LAND NORTH OF WEYHILL ROAD, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

PCA REPORT NO: R15192

SITE CODE: HWEY22

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND NORTH OF WEYHILL ROAD, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by RPS Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on Land North of Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire This document provides the results of the archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 15 trial trenches, each 30m x 1.8m. The evaluation was carried out between the 3rd and 13th of October 2022 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that had been approved by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

The evaluation identified archaeological resources in the southern part of the Site which suggest the presence of a large circular feature, which may represent a Neolithic henge, and a possible undated field system. The circular feature survives as a substantial ring ditch and the truncated remains of a possible internal bank. The possible field system survives as shallow linear features in a rectangular layout. If present a henge is likely to be of regional significance, the possible field system is not considered significant.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by RPS Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on Land North of Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site' (centred at SU 33377 46312). The Site is the subject of a proposed housing development for which a planning application will be brought forward in due course.

2.1.2 The trial trench evaluation, carried out as a pre-application investigation, was intended to provide information toward understanding the archaeological potential of the Site and, in this regard, test the results of a geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys Ltd 2022). The strategy of evaluation follows consultation by RPS Consulting Ltd with David Hopkins, Hampshire County Archaeologist.

2.1.3 This document provides the results of the archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 15 trial trenches, each 30m x 1.8m (**Figure 2**). This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2020a) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site is an irregular parcel of land, approximately 5.79ha in size and comprises of agricultural land and low scrub. It is located on the western edge of Andover, approximately 3km from the centre. It is bounded to the east by residential and industrial units, Weyhill Road (A342) to the south, with the A303 just beyond and residential and agricultural land to the west and north.

2.2.2 The site is relatively flat throughout with heights of c.84m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), in the south of the Site rising to 89 AOD in the north.

2.2.3 The underlying geology comprises chalk of the Newhaven formation. No superficial deposits are recorded within the survey area (British Geological Survey, 2022).

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the Site was set out in detail in an Desk Based Assessment (RPS, 2021), prepared in respect of the Site's proposed development, and is not repeated here in detail.

2.3.2 The assessment concluded that the Site contains a high archaeological potential for possible Bronze Age funerary monuments identified in the southern part of the site from cropmark evidence. A moderate potential is suggested for the Iron Age and also for the Saxon and Medieval periods. A low to moderate potential is considered for the Roman period and a low potential is suggested for all other past periods of human activity at the site. If present, any remains would most likely be considered of a local or, in the case of

well-preserved Bronze Age funerary monuments or Saxon/Medieval cemetery evidence, possibly of regional significance.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains
- Identify their location, nature, date and state of preservation
- Assess their significance
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development on them

3.1.2 This report on the results of the evaluation will provide information aimed at informing decisions concerning the future treatment of the archaeological remains that were found, which may include further evaluation and mitigation measures, in respect of the proposed housing development.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2022), which was approved by the archaeological advisor to the LPA in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork.

3.2.2 The evaluation comprised of the excavation of 15 trenches, measuring 30m x 1.8m. The trenches were set out to test anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**).

3.2.3 The evaluation was carried out between the 3rd and 13th of October 2022.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the results of the evaluation, based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, trench recording sheets, drawings, digital photographs, retrieved artefacts and environmental samples. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in a Trench Index in **Appendix 1** and photographs of the trenches in **Appendix 2**. Specialist reports are provided in **Appendices 3 – 7** and a copy of the OASIS report is provided in **Appendix 8**. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **HWEY22** and will in due course be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

4.2 Summary of Deposition Sequence

4.2.1 The deposit sequence (Figure 4) was consistent across the Site. Natural geological deposits were observed in all trenches comprising light yellow white chalk (**Plates 1 & 2**). Overlying the natural was the topsoil comprising a mid to dark greyish brown, sandy silt between with a depth of between 0.22 m and 0.3m Below (**Plate 3**) Ground Level (BGL).

4.3 Archaeological Features (Figures 5 – 7)

4.3.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified in trenches 1 – 10, a natural/ geological feature [1304] was investigated in Trench 13, Unstratified finds of pottery, animal bone, burnt stone, CBM and stone were found across the Site but not retained, Some unstratified flint work was recovered and submitted for specialist analysis.

4.3.2 Trenches 12 and 14 contained evidence of a large ring ditch which correlated with a ring-shaped geophysical anomaly (**Plate 4**). Ditch [1408] had a moderately steep convex north west side, with a steep convex to straight south east side and a near flat base (**Plates 5 and 6**). It was 3.86m wide and 1.2m deep, contained three fills ((1409), (1410), (1411)) and a layer of possible capping material (1412).

4.3.3 The lowest fill (1409) consisted of a firm light yellow white chalk with moderate small to large flint inclusions with a maximum thickness of 0.32m. It is thought to be redeposited natural possibly as a result of the edges of the feature collapsing during use.

4.3.4 Above (1409) was fill (1410) which consisted of a firm mid grey brown silty clay with moderate to large flint inclusions and small sparse charcoal inclusions with a maximum thickness of 0.34m. This material is thought to represent backfilling of the ditch, struck flint of a likely Neolithic date (Appendix 3), burnt flint and snail shells were recovered from this context.

4.3.5 An environmental sample of (1410) revealed a high concentration of mollusc shells of varied species which could inhabit a range of environments but prefer open habitats with loose calcareous soils. The environmental sample produced no further archaeological finds but did contain a small amount of charcoal (Appendix 6).

4.3.6 Above (1410) was fill (1411) which consisted of firm light orange brown silty clay with frequent small to medium chalk and flint inclusions with a maximum thickness of 0.40m. This material is thought to represent the final backfilling deposit within the ditch. Burnt flint, struck flint of a likely Neolithic date (Appendix 3) and oyster shell were recovered from this context as well as a single sherd of Romano British pottery (Appendix 4) which is considered to be intrusive.

4.3.7 Above (1411) was layer (1412) which consisted of a firm light orange brown silty clay with very frequent chalk and flint inclusions with a maximum thickness of 0.4m. This context sat above the backfilled ditch and may represent capping material or the possible remains of a bank or mound which have been pushed into/ over the ditch. No finds were recovered from this context.

4.3.8 Trench 14 also contained two smaller ditches. Ditch[1405] was located to the northwest end of Trench 14 and had gradual sloping sides and a near flat base (**Plate 7**). It measured 0.45m wide and 0.18m deep and contained a single fill (1404) which consisted of a firm mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small to medium chalk and flint inclusions. Ditch [1407] was located to the southeast of Trench 14 and had gradual sloping sides and a flat base (**Plate 8**). Ditch [1407] measured 1.58m wide and 0.58m deep and contained a single fill (1406) which consisted of a firm mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small to medium chalk and flint inclusions.

4.3.9 Layer [1402] sat above fills (1404) and (1407) as well as layer [1412]. This layer consisted of a firm mid orang brown sandy silt material which was recorded in the entire length of the trench and had a thickness of between 0.12m and 0.2m. No finds were recovered within this context. A similar layer of material was recorded in Trench 11 and 12 as context [1202] [1102]. As this layer was only noted in evaluation Trenches 11, 12 and 14 it may be contemporary with the ring ditch.

