



Upton Park Farm, Upton Road, Poole

Observations and Recording during Change of Use from Agricultural Land to a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) Phase 2



Report No. 53415/3/2

November 2017

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Archaeological Observations and Recording during Change of Use
from Agricultural Land to a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
(SANG) Phase 2, July–September 2016

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terrains1-301751		
Project Title	Upton SANG Phase 2, Upton Country Park, Poole		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological observations and recording during the construction of a new road and footpaths in an extension to Upton Country Park. This revealed a series of medieval boundary ditches, perhaps representing fields associated with a small farm on the heathland at the edge of Holes Bay. These ditches are probably 13th–14th century in date, though a small quantity of 10th–12th century pottery hints at earlier activity. To the north of these ditches were some indications of possible clay or cob structures and hearths of possible medieval date.		
Project Dates	Start: 28-07-2016	End: 02-09-2016	
Previous/Future Work	Yes/Yes		
Project Code	53415		
Monument Type and Period	Boundary Ditch (medieval), hearth (medieval), wall (medieval), road (Roman)		
Significant Finds	Body sherd (medieval), rim sherd (medieval)		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ Poole/ Poole		
Site Address	Upton House Country Park, Poole, BH17 7BJ		
Site Coordinates	SY 9908 9207 – SY 9921 9272		
Site Area	c. 1488 m ²		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator			
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Borough of Poole		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the receiving museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the receiving museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the receiving museum.
Contents	Pottery	Digital photography	context sheets, plans, report

Upton Park Farm, Upton Road, Poole

Archaeological Observations and Recording during Change of Use from Agricultural Land to a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) Phase 2, July–September 2016

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by the Borough of Poole to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording during works undertaken as part of the change of use from agricultural land to a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). This work is being undertaken in a number of phases. Phase 1 included the construction of a car park, roadway and footpaths to the west of Upton House. The Phase 2 works consisted of the construction of a new road and new footpaths to the south of Upton House along the edge of Holes Bay.

A Planning Application (No. APP/13/00792) for the Change of Use from Agricultural Land to a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) was approved on 19 August 2013. Condition 2 states: *“Prior to construction of any car parks, or significant changes in site levels, the applicant shall enable an archaeological watching brief to ensure that any archaeological artefacts or remains are safeguarded and protected during the development process. Reason: to preserve the archaeology in and around the site of the proposed development, in particular the Roman road which crosses the site and other features associated with it in relation to Policy DM2 of the Poole Site Specific and Development Management Policies”*; and also, Purbeck District Council Planning Application 6/2013/0386, Condition 3, which states: *“Prior to the construction of any hard standings, sub surface excavations or changes to existing land levels, the applicant shall implement an archaeological watching brief, the details of which will be submitted to and agreed with the District Council prior to the implementation of the works. Reason: To ensure that any archaeological artefacts or remains are safeguarded and protected during the development process in order to preserve the archaeology in and around the site of the proposed development, in particular, the Roman road which crosses the site and other features associated with it.”*

In fulfilment of this planning condition, Terrain Archaeology carried out archaeological observations and recording during the Phase 1 works in August–September 2014 (Terrain Archaeology 2014). No archaeology was exposed.

Phase 2 of the project began early in July 2016 but Terrain Archaeology was not informed until the 28th July when the Borough of Poole was made aware of the presence of archaeological features in the southern end of the Phase 2 area following survey work by the Dorset Castles Research Group. About 380 m of roadway had already been constructed prior to Terrain Archaeology’s notification and were not observed.

Fieldwork was carried out between the 28th July and 2nd September 2016 by Peter Bellamy and Mike Trevarthen.

Terrain Archaeology wishes to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of Ruth Wharton, John and the other groundworkers from the Borough of Poole.

1.2 Brief

No written brief was issued by, or on behalf of, the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 Site Location and Topography

The site lies on the northwestern edge of Holes Bay, to the south of Upton House and is bounded to the south by the Weymouth to London Waterloo railway line (Figure 1). It consists of the eastern half of two pasture fields on the edge

of Holes Bay. The topography comprises a series of low rounded knolls forming a roughly N-S ridge running to the west of the site. The new road runs from just south of the Upton House gardens (at SY 9908 9207) along the lower slopes of the N-S ridge through two fields and at the southern end it curves round to run along the edge of an E-W stream draining into Holes Bay to join up with the existing path network at (SY 9921 9272) (Figure 2).

1.4 Geology

The Phase 2 works lie on deposits of sand silt and clay of the Palaeogene Poole Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). No superficial deposits are recorded.

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The prehistoric archaeology in the immediately surrounding area is poorly understood, with little evidence for activity recovered. There is, however, more evidence recovered for the Roman period. The Roman road from Hamworthy to Lake Farm Roman fort near Wimborne is projected to run N-S across this part of Upton Country Park (Figure 2). Its assumed course runs to the west of the area of the current observations, except at the southern end, where the new road crosses the projected line. The road was observed during archeological monitoring of the construction of the Turlin Moor Pipeline, which crossed the northern field of the current observations (Jarvis 1985a). The Turlin Moor Pipeline observations also identified a Roman salt production site near Boathouse Clump (Jarvis 1985b). Roman pottery and salt production waste was also found during works for a new toilet block and services in the car park area (Anderson 1995). A possible Roman settlement or occupation site has been postulated just to the north of the A350 Upton Road, based on the discovery of a Late Roman (4th century AD) coin hoard at the location (Watkins 1986).

Upton House (Grade II* Listed) was built in the early 19th century for Christopher Spurrier, MP for Bridport, and enlarged by John Penistor for Sir Everard Doughty in 1830. It is surrounded by undesignated formal gardens and a walled garden lies to the south.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There have been several relevant archaeological events within, or in the vicinity of, the site. During the construction of the Turlin Moor Pipeline in June 1985 a section of the Hamworthy to Badbury Rings Roman Road was exposed and this consisted of a single layer of gravel some 0.30 m thick overlying the remains of a turf stack (Jarvis 1985a). Also seen in the same works near Boat House Clump was a probable Roman salt-production site, comprising a layer of red briquetage, an oven filled with briquetage, a pit and a ditch, all within a roughly 40 m length of the pipeline. Small amounts of pottery from the site suggest a 1st-2nd century date (Jarvis 1985b). The pipeline also revealed in the area to the northeast of the site opposite Pergins Island, an undated site consisting of daub deposits, up to 0.3 m thick (Jarvis 1985a). This site is undated and could represent the remains of a daub or cob building. A watching brief carried out during construction of a new toilet block and services at the country park in 1995 revealed a feature containing briquetage and a sherd of Roman pottery, and is probably part of a salt-making site (Anderson 1995).

1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the archaeological programme was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

Its objectives were:

- To observe and record the all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate archaeological standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Groundworks

The new road was constructed by excavating a 3 m wide trench about 0.45 m deep through the topsoil by machine with a toothless grading bucket. The trench was lined with a geotextile membrane and the road was built up with

crushed stone with a gravel surface. The footpaths were constructed in a similar fashion, but were 2.0 m wide and only 0.25 deep, not penetrating below the topsoil.

1.9 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the Phase 1 works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in June 2014 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3415/0/1) and approved prior to commencement of work by the local planning authority's archaeological advisor. The absence of any lead-in time meant that no updated WSI was produced for the phase 2 works.

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2014a).

All features and deposits were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance. The Phase 2 recording was a continuation of the numbering sequence used for the Phase 1 observations and the trench numbering was started at 10 and the context numbers at 1000. The records have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014b) and the requirements of the receiving museum. A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital format, which includes aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

1.10.1 Paper Archive

The project archive comprising written, graphic and photographic records is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53415. In due course, and assuming appropriate transfer of title from the landowner, the archive will be accessioned for long-term curation and storage by Poole Museums Service. Deposition of the archive will place it in the public domain.

1.10.2 Report

A paper copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terrains1-301751*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

A brief summary report of the project and its key findings will be published by Terrain Archaeology in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*.

2. Results

2.1 Introduction

The course of the new road was divided into two parts for ease of recording and the Trench 10 was the part of the road that ran through the northern field. Almost the whole length of Trench 10 had been excavated and the roadway constructed before Terrain Archaeology was informed about the works. Only the southernmost 65 m of the route was observed archaeologically (Figure 2). In this area, the groundworks did not penetrate below the topsoil and colluvium, except in one small area where grey/yellowish-grey clayey sand natural (1001) was exposed at a depth of 0.55 m below present ground level. No archaeology was revealed.

Trench 11 consisted of the remaining length of the new road through the southern field (Figure 2). A series of archaeological features were discovered along the length of this trench. These have been subdivided into five feature groups for ease of recording and reporting (Figures 3-8).

The new footpaths were not recorded archaeologically as the groundworks did not penetrate much below the topsoil.

2.2 Feature Group 1179

At the north end of the field on relatively level ground just below the slope of the ridge was a group of features consisting of two discrete small clay areas (1104, 1105) and two linear clay structures (1106, 1108) (Figure 3; Plate 2). These features were not investigated beyond recording the exposed parts in the base of the new roadway. To the north west, features 1104 and 1106 were spaced about two metres apart and both were only partially exposed in the edge of the trench (Plate 3). Feature 1104 consisted of a curving, perhaps circular or ovoid, clay structure over 1.15 m across. The lower exposed part of this feature was a hard pale grey, yellow and orange burnt clay deposit, over which was a thin layer of dark greyish-brown sand with frequent charcoal flecks and a layer of clay lumps in dark greyish-brown charcoaly sand (Plate 4). This feature lay immediately below the topsoil and may be the remains of a hearth or oven. Feature 1105 to the north consisted of a roughly triangular area of hard mottled pale grey, yellow and orange burnt clay, 1.2 m across. 1105 was less regular than 1104, but may also be the remains of an oven or hearth.

