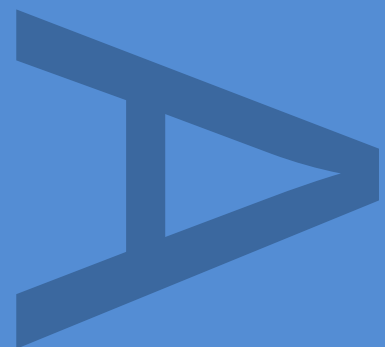


**Land off Acresford Road,  
Donisthorpe, Leicestershire,  
DE12 7PT**

**An Archaeological Trial Trench  
Evaluation**

**October 2014**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R11853**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION


LAND OFF ACRESFORD ROAD, DONISTHORPE,  
LEICESTERSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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**LAND OFF ACRESFORD ROAD, DONISTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

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**Local Planning Authority:** North West Leicestershire District Council

**Planning Reference:** Pre-planning

**Central National Grid Reference:** SK 31138 13599

**Site Code:** ARDL14

**Report No.** R11853

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of a twelve trench (234m) archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land off Acresford Road, Donisthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 31138 13599) between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Chave Planning on behalf of IFP Consulting Limited in order to carry out a pre-planning archaeological evaluation in advance of a planning application being submitted for a residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.*

*The evaluation identified a system of enclosures and field boundaries of a Romano-British date with other discrete features in the vicinity indicative of settlement activity. This is supported by pottery and environmental evidence. The evaluation also revealed a series of post-medieval ditches and pits towards Acresford Road at the northern end of the site.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on an area of c.1.5 ha at land off Acresford Road, Donisthorpe, Leicestershire, DE12 7PT (NGR SK 31138 13599) prior to an application for planning permission in advance of a residential housing development (Figure 1, Plate 1).
- 1.2 The proposed development area is located adjacent to the south-east of Acresford Road, at the southwest tip of the village of Donisthorpe (Figure 1). The site is bound to the north-east by the rear of properties fronting Talbot Place, to the south-east by a field and to the south-west by a track leading south-east from Acresford Road. A property named as 'The Hawthorns' is located to the south-west of the track.
- 1.3 The evaluation was commissioned by Chave Planning on behalf of IFP Consulting Limited in response to discussions with the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, Richard Clark, regarding the appropriate archaeological intervention. This was determined to be a targeted archaeological evaluation of 2.3% of the proposed development area. This decision was informed by a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment, PCA Ltd (Taylor 2014) and a Geophysical Survey (Masters 2014).
- 1.4 The Principal Planning Archaeologist recommended target areas to be investigated informed by the results of the geophysics survey (Masters 2014, see appendix 4). This was designed to be twelve evaluation trenches measuring between 10m and 30m.
- 1.5 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Kathryn Brook of PCA (Brook 2014).
- 1.6 The general aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess, where appropriate, any ecofactual and paleo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

1.7 More specific aims of the evaluation were:

- *To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape*
- *To confirm the presence or absence of any prehistoric activity or settlement within in the area that may relate to crop marks identified to the south west of the site (MLE16956, MEL4782 and MEL21327); or the results of the geophysical survey;*
- *To confirm the presence or absence of any Romano-British activity;*
- *To confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon activity relating the pre Domesday book settlement;*
- *To confirm the presence or absence of any Medieval activity relating to the settlement recorded in the Domesday book and its subsequent appearance in documents though out the 12th -14th Centuries;*
- *To confirm the presence or absence of post-medieval activity relating to the wider settlement of Donisthorpe.*

1.8 All work, including reporting is in accordance with 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland'.

1.9 Twelve evaluation trenches measuring between 10m and 30m were excavated and recorded between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2014, totalling 234m of trenches.

1.10 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at the Leicestershire County Council Archaeology Store.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The solid geology of the site was characterised by the Moira Formation – Breccia. Sedimentary Bedrock formed during the Triassic and Permian when the local environment was dominated by hot deserts.

2.1.2 The natural geological horizon (102) identified during the evaluation was a mix of sand, gravely sand and clay.

### **2.2 Topography**

2.2.1 The proposed development area is located adjacent to the south-east of Acresford Road, at the southwest tip of the village of Donisthorpe (Figure 1). The site is bound to the north-east by the rear of properties fronting Talbot Place, to the south-east by a field and to the south-west by a track leading south-east from Acresford Road. A property named as ‘The Hawthorns’ is located to the south-west of the track.

2.2.2 The site is centred at NGR SK 31138 13599.

2.2.3 The site is currently undeveloped and the land can be characterized as being generally flat, with a very gentle north-west to south-east slope (Plate 1). The site is currently covered by long grass and nettles. A hedge is located along the north-west boundary of the site, separating the site from Acresford road. A gate is located within the northern part of the hedge and provides an access into the site from Acresford Road.

2.2.4 A spot height in the centre of the site is recorded at 107.50m Over Datum (OD).



### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** The archaeological background for the project is detailed below and has been taken from the WSI (Trott 2014) which itself summarised the results of the Desk Based Assessment (Taylor 2014).
- 3.2** The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) show that the application site lies within an area of archaeological potential. A detailed archaeological background to the site is presented in PCA's Desk Based Assessment (Taylor 2014) and will only be summarised here.
- 3.3** A number of possible prehistoric earthworks have been identified from aerial photographs to the south-west of the site, The closest to the site is an alignment of pits (MEL4782) further south-west is a sub rectangular enclosure (MEL16956) and further still a linear running northwest southeast (MEL21327).
- 3.4** The place name Donisthorpe is of Saxon derivation and the description of a settlement in the Domesday Survey of 1086 certainly suggests that a settlement was in existence by the Late Saxon period. However, no archaeological evidence for the Saxon settlement has yet been discovered.
- 3.5** Donisthorpe is mentioned twice in the Domesday Survey of 1086 whilst mention of the settlement was also made throughout the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. The site is located to the south-west of the medieval historic settlement core (MEL9096). The only archaeological intervention to take place in Donisthorpe was an evaluation in the garden of 11 New Street (MEL20949), seven shards of 13th Century pottery were recovered from the top soil.
- 3.6** A geophysical survey of the development site identified two possible rectangular enclosures with a trackway running between them. Two ring ditches were detected within the north-western enclosure although these, may reflect underlying variations in the geology. A series of isolated individual anomalies were also detected including a possible pit within the south-eastern enclosure. The survey also highlighted the presences of ridge and furrow across the majority of the site (Masters 2014).

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 General**

4.1.1 Twelve 2m wide trenches totalling 234m of trenching were investigated across the site. The trenches were between 10m and 30m wide (Figures 2&3).

### **4.2 Machining and Site Planning**

4.2.1 A geophysical survey was carried out (Masters 2014, Figure 3, appendix 5) in advance of the trial trenching in order to inform the location of the trenches. Following the geophysical survey, the trial trenches were located across the site to investigate any anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and in order to evaluate all parts of the proposed development area (Figure 3).

4.2.2 Each trench was excavated using a 13 tonne tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 2). The overlying topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) deposits were excavated down to the archaeological horizon or the natural geological horizon (102), whichever came first.

4.2.3 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools.

4.2.4 Metal-detecting was carried out on all stripped deposits throughout the evaluation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps were surveyed by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.2.5 Limits of all excavation areas, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) will be recorded using a Leica 1200 Global positioning System (GPS) rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

### **4.3 Recording and Sampling**

4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.3.2 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

- 4.3.3 Drawn records are in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings of all archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded as written records on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.
- 4.3.4 Linear features were investigated by means of slots excavated across their width and measuring at least 1m in length, positioned to avoid areas of intercutting/disturbance in order to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages. If stratigraphic relationships between features were not visible in plan, slots were positioned to determine inter-feature relationships.
- 4.3.5 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and when considered appropriate 100% excavated.
- 4.3.6 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.3.7 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).
- 4.3.8 Where appropriate, environmental samples were taken from features to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described and analysed and to recover any macro-fossil evidence from the deposits. Samples were taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits and ditches.
- 4.3.9 A metal detector was used during excavation to enhance finds recovery.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Twelve c.2m wide trenches measuring between 10m and 30m in length totalling 234m of trenching were investigated across the c.1.5ha site. (Figures 2 & 3).

5.1.2 Individual trench descriptions and feature overviews are detailed below. Context descriptions are detailed in Appendix 2.

### 5.2 Trench 1

<b>TRENCH 1</b>	<b>Figures: 2,3 &amp; 4</b>		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Trench Length: 12.74m	Level of Natural: 106.58m-106.93m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.4m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.5m	0.9m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.9m+	1.2m+
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Trench 1 was located to the north of the site.</p> <p>Trench 1 revealed the north to south aligned undated ditch [121].</p> <p>The trench was extended slightly over the originally planned 10m in order to clarify a change in the natural that was thought to maybe be a feature.</p>			

5.2.1 Trench 1 revealed the northwest to southeast aligned Ditch [121] (Figure 2, 3 & 4). Ditch [121] measured 0.6m wide and 0.12m deep and was filled by (120). This ditch was undated containing no finds.

### 5.3 Trench 2

<b>TRENCH 2</b>	<b>Figures: 2,3 &amp; 5</b>	<b>Plate: 3</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Trench Length: 33.17m	Level of Natural: 107.08m-107.25m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.5m
Subsoil	(101)	0.03m	0.15m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.35m+	0.65m+
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Trench 2 was located to the north of the site.</p> <p>Trench 2 revealed three northeast to southwest aligned ditches [104], [106], and [119] and three pits [110], [113] and [116].</p> <p>The trench was extended slightly over the originally planned 30m in order to clarify a change in the natural that was thought to maybe be a feature.</p>			

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 revealed three ditches and three pits (Figure 2, 3 & 5, Plate 4).
- 5.3.2 Ditch [119] was aligned northeast to southwest, measured 1.42m wide and 0.38m deep and was filled by (117) and (118). Ditch [119] produced a small sherd from a Staffordshire/Derbyshire Black-glazed Earthenware bowl of late 17th to 18th century date (Young & Gray 2014, Section 6.3).
- 5.3.3 Ditches [104] and [106] were both aligned northwest to southeast.
- 5.3.4 Ditch [104] measured 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep and was filled by (103) that contained two sherds of large midlands Yellow ware bowl and one sherd of reversed Cistercian ware cup with green glaze. This pottery dates from between the late 15<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century (Young & Gray 2014, Section 6.3). This deposit also yielded a very small flake of Roman or post-Roman building material (Young & Gray 2014, Section 6.3), two small conjoining fragments of window glass dated to from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Trott 2014, Section 6.4) and single cattle mandible fragment showing

- saw marks indicative of a Roman to post-medieval/early modern date (Trott 2014, Section 6.5).
- 5.3.5 Ditch [106] measured 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep and was filled by (105) that yielded two sherds from a single Cream ware plate with blue transfer printed floral decoration of late 18<sup>th</sup> century to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century date (Young & Gray 2014, Section 6.3).
- 5.3.6 Considering all of the evidence available from the ceramic, animal bone and glass finds, a post-medieval to modern date for Ditches [104] and [106] is therefore likely.
- 5.3.7 Pit [110] measured 0.58m wide and 0.22m deep and was filled by (109). This ditch contained an abraded piece of Roman grey ware.
- 5.3.8 Pit [113] measured 1m wide and 0.3m deep and was filled by (111) and (112). Pit [113] produced two small sherds of Cistercian ware cups dating to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century to the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Young & Gray 2014, Section 6.3).
- 5.3.9 Pit [116] measured 1m wide and 0.4m deep and was filled by (114) and (115). Pit [116] contained a Light-bodied Midlands-type Slipware sherd from a bowl and a small flake from the rim of a Staffordshire/Derbyshire-type black or brown-glazed earthenware jar or bowl. Both types suggest a late 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date (Young & Gray 2014, Section 6.3).

