Land at Overseal, Derbyshire:
An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Report Reference: CE-OD-1295-RP01 - FINAL

Crestwood Environmental Ltd.

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Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

- Crestwood Environmental were commissioned by Cameron Homes to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Acresford Road, Overseal, Derbyshire (centred on National Grid Reference SK 29800 14935) (Figure 1). The work was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology and undertaken in January 2018 prior to residential development at the site.

- The development site lies on the southern edge of the village of Overseal. It comprises two fields, a northern arable field and southern pastoral field which together total approximately 4.7ha. The site is bounded to the west by arable fields; to the east by residential properties and Acresford road; to the south by 'The Shrubbery'; and to the north by further residential properties off Moira Road.

- The scheme of archaeological fieldwork comprised the excavation of nineteen trenches, three measuring 1.5x50m, two measuring 1.5x40m, five measuring 1.5x30m and 9 measuring 1.5x20m. The trenches were designed to assess the site's archaeological potential by targeting geophysical anomalies identified in a previous phase of work.

- The Derbyshire Historic Landscape Characterisation records the development site as an area of fossilised strip fields. It is therefore likely that the site formed part of an open field system around the settlement of Overseal during the Early Medieval and Medieval period. The site remained in agricultural use throughout the Post-Medieval and Modern periods.

- Few features of potential archaeological interest were encountered during the course of the evaluation. These comprised furrows of presumed post-medieval origin, historic former field boundaries and field drains. Four possible pits, all of which were undated were encountered in Trenches 2, 3, 14 and 19. The significance or otherwise of these is unknown.

- The site lies outside of the historic core of the village of Overseal and the results of the evaluation suggest it has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period. No evidence for earlier activity was identified.

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Acknowledgements

The project was conducted under the overall management of David Leigh of Crestwood Environmental and managed for TPA by Ed Taylor. The fieldwork was undertaken by Camilla Collins, Tom Keyworth, Laura Binns and Neil Hall. The project was monitored by Steve Baker, County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

1 Introduction

1.1 Crestwood Environmental was commissioned by Cameron Homes, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Acresford Road, Overseal, Derbyshire (centred on National Grid Reference SK 29800 14935) (Figure 1). The work was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology in January 2018 prior to residential development at the site.

1.2 The planning authority attached the following condition to their decision:

> *14. (a) No development or other operation shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and until any pre-start element of the approved WSI has been completed to the written satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and*
>
> *(i) The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
>
> *(ii) The programme for post investigation assessment;*
>
> *(iii) Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;*
>
> *(iv) Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
>
> *(v) Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation; and*
>
> *(vi) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the WSI.*
>
> *(b) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological WSI approved under (a).*
>
> *(c) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological WSI approved under (a) and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination if results and archive deposition has been secured.*
>
> *Reason: To enable items of archaeological interest to be recorded and/or preserved where possible, noting that initial ground works could lead to the permanent loss of such items.*

1.3 The Trial Trench strategy was approved by Steve Baker, County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council following the submission of an initial outline trail trench proposal by Crestwood Environmental agreed with Steve Baker in correspondence dated 1/12/17. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently submitted by TPA and approved by Steve Baker, County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council (Appendix 2). The WSI stated that the fieldwork be carried out in accordance with appropriate professional standards, as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard & Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014).

1.4 The overall study has employed the methodology developed by TPA for use on similar projects in the region. This methodology conforms to the standard requirements of planning authorities where consent applications are made for development. These follow guidelines presented in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) which replaces conservation planning document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS 5 2010).

1.5 The TPA site code is OAR.

2 Site Background

2.1 The development site lies on the southern edge of the village of Overseal. It comprises two fields, a northern arable field and southern pastoral field which together total approximately 4.7ha. The site is bounded to the west by arable fields; to the east by residential properties and Acresford road; to the south by 'The Shrubbery'; and to the north by further residential properties off Moira Road.

2.2 The scheme of archaeological fieldwork comprised the excavation of nineteen trenches, three measuring 1.5x50m, two measuring 1.5x40m, five measuring 1.5x30m and nine measuring 1.5x20m. The trenches were designed to assess the site's archaeological potential by targeting geophysical anomalies identified in a previous phase of work.

3 Topography and Geology

3.1 The development site is relatively flat with a slight incline towards the east and southeast. It lies at approximately c.95m AOD at its southern extent and c.100m AOD at its northern extent.

3.2 The overlying soils are freely draining, slightly acidic sandy soils with areas of slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).

3.3 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping shows the site to be situated on mixed bedrock geology. To the east there is Moira Formation – Breccia, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 242 to 272 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods. To the west there is Chester Formation – Sanstone and Conglomerate, Interbedded, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period indicative of a local environment previously dominated by rivers. (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3.4 There are no recorded superficial deposits across any of the site.

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment was conducted by CgMs in 2015. The following is a brief summary of their findings.

4.1 Overseal is a settlement of early Medieval origin and was previously a part of the district of Seal, suggesting the area was once heavily forested. The village was one of the lordships given to Nigel de Albini at the Norman Conquest, when it consisted of two or three manors. The Domesday Survey description suggests that the settlement at Overseal was not extensive, with the historic core being situated to the north of the development site.

4.2 The Derbyshire Historic Landscape Characterisation records the development site as an area of fossilised strip fields. It is therefore likely that the site formed part of an open field system around the settlement of Overseal during the Early Medieval and Medieval period. The site remained an area of agricultural activity throughout the Post-Medieval and Modern periods.

4.3 The results of a geophysical survey of the site (Durham University 2015 and Wessex Archaeology 2015) were characterised by ridge and furrow cultivation of likely medieval origin. A number of linear features identified were thought to represent former post-medieval field boundaries and a former farm track.

4.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015) identified that there are no designated or non designated heritage assets within the bounds of the development site. Within the 1km radius of the wider study area there are seven designated heritage assets comprising six Grade II listed buildings and one Grade II* listed building.

4.5 The desk-based assessment concludes that apart from the possible medieval ridge and furrow and post-medieval/modern agricultural features the development site is considered to have low potential for significant archaeological remains relating to all other periods.

5 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The trial trench evaluation aimed to rapidly establish the depth at which the archaeological horizon lies in addition to the presence, extent, nature and importance of any sub-surface archaeological features, deposits and structures. Furthermore, the evaluation aimed to sample all areas of the site in order to rapidly inform on whether any further mitigation would be required.

5.2 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development. This will provide the basis for an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource.
- To establish the depth at which the sensitive archaeological horizon lies.
- To investigate the archaeological and possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey and to test apparent 'blank' areas.
- To recover and retain artefacts and samples of geoarchaeological/ palaeoenvironmental interest if present as these may contribute to an understanding of the nature of the landscape and the uses to which it was put.

5.3 Any buried archaeological remains identified offered an opportunity to address the research priorities of the region as highlighted in the East Midlands Updated Research Agenda and Strategy (Knight, Vynert and Allen 2012). Of particular note are:

> *6.7.3* ***Early Mediaeval****: How may crop rotation and the open-field system have developed, and how may this relate to other agricultural innovations such as mouldboard ploughs, water meadows and land-drainage?*
>
> *7.7.1* ***High Mediaeval****: Can we shed further light upon the origins and development of the open field system and its impact upon agricultural practices?*
>
> *8.3.1* ***Post-Mediaeval****: How can we improve our understanding of the early landscapes of enclosure and improvement and the interrelationship between arable, pasture, woodland, commons and waste?*

6 Methodology

6.1 All work was undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists in accordance with accepted archaeological practice and the *Standard & Guidance* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

6.2 A total of nineteen trial trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, three measuring 1.5x50m, two measuring 1.5x40m, five measuring 1.5x30m and 9 measuring 1.5x20m

6.3 All trenches were excavated using a 180° 3CX excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

6.4 Trenches were excavated to a level at which archaeological deposits were present, or in their absence, to the natural geological substrate. Subsoil was excavated in spits no greater than 100mm. The trenches and any archaeological features were located by GPS, Leica CS15/GS15 RTKDifferential GNSS.

6.5 Trenches were hand cleaned and a minimum of one long section of each trench was photographed and drawn at 1:50/1:20.

6.6 All exposed surfaces were inspected and any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded where appropriate. Features were characterised through excavation where necessary to obtain datable material and understand the levels of preservation. All contexts were given an individual context number. Plans and sections of all features were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20, and showed at least context numbers, all colour and textural changes and principal slopes represented as hachures. Digital colour photographs of each context were taken using a DSLR at 7 megapixel minimum resolution. Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual.

6.7 Where appropriate features were identified, soil samples were retrieved in order to undertake palaeo-environmental sampling. The sampling of features followed procedures set out within the English Heritage Centre of Archaeology Guidelines, Environmental Archaeology 2011. Samples were processed within the TPA Environmental Lab, under the supervision of TPA Environmental Officer Alison Wilson.

6.8 All works were carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Trent & Peak Archaeology (2017) (Appendix 2) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

7 Results

7.1 **Trench 01** (Plate 1; Figures 2-4)

7.1.1 Orientated broadly north-north-west to south-south-east, this trench measured 50 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m. The trench was located towards the north-east corner of site at the highest point of a slight incline towards the east.

7.1.2 Topsoil (0100) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was unusually homogenous with no finds recovered. Below this was a thin layer of subsoil (0101) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0102) was overlain by (0101) at a maximum depth of 0.6m below the existing ground level.

7.1.3 A north to south aligned wall foundation trench [0103] for a no longer extant agricultural building was present at the northern extent of the trench. This feature contained three fills (0104), (0109) and (0110). The uppermost fill (0104) contained moderate amounts of demolition material comprising very small fragments of brick, tile and mortar. This feature is likely to be modern-late modern in date.

7.1.4 Two small east to west aligned gullies [0105] and [0107] were encountered immediately to the south of [0103]. [0105] measured 0.7m in width and 0.35m in depth, and [0107] measured 0.55m in width and 0.2m in depth. Both features contained a single identical fill of loosely compacted mid pinkish brown silty loam. No dateable evidence was recovered from either feature. Bulk environmental samples were taken from both features for the purpose of finds recovery. No dateable evidence was recovered from these.

7.2 **Trench 02** (Plate 2; Figures 2,5-7)

7.2.1 This trench was located towards the east of site on a slight incline towards the south-east and was orientated broadly north-west to south-east. It measured 40 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m.

7.2.2 Topsoil (0200) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam, and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (0201), comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0206) was located below (0201) at a maximum depth of 1m below the existing ground level.

