



**LAND OFF SWEETHILL ROAD, SOUTHWELL, PORTLAND,  
DORSET**

**Archaeological Evaluation**



**Report No. 53080.1**

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# Land off Sweethill Road, Southwell, Portland, Dorset Archaeological Evaluation, March 2002

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## **Land off Sweethill Road, Southwell, Portland, Dorset Archaeological Evaluation, March 2002**

### **SUMMARY**

*Six machine trenches were excavated to evaluate a parcel of land off Sweethill Road, Southwell, Portland (NGR SY683700) proposed for residential development. The evaluation revealed data on the medieval and post-medieval landuse of the area. During the medieval period, the whole of the site was in open fields. The eastern half of the site was enclosed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Residual worked chert of Mesolithic date was recovered from the southern side of the site and there was a more widespread scatter of residual Late Neolithic/Bronze Age chert across the field. Almost all the pottery recovered was also apparently residual and ranged in date from the Early Iron Age to the post-medieval period. The Iron Age pottery was widely scattered but the Roman material was concentrated in the southeast corner of the site.*

*Evidence for the dumping of a large amount of spoil from landscaping associated with the construction of the former Admiralty buildings was found in the southwestern part of the site.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This project was commissioned by Phil Laming & Sons Ltd as part of the Planning Application for the erection of eight bungalows (Planning Application No. 01/00734/OUT). This requirement by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, the local planning authority, was following advice from Steven Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council. This is in line with Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

The site is situated off the northern side of Sweet Hill road at SY683700. It lies on the northern slopes of Sweethill at a height of between 55 – 61 m above Ordnance Datum. The site has relatively flat areas to the north and south with a relatively steep north-facing slope between. At the time of the evaluation, it was under grass.

The fieldwork was carried out between 4<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and cooperation of Mr Phil Laming and the machine operator. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Best, Rod Brook, Paul Pearce and Steven Tatler.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The earliest evidence for activity in the area dates from the Mesolithic period (c. 8000–4000BC). An important Late Mesolithic site has been excavated at Culverwell (Palmer 1999) about 700 m to the south and a sparse scatter of possible Mesolithic worked chert has been found on the northern slopes of Sweethill itself to the west of the site (Terrain Archaeology 1999).

Important evidence of Early Neolithic (c. 4000–3700BC) occupation has recently been found by Terrain Archaeology on the northern slopes of Sweethill; about 250 m to the west, where the remains of a rectangular house with an associated pit with burnt hazelnut shells and grain have recently been excavated (Terrain Archaeology 2000a).

In the bottom of the coombe to the north of Sweethill, a burnt mound of probable Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date (c. 2600–1600BC) has been excavated by Terrain Archaeology (Terrain Archaeology 2000b). Further evidence of Bronze Age activity has been noted from Suckthumb Quarry (RCHME 1970,450).

Iron Age and Romano-British period occupation appears to be centred on Avalanche Road and the Sweet Hill Lane housing estate (RCHME 1970, 607–8; Putnam 1970). However, a number of Roman burials, including one in a stone sarcophagus, have been found immediately adjacent to the site on Sweet Hill Road (RCHME 1970, 608). A scatter of Roman pottery has also been found along this road.

Evidence for medieval occupation in Southwell is concentrated on Sweethill Road. Limpet shell midden deposits associated with 12th-13th century pottery have been found at the lower end of Sweet Hill Road and at the top end immediately adjacent to the site.

In the medieval and post-medieval periods, the site lay within the open field system of Portland, in what was known as the 'Great West Field'.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the archaeological works was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, that is, to appraise the nature, extent, level of preservation, and importance of any archaeological deposits.

The evaluation aimed to record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works in order to provide sufficient data to assess the archaeological significance of the site.

## **METHOD**

The archaeological works were carried out in compliance with the specification (T3080) prepared by Terrain Archaeology and approved by the Dorset County Council Senior Archaeologist and in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1994, rev. 1999).

The evaluation comprised five trenches (1–4, 6) 20 m long by 1.60 m wide, and one (Trench 5) 24 m long by 1.60 m wide. The disposition of the trenches broadly followed the proposed layout specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation, with three trenches along the northern side and three along the southern side of the field. However, Trench 3 in the northeastern corner of the site was moved westwards to investigate the remnants of a stone wall crossing this part of the field. In the southwestern area, the orientation of Trenches 5 and 6 was changed to allow a partial north-south transect by excavating Trench 5 along the same axis as trench 2 to the north (Figure 2). Trench 6 was moved eastwards to ease access into the site.

The trenches were cleared of recent overburden by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, down on to the top of any *in situ* archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first.

All archaeological deposits and features exposed during the works were cleaned by hand, then planned and recorded. Excavation of archaeological deposits and features was limited to resolving questions relating to their date, nature, extent and condition

All deposits revealed, irrespective of their apparent archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.

All trenches were back-filled with the excavated material and compacted using the JCB.

The records have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current UKIC guidelines and the requirements of the receiving museum, Dorset County Museum.

## RESULTS

### Introduction

Prior to the evaluation excavation, a rapid sketch survey of the earthworks visible in the field was carried out, and the results are presented below. A rapid analysis of the available historic maps was also undertaken to place the results of the evaluation excavation in context

The results of the six excavation trenches are presented in summary, on a trench-by-trench basis. A description of all contexts recorded is presented in Appendix 1.

### Cartographic evidence

The earliest map consulted was a map of the Royal Manor of Portland dating to 1745 (PRO MPE 356), which depicts the lands held by the Crown. This map shows the general arrangement of the eight open fields on the island and illustrates the arrangement of the strip-fields in rather diagrammatic fashion. There is no indication of any enclosed fields in the area of Southwell. In contrast, the 1811 first edition 1-inch Ordnance Survey map shows a number of enclosures on either side of Sweethill Road, including part of the area of the site, but the small scale of the map makes it difficult to locate precisely the boundaries of the site.

The 1842 Tithe map of Portland provides more detailed information on land allotment and use in the environs of the site. The road from Southwell leads up Sweet Hill as far as the site, with a number of enclosures off the northwestern side of the road. In the area of the site, what was depicted as a single large enclosure on the 1811 Ordnance Survey map, is now subdivided into smaller rectangular closes. The site itself straddles the junction between the enclosed land and the unenclosed strips beyond. The western part lies within the open field called 'Rough Barrow' and the eastern part lies within a close called 'Long Hay' with a small part of another close 'Grove' just within the southeastern corner of the site. The northern edge of the site lies along the northern boundary of Rough Barrow with a trackway running to the north, giving access to the strips (as shown on Figure 3). At the time of the Tithe map, both 'Rough Barrow' and 'The Grove' were in arable and 'Long Hay' was pasture. The name 'Rough Barrow' is interesting and may indicate the former presence of a mound or round barrow.