About 7.5 m to the SE lay Feature 1106. This was one of a pair or roughly parallel linear features with 1108, oriented roughly NNE-SSE and about 17.5 m apart (Figure 3; Plate 5). Feature 1106 was 0.3 m wide and comprised yellow/white/buff clay lumps, including some rectangular lumps measuring 5-8 by 25cm across, which looked like they may have been deliberately cut clay 'bricks'. Feature 1108 was also 0.3 m wide and consisted of white clay lumps, but no coherent structure could be seen in this clay. Both 1106 and 1108 may represent the remains of clay-built walls.

Features 1104, 1105 and 1106 were set within a dark greyish-brown clayey sand layer (1103) containing charcoal flecks and lumps of clay and some medieval pottery. This deposit was traced for about 18 m along the course of the trench and gradually faded into a similar dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1107) without any charcoal, clay or pottery. Around Feature 1108 this deposit contained a number of sherds of medieval pottery and was numbered 1109.

2.3 Feature Group 1180

About 35 m to the SSE of Feature Group 1179 lay Feature Group 1180 (Figure 2). It consisted of a complex of features numbered 1112 centred on SY 99208 92324 (Figure 4; Plates 6-7). Feature 1112 consists of two 0.2 m wide strips of hard orange-brown clayey sand, aligned, roughly E-W and about 0.6 m apart. One strip ran across the whole width of the trench, but the other was only present in the western part. Around these strips were patches of hard reddish-brown burnt clayey sand with grey ash lenses and charcoal flecks, pale-mid grey sand with ash and charcoal flecks, mixed hard greyish-brown sand and clay patches with charcoal flecks and burnt flint, and soft dark greyish-brown sand with moderate charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature group and it is difficult to interpret the exposed remains. The occurrence of charcoal flecks and burnt flint might suggest the presence of a hearth or oven near by, but without further investigation, the interpretation and date must remain uncertain.

2.4 Feature Group 1181

Towards the southern end of the field, about 125 m south of Feature Group 1180, was Feature Group 1181 (Figure 2). This consisted of three parallel ditches (1118, 1120, 1122) about 0.75 – 1.5 m apart running in a roughly E-W or ESE-WNW direction (Figure 5; Plate 8). The ditches were shallow U-shaped ditches between 0.85 – 1.45 m wide and 0.09 – 0.16 m deep, cut into the natural sand 1117. All three ditches were filled with similar dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1119, 1121, 1123). A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of Ditch 1122 and two fragments of burnt clay from the fill of Ditch 1118. The similarity of these ditches and their close proximity suggests they may represent different phases of redefining of a single boundary. The course of this boundary cannot be traced on the aerial photographs (Figure 9).

Just over 13 m south of ditches 1118, 1120 and 1122 was a single square post hole 1124 (Figure 5). It was filled with very loose mixed sand and topsoil (1125) and appears to be a relatively modern feature.

2.5 Feature Group 1182

About 22 m SSW of Feature Group 1181 lay the greatest concentration of archaeological features exposed during the works (Figures 2 and 6; Plates 9-11). Feature Group 1182 comprised a number of linear and curvilinear ditches. The earliest feature was probably the curvilinear ditch 1128 near the north end of the complex. It was the only feature that has more than one fill. The lowest deposit (1131) was a thin charcoal-rich sand, over which was a dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1130) with a pale yellowish-grey sand (1129) above. This ditch was cut by two other ditches (1126, 1177). The north side was cut by a shallow E-W ditch 1126 filled with dark greyish brown clayey sand (1127), which contained a small amount of medieval pottery. The western/southwestern end of ditch 1128 was cut by a large curvilinear ditch 1177, which ran roughly SSW and curved round towards the south and east (Figure 6; Plate 10). It was about 1.2 m wide, with rounded sides and flattish base up to about 0.3 m deep. Filled with dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1178, 1133, 1143, 1147), containing some medieval pottery. Ditch 1177 was cut by two ditches (1146, 1150). Ditch 1146 was a shallow linear feature, 0.6 m wide, aligned E-W, filled with dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1145), but contained no datable material. This ditch appears to be part of a linear cropmark visible crossing the field in a 2007 aerial photograph (Figure 9). Ditch 1150 appears to have been two parallel intercutting linear features, oriented roughly WSW-ENE, which cut the southern end of 1177. They were filled with dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1149), containing some medieval pottery.

At the southern end of this feature group were three further ditches (1152, 1154, 1156). Ditch 1152 was oriented NNW-SSE, possibly curving round to the south just at the edge of the trench. Its relationship with Ditch 1154 was not determined as the two ditches crossed each other just outside the trench. Ditch 1152 was filled with mid to dark greyish brown clayey sand (1151) and did not contain any datable material. Ditches 1154 and 1156 ran in an E-W direction, roughly parallel to each other (Plate 11). They were filled with dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1153, 1155) and did not contain any datable material. These two ditches appear to have been part of a broad E-W cropmark visible on a 2007 aerial photograph (Figure 9).

There were a number of irregular patches and lines of dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1142) visible in the top of the natural sand 1117, concentrated in areas where the natural sand was softest. These patches were similar in composition to the dark greyish-brown colluvial soil (1159) overlying this area and may represent the base of plough furrows, burrowing animal and other disturbance in colluvium 1159. A number of sherds of medieval pottery was recovered from 1142 and 1159. Among the irregular patches of 1142 were four small subrectangular features (1134, 1136, 1138, 1140) in a roughly rectangular arrangement about 1.0 m by 0.5 m across. These features were filled with dark greyish-brown sand (1135, 1137, 1139, 1141). They were not excavated and may be no more than a further part of the disturbance at the base of the alluvium recorded elsewhere as context 1142.

2.6 Feature Group 1183

Along the southern edge of the field were a series of features that have been recorded as Feature Group 1183 (Figures 2, 7 and 8). About 40 m west of Feature Group 1182, were a pair of shallow ditches 1170 and 1172 running in a roughly WNW-ESE direction (Figure 7). They were both about 0.5 m wide and 0.15 m deep with rounded sides and base and filled with dark grey clayey sand (1171, 1173). The close proximity and broadly similar orientation of these ditches suggests they may represent the redefining of a single boundary. Ditch 1172 contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. About 35 m further west was another WNW-ESE ditch (1166), which may be associated with 1170/1172 as part of a system of parallel boundaries. Ditch 1166 was about 0.7 m wide and very shallow, petering out to the east. It was filled with dark greyish-brown clayey sand (1165). No dating evidence was recovered.

Between ditches 1166 and 1170/1172 was a 1.6 m wide ditch (1169) running N-S (Figure 7; Plate 12-13). It was filled with dark grey sand (1168). No dating evidence was recovered.

At the southwestern end of the trench, was a layer of poorly sorted flint gravel in a dark greyish-brown clayey sand matrix (1160) over two metres wide, with a roughly N-S edge to the east. It continued beyond the trench to the west (Figure 8). This appears to grade into the natural sand below and may be no more than an area of gravelly natural. Several metres to the east of this gravel was a broad shallow (0.15 m deep) flat-bottomed cut (1162), which had a

steep-sided western edge running N-S, but no clear eastern edge. It was filled with mid-dark reddish-brown gravelly clayey sand (1161), which could be traced for a width of about 13 m (Figure 8). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature, which remains difficult to interpret, but lies on the projected line of the Roman road.

To the east of 1162 was a roughly rectangular vertically-sided cut (1164), which cut ditch 1166 and was filled with dark greyish-brown clayey sand and clinker (1163). This feature appeared to be a relatively recent disturbance. Another more irregular disturbed area of loose greyish-brown clayey sand with frequent tree roots (1167) further east may be the remnants of a former tree hole.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

A small quantity of artefacts were recovered from Trench 11 and are tabulated by context below in Table 1. No systematic sampling for finds was undertaken. In Trench 10 a number of post-medieval finds were noted in the topsoil but not collected or otherwise recorded.

Context	Iron	Roman Pot	Med. Pot	Burnt Clay	Burnt Flint	Slag	Animal Bone
1103			8/91				
1109	1/7		10/55	6/114	1/9		2/11
1116				3/31	2/10		
1119				2/15			
1123			1/3				
1127			3/29				
1133			5/66				
1142			8/54				
1143				1/1			
1145			4/34	1/1		1/2	
1147			3/41				
1149			9/89				
1151			6/44				
1153			2/53				
1155			6/86	2/4			
1157			1/54				
1159		1/26	20/171				
1173			1/16				
Total	1/ 7g	1/26g	87/ 886g	15/166g	3/ 19g	1/ 2g	2/ 11g

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context (count/weight in grams)

3.2 Pottery

By Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology)

3.2.1 Introduction

The pottery assemblage amounts to 88 sherds (912g). With the exception of one Romano-British sherd, the assemblage is entirely medieval, with a potential date range between the 10th to 14th centuries. Condition of the material is fair; sherds are relatively small (mean sherd weight 10.4g) and have suffered a certain level of edge abrasion. This is consistent with their provenance — small numbers of sherds from colluvial layers and ditch fills, in neither case, representing primary refuse deposits

The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context, with details of diagnostic forms noted. This information is presented in Table 2.

