

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Francis Jackson Homes Ltd

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LAND AT ASHBY ROAD, GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, and Monitoring and Recording

G Trimble

LAND AT ASHBY ROAD, GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

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Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation & Monitoring and Recording

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LAND AT ASHBY ROAD, GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD EXCAVATION & MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological investigation undertaken on land off Ashby Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire. The project was commissioned by Francis Jackson Homes Ltd in response to a condition of planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation followed by Monitoring Recording during development groundworks. The work followed on from an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation undertaken in January 2015.

The site lies on the east side of the Ashby Road, close to the northern limits of Gilmorton, on land formerly occupied by buildings and yards forming Goodman's Farm. Two discrete areas were subjected to open area excavation (designated Areas A and B) extending over a total of 1650m². The subsequent programme of Monitoring and Recording was maintained during groundworks on the eastern side of the development.

Remains spanning the Roman to Modern periods were present on the site, but the majority of features recorded during the investigations appear to date from the 12th to 13th centuries, with some activity extending into the 14th century. Evidence for a Roman presence in the area is restricted to a single sherd of probable greyware pottery occurring residually in the fill of a medieval feature interpreted as a probable well. The main phase of activity, concentrated in the 12th and 13th centuries, was represented by two pennanular gullies of uncertain function, a curvilinear ditch, an oven or hearth, a possible well and a pit which may have served an industrial function. A near complete vessel was recovered from a linear feature attributed to the same phase. A series of closely spaced ditches and/or gullies approximately aligned with an extant field boundary to the north of the site may have originated at a slightly earlier date, with elements possibly surviving to form a boundary to the activity associated with the pennanular gullies and other features dated as 12th to 13th century. Although there was no definite evidence of structural remains, apart from a small number of scattered postholes, the quantity and quality of the finds assemblage (in particular, the pottery) suggests close proximity to areas of habitation, most likely in the form of dwellings extending along a medieval precursor to Ashby Road. The features could have originated from craft and domestic activity connected with occupation, and/or from agricultural activities.

At a later stage, possibly in the 13th or 14th century, it would appear that a rectilinear system of boundaries was laid out across the site (possibly in response to the depopulation of the area in the later 13th/14th century), probably forming a complex of closes on the periphery of the settlement. An area of metalling dated to the 14th to 16th century probably represents an area of hardstanding, possibly associated with a farmyard. A sizeable area in the northern part of the site had been truncated by an extraction pit (probably digging for clay) at some time after the 14th century. Evidence from aerial photography suggests that parts of the ridge and furrow earthworks located immediately north of the site have been truncated by the extraction pit.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and subsequent programme of Monitoring and Recording at the former Goodman's Farm, Ashby Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire. The project was commissioned by Francis Jackson Homes Ltd and was carried out in response to a planning condition imposed by Leicestershire County Council in advance of a housing development. The excavation followed a trial trench evaluation undertaken in December 2014. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Witham Archaeology and approved by the local authority Planning Archaeologist.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (Figs. 1 & 2)

The site is located on the northern edge of the village of Gilmorton, Leicestershire (Figures 1 & 2), centred on NGR SP 570 882. To the south and southeast the site is bounded by existing residential properties including an 18th century farmhouse, Clay Walls, while to the west it is bounded by Ashby Road. Open pasture fields lie to the north and northeast. At the time of the excavation, the site had recently been cleared of buildings and yards comprising the former Goodman's Farm.

The site lies at an elevation of around 145m OD, on a gradual downward slope to the south. The general topography of the area comprises low rolling hills. The underlying geology consists of boulder clay (British Geological Survey, England & Wales, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000, Sheet 141).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A comprehensive account of the archaeological and historical background was presented in an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) undertaken in March 2013 (Trimble, 2013). The assessment collated historic, cartographic and archaeological data for an assessment area of 1km radius, centred on the proposed development.

The place-name Gilmorton, designated 'Mortone' in the Domesday Book of 1086, is believed to be Old English in origin, deriving from *mor* (marshy) and *tun*, indicating a settlement, village or place. By 1249 it was Aurea Morton and in 1327 Gilden Morton. The later epithet Gilden probably derives from the Old English *gylden* (wealthy or splendid), which no doubt reflects the village's development in the medieval period (Ekwall 1980, 196). The manor was held by Robert de Vesce at the time of the Domesday book. By the 13th century it was held by the Harcourts from the earl of Warwick and later the Ferrers family. In the 15th century the manor passed into the possession of the Hazelrigg family. [SOURCE]

The only evidence of prehistoric activity in the assessment area consists of a Bronze Age spearhead found by a metal detectorist just south of Home Farm (HER MLE6441), while the only find of Roman date was a tile (*pila*) found south of Gilmorton Spinney (HER MLE 7836).

Two find spots of medieval date are recorded in the Leicestershire HER. Part of a medieval spoon was found southwest of Farm View (HER MLE6990) and metal detecting northwest of Parsons Barn Farm recovered a medieval annular brooch (MLE 10305). Earthworks comprising a scheduled monument (DLE 292) lie west of the church in Gilmorton. Individual components of the scheduled monument include a motte castle (MLE 1535), a moat to the north-west (HER MLE 1537), house platforms to the south (HER, MLE 1536) and two fishponds below them (HER 1538). Motte castles were introduced by the Normans in the immediate post conquest era and continued to be built into the 13th century. They served as garrison forts during offensive military operations, as strongholds, and, in many cases, as aristocratic residences and as centres of local or royal administration.

Located in the northern part of the village and approximately 125m southwest of the development on Ashby Lane is an earthwork of possible medieval date (HER LME 1540). The earthwork may represent an enclosure.

Cropmarks of uncertain date are located to the north of the assessment area. At Gilmorton Spinney an irregular, undated cropmark enclosure (HER LME 17859) is visible on aerial photographs whilst cropmarks of old field boundaries are recorded west of Flat House Farm (HER MLE 1197). Two archaeological interventions in Gilmorton village are recorded in the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record - a watching brief during groundworks for an extension at the Gilmorton Chandler Church of

England Primary School in Church Lane and trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of Ivanhoe House, Main Street. No significant archaeological remains were identified [HER REFS]

The parish of Gilmorton was enclosed in 1777 but there are no surviving copies of the map accompanying the award. Three structures contained within a yard or enclosure are shown on the First Series Ordnance Survey Map of 1835, at the approximate location of Goodman's Farm. The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County map of 1886 shows the farm in greater detail, with buildings arranged on three sides around a yard opening to the south. The buildings are set within an approximately square plot of land with open ground extending to the east and north. The buildings appear relatively unchanged on the 1:2500 map of 1963, except for the presence of newer structures to the north and west.

The programme of trial trenching carried out in 2014 (Trimble 2015) identified medieval remains on the western and eastern sides of the site. The remains included shallow linear features and possible postholes on the western side of the site, adjacent to Ashby Road and a ditch containing twenty two sherds of pottery on the eastern side of the site. A broad cut to the west of the ditch was interpreted as a possible furrow, or as boundary between blocks of ridge and furrow.

A large cut identified in the northwestern part of the site was interpreted as an extraction pit. The evaluation also demonstrated severe truncation in the central and northern parts of the site resulting from the construction of the former farm buildings and associated yards and surfaces.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal aims and objectives of the excavation were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation dated 10th April 2015. They were to:

- investigate the archaeological remains which survive on the site in order to determine their date, character and function and to reveal the nature of occupation at the site.
- record the stratigraphic sequence of the archaeological deposits at the site with a view to reconstructing the chronology of occupation.
- integrate the stratigraphic and contextual record with artefactual and ecofactual information to reconstruct and elucidate any changes in the nature of occupation.
- produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.

5.0 METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2, Plates 1, 2, 3 &4)

The Written Scheme of Investigation provided for the excavation of two separate areas (Fig. 2): Area A, which was located in the southern part of the site covering an area of 423m², and Area B, which was located in the northwestern part of the site covering an area of 1225m². The actual area investigated in Area B was significantly reduced (from 1720m² as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation) because of the need to avoid overhead power cables following Ashby Road on the western side of the site and the need to maintain access from the only entrance located at the northwestern corner of the site, on Ashby Road. The latter area was assessed through three machine excavated sondages, which confirmed that a large quarry had removed any other evidence of archaeological activity in the area.

Both of the areas were located in parts of the site where surviving archaeological features had been identified during trial trenching (Trimble (2015)). Area A was located west of Trenches 2 and 3 where medieval ditches had been revealed, but included part of Trench 1 which contained the remains of two shallow undated gullies and an area of undated cobbling that possibly represented a trackway. Area A also included the areas of Trenches 5, 6 and 7 where numerous ditches and shallow gullies, as well as several post-holes and a pit were recorded.

Topsoil and subsoil stripping was carried out by 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Selected areas of the stripped surface were cleaned by hand and features of potential archaeological origin were then investigated by hand excavation to determine character, extent and date. The subsequent programme of monitoring and recording applied to all groundworks within the confines of the area depicted in Figure 2.

A record of the site was compiled through plans drawn at scale 1:20 and sections at 1:10, colour digital and monochrome (35mm) photographs, and individual written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets.

6.0 RESULTS

Eight phases of activity have been identified through analysis of the stratigraphic sequence and integration with information relating to the finds and environmental data. The illustrations accompanying the text include a plan depicting all recorded features (Fig. 3) and separate phase plans (Figs. 4, 7, 23, 26, 29, 34 and 37) grouped with more detail plans and sections as appropriate. Summary information from the trial trench evaluation (Figs. 2 & 3) has been integrated with the results of the open area excavations.

The recorded features have been assigned to eight different phases identified on the basis of associated dating, stratigraphic relationships and patterning in spatial layout.

Phase 1. Roman

Phase 2. Late Saxon/early medieval activity

Phase 3. Medieval settlement (c. 12th to 13th century)

Phase 4. Medieval (c. 12th to 13th century or later)

Phase 5. Medieval field system (c. 13th to 14th century)

Phase 6. Later medieval postholes and pits (c. 13th to 14th century or later)

Phase 7. Medieval to early post medieval (c. late 14th to 16th century)

Phase 8. Modern

6.1 Natural deposits.

Natural deposits over the site consisted of light reddish brown sandy clays containing occasional angular and sub rounded pebbles.

6.2 Phase 1 (Roman)

A single sherd of pottery recovered from the uppermost fill (901) of a medieval pit or well, [900] was identified as probably Romano-British greyware, although the fabric did have resemblances to pottery produced in the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman periods. Although the presence of the sherd suggests activity in the vicinity of the site, the possibility that it was imported from elsewhere cannot be discounted.

6.3 Phase 2 (Late Saxon/Earlier Medieval)

The investigations produced sparse evidence for Saxon-Norman activity, primarily in the form of two sherds of Saxo-Norman Torksey ware pottery from a single vessel, and eight sherds of Saxo-Norman to early medieval pottery, including St Neots-type and Stamford ware pottery.

A ditched boundary, aligned approximately north-south, and apparently recut and modified on several occasions, could represent an early element in the development of medieval settlement east of Ashby Road. Although the boundary was poorly dated (in terms of associated finds) it was clear that some of the ditches in the sequence were earlier than elements of the stratigraphy attributed to Phase 3. There is, however, a strong possibility that the boundary was maintained into Phase 3, and the latest ditches in the

sequence may have persisted until a major realignment of the landscape was carried out later in the medieval period – as represented by ditches [950]/[513] and [942/503] attributed to Phase 5.

The boundary attributed to Phase 2 comprised six parallel (in some cases intercutting) ditches and/or gullies - [956], [954], [952], [944], [946], and [948] - running approximately north-northeast to south-southwest (Figs. 4 and 5) and a seventh gully, [511], on the same alignment. The latter was relatively short and located further to the west. The main sequence of ditches/gullies, recorded for a distance of around 16m and extending to a combined width of around 7.5m, was truncated by later quarrying, [1033], to the north and by an area of modern disturbances, [1034], to the south. No datable artefacts were recovered from the features but they were cut by a gully, [969M], attributed to the succeeding Phase 3, and by north-south ditches allocated to Phase 5. The boundary, which was probably maintained over a long period of time, entailing several episodes of recutting and alteration in the line of the ditch/gully, was on a different alignment to all of the other linear features recorded on the site. Although the gullies or ditches on the western side of the sequence had been truncated by the gully attributed to Phase 3 it is possible that some of the elements in the sequence continued to function as a boundary until the laying out of a rectilinear system of enclosures (designated Phase 5).

Three gullies on the eastern side of the sequence - [944], [946] and [948] - were intercutting, but it was not possible, given the homogeneity of their fills, to establish the relationships between them (Fig. 5). The largest of the three, [946], located to the centre of the group, measured 1.16m wide by 0.48m deep, extending for a distance of 12.90m. It had a concave, bowl shaped profile (Fig. 6 Section 131, Plate 5) and was filled by a homogenous deposit (945) of compact mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent angular stones (mostly flint) up to 50mm across and moderate rounded stones up to 40mm across. A smaller ditch, [948], on the east side of [946] was 0.97m wide by 0.35m deep (Fig 6 Section 131, Plate 5), extending for a maximum distance of 12.31m. Its fill, (947), was indistinguishable from that of the neighbouring ditch, [946]. West of [946], gully [944] was 0.54m wide by 0.22m deep, extending south for a distance of 11.25m to a rounded terminal (Fig. 6 Section 131). The feature had a concave, bowl shaped profile and was filled by stony mid yellowish brown clayey sand, (943), which had similar characteristics to the fills of ditches [946] and [948].

Immediately west of the three gullies described above, lay ditch [952]. The latter terminated at a point just north of the excavated segment, where it was partially truncated by a gully, [950], forming part of the Phase 5 field system (Fig. 5). The surviving extent was just 50mm deep, by 0.65m to 1.25m wide (narrowing from north to south) by 12.70m long (Fig. 6 Section 134, Plate 6). It was filled by a homogenous deposit of compact mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent rounded stones up to 20mm and occasional angular stones up to 30mm (951). A Neolithic flint blade flake was recovered from this context.

To the west of [952], Ditch [954] extended for a distance of 15.05m, averaging around 1.10m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 5). In profile (Fig. 6 Section 135, Plate 7), the ditch had sides sloping at 45° to a sharply concave base. It was filled by a moderately compacted mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent angular and rounded stones up to 40mm diameter (953).

Situated just 0.50m west of Ditch [954], a short length of gully, [956], appears to have formed a southward continuation of Gully [509] recorded in Trial Trench 5 (Trimble 2015, p. 5; Fig. 12, Section 6). Including a gap of around 0.40m between the two lengths of the gully, the feature extended over a distance of 4.81m. Measuring 0.33m wide (max.) by just 50mm deep (Fig. 6 Section 136, Plate 7), it had a shallow, concave profile and was filled by moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent angular and rounded stones up to 20mm in diameter (955).

6.4 Phase 3. Medieval Settlement (c. 12th to 13th century)

The majority of activity recorded on the site appears to have been concentrated in the 12th to 13th centuries.

Features assigned to Phase 3 were recorded in both Areas A and B (Fig. 7). The features in Area B included two pennanular gullies [960M] and [969M], a ditch [909], a probable well [900], a large pit [1019], two short linear features [913M] and [981M] and a group of three linear gullies. The features recorded in Area A included a possible hearth and a group of pits and post-holes.

Area A

Phase 3 features recorded in Area A (Fig. 8) included a possible hearth or oven, three large postholes or possible pits and a smaller feature likely to represent a posthole. Some of these features, lying in close proximity to one another, in the central part of Area A, may have related to a structure (possibly a shelter of some sort) containing the hearth or oven. Given that only two sherds of pottery were recovered from the group of features as a whole, the dating of 12th-13th must be considered tenuous.

Hearth or oven [816] (Figs. 7 – 9; Plates 8 - 10)

Hearth or oven [816] was located towards the centre of Area A (Fig. 7). Irregular in plan but generally ovoid (Fig. 8 & Plates 8 & 9) with a projection at its southern end, it was aligned south-southwest to north-northeast on its long axis, and was 3.18m in length by 1.14m in maximum width by just 70mm deep (owing to severe truncation). Its sides were very gently sloped whilst the base was generally level along the long axis (Fig. 9, Section 110) but slightly concave across the width (Fig. 9, Section 109). A patch of hard fired clay, (815), sub-square in plan and located on the base of the cut, may have been the remnant of a lining (Fig. 8). The clay was hard and compacted, and fired to a deep purple colour, with some patches of deep red. It measured 30mm in thickness and varied between 0.35m and 0.40m across. A probable posthole, [834], which lay towards the centre of the southern part of the feature (Fig. 8) may have been related in some way but its precise function was not apparent. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter and 80mm in depth, with sides sloping at 45° to a base that was slightly concave (Fig. 9, Section 111). Its fill, (833) was a soft mid greyish brown and black (owing to the charcoal content) silty sand, with large patches of charcoal and pieces fine charcoal occurring throughout. It contained occasional small rounded stones. The probable hearth or oven was filled by loose to moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt (814) containing occasional ‘cobbles’ up to 100mm in diameter and occasional angular stones up to 50mm. A single sherd of pottery dating to between the 12th and 13th centuries was recovered from the deposit. [ENVIRO]

Post-holes [820], [822], [824] & [845] and probable pit [845]

West of the postulated hearth or oven [816] were four circular features - [820], [822], [824] and [845] – interpreted as probable post-holes (Figs. 7 & 8). A larger circular feature [818] could either be a pit or a post-hole. The features appeared to be randomly distributed and did not form a discernible pattern consistent with a structure.

The northernmost of the group, posthole [820], was circular in plan, measuring 0.38m in diameter and 0.30m in depth, with sides sloping steeply to a narrow and concave base (Fig. 10, Section 115; *Plate 11*). It was filled by moderately compacted and friable mid brown silty sand (819) containing a moderate quantity of rounded stones up to 20mm in diameter.

On the western side of the group, post-hole or pit [822] was oval in plan, measuring 0.7m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.14m in depth (Fig. 8). Its sides sloped at 45° to a concave base (Fig. 10, Section 113; *Plate 12*). Large stones found across the base of the cut were probably used as post packing. The fill was a moderately compacted and friable mid brown silty sand, (821), containing occasional rounded stones up to 30mm diameter and occasional rounded stones up to 120mm diameter.

Further to the south, pit or possible post-hole [824] was circular in plan, measuring 0.70m in diameter by 0.10m in depth (Fig. 8), with a slightly deepening to one side of the cut (Fig. 10, Section 114; *Plate 13*). Overall, the sides were very gradually sloped whilst the base was concave. It was filled by a moderately compacted and friable mid brown silty sand containing occasional rounded stones up to 20mm and large rounded stones up to 0.15m, (823).

The southernmost of the group, probable post-hole [845] was only partially revealed, with its southern side extending beyond the limit of excavation (Fig. 8). The visible extent was hemispherical in plan, measuring 0.3m in width and 0.32m in depth. Its sides sloped very steeply to a sharply concave base (Fig. 33, Section 120) and it was filled by a moderately compacted and friable mid brown silty sand (844) containing occasional large rounded stones up to 0.15m and pebbles up to 20mm.

Situated 1.25m west of hearth or oven [816], probable pit [818] was sub-oval in plan, measuring 1.27m in length, 0.95m in maximum width and 0.30m in depth, with a very steep (near vertical) north side and steep south side (Fig. 10, Section 112; *Plate 15*). It was filled by moderately compacted mid greyish

brown sand (817) containing a moderate quantity of pebbles up to 50mm in diameter and occasional larger pebbles up to 0.15m in diameter. The latter may have served as post packing. A single sherd of pottery, dated as 12th to 13th century, was recovered from the deposit.

Area B

Pennanular gullies [960M] and [969M] (Figs 7, 11, 12, 13 & 14) (Plates 16-19)

Two intercutting pennanular gullies - [960M] and [969M] – were located centrally in Area B (Figs. 7 and 11), the earlier gully, [960M], lying slightly to the southwest of the later one [969M]. Although the pennanular gullies were similar in terms of their shapes in plan, it would appear that the later feature, [969M], was linked in to a linear gully aligned east-west and adjoining to the northeast. The features produced pottery dating from the 12th to 13th centuries.

The earlier feature, [960M] was 5m across, as measured between the outer edges of the gully, and 3.90m across the interior (Fig. 11, *Plate 16*), and displayed a consistent curve around its circuit indicating that it was measured and laid out with a degree of care. The opening on the southwest side was at most 1.85m wide, but it might have been narrower prior to truncation by the later gully, [969M]. The gully varied in width around its circuit, from a minimum of 0.34m to a maximum of 0.81m on its northeast side. This variation almost certainly reflects its position on a slight west facing slope, with deeper overlying topsoil and subsoil over lower ground to the west (possibly indicating deeper plough truncation) and better levels of preservation on the higher ground to the east. It varied correspondingly in depth (Fig. 12 Sections 151, 152, 153, 154 and 156) from a minimum of 70mm near the terminals located on the western side (Fig 12, Sections 151 and 156) to a maximum of 0.38m on the eastern side (Fig. 12, Section 153).

The sloping side at the end of the surviving southern terminal of the gully, [994], clearly demonstrated that the feature terminated at this point and did not simply ‘fade out’ as a result of plough truncation.

The primary fill of the gully - (962), (964), (966), 968, (989), (1028), (997), and (995) was a firm mid grey silty sand containing moderately frequent to frequent gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm in size. On the better preserved northeast side of the gully (Fig. 12 Section 153), the primary fill, (989), was overlain by loosely compacted yellowish orange sand mixed with mid grey silty sand and clay containing frequent small and medium sized stones and flint up to 80mm diameter (1029). The deposit appeared to comprise a mix of silty sand and redeposited natural. It was sealed by loosely compacted mid grey sand 80mm thick (1030). Seven small sherds of abraded pottery dating to the 12th or 13th centuries were recovered from the gully fills.

The later pennanular gully, [969M], (Fig. 11, *Plate 17*) was open on the western side, in contrast to [960M], which formed a more complete circuit. The opening was 4.26m wide, while the interior measured 3.41m from midway between the terminals to the eastern internal edge of the gully. The gully ranged in size from only 0.29m wide by 0.1m deep at the southern terminal (Fig. 13, Section 133) to 0.75m wide by up to 0.46m deep at the northern terminal. The remainder of the circuit averaged 0.48m wide (increasing to 0.63m on the east side), and varied between 0.25m and 0.35m in depth (Fig. 13, Sections 147, 148, and 149). At the northern terminal, the cut ‘bulbed’ out slightly and deepened to 0.46m west of a slight rise in the level of the base (Fig. 13, Section 157).

The northern side of pennanular gully [969] merged with the western end of an east – west aligned linear gully, excavated under the same master number. The linear gully, which extended in an easterly direction for 10m, was regular and straight for most of its length, but kinked northwards at a point 2.60m from its eastern terminal. It averaged 0.60m wide (increasing to up to 0.70m wide at either end) by 0.30m deep, increasing to 0.40m deep at the terminal (Fig. 14, Section 137) and 0.38m where it merged with the pennanular gully (Fig. 14, Section 150). It had consistently steep sides and a generally flat base (*Plates 18 and 19*),

The majority of the [969] was filled by firm mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent gravel and small flint and pebbles up to 10mm in size, as well as occasional stones averaging around 50mm in size. However, segment [992] located near the eastern end of the linear gully, revealed a sequence of three fills (Fig. 14, Section 138, *Plate 18*). The primary fill (1006) of soft, mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt, lining the base to a maximum thickness of 30mm, was overlain by a soft mid yellowish brown sandy silt (1005) containing occasional stones up to 10mm in diameter. The latter deposit was up to 50mm thick. The upper fill of loose to moderately compacted mid to dark greyish brown silty sand (993)

containing frequent rounded and angular stones up to 40mm in diameter was 0.20m thick. A combined assemblage of fourteen sherds of pottery dated as 12th to 13th century were recovered from the three fills.

Gullies [935], [1018] and [1035]

Three closely spaced and roughly parallel gullies aligned approximately east-west - [935], [1018] and [1035] - lay to the southeast of the two penannular gullies (Fig. 7). Gullies [1018] and [1035] converged to the east (Fig. 15), where they appeared to terminate and at the same time cut the Phase 2 ditch [954]. The southernmost of the gullies, [935], was truncated to the east by the trench for a modern drain.

The northernmost of the group, [1018], orientated east-west and measuring 3.75m long by 0.30m in average width, was 0.14m deep at the excavated eastern terminal (Fig. 16, Section 144; *Plate 20*) and had a concave, bowl shaped profile. It was filled by a mid to dark greyish brown silty sand (1017) containing a moderate quantity of rounded and angular stones up to 30mm in diameter.

Gully [1035] lay to the south of gully [1018] following a southwest-northeast alignment. It converged with [1018] at its eastern end but the stratigraphic relationship between the two features could not be determined. The gully was 4.60m long by an average of 0.54m wide, narrowing to a width of around 0.28m at its eastern end. It was 0.11m deep at its western end (Fig. 16, Section 160), where it had steeply sloped sides and a flat but irregular base. It was filled by firmly compacted mid grey silty sand (1036) containing frequent small and medium sized stones and flint up to 50mm in diameter.

The southernmost of the three gullies, [935], extended west from the point where it had been cut by the modern drain, and curved to the south as it approached the terminal to the west. Extending over a distance of 4.33m, it averaged around 0.35m wide and was 0.18m deep at the excavated terminal (Fig. 16, Section 132; *Plate 21*). With steep sides and a narrow concave base, it was filled by firmly compacted mid grey silty sand containing frequent small and medium sized stones and flint up to 50mm diameter. Eleven sherds of pottery dated 12th to 13th century were recovered from the fill.

Ditch [909]

A curving ditch [909] following an approximate north-to-south alignment (Figs. 7 and 17), was recorded in the area west of the two penannular gullies, extending over a distance of 23.50m. It was wider and deeper at its southern end, gradually narrowing and becoming less deep to the north. At its southern end, where it was 0.94m wide by 0.55m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a broad, slightly concave base (Fig. 18, Section 122; *Plate 22*) it was filled by light to mid reddish brown sandy silt containing occasional small pebbles (910). Forty three sherds of a Potter Marston ware storage jar dated as 12th to 13th century were found concentrated near the base, on the northeastern side of the cut. An additional eleven sherds of pottery from different vessels suggest a 12th century date for the assemblage as a whole. The fill also yielded approximately half of a plano-convex hearth bottom – a slag generated in the process of iron smithing. The object was large and heavy and unlikely to have move far from its original point of production, which suggests iron smithing in the immediate area.

Ditched feature [913M]

A short linear feature, [913M], aligned east – west was revealed in the southern part of Area B (Fig. 7). Measuring 6.33m long and averaging around 1.30m wide (Fig. 17), the feature was excavated in three segments - [914], [932] and [918]. The eastern terminal had been partly truncated by disturbances interpreted as relating to structures associated with Goodman's Farm. The feature was finds rich, producing a total of 139 pottery sherds including an almost complete vessel found at the base of the western terminal [132]. The pottery is broadly 12th to 13th century in date, although elements within the assemblage may support a tighter date range of later 12th to early 13th century.

The western terminal, [914], was 0.55m deep (Fig. 18, Section 123; *Plate 23*), with steep to gradually sloping sides and a generally concave but irregular base. It was filled with firmly compacted light to mid orangey brown sand (915) containing a moderate quantity of small stones and pea grit, together with occasional medium sized stones. On the base of the cut was an almost complete pottery Potter Marston Ware shouldered jar (917), which had a sooted exterior (*Plate 24*). Located 1.05m from the western end of the ditch and slightly north of the centre line, the pot lay directly on the natural, which suggests that it was deliberately placed there shortly after the feature was excavated. It was evident that the side of the ditch had been 'sculpted' to form a small niche and a vertical face against which the pot could rest, while additional support was provided by a stone placed against the south side of vessel, keeping it upright.

The fill of the pot was retained as an environmental sample but subsequent processing failed produce any information on the nature of the original contents (if any) or its use.

A segment, [932], excavated across the central part of the ditch (Fig. 17) revealed dimensions of 1.46m wide by 0.56m deep (Fig 18, Section 130 and *Plate 25*). Here, the ditch was steeply inclined on the south side, gradually sloped on the north side, with a broad and very gently concave base. It was filled by a firmly compacted light to mid orangey brown sand (933), which yielded 51 pottery sherds dated as 12th to 13th century. The main fill was partially sealed by a localised deposit (1010) of firm but crumbly mixed light to mid brown and mid brownish orange sand, concentrated on the south side of the feature, measuring 0.5m wide by 0.15m deep.

The easternmost segment, [918], was located within an area of modern disturbance masking the line of the ditch, which meant that although the feature appeared to turn slightly to the south this could not be established with certainty. The ditch was also considerably shallower than in segments excavated to the west, measuring 0.97m wide by 0.27m deep (Fig. 18, Section 129). It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was filled by a firm, light to mid orangey brown sand (919), which yielded twenty four sherds of pottery with a date range of 12th to 13th century. Truncating the ditch fill was a modern pit [1012], 0.57m wide by 0.17m deep.

Gully [981]

A short and shallow, north-south orientated linear gully, [981M], lay to the northwest of [913M] (Figs 7 & 17). Together, [981M] and [913M] might have formed the southwest corner of an enclosure. However, considerable differences between the ditches in terms of width and depth indicate that the spatial patterning is merely coincidental and they are unlikely to have been related in this way.

The gully was 0.65m wide by 0.12m deep at the northern end (at around 1m south of the terminus), in Segment [982], with gradually sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 18, Section 158) while at the southern end, Segment [984], it was 0.53m wide by 0.10m deep (at around 1m from the southern terminus), also with gradually sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 18 Section 159). It was filled by loose, light to mid grey sand (983) and (985) in Segments [982] and [984] respectively. A total of 6 pottery sherds was recovered from the feature, with a date range of 12th to 13th century.

The short length and lack of depth of the feature is probably the result of horizontal truncation.

Probable Well [900]

A probable well [900] was partly revealed at the western edge of Area B (Fig. 7), with the remainder of the feature located beyond the limit of excavation (Fig. 19). The morphological characteristics of the feature (circular in plan and relatively deep) suggest that it functioned as a well. The revealed portion was semi-circular in plan with a projection to the south, which appeared integral to the feature, possibly forming a point of access. The exposed portion measured 1.56m east-west by 3.43m north-south including the projection on the south side. Owing to safety considerations the feature was excavated in two stages (*Plate 26*), the first involving excavation of the exposed portion of the feature to a level 1.15m below the surface of the topsoil. Deeper excavation was then carried out in a quadrant located on the eastern side of the feature, thereby avoiding the creation of a steep vertical face. Sections through deposits in the upper and lower stages are presented in separate drawings (Figure 20, Sections 125 & 142).

The base of the cut lay at a depth of 2.80m below existing ground level (from the surface of the topsoil). The sides of the cut were gently sloping on the northern and eastern sides, to a depth of around 0.3m, while the south side broke to a flat base within the limits of the southward projection. The sides became steep, before breaking to vertical at around 0.80m above the base, which was flat. The primary fill, (1008), lining the base of the cut to a uniform depth of 80mm, and consisting of soft very dark grey silt containing occasional small stones, was waterlogged and lay below the level of the water table at the time of excavation. It was sealed by firmly compacted light to mid grey sandy silt containing occasional small and medium sized stones, (1007). The deposit had an average thickness of 0.30m and extended to just above the level of ground water. Slumped against the south side of the cut and sealing (1008) was a firmly compacted light beige brown sandy silt, (931), containing occasional small pebbles and charcoal. The deposit had a maximum depth of 0.38m and a maximum width of 0.27m. It was sealed by a lens of orangey yellow clay and gravel 30mm thick (925). Above the clay and gravel lens, (925), was a thick

deposit, (924), of firm, light beige brown sandy silt containing occasional small pebbles and charcoal. The deposit averaged 0.35m thick, increasing to 1.0m where it rose up the south side of the cut.