The 1868 6-inch Ordnance Survey map shows no change in the land allotment of the site. By the time of the 1929 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, there have been the beginnings of residential development along the southeast side of Sweethill Road, but the field boundaries on the site remain unchanged (Figure 3). The present southern boundary of the site is established in 1949 with the extension Sweethill Road and the construction of the Admiralty Gunnery Establishment. Residential development along the northwest side of Sweethill Road occurs after this date and is complete by the early 1960s, except for the buildings in the

southeast corner of the site which were constructed later than the 1961 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.

## Earthworks

There were a number of earthworks visible on the site (Figure 2). Along the northern end of the field, the slope was much less pronounced and is probably the result of a well-developed positive lynchet. A series of parallel low linear banks oriented roughly northeast/southwest, running across the contours, survive in the northern part of the site. These are approximately 1–2 m wide and about 0.3 m high, and are spaced about 10–14 m apart. They are the remnants of lawnsheds, which divided the individual strips (or 'lawns') of the former open fields of Portland. They are also depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1929 and 1961 (Figure 3).

Running parallel to the lawnsheds, in the eastern part of the site, are the remnants of a drystone wall, which is most visible to the north but can be traced running across the whole of the field. The exposed traces suggest the wall is about 1.1 m wide and comprised rough facing of larger stones with a smaller stone rubble core. At the southern end, there may be another wall running eastwards at right angles, but this is visible more as an earthwork than a stone feature. These walls define a slight raised platform in the southeast corner of the site.

The southern edge of the site is almost at the upper edge of the hillslope and is much flatter than the rest of the site. This is probably the result of artificial landscaping, as is the area to the north, which is steeply sloping and rather uneven with patches of disturbed soil and stone rubble. This is probably related to the construction of the former Admiralty buildings (now Southwell Business Park) adjacent to the site.

## Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the northwestern corner of the site and was positioned across the slope. It was situated in the relatively flat northern area of the field and was crossed by two visible lawnshed earthworks (Figure 2). There was no apparent structure to these earthworks, which were composed entirely of topsoil.

There were no other archaeological features located within this trench. The soil profile was relatively uniform throughout its length (Figure 4). Immediately below the turf (100), a relict ploughsoil (101) gradually deepened towards the eastern end of the trench, where the ground gently slopes down towards the head of a small coombe. Below the ploughsoil 101 was a 0.4 m thick deposit of yellowish brown silty clay (102), which contained very sparse small abraded pot sherds. The only datable sherd is probably Late Iron Age. This layer was probably a colluvial deposit, which had built up at the bottom of the field.

## Trench 2

Trench 2 ran across the contours towards the middle of the northern end of the field (Figure 2). No archaeological features were found in this trench. At the southern end, the natural consisted primarily of outcropping limestone (203), whereas the base of the northern part of the trench was natural silty clay. The natural sloped steeply down to the north, forming the head of a small coombe, which appeared to extend northwards beyond the edge of the site. Overlying the natural was a 0.25 m thick layer of pale yellowish grey clay (202), which contained some small abraded probable Iron Age sherds and a small quantity of worked

chert. This layer may represent a relict (?prehistoric) soil. It was sealed by a layer of yellowish brown clay soil (201). This colluvial deposit became thicker towards the northern end, forming a lynchet against the northern edge of the field (Figure 4). No dating evidence was recovered from this colluvium.

### Trench 3

Trench 3 ran along the contours in the northeast part of the site (Figure 2). The western end crossed the remnants of a drystone field wall running up and down the slope (Figure 2). Unfortunately, the wall was removed by machine within the trench itself and was only recorded in section. A small length of this wall was exposed immediately to the south of the trench to investigate its structure (Figure 5).

At the base of the western end of the trench, was a low bank of silty clay (305), aligned NE to SW, immediately over the natural clay. This bank is probably the remnant of a field boundary, perhaps a medieval lawnshed. The only finds recovered were two pieces of Portland chert, including a bladelet of probable Mesolithic date. These pieces are likely to be residual.

Built on top of this bank was a drystone wall (304). This survived a single course high, was roughly coursed and roughly faced with irregular blocks of limestone, the upper part of which was clearly visible through the turf elsewhere in the field. The eastern side of the wall had slumped, pitching the limestone blocks out from the centre of the wall. In the northern section of the trench, there was a deposit of irregular limestone fragments (303), roughly placed on the upper part of bank (305), immediately west of wall 304. This rubble is possibly the result of field clearance or perhaps collapse from wall 304.

The western edge of earthen bank 305 was overlain by a 0.12 m layer of light greyish brown silty clay soil (301). A similar soil layer was identified to the west of bank 305, but here it was much thicker (0.36 m). It appeared to overlay stone rubble 303 and to lie against wall 304. This soil layer is possibly the base of an earlier plough soil. The only dating evidence recovered was a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, together with some residual Iron Age sherds. The layer of developed turf and topsoil (300) on the eastern side of wall 304 was 0.32 m thick, noticeably thicker than to the west of the wall. This difference may reflect a difference in land use on either side of the wall.

Examination of the 1929 Ordnance Survey map of the area clearly identifies the drystone wall 304 as the boundary between the open field 'Rough Barrow' to the west and the enclosure known as 'Long Hay' to the east (Figure 3). The Tithe Apportionment lists 'Long Hay' as being pasture and the open fields as arable land. This adds credence to the suggestion of a differing history of soil development on either side of the wall.

### Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the southeast part of the site and was oriented roughly across the contours. The southern end of the trench crossed an earthwork 'platform' in the southeast corner of the field (Figure 2). This 'platform' was raised above the level of the surrounding ground and was defined by field wall 304 on its western side. The northern side was defined by a steep slope with occasional stones visible and was thought to be the remnants of another field wall. Trench 4 was positioned to investigate the northern boundary of the 'platform'.

At the base of the trench on the line of the northern edge of the 'platform' was an earthen bank, oriented roughly NW/SE, five metres from the southern end of the trench (Figure 6). This bank was about 3.4 m wide and 0.6 m high and comprised a core of firm yellowish brown clay (406) with frequent limestone gravel, with a layer of grey brown silty clay loam soil (405) above. Both these deposits contained abraded Iron Age/Roman pottery and worked chert of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic character, all of which is likely to be residual.

To the north and south of the bank, immediately overlying the natural, was a 0.1 m thick layer of yellowish brown sandy clay (409, 410), which is probably the remnant of a buried soil. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered and the precise relationship with the bank is unclear.

Overlying the bank was a spread of limestone rubble within a yellowish brown sandy clay and gravel (404). The limestone rubble did not have any apparent structure and was concentrated in the upper part of the deposit. On the northern side of this deposit was a second layer of large limestone fragments (401). Again, there was little apparent structure to this rubble. A number of sherds Roman date as well as some chert of Mesolithic character were recovered from the rubble, but this is likely to be residual.

Above layers 404 and 401 was a layer of buried topsoil (403), probably of relatively recent date. Another spread of limestone rubble (402) was found on this layer. Fragments of limestone were clearly visible through the existing turf (400). Worked chert and some abraded Roman pottery were recovered from layer 403.

