LAND AT WEST SUMNERS, HARLOW, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES:
EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
&
HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING REFERENCE:
PRE-APPLICATION

SITE CODE: ROWS12

PCA REPORT NO: R11316

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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LAND AT WEST SUMNERS, HARLOW, ESSEX

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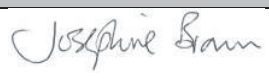
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		October 2012
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Local Planning Authorities:	**Epping Forest District Council** **Harlow District Council**
Planning Reference:	**Pre-Application**
Site Code:	**ROWS12**
Central National Grid Reference:	**TL42860706**
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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 During September and October 2012 CgMs Consulting contracted Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at West Sumners, Harlow, Essex. Thirty-three trial trenches measuring 25m to 30m by 2m were excavated in three areas identified as archaeological "hot-spots" during an earlier fieldwalking exercise. The work was carried out prior to the submission of a planning application for the development of the site.

1.2 Area A, the most westerly of those investigated, was dominated by a series of linear features with a smaller number of more discrete pits. Some of these features were associated with one or more phases of prehistoric activity though the exact nature of this could not be fully defined. The majority of the linear features had been laid out very regularly and appeared to relate to land division and exploitation during the Late Iron Age to Romano-British period.

1.3 Area B, located in a south-central part of the site, contained little evidence of later prehistoric or Roman landscape exploitation apart from a residual finds assemblage, but a limited number of features here provided possible evidence of medieval land division, with successive phases of landscape exploitation continuing into the early and later post-medieval periods.

1.4 Area C also provided little evidence of earlier prehistoric activity, but a ditch excavated here may have been part of a more extensive curvilinear enclosure; finds from the feature suggest contemporary activity with the late prehistoric/early Roman phase in Area A. A number of later ditches excavated in this area could also be equated with former field boundaries of 18th- or 19th-century origin, which were extant on maps up to the middle of the 20th century.

1.5 Overall the evaluation confirmed the findings of the earlier survey and identified evidence of earlier activity in the highlighted archaeological "hot-spots". However, the evidence of later prehistoric and Roman activity in Area A was more significant than suggested by the fieldwalking, whilst the level of medieval activity was less in all areas compared with that indicated by the earlier work. The extent of post-medieval activity suggested by the evaluation was comparable with that indicated by the fieldwalking.

1.6 The remains recorded in the trial trench evaluation are considered to potentially be of local to regional significance. However due to the heavy degradation of the remains by past ploughing it is anticipated that the impact of the proposed development can be mitigated through further archaeological mitigation strategies secured by conditions attached to planning consent.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Between the 17th September and 4th October 2012 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) were contracted by CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at West Sumners, Harlow, Essex (Figure 1).

2.2 It is proposed to develop a large part of the 55 hectare West Sumners site for residential, infrastructure and related purposes and archaeological works have been commissioned prior to the submission of development proposals, both to inform and support a proposed planning application. Initial, non-intrusive archaeological investigations in 2010 included geophysical survey (Bunn 2010) and archaeological survey by fieldwalking and metal-detecting (Boyer 2010). The latter identified a number of "hot-spots", where concentrations of finds suggested the likely locations of earlier activity. Three of these areas were subject to the evaluation by trial trenching that forms the basis of this report

2.3 The work was commissioned by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting on behalf of the client and a total of thirty-three evaluation trenches were excavated across the three areas, all measuring between 25m and 30m in length and 2m wide, down to the surface of archaeological and/or natural deposits (Figure 2). Two of the trenches were also slightly extended to further define archaeological features.

2.4 The site was located at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL42860706 and was allocated the unique site code ROWS12.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 The proposed development of the site is subject to planning guidance and policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), The East of England Plan and the policies of Essex County Council, Epping Forest District Council and Harlow District Council, which fully recognise the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians.

3.2 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

3.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.2.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.3 Regional Guidance: The East of England Plan

3.3.1 Essex comes under the jurisdiction of the policies of the East of England Plan (or Regional Spatial Strategy 14), which was finalised by the Secretary of State in 2008 (subsequently revoked in July 2010 but reinstated in November 2010). The majority of saved policies within the Essex and Southend Structure Plan (adopted 2001) have been superseded by those in the East of England Plan, including those that relate to the historic environment:

> **Policy ENV6: The Historic Environment**
> In their plans, policies, programmes and proposals local planning authorities and other agencies should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings, places and landscapes, including historic parks and gardens and those features and sites (and their settings) especially significant in the East of England:
>
> - The historic cities of Cambridge and Norwich;
> - An exceptional network of historic market towns;
> - A cohesive hierarchy of smaller settlements ranging from nucleated villages, often marked by architecturally significant medieval parish churches, through to a pattern of dispersed hamlets and isolated farms;
> - The highly distinctive historic environment of the coastal zone including extensive submerged prehistoric landscapes, ancient salt manufacturing and fishing facilities, relict sea walls, grazing marshes, coastal fortifications, ancient ports and traditional seaside resorts;
> - Formal planned settlements of the early twentieth century, including the early garden cities, and factory villages;
> - Conservation areas and listed buildings, including domestic, industrial and religious buildings, and their settings, and significant designed landscapes;
> - The rural landscapes of the region, which are highly distinctive and of ancient origin; and
> - The wide variety of archaeological monuments, sites and buried deposits

which include many scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological assets.

3.4 Local Guidance: Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan (2006) and Harlow District Council's Adopted Replacement Harlow Local Plan (2006)

3.4.1 The local planning authorities responsible for the study site are Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) and Harlow District Council (HDC).

3.4.2 EFDC's Local Plan (adopted 1998, revised 2006) is currently being redrawn in order to comply with the NPPF. Meanwhile, the majority of policies of the Local Plan have been saved, including most of those relating to the historic environment. The most pertinent to the current project are Policy HC1.

3.4.3 HDC's Adopted Replacement Harlow Local Plan (2006) is currently being redrawn to form a Local Development Framework, but in the meantime some policies were saved from the Local Plan in 2009. The most pertinent to the current project are Policies BE12, BE13 and BE14.

3.5 Site Specific Constraints

3.5.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the development site, though a small part of the south-western edge of the site lies within the South Roydon and Nazeing Conservation Area. However, important archaeological remains are known in the Harlow area and Essex County Council has advised that the scale of proposed development may have implications for the potential buried archaeological resource.

3.6 Evaluation Design and Research Objectives

3.6.1 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) including risk assessment for archaeological works on the site was prepared by PCA (Mayo 2012). The document was approved by Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Officer for Essex County Council.

3.6.2 The evaluation aimed to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. More specifically the evaluation sought:

- To determine the palaeotopography of the site
- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity
- To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity
- To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity
- To establish the extent of post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource

3.6.3 Within these parameters and given the archaeological and historical background, the evaluation sought to investigate whether archaeological remains were present in areas of concentrated activity indicated by the earlier field-walking and metal-detector survey of the site (Boyer 2010). The results of the evaluation would also be used to determine any further mitigation strategies for the site.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 240; Epping) the underlying bedrock geology is Cretaceous Chalk overlain by Palaeogene London Clay, which in turn is variably overlain by boulder clay and superficial head and alluvial deposits.

4.2 The wider site incorporates a large parcel of land covering an area of approximately 55 hectares. It is located to the south-west of Harlow, between the modern residential development of "Sumners" to the north-east and the small settlement of Broadley Common to the south-west, which lies within the jurisdiction of Epping Forest District Council (EFDC). The site is principally located within the boundaries of EFDC, with small areas within Harlow District Council (HDC) and is centred at (NGR) TL42860706.

4.3 The site is bounded to the west by a property at the edge of Broadley Common, to the north-west by areas of pasture, also subject to the proposed development, to the north and north-east by a small area of woodland, also subject to the proposed development and properties at the south-western edge of "Sumners". To the south-east of the site are properties associated with Blake's Farm/Richmond's Farm and the southern edge of the site is bounded by the B181 road that links Roydon and Epping.

4.4 From the southern site edge adjacent to the road, the land surface slopes gently downwards to the north, from an elevation of c. 71m OD, to a small stream that flows from south-east to north-west. To the north of the stream is a narrow band of flat land, which then rises through a variable gradient to the north-west, north and north-east, reaching a maximum surface elevation of c. 77m OD to the north-east.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) lists a small number of archaeological sites and findspots within the vicinity of the site. This information along with more general published material (e.g. Kemble 2001) and cartographic evidence has permitted the site to be placed within a broad archaeological and historical context.

5.2 Little is known about the earlier prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Neolithic) periods in the vicinity of the study area, though a Palaeolithic handaxe was unearthed during excavation beneath the floor of a room towards the south-west of Passmores Museum, Harlow, c. 2km north-east of the site (HER Ref: 18397). Evidence of later prehistoric activity is also somewhat sparse, though a small hoard of Late Bronze Age metalwork, including a winged and looped palstave, was recovered from Parndon Gravel Pit, some 1.75km north-east of the site (HER Ref: 3750). Sherds of possible Iron Age pottery were also recorded west of Katherines, a little more than 1km NNW of the site (HER Ref: 3804). A number of cropmarks visible in fields surrounding the study area may also have late prehistoric origins. A double-ditched cropmark is visible east of Halls Green Farm, to the north-west of the site (HER Ref: 19396), whilst a rectangular enclosure (HER Ref: 47659) and a possible curvilinear enclosure (HER Ref: 19395) are visible in the Nazeingwood Common area to the south. Further to the east the cropmark of a possible rectilinear enclosure is apparent to the south-east of Gibbon's Bush Farm (HER Ref: 48011).

5.3 Evidence for Roman activity in the area is far more abundant, and the Romano-British temple north-east of Harlow (founded on the site of an Iron Age sanctuary, underlain by a Bronze Age cremation cemetery), for example is of national importance (France and Gobel 1985). Closer to the site, Roman building debris including a red cement floor was recorded a short distance to the north on Water Lane in 1953 (HER Ref: 3790). Further Roman building materials were also recorded a short distance to the east (HER Ref: 3751) and are thought to have derived from the same building complex. To the west of the site, sherds of Roman pottery were found east of Roydon hamlet in 1938 (HER Ref: 3752) and an "ancient graveyard" including sherds of Samian pottery is recorded near Nazeing (HER Ref: 3252).

5.4 There is little evidence of Saxon activity in the vicinity of the study site though a former medieval moated site at Passmores House, close to the museum is thought to have originally been part of a late Saxon manor (HER Ref: 3718). The settlements of Roydon (HER Ref: 45221) and Nazeing (HER Ref: 45750) are thought to have had medieval if not earlier origins. During the medieval period much of the area in the vicinity of the study site would have been well-wooded, though there would also have been areas of arable and pasture. In addition to the hamlets of Roydon and Nazeing, there would also have been a number of moated sites, such as that at Passmores House and another to the south-east of the site at Shingle Hall (HER Ref: 3727).

5.5 Probably during the later medieval period and certainly in the post-medieval period, more of the wooded areas were cleared for agricultural purposes and 19th-century maps of the area show much of the study site occupied by series of small fields bounded by ditches and

hedges. This pattern of land division persisted until well into the 20th century, though many of the historic boundaries within the study site were removed in the post-war years to create the small number of large fields that are present today.

5.6 Although there are few entries on the EHER within the immediate vicinity of the site, a programme of archaeological fieldwalking and metal-detecting carried out during an earlier phase of the current project, drew a number of conclusions relating to archaeological potential (Boyer 2010). The bulk of the information was derived from the fieldwalking, which recovered artefacts dating from the prehistoric periods through to the present day.

5.7 The small quantity of prehistoric material (struck flint) provided evidence for activity on the site but was insufficient to define any foci of activity. The Roman material showed a concentration towards the south-east of the site, though the number of items recovered was small and limited to just brick and tile. A small concentration was also noted at the southern central edge of the site.

5.8 The medieval evidence pointed to two areas of activity; in a south central part of the site and another some distance to the south-east. The items recovered may have been indicative of structural remains, and there may have been further activity associated with cropmark features to the north-west. Post-medieval material was recovered from across the site with clear concentrations being apparent in a small field at the south of the site and an extensive area to the east, suggesting structural activity in both areas. Other smaller concentrations of material may also have represented further localised foci of activity. Modern pottery was recovered in small quantities and mostly represented material dropped at field edges and dragged across the site by ploughing.

5.9 The metal-detector survey produced a much less significant level of data but provided supplementary information to the fieldwalking and showed that although a number of items were dropped during the 20th century, particularly farm machinery parts, there were also a number of finds of 17th- to 19th-century date, which were mostly located in south-central areas of the site. A number of fragments of possible aircraft crash debris, most likely associated with an incident recorded in 1940, were also present in two broad groups in the south-east and central parts of the site. Widely scattered anti-aircraft shell shrapnel was also recovered in small quantities.

5.10 A built heritage assessment (Handcock 2012) indicates that 27 listed buildings lie within 1km of the site, one of which is Grade II* whilst the remainder are Grade II. Richmond's Farm, which lies immediately south-east of the site includes one of the Grade II Listed Buildings, whilst further Listed Buildings are located within 200m of the south-western site boundary. A small part of the south-western edge of the site also lies within the South Roydon and Nazeing Conservation Area.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The fieldwork was carried out according to an approved WSI (Mayo 2012), and all aspects of the work were conducted in accordance with national (IFA 2008) and local (Gurney 2003) guidelines, and according to PCA's own fieldwork manual (Taylor 2009). Reference was also made, where necessary, to regional resource assessment and research agenda and strategy documents (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011) as required by ECC.

6.2 The earlier fieldwalking survey of the site (Boyer 2010) had revealed concentrated spreads of medieval tiles within three localised areas and it was requested by Richard Havis, County Archaeologist at Essex County Council that these areas be subject to trial-trenching in order to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains. It was originally proposed to locate a total of 34 trenches as follows:

Area	Central NGR of area	Proposed No. of trenches	Proposed Trench Nos.
A	TL42700723	8	1 – 8
B	TL42860706	13	9 – 21
C	TL43110695	13	22 – 34

6.3 Area A was located towards the west of the study site on a generally flat, elevated area to the north of paddocks located behind properties at Broadley Common. Surface elevation here varied between 69.85m OD and 70.92m OD. Area B was located in a south-central part of the site on sloping ground either side of a small, south-east to north-west flowing stream that crossed the site. It was proposed to excavate ten trenches to the north of the stream and three to the south. The land to the north sloped down to the south from a maximum elevation of 71.49m OD to a low of 68.27m OD, whilst the area south of the stream sloped from a southern high of 71.41m OD to a northern low of 69.61m OD. Area C was located further to the east and included a flattish, raised plateau zone along with land sloping down to the south below it. The highest surface elevation on the plateau was recorded at 76.58m OD, whereas a surface elevation as low as 72.60m OD was recorded on the slope.

6.4 It was found that the proposed location of Trench 11 in the northern part of Area B was along the line of an extensive water main trench and therefore this trench was not excavated. A total of 33 trenches of between 25m and 30m in length and 2m wide were thus opened, with extensions being made to Trench 8 (Area A) and Trench 16 (Area B) in order to more fully define exposed archaeological features.

6.5 All trenches were machine excavated in spits to the surface of identifiable archaeological deposits or to the surface of natural deposits if identifiable archaeological remains were not present. All machining was undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision, with care taken to separate topsoil and subsoil removed from each trench. Longitudinal sections and bases of the trenches were then cleaned, and sample sections and base plans recorded. Exposed sections and spoil heaps were also checked in order to collect any dateable evidence and assess the extent of

residual finds preservation. A written, drawn, surveyed and photographic record of each trench was made, and the location of each trench was recorded and tied into local and national grids using geographical positioning system (GPS) equipment (Figure 2). The GPS was also used to establish temporary bench marks (TBM) on the site, from which levels within the trenches could be calculated. A single TBM was located within Area A (value 70.84m OD), two TBMs were located in Area B north (values 71.15m OD and 68.84m OD), a single TBM was located in Area B south (value 70.68m OD) and two TBMs were located in Area C (values 75.64m OD and 74.67m OD).

6.6 As it was intended to prepare the soil in all areas of evaluation for the sowing of winter crops, following the completion of the archaeological investigations, each trench was carefully backfilled by machine with subsoil overlain by topsoil and levelled.

7 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND INTERPRETATION OF FEATURES

In this section the stratigraphic sequence in each of the evaluation trenches is described individually. The trenches are described in numerical order by area, starting with Area A, the north-westernmost of the areas evaluated.

7.1 Area A: Trench 1 (Figure 3)

7.1.1 This was the north-westernmost trench excavated during the evaluation; it was aligned north-west to south-east and was 30m in length. The basal deposit [66] recorded at upper elevations between 69.52m OD and 69.93m OD was light brown chalky boulder clay. This was overlain by a firm, light yellowish brown silty clay subsoil [65] that was on average 0.18m thick and in common with the subsoil across Area A, appeared to have been formed at quite a late date, apparently during the early post-medieval period. The sequence was capped by a friable, dark greyish brown, clayey silt subsoil [64] that averaged 0.20m in depth, being recorded at surface elevations between 69.96m OD and 70.35m OD. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in this trench.

7.2 Area A: Trench 2 (Figures 3 & 4)

7.2.1 Trench 2 was located approximately 38m to the east of Trench 1, was aligned parallel with it and also measured 30m in length. The basal deposit [72] was firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay, recorded at upper elevations between 70.11m OD and 70.30m OD. Cut into this natural deposit were a number of archaeological features, mostly apparently linear in nature. The north-westernmost feature [119] was aligned approximately north-east to south-west across the trench and was 1.60m wide. It was recorded at an upper elevation of 70.11m OD though could not be fully excavated because of inclement weather conditions. No finds were recovered from the variably compacted, light greyish brown, silty clay fill [120] though the feature has been provisionally dated as prehistoric.

7.2.2 Located a little more than 5m to the south-east was a 0.8m wide, north-east to south-west aligned ditch [117], recorded at an upper elevation of 70.22m OD. This feature contained a similar fill [118] to that in ditch [119] though again it could not be fully excavated because of inclement weather conditions. This feature formed a parallel alignment with more clearly dated features and therefore has been provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period. Located a short distance to the south-east was a sub-rectangular pit [129], measuring at least 2.75m north-west to south-east by 1.80m north-east to south-west and recorded at an upper elevation of 70.30m OD. It was mostly filled with a variably compacted, light greyish brown, silty clay [130], though in a small area measuring c. 0.60m by 0.34m this was overlain by a soft, very dark grey silty clay deposit [182] that had clearly been burnt and contained fragments of daub/burnt clay. It was interpreted as the possible remains of an in situ burnt post and the feature has been provisionally dated as prehistoric. Immediately to the south-east was an approximately north-east to south-west aligned linear

feature [127], up to 3.1m wide and recorded at an upper elevation of 70.18m OD. Its variably compacted, light greyish brown, silty clay fill [128] contained no artefactual material but the feature has been provisionally dated as prehistoric.

7.2.3 Towards the south-eastern end of Trench 2 were three, closely spaced, parallel north-east to south-west aligned ditches. The north-westernmost of these was ditch [125], which was 1.05m wide and extended south-westwards beyond the trench edge from a northern butt end that was located in the centre of the trench. Immediately to the south-east was ditch [123], which was 0.8m wide and extended north and south of the trench. Immediately south-east of this was ditch [121], which was 0.7m wide and 0.22m deep, exhibiting moderately sloping, concave sides and a flattish base (Figure 4.1). A single struck flint was recovered from the fill [122]. The three parallel ditches were all filled with a similar, soft to firm, light greyish brown silty clay, though only the latter produced any artefactual material. Although only prehistoric material was recovered, the ditches have been dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period because of a similarity of form and alignment with other features of this date.

