

# **Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Ryhall Substation, Cable Route, Rutland.**

**Prepared by M. Dodd**

**2014**

**Project Code – RYS 4**

**TPA Report No. 141/2014**



*Ryhall Site, Looking south east, with trenches 19 and 18 in the foreground*

Trent & Peak Archaeology ©  
Unit 1, Holly Lane  
Chilwell  
Nottingham  
NG9 4AB  
0115 8967400 (Tel.)  
0115 925 9464 (Fax.)





Trent & Peak Archaeology is a trading name of York  
Archaeological Trust Registered Charity in England and  
Wales (No. 509060) and Scotland (No. SCO42846)

Registered Office:  
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Without Share Capital Registered  
in England No. 1430801

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

<b>Prepared by</b> <b>Date</b> 11/11/14	Mark Dodd, Project Officer
<b>Checked by</b> <b>Signed</b> <b>Date</b> 19/11/14	Gareth Davies, Project Manager 
<b>Approved by</b> <b>Signed</b> <b>Date</b> 21/11/14	Lee Elliott, Head of Projects 
<b>Report Number</b>	141/2014
<b>Status</b>	Version 1

## DISCLAIMER

*This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited ("YAT") (trading as Trent & Peak Archaeology) YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.*

## **SUMMARY**

Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd, to carry out a trial trenching, comprising 20 trenches (2m x 25m), in advance of a proposed National Grid Substation, with an associated cable trench at Ryhall, Rutland, centred on NGR TF0471511233.

The work was carried out between the 20<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching by Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) (Davies 2014) and the approved TPA Risk Assessment and Methods Statement (Davies 2014). Monitoring was provided by the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council.

In advance of the evaluation, a geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by Archaeophysica. However, this was limited to the northern field of the two within the development area, as the southern field had recently been ploughed, hindering access.

Within the area surveyed a pair of possible narrow ditch fills and where highlighted as possibly representing a small, perhaps squarish, enclosure of 20 – 25m width. However, it was acknowledged that neither of the anomalies contrasted well with the variable background magnetic field and that their recognition was tentative. A little to the south, were a pair of narrow ditch fills approximately 5m apart.

The evaluation identified three distinct areas of archaeological interest:

1. At the southern end of the site within Trench 2 were the remains of a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pit, containing domestic waste, this was accompanied by an undated possible post hole. These provide evidence for a possible later prehistoric settlement activity at the southern end of the development route.
2. Within the central portion of the site there was an accumulation of colluvial deposits containing artefactual material. This deposit was shown to be sealing possible buried soil horizons containing charcoal rich deposits that may be related to earlier activity.
3. The final area was within the low lying northern field, specifically within trenches 17 and 18. Throughout this area, the presence of organic alluvial deposits indicated that the area had previously been part of a wetland environment. Although no definite archaeological features were found in association with this episode of water logging, there were fragments of burnt bone within elements of this alluvial material, notably within Trench 18 – suggesting human activity within the vicinity during its accumulation. Within Trench 17 the presence of worked flint and late prehistoric pottery were further indicators of this activity. Whilst later, undated features appeared to be related to the reclamation of this marginal landscape.

# **Report on an archaeological evaluation at Ryhall Substation, Cable Route, Rutland.**

**Prepared by M. Dodd**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>QUALITY ASSURANCE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DISCLAIMER.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LIST OF PLATES AND FIGURES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. INTRODUCTION .....	5
2. PROJECT BACKGROUND .....	5
3. SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY .....	6
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	6
5. METHODOLOGY .....	8
6. RESULTS.....	11
7. ARTEFACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS.....	18
8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION.....	23
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	25
Appendix 1 Context Register.....	26
Appendix 2 Plates .....	32
Appendix 3 Figures .....	42

## **LIST OF PLATES AND FIGURES**

### **Appendix 2**

- PLATE 1.** Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pit [203] within Trench 2.  
**PLATE 2.** Undated possible post hole [206] within Trench 2.  
**PLATE 3.** Linear [504] within Trench 5  
**PLATE 4.** Probable furrow within Trench 8  
**PLATE 5.** Burnt deposit within colluvial layer (1101), Trench 11.  
**PLATE 6.** Colluvial layer (1101) at north west end of Trench 11  
**PLATE 7.** Deposit (1206) below colluvium within Trench 12.  
**PLATE 8.** Deposit (1205) below colluvium within Trench 12.  
**PLATE 9.** Ditch [1304], Trench 13.  
**PLATE 10.** Probable tree throw [1308], Trench 13.  
**PLATE 11.** Ditch [1703] within Trench 17.  
**PLATE 13.** Stone deposit (1711), with later Ditch [1706] truncating it. Trench 17.  
**PLATE 12.** Probable tree throw [1705], Trench 17.  
**PLATE 14.** Ditch [1707] within Trench 17.  
**PLATE 15.** Features [1805] (*left*) and [1807] (*right*) within Trench 18.  
**PLATE 16.** Trench 18 showing alluvial deposits following machining and hand cleaning.  
**PLATE 17.** Alluvial feature [1811] within Trench 18  
**PLATE 18.** Trench 19, sloping to east, where alluvial deposits were present.  
**PLATE 19.** Representative section of deposits within Trench 20.

### **Appendix 3**

- Fig. 1** Location Map  
**Fig. 2** Plan of Trenches (1:2500)  
**Fig. 3** Features within Trenches 1-6 (1:750)  
**Fig. 4** Features within Trenches 7-11 (1:750)  
**Fig. 5** Features within Trenches 12-15 (1:750)  
**Fig. 6** Features within Trenches 16-20 (1:750)  
**Fig. 7** Detail of Trench 2 and associated sections  
**Fig. 8** Detail of Trench 5 and associated sections  
**Fig. 9** Detail of Trench 9 and associated sections  
**Fig. 10** Detail of Trench 11 and associated sections  
**Fig. 11** Detail of Trench 12 and associated sections  
**Fig. 12** Detail of Trench 13 and associated sections  
**Fig. 13** Detail of Trench 17 and associated sections  
**Fig. 14** Detail of Trench 18 and associated sections

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1.1 National Grid Ltd (NG) have planning permission to build a new electricity substation near Ryhall (National Grid Reference TF0471511233) (2013/02/FUL). As a part of Planning Permission, Rutland County Council have imposed a condition on the proposed development:

*8. No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant or developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.*

- 1.1.2 As part of the ongoing works they will be installing a cable route from the site running north approximately 1km towards the nearby settlement of Essendine. The overall impact area (including working areas) will be 2 hectares in size (up to 15m wide easement) (Fig.1). On the basis of previous advice, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council has requested an archaeological evaluation in the form of a geophysical survey (magnetometer) and a subsequent trial trench evaluation, comprising 20 trenches (2m x 25m).

## **2. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In order to address Condition 8 of the planning application, a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) for the development was prepared by Hyder on behalf of National Grid in 2013 (Hyder, 2013). The DBA recommended that a geophysical survey of the development site should be undertaken to establish the presence or absence of buried remains within the scheme footprint to determine the need for any further archaeological work.
- 2.2 The geophysical survey was carried out in September 2013 by Archaeophysica Ltd but was limited to the northern field of the two within the development area, as the southern field had recently been ploughed, hindering access. Within the area surveyed a pair of possible narrow ditch fills and were highlighted as possibly representing a small, perhaps squarish, enclosure of 20 – 25m width. However, it was acknowledged that neither of the anomalies contrasted well with the variable background magnetic field and that their recognition was tentative. A little to the south, were a pair of narrow ditch fills approximately 5m apart.
- 2.3 Overall it was concluded that despite a reasonable level of magnetic contrast, there was a low incidence of features of archaeological interest.
- 2.3 Subsequently the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council specified that archaeological trial trenching of 5% of the development site was required. This equated to approximately 20, 25m x 2m trial trenches.
- 2.4 This report details the results of the required trial trenching.

### **3. SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

- 3.1 The site consisted of an angular 'S' shaped corridor, approximately 800m in length and 15m wide. The southern end of the cable route met with the Essendine road, at approximately 36m AOD. From here, it ran diagonally for a distance of 250m along the edge of an open arable field before turning almost 90 degrees to the NW. This change in direction coincided with a notable change in the topography as the field is more steeply sloped, descending by almost 8m into the West Glen river valley. The NW-SE aligned portion of the route traversed this slope at an angle, descending onto the flatter, though slightly undulating flood plain of the West Glen. The final SW-NE orientated portion of the route continued across the valley bottom, stopping at the edge of the railway embankment, at a height of 20m AOD.
- 3.2 The underlying bedrock comprises Blisworth Limestone Formation (Hyder, 2013). The soils in this area are classified in the Elnton 1 association, characterised as well drained, brashy fine loams and calcareous clays (Hyder, 2013). Whereas the lower lying areas at the northern end of the site are comprised of sand and gravel river terrace deposits.

### **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **4.1 *Prehistoric (10,000BC to 43AD)***

There are a number of cropmarks, in some places supported by excavated evidence, which suggest a Prehistoric presence in the vicinity of the site. On this basis the study area was assessed in the DBA as having a moderate potential for unknown archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period (Hyder, 2013). The cropmarks include:

- To the south-east of the site, analysis of aerial photographs in the 1980s observed a cropmark of a curvilinear ditch which was interpreted as an Iron Age Enclosure (Hyder 2013, Site 1).
- Further evidence of potential Iron Age activity can be seen to the east of the southern tip of the site (Hyder 2013, Site 3) where aerial photographs reveal cropmarks of a large, double-ditched, sub-rectangular enclosure. Here, excavations prior to the construction of a gas pipeline in the 1980s recorded boundary ditches and a possible round-house. Pottery recovered from these features was dated to the Iron Age.
- A square cropmark with a ditch running north from the enclosure was observed on aerial photographs to the east of the site (Hyder 2013, Site 5). To the west of the site aerial photographs show a complex series of pits and ditches which have been interpreted as an indication of later prehistoric settlement activity (Hyder 2013, Site 2).

All of this cropmark evidence taken together could suggest that the area around the site was a focus for activity in the Iron Age with potential settlements existing within at least one of the enclosures. To the north of the substation site, a pottery vessel of presumed prehistoric date was discovered during the construction of the Stanford and Essendine railway in the mid-19th century (Hyder, Site 6).

During March 2014, Trent and Peak Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation of the main Ryhall Substation site, immediately to the south of the proposed development area, on the opposite side of the Essendine road.

This work successfully identified a number of archaeological features. On the basis of both morphology and artefactual data, features indicative of later Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age settlement activity – perhaps now relatively ephemeral – were identified. These may comprise the remains of an unenclosed settlement. At this stage it is uncertain if two distinct activity foci are represented or if one contiguous area of less densely occupied habitation is in fact indicated.

Where artefacts were identified within features, it was demonstrated that rich primary deposits of settlement related waste were present in discrete parts of the site. Artefact assemblages

contained worked flint in addition to pottery and charred remains suggesting that plant macrofossils may be present. The trial trenching established that there is significant potential to recover evidence for Late Bronze Age – Earlier Iron Age settlement, including aspects of the contemporary economy, and the ceramic traditions.

Additional work was carried out by TPA, in the form of a trial trench evaluation, focused upon a 1 hectare area, immediately to the west of the Ryhall Substation site. This phase of investigations failed to identify any significant archaeological activity, but helps to indicate the extent of these later prehistoric remains.

#### 4.2 *Roman (AD43-AD410)*

There is little evidence for activity dating to the Roman period within the study area. However, a number of cropmarks identified in the Hyder DBA could date to either the Prehistoric or Roman periods. On this basis, the study area was assessed as having a moderate potential for unknown archaeological remains dating to the Roman period (Hyder, 2013). Features include:

- A set of potential Roman or prehistoric field boundaries outside the western boundary of the site (Hyder 2013, Site 7) was identified from aerial photographs. Analysis of the aerial photographs identified a number of fields each defined by a single ditch with a maximum length of 210m.
- To the west of the site, analysis of aerial photographs revealed a potential trackway and two enclosures (Hyder 2013, Site 10). The trackway is approximately 350m long and is defined by two ditches.
- To the west of the study area cropmarks showing a trackway approximately 200m long which are identified as potentially Roman (Hyder, 2013). The trackway is defined for part of its length by two ditches and for another part of its length by a line of pits (Hyder 2013, Site 11).

#### 4.3 *Early Medieval (AD450-1066 AD)*

The villages of Ryhall, Belmesthorpe and Essendine all appear in the Domesday book as established settlements suggesting that they were in existence in the early medieval period. Ryhall, but the study area was assessed in the DBA as having a low potential for unknown archaeological remains dating to the early medieval period (Hyder, 2013). During the construction of the Stamford and Essendine Railway line in the 19th century (which passes just by the site) an Anglo Saxon pot was recovered. Although the exact findspot is unclear it is located by the HER in the study area (Hyder 2013, Site 12).

#### 4.4 *Medieval (1066- 1540 AD)*

By the medieval period Ryhall, Belmesthorpe and Essendine were established settlements. To the west of the study area, aerial photograph evidence shows ridge and furrow (visible as earthworks near Ryhall), consistent with open field arable cultivation in the medieval period. The study area was assessed in the DBA as having a low potential for unknown archaeological remains dating to the medieval period (Hyder, 2013).

#### 4.5 *Post-Medieval (1540-1914 AD)*

In the post-medieval period Ryhall, Belmesthorpe and Essendine continued to expand with a number of new buildings being built. However later in the post-medieval period the fortunes of Essendine declined rapidly when its castle was destroyed by Cromwell in the Civil War. In the late post-medieval period the railways came to Rutland. In 1846 the Great Northern Railway construction began on a route from London via Peterborough, Lincoln and Gainsborough; eventually the line was extended to provide a direct link between London and York. This railway line passes to the north of the study area and remains in use today and is now the East Coast Mainline. In 1856 the Stamford and Essendine Railway was opened to link Stamford with the Great Northern Railway. This railway line runs partially within the eastern boundary of the site (Hyder 2013 DBA Site 16). At the height of the railway both Ryhall and Essendine had stations; Ryhall Station was on the Stamford and Essendine line and Essendine Station was on the Great Northern Railway. The study area was assessed in the



DBA as having a low potential for unknown archaeological remains dating to the post-medieval period (Hyder, 2013).

