pers. com.), i.e. that the pit had been rapidly backfilled with stones soon after it was dug.

Sample 6 (context 5007); occupation layer in the centre of the enclosure – This dark brown very stoney deposit produced frequent uncharred seeds from a variety of common ruderal taxa, including fat hen, persicary (*Persicaria* sp.), violet (*Viola* sp.) and alder seeds (*Alnus glutinosa*). A few insect fragments were also present. The type of habitat represented might be damp, very disturbed vegetation with alder growing nearby. The recovery of a kiwi fruit seed, as in sample 1, confirmed that modern contamination had occurred, perhaps involving sewage. If the sewage had been

composted the ruderal weeds may have been growing around the composting site. No further work is required on these remains.

No charred plant remains were recovered from this deposit and only a trace of small, unidentifiable charcoal was present.

Sample 7 (context 5020); lower fill of main enclosure ditch [5017] – This 12 litre soil sample produced a few spelt glume bases (*Triticum spelta*), occasional poor emmer/spelt glume bases, a possible grain fragment and a cf. common marsh bedstraw seed (*Galium* cf. *palustre*). It is possible a few more items will be found when the flot and residue are fully sorted, although only occasional small charcoal fragments were recovered from the c. 4% subsample of residue that was scanned.

Sample 8 (context 5019); upper fill of main enclosure ditch [5017] – The upper ditch fill (12 litres of soil) also produced a few spelt glume bases, as well as a heath grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) caryopsis. Heath grass grows on sandy or peaty damp acidic soils, primarily on heaths, moors and mountains. However, it was also growing as an arable weed in upland areas of the British Isles and on acidic soils in prehistoric times. As with sample 7, the remains are characteristic of small scale cereal processing waste.

Sample 9 (context 5027); heat-affected clay overlying stone hearth setting – This small sample (6 litres of soil) produced the highest concentration of spelt and emmer/spelt chaff as well as a couple of cereal grains, although the overall number of charred remains was not high. Occasional glume bases and grains were also present in the residue, indicating that it would be worth sorting the small amount of <6.7mm residue under the microscope. Sufficient material was produced from this sample to produce two AMS dates – one from a well-preserved grain and one from 5 spelt glume bases (the minimum required for dating). This would provide a good basis for dating the feature. Ideally one or both of the ditch samples could be dated, too, if a few more items are recovered during sorting.

Discussion

Being an aceramic site on acidic soils, the only obvious environmental evidence for settlement activities taking place at the site are the small quantities of charred spelt processing waste scattered through the main ditch fills and concentrated on the hearth. This type of waste is characteristic of small-scale de-husking of spelt wheat spikelets. It is likely that in prehistoric times spelt would have been stored in spikelet form in the damp British climate (Hillman 1981), being processed prior to cooking on a daily basis. Most Iron Age sites produce this type of low-level charred waste, and it is only the larger, more specialised sites on heavier, fertile soils that have produced evidence for a more industrial scale of processing.

The fact that a few grains were present in the hearth deposit as well as chaff suggests that this feature may have been the source of the crop processing waste, i.e. small-scale crop processing may have been taking place on the hearth, and this spread to the ditch fills over time. Alternatively, processing waste may have been used for kindling and grain may have been spilt during cooking.

Spelt wheat is the principal cereal consumed across the British Isles throughout the Iron Age and Roman periods, although there are minor variations in the

accompanying minor cereals cultivated across the regions. The small amount of evidence from Fenton Home Farm is a valuable addition to that already recovered from west Wales, and can be compared with the group of Iron Age enclosures at Llawhaden, around five miles due east of Crundale. Spelt wheat was the main cereal recovered from Llawhaden, with smaller amounts of hulled barley (Caseldine 1990, p.75). Some other Iron Age sites in Wales have produced a wider range of crop species, including emmer and bread-type wheat (e.g. Great Castle Head, Dale, Caseldine 2002), but these tend to be higher status or larger sites such as hillforts. Much more evidence is required from Wales to enable patterns to be detected, particularly since other environmental evidence (and often finds) is so scarce.

Recommendations for further work

As noted above, it is recommended that radiocarbon dating is carried out on the charred grain and chaff from the hearth, sample 9. Should further charred remains be recovered from the main ditch it is possible that sufficient items would be recovered to enable additional dates to be submitted.

In Table 1 it is suggested that samples 1, 7, 8 and 9 are fully sorted and analysed. In order to maximise the recovery of charcoal and plant macrofossils from the outer ditch the remaining c.10 litres of soil could be processed. It is important that, should the opportunity arise to excavate more of this site much larger samples are taken, for example 40 litres wherever this is available. Prehistoric sites on poor soils rarely produce large concentrations of charred cereal remains, so the finding of spelt chaff and grains in three of the seven samples is significant, particularly since the three productive samples were only 6 litres, 12 litres and 12 litres in volume. The location of rich samples along an enclosure ditch cannot be predicted, and these quantities of charred material are rarely visible during excavation. However, it is commonly found that ditch terminals are more likely to be rich, and on this site the lower ditch fill was richer than the upper one. Stretches of ditch in the proximity of the hearth might also be worth investigating further.