7.2.4 All of the features in the trench were sealed by a 0.15m thick, light yellowish brown, firm silty clay subsoil [71] and the sequence was completed with a 0.22m thick layer of ploughsoil [70], recorded at surface elevations between 70.52m OD and 70.77m OD and which produced small quantities of post-medieval pottery and tile, along with a fragment of burnt flint.

7.3 Area A: Trench 3 (Figures 3 & 4)

7.3.1 Trench 3 was 30m long, aligned perpendicular to Trenches 1 and 2 and located south-east of the former and south-west of the latter. The basal deposit was a firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay [63] recorded at surface elevations between 69.84m OD and 70.14m OD. Towards the south-western end of the trench this was cut by an approximately east to west aligned ditch [55], which was 0.88m wide, 0.21m deep and recorded at an upper elevation of 69.94m OD (Plate 1). It had moderately sloping concave sides and a flat to slightly concave base (Figure 4). It was filled with a firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay [56], though no finds were recovered. Immediately to the north was a small, circular posthole [57], 0.56m in diameter and 0.22m deep, which had been backfilled with a similar material [58] to that in the ditch. Again no finds were recovered but both features have been provisionally dated as prehistoric.

7.3.2 Extending along more than half of the trench on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment was another ditch [53], which had moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base (Figure 4). It was 0.72m wide, 0.21m deep and was recorded at an upper elevation of 70.19m OD. It was backfilled with a firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay [54] that yielded a small assemblage of struck flint along with a sherd of coarse, flint-tempered prehistoric pottery. The ditch also partly truncated an earlier sub-circular posthole or small pit [59] (Plate 2) that was 1.04m in diameter and 0.23m deep, exhibiting moderately sloping concave sides and a flat base (Figure 4).

7.3.3 The features in the trench were sealed by a 0.16m thick layer of firm, light brown silty clay subsoil [62], which was in turn overlain by 0.22m of friable, very dark greyish brown, clayey silt ploughsoil [61], recorded at surface elevations between 70.32m OD and 70.59m OD.

7.4 Area A: Trench 4 (Figure 3)

7.4.1 Trench 4 was 30m in length, aligned parallel to Trench 3 and located approximately 38m to the east. The basal deposit was a firm, light brown chalky boulder clay [78] recorded at between 70.24m OD and 70.53m OD, and cut by a number of archaeological features. The most extensive of these was ditch [133], which was aligned approximately north-east to south-west and extended for 21m from the northern edge of the trench before turning to the west and butt-ending. It was 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep, exhibiting near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a firm to soft, light greyish brown silty clay [134], though this produced no finds. Immediately south of the butt end to the ditch was a 0.6m wide gully [135] that crossed the trench on a WNW to ESE alignment. It contained a very similar fill [136] to that in ditch [133] and again produced no artefactual material. Two further gullies [139] and [141] on similar alignments had also been cut by ditch [133], though only small sections of each of these were present within the trench and neither produced any dateable finds. The ditch and the gullies have all been provisionally interpreted as prehistoric.

7.4.2 Cutting across ditch [133] towards its southern butt end on an approximate east to west alignment was a later ditch or gully [137], which exhibited steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep, its light greyish brown, silty clay fill [138] producing a small quantity of Roman tile.

7.4.3 All of the features in the trench were sealed by a 0.19m thick layer of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [77], which contained two pieces of struck flint, and the stratigraphic sequence was completed by a 0.22m thick layer of ploughsoil [76], which included a small assemblage of post-medieval tile and clay tobacco pipe. It was recorded at surface elevations varying between 70.70m OD and 70.92m OD.

7.5 Area A: Trench 5 (Figures 3 & 4)

7.5.1 Trench 5 was 30m in length, aligned parallel with Trench 2 and located approximately 13m south-west of the southern end of Trench 3. The basal deposit [69] was a firm, light yellowish brown, chalky boulder clay, recorded at an upper elevation between 69.55m OD and 69.74m OD and cut by four linear features. The north-westernmost of these [149] was a little irregular, aligned approximately WSW to ENE, 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep. It exhibited steeply sloping sides and a flattish base and was recorded at an upper elevation of 69.69m OD. It was backfilled with a firm, light greyish brown silty clay [150], though this produced no finds and the feature has been provisionally dated as prehistoric.

7.5.2 The remaining three linear features were all evenly spaced, approximately 6m apart, and positioned on parallel, north-east to south-west alignments. The north-westernmost ditch [147] was 0.93m wide, 0.3m deep with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. To the south-east, ditch [145] was of similar dimensions and exhibited a similar profile

(Figure 4). Its fill [146] also produced a sherd of pottery dated AD 50 – 100. Further south-east still was ditch [143], which also exhibited a similar profile and dimensions to the other features. All three ditches were backfilled with similar firm, light greyish brown silty clay and are likely to date to the early Roman period.

7.5.3 All of the linear features in the trench were sealed by a 0.15m thick, firm, light yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [68] that contained small quantities of early post-medieval tile. This was capped by 0.22m of ploughsoil [67] that included fragments of Roman, medieval and post-medieval tile along with 19th-century pottery. The surface of this was recorded at between 70.04m OD and 70.16m OD.

7.6 Area A: Trench 6 (Figures 3 & 4)

7.6.1 Trench 6 was 30m long, aligned parallel with Trench 5 and located approximately 38m east of it. The basal deposit was firm, mid brown chalky boulder clay [75] recorded at surface elevations between 70.06m OD and 70.34m OD. Cut into the boulder clay were five parallel, north-east to south-west aligned ditches [151], [153], [155], [157] and [159], similarly spaced to those in Trench 5. The ditches were typically between 0.75m and 0.85m wide and between 0.15m and 0.25m deep, each exhibiting a profile with steeply sloping, concave sides and a flat to slightly concave base (Figures 4 and 4). The ditches produced few finds but the fill [158] of ditch [157] (Plate 3) yielded a sherd of shell-tempered Roman pottery, providing a suggestion for the date of the group of features as a whole. The ditches were all sealed by a 0.13m thick layer of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [74] that was in turn covered by 0.20m of ploughsoil [73], recorded at surface elevations between 70.56m OD and 70.64m OD.

7.7 Area A: Trench 7 (Figure 3)

7.7.1 Trench 7 was 30m long, aligned perpendicular to Trenches 5 and 6 and located south-east of the former and south-west of the latter. The basal deposit was firm, light brown chalky boulder clay [81], recorded between 69.45m OD and 69.78m OD. Cut into the boulder clay and extending partly along the southern edge of the trench was an approximately north-east to south-west aligned ditch [165]. It was at least 0.55m wide and just 0.18m deep, exhibiting a similar profile to Roman ditches recorded in Trenches 5 and 6. It was filled with a soft to firm, light yellowish brown silty clay [166] that contained sherds of pottery dated AD 0 – 50. The north-eastern butt end of the ditch was located within the trench, beyond which were two smaller, perpendicular ditches [163] and [161]. These were set approximately 2m apart, each approximately 0.7m wide and filled with a soft to firm, light yellowish brown silty clay, though no finds were recovered from either. Towards the south-western end of the trench were two sub-circular postholes or small pits [167] and [169], each measuring approximately 0.7m across. Excavation of the latter showed it to be just 0.2m deep with variably sloping sides and a gently undulating base. It was not possible to fully excavate the former because of extensive water inundation though both features contained a similar light yellowish brown, silty clay fill. No finds were recovered.

7.7.2 All of the features were sealed by 0.16m of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [80], which contained occasional fragments of daub and early post-medieval tile. This was overlain by 0.21m of ploughsoil [79], from which small quantities of burnt flint, Roman and post-medieval tile and post-medieval pottery were recovered. The surface of the ploughsoil was recorded at elevations between 69.85m OD and 70.41m OD.

7.8 Area A: Trench 8 (Figures 3 & 4)

7.8.1 Trench 8 was 30m long, located south-east of Trench 7 and was aligned perpendicular to it. The basal deposit was a firm, light yellowish brown chalky boulder clay [84], the surface of which was recorded between 70.15m OD and 70.28m OD. Cut into the clay along the north-western edge of the trench and running the entire length of the trench and beyond, was ditch [112]. Widening of the north-eastern end of the trench showed that the ditch was approximately 0.8m wide. It was 0.18m deep and recorded at an upper elevation of 70.28m OD. The fill [113] was a variably compacted, mid yellowish brown silty clay that contained sherds of grog- and sand-tempered pottery dated 50 BC – AD 50. The ditch had steeply sloping sides and a flattish base and approximately 3m from the north-eastern end of the trench cut through an earlier, small, subcircular pit [114], which measured 0.7m in diameter and was 0.21m deep (Figure 4). A fragment of burnt flint was recovered from the upper fill [116]. Both the features were sealed by 0.18m of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [83], which in turn was overlain by 0.22m of ploughsoil [82], recorded at surface elevations between 70.55m OD and 70.68m OD.

7.9 Area B: Trench 9 (Figure 5)

7.9.1 Trench 9 was the northernmost of the trenches in Area B. It was 30m long and aligned north-east to south-west. The basal deposit towards the north-eastern end of the trench was firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay [87] recorded at an upper elevation of 71.00m OD. Along much of the trench the clay was truncated by the construction cut and easement for an extensive water main but a small sondage towards the south-western end of the trench revealed two features cutting the clay beneath a shallow part of the easement. The earliest of these was NNE to SSW aligned ditch [91], a 2m long and 0.65m wide section of which was present within the sondage. It was just 0.12m deep with steep sides and a flat base and was recorded at an upper elevation of 70.21m OD. No finds were recovered from its friable, mid yellowish brown silty clay fill [90] but it appears to have been the northern continuation of a medieval ditch recorded in Trench 10 to the south (see below). Ditch [91] was cut by ENE to WSW aligned gully [89], which was 0.38m wide, 0.15m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The fill [90] was a friable, mid yellowish brown silty clay that again produced no dateable finds, though the gully was possibly associated with an early post-medieval ditch recorded to the west in Trench 10 (see below).

7.9.2 At the north-eastern end of the trench where the boulder clay had not been truncated by the water main trench or its easement, it was overlain by 0.2m of mid brown, silty clay subsoil [86]. The stratigraphic sequence across the whole trench was capped by a 0.29m thick

layer of friable, dark greyish brown, clayey silt ploughsoil [85], recorded at a surface elevation of 71.49m OD to the north-east and 70.89m OD to the south-west.

7.10 Area B: Trench 10 (Figures 5 & 6)

7.10.1 Trench 10 measured 30m in length, was aligned perpendicular to Trench 9 and was located to the south-west of it. The basal deposit was firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay [94], recorded at a surface elevation varying between 70.09m OD and 70.68m OD. The earliest feature cut into the boulder clay was an approximately east to west aligned ditch [205], 0.53m wide, 0.19m deep and recorded at an upper elevation of 70.44m OD. A 2m length of the ditch was present within the trench and it exhibited a gently-sloping concave profile (Figure 6). No finds were recovered from the moderately compacted, mid yellowish grey/brown silty clay fill [206] and the feature has been tentatively dated as prehistoric.

7.10.2 A short distance to the south-east was another, far more extensive linear feature [100] that crossed the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. The feature was approximately 10m wide and excavation of a sondage revealed that it was in excess of 1m deep. The main fill [99] comprised a variably compacted, mid greyish brown silty clay, though no dateable finds were recovered. The feature has been interpreted as a large natural erosion gully and it was also identified in Trench 14 to the south, where finds indicated a latest backfilling date during the medieval period (see below). Cut into the backfilled erosion gully was a NNE to SSW aligned ditch [98], which appeared to have been the southern continuation of ditch [91] recorded in Trench 9. It was 0.8m wide, 0.19 deep and recorded at an upper elevation of 70.16m OD. It exhibited a steep-sided, flat based profile (Figure 6) and was backfilled with a friable, mid brown silty clay [97] that yielded struck flint but no other artefactual material.

7.10.3 Located towards the north-western end of the trench was an approximately WNW to ESE aligned ditch [96] (Plate 4), recorded at an upper elevation of 70.52m OD. It exhibited an asymmetric profile, sloping more steeply to the south than to the north (Figure 6). A 5m length of the feature was recorded within the trench, it was 1.03m wide and 0.36m deep. A thin basal deposit [204] comprising a firm, mid yellowish brown, slightly silty clay was observed on the northern side, overlain by a firm to friable, mid yellowish brown, silty clay [95] that made up the bulk of the fill. This contained early post-medieval tile and a bent copper disc that was probably part of a composite button, also of post-medieval date (see Appendix 8).

7.10.4 All of the features were sealed by a 0.12m thick, mid brown, silty clay subsoil [93], which in turn was capped by 0.28m of ploughsoil [92] that contained fragments of medieval and early post-medieval tile, along with a small assemblage of struck flint of later prehistoric date. The surface of the ploughsoil was recorded variably between 70.55m OD and 71.15m OD.

7.11 Area B: Trench 11 (Figure 5)

7.11.1 Trench 11 was not excavated as its proposed location lay almost wholly within the alignment of the extensive water main that passed through Trench 9 and it was unlikely that any archaeological deposits would have survived.

7.12 Area B: Trench 12 (Figure 5)

7.12.1 Trench 12 was 30m long, lay to the south-west of Trench 10 and was aligned perpendicular to it. The basal deposit [103] was a firm, mid to light brown mixture of clay, chalk and gravel, essentially comprising mostly natural boulder clay. It was recorded at surface elevations between 69.66m OD and 70.07m OD and was overlain by 0.13m of firm, mid brown, silty clay subsoil [102]. This in turn was overlain by a 0.20m thick, friable, dark greyish brown, clayey silt ploughsoil [101], recorded at surface elevations between 69.99m OD and 70.59m OD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this trench.

7.13 Area B: Trench 13 (Figure 5)

7.13.1 Trench 13 was 30m long, aligned parallel with Trench 12 and located approximately 38m to the east of it. The basal deposit was a mix of yellowish clay and light brown boulder clay with chalk [106], recorded at upper elevations between 69.42m OD and 70.36m OD. It was overlain by 0.16m of mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [105], which in turn was overlain by 0.24m of ploughsoil, recorded at surface elevations between 69.95m OD and 71.07m OD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the trench.

7.14 Area B: Trench 14 (Figure 5)

7.14.1 Trench 14 was 29m long, aligned perpendicular to Trenches 12 and 13 and located south-east of the former and south-west of the latter. The basal deposit was a stiff, mid yellowish brown, silty clay boulder clay [109] recorded at an upper elevation of 69.36m OD. Cut into the natural clay was an extensive feature [111], apparently aligned north-east to south-west and at least 21m wide, extending beyond the south-eastern end of the trench. This appears to have been the southern continuation of the natural erosion gully identified in Trench 10 and had clearly widened as it progressed downslope. It was filled with a slightly friable, mid brown clayey silt [110], which two sondages demonstrated was in excess of 1m thick. Roman tile was recovered from this material, along with a single sherd of medieval pottery, which provided a latest date for the infilling of the gully. The backfilled gully was sealed by a 0.19m thick layer of firm, mid yellowish brown, clayey silt subsoil [108]. This in turn was overlain by 0.28m of ploughsoil [107] recorded at surface elevations between 69.36m OD and 69.89m OD. A small quantity of early post-medieval tile was recovered from this deposit.

7.15 Area B: Trench 15 (Figure 5)

7.15.1 Trench 15 measured 30m in length, was aligned parallel with Trench 14 and located approximately 38m to the east. The basal deposit was a stiff, mid yellowish brown, silty boulder clay [203], which was overlain by 0.25m of firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil [202]. The stratigraphic sequence was completed by a 0.24m thick ploughsoil [201] recorded at surface elevations between 70.57m OD and 70.76m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench though fragments of Roman, medieval and post-medieval tile were recovered from the ploughsoil, along with 19th-century pottery.

7.16 Area B: Trench 16 (Figures 5 & 6)

7.16.1 Trench 16 was 25m long and continued the alignment of Trench 13, south-west and downslope of Trench 14. Two eastern extensions were made towards the northern and southern ends of the trench in order to further investigate two extensive features observed during initial machining. The basal deposit was a stiff, mid reddish brown silty clay [186] that appeared to have been deposited as a result of colluvial and alluvial processes. This was recorded at surface elevations between 67.73m OD and 68.00m OD and was overlain by 0.19m of firm, mid reddish brown, clayey silt subsoil [185].

7.16.2 Cut into the subsoil were two extensive linear features. Towards the northern end of the trench, ditch [190] (Plate 5) was approximately 4m wide, more than 0.85m deep and aligned approximately WNW to ESE. It had been cut from a level of 68.73m OD and exhibited a slightly irregular, asymmetric profile (Figure 6). Three separate fills were recorded, though the feature was not fully excavated to its base. The lower fill [189], only recorded on the southern side of the ditch, comprised a firm, mid yellowish brown, clayey silt. This was overlain by the main backfilling deposit [188] comprising a firm, dark greyish brown clayey silt that contained post-medieval pottery and tile and a fragment of copper-working slag. A thin, upper backfilling deposit recorded on the southern side of the feature comprised a firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay. The feature appears to have been an earlier ditched boundary, visible on maps up to the middle of the 20th century. It was also recorded in Trench 17 to the east (see below).

7.16.3 Towards the south of the trench, ditch [192] appeared to be aligned approximately north-west to south-east. This was approximately 5.2m wide and in excess of 0.5m deep. It too exhibited a slightly irregular profile and contained a single fill [191], comprising a friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt that contained post-medieval tile. This was probably associated with the feature to the north-east and also likely to be of relatively recent date. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench was completed by a 0.27m thick layer of ploughsoil, recorded at surface elevations between 68.27m OD and 68.97m OD.

7.17 Area B: Trench 17 (Figure 5)

7.17.1 Trench 17 was 25m long, aligned parallel with Trench 16 and located approximately 38m to the east. The basal deposit was a stiff, mid reddish brown alluvial/colluvial silty clay [198], recorded at upper elevations between 68.26m OD and 69.65m OD. This was overlain by

0.20m of firm, mid brown clayey silt subsoil [197], which included a single struck flint of Neolithic to Bronze Age date. Cut into the subsoil towards the southern end of the trench was WNW to ESE aligned ditch [200] (Plate 6), which was approximately 3.3m wide, in excess of 0.5m deep and cut from 68.47m OD. It had gently sloping, slightly concave sides and contained a single fill [199], comprising a friable, dark brown clayey silt. Within the fill were sherds of 19th/20th-century pottery. This feature appears to have been the eastern continuation of ditch [190] recorded in Trench 16. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench was completed by a 0.26m thick ploughsoil [196], recorded at surface elevations between 68.78m OD and 70.08m OD.

7.18 Area B: Trench 18 (Figure 5)

7.18.1 Trench 18 was the most southerly of the Area B trenches to the north of the small stream. It was 25m long, aligned north-west to south-east and with its south-eastern end located approximately 12m north of the stream. The basal deposit was stiff, light reddish brown, alluvial/colluvial silty clay [195], recorded at surface elevations between 68.06m OD and 68.22m OD. It was overlain by 0.28m of firm, light brown, clayey silt subsoil [194] and the stratigraphic sequence was completed by a 0.26m thick layer of ploughsoil [193], recorded at surface elevations between 68.53m OD and 68.80m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench though Flemish floor tile dated 1600 – 1800 was recovered from the ploughsoil along with a single struck flint of later prehistoric date.