7.2.3 Two oval pits were encountered in this trench. [0202] was located towards the north-west end. This feature measured 0.6m in width and 0.2m in depth, and contained a single fill comprised of friable dark reddish brown silty loam. The second pit, [0204], was located towards the south-east end of the trench and measured 0.6m in width and depth. This feature was irregular in shape and contained a single fill consisting of friable light yellowish brown silty sand and gravel. The irregularity in shape of both features suggested they may be geological or the result of bioturbation.

7.3 **Trench 03** (Plate 3; Figures 2, 8-9)

7.3.1 Orientated broadly north-north-east to south-south-west, this trench measured 20 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench was located towards the eastern part of the site on a slight incline towards the south-east.

7.3.2 Topsoil (0300) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (0301). This layer comprised a loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0302) was located below (0301) at a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing ground level.

7.3.3 A single possible archaeological feature was identified in this trench, pit [0303]. This feature appeared to cut the subsoil and was irregular in shape. No dateable evidence was recovered. The irregularity of this feature may indicate that it is geological in nature.

7.4 **Trench 04** (Plate 4; Figure 2)

7.4.1 This trench was located in the south-east corner of the site and was orientated broadly north-west to south-east. It measured 30 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.25m.

7.4.2 Topsoil (0400) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (0401) comprised a loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0402) was located below (0401) at a maximum depth of 1m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

7.5 **Trench 05** (Plate 5; Figure 2)

7.5.1 Orientated broadly north-west to south-east, this trench was located towards the south-east part of the site and measured 20 x 1.5m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m.

7.5.2 Topsoil (0500) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (0501) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0502) was located below (0501) at a maximum depth of 1.05m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

7.6 **Trench 06** (Plate 6; Figures 2, 10-11)

7.6.1 Orientated broadly north-east to south-west, this trench measured 50 x 0.95m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench was located towards the south of site and was designed to target the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

7.6.2 Topsoil (0600) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (0602). This layer was comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0602) was located below (0601) at a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing ground level.

7.6.3 Two north to south aligned linear features were encountered towards the east of the trench. Boundary ditch [0603] measured a maximum of 0.6m in width and 0.2m in depth, and contained a single fill comprised of friable dark reddish brown silty sand. This feature cut gully [0605], which measured a maximum of 0.3m in both width and depth and contained a single fill of friable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel. Pottery recovered from both features is Post-Medieval in date. Bulk environmental samples were taken from both features for the purpose of finds recovery. No further dateable evidence was recovered from either feature.

7.7 **Trench 07** (Plate 7; Figure 2)

7.7.1 This trench was located in the south-west corner of the site and was orientated broadly north-west to south-east. It measured 20 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m.

7.7.2 Topsoil (0700) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (0701) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0702) was located below (0701) at a maximum depth of 1.1m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

7.8 **Trench 08** (Plates 8-9; Figure 2)

7.8.1 Orientated broadly west-north-west to east-south-east, this trench measured 20 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench was located towards the south-west part of the site on a slight incline towards the south.

7.8.2 Topsoil (0800) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (0801). This layer was comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (0802) was located below (0801) at a maximum depth of 1.6m below the existing ground level. No archaeological deposits of features were present in this trench.

7.9 **Trench 09** (Plate 10; Figure 2)

7.9.1 Orientated broadly north-east to south-west, this trench measured 30 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench was located towards the south-west of site.

7.9.2 Topsoil (0900) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (0901). This layer was comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty clay. The natural substratum (0902) was located below (0901) at a maximum depth of 0.9m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

7.10 **Trench 10** (Plate 11; Figures 2)

7.10.1 This trench was located towards the west of site and was orientated broadly north-north-east to south-south-west. It measured 30 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05m.

7.10.2 Topsoil (1000) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (1001) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (1002) was located below (1001) at a maximum depth of 0.92m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.

7.11 **Trench 11** (Plate 12; Figure 2)

7.11.1 Orientated broadly east to west, this trench measured 50 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m. The trench was located towards the western part of the site.

7.11.2 Topsoil (1100) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (1101) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (1102) was located below (1101) at a maximum depth of 1.45m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

7.12 **Trench 12** (Plate 13; Figures 2, 12-13)

7.12.1 This trench was located towards the west of site and was orientated broadly north-east to south-west. It measured 40 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. This trench was designed to target the same anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as in Trench 06.

7.12.2 Topsoil (1200) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was (1201) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (1202) was located below (1201) at a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing ground level.

7.12.3 A narrow north to south aligned gully [1203] was encountered towards the south-west end of the trench. This feature measured 0.6m in width and 0.3m in depth, and contained a single fill (1204) of mottled very dark pinkish red and grey silty loam. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. A bulk environmental sample was taken from this feature for the purpose of finds recovery. No dateable evidence was recovered.

7.12.4 Although targeting the geophysical anomaly revealed in Trench 06 as a Post-Medieval boundary ditch, this feature was not encountered. It is possible that the comparative depth of the subsoil in this area may have obscured the feature.

7.13 **Trench 13** (Plates 14-15; Figure 2)

7.13.1 Orientated broadly north-east to south-west, this trench measured 30 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. The trench was located towards the western part of the site.

7.13.2 Topsoil (1300) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (1301) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (1302) was located below (1301) at a maximum depth of 1m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.

7.14 **Trench 14** (Plates 16-17 Figures 2, 14-15)

7.14.1 Orientated broadly north-east to south-west, this trench measured 30 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. The trench was located centrally within the site.

7.14.2 Topsoil (1400) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (1401) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (1404) was located below (1401) at a maximum depth of 0.98m below the existing ground level.

7.14.3 A large oval pit measuring 0.8m in width and 0.4m in depth was encountered in a central location within the trench against the south-east facing section. This feature contained a single fill (1403) of friable dark reddish brown silty sand. No dateable evidence was recovered from this feature. A bulk environmental sample was taken from this feature for the purpose of finds recovery. No dateable evidence was recovered from this feature.

7.15 **Trench 15** (Plate 18; Figures 2, 16-17)

7.15.1 This trench was located centrally within the site and was orientated broadly north-east to south-west. It measured 20 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m.

7.15.2 Topsoil (1500) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (1501). This layer was comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. A thin layer of colluviums (1502) was encountered below (0501). This layer consisted of dark pinkish brown sandy clay. The natural substratum (1503) was located below (1502) at a maximum depth of 0.63m below the existing ground level.

7.15.3 Three east to west aligned linears [1505] [1507] and [1509] were encountered in this trench, each measuring a maximum of 1m in width and 0.15m in depth. These features were spaced evenly apart and contained a single identical fill of friable dark reddish grey silty loam. The shallow nature of these features, in addition to the even spacing, suggests that they may be furrows. No dateable evidence was recovered from any of the linears.

7.16 **Trench 16** (Plate 19; Figure 2)

7.16.1 Orientated broadly north-west to south-east, this trench measured 20 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m. The trench was located towards the north-west part of the site.

7.16.2 Topsoil (1600) consisted of weakly compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (1601) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. Colluvium (1602) was comparatively deep and comprised of sterile firmly compacted brownish red clay. The natural substratum (1603) was located below (1602) at a maximum depth of 1.7m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

7.17 **Trench 17** (Plate 20-22; Figure 2)

7.17.1 Orientated broadly north-east to south-west, this trench measured 50 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m. The trench was located in the north-west corner of site.

7.17.2 Topsoil (1700) consisted of weak dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (1701) comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. Two separate colluvial deposits were present in this trench, (1702) and (1703). The natural substratum (1704) was located below (1702) at a maximum depth of 0.63m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.

7.18 **Trench 18** (Plate 23; Figure 2)

7.18.1 This trench was located towards the northern part of the site and was orientated broadly north-north-east to south-south-west. It measured 20 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m.

7.18.2 Topsoil (1800) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam and was located stratigraphically above subsoil (1801), which was comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (1802) was located below (1801) at a maximum depth of 0.6m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

7.19 **Trench 19** (Figures 2, 18-19)

7.19.1 Orientated broadly east-south-east to west-south-west, this trench measured 20 x 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. The trench was located at the northern extent of site.

7.19.2 Topsoil (1900) consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty loam. Below this was subsoil (1901), comprised of loosely compacted mid yellowish brown silty sand. The natural substratum (1904) was located below (1901) at a maximum depth of 1.45m below the existing ground level.

7.19.3 A small irregular pit [1902] was encountered towards the north-north-east of the trench. This feature contained a single fill of friable mid yellowish brown silty sand and gravel. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

8 Finds

8.1 A very small quantity of material was recovered during the evaluation, comprising two small sherds of pottery from boundary ditch [0603] and gully [0605]. Both sherds were body fragments of hard fired course earthen ware with an internal slip dating to between the 17th and 18th centuries.

9 Conclusion

9.1 A total of 19 trenches were excavated providing a broad sample of the site, targeting geophysical anomalies and apparent 'blank' areas identified in a previous scheme of work.

9.2 Few features of potential archaeological interest were encountered during the course of the evaluation. These comprised furrows of presumed post-medieval origin, historic former field boundaries and field drains. Four possible pits, all of which were undated were encountered in Trenches 2, 3, 14 and 19. The significance or otherwise of these is unknown.

9.3 The site lies outside of the historic core of the village of Overseal and the results of the evaluation suggest it has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period. No evidence for earlier activity was identified.