3.2.2 Romano-British Pottery

The Romano-British sherd came from possible colluvial layer 1159 in Feature Group 1182, and comprises the rim from a flanged bowl with incipient dropped flange, dated to the early-mid 3rd century AD (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 235, type 25).

Context	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
1103	?Wheelthrown, quartz + calc	3	39	1 jar rim
1103	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	5	52	1 jar rim (squared)
1109	? S Dorset coarseware	1	1	Tiny body sherd; 1 coarse inclusion
1109	?Wheelthrown, quartz + calc	1	2	Tiny rim
1109	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	8	52	3 jar rims (1 externally thickened, 2 grooved)
1123	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	1	3	
1127	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	3	29	
1133	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	5	66	1 jar rim (thickened)
1142	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	6	38	
1142	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	2	16	Glazed body sherds; 1 applied strips, 1 combed
1145	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	4	34	1 jar rim (thickened)
1147	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	3	41	1 jar rim (simple everted)
1149	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	9	89	1 dish rim; 1 pitcher rim with pulled lip
1151	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	6	44	1 jar rim (thickened)
1153	Flint-tempered	1	22	Patinated flint; heavily sooted internally
1153	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	1	31	
1155	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	6	86	1 jar rim (simple everted)
1157	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	1	54	Glazed pitcher rim/strap handle (slashed decoration)
1159	Black Burnished ware	1	26	Flanged bowl (incipient dropped flange)
1159	Flint-tempered	1	7	Patinated flint
1159	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	16	134	3 jar rims (1 simple everted, 1 thickened, 2 grooved)
1159	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	3	30	Thumbed jug base
1173	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarse	1	16	Jar rim (grooved)

Table 2: Pottery by Context

3.2.3 Medieval Pottery

The medieval assemblage is dominated (80 sherds) by a single ware type. This is a sandy coarseware with a widespread distribution across southeast Wiltshire and east Dorset. One source is known at Laverstock, just outside Salisbury (Musty *et al.* 1969; Musty *et al.* 2001), and at least one other is suspected in the Poole Harbour/Purbeck area on petrological grounds (Hinton and Hodges 1977); chemical analysis has so far failed to identify distinctions within the overall distribution (Spoerry 1990). The date range is wide, from the 11th century through to at least the 14th century, but the floruit in south-east Dorset seems to be 13th–14th century, as seen at Poole (Jarvis 1992, fabric 1). The vessel forms seen here are mostly jars, with a variety of rim profiles, most of which are not chronologically distinctive, but there are five examples of short, stubby everted rims with grooves along the top, a type seemingly confined chronologically to the 13th and 14th centuries, and geographically to south-east Dorset (Barton *et al.* 1992, fig. 31, 1–13).

Other forms include a shallow dish (13th–14th century), a pitcher rim with a pulled lip, and a second pitcher rim with slashed strap handle (12th–13th century), and a thumbled jug base (13th century onwards). Two glazed body sherds are decorated, one with applied strips and one with incised combing; these probably come from jugs of 13th or early 14th century date.

Other ware types are limited to seven sherds. Six of these belong to ware types broadly dated to the Saxo-Norman period (10th–12th centuries). Two body sherds (fill of ditch 1152, possible colluvial layer 1159) contain patinated flint inclusions, while four contain rounded quartz and voids representing leached-out calcareous inclusions. The latter are possibly wheelthrown, and include one jar rim. Both these ware types have been identified at other sites in south Dorset, for example Winterbourne Stickland and Wimborne (Mephram 2003, fabrics QU400 and FL401; Wessex Archaeology 2016).

Finally, one tiny body sherd from colluvial layer 1109 is of uncertain type, but may belong to a group of coarsewares containing chalk and flint inclusions and found across south Dorset between the 12th and 14th centuries.

3.2.4 Discussion

This small assemblage contains a limited range of wares. The occurrence of Saxo-Norman types is of interest, and adds to the small but growing body of evidence for pottery of this date in Dorset, although a well dated ceramic sequence for this period in Dorset is still lacking. The predominant medieval coarseware type (South-east Dorset/East Dorset) has its origins in this period, but then dominates the market throughout its distribution area to the almost total

exclusion of other types, at least until the 14th century. This small assemblage is typical of rural sites in the region, with some glazed wares, but none of the finer wares which are largely confined to the urban centres to north and south (Salisbury, Poole) and high status sites elsewhere.

In terms of site chronology, the Romano-British sherd was a residual find in possible colluvial layer 1159, and the Saxo-Norman sherds also appear to be residual (colluvial layers 1103, 1109), although one sherd from the fill of ditch 1152 occurred alongside an undiagnostic South-east Wiltshire/East Dorset coarseware which could be contemporaneous. The South-east Wiltshire/East Dorset coarsewares from other contexts are mostly broadly dated, although forms post-dating the 12th century were found in colluvial layers/possible colluvial layers 1103, 1109, 1142 and 1159, and ditches 1148 and 1172. It is uncertain whether the pottery from other contexts is contemporaneous with this date range of 13th century or later, or whether some represent continuity from the Saxo-Norman component.

3.3 Other Finds

There was very little other material recovered from the site (Table 1). A single iron nail was found in the alluvium 1109 overlying Feature Group 1179. Fifteen small featureless lumps of burnt clay were recovered from six contexts, including the fills of ditches 1118, 1177, 1146 and 1156. Three small unworked fragments of burnt flint were recovered from Feature Group 1179. A single small fragment of fuel ash slag was found in Ditch 1146. Two small fragments of animal bone were recovered from the colluvium 1109 over Feature Group 1179.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

Phase 2 of the conversion of the farmland of Upton Park Farm to a suitable alternative green space covers an area where some Roman activity has been previously recorded, including a Roman road (Jarvis 1985a) and a probable Roman salt-production site at Boat House Clump (Jarvis 1985b). The section of recorded Roman road lies to the west of Trench 10 in the northern field, but it is likely that Trench 10 crossed through the area of the Boat House Clump site. It is not known whether any part of this site was disturbed by the works as the new road in this area had already been constructed before Terrain Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the archaeological recording.

Although the southern end of Trench 11 crossed the projected line of the Roman road, this feature was not positively identified during the observations. Feature 1162 lies on the line of the road, but could not be definitely identified as part of it. At about 13 m wide cut 1162 appears to be too wide to represent the actual width of the road and there was no trace of a basal turf layer or of any gravel metalling as recorded about 400 m further north in 1985 (Jarvis 1985a). If 1162 is part of the road, then it appears that the turf was removed and a shallow cut was made into the natural sand beneath and backfilled with firm gravelly sand before the structure of the road was built on top. This might be because the natural sand was quite soft in this area. No trace of any gravel metalling survived. The gravel deposit 1160 may have been part of the road, but it appears more like a gravelly part of the natural sand, rather than an archaeological feature.

The remaining archaeological features exposed in Trench 11 were all either medieval or undated and the greatest concentration lay in the southern part of the site. The features appear to be primarily boundary ditches, a number of which appear to have been redefined two or three times (Ditches 1118/1120/1122, Ditches 1154 /1156, Ditches 1170/1172), suggesting a relatively lengthy period of use. The layout and arrangement of these boundaries is difficult to determine from the results of this watching brief, but a series of cropmarks on a 2007 aerial photograph (Figure 9) suggest there may be a series of rectangular enclosures in this area. Unfortunately the cropmarks are not sufficiently clear to be able to plot the pattern of boundaries in detail, with any degree of confidence. The pottery recovered from the ditches suggests a date in the 13th–14th centuries, though there is also a small quantity of 10th–12th century pottery, hinting at earlier activity in this area. The interpretation of these ditches is difficult to determine given the current small amount of available evidence, but, most probably, they are remnants of a small farmstead established on the heathlands at the edge of Holes Bay.

To the north of these ditches a number of more structural remains were encountered in Feature Groups 1179 and 1180). None of these features are firmly dated, though the medieval pottery recovered from 1179 suggests this group may be contemporary with the ditches. Feature Group 1179 contained the remains of two clay or cob walls (1106, 1108) and what may be the clay base of a hearth or oven (1104). There is little material from these features or from their vicinity to indicate whether these features are domestic in nature or represent some industrial process at the edge of Holes Bay. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered. It is interesting to note that the remains of an undated possible daub or cob building were found near by in 1985 (Jarvis 1985a). The lack of briquetage suggests that the features in 1179 are not part of a Roman saltworking site, like that at Boat House Clump about 200 m to the north.

4.2 Conclusions

The construction of the new roadway south of Upton House has revealed a series of medieval boundary ditches, which may represent fields associated with a small farm on the heathland at the edge of Holes Bay. The pottery recovered suggests these ditches are probably 13th–14th century in date, though a small quantity of 10th–12th century pottery hints at earlier activity. To the north of these ditches were some indications of possible clay or cob structures and hearths some of which may be contemporary with the boundary ditches. Not enough evidence was recovered to determine whether these structures were industrial or domestic in character.