To the south of the bank and the stone rubble, and overlying soil layer 409, was a 0.1 m thick layer of yellowish brown silty clay (408) and a 0.12 m thick layer of yellowish brown clay loam (407). These layers appeared to overlap the bank. They were not excavated by hand and no dateable material was retrieved. These layers were sealed by a layer of turf and topsoil (400) about 0.3 m thick. To the north of the bank, the topsoil lay directly over layer 410. It became much thinner to the north (Figure 5).

Prior to the evaluation excavation, it was thought that the 'platform' might have supported a building. No evidence for this was obtained and it seems unlikely that this was the case. Examination of the pre-1970s Ordnance Survey maps shows clearly that this 'platform' in fact is the corner of an enclosure (Figure 3). The difference in levels is a result of lynchet formation. The form of the field boundary is unclear – it is most likely that it was a drystone wall, in common with the other enclosures in this area, but the archaeological results do not conclusively prove this, as no real structure was observed within the surviving stonework. The bank beneath the stone rubble is difficult to interpret. Its position and orientation make it unlikely that it was part of the open field system. It is possible that it is part of a lynchet, rather than a deliberately constructed feature.

## Trench 5

This trench ran down the slope in the middle of the southern side of the site, and was located to evaluate the flat area along the southern edge of the field and the rather uneven ground beyond (Figure 2).

Immediately above the natural, towards the northern end of the trench, was a band pale grey clay (504), about 2.0 m wide and 0.06 m thick (Figure 7). This was overlain by a dark grey clay layer (503), about 3.7 m wide and 0.1 m thick. Layer 504 produced a small quantity of Iron Age pottery and both layers produced worked chert, some of which is Mesolithic in character.



These layers perhaps represent the remnants of a lynchet, running along the north-facing slope of the site. The date of this feature is uncertain, but may be of some antiquity.

Above this, and lying immediately over the natural in the rest of the trench was a 0.35 m thick layer of yellowish brown clay loam (506), which is probably a colluvial deposit, or a buried soil, again of uncertain age.

Soil layer 506 was sealed by a dump of yellowish brown clay (501, 502), which contained quantities of modern rubbish. This deposit became thicker towards the north, where it was about 0.65 m thick. This material is likely to be derived from the landscaping associated with the construction of the former Admiralty Buildings, adjacent to the site.

## Trench 6

Trench 6 was located along the southern boundary of the site to the west of Trench 5, where the ground surface is relatively flat (Figure 2). No archaeological features were observed in this trench. The natural was predominately outcropping limestone, and was covered by a thin layer of yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (603), similar to the basal layer observed in the other evaluation trenches. It was sealed by a 0.45 m thick layer of brown silty clay loam soil (602), which became much thinner towards the east (Figure 4). This soil layer was similar to the modern topsoil and appears to represent the original ground surface in this part of the site. It had been buried beneath a very mixed layer of brownish yellow silty clay with patches of redeposited topsoil and modern debris (601). It measured about 0.5 m thick and covered the whole of the trench. This deposit appears to be a recent dump of material, probably associated with the construction of the adjacent former Admiralty buildings.

## Finds

The total finds assemblage retained from the evaluation excavation is presented in Table 1, by context and material type.

context	Prehist- oric pottery		Roman Pottery		Post- medieval pottery		Unid. pottery		CBM		Clay pipe		glass		Iron	Flaked Stone	Animal bone		shell
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	No	No	Wt (g)	No
101							1	2									1	12	
102	1	1					1	1											
202	1	2					3	6								4			
300													4	10			1	2	
301	2	27			1	3			1	3						1			
305																2			
400																3			
401									1	30	1	3				1			
403			7	12			1	5	1	32									
404	5	6	2	4			1	1							1	36	3	11	2
405	1	2	2	2			1	0								10	1	0	
406	4	6	1	1												12			
503																6			
504	5	8														13	2	2	
<i>Total</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>2</i>

Table 1: Finds Assemblage

### Pottery

The pottery was examined by Lisa Brown (prehistoric and Roman) and Jo Draper (Roman, medieval and post-medieval). The following is based upon their comments. The full descriptions and identifications of the pottery by context have been retained in archive.

The majority of the sherds recovered are in poor condition, small and abraded, and it is likely that the majority, if not all, are residual.

**Prehistoric pottery:** Nineteen sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from Trenches 1–5. These were primarily Late Iron Age in date, and comprised eight sherds of Durotrigian pottery from the Wareham-Poole Harbour area (from contexts 405, 406 and 504); five joining sherds of fine glauconitic sandy ware from context 404, one sherd from context 102; another sherd of fine glauconitic sandy ware decorated with an incised line from context 406; and one simple lid rim sherd of coarse quartz sand tempered ware from context 301. A small sherd of lightly sanded oolitic fabric with fossil shell, similar to Early Iron Age vessels from Maiden Castle, was recovered from context 202 and another small sherd of Early or Middle Iron Age oolite-tempered ware was found in context 301. The remaining prehistoric sherd was a small abraded fragment of fine slightly micaceous black fabric of possible Iron Age date from context 504.

**Roman:** Thirteen sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from Trench 4. Two finewares were recovered – a scrap of Samian (from context 404) and a tiny fragment of brownish-orange slipped fineware (from context 403). The coarsewares included three sherds of BB1 (contexts 405 and 406), two greywares (contexts 403 and 404). Also recovered were five sherds of fine slightly micaceous orange ware (from context 403) which are probably Roman in date.

**Post-Medieval:** A single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century Donyatt pottery was recovered from context 301.

**Unidentified pottery:** Most of the unidentifiable sherds were too small to characterise. However, there were also five sherds (from contexts 202, 403 and 404) with a gritty fabric, which may be Early or Middle Iron Age in date, but also resembles some early medieval (Saxo-Norman) fabrics.

#### *Flaked Stone*

A total of 85 pieces of worked Portland chert and three pieces of flint were retained. The majority of pieces are of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age character and including two tools, a scraper and a retouched flake from context 400. There is also a small number of pieces (approximately 20) from an earlier small blade industry, probably of Mesolithic date, but some may be of Early Neolithic date. The small blade material was concentrated in Trenches 4 and 5 with only a single piece from Trench 3.

#### *Other Finds*

**Iron:** A single cut nail fragment was recovered from context 404.

**Ceramic Building Material:** Two fragments of brick and one piece of roof tile were recovered from contexts 301, 401 and 403. These are probably 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

**Clay tobacco pipe:** A single undiagnostic stem fragment was recovered from context 401.

**Glass:** Four sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century wine bottle glass were recovered from context 300.

**Animal Bone:** The animal bone comprised eroded fragments of sheep, primarily teeth fragments.

**Shell:** Two limpet shells were recovered from context 404. These may relate to the limpet shell midden discovered during the construction of Sweethill Road (RCHME 1970, 608).

## CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation excavation represents a 3% sample of the proposed development site, compatible with the 2% sample normally applied to archaeological evaluations of this sort. The trenches have evaluated all the different parts of the site, as identified from the historic mapping and from the earthwork survey. Therefore, it is reasonable to accept the results of this evaluation as representative of the archaeological resource on the site.

The *in situ* archaeological features discovered all relate to the medieval and post-medieval landuse of the site (with the possible exception of the lynchet remnants in Trench 5, which may be earlier in date). The excavation evidence suggests that the site includes both open strip fields and enclosed fields and this is confirmed by the historical mapping evidence. The open strip fields have their origin in the medieval period but continue in use well into the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century (Betley 1970, chapter 3). The closes on Sweethill are enclosed before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as the 1745 map of the island, gives no indication of enclosures at Southwell.

At the base of all trenches except Trench 3, was a layer of yellowish-brown soil, which appears to be a relict buried soil. Its date is uncertain but it is possible that it pre-dates the medieval agriculture. The only dating evidence is the presence of abraded Late Iron Age pottery within it. This buried soil seals a possible lynchet in Trench 5, which also contains Late Iron Age pottery. This lynchet does not fit in easily with the probable medieval field arrangement and is likely to be the remnants of an earlier agricultural regime.

Although there is no other *in situ* evidence, the residual finds point to a long period of exploitation of this area. The earliest evidence for activity on the site is the Mesolithic chert artefacts found near the southern end of the site in Trenches 4 and 5. This suggests that the Mesolithic activity was probably confined to the hilltop, rather than the northern slopes. Little else can be said about the nature of the Mesolithic activity in this area, other than noting its presence. Even sparser is the evidence for Early Neolithic activity on the site, which is confined to the occasional flake of chert that might belong to this period rather than the preceding Mesolithic. The presence of an Early Neolithic house on the slopes of Sweethill, to the west of the site must be noted (Terrain Archaeology 2000). By contrast the spread of Late Neolithic/ Bronze Age chert is much more widespread and perhaps points to a different form of activity compared to the earlier prehistoric periods.

The evidence for activity during the Early-Late Iron Age is confined to a number of residual sherds, though the range of pottery fabrics suggests either significant Iron Age activity in the vicinity or a wide date range for this activity. The spread of the Iron Age pottery across the whole of the site indicates that it is more likely to represent a scatter within the fields rather than the existence of a settlement on the site itself.

In contrast to the Iron Age pottery, the Roman pottery is concentrated in one area of the site – the southeast corner. This is close to the area where Roman burials have been previously

discovered (RCHME 1970, 608). It must be noted that the Roman pottery also has a wide date range.

The present topography of the site is almost purely artificial. The flat area at the top of hillslope, along the southern edge of the site, is the result of landscaping works associated with the construction of the former Admiralty buildings on the top of the hill in 1947, as is the rather uneven steep slopes in the central part of the site. It is important to note that although these areas are covered in large quantities of 20<sup>th</sup> century material, the original ground surface is preserved below, and any potential archaeological features would also survive. The flat area along the northern (downhill) edge of the site has been created by colluviation against a major field boundary and trackway in the former open fields.

## PROJECT ARCHIVE

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. 53080) will be deposited with Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

## REFERENCES

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- Terrain Archaeology 2000a 'Land off Reap Lane, Southwell, Portland, Dorset: Interim report on the excavation of Area 4' Report No. 5038.4.
- Terrain Archaeology 2000b 'Land off Reap Lane, Southwell, Portland, Dorset: Interim report on the excavation of Area 4' Report No. 5038.5.

**APPENDIX 1: TRENCH CONTEXT DATA**

Trench 1	Ground Level: West end: 56.76m above OD; East end: 56.56 m above OD	Dimensions: 20 m x 1.60 m Max Depth: 0.60m
Context	Description	Depth/dimensions
100	<b>Turf</b> —dark brown silty loam with occasional fragments of limestone <0.05 m. Frequent roots.	0–0.06 m
101	<b>Colluvium</b> —yellowish brown silty clay loam with frequent limestone fragments <0.10 m. Occasional root disturbance.	0.06–0.20 m
102	<b>Relict soil</b> —yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments <0.10m.	0.20–0.60 m
103	<b>Natural</b> — mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments.	0.60 m+

Trench 2	Ground Level: South end:56.94 m above OD; North end:56.21 m above OD	Dimensions: 20 m x 1.60 m Max Depth: 1.30 m
Context	Description	Depth/dimensions
200	<b>Turf</b> —dark brown silty loam with occasional fragments of limestone <0.05 m. Frequent roots.	0–0.20 m
201	<b>Colluvium</b> —yellowish brown silty clay with rare limestone fragments <0.30 m.	0.20–1 m
202	<b>Relict soil</b> — light yellowish grey silty clay with rare limestone fragments <0.80 m.	1.0–1.30 m
203	<b>Natural</b> — mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments.	1.30 m+

Trench 3	Ground Level West end: 56.10 m above OD; East end: 55.90 m above OD	Dimensions: 20 m x 1.60 m Max Depth: 0.60 m
Context	Description	Depth/dimensions
300	<b>Turf &amp; Topsoil</b> —dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional fragments of limestone <0.20 m. Frequent roots.	0–0.32 m
301	<b>Relict ploughsoil or colluvium</b> —light greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments <0.08 m. Overlies western edge of rubble 303 and bank 305.	0.32–0.40m
302	<b>Natural</b> —mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent outcropping of limestone bedrock.	0.60 m+
303	<b>Field clearance deposit or collapse from wall 304?</b> —light greyish brown silty clay with common limestone fragments <0.50 m.	0.14 m–0.36 m
304	<b>Field wall</b> —NE to SW aligned dry stone wall of irregular limestone <0.50 m. Wall is roughly coursed and faced.	37 m+ x 1.20 m x 0.34 m
305	<b>Field-boundary? Lawnshed</b> — NE to SW aligned field bank of light greyish brown silty clay with common limestone fragments <0.15 m.	1.60 m+ x 2 m x 0.22 m

