



**Land South of Gardyne Street, Frioockheim:  
Archaeological Evaluation Phase 2**

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**ILLUSTRATIONS** (*bound at rear*)

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 General

1.1.1 Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Limited (HARP) were commissioned by Guild Homes, to carry out a programme of archaeological works at the location of a proposed development in the land south of Gardyne Street, Friockheim in order to fulfil an archaeological condition as part of planning consent (Planning Reference 11/00002/PPPM). The first phase of the works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site, other than the South East portion, which was under crop at the time. This was completed in June 2015, and the results can be found in HARP Report No. 14. The second phase of evaluation was carried out in the South East portion of the development area, and this report presents the findings of the second phase of evaluation.

1.1.2 The site is located approximately in the centre of Friockheim, adjacent to the south of the A695. The proposed development site lies in arable fields to the south of the Gardyne Street. The total application area is 7.4 ha and all of this area is subject to the planning condition (Figure. 1).

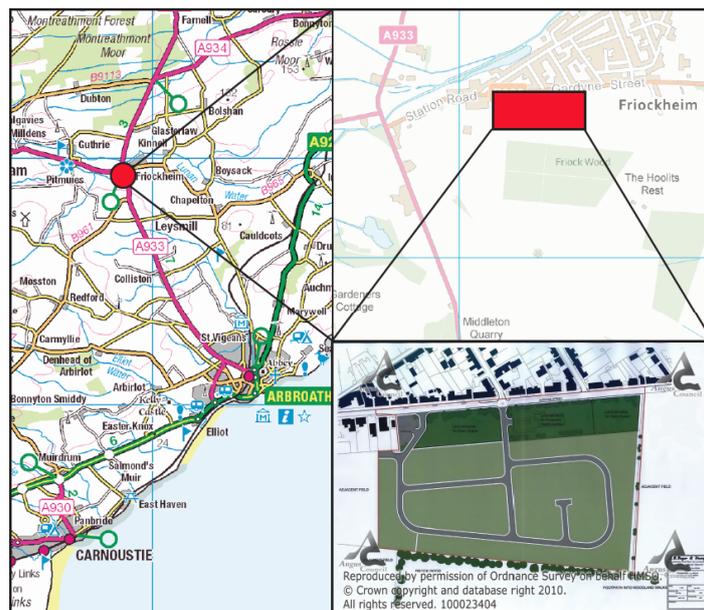
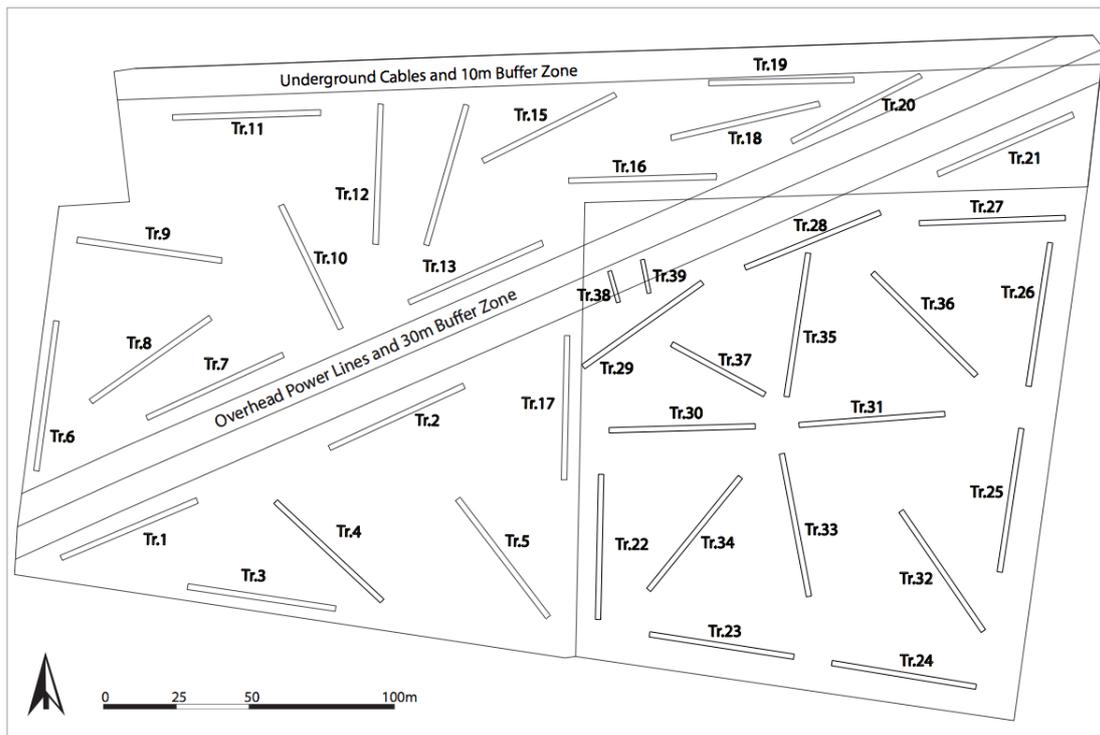


Figure 1 - Site Location Map

1.1.3 The development area was therefore subject to a 5% archaeological evaluation (Figure. 2). Work for the second phase of evaluation was carried out from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The weather was very mixed and fairly inclement. Trenches 22 to 39 were excavated during the second phase of evaluation.