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Table 1: Assessment of environmental remains in samples from Fenton Home Farm, Crundale (CHW/14/EV)

Sample	Context	Feature	sample volume (litres)	% stone by weight	weight of large (>6.7mm) stones discarded	soil description	flot description	assessed plant remains [CH = charred; UCH = uncharred, ?waterlogged]	charcoal	insects	notes	further work required
<1>	6002	single fill of outer enclosure ditch 6001	22 (of c.32 taken)	34%	5	light brown, stoney silty clay	frequent rootlets, occasional small/medium charcoal frags. Uncharred seeds frequent, including a kiwi fruit seed.	CH - cf. gorse seeds (*Ulex* sp.) ++; indeterminate ?tuber; UNCH - frequent inluding kiwi fruit, fat hen, persicary, black bindweed etc.	c.7 lge frags		Modern contamination (sewage?). Feature said to be filled by gradual silting.	full sorting & ID for charred remains; charcoal ID to compare with s.7 and s.9? Could process remaining c.10 litres for charcoal and gorse remains. C14 date on gorse remains or charcoal possible.
<2>	6005	?upper fill of palaeochannel	8	38%	1.5	orange/brown fine stoney silty clay	rootlets, frequent small charcoal and silt, uncharred fat hen ++, Coenococcum++	CH - thin tuberous frag + (*Ranunculus ficaria* ?)	5 oak-type, frequent small unidentifiable		Very limited uncharred assemblage with uncertain provenance, probably contamination.	None
<5>	6004	backfill of pit 6003, cut by enclosure ditch 6001.	15	81%	15.75	yellow/brown very stoney silty clay	v.small flot, fine rootlets, tiny traces of charcoal, occ uncharred fat hen	nil	4 tiny slivvers, unidentifiable		Said to be deliberate backfill with stone, redeposited natural. Fits this interpretation.	none
<6>	5007	general occupation layer in centre of main enclosure	20 (of c.30 taken)	59%	15	moist dark brown very stoney silty clay	frequent rootlets and uncharred seeds, coal+;	UNCH - kiwi fruit +; fat hen (Chenopodium album)+++; Persicaria sp. ++, Alnus sp. +; Solanum nigrum+ etc.	trace of small char	++	Said to be probable abandonment layer. Uncharred remains are clearly contaminants.	none
<7>	5020	one of lower fills of enclosure ditch 5017	12	46%	4.5	very yellow/brown silty clay with smaller stones	rootlets, charcoal, Coenococcum+	CH- spelt glume base++; poor emmer/spelt glume base, possible grain frag+; *Galium palustre* +	c.40 frags		Said to possibly be slumped material from inner enclosure bank. CPR suggests some waste washed into fill too.	full sorting & ID; charcoal ID; C14 date?
<8>	5019	upper fill of enclosure ditch 5017	12	59%	7.25	pale brown silty clay with frequent stones, some large	small flot with very little charcoal, rootlets	CH- spelt glume base ++; heath grass (*Danthonia decumbens)* +	6 frags		Traces of crop processing waste in upper (and lower) ditch fills, probably reflecting proximity of occupation.	full sorting & ID; C14 date?
<9>	5027	part of hearth/kiln construction with heat-affected clay over large stone setting.	6	47%	3.75	mottled light brown/red brown silty clay with large stones	rootlets, coal, uncharred fat hen etc. around 20 frags small/medium charcoal	CH - emmer/spelt grain +; spelt glume bases (*Triticum spelta*) ++; emmer/spelt glume bases +; poor grain +	c.25 frags		Traces of crop processing waste also in hearth/kiln deposit and a grain, possibly indicating that de-husking had taken place in this location.	full sorting & ID; charcoal ID; C14 date spelt-type grain and glume bases

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APPENDIX II:
Context Descriptions

Context Descriptions

Trench 1

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
1000	Layer	• Topsoil • Loose, dark brown, silty-clay with rare small angular stone inclusions and rare small coal fragments • Single sherd of post-medieval pottery	28m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.18m thick
1001	Layer	• Subsoil • Moderate, mid greyish-brown, silty-clay with common, small sub-angular stone • No finds	28m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.18m thick
1002	Layer	• Natural geological layer • Compact, light orange-brown, silty-clay with bedrock exposures. • No finds	28m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area),
1003	Fill	• Fill of palaeochannel 1004 • Moderate, light to mid brown, silty-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions. • No finds	2m long, 8.4m wide (extends beyond excavated area)
1004	Cut/ Interface	• Palaeochannel • Linear, straight-sided, running E – W • Single fill recorded (1003)	2m long, 8.4m wide (extends beyond excavated area)

Trench 2

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
2000	Layer	• Topsoil • Loose, light to mid brown, silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	49m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.32m thick
2001	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light orange-brown, silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions. • No finds	49m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.32m thick

Trench 3

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
3000	Layer	• Topsoil • Loose, dark brown, silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	49m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.12m thick
3001	Layer	• Subsoil • Moderate, light greyish-brown, silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions. • No finds	49m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.23m thick
3002	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light orange-brown silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions and weathered bedrock exposures • No finds	49m long, 2m wide (extends beyond excavated area)

Trench 4

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
4000	Layer	• Topsoil • Moderate, light greyish-brown, silty-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	33m long, 22m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.26m thick
4001	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light orange-brown, silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions. • No finds	33m long, 22m wide (extends beyond excavated area)

Trench 5

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
5000	Layer	• Topsoil • Moderate, dark brown, silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions • Four fragments of unworked flint	71.2m long, 2.5m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.4m thick
5001	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light yellow, silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions.	71.2m long, 2.5m wide (extends beyond excavated area)