4.6 *Modern (1914- present)*

In 1959 the Stamford and Essendine Railway closed down and at the same time both Ryhall and Essendine stations were closed. The DBA assessed the study area as having a negligible potential for unknown archaeological remains dating from the Modern period (Hyder, 2013).

4.7 *Undated*

A number of undated features were visible on aerial photographs and have been interpreted as potential boundary ditches (Sites 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21). These features could suggest an early field pattern which has been superseded by the present day pattern. Adjacent to the Iron Age double ditched enclosure (Hyder 2013, Site 3) to the south-east of the study area, a T-shaped collection of linear features can be seen on aerial photographs (Hyder 2013, Site 22). The function of these features is unknown and it is not clear whether they are contemporary with the enclosure. To the south-west of the study area is the potential site of a windmill (Hyder 2013, Site 23).

## 5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation* (MoRPHE PPN3) (English Heritage 2008), and the requirements and standards set by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) in their *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994; revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material* (IfA 2001; Revised 2008); *Code of Conduct* (IfA 1985; revised to 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA, 2009).

*General and Specific Aims*

- 5.2 The general aim of the trial trenching was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains in order to establish the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

More specific aims and objectives were as follows:

- To identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in this Specification;
- To clarify the date, character and extent of those sites and geophysical anomalies identified within the footprint of the proposed development;
- To determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the deposits or features identified;
- To establish any ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features; and
- To provide recommendations for mitigation measures.

*Trench Excavation*

- 5.3 A total of 20 trial trenches with a total area of 1000m<sup>2</sup> were excavated. The locations of these trial trenches were determined to provide a representative random sample of the site.

*Surveying and setting out*

- 5.4 All trenches were set out, surveyed as excavated and tied in to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid and Ordnance datum, using a GPS, Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS. TPA holds full co-ordinate data which can be supplied as DXF/DWG files if necessary

*Mechanical excavation*

- 5.5 Topsoil and subsoil was removed using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All such mechanical excavation was undertaken under the direct and continuous supervision of Trent & Peak Archaeology staff. Mechanical excavation ceased at

the first archaeologically significant horizon or when the absence of any such horizon was adequately demonstrated. Topsoil and subsoil was segregated in separate spoil heaps. Spoil from the excavation of archaeological features was stored on the subsoil heap. After the completion of archaeological excavation the material was replaced in reverse order of removal and the soil was graded to a smooth, even profile, free from local mounds and depressions.

#### *Hand Excavation*

- 5.6 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute for Archaeologists. The depth and complexity of archaeological features and deposits across the whole site was evaluated by hand excavation. Hand excavation was undertaken in compliance with the WSI to a level sufficient to characterise all key features and provide opportunities for the recovery of dateable finds and palaeoenvironmental material.

#### *Recording*

- 5.7 All excavated contexts were fully recorded on TPA written context records giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts, etc.
- 5.8 All features were recorded on at least one plan (normally at 1:20 scale) and at least one section drawing (normally at 1:10 scale). A complete post-excavation plan and long section of each trench was prepared. All drawings included co-ordinate data and spot-heights related to the Ordnance Survey Datum and accurate to two decimal places. The level of recording increased relative to the presence of features of archaeological significance.
- 5.9 All excavated features and deposits were recorded photographically using black and white negative film, in a 35mm or medium format. Additional illustrative photographs were taken using digital photography (four Megapixels). All black and white record photographs were taken using silver based film only, being suitable for long-term storage (Brown 2007, 13).
- 5.10 All finds were recorded by context; and individually significant finds were also individually labelled with a TPA three-letter code (e.g. AAA) and recorded three-dimensionally. All artefacts recovered were retained and removed from site for conservation (if necessary) and specialist examination/analysis (see Section 6). All recording, cleaning, storage and conservation of finds has been carried-out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2001, revised 2008).

#### *Palaeoenvironmental Sampling*

- 5.11 All environmental archaeology was undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and with reference to the Association for Environmental Archaeology's Working Paper No. 2, *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluation* (1995).
- 5.12 Soil samples comprising at least 40 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds shall be taken from appropriate contexts. These comprised basal/primary fills of at least 50% of all cut archaeological features and at least 25% of all other anthropogenic soil deposits, including all deposits containing any visible charcoal or other carbonised material and all deposits considered to be of particular interest on the basis of artefactual content or other characteristics.
- 5.13 In total, 4 separate environmental samples were recovered during the evaluation. The results of this sampling are discussed further in section 7.

#### *Site Archive*

- 5.14 Archive consolidation was undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.

The site record was checked, cross-referenced and indexed.

- 5.15 All retained finds have been marked and packaged as necessary but due to their friable nature have not been washed. Recommendations for their treatment are made in Section 6 and should follow further mitigation.
- 5.16 All retained finds have been assessed and recorded by suitably qualified and experienced staff (prehistoric pottery by Dr. David Knight (TPA) and worked flint by Peter Webb (TPA). Initial artefact dating has been integrated into the site narrative.
- 5.17 Following further mitigation, the archive shall be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Appendix 1, P1 of MoRPHE PPN3 (English Heritage 2008) and the Rutland County Museum's *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Rutland County Museums and Record Service (Rutland Museum, 2013)*. In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain:  
site matrices where appropriate;  
a summary report synthesising the context records;  
a summary of the artefact record; and  
a summary of any other records or materials recovered.  
The integrity of the primary field records shall be preserved and the Contractor shall create security copies in digital, fiche or microfilm format of all primary field records.
- 5.18 Initial contact has been made with Lorraine Cornwell, Collections Manager at Rutland County Museum and the following accession number issued for this site: OAKRM:2014.5. An archive index is provided below:

<b>Field Records</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>
Context Sheet	Record of each intervention	65
Registers	Registers	26
A3 Drafting Film	Scale plans and Sections	14
Digital Photographs	All views	x BW and Colour
<b>Documents</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the evaluation.	1

## **6. RESULTS**

- 6.1 An outline narrative of the results of the archaeological evaluation trenches is now presented below. The overall location of the trenches is shown on Figure 2 with more detailed plans of the archaeological features shown on Figures 3 to 14. A full context list is provided as Appendix 1.

### **Trench 1 (2m x 25m; Figure 3)**

- 6.2 Trench 1 was orientated NE-SW, and positioned at the southern end of the site, where the topography sloped gently downwards towards the north east. Machine excavation removed the topsoil, which measured a maximum depth of 0.3m, exposing a shallow subsoil layer of soft, brown, sandy clay silt, up to 0.2m deep. The underlying natural substrate was a mixed deposit of soft light brown silty sand and blue grey clay.
- 6.3 Due to the marbled nature of the geology, a number of potential features were identified, but upon investigation resolved themselves as natural variations. No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

### **Trench 2 (2m x 25m; Figure 3)**

- 6.4 Trench 2 was located near the southern end of the site, along an E-W alignment. A consistent layer of topsoil was removed along the length of the trench, measuring approximately 0.25m deep. The underlying subsoil varied in thickness, totalling just 0.05m at the eastern end, but increasing to a maximum of 0.2m thick at the opposing western end. Underlying the subsoil was a mixed geology of degraded limestone with bands of light yellow brown, silty clay.
- 6.5 Partially visible, towards the western end of the trench was a sub-circular pit [203], the southern edge of which, extended beyond the limits of the excavation. Once excavated, the pit was shown to have steep, concave sides and a moderately flat base, measuring a maximum width of 0.9m and a total depth of 0.4m. The primary fill, (204) was comprised of mid orange brown, silty clay, presumably derived from the surrounding geology. It is suspected that the pottery and charcoal flecks contained within this fill were intrusive elements derived from the overlying deposit (205). This upper fill was a friable, dark orange brown, silty clay, containing frequent charcoal flecks and burnt sandstone, along with several sherds of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery and some fragments of animal bone. An environmental sample (ES01) was recovered from this deposit for analysis.
- 6.6 A little over 10m to the east of pit [203], a possible post hole was observed cutting into the natural substrate. It was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum diameter of just 0.38m and was moderately distinct, cutting into the limestone. Presumably heavily truncated, only a shallow concave base remained, measuring 0.08m deep, and containing a mid to dark orange brown, silty clay with very occasional charcoal flecks. No artefacts were found in association with this feature.

### **Trench 3 (2m x 25m; Figure 3)**

- 6.7 Trench 3 was situated to the north east of Trench 2, with a NE-SW orientation parallel to the existing field boundary. Both the topsoil and subsoil were removed along its length using a machine, to a maximum depth of 0.6m at the south western end. At this point the topsoil measured a maximum depth of 0.4m, with underlying subsoil measuring up to 0.2m thick. In contrast, the north western end of the trench revealed a shallower topsoil, just 0.25m thick, with a subsoil of less than 0.1m.
- 6.8 At the base of the trench a mixed geology was revealed comprising bands of degraded limestone, light yellow brown silty clay and patches of blue grey clay.
- 6.9 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

#### **Trench 4 (2m x 25m; Figure 3)**

- 6.10 Trench 4 was orientated N-S, within the southern portion of the site, where the topography was very gently sloped to the north east. Machine excavation removed the topsoil, and then the underlying subsoil, which measured approximately 0.3m and 0.08m thick respectively. Following their removal, a mixed geology was revealed comprising patches of silty clay and degraded limestone bedrock.
- 6.11 The only archaeological feature observed was a possible furrow [402]. It was situated at the southern end of the trench, measuring 0.8m wide, and extended beyond the limits of the excavation along a NE-SW alignment. Excavation revealed a shallow concave profile, just 0.06m deep, filled by orange brown, sandy clay-silt.
- 6.12 A modern land drain was observed cutting the furrow along a NW-SE alignment. No finds were recovered from these features.

#### **Trench 5 (2m x 25m; Figure 3)**

- 6.13 Trench 5 was situated in the southern portion of the development, along a NE-SW alignment. Machine excavation removed the topsoil and subsoil to a maximum combined depth of 0.5m. Along the length of the trench, the topsoil was relatively uniform at approximately 0.3m thick, with underlying subsoil, up to 0.2m deep. The exposed geology at this location consisted of orange brown, silty clay and patches of degraded limestone bedrock.
- 6.14 Along the base of the trench, a single linear [504] was observed, orientated NNE-SSW. It measured at least 1.5m in width, and was visible along a length of 15.5m. It was suspected that this formed a continuation of the furrow, [402] observed to the south west in Trench 4, but excavation demonstrated that it was of a slightly different character. Although a full profile was not possible within the confines of the excavated area, the north east side was recorded as moderately steep, leading down to a broad concave base, 0.21m deep. It contained a single homogenous fill of mid brown, silty sandy-clay, with occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of limestone. Unfortunately no finds were associated with this feature.
- 6.15 A stone filled land drain [506] was recorded at the south western end of the trench, but was not excavated.

#### **Trench 6 (2m x 25m; Figure 3)**

- 6.16 Trench 6 was situated to the north east of Trench 5, on an E-W orientation. Machining removed the topsoil and subsoil, exposing a mixed geology of orange brown, silty clay, and blue grey clay approximately 0.5m below ground level. The topsoil was observed along the length of the trench with a regular depth of 0.2m, whereas the underlying subsoil varied between 0.3m at the western end and 0.2m at the east.
- 6.17 No archaeological features were observed within this trench. Despite careful cleaning of the north facing section, it was not possible to observe a continuation of the ditch recorded within Trench 5.

#### **Trench 7 (2m x 25m; Figure 4)**

- 6.18 Trench 7 was orientated NE-SW, to north east of Trench 6. Close to the crest of the slope, which leads down to the West Glen river, there was evidently some erosion of the agricultural deposits as both the topsoil and subsoil measured maximum depths of just 0.16m each. The underlying geology was a mixture of light yellow brown, silty clay and limestone, marbled with mid orange brown clay.

- 6.19 No archaeological features were observed within this trench, but a worked flint was recovered from the topsoil layer.

**Trench 8 (2m x 25m; Figure 4)**

- 6.20 Trench 8 was located on a N-S alignment, at the crest of the slope leading into the West Glen river valley. The trench was excavated using a machine, revealing up to 0.25m thick topsoil and shallow underlying subsoil, up to 0.15m thick. The exposed geology was firm blue grey, sandy clay, with bands of yellow brown sandy clay, similar to that observed within Trench 1.
- 6.21 At the centre of the trench was a NE-SW aligned linear, [804]. It measured 1.9m in width, with a shallow concave profile, 0.08m deep. It contained a soft mid brown, sandy clay without inclusions or artefactual material. Based upon the morphology of this feature, it seems reasonable to suggest this represents a truncated furrow base.
- 6.22 No other archaeological features were revealed within this trench.

**Trench 9 (2m x 25m; Figure 4)**

- 6.23 Trench 9 was orientated on a NE-SW alignment. Following the slope of the field as it descended towards the valley base, Trench 9 covered a difference of 2.5m in height between its two ends. The trench was excavated by machine, revealing the natural geology at a maximum depth of 0.35m below ground level. The subsoil measured between 0.09 and 0.15m thick, and was in turn overlain by approximately 0.2m of topsoil. The exposed geology consisted of mid yellow brown sandy clay, mixed with blue grey clay.
- 6.24 No archaeological features were observed within this trench

**Trench 10 (2m x 25m; Figure 4)**

- 6.25 Trench 10 was located at the south east end of the NW-SE aligned portion of the site, along a NW-SE orientation. This coincided with a more moderately sloped area of topography, inclining diagonally across the trench to the north east. Machine excavation revealed shallow topsoil just 0.22m deep, directly overlying the natural geology. At this point, the natural substrate was a combination of mid yellow brown, sandy clay, mixed with blue grey clay bands.
- 6.26 No archaeological features were observed within this, presumably resulting from the unfavourable topography.

