

LAND AT SOMERFORD  
KEYNES, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION



REPORT NO: R12612



SEPTEMBER 2016



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**LAND AT SOMERFORD KEYNES, GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Local Planning Authority:** Cotswold District Council

**Commissioning Client:** Lanpro Services Ltd on Behalf of County to County

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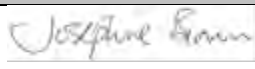

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**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**  
**Land at Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire**

**Evaluation Report**

**Report Ref R12612**

**Quality Control**

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## **1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Pre Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd on behalf of County to County, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire. This report provides the result of evaluation, which comprised five 30m X 2m and two 15m x 2m trenches opened between the 18th and 22nd July 2016.

All seven trenches contained a mixture of linear features and discreet features, with a total of 28 ditches and 8 pits. The features varied in size and depth, with the linear features generally correlating to the features identified in a previous geophysical survey of the site; however, more features were identified than were shown in the geophysical survey. The remains of a possible enclosure ditch were seen in trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Finds were recovered from the majority of the excavated features and included animal bone, ceramic building material, pottery and one shard of glass. With the exception of the remnants of a Bronze Age vessel, 1 sherd of pottery from the Iron Age, Medieval and Post Medieval periods, the finds predominantly date to the Roman Period.

The evaluation has demonstrated that the site contains archaeological remains dating to the 2nd Century as well as possible later Roman use of the site. This suggests that the site lies within, or within the peripheries of, a Romano-British farmstead or settlement. Limited evidence for earlier, prehistoric activity was also identified. No evidence of significant archaeological resources of a post-Roman date were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

2.1.1 Pre Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd on behalf of County to County, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site' (SU 02091 94887).

2.1.2 A planning application is being prepared for the residential development of the site. The Planning Archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council has requested that a programme of archaeological works be conducted in order to allow informed and reasoned recommendations on the application to be made. The site has been subject to desk based assessment (Lanpro 2016) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016). Following the results of these surveys, the Planning Archaeologist has requested a programme of targeted trial trench evaluation.

2.1.3 This report provides the result of evaluation, which comprised 5 30m X 2m and 2 15m x 2m trenches opened between the 18th and 22nd July 2016. It has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015).

### **2.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

2.2.1 The Site is located on land on the southern edge of Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire, a rural village situated within the Cotswold Water Park. The Site comprises an open field, which until recently held cattle. The Site is bounded by Water Lane, with residential housing to the North and West. To the East is a hedgerow, beyond which are further pasture fields. To the South is a boundary, beyond which is a community pond.

2.2.2 The site is generally level, with an average height of 89m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying natural geology is mapped as part of the Kellaways Clay Member Formation, which is a sedimentary mudstone formed during the Jurassic Period. Superficial deposits of Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member are also mapped (BGS Online Viewer).

### **3 AIM**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

3.1.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological works was to obtain sufficient information as to the archaeological significance and potential of the site to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for development of the site. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits
- To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire HER.

3.1.2 This document reports on the results of the evaluation and aims to provide sufficient information so that the future treatment of archaeological resources identified within the site, in respect of the proposed development, may be determined

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the evaluation results based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, trench recording sheets, context sheets, drawings, GPS data and digital photographs. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in a Trench Index in **Appendix 1** and photographs of the trenches and trench sections in **Appendix 6**. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code SKGL16 and will in due course be deposited with the Gloucestershire Museum Service.

### 4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Lanpro, 2016).

4.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 7 trenches, 5 measuring 30m X 2m and 2 measuring 15m x 2m (**Figure 2 & Plate 1**). The location of the trenches was intended to provide a sample of any surviving below ground archaeological resources, with locations based on a geophysical survey previously carried out on site (Stratascan, 2016).

4.2.3 All the proposed trenches were opened, investigated and recorded for the presence of archaeological features and deposits.

### 4.3 Summary of Deposition Sequence

4.3.1 The deposit sequence shown by the evaluation trenches was consistent across the site (**Plate 2 & 3**). The trenches demonstrated a relatively shallow depth of cover above the natural, which was greyish gravel with frequent patches of orangey clay of the natural was at an average depth of 0.38m below ground level (BGL), and in the north of the site (Trenches 1-4) and lay directly beneath the topsoil with a sub soil, seen in the south (Trenches 5-7).