**Figure 2 –Plan Showing Application Area, Trench Layout from both Evaluation Phases, and Restricted Areas**

## 1.2 Background

1.2.1 The development area has been farmland for several centuries, and mapping evidence show no records of any previous development in the area.

1.2.2 The only archaeological evidence of note in the area is evidence of crop marks and a possible field system to the south of Friockheim from aerial photographs, which includes the development area.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 General**

2.1.1 All work undertaken by HARP was conducted with regard to the Chartered Institute For Archaeologists' (CIFA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation and Code of Conduct*.

### **2.2 Evaluation Strategy**

2.2.1 The evaluated area consisted of not less than 5% of the South Eastern portion of the development area. A total of eighteen trenches were excavated, fifteen of which were 50m long by 20m wide, one was 35m long by 2m wide, and two trenches being 10m long by 1.5m wide, amounting to a total of 1,600m<sup>2</sup>. Trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° type excavator, and a wheeled 3-CX type excavator, both of which were equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket to remove modern overburden, under constant archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 Trenches were positioned to give good spatial coverage of the site, and also targeted any landforms that may have a higher potential for archaeological remains, such as high ground.

2.2.3 Overhead power lines ran across the site from the north east to south west corners, and a 15m buffer zone had to be respected either side of the power lines when using the tracked excavator. Two smaller trenches were positioned closer to the power lines using the wheeled excavator (Figure 2).

2.2.4 Any archaeological features uncovered were excavated by hand and recorded. Features were sample excavated as follows; as a minimum, any pits and

postholes were half sectioned; linear features, such as ditches, were excavated by slots with a minimum of 10% excavated.

2.2.5 Bulk samples of any features of archaeological interest were taken in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition. All such sample excavation was conducted by hand. Bulk samples consisted of a minimum of 10 litres, unless the feature was smaller than this, in which case a minimum of 50% of the feature was be sampled.

2.2.6 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard HARP procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard HARP record forms. Trench locations were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REUSLTS**

#### **3.1 General**

3.1.1 A full list of trenches with dimensions and presence of archaeological features can be found in Appendix 1. A list of all archaeological contexts including descriptions can be found in Appendix 2. All Appendices are to be found in section 6.

3.1.2 All numbers in bold and parentheses in the following sections correspond to context numbers listed in the Appendices. Context numbers in rounded parentheses refer to deposits, whilst those in square parentheses refer to cuts for features.

3.1.3 Excavation revealed a mixed, brown, stony loam topsoil across the site. The natural sterile deposits on site consisted of a mixed cream and orange-sands and gravels, with occasional boulders and shale outcrops.

3.1.4 There were a number of field drains running across the development site of both rubble and clay pipe types. The locations of the field drains are highlighted in Figure 4 at the rear of this report.

3.1.5 The only archaeological features that were revealed on the evaluation were the bases of plough furrows from rig and furrow cultivation. Only trenches that contained remnant furrows will be described in turn below.

#### **3.2 Trench 26**

3.2.1 Trench 26 contained the remains of three furrows aligned North West to South East. The widest furrow was located at the southern end of the trench and survived to a width of 1.5m and a depth of 0.07m. The deposit consisted of a mid-grey to brown sandy silt. The two further furrows were located

towards the centre of the trench and were 0.5m wide, and 0.05m deep, consisting of the same deposit as the first furrow.

3.2.2 Plan locations of the furrows can be found in Figure 4 at the back of this report.

### **3.3 Trench 29**

3.3.1 Trench 29 contained the remains of one furrow running North West to South East. The furrow was located towards the eastern end of the trench and survived to a width of 2.5m and a depth of up to 0.15m. The deposit consisted of a mid-grey to brown sandy silt.

3.3.2 Plan locations of the furrow can be found in Figure 4 at the back of this report.

### **3.4 Trench 32**

3.4.1 Trench 32 contained the remnants of four plough furrows, aligned approximately North to South. The furrows were located at the centre and south eastern end of the trench, and survived to widths of up to 0.5m, and depths of 0.05m. The deposits consisted of a mid-grey to brown sandy silt.