## 5.4 Trench 3

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figures: 2,3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Plate: 4</b>	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Trench Length: 16m	Level of Natural: 106.59m-107.11m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.34m
Subsoil	(101)	0.15m	0.56m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.45m+	0.9m+
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Trench 3 was located towards the north of the site.</p> <p>Trench 3 revealed the northwest to southeast aligned ditches [123] and [125] as well as the northeast to southwest ditch [108].</p> <p>The trench was extended slightly over the originally planned 15m in order to clarify a change in the natural that was thought to maybe be a feature.</p>			

- 5.4.1 Trench 3 revealed three ditches (Figure 2, 3 & 4, Plate 4).
- 5.4.2 Ditch [108] was aligned northeast to southwest, measured 0.68m wide and 0.34m deep and was filled by (107). Ditch [108] appeared to truncate Ditch [125] although this was an unclear relationship.
- 5.4.3 Ditches [123] and [125] were both aligned northwest to southeast. Ditch [123] measured 1.34m wide and 0.36m deep and was filled by (122) while Ditch [125] measured 1.2m wide and 0.38m deep and was filled by (124). Ditch [125] appeared to be truncated by Ditch [108].
- 5.4.4 All three of the ditches within Trench 3 were sampled for environmental analysis. Although all three ditches are currently undated they all represent similar evidence of cereal grains, chaff and seeds indicative of cereal processing and/or hearth detritus (Fryer 2014, Section 6.6) found within the well dated Ditch [140] in Trench 8. This may allow speculation that these ditches could be Romano-British based on the similarity of environmental evidence between undated components and the dated part of the field systems and enclosures on the site.

## 5.5 Trench 4

<b>TRENCH 4</b>	<b>Figure: 2 &amp; 3</b>		
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Trench Length: 10m	Level of Natural: 106.61m-106.97m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.35m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.5m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.65m+	0.8m+
<b>Summary</b> Trench 4 was located to the north of the site. Trench 4 revealed no archaeology.			

## 5.6 Trench 5

<b>TRENCH 5</b>	<b>Figure: 2 &amp; 3</b>		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Trench Length: 16.12m	Level of Natural: 105.75m-106.93m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.15m	0.1m
Geological Deposit	(132)	-	0.7m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.45m+	1.1m+
<b>Summary</b> Trench 5 was located to the northeast of the site. Trench 5 revealed no significant archaeology but did slope downwards to the southeast in what is likely to be a change in the geology. (132) is therefore more likely a geological deposit rather than anything archaeological.			



## 5.7 Trench 6

<b>TRENCH 6</b>	<b>Figure: 2 &amp; 3</b>			
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Trench Length: 10.09m	Level of Natural: 106.11m-106.87m OD		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.35	0.3m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.32m	0.4m	
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.67m+	0.7m+	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Trench 6 was located to the west of the site.</p> <p>Trench 6 revealed no archaeology</p> <p>In order to definitively prove that there were no archeological remains in Trench 6 despite geophysics anomalies suggesting remains existed, under the advisement of Richard Clarke of Leicestershire County Council this trench was machined below the level of the natural geological horizon to clarify the absence of any remains in section.</p>				

## 5.8 Trench 7

<b>TRENCH 7</b>	<b>Figures: 2,3 &amp; 6</b>		<b>Plate: 6</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Trench Length: 29.62m	Level of Natural: 106.04m-106.83m OD		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.34m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.48m	0.5m	
Geological Deposit	(141)	-	-	
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.82m+	0.8m+	

### Summary

Trench 7 was located towards the center of the site.

Trench 7 revealed no significant archaeology but did contain an area which was interpreted initially as a large quarry pit of geological feature. The deposit was recorded as (141) and continued to the southwest into Trench 10 and was difficult to characterise or define within the trench. No dateable evidence was recovered and it is likely that the deposit has formed geologically rather archaeologically.

## 5.9 Trench 8

<b>TRENCH 8</b>	<b>Figures: 2,3 &amp; 7</b>	<b>Plate: 7</b>	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Trench Length: 18.68m	Level of Natural: 105.75m-106.93m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.35m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.55m	0.4m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	1m+	0.7m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 8 was located towards the northeast of the site.			
Trench 8 revealed a broadly east to west aligned ditch [140], filled by (141) that contained pottery dating the feature to the late 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD (Rowlandson 2014, Section 6.2)			
The trench was extended slightly over the originally planned 15m in order to clarify a change in the natural that was thought to maybe be a feature.			

5.9.1 Trench 8 revealed the broadly east to west aligned ditch [140].

5.9.2 Ditch [140] measured 1.2m wide and 0.22m deep (Figures 2, 3 and 7, Plate 7) and was filled by (139). This deposit produced eight basal sherds of a Derbyshire ware jar and one sherd from a grey ware necked jar or bowl. Both types of pottery place a late 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century date. (Rowlandson 2014, Section 6.2). The Romano-British date of the pottery found in Ditch [140]

demonstrates the only evidence for any dating earlier than the post-medieval period across the site but does indicate that the possible enclosure interpreted within the geophysics is Roman and demonstrates Romano-British activity to the south of Donisthorpe.

- 5.9.3 The environmental evidence recovered from Ditch [140] by sampling (139) revealed cereal grains, chaff and seeds indicative of cereal processing and/or hearth detritus (Fryer 2014, Section 6.6).

## 5.10 Trench 9

<b>TRENCH 9</b>	<b>Figure: 2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>Plate:</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Trench Length: 20.86m	Level of Natural: 106.49m-106.7m OD	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>NW End</b>	<b>SE End</b>
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.4m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.6m+	0.7m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 9 was located towards the south of the site.			
Trench 9 revealed no archaeology.			

## 5.11 Trench 10

<b>TRENCH 10</b>	<b>Figures: 2,3 &amp; 6</b>		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Trench Length: 29.62m	Level of Natural: 105.86m-106.7m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.4m	0.4m
Subsoil	(101)	0.8m	0.3m
Geological Deposit	(141)	-	0.9m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	1.2m+	-
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Trench 10 was located towards the center of the site.</p> <p>Two features interpreted as geological features were identified as [134] and [136] although there is a chance these may be very irregular ditches.</p> <p>A northeast to southwest ditch was identified as Ditch [138].</p> <p>Trench 10 revealed no significant archaeology but did contain an area which was interpreted initially as a large quarry pit of geological feature. The deposit was recorded as (141) and continued to the southwest into Trench 7 and was difficult to characterise or define within the trench. No dateable evidence was recovered and it is likely that the deposit has formed geologically rather archaeologically.</p>			

5.11.1 Trench 10 revealed Ditch [138], two geological features and the geological deposit (141) (Figures 2, 3 & 6).

5.11.2 Ditch [138] was aligned northeast to southwest, measured 0.74m wide and 0.38m deep and was filled by (137). This ditch was located to the south of two features [134] and [136] which while linear were very irregular and may likely have been formed geologically rather than representing ditches.

## 5.12 Trench 11

<b>TRENCH 11</b>	<b>Figures: 2,3 &amp; 8</b>	<b>Plate: 8</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Trench Length: 16.13m	Level of Natural: 106.61m-107.01m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.35m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.4m	0.02m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.75m+	0.32m+
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Trench 11 was located towards the western side of the site.</p> <p>Trench 11 revealed the northeast to southwest aligned ditch [127], posthole and the shallow pit [131].</p> <p>The trench was extended slightly over the originally planned 15m in order to clarify a change in the natural that was thought to maybe be a feature.</p>			

- 5.12.1 Ditch [127] was aligned northeast to southwest, measured 0.55m wide and 0.1m deep and was filled by (126).
- 5.12.2 Posthole [129] measured 0.35m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled by (130) and yielded no finds and is therefore undated at this stage.
- 5.12.3 Pit [131] measured 0.88m wide and 0.18m deep and was filled by (130) that yielded a very small flake of Roman or post-Roman building material (Young & Gray 2014, Section 6.3).

### 5.13 Trench 12

<b>TRENCH 12</b>	<b>Figure: 2 &amp; 3</b>		
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Trench Length: 20.94m	Level of Natural: 106.77m-106.86m OD	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.4m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.35m	0.3m
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.75m+	0.6m+
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Trench 12 was located on the western side of the site.</p> <p>Trench 12 revealed no archaeology.</p> <p>In order to definitively prove that there were no archeological remains in Trench 12 despite geophysics anomalies suggesting remains existed, under the advisement of Richard Clarke of Leicestershire County Council this trench was machined below the level of the natural geological horizon to clarify the absence of any remains in section.</p>			

## 6 THE FINDS AND ENVIROMENTAL RESULTS

### 6.1 Roman Pottery By I.M. Rowlandson

6.1.1 The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by The Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004) using the Leicestershire Museum codes commonly in use (see Pollard 1999, Clark 1999 etc.). Additional codes have been introduced following City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit form codes when suitable codes were not evident (Darling and Precious 2014). The archive record (see below) provides a full record of the pottery and will be curated in an Access database, available from the author in a digital format.

6.1.2 The ceramics presented for assessment totalled 10 sherds, weighing 286g (RE0.09) from two contexts. All sherds are in fresh condition. A single abraded sherd of Roman Grey ware was retrieved from context 109. Sherds from two vessels were retrieved from context 139: basal fragments from a Derbyshire ware jar and the rim from a grey ware necked jar or bowl. The Roman pottery from (139), the fill of Ditch [140] should be dated to the later 2nd to 3rd century AD.

6.1.3 This is a small assemblage with only three vessels represented any further interpretation would be spurious. This pottery should be deposited with the relevant local museum.