Above (924) lay a sequence of relatively shallow deposits - (923), (922), (921) and (920) – slumping towards the centre of the feature and extending into the projection on its south side. The earliest deposit in the sequence, (923), a soft, mid to dark grey silt containing occasional charcoal flecks, was a maximum of 0.20m thick to the west, thinning to 50mm to the east. It was sealed by (922), a firm, orangey yellow mixture of clay and coarse sandy gravel containing occasional small pebbles. The deposit was a maximum of 80mm thick. Deposit (922) was sealed by a firm mid greyish brown sandy silt, (921), containing occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Within the main part of the cut, the deposit averaged around 0.25m thick, but thinned to just 70mm within the projection on the south side. The overlying deposit, (920), was a firm to hard orangey yellow sandy clay interspersed with patches of mid grey clay, mixed with silty sand. The deposit, which included occasional small stones up to 30mm in diameter, averaged 0.10m thick. The uppermost fill, (901), of firmly compacted mid to dark grey sandy silt containing a moderate quantity of small and medium sized stones and occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal measured 0.46m thick. Eleven sherds of pottery dated as 12th to 13th century were recovered from (901), together with a single sherd of probable Romano-British greyware pottery.

Pit [1019]

Pit [1019], located in the southeastern part of Area B (Figs. 7 and 21), was ovoid in plan, measuring 1.70m along its long, southwest-northeast, axis by 1.32m wide and 1.28m deep. The sides of the pit were initially steep, giving way to a slight undercut at around mid-depth, and an outwardly bowed or bulb shaped lower half, which then broke sharply to a flat base (Fig. 22, *Plate 27*).

The primary fill (1020) consisted of very moist firmly compacted bluish grey gritty silt containing frequent patches of gravel and numerous lenses of sandy gravel. The deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.47m. It was sealed by a continuous, shallow deposit of mid reddish brown silty sand mixed with gravel (1021) containing frequent small stones, which was an average of 50mm thick. The latter was in turn sealed by a thick deposit (0.85m max.) of mid brownish grey sandy silt, (1022), containing frequent small and medium stones. Three sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 13th centuries were recovered from the deposit. The uppermost fill, (1023), was moderately compacted mid brown sandy silt containing a moderate quantity of stones and occasional charcoal fragments.

Although water level at the time of excavation lay at just below the base of the feature, it is possible that 12th/13th century water levels were higher and that the feature could have functioned as a well. In this regard it noteworthy that the lower fills were very moist at the time of excavation, reflecting close proximity to the water table.

6.5 Phase 4. Medieval (c. 12-13th Century or later)

Three closely spaced probable postholes or pits - [902], [999] and [1003] – are assigned to Phase 4. None of these features produced dating evidence but [1003] truncated the earlier of the Phase 3 12th to 13th century pennanular gullies [960M], which indicates a later date for the pit/post-hole group as a whole. However, the features may have functioned with or alongside the later pennanular gully [969M] which lay stratigraphically above [960M]. There was also no direct relationship with other discrete features allocated to Phase 3, some of which could have been contemporary with or later than the pits and postholes attributed to Phase 4.

Post-Hole or Pit [902]

Pit or post-hole [902] was oval in plan (Fig. 24), measuring 1.25m in length, 0.88m in width and a maximum of 0.37m in depth. The sides varied in between gradually and steeply sloping (Fig. 25, Section 124). The base was deepest on the western side of the cut, rising in the central area before dropping again into a shallow depression to the east. It was filled by mid brownish grey sand, (903), containing occasional small and medium sized stones. The feature may represent a double post setting or a repair.

Posthole or Pit [999]

Posthole or pit [999], located at a distance of 1.25m northeast of [902] (Fig. 24), was sub-oval in plan, measuring 0.70m in length (north-south), 0.50m in width (east-west) and 0.24m in depth. In profile, the

cut displayed steep sides and a gently concave base (Fig 25, Section 139; *Plate 28*). It was filled by mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent stones up to 70mm in diameter.

Posthole or Pit [1003]

Posthole or pit [1003], located just 0.40m northwest of [999], was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.65m in maximum diameter and 0.35m deep (Fig. 24). The sides of the cut were steep whilst the base was narrow and slightly concave (Fig. 25 Section 140, *Plate 29*). The primary fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (1002), 0.16m thick, included occasional large rounded stones up to 100mm in diameter. Located above (1002) and restricted to the northern side of the cut was a 0.10m thick lens of mid brown and orange sandy silt mixed with clay (1001). The uppermost deposit (1000) comprised mid brown silty sand containing a moderate quantity of rounded stones. It was 0.16m thick.

6.6 Phase 5. Later Medieval Field System (c. 13th to 14th Century)

Phase 5 comprised a system of ditches and gullies aligned north–south and east-west, which extended into both Area A and Area B and was also recorded in Trial Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 (Fig. 26). The system may be interpreted as a co-axial system of fields and small enclosures laid out in the mid-13th to 14th century. Dating for the entire system relies on a substantial assemblage of pottery (twenty one sherds) recovered from the fill of Ditch [200] in Trial Trench 2 (Trimble 2015, p.4 and Fig. 12, Section 11). The assemblage provides a secure date for ditch [200] but no dating evidence was forthcoming for any other ditches assigned to Phase 5. Phasing of the ditches lacking artefactual dating was based on the common alignment with Ditch [200] and stratigraphic relationships with features of earlier or later phases.

Ditches [908M] and [603]

A linear ditch [908M] traversing the western side of Area B on a north-south alignment (Figs. 26 and 27) was explored in two 1.0m wide segments [926] and [904].

Segment [926], situated at the northern end of the ditch, close to where it had been truncated by quarry [1033], was 1.75m wide by 0.47m deep (Fig. 28, Section 126) with gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its primary fill of light bluish green clay containing moderate quantities of medium sized cobbles and pea grit, (927), was restricted to the central and lower west side of the cut, measuring 0.90m in width and 0.15m in maximum depth. The clayey nature of the deposit reflected the character of the natural in the northern part of the site, which differed markedly from the sands revealed over the rest of the site. Overlying fill (927) was a mid-brown clay, (928), containing moderate quantities of pea grit and medium sized stones and pebbles. The deposit was 0.45m thick, extending throughout the upper levels of the ditch.

In a segment, [904], located 14m to the south of [926], the ditch measured 1.33m in width and 0.40m in depth (Fig. 28, Section 121 and *Plate 30*) and had gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by three separate deposits – a primary fill of small rounded pebbles (30%) and coarse sandy clay (70%) covering the full width of the base, which was sealed by firmly compacted light greyish brown silty sand, (906), slumped against the west side of the cut and measuring 0.45m across by 0.10m thick. The final fill of the ditch was a moderately compacted light brown silty sand with small yellowish orange patches of clean sand. It contained a moderate quantity of small and medium sized stones and flints up to 40mm in diameter, (907), and was 1.32m wide by 0.35m (maximum) thick.

A shallow ditch, [603], located west of Ditch [908M] and orientated east-southeast to west-northwest was recorded in Trial Trench 6 (Figs. 26 & 27). It measured 1.0m in width, 0.20m in depth (Trimble 2015, p.5 and Fig. 12, Section 2), extending over a distance of 3.10m and continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the west. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch, and its intersection with ditch [908] was lost, probably owing to slightly deeper machining during topsoil removal in that area. Although the feature was slightly oblique to ditch [908] it can be considered as a probable element in the same field system given that it was not observed to continue east of the latter.

Gullies [942] & [950]

At a distance of 16.60m east of Ditch [908] were two parallel, north-south orientated shallow gullies located around 0.80m apart (Fig. 26). The westernmost gully [950] was recorded over a distance of 15m, including a 1.95m wide gap near the southern end (Fig. 29), probably resulting from truncation rather

than forming an opening. Gully [942], situated east of [950] and extending over a distance of 8.90m, was relatively shallow, possibly as a result of horizontal truncation, and might have been completely removed in the areas north and south of the recorded extent.

Gully [950], which averaged around 0.55m in width and 0.12m in depth, ended in a rounded but irregular terminal to the north and was truncated away by modern disturbance to the south. The northern terminal, which was excavated and recorded as [513] in Trial Trench 5 (Trimble 2015, see Figure 12, Section 5), was 'bulbed out' in plan, measuring up to 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep. A possible recut [505] east of [513], measured 0.80m wide by 50mm deep and produced a single sherd of mid-12th to mid-13th century pottery. The segment, [950], excavated at around mid-way along the length of the gully (Fig.6, Section 134 and *Plate 6*), was 0.50m in width and 0.10m in depth, with very gradually sloped sides breaking to a gently concave and irregular base. It was filled by moderately compacted mid to dark brownish grey silty sand (949) containing occasional angular stones to 15mm and rounded stones to 60mm.

Gully [942], situated east of Gully [950] (Fig. 29), had a rounded terminal recorded as [501] in Trial Trench 5 (Trimble 2015, Fig. 12, Section 4). The terminal, which was 0.4m wide by 0.1m deep, contained a single fill, (504). A small cut, [503], oval shaped in plan and measuring 0.4m wide by 0.35m deep, which was recorded on the eastern side of the terminal could have been a posthole. In the segment, [942], excavated further to the south (Fig. 6, Section 131; *Plate 5*), the gully was 0.35m wide by 0.10m deep, with a concave, bowl shaped profile. It was filled by moderately compacted and friable mid to dark brownish grey silty sand (941).

Ditch [804M]

Ditch [804M], aligned east-west at the northern edge Area A (Figs 26 & 30), was recorded over a distance of 17.50m, ending to the west in a rounded terminal. The ditch continued beyond the limit of excavation to the east, possibly to meet with a ditch, [200], recorded in Trial Trench 2. Three segments - [843], [802] and [807] - were excavated across the ditch. In the easternmost, [843], the cut was 1.20m wide by 0.45m deep (Fig. 31, Section 119; and *Plate 31*) with sides sloping at around 45° to a concave base. The feature was filled with moderately compact/friable mid greyish brown silty sand (842) containing frequent rounded stones up to 50mm and occasional angular stones up to 30mm. In a segment, [802], placed mid-way along its length, the ditch had a shallower profile (Fig. 31, Section 102, *Plate 32*), measuring 1.05m wide by 0.40m deep. Its fill, (803), was identical to (842), the fill of [843]. Towards its western end, the ditch curved slightly northward, placing the northern side beyond the limit of excavation. The exposed part of the terminal, [807], was semi-circular in plan with recorded dimensions of 0.90m wide by 0.38m deep (Fig. 31 Section 104, *Plate 33*). The cut sloped at around 45° on the south side and gradually on the northern side, below a level shelf which extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north. The base was concave.

Ditch [836]

Ditch [836], which lay 1.35m west of the ditch terminal, [807], was truncated on its western side by modern disturbance associated with the insertion of hardcore for one of the farm buildings demolished in advance of the development. On its eastern side, the ditch curved slightly northward to continue beyond the limit of excavation. Only a 2.60m length of the ditch fell within the excavation area but the curve in the visible portion suggests that it may have formed part of a curving or even circular ditch unrelated to the Phase 5 rectilinear field system. Alternatively, the gap between [836] and [807] could represent an opening, with the main part of the terminal of [836] located beyond the limit of excavation to the north. Ditch [836] was 0.95m wide by 0.50m deep. The northern side broke to a level shelf which extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north. The remainder of the cut was steep sided, with a narrow, concave base. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty sand (837) containing frequent angular stones up to 100mm in diameter. The fill did not produce any dating evidence.

Ditch [809M]

North-south orientated linear feature, [809M], extended for a distance of 11.70m, averaging around 1.80m wide, but increasing to up to 2.0m wide over its northern extent (Figs. 26 and 30). The feature terminated just 0.15m short of east-west ditch [804M] and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south. It was wider (up to 2m maximum width) in its northern part. On excavation the 'feature' was found to comprise various recuts and several discontinuous lengths of ditch. Three segments were excavated across the feature.

Evidence of multiple recutting was revealed in the southernmost segment, located against the edge of the area (Figs. 30 & 32 Plate 34). At least three phases of ditch digging – [856], [810] and [860] - were apparent, in the form of undulations in the base of the segment. However, with exception of the primary fill, (811), of the central and deepest cut [810], there were no distinctions between the fills and therefore means by which to determine the full extents of the cuts or the stratigraphic sequence. The upper levels of the ditches were truncated by two further ditches, [857] and [861].

The identifiable part of [810] was 0.55m wide by an estimated 0.50m deep, with sides sloping gradually to a concave base. The ditch to the east, [856], which was not quite as deep, was at least 0.70m wide, as measured to the intersection with [810], with an uncertain depth. The cut sloped gradually on the still visible east side, to a concave base, but the west side could not be determined owing to the lack of differentiation between deposits filling the ditches (see above). The third cut, [860], located to the west of [810] was evident as a slight depression 0.25m wide.

The primary fill of [810] was a light to mid grey sandy silt 90mm thick, (811). An undifferentiated deposit, (852), of moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt extended throughout the remaining extents of [810], [856] and [860].

The later recut, [857], following the lines [856] and [857], was cut to a much shallower depth, measuring 1.15m wide by 0.25m deep. With gradually sloping sides and a broad, slightly concave base, its fill was indistinguishable from the overlying topsoil (855). A further recut, [861], following the line of [860] at much shallower depth was only partially revealed, on its eastern side only. Its recorded extent, measuring 0.50m across by 0.25m deep, had a gradually sloping side on the visible east side and was filled by a deposit which was indistinguishable from the overlying topsoil (855).

A segment excavated mid-way along the length of [809M] revealed three separate features - a linear gully [827] and two ditch terminals or pits, [830] and [831].

Linear gully [827], which probably represents a continuation of gully [860] recorded in the segment to the south, was around 0.8m wide by 0.45m deep (Fig. 32, Sections 107 and 108, *Plates 35 and 36*), with gradually to steeply sloping sides and a narrow and concave base. Its stratigraphic relationship with the ditch terminals or pits, [830] and [831], immediately to the east could not be established owing to the similarity of their respective fills, although it was clear that they were intercutting. It was filled by moderately compact/ friable mid greyish brown silty sand, (828).

Ditch terminal or pit [830] was rounded or semi-circular in plan, measuring 1m wide by 0.30m deep. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 32, Section 107, *Plate 36*) and was filled by mid greyish brown sandy silt (829) containing occasional large rounded stones up to 100mm in diameter and small stones up to 20mm in diameter.

Ditch terminal or pit [831], located just 0.20m north of [830] was approximately semi-circular in plan, measuring 1.45m wide by 0.44m deep (Fig. 30). It was filled by mid greyish sandy silt (832) containing occasional large rounded stones up to 100mm in diameter and small stones up to 20mm in diameter (Fig. 32 Section 108, *Plate 35*).

Ditch 809M terminated to the north, at a point 0.20m short of the east-west ditch [804M] (Fig. 30). A segment, [812], excavated across the terminal revealed a width of 1.49m and depth of 0.40m (Fig. 32, Section 106). It was filled by a friable mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional rounded stone up to 50mm in diameter.

Gully [858M]

Gully [858M] lay 7.85m west of Ditch [809M] following the same north-south alignment (Figs 26 & 30). Extending over a distance of 11.35m and measuring an average of 0.60m in width, it terminated to the north and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south. The gully was also recorded in Trial Trench 1, as context [105], 2.00m to the south of Area A (Trimble 2015), where it was seen to traverse the full width of the trench. Two segments – [841] and [839] - were excavated across [858M] in Area A.

The first segment, [841], located against the southern edge of the trench measured 0.40m wide by 80mm deep (Fig.33, Section 120). The feature had gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave base, and was

filled by moderately compacted/friable mid yellowish brown silty sand (840) containing frequent rounded stone cobbles up to 100mm in diameter and occasional angular stones.

The second segment, [839], located further to the north, revealed a similar profile, with dimensions of 0.65m wide by 0.10m deep (Fig. 33, Section 116). Here, the ditch was filled with moderately compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand (838) containing a moderate quantity of rounded stones up to 30mm in diameter. Near its northern end the gully had been disturbed by animal burrowing (probably relating to a badger sett which was relocated prior to commencement of the trial trench evaluation). However, a small portion of the gully survived in the area immediately north of the disturbance.

6.7 Phase 6. Medieval postholes and pits (c. 13th to 14th century or later)

A group of four features located in the western part of Area B, comprising three probable postholes and a pit, were assigned to Phase 6 (Figs 34 & 35). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the features, but Pit [934] and Posthole [929] were positioned stratigraphically above Phase 5 Ditch [908M]. Two otherwise undated postholes, [604] and [958], are included in Phase 6 on the basis of their proximity and likely relationship to [929].

A large cut interpreted as a probable clay extraction pit, [1033], also postdates the Phase 5 rectilinear system of ditches. The pit occupied a total area of 400m² at the northern end of Area B, representing 30% of total area. The pit had no relationship with the metalled surface assigned to Phase 7

Pit [934]

Pit [934] cut the Phase 5 Ditch [908M]. The feature was circular in plan, measuring 1.35m in diameter and 0.68m in depth. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 36, Section 128 and *Plate 38*). The primary fill (937) of very firmly compacted light to mid brown silty sand extended throughout the lower levels of the pit, to a depth of 0.25m. It was sealed by a mix of light to mid brown and mid orange clayey sand (938) 0.15m thick, which was restricted to the eastern side of the feature. The final fill (939) of mid brown silty sand was 0.47m thick.

Postholes [929], [958] and [604]

Three postholes - [929], [958] and [604] – formed a triangular arrangement in plan (Fig. 35).

Posthole [929], which cut the Phase 5 ditch [908M], was the most northerly of the group. It was ovoid in plan, measuring 0.54m long by 0.46m wide and 0.15m deep, with sides varying between gradually and steeply sloping, and with a flat base (Fig. 36, Section 127). Its fill was a mid-grey sandy silt containing frequent small stones.

Posthole [958], located 4.65m southeast of [929], was circular in plan, measuring 0.55m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. The sides of the cut were steep whilst the base was flat.

Posthole [604], located 3.55m west of [958] was recorded during the evaluation in Trial Trench 6. A description and section drawing were included in the relevant report (Trimble 2015, p.5 and Fig. 12, Section 5).

Probable extraction pit [1033] (Fig 34)

A large cut occupying much of the northern end of Area B is likely to have originated as a clay extraction pit. The feature was first revealed during the evaluation, in Trial Trench 5, where excavation by mechanical excavator recorded a cut, [500], 0.60m deep, which was filled with stiff sandy clay (Trimble 2015, p. 5 and Fig. 11, Section 9).

Three further sondages (A, B and C on Fig. 34) were excavated by machine in the area north of Area B in an attempt to establish the northern limit of the probable extraction pit. All three revealed horizontally laid silty clays and silty sands interpreted as fills of the extraction pit with the upper deposits including occasional fragments of modern brick (*Plates 39 and 40*).

6.8 Phase 7. Metalled Surface (c. late 14th to 16th Century)

Surface metalling of cobbles mixed with small stones (see Fig. 37) was revealed in the southern part of Area A and in Trial Trench 1, where it was recorded as context (103). The metalling recorded in Area A extended to the south of the trial trench but was absent on the north side. While part of the surface may have been lost through a slight overcut made during machining in the trial trench, the remaining evidence suggests a localised extent consistent with a yard surface (possibly relating to the properties on Ashby Road) rather than a linear feature such as a track. Six sherds of pottery of late 14th century to and 16th century date were recovered from the surface.

Several phases of construction and repair were evident, through differing densities and sizes of material used. Whilst some areas such as (103) and (848) were well constructed from medium to large sized cobbles, other areas - (847), (849), (850 and (851) - were more sparsely metalled and are likely to represent areas of wear. On the other hand, a dense spread of small stones (846) was probably a repair.

The subsoil, where it survived, comprised softly compacted silty clay including moderate small rounded stones. Generally 0.25m thick and masking archaeological features, it was removed by machine as part of the overburden.

6.9 Phase 8. Modern

Modern disturbance concentrated to the south of Area B was clearly associated with the late farmyard (Fig. 39). An extensive area of disturbed ground containing much modern building material, (1034), at the southern edge of Area B could have been backfill or possibly make up for a farmyard surface, while a modern north-south orientated drain run [1036] west of (1034) truncated a semi-circular area containing modern building materials (1037) located further to the south.

An area of modern disturbance, comprising modern brick mixed with yellow brown silty sand, (1024), was noted on the eastern site of the medieval pit [1019], overlying the fill (1023).

Topsoil across the site consisted of softly compacted mid greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional to moderate rounded stones. The thickness of the topsoil varied between 0.30m and 0.40m.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Although the investigations produced little evidence for archaeological activity predating the Saxo-Norman period, single finds of a Neolithic flint blade and a sherd of Roman greyware pottery attest to a certain level of activity in these periods in the general area of the site.

Small quantities of Saxo-Norman (two sherds of Torksey Ware) and Saxo-Norman to early medieval pottery (eight sherds including some Stamford Ware) hint at an early phase of medieval activity in the area, and it is possible that the series of north-south linear gullies or hollows assigned to Phase 2 originated during this period or possibly at an even earlier date. The features were more or less on the same alignment as earthwork ridge and furrow recorded in the field to the north and approximately in line with the existing field boundary in the same area. They also aligned with the lower, north-south section of Ashby Road and for this reason might be interpreted as elements of a track or hollow way comprising side ditches - [946]/[948] and [954] – with the smaller ‘gullies’ or hollows - [952], [944] and [942] – representing wheel ruts or tracks caused by pedestrian traffic.

The ceramic evidence points to a phase of settlement related activity spanning the 12th to 13th centuries. This phase of activity is represented by linear gullies, two pennanular gullies, pits and postholes in Area B, and a separate, but less well dated group comprising pits, postholes and a hearth like feature in Area A. The overall layout has much in common with previously recorded sites of medieval occupation in Leicestershire and Rutland, most notably at Anstey, Cropston Road (Browning and Higgins 2003) where excavations on the site of a toft (an enclosed farmyard containing a domestic dwelling or dwellings together with farm buildings and associated activity areas and croft (a separate enclosure often attached to the rear of a croft and devoted entirely to agricultural use) revealed gravel foundations for a timber-framed building and postholes potentially representing three further buildings. Based on ceramic evidence, the raised platform forming the toft at Cropston Road was constructed in the late 12th or early 13th century and abandoned in the late 13th century. Excavations at Grange Farm in Glaston (Cooper and Thomas 2000), revealed ditches apparently defining a toft, which, on the basis of the ceramic evidence,

was in use until the late 13th century. A small scatter of pits and postholes within the toft area indicated low level activity, a conclusion supported by the general lack of finds.

The relatively large assemblage of pottery from Gilmorton is consistent with domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity. It is therefore highly likely that most of the remains in Area B relate to activity within a toft. There was no conclusive evidence for a dwelling, although the probable postholes recorded could represent the fragmentary remains of timber-framed structures. It has been noted elsewhere (Browning and Higgins 2003) that the remains of medieval peasant buildings are notoriously insubstantial and are often only apparent from the absence of other remains, as for example at Eye Kettleby in Leicestershire, where the outline of a rectangular building could only be discerned from the outline defined by surrounding cobbled surfaces and by the extents of associated mud floors. While there was no evidence at Gilmorton for stone-filled foundations comparable to those identified at Anste, it is possible that box-framed timber structures leaving few traces in the ground were present in the medieval period.

Concentrations of pottery in the short linear gully [913M] and the nearby ditch terminal [909], are consistent with occupation in the immediate vicinity and it is possible that [913M] and the short gully set at right angles [981] functioned as eaves-drip gullies alongside a rectangular dwelling similar to that observed at Anste (*ibid*). While there is some uncertainty about the actual length of [913M], owing to the impact of modern disturbances over the easternmost extent of the visible remains, it is clear from the rise in the base of the feature that it did terminate just east of the recorded endpoint, giving a total length of around 7m. This could indicate a position on the short side of a rectangular structure comparable to example at Anste which was 5m wide. It is not clear why the gully contained a near complete pot, but appears that some care was taken to ensure that it was kept upright, by the ‘sculpting’ of a niche in the side of the gully and by the use of a stone to stabilise the side opposite. If used for storage, the vessel might indicate a subsurface storage area, possibly covered over with timber. Unfortunately, an environmental sample from the fill of the pot failed to produce any evidence relating to the contents which might have been stored.

The curving ditch, [909], aligned approximately north-south on the western side of Area B does not have an obvious relationship with any of the other features recorded in the area or to respect any of the boundaries in the extant landscape. However, it may represent one side of an enclosure, possibly bounding the area containing the pennanular gullies [960M] and [969]. The discovery of approximately half of a plano-convex hearth bottom in the fill (910) of [909] is significant. A slag generated by iron smithing, it was large and heavy and unlikely to have moved far from its original point of production, which suggests iron smithing in the immediate area.

A ditched boundary, aligned approximately north-south, and apparently recut and modified on several occasions, could represent an early element in the development of medieval settlement east of Ashby Road. Although the boundary was poorly dated (in terms of associated finds) it was clear that some of the ditches in the sequence were earlier than elements of the stratigraphy attributed to Phase 3. There is, however, a strong possibility that the boundary was maintained into Phase 3, and the latest ditches in the sequence may have persisted until a major realignment of the landscape was carried out later in the medieval period – as represented by ditches [950]/[513] and [942/503] attributed to Phase 5.

Pennanular gullies of the type recorded in Area B are unusual in a medieval context. Numerous complete circles of probable medieval date, evidenced by soilmarks or cropmarks, have been recorded on the silt fens and were first noted by Riley in 1946, who advanced the theory that they might represent haystack stands. The circles are characterised by narrow ditches 9-17m in diameter, often occurring in groups of thirty or more, and sometimes intersecting with one another (Hall and Wilson 1978). Where seen in proximity to areas of Roman occupation the circles generally appear to disregard the Roman landscape, but often appear to respect boundaries in the medieval landscape. Wilson notes several examples where circles were observed to fall neatly into strips of land defined by medieval drains, even showing flattening on the sides closest to the drains, leading to the conclusion that the features were most likely post Roman. While morphologically different, the features at Gilmorton could have performed a similar drainage function, possibly (in the case of the latest gully), in conjunction with the linear feature aligned *c.* east-west; the latter might also have functioned as a subdivision in the area. Alternatively, the pennanular gullies might be interpreted as animal pens located in the tofts.

Environmental samples taken mainly from the features assigned to Phase 3 indicate that the cultivation of cereals (particularly wheat) was an important component of the local economy in the medieval period,

possibly including freshly cultivated areas of marginal, damp grassland. The presence of small legumes indicates that the local soils were possibly being improved by a regime of rotational cropping including the use of leguminous crops.

The deep pit, [900], located at the western edge of Area B penetrated to well below the present level of ground water level and can therefore be interpreted with some confidence as a well or a watering hole, possibly for use in domestic consumption or for the watering of animals kept in the vicinity of the toft. The second large pit, [1019], situated in the southeastern part of Area B could have performed a similar function but was not as deep, with the base lying at just above the present day water table, and might therefore have served as a rubbish pit or, given its apparently purposely regular shape, as an element in an industrial or craft process such as fulling or leather working. However, the absence of any form of lining militates against the latter explanation. A similar feature, also waterlogged at the base, was recorded at Anstey and interpreted as water hole. It was previously noted that pits on such sites as Caldecote, Brenig and Grenstein were dug to obtain building material and then used as water holes.

In conclusion, the 12th-13th remains in Area B may lie within a toft situated either adjacent to the medieval precursor to Ashby Road. Alternatively, the present line of Ashby Road, north of the southwestern corner of the site, may be the result of a later realignment cutting across the area of medieval settlement, and that toft might instead have been located west of a possible track defined by the series of gullies and possible ruts passing to the east.

The oven or hearth with apparently associated pits or post holes found in Area A was poorly dated and was only tentatively ascribed to Phase 3. Samples from the 'hearth' produced little in terms of environmental evidence from which to determine the likely use of the feature. However, moderate to high densities of cereals, chaff and seeds recovered from a sample from the fill of one of the nearby postholes suggests the processing or handling of grain and other crops in the immediate area. The area may lie within a separate enclosure of toft east of the possible north-south track.

It appears that there may have been a radical change in land use by the end of the 13th century, with the area divided into a rectilinear system of ditched enclosures identified in both Areas A and B. The rectilinear layout was not extended into the area to the north of the site, where the earlier boundary system centred on the further extent of the south-southwest to north-northeast alignment of gullies and ditches (assigned to Phase 2 in Area B) appears to have persisted until much later in the medieval and possibly the post medieval period.

The rectilinear system of ditches (designated Phase 5) probably indicates the conversion of the area to pasture, following a shift in the focus of settlement or depopulation. Except for a reasonably large assemblage of pottery from ditch [200] in Trial Trench 2, and the stratigraphic evidence from in Area B, where the Phase 2 boundary or track was superseded by ditches on the new alignment, the rectilinear ditch system was poorly dated. While the closes were presumably bordered by the open fields surrounding the village, no evidence of associated ridge and furrow was recorded on the site itself. However, earthworks remains are present on land immediately north of the site and in areas to the east and west of the present day village.

At some time in the post-medieval period a large area to the north of the site was quarried, and the remains of the resultant pit appear to extend throughout the northern part of Area B, to the northern boundary of the development and into the neighbouring field to the north (as defined by the extent of the ridge and furrow in that field, which appears, on aerial photographs, to have been truncated at a line situated to the north of the boundary of the development).

The programme of monitoring and recording produced no significant evidence of archaeological remains.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Francis Jackson for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion and Teresa Hawtin of the Historic Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council for advice and information.

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: GMAR14

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 13/00627/OUT

FIELD OFFICER: G. Trimble

NGR: SP 570 882

CIVIL PARISH: GILMORTON

DATE OF INTERVENTION: March 2015 to January 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Francis Jackson Homes Ltd

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford Lincolnshire, NG34 7RG

FINAL LOCATION: Leicestershire Museums Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	198
Plans at Scale 1:20	3
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	60
Black and White photographs	129
Digital Photographs	140
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: View of Area A under excavation facing southwest. The 18th century thatched cottage known as 'Clay Walls' is visible in the background



Plate 2: View of Area A under excavation facing east.



Plate 3: View of Area B under excavation facing west



Plate 4: View of Area B under excavation facing north.



Plate 5: View of Phase 2 intercutting Ditches [944], [946] and [948] facing north. Scale 1 x 2m



Plate 6: View of Phase 2 Ditch [952] and overlying Phase 5 Gully [950] facing north. Scale 1 x 1m



Plate 7: View of Phase 2 Ditch [954] and Gully [956] facing north. Scale 1 x 1m



Plate 8: Phase 3 Hearth or Oven [816] facing southwest. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 30cm



Plate 9: Phase 3 Hearth or Oven [816] fully excavated facing southwest. Scales 1x1m & 1x30cm



Plate 10: Phase 3 Post-Hole [834] in Hearth or Oven facing east [816]. Scale 0.30m



Plate 11: Phase 3 Post-Hole [820] facing northeast. Scale 0.30m



Plate 12: Phase 3 probable Post-Hole [822] facing west. Scale 1m



Plate 13: Phase 3 probable Post-Hole [824] facing northeast. Scale 1m



Plate 14: Phase 3 Post-Hole [845] facing southeast. Scales 1 x 0.30m & 1 x 0.20m



Plate 15: Phase 3 Post-Hole [818]. Scale 1m



Plate 16: View of Phase 3 Pennanular Gully [960M] facing east. Scales 2 x 2m

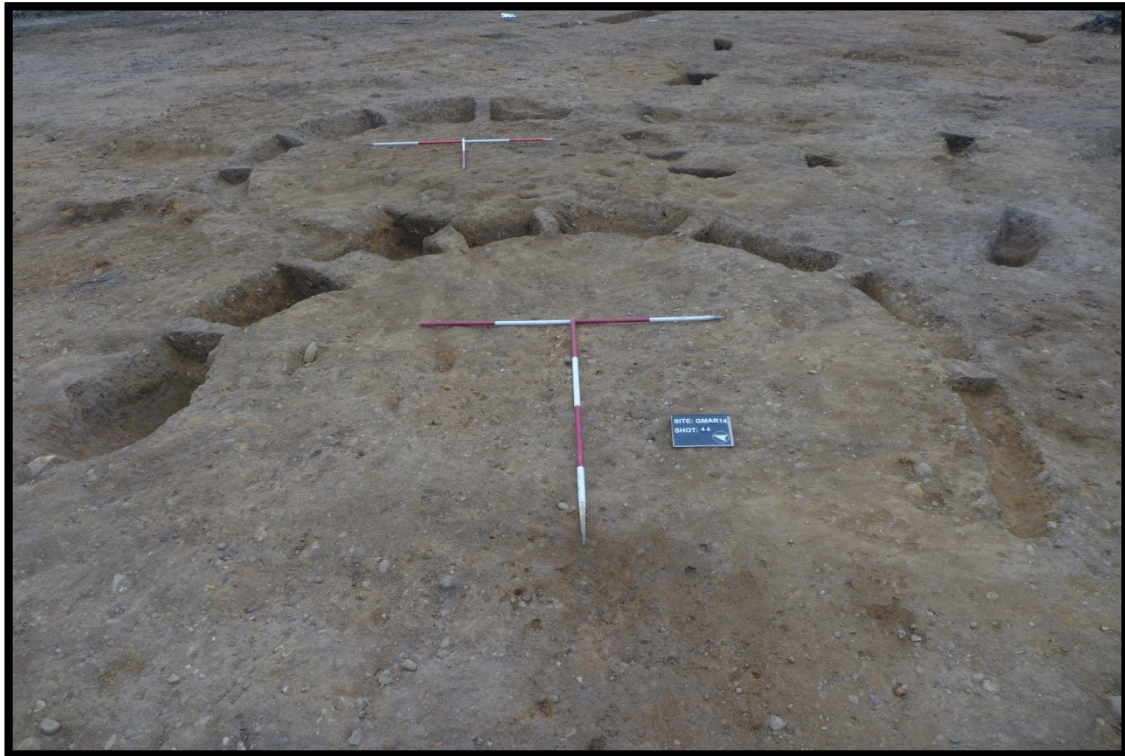


Plate 17: View of Phase 3 Pennanular Gullies [969M] & [960M] facing east. Scales 2 x 2m.