10 Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.* University of Reading

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Code of Conduct.* University of Reading

Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012 *East Midlands Heritage An Updated Research Agenda for the Historic. Environment in the East Midlands*. Buxton Press

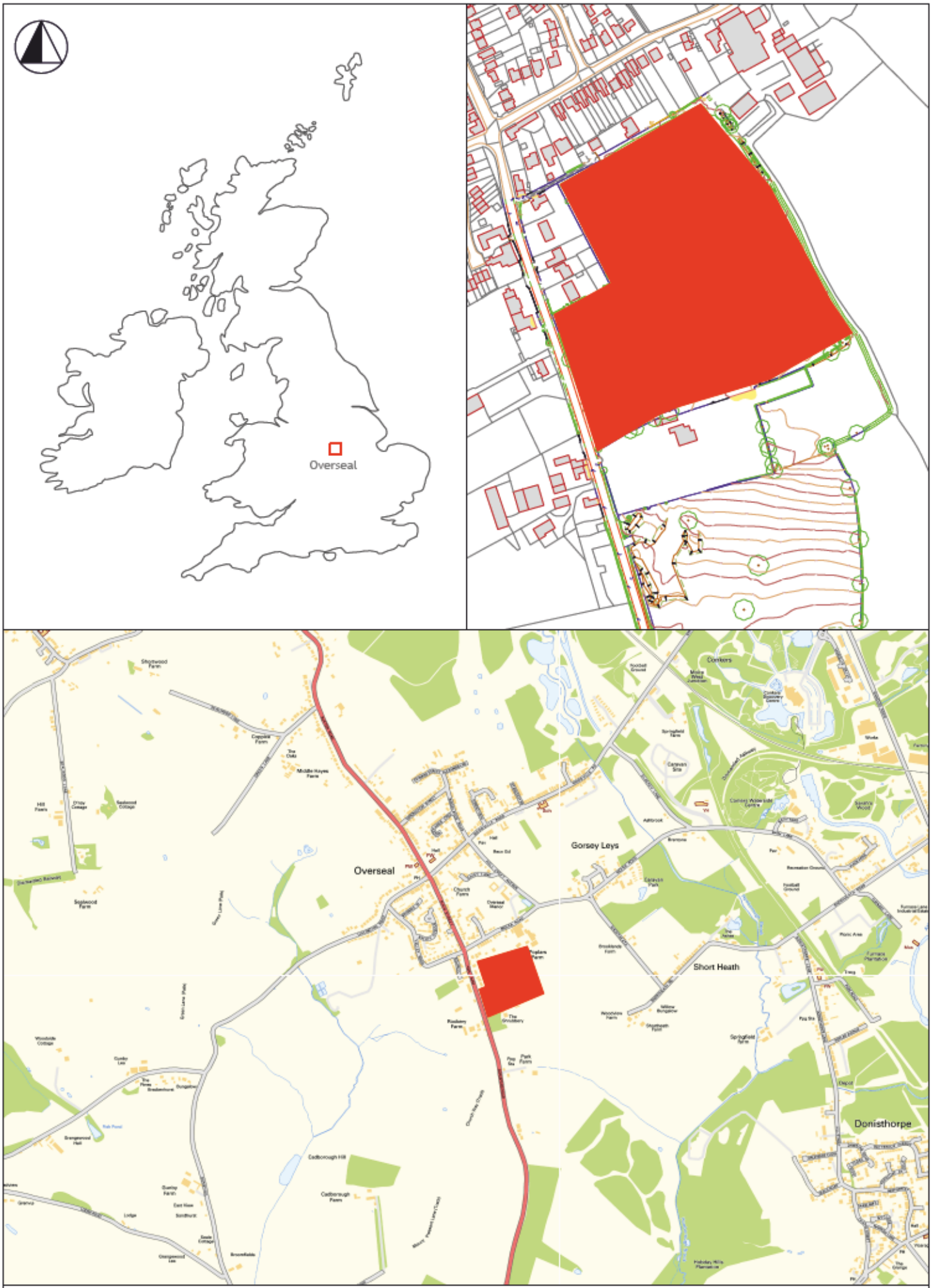
Jago, S. 2015. *Land at Overseal, South Derbyshire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.* CgMs unpublished report.

Online Resources

British Geological Survey Map Viewer; http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Cranfield Soil and Agrifoods Institute. Soilscape Map Viewer; www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes

Figures

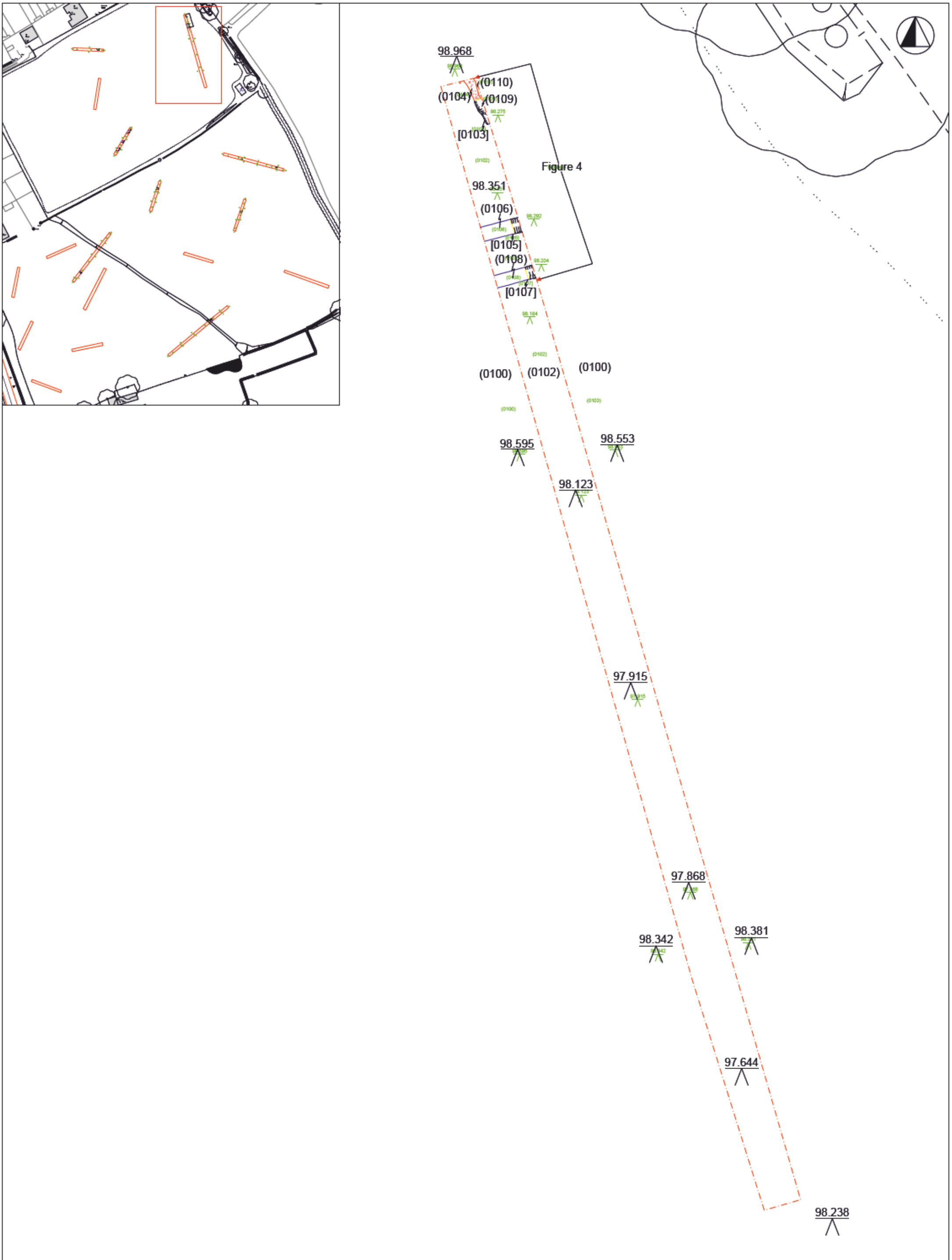


OAR Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 1 Location Plan
Scale at A3 - varies Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

OAR
Figure 2
Scale at A3 - 1:1250

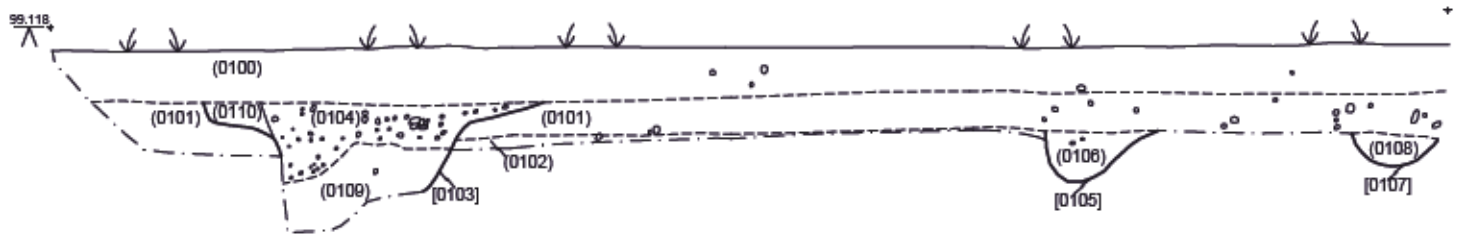
Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Site Plan
Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 100m



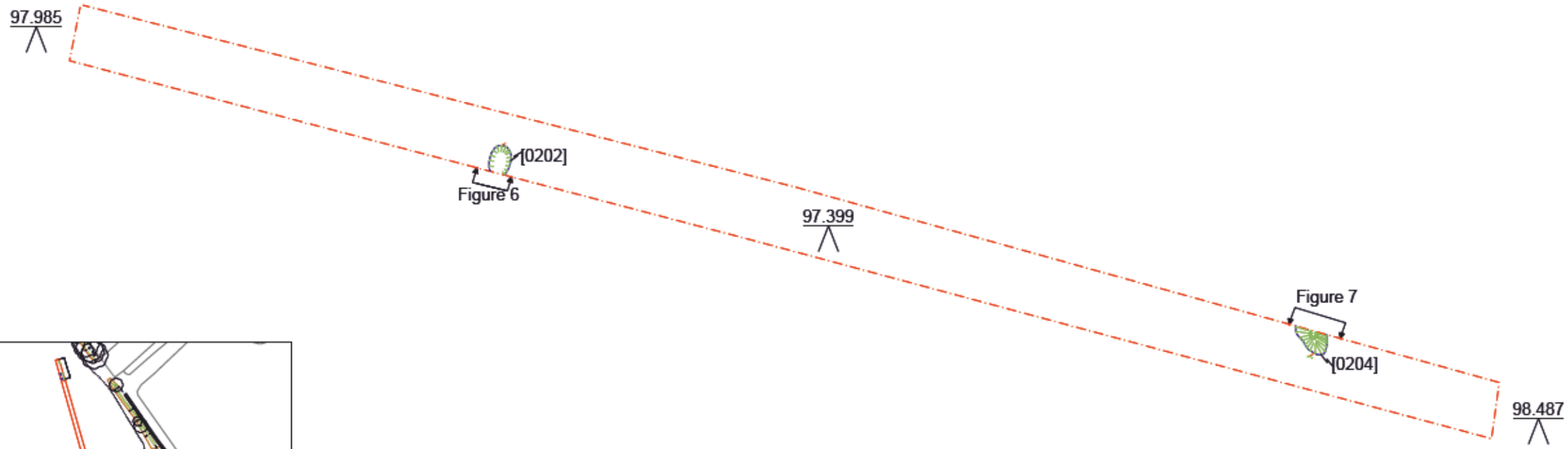
OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 3	Plan of Trench 01
Scale at A3 - 1:150	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