4.3.10 Trench 15 contained two shallow intercutting ditches [1503] and [1505] (**Plate 9**). They both had gradual sloping sides and a flat base and measured 0.3m and 0.69m wide, and 0.13m and 0.16m deep respectively. They had similar fills (1504), (1506) which consisted of a firm to compact mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions. Linear [1503] is thought to be cut by [1505], although these features remain undated it is likely that these features are broadly contemporary.

4.4 Discussion

4.4.1 No archaeological resources were identified in the northern part of the Site. All resources were concentrated to the south of the Site in Trenches 12, 14 and 15.

4.4.2 Trenches 12 and 14 demonstrate the presence of a large and relatively deep curvilinear/ ring ditch with possible associated archaeological layers. Although the feature has been truncated through the centre by a modern electrical service trench the combined geophysical and archaeological results suggest that the ring ditch would create an internal area of approximately 33.5m with two possible entrances, a smaller one to the south of the

feature and a larger to the north. The presence of layer [1102] in Trench 11 suggests that further archaeological resources may be present between Trench 11 and Trench 14.

4.4.3 Specialist analysis of the recovered worked flint indicates a later neolithic date for the assemblage and suggests some flint tool production near or in the ring ditch (Appendix 3). Analysis of the environmental sample taken from (1410) suggests that the abundance of mollusc shells could indicate that the ditch was rapidly backfilled. A small amount of charcoal was also recovered from the sample which could be assessed for Carbon 14 dating potential. The sample did not contain any further archaeological finds.

4.4.4 The internal area of the ring ditch and its two apparent entrances are typical features of a henge (Historic England, 2018), the presence of late Neolithic struck flint in the ditch fills provide secure dating evidence for the feature and could support the henge interpretation. Although no other Neolithic henges are known in the immediate vicinity, a Neolithic Long Barrow was excavated in the village of Penton Grafton (Morgan, 1959), a short distance to the north of the Site and suggests some Neolithic activity in the area.

4.4.5 The other linear features recorded in Trenches 14 and 15 may suggest a rectangular shaped landscape feature, however these linears were all relatively shallow, contained no datable finds and did not match geophysical anomalies consistently, therefore interpretation is difficult. It is thought that these features may be indicative of a possible field system of indeterminate date.

4.5 Conclusion

4.5.1 In conclusion, the evaluation identified archaeological resources in the southern part of the Site which suggest the presence of a large circular feature, which may represent a late Neolithic henge and an undated field system. The circular feature survives as a substantial ring ditch and the truncated remains of a possible internal bank. The possible field system survives as shallow linear features in a rectangular layout. If present of a henge is likely to be of regional significance, the possible field system is not considered significant.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION

5.1 The Site Archive

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with '*Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*' (UKIC 1990) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*' (CIfA 2020b). On completion of the project, PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

5.2 Copyright

5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Hampshire Cultural Trust, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

5.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes Hampshire Archaeological and Historical Buildings Record).

5.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to RPS Ltd on commissioning the evaluation and to David Hopkins and Thom Hayes, Archaeological Officers at Hampshire County Council, for their advice.

6.1.2 The evaluation was supervised by Dominic McAtominey with assistance on site from Tom Warburton, Emma Forber and Maisie Marshall. This report was prepared by Dominic McAtominey, edited by Maisie Marshall with graphics prepared by Diana Valk. The project was managed by Paul McCulloch.

7 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: Trench Index

Context Number	Area/Trench	Description	Type	Date	Interpretation	Depth BGL (M)
101	1	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.3
102	1	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.3+
201	2	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.29
202	2	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.29+
301	3	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.28
302	3	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.28+
401	4	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.28
402	4	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.28+
501	5	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.3
502	5	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.3+
601	6	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.26
602	6	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.26+
701	7	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.23
702	7	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.23+
801	8	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.22
802	8	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.22+
901	9	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.27
902	9	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	Layer	Neolithic?	Subsoil or truncated remnant of prehistoric feature?	0.27 - 0.33
903	9	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.33+
1001	10	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.23
1002	10	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.23+
1101	11	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.22

Context Number	Area/Trench	Description	Type	Date	Interpretation	Depth BGL (M)
1102	11	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	Layer	Neolithic?	Subsoil or truncated remnant of prehistoric feature?	0.22 - 0.36
1103	11	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.36+
1201	12	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.25
1202	12	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	Layer	Neolithic?	Subsoil or truncated remnant of prehistoric feature?	0.25 - 0.4
1203	12	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.4+
1204	12	Mid brown grey sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions	Fill	Neolithic?	Upper fill of ditch 1205, Not excavated	
1205	12	8.54m wide ditch, corresponding with geophysical anomaly	Cut	Neolithic?	Neolithic curvilinear ditch, possible barrow or henge. Not excavated	
1301	13	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.26
1302	13	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	Layer	Neolithic?	Subsoil or truncated remnant of prehistoric feature?	0.26 - 0.36
1303	13	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.36+
1304	13	Linear feature with vertical west side, gentle sloped east side and concave base	Cut	Natural	Natural feature, possible paleochannel?	
1305	13	Firm light grey brown clayey silt with frequent chalk and flint inclusions	Fill	Natural	Upper 'fill' of natural feature 1304	
1306	13	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with sparse small chalk inclusions	Fill	Natural	Lower 'fill' of natural feature 1304	
1401	14	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.25
1402	14	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	Layer	Neolithic?	Subsoil or truncated remnant of prehistoric feature?	0.25 - 0.36
1403	14	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.36+
1404	14	Firm mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small to medium chalk and flint inclusions.	Fill	Neolithic?	Single fill of ditch 1405	

Context Number	Area/Trench	Description	Type	Date	Interpretation	Depth BGL (M)
1405	14	Linear feature gradually sloping slides and a flat base	Cut	Neolithic?	Small ditch adjacent to 1408, uncertain purpose	
1406	14	Firm mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small to medium chalk and flint inclusions.	Fill	Neolithic?	Single fill of ditch 1407	
1407	14	Linear feature gradually sloping slides and a flat base	Cut	Neolithic?	Cut of small ditch, uncertain purpose	
1408	14	Large linear feature with gradual to moderately sloping sides and a near flat base.	Cut	Neolithic?	Cut of large possible neolithic ditch, possible henge	
1409	14	Firm light yellow white chalk with moderate small to large flint inclusions	Fill	Neolithic?	Lowest fill of ditch 1408, redeposited natural/ collapsed ditch edges	
1410	14	Firm mid grey brown silty clay with moderate lo large flint inclusions	Fill	Neolithic?	Second fill of ditch 1408, most likely infilling	
1411	14	Firm light orange brown silty clay with frequent small to medium chalk and flint inclusions	Fill	Neolithic?	Upper fill of ditch 1408	
1412	14	Firm light orange brown silty clay with very frequent chalk and flint inclusions	Fill	Neolithic?	Capping layer on top of ditch 1408, possible former mound material?	
1501	15	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer	Modern	Topsoil	0 - 0.33
1502	15	Light yellow white chalk	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	0.33+
1503	15	Linear feature with gradually sloping sides and a flat base	Cut	Undated	Possible shallow ditch, field boundary?	
1504	15	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent chalk inclusions	Fill	Undated	Fill of linear 1503, silting	
1505	15	Linear feature with gradual sloping sides and a flat base	Cut	Undated	Possible shallow ditch, field boundary? Cuts fill 1504 of 1503	
1506	15	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions	Fill	Undated	Fill of linear 1505, silting	

