Archaeological Evaluation

Sites 27 and 29 North of Holts Farm and College Farm Access Track Merton and Wendlebury Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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The Chiltern Railways (Bicester to Oxford Improvements) Order 2012
Sites 27 and 29, North of Holts Farm and College Farm Access Track, Merton and Wendlebury, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between July 2014 and June 2015 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of land between Merton village and the Bicester to Oxford rail line on behalf of Chiltern Railways and Network Rail. The evaluation comprised the excavation of nineteen trenches ahead of construction of an agricultural barn, a footbridge crossing of the upgraded rail line and the new access track to the barn.

Trenches 13 and 14 were located to the immediate south of Merton and targeted upon the projected line of the Roman road between Alchester and Dorchester-on-Thames. These trenches identified a concentration of 2nd-century Romano-British remains, possibly indicating settlement.

More scattered and less conclusive remains of late Iron Age or early Roman date were also encountered in Trenches 2 and 10. These features were small shallow pits with similarly small abraded sherds of pottery. The absence of other features in these areas may suggest that these remains are peripheral to other activities or settlement foci.

A possible medieval field boundary was recorded in Trench 15, although this association relies upon the presence of a single sherd of glazed pottery and the alignment of the ditches parallel to the ridge and furrow remains. Ridge and furrow was visible both as slight ridges surviving in some areas and furrows within most trenches and the accumulation of deep ploughsoils and possible headland deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details and background

1.1.1 In October 2012, the Secretary of State made the Chiltern Railways (Bicester to Oxford Improvements) Order 2012 (the Order). This Transport and Works Act (TWA) Order authorises the construction and operation of an improved railway between Bicester and Oxford along the line of the existing operation. The Order is being implemented by the Chiltern Railway Company Ltd (Chiltern Railways) and subsequently by Network Rail and is accompanied by a planning direction granted by the Secretary of State, which is subject to a number of conditions. Condition 9 of the deemed planning permission refers to the provision of archaeological investigations along the route in advance of the construction.

1.1.2 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Chiltern Railways through Environmental Resources Management (ERM) to design and undertake the archaeological investigations required along the route. To facilitate this, OA proposed and discussed a scheme-wide archaeological design with Richard Oram, Planing Archaeologist for the Cherwell District at Oxfordshire County Council, and David Radford, Oxford City Archaeologist at Oxford City Council. In May 2013 OA produced and issued the final version of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that outlined the approach for all archaeological works and potential variations to these along the scheme, which was approved by both Planning Archaeologists (OA 2013). The design includes walkover survey, earthworks survey, trial trench evaluation and excavation methods.

1.1.3 As part of the archaeological design an evaluation is required on land west of Merton, Oxon, covering the construction impacts of College Farm Barn (Site 27), Merton footbridge crossing (Site 29) and the access track to the Barn (Fig. 1). Site 28, the location of a further proposed replacement barn, was not progressed during the construction phase and was omitted from the evaluation.

1.1.4 The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of twenty trenches representing an approximate 4% sample of the site by area, as defined by the enclosed boundary of the TWA Order, excluding the existing impacts such as the rail embankment. Due to the physical access restrictions imposed by the natural and human landscape landscape, the fieldwork was completed over a period of one year and through four separate attendances: Trenches 1-9 were excavated between 28th July-6th August 2014; Trenches 10-12 between 12th-13th February 2015; Trenches 13-15 between 9th-13th March 2015; and Trenches 16-20 between 22nd-23rd June 2015.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Sites 27, 29 and the access track are located towards the northern end of the project where the Oxford to Bicester rail line passes under the M40 motorway embankment on its approach to Bicester (Fig. 2). The combined site areas that cover these specific scheme impacts within the TWA Order boundary enclose approximately 3.5ha. Site 27 flanks the southern side of the existing rail embankment and to the south of the M40 (centred on NGR SP 56045 18104). Site 29, the new footbridge crossing, is located to the north of the M40 embankment with areas to the north and south of the existing rail line covering the new footbridge foundation and construction impacts (centred on NGR SP 56305 18515). The access track to College Farm Barn enters the scheme boundary off the road through Merton at the southern end of the village (NGR SP 57280 17385). This runs alongside the northern boundary of the M40 embankment to the point where

it meets the existing rail line and the access to Site 27 under the M40 (NGR SP 56215 18340).

1.2.2 The evaluation area covers a mixture of arable and pasture fields, although all of these have variously existed as arable in the past. Access to the areas within the TWA boundary is broken up by two watercourse tributaries to the River Ray, which join to the south of the M40 motorway. The larger of the watercourses forms the parish boundary with Wendlebury to the west and Merton to the east. The land covered by the evaluation trenches is flat, ranging in elevation only between 59.6m aOD at Merton to 60.1m aOD adjacent to the rail line.

1.2.3 The underlying solid geology of the site is predominately Mudstone of the Peterborough Member with Kellaways Clay Member also present towards the SE extent of the evaluation alongside the M40 embankment and overbridge south of Merton. Limestone of the Cornbrash Formation is also present within a small part of the evaluation area at the entry point of the access track the public road at the southern tip of the village. Superficial deposits of sand and gravel are also mapped across the lower elevations surrounding the watercourses (BGS geology viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A detailed study of the known cultural and archaeological heritage resource within a 1km boundary to either side of the entire scheme route has been completed by OA as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Statement (ES) undertaken in 2009 (ERM 2009a and 2009b). Reference should be made to the ES for detailed background information and the findings from previous desk studies (ERM 2009b).

1.3.2 The most significant point of interest at this location is the known route of the Roman Road between Alchester to the north and Dorchester-on-Thames to the south. It is likely that the route of the road passes through or very close to the area of investigation close to the village and associated roadside activity may be present. Remains of a timber bridge crossing the River Ray for this Roman Road were recorded in 1979 to the south of the M40. These suggest that the road was constructed at or after the end of the 1st century AD (Chambers 1987).

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims for all evaluations as defined within the WSI are as follows:

(i) establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains,

(ii) determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under more detailed open area excavation or Strip, Map and Sample recording,

(iii) determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise,

(iv) characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlying) deposits where possible,

(v) determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered,

(vi) establish what archaeological remains/deposits may be affected by any proposed development,

(vii) make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent mitigation strategies,

(viii) produce reports and full archive or summary reports where these will facilitate a rolling programme of investigation, and

(ix) disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.

2.2 Scope of works

2.2.1 The evaluation comprised an approximate 4% sample of the development area. This translated as 4 x 20m trenches, 15 x 30m trenches and a single 60m long trench each at approximately 1.8-2m wide. The trench arrangement was agreed within the WSI prior to commencing the fieldwork, although this allowed for variation subject to changes to the construction design and access restrictions. In the event there were minor variations to the final arrangement to allow for a revised location for the construction of the replacement barn for College Farm (Site 27) and the division of the Site 29 trenches into four trenches each 20m long, as opposed to two trenches 40m long to retain footpath access (Fig. 2). The trenches were arranged to provide a best coverage of the site and the associated construction impacts and to investigate areas of specific potential in the form of the Roman road alignment.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 Due to the nature of access to the areas, different mechanical excavators were used for the various attendances and excavation of the trenches. These were a JCB sitemaster type excavator and larger (8t, 13t or 16t) tracked excavators. This difference between the machines accounts for a small variation in the trench width across the trenches. In each case the excavators were fitted with flat-bladed ditching buckets. Each trench was mechanically excavated to the first archaeological horizon or the surface of the underlying limestone or silt clay natural geology, depending upon which was encountered first.

2.3.2 During machine excavation particular care was was taken to ensure that any archaeological deposits above the natural geology could be identified. In the event none were encountered and excavation proceeded to the surface of the underlying geological deposits and archaeological features. However, the density of remains in Trench 13 gave the impression that stratified deposits were present across much of this trench with relatively few areas of clear geology showing. Within this area particular care was taken to ensure that significant deposits were not excessively removed by machine excavation prior to the more detailed hand excavation.

2.3.3 Following mechanical excavation of the overlying ploughsoil horizon(s), each trench was cleaned proportionate to the identification of archaeological features and clarity of the soils/geology within each trench. Where archaeological features were identified, these were hand excavated and recorded according to the standards and guidelines set out within the WSI.

2.3.4 Trench views and sample sections were photographed digitally and levels of the exposed geological surface were recorded for each trench prior to backfilling. The spoil generated from each trench was scanned for artefacts during the course of the evaluation. Richard Oram was informed of the results at each stage and, where significant archaeological remains were encountered, visited the site prior to the backfilling of the trenches. Where programme and access issues restricted the visiting possibilities, all pertinent information was relayed to Richard Oram via telephone and email prior to backfilling.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are summarised below, followed by detailed trench descriptions where features were recorded. Trench plans and sections are illustrated in Figures 3-11. A full context inventory of all deposits by trench is tabulated in Appendix A. This should be referred to for information such as dimensions which are not otherwise included within the descriptive text. Reference to artefact assemblages and environmental remains are made in the detailed trench descriptions where relevant to excavated archaeological remains. Detailed reports on the artefact assemblages and environmental remains are included in Appendix B. Additionally, summary artefact information is included in Appendix A.

3.1.2 Individual contexts have been uniquely numbered by trench, starting at the relevant hundred numeral and then being followed by the individual context (e.g. yhe first context used for Trench 1 would be 100 followed by 101, Trench 2 starts at 200 etc). Plans and sections also follow this format.

3.2 Trenches and feature distribution

3.2.1 Archaeological features other than those identifiable as natural processes and post-medieval or modern origin were recorded in Trenches 2, 10, 13, 14 and 15. The only significant density of archaeological remains within this group was those recorded in Trenches 13 and 14 with only isolated and shallow features present in Trenches 2 and 10.

3.2.2 The trenches are described in groups below according to the division of areas within the evaluation and the OA site numbering (Site 27 and Site 29).