**Trench 11 (2m x 25m; Figure 4)**

- 6.27 Trench 11 was orientated along a SE-NW alignment, and positioned within the central portion of the site, where the topography sloped moderately downwards to the north east. Machine excavation removed the topsoil, which measured between 0.25m and 0.3m deep.
- 6.28 Underlying the topsoil, a deposit of compact, mid yellow brown, silty clay was uncovered. At the south east end of the trench, this layer was left in situ, allowing a 1m wide hand excavated slot to be dug into it. Within the remainder of the trench it was machine excavated and completely removed. This deposit measured up to 0.5m thick at the north east end of the trench and is believed to represent an accumulation of colluvium derived from the upper portion of the field. Within this deposit was a piece of worked flint, glass and some fragments of animal bone, all providing evidence of activity within the area, probably to the west. Within the central portion of the trench, discrete patches of reddening were observed towards the base of this colluvium. It is suspected that these represent episodes of previously in-situ burning and resultant oxidisation, which have moved within the colluvium.

- 6.29 The underlying geology consisted of mid greyish brown clay, with blue grey mottling throughout. No archaeological features were observed within either the colluvium, or cutting into the underlying geology.

#### **Trench 12 (2m x 25m; Figure 5)**

- 6.30 Trench 12 was located near the northern western boundary of the southern field, along a SSW-NNE alignment, following the slope of the topography, as it descended 1.2m over the length of the trench. Machine excavation revealed a deep sequence of deposits, similar to those observed within Trench 11, with the natural clay geology appearing at depths of up to 1.6m below ground level.
- 6.31 This sequence comprised of an upper layer of topsoil, with a maximum depth of 0.36m, this was in turn overlying a layer of subsoil, which at its deepest point near the centre of the trench, measured 0.54m thick. Beneath which was a colluvial deposit, which was identical to, and presumably a continuation of the colluvium observed within Trench 11. The depth of this layer varied along the length of the trench, but was typically 0.5m thick.
- 6.32 Sealed by the colluvium were the possible remnants of a buried soil horizon. This was represented by three isolated deposits, (1203), (1205) and (1206), which had presumably survived by virtue of the undulating natural geology, allowing separate pockets to accumulate. Importantly, it is worth noting that they did not form a single consistent layer, and varied in their nature. Deposit (1203) was observed at the southern end of the trench, and measured 0.24m thick, along a length of at least 1.8m, extending beyond the southern limits of the excavation. It consisted of mid brown silty clay, containing manganese flecks, occasional charcoal fragments and moderately frequent grit. The second deposit, (1205), was located approximately 6m from the southern end of the trench, and was present with a thickness of 0.26m, over a distance of nearly 3m. This comprised mid brown grey, slightly sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The third deposit (1206) was located near the deepest, central portion of the trench. Again it had accumulated within a depression, but is notable as the dark grey clay deposit contained a high concentration of charcoal, an environmental sample of which was retrieved (ES02). This deposit was just 0.12m thick and present over an area approximately 4m wide within the trench.
- 6.33 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

#### **Trench 13 (2m x 25m; Figure 5)**

- 6.34 Trench 13 was situated within a relatively flat area near the south eastern limit of the northern field, along a NW-SE orientation. Up to 0.4m of topsoil and 0.35m of underlying subsoil were removed by machine excavation to expose the underlying geology. In contrast to the trenches situated to the south east, the natural substrate at this location consisted of mid yellow brown, clay gravel. The horizon of this deposit was recorded as sloping gently to the south east, revealing a depression 0.8m deep that was not reflected at the current ground level. This depression was isolated to a zone approximately 7m in length. Coinciding with this depression, was a 0.35m thick layer of dark orange brown silty clay, which appeared at the interface between the natural and the subsoil. It is likely that these represent an alluvial deposit, similar to a buried soil horizon.
- 6.35 Within the base of the trench a number of features were observed, the most notable of which was a NNW-SSE aligned ditch, [1304]. Hand excavation of this feature revealed a profile with steep, near vertical sides and a flat base, which measured at least 4.5m in length, 0.55m wide and 0.5m deep. It contained a mid orange brown, clay silt with occasional stones and charcoal flecks throughout. No finds were recovered from this feature.

- 6.36 Also within the trench were a number of possible features that were observed. A selection of these were excavated to test their archaeological potential, but were generally thought to be of natural origins. Often irregular in their form, they contained sterile deposits of naturally accumulated mid orange brown, clay silt.

#### **Trench 14 (2m x 25m; Figure 5)**

- 6.37 Trench 14 was situated upon the lower lying, northern portion of the site. It was machine excavated along a NNW-SSE alignment removing up to 0.32m of topsoil, followed by approximately 0.2m of subsoil. Underlying the subsoil was a patchy deposit of compacted dark brown, silty clay which measured up to 0.12m thick. It is suspected that this also forms a possible buried layer of organic material related to flooding within the valley bottom. The natural substrate was a mid yellow brown, silty clay gravel.
- 6.38 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

#### **Trench 15 (2m x 25m; Figure 6)**

- 6.39 Trench 15 was orientated NNE-SSW, within the relatively level, northern portion of the site. Machine excavation removed the topsoil, and then the underlying subsoil, which measured approximately 0.34m and 0.12m thick respectively. Following their removal, the clay silt gravel was exposed along the length of the trench.
- 6.40 At the north eastern end of the trench an irregular oval feature [1503] was observed and excavated. Upon excavation, it was shown to have undulating edges and was filled with sterile orangey grey brown, silty clay. On reflection, it is likely that this was a naturally filled hollow.

#### **Trench 16 (2m x 25m; Figure 6)**

- 6.41 Trench 16 was orientated NNW-SSE, towards the northern end of the site. Machine excavation removed the topsoil, which measured a maximum depth of 0.28m, exposing a shallow subsoil up to 0.16m deep. The underlying natural substrate was light grey brown, sandy clay gravel.
- 6.42 No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

#### **Trench 17 (2m x 25m; Figure 6)**

- 6.43 Trench 17 was located near the northern end of the site, along a SE-NW alignment. The trench was machine excavated and then hand cleaned to a maximum depth of 0.6m. The natural geology recorded at this location was a mid brown, clay silt, contrasting to the gravels encountered within trenches to the south.
- 6.44 Situated at the south east of the trench was a probable tree throw [1705], cutting into the natural geology. It was irregular in plan, and despite extending beyond the limits of the trench measured at least 1.8m in length and 0.6m wide. The profile was undulating and it contained a sterile alluvial deposit of dark brown clay silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 6.45 Within the remainder of the trench a patchy layer of compacted, dark brown, clay silt (1712) was observed. This is believed to have been an organic alluvial layer, relating to an episode of permanent standing water and was concentrated near the centre, with a maximum depth of 0.18m.
- 6.46 Deposit (1712) was directly overlain by deposits (1716) and (1715) (Fig. 13). Both of which consisted of mid brown silty clay, containing occasional manganese flecks and grit. Although



recorded as separate contexts, it is suspected that they were once the same layer, separated by later truncation.

- 6.47 At the south east end of the trench an ENE-WSW aligned ditch [1703] was observed cutting through layer (1712). It was recorded over a length of 2.25m to a width of 0.75m and a maximum depth of 0.18m. The profile of the ditch was moderately steep along its north west side, and stepped along the opposing edge, with a flat base. Within the ditch was a naturally accumulated and mid to dark brown, silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and small stones.
- 6.48 A second ditch [1707], running parallel to [1703] was recorded at the north west end of the trench. Excavation of this feature revealed a V-shape profile, 0.92m wide and 0.3m deep with a sterile, dark brown, clay silt contained within it. No finds were recovered in association with either of these features and it is presumed that they were naturally silted boundary ditches related to later agricultural activity.
- 6.49 To the north west of ditch [1703], an isolated alluvial deposit of light grey, sandy gravel was recorded overlying layer (1712). Removed during machining, it was only visible within section, but was present over 0.7m with a depth of 0.1m. An identical deposit, (1713) was recorded 5m to the north west, overlying deposit (1716). In this instance it was present as a 0.6m wide linear band on an E-W alignment. Recorded to a depth of 0.15m, it had formed along a concave depression that may have been formed through the same alluvial processes that resulted in its deposition.
- 6.50 Across the centre of the trench on ENE-WSW alignment was a layer of limestone stones, which had been deposited onto layer (1715). The stones measured between 0.1m and 0.35m in diameter and covered an area 2.5m in length and at least 0.8m wide, forming a layer 0.15m thick, although the north western edge had been truncated. No specific pattern was identified within the stones, and it is suspected that they were laid down to consolidate the ground, possibly even forming a track way.
- 6.51 Overlying the possible trackway, and present along the length of the trench, was a layer of subsoil, up to 0.2m deep. At the centre of the trench, this was cut through by a large ditch, [1706]. The full profile of this feature was not exposed as it was shown to contain a modern plastic drain. However, the opening of the ditch measured almost 2.5m wide, with only moderately sloped sides which form a profile more consistent with an open drainage ditch, than one excavated specifically for the insertion of a pipe. It is suspected therefore, that the plastic pipe represents a secondary use of this feature, and that it was originally a boundary or drainage ditch.

#### **Trench 18 (2m x 25m; Figure 6)**

- 6.52 Trench 18 was situated near to the northern end of the development, on a NE-SW orientation. Both the topsoil and subsoil were removed using a machine, exposing an underlying alluvial layer (1803). Within the north eastern half of the trench, this alluvial layer was removed during machining, to expose the underlying gravel geology.
- 6.53 The main alluvial layer consisted of mid yellow brown sandy silt, but there were also distinctive bands of compact, dark brown silty clay within this material. The distinction between the two was often ephemeral but there were isolated instances where it appeared as though this darker material represented the fill of cut features. Near to the centre of the trench, one such band, recorded as [1811] was identified and excavated. In plan it appeared to be a NW-SE aligned linear, approximately 2m wide, once excavated, it proved to be very irregular, and in places, undercut the softer alluvium (1803). Consequently, it is suspected that this was the result of a natural water channel washing through and then infilling.
- 6.54 At the south western end of the trench, two possible pits, [1805] and [1807] were identified in plan, cutting into (1803). Both were slightly diffuse, and extended beyond the limits of the excavation. The larger of the two, [1805] measured at least 2.75m x 1.1m in plan and 0.66m

deep. The second [1807], was recorded as 1.85m x 0.45m in plan, and was much shallower, only 0.24m deep. Only partially exposed within the excavated area, their profiles were not visible, but both had moderately steep sides and concave bases. Interestingly, they contained identical deposits of firm, dark grey brown, sandy clay, moderately frequent fragments of burnt bone present throughout. No artefacts were recovered from either feature, and although their origins are uncertain, it seems likely they were filled the same material.

- 6.55 Also present within the trench was an ESE-WNW ditch [1809], which was observed cutting through the subsoil. It measured 0.88m wide, with steep near vertical sides, leading down to a narrow flat base, 0.7m deep. It had been filled by a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay. Its stratigraphical position and the presence of CBM (unrecovered) within the fill indicate that this was most likely a post medieval agricultural boundary.

#### **Trench 19 (2m x 25m; Figure 6)**

- 6.56 Trench 19 was placed near the northern end of the development route, along an E-W alignment. Machine excavation revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits up to 0.74m in depth. The natural substrate was a light yellow brown combination of clay silt and gravel, the upper horizon of which sloped downwards from east to west. At the eastern end of the trench it was observed at 0.45m below ground level, whereas at the western end this increased to 0.75m.
- 6.57 Within the deeper portion of the trench, the natural substrate was overlain by light orange brown clay. This was in association with, and underlying a deposit of dark grey brown, silty clay, similar to the organic alluvial deposits observed within neighbouring trenches. Along the length of the trench was a consistent layer of subsoil 0.25m deep, with the overlying topsoil up to 0.38m deep.
- 6.58 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

#### **Trench 20 (2m x 25m; Figure 6)**

- 6.59 Trench 20 was located at the northern end of the site, along a SW-NE alignment. where the topography was very gently sloped to the north east. Machine excavation revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits, similar to those observed within Trench 19. At the base of the sequence was the natural substrate, comprising light grey brown clay silt and gravels. At the north eastern end of the trench this was overlain by a compact deposit of dark grey, silty clay gravel, not observed elsewhere. This was beneath a patchy dark brown clay silt, alluvial layer which was up to 0.25m thick in places.
- 6.60 Along the length of the trench was a consistent subsoil layer up to 0.2m thick, and an overlying topsoil, nearly 0.4m deep at the north east end of the trench.
- 6.61 No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

## 7. ARTEFACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

### 7.1 ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY

By David Knight

#### Quantity of material and records

- 7.1.1 A total of 9 individual sherds or fragments of pottery were recovered from 2 hand-excavated contexts, and within the topsoil, during the excavations at Ryhall. All sherds found in context were retrieved by excavation with mattock, shovel and trowel, after each trench had been machined to the appropriate level. From this assemblage, 6 sherds were located within pit [203], from contexts (204) and (205).

The following is a catalogue of the pottery assemblage:

Context	Description	Weight (g)
(204)	Body sherd, shelly fabric, undecorated. LBA/EIA	5.2
	Body sherd. shelly fabric, undecorated LBA/EIA	1.4
	Body sherd. shelly fabric, undecorated LBA/EIA	5.8
(205)	Rim sherd – Thin walled bowl? High everted or upright neck, direct rounded rim. Shelly fabric. LBA/EIA	4.4
	Base. Shelly fabric. LBA/EIA	66
	Body sherd. Shelly fabric. LBA/EIA	1.1
	Bulk collection of fragments. Shelly fabric.	24.1
(800)	Pedestal base of colour coat vase. 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Century	19.6
(1700)	Abraded rim. Upright or everted, finely tapered. Shelly fabric. LBA/EIA?	6.6
(1711)	Body sherd. Shelly fabric. LBA/EIA?	8.3

#### Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1.2 Deposit (205) represented the upper fill of a pit, associated with disposal of domestic waste. The underlying fill (204) was more sterile and appeared to have naturally accumulated, it is suspected that the sherds present within this underlying fill were intrusive from the later upper fill (205). Although 4 of the 6 sherds were undiagnostic body sherds, they are thought to be contemporary with the rim sherd, as deposit (205) would have accumulated rapidly, and therefore are associated artefacts deposited simultaneously.
- 6.1.3 The 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century pedestal base and the abraded rim sherd were surface finds, but both diagnostic pieces. Whereas the body sherd from the layer (1711) was of an uncertain type, but had a very similar fabric to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age material also found on the site.
- 7.1.4 The condition of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery assemblage is fairly poor, largely consisting of small friable sherds. Consequently these will have to be carefully wrapped in acid-free tissue or perspex boxes for final archiving. None of the material warrants further stabilisation conservation however.
- 7.1.5 The limited size of the assemblage, with only six sherds recovered from their primary context, places limitations upon the conclusions that may be drawn. However, sites from this Bronze Age to Iron Age transition period are rare, and any assemblage provides much potential for furthering our understanding of these settlement sites. Future work at Ryhall should concentrate on the full excavation of any features that contain Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pottery, as per the guidelines laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (2011).