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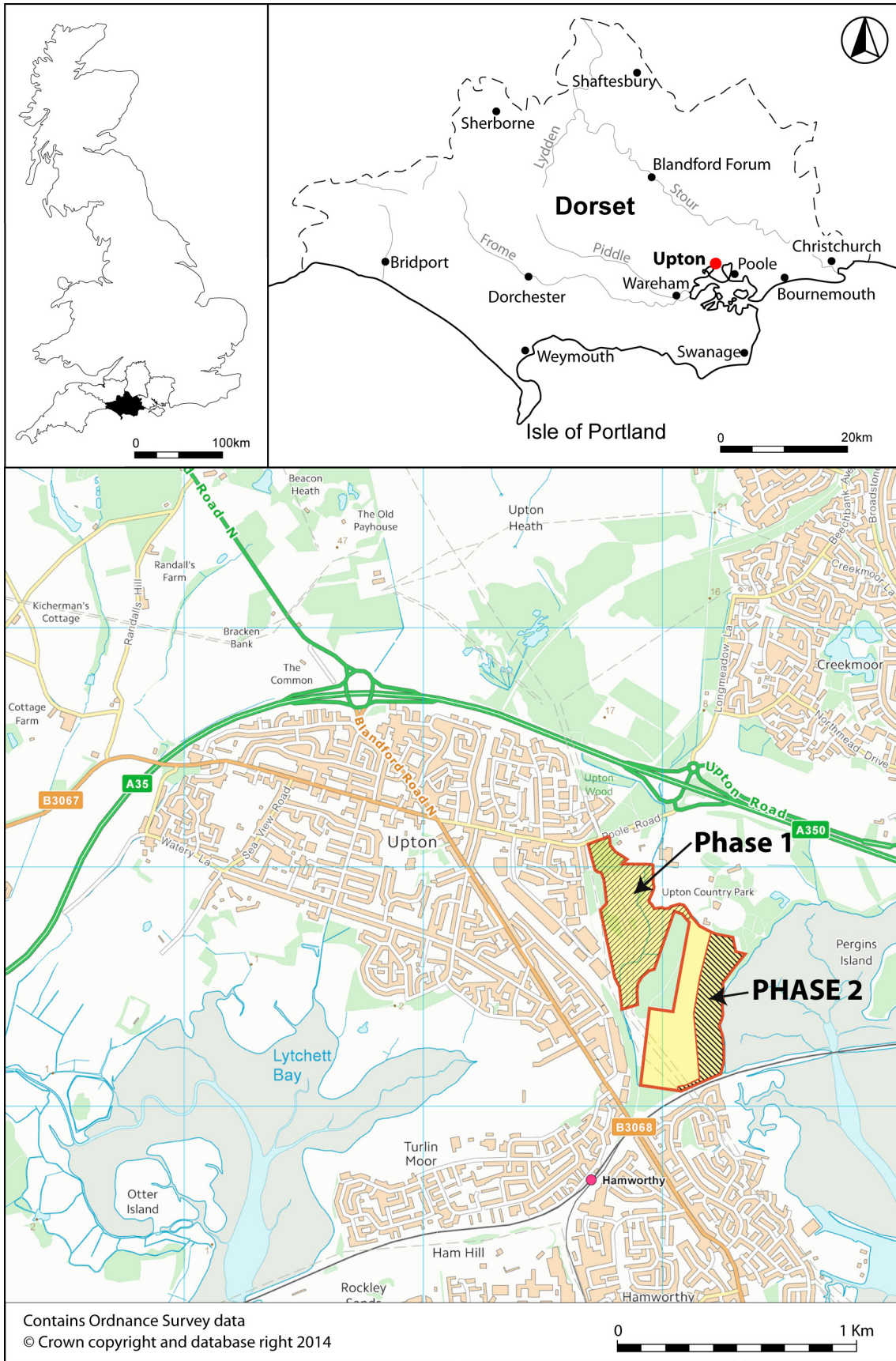


Figure 1 Location map.

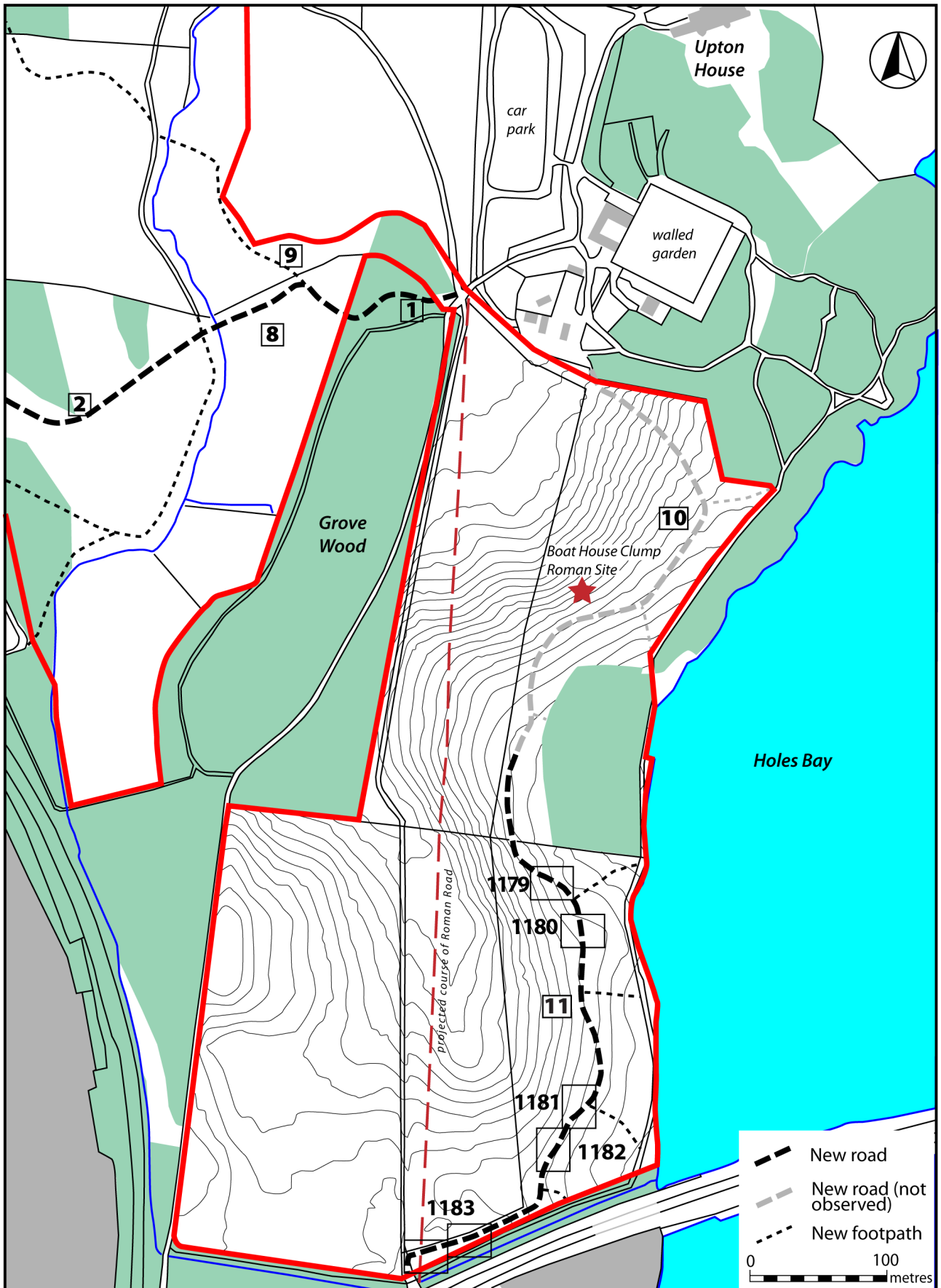


Figure 2: Plan of site, showing location of trenches and location of Feature Groups.