7.19 Area B: Trench 19 (Figure 5)

7.19.1 Trench 19 was the northernmost of the Area B trenches to the south of the stream. It was 25m long, aligned north-east to south-west and with its north-eastern end located within 8m of the stream edge. The basal deposit was a mid yellowish brown clay with flints including some gravel banding [173], recorded at upper elevations between 69.38m OD and 70.07m OD. It was overlain by 0.23m of light yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [172], which in turn was overlain by 0.22m of dark brown, sandy silt ploughsoil recorded at surface elevations between 69.61m OD and 70.58m OD. No archaeological finds features or deposits were identified within this trench.

7.20 Area B: Trench 20 (Figure 5)

7.20.1 Trench 20 was 25m long, aligned north-west to south-east and located approximately 18m south-west of Trench 19. The basal deposit was a mid reddish brown boulder clay with abundant flint gravel [176], recorded at upper elevations between 69.77m OD and 70.78m OD. It was overlain by 0.14m of subsoil [175] comprising firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay with abundant gravel. Cut into the subsoil was ditch [178], which was 1.85m wide and aligned approximately WNW to ESE, parallel with the site southern boundary. The friable, light to mid yellowish brown silty clay fill [177] contained post-medieval pottery and tile. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench was completed by a 0.23m thick layer of ploughsoil [174], recorded at surface elevations between 70.27m OD and 71.38m OD.

7.21 Area B: Trench 21 (Figure 5)

7.21.1 Trench 21 measured 25m in length, was aligned north-west to south-east and positioned approximately 12m south-east of Trench 19. The basal deposit was a firm, mid reddish brown clay with gravel banding [181], recorded at upper elevations between 70.26m OD and 70.86m OD. It was overlain by 0.23m of light yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [180], which in turn was overlain by 0.21m of ploughsoil [179], recorded at surface elevations between 70.73m OD and 71.41m OD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

7.22 Area C: Trench 22 (Figure 7)

7.22.1 Trench 22 was the north-westernmost trench in Area C. It was 30m long and aligned north-east to south-west. The basal deposit was firm, mid brown, chalky boulder clay [52] recorded at upper elevations between 73.44m OD and 73.86m OD. It was overlain by 0.16m of mid brown, flinty clay subsoil [51], which in turn was overlain by 0.23m of friable, mid greyish brown, clayey silt ploughsoil [50], recorded at surface elevations between 73.91m OD and 74.45m OD. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within this trench.

7.23 Area C: Trench 23 (Figures 7 & 8)

7.23.1 Trench 3 was 30m long, aligned parallel to Trench 22 and located approximately 40m to the east. The basal deposit was firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay [26], recorded at upper elevations between 74.77m OD and 74.98m OD. It was overlain by 0.24m of firm, mid reddish brown clayey subsoil [25]. Cut into the subsoil from a height of 74.95m OD towards the northern end of the trench was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch [19] (Plate 7). This was 1.26m wide, 0.84m deep and exhibited a profile with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Figure 8). The ditch contained four backfill deposits though tertiary burnt fill [21] included fragments of plastic. It appears that the ditch was part of a former field boundary, removed in the mid 20th century. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench was completed by a 0.22m thick layer of ploughsoil [24], recorded at surface elevations between 75.22m OD and 75.46m OD.

7.24 Area C: Trench 24 (Figure 7)

7.24.1 Trench 24 was 30m long, aligned perpendicular to Trenches 22 and 23 and located south-east of the former and south-west of the latter. The basal deposit was firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay [49], recorded at upper elevations between 74.20m OD and 74.76m OD. It was overlain by 0.13m of firm, light brown, silty clay subsoil [48], which in turn was overlain by 0.22m of ploughsoil [47], recorded at surface elevations between 74.64m OD and 75.39m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench though 17th-century pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil.

7.25 Area C: Trench 25 (Figure 7)

7.25.1 Trench 25 was 30m long, aligned parallel with Trench 24 and located approximately 40m to the east. The basal deposit was a firm, mid reddish brown brickearth-like material with chalky boulder clay patches [29]. It was recorded at upper elevations between 75.23m OD and 75.72m OD and towards the south-eastern end of the trench was cut by a somewhat irregular, linear feature [30]. This was 0.96m wide, just 0.15m deep and was in excess of 3m long, extending beyond the northern and southern edges of the trench. It was filled with a firm, light yellowish brown sandy clay [31], which contained no finds. It appears that the feature was more likely to have been of geological rather than archaeological origin and it was sealed by 0.20m of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty/sandy clay subsoil [28] that extended across the whole trench. Cut into the subsoil a short distance north-west of the natural feature was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch [32]. This was 1.10m wide and in common with ditch [19] in Trench 23, appeared to have been part of a former field boundary removed in the mid 20th century. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench was completed by a 0.22m thick layer of ploughsoil [27], recorded at surface elevations between 75.63m OD and 76.42m OD.

7.26 Area C: Trench 26 (Figure 7)

7.26.1 Trench 26 was 30m long and continued the alignment of Trench 23 to the south-west of Trench 24. The basal deposit was firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay [46] recorded at upper elevations between 73.15m OD and 74.35m OD. It was overlain by 0.14m of firm, light yellowish brown, gravel-rich, silty clay subsoil [45], which in turn was overlain by 0.21m of ploughsoil [44], recorded at surface elevations between 73.49m OD and 74.86m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

7.27 Area C: Trench 27 (Figures 7 & 8)

7.27.1 Trench 27 was 30m long, aligned parallel with Trench 26 and located 40m to the east. The basal deposit [38] comprised a firm, mid brown, chalky boulder clay along with a mid yellowish brown, sandy clay brickearth-like material. It was recorded at upper elevations between 74.83m OD and 75.21m OD and overlain by 0.20m of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [37]. In common with the subsoil recorded in other more elevated locations within Area C (Trenches 23, 25 and 29) this appears to have formed much earlier than similar material recorded elsewhere on the site. The subsoil in Trench 27 was cut by a curvilinear ditch [34], which was broadly aligned north-east to south-west (Plate 8). The ditch was 1.02m wide, 0.44m deep and a 7m length was present within the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Figure 8) and was filled with a firm to friable, mid yellowish grey/brown, silty sandy clay [35] that produced an assemblage of pottery dated AD 0 – 70, providing a likely date for the backfilling of the ditch. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench was completed by a 0.22m thick layer of ploughsoil [36], recorded at surface elevations between 75.30m OD and 75.81m OD.

7.28 Area C: Trench 28 (Figure 7)

7.28.1 Trench 28 was 30m long, aligned perpendicular to Trenches 26 and 27 and located south-east of the former and south-west of the latter. The basal deposit was firm, light brown, chalky boulder clay [41], recorded at upper elevations between 74.12m OD and 74.32m OD. It was overlain by 0.13m of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [40]. Cut into the subsoil towards the south-eastern end of the trench was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch [42], which was 1.90m wide and filled with a friable, mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt [43]. In common with similar features in Trenches 23 and 25, this appears to have been a former field boundary that was infilled during the mid 20th century. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench was completed by 0.22m of ploughsoil [39], recorded at surface elevations of 74.57m OD and 74.81m OD.

7.29 Area C: Trench 29 (Figure 7)

7.29.1 Trench 29 was 30m long, aligned parallel with Trench 28 and located 40m to the east. The basal deposit was firm, light yellowish brown, chalky boulder clay [18], recorded at upper elevations between 75.50m OD and 75.88m OD. It was overlain by 0.20m of firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil [17], which in turn was overlain by 0.22m of ploughsoil [16], recorded at surface elevations between 75.85m OD and 76.48m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded within the trench.

7.30 Area C: Trench 30 (Figure 7)

7.30.1 Trench 30 was 30m long, aligned perpendicular to Trenches 28 and 29 and located south-east of the former and south-west of the latter. The basal deposit was firm, mid yellowish brown clay with abundant flint gravel and chalk inclusions [15]. It was recorded at upper elevations between 73.61m OD and 75.08m OD and overlain by 0.22m of Firm, mid yellowish grey/brown, silty clay subsoil [14]. The stratigraphic sequence was completed by a 0.22m thick layer of ploughsoil [13], recorded at surface elevations between 73.97m OD and 75.69m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were detected within the trench.

7.31 Area C: Trench 31 (Figure 7)

7.31.1 Trench 31 was 30m long and continued the alignment of Trench 28 to the south-east of Trench 30. The basal deposit was a firm, light yellowish grey/brown silty clay with high chalk content [12], recorded at upper elevations between 74.69m OD and 74.87m OD. This was overlain by 0.30m of firm, light yellowish grey/brown, silty clay subsoil [11], which in turn was overlain by 0.22m of ploughsoil [10], recorded at surface elevations between 75.08m OD and 75.56m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the trench though pottery of 19th/20th-century date was recovered from the ploughsoil.

7.32 Area C: Trench 32 (Figure 7)

7.32.1 Trench 32 was 30m long, aligned perpendicular to Trench 31 and located approximately 13m to the south-west. The basal deposit was a firm, mid reddish brown clay with a

significant gravel content [99], which appeared to comprise a combination of materials deposited by colluvial and alluvial action. It was recorded at upper elevations between 71.85m OD and 74.00m OD and was overlain by 0.68m of firm, light yellowish grey/brown colluvial subsoil [8]. The sequence was capped by a 0.28m thick layer of ploughsoil [7], recorded at surface elevations between 72.60m OD and 74.52m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were apparent within the trench.

7.33 Area C: Trench 33 (Figure 7)

7.33.1 Trench 33 was 30m long, aligned parallel with Trench 32 and located 40m to the east. The basal deposit was a firm, light greyish brown clay [6] of alluvial/colluvial origin, recorded at surface elevations between 74.01m OD and 76.08m OD. It was overlain by 0.25m of firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay subsoil [5], which was in turn overlain by 0.20m of ploughsoil [4], recorded at surface elevations between 74.56m OD and 76.58m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the trench though pottery dated between 1580 and 1700 was recovered from the ploughsoil.

7.34 Area C: Trench 34 (Figure 7)

7.34.1 Trench 34 was 30m long and the southernmost trench excavated in Area C. It was aligned perpendicular to Trenches 32 and 33 and located south-east of the former and south-west of the latter. The basal deposit was a firm, mid reddish brown clay [3], which appeared to be of colluvial/alluvial origin and which excavation of a sondage showed was in excess of 1m thick. It was recorded at upper elevations between 72.65m OD and 73.06m OD and was overlain by a 0.68m thick, firm, light yellowish brown, silty clay colluvial subsoil [2]. This in turn was overlain by 0.25m of ploughsoil [1], recorded at surface elevations between 73.55m OD and 73.88m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were detected within the trench.

8 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

8.1.1 Natural deposits showed some variation across the site, which was not unexpected given the extensive spatial coverage of the area under investigation. The dominant natural deposit was a firm, chalky boulder clay, ranging in colour from mid brown to light yellowish brown, which was recorded in all of the trenches in more elevated areas in Areas A, B and C, though in some trenches in Area C it also included a brickearth-like element. In locations further downslope in Areas B and C north of the small stream, the boulder clay gave way to slightly coarser materials comprising silts and clays derived from colluvial (hillwash) and alluvial (flooding) action, often mixed in combination with one another. The sequence in Trench 34 demonstrated that these deposits could attain a significant thickness downslope. The natural deposits in Area B south of the stream were significantly different. They were still dominated by stiff clays but with a notable gravel content. The surface elevation of natural deposits here was also significantly higher than those north of the stream and the overall topography appeared to indicate that the course of the stream marked a boundary between different underlying geologies between the southern part of Area B and the rest of the site.

8.2 Phase 2: Prehistoric

8.2.1 Although only a small amount of prehistoric artefactual material was recovered and this could only be broadly dated, there does appear to have been at least one phase of activity on the site prior to the Late Iron Age. This was most evident in Area A, where a number of features including variably aligned ditches, along with smaller, discrete and sometimes irregular features, were present (Figure 9). Significant features here included possible curvilinear ditch [149] in Trench 5, which may have extended into Trench 3 as ditch [55], and ditch [53], also in Trench 3, which included coarse flint-tempered pottery as well as struck flints. The apparent prehistoric linear features in Area A were generally more irregular and less regimented than later ditches in the area (see below) and it was difficult to fully define a number of the smaller, features though some of these were cut by prehistoric ditches, suggesting multiple phases of prehistoric occupation. A single ditch [205] in Area B, Trench 10 may also have been prehistoric in origin, though a lack of artefactual material has meant that the dating of this feature is merely tentative.

8.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

8.3.1 The archaeological remains recorded in Area A were dominated by series of regularly laid out, linear ditches, the majority following parallel north-east to south-west alignments, though there were also some aligned perpendicular to these (Figure 10). It was initially thought during machine stripping of the trenches that these were related to medieval agricultural practices but sample excavation of a number of the ditches failed to produce any evidence of medieval activity. Instead, small assemblages of pottery and tile suggested

an earlier date. Tile was broadly dated as Roman but pottery found in some of the features was mostly dated to the Late Iron Age into the early Romano-British period, the date range of all the material effectively lying within the 1st century BC to 1st century AD. It therefore appears that the linear features are representative of agricultural practices originating in the late prehistoric rather than early medieval period.

8.3.2 With the exception of Roman tile recovered residually from later deposits, there was little evidence for activity during this phase in Area B. However, an apparent curvilinear ditch [34] in Area C, Trench 27 produced an assemblage of pottery in at least two different fabrics indicating a similar date range to the material in Area A. It is likely that ditch [34] formed part of a larger curvilinear enclosure (Figure 11) that was contemporary with the apparent field system features to the west. A large fragment of daub was recovered from the fill of the ditch which may suggest the presence locally of a wattle and daub building (Appendix 7). Unfortunately no further contemporary features were identified in Area C or the large space between Areas A and C so it is impossible to define at present whether the activity in the two areas was related.

8.4 Phase 4: Medieval

8.4.1 Evidence of medieval activity was slight but most apparent in Area B. Although the date of origin of the large erosion gully ([100] in Trench 10, [111] in Trench 14) was unclear, its latest date of backfilling appears to have been during the medieval period. This later backfilling has therefore been assigned to the phase, and it is likely that this extensive feature had silted up or been deliberately backfilled during the medieval period (Figure 12). A NNE to SSW ditch ([98] in Trench 10, [91] in Trench 9) partly cut the backfilled gully and although no later finds were recovered, this has also been assigned a medieval date. It is possible that this ditch represented an element of late medieval land division, though is not evident on maps showing later field boundary divisions.

8.5 PHASE 5: EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL (c. 16th-18th Century)

8.5.1 With the exception of the more elevated parts of Area C (already discussed) deposits interpreted as subsoil across much of the site appear to have formed quite late in the overall stratigraphic sequence, finds from some of these layers suggesting formation in the earlier (16th- to 18th-century period), which may have been associated with changes in patterns of land exploitation at this time, though there is currently no further evidence to support this. A number of finds recovered from the ploughsoil at various locations across the site have also been dated to this period, however the number of archaeological features of this date is limited to two ditches (which may be related) that were exposed immediately below the subsoil in Area B north (Figure 13), and a single ditch that cut the subsoil in Area B south. Ditches [89] and [96] in Trenches 9 and 10 respectively may represent elements of earlier post-medieval land division, though in common with nearby medieval features they are not evident as extant boundaries in later maps. A similar situation also persists for ditch [178] in Trench 20.

8.6 PHASE 6: LATER POST-MEDIEVAL (c. 18th-20th Century)

8.6.1 The latest archaeological features recorded were boundary ditches exposed in trenches in Areas B and C. In Area B the large ditches in Trenches 16 and 17 are likely to have origins in the 18th or 19th century. Overlaying the plan of exposed ditches on a plan of boundary features derived from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1896 (Figure 14) shows that these appear to have been associated with a small field or enclosure located a short distance north of the stream, indeed the more northerly feature appears to have been a ditch that was excavated northwards from the stream before turning to the east. As such this ditch would clearly have contained water and may have been utilised for other purposes rather than simple land division. It is still visible on maps produced well into the 20th century.

8.6.2 A small number of post-medieval ditches recorded in Area C are also likely to have had 18th- or 19th-century origins and can again be seen when their plans are overlaid on the arrangement of field boundaries derived from the 1896 map (Figure 15). Again, many of these boundaries are still evident on maps produced well into the 20th century and a number of them were not ploughed out/infilled until the post-war era.

8.7 Phase 7: Modern

8.7.1 Activity related to the modern era (late 20th and early 21st centuries) across the site is limited to agricultural activity associated with ploughing. Although the majority of the artefacts recovered from the ploughsoil dated to earlier periods these are clearly residual and have been derived from the current land surface, which is undergoing continued agricultural re-working.

9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The evaluation by trial trenching revealed a number of phases of activity on the study site starting with the accumulation of natural deposits and ending with modern ploughing. To a certain extent it confirmed the findings of the earlier fieldwalking survey but there were also a number of contrasts in the findings of the two phases of investigation.

9.2 Potential evidence of prehistoric activity was dominated by burnt flint during the fieldwalking and there were concentrations towards the eastern end of the site, mostly not evaluated by the trial trenching, though there were minor concentrations in all three evaluation areas. The recovery of struck flint during the fieldwalking was mostly confined to that part of the site in the vicinity of evaluation Area B, however the trial trenching revealed minimal evidence for activity in this area, with just one ditch here possibly being of prehistoric date, though further worked flint was recovered from the topsoil in all areas. In contrast, the main concentration of prehistoric activity indicated by the trial trenching appears to have been In Area A, where, crucially, coarse flint-tempered pottery was recovered. Given the fragile nature of this material it is likely that its condition would rapidly deteriorate if exposed for any length of time, which may well explain why no such material was recovered during the fieldwalking. The broad distribution of struck flint across the site, albeit mostly from residual contexts, suggests there was activity, possibly associated with settlement, during the later prehistoric period and prior to the Late Iron Age

9.3 Roman brick and tile was found in small areas of concentration across the site during the fieldwalking, including all three areas subsequently evaluated. Further such material was also recovered from the topsoil in Areas A and B during the evaluation. However, a concentration of features exposed during the evaluation in Area A has been dated by pottery present to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period; a period of occupation not really defined during the fieldwalking. Again, the reason for this may be the fragility of the artefactual material. Pottery of similar date was also recovered from Area C, where there may have been a large enclosure contemporary with agricultural features in Area A. It is suggested that the presence of a large fragment of daub from the enclosure in Area C may imply the presence of a wattle and daub building nearby (Appendix 7).

9.4 It is interesting to note in terms of prehistoric and early Roman occupation that both of these areas lie in similar topographic locations; both are on flattish ground, close to the break in slope in semi-promontory areas. In Area A the ground breaks away to the south, west and north-west, and in Area C the ground breaks away down to the valley of the small stream to the south and south-west. In a non-wooded environment both areas would have commanded views over the valley to the south and the rising land beyond.

9.5 The distribution of medieval pottery recovered during the fieldwalking was almost entirely restricted to the vicinity of evaluation Area A, with significant concentrations of medieval tile being recovered from the vicinity of Areas B and C, hence the rationale behind locating trial trenches in these areas. Further medieval tile was recovered from the topsoil in all areas during the evaluation but little further pottery was found and the number of features phased

to the medieval period was minimal. Indeed in Area A no further medieval pottery was recovered and no features here could confidently be assigned to the medieval period, despite the regular layout of ditches here initially suggesting a medieval agricultural origin. It may be that the material recovered during fieldwalking was derived from manuring and that its original source was occupation areas that lay to the west and south of the area investigated.