## 7.2 WORKED FLINT

7.2.1 A total of 11 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the site and have been described in the table below.

Context	Description	Weight (g)
(200)	Retouched secondary flake. Dark grey flint with c.20% dark orange cortex. Light patination partially removed by abrupt retouch along both distal and medial edges.	16.3
(300)	Reused Core. Dark grey nodular flint c. 10% cortex remains. Partial patination indicates two phase of use. Flake scars show broad flake removal.	26.8
(500)	Debitage flake. Dark grey flint, multiple flake scars upon dorsal surface, but edges and striking platform damaged or missing from subsequent burning	12.9
(700)	Bladelet. Patinated dark grey flint, soft percussion, possibly pressure flaked, with at least 5 dorsal flake scars and multiple step termination scars. Possible use damage along lateral margins, although this could be natural	1.5
(1202)	Debitage flake. Plough damaged, c.30% cortex and partially patinated. Possible core rejuvenation flake base upon multiple dorsal flake scars.	31.9
(1202)	Multi-directional core. Dark grey nodular flint. Thick cortex remains upon c. 40% of the surface.	23.7
(1101)	Multi-directional core. Dark grey flint, heavily patinated light grey. Flake scars show a combination of bladelets and short broad flakes, with both feather and hinge terminations. Some later damage also present.	16.2
(1701)	Debitage flake. Light grey, almost clear flint. Multiple dorsal flake scars with evidence of use along both lateral margins, with at least one notch.	<1.0
(1700)	Multi-directional core. Light grey patinated flint. Flake scars show a combination of blade removal, small flakes and hinge termination	34.9
(1715)	Bladelet core. Light grey river pebble. Single direction reduction using c.50% of the platform with evidence of platform preparation.	24.1
(1800)	Debitage flake, c.45% cortex. With light patination. Evidence of retouching, or use damage at distal end.	6.2

### Discussion and conclusion

7.2.2 The worked flints recovered from this are derived from a variety of sources, including river terrace gravels, and head deposits. Unfortunately, none of the flint was recovered from primary deposits, instead coming from either topsoil or subsoil layers. The presence of patination on many of the pieces is also indicative that they were disturbed from their primary context.

7.2.3 As an assemblage it is lacking in tools, and therefore strongly diagnostic pieces. However, the blade core from deposit (1715) is characteristic of Mesolithic knapping technology. The same applies to the bladelet from (700). Otherwise, the predominance of multi-directional cores and the evidence for short, broad flakes is indicative of later prehistoric flintworking, as tool production became more expedient. Additionally, the evidence for flake reuse following partial patination - as is present on the pieces from contexts (200) and (300) is a feature commonly associated with later Bronze Age knapping (Butler 2005, 179).

7.2.4 Overall, this assemblage is of limited significance given that none of these flints were recovered from their original context. However, it does confirm the existing pattern of dispersed late Bronze Age activity within the area, whilst also indicating an earlier presence within the landscape.

7.2.5 With this in mind, there is no recommendation for further work on the assemblage at this stage. Although a more detailed analysis might be beneficial in association with further findings that may arise from any additional fieldwork.

### 7.3 GLASS

- 7.3.1 A single small fragment of glass (<1g) was recovered from the colluvium (1101) within Trench 11. The fragment was an undecorated, thin, light blue-green fragment, but otherwise undiagnostic.

### 7.4 ANIMAL BONE

- 7.4.1 In total, animal bone fragments were recovered from deposits on the site. These have been identified by K. Mapplethorpe (TPA) and are summarised in the table below.

Context	Description	Total Weight (g)
(204)	Long bone, Skull and Scapula fragments of indeterminate species and a root from a lower canine, probably pig ( <i>Sus</i> )	13.8
(205)	Burnt bone, indeterminate species	<1.0
(1101)	Single long bone fragment of indeterminate species and a lower left 1 <sup>st</sup> molar, sheep ( <i>Ovis aries</i> )	3.1

#### Discussion and conclusion

- 7.4.2 The animal bone recovered from deposits (204) and (205) is likely to represent domestic waste, deposited into pit [203]. Found in association with late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery, these are the only securely dated faunal remains recovered from the site. Deposit (1101) was a colluvial layer, thus the material recovered from this deposit is of limited significance.
- 7.4.3 Previous excavations at the Ryhall substation have demonstrated that the ground conditions are poor for the preservation of non-burnt faunal remains. In light of this, the significance of this assemblage is elevated. Although not particularly informative as a single assemblage, there is potential that any associated features may share this level of preservation, and this would significantly further the understanding of these settlement sites.
- 7.4.4 At this stage, no further work is recommended in relation to this material.

### 7.5 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

- 7.5.1 **Introduction:** This report provides a brief assessment of the palaeo-environmental samples retrieved during archaeological trial trenching carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology, at Ryhall Substation, Cable route, Rutland. As part of the environmental sampling strategy where possible, 30 litre samples were taken from selected contexts within the excavation area. The samples are listed in table form below, with a brief description of the deposit from which the samples were taken and any environmental material found.
- 7.5.2 **Method:** The soil samples were processed in the following manner;
- Sample weight and volume was measured prior to processing and a sub-sample was removed in case any further analysis should be required. The non-waterlogged samples were then processed using a 'Siraf' flotation tank (Williams 1973), using a sieve with a 250µ mesh and an internal 1mm mesh for the residue.
  - Both the residues and non-waterlogged flots were dried and any waterlogged flots retained in waterproof containers. A total of 101 litres of soil was processed in this way.
  - The weight and volume of the residue was recorded, before it was sorted by eye for any environmental and archaeological finds. These were picked out, noted on

the assessment sheet and bagged. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover any magnetised material such as hammerscale. The residue was then discarded.

- The flot of each sample was studied using 10x magnification and the presence of environmental finds noted and their abundance and species recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the residue constitute the material archive of the samples.

### 7.5.3 Data:

#### **Table 1: Environmental sample number: 01**

##### **Trench 02, Cut 0203, fill 0205**

**Context description:** Sub-circular, steep sided pit.

**Sample volume before processing:** 18 litres.

100% of flot examined.

<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Charcoal	An abundance of 51-150 unidentified comminuted fragments
Charred grain	3 x degraded fragments, possibly spelt
Charred plant remains	3 unidentified weed seed, 1 grass seed
Bone	8g burnt animal bone fragments
Uncharred plant remains	An abundance of 1-10 Chenopodia, modern invasive
Snails	An abundance of 11-50, unidentified

#### **Table 2: Environmental sample number: 02**

##### **Trench 12, Context 1206**

**Context description:** Buried soil - dark grey, silty with frequent charcoal flecks

**Sample volume before processing:** 24 litres.

100% of flot examined

<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Charcoal	An abundance of >250 unidentified comminuted fragments
Charred plant remains	An abundance of 1-10 fruits stones, possibly cherry or sloe

#### **Table 3: Environmental sample no: 03**

##### **Trench 18, Cut: 1805, fill 1804**

**Context description:** Possible ditch/channel

**Sample volume before processing:** 29 litres

100% of flot examined

<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Charcoal	An abundance of 1-10 unidentified comminuted fragments <2mm
Charred grain	1 x hulled barley and unidentified fragments
Snails	An abundance of 1-10 unidentified
Bone	11g of burnt animal bone

#### **Table 4: Environmental sample number: 04**

##### **Trench 18, Cut 1807, fill 1806**

**Context description:** Semi-circular pit

**Sample volume before processing:** 30 litres

100% of flot examined

<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Charcoal	An abundance of 1-10 unidentified comminuted pieces <2mm
Snail	An abundance of 1-10 unidentified
Bone	12g burnt animal bone

#### **7.5.4 Results:**

**Residues:** The samples washed down to produce residues of varying proportions of sub-rounded gravel. There were pottery sherds (see above), identified as Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and fragments of burnt animal bone. This included small mammal tooth and bone, 1 pig molar, 1 dog molar and a possible fragment of burnt antler. There was no hammer scale.

**Flots:** The flots from the pit (0203) in trench 02 contained moderate quantities of at present unidentified charcoal, along with weed seed and some grain fragments. There was also snail shell and animal bone. The flots from Trench 12 contained large quantities of charcoal along with charred fruit stone, probably cherry or sloe. The flots from trench 18 yielded small amounts of charcoal along with one grain of hulled barley. A large quantity of burnt animal bone was also present. There was a high concentration of snail shell present in most flots.

**7.5.5 Conclusion:** The quantity of the environmental remains is quite low. However, given the early date for the site and the quality of the archaeobotanical remains, a full assessment, including charcoal identification, would help provide evidence regarding local vegetation and land utilisation which will be of considerable value to overall interpretation. Likewise, further study of the snail shell, which has at least 2 visibly different species, could potentially provide palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental information relevant to the interpretation of the ancient landscape of the area. As mentioned earlier in the report, the burnt animal bone is likely to originate as domestic waste, however, further geoarchaeological study would no doubt add significantly to the understanding of the processes that led to the formation of the deposits observed in Trench 18.

As the contexts are undisturbed, the charred grain, fruit stones and roundwood will be useful in obtaining a radiocarbon date should one be needed.

## **8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 There are a number of archaeological sites that have been identified within the surrounding landscape, with late prehistoric activity of regional significance located immediately to the south of the site. However, within the development corridor itself, the only significant archaeological features were limited to a single trench, with two other areas of strong archaeological potential.
- 8.2 The main focus of interest was identified at the southern end of the route, upon the slightly sloped upper ground. This was represented by the pit [203] and possible post hole [206], recorded within Trench 2. The pit contained a rich upper fill containing both animal bone and late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery. Typical of domestic waste, the assemblage of finds from this feature strongly indicate that there may be settlement evidence within the immediate vicinity.
- 8.3 Beyond the limits of this main focus, but also present upon the elevated ground, was the undated linear [504] within Trench 5. The sterile, homogenous nature of this feature makes it difficult to ascertain whether its origins are archaeological or natural. One possibility is that it was formed as a natural channel, following the slope of the hill. However, it was not identified within Trench 6 to the north east, which suggests that it either terminated or turned, between the two trenches. Although either would be possible for a natural channel, its general character differed to that of the other geological variations observed, and seems more likely to be archaeological.
- 8.4 Trenches 9 through to 12 were positioned along moderately steeply sloped ground, thus reducing the possibility for archaeological remains to either linear boundary features, or more substantial terracing events. Perhaps unsurprisingly no cut features were identified within these trenches. However, a thick colluvial deposit was encountered within trenches 11 and 12 creating one of the other areas of archaeological potential.
- 8.5 Within Trench 11, the fragment of glass, animal bone and worked flint recovered from this colluvium all provide evidence for human activity. Combined with the evidence for burning events, also observed within deposit (1101) there is a clear indication for probable settlement evidence, albeit potentially beyond the limits of the proposed development.
- 8.6 This potential continued into Trench 12 where the artefactual remains were limited to two pieces of worked flint. But the deeper accumulation of colluvium near the base of the slope had preserved evidence for earlier horizons of activity. The most notable of which, (1206) contained significant quantities of charcoal.
- 8.7 Within the lower lying area, trenches 13 through to 20 were shown to have been located upon river terrace gravels, related to the West Glen River. The current position of the river is the result of later management during the construction of the railway, but it seems likely that it would have originally flowed much closer to the development route. It is also likely that there was a stream flowing in from the west, originating near to the Stamford road, but now managed with modern drainage. This combination of evidence helps explain the presence of an apparent alluvial deposit, represented by dark clay silt, recorded within the majority of these trenches, often in lower lying areas. It is probable that the fluvial processes associated with this deposit, resulted in the possible features recorded within Trench 18. Although it still remains unclear what the exact source is for the burnt bone, recovered from deposits (1804) and (1806).
- 8.8 Depending on the exact nature of this environment, prior to more intensive agricultural activity, this may have been a perfect marginal landscape. Consequently there is increased potential for prehistoric, and even later activity, exploiting this environment. A point demonstrated by the recovery of worked flint and late prehistoric pottery from deposits within Trench 17.
- 8.9 The linear features within Trench 17, although undated, appear to be post-medieval agricultural boundaries. Ditches [1703] and [1707] differed in their character, but ran parallel



to each other, suggesting broadly contemporary maintenance of the same boundary. Further to this, it is even possible that they formed an access route across the field, with the layer of stones (1711) providing consolidation. However, some caution is required with the interpretation of the stone deposit. No reliable dating evidence was found in association with the stones, and their original extent is unknown, due to later truncation. Although unlikely, it is still possible they represent the remains of something more structural than a track way.

- 8.10 The results from this phase of investigations have provided strong evidence for regionally important remains to be present within the southern portion of the proposed development route. Whilst the northern end of the route has revealed some potential, further work upon the alluvial deposits may be useful in understanding their exact nature, and the former character of this low lying landscape. In turn, this would not only help explain the origins of the burnt bone within Trench 18, but could also help establish more confidently the potential for further archaeological remains, and important Palaeoenvironmental evidence.

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, D.H., 2007, *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

Butler, C. 2005, *Prehistoric Flintwork*. The History Press.

Cappers, R, Bekker, R, Jans, J. 2006 *Digitale Zadenatlas Van Nederland*, Barkhuis Publishing & Groningen University Library.

DCMS, 1997, *The Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (England and Wales)*, Second Revision 2002

ASWYAS, 2013b. *East Coast Mainline Electrification – New 400kV Substation, Ryhall, Rutland; Geophysical Survey Report Unpublished ASWYAS Report 2476*

Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd, 2013. *Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment for East Coast Mainline Electrification – New 400kV Substation, Ryhall, Rutland Unpublished Client Report Ref. 0002-UA003805Ryhall-UE21R-01-F*

Institute for Archaeologists, 1985, *Code of Conduct* (revised to 2008)

Institute for Archaeologists, 1994, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised to 2008)

Institute for Archaeologists, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material* (Revised 2008)

Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Mullis, J. Ryhall Substation, Rutland: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching (2 Vols). Jacobs UK Ltd.