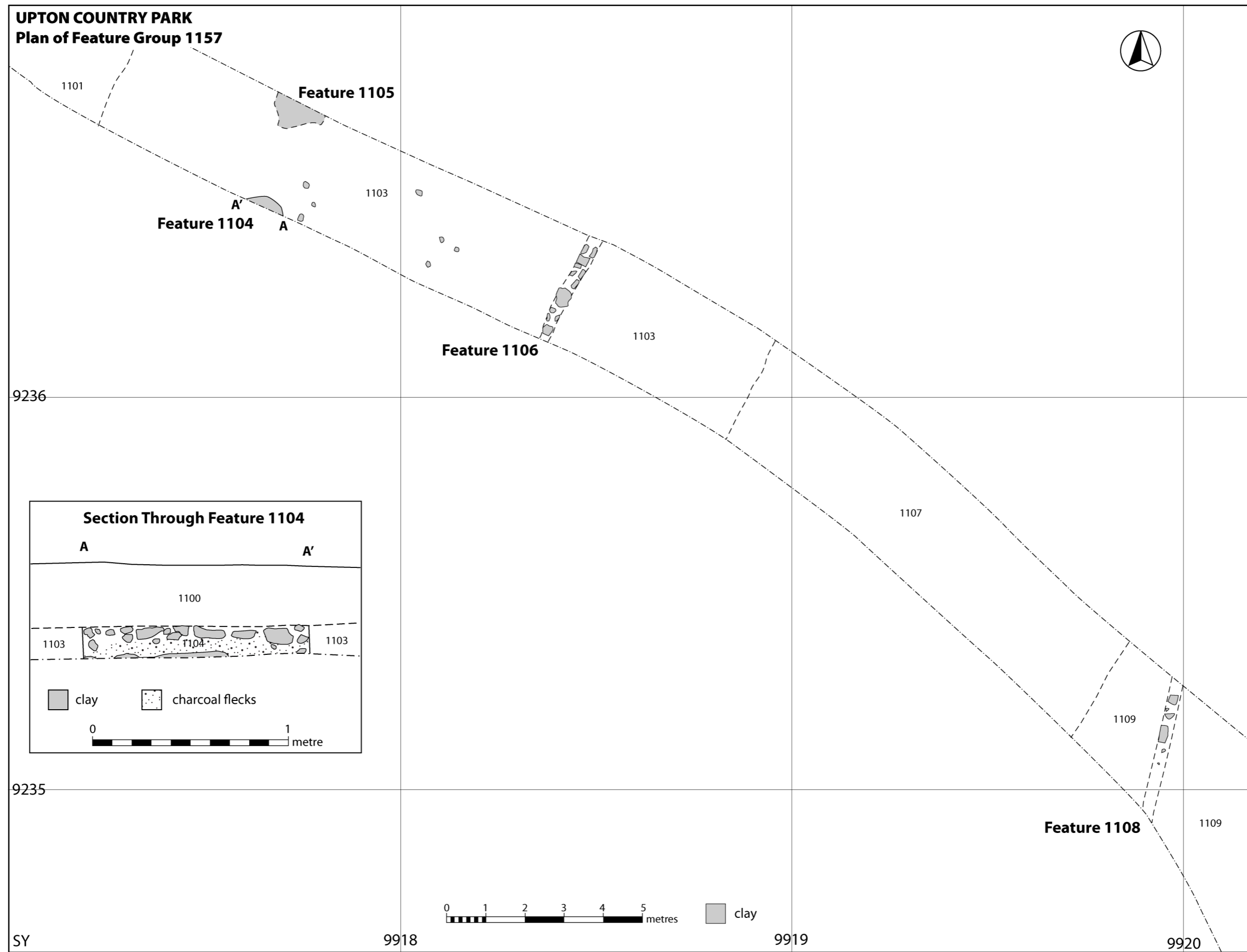


Figure 3: Plan and section of Feature Group 1179.

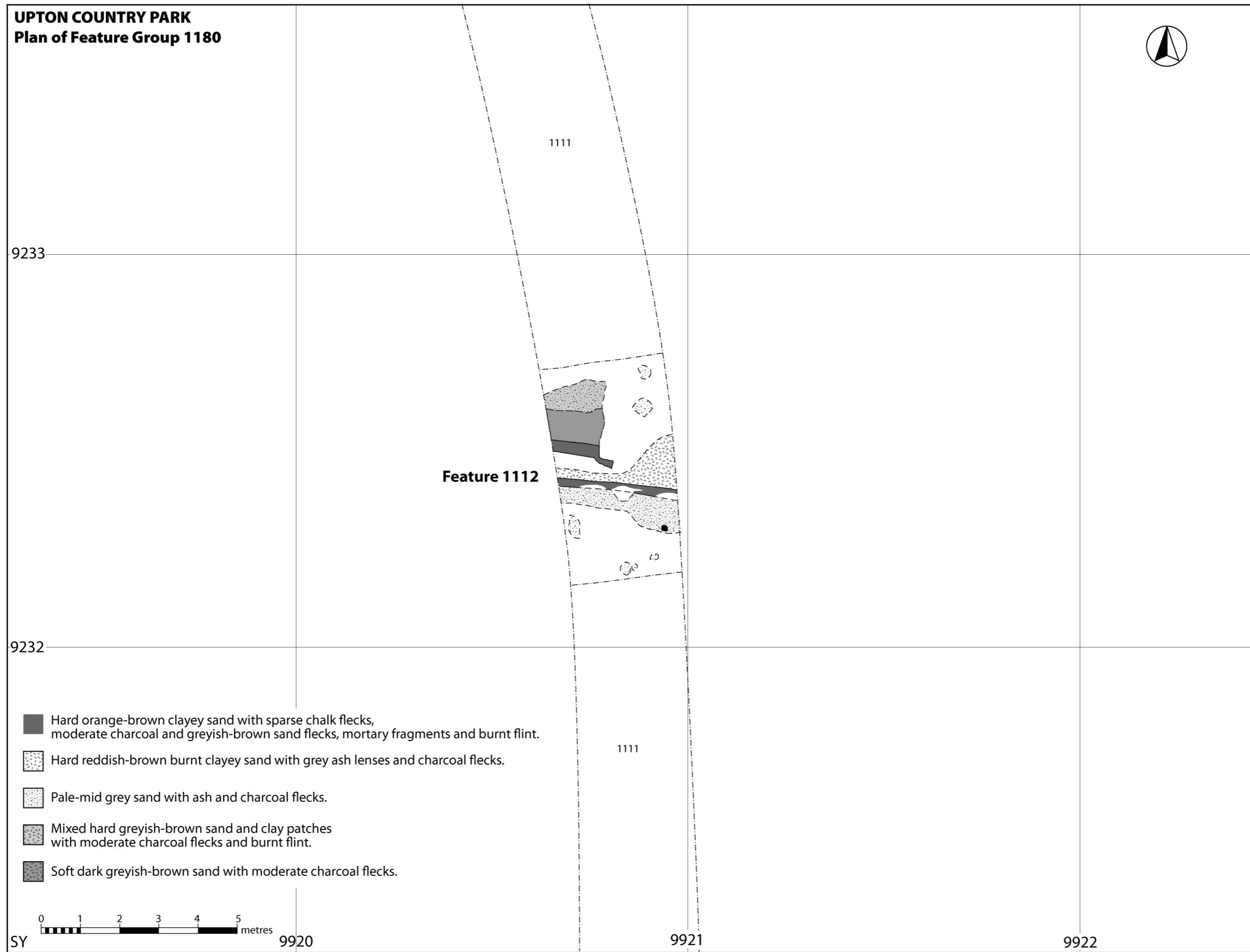


Figure 4: Plan of Feature Group 1180.

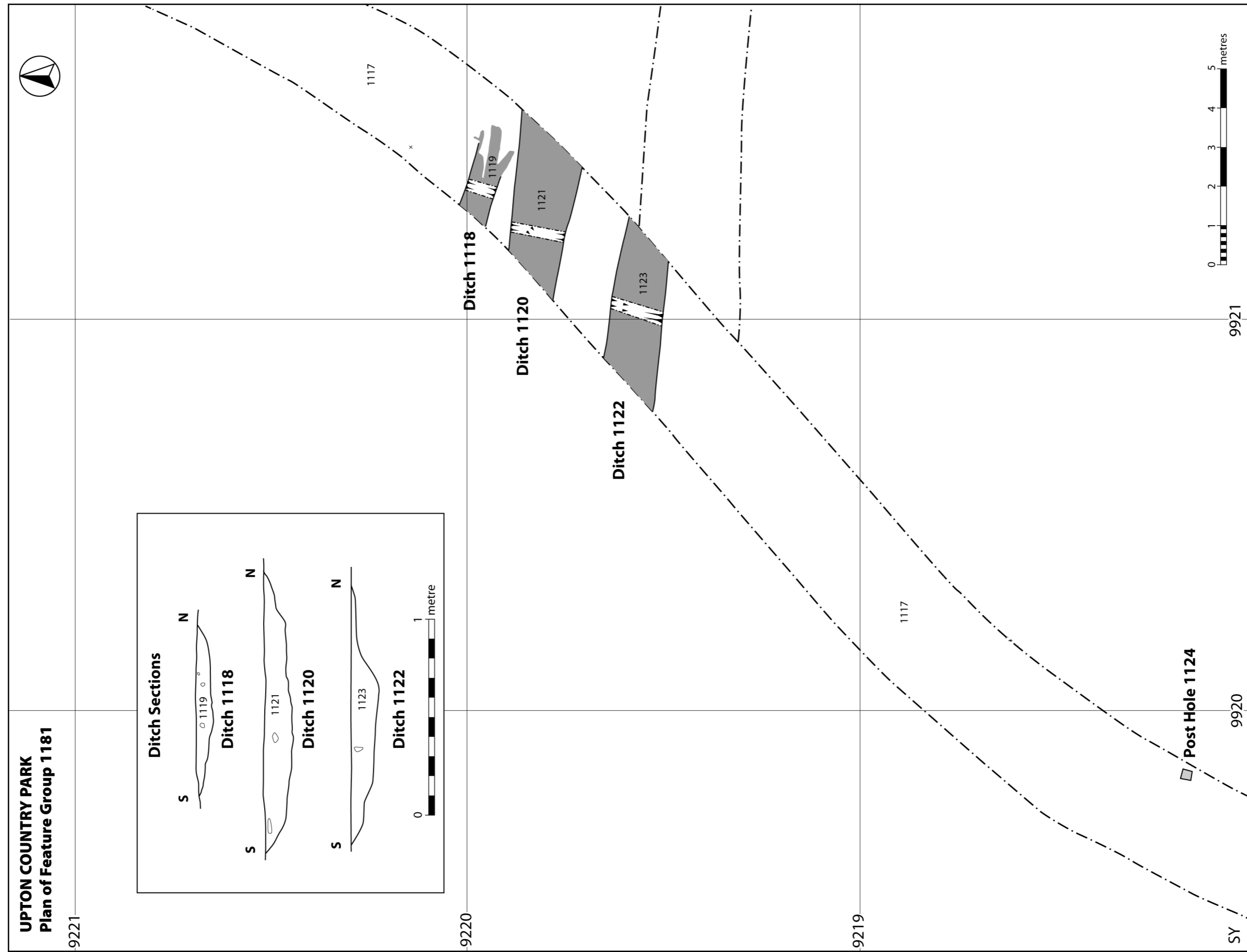


Figure 5: Plan and Sections of Feature Group 1181.