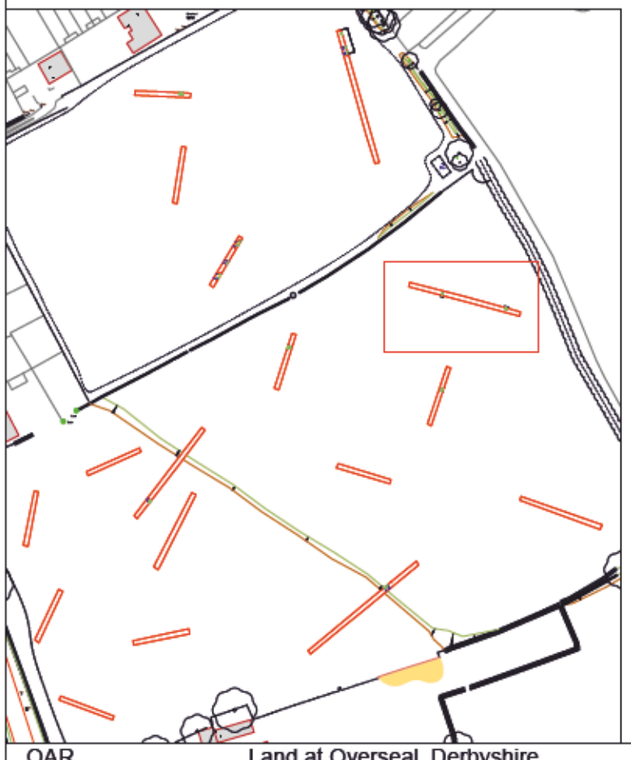
0m 10m



OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 4	South-west facing section of [0103], [0105] and [0107]
Scale at A4 - 1:50	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 5m





OAR
Figure 5
Scale at A3 - 1:150

Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Plan of Trench 02
Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 10m

Figure 6

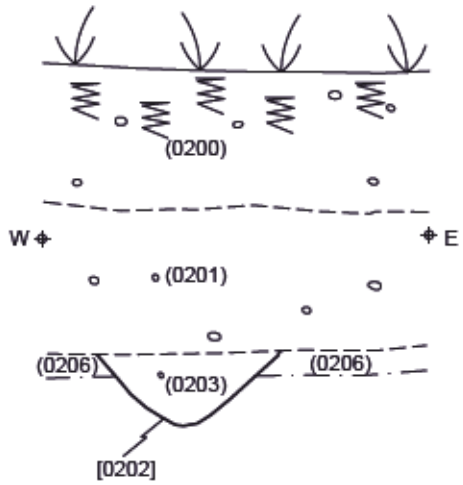
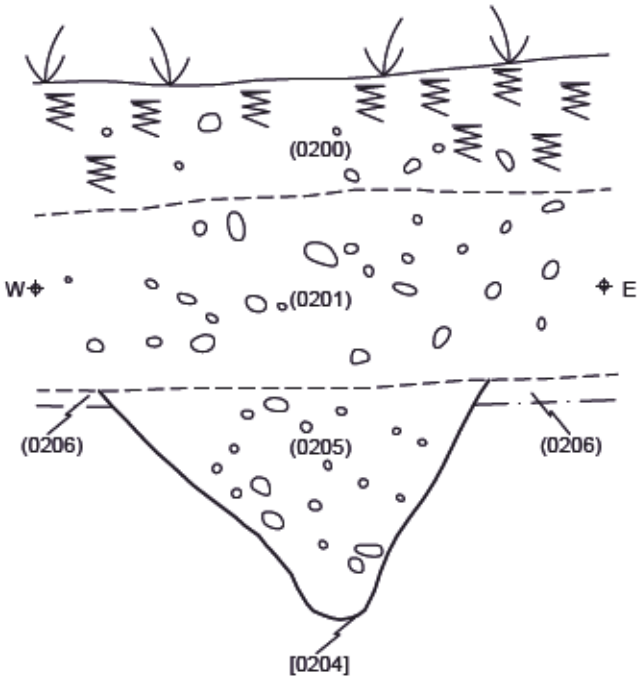
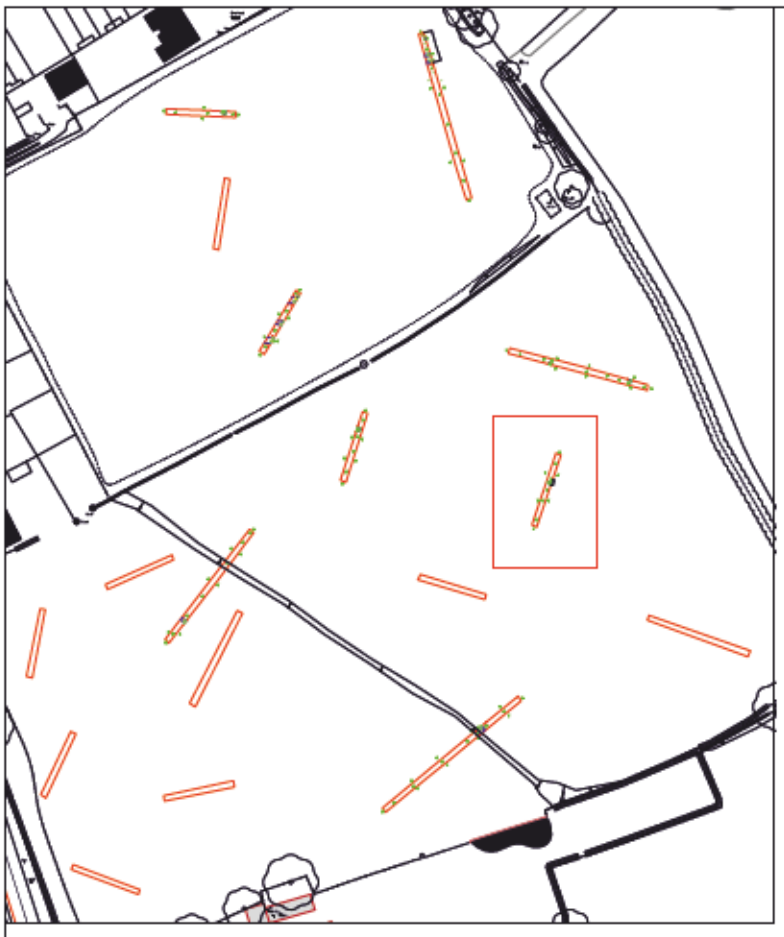


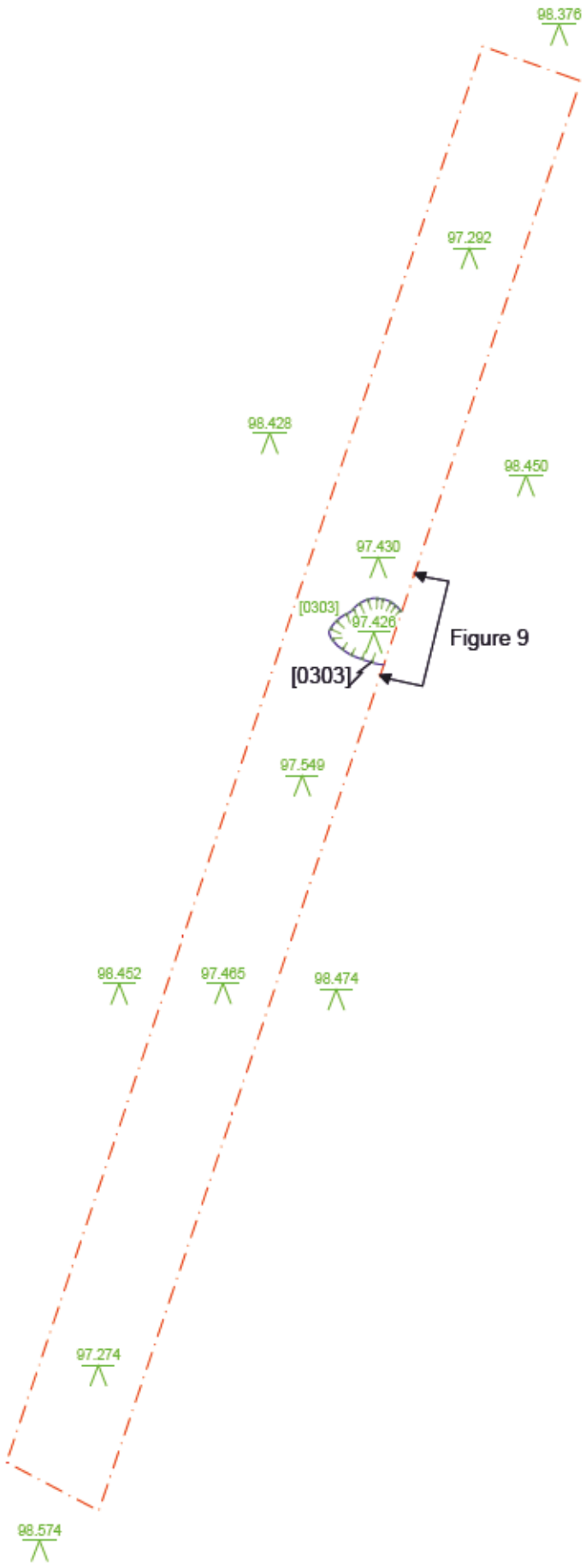
Figure 7



OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 6 and 7	North -east facing section of [0202] and south-west facing section of [0204]
Scale at A3 - 1:150	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