PCRG 2011. The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for analysis and Publications. Occasional Paper No1 and No 2. 3rd Edition Revised 2011 Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group

Shackley, M. 1981, *Environmental Archaeology*, George, Allen & Unwin Ltd.

Sterry, P. 2006 *Complete British Wild Flower*, Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.

Sterry, P. 2007 *Complete British Trees*, Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.

Williams, D. 1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

[www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes)

## Appendix 1 Context Register

Trench 1				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.3
101	Layer	Subsoil - Mid orange brown, sandy, clay silt	-	Up to 0.2
102	Layer	Natural – Light brown, silty sand with bands of blue grey clay	-	unknown

Trench 2				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
200	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.25
201	Layer	Subsoil - Mid orange brown, sandy, clay silt	-	0.05-0.2
202	Layer	Natural – Degraded limestone bedrock	-	unknown
203	Cut	Pit – Sub circular in plan, steep sides, slightly concave base	>0.95 x 0.9	0.4
204	Fill	Primary Fill of [0203] – Mid orange brown, silty clay with charcoal and limestone inclusions	-	0.24
205	Fill	Secondary Fill of [0203] – Dark orange brown silty clay, frequent charcoal and burnt sandstone	-	0.16
206	Cut	Posthole Cut – Sub circular, shallow concave profile	0.34 x 0.38	0.08
207	Fill	Fill of Posthole [0206] – Mid to dark orange brown, silty clay, rare charcoal	0.34 x .038	0.08
208	Layer	Natural - Bands of light brown silty sand within (202)	-	unknown

Trench 3				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
300	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.4
301	Layer	Subsoil - Mid orange brown, sandy, clay silt	-	0.2
302	Layer	Natural - Degraded limestone bedrock and light brown silty clay	-	unknown

Trench 4				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
400	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.3
401	Layer	Subsoil - Mid orange brown, sandy, clay silt	-	0.08
402	Cut	Furrow Cut	>2.25 x 0.8	0.06
403	Fill	Fill of Furrow [0402] – Light orange brown, sandy clay silt	>2.25 x 0.8	0.06
404	Layer	Natural - Degraded limestone bedrock and light brown silty clay	-	unknown

Trench 5				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
500	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.3
501	Layer	Subsoil - Mid orange brown, sandy, clay silt	-	0.2
502	Layer	Natural - Degraded limestone bedrock and light brown silty clay	-	Unknown
503	Fill	Fill of Ditch [0504] – Mid brown, silty sandy clay. Fragments of bedrock	>15.5 x 1.2	0.21
504	Cut	Ditch Cut – Linear NE-SW, moderate slope, flat base	>15.5 x 1.2	0.21
505	Fill	Fill of Drain [0506]	1.7 x 0.3	Unknown
506	Cut	Drain Cut	1.7 x 0.3	Unknown

Trench 6				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
600	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.2
601	Layer	Subsoil - Mid orange brown, sandy, clay silt	-	0.3
602	Layer	Natural – Light brown, silty sand with bands of blue grey clay	-	unknown

Trench 7				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
700	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.12 – 0.16
701	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.1 – 0.16
702	Layer	Natural – Light yellow brown silty clay, degraded limestone	-	unknown
703	Layer	Natural – Mid orange brown clay, mixed with (703)	-	unknown

Trench 8				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
800	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.25
801	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.05-0.2
802	Layer	Natural – Blue grey, sandy clay, mottled with yellow brown, sandy clay	-	unknown
803	Fill	Fill of [804] – Mid brown, sandy clay	>1.6 x 1.9	0.4
804	Cut	Cut of Furrow	>1.6 x 1.9	0.24

Trench 9				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
900	Layer	Topsoil – Dark, grey brown silty clay	-	0.12 – 0.2
901	Layer	Natural – Mid yellow brown clay (SW end)	-	unknown
902	Layer	Subsoil – Mid grey brown clay	-	0.09-0.15
903	Layer	Natural – Light to mid yellow brown, and blue grey, clay	-	unknown

Trench 10				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1000	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.22m
1001	Layer	Natural – Blue grey, sandy clay, mottled with yellow brown, sandy clay	-	unknown

Trench 11				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1100	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.25-0.3
1101	Layer	Colluvium – Compact, mid yellow brown, silty clay with red staining possibly burning	-	Up to 0.5
1102	Layer	Natural – Blue grey, sandy clay, mottled with yellow brown, sandy clay	-	unknown

Trench 12				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1200	Layer	Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay	-	0.36
1201	Layer	Subsoil - Mid brown silty clay	-	0.54
1202	Layer	Colluvium - Compact, mid yellow brown, silty clay	-	0.48
1203	Layer	Buried Soil – Mid brown sandy clay, frequent grit, manganese flecks and occasional charcoal	-	0.24
1204	Layer	Natural – Blue grey, sandy clay, mottled with yellow brown, sandy clay	-	Unknown
1205	Layer	Buried Soil – Mid brown grey, sandy clay, occasional charcoal	-	0.26
1206	Layer	Buried Soil – Dark grey, silty, frequent charcoal flecks	-	0.12

Trench 13				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1300	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.25 – 0.4

1301	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.2 – 0.35
1302	Layer	Natural - Light yellow brown, silty clay and fine gravel	-	Unknown
1303	Layer	Alluvial layer – Dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.15-0.35
1304	Cut	Ditch Cut – Linear N-S, steep sides, with sharp break to slightly concave base	>3.5 x 0.55	0.5
1305	Fill	Fill of Ditch [1304] – Mid to dark, orange brown, clay silt	>3.5 x 0.55	0.5
1306	Cut	Pit/Tree throw Cut – Irregular shape, concave base	0.75 x 0.95	0.12
1307	Fill	Fill of Pit/Tree throw[1306] – Mid orange brown, clay silt	0.75 x 0.95	0.12
1308	Cut	Pit/Tree throw Cut – Oval in plan, moderate slope	>1.5x>0.35	0.32
1309	Fill	Fill of Pit/Tree throw[1308] – Mid orange brown, clay silt	>1.5x>0.35	0.32
1310	Cut	Pit/Tree throw Cut – Irregular plan, undulating sides and base	>1.5x0.8	0.2
1311	Fill	Fill of Pit/Tree throw[1310] – Mid orange brown, clay silt	>1.5x0.8	0.2

#### **Trench 14**

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1400	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.24 – 0.32
1401	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.15 – 0.5
1402	Layer	Alluvial layer – Compact dark brown, silty clay	-	0.12
1403	Layer	Natural – Light yellow brown, clay silt with patches of (1404)	-	Unknown
1404	Layer	Natural – Dark orange brown, silty clay	-	Unknown

#### **Trench 15**

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1500	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.24 – 0.34
1501	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.08 – 0.12
1502	Layer	Natural - Light yellowish brown, clay silt and fine gravel	-	Unknown
1503	Cut	Pit/Tree throw Cut Cut	1.46 x 0.8	0.18
1504	Fill	Fill of Pit/Tree throw [1503] – Dark grey brown silty clay	1.46 x 0.8	0.18

#### **Trench 16**

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1600	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.24 – 0.28
1601	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.06 – 0.16
1602	Layer	Natural - Light yellowish brown, clay silt and fine gravel	-	Unknown
1603	Layer	Natural – Light yellow brown, clay silt, mixed with (1602)	-	Unknown

Trench 17				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1700	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.32
1701	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.2
1702	Layer	Natural - Light yellowish brown, clay silt	-	Unknown
1703	Cut	Ditch Cut – Linear NE-SW, steep NW side, stepped SE side, flat base	>2.25 x 0.75	0.18
1704	Fill	Fill of Ditch [1703] – Compact mid to dark brown, silty clay, rare stones, occasional charcoal	>2.25 x 0.75	0.18
1705	Cut	Tree throw cut – Irregular plan, and sides	1.8 x 0.6	0.4
1706	Cut	Ditch/Drain Cut – Linear NE-SW, moderate side, not fully excavated		
1707	Cut	Ditch Cut – Linear NE-SW, 45 degree sides, V-profile	>2 x 0.92	0.3
1708	Fill	Fill of Tree Bowl [1705] - Compact, dark brown, clay silt	1.8 x 0.6	0.4
1709	Fill	Fill of Ditch [1707] – Mid to dark, silty clay, compact, stones near base	>2 x 0.92	0.3
1710	Fill	Fill of Ditch/Drain [1706] – Mixed fill, mid to dark brown and light brown grey, clay silt		
1711	Layer	Stone Spread – Layer of unstructured Limestone rocks, unworked 0.1m -0.35m diameter	2.5 x 0.8	0.15
1712	Layer	Dark Alluvial Layer – Compact dark brown silt, no inclusions	-	0.18
1713	Layer	Grey Alluvial Layer – Light grey sandy gravel	-	0.15
1714	Layer	Grey Alluvial Layer – Same as (1713)	-	0.1
1715	Layer	Subsoil? Under (1711) – Mid grey brown, clay silt, gritty, no charcoal	-	0.15
1716	Layer	Layer – same as (1715) – Mid brown silty clay, occasional grit and manganese flecks	-	0.15

Trench 18				
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Length x Width (m)	Depth (m)
1800	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.3
1801	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.2
1802	Layer	Natural – Gravel and light yellow brown sand	-	Unknown
1803	Layer	Alluvium – Soft yellow brown, sandy silt	-	Up to 0.54
1804	Fill	Fill of [1805] – Firm, mid to dark brown, sandy clay with burnt bone	>1.10 x >0.75	0.66
1805	Cut	Possible Ditch/Channel – Irregular plan, stepped irregular sides, concave base	>1.10 x >2.25	0.66
1806	Fill	Fill of [1807] - Firm, mid to dark brown, sandy clay with burnt bone	>1.5 x 0.45	0.24
1807	Cut	Pit Cut – Semi-circular, gradual sloping sides, concave base	>1.5 x 0.45	0.24
1808	Fill	Fill of [1809] - Firm, mid grey brown, silty clay	>1.8 x 0.88	0.7
1809	Cut	Ditch Cut – Linear NE-SW, steep sides, flat base	>1.8 x 0.88	0.7

1810	Fill	Fill of [1811] – Firm mid to dark brown, silty clay	>1.8 x >1.3	0.5
1811	Cut	Probable Water Channel – Irregular linear, not bottomed	>1.8 x >1.3	0.5

#### **Trench 19**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Length x Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
1900	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.3 – 0.38
1901	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.15 – 0.25
1902	Layer	Natural - Light yellow brown, clay silt and gravel	-	Unknown
1903	Layer	Natural – Light orange brown clay with darker mottling	-	Unknown
1904	Layer	Dark organic alluvium – Dark grey brown, silty clay patchy	-	<0.3m

#### **Trench 20**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Length x Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
2000	Layer	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, silty clay	-	0.36
2001	Layer	Subsoil – Mid dark orange brown, silty clay	-	0.2
2002	Layer	Dark organic alluvium	-	0.16
2003	Layer	Gravel – Compact dark brown, silty clay gravel, with sandstone fragments	-	0.13
2004	Layer	Alluvium – Mid brown grey alluvium	-	0.16
2005	Layer	Natural – Mixed silty clay and gravel	-	Unknown