Plate 18: Excavated Segment [992] in linear gully leading into Pennular Gully [969]



Plate 19: Excavated terminal [990] of linear gully leading into Pennanular Gully [969] facing north. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.30m



Plate 20: Excavated terminal of Gully [1018] facing east. Scales 1 x 0.20m & 1 x 1m



Plate 21: Excavated terminal of Gully [935] facing east. Scales 1 x 0.20m & 1 x 0.30m



Plate 22: Pottery sherds in Ditch Terminal [909] facing northwest. Scales 1 x 0.30m & 1 x 0.20m



Plate 23: Pottery vessel in ditch terminal [914] facing east. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.30m



Plate 24: Detail of pottery vessel in ditch terminal [914] facing east. Scale 0.30m.



Plate 25: Ditch Segment [932] facing west. Scales 1 x 1m & 1x0.30m



Plate 26: Phase 3 Well [900] facing west. Scales 1x2m & 1x1m.



Plate 27: Phase 3 Pit [1019] facing north. Scales 2x1m



Plate 28: Phase 4 Pit [1003] facing east. Scale 0.30m



Plate 29: View of Phase 4 Post-Hole [999] facing north. Scale 0.30m



Plate 30: View of Ditch Segment [904] facing north. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.30m.



Plate 31: View of Ditch Segment [843] facing west. Scale 1m



Plate 32: View of Ditch Segment [802] facing west. Scale 1m



Plate 33: View of Ditch Segment [807] facing east. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.30m



Plate 34: View of Phase 5 excavated ditch segment [860] facing south. Scale 1 x 2m



Plate 35: View of Phase 5 excavated ditch segment [827] facing north. Scale 1 x 2m



Plate 36: View of Phase 5 excavated ditch segment [827] facing south. Scale 1 x 2m



Plate 37: View of Phase 3 post-hole and Phase 5 gully segment [841]. Scale 1m.



Plate 38: View of Phase 6 Pit [934] facing north. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.30m



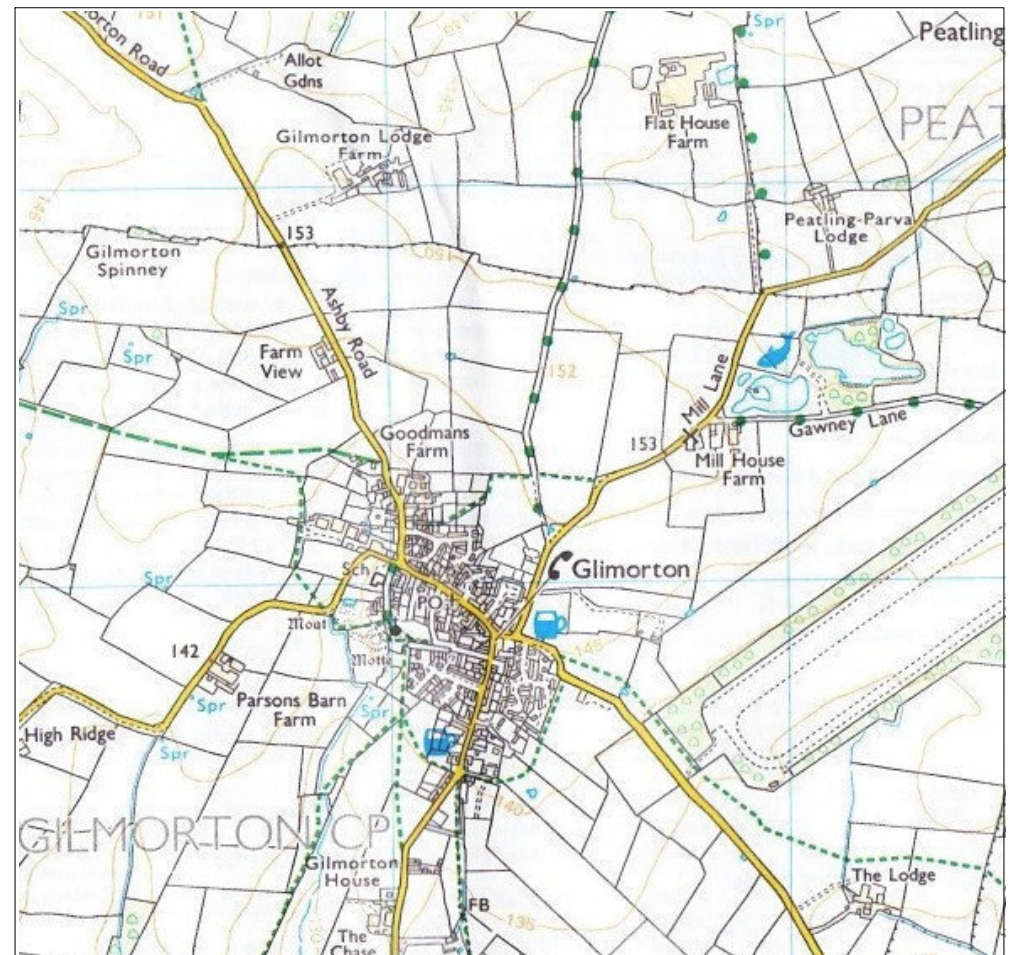
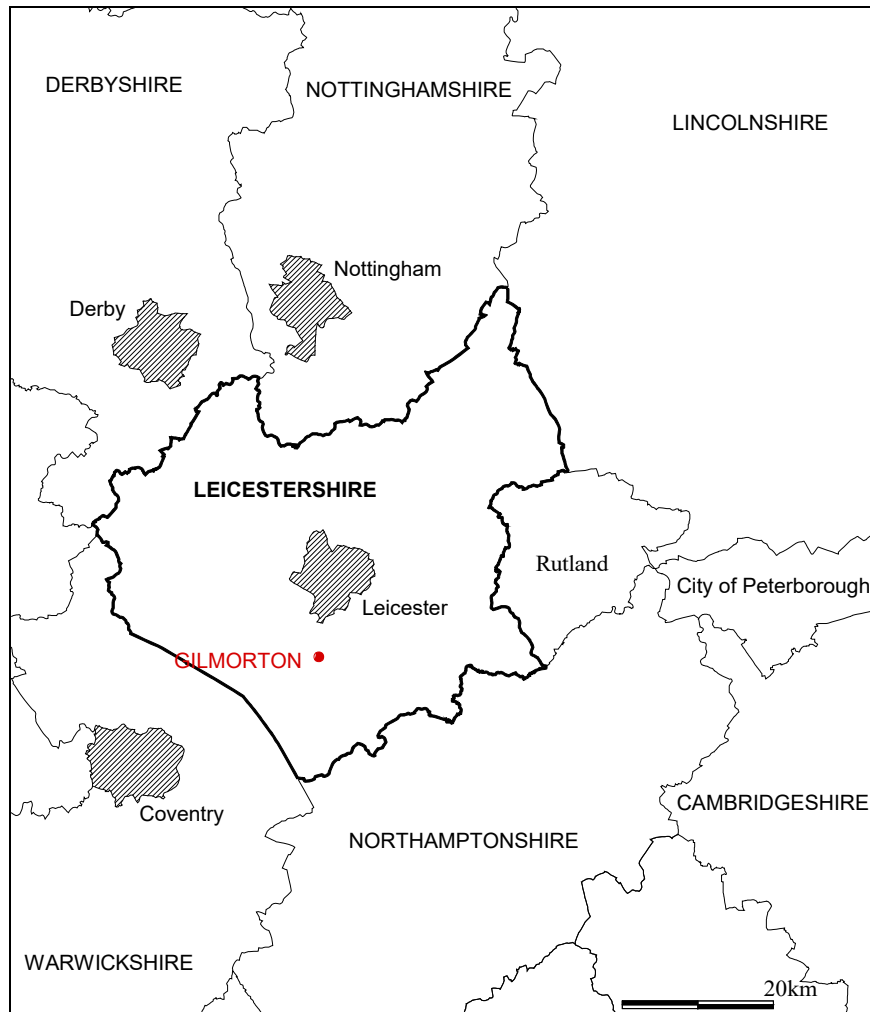
Plate 39: View of infill material in Sondage A excavated into probable Extraction Pit [1033] facing northwest. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.30m



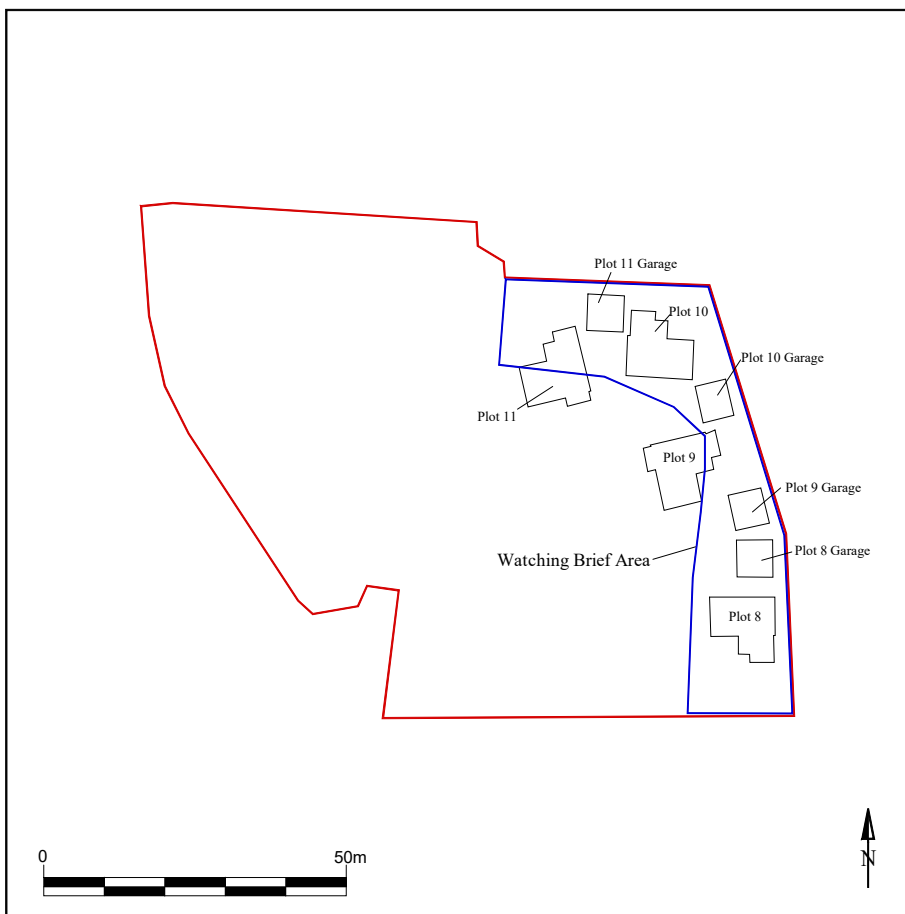
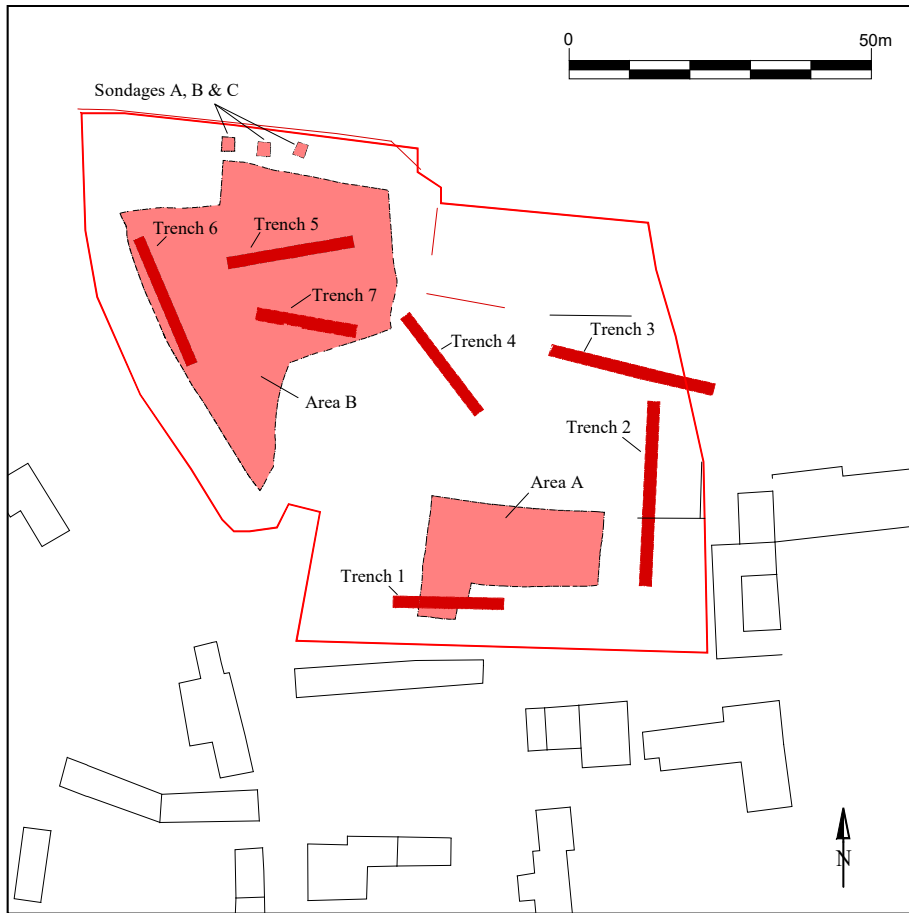
Plate 40: View of infill material in Sondage A excavated into probable Extraction Pit [1033] facing northwest. Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.30m



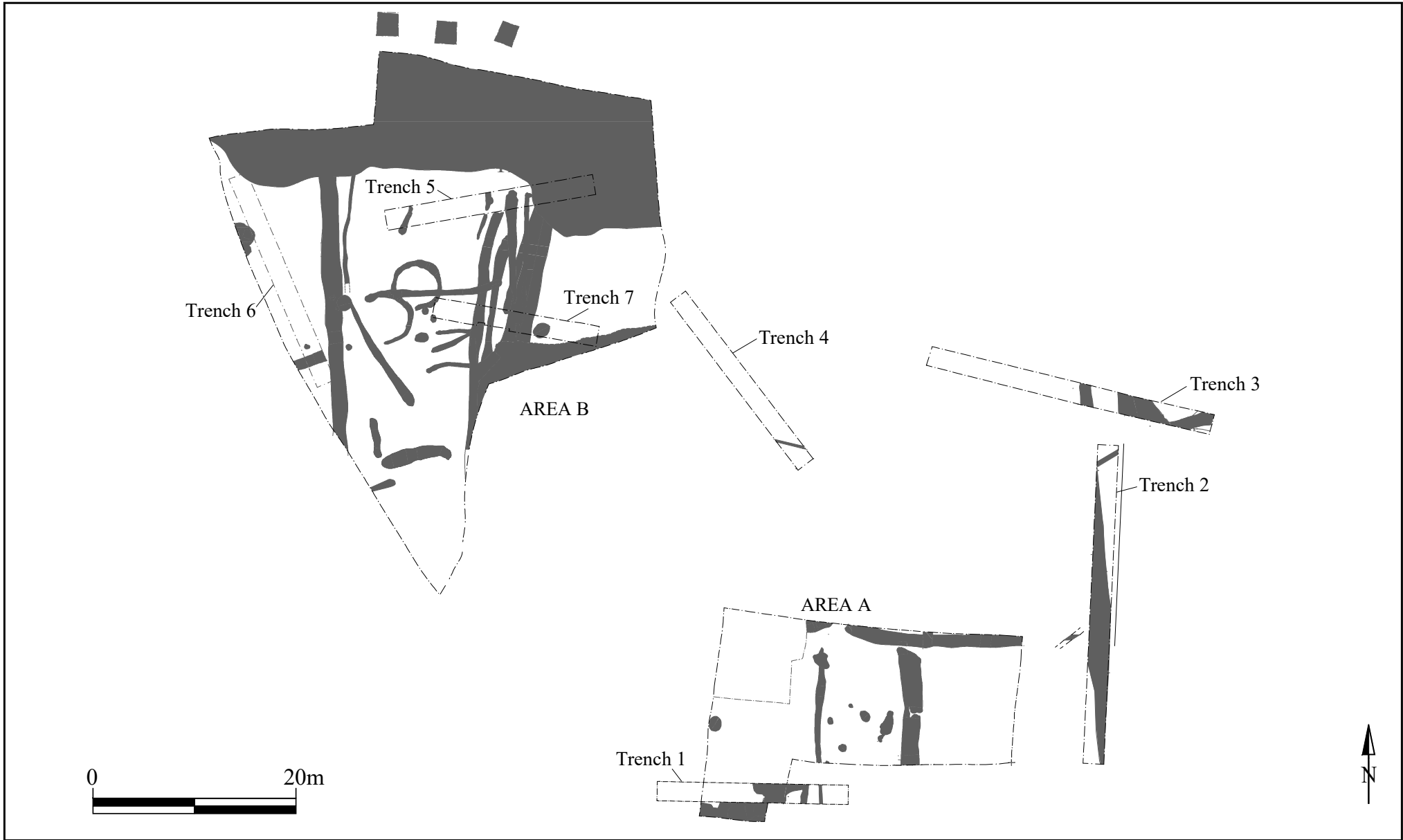
Plate 41: View of area of metalling south of Area A, facing east. 1m and 2m scales

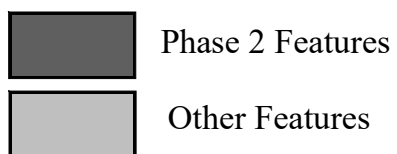
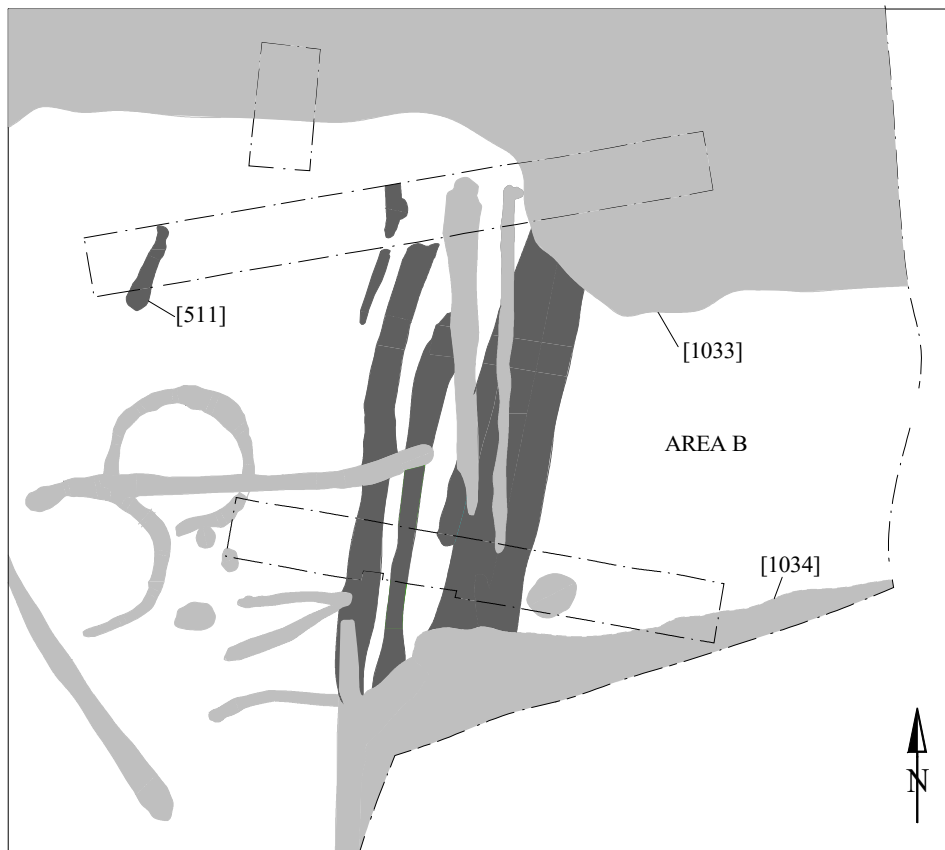


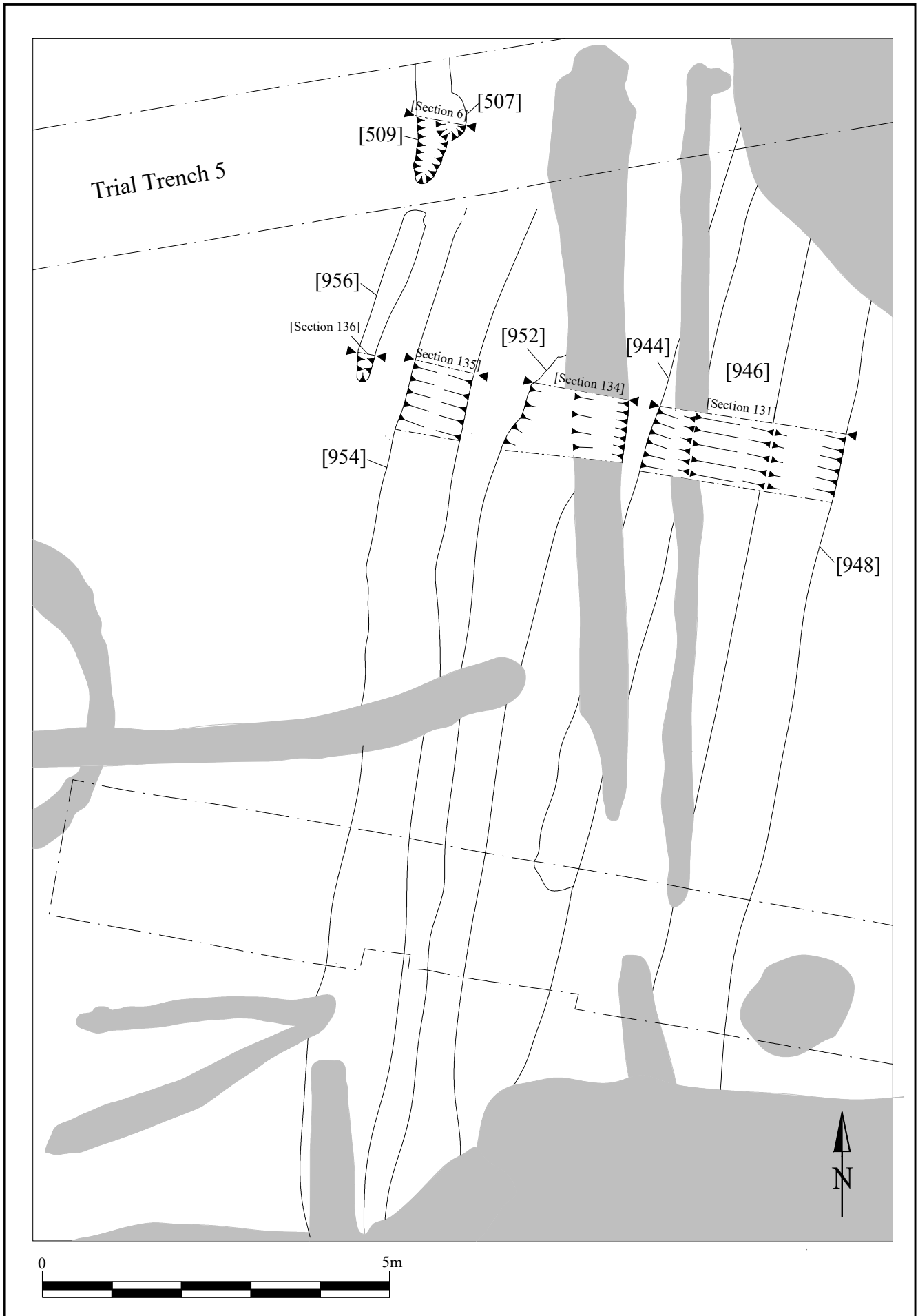
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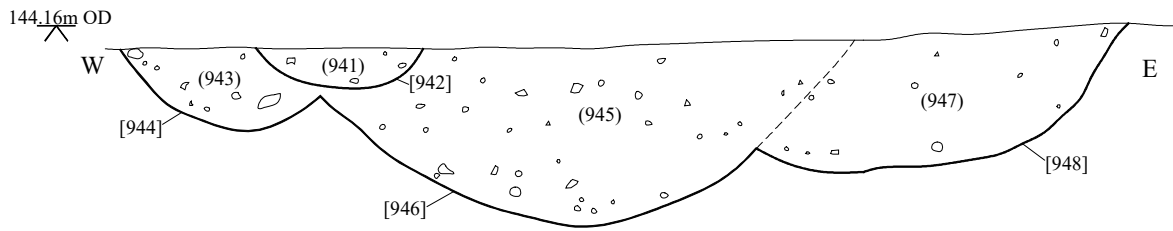


Locations of evaluation trenches, excavation areas and watching brief area. Scale 1:1250

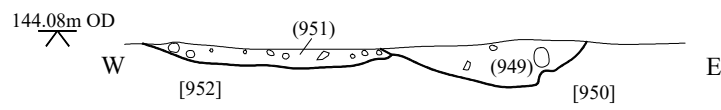




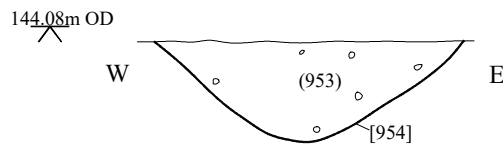




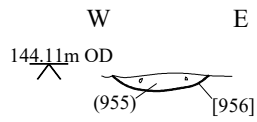
Section 131



Section 134

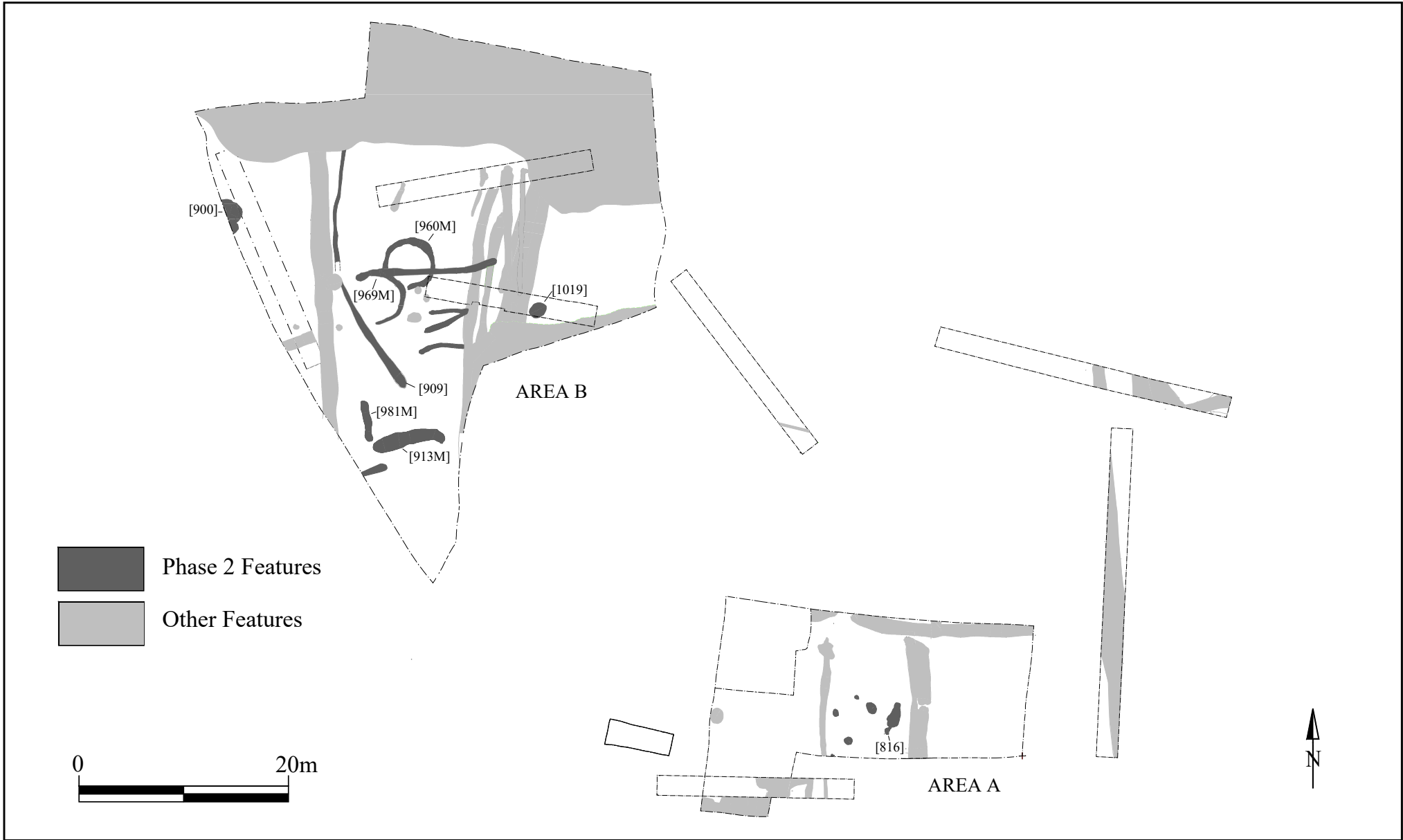


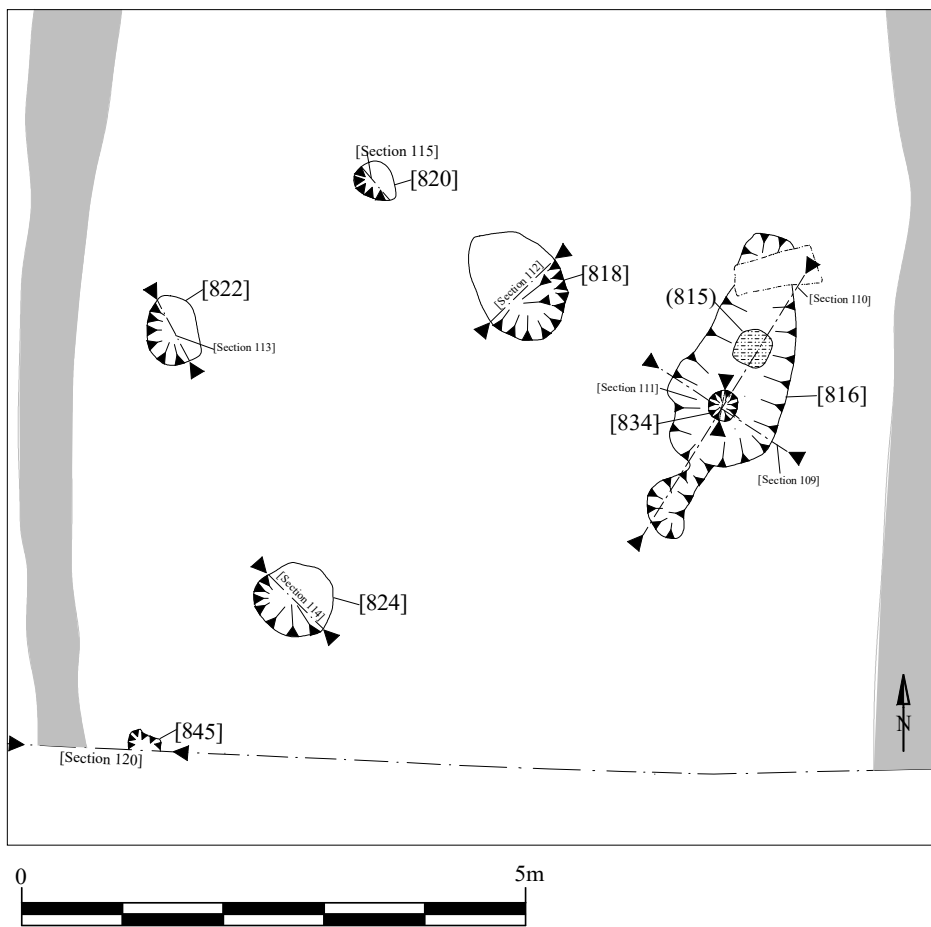
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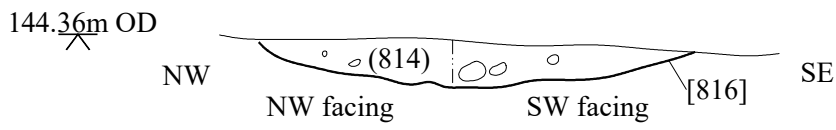