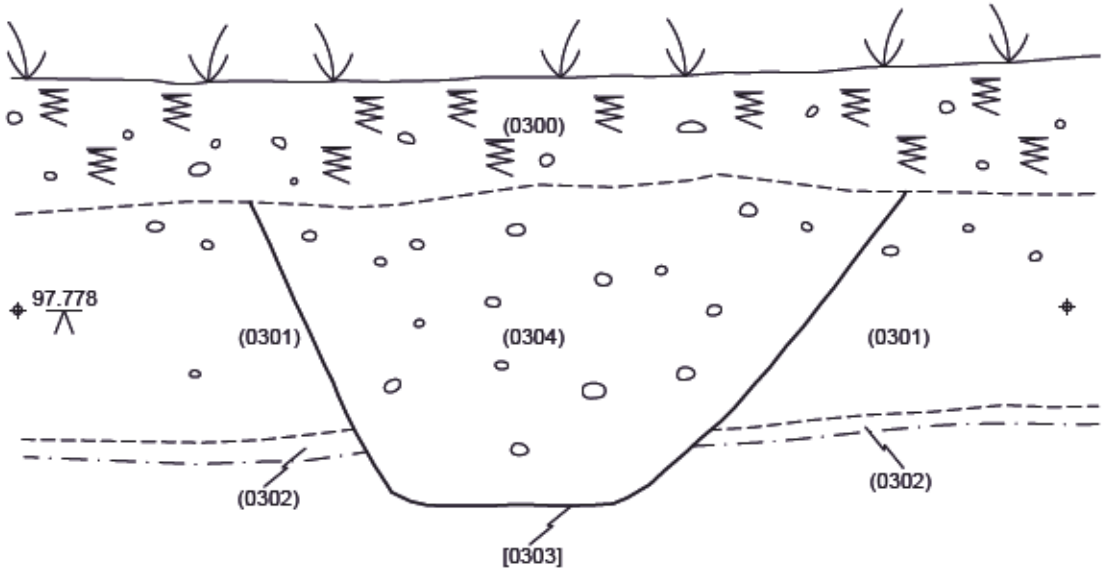
0m 2m





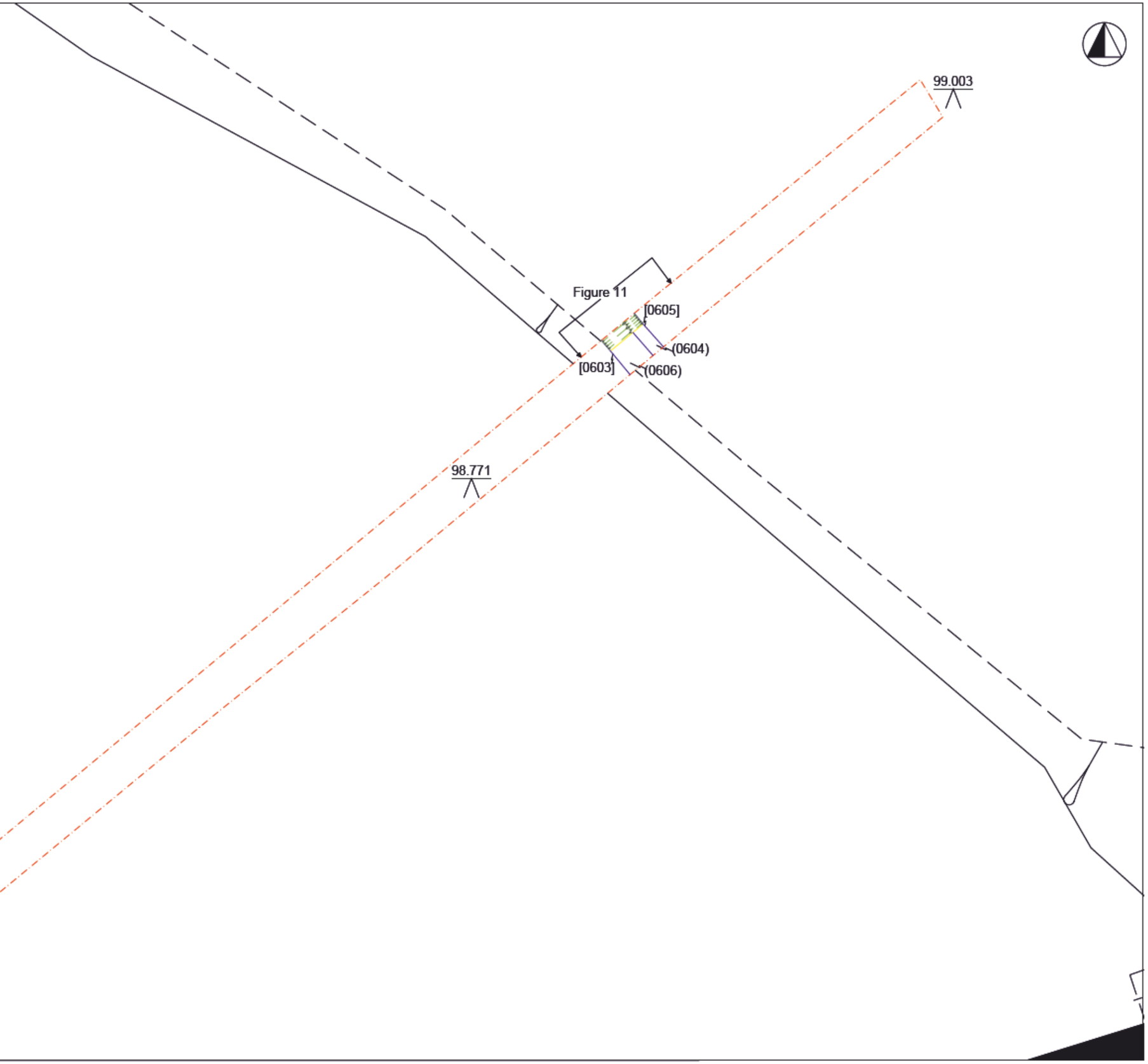
OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 8	Plan of Trench 03
Scale at A3 - 1:100	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 10m



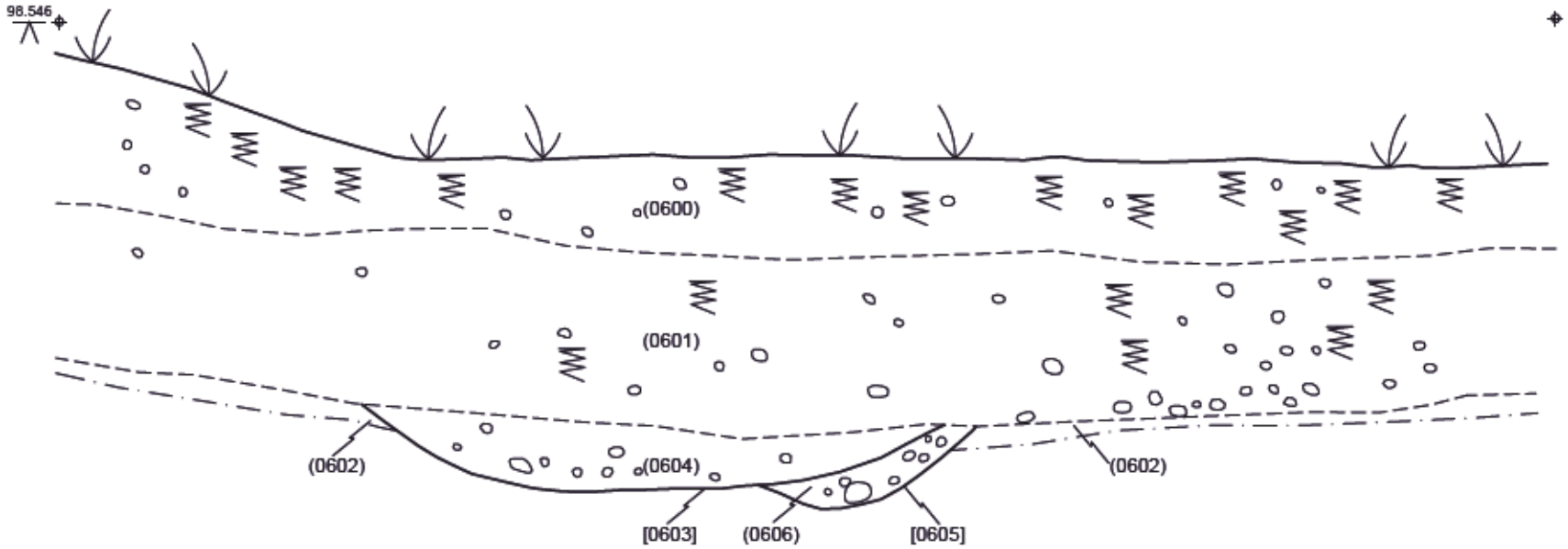
OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 9	North-west facing section of [0303]
Scale at A3 - 1:100	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 5m



OAR
Figure 10
Scale at A3 - 1:150

Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Plan of Trench 06 showing all excavated features
Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))



OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 11	South-east facing section of [0603] and [0605]
Scale at A4 - 1:20	Initials: CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 5m

97.362

96.854

[1203]

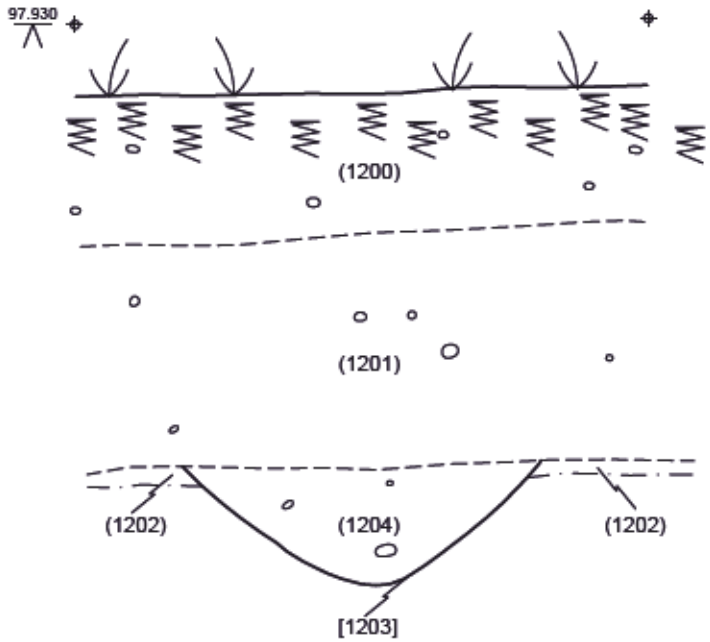
(1204)