## Appendix 2 Plates



**PLATE 1.** Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pit [203] within Trench 2.



**PLATE 2.** Undated possible post hole [206] within Trench 2.





**PLATE 3.** Linear [504] within Trench 5



**PLATE 4.** Probable furrow within Trench 8





**PLATE 5.** Burnt deposit within colluvial layer (1101), Trench 11.



**PLATE 6.** Colluvial layer (1101) at north west end of Trench 11





**PLATE 7.** Deposit (1206) below colluvium within Trench 12.

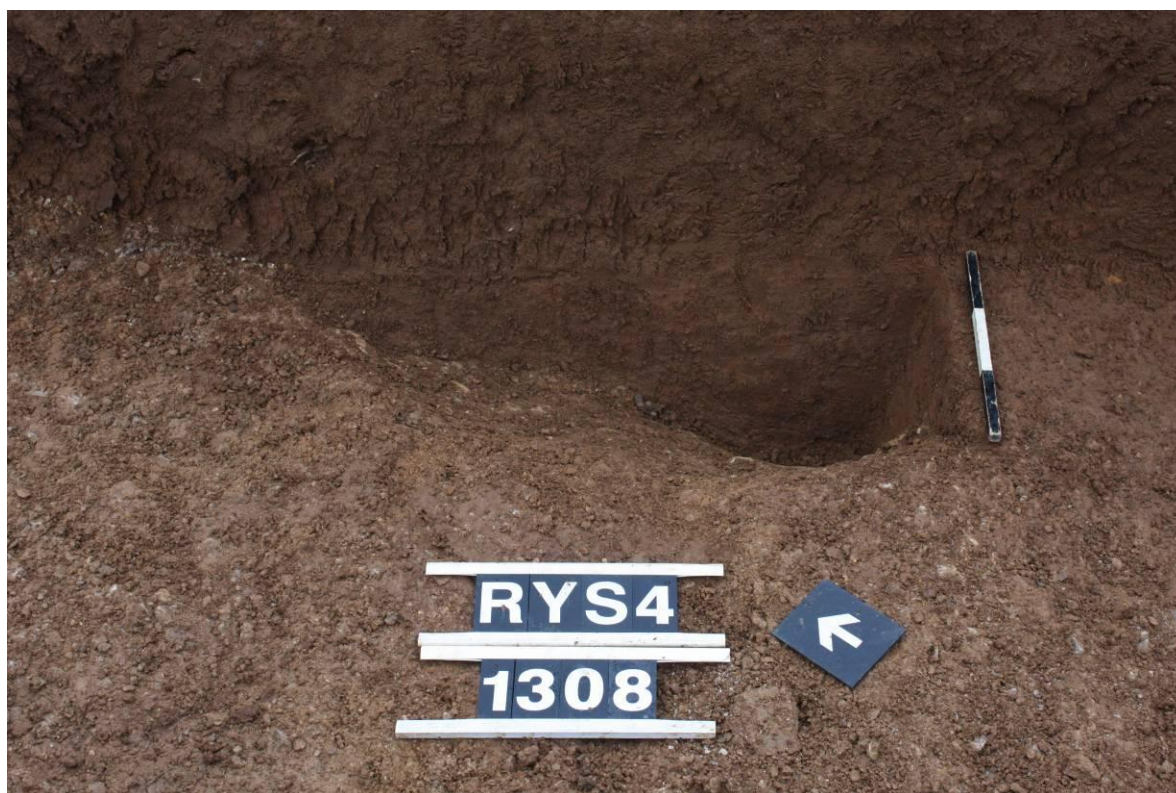


**PLATE 8.** Deposit (1205) below colluvium within Trench 12.





**PLATE 9.** Ditch [1304], Trench 13.



**PLATE 10.** Probable tree throw [1308], Trench 13.





**PLATE 11.** Ditch [1703] within Trench 17.



**PLATE 12.** Probable tree throw [1705], Trench 17.





**PLATE 13.** Stone deposit (1711), with later Ditch [1706] truncating it. Trench 17.



**PLATE 14.** Ditch [1707] within Trench 17.





**PLATE 15.** Features [1805] (*left*) and [1807] (*right*) within Trench 18.



**PLATE 16.** Trench 18 showing alluvial deposits following machining and hand cleaning.





**PLATE 17.** Alluvial feature [1811] within Trench 18



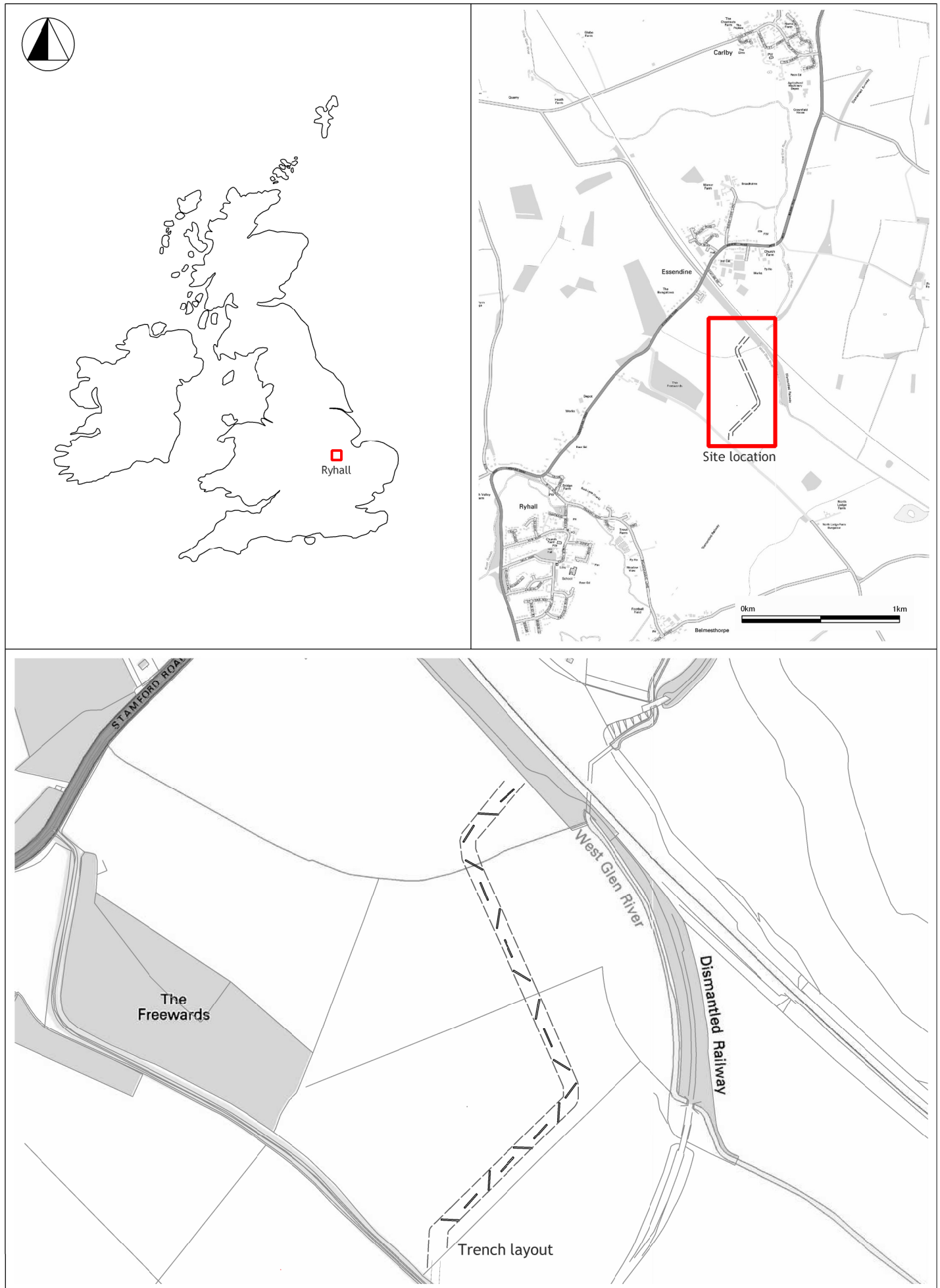
**PLATE 18.** Trench 19, sloping to east, where alluvial deposits were present.



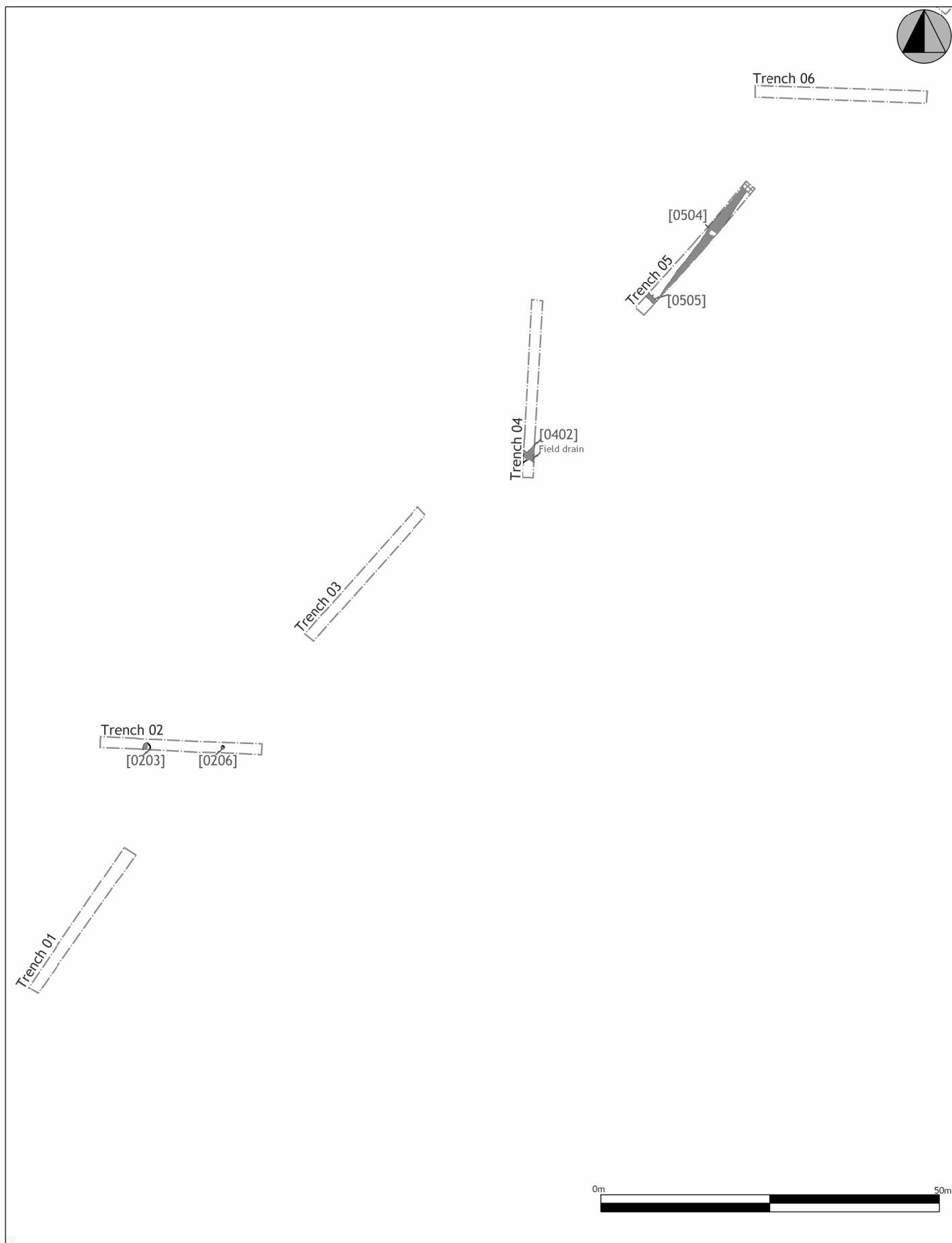
**PLATE 19.** Representative section of deposits within Trench 20.

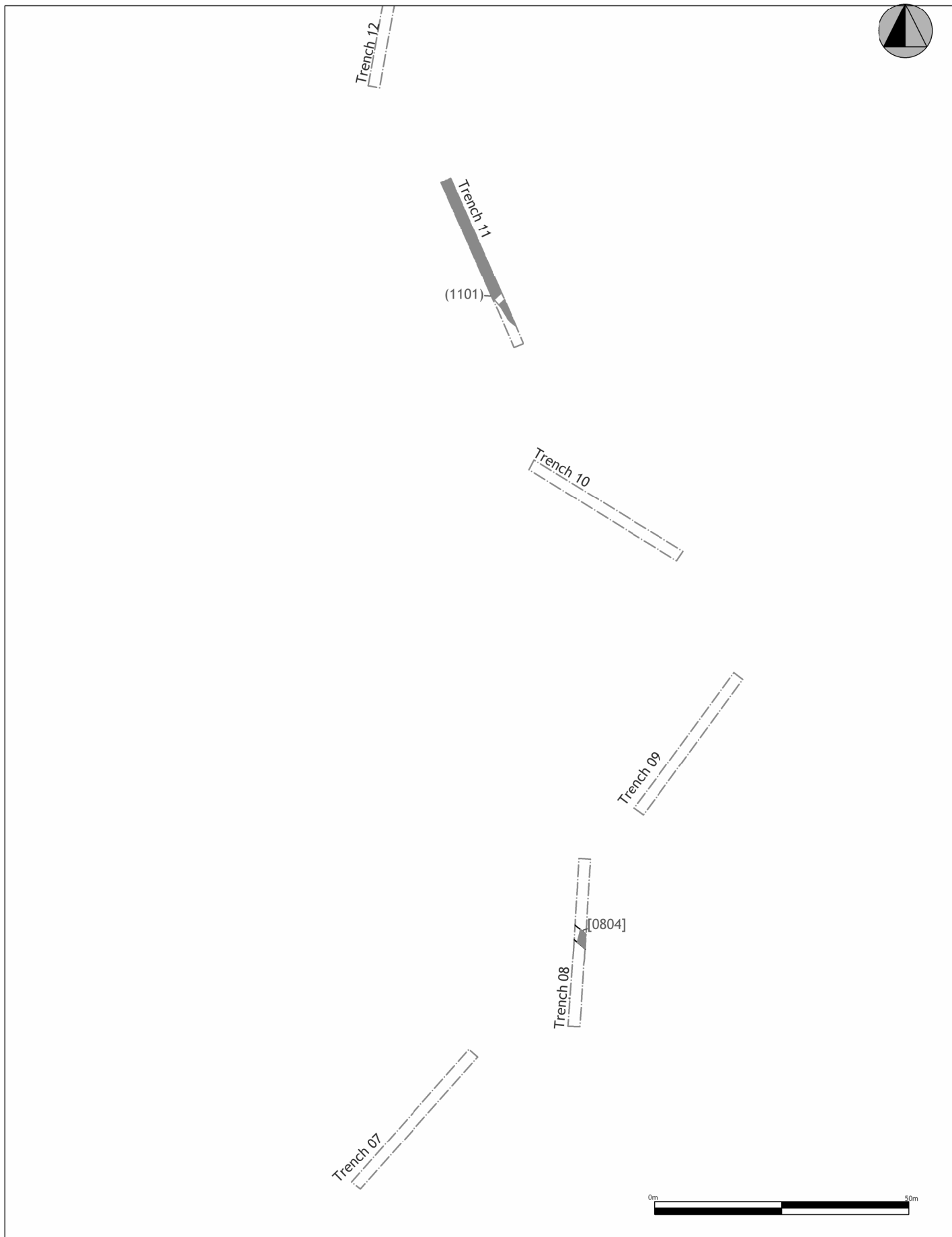
## **Appendix 3 Figures**













Trench 15  
[1503]