APPENDIX 2: Photographs

Plate 1. Trench 13, view to west, scale 1m

Plate 2. Trench 9, view to north west, scale 1m

Plate 3. Trench 10 Representative Section, view to north west, scale 1m

Plate 4. Shot of Trench 12, ring ditch 1205 unexcavated, view to north west, scale 1m

Plate 5. South west facing section of ring ditch [1408], view to north east, scale 2m

Plate 6. Oblique shot of ring ditch section [1408], view to north east, scale 2m

Plate 7. South west facing section of linear 1405, view to north east, scale 1m

Plate 8. East facing section of ditch [1407], view to west, scale 0.5m

Plate 9. Relationship slot in ditches [1503], [1505], view to south east, scale 1m

APPENDIX 3: The Lithics – Barry Bishop

Introduction

Archaeological investigations at Weyhill Road, Andover, resulted in the recovery of a moderately sized assemblage of struck flint (Catalogue L01 – supplied with this report for inclusion within the archive). This report quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. The worked flint assemblage was recorded following standard technological and typological classifications and largely follows the methodology of Inizan *et al* (1999) with modifications and additions as indicated in the text by the author. Measurements were taken following the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification and Distribution

Table 1, quantification of lithic material from Weyhill road

Context	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Blade: non-prismatic	Core: flake
+ Trench 2	1				1
+ Trench 15			1		
1410	4	1	5	3	
1411	6		13		

A total of 35 pieces of struck flint were recovered during the investigations at the site, the majority of which came from two fills, [1410] and [1411], of a large circular ditched enclosure. Two pieces were also recovered from unstratified contexts in Trench 2 and a further piece came from unstratified contexts in Trench 15 (Table 1).

Description

The most significant assemblages came from the fills of the circular enclosure; fill [1410] providing 13 pieces and fill [1411] a further 19. These assemblages are comparable and quite possibly come from the same episodes of flintworking, as is strongly suggested by the presence of sequential refits both between the two fills and within each fill.

The material is a good or only slightly chipped condition although all of the pieces have recorticated, causing some disintegration to the flakes' thinner edges. The recortication masks the flint's colour but most pieces retain a thick, unweathered chalky cortex, and it is likely that the raw materials comprise fresh nodules obtained directly from the parent chalk. A good possibility is that the nodules were

extracted during the excavation of the ditch, which was cut through the flint bearing Upper Chalk of the Newhaven Formation, and knapped close by, with the debris re-entering the ditch.

The two assemblages are technological homogeneous but no truly chronologically diagnostic pieces are present. A high proportion, over 30%, of the pieces have been classified as decortication flakes in that they retain cortex on over half of their dorsal faces, and almost all of the flakes retain some cortex. Few 'useable' flakes and no retouched implements are present, and the majority probably reflect attempts at core preparation and shaping. However, whilst most of the pieces are quite crudely produced, as would be expected with primary waste, there are some non-prismatic blades and the flakes tend to be quite narrow, if thick. There are also a few flakes with dihedral or facetted striking platforms and a few also show platform-edge trimming. Taken together, these traits suggest that the assemblage is the product of reasonably skilled but unsystematic flake-based reduction strategy. Tentatively, the generally narrow shapes of the flakes and the presence of some complex platforms would suggest a date prior to the Bronze Age, whilst the absence of systematic blade production would indicate it post-dates the Early Neolithic, leaving the most plausible date for the manufacture of the assemblage to be during the Later Neolithic.

The remainder of the flintwork comprises a decortication flake and an irregularly produced multiplatformed core from Trench 2, and a crudely produced flake, possibly a recent accidental detachment, from Trench 15. None of these are closely dateable, the core most probably belonging to the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

Significance and Recommendations

The assemblages from the circular enclosure ditch represents primary raw material dressing and core preparation waste, possibly using raw material encountered during the excavation of the enclosure's ditch. The similar in size and general technological traits of the pieces indicate that the assemblages possibly represent as little as one episode of flint working, with the present of sequential refits from between and within the fills demonstrating its essential integrity. Whilst the number of pieces recovered so far is limited, it is likely that much larger, and potentially more informative, assemblages remain unexcavated within the ditch.

The entire assemblage has been catalogued and no further work is required for the purpose of archiving. However, due to their representing little-disturbed knapping events from the Later Neolithic, the assemblages from the ditch warrant a more comprehensive examination with a summary description of their technological and metrical characteristics compiled for inclusion in any published accounts of the excavations.

The assemblage indicates that additional lithic material accruing from further fieldwork at the site could have the potential of significantly adding to understandings of Later Neolithic flintworking technologies in the region, as well as addressing specific questions concerning the nature of the occupation at the site. Should further work be considered, the assemblage reported here should be re-documented in

conjunction with any additional material found following the completion of the archaeological programmes. From the point of view of the lithic material, any further fieldwork should focus on obtaining as large and closely contextually defined lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future work, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted.

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APPENDIX 4: Romano-British Pottery - Eniko Hudak

Summary

During the archaeological work at Land North of Weyhill, Andover, Hampshire (HWEY22) a single sherd of Romano-British pottery was found in context (1411). It is a non-diagnostic, slightly abraded body sherd that weighs 10g. The fragment is in a wheel-made, sand-tempered fabric, with abundant mica, grey-brown surfaces, light grey core, and reddish-brown margins. It was most likely made at one of the early kilns of the Roman Alice Holt pottery production area and can thus be dated to around AD43-160. The interpretive value of the sherd is limited to signifying early Roman activity in the wider area. No further work is required on this sherd.

Table 1, the pottery

Site Code	Context	Fabric	Count	Weight	Date
HWEY22	1411	Alice Holt (early)	1	10g	AD43-160

APPENDIX 5: Post-Roman Pottery - Chris Jarrett

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (six sherds/6 estimated number of vessels/44g) all of which was collected only by hand. The post-Roman pottery dates only to the medieval and more so the post-medieval periods. The pottery is in a very fragmentary, often abraded state and all of the pottery is unstratified. Diagnostic sherds are poorly represented and it was difficult to assign many of the sherds to a vessel shape. The pottery is discussed by its distribution.

Trench 11
One sherd (17g) of a Verwood ware bowl, dated 1600–1900, with a horizontal oval rim and an internal clear glaze.

Trench 13
One sherd (2g) of pottery consisting of a powdery, brick red, fine sandy ware with sparser opaque grains, sparse clay pellets, and sparse white rounded calcareous grains. The external surface is abraded and the interior of the sherd has a thin reddish-brown fired glaze. The sherd is probably of a medieval or early post-medieval date.

Trench 14
Three sherds (22g) of Surrey-Hampshire border/Wealden redware, dated *c.* 1550–1900. One herd has laminated surfaces, another is abraded, while a third sherd has an internal clear glaze and an external red wash.