		• No finds	
5002	Cut	• Enclosure ditch (west section) • Slightly curvilinear, running N – S • Unexcavated. • Single fill recorded (500)	2.5m long (extends beyond excavated area), 5.8m wide
5003	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5002 • Moderate, dark brown, silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	2.5m long (extends beyond excavated area), 5.8m wide
5004	Cut	• Gully • Curvilinear in plan, rounded, truncated ends • Shallow concave sides, gentle break of slope onto a concave base • Single fill (5005)	1.5m long, 0.4m wide, 0.08m deep
5005	Fill	• Fill of gully 5004 • Moderate, mid brown sandy-silt with frequent small – medium sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	1.5m long, 0.4m wide, 0.08m thick
5006	Cut	• Possible habitation hollow/cut • Irregular in plan, with a curved western edge. • Steep, slightly concave sides, with a sharp break of slope onto an irregular base. • Infilled with general deposit 5007	3.4m long, 1.25m wide (extends beyond area excavated), 0.52m deep
5007	Layer	• Post-use abandonment deposit • Fairly compact, dark greyish-brown sandy-silt with common small – medium sub-angular stone inclusions • Also infilled cut 5006 • No finds • Sampled	2.5m long (extends beyond area excavated, 12m wide, 0.52m thick
5008	Cut	• Stakehole • Circular in plan. Unexcavated • One fill recorded (5009)	0.3m diameter
5009	Fill	• Fill of stakehole 5008 • Moderate, very dark brownish-grey sandy-silt with common charcoal fleck inclusions • No finds	0.3m diameter
5010	Cut	• Stakehole/posthole • Circular in plan. Unexcavated • One fill recorded (5011)	0.5m diameter

5011	Fill	• Fill of stakehole/posthole 5010 • Moderate, very dark brownish-grey sandy-silt with common charcoal fleck inclusions • No finds	0.5m diameter
5012	Cut	• Stakehole • Circular in plan. Unexcavated • One fill recorded (5013)	0.1m diameter
5013	Fill	• Fill of stakehole 5008 • Moderate, very dark brownish-grey sandy-silt with common charcoal fleck inclusions • No finds	0.1m diameter
5014	Cut	• Pit/posthole • Sub-circular in plan, only partly revealed in trench. Unexcavated • One recorded fill (5015)	0.85m long (extends beyond area excavated), 1.03m wide
5015	Fill	• Fill of pit/posthole 5014 • Moderate, dark brown silty-clay with frequent small sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions • No finds	0.85m long (extends beyond area excavated), 1.03m wide
5016	Layer	• Rampart • Compact, light pinkish-yellow, silty-clay with abundant small charcoal flecks • No finds • Sampled	2.5m long (extends beyond area excavated), 6.9m wide, 0.2m thick
5017	Cut	• Enclosure ditch (east section) • Slightly curvilinear, running N – S • Sides are straight, moderate eastern edge, steeper slightly concave western edge. • Contained seven fills (5016, 5019, 5020, 5022, 5023, 5024 & 5025)	2.5m long (extends beyond area excavated), 6m wide, 1.2m deep (base not reached)
5018	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5017 • Moderate, mid yellow-brown silty-clay with common small – medium sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	2.5m long (extends beyond area excavated), 4m wide, 0.5m thick
5019	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5017 • Moderate, mid brown silty-clay with abundant small gravel inclusions • Small iron object • Sampled	1m long (extends beyond area excavated), 2m wide, 0.5m thick

5020	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5017 • Moderate, light brownish-yellow silty-clay with abundant small gravel inclusions • Four very small fragments of unidentified bone • Sampled	1m long (extends beyond area excavated), 2m wide, 1m thick
5021	Layer	• Rampart material • Compact, mid to dark yellow clay with rare small – medium sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	1m long (extends beyond area excavated), 0.6m wide, 0.3m thick
5022	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5017 • Moderate, mid grey-brown silty-clay with abundant small gravel inclusions • No finds	1m long (extends beyond area excavated), 2m wide, 0.2m thick
5023	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5017 • Moderate, mid brown clayey-silt with common small – medium sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	1m long (extends beyond area excavated), 2.4m wide, 0.2m thick
5024	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5017 • Moderate, mid brown silty-clay with abundant small gravel inclusions • No finds	1m long (extends beyond area excavated), 2.2m wide, 0.15m thick
5025	Fill	• Fill of ditch 5017 • Moderate, mid grey-brown, silty-clay gravel • No finds	1m long (extends beyond area excavated), 2m wide, 0.1m thick (base not reached)
5026	Structure	• Hearth/kiln • Curvilinear line of flat, laid stone • Very large (0.4m to 0.6m across), unworked stone, un-bonded • Overlaid with heat-affected clay (5027), surrounded by deposit 5029, set within cut 5030	2.6m long, 1.5m wide (extends beyond area excavated)
5027	Layer	• Heat affected clay • Fairly compact, light yellow clay with patched of reddened clay and charcoal flecks throughout • No finds • Sampled	0.5m wide (extends beyond area excavated), 1.4m long, 0.2m thick
5028	Layer	• Plough-disturbed layer • Moderate, dark brown silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions	2.5m long, 1.5m wide (extends

		• Overlaid area of hearth structure 5026 • No finds	beyond excavated area), 0.2m thick
5029	Fill	• Fill of cut 5030 • Moderate, light brownish grey silty clay with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	2.4m long, 1.5m wide (extends beyond area excavated), 0.15m deep (base not reached)
5030	Cut	• Cut for of hearth/kiln structure 5026 • Irregular in plan, with a curved south-eastern edge • Sides are steep, irregular. Base not reached • Contains structure 5026, fill 5029	2.6m long, 1.5m wide (extends beyond area excavated), 0.5m deep (base not reached)