### 4.4 Archaeological Features

4.4.1 A total of 28 linear features were identified across the seven trenches, these varied in size and depth. The linear features generally correlated to the anomalies shown in the geophysical survey (**Figure 2**), although more were revealed than anticipated from this survey.

4.4.2 Three intersecting ditches were identified in Trench 1; one was orientated east-west ([115]) and two orientated north-south ([111] and [116]) (**Figure 3 and Plate 4**). Two small pits ([107] and [117]) were also identified on the north side of ditch [115]. One slot and two relationship slots were excavated. From the excavated features, it could be seen that the east-west ditch had truncated the north-south ditches and pits and, as such, can be considered to be later in date.



- 4.4.3 84 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the area at which [111] truncates [113] (**Figure 3 and Plate 5**), which appears to represent a single handmade urn of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition. Roman pottery was also recovered from ditches [105], [106] and [107].
- 4.4.4 Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5 all contained evidence of possible enclosure ditches ([212], [312], [412] and [509]) seen in the geophysical survey. Two slots were investigated in Trenches 2 and 4 ([212] and [412]). Ditch [212] (**Figure 4 and Plate 6**) is approximately 1.5m wide and 0.50m deep, whereas [412] (**Figure 6 and Plate 7**) is 1.95m wide by 0.71m. Both contained a large amount of finds, with [212] containing 58 sherds of 2nd century Roman pottery, whereas [412], contained late Roman pottery along with CBM, animal bone and one shard of late 3rd Century Roman glass. Ditches also thought to be associated with the possible enclosure ditch can be seen in the geophysical survey data, with possible evidence of these ditches identified in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 ([313], [308], [310], [415] [508] and [507]). Of these [308] and [310] (**Figure 5 and Plate 8**) were excavated and were 1.54m across by 0.32m wide and 0.73m across by 0.24m wide respectively. It was also found that [308] truncated an earlier ditch, [306], which does not appear in the geophysical survey. Both contained 1st and 2nd century Roman pottery.
- 4.4.5 Trench 4 (**Figure 6 and Plate 9**) contained a number of ditches ([403], [405] and [404]), which all converged within the trench and contained an amount of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD pottery and other finds. Ditch [403] was on a north-south orientation which was truncated by east-west ditch [405]. Both of these were then subsequently truncated by [404] running east-west.
- 4.4.6 Trenches 2,3, 4, 6 and 7 ([203], [404], [416], [604], [607], [609], [610], [611], [612] and [704]) (**Figures 4, 5, 6, 8 & 9 and Plates 10, 11 & 12**) also contained further ditches; some of these features corresponded with the geophysical results, others, such as Trench 7, did not. Five of the remaining ten ditches were excavated and recorded. There is little commonality between these ditches, which vary in size, shape and depth; however, where dating evidence has been retrieved, in the form of pottery, it has revealed 2nd Century Roman dates for linear features [404] and [604].
- 4.4.7 Seven small isolated pits were identified across the site, along with three possible postholes. Pits in Trenches 2, 3, and 5 were excavated ([204], [303] and [504]) (**Figures 4, 5 & 7 and Plates 13 & 14**). Pits [303] and [504] were a similar size in plan, each being 0.60m across although different in section with depths of 0.19m and 0.34m respectively. [204] was much larger at 1.16m across and a depth of 0.66m BGL. Finds were found in all pits in the form of animal bone, and as such it was not possible to date the features.

4.4.8 Postholes in trenches 1, 2 and 5 ([103], [214] and [510]) were also investigated, they were wide and shallow at 0.11m, 0.24m and 0.10m in depth and 0.45m, 0.34m and 0.60m across, respectively (Postholes in trenches 1, 2 and 5 [103], [214], [510] were also investigated, they were wide and shallow at 0.11m 0.24m and 0.10m in depth and 0.45m 0.34m and 0.60m across (**Figures 3, 4 & 7**).