9.6 Post-medieval tile and, to a lesser extent, brick and pottery was found widely scattered across the site during the fieldwalking, with concentrations being particularly high in eastern and southern areas. Similar material was also found to be widespread during the evaluation with the topsoil sealing most trial trenches producing a small assemblage. However a substantial amount of the material appears to date to the earlier post-medieval period, probably no later than the 18th century and although very few features of this date were identified, there appears to have been a significant change in the pattern of land use at this time. It is likely that the early post-medieval period witnessed an intensification in land-use and possibly a change from pasturing to the growing of arable crops on the site. With the exception of the most elevated parts of Area C development of the current subsoil across the site appears to have been relatively recent, with in a number of instances, fragments of early post-medieval tile being recovered from this deposit in addition to that from the more clearly-defined overlying ploughsoil. A precise explanation for this would probably require a more analytical soil science approach.

9.7 The pattern of land use in the later post-medieval period (18th to 20th century) was somewhat clearer as a number of features exposed and excavated in Areas B and C could be identified with features extant on 19th- and 20th-century maps. Features to the south of Area B appear to have been associated with a small enclosure and/or land management scheme, whereas those in Area C were associated with field boundaries that were still features in the landscape up to the middle of the 20th century. Although these features were clearly in existence by the second half of the 19th century and were mostly not abandoned until the mid 20th century, a lack of artefactual evidence from their lower fills has meant that it has not been possible to exactly date their establishment. It is thought that they originated during widespread land enclosure during the late 18th and early 19 centuries, though could have been established during the earlier post-medieval period.

9.8 Overall the evaluation has demonstrated that significant areas of archaeological remains are still extant within the West Sumners site and although there may have been some truncation by ploughing in the past, cut features can still clearly be defined in the areas investigated. In Area A there was a clear concentration of features of later prehistoric and early Roman date, probably associated with agricultural activity, though possibly with a domestic element. Should this area be developed it is likely that further archaeological mitigation would be required as development would be likely to have an impact on the remains which mostly lie within 0.5m of the current land surface.

9.9 In Area B the concentration of archaeological remains was much lower, though some

features of possible prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date were present. In particular a large erosion gully, which had been naturally (and possibly part deliberately) backfilled, and large post-medieval ditches formed significant landscape features. It was not possible to define the actual date of origin of these features during the evaluation and it is likely that further archaeological mitigation would be required prior to any development, in order to define their nature, date and extent.

9.10 In the more elevated part of Area C there appears to have been an enclosure of late prehistoric/early Roman date and it is probable that further contemporary features were also present, though not detected during the evaluation. A number of post-medieval field boundaries were also exposed during the evaluation in this area, though in common with features in Area B, the date of their origin could not be accurately established. Given the shallow burial of the features of varying dates in this area and the likely depth of impact of any development here it is likely that further archaeological mitigation would be required in this area to more fully define the extent of the earlier enclosure and establish the origin of the field boundaries.

9.11 Further downslope in Area C, the evaluation demonstrated through sondages in lower-lying trial trenches, that there was a significant build-up of colluvial/alluvial material, though no features were recorded below this in the areas investigated. If development were to extend into this area and if deep excavation were required, then there may be some necessity for archaeological mitigation during this work. This may extend to the “floodplain” zone in Area B.

9.12 The remains recorded in the trial trench evaluation are considered to potentially be of local to regional significance. However due to the heavy degradation of the remains by past ploughing it is anticipated that the impact of the proposed development can be mitigated through further archaeological mitigation strategies secured by conditions attached to planning consent.

9.13 Following the conclusion of this project and any further work in association with the proposed development, and subject to the approval of this report by the Historic Environment Officer at Essex County Council, PCA will seek to deposit the entire site archive from this work with Harlow Museum under the unique site code ROWS12.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. PCA would also like to thank Richard Havis and Maria Medlycott of Essex County Council for monitoring the project and providing constructive comments and advice. Special thanks are extended to the landowner, Mr Robert Graham for his immense help and advice before, during and subsequent to the archaeological investigations.

10.2 The author wishes to thank Chris Mayo for project management and editing this report, Adam and Shane for their invaluable assistance on site in often very challenging conditions, Mark Roughley for the illustrations, Chris Cooper for organising logistical support and the specialists who have contributed to this report: Katie Anderson, Barry Bishop, Märit Gaimster, Chris Jarrett, Kevin Haywood and Kevin Rielly. The survey work was undertaken by Richard Archer.

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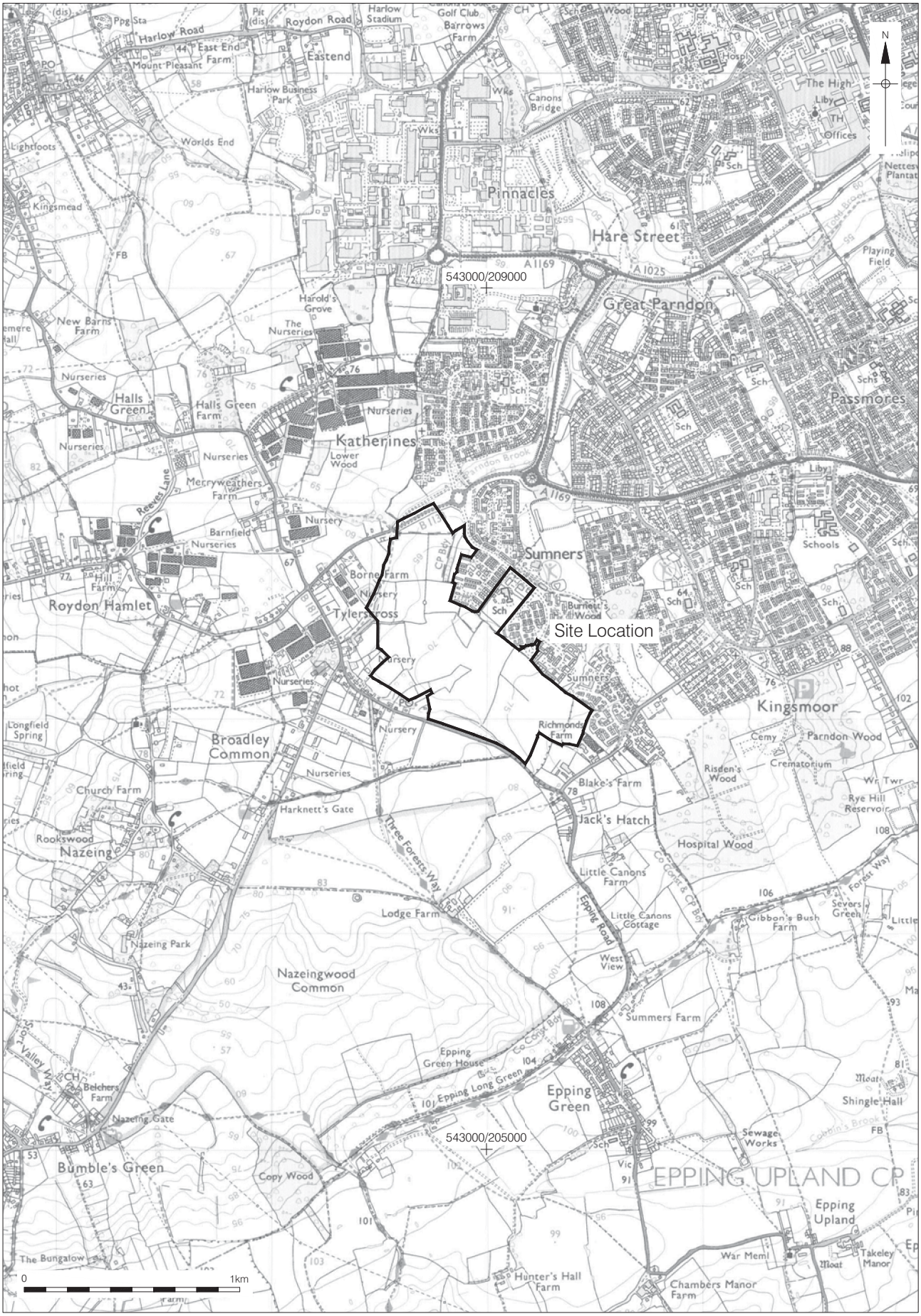

26/11/12 MR

Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4

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Figure 2
Area and Trench Locations
1:2,500 at A3

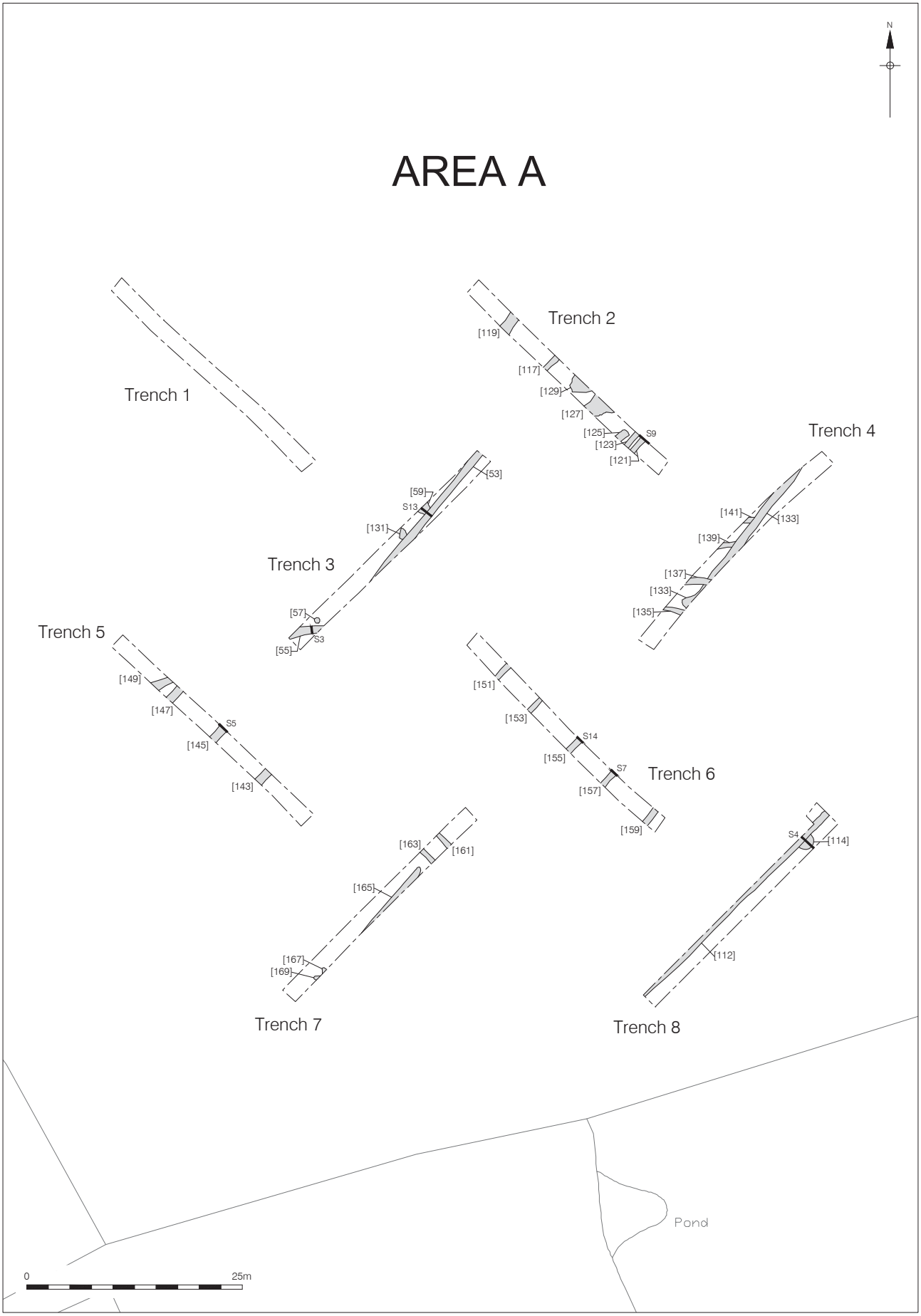

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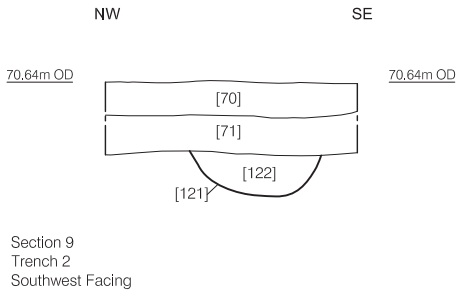
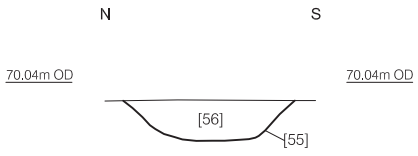
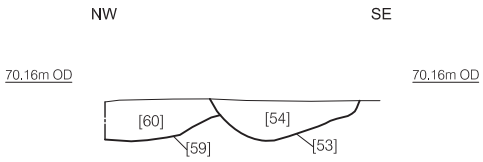
Figure 3
Area A Trenches and Features
1:625 at A4



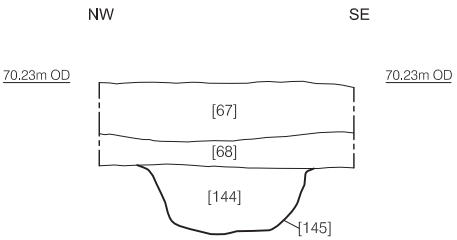
Section 9
Trench 2
Southwest Facing



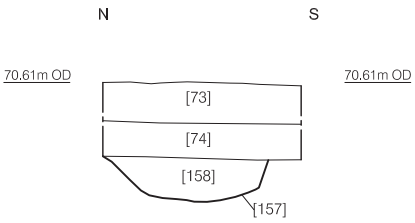
Section 3
Trench 3
West Facing



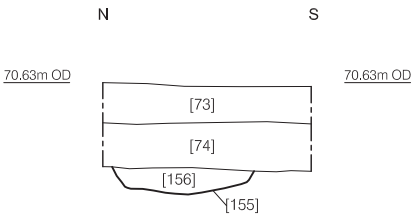
Section 13
Trench 3
Southwest Facing



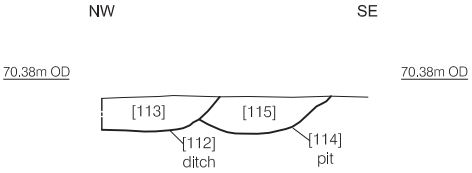
Section 5
Trench 5
Southwest Facing



Section 7
Trench 6
Southwest Facing



Section 14
Trench 6
Southwest Facing



Section 4
Trench 8
Southwest Facing

0 2m

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Figure 4
Area A Sections 9, 3, 13, 5, 7, 14 and 4
1:40 at A4

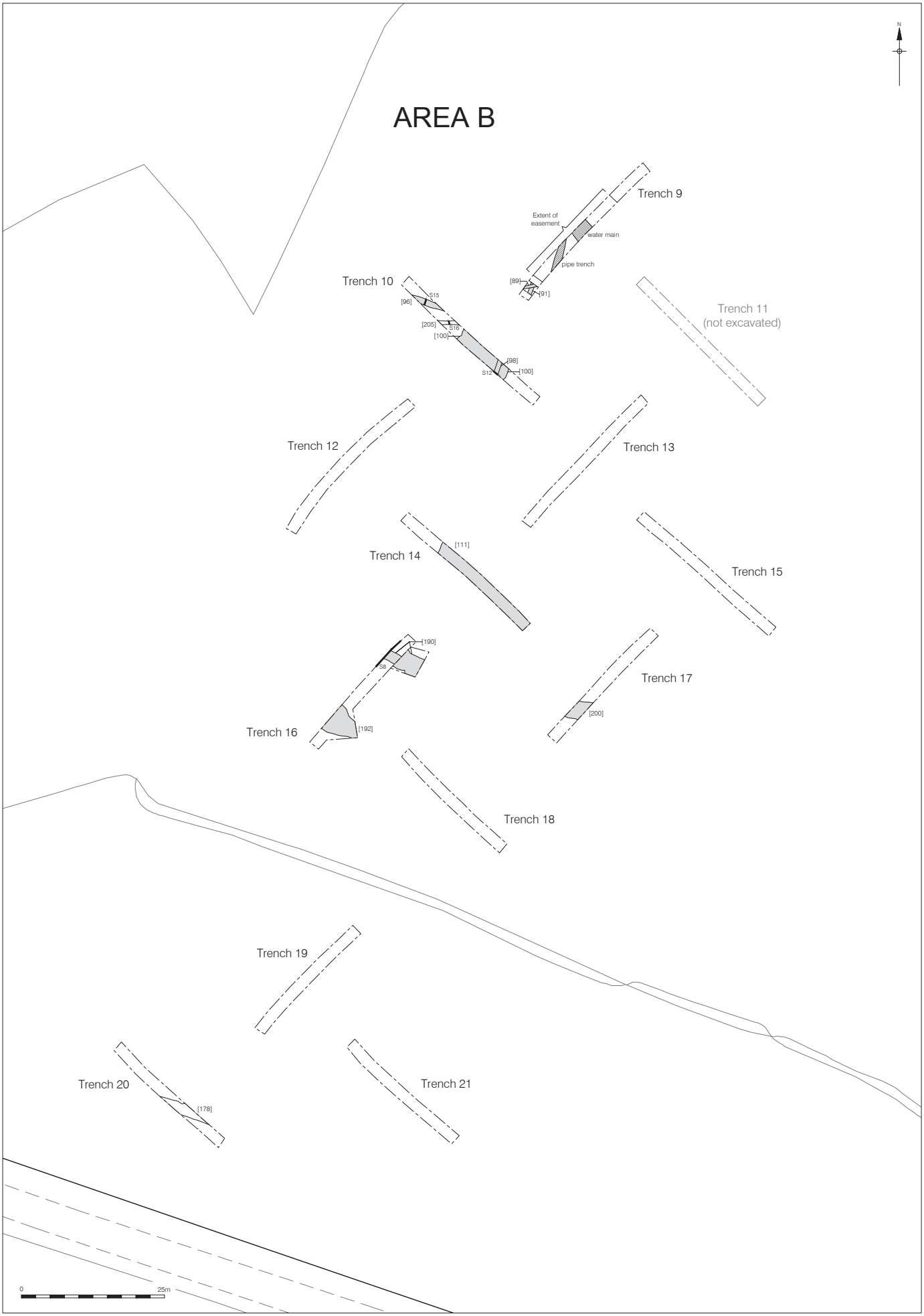

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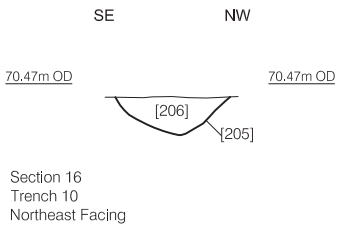
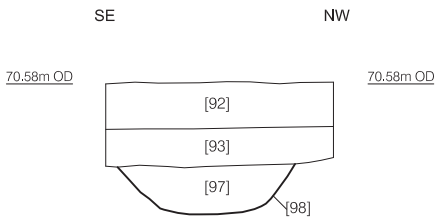
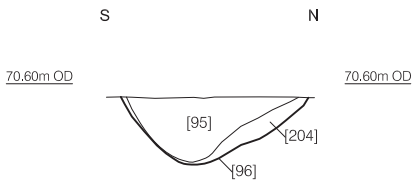
Figure 5
Area B Trenches and Features
1:625 at A3