Trench 4	Ground Level SE end: 59.83 m above OD; NE end: 61.11 m above OD	Dimensions: 20 m x 1.60 m Max Depth: 0.60 m
Context	Description	Depth/dimensions
400	<b>Turf &amp; Topsoil</b> —dark greyish brown silty clay loam with rare fragments of limestone <0.20 m. Frequent roots.	0–0.30 m
401	<b>Field clearance or remains of field wall</b> —spread of irregular limestone rubble <0.30 m. Stones were roughly placed onto the northern slope of an existing field bank.	1 m+ x 1.60 m+ x 0.20 m
402	<b>Field clearance or remains of field wall</b> — spread of irregular limestone rubble, roughly placed immediately to the south of field bank. Fragments were irregular and <0.25m.	1.30 m+ x 1.60 m+ x 0.15 m+
403	<b>Remnant topsoil</b> —mid greyish brown silty clay loam with rare irregular limestone fragments <0.05 m. Grass roots visible throughout deposit.	1.40 m+ x 1.60 m+ x 0.20 m
404	<b>Field bank/lynchet</b> —mid yellowish brown sandy clay with common irregular limestone and chert fragments <0.03 m. Upper part of deposit also contains sparse limestone fragments <0.20 m.	3 m x 1.60 m+ x 0.20 m
405	<b>Buried soil</b> —mid greyish brown silty clay loam with rare irregular limestone fragments <0.15 m.	3 m x 1.60 m+ x 0.12 m
406	<b>Basal layer of field bank/lynchet</b> —mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent flint/chert <0.35 m and rare limestone <0.15 m.	2.80 m x 1.60 m+ x 0.18 m
407	<b>Colluvium</b> —mid yellowish brown silty clay loam with common irregular flint/chert <0.50 m.	3 m+ x 1.60 m+ x 0.12 m
408	<b>Relict soil</b> —mid yellowish brown silty clay with rare irregular flint/chert <0.20 m	3 m+ x 1.60 m+ x 0.10 m
409	<b>Relict soil</b> —mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent irregular flint/chert <0.30 m.	0.50–0.60 m
410	<b>Relict soil</b> —mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent irregular flint/chert <0.20 m.	0.20–0.35 m
411	<b>Natural</b> —mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone outcrops.	0.60 m+

Trench 5	Ground Level: S end: 61.22 m above OD; N end: 59.75 m above OD	Dimensions: 20 m x 1.60 m Max Depth: 1.05 m
Context	Description	Depth/dimensions
500	<b>Topsoil</b> —dark brown silty clay loam with rare limestone fragments <0.05 m.	0–0.12 m
501	<b>Made ground</b> —yellowish brown silty clay loam with rare limestone fragments <0.04 m.	0.12–0.34 m
502	<b>Made ground</b> —yellowish brown silty clay with common limestone fragments <0.25 m.	0.10–0.90 m
503	<b>Lynchet soil</b> —dark grey clay loam with rare irregular limestone fragments <0.03 m. Very rare limestone blocks <0.08–0.10m.	0.95–1.10 m
504	<b>Lynchet soil</b> —mid yellowish grey clay with rare limestone fragments <0.08 m.	1.00–1.06 m
505	<b>Natural</b> —mid yellowish brown clay with sparse irregular limestone outcrops.	0.60 m+
506	<b>Buried soil/ colluvium</b> —dark yellowish brown clay loam with rare irregular limestone fragments <0.02 m.	0.06–0.90 m

Trench 6	Ground Level: West end: 61.83 m above OD; East end: 61.56 m above OD	Dimensions: 20 m x 1.60 m Max Depth: 0.90 m
Context	Description	Depth/dimensions
600	<b>Topsoil</b> —dark yellowish brown silty loam with occasional fragments of limestone <0.10 m and occasional flint fragments <0.10 m. Frequent roots.	0–0.25 m
601	<b>Made ground</b> —yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments <0.015 m and occasional flint fragments <0.05 m.	0.25–0.50 m
602	<b>Buried topsoil</b> —mid brown silty clay loam with occasional limestone fragments <0.15m and rare charcoal flecks.	0.50–0.80 m
603	<b>Relist soil</b> —mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments <0.10 m.	0.80–0.90 m
604	<b>Natural</b> —mid yellowish brown silty clay with very frequent limestone outcrops.	0.90 m+