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessel	Alt	Comments	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
109	GW5	-		1	ABR	BS	1	7		
139	DBY	3	String	1		Base; String Cut Base; Prob A Jar	8	270		
139	GW5	4		1		Rim; Necked Jar Or Bowl	1	9	18	9

Table 2: Roman ceramic total quantities by sherd count

## **6.2 Post-Medieval Pottery and Ceramic Building Material**

*By Jane Young and Johanna Gray*

### **Introduction**

6.2.1 In total, nine sherds of pottery representing eight vessels and two fragments of ceramic building material were submitted for examination. The post-Roman pottery recovered is all of post-Roman to early modern date. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Reference has been made to the Leicestershire Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University (see Davies and Sawday 1999). The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (see Young et al.) fabric codenames with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see Table 1). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001).

### **Condition**

6.2.2 The pottery is in a variable condition with most sherds being in a slightly abraded condition. Only one vessel is represented by more than a single sherd. No cross-context joins were noted.

### **Overall Chronology and Source**

6.2.3 A range of six pottery types and two pieces of ceramic building material were identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 3. The pottery ranges in date from the early post-medieval to early modern periods. A limited range of form types is present, with most sherds coming from cups, jars or bowls.



Lincolnshire codename	Leicestershire codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	1550	1930	1	1
CIST	CW2	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650	3	3
CREA	EA8	Creamware	1770	1830	2	1
LERTH	EA	Late Earthenwares	1650	1950	1	1
MLBSL	EA2	Midlands Light-bodied Slipware	1680	1800	1	1
MY	MY	Midlands Yellow ware	1550	1650	1	1
RTMISC	-	Roman or post-Roman building material	Roman	Early modern	2	2

Table 3: Ceramic codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd count

### The Pottery

6.2.4 The pottery was recovered from five different deposits in Trench 2. Ditch [106] produced two early modern sherds from a single small Creamware plate of late 18th to mid-19th century date. The plate has blue transfer-printed floral decoration. A small sherd from a Staffordshire/Derbyshire Black-glazed Earthenware bowl of late 17th to 18th century date was recovered from ditch [119]. Pit [116] contained a Light-bodied Midlands-type Slipware sherd from a bowl of late 17th to 18th century date and a small flake from the rim of a Staffordshire/Derbyshire-type black or brown-glazed earthenware jar or bowl of late 17th to 18th century date. Two small sherds from Cistercian ware cups of late 15th to 16th century date were recovered from pit [113]. The two sherds found in ditch [104] comprise a large Midlands Yellow ware bowl of mid-16th to mid-17th century date and a reversed Cistercian ware cup with a pale green glaze of late 15th to 16th century date.

### The Ceramic Building Material

6.2.5 A tiny flake of Roman or post-Roman building material in an oxidised medium sandy fabric was recovered from pit [131] in Trench 11. Ditch [104] produced a similar small abraded fragment from a Roman or post-Roman brick.

### Summary and Recommendations

6.2.6 The ceramic material recovered from this site suggests that there had been

post-Roman activity in the area during the post-medieval and early modern periods. All of the sherds recovered are small in size and not in a particularly fresh condition suggesting that they are unlikely to represent primary deposition.

6.2.7 The assemblage is in a stable condition and should be kept for future study.

## 6.3 Retained Stone Assemblage *By Kevin Trott*

### Methodology

6.3.1 Two stone items were examined at X20 under a binocular microscope. The identifications were limited to observations achievable at this magnification and without resort to thin section. The inventory is arranged by order of examination number (Ex). The context number is also given.

Context	Source	Description
103	Leicestershire	Fragment of thin Swithland roofing slate (24 grams)
105	Leicestershire	Fragment of Coal Measures Sandstone (34 grams)

Table 1: Worked Stone total quantities

### Recommendations

6.3.2 No further analysis is recommended on the stone pieces. It is recommended that the assemblage is discarded and reports included with the site archive.

## 6.4 Glass

**By Kevin Trott**

### Introduction

6.4.1 During the archaeological investigations two small conjoining fragments of glass were recovered from the fill (103) of ditch [104]. The two sharp conjoining pieces of glass derived from a clear thin fragment of window glass that were indicative of either 19th or 20th century date.

### Recommendations

6.4.2 No further analysis is recommended on the glass pieces. It is recommended that the glass is discarded.

## **6.5 Animal Bone *By Kevin Trott***

### **Introduction and Methodology**

6.5.1 A single fragment weighing 47 grams, from a single context (103) was recovered by hand investigation during the archaeological evaluation at Acresford Road, Donisthorpe. The animal bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of long bone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

### **Description of faunal assemblage**

6.5.2 A single cattle mandible fragment was recovered from the fill (103) of ditch [104] that displayed an angular cut across the diastema. This cut was originally implemented by a saw, than chopping with a knife/axe suggesting the mandible was removed for its cheek meat away from the remainder of the skull. Alternatively this cut could have been part of the process to chop the head bones (after the removal of the meat) into pieces for boiling or for fat extraction, etc. The utilization of the saw for this cut would suggest a wide date range for this butchery practice (Roman to Post-medieval/early Modern).

### **Conclusion and recommendations for further work**

6.5.3 While in good condition, the potential value of this assemblage is severely hampered by the quantity of bones recovered, no further analysis is required.

## **6.6 Environmental Results By Val Fryer**

### **Introduction and method statement**

- 6.6.1 Evaluation excavations at Donisthorpe, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology, recorded ditched enclosures and other discrete features of Roman (second to third century A.D.) date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch fills, and four were submitted for assessment.
- 6.6.2 The samples were processed by manual water flotation/wash over and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.
- 6.6.3 The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

### **Results**

- 6.6.4 Cereal grains, chaff and seeds are present at varying densities within all four assemblages. Preservation is variable, with some grains and seeds being moderately well preserved whilst other specimens are severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of exposure to high temperatures during combustion. In addition, many of the macrofossils are coated with fine silt particles, although in most instances this has not precluded identification.
- 6.6.5 Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with a number of cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases occur throughout and sample 1 also includes one possible emmer (*T. dicocum*) glume base. Weed seeds are relatively scarce, but specimens of brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae) and dock (*Rumex* sp.) are recorded. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout along with pieces of heather (Ericaceae) stem and other fragments of indeterminate root/stem. The fragments of black porous and tarry material, which are present throughout, are mostly thought to be derived from the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. However, some pieces are hard and brittle, and it is

thought most likely that these are bi-products of the combustion of coal, small pieces of which are also present within all four assemblages.

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Feature No.</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Cereals</b>				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	xx	x		
(rachis nodes)			x	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x	x	
(glume bases)		x	x	
(spikelet bases)		x	x	
(rachis internode/node frags.)			x	
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Schubl (glume base)	xcf			
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	xx	x	x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xxx	x	xx	x
(detached sprouts)	x			
(rachis node frags.)	x			
<b>Herbs</b>				
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	x	x	x	
Fabaceae indet.	x	x		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x			
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>				
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	xx	xx	xx	
Charcoal >10mm	x	x	x	x
Charred root/stem	xx	x	x	x
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xcf	xcf	x	x
Indet. culm nodes	x			
Indet. seeds		x		
<b>Other remains</b>				
Black porous 'cokey' material	xxx		xxx	x
Black tarry material	x	x		
Bone		xb		
Small coal frags.	xx	xx	xxx	xxxx
Vitreous material	x	x		x
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 6

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    xxx = 51 – 100 specimens    xxxx = 100+ specimens  
 cf = compare    b = burnt

## **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

- 6.6.6 In summary, the overall similarity of these assemblages may indicate that all are derived from a common source. On the basis of only four samples, it is difficult to state with any certainty what this source may have been, but it would appear most likely that burnt cereal processing waste and/or hearth detritus are both present, possibly suggesting that small, discrete deposits of such material were deliberately placed within the enclosure ditch fills.
- 6.6.7 Although the current assemblages are a little limited in composition, all four clearly illustrate that charred plant remains, many of which are well preserved, are present within the archaeological horizon in this area of Donisthorpe. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed features recorded during excavation. Analysis of these samples should provide valuable data about the nature of the enclosures and the habitat within which they were situated.

## **7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Discussion**

- 7.1.1 Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12 revealed no evidence for archaeological activity. This is despite the geophysics indicating a possible northwest to southeast aligned boundary bisecting Trench 6, several curvilinear enclosures crossing Trench 2 and parts of the large enclosure identified in Trench 8 as Ditch [140] shown to be bisecting Trenches 7, 10 and 11. This may be due to them being not identified during the enclosure despite careful attempts to identify them. Should any further work be conducted these may reveal themselves in any subsequent excavation as there is clearly a Roman ditch in Trench 8 that likely forms part of the large enclosure identified by the geophysics.
- 7.1.2 The undated Ditch [121] in Trench 1, relates to the northwest to southeast aligned curvilinear anomaly recorded in the geophysics survey to the north of the field (Figure 3). This north to south aligned ditch produced no dateable finds but appears to be part of the system of enclosures and field boundaries interpreted from the geophysics results. Ditch [121] appears to be part of the same ditch as either ditch [123] located at the northern end of Trench 3.
- 7.1.3 Ditch [108] in Trench 3 was broadly northeast to southwest aligned and produced no dateable finds but appears to be part of the main northeast to southwest aligned boundary that crosses the site identified by the geophysics (Figure 3). This is despite a slight shift of the ditch to the northeast of the location proposed by the geophysics. Ditch [108] was also undated but looks likely to represent part of the same boundary as the northeast to southwest aligned Ditch [127] in Trench 11 to the southwest on the western side of the site.
- 7.1.4 Trench 11 also revealed the undated posthole [129] and the Roman or post-Roman (based on a very small fragment of ceramic building material) Pit [131].
- 7.1.5 Ditches [123] and [125] were both aligned northwest to southeast and neither yielded any finds (Check). Ditch [123] appears to be part of the same boundary that is represented by Ditch [121] in the southern part of Trench 1 and also is likely to be part of the northwest to southeast aligned curvilinear anomaly recorded in the geophysics survey (Figure 3).



- 7.1.6 The undated Ditch [138] in trench 10 was aligned northeast to southwest and was quite irregular as well as being undated. This ditch was alongside two features which while initially appearing to be ditches upon excavation revealed themselves to likely have been formed by geological activity.
- 7.1.7 The large depression recorded as (141) in Trenches 7 and 10 that was originally thought to be a quarry or other such large feature is likely to be geological rather than representative of archaeological activity or anything else significant. This area of depression is in the same location as the area identified by the geophysics as either being pits or modern ferrous litter (Figure 3).
- 7.1.8 Ditch [140] represents the only significant dated evidence for the traces of field systems and enclosures that have been identified across the site by the geophysics and during the evaluation. Ditch [140] forms part of the corner of the enclosure identified by the geophysics survey (Figure 3). The Romano-British date of the pottery found in Ditch [140] demonstrates that the enclosures and field boundaries are likely to be Romano-British. The environmental evidence recovered from Ditch [140] also suggests nearby settlement activity alongside the fields and enclosures on the site.
- 7.1.9 All of the features in Trench 2 are of a post-medieval through to modern date indicating a concentration of post-medieval activity to the north of the site adjacent to Acresford road. This activity was represented by Pits [110], [113] and [116] and a northeast to southwest aligned system of field boundaries [104], [106] and [119].