One sherd (3g) of 19th-century refined whiteware in the form of a plate with an even scalloped rim and blue shell-edge decoration, dated *c*. 1800–40.

The pottery is of no significance at a local level as the finds are unstratified, often abraded and have little meaning. The only potential of the pottery is to possibly demonstrate activity of certain periods concentrated in specific areas of the study area by the distribution of the pottery types. Medieval or early post-medieval activity occurred in the area of Trench 13 as suggested by a sherd of abraded glazed pottery of a powdery, brick red sandy ware. Post *c*. AD 1600 activity may occur in the vicinity of Trench 11 by the presence of the Verwood ware bowl. Trench 14 produced sherds of Surrey-Hampshire border/Wealden redware with a long period of post-medieval production, while a sherd of a refined whiteware plate rim with blue shell-edge decoration implies early 19th-century activity also in the area of Trench 14. There are no recommendations for further work on the pottery at this stage, although if further archaeological work is undertaken on the study area and new finds are recovered then the importance of this assemblage should be reviewed.

APPENDIX 6: Environmental Archaeological Assessment - Duncan Field

Introduction

One bulk environmental sample was collected from a single ditch fill from Trench 14 during an evaluation excavation at Weyhill Road, Penton Corner, Andover. This deposit represented the lower fill from a boundary ditch related to a potential Neolithic barrow/henge. This environmental assessment has been undertaken to determine: (i) the level of preservation of archaeobotanical material extracted from the bulk samples; (ii) the range of organic material and the quantification (presence/absence) of macrofossil remains and intrusive, and also inclusive non-organic materials; (iii) ascertain the potential of archaeobotanical data for understanding the local palaeoenvironment; (iv) make recommendations for further analytical work on the archaeobotanical assemblage; and (v), identify potential material suitable for AMS radiocarbon (^{14}C) dating.

Method

1 x environmental bulk sample of 28L in volume was collected from a ditch fill (see Table 1). This deposit was targeted for sampling due to the presence of lithic artefacts and significant concentration of gastropods visible during excavation. The primary aim of collecting the samples was the recovery of further lithic artefacts, and the assessment of the presence/absence of any associated environmental material. The singular environmental bulk sample was collected from a dry deposit and was therefore processed using standard flotation methods (PCA, section 3.7.1). As no samples were collected from deposits that exhibited evidence of waterlogging - no other means of processing was utilised.

The sample was processed using a modified Siraf-type flotation system (Williams 1973). Material produced by the flotation process was collected using a 300µm mesh for the light fraction (flot), and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residue (retent). The retent was air-dried, sieved at 1mm, 2mm and 4mm fractions, and then sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The flot (>300µm) was similarly air-dried and sorted. Flots were scanned under a low power microscope at 10x magnification. The prevalence/abundance of environmental material (and other inclusions such as intrusive matter) was quantified using a standard non-linear scale: where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1–10 items), '2' indicates fairly frequent occurrence (11–30 items), '3' indicates frequent presence (31–100 items); and '4', indicates abundance (>100 items). Identification of gastropods was made with reference to Kerney (1999) and Cameron (2008). A small sample of molluscs was also collected by hand in the field, this sample was integrated with the molluscan assemblage from bulk sample <1>.

Results

In line with observations made in the field gastropods were extremely numerous across both the flot and retent with thousands of individual snails present. The most common species identified in the >4mm sieve fraction was *Pomatias elegens* (the "round mouthed snail" or "land winkle"). This highly distinctive species is common in the south of England and exclusively inhabits loose, friable, highly calcareous

soils where it can burrow and hibernate (Kerney 1999). The largest sieved fraction also contained occasional *Cepaea hortensis* (the White-lipped snail) - the largest taxon identified during this assessment. Identified by its distinctive white lip - this species inhabits a wide range of habitats. *Discus rotundatus* (the "Rotund disc") was present in moderate quantities (another "catholic" species) this snail is common and can inhabit a wide range of habitats. *Clausilia bidentata* (the "Two Toothed Door snail") was present in low quantities. It is a common species and most frequently inhabits woods and hedges, leaf litter or rocky terrain, normally hiding in crevices. *Hellicella itala* (the Heath Snail) was also present in minor quantities. This species inhabits dry well-drained chalk grasslands.

The 2-4mm and <2mm fractions of the retent were also dominated by thousands of snail shells. Due to the sheer quantity of shells present it was not possible to provide more precise ratios. Therefore, *Vallonia pulchella* and *excentrica* which have been grouped together for the purpose of this assessment. As previously mentioned, snails of the *Vallonia* genus formed a significant part of the finer sieved fractions. *Vallonia pulchella*/*excentrica* (commonly referred to as the Smooth and Eccentric Grass Snails, respectively) are similar in appearance. Their primary difference in habitat preference being that the former prefers more moist conditions. Snails of the *Cochlicopa* genus were also abundant (the Pillar Snails). In the case of the latter, *C. lubrica* and *C. lubricella* (the Slippery Moss Snail and Lesser Moss Snail), these two species are difficult to differentiate, their habitat preferences vary, with the latter species preferring drier and more exposed habitats. However, both species are frequently found in association with one another.

Very large quantities of Chrysalis snails were also present. That is *Lauria cylindracea* and/or *Pupilla muscorum* (the Common and Moss Chrysalis Snails). Both species are common, very similar in appearance and can inhabit a range of environments. However, the latter does prefer significantly drier habitats. For instance, dry, exposed calcareous grasslands. The Common Chrysalis Snail is a "catholic" species inhabiting a range of habitats - only avoiding marshes and moist terrain. Additionally, *Cecilioides acicula* (the Blind/Agate Snail) was also present in moderate quantities. As this species is subterranean and burrows up to 2m below ground surface it is considered intrusive in archaeological contexts.

A single fragment of oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*) was also hand collected from [1411], the ditch fill which overlies [1410]. Additionally, a small quantity of shells of the garden snail (*Cornu aspersum*) were hand collected from context [1406]. Occasional quantities of charcoal (>4mm and 2-4mm) were also present in sample <1>. Overall quantities of carbonised botanical material were low.

Summary

- An extremely large gastropod assemblage was highlighted by this assessment. Most taxa identified could inhabit a wide range of environments. However, the general trend appears to be towards species which prefer open habitats and loose, friable calcareous soil.

- The complete absence of freshwater species indicates that this specific ditch fill was formed under dry conditions. The absence of any samples from underlying ditch fill [1409] means that comparisons are not possible. This means that we are not able to assess whether the entirety of the ditch was dry or only [1410].
- The abundance of gastropod shells is the result of a highly favourable preservation regime, where the rapid burial of shells in calcareous alkaline soil has allowed for the preservation of a large assemblage.
- The examination of the bulk environmental samples has failed to identify struck flint of any kind, including microdebitage.
- No other archaeological finds were identified.
- Negligible quantities of carbonised archaeobotanical material were present, with only minimal quantities of charcoal identified across the flot and retent.

Recommendations for Further Work

If required, the >4mm fraction of charcoal from sample <1> may be assessed for AMS ^{14}C dating potential, i.e., ~ 1cm^3 fragment size. The smaller fraction charcoal (2-4mm) is unsuitable for dating – or further anthracological analysis. In the absence of carbonised seeds and gains – no material from this proxy is suitable for dating as this material is most probably intrusive, with seed size of such species being too small for ^{14}C dating.