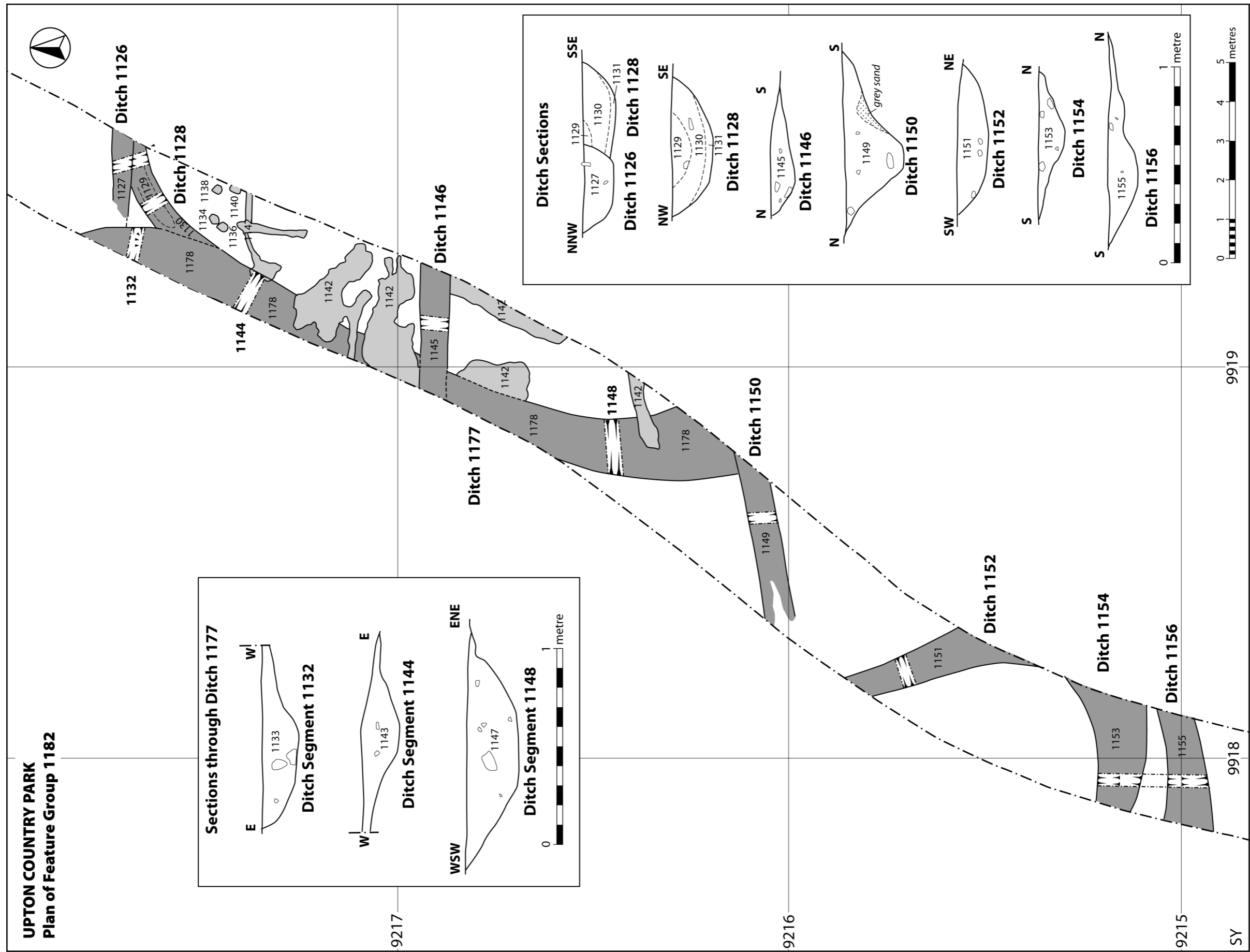


Figure 6: Plan and Sections of Feature Group 1182.

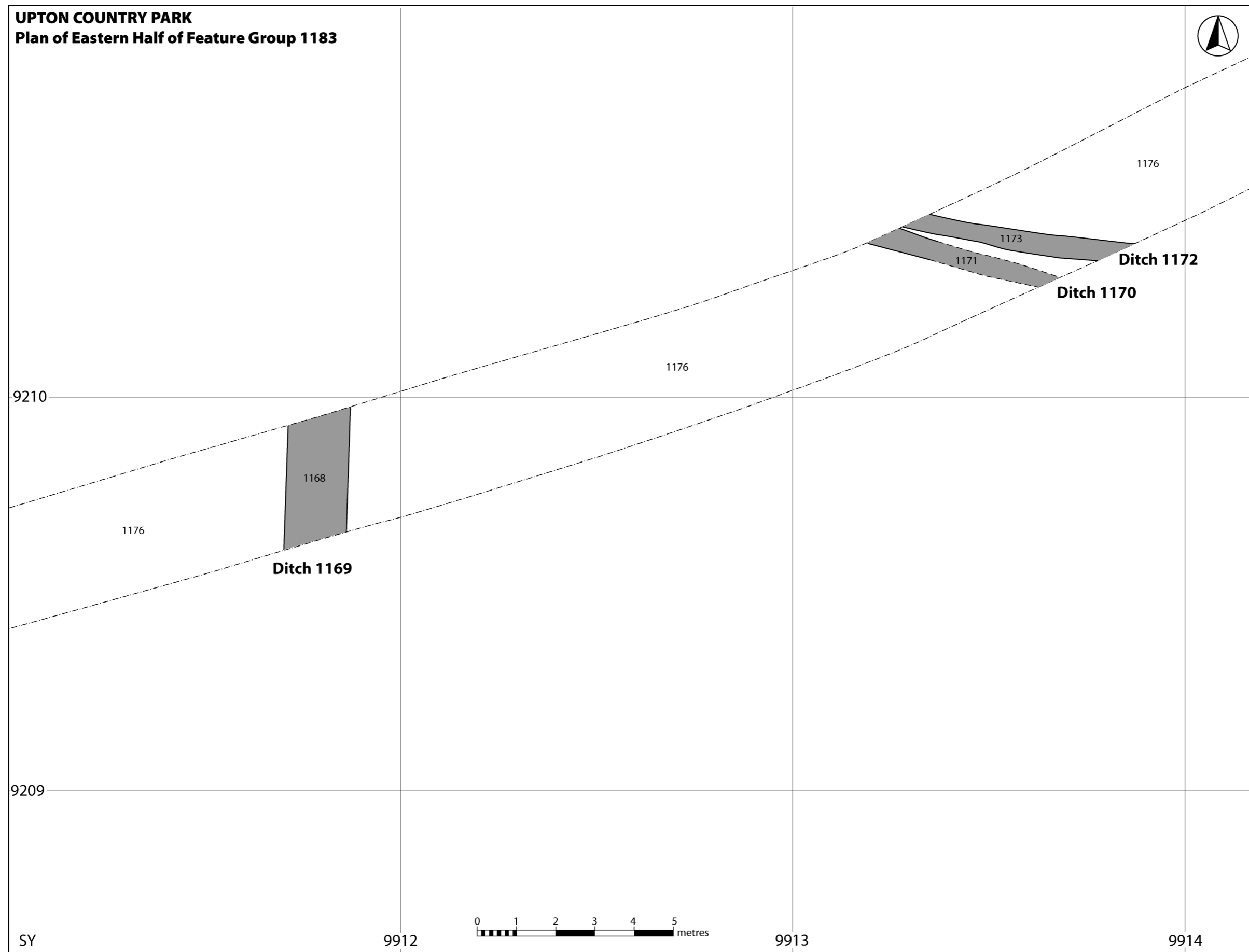


Figure 7: Plan of east half of Feature Group 1183.