Trench 6

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
6000	Layer	• Topsoil • Moderate, dark brown, silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	79.5m long, 2.5m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.3m thick
6001	Cut	• Ditch • Linear, straight western edge, irregular eastern edge and a rounded possible northern terminus. • Steep, straight eastern side, shallow straight western side, sharp break of slope on the east, gentle on the west, onto a concave base • Cuts pit 6003 • Single fill 6002	2.15m long (extends beyond excavated area), 2.1m wide, 0.25m deep
6002	Fill	• Fill of ditch 6001 • Moderate to fairly compact, dark brown silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions • Several small fragments of slag-type material. One small fragment of hardened red clay • Sampled	2.15m long (extends beyond excavated area), 2.1m wide, 0.25m thick
6003	Cut	• Pit • Sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners	2.18m long, 1.4m wide, 1m deep (base not reached)

		• Steep straight sides to the west and north, slightly concave to the east. Base not reached • Contained two fills (6004 & 6007)	
6004	Fill	• Fill of pit 6003 • Loose, grey silty-clay with very abundant medium sub-angular stone inclusions and very rare charcoal flecks • No finds	2.18m long, 1.4m wide, 1m thick (base not reached)
6005	Cut/ interface	• Palaeochannel • Linear, largely straight parallel sides • Shallow, slightly concave western side, with a gentle break of slope onto an irregular base • Two fills recorded (6008 & 6009)	2.5m long (extends beyond excavated area), 7m wide, 0.3m deep
6006	Layer	• Subsoil • Fairly compact, light orange-brown silty-clay with abundant medium angular stone inclusions • No finds	79.5m long, 2.5m wide (extends beyond excavated area)
6007	Fill	• Fill of pit 6003 • Moderate, dark brown, silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	0.5m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.65m long, 0.06m thick
6008	Fill	• Fill of palaeochannel 6005 • Moderate, light brown silty-clay alluvium • No finds • Sampled	2.5m long (extends beyond excavated area), 7m wide, 0.24m thick
6009	Fill	• Fill of palaeochannel 6005 • Fairly compact, light to mid grey clay alluvium • No finds	1m long, 0.65m wide, 0.06m thick

Trench 7

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
7000	Layer	• Topsoil • Moderate, dark brown, silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	63m long, 2.9m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.3m thick
7001	Fill	• Fill of palaeochannel 7004	2.9m long (extends beyond area

		• Moderate, dark brown silty-clay with rare, small – medium sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	excavated), 17.4m wide
7002	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light yellowish-brown, silty-clay with abundant gravel inclusions. • No finds	6.8m long, 2.9m wide (extends beyond excavated area)
7003	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light orange-brown silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions and weathered bedrock exposures • No finds	52.2m long, 2.9m wide (extends beyond excavated area)
7004	Cut/ interface	• Palaeochannel • Linear in plan, slightly irregular parallel sides running north – south • Unexcavated • One recorded fill (7001)	2.9m long (extends beyond area excavated), 17.4m wide
7005	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light orange-brown silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	2.9m long (extends beyond excavated area), 2.25m wide

Trench 8

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
8000	Layer	• Topsoil • Moderate, dark brown, silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions • Fragmented of unworked flint	60m long, 2.8m wide (extends beyond excavated area), 0.28m thick
8001	Cut	• Field Drain • Linear in plan, straight parallel edges, running NW – SE • One fill recorded (8002)	2.9m long (extends beyond area excavated), 0.12m wide
8002	Fill	• Fill of Field Drain 8001 • Loose, dark brown, silty-clay with abundant medium sub-angular stone inclusions. • No finds, though clearly modern	2.9m long (extends beyond area excavated), 0.12m wide
8003	Fill	• Fill of palaeochannel 8006 • Moderate, dark brown silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions	2.8m long (extends beyond excavated area), 6.8m wide

		• No finds	
8004	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, mid yellow clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions and weathered bedrock exposures • No finds	16m long, 2.8m wide (extends beyond area excavated)
8005	Layer	• Subsoil • Compact, light orange-brown silty-clay with abundant small sub-angular stone inclusions • No finds	37.2m long, 2.8m wide (extends beyond area excavated)
8006	Cut/ interface	• Palaeochannel • Linear in plan. Straight, parallel sides, running north – south • Unexcavated • One fill recorded (8003)	2.8m long (extends beyond excavated area), 6.8m wide

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APPENDIX III:
Written Scheme of Investigation

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Revealing the past, informing the future

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Written Scheme of Investigation

For an Archaeological Evaluation on Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest

Prepared for:
Parker Dann

Project No: 2169

Date: 20th December 2013

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigation outlines the history of and previous archaeological work undertaken on the proposed development site, adjacent to Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest and proposes a programme of intrusive archaeological trial trench evaluation designed to investigate features of potential significance. This document has been produced by Archaeology Wales Ltd for Parker Dann.

1. Introduction

The proposed development is for a solar power farm (Photovoltaic panels) located across several fields around Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, near Haverfordwest, although the area to be archaeologically evaluated consists of two fields (Henceforth – the site) within this area of proposed development, NGR: SM 9921 1732 (Figures 1 & 2). The local planning authority is the Pembrokeshire County Council and the planning application number is 13/0278/PA.

This specification has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of Parker Dann Chartered Town Planning Consultants, acting on behalf of their clients Vogt Solar. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during an archaeological evaluation at the site.