While the assessment of the gastropod assemblage has provided an indication of the depositional environment of fill [1410], the sheer volume of the gastropod assemblage highlighted by this assessment precluded precise identification and quantification. The gastropod assemblage should be retained in the short to medium term to allow for more detailed analysis, if subsequently required. However, it is likely that any more detailed analysis of the assemblage (taken in isolation) would lead to the same conclusions regarding the depositional environment which have been reached in this assessment.

If further work is to be to be undertaken at the site, then samples should be taken from each of the successive ditch fills from this feature, rather than from a single fill in isolation. Ideally in the form of a “snail column” where 1L samples are taken at regular intervals from a section. This would allow for a picture of the depositional environments of successive fills to be assessed, as opposed to an assessment of a single fill.

Table 1. Environmental samples content

Sample Number		**1**
Context Number		**1410**
Feature		**Ditch fill**
Area		**Trench 14**
Volume overall sample (litres)		**28**
Volume of flot (ml)		**110**
Flot/Retent		
Carbonised Plant Remains		
Charcoal >4 mm		**1**
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm		**1**
Charcoal <2 mm		
Gastropoda		
Cecilioides acicula	Blind/agate snail	**3**
Cepea hortensis	White-lipped snail	**1**
Clausilia bidentata	Tw o-toothed door snail	**1**
Cochlicopa sp. *(lubrica or lubricella)*	Pillar snails	**4**
Discus rotundatus	Rotund disc	**2**
Hellicella itala	Heath snail.	**1**
Pomatis elegens	Round-mouthed snail	**4**
Vallonia sp. (*pulchella* and/or *excentrica*)	Grass snails	**4**
Pupilla/Lauria sp.	Chrysalis snails	**4**
Hygromiidae sp.	Leaf snails family	**2**
Intrusive plant remains		
Rooting		**4**

Key: 1 Occasional, 2 Fairly Frequent, 3 Frequent, 4 Abundant.

References

Cameron, R. and Riley, G., 2008. *Land snails in the British Isles*. 2nd ed. Telford: Field Studies Council.

Jones, D.M. 2011. *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edn.). Swindon: English Heritage.

Kerney, M. 1999. *Atlas of the land and freshwater molluscs of Britain and Ireland*. Colchester: Harley Books.

PCA, 2022. *Land north of Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire: Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation.* Unpublished Report: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Stace, C. 2014. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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

APPENDIX 7: A Small Fossil 'Bead' - Märit Gaimster

A small sponge fossil, *Porosphaera globularis*, was retrieved from the fill of Ditch [1408]. The fossil is incomplete but retains a natural perforation with no visible signs of wear. These small fossils were certainly collected and worn in the distant past, as reflected in a Bronze Age inhumation cist burial excavated in Higham Marshes, near Rochester, in 1880 (Duffin 2011, 95). Here 79 such sponge fossils, ranging in size from 7 to 26mm in diameter, were recorded from the neck area of the body (https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MKE2675) . However, as *Porosphaera globularis* occurs naturally in chalk areas, the finds context is significant when attempting to interpret their presence during excavation (cf. also Berruti *et al.* 2022). At Weyhill Road, the fossil came from a ditch thought to potentially date from the Bronze Age or the Neolithic period, but with its isolated appearance and no obvious sign of wear it is most likely naturally derived from the Newhaven Chalk Formation, formed during the during the Cretaceous period, which underlies the site.

References

Berruti, G.L.F., Sigari, D., Zanasi, C., Bertola, S., Ceresa, A. and Arzarello, M. 2022. 'A myth debunked: The Porosphaera globularis beads and their relation to the onset of symbolic thinking in prehistory', Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences **14**, 162, https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-022-01629-9

Duffin, C. J. 2011. 'Herbert Toms (1874–1940), Witch Stones, and *Porosphaera* beads', *Folklore* **122:1**, 84–101.

Catalogue

Context	Feature	Period	Description
1410	Ditch 1408	Neolithic?	Sponge fossil with natural central perforation; incomplete; diam. 7mm

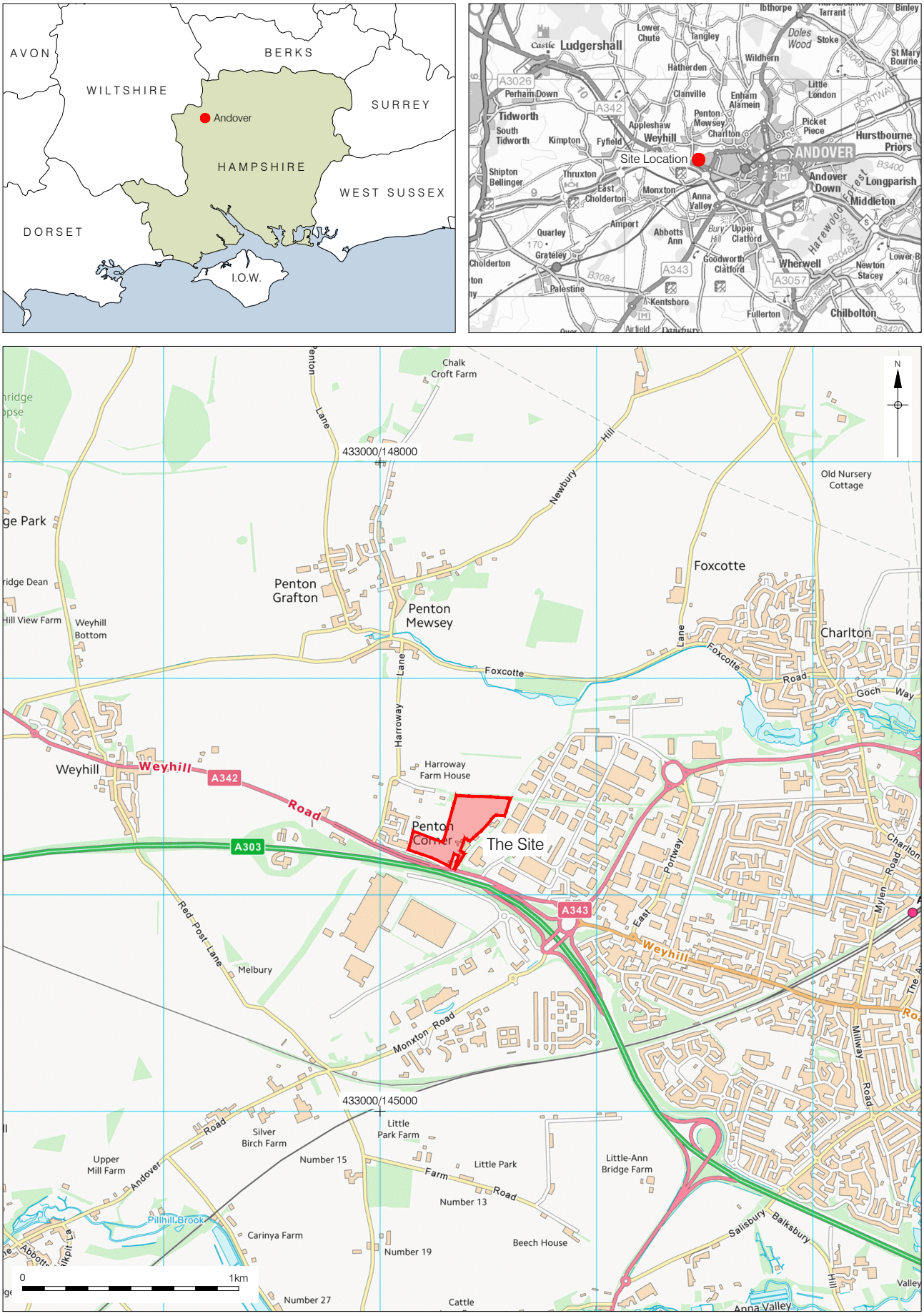
HWEY22: fossil 'bead'