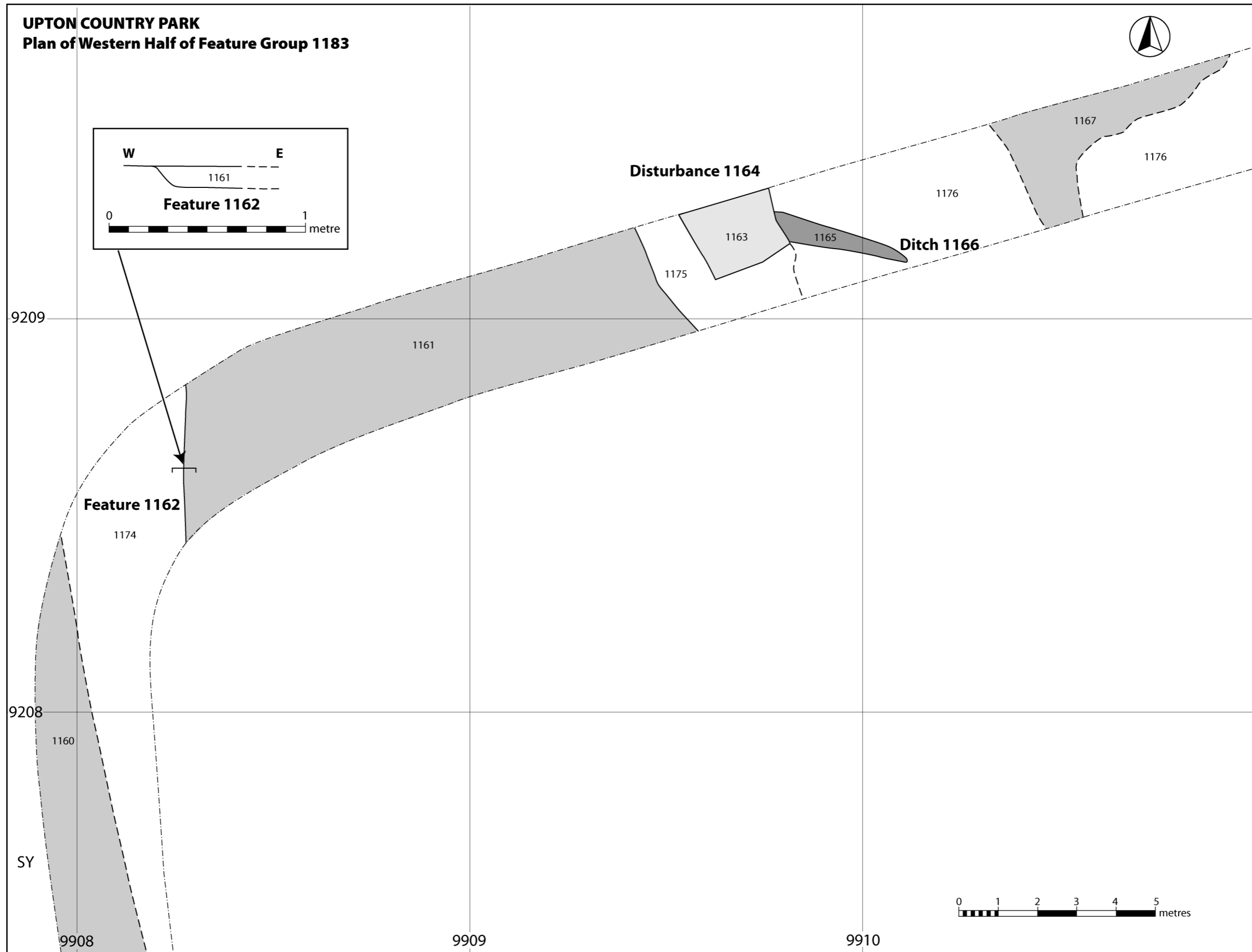


Figure 8: Plan of West Half of Feature Group 1183.



Figure 9: Google Earth Aerial Photograph 2007 showing cropmarks in southern part of site (© 2017 Infoterra Ltd and Bluesky)



Plate 1: Trench 10 looking north, showing first part of trench observed.



Plate 2: Trench 11, looking towards cleared area of Feature Group 1179. View from NW. 1m scale.



Plate 3: Features 1104 (left) and 1105 (right) in Feature Group 1179, viewed from SE. 1m scale.



Plate 4: Detail of Feature 1104. 30cm scale.



Plate 5: Feature 1106, looking ESE. 1m scale.



Plate 6: View towards Feature Group 1180, looking south.



Plate 7: Feature Group 1180, looking SE. 1m scale.



Plate 8: Ditches 1118, 1120 and 1122 of Feature Group 1181, looking east.



Plate 9: Feature Group 1182, looking SSW. 1m scale.



Plate 10: Section 1144 across Ditch 1177 in northern end of Feature Group 1182, looking NNE. 1m scale.



Plate 11: Southern end of Feature Group 1182, with Ditches 1154 and 1156 in foreground, looking NNE. 1m scale.



Plate 12: Southern end of Trench 11, looking W, with Ditch 1169 in foreground. 1m scale.



Plate 13: Ditch 1169, looking north. 1m scale.



Plate 14: Southern end of Trench 11 with gravel layer 1160 to left and Feature 1162 in background. 1m scale.



Plate 15: Feature 1162 looking east. 1m scale.

Appendix 1: Context Description

Trench 10

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
1000	Topsoil/Colluvium: Friable dark greyish-brown silty sand with sparse small flint and very sparse charcoal flecks. Contained a number of nineteenth century pot sherds (not collected).	0.00 – 0.55m
1001	Natural Sand: Pale grey and yellowish-grey clayey sand.	0.55 – 0.65m+

Trench 11

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
1100	Topsoil: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with sparse small flint and occasional brick fragments and post-medieval finds.	0.00 – 0.30m
1101	Colluvium: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with sparse flint gravel.	0.30 – 0.45m+
1102	Not Used.	
1103	Occupation Layer/Colluvium?: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with occasional to moderate charcoal flecks. Lies in the area of 1104, 1105 and 1105. Below topsoil 1100.	0.30m+
1104	Clay Structure: Curving patch of mottled pale grey/cream/ochre clay lumps in western edge of trench. Not fully exposed and full depth not exposed. In section it appears to comprise a discontinuous clay lump layer 0.08m thick, with charcoal flecks, which is over a 0.05–0.08 m thick layer of dark greyish-brown clayey sand with frequent charcoal flecks, which sits on top of another clay lump layer. Lies below topsoil 1100.	0.30 – 0.45m+
1105	Disturbed Clay Structure?: Roughly triangular patch of hard mottled pale grey/ochre clay 'lumps'. Lies within 1103. Only top surface exposed. Measured 1.2 by 0.75 m.	0.42m+
1106	Clay 'wall': Linear structure of yellow/ white/ buff clay lumps, 0.3 m wide. Includes some rectangular lumps measuring 5-8 by 25cm. Aligned roughly NNE-SSW. Lies below topsoil 1100.	0.30 – 0.45m+
1107	Colluvium south of 1103: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with sparse flint gravel.	0.30 – 0.45m+
1108	Clay 'wall': Linear white clay feature, 0.3m wide, aligned NNE-SSW. Within 1109. Not excavated.	0.45m+
1109	Alluvium around 1108: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with sparse flint gravel. Contains medieval pottery.	0.30 – 0.45m+
1110	Natural Sand: Reddish-brown natural sand.	0.45m+
1111	Colluvium south of 1110: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with sparse flint gravel.	0.30 – 0.45m+
1112	Burnt Clay Area: Complex area of burnt clay and sand consisting of two linear strips of hard orange-brown clayey sand with sparse chalk flecks, moderate charcoal and greyish-brown sand flecks, mortar fragments and burnt flint and patches of hard reddish-brown burnt clayey sand with grey ash lenses and charcoal flecks, pale-mid grey sand with ash and charcoal flecks, mixed hard greyish-brown sand and clay patches with moderate charcoal flecks and burnt flint, and oft dark greyish-brown sand with moderate charcoal flecks. These were set within dark greyish brown clayey sand with charcoal flecks and patches of pale grey ash and burnt flint.	0.45m+
1113	Natural Sand: Mottled brown natural sand which was visible in the base of the trench to the south of context 1111.	0.45m+
1114	Hard Clayey Sand – Natural?: Irregular patch of hard pale grey fine clayey sand with moderate yellowish-brown mottles and frequent greyish-brown/reddish-brown clayey sand mottles. No traces of burning or finds. Below 1113 and 1115.	0.45m+
1115	Colluvium?: Dark greyish-brown/ dark reddish-brown clayey sand with patches of grey sand to north and moderate to frequent flint gravel, containing occasional small patches of burnt clay. Overlies 1114 and extends to the south.	0.45m+
1116	Burnt Clay patch: Irregular patch of pale yellow/orange mottled hard sandy clay and burnt clay, with occasional flint and sparse charcoal flecks. In eastern edge of trench. Measures 0.70 by 0.75 m across and 0.006 m thick.	0.45m+
1117	Natural Sand: Pale grey to yellowish-grey firm sand/clayey sand with frequent brown sand mottles.	0.49m+
1118	Ditch: Linear ditch with shallow sloping sides and irregular flat base, 0.85 m wide and 0.09m deep, running roughly WNW-ESE, becoming discontinuous to the east. Filled with 1119.	0.45 – 0.55m