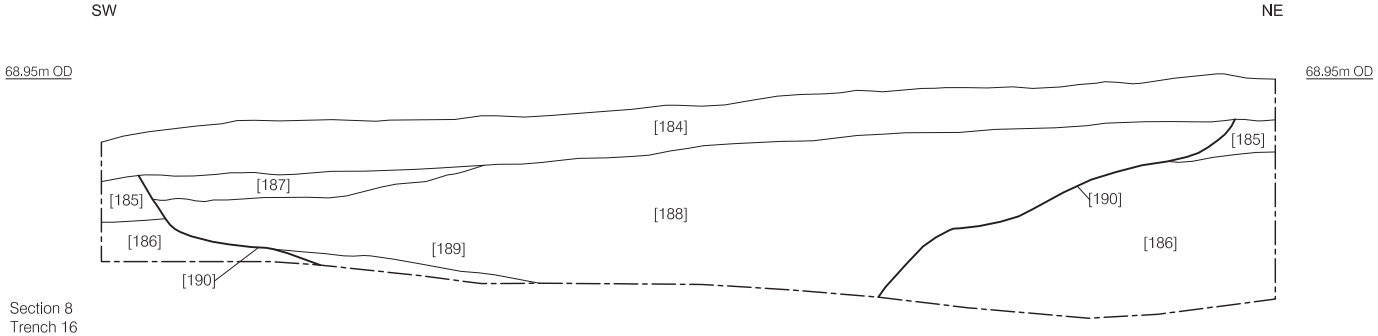
Section 16
Trench 10
Northeast Facing



Section 12
Trench 10
Northeast Facing



Section 15
Trench 10
East Facing



Section 8
Trench 16
Southeast Facing

0 2m

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Figure 6
Area B Sections: 16, 12, 15 and 8
1:40 at A4

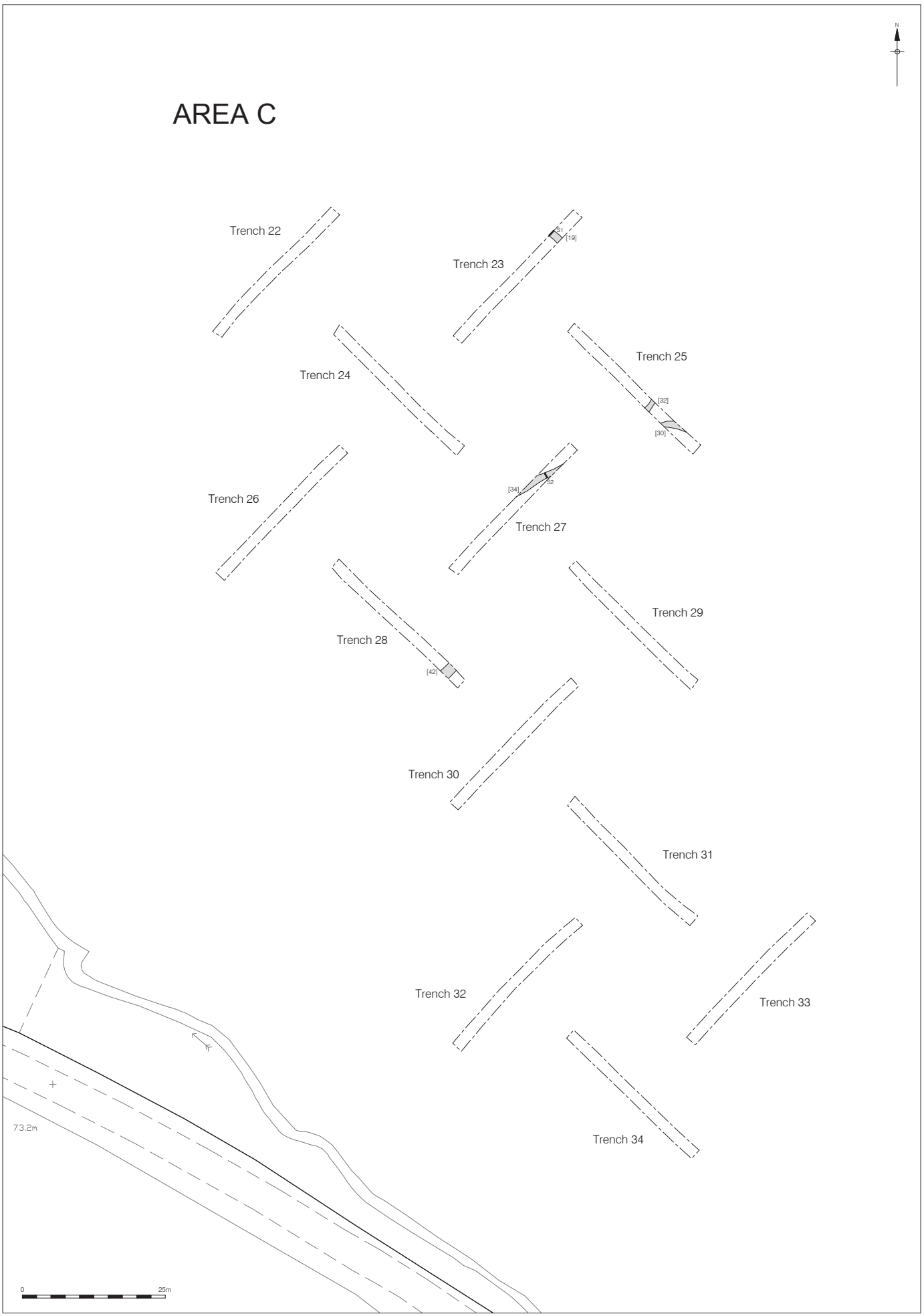

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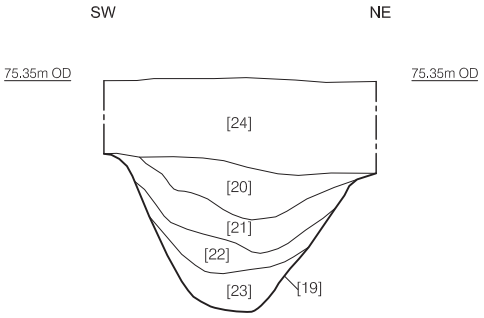
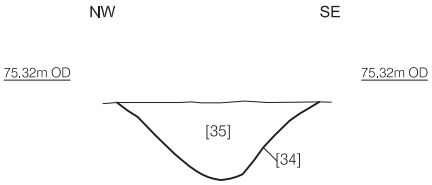
Figure 7
Area C Trenches and Features
1:625 at A3



Section 1
Trench 23
Southeast Facing



Section 2
Trench 27
Southwest Facing

0 2m

11/10/12 MR

Figure 8
Area C Sections: 1 and 2
1:40 at A4

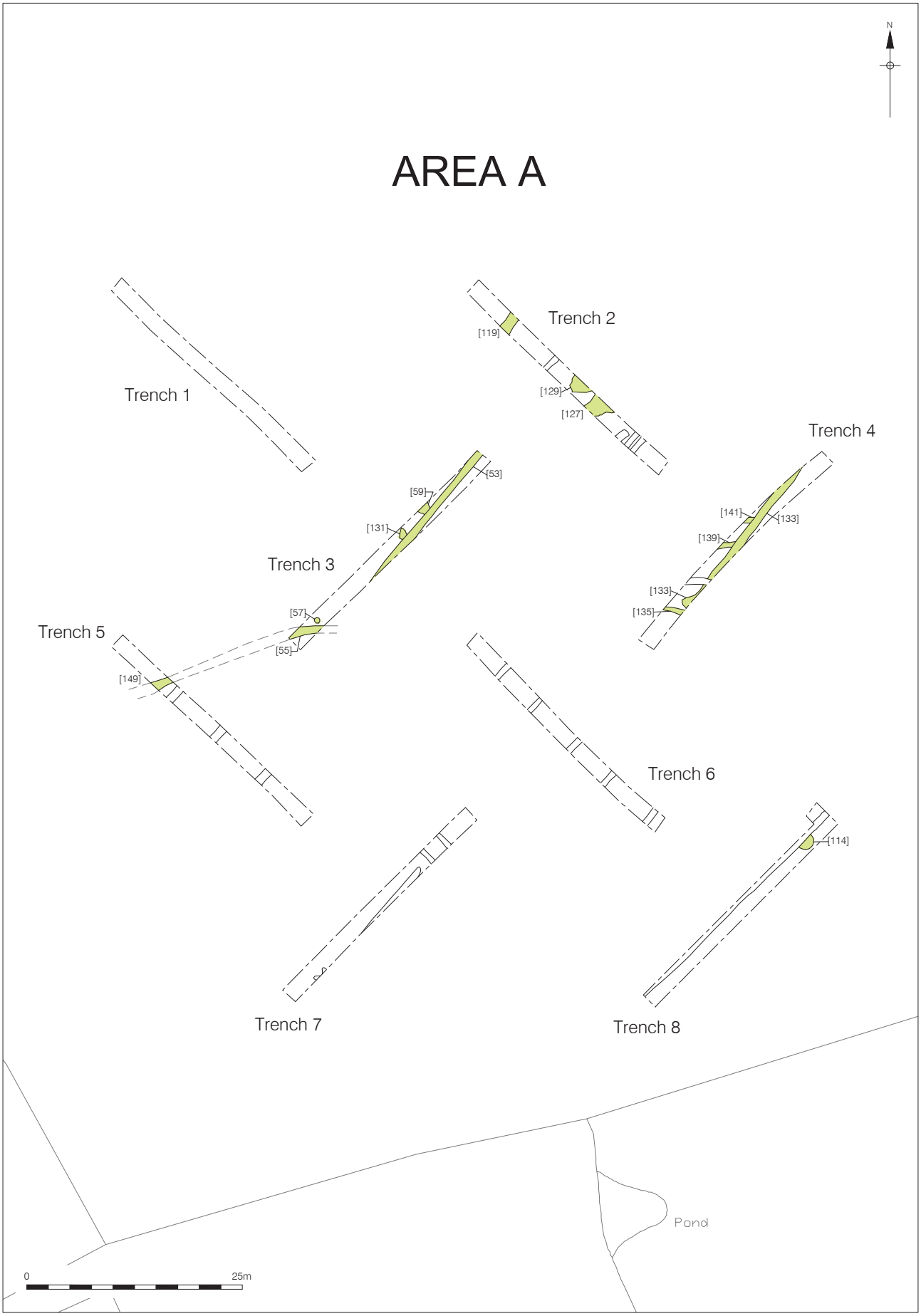


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Figure 9
Area A Prehistoric (Phase 2) Features and Projections
1:625 at A4

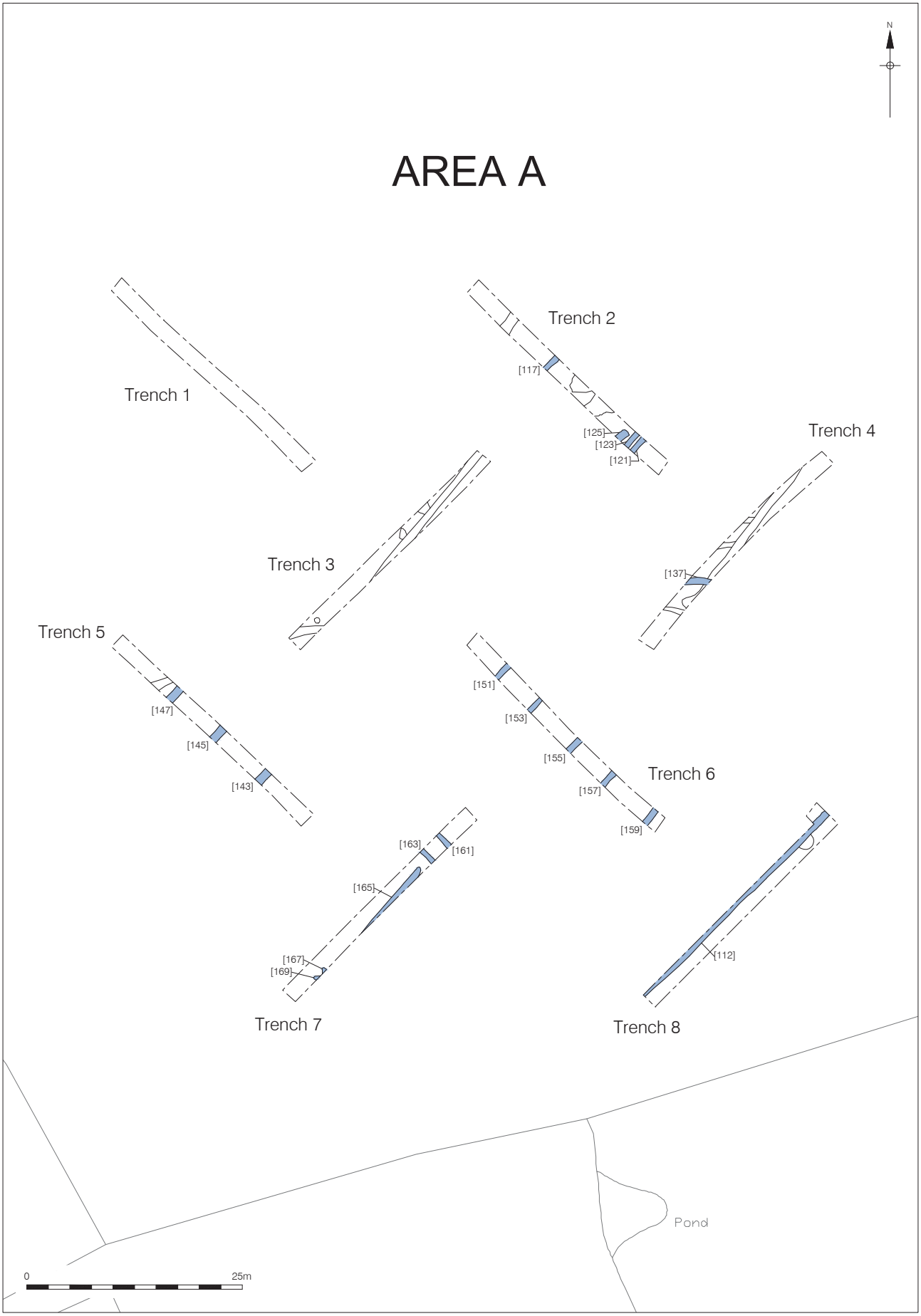

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Figure 10
Area A Late Iron Age/Roman (Phase 3) Features
1:625 at A4

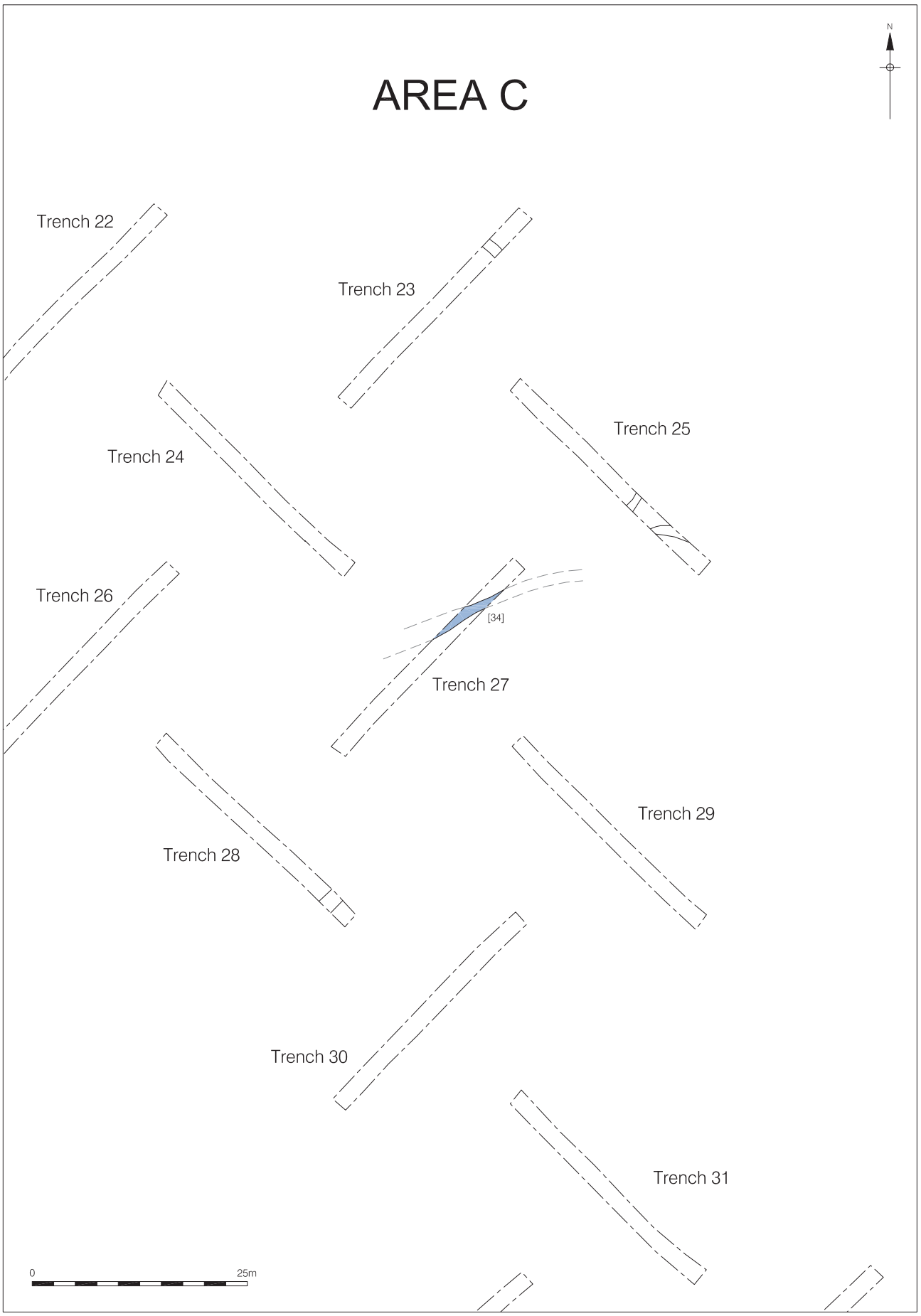

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Figure 11
Area C Late Iron Age/Roman (Phase 3) Features and Projection
1:625 at A4