3.4.2 Plan locations of the furrows can be found in Figure 4 at the back of this report.

### **3.5 Trench 33**

3.5.1 Trench 33 contained the remains of one furrow aligned approximately North to South. It was located towards the northern end of the trench and survived to a width of up to 0.5m and a depth of up to 0.05m. The deposit consisted of a mid-grey to brown sandy silt.

3.5.2 Plan locations of the furrows can be found in Figure 4 at the back of this report.

### 3.6 Trench 34

3.6.1 Trench 34 contained the remains of one furrow aligned approximately North to South. It was located towards the centre of the trench and survived to a width of up to 0.5m and a depth of up to 0.05m. The deposit consisted of a mid-grey to brown sandy silt.

3.6.2 Plan locations of the furrow can be found in Figure 4 at the back of this report.

### 3.7 Trench 36

3.7.1 Trench 36 contained the remains of one furrow aligned approximately East to West. It was located towards the centre of the trench and survived to a width of up to 1m and a depth of up to 0.07m. The deposit consisted of a mid-grey to brown sandy silt.

3.7.2 Plan locations of the furrow can be found in Figure 4 at the back of this



**Figure 3 – Furrow in Trench 29**

## **4. DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 General**

4.1.1 Of the 18 trenches excavated at the land south of Gardyne Street, Friockheim, six contained features investigated as being potentially archaeological. Of the features identified in the six trenches all were found to be the remnants of plough furrows, associated with rig and furrow type cultivation.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 General**

5.1.1 Trial trenching in the South East portion of the development area in the land south of Gardyne Street, Friockheim have revealed the presence of the remains of plough furrows from rig and furrow type cultivation.

5.1.2 No remains similar to those found during the first phase of evaluation were revealed in the South Eastern portion of the development area.

5.1.3 Two small trenches were located closer to the overhead power lines in order to gain a better understanding of the deposits beneath the power lines, however no archaeological remains were uncovered.

5.1.4 The second phase of the evaluation has further corroborated the findings from the first phase of evaluation, in that the archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluations are located towards the centre and north of the development area. The findings from associated archaeological works can be found in HARP Report 14 (for the first phase of evaluation) and HARP Report 16 (for the extension and excavated areas around Trench 16).

### **5.2 Recommendations**

5.2.1 The remains revealed indicate earlier agricultural activity in the South East portion of the development area, however no significant remains were uncovered in this part of the site.

5.2.2 No further remains were revealed other than a series of field drains of both rubble and clay pipe varieties. Other than plough furrows evaluation of the south eastern portion of the development area revealed no features.

5.2.3 As no significant remains were uncovered in the South Eastern portion of the development area, it is unlikely that any further archaeological works will be required in this part of the site; the final decision on any recommendations however lies with the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).

## 6. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

#### Trench Register

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Orientation	Features
22	50 x 2	N-S	N/A
23	50 x 2	E-W	N/A
24	50 x 2	E-W	N/A
25	50 x 2	N-S	N/A
26	50 x 2	N-S	3 x furrows 2 x field drains
27	50 x 2	E-W	2 x field drains
28	50 x 2	NE-SW	N/A
29	50 x 2	ENE-WSW	1 x furrow 1 x field drain
30	30 x 2	E-W	N/A
31	30 x 2	E-W	N/A
32	50 x 2	NNW-SSE	4 x furrows
33	50 x 2	NNW-SSE	1 x furrow
34	50 x 2	NE-SW	1 x furrow
35	50 x 2	N-S	2 x field drains
36	50 x 2	NW-SE	1 x furrow
37	35 x 2	NW-SE	1 x field drain
38	10 x 1.5	NNW-SSE	N/A
39	10 x 1.5	N-S	N/A

### Appendix 2

#### Context Register

Context No.	Description	Interpretation	Trench
22001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	22
22002	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	22
23001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	23
23002	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	23
24001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	24
24002	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	24
25001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	25
25002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	25

25003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	25
26001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	26
26002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	26
26003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	26
27001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	27
27002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	27
27003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	27
28001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	28
28002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	28
28003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	28
29001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	29
29002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	29
29003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	29
30001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	30
30002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	30
31001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	31
31002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	31
31003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	31
32001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	32
32002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	32
32003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	32
33001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	33
33002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	33
33003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	33
34001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	34
34002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	34
34003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	34
35001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	35
35002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	35
35003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	35
36001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	36
36002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	36
36003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	36
37001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	37
37002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	37
37003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	37