## **7.2 Summary of Geophysics**

- 7.2.1 The features within Trenches 1 and 3 and some of the features in trenches 8 and 11 clearly match the geophysics results (Figure 3). While some of the features identified by the geophysics were not located, most notably in Trench 6 and the northern ends of Trenches 7 and 1 the geophysics was largely a success in identifying the archaeology on the site.

## **7.3 Specific aims of the evaluation**

*To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape.*

- 7.3.1 The evaluation has identified the site as being a system of Romano-British field systems and enclosures with evidence for possible settlement activity.

*To confirm the presence or absence of any prehistoric activity or settlement within in the area that may relate to crop marks identified to the south west of the site (MLE16956, MEL4782 and MEL21327); or the results of the geophysical survey.*

- 7.3.2 No evidence for prehistoric activity was identified.

*To confirm the presence or absence of any Romano-British activity.*

- 7.3.3 Romano-British activity was identified in the form of Ditch [140] located in Trench 8, further undated ditches were discovered in Trenches 1, 3, 10 and 11 which may form part of the same system of field boundaries or enclosures as Ditch [140] and therefore may be also Romano-British.

*To confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon activity relating the pre Domesday book settlement.*

- 7.3.4 No Anglo-Saxon activity was identified in any of the trenches.

*To confirm the presence or absence of any Medieval activity relating to the settlement recorded in the Domesday book and its subsequent appearance in documents though out the 12th -14th Centuries.*

- 7.3.5 No specific medieval activity was identified within any of the trenches.

*To confirm the presence or absence of post-medieval activity relating to the wider settlement of Donisthorpe.*

- 7.3.6 Post-medieval boundaries and pits were identified in Trench 2 towards the northern part of the site indicating an area of post-medieval activity.

## **7.4 Conclusions**

- 7.4.1 The evaluation conducted at Acresford Road, Donisthorpe has identified evidence for Roman-British activity on the site.

- 7.4.2 The dating is mostly located within the one ditch slot [140] in Trench 8 and this at least demonstrates one enclosure or significant boundary in use in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century to 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