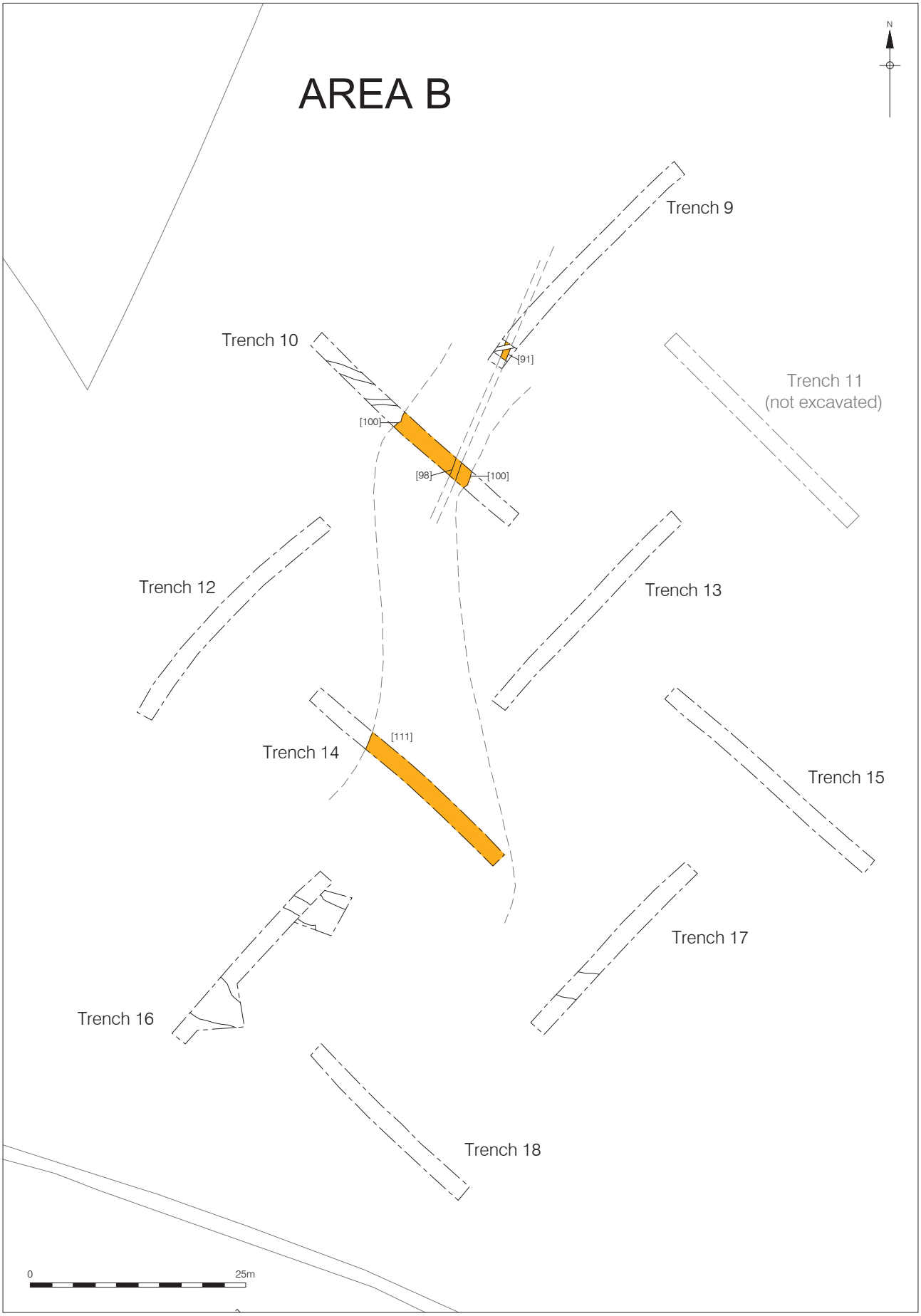

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Figure 12
Area B Medieval (Phase 4) Features and Projections
1:625 at A4

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Figure 13
Area B Early Post-Medieval (Phase 6) Features
1:625 at A3

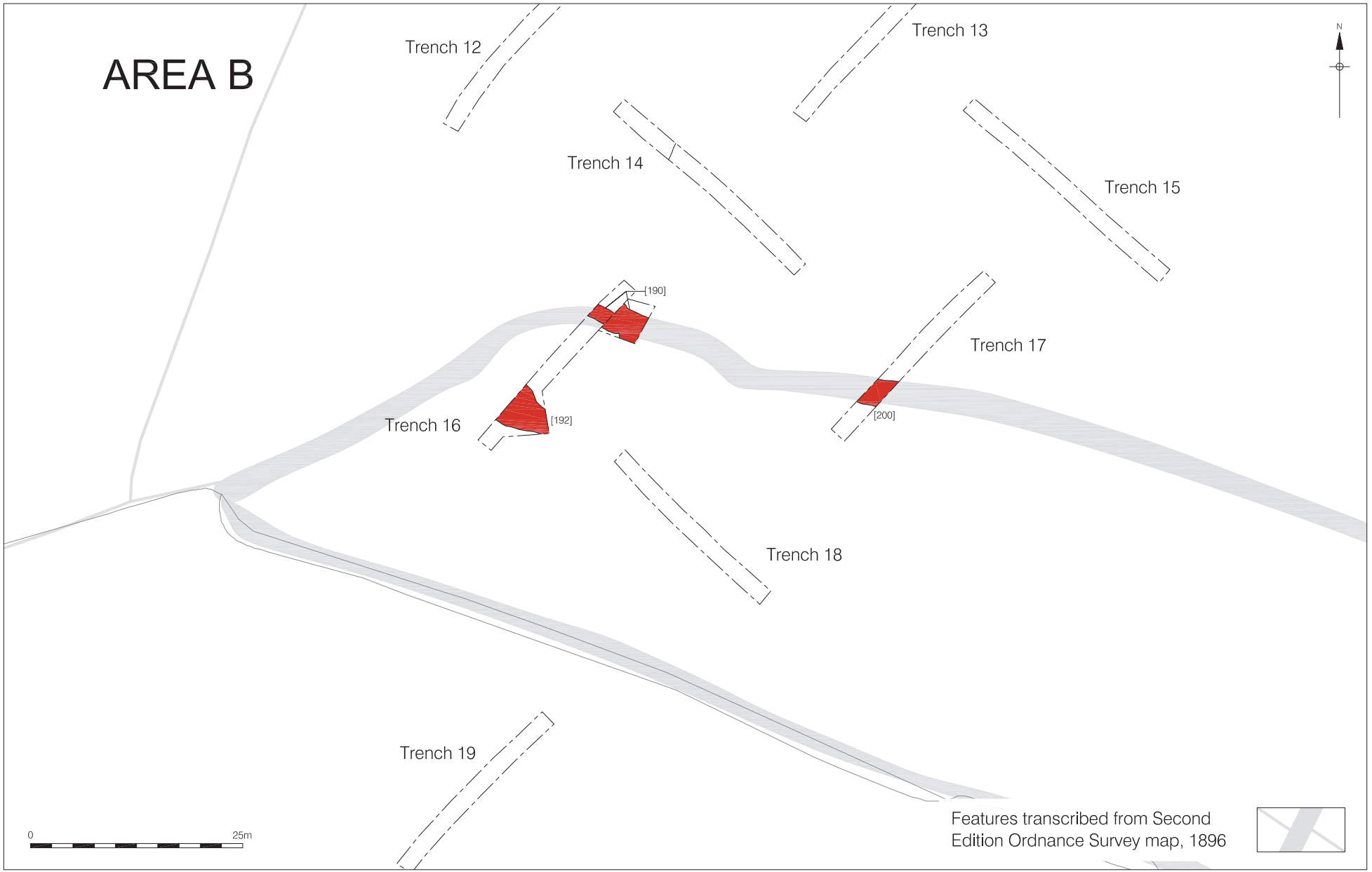

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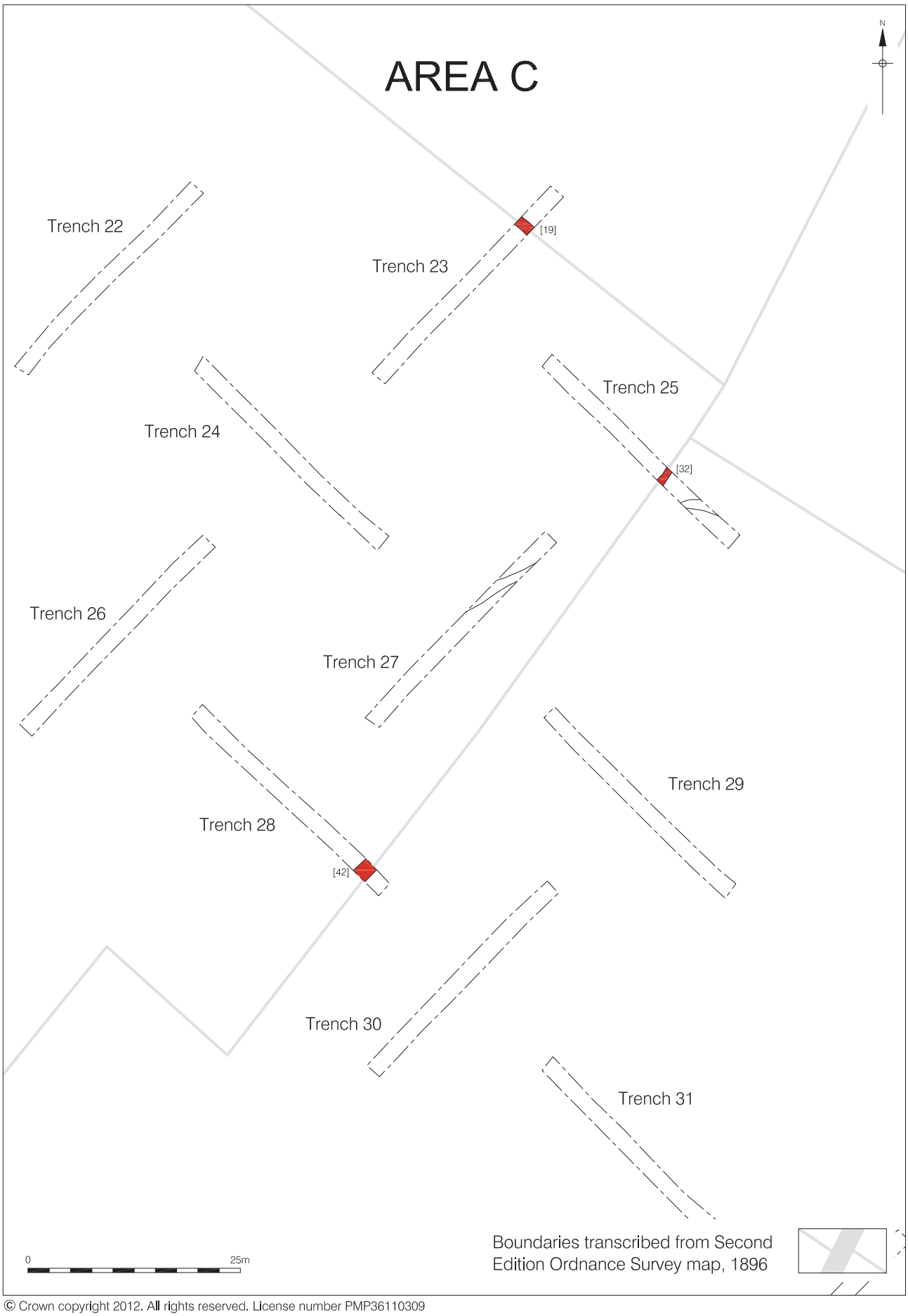
Figure 14
Overlay of Area B Late Post-Medieval (Phase 6) Features on Historic Boundaries
1:625 at A4



10/10/12 MR

Figure 15
Overlay of Area C Late Post-Medieval (Phase 6) Features on Historic Boundaries
1:625 at A4

12 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

PLATE 1: Ditch [55], Looking East

PLATE 2: Posthole [59] (L) & Ditch [53] (R), Looking North-East

PLATE 3: Ditch [157], Looking North-East

PLATE 4: Ditch [96], Looking West

PLATE 5: Ditch [190], Looking North-West

PLATE 6: Trench 17, Looking North-East; Ditch [200] In Middle Distance

PLATE 7: Ditch [19], Looking North-West

PLATE 8: Ditch [34], Looking North-East

13 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Cxt No.	Type	Area	Plan	Sect.	Date	Phase	Description
ROWS12	1	Layer	Trench 34	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	2	Layer	Trench 34	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay alluvial/colluvial subsoil
ROWS12	3	Layer	Trench 34	-	-	Natural	1	Natural clay
ROWS12	4	Layer	Trench 33	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	5	Layer	Trench 33	-	-	16-18C	5	Greyish brown, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	6	Layer	Trench 33	-	-	Natural	1	Firm natural clay
ROWS12	7	Layer	Trench 32	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	8	Layer	Trench 32	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay alluvial/colluvial subsoil
ROWS12	9	Layer	Trench 32	-	-	Natural	1	Natural firm clay with gravel
ROWS12	10	Layer	Trench 31	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	11	Layer	Trench 31	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	12	Layer	Trench 31	-	-	Natural	1	Firm natural silty clay with chalk
ROWS12	13	Layer	Trench 30	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	14	Layer	Trench 30	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	15	Layer	Trench 30	-	-	Natural	1	Natural clay with flint gravel and chalk
ROWS12	16	Layer	Trench 29	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	17	Layer	Trench 29	-	-	Prehistoric	2	Firm silty clay subsoil with chalk flecks
ROWS12	18	Layer	Trench 29	-	-	Natural	1	Firm natural clay with chalk
ROWS12	19	Cut	Trench 23	19	1	18-20C	6	NW-SE aligned boundary ditch
ROWS12	20	Fill	Trench 23	19	1	18-20C	6	Upper fill of ditch [19]
ROWS12	21	Fill	Trench 23	-	1	18-20C	6	Fill of ditch [19]
ROWS12	22	Fill	Trench 23	-	1	18-20C	6	Fill of ditch [19]
ROWS12	23	Fill	Trench 23	-	1	18-20C	6	Basal fill of ditch [19]
ROWS12	24	Layer	Trench 23	-	1	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	25	Layer	Trench 23	-	1	Prehistoric	2	Firm clayey subsoil
ROWS12	26	Layer	Trench 23	-	-	Natural	1	Chalky natural boulder clay
ROWS12	27	Layer	Trench 25	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	28	Layer	Trench 25	-	-	Prehistoric	2	Silty, sandy clay subsoil
ROWS12	29	Layer	Trench 25	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	30	Cut	Trench 25	-	-	Natural	1	Curvilinear natural feature
ROWS12	31	Fill	Trench 25	-	-	Natural	1	Fill of feature [30]
ROWS12	32	Cut	Trench 25	-	-	18-20C	6	NE-SW aligned boundary ditch
ROWS12	33	Fill	Trench 25	-	-	18-20C	6	Fill of ditch [32]

Site Code	Cxt No.	Type	Area	Plan	Sect.	Date	Phase	Description
ROWS12	34	Cut	Trench 27	34	2	LIA/Rom	3	Curvilinear ditch
ROWS12	35	Fill	Trench 27	34	2	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [34]
ROWS12	36	Layer	Trench 27	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	37	Layer	Trench 27	-	-	Prehistoric	2	Sandy clay subsoil
ROWS12	38	Layer	Trench 27	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	39	Layer	Trench 28	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	40	Layer	Trench 28	-	-	16-18C	5	Chalky subsoil
ROWS12	41	Layer	Trench 28	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	42	Cut	Trench 28	42	-	18-20C	6	NE-SW aligned boundary ditch
ROWS12	43	Fill	Trench 28	42	-	18-20C	6	Fill of ditch [42]
ROWS12	44	Layer	Trench 26	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	45	Layer	Trench 26	-	-	16-18C	5	Gravelly, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	46	Layer	Trench 26	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	47	Layer	Trench 24	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	48	Layer	Trench 24	-	-	16-18C	5	Silty clay subsoil with chalk and flints
ROWS12	49	Layer	Trench 24	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	50	Layer	Trench 22	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	51	Layer	Trench 22	-	-	16-18C	5	Mid brown clay subsoil with flints
ROWS12	52	Layer	Trench 22	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	53	Cut	Trench 3	53	13	Prehistoric	2	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	54	Fill	Trench 3	53	13	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [53]
ROWS12	55	Cut	Trench 3	55	3	Prehistoric	2	E-W aligned, slightly curvilinear ditch
ROWS12	56	Fill	Trench 3	55	3	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [55]
ROWS12	57	Cut	Trench 3	57	6	Prehistoric	2	Circular posthole
ROWS12	58	Fill	Trench 3	57	6	Prehistoric	2	Fill of posthole [57]
ROWS12	59	Cut	Trench 3	59	13	Prehistoric	2	Su-circular posthole
ROWS12	60	Fill	Trench 3	59	13	Prehistoric	2	Fill of posthole [59]
ROWS12	61	Layer	Trench 3	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	62	Layer	Trench 3	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	63	Layer	Trench 3	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	64	Layer	Trench 1	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	65	Layer	Trench 1	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	66	Layer	Trench 1	-	-	Natural	1	Light brown, chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	67	Layer	Trench 5	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	68	Layer	Trench 5	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil

Site Code	Cxt No.	Type	Area	Plan	Sect.	Date	Phase	Description
ROWS12	69	Layer	Trench 5	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	70	Layer	Trench 2	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	71	Layer	Trench 2	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	72	Layer	Trench 2	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	73	Layer	Trench 6	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	74	Layer	Trench 6	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	75	Layer	Trench 6	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	76	Layer	Trench 4	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	77	Layer	Trench 4	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	78	Layer	Trench 4	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	79	Layer	Trench 7	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	80	Layer	Trench 7	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	81	Layer	Trench 7	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	82	Layer	Trench 8	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	83	Layer	Trench 8	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	84	Layer	Trench 8	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	85	Layer	Trench 9	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	86	Layer	Trench 9	-	-	16-18C	5	Mid brown, silty clay subsoil with flints
ROWS12	87	Layer	Trench 9	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	88	Fill	Trench 9	89	-	16-18C	5	Fill of ditch [89]
ROWS12	89	Cut	Trench 9	89	-	16-18C	5	ENE-WSW aligned ditch
ROWS12	90	Fill	Trench 9	91	-	Medieval	4	Fill of ditch [91]
ROWS12	91	Cut	Trench 9	91	-	Medieval	4	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	92	Layer	Trench 10	-	12	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	93	Layer	Trench 10	-	12	16-18C	5	Gravel rich, mid brown, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	94	Layer	Trench 10	-	-	Natural	1	Natural chalky boulder clay
ROWS12	95	Fill	Trench 10	96	15	16-18C	5	Fill of ditch [96]
ROWS12	96	Cut	Trench 10	96	15	16-18C	5	E-W aligned ditch
ROWS12	97	Fill	Trench 10	98	12	Medieval	4	Fill of ditch [98]
ROWS12	98	Cut	Trench 10	98	12	Medieval	4	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	99	Fill	Trench 10	100	-	Medieval	4	Fill of erosion gully [100]
ROWS12	100	Cut	Trench 10	100	-	Medieval	4	Large NE-SW aligned erosion gully, same as [111], Tr 14
ROWS12	101	Layer	Trench 12	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	102	Layer	Trench 12	-	-	16-18C	5	Mid brown, silty clay subsoil with chalky flecks
ROWS12	103	Layer	Trench 12	-	-	Natural	1	Natural mid brown clay with chalk and gravel