3.3 Trenches 1 to 4 (Site 29)

3.3.1 Trenches 1 to 4 were located in the northern part of the evaluation area on either side of the railway embankment arranged to cover the impact of a new footbridge crossing (Fig. 3). Trench 1 contained a ditch (108) on a NW-SE alignment (Fig. 10 Section 100). This was cut through the subsoil horizon and was visible as an extant earthwork within the side of the existing rail line drainage boundary ditch, suggesting that it was of historic origin. This also possibly continues under the rail line embankment as a drainage culvert. Trench 3 revealed two treeholes and a furrow. Trench 4 was not excavated, as the available space for this trench clashed with the active footpath route. The underlying surface geology encountered in Trenches 1-3 was a mixture of sandy and clayey gravel.

3.3.2 Trench 2 contained identifiable archaeological features (Fig. 3). A probable furrow or broad shallow hollow (214) was recorded within the northern end of the trench. This was aligned parallel to the post-medieval ditch in Trench 1 and contained small fragments of fired clay. To the south-west of this were two pits cut into the gravel geology. One (211) was circular with vertical sides and a flat base and measured 0.8m in diameter and 0.2m in depth (Fig. 10 Section 201). It contained two fills, the earliest of which (210) suggested the partial silting up of the feature prior to the deposition of the upper fill (209) which contained frequent charcoal inclusions and fragments of burnt animal bone. No dating evidence was present within this pit.

3.3.3 Pit 208 was situated immediately to the west of 211 and was partially revealed by the trench. The exposed part measured 1.9m in diameter and 0.22m in depth (Fig. 10 Section 200). This contained two mid grey brown sandy silt fills, the upper of which

(207) yielded a small amount of animal bone (37g), four small and abraded sherds of pottery (three are likely to be from the same vessel) of late Iron Age to early Roman date and 21 small fragments of fired clay that are likely to have derived from an oven.

3.4 Trenches 5 to 9 (Access track)

3.4.1 No archaeological features were revealed in Trenches 5 to 9, which were located along the north eastern side of the M40 embankment boundary (Fig. 4). Land drains on varying alignments traverse Trenches 5, 6 and 8, and Trench 7 contained several sterile treeholes and areas of root disturbances. Trench 9 revealed a palaeochannel (906) and an alluvial layer underlying the subsoil suggesting an earlier route of the stream presently located to the south-east of the trench (Fig. 10 Section 900). The surface geology encountered within these trenches comprised yellow brown clay with patches of gravel.

3.5 Trenches 10, 11 and12 (Site 27)

3.5.1 These three trenches were located on the southern side of the railway embankment and to the south of the M40 (Fig. 5). These were arranged to cover the footprint of the replacement barn for College Farm and part of the access track to this. Of these, only Trench 10 exposed an archaeological feature. Each of these trenches were traversed by plough furrows on a NW-SE alignment. The surface geology comprised yellow brown clay which was overlain by a buried ploughsoil horizon *c* 0.2m thick and topsoil *c* 0.3m in thick (Fig. 10 Section 1000).

3.5.2 Pit 1003 in Trench 10 was circular and measured 0.7m in diameter and only 0.06m in depth (Fig. 10 Section 1001). This was cut into the clay geology and contained a single fill (1004) which was a mid greyish brown silty clay, with patches of red clay. The fill produced a small amount of charcoal and four small pottery sherds (23g) of Roman date.

3.6 Trenches 13, 14 and 15 (Access track)

3.6.1 These trenches were located south of Merton village where the access track exits to the public road (Figs 2, 6, 7 and 8). All three trenches contained archaeological features which were truncated by regular spaced plough furrows on an E-W alignment.

3.6.2 Within Trench 13 the natural geology comprised Cornbrash Formation which was exposed throughout the trench, although this was clearly diminishing into the Kellaways Clay Formation towards the south. Trench 13 also produced the richest concentration of features and artefacts (Fig. 6). The north-eastern half of the trench contained three ditches (1311, 1313 and 1315). Each of these contained sterile silty clay fills with slight variations in composition and colour appearance. Ditch 1313 appeared to be truncated by ditch 1311, although this was not entirely clear within the limits of the trench (Fig. 11 Sections 1303 and 1304). These ditches were also reasonably similar in their dimensions and profiles, being between 0.6-0.7m wide and 0.1-0.2m deep with rounded bases. No artefactual material was present in the fills.

3.6.3 At the south-western end of the trench were two very large parallel ditches, aligned NW-SE. The southernmost ditch (1303) measured 4m wide and 0.5m in depth (Fig. 11 Section 1301). It was unclear within the limits of the evaluation trench whether this was a ditch or another feature type, such as a wide and shallow pit. It had a concave profile, sloping more steeply on the south-west side. Its earliest fill (1317) suggested slow silting and contained 6 sherds (922g) of Roman pottery of 1st to 2nd century date. A small amount of pottery from the next fill (1319), a deposit of slumped natural from the north-east side of the ditch, had a late 1st to early 2nd century date. Above this was a

deposit of packed limestone (1318), suggesting that the remains of a structure that had either fallen or had been built into the north-eastern side of the ditch. Alternatively, it may have been part of a structure within the ditch, perhaps a drain. The remainder of the ditch was filled by more silting (1305), dated broadly to the Roman period by three sherds (6g) of pottery, and a final dump or backfill deposit (1304) that was rich in charred plant remains. This included frequent charcoal from oak, ash and beech, along with cereals and wild plant seeds. Pottery (19 sherds, 107g) consistent with a 2nd-century origin was also recovered from this deposit.

3.6.4 Situated *c* 2.7m to the north-east on a parallel alignment was another large ditch (1308). This measured approximately 5m wide and in excess of 0.7m deep and had a stepped profile with a wide flat base (Fig. 11 Section 1302). The excavation conditions for this feature were poor, with high ground water levels impeding the full excavation. However, waterlogged conditions were not reflected within the investigated basal fill of the ditch. It contained two silty clay fills the earliest of which (1309) contained 16 sherds (157g) of pottery of late 1st to early 2nd century date. The upper fill (1310) contained 22 sherds of pottery (330g) dating from the 2nd century onwards.

3.6.5 On the southern edge of this ditch, and only just exposed within the trench, was an area of packed limestone (not numbered). This appeared to be similar to the packed limestone (1318) encountered within ditch 1303, but an insufficient amount of the deposit was exposed within the trench to investigate. It was not clear if this represents part of a structure or foundation.

3.6.6 Trench 14 revealed a ditch (1403) and a pit (1405) amongst the furrows (Fig. 7 and Fig. 11 Section 1400). The underlying geology within this part of the field was also a soft silty deposit that had resulted in the accumulation of a thicker buried ploughsoil horizon and subsequent modern ploughsoil. Despite the obvious greater degree of truncation here, ditch 1403 survived with dimensions of 0.75m in width and 0.21m in depth and was aligned N-S. It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained three mid grey brown silty clay fills. The earliest (1404) contained 22 sherds (572g) of Roman pottery, dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd century by fragments of an Oxford mortarium. Pit 1405 cut the upper fill of the ditch on the western side. The portion revealed by the trench measured 0.85m in diameter and 0.32m in depth. No finds were recovered from the silty grey-brown fill.

3.6.7 Trench 15 contained a ditch (1504, recut as 1506) aligned E-W, and a pit (1507), partially revealed by the trench (Fig. 8). The earliest ditch was cut into the clay geology and survived to a depth of 0.45m and contained a single silt clay fill (1503) that produced a single sherd (7g) of medieval pottery dated to the 13th–14th century. The recut (1506) was 0.9m wide with a sharply defined profile with a flat base cut to the same depth as its predecessor (Fig. 11 Section 1500). This contained a single sterile grey silty clay fill (1505).

3.6.8 Pit 1507 was sub-circular or oval in shape with a concave profile, and measured 0.8m in diameter and 0.18m in depth The single fill (1508) contained fragments of limestone but no artefactual material. Significant animal burrow disturbance of recent appearance was recorded elsewhere within this trench, with an active badger sett visible within the adjacent M40 motorway embankment. The surface of the geology, ditch fills and furrows were sealed by a sequence of buried ploughsoil/subsoil and the existing ploughsoil. The combined depth of soil cover throughout the trench was 0.5-0.6m.

3.7 Trenches 16 to 20 (Access track)

3.7.1 No archaeological features were revealed in Trenches 16 to 20, which were located along the north eastern side of the M40 embankment boundary and between the two watercourses that cross the TWA boundary and continue south to meet the River Ray (Fig. 9). Land drains on varying alignments were recorded in all trenches except Trench 19, and furrows were also present aligned NNE-SSW. The underlying surface geology was predominately clay with a mixed appearance ranging from grey to brown and yellow. A sterile subsoil layer was also present overlying the clay geology that probably represents a buried ploughsoil horizon that relates to the remains of the furrows recorded in this area.

4 Discussion

4.1 Conditions and reliability

4.1.1 With the exception of short periods of wet weather which limited the excavation of the deeper features encountered within Trench 13, the evaluation was undertaken during good ground and weather conditions providing reassurance that these results are a true reflection of the site potential. No significant archaeological remains were present in 14 of the 19 excavated trenches. Of the remaining five trenches containing archaeological remains (Trenches 2, 10 and 13-15), the most intensive activity was revealed by Trenches 13 and 14 close to Merton village and the projected line of the Roman road between Alchester and Dorchester-on-Thames. Single pits were revealed in Trenches 2 and 10 and these suggest activity in the late Iron Age to early Roman period, although the absence of good artefact assemblages and other features may suggest that this is possibly scattered and peripheral to otherwise unidentified settlement foci.