4.4.9 Only the posthole in Trench 1, [103], contained dateable pottery, dating the feature to the early to middle Iron Age.

#### **4.5 Discussion**

4.5.1 The evaluation revealed a relatively large number of archaeological features: 28 linear features and 8 discrete features. A relatively large artefact assemblage, including pottery, (from a range of dates from Bronze Age to post medieval), Roman CBM, Roman glass and animal bone was recovered from across the site. Detailed specialist reports for the different artefact and ecofact assemblages have been included as **Appendices 2-5**.

4.5.2 The evaluation has produced limited evidence of Prehistoric activity in the north of the site in the form of a fragmented Bronze Age urn and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. Where found Medieval and Post Medieval sherds are thought to be intrusive. The majority of the artefacts date the site to the 2nd century AD. A smaller percentage of pottery dates to 3rd-4th century AD, coming primarily from a single enclosure ditch, [414], and possibly indicating multiple phases of Roman use.

4.5.3 The combination of 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman artefacts and the nature of the features (primarily boundary and enclosure ditches) could suggest that the site lies within or close to a Romano-British farmstead. The possibility of a farmstead is further supported by the analysis of a number of the animal bones recovered, which indicate the remains of working animals in contexts that can be dated to the Romano-British period.

4.5.4 Results from the analysis of environmental samples are awaited and will be included in any future report or publication.

#### **4.6 Conclusion**

4.6.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that the site contains archaeological remains dating to the 2nd Century as well as possible later Roman use of the site. This suggests that the site lies within, or within the peripheries of, a Romano-British farmstead or settlement. Limited evidence for earlier, prehistoric activity was also identified. No evidence of significant archaeological resources of a post-Roman date were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

## **5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION**

### **5.1 The Site Archive**

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2014). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited with the Gloucestershire Museum Service.

### **5.2 Copyright**

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

5.2.2 The license extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes the Gloucestershire County Council Historic Environment Record).

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

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Paul Gajos of Landpro Services Ltd for commissioning the evaluation on behalf of County to County Ltd and to Charles Parry, Gloucestershire County Archaeological for advice.

The evaluation was supervised by Katherine Marshall, assisted by Laurence Morgan-Shelbourne, Sam Corke, and Dom McAtominey.

This report was prepared by Katherine Marshall with Illustrations prepared by Jenifer Simpson. The project was managed for PCA by Paul McCulloch.

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## Appendix 1: Trench Index

Trench No.	Section No.	Context	Type	Description/ Depth (m) BGL	Findings?
1	1a	101	Topsoil	0.00m - 0.34m	
	1a	102	Natural	0.34m +	
	19a	103	Cut	Cut of Poss. Posthole	
	19a	104	Fill	Fill of [103]	Pottery
	8	105	Cut	Cut of Narrow E-W Ditch	
	7	106	Cut	Cut of Narrow E-W Ditch	
	7	107	Cut	Cut of Pit	
	8	108	Fill	Fill of [105]	Pottery
	7	109	Fill	Fill of [106]	
	7	110	Fill	Fill of [107]	Pottery, Bone
	18	111	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	18	112	Fill	Fill of [111]	Pottery
	18	113	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	18	114	Fill	Fill of [114]	Pottery, Bone
	-	115	Group	Ditch [105] [106], [113]	
	-	116	Feature	Unexcavated N-S Ditch	
	-	117	Feature	Unexcavated Pit	
2	1b	201	Topsoil	0.00m - 0.36m	
	1b	202	Natural	0.36m +	
	5	203	Cut	Cut of Curvilinear	
	6	204	Cut	Cut of Pit	
	5	205	Fill	Fill of [203]	
	6	206	Fill	Upper Fill of [204]	
	6	207	Fill	Middle Fill of [204]	Bone
	6	208	Fill	Bottom Fill of [204]	
	12	209	Fill	Upper Fill of [212]	
	12	210	Fill	Middle Fill of [212]	Pottery, CBM, Bone
	12	211	Fill	Bottom Fill of [212]	Pottery, Bone
	12	212	Cut	Cut of Roman Ditch	
	13	213	Fill	Fill of [214]	
	13	214	Cut	Cut of Poss. Posthole	
	-	215	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch/ Pit	
	-	216	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch/ Pit	
	3	1c	301	Topsoil	0.00m - 0.30m
1c		302	Natural	0.30 +	
9		303	Cut	Cut of Pit	
9		304	Fill	Fill of [303]	Bone