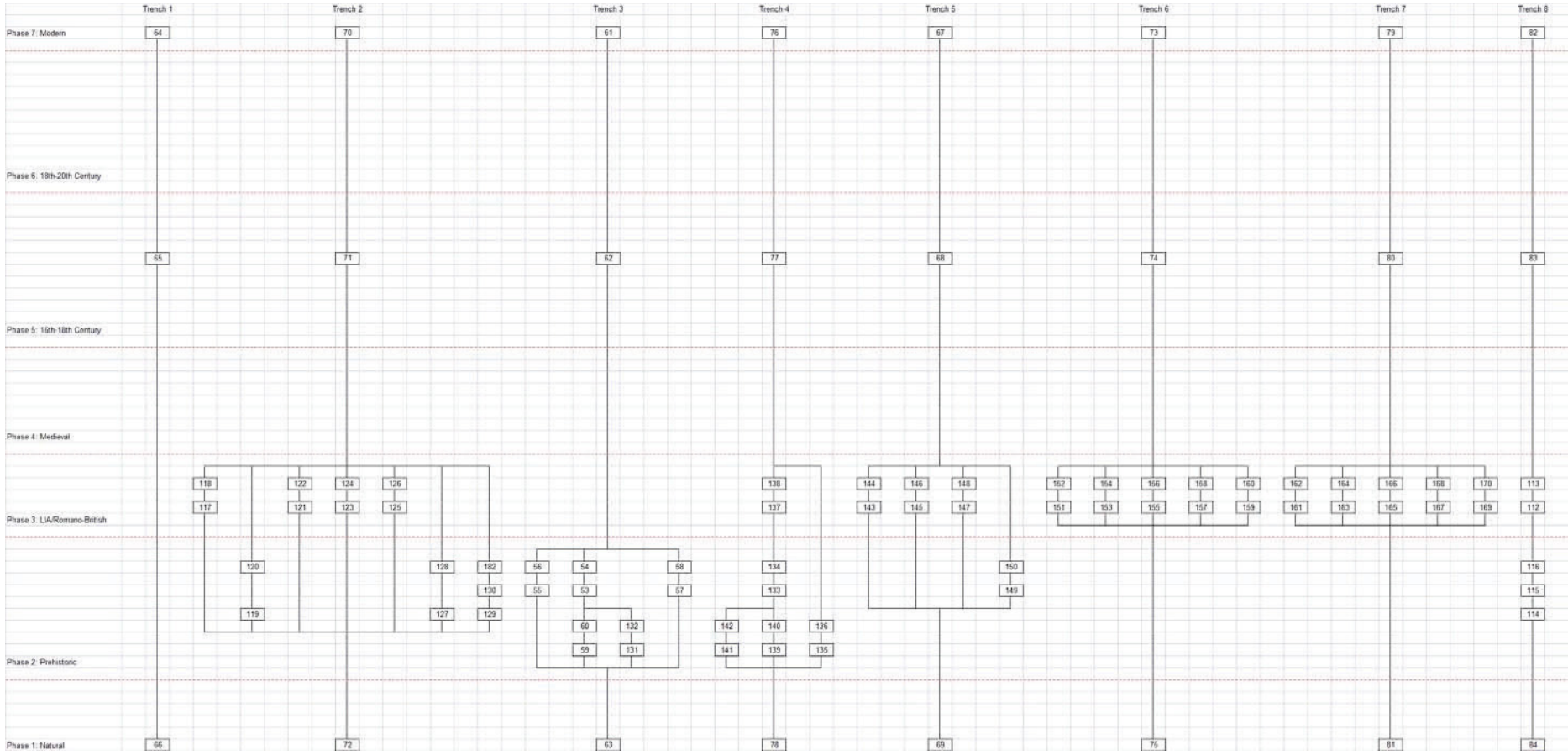
Site Code	Cxt No.	Type	Area	Plan	Sect.	Date	Phase	Description
ROWS12	104	Layer	Trench 13	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	105	Layer	Trench 13	-	-	16-18C	5	Silty clay subsoil with frequent inclusions
ROWS12	106	Layer	Trench 13	-	-	Natural	1	Mixed natural boulder clay with chalk
ROWS12	107	Layer	Trench 14	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	108	Layer	Trench 14	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, clayey silt subsoil
ROWS12	109	Layer	Trench 14	-	-	Natural	1	Stiff natural silty clay
ROWS12	110	Fill	Trench 14	111	-	Medieval	4	Fill of erosion gully [111]
ROWS12	111	Cut	Trench 14	111	-	Medieval	4	Large NE-SW aligned erosion gully, same as [100], Tr 10
ROWS12	112	Cut	Trench 8	112	4	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	113	Fill	Trench 8	112	4	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [112]
ROWS12	114	Cut	Trench 8	114	4	Prehistoric	2	Small, sub-circular pit
ROWS12	115	Fill	Trench 8	-	4	Prehistoric	2	Lower fill of pit [114]
ROWS12	116	Fill	Trench 8	114	4	Prehistoric	2	Upper fill of pit [114]
ROWS12	117	Cut	Trench 2	117	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	118	Fill	Trench 2	117	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [117]
ROWS12	119	Cut	Trench 2	119	-	Prehistoric	2	NNE-SSW aligned ditch
ROWS12	120	Fill	Trench 2	119	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [119]
ROWS12	121	Cut	Trench 2	121	9	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	122	Fill	Trench 2	121	9	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [121]
ROWS12	123	Cut	Trench 2	123	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	124	Fill	Trench 2	123	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [123]
ROWS12	125	Cut	Trench 2	125	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	126	Fill	Trench 2	125	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [125]
ROWS12	127	Cut	Trench 2	127	-	Prehistoric	2	Irregular NE-SW aligned ditch
ROWS12	128	Fill	Trench 2	127	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [127]
ROWS12	129	Cut	Trench 2	129	-	Prehistoric	2	Sub-rectangular pit
ROWS12	130	Fill	Trench 2	129	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of pit [129]
ROWS12	131	Cut	Trench 3	131	-	Prehistoric	2	Small irregular pit
ROWS12	132	Fill	Trench 3	131	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of pit [131]
ROWS12	133	Cut	Trench 4	133	11	Prehistoric	2	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	134	Fill	Trench 4	133	11	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [133]
ROWS12	135	Cut	Trench 4	135	-	Prehistoric	2	WNW-ESE aligned ditch
ROWS12	136	Fill	Trench 4	135	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [135]
ROWS12	137	Cut	Trench 4	137	-	LIA/Rom	3	E-W aligned ditch
ROWS12	138	Fill	Trench 4	137	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [137]

Site Code	Cxt No.	Type	Area	Plan	Sect.	Date	Phase	Description
ROWS12	139	Cut	Trench 4	139	-	Prehistoric	2	E-W aligned ditch
ROWS12	140	Fill	Trench 4	139	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [139
ROWS12	141	Cut	Trench 4	141	-	Prehistoric	2	E-W aligned ditch
ROWS12	142	Fill	Trench 4	141	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [141]
ROWS12	143	Cut	Trench 5	143	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	144	Fill	Trench 5	143	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [143]
ROWS12	145	Cut	Trench 5	145	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	146	Fill	Trench 5	145	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [145]
ROWS12	147	Cut	Trench 5	147	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	148	Fill	Trench 5	147	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [147]
ROWS12	149	Cut	Trench 5	149	-	Prehistoric	2	WSW-ENE aligned ditch
ROWS12	150	Fill	Trench 5	149	-	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [149]
ROWS12	151	Cut	Trench 6	151	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	152	Fill	Trench 6	151	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [151]
ROWS12	153	Cut	Trench 6	153	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	154	Fill	Trench 6	153	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [153]
ROWS12	155	Cut	Trench 6	155	14	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	156	Fill	Trench 6	155	14	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [155]
ROWS12	157	Cut	Trench 6	157	7	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	158	Fill	Trench 6	157	7	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [157]
ROWS12	159	Cut	Trench 6	159	-	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	160	Fill	Trench 6	159	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [159]
ROWS12	161	Cut	Trench 7	161	-	LIA/Rom	3	NW-SE aligned ditch
ROWS12	162	Fill	Trench 7	161	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [161]
ROWS12	163	Cut	Trench 7	163	-	LIA/Rom	3	NW-SE aligned ditch
ROWS12	164	Fill	Trench 7	163	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [163]
ROWS12	165	Cut	Trench 7	165	10	LIA/Rom	3	NE-SW-aligned ditch
ROWS12	166	Fill	Trench 7	165	10	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of ditch [165]
ROWS12	167	Cut	Trench 7	167	-	LIA/Rom	3	Sub-circular posthole
ROWS12	168	Fill	Trench 7	167	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of posthole [167]
ROWS12	169	Cut	Trench 7	169	-	LIA/Rom	3	Sub-circular posthole
ROWS12	170	Fill	Trench 7	169	-	LIA/Rom	3	Fill of posthole [169]
ROWS12	171	Layer	Trench 19	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	172	Layer	Trench 19	-	-	16-18C	5	Light reddish brown, silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	173	Layer	Trench 19	-	-	Natural	1	Natural clay with flints and gravel

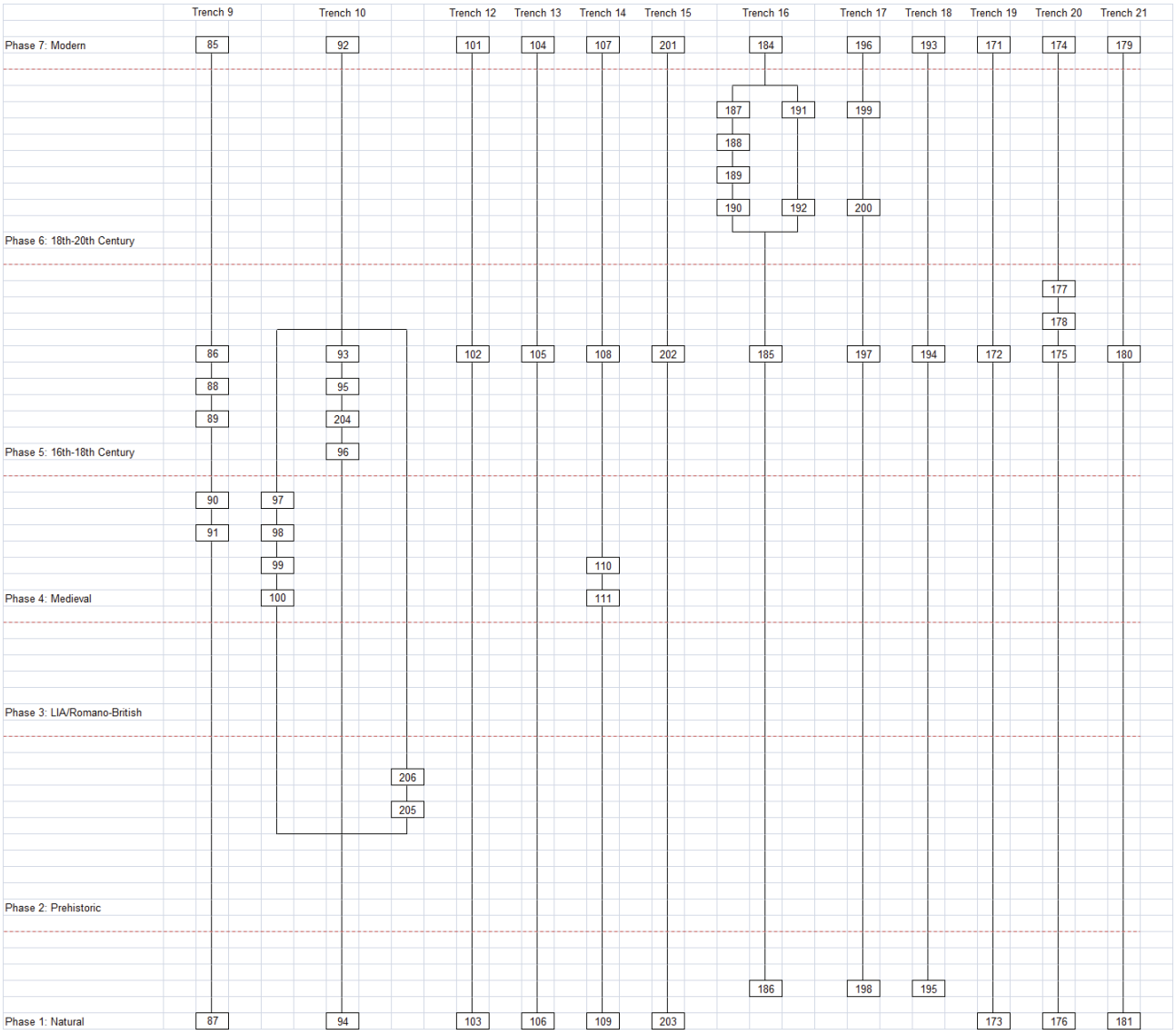
Site Code	Cxt No.	Type	Area	Plan	Sect.	Date	Phase	Description
ROWS12	174	Layer	Trench 20	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	175	Layer	Trench 20	-	-	16-18C	5	Gravel-rich silty clay subsoil
ROWS12	176	Layer	Trench 20	-	-	Natural	1	Natural boulder clay with flints
ROWS12	177	Fill	Trench 20	-	-	16-18C	5	Fill of ditch [178]
ROWS12	178	Cut	Trench 20	-	-	16-18C	5	WNW-ESE aligned ditch
ROWS12	179	Layer	Trench 21	-	-	Modern	7	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	180	Layer	Trench 21	-	-	16-18C	5	Silty clay subsoil with some gravel
ROWS12	181	Layer	Trench 21	-	-	Natural	1	Natural clay with gravel banding
ROWS12	182	Fill	Trench 2	129	-	Prehistoric	2	Burnt fill of pit [129]
ROWS12	183	Void						
ROWS12	184	Layer	Trench 16	-	8	Modern	6	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	185	Layer	Trench 16	-	8	16-18C	5	Firm, clayey silt subsoil
ROWS12	186	Layer	Trench 16	-	8	Natural	1	Stiff natural silty clay
ROWS12	187	Fill	Trench 16	-	8	18-20C	6	Upper fill of ditch [190]
ROWS12	188	Fill	Trench 16	190	8	18-20C	6	Main fill of Ditch [190]
ROWS12	189	Fill	Trench 16	-	8	18-20C	6	Lower fill of ditch [190
ROWS12	190	Cut	Trench 16	190	8	18-20C	6	WNW-ESE aligned ditch, same as [200] Tr 17
ROWS12	191	Fill	Trench 16	192	-	18-20C	6	Fill of ditch [192]
ROWS12	192	Cut	Trench 16	192	-	18-20C	6	NW-SE aligned ditch
ROWS12	193	Layer	Trench 18	-	-	Modern	6	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	194	Layer	Trench 18	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, clayey silt subsoil
ROWS12	195	Layer	Trench 18	-	-	Natural	1	Stiff, natural silty clay
ROWS12	196	Layer	Trench 17	-	-	Modern	6	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	197	Layer	Trench 17	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, clayey silt subsoil
ROWS12	198	Layer	Trench 17	-	-	Natural	1	Stiff, natural silty clay
ROWS12	199	Fill	Trench 17	199	-	18-20C	6	Fill of ditch [200]
ROWS12	200	Cut	Trench 17	199	-	18-20C	6	WNW-ESE aligned ditch, same as [190] Tr 16
ROWS12	201	Layer	Trench 15	-	-	Modern	6	Ploughsoil
ROWS12	202	Layer	Trench 15	-	-	16-18C	5	Firm, clayey silt subsoil
ROWS12	203	Layer	Trench 15	-	-	Natural	1	Stiff, natural silty clay
ROWS12	204	Fill	Trench 10	-	15	16-18C	5	Lower fill of ditch [96]
ROWS12	205	Cut	Trench 10	205	16	Prehistoric	2	E-W aligned ditch
ROWS12	206	Fill	Trench 10	205	16	Prehistoric	2	Fill of ditch [205]

14 APPENDIX 3: SITE MATRICES

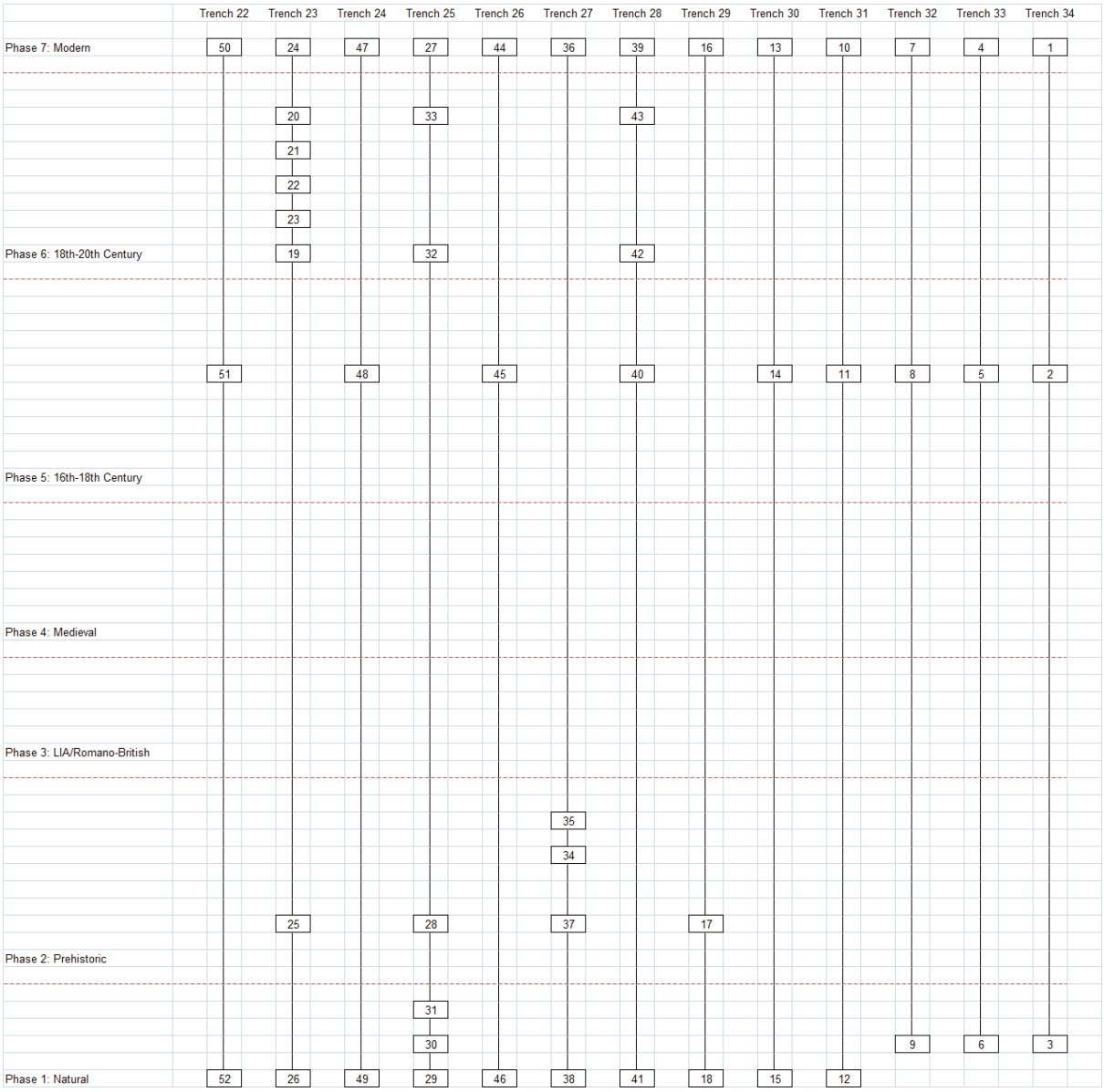
14.1 Area A Matrix



14.2 Area B Matrix



14.3 Area C Matrix



15 APPENDIX 4: LITHIC MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Barry Bishop

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 The archaeological investigations conducted at the site resulted in the recovery of 19 struck flints and a small quantity of unworked burnt flint fragments (Table 1; Appendix 1). This report follows the methodology and recommendations encapsulated in both MAP2 and MoRPHE (English Heritage 1991; 2006). Its aims are to quantify and describe the material, assess its significance in terms of its potential to contribute to the stated research aims and objectives, and to recommend any further work needed for the material to achieve its full research potential.

15.2 Quantification and Distribution (for details see Appendix 1)

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material from West Sumners

Type	Decortication Flake	Flake	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Denticulate	Burnt Flint (no.)	Burnt Flint (wt: g)
No.	3	10	4	1	1	4	80

15.2.1 The struck flint was recovered mostly from active topsoil or sub-soil deposits and therefore can be considered as residual. Only two struck pieces were recovered from features dated to the prehistoric period and additionally a bifacially reduced core was found in a ditch dated to the Late Iron Age period. The struck flint was distributed widely, with five pieces coming from Area A, nine from Area B and three from Area C. The remaining two pieces are from unstratified contexts. The small quantities of burnt flint were all recovered from Area A with one fragment coming from a pit dated to the prehistoric period.