4.2 Significance and interpretation

4.2.1 The pit and ditch features encountered within Trenches 13 and 14 are mostly of clear Roman origin within the 2nd century. The projected Roman road alignment that this evaluation was designed to investigate was not encountered as physical remains, so it is unclear what form or appearance the road had at this location. It is possible that the road was no more than a defined route with flanking ditches, although this also is not well reflected by the remains encountered. It is more likely that the road was metalled but that these physical remains have long since been removed by post-Roman agricultural practices indicated by the presence of furrows. With regard to the flanking side ditches, a large ditch-like feature (1308) was present to the west of the road alignment, although the form of this was not as perhaps would be expected with a simple V-shaped profile. Instead this appeared as a very broad, deep and stepped profile. A similar feature aligned parallel to this (1303) was similarly broad and relatively shallow and it is not clear if this was an earlier or later feature.

4.2.2 Three small ditches were present east of the road alignment. Of these only ditch 1311 was parallel to the road, although this was of completely different dimensions and form to that to the west of the road. Also the fill was sterile so it remains unproven if this is a Roman feature or of another date origin. If this is the flanking ditch east of the road it provides a width of *c* 15-17m for the road corridor, which is larger than that recorded immediately south of Alchester from the Langford Lane excavation associated with this development. However, the combination of the possible flanking ditches is unusual and this interpretation remains open.

4.2.3 The features and accompanying pottery and charred plant remains encountered within Trench 14 also indicate a degree of 2nd century Roman activity or settlement associated with this location. This may have taken the form of roadside settlement, although it is not possible to speculate too far on this matter based upon the presence of a single linear ditch and a small pit.

4.2.4 The other features revealed appear to largely comprise furrows representing the historic farming arable use of the land. The ridge and furrow evidenced on the site largely follows the typical alignment seen in the area in crop marks and reflected in field boundaries, notably those seen to the south-west of the site as extant strip fields on satellite imagery. The recut ditch sequence recorded in Trench 15 may represent an early field boundary as this aligned is parallel to the ridge and furrows.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
One undated NW-SE aligned ditch cutting the subsoil is partially visible as an earthwork in the railway ditch and continues under the embankment. The subsoil and topsoil were covered with a layer of made ground of modern origin, probably upcast from digging the railway ditch.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.9
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Layer		0.18	Modern topsoil		
101	Layer		0.24	Made Ground		
102	Layer		0.16	Former topsoil horizon		
103	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
104	Layer			Natural gravel		
105	Fill		0.2	Fill of ditch 108		
106	Fill		0.1	Fill of ditch 108		
107	Fill		0.23	Fill of ditch 108		
108	Cut	3.3	0.7	Ditch		
109	Fill		0.3	Fill of ditch 108		

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
The features cut natural gravel and were sealed by a thin clayey subsoil – possibly alluvial origin. This was sealed by topsoil, which was subsequently overlain by made ground (upcast from digging the railway ditch). Two small pits, one of which produced a small pottery assemblage.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.9
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date/comment**
200	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
201	Layer		0.25	Made ground		
202	Layer		0.15	Former topsoil horizon		
203	Layer		0.16	Subsoil		
204	Layer		0.22	Subsoil/clay alluvium		
205	Layer			Natural gravel		
206	Fill		0.08	Fill of pit 208		
207	Fill		0.22	Fill of pit 208	Pottery, Fired clay Animal bone	LIA-Rom Poss. oven fragments
208	Cut	1.9	0.22	Pit		
209	Fill		0.24	Fill of pit 211	Animal bone	Burnt
210	Fill		0.2	Fill of pit 211		
211	Cut	0.8	0.2	Pit		

212	Fill	0.5	0.12	Fill of linear feature		
213	Fill		0.17	Fill of linear feature	Stone Animal bone	Lava quern fragments
214	Cut	6	0.17	Linear feature		

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSw
Trench revealed a furrow and two treeholes.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
300	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
301	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
302	Layer			Natural gravel		
303	Fill			Fill of furrow 304		
304	Cut	1.1	0.2	Furrow		
305	Fill		0.1	Fill of treehole 307		
306	Fill		0.1	Fill of treehole 307		
307	Cut	2 x 0.7	0.2	Treehole		
308	Fill		0.2	Fill of treehole 310		
309	Fill		0.4	Fill of treehole 310		
310	Cut	1.5 x 1	0.4	Treehole		

Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	
Not excavated as this conflicted with the active footpath route without sufficient space to reposition it.	**Avg. depth (m)**	
	Width (m)	
	Length (m)	

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
No archaeology present. Two natural features and a land drain were revealed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
500	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
501	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
502	Cut			Land drain		
503	Fill			Fill of land drain		

504	Fill		0.15	Fill of treehole		
505	Fill		0.2	Fill of treehole		
506	Layer			Natural clay with gravel patches		
507	Cut	0.9	0.2	Treehole		
508	Cut			Natural feature		

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
No archaeology present.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
600	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
601	Cut	0.16	?	Cut for land drain		
602	Fill			Fill of land drain		
603	Layer		0.12	Subsoil		
604	Layer			Natural clay		

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
No archaeology present					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
700	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
701	Layer		0.17	Subsoil		
702	Layer			Natural sandy gravel with clay patches		

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeology present. Two treeholes and a land drain recorded.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
800	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
801	Cut			Land drain		

802	Cut	1.4	0.25	Treehole		
803	Fill			Fill of land drain		
804	Fill		0.25	Fill of treehole		
805	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
806	Layer			Natural clay with patches of gravel		

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
No archaeology present. At the south-west end of the trench was a possible palaeochannel (probably a precursor to the present stream).					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.48
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
900	Layer		0.2	Topsoil		
901	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		
902	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
903	Fill		0.15	Fill of palaeochannel		
904	Fill		0.18	Fill of palaeochannel		
905	Fill		0.17	Fill of palaeochannel		
906	Cut	2.8+	0.5	Palaeochannel		
907	Layer			Natural clay		

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
A small and very shallow pit was situated in the central area of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1000	Layer			Natural clay with gravel patches		
1001	Layer		0.2	Topsoil		
1002	Layer		0.5	Subsoil		
1003	Cut	0.7	0.06	Pit		
1004	Fill		0.06	Fill of pit	Pottery	Roman

Trench 11		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
One furrow was recorded on a NNW-SSE orientation, part of the post-medieval field system	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
	Width (m)	1.8

					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1100	Layer			Topsoil		
1101	Cut	2	0.2	Furrow		
1102	Fill			Fill of furrow		
1103	Layer			Natural clay		

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Only two features present two post-medieval furrows, part of the field system with a NNW-SSE orientation, in the southern part of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1200	Layer		0.2	Topsoil		
1201	Cut	1.5	0.35	Furrow		
1202	Fill		0.35	Fill of furrow		
1203	Cut	1.5	0.35	Furrow		
1204	Fill		0.35	Fill of furrow		
1205	Layer			Natural clay		

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Roman activity positioned alongside the course of the Roman road from Alchester to Dorchester-on-Thames (not evident in the trench). At least two large ditches were present dated to the 2nd century along with undated smaller ditches within the northern part of the trench. Possible limestone structures or foundations were also noted. Ridge an furrow on a N-S and E-W alignment was also recorded.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	1.5
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date/comments**
1300	Layer		0.2	Topsoil		
1301	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		
1302	Layer			Natural cornbrash limestone		
1303	Cut	4	0.5	Ditch		
1304	Fill		0.3	Fill of Ditch 1303	Pottery, Iron, Fired clay Animal bone	Mid-late 2nd century AD Hobnails Oven fragments
1305	Fill		0.29	Fill of Ditch 1303	Pottery	Roman
1306	Cut	1.3	0.2	Furrow		
1307	Fill	1.3	0.2	Fill of furrow 1306	Animal bone	

1308	Cut	5	0.7+	Ditch		
1309	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 1308	Pottery	Late 1st to early 2nd-century AD
1310	Fill		0.4	Fill of ditch 1308	Pottery Animal bone	2nd century
1311	Cut	0.65	0.14	Ditch		
1312	Fill	0.65	0.14	Fill of ditch 1311		
1313	Cut	0.59	0.07	Ditch		
1314	Fill	0.59	0.07	Fill of ditch 1313		
1315	Cut	0.7	0.19	Ditch		
1316	Fill	0.7	0.19	Fill of ditch 1315		
1317	Fill		0.43	Fill of ditch 1303	Pottery	1st-2nd century AD
1318	Fill		0.3	Packed limestone 'fill' of ditch 1303 or possible structure		
1319	Fill		0.1	Fill of ditch 1303	Pottery Animal bone	Late 1st-2nd century AD

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
The trench was crossed by ridge and furrow on an E-W alignment. In the SW of the trench was a Roman ditch cut by a small pit.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
					Width (m)	3
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1400	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
1401	Layer		0.3	Subsoil		
1402	Layer			Natural silt clay		
1403	Cut	0.75	0.2	Ditch		
1404	Fill			Fill of ditch 1403	Pottery, Fired clay, Slag Animal bone	Late 1st-2nd century AD Poss. oven furniture
1405	Cut	0.95	0.32	Pit		
1406	Fill			Fill of pit 1405	Pottery Animal bone	2nd century AD
1407	Cut	1.8	0.2	Furrow		
1408	Fill	1.8	0.2	Fill of Furrow		
1409	Cut	1	0.05	Natural feature		
1410	Fill			Fill of natural feature		

Trench 15		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Medieval ridge and furrow crossed the trench on an E-W alignment. A ditch 1504 followed the same alignment and was recut as ditch 1506. A pit	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45

was partially revealed in the central area of the trench and numerous modern animal burrows were also present.	**Width (m)**	1.5
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1500	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
1501	Layer		0.25	Subsoil		
1502	Layer			Natural clay		
1503	Fill		0.35	Fill of ditch 1504	Pottery	13th-14th century AD
1504	Cut	0.55	0.35	Ditch		
1505	Fill	0.9	0.45	Fill of ditch 1506		
1506	Cut	0.9	0.45	Ditch		
1507	Cut	0.8	0.18	Pit		
1508	Fill	0.8	0.18	Fill of pit 1507	Animal bone	
1509	Cut			Animal burrow		
1510	Fill			Fill of animal burrow		
1511	Fill			Fill of animal burrow		
1512	Cut			Furrow		