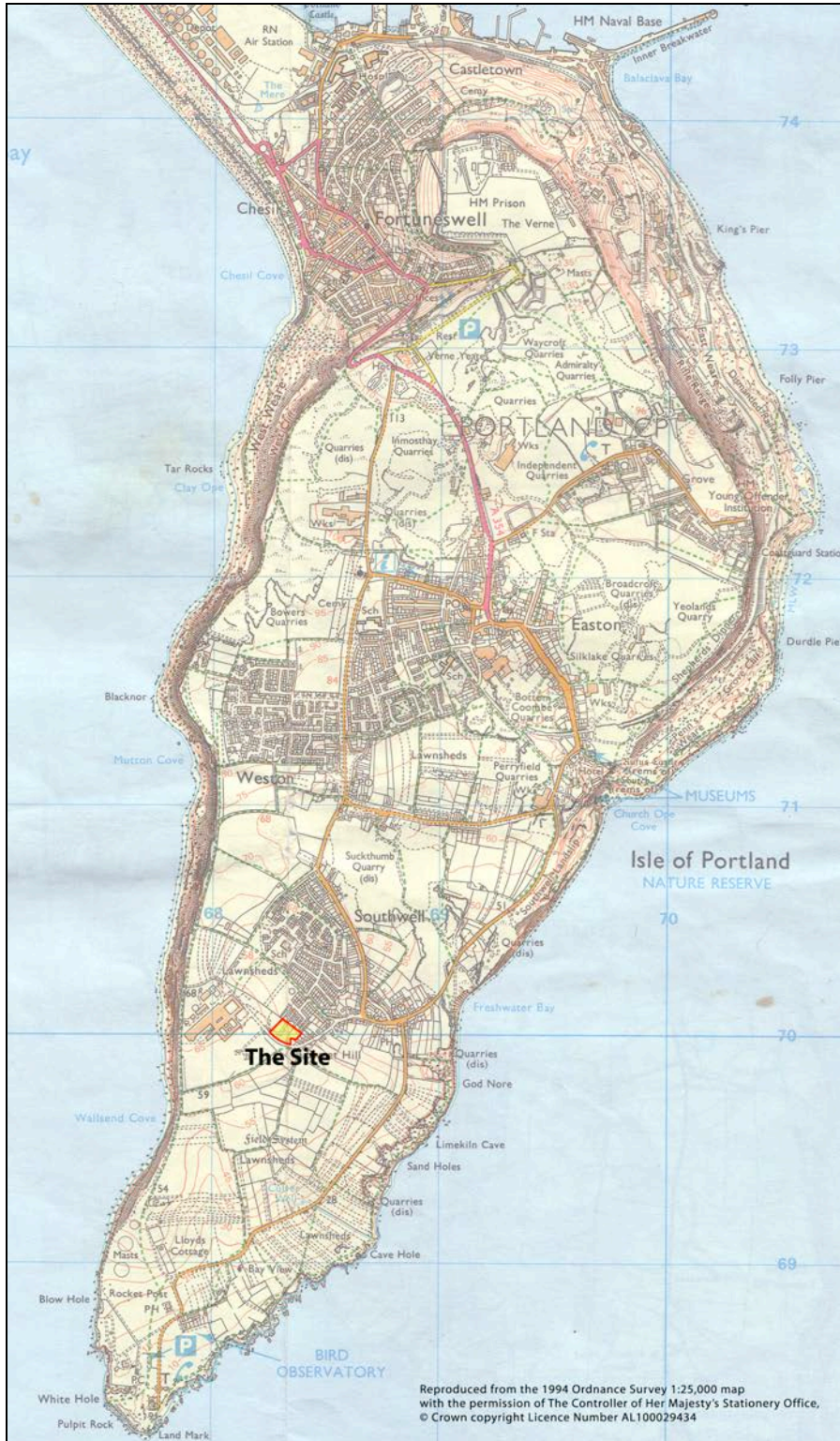


Figure 1: Location Map



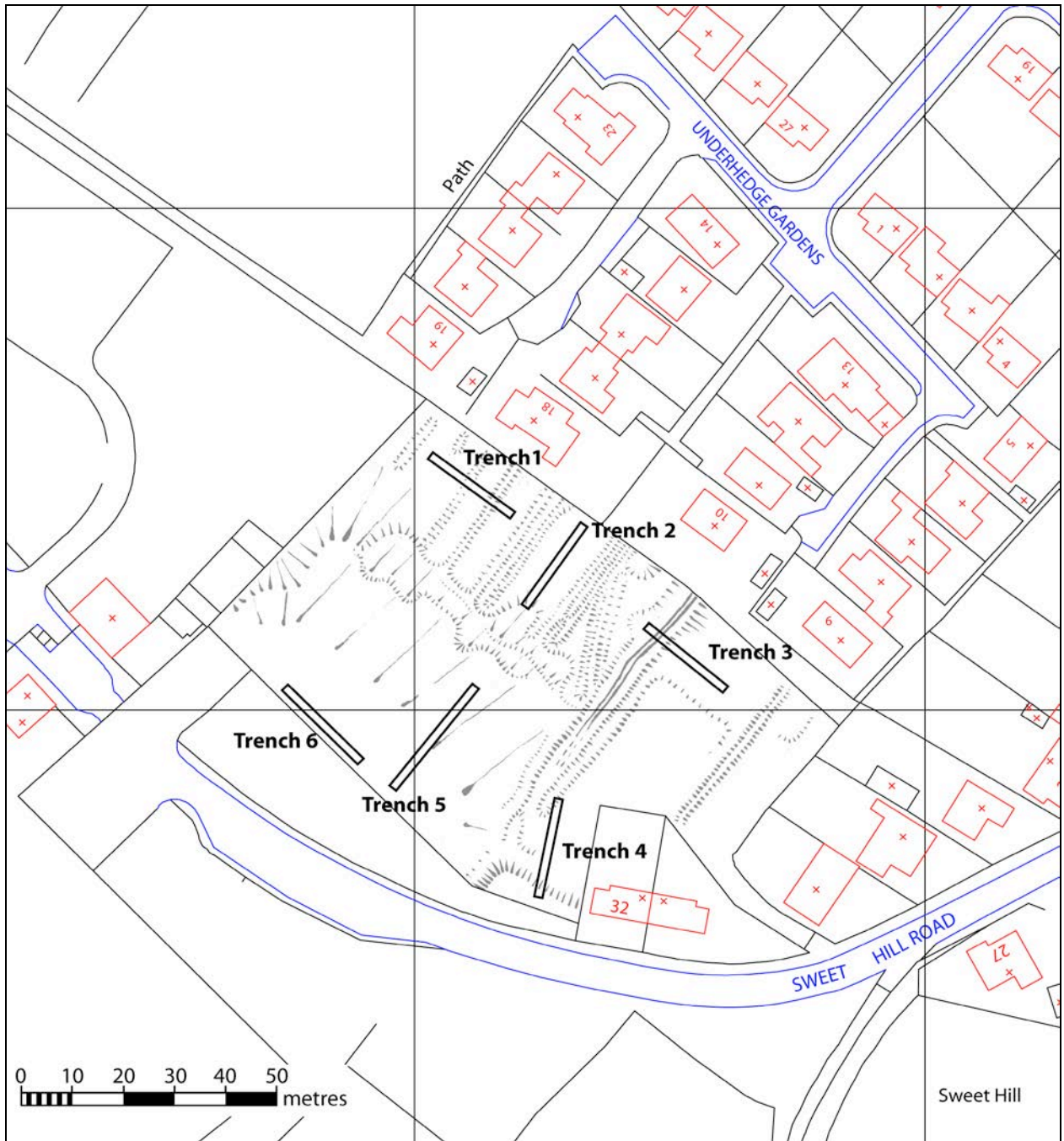


Figure 2: Plan of earthworks and location of evaluation trenches (Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Superplan Data Drawing No. 19121888, ©Crown copyright 2002. All Rights reserved)