The purpose of the proposed archaeological evaluation is to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested from the client in response to their planning application, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (revised November 2012), Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services (Henceforth – DAT-PS), in its capacity as archaeological adviser to the local authority, have recommended that an archaeological field evaluation is undertaken as a condition of the planning application. An archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2013), which was followed by a geophysical survey across the whole site by Archaeology Wales (Poucher 2013). The geophysical survey identified potential archaeological features surviving within Fields 7 & 8 (see Figure 2). As a result of which a condition was placed on the planning permission decision notice (dated 05 Dec 2013) which stated:

> **Condition 9. No development shall take place in fields 7 and 8 (identified in figure 3 of the Geophysical Survey Report no. 1170 prepared by Archaeology Wales, dated 30th October 2013) until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.**
> ***Reason: To ensure the recording of any items of archaeological interest to accord with Policy GN.38 of the Local Development Plan (adopted 28 February 2013).***

This subsequent evaluation will use strategically placed trial trenches to investigate the possibility of archaeological remains surviving on the site that may be disturbed by the proposed development process, and will obtain sufficient information about the archaeological resource of the area to inform an appropriate decision by the Planning Authority on the planning application in the aforementioned fields.

All work will conform to the IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 1994, revised 2008 with updates Nov 2013), and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Site description

The two fields requiring archaeological work lie to the east of Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, which itself lies to the northeast of Haverfordwest (SM 9921 1732). The fields are currently in agricultural use, surrounded by hedegrows, with a general south to south-westward slope towards Fenton Brook. The underlying geology comprises Ashgill shales and Llandovery conglomerates overlain by freely draining slightly acid loamy soils.

Field 7 lies to the east of the farmstead complex, separated by a small wooded stream valley. It covers an area of 5.8 hectares and is currently covered in improved pasture and grazed largely by sheep. There is a gradual southward slope in the field, which becomes more pronounced roughly midway along. The ground also begins to drop off into the stream valley to west close to the field boundary. The field is bounded by hedgerows, with trees along its western boundary. A farm track runs immediately to the north and northwest, and a stream runs to the west. To the south lies a large pond, with Fenton Brook beyond.

Field 8 is the adjoining field to the east, and covers an area of 6 hectares. There is a gradual slope to the south which begins to get slightly steeper roughly halfway down the field. There is also a shallow wide channel that runs SSE down the centre of the field as the ground begins to get steeper. The field has until recently been partially under a beet crop, and was being grazed. The field is bounded on all sides by hedgerows. A farm track runs immediately to the north of the field, and Fenton Brook lies to the south. There is a small fenced enclosure in the northwest corner, close to which lies a circular cattle feeder.

3 Site specific objectives

The primary objectives of the work will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, all archaeological features that may be present within the area stated in the planning decision notice (Condition 9). The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The work will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

4 Historical Background

A previous archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been undertaken on the site by Wessex Archaeology in 2013 (Wessex Archaeology 2013). This work identified a possible Iron Age enclosure, visible as a crop mark identified from aerial photographs, within the northeast of the site (Field 8). No further archaeological sites were identified within the bounds of these two fields. To the southeast, on the opposite side of Fenton Brook, lies a moated platform (PRN 10389), possibly of medieval origins, which is now a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (Pe465).

Fenton Home Farm itself is recorded as a post-medieval mansion site (PRN 17762). The fields in question are likely to have also been laid out sometime in the post-medieval period. The

boundaries to the fields, as they currently exist, have changed little since they were first accurately recorded on mid-19th century mapping. Internally however Field 7 has seen the removal of some field boundaries during the 20th century.

5 Previous site investigations

As previously stated an archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the whole development (Wessex Archaeology 2013), following by a geophysical survey across the whole development (Poucher 2013), including the two fields in question. This geophysical survey identified several features of potential archaeological interest within the two fields, these can be seen on Figures 3 and 4.

Post-medieval field boundaries (701 & 702) and modern activity (705) have been identified within Field 7. These features are considered to be of limited archaeological interest requiring no further investigation during the archaeological evaluation. However, features of potential archaeological interest have been recorded at the northern (704) and southern (703) ends of the field. The character and state of preservation of these features could not be determined by the geophysical survey results alone.

Field 8 has clear and easily identifiable archaeological remains, and as such is the only field where it can be stated unequivocally that the proposed development has the potential to disturb, damage or destroy important features. The outline of a circular enclosure (801) is clearly visible on the survey results in the northeast corner of the field. There also appears to be an outer enclosure (802) and related internal features (803 & 804, and within 801). Such enclosures are typical of the Prehistoric period and commonly date to the Iron Age. Possible palaeochannels (805 & 806) to the south also have the potential to contain important palaeo-environmental evidence, and may potentially enclose a hollow way access route to the Iron Age enclosure. This feature would appear to correspond closely to the shallow wide channel that is visible on the surface of the field.

6 The proposed archaeological work

The proposed archaeological work will be located within Fields 7 & 8 as stated in the planning decision notice (Condition 9).

The aim of the work will be to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The work will include the following elements:

- A programme of strategic trial trenching (Stage 1)
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 2)

7 Method statement for Strategic Trial Trenching (Stage 1)

Preliminary work

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths.

The agreed evaluation trenches will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

It is proposed that a total of eight trenches of varying lengths will be machine-excavated within the two fields (Figures 3 & 4).

Field 7

Trench 1 will be located at the northern end of Field 7. The trench will measure 30m long by 2m wide, orientated NNW-SSE. Its position is designed to investigate linear feature 704, as identified on the geophysical survey results.

Trenches 2 and 3 will be located in the central part of Field 7. Both trenches will measure 50m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west. Their relative positions are designed to investigate deposits and any potential archaeological features located within the centre of the field. Although no features are shown on the geophysical survey results these trenches will be able to test the efficacy of the geophysical survey in recording features of archaeological interest, as well as providing useful information should any further archaeological work be required within this field.