Trench 16

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
A single ditch was recorded.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	1.5
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1600	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
1601	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
1602	Layer			Natural clay with gravel patches		
1603	Cut			Ditch		
1604	Fill			Fill of ditch		

Trench 17

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Two plough furrows crossed the trench on a N-S alignment. Modern plastic land drains were present at the NW and SE ends of the trench.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1700	Layer		0.4	Topsoil		

1701	Layer		0.1	Subsoil		
1702	Layer			Furrow		
1703	Fill			Fill of furrow		
1704	Cut			Furrow		
1705	Fill			Fill of furrow		
1706	Layer			Natural clay		

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
No archaeology present. A modern land drain was present in the NW part of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1800	Layer		0.5	Topsoil		
1801	Layer		0.05	Subsoil		
1802	Layer			Natural clay		

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
No archaeology present except for modern remains of construction activity, probably related to the motorway.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1900	Layer		0.2	Topsoil		
1901	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
1902	Layer			Natural clay		

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
No archaeology present. Numerous modern features, including a plastic land drain at the north-east end, and nine flat based cuts from the topsoil into the natural. These have been interpreted as dumper/lorry wheel ruts related to the construction of either the motorway bridge of the dyke.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2000	Layer		0.35	Topsoil		
2001	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
2002	Layer			Natural clay		

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Pottery

By Kate Brady and Paul Booth

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 The evaluation produced 109 sherds (1278g) of pottery of Roman date, from 11 contexts and a single sherd of medieval date. The pottery was scanned quite rapidly and quantified by period for each context group (Table 1). Pottery fabrics were defined in terms of ware codes set out in the standard OA recording system for later prehistoric and Roman pottery (Booth 2011), cross-referenced to the national Roman pottery fabric codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) where appropriate. An assessment of the ceramic date of each context group is also presented in Table 1.

The assemblage

B.1.2 The condition of the material was moderate at best. The mean sherd weight (12.21g) is not very high, and excluding three sherds of mortaria (fabric M22) in context 1404 was only 7.6g.

B.1.3 The Roman pottery was mostly recorded in terms of major ware categories, with individual fabric codes used in some cases. The codes used were:

W10 Fine white wares, Oxford products

W20 Sandy white ware, probably Oxford products

F50 Fine oxidised fabric with poorly preserved ?red slip, source unknown

E30 Sandy fabric

E80 'Belgic type' fabrics

M22 Oxford White Ware Mortarium

O Oxidised coarse wares unspecified

O10 fine oxidised wares, Oxford products

O80 Coarse grog/sand tempered oxidised storage jar fabrics

O22 Coarse sandy oxidised wares

R10 Fine sandy reduced 'coarse' wares Oxford products

R37 Sandy west Oxfordshire reduced coarse wares

R30 Medium/fine reduced wares, Oxford products

S32 Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre)

C10 Coarse shell tempered wares

OXAM Brill/Boarstall sandy fabric (Mellor 1994)

B.1.4 Fabrics O10, O22, O80, R10, R20 and R30 are likely to have originated in the Oxford industry (Young 1977). The two white ware sherds are assigned to ware groups W10 and W20 normally dominated by Oxford products and likely to have originated from there.

B.1.5 Only a small number of rim sherds were present. These represented a narrow mouthed jar in fabric O10 and two decorated bowl forms in fabric R10, both probably from the Oxford industry, and one small beaker in O10 fabric. A single sherd in Central Gaulish samian ware (Les-Martres-de-Veyre) was probably a Drag. 18/31 dish.

B.1.6 The most distinctive vessels present are a fine reduced ware carinated bowl (Young 1977, type R64) dated to the late 1st-2nd century, and a large fragment (in four pieces) of an Oxford white ware mortarium. The flange of this vessel indicates that it is of Young's (1977) type M10, dated AD 180-240, but the vessel is unusually large and has a remarkable projecting spout (incompletely preserved) unparalleled in the industry. There is no doubt about the fabric and form, but the vessel is very unusual and of considerable intrinsic importance. Its overall date range is slightly later than that suggested for the rest of the pottery (allowing for the fact that closely diagnostic material is very scarce), but the nature of the spout might suggest a date early in the AD 180-240 range. None of the rest of the pottery contradicts a broadly 2nd-century date for the assemblage overall, although the presence of sherds of fabric E80 in contexts 1317 and 1319 suggests the presence of 1st-century activity in the vicinity. Only the single medieval sherd (7g) in context 1503 is later. The Roman pottery assemblage is too small to allow meaningful comment on the character of the site from which it derives.

B.1.7 Table 1: Quantities of pottery by context

Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Date	Fabrics	Comment
207	4	9	LIA-Rom	E80, E30	
1004	4	23	Rom	O22	
1304	19	107	M-L2C?	S32, R30, O, R37 F50?/dish?	S possibly Central Gaulish Les-Martres-de-Veyre
1305	3	6	ROM	R20, O20	
1309	16	157	L1-E2C	O10 ?beaker, R10 ?beaker	
1310	22	330	2C	M22, R10, R30, O10 ?jar R10 ? jar, carinated bowl*	*= Young R64 (sherd also in 1309)
1317	6	22	1-2C	W20; E80; O; R20	
1319	4	15	L1-2C	E80, R10/jar?	
1404	22	572	AD180-240	M22, O20, R30, W10, C10, R	
1406	7	26	2C?	W10, R30, O20, R10	
1503	2	11	13-14C	E80, OXAM glazed	
TOTAL	**109**	**1278**			

B.2 Worked stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.2.1 A total of 42 pieces of stone were returned from site. These comprise unworked limestone (1503, 1309, 1317) and burnt stone (1304). The only stone that seems certain to have been worked are 17 tiny fragments (71g) of lava from context 213, which although not retaining worked surfaces, are probably from rotary querns. Since lava was used in the area from the 1st century AD until post-medieval times, they cannot be closely dated.

B.3 Iron

B.3.1 Two iron hobnails were recovered from context 1304.

B.4 Fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

B.4.1 The table below syntheses the small assemblage of fired clay that was recovered during the evaluation.

Context	Description	Date
207	21 scraps of fired clay in a local sandy fabric with sparse calcareous inclusions. Some are shaped and one has a flat surface, all are likely to be oven wall lining, 54g	Undateable
1304	4 scraps fired clay, 3 from environmental sample <7>, local sandy fabric with sparse calcareous inclusions, 2 with flat surface, likely to be oven wall lining, 12g	Undateable
1404	environmental sample <6> 6 fragments fried clay in a shelly fabric, smooth flat surface and an edge piece, probably part of a circular disc of oven furniture, 11g	LIA/ROM

B.5 Slag

B.5.1 A single small fragment (6g) of slag was recovered from environmental sample <6> (context 1404).

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

C.1 Animal bones

By Lena Strid

C.1.1 A total of 227 animal bone fragments were recovered of which 156 (68.7%) came from sieved soil samples. The majority of the assemblage came from features preliminarily dated to the Roman period. The bone condition was generally poor. Only three bones had traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs. Ninety-one fragments were burnt. Butchery marks were only noted on a large mammal long bone, which had a chop mark mid-shaft, possibly deriving from portioning.

C.1.2 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse. The presence of these domestic taxa are common for Roman assemblages, although due to the small sample size it is not possible to extrapolate on the frequency of cattle, sheep/goat and pig and their contribution to the economy and diet.

C.1.3 A small number of bones could be attributed to minimum age at death. An unfused distal pig humerus suggest an age at death of less than 1 year and a fused horse calcaneus suggests an age at death of more than 3years (Habermehl 1975, 48, 150). A cattle mandible had worn down the third molar to Grant's wear stage 'g', correlating to Halstead's age category Adult (Grant 1982; Halstead 1985).

C.1.4 No further information can be gained from such small sample of bones. However, if further excavations take place on the site, the bones should be included in the full excavation report.

C.2 Marine shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

C.2.1 Five marine shells were recovered by hand during the evaluation. They comprised two valves from mussel (*Mytilus* cf. *edulis*) from context 1310 and single valves from the native European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) in contexts 1304, 1309 and 1310. All of the oysters valves were the lower, left valve and all were relatively large. The valves from context 1304 had a v-shaped opening notch on the ventral margin, opposite the hinge, while the other two valves were incomplete. None of the valves exhibited evidence of encrustations or parasitic infestation.

C.3 Charred plant remains

By Sharon Cook and Julia Meen

C.3.1 Three samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, artefacts and, in the case of sample <1>, possible cremated or burnt bone.

C.3.2 Sample <1> (209) was a 30L sample of light olive brown sandy silt loam (2.5Y 5/3).

C.3.3 Sample <6> (1404) was a 40L sample of yellowish brown silty clay loam (10YR 5/6).

C.3.4 Sample <7> (1304) was 40L of brown silty clay (10YR 4/3).

C.3.5 The entirety of all the samples was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the cremated bone was retrieved from the sample. The flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.

C.3.6 The burnt/cremated bone from context 209 proved to be burnt animal bone and has been reported above. Samples <6> and <7> contained animal bone, pottery and fired clay, while sample <6> contained a fragment of slag, and sample <7> contained burnt stone and an iron object.

C.3.7 Sample <1> (209) produced 30ml of flot material of which 100% was scanned. No charred seeds or grains were noted. However charcoal in good condition was present with a number of fragments potentially identifiable to species.

C.3.8 Sample <6> produced 50ml of flot material of which 100% was scanned. The flot was rich in modern roots and plant material and also contained large numbers of snails. A single fragment of grass seed was noted although no further charred seeds were observed. A small quantity of charcoal was present, the majority too small to be identified to species. A number of cereal grains were present but were generally in poor condition; five grains of the better preserved grains are likely to be wheat (*Triticum sp.*).