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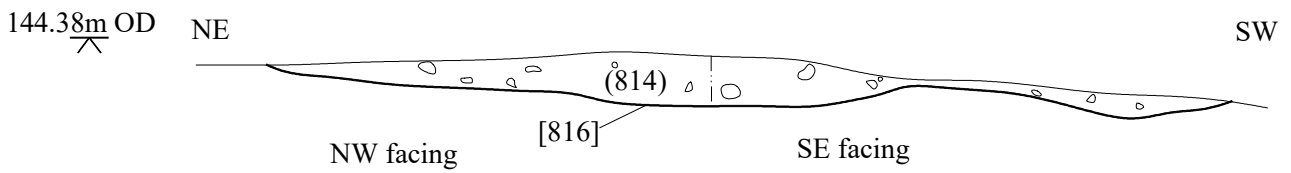




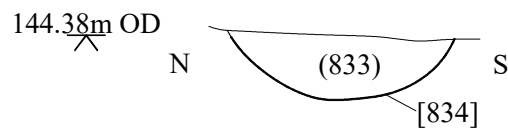




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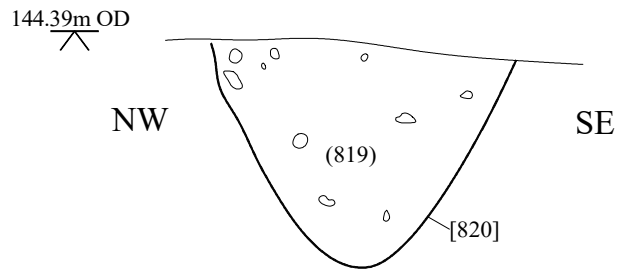


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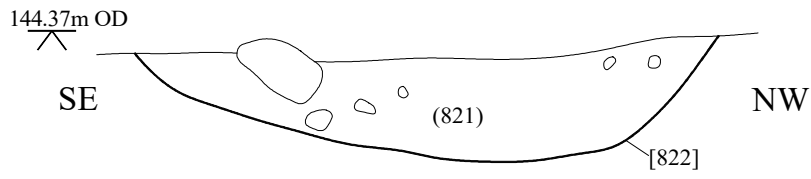


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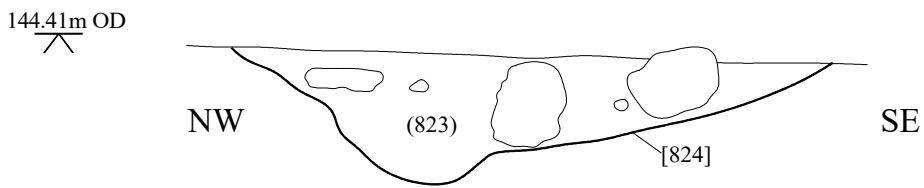




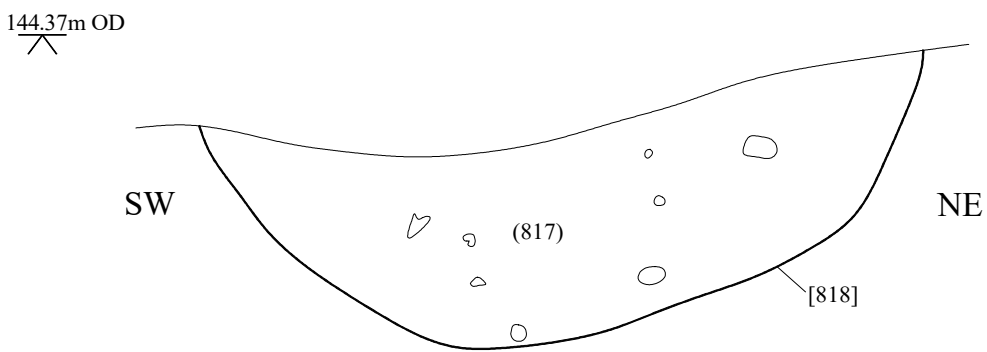
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Section 113

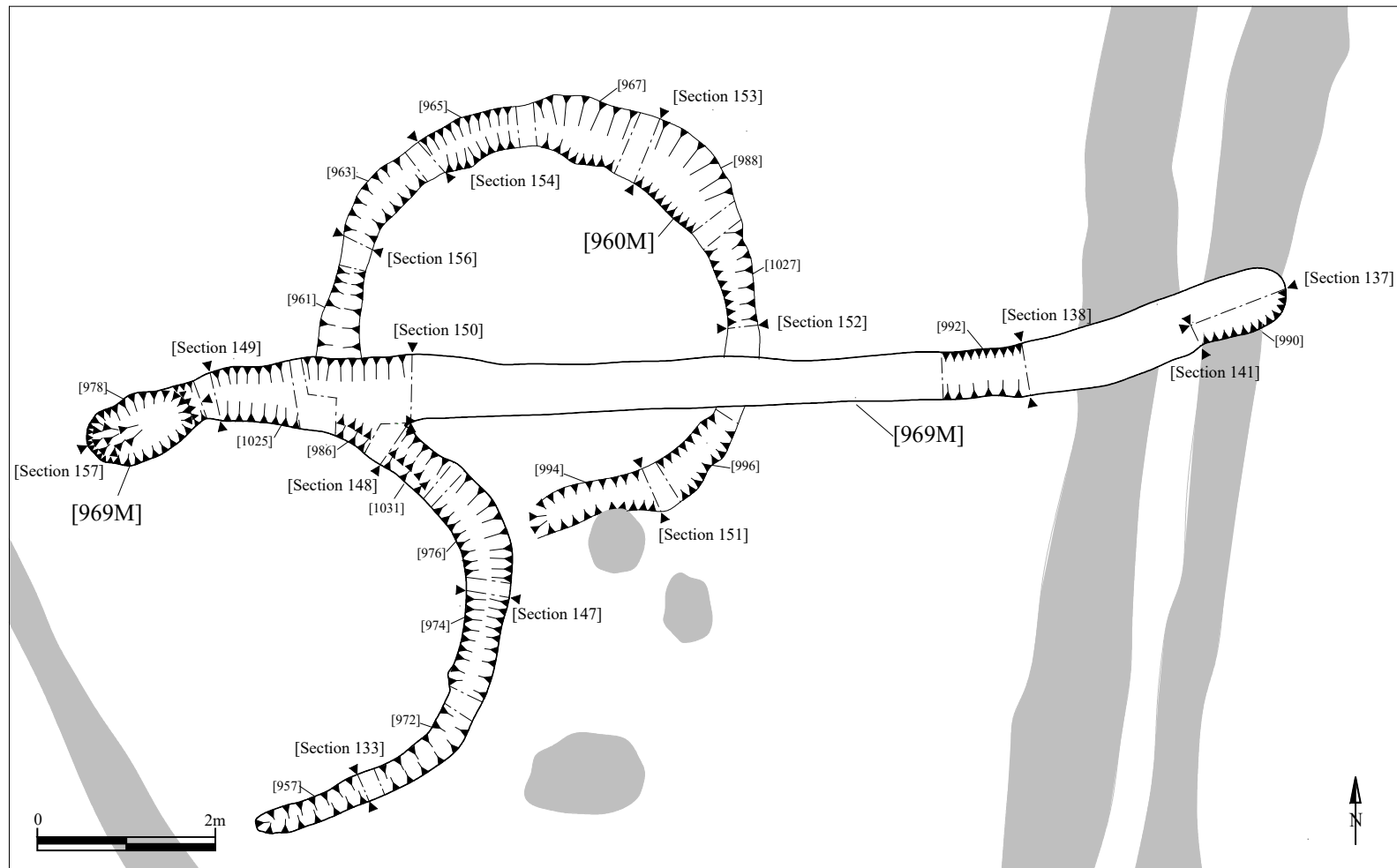


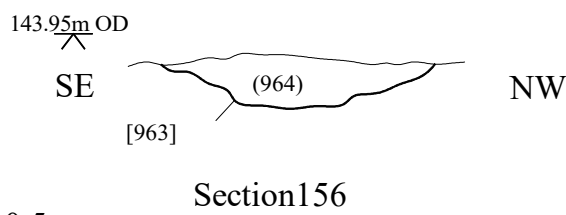
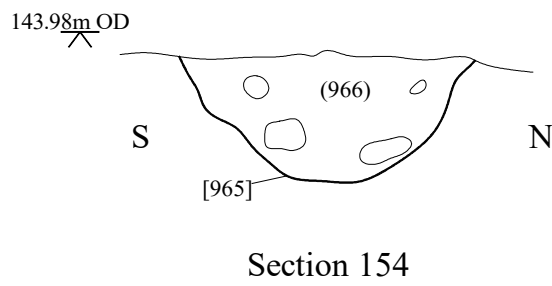
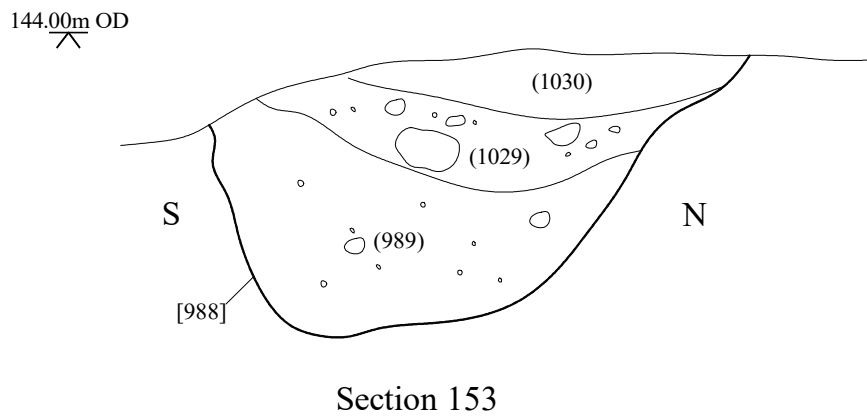
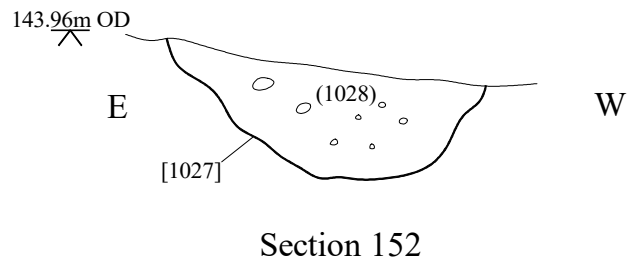
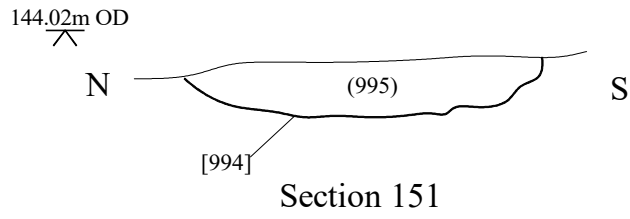
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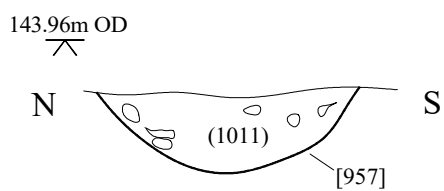


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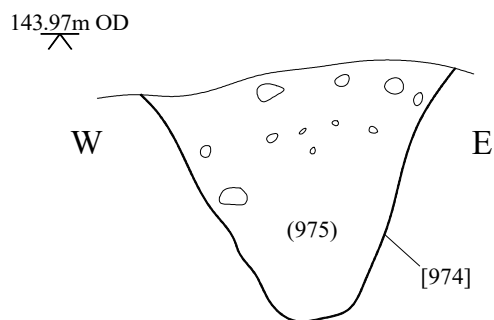




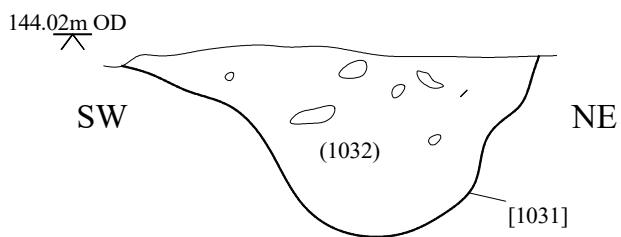




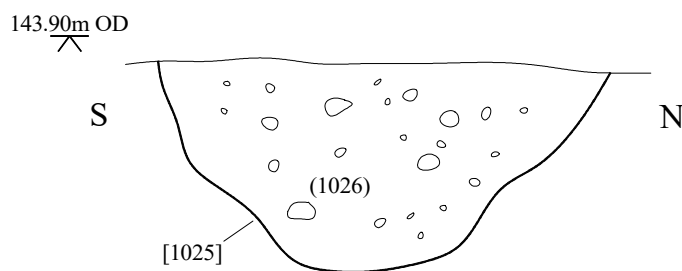
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Section 147



Section 148



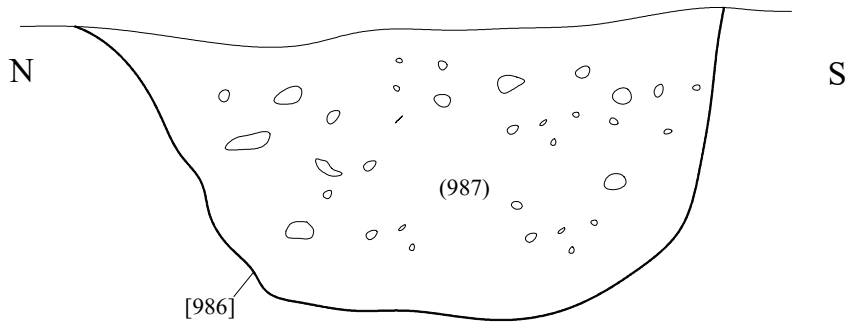
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Section 157

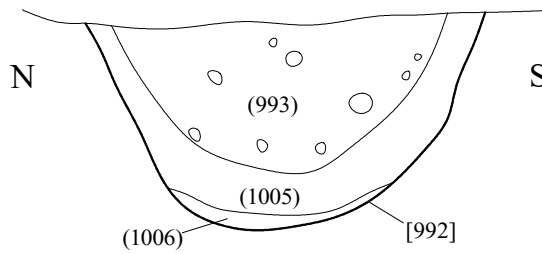


144.01m OD



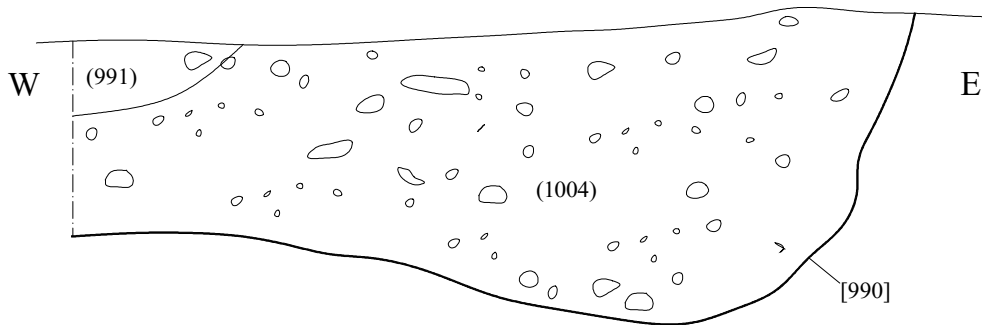
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144.06m OD



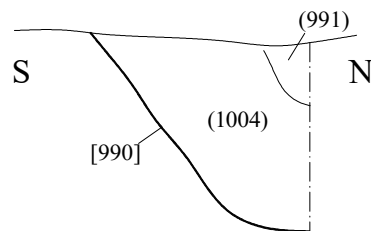
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144.19m OD



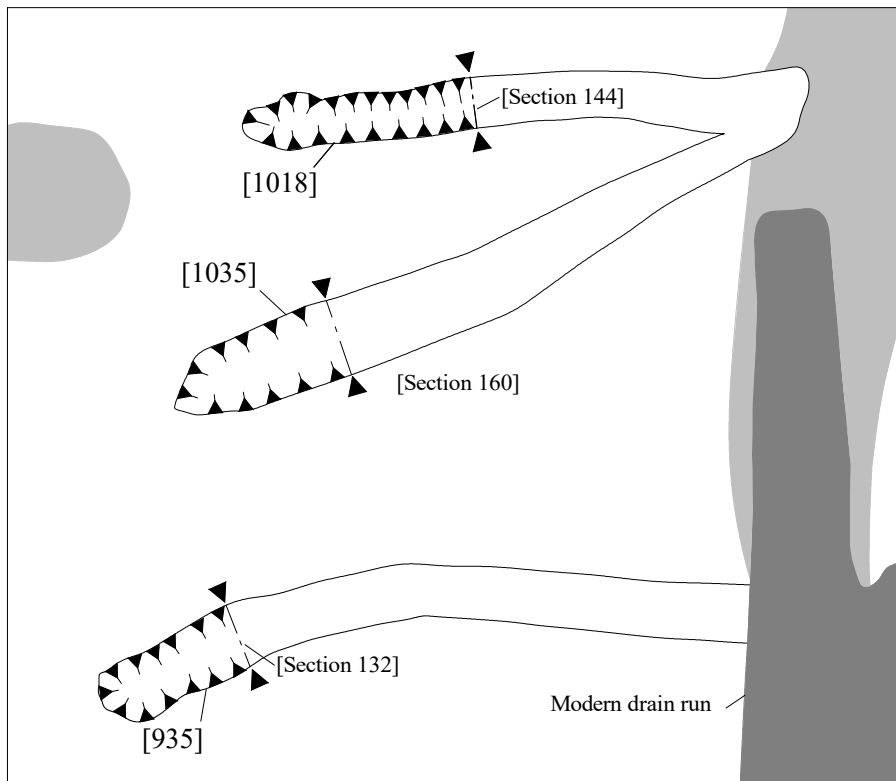
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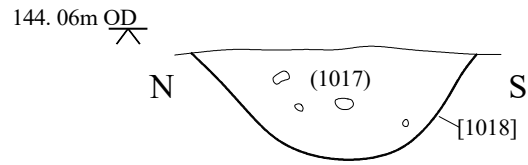
144.18m OD



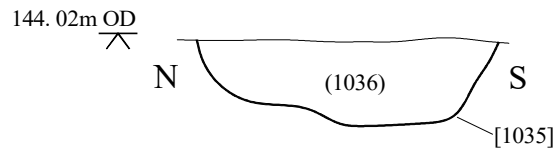
Section 141

Sections through Linear Gully associated with Pennanular Gully [969]. Scale 1:10

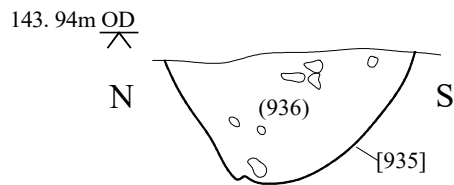




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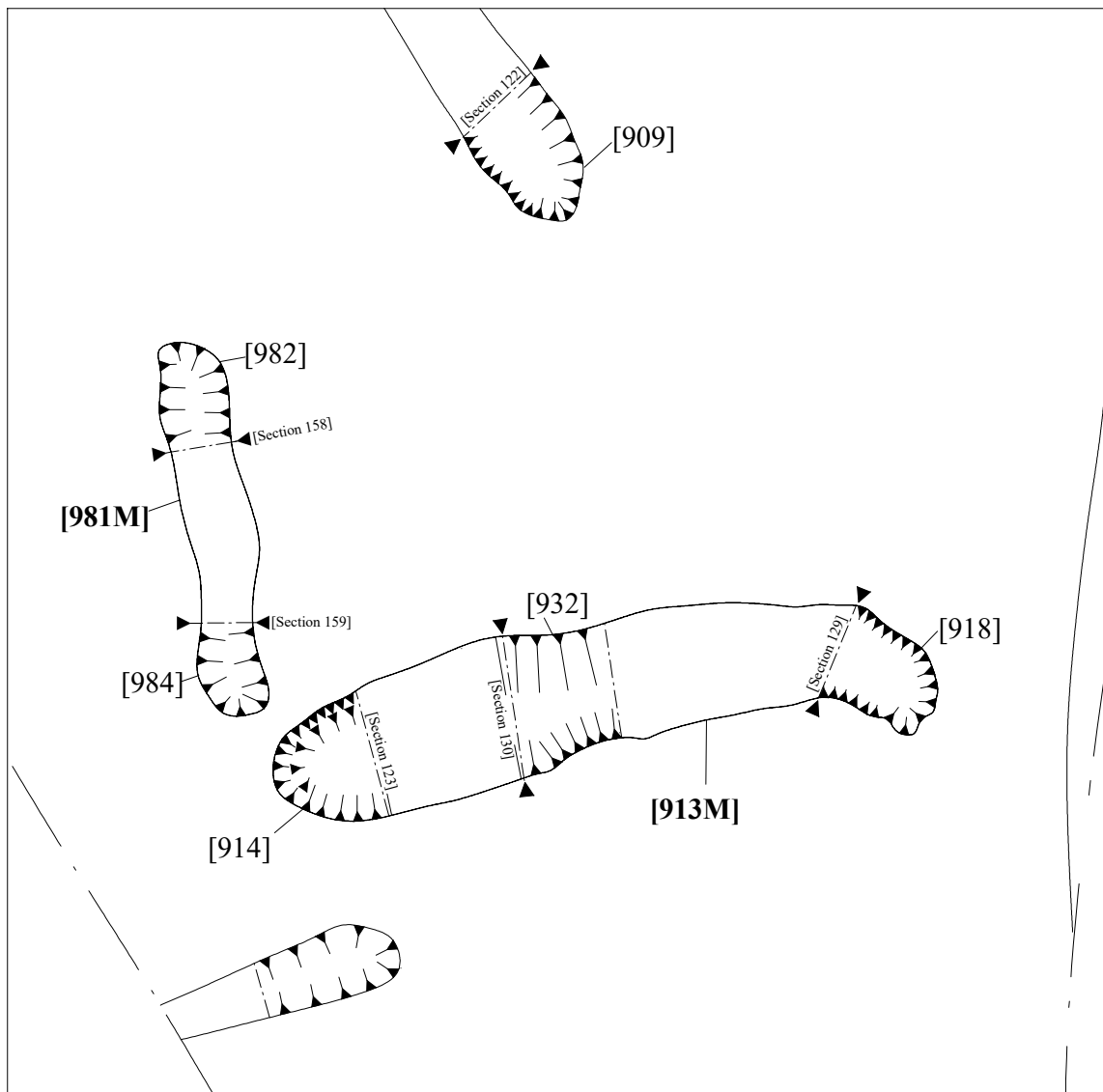
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Section 132

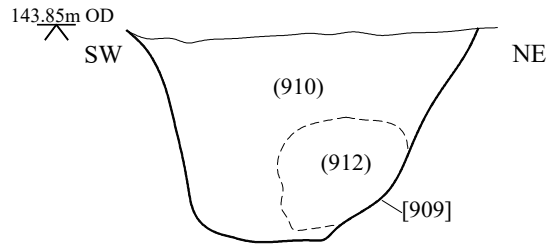


Sections through Gullies [935], [1018] and [1035] Scale 1:10

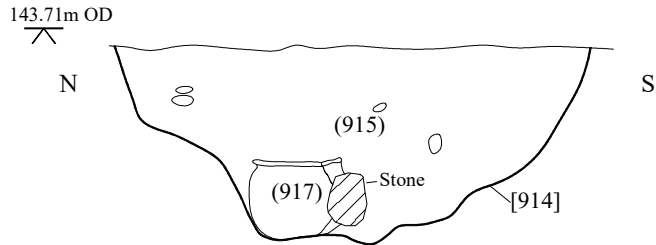


Plan Showing Phase 3 Features [913M], [981M] and Ditch Terminal [909] Scale 1:75
Witham Archaeology

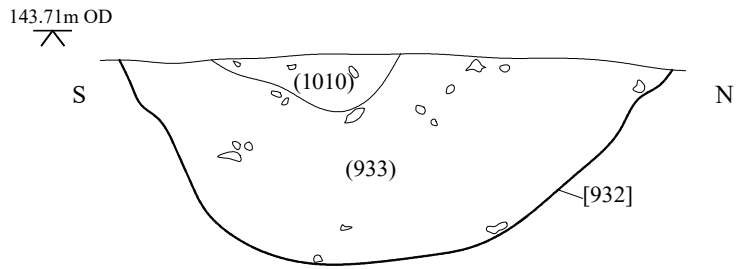
Fig. 17



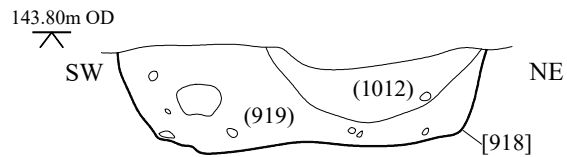
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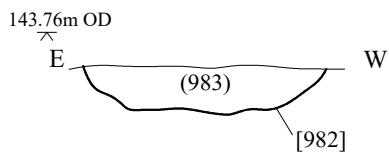
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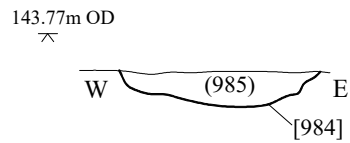
Section 130



Section 129



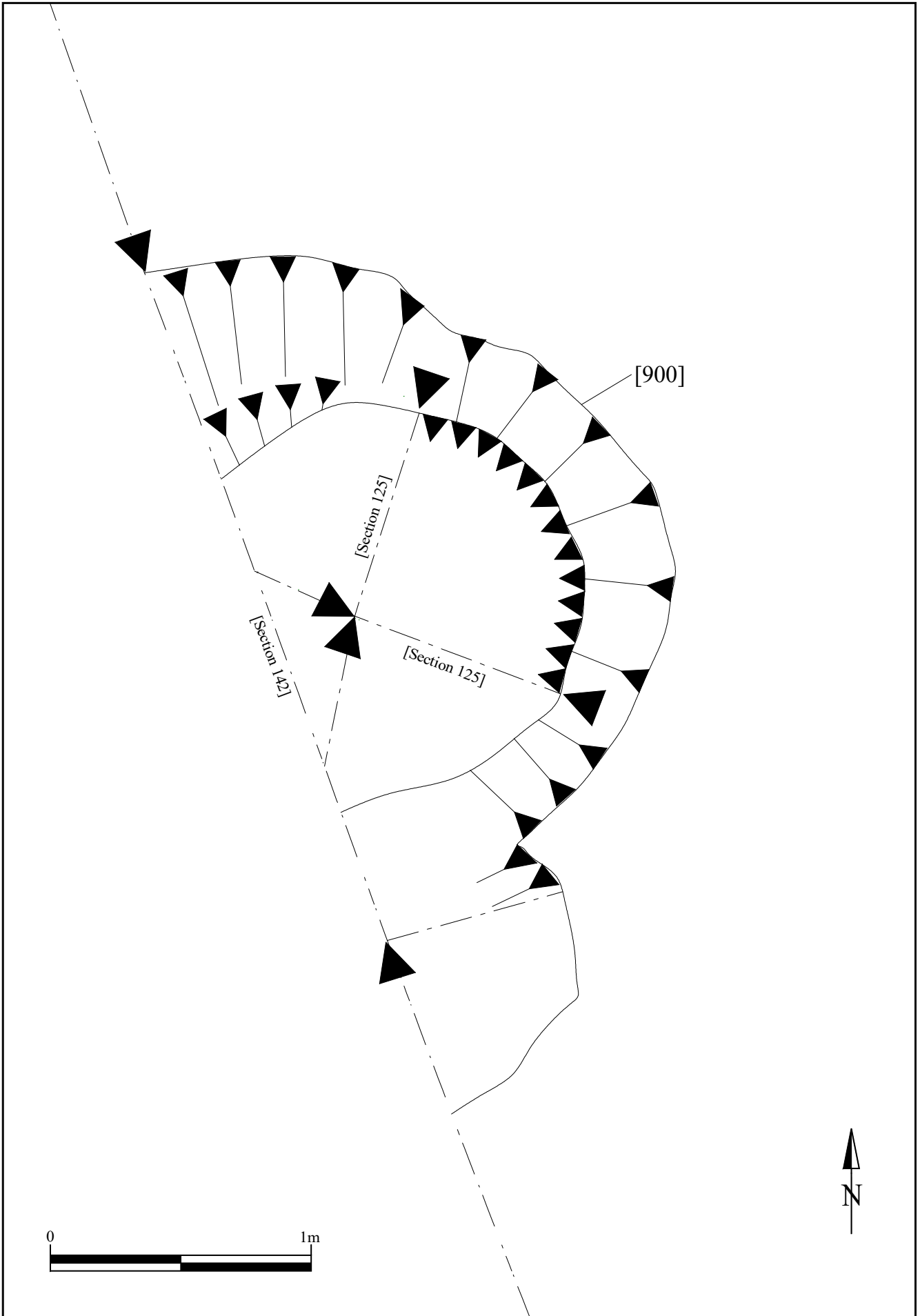
Section 158

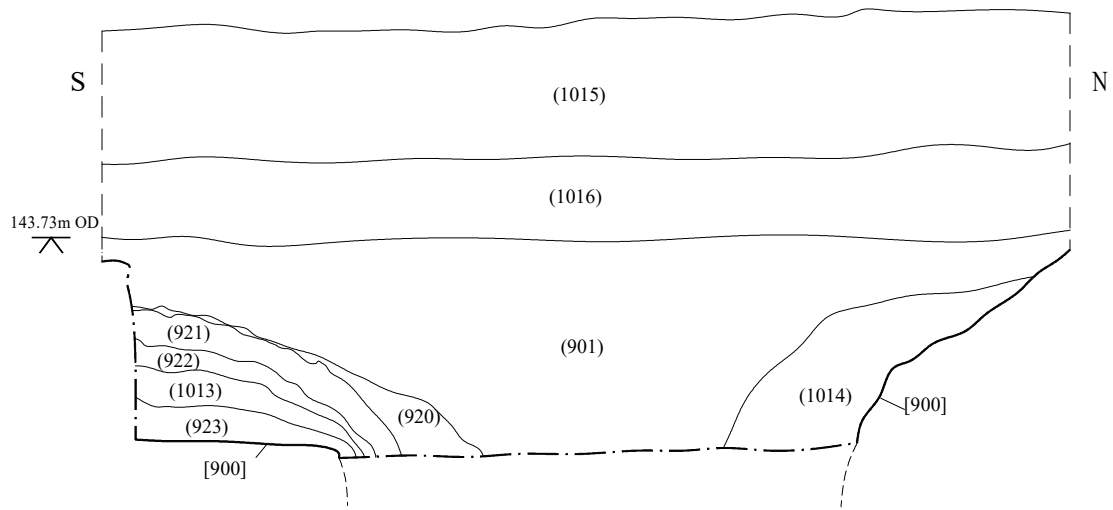


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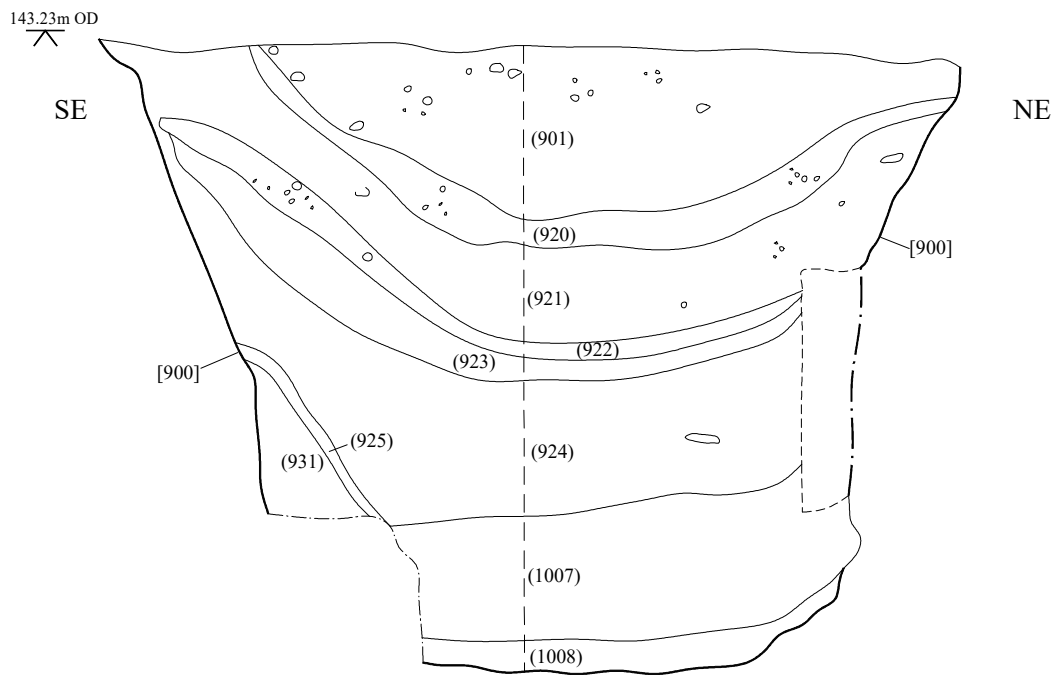