Figure 13

97.685

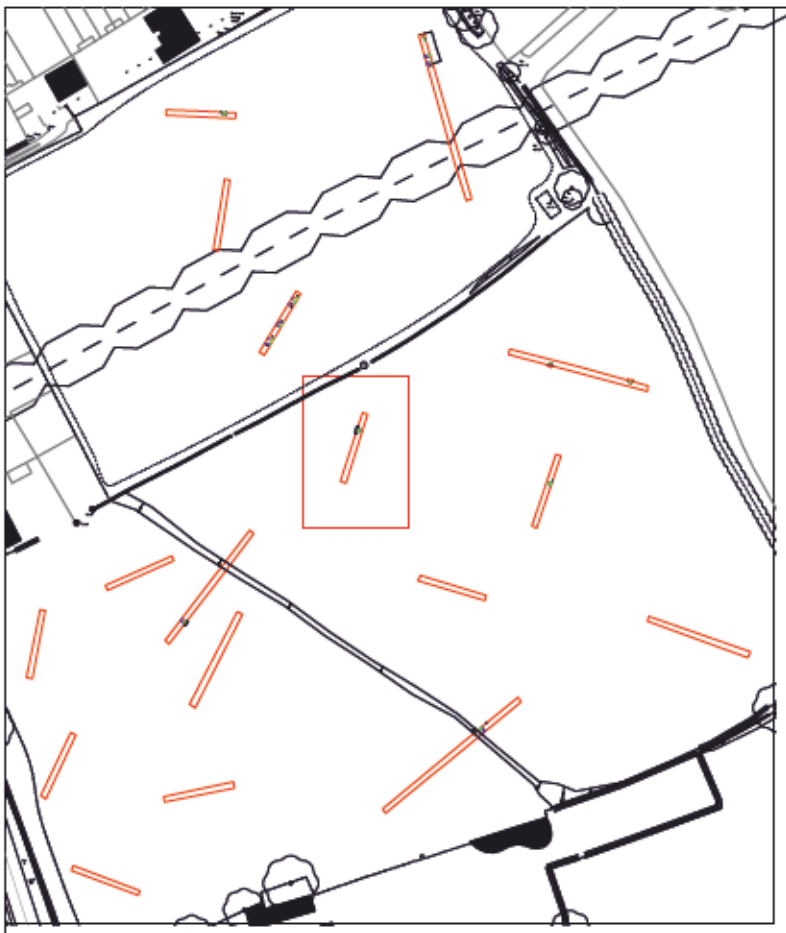
OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 12	Plan of Trench 12 showing all excavated features
Scale at A3 - 1:100	Initials: CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

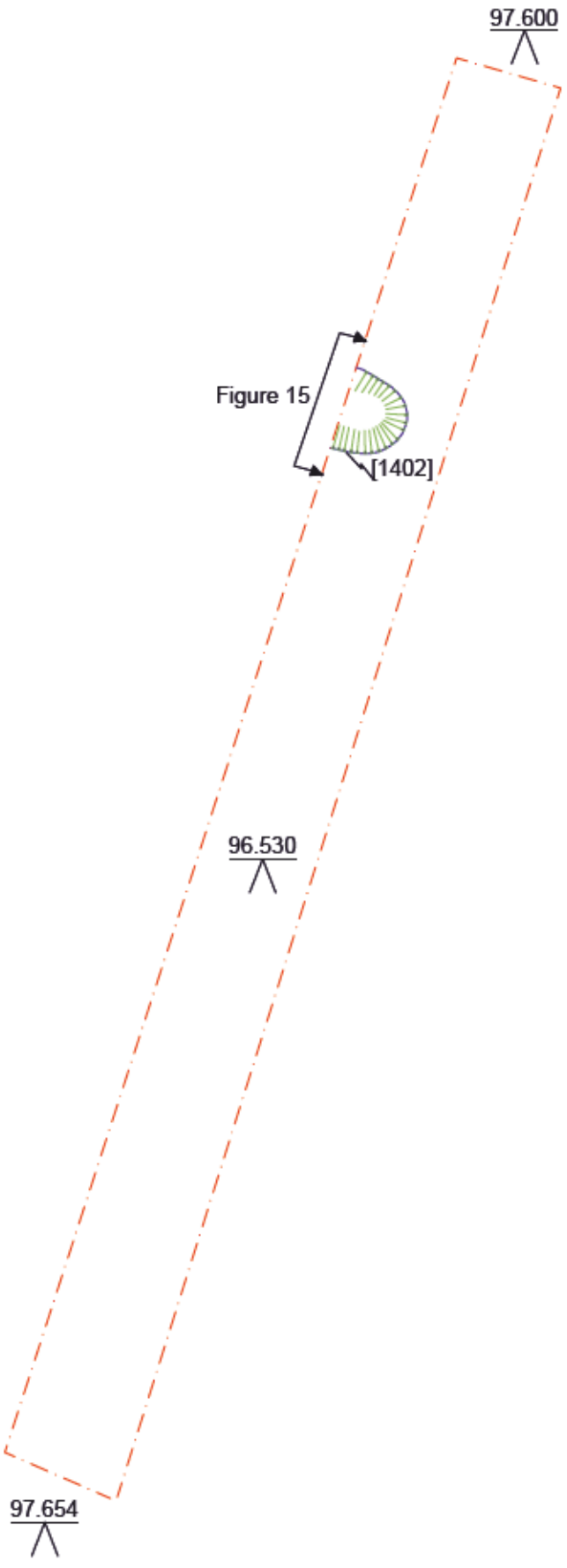
0m 10m



OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 13	North-west facing section of [1203]
Scale at A4 - 1:20	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology(TPA))

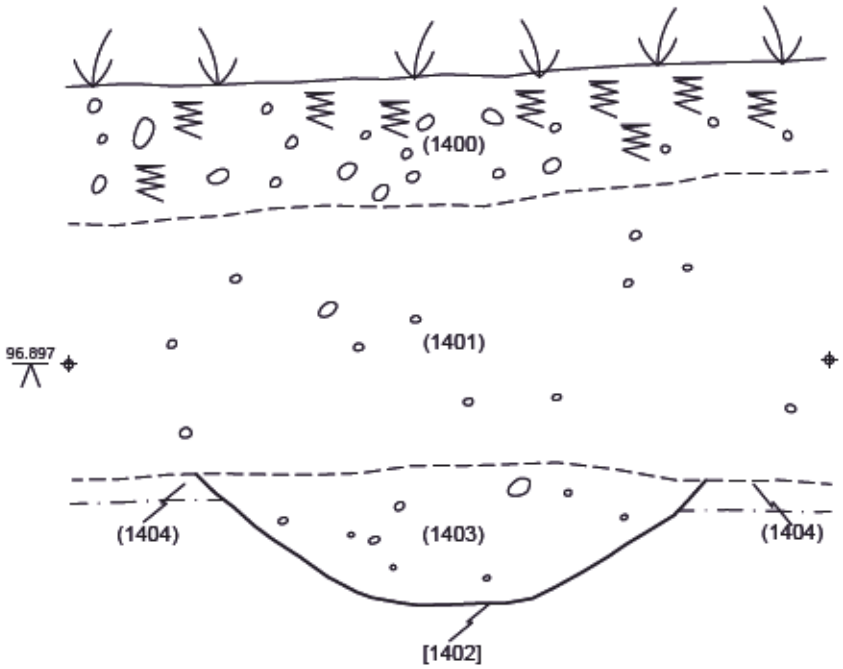
0m 2m





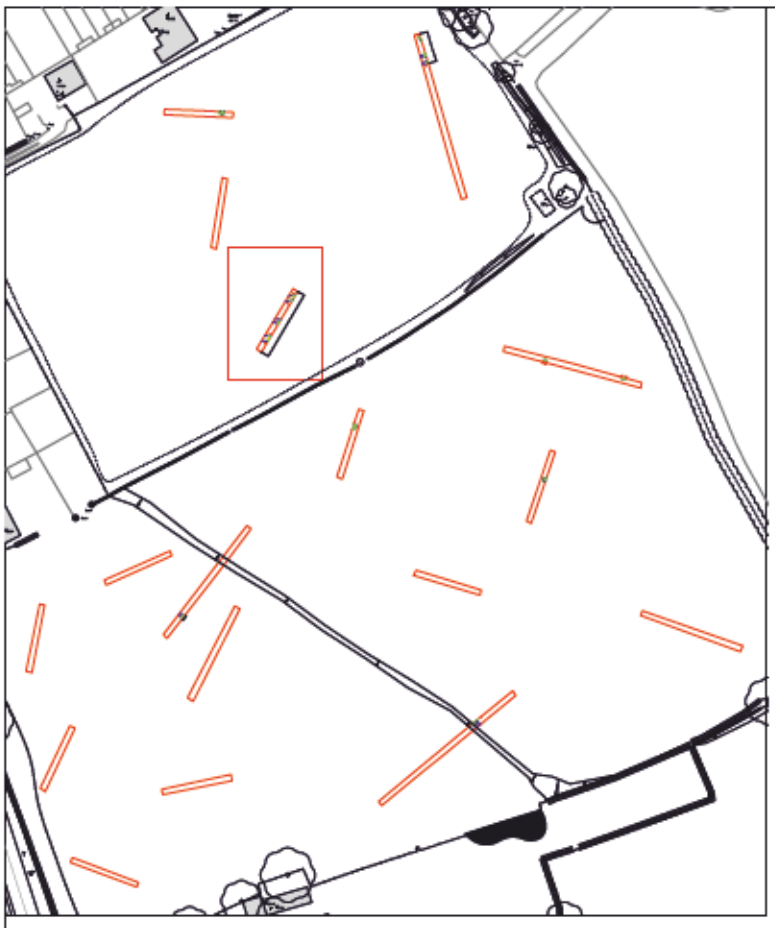
OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 14	Plan of Trench 14 showing all excavated features
Scale at A3 - 1:100	Initials: CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 10m



OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 15	South-east facing section of [1402]
Scale at A4 - 1:20	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 2m