Trench 4 will be located towards the southern end of Field 7. This trench will be L-shaped and measure 2m wide by 30m orientated SW-NE and 20m orientated SE-NW. Its position is designed to investigate potential feature 703 as identified on the geophysical survey results.

Field 8

Trench 5 will be located towards the northern end of Field 8. This trench will measure 80m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west. Its position is designed to encompass the full width of the potential Iron Age enclosure 801, to investigate the outer ditch, potential internal features and an external linear feature 803, as identified on the geophysical survey results.

Trench 6 will be located towards the northern end of Field 8, 40m to the south of Trench 3. This trench will measure 60m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west. Its position is designed to investigate the area in front of a possible southern entrance to the circular enclosure (feature 801), as well as a possible palaeochannel and hollow way to the south (feature 805) and a potential outer enclosure ditch (feature 802).

Trench 7 will be located centrally within Field 8. This trench will measure 60m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west. Its position is designed to investigate the possible palaeochannels 805 and 806 and the potential hollow way to the circular enclosure.

Trench 8 will be located towards the southern end of Field 8. This trench will measure 60m long by 2m wide, orientated east – west. Its position is designed to investigate the southern end of the possible palaeochannels or hollow way, as well as general deposits at the lower end of the field where potential archaeological features may have been better protected from ploughing activity.

The locations and dimensions of the trenches will be agreed with DAT prior to the commencement of works.

<u>Evaluation</u>

The evaluation areas will initially be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by machine. All mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a toothless bucket. All areas will be hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. In each area the excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. In each area sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation must conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring or stepped trenching will be

discussed with DAT.

Recording will be carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Written, drawn and photographic records (b&w, 35mm colour slides and digital) of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 5 mega pixels or above.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

Monitoring

DAT will be contacted approximately two weeks prior to the commencement of ground works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

DAT will be provided with notice of the start date, a projected timetable and a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment no less than 5 working days prior to the commencement of the work.

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of DAT will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until DAT has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. DAT will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

Artifacts

Archaeological artifacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artifacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum.

All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be related to the contexts from which they were derived. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three-dimensionally.

The evaluation will carefully consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability, for further study, of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative significance of such material for any subsequent decision-making process regarding mitigation strategies.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes of Cardiff Conservation Services).

A catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, and containing sketches of significant artefacts will be compiled.

Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in "Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Guidelines for Finds Work.

The requirements for the conservation of artefacts will be unpredictable until after the completion

of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

Environmental and technological samples

Samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. These will be retained for processing. The level of post-excavation processing will be dependent on the results of the field evaluation and following discussion with an environmental specialist and DAT.

Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. If required, the project manager will arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The assessment of potential should consider the guidelines set out in the English Heritage publication 'Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology' March 2002.

Human remains

Human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted and DAT and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

Conservation

All archaeologically recovered artefacts, building materials, industrial residues, environmental material, biological remains (including human remains) and decay products (collectively referred to as 'finds') will be conserved following the guidelines set out in 'Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008).

9 Method statement for the production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 2)

Report preparation

The report will contain the following:

- A fully representative description of the information gained from Stage 1 above, even if there should be negative evidence.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results. This will be presented in Welsh to meet any Welsh language policy requirements.
- At least one plan showing the site's location in respect to the local topography, as well as the position of all excavated areas.
- Suitably selected plans and sections of significant archaeological features. All plans and sections should be related to Ordnance Datum.
- Written descriptions of all features and deposits excavated and their considered interpretation.
- A summary report on the artefactual and ecofactual assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals or specialists.
- A statement of the local and regional context of the archaeological remains identified.
- An impact assessment, with mitigation proposals, of the proposed development on the archaeological resource can be considered and presented for consideration. This could include the mapped archaeological potential of the site in relation to the proposed development.

Copies of the report will be sent to Parker Dann, the local planning authority, and DAT for inclusion in the HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal (eg Archaeology in Wales) no later then one year after the completion of the work.

The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and be deposited within an appropriate local museum on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the IfA's Standards & Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2009) and guidelines set out in 'Management of Archaeological Projects Two, Appendix 3' (English Heritage 1991).

Arrangements will be made with the local museum before work starts. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later then six months after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

10 Resources and timetable

Standards

The field evaluation will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

AW is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation and all work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Philip Poucher (a CV is available upon request).

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees with be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.

Figure 1: Site Location, based on the Ordnance Survey 1;50,000 map.