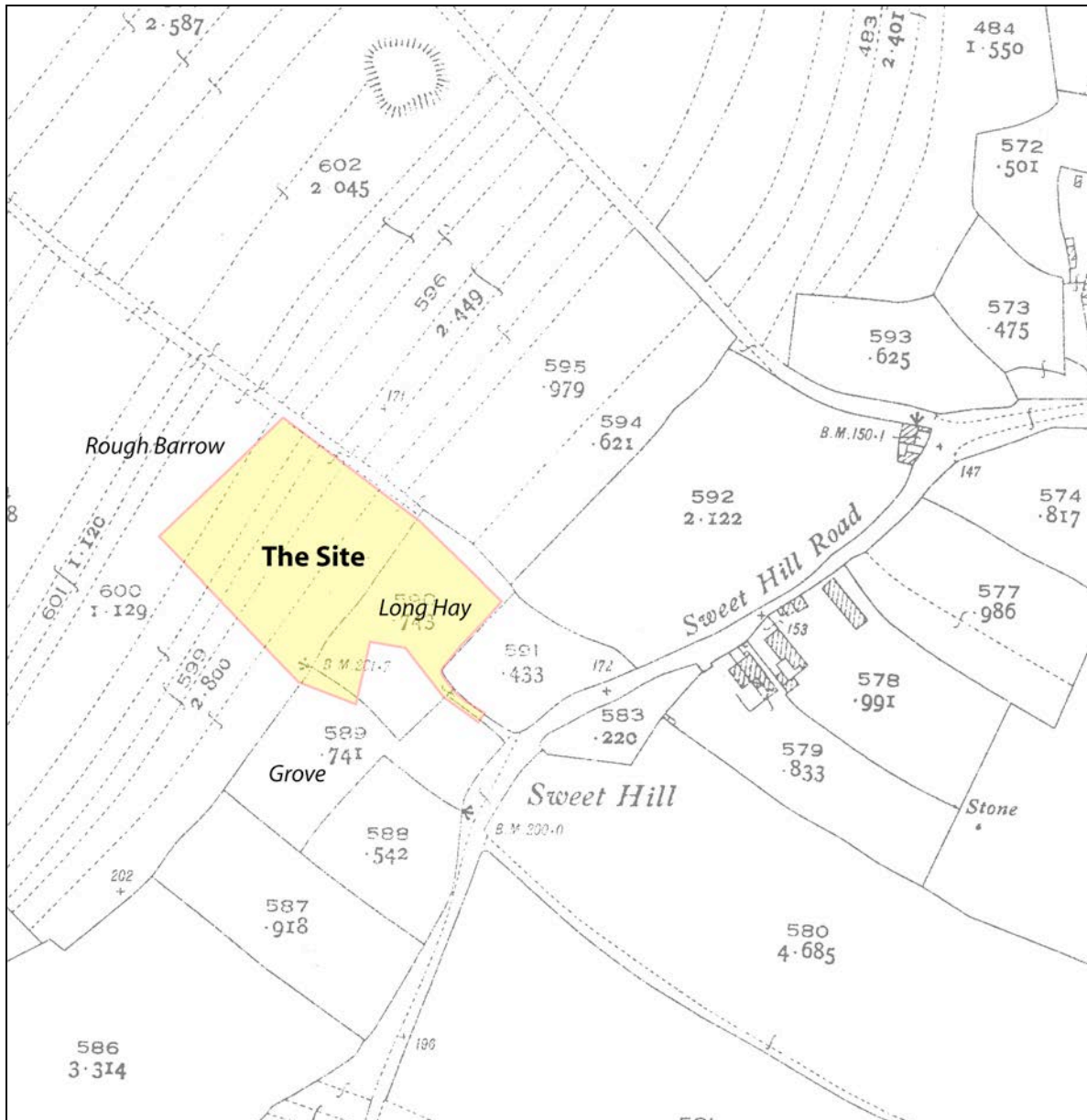


Figure 3: Extract from 1929 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (© Crown Copyright)