- 7.4.3 The undated boundary comprised of Ditches [127] and [108] remains undated but the environmental evidence has already indicated similar environmental remains as the well dated Romano-British ditch and this boundary respects the boundary or enclosure that Ditch [140] is part of.

- 7.4.4 The site is therefore comprised of a system of field boundaries and enclosures, some of which are clearly Roman-British and some of which are likely to be Romano-British despite a lack of dating at this stage.
- 7.4.5 Other undated ditches and discrete features such as those found in Trench 1, 10 and 11 are therefore likely to be of a similar date.
- 7.4.6 The activity revealed in Trench 2 is of a post-medieval through to modern date and while less significant than the Romano-British activity, these features still demonstrates rural activity that may relate directly to the current settlement of Donisthorpe.
- 7.4.7 The site clearly represents a site of some local significance, while this archaeology is poorly preserved and largely poorly dated, the site does represent a system of enclosures and field boundaries of a Romano-British date with other discrete features in the vicinity.
- 7.4.9 Further archaeological mitigation has been recommended by Richard Clark Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council. This is a archaeological soil strip of the development area. To be conducted as an initial stage of the development process, all exposed archaeological remains should be planned and investigated appropriately. In addition an archaeological observation / watching brief is to be carried out on all services and other ground works likely to impact upon archaeological remains. Provision must be made within the development timetable for archaeologists to be present during these works, to enable the required level of archaeological supervision.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Chave Planning on behalf of IFP Consulting Limited for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council for his advice and monitoring the evaluation and Mick of Long Eaton Plant Hire for machining the trenches. The author would like to thank Kevin Trott for managing the project and all his support throughout, Steve Porter, Karl Hanson and Steve Jones for their hard work during the project and Jennifer Simonson of the PCA CAD Department for preparing the figures.

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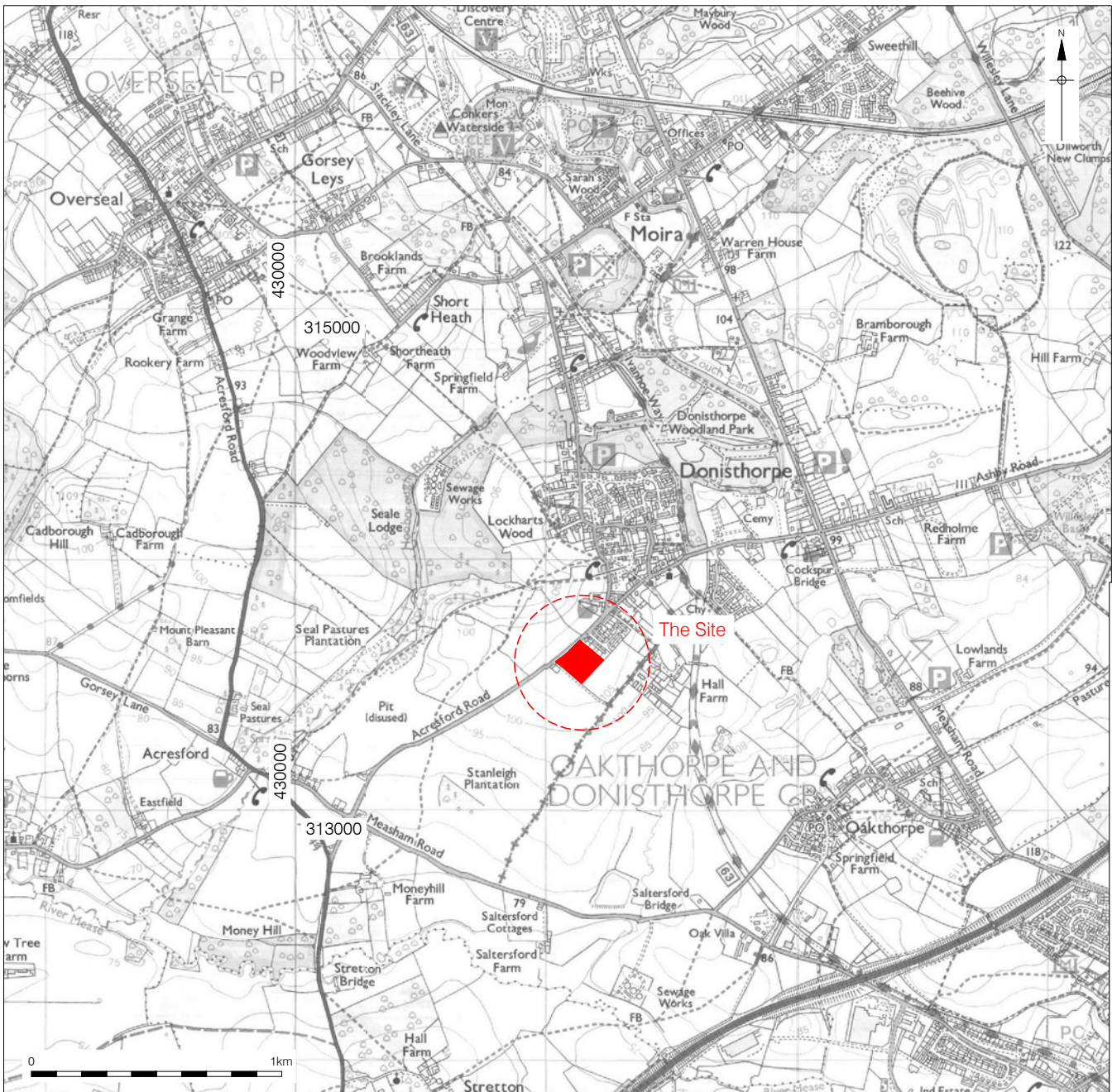
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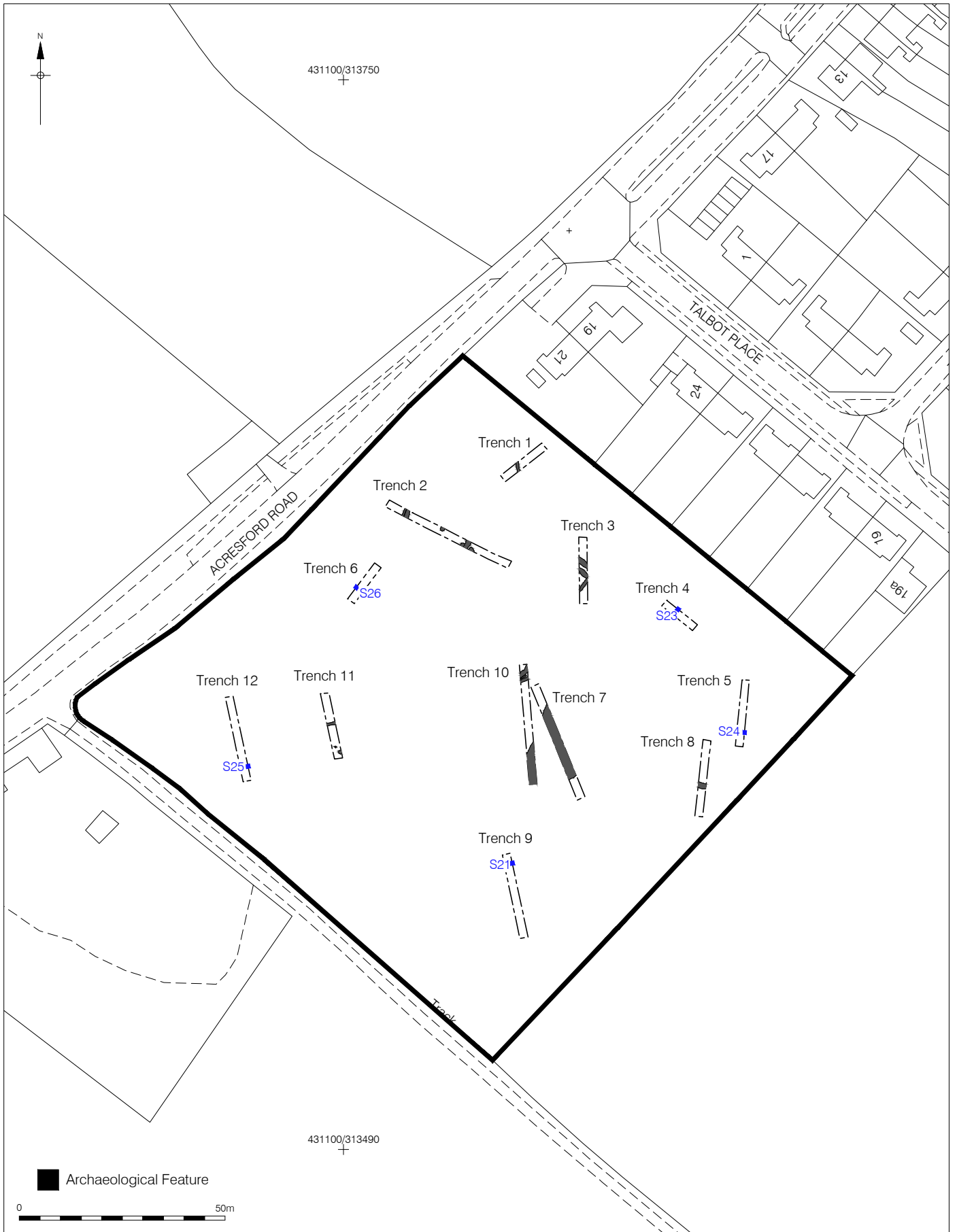
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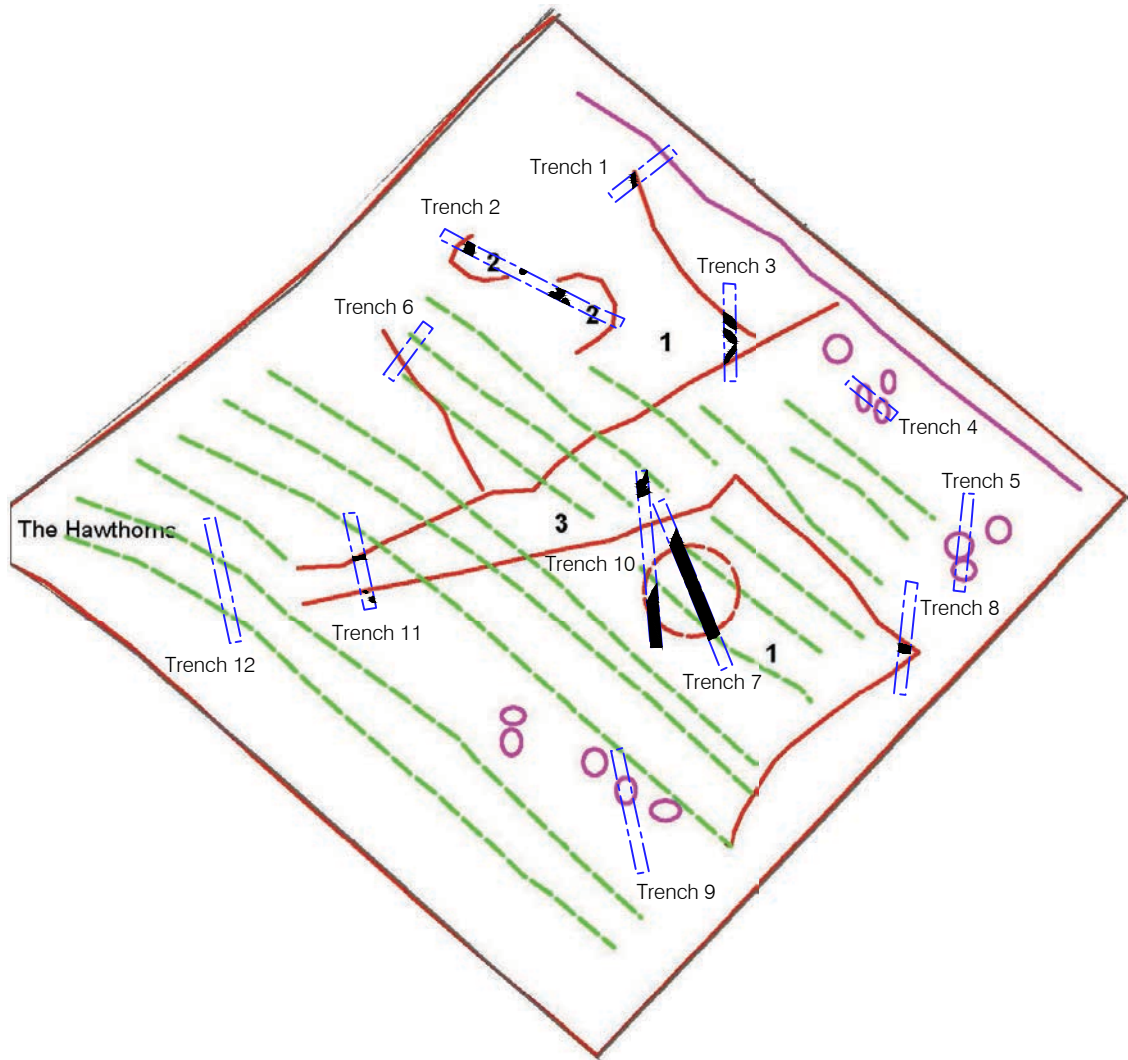
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22/09/14 JS