APPENDIX 8: OASIS Form

Summary for preconst1-511047

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-511047
Project Name	Evaluation at Land north of Weyhill Road
Sitename	Land north of Weyhill Road
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	Weyhill Road Andover
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	03-Oct-2022 - 13-Oct-2022
Location	Land north of Weyhill Road NGR : SU 33377 46312 LL : 51.2150396733254, -1.52352047665563 12 Fig : 433377,146312
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : Test Valley Parish : Penton Mewsey
Project Methodology	The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2022), which was approved by the archaeological advisor to the LPA in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. The evaluation comprised of the excavation of 15 trenches, measuring 30m x 1.8m. The trenches were set out to test anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey. The evaluation was carried out between the 3rd and 13th of October 2022.
Project Results	The evaluation identified archaeological resources in the southern part of the Site which suggest the presence of a late Neolithic henge and a possible undated field system. The henge survives as a substantial ring ditch and the truncated remains of a possible internal bank. The possible field system survives as shallow linear features in a rectangular layout. The presence of a henge is likely to be of regional significance, the possible field system is not considered significant. These archaeological resources are likely to be severely negatively impacted by the proposed development.
Keywords	Henge - LATE NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - LATE NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - LATE NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	D, McAtominey
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust;

P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Hampshire\Weyhill Road, Andover\CAD\EVAL\Fig 01_Site Location.dwg



10/11/2022 DV

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4

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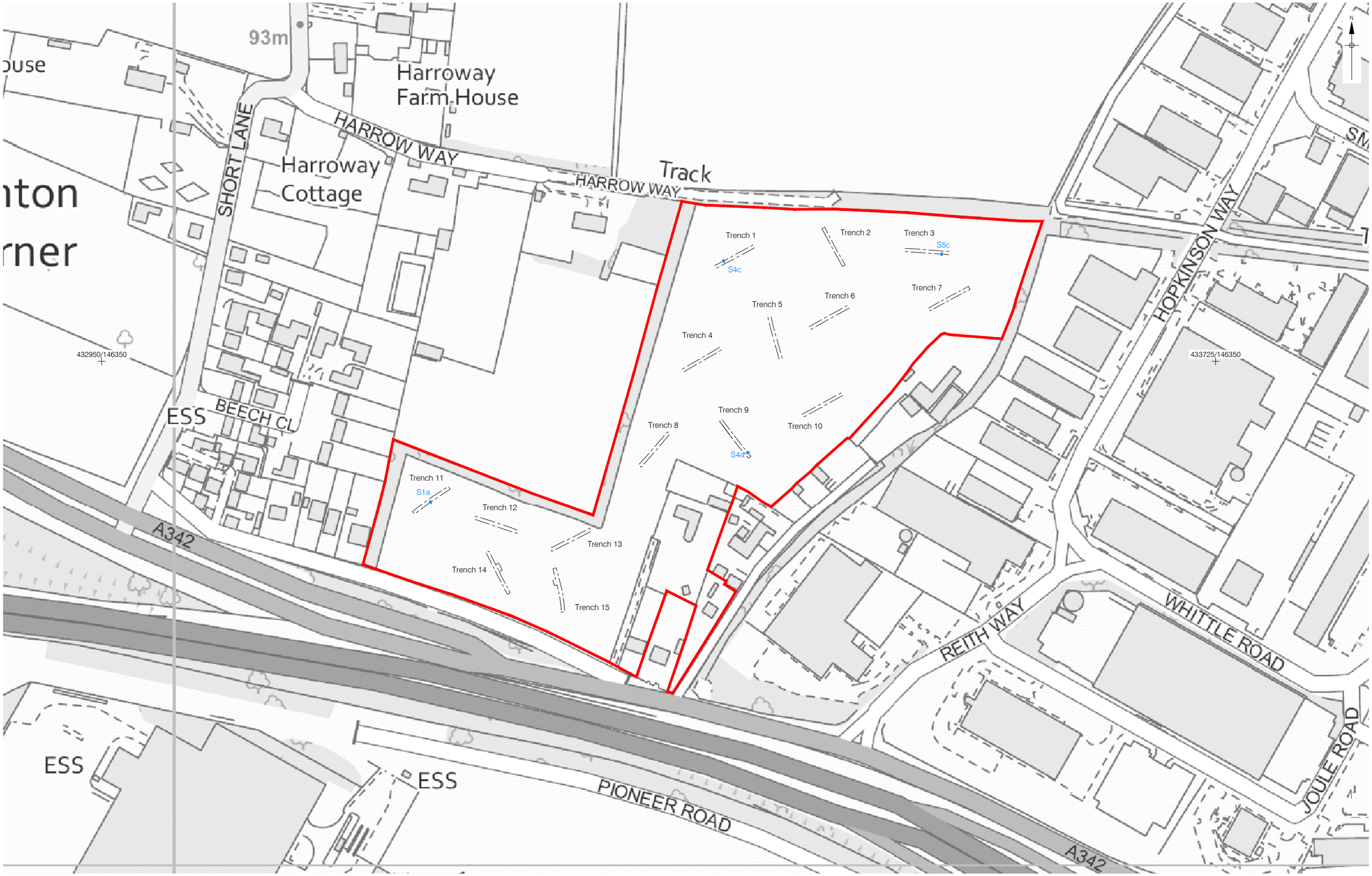