15.3 Burnt Stone

15.3.1 The burnt stone all consists of flint (see Appendix 1). All of the pieces are intensively burnt to a uniform grey-white colour although the quantities present are too small to suggest it had been deliberately produced and it is most likely represents natural flint clasts incidentally incorporated into hearths.

15.4 The Struck Flint

15.4.1 The struck flint assemblage comprises a small collection of 19 flakes, cores and tools. The raw materials used consist of thermally shattered nodular flint fragments that most likely derive from the glacial deposits present in the area (Gibbard 1986). The condition of the pieces ranges from chipped to slightly chipped, as would be consistent with the assemblage being residually deposited. The flakes are all thick, hard-hammer struck and simply

produced with many being 'squat' and having thick and obtuse striking platforms (Young and Humphrey 1999). Most of the cores are minimally worked with one quite probably representing a core-tool. This was recovered from medieval ditch [98] and comprises a thermally shattered nodule with many small flakes removed keel style from one end, making a probable chopping type implement. The single retouched implement comprises a large badly struck decortication flake recovered from prehistoric ditch [53]. This has a number of small flakes removed from its left ventral side and forms a coarsely denticulated implement.

15.4.2 Overall the traits of the assemblage indicate a lack of sophistication and an unstructured approach to reduction and are very typical of later prehistoric industries that can be dated to the late second or first millennium BC. The only exception to this is an extensively and bifacially worked lenticular core recovered from Late Iron Age / Early Romano-British ditch [121]. This has been carefully worked with the removal of numerous narrow flakes and would be most easily placed within the Neolithic period.

15.5 Significance

15.5.1 The bifacially reduced core indicates some activity at the site during the Neolithic period. The remainder of the struck assemblage is typical in size and technology to the small 'domestic' assemblages that are frequently encountered in later prehistoric settlement contexts. Technologically it can be placed in the later prehistoric period and although potentially contemporary with the Late Iron Age features recorded at the site it may alternatively suggest that occupation began slightly earlier, during the later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. The assemblage is too small to further refine the suggested dating or to speculate on the precise roles it performed in the wider scheme of occupation at the site.

15.6 Recommendations

15.6.1 Although small the lithic assemblage does contribute to understandings of the prehistoric use of the site. No further analytical work is warranted but a brief description of the material, including its spatial distribution, should be included in any published account of the excavation, preferably alongside illustrations of the core tool, retouched implement and bifacially reduced core.

15.7 Bibliography

English Heritage 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects. Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. London.

English Heritage 2006 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. English Heritage. Swindon

Gibbard, P.L. 1986 Flint Gravels in the Quaternary of Southeast England. In: G. De C. Sieveking and M.B. Hart (Eds) The Scientific Study of Flint and Chert, 141-149. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.

Young, R. and Humphrey, J. 1999 Flint Use in England after the Bronze Age: time for a re-evaluation? Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society 65, 231-242.

Table 2: All Lithic Materials

Context	Trench	Area	Feature	Feature Date	Decorticati on Flake	Flake	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Denticulate	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments	Burnt Flint (no.)	Burnt Flint (wt:g)
2	34	C	L2 SS	PMed		1				Translucent Brown	Rough	Slightly Chipped	MBA-IA			
13	30	C	L13 PS	Mod		1				Translucent Brown	Thermal	Very chipped	MBA-IA	Badly mis-struck, more like part of a shattered core		
13	30	C	L13 PS	Mod	1					Translucent Black	Thermal	Very chipped	MBA-IA			
54	3	A	D53	Preh					1	Translucent Black	Thermal	Chipped	MBA-IA	Large mis-struck decortication flake with a number of small flakes removed from left ventral - possibly a coarse denticulated tool		
54	3	A	D53	Preh				1		Translucent Brown	Thermal	Chipped	Undated	Core shattered during flaking?		
70	2	A	L70 PS	Mod						Unknown	Unknown	Burnt	Undated	Heavily burnt	1	39
77	4	A	L77 SS	PMed			1			Translucent Brown	Thermal	Slightly Chipped	MBA-IA	Minimally worked split pebble with a few flakes removed from one edge		
77	4	A	L77 SS	PMed			1			Translucent Black	Thermal	Chipped	MBA-IA	Split pebble with a few flakes removed from outer surface		

Context	Trench	Area	Feature	Feature Date	Decortication Flake	Flake	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Denticulate	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments	Burnt Flint (no.)	Burnt Flint (wt:g)
79	7	A	L79 PS	Mod						Unknown	Unknown	Burnt	Undated	Both heavily burnt	2	29
92	10	B	L92 PS	Mod		1				Translucent Brown	None	Chipped	MBA-IA	'Squat' flake with possible irregular retouch on right dorsal		
92	10	B	L92 PS	Mod		1				Translucent Brown	Rough	Chipped	MBA-IA	'squat' flake		
92	10	B	L92 PS	Mod		1				Translucent Brown	Rough	Very chipped	MBA-IA			
92	10	B	L92 PS	Mod		1				Translucent Brown	Rough	Chipped	MBA-IA	laterally snapped		
97	10	B	D98	Med		1				Translucent Brown	Rough	Chipped	MBA-IA	Thick, lots of cortex		
97	10	B	D98	Med			1			Translucent Brown	Thermal	Chipped	MBA-IA	Thermally shattered nodule with many small flakes removed from one end keel style - possible chopping type core-tool		
116	8	A	P114	Preh						Unknown	Unknown	Burnt	Undated	Heavily burnt	1	12
122	2	A	D121	LIA/ERB			1			Translucent Brown	Rough	Slightly Chipped	Neo	Lenticular ovate bifacially reduced		
193	18	B	L193 PS	Mod		1				Translucent Brown	None	Very chipped	MBA-IA			
197	17	B	L197 SS	PMed		1				Translucent Brown	Rough	Chipped	Neo-BA	Mis-struck		
199	17	B	D200	PMed		1				Translucent Brown	Rough					
+					1					Translucent Brown	Thermal	Chipped	MBA-IA	'Squat' flake		
+					1					Translucent Brown	Thermal	Chipped	MBA-IA			

16 APPENDIX 5: PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Katie Anderson, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

16.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery, totalling sixteen sherds, weighing 99g was recovered from the excavation (see Table1). The earliest dating sherd was a flint-tempered sherd from context (54). Context (35) contained seven sherds of pottery from two vessels; a Late Iron Age handmade, grog-tempered vessel and a fine sandy micaceous ware dating to the early Roman period (AD30-70). A further fine sandy micaceous ware sherd was recovered from context (146), dating AD50-100. Context (113) contained three Late Iron Age body sherds, with a further three sherds of this date from context (166). The final sherd comprised a shell-tempered body sherd from context (158), which could only be broadly dated as 'Romano-British'. Though small the assemblage suggests activity in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period, with one earlier sherd.

Table 3: All prehistoric and Roman pottery

Context	No.	Wt(g)	Spot date
35	7	36	AD0-70
54	1	13	Prehistoric
113	3	8	50BC-AD50
146	1	8	AD50-100
158	1	27	AD43-400
166	3	7	AD0-50
TOTAL	16	99	

17 APPENDIX 6: POST-ROMAN POTTERY AND CLAY TOBACCO PIPE SPOT DATES

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Table 4: Quantification, Typology and Dating of Post-Roman Pottery

Site code	Context	PCA code	Expansion	Essex code	Form	Dec	SC	ENV	State	Fabric date	Comments	Context Spot date
ROWS12	4	PMBL	Post-medieval black-glazed ware	40B			1	1			SMALL BODY SHERD	1580-1700
ROWS12	10	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	51B	FLP		1	1			BODY SHERD	19TH/20TH C
ROWS12	47	METS	Metropolitan slipware	40A	DISH	SLTR	1	1			BODY SHERD	1630-1700
ROWS12	67	ENGS	English stoneware	45M	DRAIN?		1	1			RIM SHERD	19TH C
ROWS12	67	ENGS	English stoneware	45M	JAR		1	1			SHOULDER	19TH C
ROWS12	67	LMT	Post-medieval red earthenware (transitional)	40			1	1			Late medieval transitional type. SMALL BODY SHERD	19TH C
ROWS12	67	TPW	Staffordshire-type iron-stone ware (transer-printed)	48D	PLATE	WILL	1	1			RIM SHERD	19TH C
ROWS12	70	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	40			1	1	A		BODY SHERD	1580-1900
ROWS12	79	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	40	JAR	GLI	1	1			COLLARED RIM	1580-1900
ROWS12	79	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	40		GLI	1	1	A		BODY SHERD	1580-1900
ROWS12	110	ESSEX MEDIEVAL ORANGE	Medieval sandy orange ware	21			1	1	A	1200-1500	BODY SHERD, MEDIEVAL ORANGE	1200-1500

Site code	Context	PCA code	Expansion	Essex code	Form	Dec	SC	ENV	State	Fabric date	Comments	Context Spot date
											SANDY WARE	
ROWS12	177	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	40	BOWLDISH	GLI	1	1	A		BODY SHERD	1580-1900
ROWS12	188	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	40		GLI	1	1			BODY SHERD	1580-1900
ROWS12	196	HARLOW ESSEX MEDIEVAL ORANGE	Medieval Harlow ware	21D			1	1			BODY SHERD	1580-1900
ROWS12	196	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	40			1	1	A		BODY SHERD WITH HANDLE	1580-1900
ROWS12	199	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenware	51B	FLP	UNGL	1	1	A		BODY SHERD, 19TH c	19TH/20TH C
ROWS12	201	SUND	Late kitchen earthenware (slipped)	51A	BOWL	WHSL	1	1			BODY SHERD	1800-1900

Table 5: Quantification, Typology and Dating of Clay Tobacco Pipe

Site code	Context	PCA code	Expansion	Essex code	Form	Dec	SC	ENV	State	Fabric date	Comments	Context Spot date
ROWS12	76	CTP						1			MEDIUM THICK STEM	1580-1910

18 APPENDIX 7: BUILDING MATERIALS ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Hayward, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Table 6: Quantification, Typology and Dating of Ceramic Building Material

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date mortar only
+	3123R; 3155	German Lavastone and Hertfordshire Puddingstone quern fragments	2	50	400	50	400	50-400	
35	3102	Large burnt daub	1	1500bc	1600	1500bc	1600	50-1600	
67	2273; 2276; 2815	Early medieval and early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand Roman tile and brick	5	50	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	1
68	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
70	2271; 2276	Medieval or early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	6	1180	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
76	2271; 2276	Medieval and early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	4	1180	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
79	2276; 2452; 2271	Roman brick and early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	5	55	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
80	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
92	2276; 2271	Burnt Medieval and early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	4	1180	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
95	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	2	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
107	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	4	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
110	2815	Roman tile coarse moulding sand	1	50	160	50	160	50-160+	
138	2815; 3106	Roman tile coarse moulding sand; Greensand rubble	1	50	1600	50	1600	50-400+	

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date mortar only
177	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
188	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
191	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
193	2850	Flemish floor tile unglazed	1	1600	1800	1600	1800	1600-1800	
196	2276	Early post medieval peg tile coarse moulding sand	4	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	
199	3102	Daub	1	1500bc	1600	1500bc	1600	50-1600	
201	2271; 3102; 2815; 2276	Medieval and early post medieval Peg tile; Daub; Roman tile and	5	1500bc	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	

18.1 A review of the ceramic building material, daub and stone from West Sumners, Harlow showed a mixture of Roman, together with the much larger late medieval/early post medieval roofing tile and floor tile component.

18.2 The small amount of Roman material is all in an abraded condition, often intermixed with the peg tile in the common early sandy fabric 2815 (AD50-160). Of interest are two unstratified Roman quernstone materials, German lavastone and the local Hertfordshire Pudding stone. Both materials were in wide circulation during the first century AD. Some large chunks of daub from context [35] indicate the presence of a wattle and daub building in the vicinity. It is not clear however whether these are Roman or medieval in date. This small group of Roman material reinforces extensive Roman occupation in the Harlow area.

18.3 It is possible that some of the peg tile (fabric 2271) could be medieval in date (1180-1450) but any glaze that was present was removed due to abrasion. Nearly all of the peg tile has a coarse moulding sand which suggests an early post medieval date. One unglazed Flemish floor tile (1600-1800) was present in [193].

18.4

19 APPENDIX 8: METAL FINDS ASSESSMENT

By Märit Gaimster, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

19.1 Description of Metal Finds

19.1.1 Two metal finds were retrieved during the fieldwork, a fine copper-alloy disc (sf 1) and an incomplete iron object; listed below. The copper-alloy disc is possibly the sheet cover of a composite button with bone backing, known from the late 17th and through to the 19th centuries. Such buttons, with the sheet cover cramped around the edge of the bone component, were often embossed with motifs or patterns. The bone backing would have consisted of a disc, either with four eyes for sewing the button on or a central hole for a metal loop (cf. Margeson 1993, fig. 11 nos 108–12; Noël Hume 1980, fig. 23). The curved and tapering iron fragment may be part of a U-shaped staple, used to fix elements such as chains, hasps or tethering rings to walls or posts (Margeson 1993, 143).

- Context [95], sf 1: Near-complete thin and plain copper-alloy disc with a short folded edge; diam. c. 28mm.
- Context [199]: curved and tapering fragment of a rectangular-section iron object, possibly part of a U-shaped staple; W 12mm at head end.

19.2 References

S. Margeson, 1993. The Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations. East Anglian Archaeology 58.

I. Noël Hume, 1969. A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

20 APPENDIX 9: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Rielly, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

20.1 Description of Faunal Assemblage

20.1.1 The site provided just one animal bone fragment, a cattle tibia (proximal to half shaft), taken from context [95]. The surface of this bone had suffered considerable damage due to root etching. A major chop mark, probably made by a cleaver or some such butchers tool, was noticed at the half shaft break. This may be interpreted as a jointing cut or possibly an attempt to facilitate removal of the marrow. Notably, the proximal end of this bone was fused, denoting an age in excess of 3 to 3.5 years (after Schmid 1972, 75). In addition it clearly derived from a relatively small animal, of a type used in this country from the later prehistoric through to the early modern era (comparison with data from various PCA animal bone reports). A fragment of early post-medieval tile was found in the same deposit.

20.2 Recommendations

20.2.1 While obviously of very little value as a sole item, it does perhaps indicate the availability of further animal bones within the adjacent areas. The level of surface damage may suggest a possible preservation bias towards the more robust bones, namely those of cattle sized individuals. However, other rural sites, with a similar level of damage have provided collections with a mix of domesticates, both large and small, as shown for example amongst Iron Age and Roman collections from Old Kempshott Lane, Worting, Basingstoke (Rielly 2007). The detrimental effects of this type of damage will need to be assessed following the retrieval of bones from any future excavations on this site.

20.3 References

Rielly, K, 2007 Assessment of animal bone recovered from Old Kempshott Lane, Worting, Basingstoke (POKB06), PCA unpublished report

Schmid, E, 1972, Atlas of Animal Bones.

21 APPENDIX 10: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Essex Historic Environment Record/

Essex Archaeology and History

Summary Sheet

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Site name/address: West Sumners, Harlow, Essex</td></tr>
<tr><td>Parish: Roydon</td><td>District: Epping Forest District Council & Harlow District Council</td></tr>
<tr><td>NGR: TL 4286 0706 (centre)</td><td>Site Code: ROWS12</td></tr>
<tr><td>Type of work: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching</td><td>Site director/group: Peter Boyer/ Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date of work: September – October 2012</td><td>Size of area investigated: c. 3 hectares</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location of finds/curating museum: Museum of Harlow</td><td>Funding source: Developer</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further seasons anticipated? Yes (excavation)</td><td>Related HER nos: 47397</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Final Report: PCA Report and Summary in EAH</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Periods represented: Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Summary of fieldwork results: Thirty-three trial trenches measuring 25m to 30m by 2m were excavated in three areas identified as archaeological "hot-spots" during earlier fieldwalking. Area A, the most westerly of those investigated was dominated by a series of linear features with a smaller number of more discrete pits. Some of these features were associated with one or more phases of prehistoric activity though the exact nature of this could not be fully defined. The majority of the linear features had been laid out very regularly and appeared to relate to land division and exploitation the Late Iron to Romano-British period. Area B, located in a south-central part of the site contained little evidence of later prehistoric or Roman landscape exploitation apart from a residual finds assemblage, but a limited number of features here provided possible evidence of medieval land division, with successive phases of landscape division continuing into the early and later post-medieval periods. Area C also provided little evidence of earlier prehistoric activity, but a ditch excavated here may have been part of a more extensive curvilinear enclosure, finds from the ditch suggesting contemporary activity with the late prehistoric/early Roman phase in Area A. A number of later ditches excavated in this area could also be equated with former field boundaries of 18th- or 19th-century origin, which were extant on maps up to the middle of the 20th century. Overall the evaluation confirmed the findings of the earlier survey and identified evidence of earlier activity in the highlighted archaeological "hot-spots". However, the evidence of later prehistoric and Roman activity in Area A was more significant than suggested by the fieldwalking, whilst the level of medieval activity was less in all areas compared with that indicated by the fieldwalking. The extent of post-medieval activity suggested by the evaluation was comparable with that indicated by the fieldwalking.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Previous summaries/reports: Boyer, P. 2010 An Archaeological Fieldwalking and Metal-detector Survey on Land at West Sumners, Harlow, Essex. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Author of summary: Peter Boyer</td><td>Date of summary: October 2012</td></tr>
</table>

22 APPENDIX 11: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-135390

Project details	
Project name	Land at West Sumners, Harlow, Essex
Short description of the project	Thirty-three trial trenches measuring 25m to 30m by 2m were excavated in three areas identified as archaeological "hot-spots" during earlier fieldwalking. Area A, the most westerly of those investigated was dominated by a series of linear features with a smaller number of more discrete pits. Some of these features were associated with one or more phases of prehistoric activity though the exact nature of this could not be fully defined. The majority of the linear features had been laid out very regularly and appeared to relate to land division and exploitation the Late Iron to Romano-British period. Area B, located in a south-central part of the site contained little evidence of later prehistoric or Roman landscape exploitation apart from a residual finds assemblage, but a limited number of features here provided possible evidence of medieval land division, with successive phases of landscape division continuing into the early and later post-medieval periods. Area C also provided little evidence of earlier prehistoric activity, but a ditch excavated here may have been part of a more extensive curvilinear enclosure, finds from the ditch suggesting contemporary activity with the late prehistoric/early Roman phase in Area A. A number of later ditches excavated in this area could also be equated with former field boundaries of 18th- or 19th-century origin, which were extant on maps up to the middle of the 20th century. Overall the evaluation confirmed the findings of the earlier survey and identified evidence of earlier activity in the highlighted archaeological "hot-spots". However, the evidence of later prehistoric and Roman activity in Area A was more significant than suggested by the fieldwalking, whilst the level of medieval activity was less in all areas compared with that indicated by the fieldwalking. The extent of post-medieval activity suggested by the evaluation was comparable with that indicated by the fieldwalking.
Project dates	Start: 17-09-2012 End: 04-10-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	47397 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	ROWS10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ROWS12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	LITHIC Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX EPPING FOREST ROYDON West Sumners
Study area	3.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4286 0706 51 0 51 44 36 N 000 04 10 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 67.73m Max: 76.08m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Essex County Council
Project design originator	Duncan Hawkins
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Peter Boyer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at West Sumners, Harlow, Essex

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Boyer, P.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	Brockley
Description	MAP2 Report
Entered by	Peter Boyer (pboyer@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	10 October 2012

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