23/09/14 JS (revision 1)

Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:1,250 at A4





■ Archaeological Feature

0 50m

Geophysics Results Supplied by Client  
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22/09/14 JS  
23/09/14 JS (revision 1)

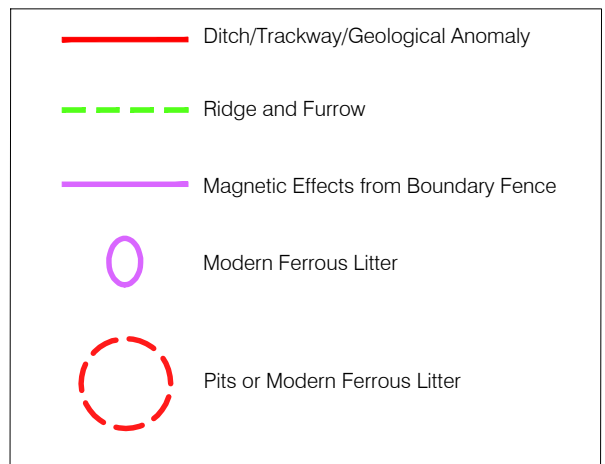


Figure 3  
Geophysics Results  
1:1,250 at A4

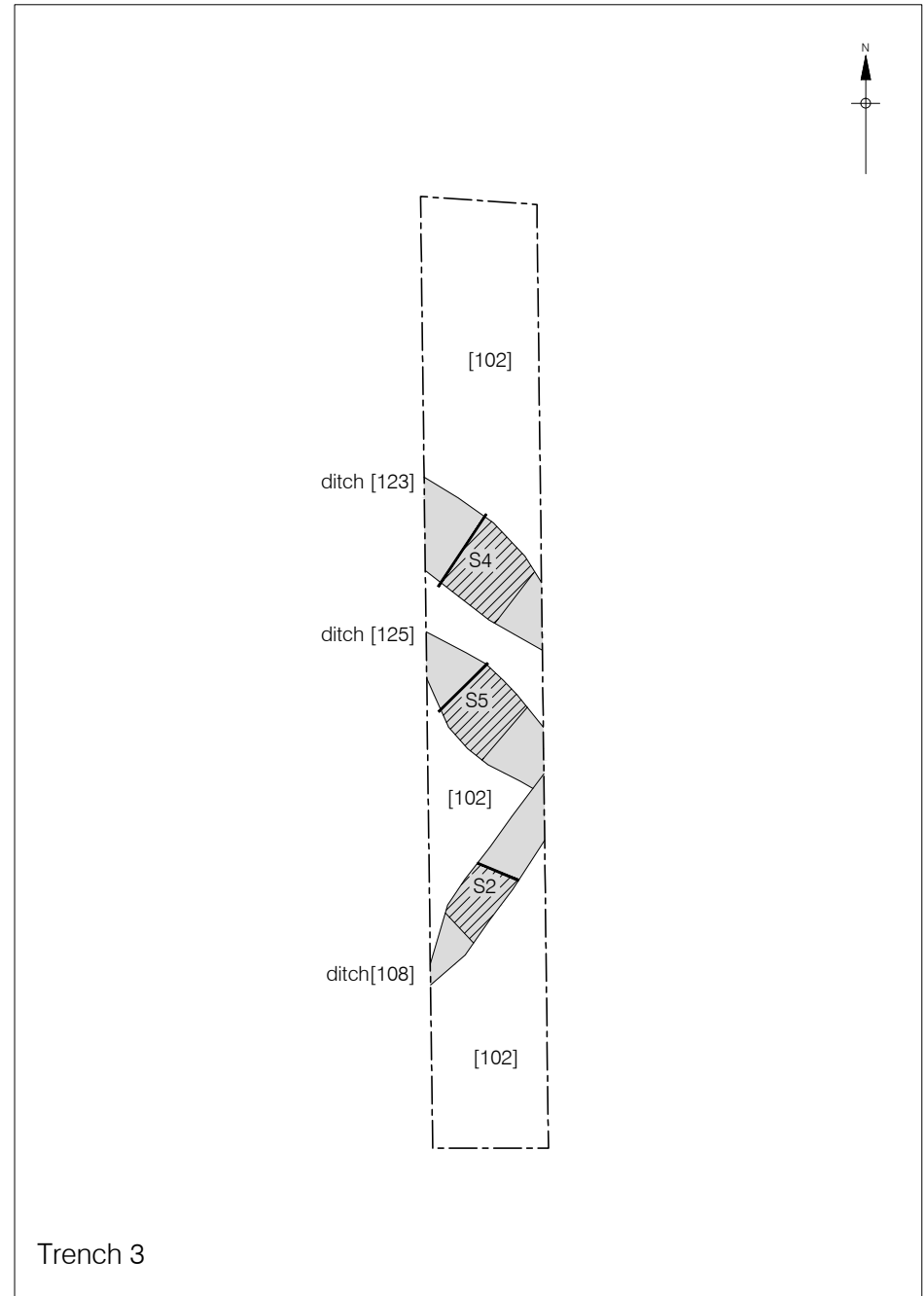
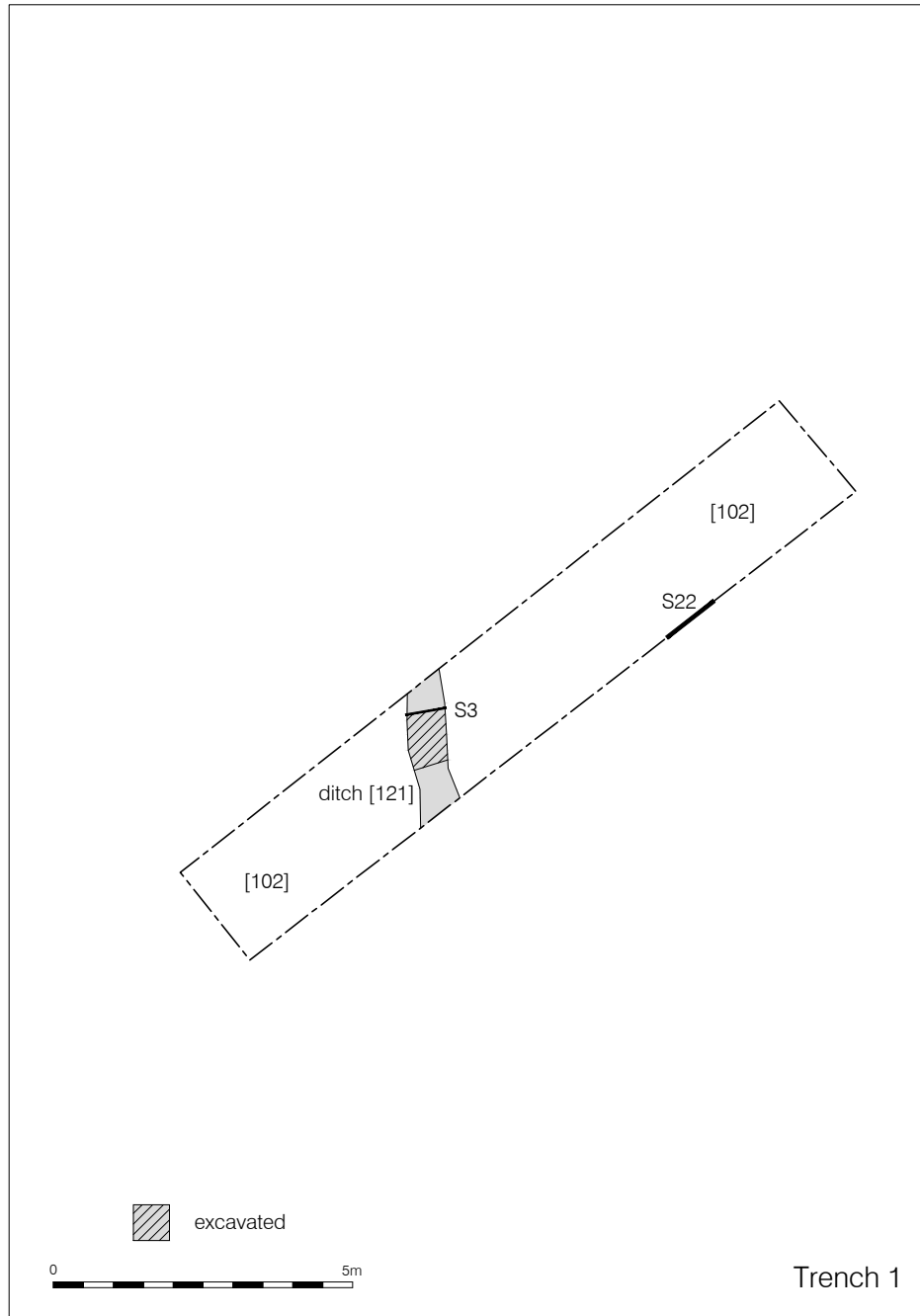
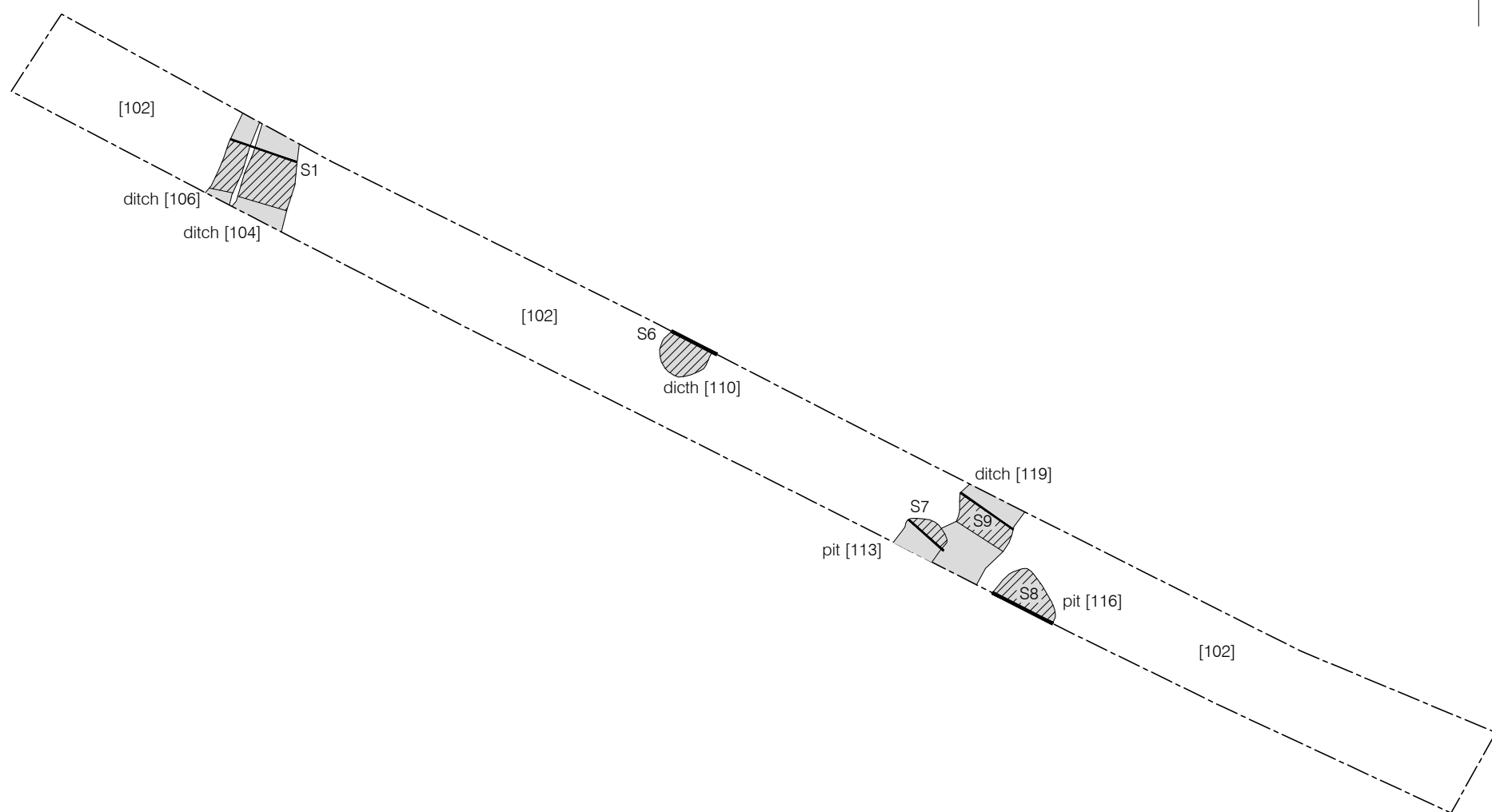