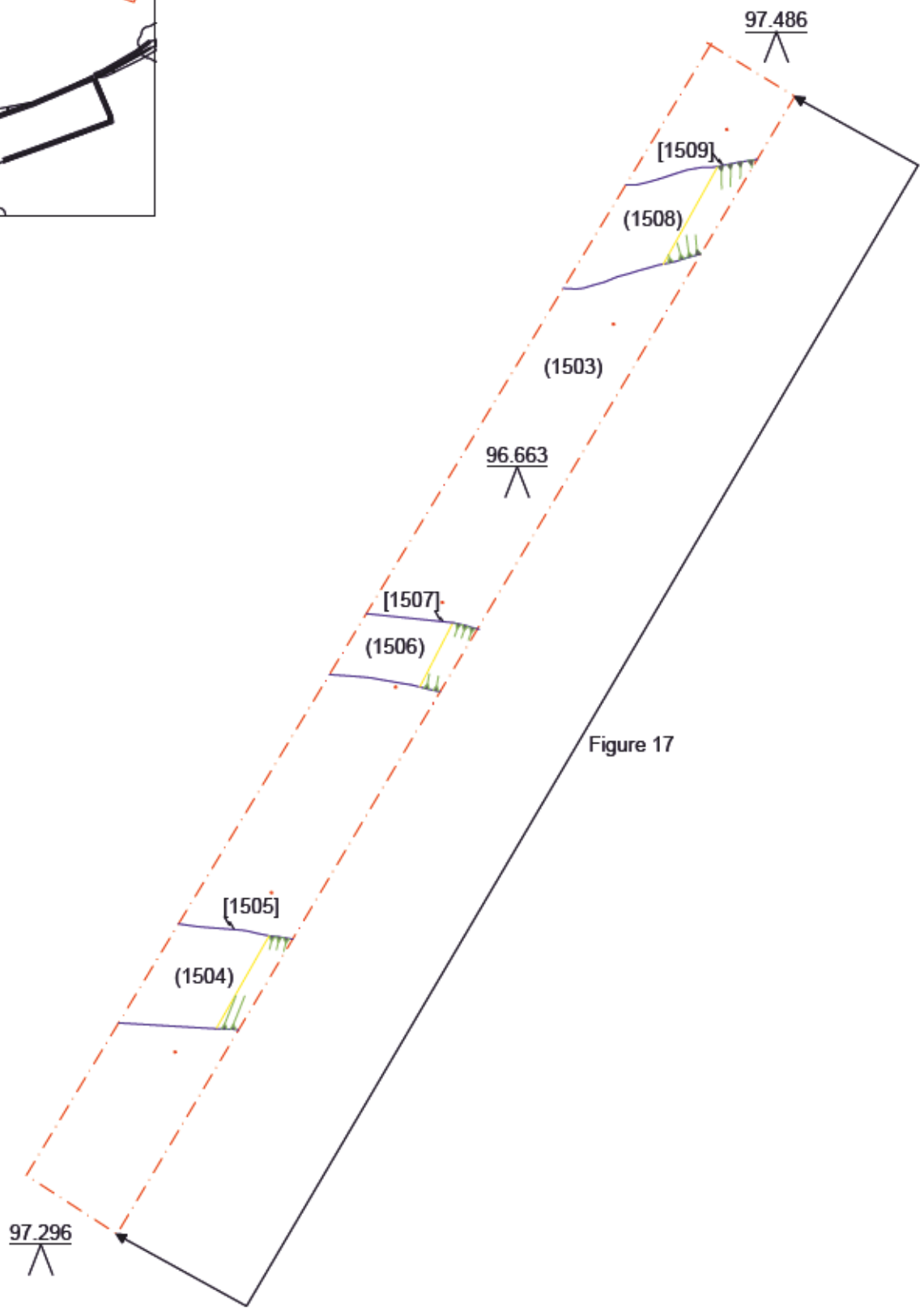
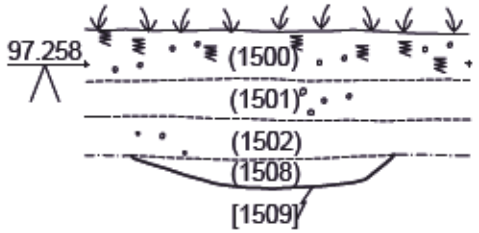


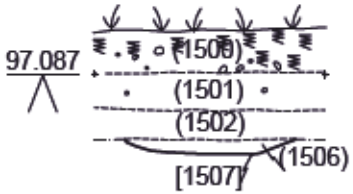
Figure 17

OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 16	Plan of Trench 15 showing all excavated features
Scale at A3 - 1:100	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

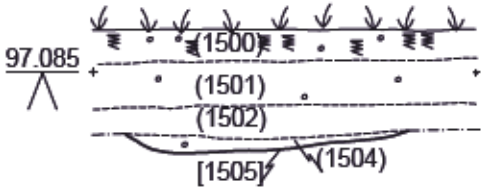
0m 10m



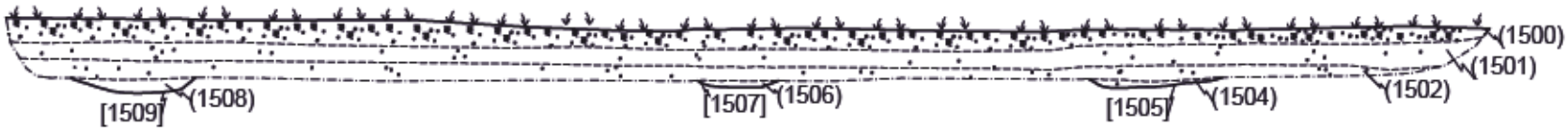
Scale at A4 - 1:150



Scale at A4 - 1:150



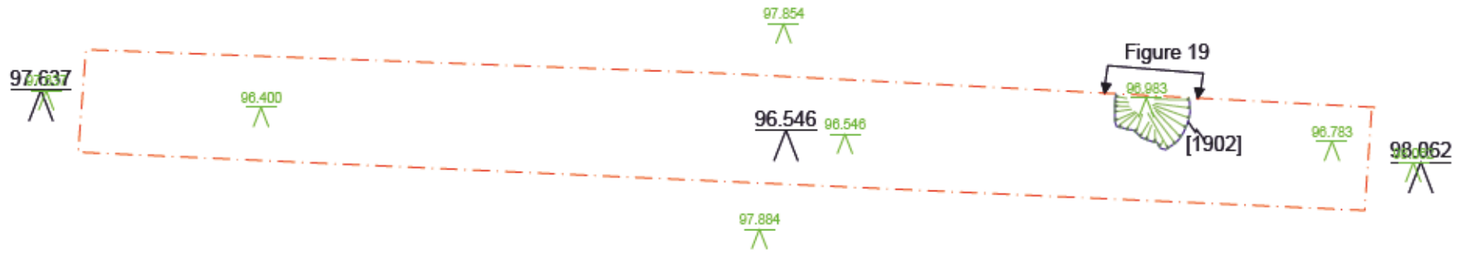
Scale at A4 - 1:150

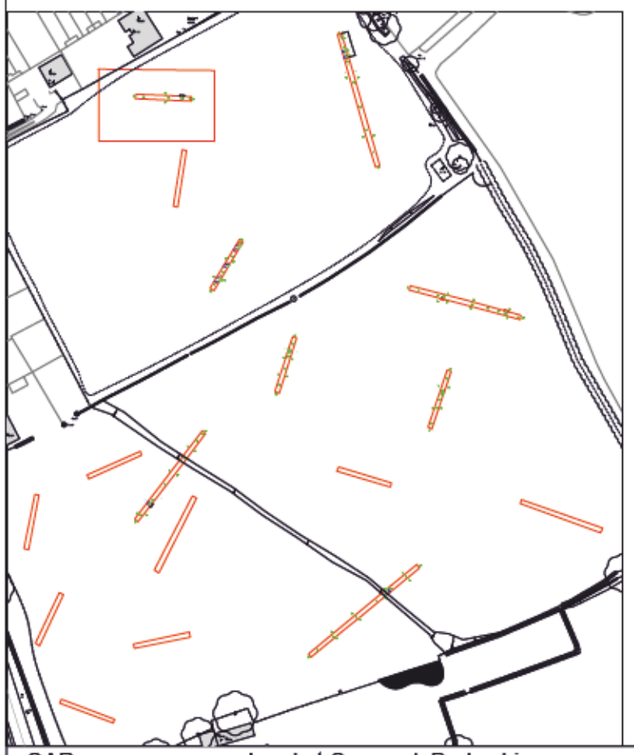


Scale at A4 - 1:100

OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 17	North -west facing section of [1505], [1507] and [1509]
Scale Varies	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 5m

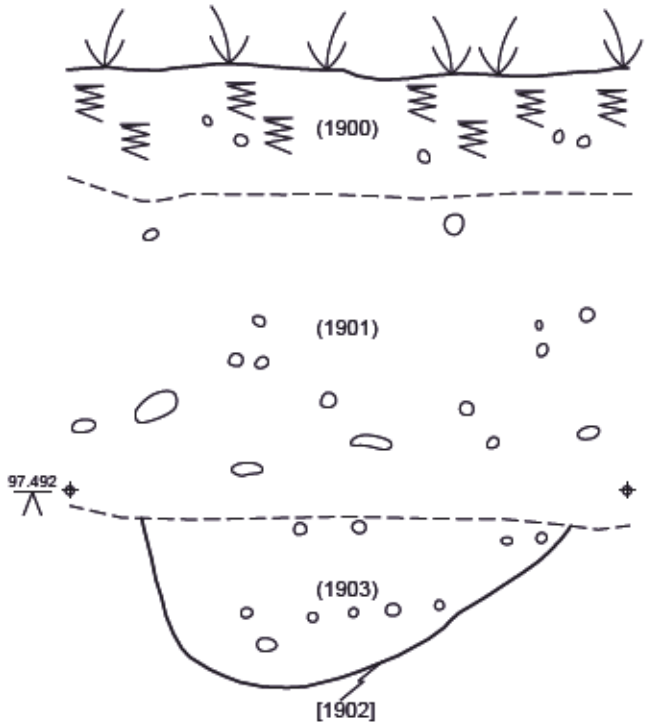




OAR
Figure 18
Scale at A3 - 1:100

Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Plan of Trench 19 showing all excavated features
Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 10m



OAR	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Figure 19	South facing section of [1902]
Scale at A4 - 1:20	Initials:CC (Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA))

0m 2m

Plates

Plate 1: General view of Trench 01, viewed looking south-south-west

Plate 4: General view of Trench 02, viewed looking south-east

Plate 2: North-west facing section of [0103], viewed looking south

Plate 3: North-west facing section of [0107], viewed looking south-east

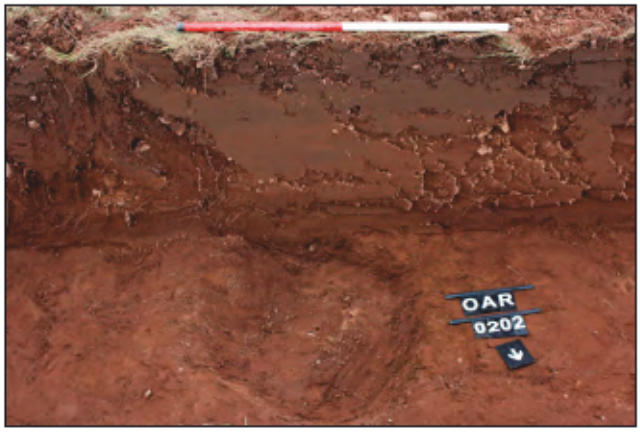


Plate 5: North-north-east facing section of [0202], viewed looking south-south-west

Plate 6: South-south-west facing section of [0204], viewed looking north-north-east

Plate 7: General view of Trench 03, viewed looking south-west

Plate 8: North-west facing section of [0303], viewed looking south

Plate 9: General view of Trench 04, viewed looking north-west

Plate 10: General view of Trench 05, viewed looking north-west

Plate 11: General view of Trench 06, viewed looking north-east.