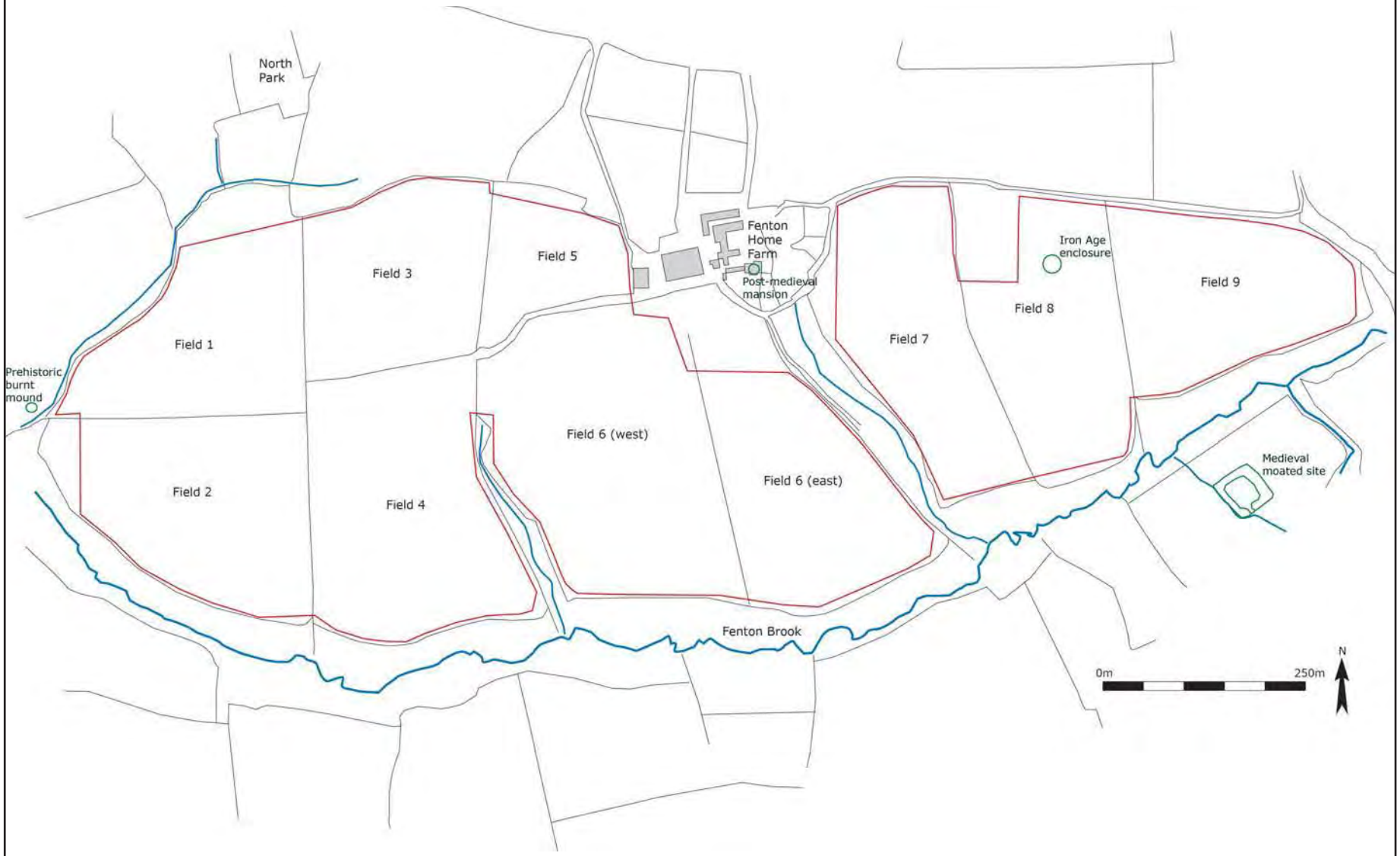

Fig. 2: Site plan, showing proposed development area (red) and field labels

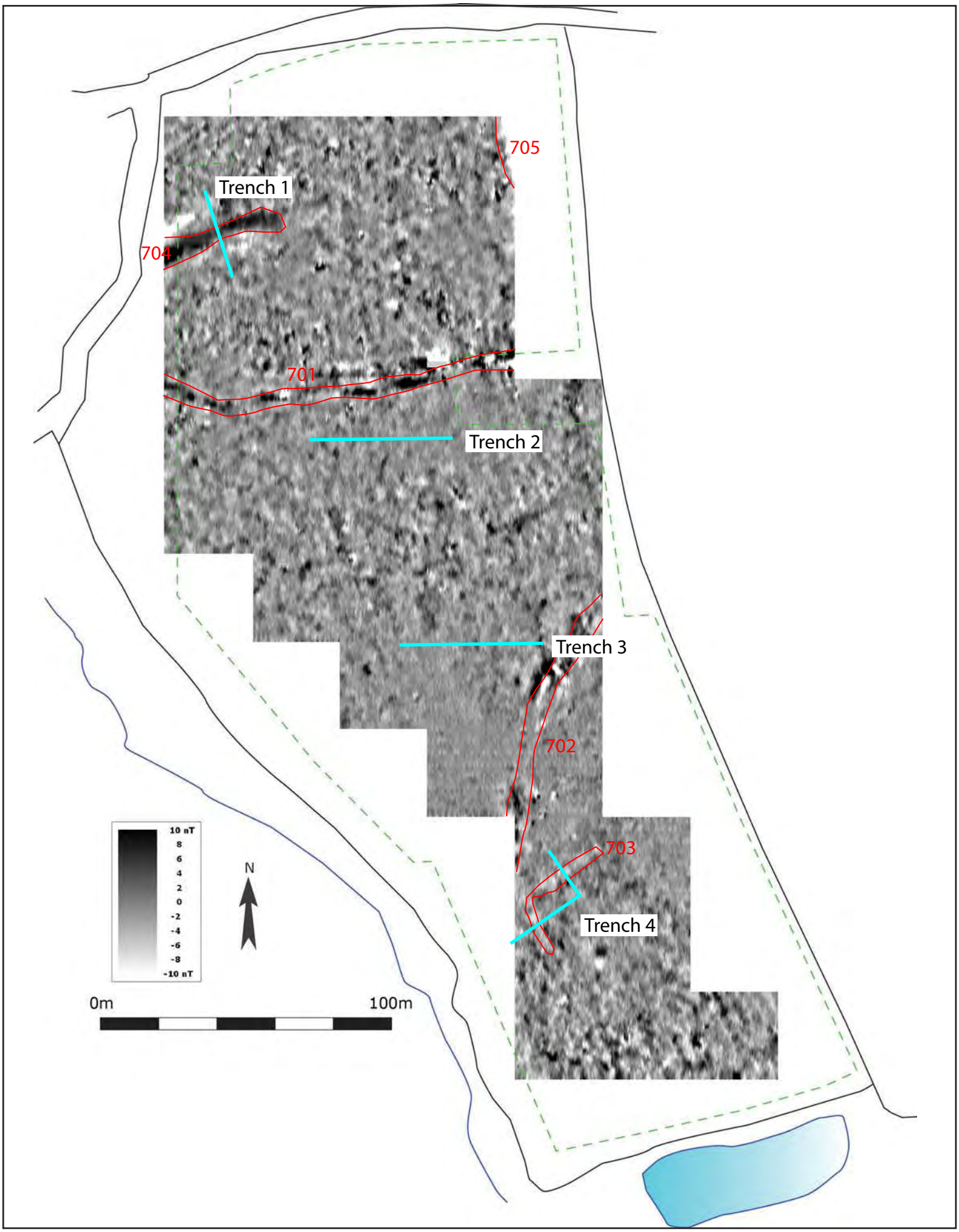

Fig. 3: Proposed archaeological evaluation trench plan (trenches in Blue) in Field 7. Overlaid on the geophysical survey results with the main features identified in red. The features numbers correspond to the numbers assigned in the survey report (Poucher 2013)