Sections through Features [913M] & [981M] and Ditch Terminal [909] Scale 1:20



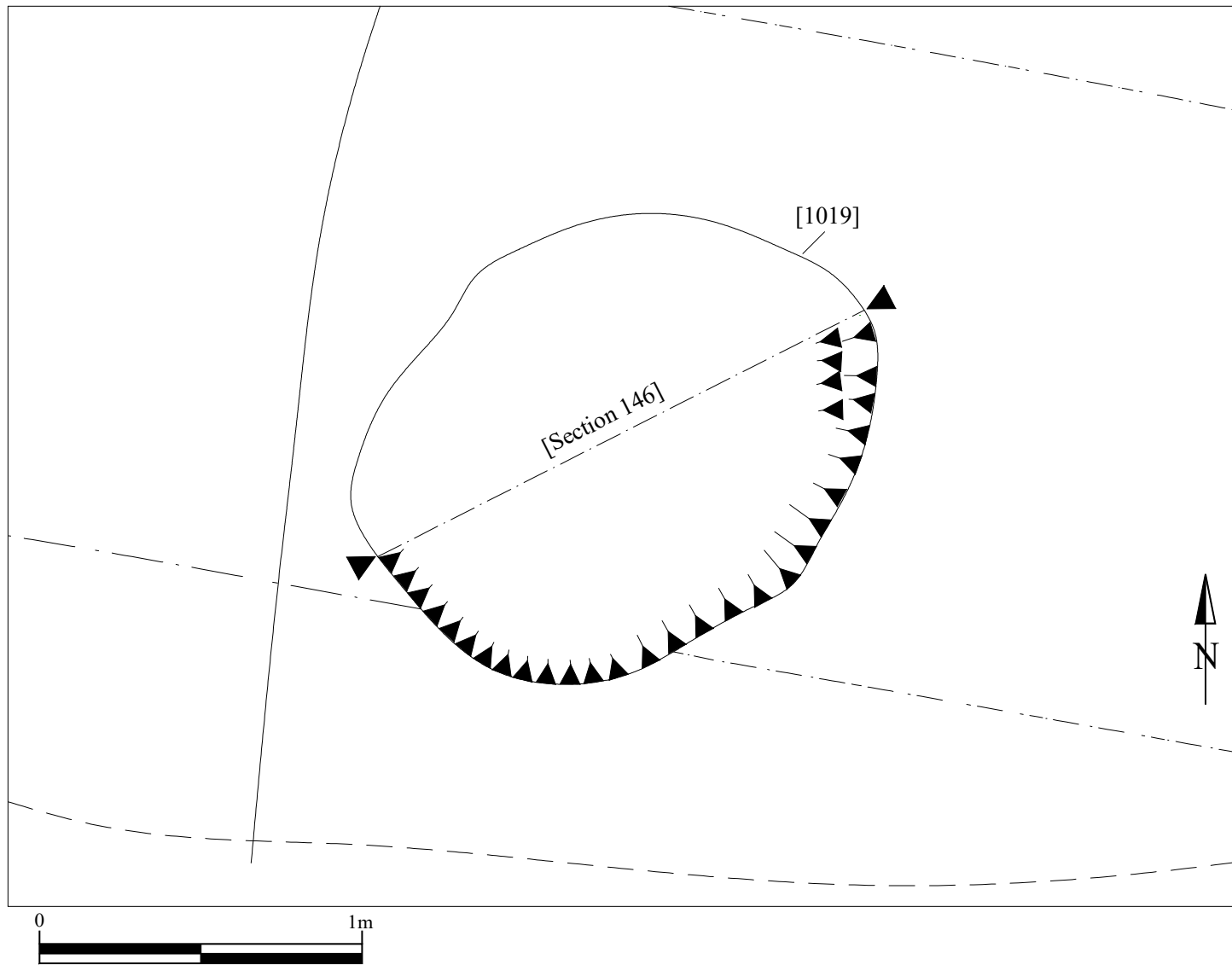


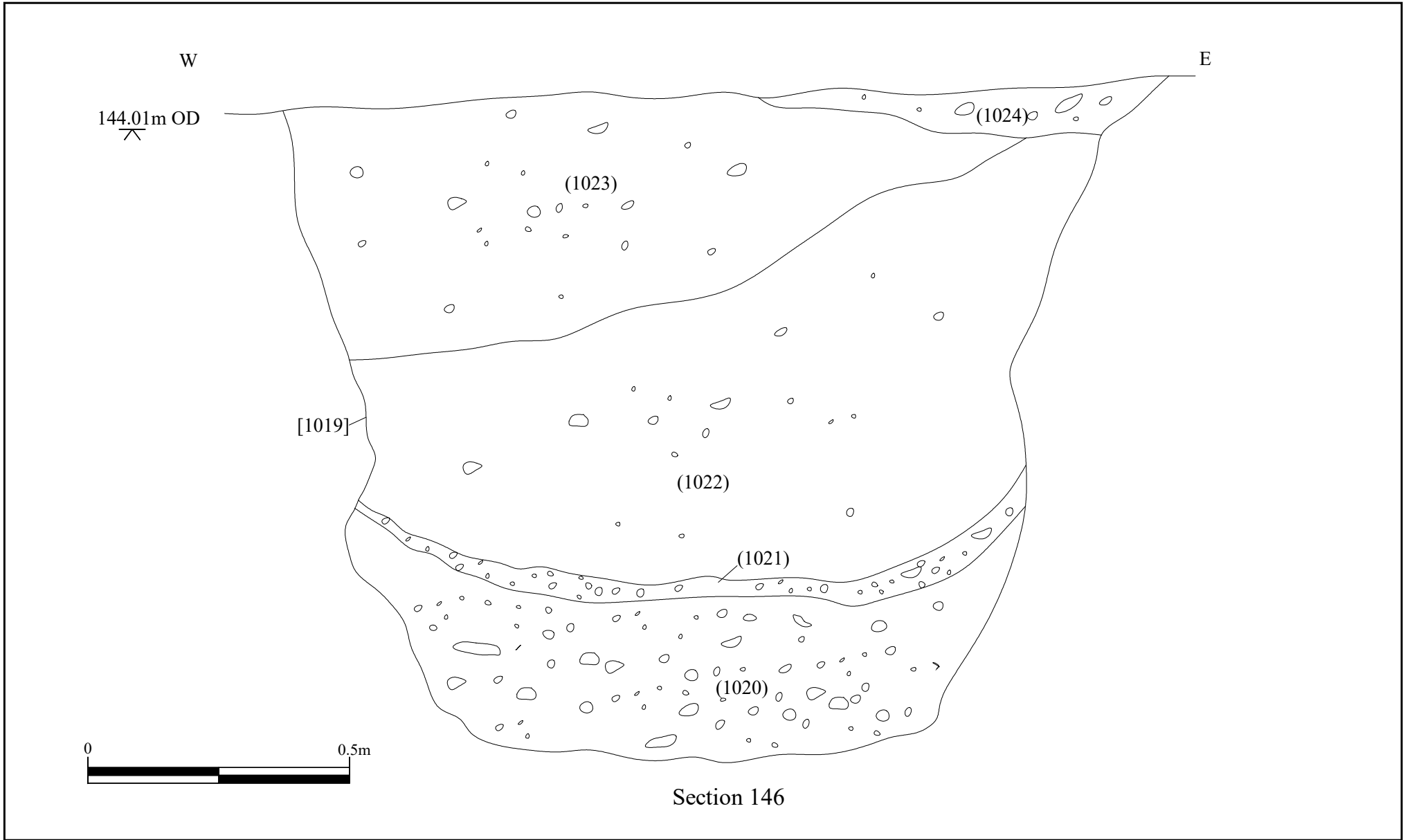
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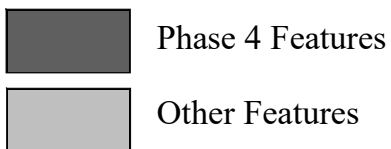
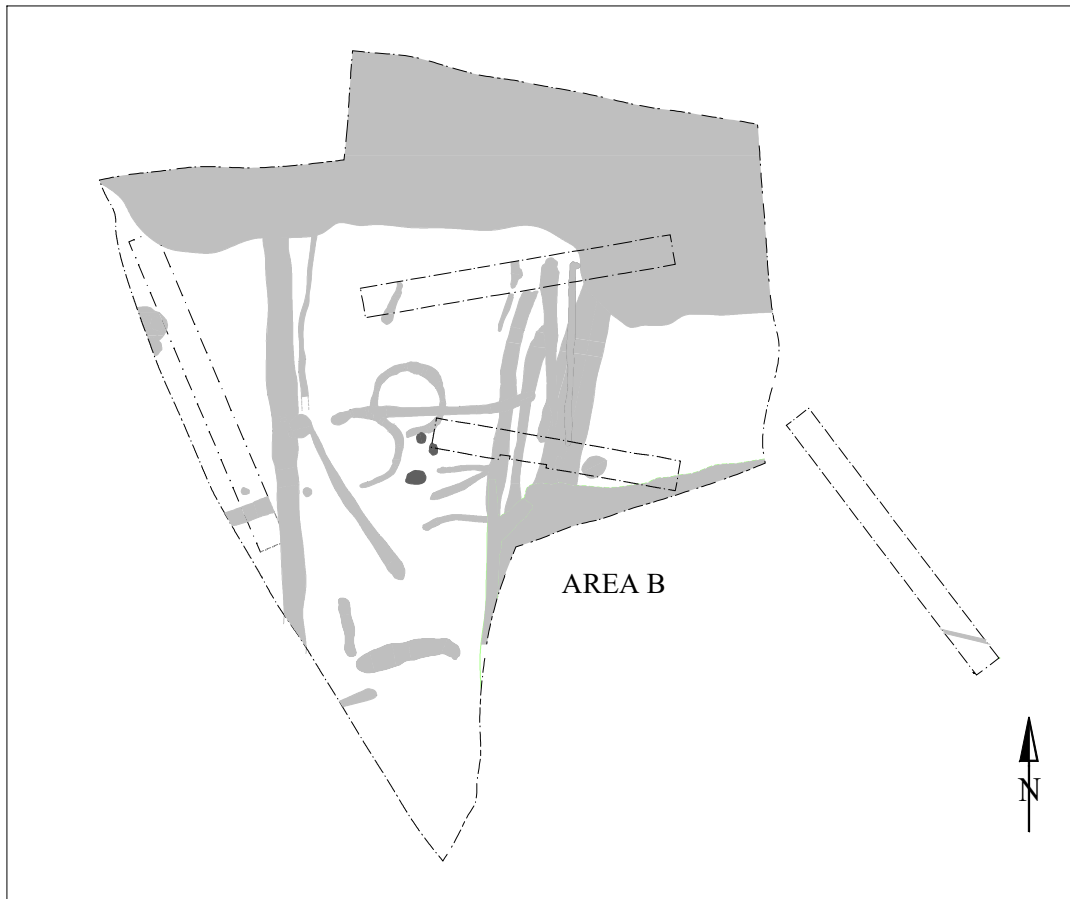


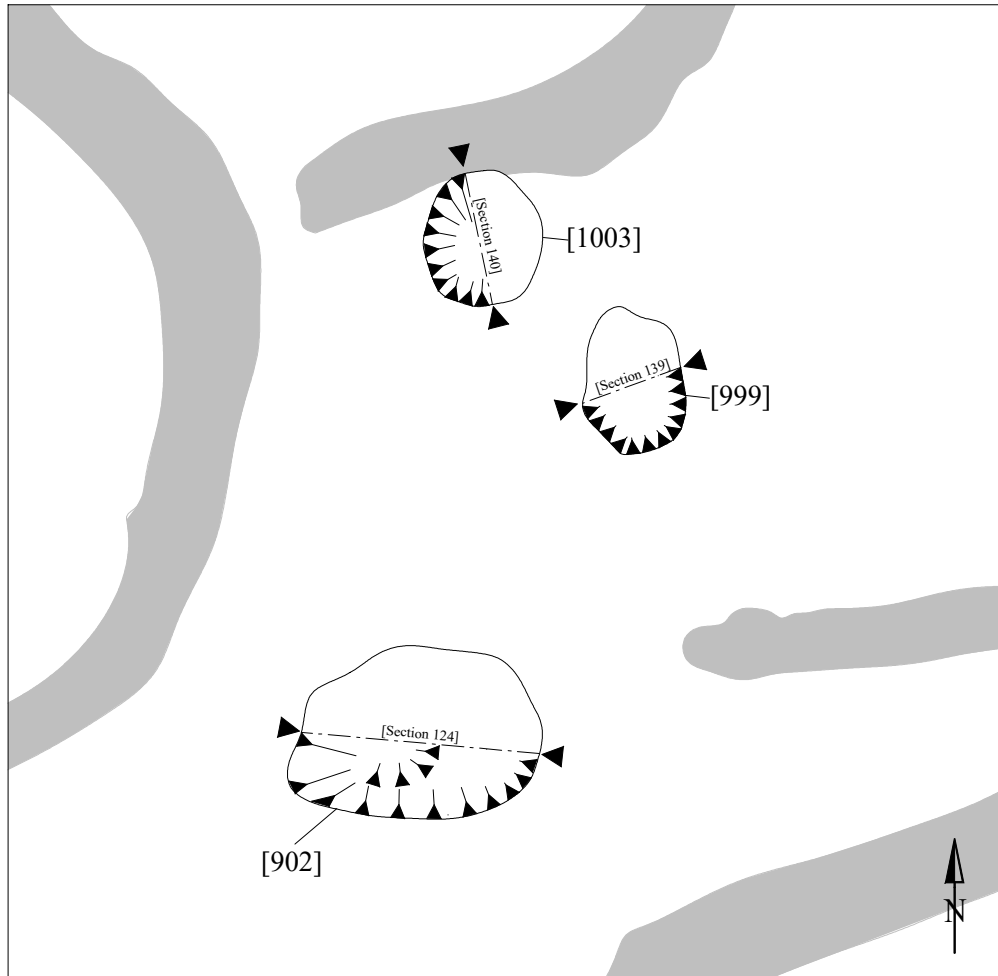
Section 125





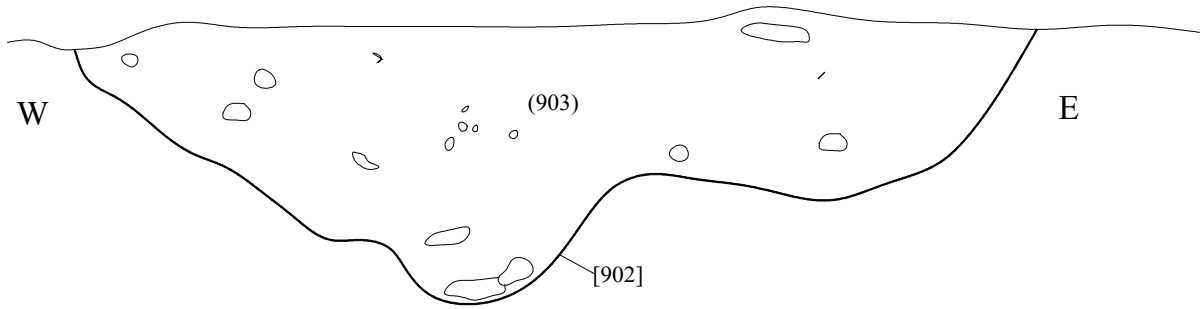






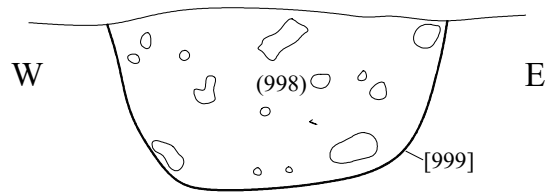
Witham Archaeology Detail Plan of Phase 4 features in Area B Scale 1:40 Fig. 24

143.99m OD
^



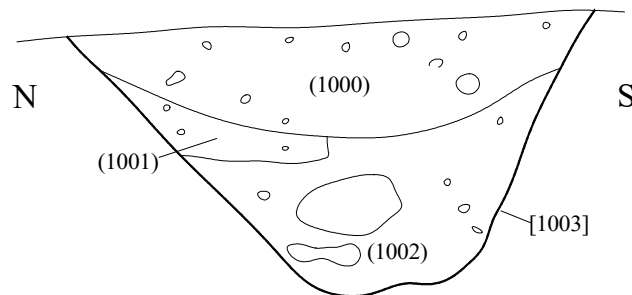
Section 124

143.97m OD
^



Section 139

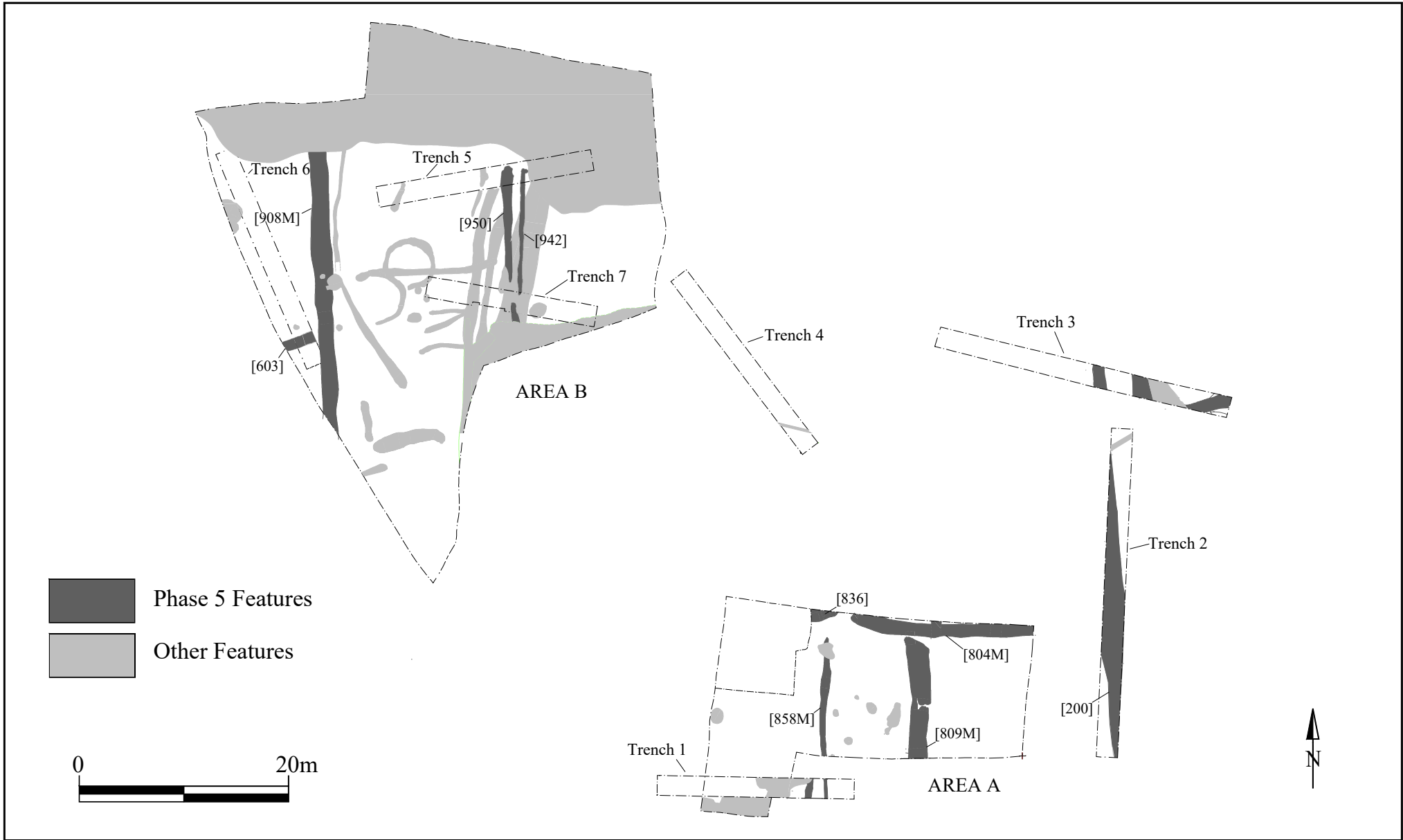
144.01m OD
^

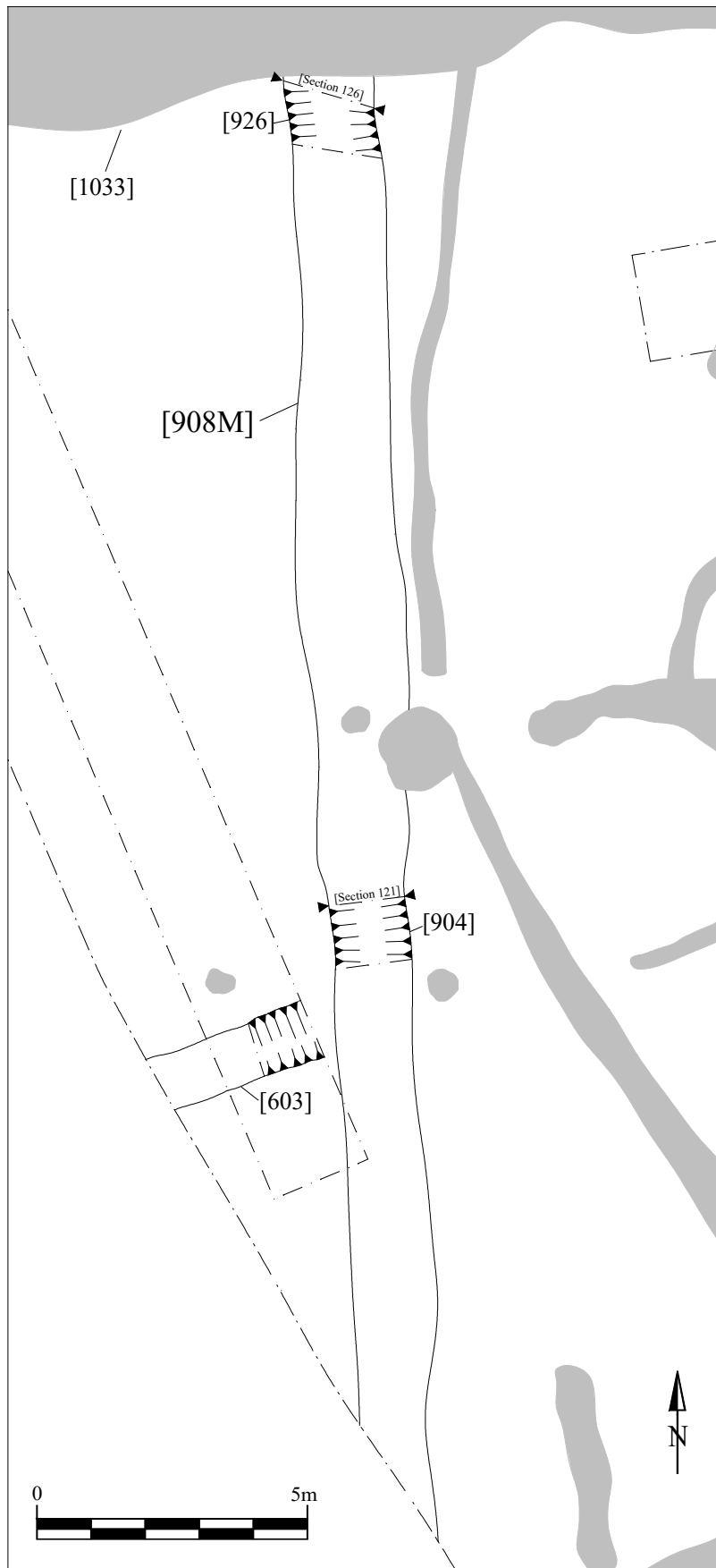


Section 140



Sections through Phase 4 Pits or Post-Holes [902], [999] and [1003]. Scale 1:10





Detail plan of Phase 5 Ditches [908M] and [603] in Area B. Scale 1:125

143.66m OD

W

E

(928)

(927)

[926]

Section 126

143.95m OD

W

E

(907)

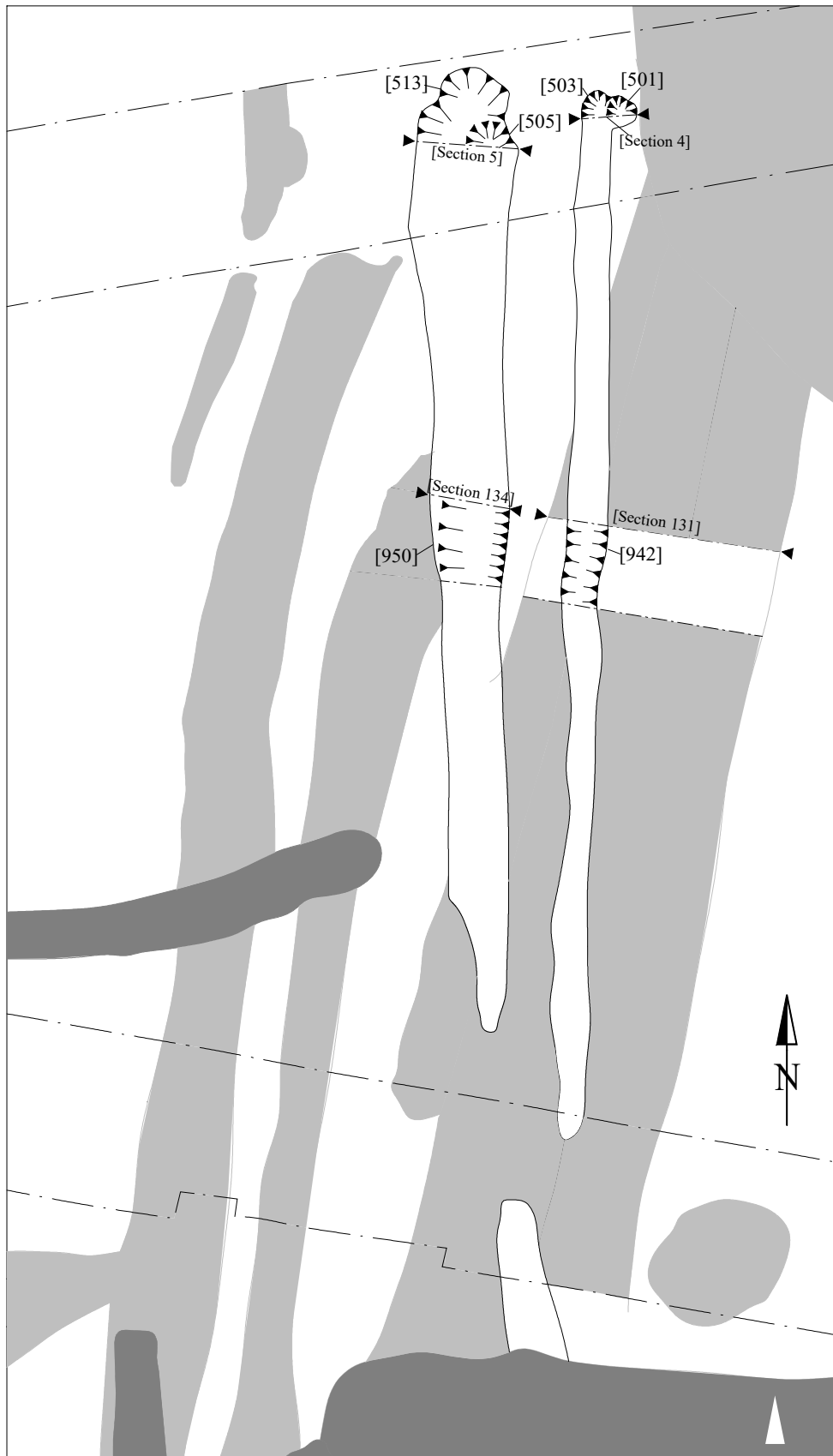
(906)

(905)