Plate 12: South-east facing section of [0603] and [0605], viewed looking west

Plate 13: General view of Trench 07, viewed looking north-east

Plate 14: General view of Trench 08, viewed looking north-west

Plate 15: General view of Trench 09, viewed looking north-east

Plate 16: General view of Trench 10, viewed looking north-east

Plate 17: General view of Trench 11, viewed looking north-east

Plate 18: General view of Trench 12, viewed looking south-west

Plate 19: General view of Trench 13, viewed looking south-west

Plate 20: General view of Trench 14, viewed looking south-west

Plate 21: General view of Trench 15, viewed looking north-east

Plate 22: General view of Trench 17, viewed looking north-east

Plate 23: General view of Trench 18, viewed looking north-east

Plate 24: General view of Trench 19, viewed looking north-west

Appendix 1: Trench logs

Trench 01					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	50 x 1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NNE-SSW	**Trench Depth**	0.6m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0100)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.35m
(0101)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.25m
(0102)	Layer	Natural Loose mid pinkish red silty sand			-
[0103]	Cut	Cut of wall foundation trench Linear aligned N-S			N/A
(0104)	Fill	Fill of [0103] Loose dark grey gritty rubble			N/A
[0105]	Cut	Cut of gully Linear aligned E-W			N/A
(0106)	Fill	Fill of [0105] Loose mid pinkish brown sandy loam			N/A
[0107]	Cut	Cut of gully Linear aligned E-W			N/A
(0108)	Fill	Fill of [0107] Loose mid pinkish brown sandy loam			N/A
(0109)	Fill	Fill of [0103] Friable mid-dark greyish yellow sandy loam			N/A
(0110)	Fill	Fill of [0103] Friable mid brownish grey sandy loam			N/A

Trench 02					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	40 x 1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NW-SE	**Trench Depth**	1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0200)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.4m
(0201)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.6m
[0202]	Cut	Cut of Pit Oval with shallow sides and a flat base			N/A
(0203)	Fill	Fill of [0202] Friable dark reddish brown silty loam			N/A
[0204]	Cut	Cut of pit Irregular with steep sides and an uneven base			N/A
(0205)	Fill	Fill of [0204] Friable light yellowish brown sand and gravel			N/A

(0206)	Layer	Natural Loose mid pinkish red silty sand	-

Trench 03					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20 x 1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NNE-SSW	**Trench Depth**	1.2m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0300)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.3m
(0301)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.9m
(0302)	Layer	Natural Loose mid pinkish red silty sand			-
[0303]	Cut	Cut of pit Oval with steep sides and a flat base			N/A
(0304)	Fill	Fill of [0303] Friable light yellowish brown sand and gravel			N/A

Trench 04					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	30 x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NW-SE	**Trench Depth**	1.25m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0400)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.35m
(0401)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.85m
(0402)	Layer	Natural Loose mid pinkish red silty sand			-

Trench 05					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NW-SE	**Trench Depth**	1.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0500)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.35m
(0501)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.7m
(0502)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 06					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	50x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NE-SW	**Trench Depth**	0.95m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0600)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.4m
(0601)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.5m
(0602)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-
[0603]	Cut	Cut of Post-Med boundary ditch Aligned broadly N-S			N/A
(0604)	Fill	Fill of [0603] Friable dark reddish brown silty sand			N/A
[0605]	Cut	Cut of Post-Med gully Aligned broadly N-S			N/A
(0606)	Fill	Fill of [0605] Friable mid yellowish brown silty sand and gravel			N/A

Trench 07					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NW-SE	**Trench Depth**	1.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0700)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.2m
(0701)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.75m
(0702)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 08					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	WNW-ESE	**Trench Depth**	1.2m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0800)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.25m
(0801)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.8m
(0802)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 09					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	30x1.5	**Trench Alignment**	NE-SW	**Trench Depth**	1.2m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0900)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.3m
(0901)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.85m
(0902)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 10					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	30x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NNE-SSW	**Trench Depth**	1.05m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1000)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.2m
(1001)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.85m
(1002)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 11					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	E-W	**Trench Depth**	0.8m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1100)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.25
(1101)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.5m
(1102)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 12					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	40x1.5	**Trench Alignment**	NE-SW	**Trench Depth**	1.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1200)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.4m
(1201)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.6m
(1202)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-
[1203]	Cut	Cut of gully Aligned broadly N-S			N/A
(1204)	Fill	Fill of [1203] Friable dark reddish brown and grey silty loam			N/A

Trench 13					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	30x1.5	**Trench Alignment**	NE-SW	**Trench Depth**	1.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1300)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.3
(1301)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.7
(1302)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 14					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5	**Trench Alignment**	NE-SW	**Trench Depth**	1.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1400)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.4m
(1401)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.7m
[1402]	Cut	Cut of Pit Oval with steep sides and a flat base			N/A
(1403)	Fill	Fill of [1402] Friable dark reddish brown silty sand			N/A
(1404)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 15					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5	**Trench Alignment**	NE-SW	**Trench Depth**	0.8m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1500)	Layer	Topsoil Weak dark greyish brown silty loam			0.35m
(1501)	Layer	Subsoil Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay			0.25m
(1502)	Layer	Colluvium Friable dark pinish brown sandy clay			0.2m
(1503)	Layer	Natural Friable mid pinkish red and orange yellow silty sand			-
(1504)	Fill	Fill of [1505] Friable mid greyish brown silty loam			N/A
[1505]	Cut	Cut of furrow Aligned E-W			N/A
(1506)	Fill	Fill of [1507] Friable mid greyish brown silty loam			N/A
[1507]	Cut	Cut of furrow Aligned E-W			N/A
(1508)	Fill	Fill of [1509] Friable mid greyish brown silty loam			N/A
[1509]	Cut	Cut of furrow Aligned E-W			N/A

Trench 16					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5	**Trench Alignment**	NW-SE	**Trench Depth**	1.8m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1600)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.4m
(1601)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.2m
(1602)	Layer	Colluvium Firm mid pinkish red clay			1.2m
(1603)	Layer	Natural Friable mid pinkish red and orange yellow silty sand			-

Trench 17					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	50x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NE-SW	**Trench Depth**	1.6m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1700)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.35m
(1701)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.3m
(1702)	Layer	Colluvium Firm mid pinkish red clay			0.6m
(1703)	Layer	Colluvium Friable dark grey gravel			0.8m
(1704)	Layer	Natural Friable mid pinkish red and orange yellow silty sand			-

Trench 18					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	20x1.5m	**Trench Alignment**	NNE-SSW	**Trench Depth**	1.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1801)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.35m
(1802)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.6m
(1803)	Layer	Natural Mid pinkish red, orange yellow and dark grey silty sand, silt and gravel			-

Trench 19					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	33.1 x 1.8m	**Trench Alignment**	NNW-SSE	**Trench Depth**	1.5m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(1900)	Layer	Topsoil Loose dark greyish brown silty loam			0.45m
(1901)	Layer	Subsoil Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.9m
[1902]	Layer	Natural Loose mid pinkish red silty sand			-
(1903)	Cut	Cut of pit Irregular with steep sides and an uneven base			N/A
(1904)	Fill	Fill of [0204] Friable light yellowish brown sand and gravel			N/A

Appendix 2: OASIS data collection form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-307536

Project details

Project name	Land at Overseal, Derbyshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Crestwood Environmental, on behalf of their clients, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Acresford Road, Overseal, Derbyshire (centred on National Grid Reference SK 29800 149935). The work was undertaken in January 2018 prior to residential development at the site. The development site lies on the southern edge of the village of Overseal. It comprises two fields, a northern arable field and southern pastoral field which together total approximately 4.7ha. The site is bounded to the west by arable fields; to the east by residential properties and Acresford road; to the south by 'The Shrubbery'; and to the north by further residential properties off Moira Road. The scheme of archaeological fieldwork can be summarised as the excavation of nineteen trenches, two measuring 1.5x50m, two measuring 1.5x40m, two measuring 1.5x30m and 12 measuring 1.5x20m. The trenches were designed to assess the site's archaeological potential by targeting geophysical anomalies identified in a previous phase of work. The Derbyshire Historic Landscape Characterisation records the development site as an area of fossilised strip fields. It is therefore likely that the site formed part of an open field system around the settlement of Overseal during the Early Medieval and Medieval period. The site remained an area of agricultural activity throughout the Post-Medieval and Modern periods. Very few features of archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation, with most relating to previous cultivation regimes, field drainage and disused field boundaries. The results of the evaluation suggest very limited land use in this area with the exception of limited disturbance relating to its agricultural use. Deep subsoil/colluvial deposits were identified in the western parts of the site and some features, such as furrows may have been present in the subsoil only.
Project dates	Start: 14-01-2018 End: 22-01-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	OAR - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	9/2015/1063 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE OVERSEAL Land at Overseal, Derbyshire
Postcode	DE12 6JB
Study area	4.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 29800 49935 53.045546688592 -1.555443394244 53 02 43 N 001 33 19 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 95m Max: 100m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Derbyshire County Council
Project design originator	Edmund Taylor
Project director/manager	Edmund Taylor
Project supervisor	Camilla Collins
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at OVerseal, Derbyshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Collins, C.
Other bibliographic details	TPA Report No. 015/2018
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Nottingham

Entered by Camilla Collins (ccollins@yorkat.co.uk)
Entered on 30 January 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice
 Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

Appendix 3: Archive Arrangements

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. Due to the largely negative results of the evaluation museum deposition is not required and the archive will remain at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology.

On approval of this report it will be uploaded to the OASIS database and the record form will be completed. A single bound copy and a PDF/A version copied to disk will be sent to the Derbyshire HER for archiving.