C.3.9 Sample <7> produced 250ml of flot material of which 25% was scanned. The flot contained occasional fine modern roots and was extremely rich in charcoal, much of which was in good condition and identifiable (see below). Occasional snails and fragments of hazelnut shell were noted. As with sample <6>, cereal grains in poor condition were present; one specimen is possibly barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and a further eight are probably wheat (*Triticum sp.*). Five poorly preserved fragments of wheat chaff were also present. Five charred seeds were extracted from the flot and have been provisionally identified as grass (Poaceae), stitchwort (*Stellaria sp*) and a spike-rush (*Eleocharis sp.*). A single legume fragment <2mm was also present within the scanned portion.

C.3.10 Little charcoal was recovered from sample <6> and no material was suitable for species identification. Sample <7> contained frequent potentially identifiable charcoal. A small selection (n=19) of charcoal fragments from this sample was selected for evaluation, to provide an initial assessment of the range of wood species present and potential for radiocarbon dating. Each fragment was initially examined on the transverse section using a Brunel low power binocular microscope at up to x45 magnification and, where necessary, further examined on the transverse longitudinal and radial sections using a Brunel metallurgical SP-400 BD at up to x200 magnification. The identifications were as follows:

Species	No. fragments
Quercus sp.	3
cf *Quercus* sp.	1
Fraxinus excelsior	5
Fagus silvatica	6
Other	3
Indet. twig	1

C.3.11 The small number of items examined suggest a fairly even mixture of oak (*Quercus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and beech (*Fagus silvatica*) in the sample. Both oak and ash were present as heartwood, with beech generally found as roundwood, including young twigs. The beech roundwood would be suitable for radiocarbon dating, should material be required.

Appendix D. Bibliography

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Appendix E. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Sites 27 and 29, North of Holts Farm and College Farm Access Track, Merton and Wendlebury, Oxfordshire

Site code: MEFOOT 14

Grid reference: SP 56700 17800

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration:

Four separate attendances: Trenches 1-9 were excavated between 28th July-6th August 2014; Trenches 10-12 between 12th-13th February 2015; Trenches 13-15 between 9th-13th March 2015 and Trenches 16-20 between 22nd-23rd June 2015.

Area of site: Approximately 3.5ha

Summary of results:

Between July 2014 and June 2015 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of land between Merton village and the Bicester to Oxford rail line on behalf of Chiltern Railways and Network Rail. The evaluation comprised the excavation of nineteen trenches ahead of construction of an agricultural barn, a footbridge crossing of the upgraded rail line and the new access track to the barn.

Trenches 13 and 14 were located to the immediate south of Merton and targeted upon the projected line of the Roman road between Alchester and Dorchester-on-Thames. These trenches identified a concentration of 2nd-century Romano-British remains, possibly indicating settlement.

More scattered and less conclusive remains of late Iron Age or early Roman date were also encountered in Trenches 2 and 10. These features were small shallow pits with similarly small abraded sherds of pottery. The absence of other features in these areas may suggest that these remains are peripheral to other activities or settlement foci.

A possible medieval field boundary was recorded in Trench 15, although this association relies upon the presence of a single sherd of glazed pottery and the alignment of the ditches parallel to the ridge and furrow remains. Ridge and furrow was visible both as slight ridges surviving in some areas and furrows within most trenches and the accumulation of deep ploughsoils and possible headland deposits.

Location of archive:

The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the accession number OXCMS: 2013.182

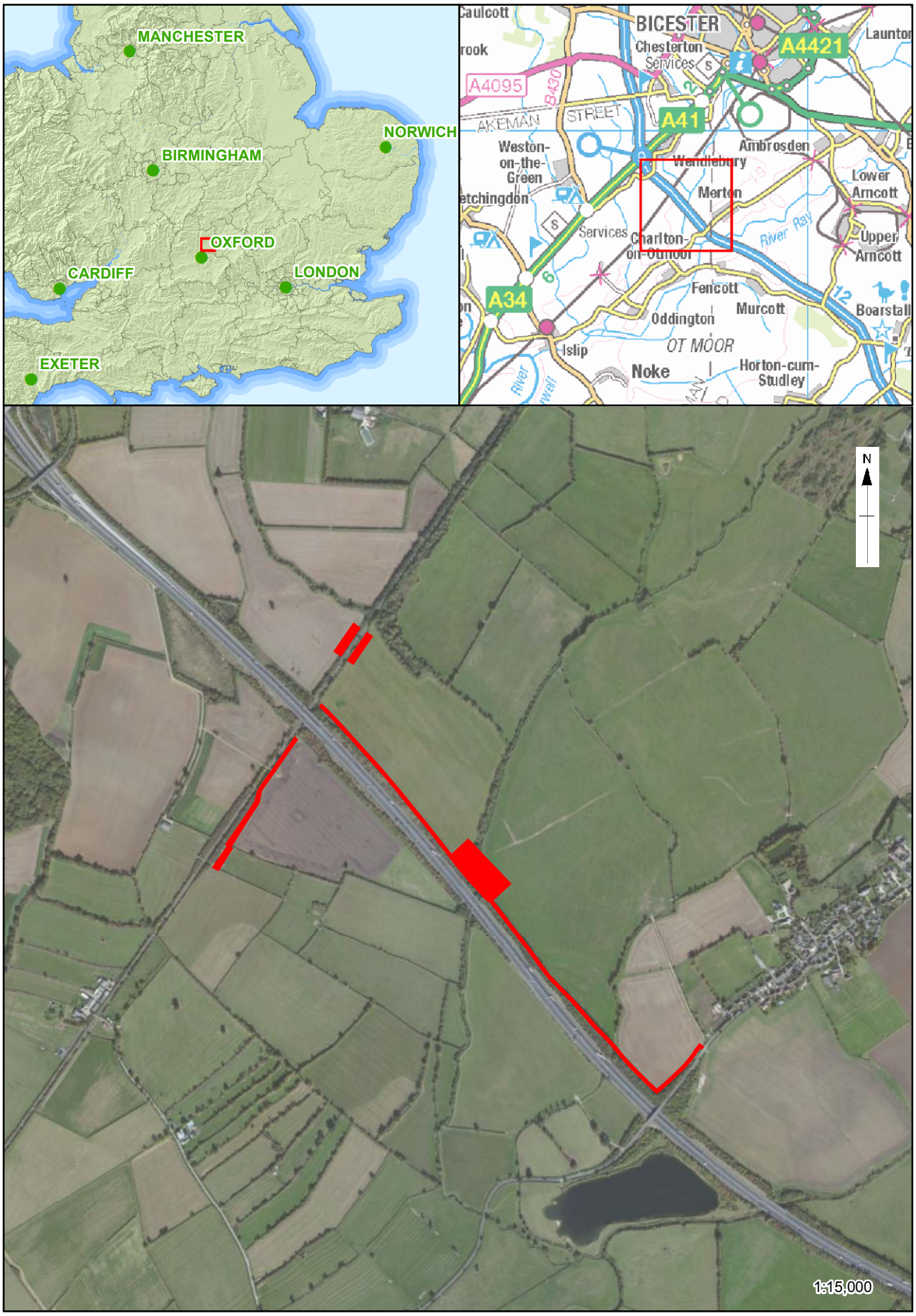

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Figure 1: Site location

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N

456000
218700

457100
218700

OA Site 29
Trench 1
Trench 2
Trench 3
Trench 4
(not excavated)

OA Site 28

Trench 5
Trench 6
Trench 7
Trench 8
Trench 9
Part of OA
Site 27/28
Trench 10
Trench 11
Trench 12
OA Site 27
Trench 18
Trench 19
Trench 20
Trench 17
Trench 16
Trench 15
Trench 13
Trench 14
TWA order boundary

Projected line of
the Roman Road
from Alchester

456000
217100

Evaluation limits
Evaluation trench
TWA Order boundary

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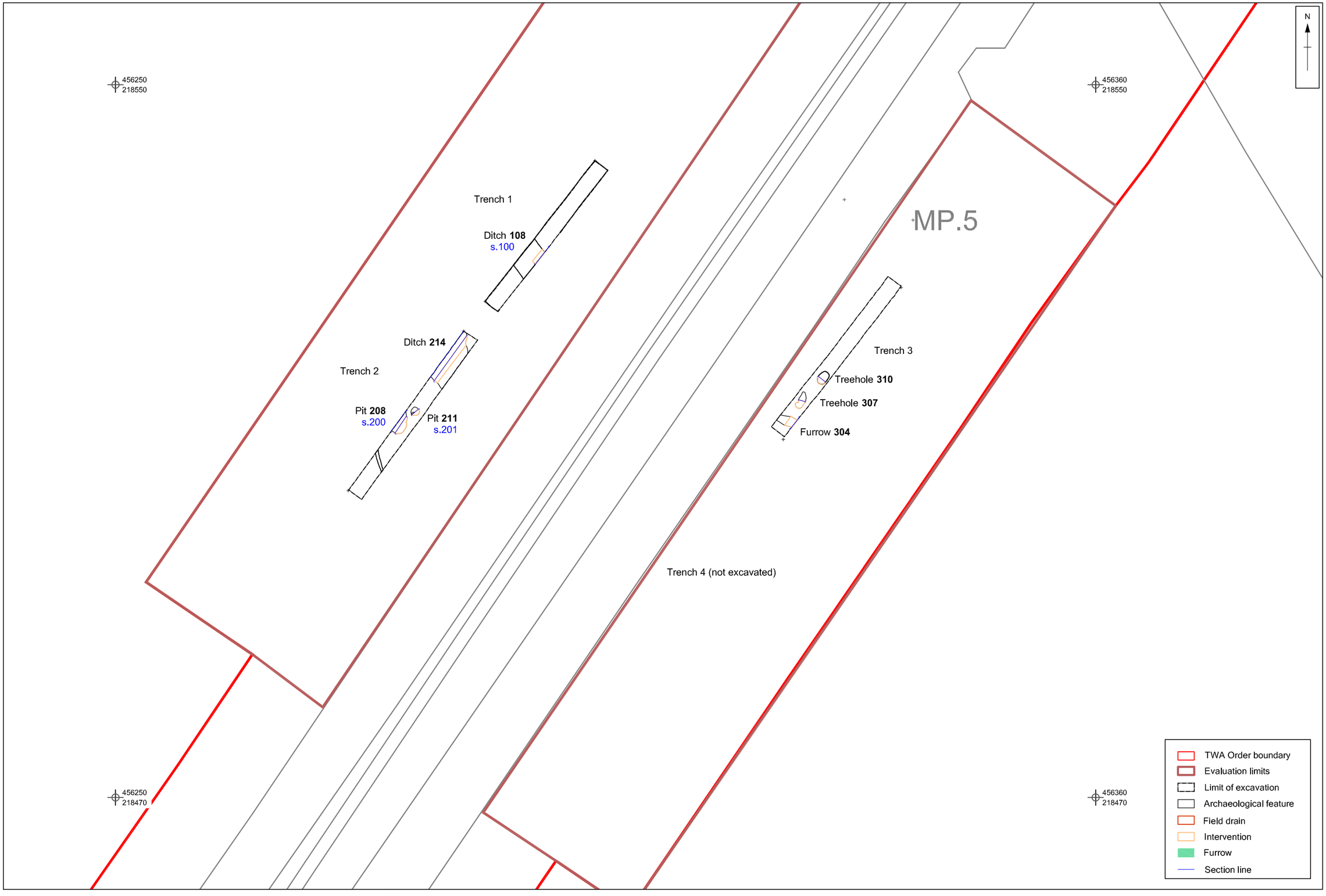
0 200 m