Figure 4  
Trenches 1 & 3  
1:125 at A4

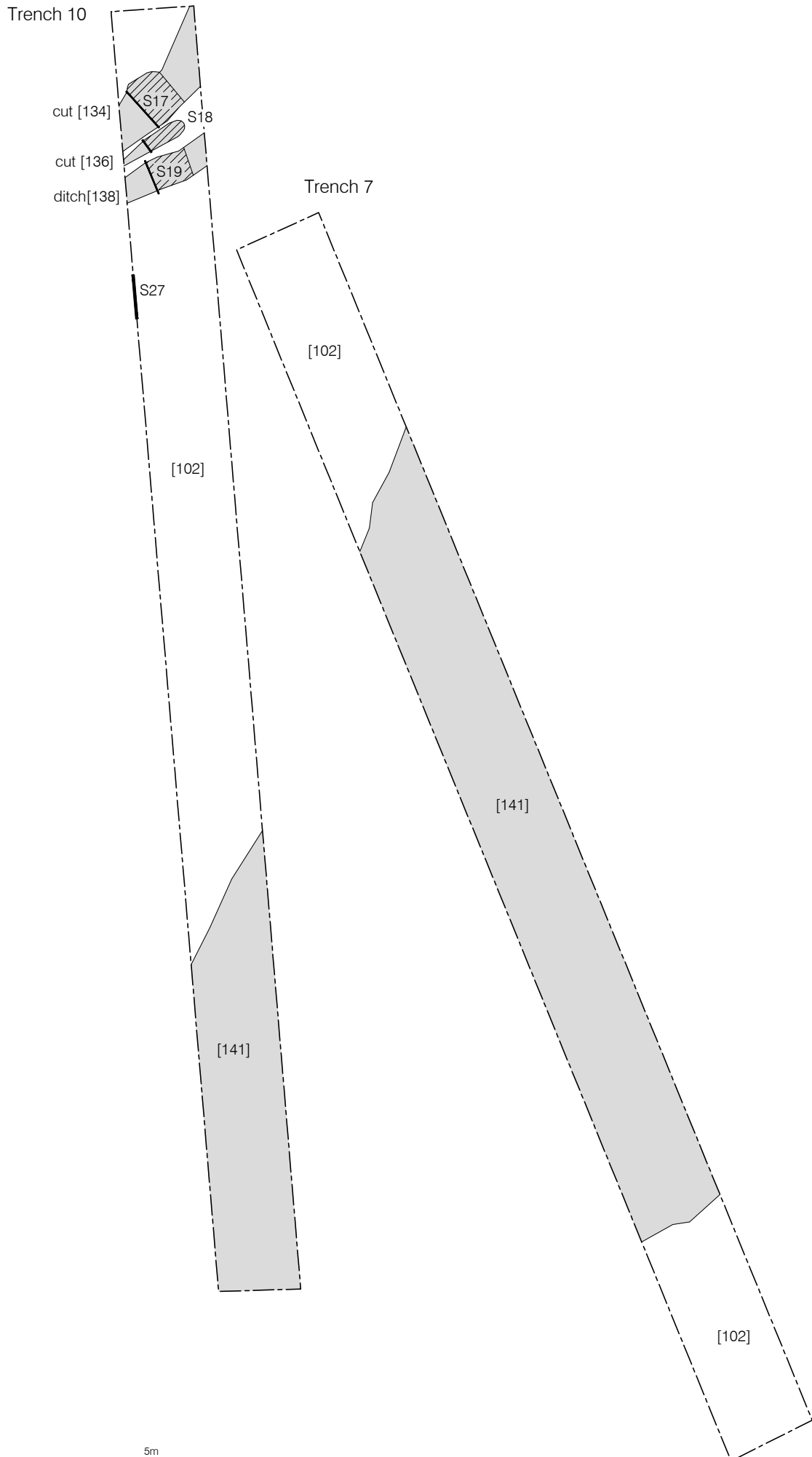


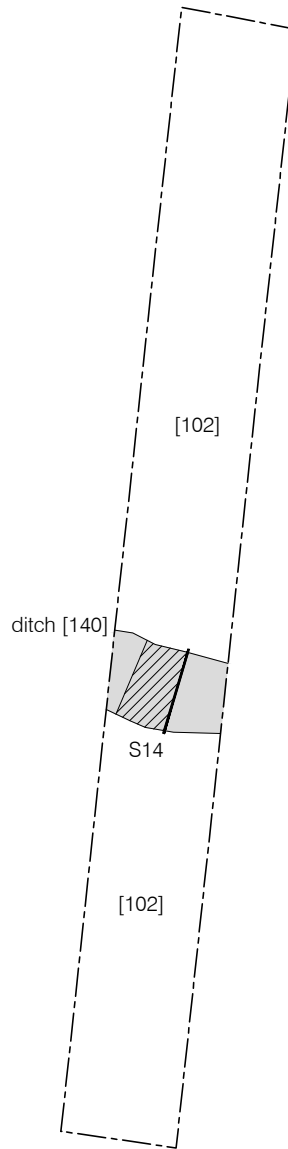
 excavated




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22/09/14 JS

Figure 5  
Trench 2  
1:125 at A4



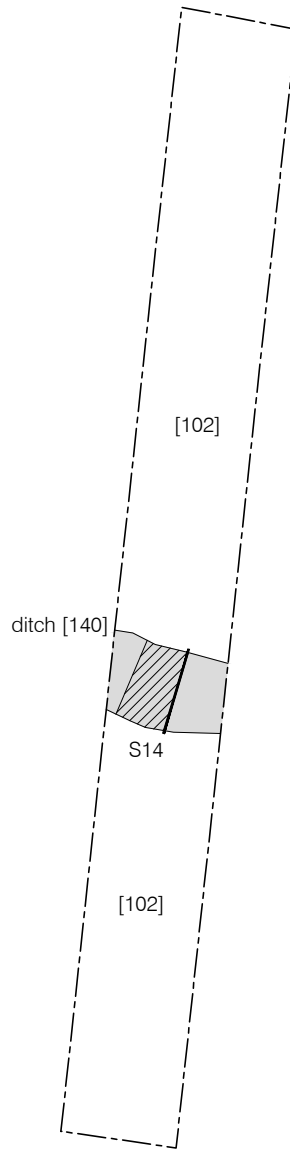


 excavated

0 5m

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Figure 7  
Trench 8  
1:125 at A4

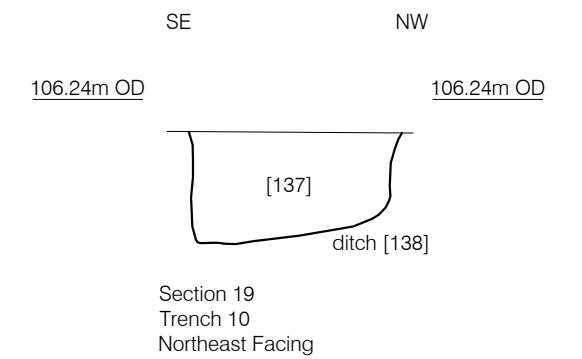
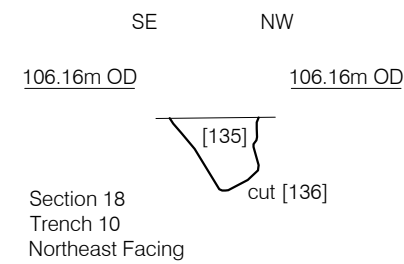
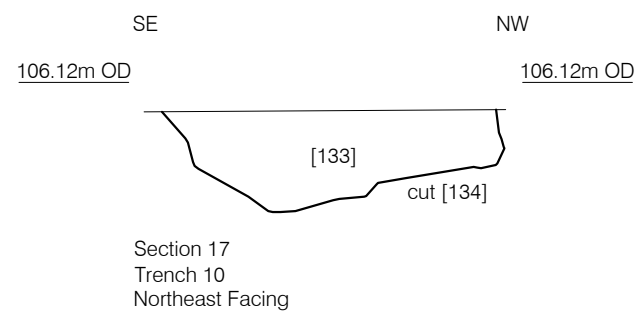
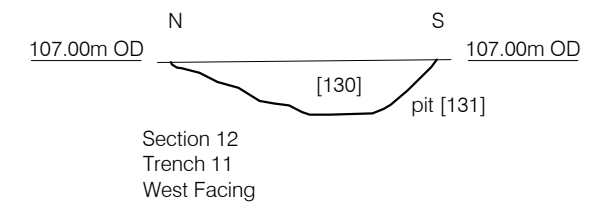
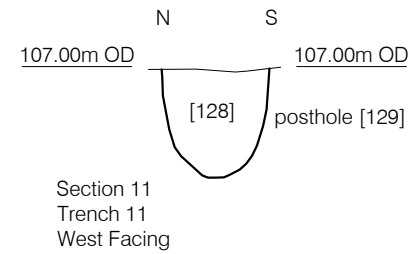
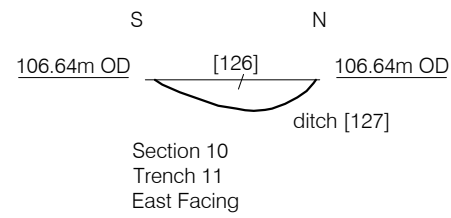
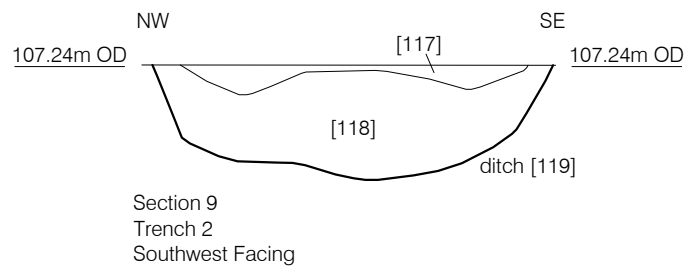
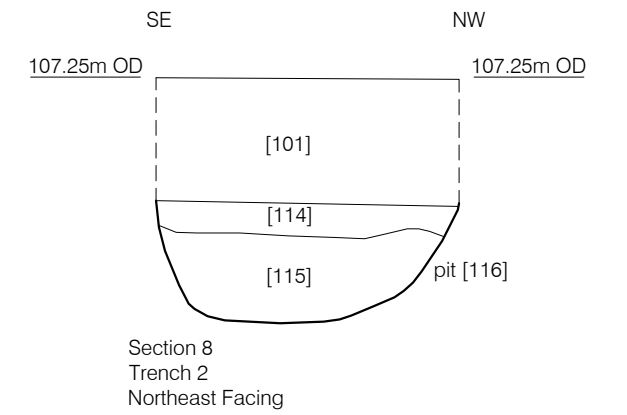
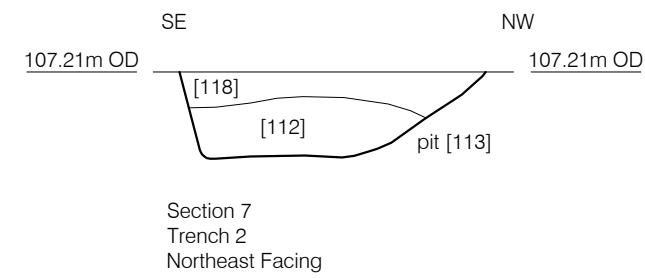
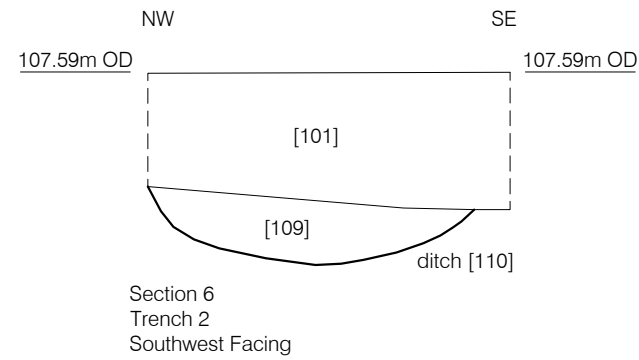
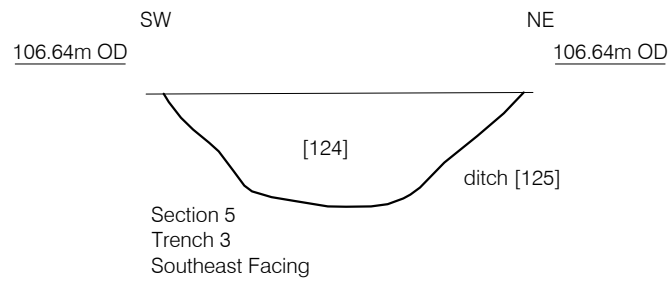
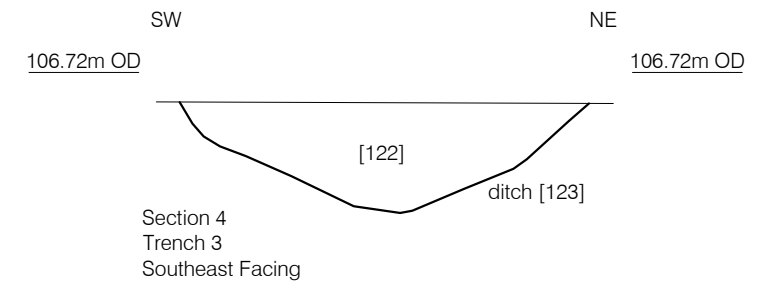
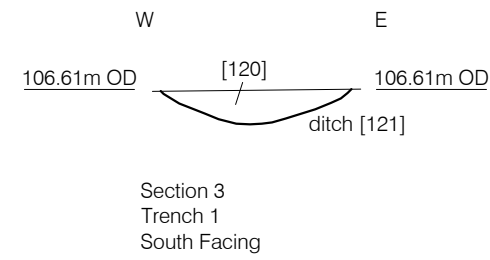
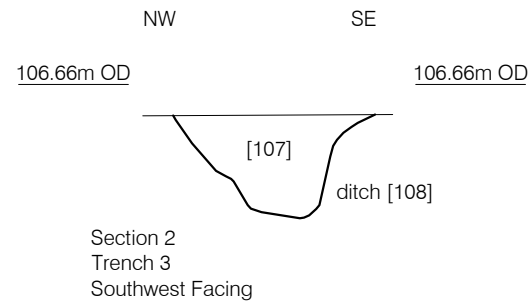
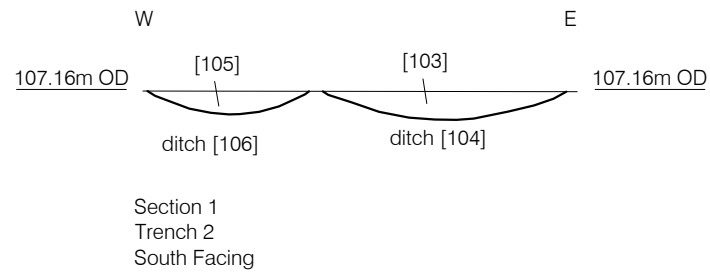