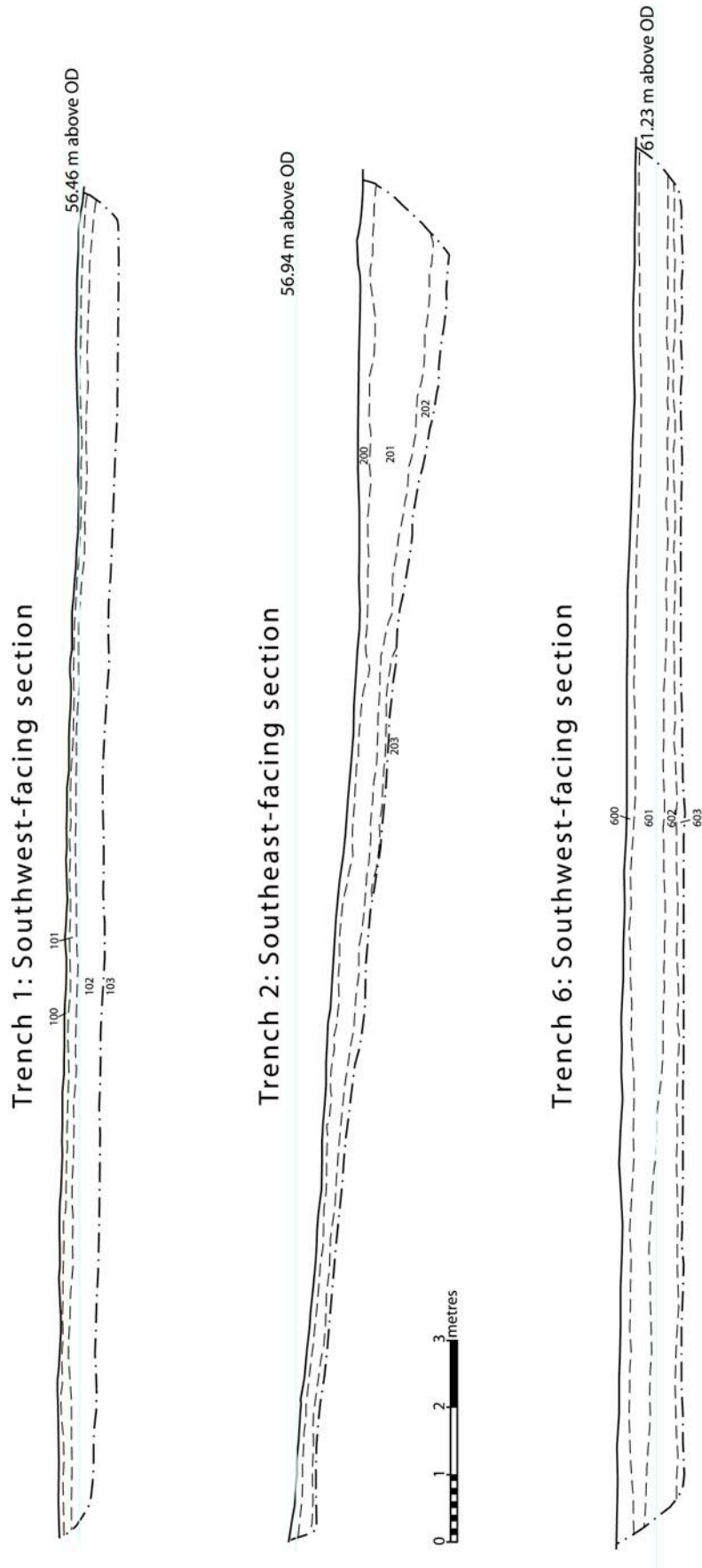


Figure 4: Sections of Trenches 1, 2, and 6

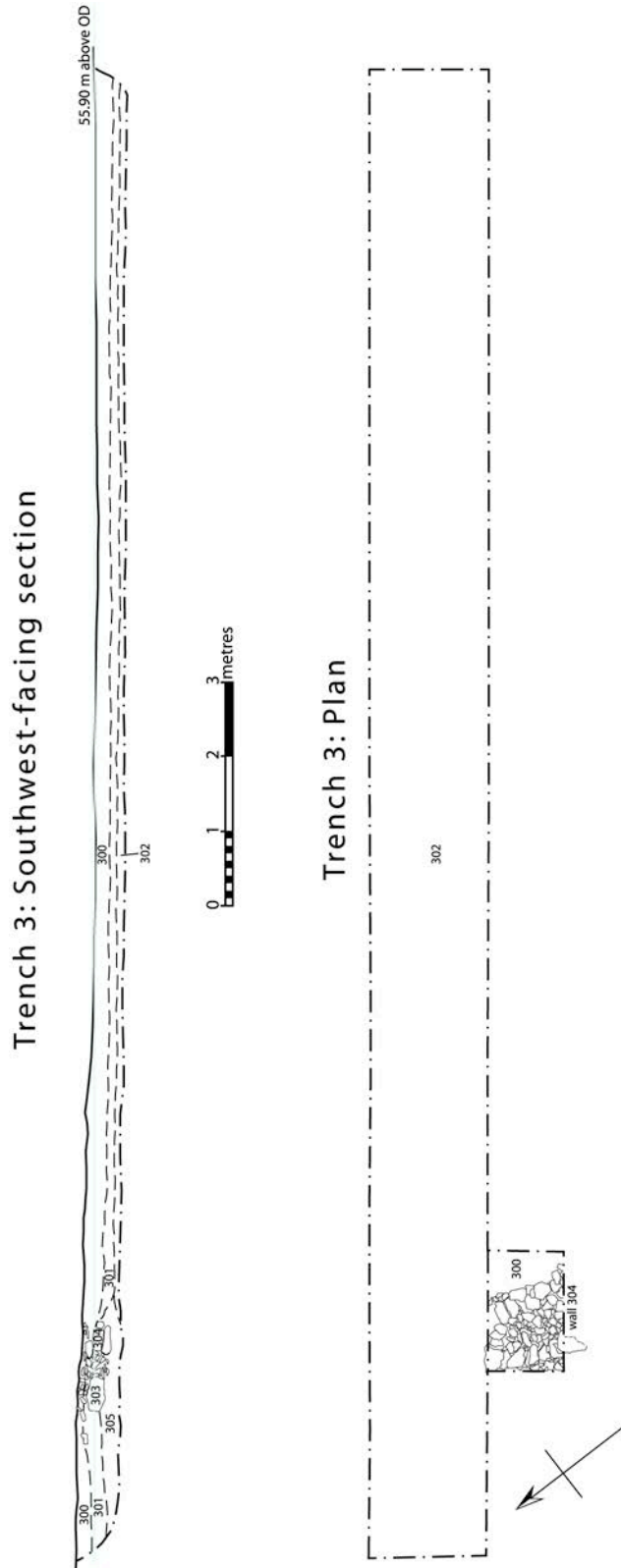


Figure 5: Plan and section of Trench 3

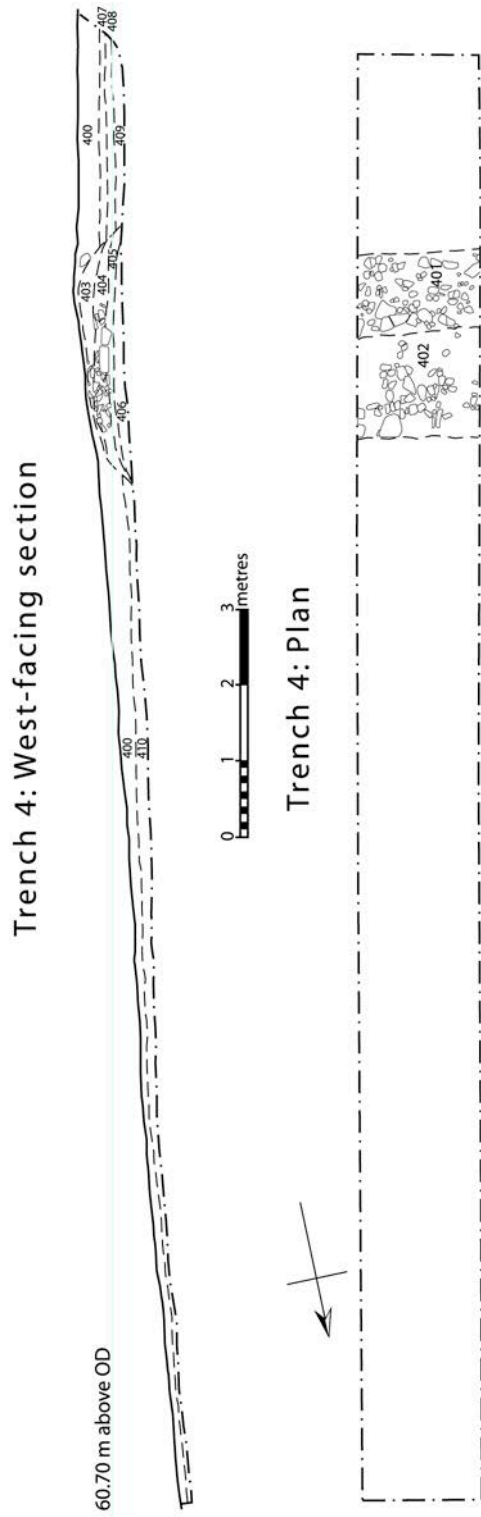


Figure 6: Plan and section of Trench 4

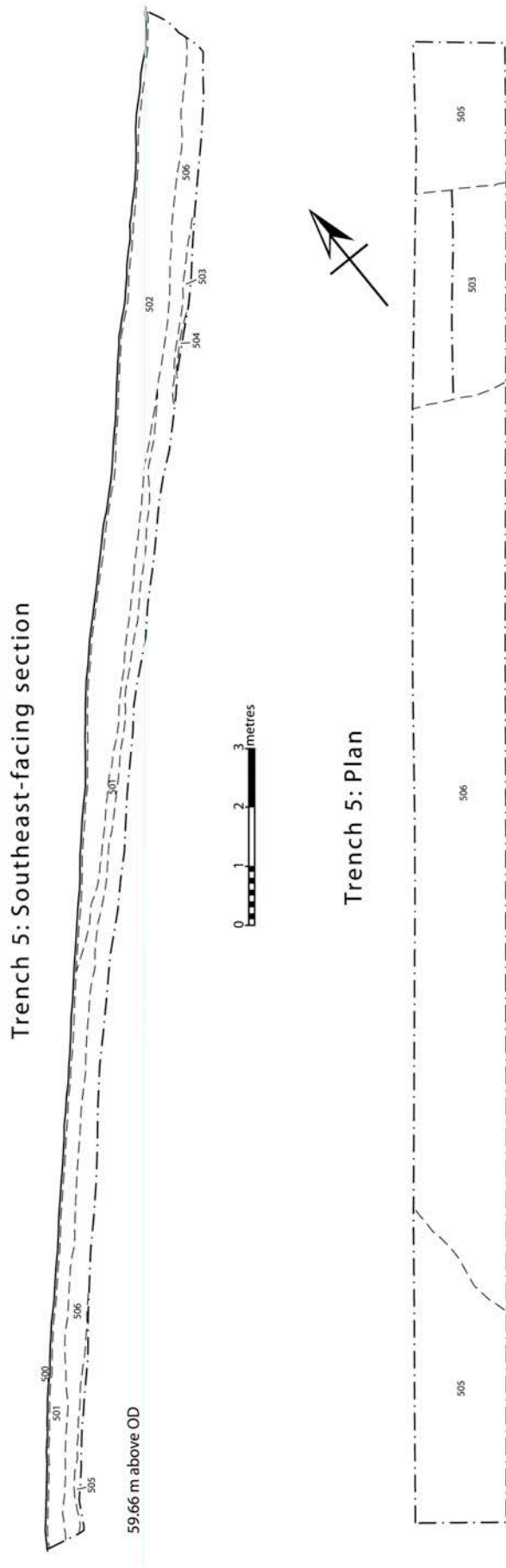


Figure 7: Plan and section of Trench 5