Scale at A3 1:5000

Figure 2: Trench layout



\\Samba-2\projects\b\BIOXRLOT_Bicester_Oxford_rail_upgrade\010Geomatics\02 CAD\001current\14_MEFOOTEV_Merton_Footbridge_Site29\MEFOOTEV_20150727.dwg(A3 Fig3)**MEFOOTEV*** 10 Mar 2016

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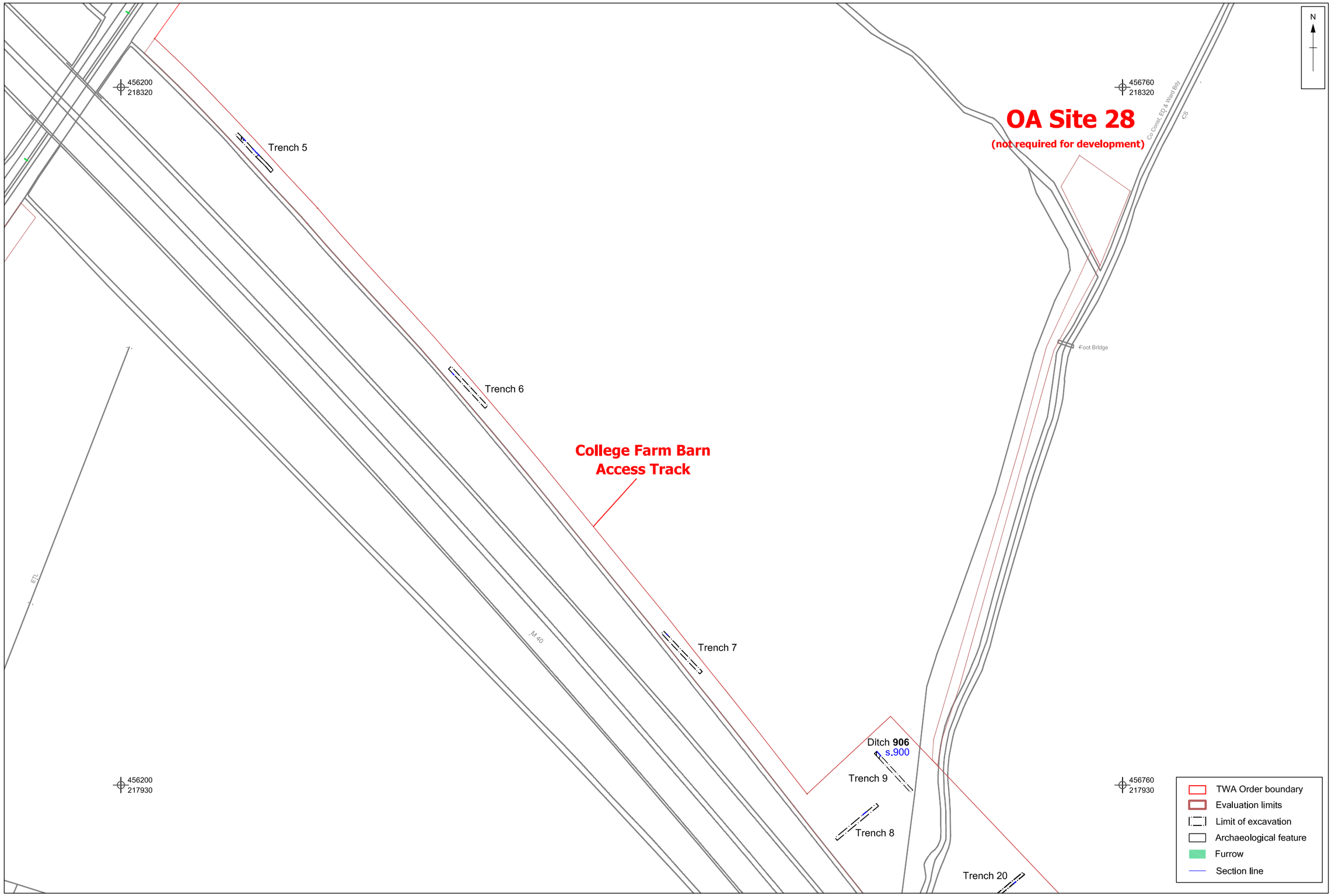
0 20 m

Scale at A3 1:400

Figure 3: Trenches 1 - 3



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\\Samba-2\projects\bl\BIOXRLOT_Bicester_Oxford_rail_upgrade\010Geomatics\02 CAD\001current\14_MEFOOTEV_Merton_Footbridge_Site29\MEFOOTEV_20150727.dwg(A3 Fig4)***MEFOOTEV*** 10 Mar 2016