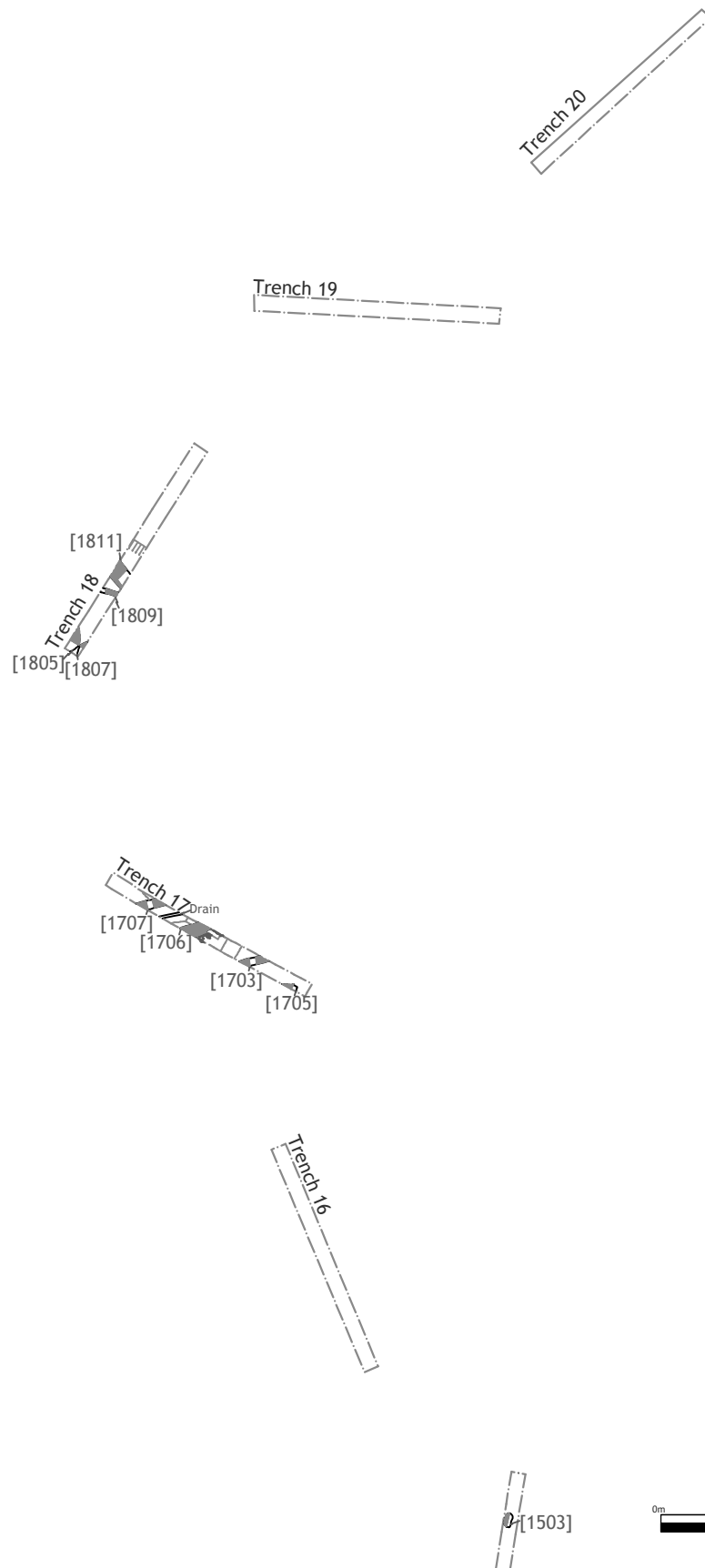
Trench 14

Trench 13  
[1310] [1308]  
[1306] [1304]

Trench 12

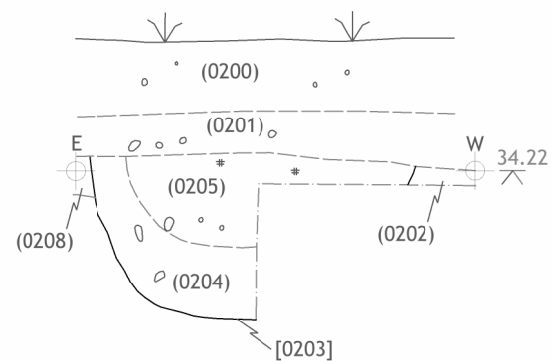
0m 50m







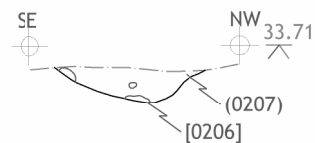
Dr.02 North Facing Section of [0203]



## Trench 02

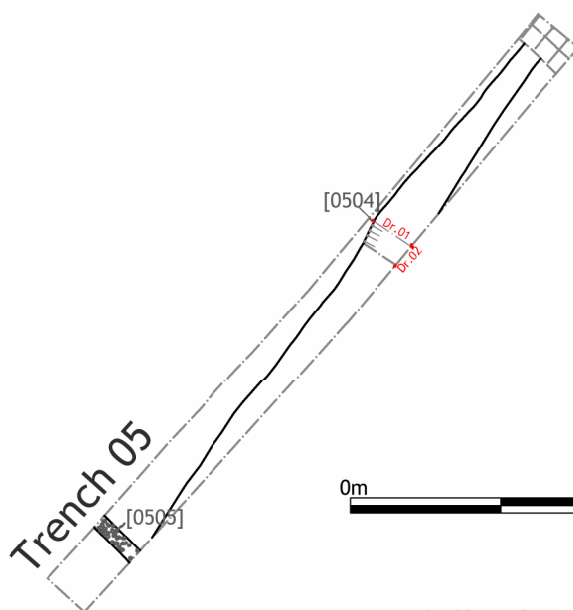
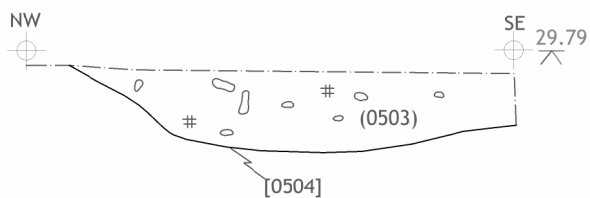


Dr.03 South-West Facing Section of [0206]

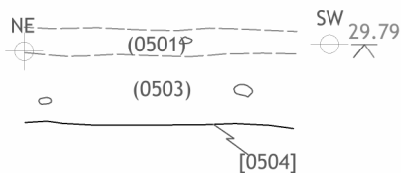


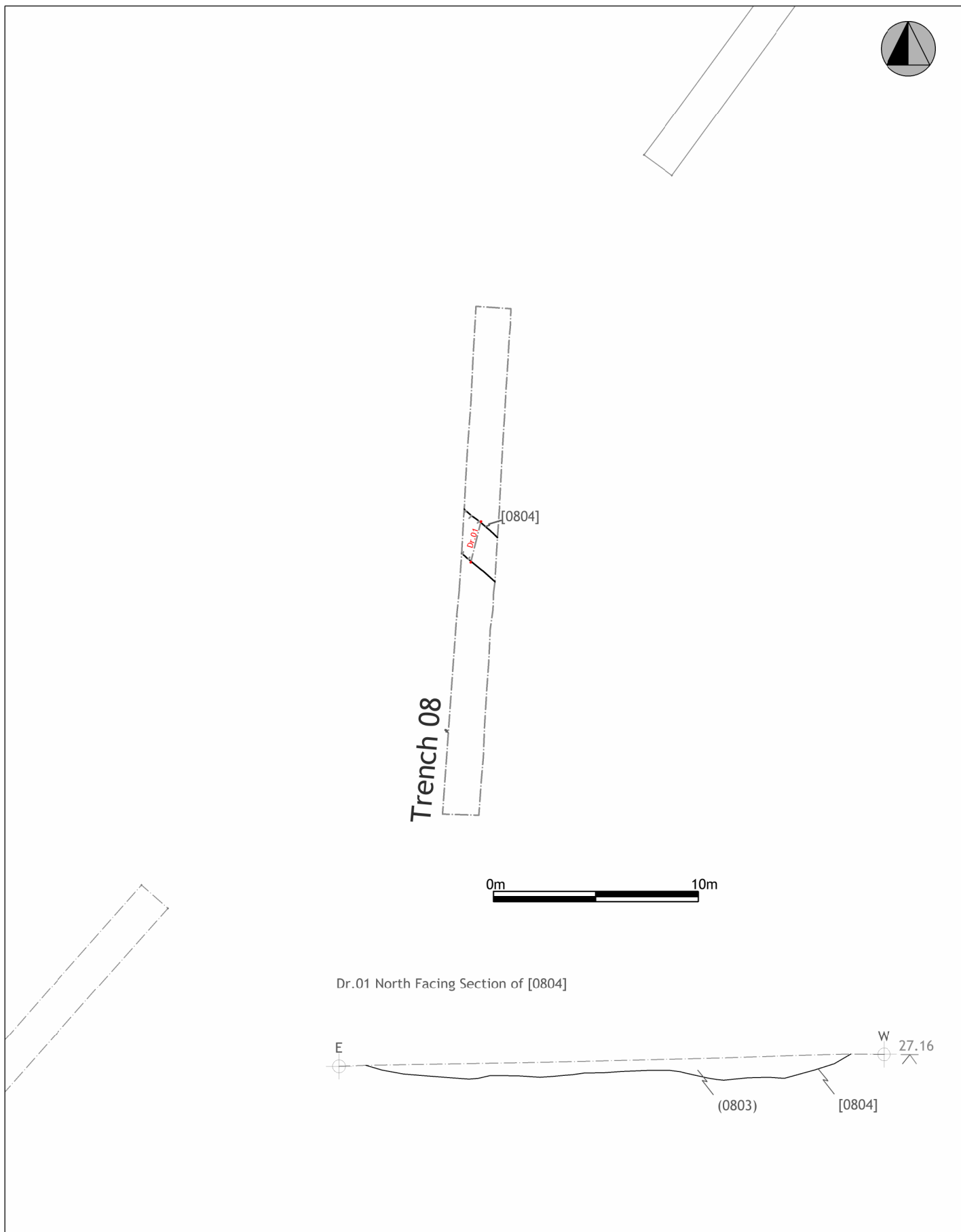


Dr.01 South-West Facing Section of [0504]



Dr.02 North-West Facing Section of [0504]

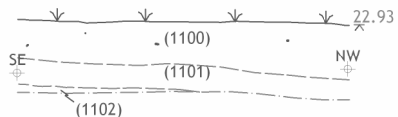




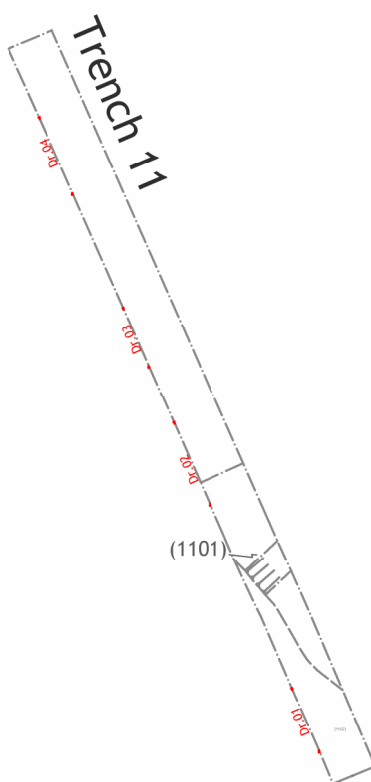
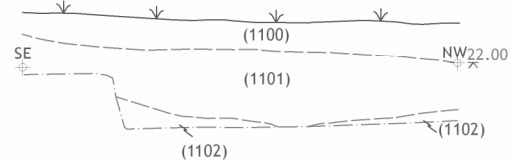
Trench 12