10/11/2022 DV

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:2,500 at A3

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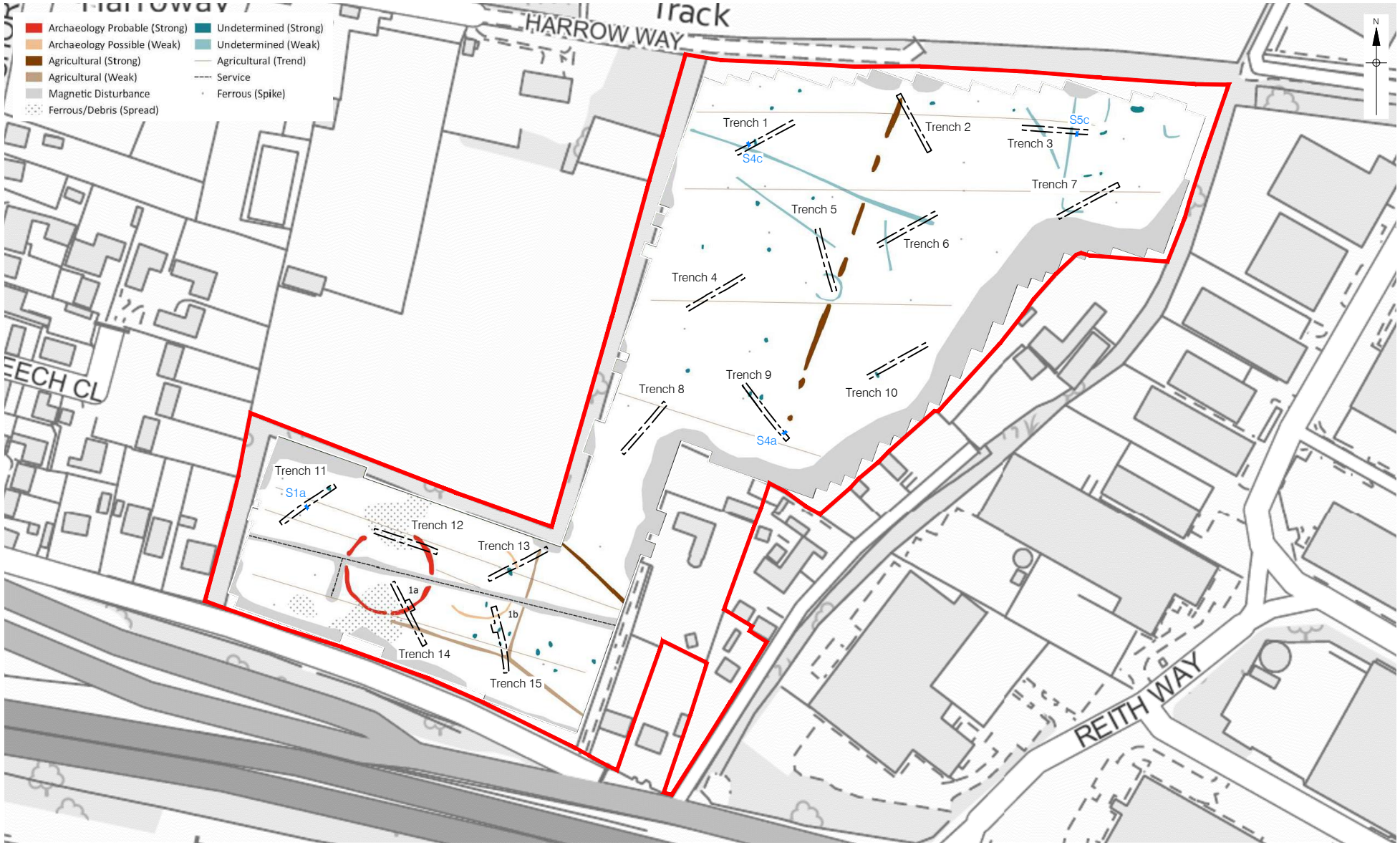
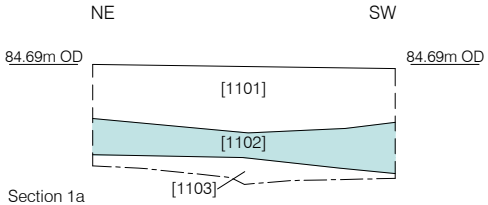
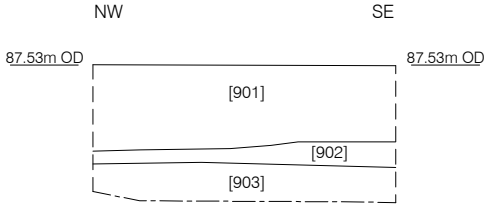


10/11/2022 DV

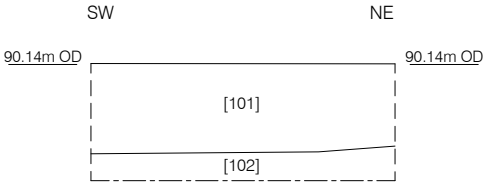
Figure 3
Plan of Trenches overlain on Geophysical Survey Results
1:2,500 at A4