Figure 4: Trenches 5 - 9

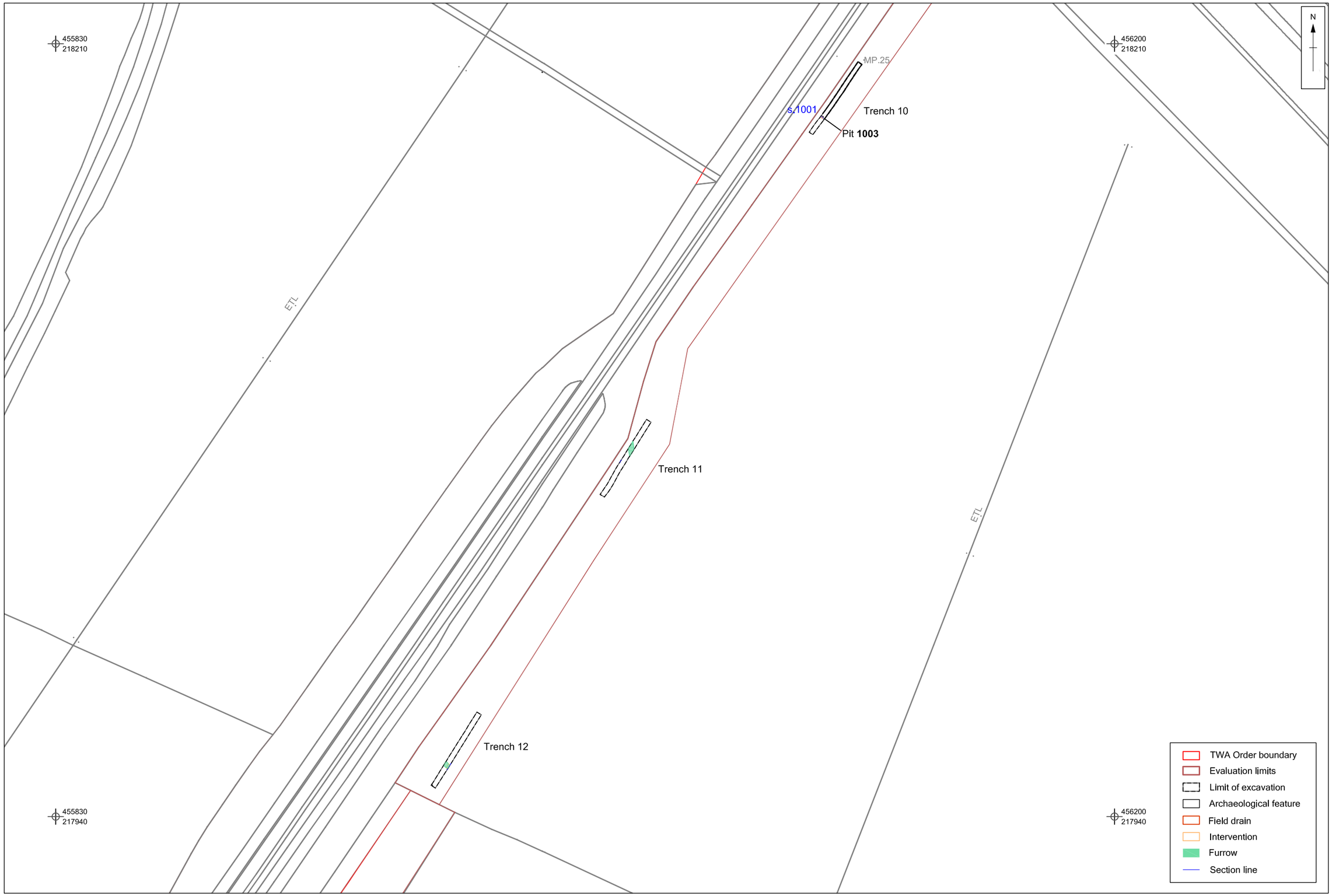

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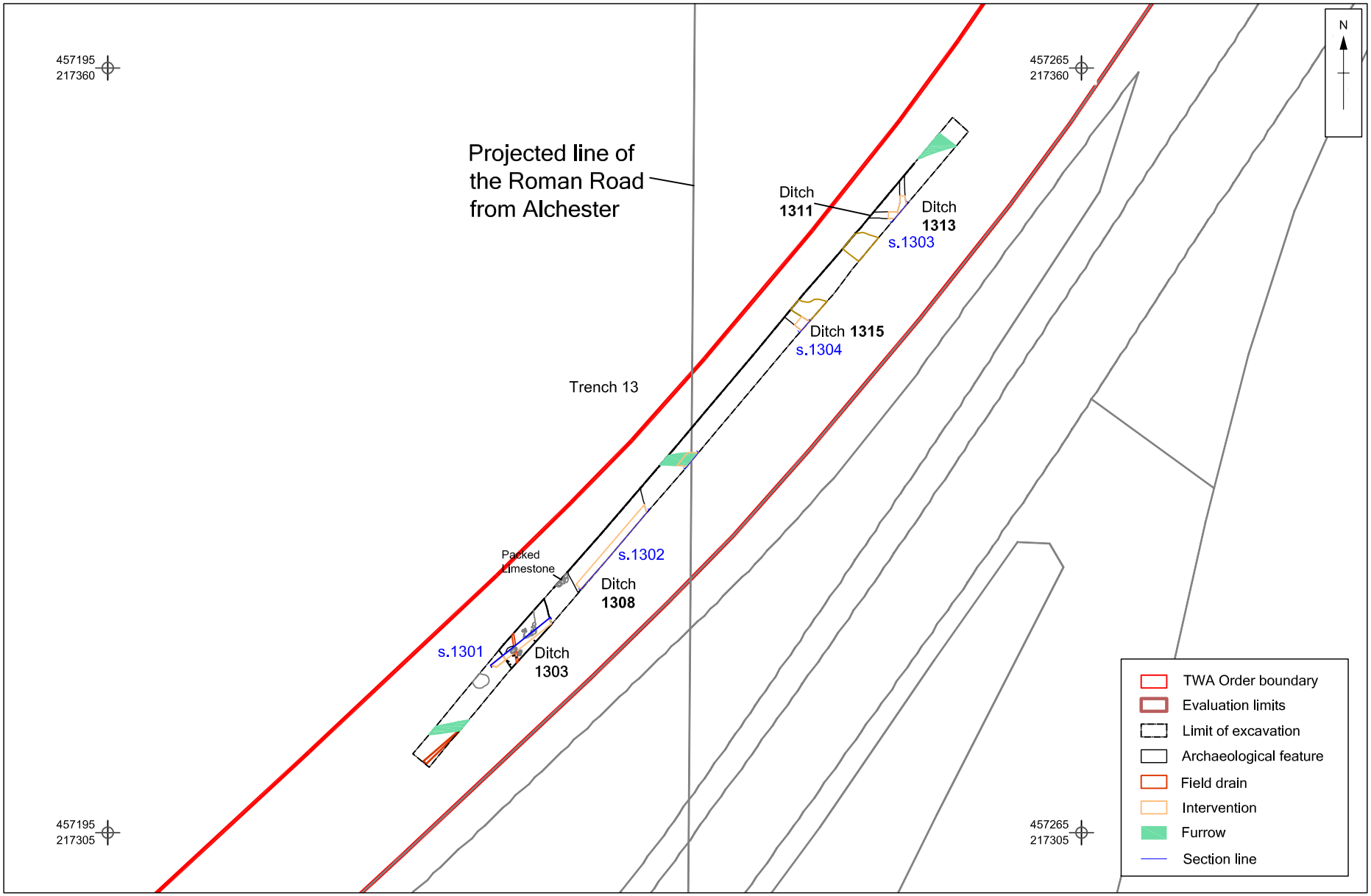
Figure 5: Trenches 10 - 12

\\Samba-2\projects\b\BIOXRLOT_Bicester_Oxford_rail_upgrade\010Geomatics\02 CAD\001current\114_MEFOOTEV_Merton_Footbridge_Site29\MEFOOTEV_20150727.dwg(A3 Fig5)***MEFOOTEV*** 10 Mar 2016



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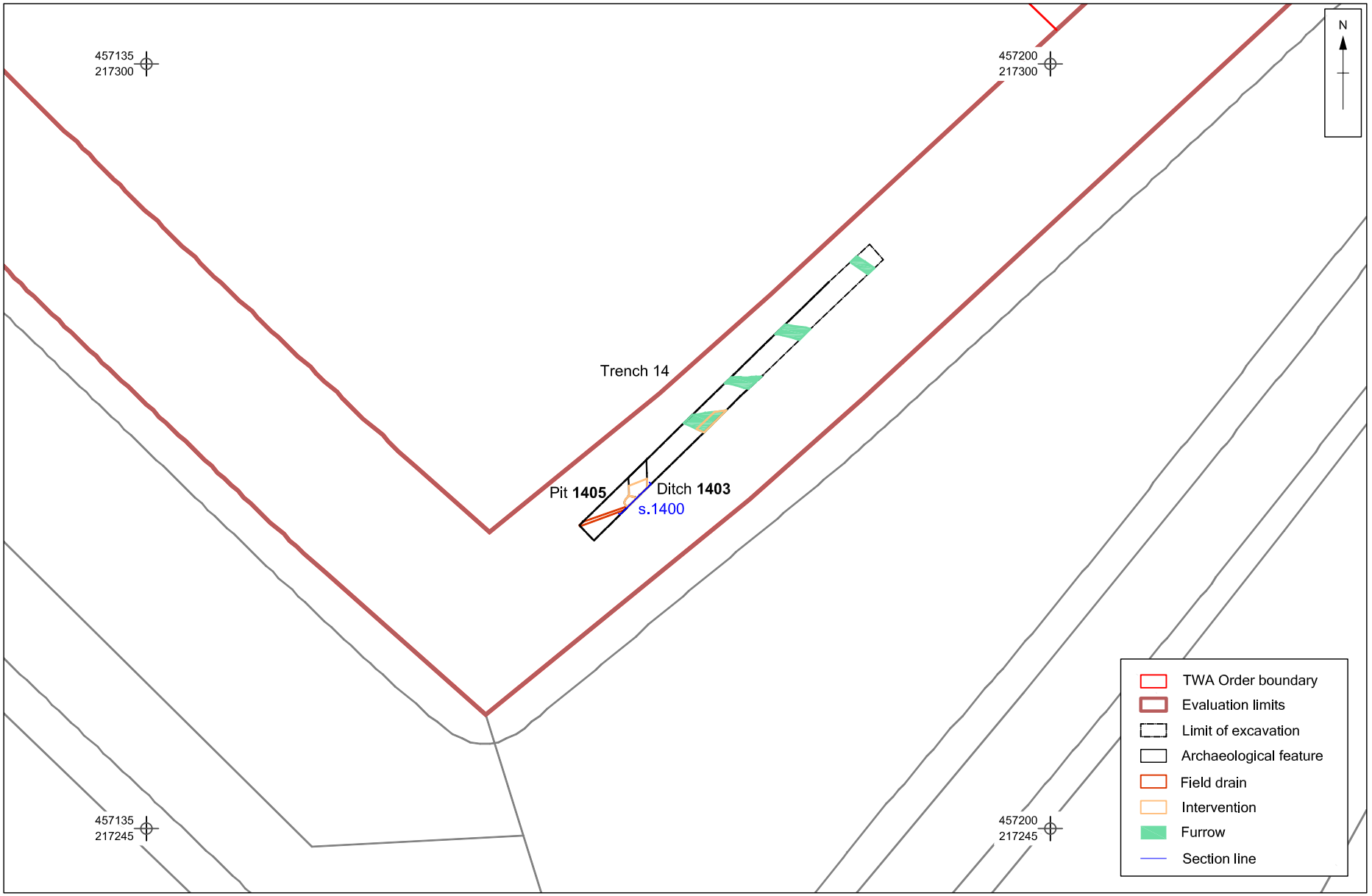
0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Figure 6: Trench 13