Dr.01 Representative Section of Trench 11 South-East End

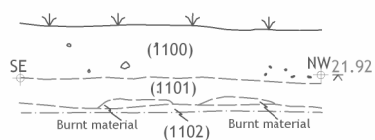


Dr.02 Representative Section of Trench 11 at Centre

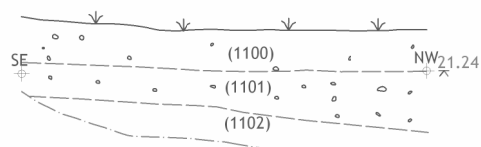


0m 10m

Dr.03 Representative Section of Trench 11 showing burning

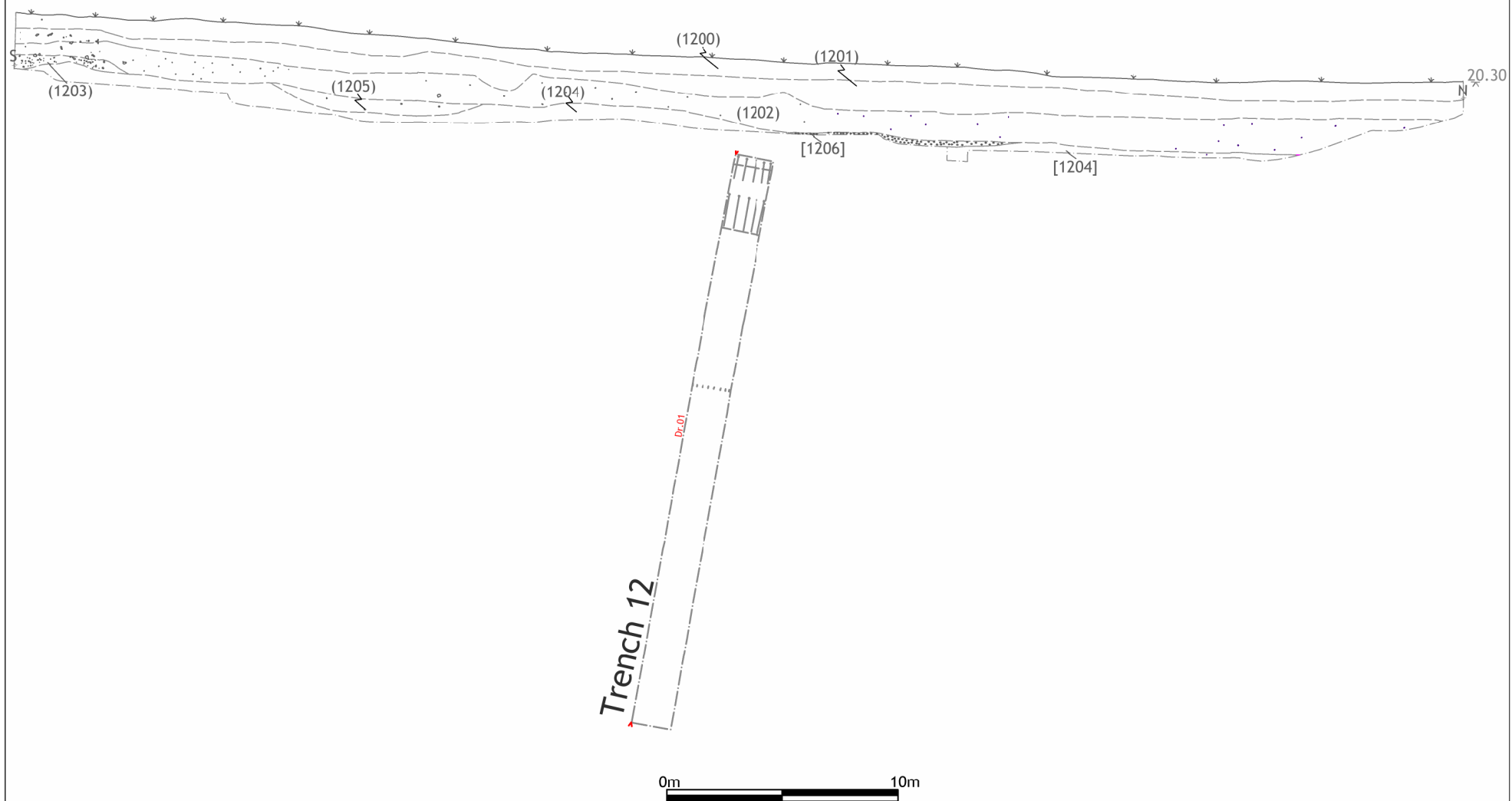


Dr.04 Representative Section of Trench 11 North-West End



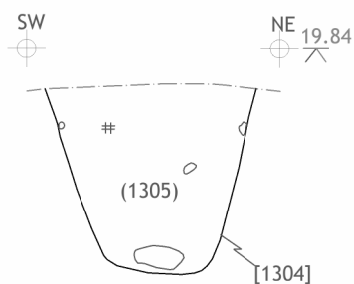


Dr.01 East Facing Section of Trench 12

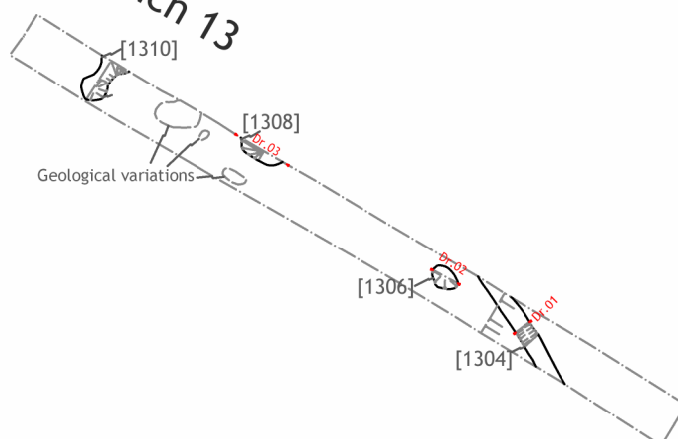




Dr.01 South-East Facing Section of [1304]

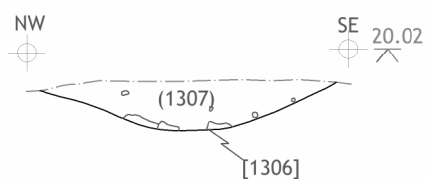


## Trench 13

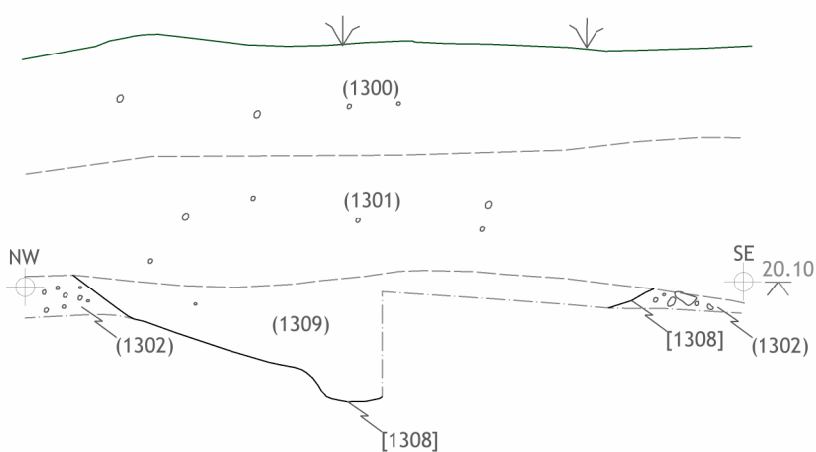


0m 10m

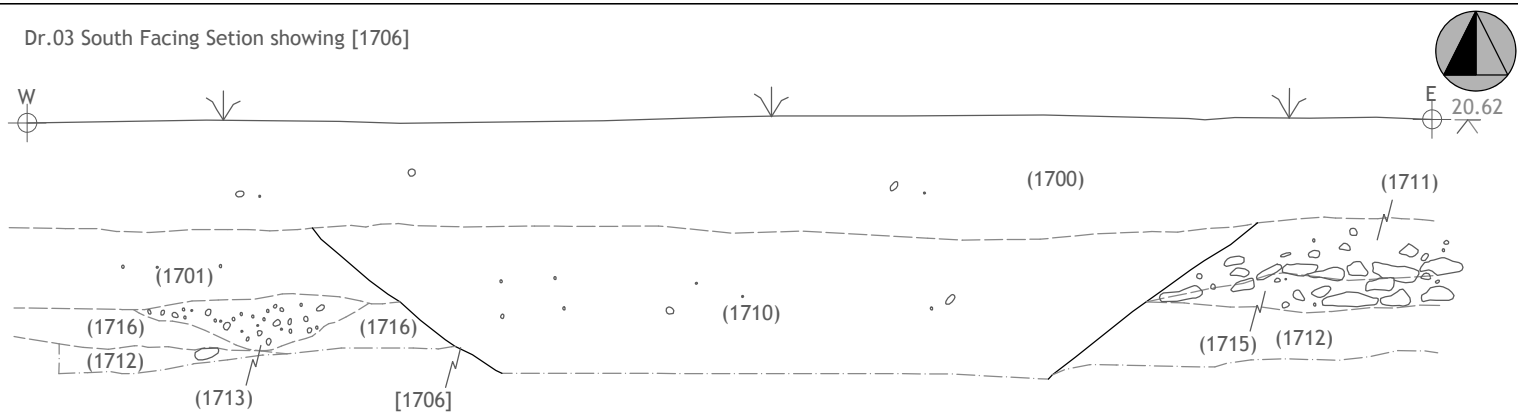
Dr.02 South-West Facing Section of [1306]



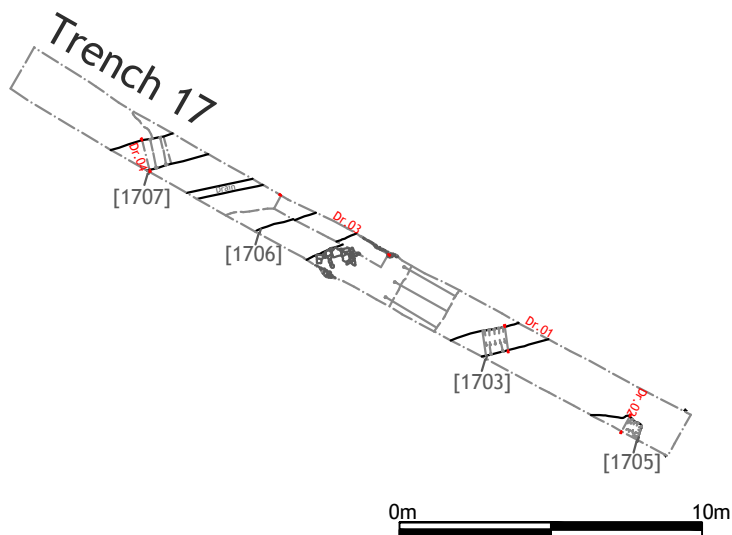
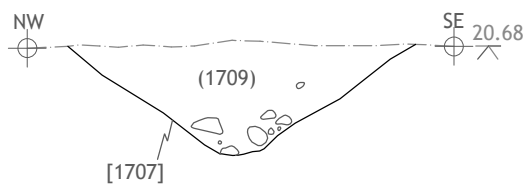
Dr.03 South-West Facing Section of [1306]



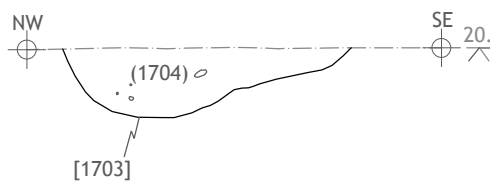
Dr.03 South Facing Section showing [1706]



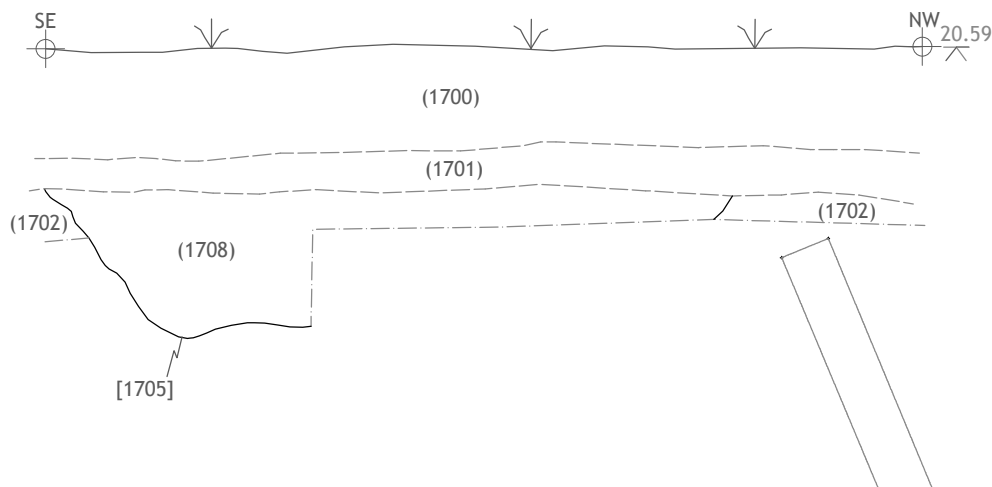
Dr.04 South-West Facing Section of [1707]



Dr.01 South-West Facing Section of [1703]



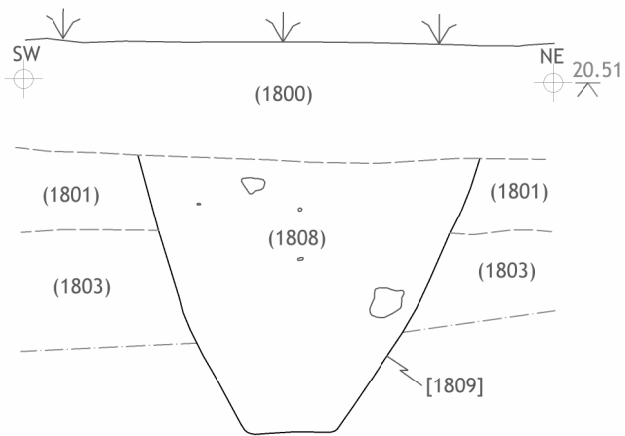
Dr.02 North-East Facing Section [1705]



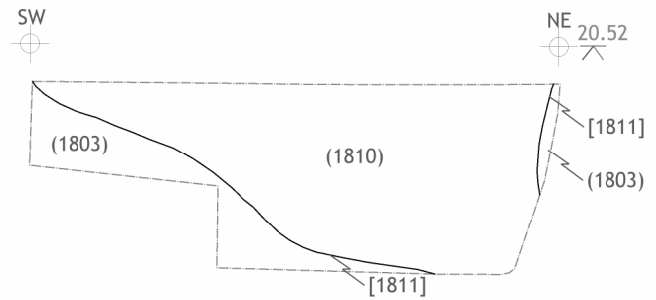




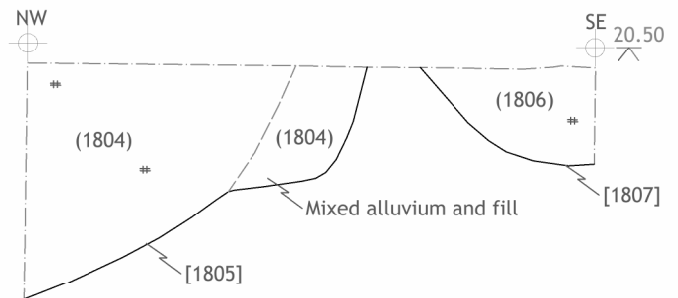
Dr.04 South-East Facing Section of [1809]



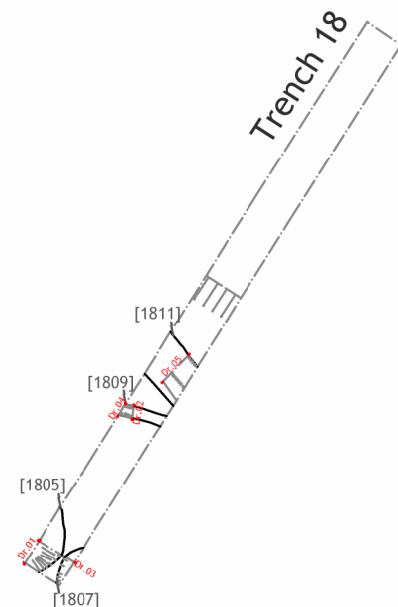
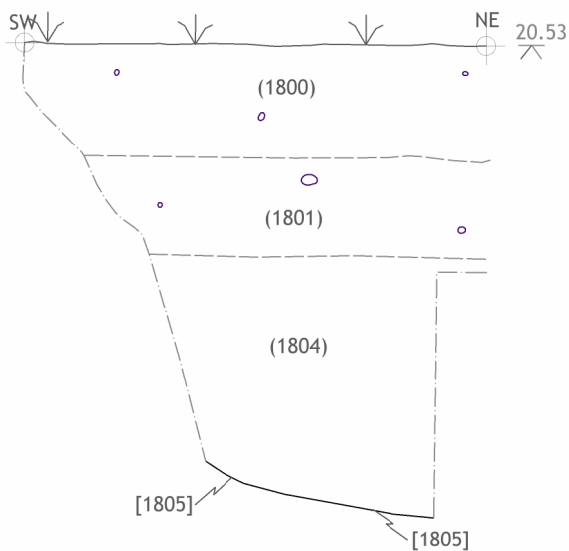
Dr.05 South-East Facing Section of [1811]



Dr.03 South-West Facing Section of [1805] and [1807]



Dr.01 South-East Facing Section of [1805]



0m 10m