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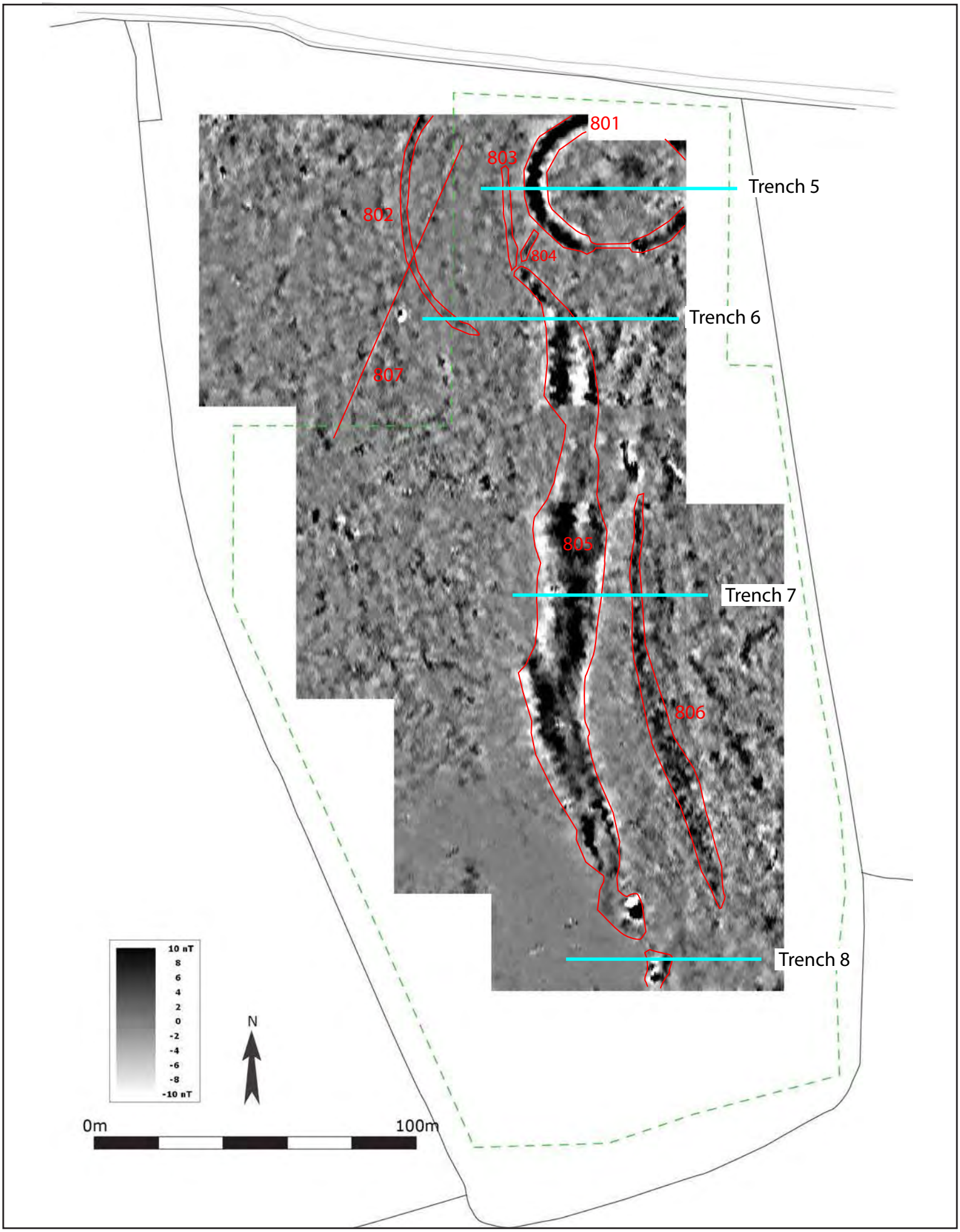

Fig. 4: Proposed archaeological evaluation trench plan (trenches in Blue) in Field 8. Overlaid on the geophysical survey results with the main features identified in red. The features numbers correspond to the numbers assigned in the survey report (Poucher 2013)

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