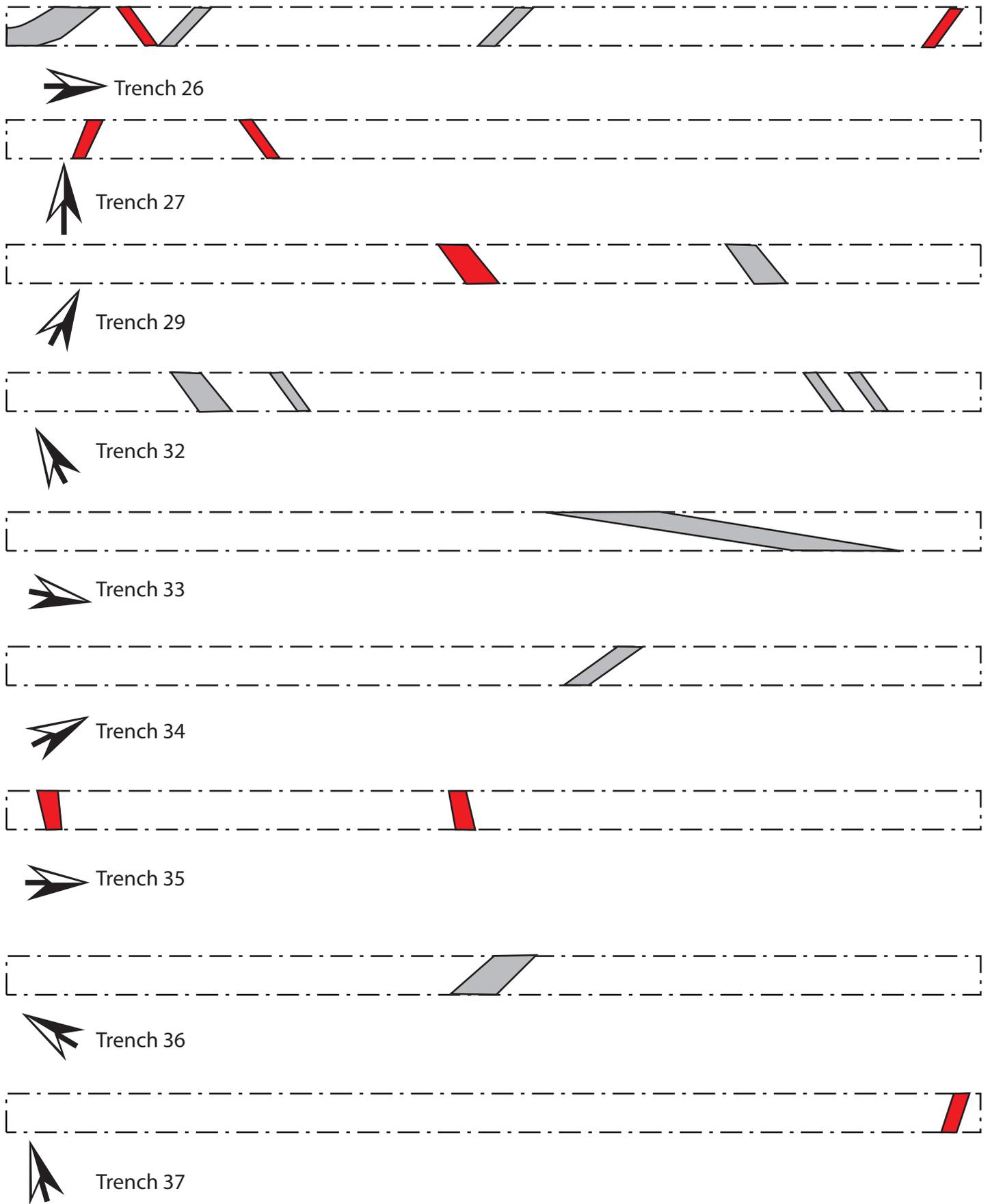
38001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	38
38002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	38
38003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	38
39001	Mid brown loam	Topsoil	
39002	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Subsoil	
39003	Mixed orange and grey clayey sand/gravels	Natural	

### Appendix 3

#### Photographic Register

*Digital*

Photo No.	Jpeg No.	Description	Taken From	Conditions
1	9977	General Shot of Trench 22	N	O/C
2	9978	General Shot of Trench 23	W	O/C
3	9979	General Shot of Trench 24	W	O/C
4	9980	General Shot of Trench 25	N	O/C
5	9989	General Shot of Trench 28	NW	O/C
6	9990	General Shot of Trench 26	S	O/C
7	9991	General Shot of Trench 25	E	O/C
8	0004	General Shot of Trench 29	ENE	O/C
9	0005	General Shot of Furrow in Trench 29	ENE	O/C
10	0006	General Shot of Trench 30	E	O/C
11	0007	General Shot of Trench 31	W	O/C
12	0008	General Shot of Trench 32	NW	O/C
13	0009	General Shot of Trench 33	SSE	O/C
14	0010	General Shot of Trench 34	NE	Bright
15	0011	General Shot of Trench 35	S	O/C
16	0012	General Shot of Trench 36	NW	O/C
17	0041	General Shot of Trench 37	SE	Bright
18	0042	General Shot of Trench 38	NW	Bright
19	0043	General Shot of Trench 39	N	Bright



 - Furrow  
 - Field Drain