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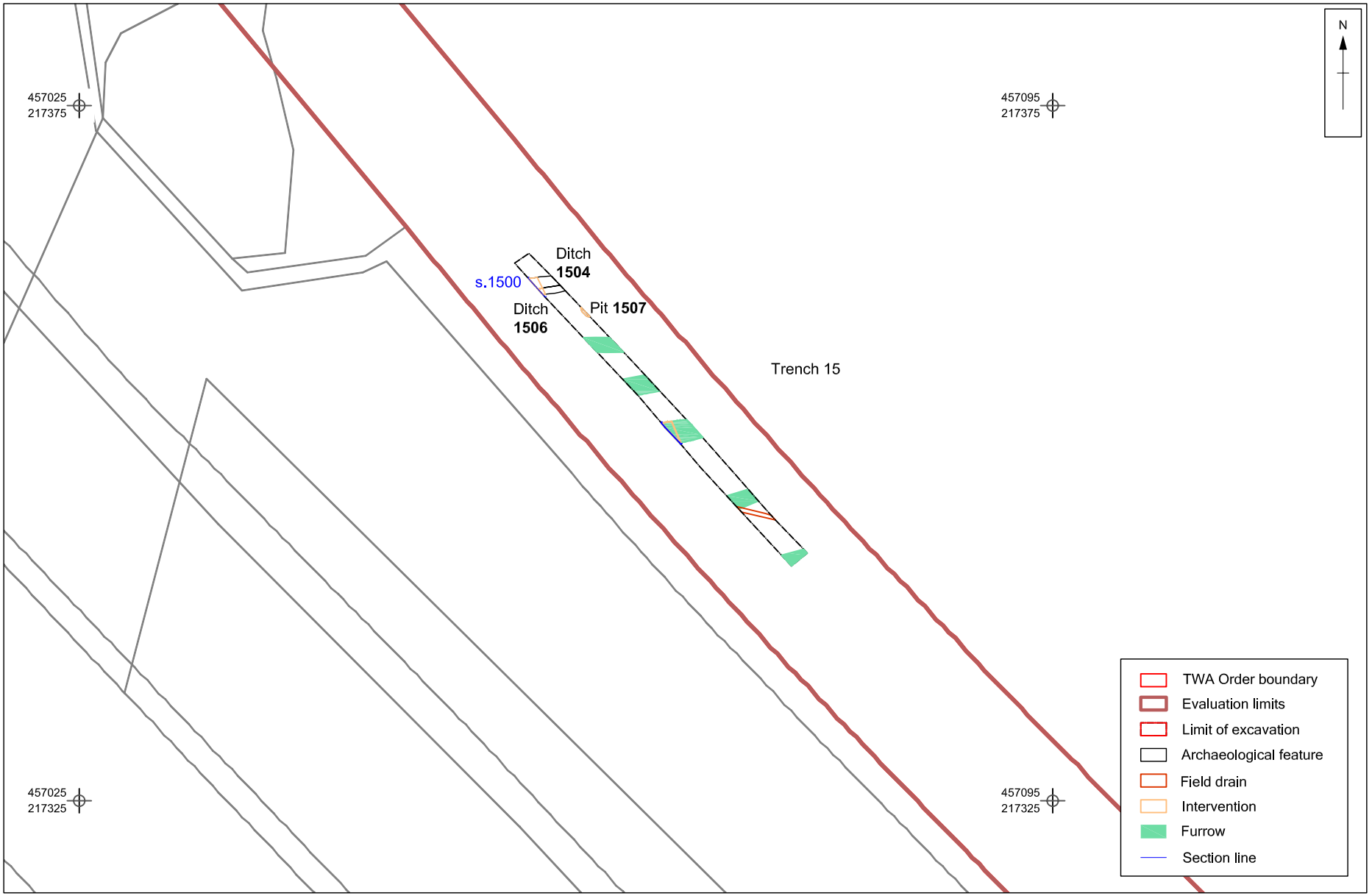
0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Figure 7: Trench 14



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0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Figure 8: Trench 15

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0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Figure 9: Trenches 16 - 20

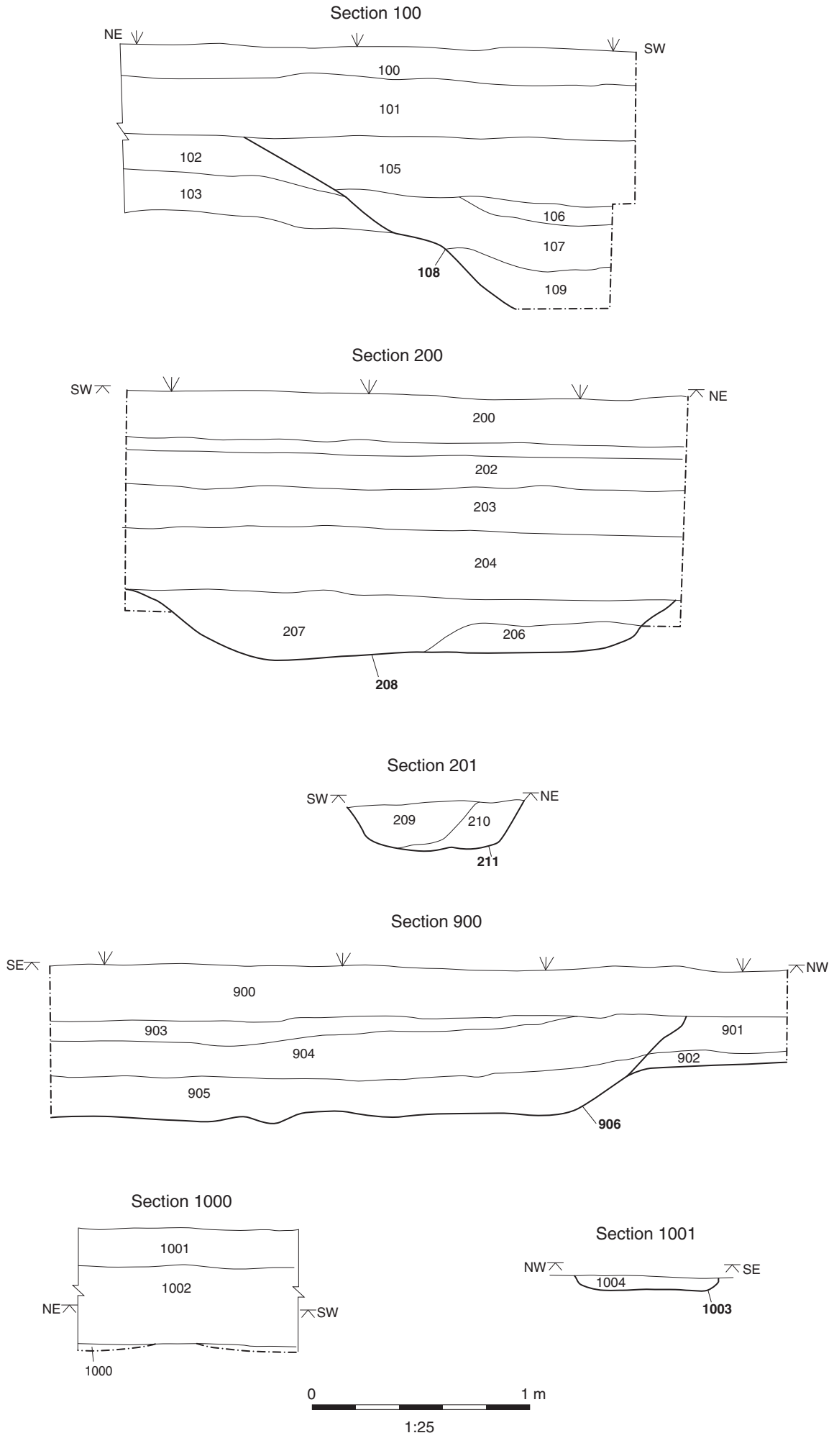

Figure 10: Sections from Trenches 1-10

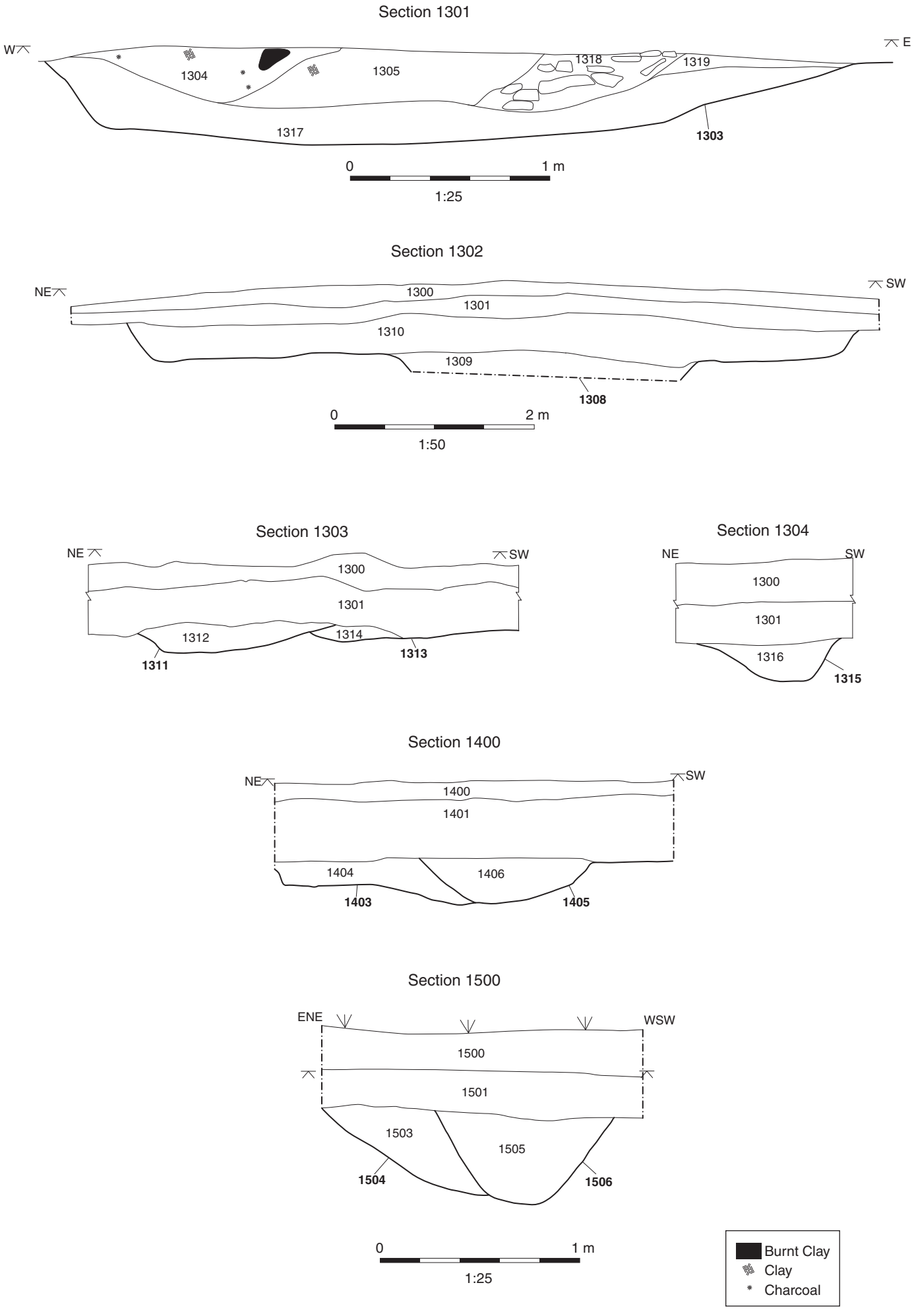

Figure 11: Sections from Trenches 13-15

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