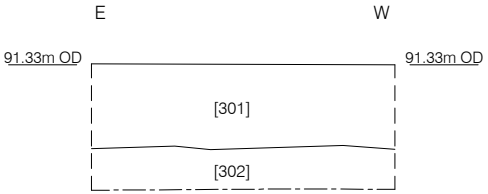
Section 1a
Northwest Facing
Trench 11



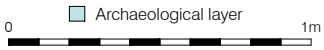
Section 4a
Southwest Facing
Trench 9



Section 4c
Southeast Facing
Trench 1



Section 5c
North Facing
Trench 3



17/11/2022 DV

Figure 4
Representative Sections
1:25 at A4

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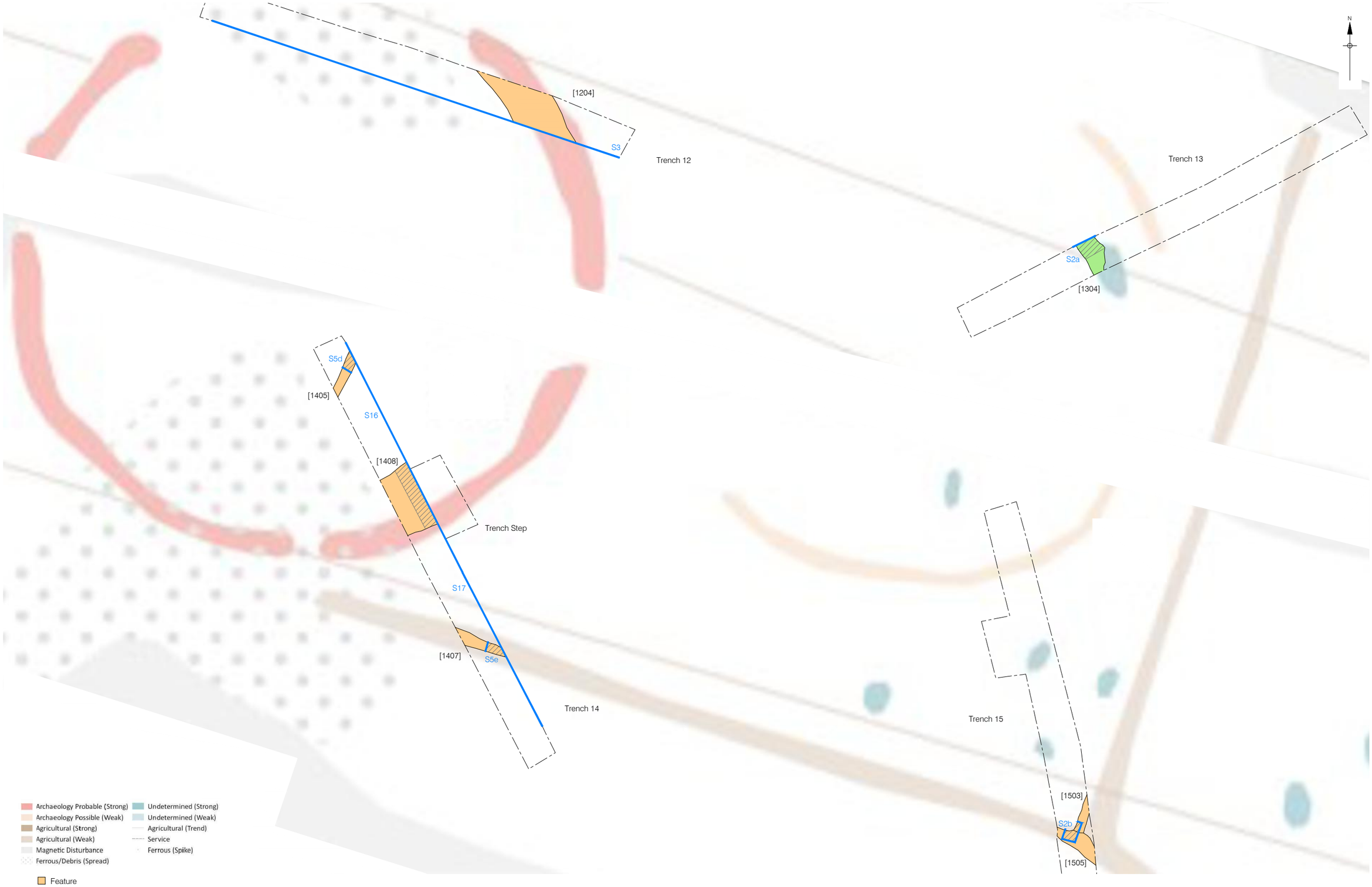
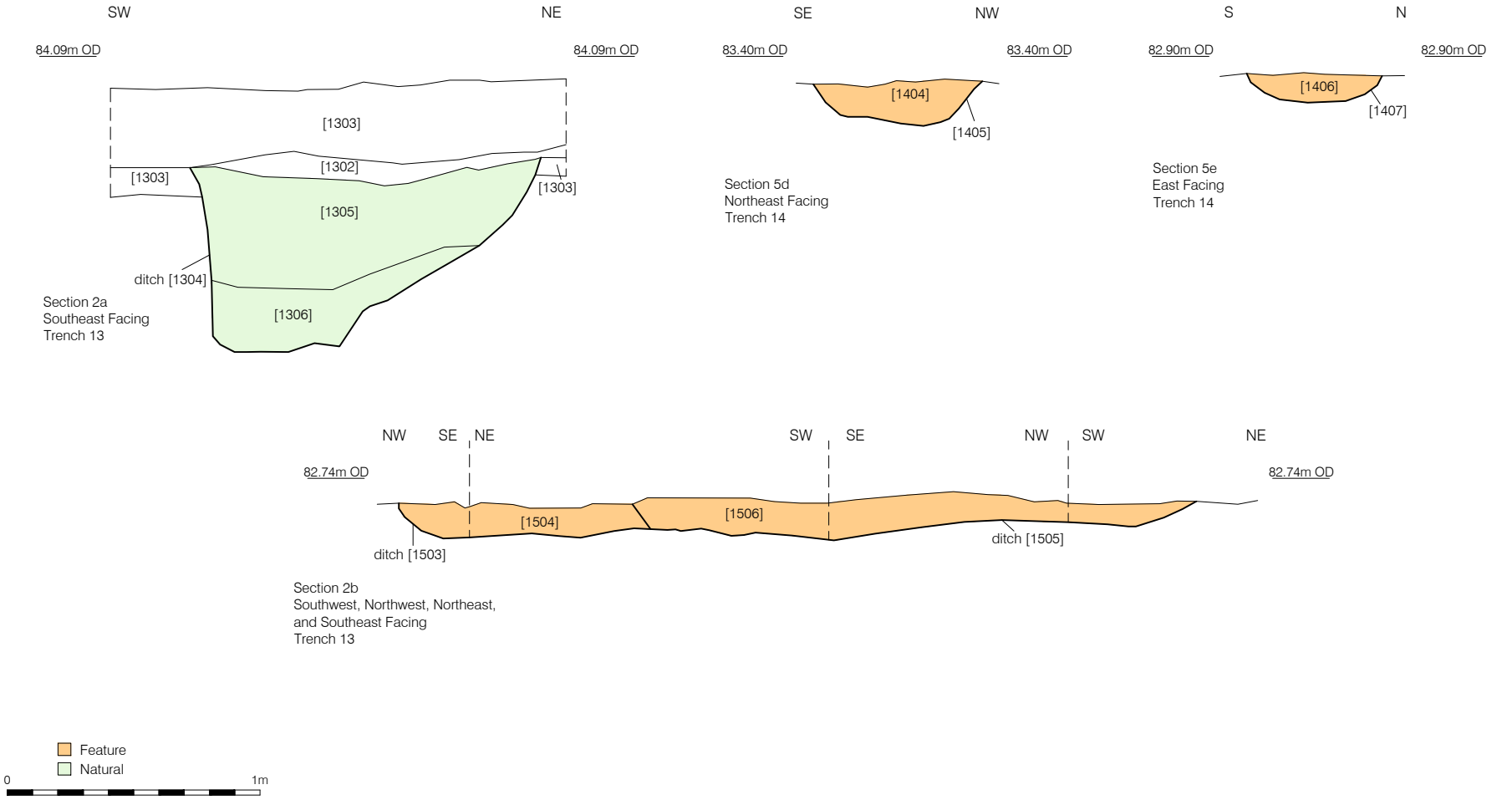


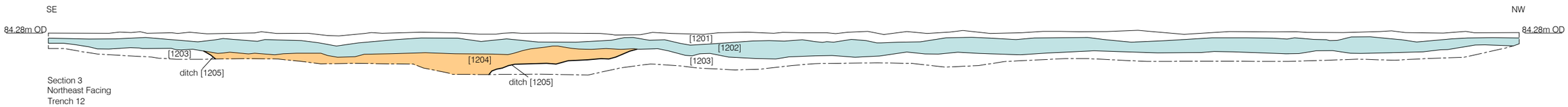
17/11/2022 DV

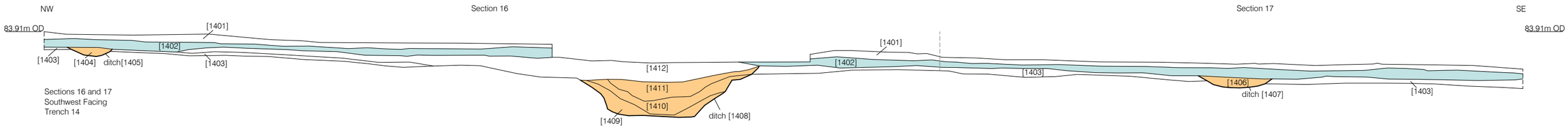
Figure 5
Plan of Trenches 12 - 15 overlain on Geophysical Interpretation
1:250 at A3

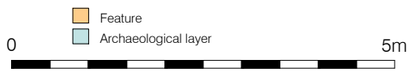


17/11/2022 DV

Figure 6
Feature Sections
1:25 at A4







17/11/2022 DV

Figure 7
Feature Sections
1:80 at A3

P C A

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