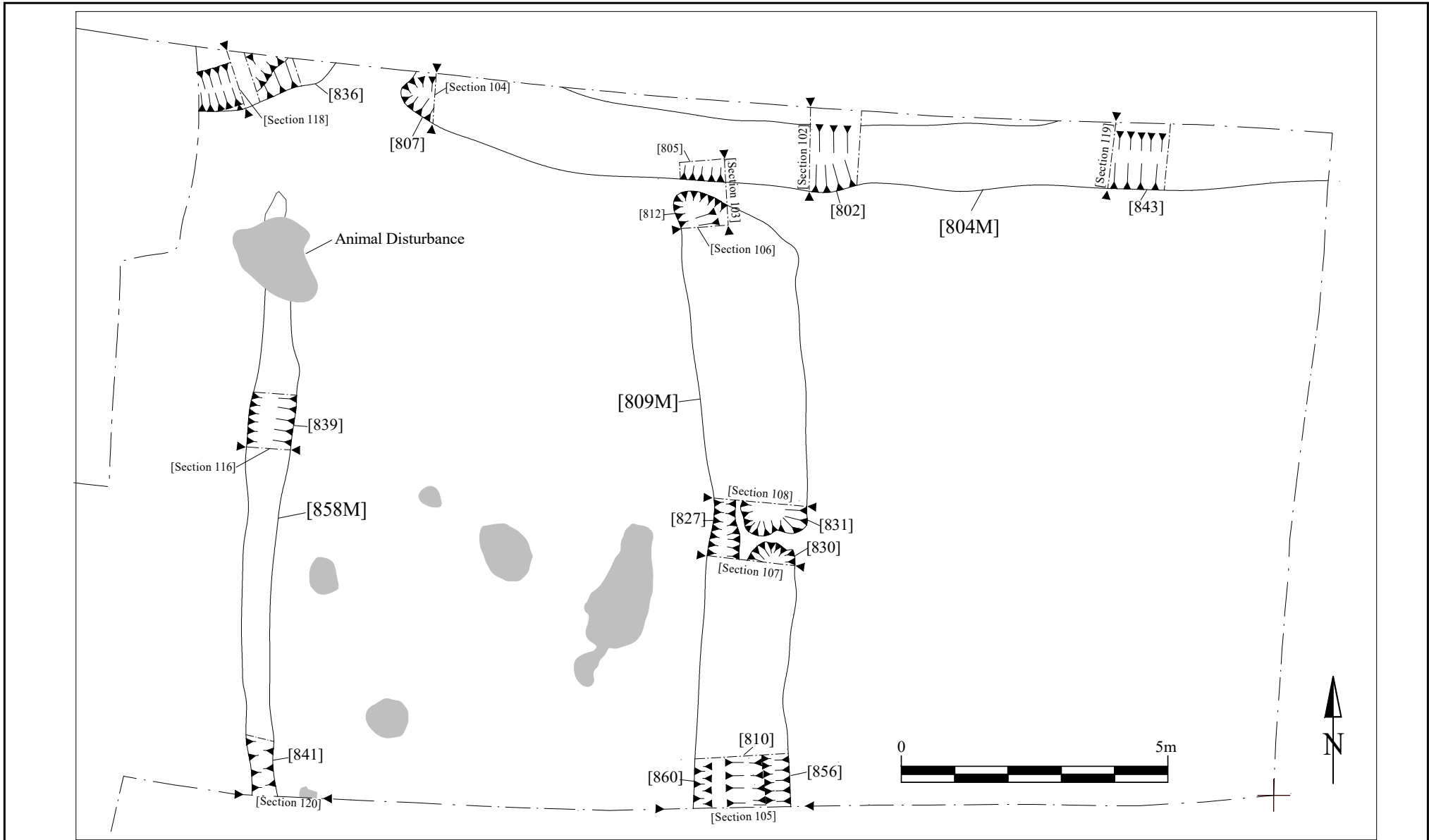
[904]

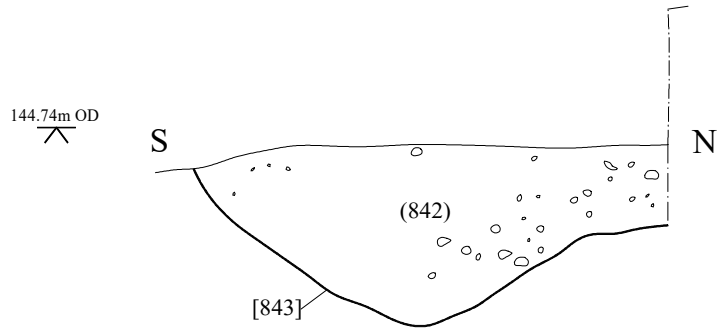
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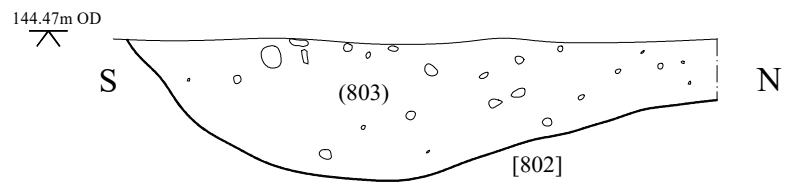


Witham Archaeology Detail plan of Phase 5 Gullies [942] and [950]. Scale 1:75 Fig. 29

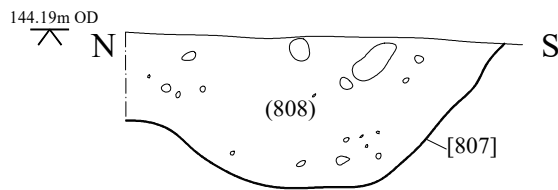




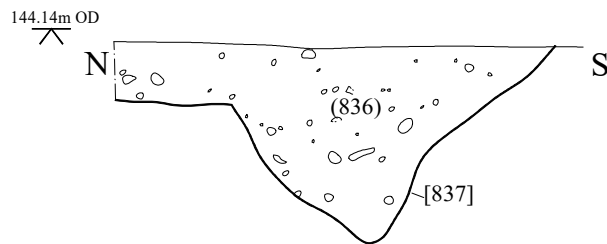
Section 119



Section 102



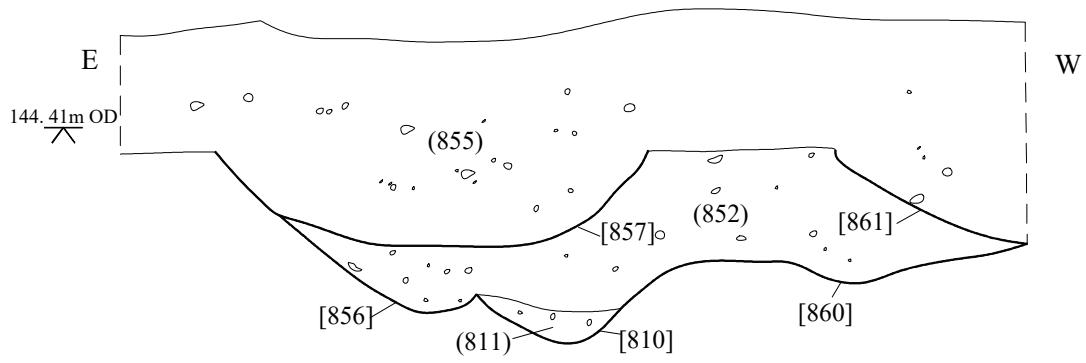
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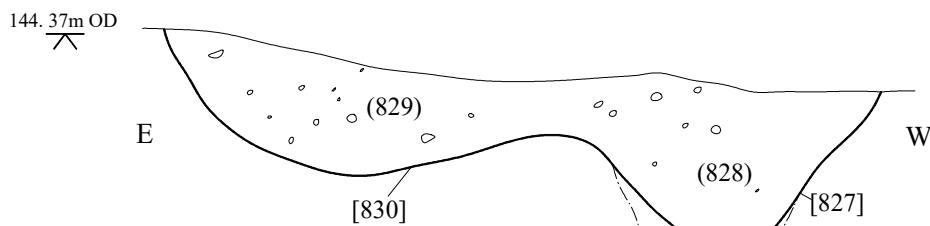
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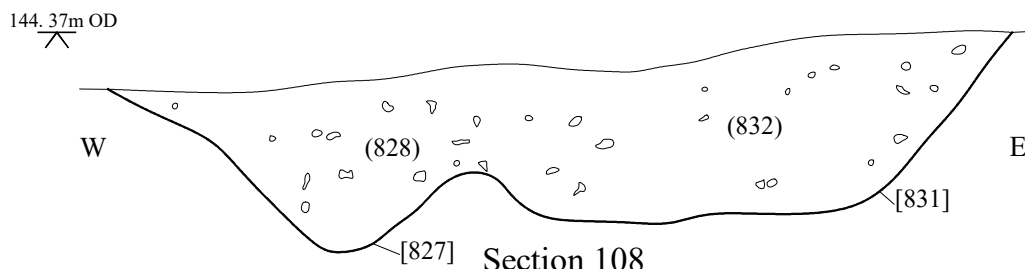
Sections through Phase 5 Ditches [804M] and [836M]. Scale 1:20



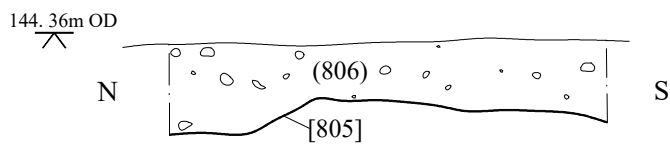
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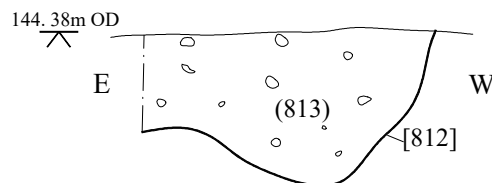
Section 107



Section 108

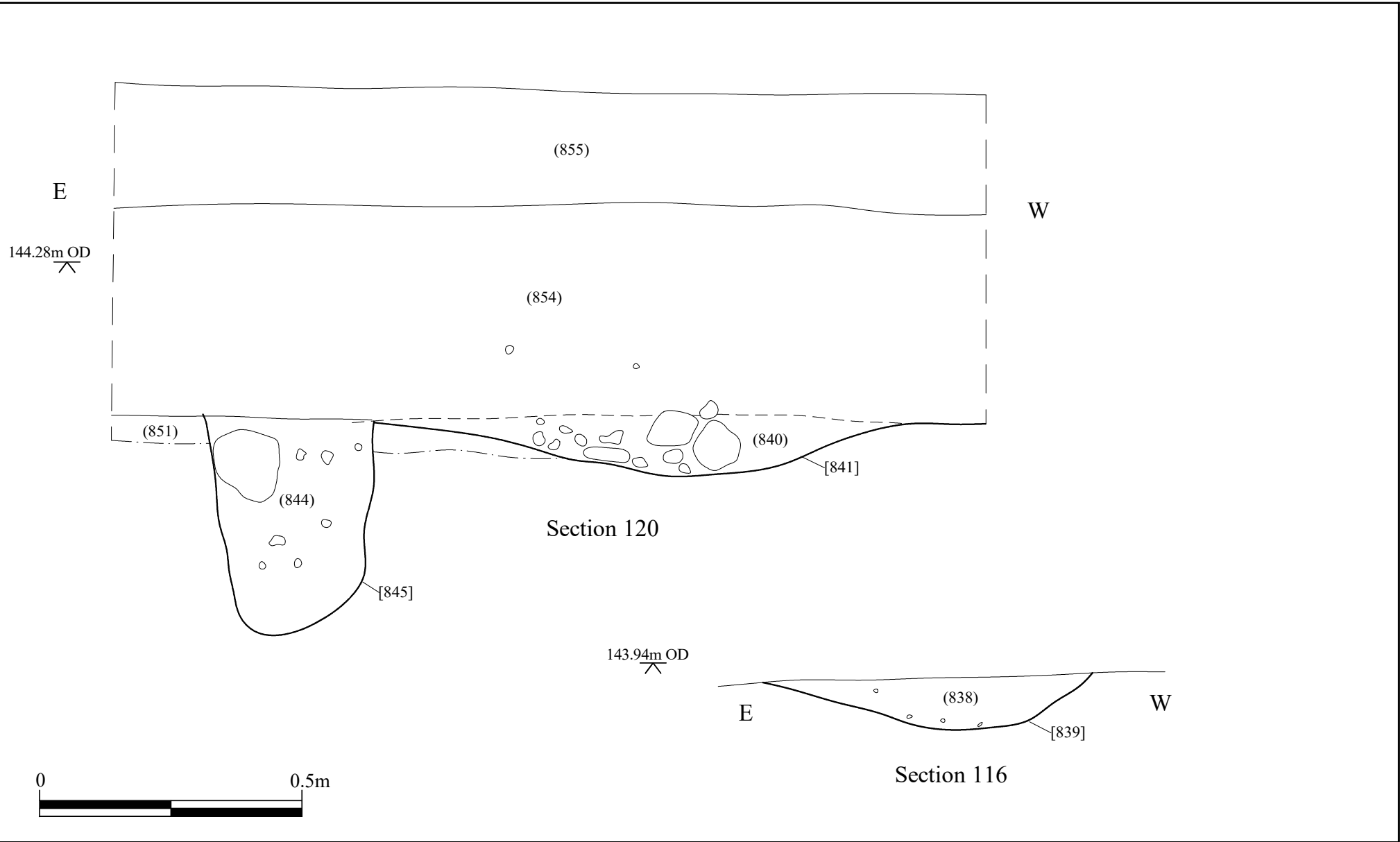


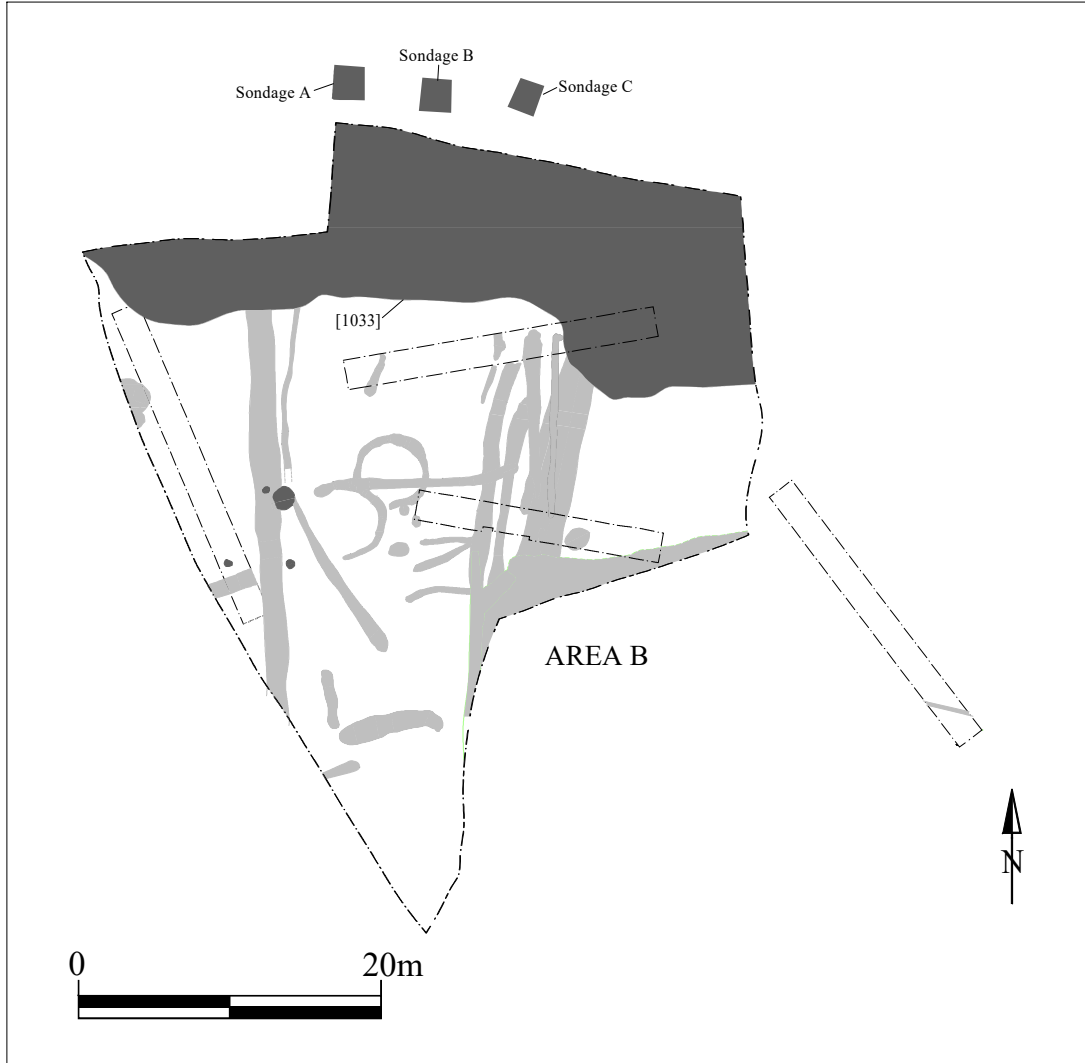
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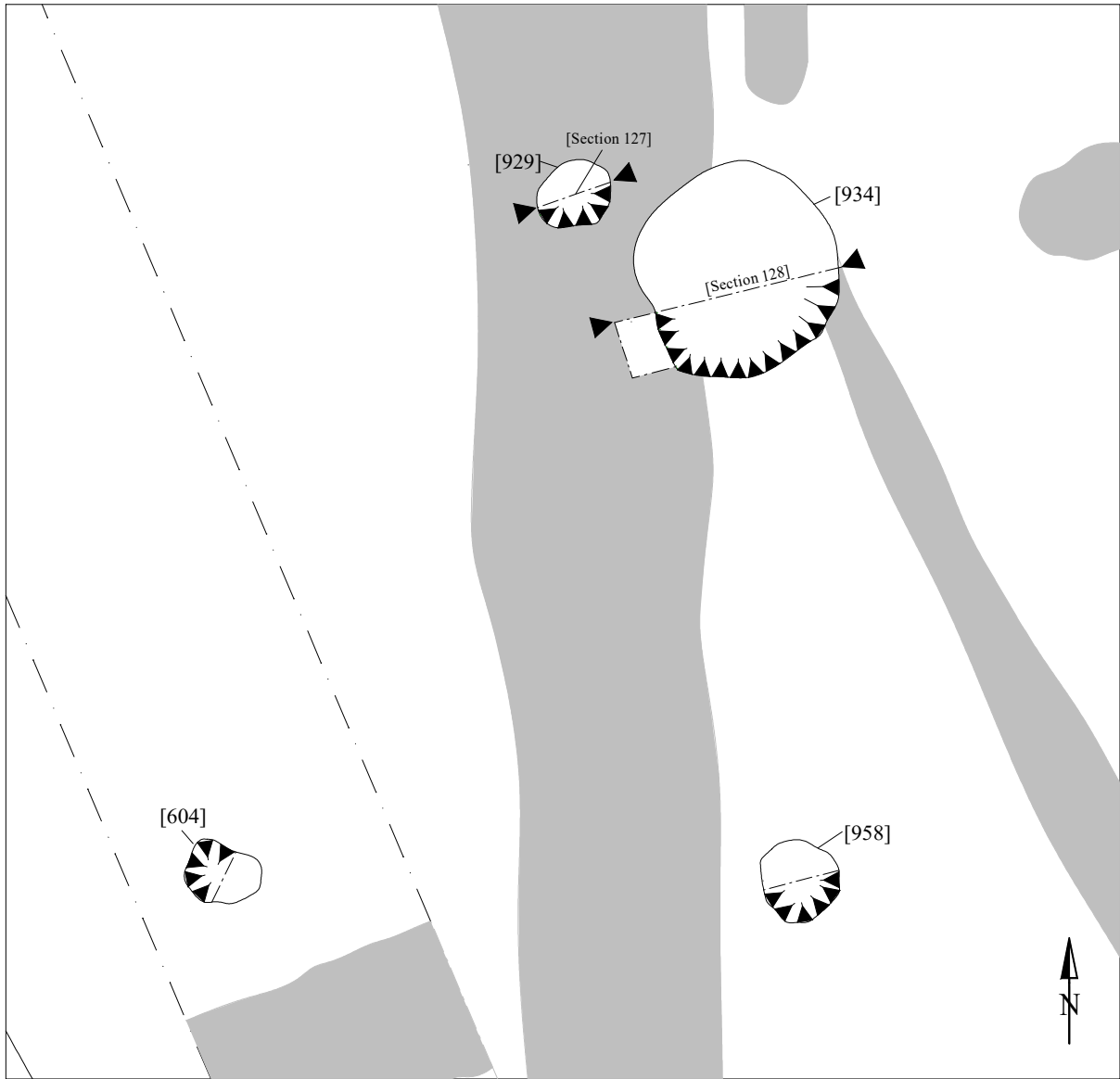


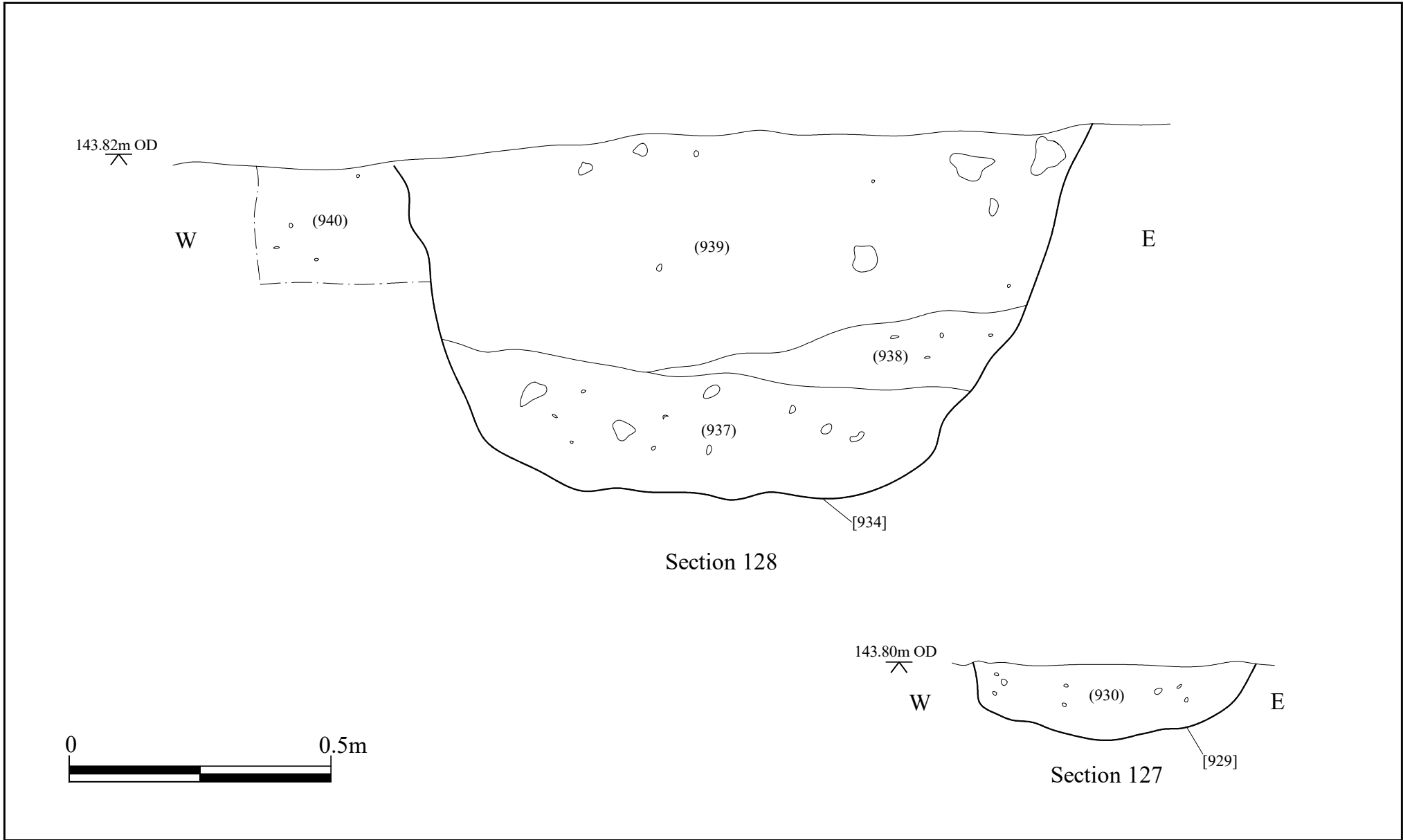
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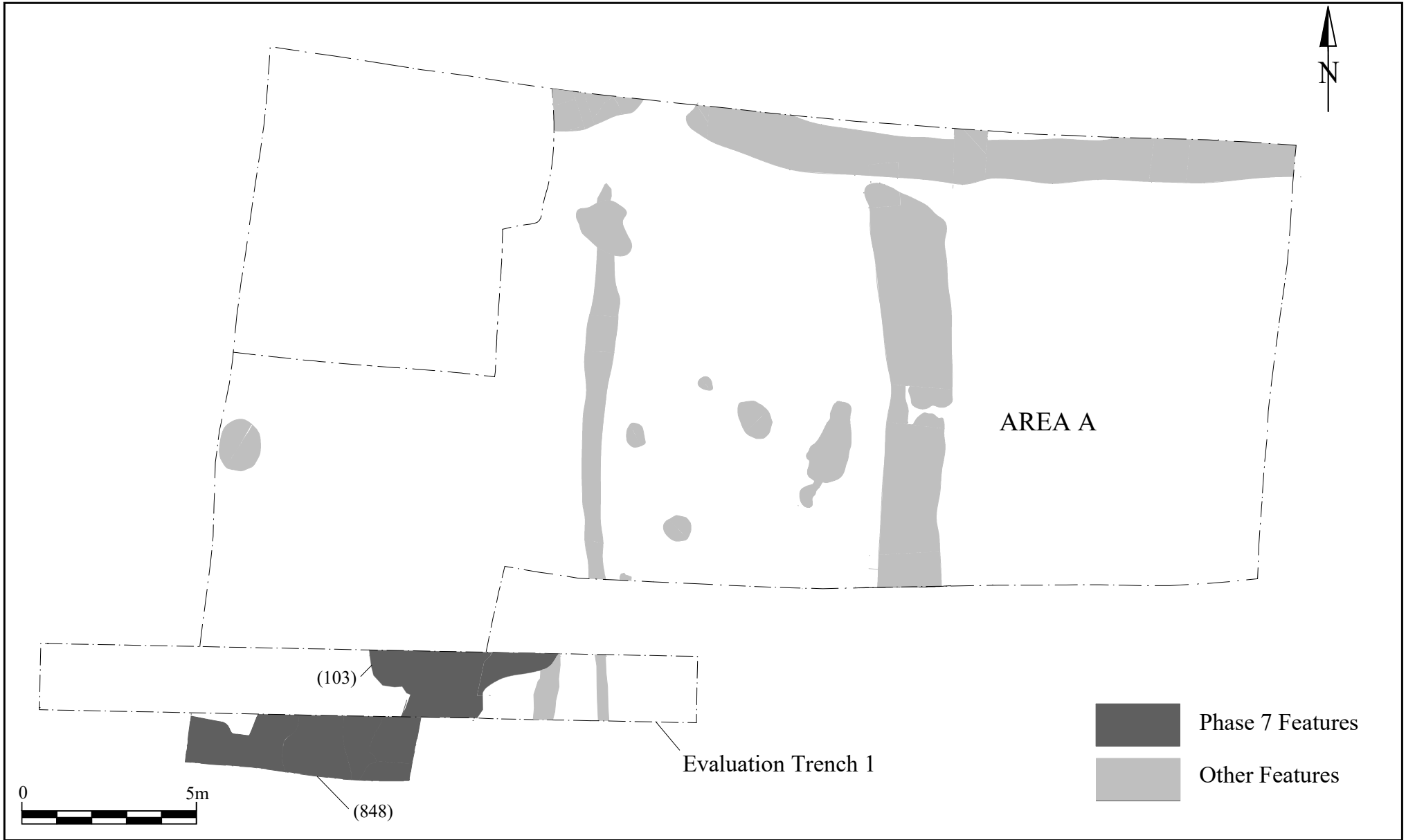




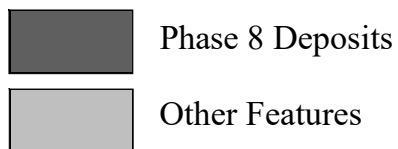
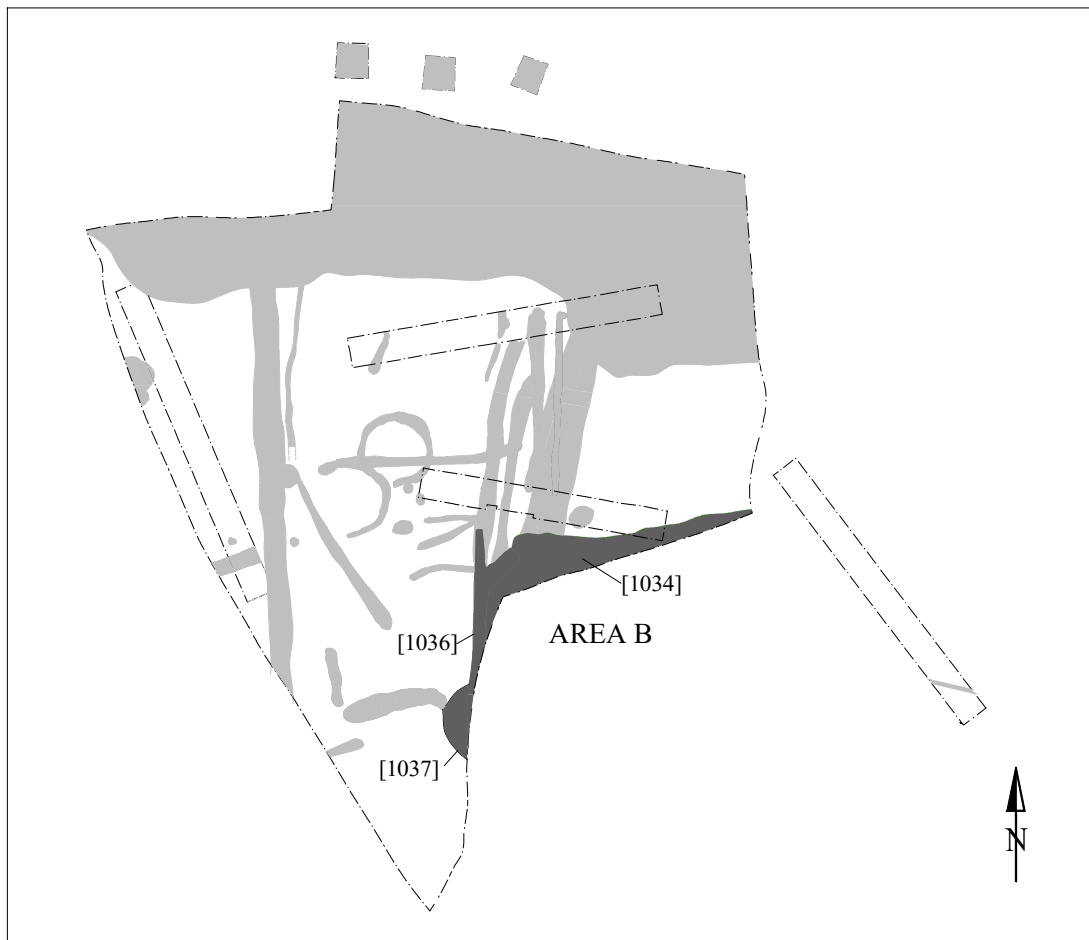