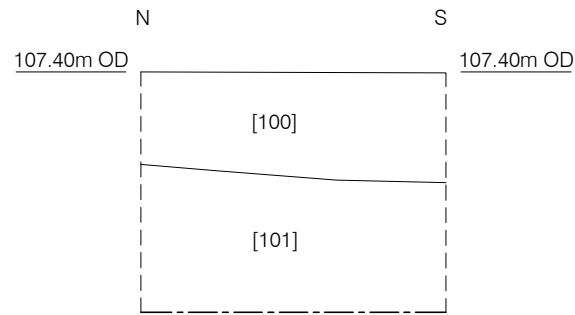
 excavated

0 5m

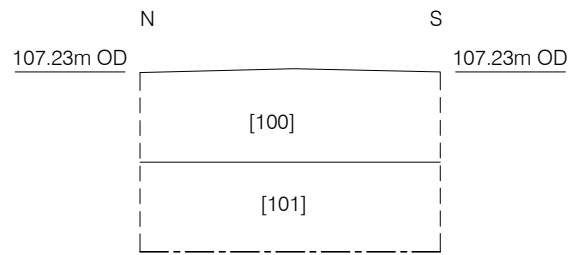
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014  
22/09/14 JS

Figure 7  
Trench 8  
1:125 at A4

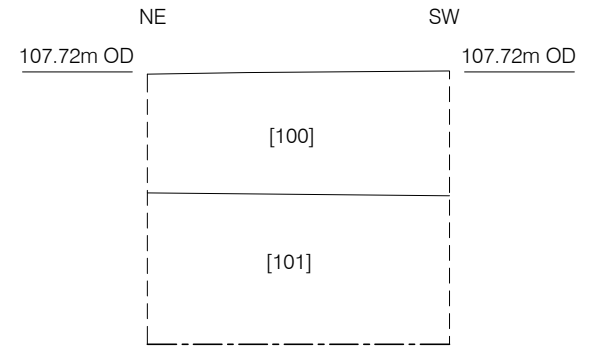




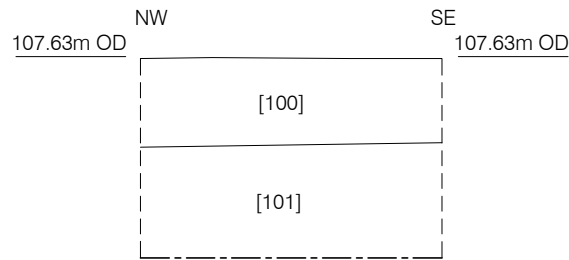
Section 20  
Trench 11  
West Facing



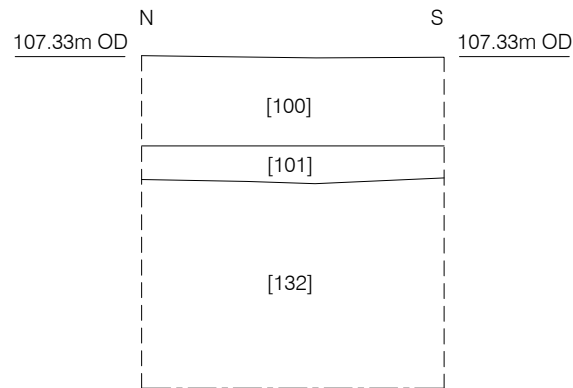
Section 21  
Trench 9  
West Facing



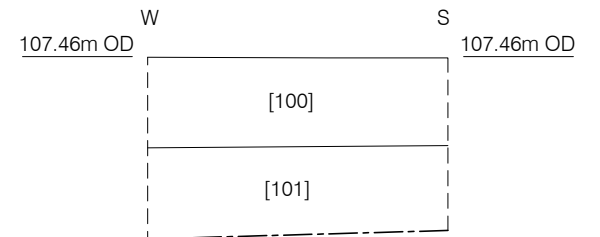
Section 22  
Trench 1  
Northwest Facing



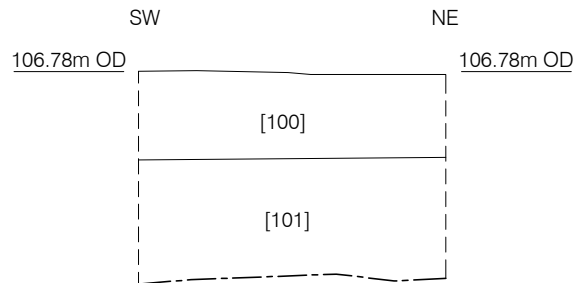
Section 23  
Trench 4  
Southwest Facing



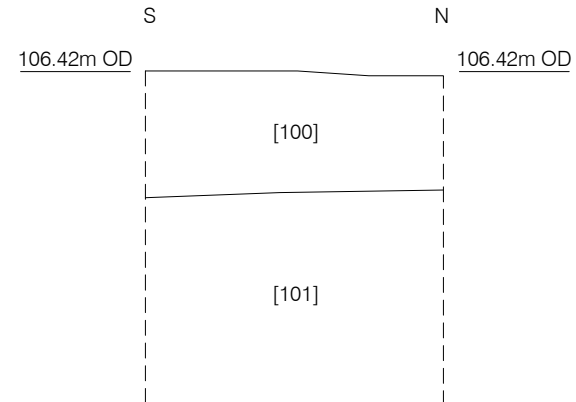
Section 24  
Trench 5  
West Facing



Section 25  
Trench 12  
West Facing



Section 26  
Trench 6  
Southeast Facing



Section 27  
Trench 10  
East Facing





## 10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: View across site facing south



Plate 2: Machine Excavation, Trench 2



Plate 3: NW facing view of Trench 2



Plate 4: N facing view of Trench 3 showing Ditches [108], [123] and [125]





Plate 5: SE facing view of Ditch [138] and geological features [136] & [134]



Plate 6: N facing view of (141) in Trench 7





Plate 7: East facing view of Ditch [140]



Plate 8: NW facing view of Trench 11, Pit [131] and Posthole [129]

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Category	Comments	Description	Trench	Section
(100)	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil across site	Mid-dark reddish brown silt	1-12	-
(101)	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil across site	Mid-reddish brown sandy silt	1-12	-
(102)	Layer	Natural Geological Horizon	Natural across site	Mix of yellow sand, gravel rich mid-brownish red clay and gravel rich mid-dark silt sand.	1-12	-
(103)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [104]	Mid-brownish grey clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions	2	1
[104]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, shallow sloped sides, concave base, N-S aligned	2	1
(105)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [106]	Dark brownish grey clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions	2	1
[106]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, shallow sloped sides, concave base, N-S aligned	2	1
(107)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [108]	Mid-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	3	2
[108]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, sharply sloped sides, V-shaped base, NE-SW aligned	3	2
(109)	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [110]	Mid-orange brown Silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	2	6
[110]	Cut	Pit	Cut of Pit	Ovoid, moderately sloped sides, concave base	2	6
(111)	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [113]	Mid-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	2	7
(112)	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [113]	Dark-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	2	7
[113]	Cut	Pit	Cut of Pit	Sub-rectangular, sharply sloped sides, flat base	2	7
(114)	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [116]	Mid-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	2	8
(115)	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [116]	Dark-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	2	8
[116]	Cut	Pit	Cut of Pit	Ovoid, sharply sloped sides, flat base	2	8
(117)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [119]	Dark greyish brown silt clay with occasional flint inclusions	2	9
(118)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [119]	Dark-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	2	9
[119]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, sharply sloped sides, flat base, NE-SW aligned	2	9
(120)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [121]	Mid-reddish brownish grey silt	1	3
[121]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, shallow sloped sides, concave base, N-S aligned	1	3

(122)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [123]	Mid-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	1	4
[123]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, moderately sloped sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned	1	4
(124)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [125]	Mid-reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	1	5
[125]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, moderately sloped sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned	1	5
(126)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [127]	Mid-reddish brown sandy silt	11	10
[127]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	Linear, shallow sloped sides, concave base, NE-SW aligned	11	10
(128)	Fill	Posthole	Fill of Posthole [129]	Mid-greyish brown sandy silt	11	11
[129]	Cut	Posthole	Cut of Posthole	Circular, vertical sides , concave base	11	11
(130)	Fill	Pit	Fill of pit [131]	Mid-reddish brown sandy silt	11	12
[131]	Cut	Pit	Cut of Pit	Sub-circular, moderately sloped sides, concave base	11	12
(132)	Layer	Unknown	Unknown	Dark reddish brown silt sand with occasional gravel inclusions	5	13
(133)	Fill	Geological	Fill of [134]	Mid-reddish brown silty sand	10	17
[134]	Cut	Geological	Cut of [134]	Irregular, irregular sloped sides, irregular base	10	17
(135)	Fill	Geological	Fill of [136]	Mid-reddish brown silty sand	10	18
[136]	Cut	Geological	Cut of [136]	Irregular, irregular sloped sides, irregular base	10	18
(137)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [138]	Mid-reddish brown silty sand	10	19
[138]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch [138]	Linear, Sharp & irregular sloped sides, irregular base. NE-SW aligned	10	19
(139)	Fill	Ditch	Fill of Ditch [140]	Dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions	8	14
[140]	Cut	Ditch	Cut of Ditch [140]	Linear, moderately sloped sides with a flat base. E-W aligned	8	14
(141)	Layer	Geological		Dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions	7 & 10	15&16

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

### OASIS ID: preconst1-189920

#### Project details

Project name	Land off Acresford Road, Donisthorpe, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	A twelve trench archaeological evaluation of field to eastern side of Acresford Road Donisthorpe.
Project dates	Start: 03-09-2014 End: 05-09-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE OAKTHORPE AND DONISTHORPE Land at Acresford Road Donisthorpe
Study area	1.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 31138 13599 52.7188060505 -1.53896179686 52 43 07 N 001 32 20 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 106.04m Max: 107.50m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Archaeology Office
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Matthew Lees
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	ARDL14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	ARDL14
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	ARDL14
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Acresford Road, Donisthorpe, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Lees, M.
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Market Harborough
Description	PCA grey literature evaluation report



URL [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)

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Entered by Matthew Lees (MLees@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 05 October 2014