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
1119	Fill of Ditch 1118: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with very sparse charcoal flecks with moderate flint gravel.	0.45 – 0.55m
1120	Ditch: Linear ditch running roughly WNW-ESE to the south of ditch 1118. It is 1.45m wide with shallow sloping sides and an irregular flat base, 0.16m deep. Lies between ditches 1118 and 1122. Filled with 1121.	0.45 – 0.60m
1121	Fill of Ditch 1120: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with moderate flint gravel up to 50mm across and occasional larger flint pieces. Patch of pale yellowish-grey sandy clay natural at the base.	0.45 – 0.60m
1122	Ditch: Linear ditch running roughly WNW-ESE to the south of ditch 1120. It is 1.25 m wide with shallow sloping sides and an irregular flat base about 0.14 m deep. Filled with 1123.	0.45 – 0.60m
1123	Fill of Ditch 1122: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with moderate flint gravel up to 50mm across and occasional larger flint pieces. Sherd of medieval pottery on surface of fill.	0.45 – 0.60m
1124	Post Hole: Rectangular cut with rounded corners, vertical sides and flattish base. 0.28 m square and 0.40m deep. Modern.	0.45 – 0.85m
1125	Fill of Post Hole 1124: Very loose mixed dark greyish-brown clayey sand and grey sand. Includes some lumps of natural clayey sand and some rooty lumps of topsoil. Becomes sandier towards the base.	0.45 – 0.85m
1126	Ditch: Linear ditch running roughly E-W, petering out to the west. It is 0.45m wide with concave sides and flat bottom 0.15m deep. It cuts ditch 1128. Filled with 1127.	0.45 – 0.60m
1127	Fill of Ditch 1126: Firm dark greyish-brown clayey sand with moderate small flints, lumps of grey clay and patches of pale yellow sand. Contains medieval pottery.	0.45 – 0.60m
1128	Curvilinear Ditch: Curvilinear feature, 0.65m wide with concave sides and flat base 0.21m deep. Filled with 1129, 1130, 1131. Cut by ditch 1126. Uncertain relationship with ditch 1132, but probably cut by it.	0.45 – 0.66m
1129	Upper Fill of Ditch 1128: Fairly loose pale yellowish-grey coarse silty sand with dark greyish-brown mottles and occasional flint gravel. 0.09m thick. Overlies 1130.	0.45 – 0.54m
1130	Fill of Ditch 1128: Dark greyish-brown coarse clayey sand and occasional flint gravel. 0.10m thick. Overlies 1131, below 1129.	0.45 – 0.60m
1131	Basal Fill of Ditch 1128: Thin very dark grey/ black silty sand with moderate red flecks and moderate charcoal flecks and flint. 0.05m thick. Below 1130.	0.61 – 0.66m
1132	Section through Ditch 1177: Section through northern end of curvilinear ditch 1155. About 1m wide and 0.13m deep. Filled with 1133.	0.45 – 0.60m
1133	Fill of Ditch Section 1132: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with moderate flint gravel and occasional flint pebble. Contains small patches of pale yellow clayey sand.	0.45 – 0.60m
1134	Feature: Subrectangular possible posthole, 0.22m by 0.24m across. Not excavated. Contains 1135.	0.45m+
1135	Fill of 1134: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand. Fill of 1134. Not excavated.	0.45m+
1136	Feature: Subrectangular possible posthole, 0.19m by 0.22m across. Not excavated. Contains 1137.	0.45m+
1137	Fill of 1136: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand. Fill of 1136. Not excavated.	0.45m+
1138	Feature: Subrectangular possible posthole, 0.18m by 0.20m across. Not excavated. Contains 1139.	0.45m+
1139	Fill of 1138: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand. Fill of 1138. Not excavated.	0.45m+
1140	Feature: Subrectangular possible posthole, 0.19m by >0.13m across. Not excavated. Contains 1141.	0.45m+
1141	Fill of 1140: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand. Fill of 1141. Not excavated.	0.45m+
1142	Base of Colluvium?: A series of furrows and irregular splodges of dark greyish-brown clayey sand, particularly common in area of softer sand natural.	0.45m+
1143	Fill of Ditch Section 1144: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with moderate flint gravel and patches of pale yellow sand. Fill of 1144.	0.45 – 0.65m
1144	Section through Ditch 1177: Section through curvilinear ditch 1155. 1.05m wide with shallow sloping sides and flattish base 0.19m deep. Filled with 1143.	0.45 – 0.65m
1145	Fill of Ditch 1146: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with frequent flint gravel and occasional large flint pebbles. Fill of 1146.	0.45 – 0.55m
1146	Ditch: Linear ditch running E-W. 0.6m wide with shallow sides and flat base 0.10m deep. Cuts ditch 1155. Filled with 1145.	0.45 – 0.55m
1147	Fill of Ditch 1148: Mid brownish-grey coarse clayey sand with brown sand mottles and frequent flint gravel and pebbles. Fill of 1148.	0.45 – 0.75m

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
1148	Section through Ditch 1177: Section through curvilinear ditch 1155, near its southern end. 1.22m wide with rounded sides and flattish base 0.3m deep. Filled with 1147.	0.45 – 0.75m
1149	Fill of Ditch 1150: Mid brown humic clay sand with moderate flint gravel and pebbles. Contains medieval pottery. Fill of 1150.	0.45 – 0.75m
1150	Ditch Linear ditch running WSW-ENE, petering out towards west side of trench. 0.95m wide and 0.3m deep with rounded sides and rounded flattish base. There is some indication that this was in fact two inter-cut small linears, but recorded as one feature.	0.45 – 0.75m
1151	Fill of Ditch 1152: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with occasional dark grey sand patches and moderate to frequent flint gravel and occasional larger flint pebbles. Fill of 1152.	0.45 – 0.60m
1152	Ditch: Linear ditch running NW-SE, possibly curving at its southern end. 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep with rounded sides and rounded flattish base.	0.45 – 0.60m
1153	Fill of Ditch 1154: Mid/dark greyish-brown clayey sand with occasional flint gravel. Fill of 1154.	0.45 – 0.60m
1154	Ditch Linear ditch running E-W, possibly curving at its eastern end. 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with shallow sides and rounded flattish base.	0.45 – 0.60m
1155	Fill of Ditch 1156: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with occasional flint gravel. Fill of 1156.	0.45 – 0.60m
1156	Ditch: Linear, possibly curving, ditch running E-W. 1.05m wide and 0.15m deep with rounded sides and rounded flattish base.	0.45 – 0.60m
1157	Fill of Feature 1158: Dark brownish-grey clayey sand with moderate flint gravel. Not excavated.	0.45m+
1158	Ovoid Feature: Irregular ovoid feature about 2m across. Probably just part of context 1142. Not excavated.	0.45m+
1159	Colluvium sealing Feature Group 1182. Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with sparse flint gravel.	0.30 – 0.45m
1160	Gravel Layer: Firm dark greyish-brown clayey sand with frequent poorly sorted subangular to angular flint gravel 10-40mm across with occasional larger pieces over 100mm.	0.30 – 0.40m
1161	Fill of Cut 1162: Firm mid to dark reddish-brown fine clayey sand with frequent gravel.	0.30-0.45m
1162	Cut: Only west side of cut defined, running roughly N-S. Shallow fairly steeply sloping edge. Perhaps a terrace cut about 13 m wide.	0.30-0.45m
1163	Fill of Cut 1164: Very hard mottled dark brown/red/pale brown/pale yellow sand with patches of grey clay, occasional clinker, flint gravel and decayed stone pieces. Not excavated.	0.30m+
1164	Disturbance: Roughly rectangular sharp edged cut, which continued beyond edge of trench to north. Probably relatively recent disturbance. Filled with 1163. Not excavated.	0.30m+
1165	Fill of 1166: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand. Fill of 1166. Cut by 1164. Not excavated.	0.30m+
1166	Linear Feature: Small linear feature oriented roughly WNW-ESE, with a possible terminal to east, but more likely just peters out. 0.5 m wide. Not excavated.	0.30m+
1167	Tree Disturbance?: Loose greyish-brown clayey sand with frequent tree roots. Not excavated.	0.30m+
1168	Fill of Ditch 1169: Dark grey sand with moderate flint gravel and some roots.	0.30-0.48m+
1169	Ditch: Linear ditch oriented N-S. 1.6 m wide and over 0.18m deep. Filled with 1168. Not excavated.	0.30-0.48m+
1170	Ditch: Linear ditch running roughly WNW-ESE, almost parallel to 1172. 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep with rounded sides and base. The southern part of this feature was partially removed by machine. Filled with 1171.	0.30 – 0.45m
1171	Fill of Ditch 1170. Dark grey clayey sand with roots.	0.30 – 0.45m
1172	Ditch. Linear ditch running roughly WNW-ESE, almost parallel to 1170. 0.55m wide. Not excavated. Filled with 1173.	0.30m+
1173	Fill of Ditch 1172: Dark grey clayey sand with roots.	0.30m+
1174	Natural. Pale grey mottled sand at southern end of trench between 1160 and 1161. Cut by 1162.	0.30m+
1175	Natural?: Mid grey and brown sand to east of 1161 and cut by 1164.	0.30m+
1176	Natural: Mottled buff and brown sand along southern edge of field.	0.30m+
1177	Ditch. Group number for curvilinear ditch investigated by sections 1132, 1144, 1148.	
1178	Fill of Ditch 1177: Dark greyish-brown clayey sand. Same as 1133, 1143 and 1147	
1179	Group Number for Features at north end of field: Comprises 1104, 1105 and 1106 and outlying feature 1108.	
1180	Group Number for Features south of 1157: Comprises 1112.	

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
1181	Group Number for Ditches north of 1181: Comprises 1118, 1120 and 1122.	
1182	Group Number for Feature concentration near south end of field: Comprises 1126, 1128, 1134, 1136, 1138, 1140, 1146, 1150, 1152, 1154, 1156 and 1176.	
1183	Group Number for Features at south edge of field: Comprises 1162, 1164, 1166, 1169, 1170 and 1172.	