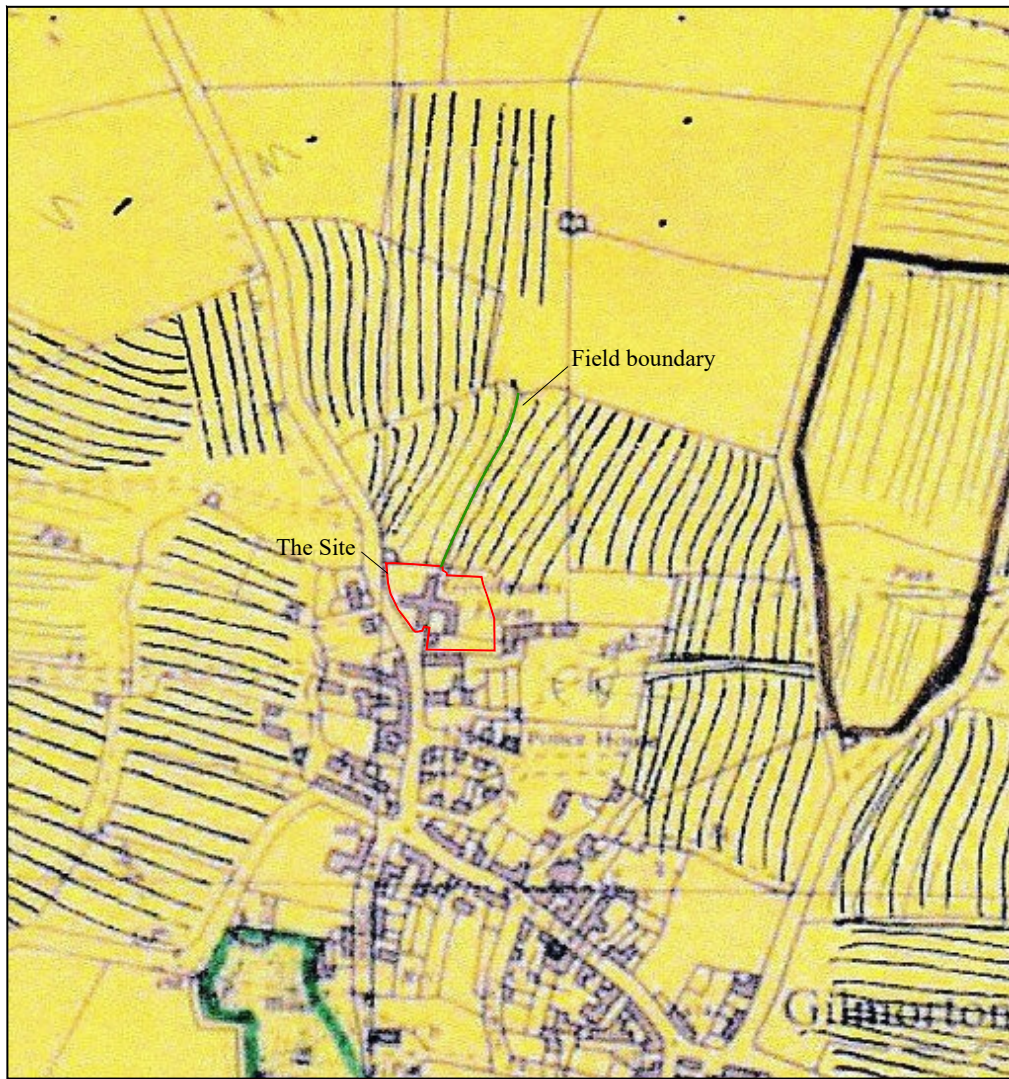












Plan of Ridge and Furrow Earthworks in the Vicinity of the Site. Scale 1:7500

APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
800	A	Pit	Oval in plan measuring 1.45 x 1.35m. Depth is 0.30m. Sides vary in degree of slope between gradual and steep. Concave base
801	A	Fill of [800]	Moderately compact mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt. Contains occasional rounded stones (to 20mm) and very occasional angular stones (up to 20mm)
802	A	Ditch segment	Linear in plan, measuring 1.05m in width and 0.40m in depth. Sides sloping to a flattish base
803	A	Fill of [802]	Moderately compacted, friable mid greyish brown silty sand containing moderately frequent rounded and angular stones to 60mm diameter.
804	A	Ditch Master number. Segment numbers [802], [805], [807] & [843].	East to west orientated ditch recorded for a distance of 17.50m. Terminates at west end but continues beyond the limit of excavation to the east.
805	A	Ditch segment	Measures 0.30m in width (partially excavated), 0.80m E-W (partially excavated) and 0.25m in depth (not bottomed). Side has 45° slope where seen
806	A	Fill of [805]	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand, including occasional rounded stones up to 50mm in diameter.
807	A	Ditch segment	Western terminal of ditch (Master number 804). Semi-circular in plan at the western end, measuring 0.90m in width but extends beyond LOE to north. 0.38m in depth with c. 45° slope on the sides and a concave base.
808	A	Fill of [807]	Moderately compacted friable mid greyish brown silty sand containing occasional large rounded stones up to 100mm and occasional small angular stones up to 20mm.
809	A	Ditch Master number. Segment numbers [810], [812], [827].	North to south orientated ditch. Recorded for a distance of 11.70m. Terminates to the north but continues beyond the limit of excavation to the south.
810	A	Ditch segment	Uncertain dimensions due to intercutting but at least 0.50m in width and 0.40m in depth. Sides slope by around 45° and the base is concave.
811	A	Primary fill of [810]	Moderately compacted light to mid greyish brown silty sand, 0.09m in maximum depth and 0.40m in width, including moderate rounded stones up to 0.15m in diameter.
812	A	Ditch terminal	Ditch terminal. Semi-circular in plan, At least 0.60m wide with sides sloping at 45° to a rounded base.
813	A	Fill of [812]	Moderately compacted, friable mid brownish grey sandy silt containing occasional rounded stones up to 50mm diameter.
814	A	Post disuse fill of probable hearth [816]	Loose to moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional 'cobbles' up to 100mm and occasional angular stones up to 50mm. Extends throughout upper levels of [816]
815	A	Possible lining to hearth [816]	Sub squared patch of hard fired clay at the base of possible hearth [816]. Hard and mostly deep

			purple with some parts deep red. Measures 30mm in maximum thickness and extends 0.40m north - south and 0.35m east - west.
816	A	Cut for possible hearth	Irregular in plan but generally an elongated ovoid with a projection to the south. It measures 3.18m in length, 1.14m in maximum width and has a depth of 70mm. Sides very gently sloping to a concave base across the width but generally level in the long axis. The projection to south is shallow and concave.
817	A	Fill of [818]	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand containing moderate pebbles up to 50mm, occasional quantities of large pebbles up to 0.15m (concentrated to the base) and occasional angular stones up to 50mm. The large cobbles may be packing for a post.
818	A	Pit or possible post-hole	Sub oval in plan, measuring 1.27m x 0.95m by 0.30m deep. The northern side is steep/near vertical while the south side is steep.
819	A	Fill of [820]	Moderately compacted and friable mid brown silty sand containing moderate rounded stones up to 20mm in diameter.
820	A	Post-hole	Circular in plan, measuring 0.38m in diameter and 0.30m in depth. The sides are steep while the base is narrow and concave.
821	A	Fill of [822]	Moderately compacted, friable mid brown silty sand containing occasional rounded stones up to 30mm diameter, with occasional rounded stones up to 120mm diameter concentrated on south side
822	A	Pit or possible post-hole	Oval in plan, measuring 0.7m x 0.5m by 0.14m in depth with sides sloping at 45° to a concave base. Large stones on the base may have been used as packing
823	A	Fill of [824]	Moderately compacted and friable mid brown silty sand containing occasional rounded stones up to 20mm and occasional large rounded stones up to 150mm.
824	A	Pit or possible post-hole	Circular in plan measuring 0.70m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. It had very gradually sloped sides and a concave base, with a deeper depression offset from the centre.
825	A	Find from cleaning over the uppermost fill in possible hearth [816]	
826	A	Fill of [816]	Moderately compacted, soft mid greyish brown with frequent area/flecks of dark grey and black sandy silt containing occasional rounded stones up to 5mm diameter. Measures 0.75m north - south and 0.20m east - west by 20mm deep. Directly overlying baked clay and may be associated with initial period of abandonment
827	A	Ditch or gully segment - part of [809M]	Uncertain dimensions due to intercutting but at least 0.80m wide and 0.45m deep. Sides slope by around 45° and the base is concave
828	A	Fill of [827]	Moderately compacted, friable mid greyish brown with light brown flecks/patches silty sand. Includes moderately rounded stones up to 40mm in diameter and occasional small angular stones.

829	A	Fill of [830]	Loose to moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional large rounded stone to 0.10m diameter and occasional small angular and rounded stones to 20mm diameter
830	A	Cut of pit. Appears to be one of several 'pits' flanking the eastern side of Ditch [M809]. Possibly tree root pits	Uncertain dimensions due to disturbance but at least 1.05m wide by 0.30m deep. Full north - south extent not recorded as feature was only revealed within the excavated segment. The eastern side sloped at 0.45° and the western side was gradual. The base was concave.
831	A	Cut of pit. Appears to be one of several 'pits' flanking the eastern side of Ditch [M809]. Possibly tree root pits.	Uncertain dimensions due to disturbance but at least 1.40m in width and 0.44m in depth. Full north - south extent not recorded as feature was only revealed within the excavated segment. Sides sloped at 0.45° but steeper in places. The base is generally flat.
832	A	Fill of [831]	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand containing moderate rounded and angular stones up to 40mm in diameter.
833	A	Fill of post-hole [833]	Soft mid greyish brown and black (charcoal) silty sand and fine charcoal occurring in large patches. Includes occasional small rounded stones.
834	A	Post-hole related to hearth [816]	Post hole located centrally within hearth [816] Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter and 80mm in depth. Sides at 45° slope to a slightly concave base.
835	A	Pot sherd from surface of (814) fill of hearth [816]	
836	A	Curvi-linear gully/ditch	Gully or ditch on a general ENE- WSW alignment, measuring 0.95m wide by 0.50m deep. Sides at 45° slope to a concave base. Only part of length was visible (2.60m long) as it extended beyond LOE in each direction. Possibly part of a ring or a sinuous boundary.
837	A	Fill of [836]	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent angular stones up to 100mm diameter and occasional rounded stones up to 20mm diameter.
838	A	Fill of [839]	Moderately compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand containing moderate rounded stones up to 30mm diameter
839	A	Gully segment - part of [858M]	Measures 0.65m in width and 0.10m in depth. Sides very gradually sloping to a concave base.
840	A	Fill of [841]	Moderately compacted and friable mid yellowish brown silty sand containing frequent rounded stones (cobbles) up to 100mm diameter and occasional angular stones
841	A	Gully segment - part of [858M]	Measures 0.40m in width and 80mm in depth. Sides very gradually sloping to a concave base.
842	A	Fill of [843]	Moderately compact and friable mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent rounded stones up to 50mm and occasional angular stones up to 30mm
843	A	Ditch segment – part of [804M]	Measures 1.20m in width and 0.45m in depth. Sides sloping at around 45° to a concave base.
844	A	Fill of [845]	Moderately compacted, friable mid brown silty sand containing occasional large rounded stones up top 150mm and occasional pebbles up to 20mm

845	A	Probable post-hole	Only partially revealed, with the south side extending beyond LOE. The visible part was hemispherical in plan measuring 0.3m in width by 0.32m in depth. Sides very steep or near vertical and a sharply concaved base.
846	A	Probable track or yard surface	Moderately compact to compact, comprising 70% small, mostly rounded stones up to 50mm in diameter and occasional larger rounded stones up to 80mm in diameter and 30% mid greyish brown silty sand. Revealed portion around 1.3m east to west and 1.70m north to south, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the south and truncated by modern disturbance to the north.
847	A	Probable track or yard surface	Moderately compacted, comprising 50% large rounded stones up to 100mm in diameter, 20% small (20mm average) angular and rounded stones, and 30% mid greyish brown clayey sand.
848	A	Probable track or yard surface	Same as (847). 80mm thickness where recorded in section. Extends 1m east-to-west and 1.7m north to south. Truncated away to north and continues beyond limit of excavation to the south.
849	A	Layer above probable track or yard surface	Moderately compacted, friable mid yellowish brown silty sand containing occasional large rounded stones up to 80mm diameter and moderate small stones up to 30mm diameter. Very shallow.
850	A	Possible natural	Moderately compacted orangey brown sandy clay containing occasional rounded and angular stones up to 30mm in diameter.
851	A	Natural	Very compact light reddish brown clay containing occasional rounded stones (pressed into surface).
852	A	Fill of Ditches [810], [856] & [860]	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt.
853	A	Possibly part of track or surface	Area of large stone
854	A	Subsoil over Area A	Softly compacted mid greyish brown sandy clay. Contains occasional to moderate rounded stones. Thickness varies between 0.30m and 0.40m
855	A	Topsoil over Area A	Soft compaction mid brown silty clay. Contains moderate small rounded stones. The deposit measures an average of 0.25m thick
856	A	Ditch or gully	Measures 0.70m in width and 0.43m in depth. Gradually sloped side and concave base
857	A	Ditch recut	1.15m in width and 0.25m in depth, with gradually sloping sides and a broad, slightly concave base
858	A	Gully (Master Number)	Orientated north – south, traverses Area A for a distance of 11.30m before terminating to the north. Continues beyond the limit of excavation to the south.
859	A	Possible pit	At least 0.7m in width and 0.30m in depth. Only the eastern side visible which sloped at 45° to a concave base.
860	A	Gully	Shallow, measuring 0.08m in depth and 0.30m in width.
900	B	Probable well	Extending beyond the western limit of excavation, the visible part was hemi-spherical in plan, with a projection to the south, possibly represent a slope for access. The lower part of the cut was circular, measuring around 2.40m in diameter, with regular

			sides sloping steeply before breaking to vertical at around 0.85m from the top. It measured 1.65m in depth and had a flattish/slightly concave base.
901	B	Upper fill of [900]	Firmly compacted mid to dark grey sandy silt containing moderate small and medium sized stones and occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal. It was 0.46m deep.
902	B	Small pit or post-hole	Oval in plan, measuring 1.25m in length and 0.88m in width. Sides vary between gradual and steep, while the base deepens to the west, rising to a 'berm' in central area and breaking to shallow and concave to the east.
903	B	Fill of [902]	Soft to moderately compacted mid brownish grey sand containing occasional small to medium stones and medium flint, with particular clusters in the deeper part of the pit.
904	B	Cut of ditch – part of [908M)	Measures 1.33m in width and 0.40m in depth. Sides gradually sloped to the west and steeply sloped to the east, with a very slightly concave base.
905	B	Primary fill of [904]	Firmly compacted light to mid brown mixed deposit consisting of 30% small rounded pebbles and 70% coarse sandy clay. Measures 0.68m in width and 0.15m in depth.
906	B	Secondary fill of [904]	Firm to hard, light greyish brown silty sand Measuring 0.45m in width and 0.10m in depth
907	B	Upper fill of [904]	Moderately hard, light brown with small yellow orange patches of silty sand, containing moderate small and medium sized stones and flints up to 40mm in diameter. Measures 1.32m in width and 0.35m in maximum thickness
908	B	Master Number encompassing segments [904] and [926]	North - south orientated ditch traversing Area B for a distance of 27.40m. Continues beyond the limit of excavation to the south and truncated by quarrying to the north.
909	B	Ditch terminal – part of [911M]	Measures 0.90m in width and 0.57m in depth, with steep slope on northeastern side and near vertical slope on the western side. The base is flat.
910	B	Fill of [909]	Moderately soft, light to mid reddish brown sandy silt containing occasional small pebbles up to 40mm diameter.
911	B	Ditch - Master Number encompassing [909]	Curving in plan, terminating to the southeast. From the southeast, curving northward and becoming very shallow, surviving intermittently before petering out short of northern LOE. Recorded over a distance of 23.50m., it was widest and deepest at the southeastern terminal (0.90m width and 0.57m depth), narrowing progressively to the north
912	B	Same as (910)	Fill from around the near complete pot found in the ditch terminal [909]. Sampled for the recovery of environmental evidence and sherds related to the adjacent vessel.
913	B	Ditch or gully – Master Number encompassing segments [914], [918] and [932]	Measuring 6.90m in length and between 1.20m and 1.60m in width, with a long axis on a general east - west alignment and rounded terminals.
914	B	Segment of ditch or gully – part of [913M]	Western terminal measuring 1.26m in width and 0.53m maximum depth. It had regular but steep sides and a flattish but irregular base.

915	B	Fill of [914]	Firm to hard, light to mid orangey brown sand containing moderate small stones and pea grit and occasional medium and angular stones to 60mm diameter.
916	B	Fill of pot (917)	Retained as Sample 4.
917	B	Pot	Complete pot recovered from base of [914]
918	B	Segment of ditch or gully – part of Master Number [913]	Eastern terminal measuring 0.98m in width and 0.53m maximum depth, with steep sides and a flat but undulating base.
919	B	Fill of [918]	Firm to hard compaction, light to mid orangey brown sand containing moderate small stones and pea grit and occasional medium and angular stones to 60mm diameter.
920	B	Fill of [900]	Firm to hard, orangey yellow interspersed with patches of mid grey, sandy clay mixed with silty sand (the latter forming the mid grey component). The deposit includes occasional small stones up to 30mm in diameter and measures 0.10m (average) thick.
921	B	Fill of [900]	Firmly compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional small stones and occasional charcoal flecks. 0.25m thick.
922	B	Fill of [900] – redeposited natural capping the probable well?	Firm orangey yellow mixture of clay (60%) and coarse sandy gravel (40%) containing occasional small pebbles. 80mm maximum thick.
923	B	Fill of [900]	Moderately soft, mid to dark grey silt containing occasional charcoal flecks. Varying between 0.20m (west of the cut) and 50mm (east of cut) thick.
924	B	Fill of [900]	Firm, light beige brown sandy silt containing occasional small pebbles and charcoal. 1.0m (maximum) thick.
925	B	Fill of [900]	Firm, orangey yellow mixture of clay and gravel, 30mm thick.
926	B	Ditch segment – part of [908M]	Measures 1.75m in width and 0.47m in depth. The sides are gradually sloping and the base is slightly concave.
927	B	Primary fill of [926]	Firm, light bluish green clay containing moderate medium sized cobbles up to 100mm in diameter and pea grit. Measures 0.90m in width and 0.15m thick
928	B	Uppermost fill of [926]	Firm, mid brown clay containing moderate pea gravel and small medium sized rounded stones and pebbles.
929	B	Post-hole	Oval in plan, measuring 0.54m long and 0.46m wide by 0.15m deep. Sides vary in degree of slope between steep to vertical to the west and gradual to the east. The base is flattish but uneven.
930	B	Fill of [929]	Firm, mid grey sandy silt containing frequent small stones up to 30mm in diameter
931	B	Fill of [900]	Firm, light beige brown sandy silt containing occasional small pebbles and charcoal; 0.38m thick (maximum). Very similar to deposit (924) but separated by a thin lense of clayey gravel (925), it is slumped against the edge of the feature.
932	B	Segment of ditch or gully – part of [913M]	Located centrally along the length, it measured 1.47m in width and 0.56m in depth. It had a gradual to steeply sloped SSW side and a gradual

			slope on the NNE side. The base was slightly concave.
933	B	Fill of [932]	Firm to hard, light to mid orangey brown sand containing moderate small stones and pea grit, and occasional medium sized stones up to 60mm diameter. It measured 1.47m in width and 0.56m thick
934	B	Pit	Circular in plan, measuring 1.35m in diameter by 0.68m deep, it had steeply sloping sides and a flat base.
935	B	Gully	Linear with a slight curve an orientated east - west, it was 0.35 wide (average), with the widest point at the western terminal at 0.43m. Extending over 4.20m, it terminated to the west and had been truncated by modern disturbance to the east. Measuring 0.17m deep, it had steeply sloping sides and a pointed but concave base
936	B	Fill of [935]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing frequent small and medium sized stones and flint up to 50mm diameter.
937	B	Primary fill of [934]	Hard, light to mid brown silty sand containing moderate small stone up to 30mm in diameter and frequent pea gravel. It was 0.25m deep and 0.97m wide
938	B	Secondary fill of [934]	Firm to hard, mixed mid orange and light to mid brown clayey sand containing moderate small stones up to 20mm diameter and gravel. Measures 0.15m in maximum depth
939	B	Upper fill of [934]	Hard, mid brown silty sand containing moderate to frequent small rounded stones and flint nodules up to 50mm in diameter. It had a depth of 0.47m and a width of 1.35m
940	B	Fill of [M908]	Overall number of fill of ditch
941	B	Fill of Gully [942]	Moderately compact/friable, mid to dark brownish grey silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and moderate angular and rounded stones up to 50mm diameter.
942	B	Gully – possibly a wheel rut and is similar to [950]	Recorded in sondage across intersecting linear features. Orientated north-to-south, it was visible over a distance of 8.90m, measuring 0.35m in width and 0.10m in depth. Its sides sloped at 45°, breaking to a concave base.
943	B	Fill of [944]	Compact, mid yellowish brown with orange mottling, clayey sand containing frequent angular stones (mostly flint) up to 80mm in diameter and occasional rounded stone up to 50mm in diameter.
944	B	Ditch/Gully	Linear in plan and visible for a distance of 8.80m, it measured 0.52m in width and 0.20m in depth. Orientated north-to-south, its sides sloped at 45° to the base which was gently concave.
945	B	Fill of [946]	Compact mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent angular stone up to 50mm (mostly flint) and moderate rounded stone up to 40mm.
946	B	Ditch	Only visible within the limits of a sondage, this was one of several intercutting ditches/gullies following the same alignment (NNE-SSW). Measuring 1.45m in width and 0.48m in depth, it

			had sides sloping at 45° to a broad, slightly concave base
947	B	Fill of Ditch [948]	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown clayey silty sand containing occasional angular and rounded stones up to 15mm in diameter.
948	B	Ditch	Linear, orientated NNE-SSW and visible over a distance of around 9.0m. Not traceable to the north of where excavated, and truncated by modern disturbance to the south. Measures 0.98m in width and 0.38m in depth. Its west side was truncated by a later cut while the surviving side sloped at 45°. The base was broad and gently concave.
949	B	Fill of [950]	Moderately compacted mid to dark brownish grey silty sand containing occasional angular stones to 15mm and rounded stones to 60mm.
950	B	Gully – possibly a wheel rut	Linear in plan and visible for a distance of 13.30m, it was orientated NNE-SSW and was 0.50m wide by 0.10m deep. Difficult to trace in plan and apparently discontinuous it had very gradually sloping sides and a gently concave but irregular base.
951	B	Fill of [952]	Compact mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent rounded stones up to 20mm and occasional angular stones up to 30mm
952	B	Slight hollow – uncertain interpretation	Linear in plan, measuring 0.70m in width and between 30mm and 90mm in depth (deepening to south). It had very gradual sloping sides and a gently concaved base.
953	B	Fill of [954]	Moderately compacted mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent angular and rounded stones up to 40mm diameter.
954	B	Ditch	Linear in plan and visible for distance of 14.50m, it was orientated NNE-SSW measuring 0.85m in width and 0.30m in depth, with sides sloping at 45° to a sharply concave base.
955	B	Fill of [956]	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent angular and rounded stones up to 20mm
956	B	Gully	Recorded for a distance of 3.30m and orientated NNE-SSW, it terminated to the south and had been truncated by quarrying to the north. It was 0.22m in width and 40mm in depth, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base.
957	B	Segment of ring gully – part of [969M]	Southwestern terminal of the ring gully, it measured 0.33m in width (at 1.27m from point of termination) and 0.10m in depth, narrowing to 0.17m wide at the terminus. The base rose gradually to the terminus and the western end had a definite ending point with the base rising to become just 50mm deep. Overall, the terminal was bowl shaped and concave.
958	B	Post-hole or small pit	Circular in plan, measuring 0.55m in diameter, with a depth of 0.15m.
959	B	Fill of [958]	Single fill
960M	B	Master number for pennanular gully.	The feature measured 4.95m in external diameter and 4.05m internally. The gully varied in width, between 0.35m at the narrowest point and 0.85m at widest, with the widest point situated to the northeast. The gully was overlain to the southwest

			side by a another penannular feature, [969M], which had removed evidence for an opening. Although the feature 'terminated' on the southern side, the ending may have been caused by truncation rather than forming an opening.
961	B	Segment of gully – part of [960M]	Measured at 0.49m maximum width and 0.07m in depth
962	B	Fill of [961]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm. It was a maximum of 70mm thick.
963	B	Segment of Gully – part of [960M]	Slightly curving in plan, with width varying between 0.47m and 0.35m. It was 0.07m deep, with a generally bowl shaped profile and concave base.
964	B	Fill of [963]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel and small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mmm.
965	B	Segment of Gully – part of [960M]	Slightly curving in plan varying between 0.55m and 0.45m in width. It had a maximum depth of 0.17m and the sides were gradual to steep, breaking to a concave base.
966	B	Fill of [965]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mmm.
967	B	Segment of Gully – part of [960M]	Slightly curving in plan, varying between 0.74m and 0.50m in width. It had a maximum depth of 0.30m. The southern side was steep while northern side was gradual, with a gradual break of slope to a flat and slightly concave base.
968	B	Fill of [967]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mmm.
969M	B	Master number for pennanular gully.	The feature measures 5.32m in maximum external diameter (southeast - northwest) and 4.35m internally. The gully varies in width between 0.31m at the narrowest point and 0.57m at widest, with the widest point situated to the east. The feature included an entrance/causeway located on the southwestern side.
970	B	VOID	
971	B	VOID	
972	B	Segment of gully – part of [969M]	Slightly curving in plan with a maximum width of 0.38m and depth of 0.15m
973	B	Fill of [972]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm
974	B	Segment of gully – part of [969M]	Slightly curving in plan with a maximum width of 0.42m and depth of 0.35m
975	B	Fill of [974]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm

976	B	Segment of gully – part of [969M]	Slightly curving in plan with a maximum width of 0.60m and depth of 0.32m
977	B	Fill of [976]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm
978	B	Segment of gully – part of [969M]	Slightly curved in plan, forming terminal at the northwestern end of pennanular gully [969M]. It was 0.75m in maximum width, with depth varying from 0.25m in the east, to 0.44m in the central part of the segment, and rising towards the western end. The terminal ‘bulbs’ out in plan, in contrast to the rest of the circuit. The base is also deeper than elsewhere.
979	B	Void	
980	B	Fill of [978]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm
981	B	Short gully – Master Number encompassing [982] and [984]. Possibly associated with [913M] as the western side of an enclosure.	Linear in plan, measuring 3.90m in length and 0.70m in width. Orientated north to south, the terminals to north and south were excavated as [982] and [984].
982	B	Northern terminal of gully – part of [981M]	Linear in plan with rounded end, it was 0.67m in wide and of uncertain depth (probably around 0.20m) due to indeterminate boundary with natural. The sides were gradually sloping.
983	B	Fill of [982]	Loose, light to mid grey silty sand with patches of orangey grey sand, containing moderate small rounded stones.
984	B	Southern terminal of gully – part of [981M]	Linear in plan with rounded end, measuring 0.64m in width and 0.20m in depth. It had gradually sloping sides breaking to a concave base.
985	B	Fill of [984]	Loose, light to mid grey silty sand with patches of orangey grey sand, containing a moderate quantity of small rounded stones.
986	B	Segment of pennanular gully – part of [969M]	Located at the junction between the linear and pennanular parts of [969M], the segment demonstrated the gullies to be contemporary. The penannular gully was 0.86m wide by 0.38m deep. The south side was very steep and the north side slightly less steep, breaking to a flattish base.
987	B	Fill of [986]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, and occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm
988	B	Segment of pennanular gully – part of [960M]	The segment was 0.84m in maximum width, narrowing to 0.64m at the southeastern baulk). It had steep sides, near vertical to the south and gentle towards the top on the north side. The base was slightly sloping but otherwise flat.
989	B	Primary fill of [988]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, with occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm. Maximum depth 0.30m.
990	B	Eastern terminal of gully – part of [969M]	The segment, which was linear in plan with a rounded end, measured 0.65m in width, varying

			between 0.26m and 0.38m in depth. It had steep sides and a gently concave base.
991	B	Upper fill of [990]	Moderately compacted, light yellowish brown and mid greyish brown sandy clay containing frequent angular and rounded stones up to 20mm in diameter. Measures maximum of 0.10m thick.
992	B	Segment of gully – part of [969M]	Linear, aligned east – west, linking to pennanular gully to the west. The cut, which was 0.56m wide by 0.26m deep, had gradually sloping sides and a flattish/slightly concave base.
993	B	Upper fill of [990]	Loose to moderately compacted mid to dark greyish brown silty sand containing frequent rounded and angular stones up to 40mm in diameter. Measures 0.20m thick.
994	B	Segment of gully – part of [960M]. Possibly a terminal at the southwestern end.	Slightly curving in plan, the segment was 0.41m in width with a maximum depth of just 70mm. Its sides were gradually sloping, breaking to a flat base. The cut ‘fades’ out gradually and may have continued westward prior to truncation by ploughing.
995	B	Fill of [994]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent gravel and small flint and pebbles up to 10mm together with occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm. Maximum depth 70mm.
996	B	Segment of pennanular gully – part of [960M]	Slightly curving in plan with width varying between 0.31m and 0.54m and depth averaging around 70mm. The sides were gently to gradually sloping to a flat base.
997	B	Fill of [994]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent gravel and small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, together with occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm. Maximum depth 70mm
998	B	Fill of [999]	Moderately compacted and friable, mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent angular and rounded stone up to 70mm in diameter. Present throughout [999]
999	B	Probable pit or possible posthole	Sub oval in plan, measuring 0.50m east - west and 0.70m north – south, with a depth of 0.24m. The sides were steep and the base gently concave.
1000	B	Upper fill of pit or post-hole [1003]	Moderately compacted and friable mid brown silty sand containing moderate rounded and angular stones up to 20mm in diameter. It was 0.12m thick.
1001	B	Secondary fill of [1003]	Moderately compacted, mid brown and orange sandy silt mixed with clay, containing occasional stones up to 10mm in diameter. The deposit was 0.10m thick.
1002	B	Primary fill of [1003]	Soft, mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional large rounded stone up to 100mm in diameter and occasional angular stones up to 80mm in diameter. Measures a maximum of 0.16m thick.
1003	B	Cut of pit or post-hole	Sub circular in plan, measuring 0.65m in diameter and 0.35m in depth. Sides vary in degree of slope between gradual to north steepening to south, and near vertical on the western side. The base was concave.

1004	B	Primary fill of [990]	Moderately compacted/friable, mid greyish brown clayey silty sand containing frequent rounded stone up to 50mm in diameter and moderate angular stone up to 100mm.
1005	B	Secondary fill of [992]	Soft, mid yellowish brown sandy silt containing occasional stone up to 10mm diameter. The deposit was 50mm maximum thick
1006	B	Secondary fill of [992].	Soft, mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt with a maximum thickness of 30mm.
1007	B	Secondary fill of [900]	Firm, light to mid grey sandy silt containing occasional small and medium sized up to 50mm in diameter; averaging 0.30m thick and extending to the edge of the well on all sides, the deposit lay at just above the level of ground water.
1008	B	Primary fill of [900]	Soft, very dark grey/almost black silt containing occasional small stones, measuring 0.10m maximum thick and extending throughout the base of the feature. The deposit was wet and lay below the level of ground water.
1009	B	Number assigned to pot sherd found during cleaning near pit or post-hole [999]	
1010	B	Upper fill of [932]	Firm but crumbly, mixed light to mid brown and mid brownish orange sand containing frequent small and medium gravel and stones. It was 0.15m thick and 0.50m wide.
1011	B	Fill of [957].	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent quantities of gravel and small flint and stones up to 10mm diameter.
1012	B	Modern disturbance	Modern disturbance including concrete and brick fragments in a black, silty matrix.
1013	B	Fill of [900]	Firm, light brown silty sand containing occasional gravel. At most 70mm thick but thinning away to the north.
1014	B	Fill of [900]	Firm, light to mid yellowish brown silty sand containing occasional medium sized small stones.
1015	B	Topsoil in Area B	Soft, mid greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional to moderate rounded stones. Thickness varies between 0.30m and 0.40m
1016	B	Subsoil in Area B	Soft, mid brown silty clay containing moderate small rounded stones. The deposit measures an average of 0.25m thick.
1017	B	Fill of [1018]	Moderately compacted/friable, mid to dark greyish brown silty sand containing moderate quantities of rounded and angular stones up to 30mm in diameter. Extends throughout gully [1018]
1018	B	Cut of gully	Linear, east-west orientated gully measuring 3.45m in length and averaging 0.35m in width. Truncated by later ditches to the east and becoming shallow to the west before lensing out. The terminus was semi-circular in plan.
1019	B	Cut of pit	Oval in plan, measuring 1.7m in length (east - west) and 1.33m in width by 1.28m deep. Very steep sides with a slightly bowed undercut on the east and west sides. There was a gradual break of slope to the base which was generally flat but slightly concave.

1020	B	Primary fill of [1019]	Firm, mid bluish grey, gritty silt containing frequent gravel patches and lenses of brown sandy gravel. The deposit measured 0.47m maximum in depth and 1.30m in width.
1021	B	Secondary fill of [1019]	Loose, mid reddish brown mix of silty sand and gravel containing frequent small stones. The deposit averaged 50mm thick and 1.28m wide.
1022	B	Secondary fill of [1019]	Moderately firm mid brownish grey sandy silt containing frequent small and medium sized stones and gravel. It measured 0.85m thick and 1.43m wide.
1023	B	Uppermost fill of [1019]	Moderately compacted mid brown sandy silt containing moderate stones and occasional charcoal flecks and small fragments. The deposit measures 0.49m in maximum depth and 1.49m in width.
1024	B	Modern disturbance east of [1019]	Only seen in section, the deposit comprised pieces of modern brick in yellow brown silty sand. Measured 0.12m thick by 0.78m wide.
1025	B	Segment of pennanular gully – part of [969M]	Slightly curved in plan, measuring a maximum of 0.75m wide. It had gradually to steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base.
1026	B	Fill of [1025]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent gravel and small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, together with occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm
1027	B	Segment of pennanular gully – part of [960M]	Very slightly curved in plan, measuring from 0.36m to 0.54m wide by 0.14m deep. Sloping gradually on the eastern side and steeply on the western side, it had a slightly concave base.
1028	B	Fill of [1027]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, together with occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm.
1029	B	Secondary fill [988]	Loose, yellowish orange mixed with mid grey silty sand and clay, containing frequent small and medium sized stones and flint up to 80mm diameter. Comprises silty sand mixed with redeposited natural.
1030	B	Upper fill of [988]	Loose, mid grey sand 80mm thick.
1031	B	Segment of pennanular gully – part of [969M]	Very slightly curved in plan, measuring 0.55m wide (max.) by 0.35m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base.
1032	B	Fill of [1031]	Firm, mid grey silty sand containing moderate to frequent gravel, small flint and pebbles up to 10mm, together with occasional medium sized stones averaging around 50mm
1033	B	Clay extraction pit?	Pit occupying a total area of around 400m ² at the northern end of Area B
1034	B	Modern backfill or makeup for the surfaces of the farmyard	Extensive area of ground disturbance at the southern edge of Area B filled by deposits including modern building material.
1035		VOID	
1036	B	Trench for modern drain	North-south aligned, passing west of (1034) and truncating (1037)
1037	B	Area of modern ground disturbance	Semi-circular in plan and filled by material including modern building materials.

APPENDIX B - FINDS REPORT

ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004). The pottery was recorded using the codes and system developed for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious, 2014). Equivalencies to the type series for Leicestershire (c.f. Clay & Pollard, 1994) are included in the archive listed in Table 1 below. A single sherd from a single vessel, weighing 46 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below.

Condition

The sherd is large and fresh.

Results

Table 1, Roman Pottery Archive

Area	Context	Lincs Cname	Full name	Leics Cname	Form	Vessel	Comments	Sherds	Weight
B	901	GREY	Greyware	GW5	J	1	BS;?ID	1	46
B	901	ZDATE					ROMAN		

Provenance

The pottery was recovered from fill (900) within well [900] in Area B.

Range

There is a single fragment of greyware. Although reduced, sand tempered pottery of this type was produced in the later Saxon and Saxo-Norman period, this piece is not typical of any of the types commonly in use within this area during that time and is most likely of Roman date. The piece is residual within a later post Roman dated feature.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also include material from surrounding counties. An equivalent code from the type series for Leicestershire (c.f. Sawday, unpublished) is also included for each entry within the Archive Catalogue as well as in Table 2 below. The Potters Marston rim and body shapes listed within the Archive Catalogue have been taken from the classification system published by Davies and Sawday, 1999. A total of 266 sherds from 96 vessels, weighing 5301 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary of fabric type shown in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the post medieval period.

Condition

The pottery is in a generally unabraded state. There are many vessels represented by multiple sherds including at least one, virtually complete smashed example. The average sherd weight is high, at 20.1 grams, reflecting the low level of fragmentation present within the group. A high proportion of the vessels show sooting patterns indicative of usage over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery Fabrics

Period	Lincs Cname	Leics Cname	Full Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Saxo-Norman	TORK	TO	Torksey ware	850	1080	2	1	10
Saxo-Norman to early medieval	SNEOT	SN	St Neots-type ware	870	1200	6	6	40
	ST		Stamford ware	970	1200	2	2	7
Early medieval	EMSH		Early Medieval Shelly ware	1050	1150	16	9	69
	PM		Potters Marston ware	1075	1300	184	50	4720
	EMHM		Early Medieval Handmade ware	1100	1250	1	1	19
	STANLY		Stanion/Lyveden ware	1150	1300	44	20	247
Early medieval to medieval	MEDX		Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1155	1450	4	2	109
Medieval	CC		Chilvers Coton ware	1200	1400	1	1	19
Late medieval to post medieval	MP		Midlands Purple ware	1380	1600	3	1	29
Post medieval	BERTH		Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	1	1	16
	MY		Midlands Yellow ware	1550	1650	1	1	15
Unknown	MISC		Unidentified types	-	-	1	1	1
Total						266	96	5301

Provenance

The pottery came from a range of features including pits, postholes, ditches and gullies. All but 12 sherds came from Area B.

Tables 2, 3 and 4 below list all of the features from which pottery was retrieved. Table 2 shows the origin all of the material from Area A, whilst Table 3, shows the origin of all of the pottery from grouped linear or gully features in Area B. Table 4 shows the location of all of the items from discrete or ungrouped features in Area B. Individual spot dates are given for each of the discrete or ungrouped features (Tables 2 and 3), whilst the grouped features have been given a combined date based on examination of all of the material from that feature. The dates given are based entirely on the pottery, with no other datable material from the site taken in to consideration here.

Table 2, The Origin and Date of the Pottery from Area A

Feature or Deposit Type	Cut	Context	Feature or Group Date	NoS
Hearth	816	835	13th	1
Pit or Posthole	818	817	12 th -13 th	1
Track	-	848	Late 14 th -16 th	7
Layer (Track?)	-	853	13 th -15 th	1
Total				10

Table 3, The Origin and Date of the Grouped Gullies/Linear features in Area B

Feature/Deposit Type	Group	Cut	Context	Group Date	NoS
Linear feature	913M	914	915	13 th	33
		914	917		31
		918	919		24
		932	933		51
Gully	960M	963	964	12 th -13 th	2
		988	989		4
		994	997		1
Gully	969M	972	973	12 th -13 th	2
		976	977		2
		978	980		3
		986	987		2
		990	991		3
		990	993		2
Gully	981M	984	985	12 th -13 th	4
		982	983		2
Total					161

Table 4, the Origin and Date of the Other (Ungrouped) features in Area B

Feature/Deposit Type	Cut	Context	Feature or Group Date	NoS
Well	900	901	12 th -13 th	11
Pit or Post Hole	902	903	13 th	2
Ditch	909	910	12 th	54
Pit or Post Hole	934	937	12 th -13 th	1
Gully	935	936	12 th -13 th	11
Pit	1019	1022	12 th -13 th	3
Unstratified		1009	10 th -11 th	2
Disturbance	-	1024	16 th -early 18 th	6
Total				90

Range

The bulk of the pottery dates to the 12th and 13th centuries, with a small quantity of high and later medieval pottery also recovered, in addition to post medieval types.

The Early Medieval Pottery

This assemblage is dominated by Potters Marston ware (PM) with this type accounting for 68.7% of the entire group by sherd number. Stanion Lyveden type wares (STANLY), from kilns in Northamptonshire, are the second largest group, these making up a further 16.4% of the total assemblage. With the exception of one sherd, all of the STANLY pottery is shell tempered (A ware) rather than oolite tempered (B ware). A smaller quantity of early medieval shell tempered ware (EMSH), which accounts for a further 6.0% of the assemblage, cannot be attributed to any particular production area or group of kilns.

This pottery is coarse and domestic in character, and may well be related to lower status settlement on the site. Almost all of the fragments derive from storage jars and cooking pots, with just two pieces within the early medieval dated material, likely to be fragments of jug. Just one feature, [913M], gave fragments of Stamford ware (ST), a finer fabric which may be more commonly associated with higher status, manorial or ecclesiastical activity and settlement. And even here, of the two fragments of ST recovered from this feature, one is in the typologically, typically earlier fabric, A/D, which may well be residual here and therefore not associated with the main period of activity on the site. An unstratified fragment of Torksey type ware (TORK), attests to earlier, Saxo-Norman activity in the immediate area and the ST type A/D sherd may be contemporary with this piece.

With the exception of disturbance (1024), all of the features in Area B produced pottery of 12th to 13th century date. The pottery from throughout this area is generally uniform in character with coarse domestic wares overwhelmingly dominant. A particularly large quantity of pottery came from linear feature [913M]; a small flake, of oolite tempered pottery, likely to be a product of the Stanion – Lyveden industries would suggest a 13th century date for this feature, whilst a piece of Stamford ware in a fine, typologically later fabric type B/C, would suggest an earlier, 12th century date. It may be that the in-filling of this feature should be placed between the later 12th and earlier 13th century on this basis, although this is entirely speculative.

The Post Medieval Pottery

Just five sherds of pottery, from three vessels, of post medieval date were recovered from the site, all of which are common domestic types of the period. Three pieces, from a single vessel in Midlands purple ware (MP) came from track (848) in Area A.

A single feature in Area B, disturbance (1024), gave post medieval pottery, with single pieces of Midlands yellow ware (MY) and brown glazed earthenware (BERTH) recovered from here.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. The material is in a stable condition and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

A sizable assemblage of pottery, the bulk of which is of early medieval (12th to 13th century) date, was recovered. Coarse domestic type cooking and storage jars dominate the group with products of the Potters Marston and Stanion Lyveden kilns making up over 85% of the fragments. Small additional quantities of Saxo-Norman and post medieval pottery attest to activity on or near the site during those periods.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of four fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 79 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out, counted and weighed. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 5 below.

Condition

The brick is in an abraded and fragmentary state.

Results

Table 5, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Area	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
B	1024	BRK	Oxidised; fine sandy; Ca	4	79	Abraded fragments; mortar adhered; calcareous fabric	16th-19th

Provenance

The ceramic building material was recovered from disturbance (1024).

Range

There are four fragments from a single post medieval brick. The pieces are fairly small and cannot be closely dated.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The ceramic building material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

FIRED CLAY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002).

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in Table 6 below.

Condition

The fired clay is in a fragmentary and abraded state.

Results

Table 6 Fired Clay Archive

Cxt	Class	Full Name	Fabric	Comment	Date	Fragments	W(g)
901	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; medium sandy	Abraded; formless; hard; DAUB?	Undated	1	13
903	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; medium sandy	Abraded; formless; hard	Undated	3	11
937	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine sandy	Abraded; sooted; formless; hard	Undated	1	4
973	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; medium-coarse sandy; flint; Fe	Wattle impression?; DAUB?	Undated	1	31
Total						6	59

Provenance

All of the fired clay was recovered from features in Area B. Pieces came from (901) within well [900], (903) within pit or post hole [902], (937) in pit [934] and (973) in gully [972].

Range

There is a range of fragments, most of which are formless and abraded. Pieces from [900] and [972] display some evidence of linear impressions and may be daub.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The fired clay should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Five other items weighing a total of 1141g were recovered.

Condition

The other finds are in moderate-good condition, though the iron items are corroded.

Results

Table 7, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
854	Iron	Circular disc or washer, c. 40mm across, 10mm thick, extremely corroded and encrusted	1	38	
902	Stone	Burnt stone, one extremely smooth at one point	2	43	
910	Slag	Plano-convex hearth bottom (approximately half of), iron smithing slag	1	1050	
919	Iron	Possible blade, strip 47mm long; max width 21mm, tapering to a point; shallow D-shaped section, max thickness 11mm	1	10	

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from posthole (855), pit or posthole (902), and ditches (910, 919).

Range

There are two iron items, one perhaps a blade tip and the other a disc or washer. Neither have any distinctive characteristics to suggest date.

Two burnt stones were collected. One of them is extremely smooth at one point and may have been used as an ad-hoc hone.

In addition, a plano-convex hearth bottom was also retrieved. A slag generated by iron smithing, this item is large and heavy and unlikely to have moved much from its original point of production. As such, it implies iron smithing in the area. However, it has no distinctive characteristics to suggest date.

Potential

In general, the other finds are of limited potential, though the hearth bottom indicates iron smithing in the area.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 8 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 8, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
817	12 th -13 th	
835	13 th	
848	Late 14 th -16 th	
853	13 th -15 th	
901	12 th -13 th	
902	13 th	
910	12 th	
915	12 th -13 th	13 th ?
917	12 th -13 th	
919	12 th -13 th	13 th ?
933	12 th -13 th	Later 12 th to early 13 th ?
936	12 th -13 th	
937	12 th -13 th	
964	12 th -13 th	
973	12 th -13 th	
977	12 th -13 th	
980	12 th -13 th	
983	12 th -13 th	
985	12 th -13 th	
987	11 th -13 th	
989	12 th -13 th	
991	12 th -13 th	
993	12 th -13 th	
997	12 th -13 th	
1009	10 th -11 th	
1022	12 th -13 th	
1024	16 th -Early 18 th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group

BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive Catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Area	Cxt	Lincs Cname	Leics Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
A	817	EMHM	RS		Jar	1	1	19		Base	Gritty fabric; handmade	12th-13th
A	835	STANLY	LY3	A	Jar	1	1	14		Rim	Everted rim	13th
A	848	MEDX	MS		Jug	3	1	45		BSS; base	Abraded; internal cress/scale; as vessel from 853?; Splashed Cu glaze; Brill?	13th-15th
A	848	MP	MP		Closed	3	1	29		BSS	Brown glaze	Late 14th-16th
A	848	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	1		BS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
A	853	MEDX	MS		Jug	1	1	64		Handle with UHJ	Burnt; Ca glaze; internal cress/scale; same vessel as that from 848?; splashed Cu glaze; Brill?	13th-15th
A	854	MP	MP2		Jar	1	1	24		Rim	Everted rim	16th-18th
A	856	BERTH	EA1		Bowl	1	1	71		Base		17th-18th
B	901	EMSH	CG		?	2	1	2		BS	Leached surfaces; DNEOT?	11th-13th
B	901	PM	PM		Jar	4	2	53		BSS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	901	SNEOT	SN		Jar	1	1	1		BSS	Leached surfaces	L9th-11th
B	901	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	3	1	12		BSS	Leached; sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	901	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	1	1	4		Base	Leached; ?ID	12th-13th
B	903	CC	CC1		Closed	1	1	19		BS	Very abraded exterior? ID	13th-14th
B	903	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	5		BS	Abraded; sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	910	EMSH	CG		Jar	2	1	16		BS	Leached; sooted exterior; wheelmade; Lincolnshire?	11th-13th

Area	Cxt	Lincs Cname	Leics Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
B	910	EMSH	CG		Jar	4	2	23		BS	Leached; sooted; early medieval handmade ware	11th-13th
B	910	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	26		Rim	Collared rim (4.1); sooted; abraded	12th-13th
B	910	PM	PM		Jar	43	1	1894		Rims; Bases; BSS	Smashed vessel; sooted exterior; pale concretion over break - cess?; collared rim (4.2); sloping shoulder; storage jar	12th-13th
B	910	SNEOT	SN		Jar?	2	2	16		Base; BS	Sooted	L9th-11th
B	910	SNEOT	SN	DNEOT	Jar	1	1	10		Rim	Sooted; leached; inturned rim	11th-12th
B	910	SNEOT	SN	DNEOT	Jar	1	1	10		Rim	Sooted; leached; curved rim	11th-12th
B	915	EMSH	CG		Jar	2	2	13		BSS		12th-13th
B	915	PM	PM		Jar	6	1	47		Rim; BSS	Sooted exterior; collared rim (4.3)	12th-13th
B	915	PM	PM		Jar	4	3	53		Base; BSS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	915	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	22		Rim	Sooted; collared rim (4.1); shouldered jar	12th-13th
B	915	PM	PM		Jar	7	1	94		Rim; BSS	Sooted; collared rim (4.1); shouldered jar	12th-13th
B	915	PM	PM		Jar	5	1	119		Rim; BSS	Sooted exterior; collared rim (4.1); shouldered jar	12th-13th
B	915	PM	PM		Jar	5	1	92		Rim' BSS	Sooted exterior; collared rim (4.1); shouldered jar	12th-13th
B	915	STANLY	LY3	A	Jar	3	2	16		Rim; Base	Curved rim	13th
B	917	PM	PM		Jar	31	1	1189		Rims; bases; BSS	Sooted exterior; smashed vessel; collared rim (4.1); shouldered jar	12th-13th

Area	Cxt	Lincs Cname	Leics Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
B	919	EMSH	CG		Jar	2	1	6		Rim; BS	Curved rim	12th-13th
B	919	PM	PM		Jar	2	1	17		Bases; BS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	919	PM	PM		Jar	8	1	67		Base; BSS	Sooted exterior; several vessels?	12th-13th
B	919	PM	PM		Jar or Bowl	2	1	10		Base	?ID; straight-sided cooking pot?	
B	919	PM	PM		Jar	4	1	86		Bases; BSS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	919	STANLY	LY1	B	Closed	1	1	4		BS	Leached	13th
B	919	STANLY	LY2	A	Jar	1	1	7		BS	Sooted exterior; leached	12th-13th
B	919	STANLY	LY2	A	Jar	4	1	23		Rim; BSS	Collared everted rim; leached; sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	933	PM	PM		Jar	2	2	24		BSS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	933	PM	PM		Jar	7	1	38		BSS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	933	PM	PM		Jar	5	1	106		Bases; BSS	Sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	933	PM	PM		Jar	8	1	133		Rims; BSS	Sooted exterior; collared rim (4.3); sloping shoulder	12th-13th
B	933	PM	PM		Jar	6	1	95		Rims; BS	Burnt; part reduced; collared rim (4.3); sloping shoulder	12th-13th
B	933	PM	PM		Jar or bowl	1	1	7		Rim	Abraded; everted rim?	12th-13th
B	933	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	15		BS	Abraded; combed lines above girth; ?ID	
B	933	ST	ST1	B/C	Jar or pitcher	1	1	4		BS	Blotchy thin grey/green/yellow glaze	M11th-12th
B	933	ST	ST3	A/D	?	1	1	3		BS	Abraded	L10th-12th
B	933	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	4	1	36		Rims; BSS	Leached; deep hollow everted rim with curved everted profile	12th-13th
B	933	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	4	1	41		Rims; BSS	Leached; deep hollow everted rim with rounded triangular profile	12th-13th

Area	Cxt	Lincs Cname	Leics Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
B	933	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	2	2	5		BSS	Leached	12th-13th
B	933	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	9	1	39		Rims; BSS	Leached; deep hollow everted rim with rounded triangular profile	12th-13th
B	936	PM	PM		Jar	4	4	70		BSS	1 pc thick external sooting	12th-13th
B	936	PM	PM		Jar	5	1	83		Rim; BSS	Sooted exterior; collared rim (4.3)	12th-13th
B	936	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	2	2	22		BSS	1 pc sooted exterior; leached	12th-13th
B	937	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	19		Base	Abraded; reduced	12th-13th
B	964	MISC			?	1	1	1		BS	Abraded; OX/R; PM?	
B	964	PM	PM		?	1	1	1		BS	Abraded	12th-13th
B	973	EMSH	CG		?	2	1	7		BSS	Abraded; leached; STANLY A?	12th-13th
B	977	PM	PM		?	2	1	1		BSS	Abraded; joining frags	12th-13th
B	980	PM	PM		?	1	1	1		BS	Abraded; sooted interior	12th-13th
B	980	STANLY	LY	A	Jar	2	1	9		BSS	Leached; abraded	12th-13th
B	983	PM	PM		Jar	2	1	10		BSS	Abraded	12th-13th
B	985	PM	PM		Jar	3	3	19		BSS	1 PC sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	985	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	62	Thumb pressed base?	Base		12th-13th
B	987	EMSH	CG		Bowl or curfew	2	1	2		Rim	Very unusual; small curfew?; upright rim; Fe grits	11th-13th
B	989	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	9		BS	Abraded; sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	989	STANLY	LY	A	?	3	1	3		BSS	Abraded; leached	12th-13th
B	991	SNEOT	SN		Jar	1	1	3		BS	Abraded	L9th-11th
B	991	STANLY	LY4	A	Jar	2	1	6		BSS	Leached	12th-13th

Area	Cxt	Lincs Cname	Leics Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
B	993	STANLY	LY4	A	Jar	2	2	6		BSS	Leached; abraded; 1 pc sooted exterior	12th-13th
B	997	PM	PM		?	1	1	1		BS	Abraded	12th-13th
B	1009	TORK	TO		?	2	1	10		BS	Abraded	10th-11th
B	1022	PM	PM		Jug	1	1	76		BS with HJ	Strap handle with central groove	12th-13th
B	1022	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	55		Rim to upper wall	Shouldered vessel; curved rim (3.1/3.2)	12th-13th
B	1022	PM	PM		Jar	1	1	106		Rim to upper wall	Storage jar; sloping shoulder; collared (4.3)	12th-13th
B	1024	BERTH	EA1		Closed	1	1	16		BS		16th-18th
B	1024	MY	MY		Closed	1	1	15		BS	Sooted exterior?	16th-E18th
B	1024	PM	PM		?	4	4	14		BS	Abraded	12th-13th

APPENDIX C - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Gilmorton, undertaken by Witham Archaeology, recorded features of medieval (probably twelfth to thirteenth century) date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pits, ditches, ring gullies, pot fills, a hearth and a well, with a total of thirteen being submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds are present at varying densities within all thirteen assemblages. Preservation is very variable, with some specimens being very well preserved, whilst others are severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of exposure to extremely high temperatures during combustion.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded, along with a number of cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Wheat is predominant throughout, and rachis nodes of both bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) and rivet wheat (*T. turgidum*) types are also recorded. Other chaff elements occur less frequently but do include wild oat (*Avena fatua*) floret bases, with diagnostic 'sucker-mouth' basal abscission scars, and rye rachis nodes. Non-cereal crop plant remains are scarce, but do include a possible field bean (*Vicia faba*) and cotyledon fragments of other indeterminate large legumes (Fabaceae).

Weed seeds are generally scarce, with many occurring as single specimens within an assemblage. All are of common segetal weeds/grassland herbs, with taxa noted including stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), grasses (Poaceae), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). In addition, individual charred sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlets are noted within ring-gully segment [969] (sample 8) and well [900] (samples 9 and 10), and the assemblage from pit [1019] (sample 11) includes a single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments, including some larger pieces >10mm in size, are present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Fragments of charred root, rhizome or stem (including numerous pieces of heather (Ericaceae) stem) are also common, with a single capsule of ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) being noted within the assemblage from well fill (1008) (sample 10). Other plant macrofossils occur less frequently, but do include indeterminate buds, culm nodes and inflorescence fragments and small pieces of mineral preserved wood.

Black porous and tarry residues, all of which are probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains, are present at a low to moderate density within all but two assemblages. Other remains occur less frequently but do include small pieces of bone, burnt organic concretions (possibly dung or a charred foodstuff) and small pieces of coal (coal 'dust'). The assemblage from ring gully

segment [969] (sample 5) includes numerous small fragments of an orange/red material, but is currently unclear whether these are mineral based or whether they are oxidised ferrous concretions.

Discussion

The taphonomy of the material from Gilmorton is interesting, as despite the spatial and temporal distribution of the features, the uniform composition of the assemblages may indicate that most of the plant macrofossils have a common source. The following points may be of particular note:

- In most instances, the assemblages are grain dominant, which could suggest that some cereals are derived from materials which were accidentally spilled during culinary preparation. However, wheat is predominant, and as this was a cereal which was rarely used whole, but most commonly milled for flour, this may indicate materials derived from another source.
- It is also possible that some grains may have been accidentally burnt during drying, or could be derived from the seasonal burning of storage waste. Given the nature of the contexts, it would be difficult to prove or disprove this hypothesis, but it is thought unlikely to be the sole source of the remains.
- Weed seeds are generally scarce, and many of those present are of a similar size to the grains. This could indicate that much of the cereal utilised on or near the site was probably arriving as batches of semi-cleaned or prime grain, awaiting only a final hand clean prior to consumption or use. The waste material from such late-stage processing was often used as tinder, kindling or fuel within domestic or light industrial contexts.
- Charcoal/charred wood is, perhaps, surprisingly scarce for a site of medieval date. However, it is noted that most assemblages contain small pieces of heather stem, often at quite a high density. Throughout the medieval period, heather was greatly favoured as a fuel for domestic ovens and similar contexts as it was readily available, it ignited easily and it maintained an even, high temperature throughout combustion.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the assemblages are all small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume), plant macrofossils are reasonably abundant. The taphonomy of the assemblages would appear to be quite complex, containing materials derived from a number of possible sources. However, it is suggested that most of the remains are present as constituents of fuel, possibly from one or more domestic ovens or hearths. Perhaps ironically, the assemblage from hearth [816] (sample 1) is extremely sparse, although that from the fill of an associated post-hole (feature [834] sample 2) does contain a moderate to high density of cereals, chaff, seeds and culm nodes. However, hearths were frequently kept scrupulously clean as a means of preventing accidental fires, with all waste being disposed of well away from the focus of combustion. As such waste was mostly small and light-weight, it was subject to wind dispersal across a wide area, with other elements moving through the soil column via animal or root disturbance. Notwithstanding these issues, it would appear that the production of cereals (most particularly wheat) was of some significance to the local economy, with much of the grain probably being grown on the local clay-loam soils of the Gilmorton area, some of which may have been freshly cultivated areas of marginal damp grassland. In addition, the presence of small legumes within all but three of the assemblages may indicate that these soils were being improved by a regime of rotational cropping with leguminous crops.

Although these assemblages are of great interest, it is thought unlikely that further quantification/analysis would add to the data already included within this assessment, particularly as the volume of the flots is so small. Therefore, no further work is recommended. However, it is suggested that a summary of this report is included within any publication of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 2010
Press

New Flora of the British Isles. 3rd edition. Cambridge University

Key to Table (see below)

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt

RG = ring gully ph = post-hole C = century Med. = medieval

Sample No.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	12	13
Context No.	912	916	970	975	964	987	1007	1008	1020	826	833	910	933
Feature No.		917	969	974	963	986	900	900	1019	816	834	908	913
Feature type	Pot	Pot	RG	RG	RG	RG	Well	Well	Pit	?Hearth	ph	Ditch	Ditch
Area	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B
Date	12thC	13thC	12-13thC	12-13thC	12-13thC	12-13thC	12-13thC	12-13thC	12-13thC	13thC	13thC	Med.	Med.
Cereals and other potential crop plants													
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	x	xx	x		x	x	x	x	xcf		x	x	x
(awn frags.)											x		
(floret bases)		x						x					
<i>A. fatua</i> L. (floret bases)											x		
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x			x	x	xcf	x	xcf				x
<i>Hordeum/Secale cereale</i> type (rachis nodes)							x						
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)					xcf	xcf	x	x					x
(rachis nodes)								x					
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	xxx	x	x	x	xx	xx	xxx	x	x	xx	x	xx
(rachis internode)		x									x		
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)		xx				x	x	xx		x	xxxx		x
<i>T. turgidum</i> type (rachis nodes)		x									x		
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x	x	xx	x	xxx	xxx	x	x	xx	x	xx
(detached sprout)											x		
(detached embryo)											x		
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.								xcf					
Large Fabaceae indet.		x					xcffg	x				xcffg	
Herbs													
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.											x		
Brassicaceae indet.												xcf	
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		x					x	x	xcf				
Chenopodiaceae indet.						x							
Fabaceae indet.		x	x		x	x	x	xx	x	x	xx		x
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love		x									x	x	
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.	xcf												
<i>Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia</i>													x
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.									x				
Small Poaceae indet.							x					xcf	
Large Poaceae indet.											x		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	x			x									
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L. (siliqua frags.)		x					x				x		x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x	xxx					x	x		x	xxx	x	x
(tepal frag.)											x		

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Ashby Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire

Sample No.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	12	13
Context No.	912	916	970	975	964	987	1007	1008	1020	826	833	910	933
Feature No.		917	969	969	960	969	900	900	1019			908	913
Feature type	Pot	Pot	RG	RG	RG	RG	Well	Well	Pit	?Hearth	ph	Ditch	Ditch
Area	B	B	B	B	B	B			B	A	A	B	B
Date	12thC	12thC	?Med.	?Med.	?Med.	?Med.	Med	Med.	Med.	Med.	Med.	Med.	Med.
Wetland plants													
<i>Carex</i> sp.						X	X	X					
Tree/shrub macrofossils													
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.									X				
Other plant macrofossils													
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	x	x	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	x	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Charcoal >10mm		x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Charred root/stem	xxx	x	x	x	x	x	xx	xxx	x		x	xxx	xx
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> L. (capsule)								x					
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xxx	xx	x	xcf		x	xx	xxx	xx			xxx	xx
Indet. bud	x												
Indet. culm nodes		x				x		x			xx		
Indet. inflorescence frags.											x	x	
Indet. seeds							x		x	x			
Minerally preserved wood							x						
Other remains													
Black porous and tarry material	x	x	x	x		xx	xx		x	x	xx	x	
Bone		x		x		xb		x				x	x xb
Burnt/fired clay											x		
Burnt organic concretions							x		x			x	
Orange/red ?mineral/ferrous concretions			xx										
Small coal frags.	x	x	x	x	x		x			x		x	x
Vitreous material									x				x
Sample volume (litres)	12	5	20	20	15	20	40	20	40	5	7	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Ashby Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire

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OASIS ID: withamar1-288470

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Monitoring and Recording on Land off Ashby Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	<p>A programme of strip, map and sample followed by monitoring and recording was undertaken, following the completion of a trial trench evaluation in January 2015. The site lies on the east side of the Ashby Road, close to the northern limits of Gilmorton, on land formerly occupied Goodman's Farm. The investigations revealed evidence for settlement in the 12th to 13th centuries, with activity possibly extending into the 14th century. Remains of 12th to 13th century date included two penannular gullies (possibly animal pens or haystack stands) a curvilinear ditch, an oven or hearth, a possible well and a pit which may have served an industrial function. A near complete vessel was recovered from a linear feature attributed to the same phase. A series of closely spaced ditches and/or gullies (possibly defining a track) approximately aligned with an extant field boundary to the north of the site may have originated at a slightly earlier date, with elements possibly surviving to form a boundary to the activity associated with the penannular gullies and other features dated as 12th to 13th century. While there was no conclusive evidence for domestic dwellings, occasional postholes and the nature of the finds assemblage suggest proximity to areas of habitation. At a later stage, it would appear that a rectilinear system of boundaries was laid out, possibly in response to the depopulation in the later 13th/14th century. These could have formed a complex of closes on the periphery of the settlement. An area of metalling dated as 14th to 16th century could represent hardstanding associated with a farmyard.</p>
Project dates	Start: 23-02-2015 End: 14-11-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	GMAR14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	X.A151.2014 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	HEARTH Medieval
Monument type	GULLY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Medieval

Investigation type "Open-area excavation","Watching Brief"
 Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England
 Site location LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH GILMORTON Land off Ashby Road, Gilmorton
 Postcode LE17 5LY
 Study area 1600 Square metres
 Site coordinates SP 570 882 52.488365523858 -1.160453844761 52 29 18 N 001 09 37 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Witham Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Dale Trimble
 Project director/manager Dale Trimble
 Project supervisor Gary Trimble
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Francis Jackson Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Physical Archive ID X.A151.2014
 Physical Contents "Ceramics","Metal"
 Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Digital Archive ID X.A151.2014
 Digital Contents "Ceramics","Metal"
 Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Paper Archive ID X.A151.2014
 Paper Contents "Ceramics","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Matrices","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land at Ashby Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire. Archaeological Strip, Map and Record and Monitoring and Recording

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