	14	305	Fill	Fill of [306]	Pottery
	14	306	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	14	307	Fill	Fill of [308]	Pottery, CBM, Bone
	14	308	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	14	309	Fill	Fill of [310]	Bone
	14	310	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	-	311	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch/ Pit	
	-	312	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
	-	313	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
4	1d	401	Topsoil	0.00 - 0.42m	
	1d	402	Natural	0.42m +	
	4	403	Cut	Cut of NW-SE Ditch	
	4	404	Cut	Cut of Ditch Terminus	
	4	405	Cut	Cut of E-W Ditch	
	4	406	Fill	Fill of [403]	Bone
	4	407	Fill	Upper Fill of [404]	Pottery, Bone
	4	408	Fill	Middle Fill of [404]	Pottery
	4	409	Fill	Bottom Fill of [404]	
	4	410	Fill	Upper Fill of [405]	CBM
	4	411	Fill	Bottom Fill of [405]	
	11	412	Cut	Cut of Enclosure Ditch	
	11	413	Fill	Upper Fill of [412]	Pottery, CBM, Bone, Fe Object
	11	414	Fill	Bottom Fill of [412]	Pottery
	-	415	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
-	416	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch		
5	1e	501	Topsoil	0.00m - 0.12m	
	1e	502	Subsoil	0.12m - 0.47m	
	1e	503	Natural	0.47m +	
	10	504	Cut	Cut of Posthole	
	10	505	Fill	Upper Fill of [504]	Pottery, Bone
	10	506	Fill	Bottom Fill of [504]	
	-	507	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
	-	508	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
	-	509	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
	15	510	Cut	Cut of Posthole	
	15	511	Fill	Fill of [510]	
6	1f	601	Topsoil	0.00m - 0.21m	
	1f	602	Subsoil	0.21m - 0.47m	

	1f	603	Natural	0.47m +	
	2a	604	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	2a	605	Fill	Fill of [604]	Pottery, CBM, Bone
	16	606	Fill	Fill of [607]	
	16	607	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	17	608	Fill	Fill of [609]	
	17	609	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	-	610	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
	-	611	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
	-	612	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	
7	1g	701	Topsoil	0.00m - 0.17m	
	1g	702	Subsoil	0.17m - 0.45m	
	1g	703	Natural	0.45m +	
	3	704	Cut	Cut of Ditch	
	3	705	Fill	Fill of [705]	Bone
	-	706	Feature	Unexcavated Ditch	



## **Appendix 2: Pottery Assessment – Jane Timby**

### **1 Introduction and methodology**

1.1 The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 226 sherds of pottery weighing c 2.6 kg. The material includes 84 sherds from a single prehistoric vessel, 139 sherds of Roman date and single pieces of Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval date.

1.2 The assemblage was sorted into fabrics based on the colour, texture and nature of the inclusions present in the clay. Known named or traded Roman wares were coded using the National Roman fabric reference system (Tomber and Dore 1998). Other wares, generally of local origin, were coded more generically according to colour and main characteristics.

1.3 The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Freshly broken sherds where these could be identified were counted as single pieces. Rims were additionally coded to general form. A summary of the main fabrics recorded can be found summarised in Table 1 along with provisional spot dates.

1.4 In general terms the assemblage was in poor condition in terms of surface preservation although the sherds moderately well preserved in terms of size. The overall average sherd weight is 11.5 g suggesting a moderately high level of fragmentation.

1.5 Pottery was recovered from 14 contexts with five sherds from unstratified collection. The quantities range from single sherds up to a maximum of 84 sherds from ditch [114].

1.6 In the following report the general composition of the assemblage is described by chronological period followed by an overall assessment of the potential of the material.

### **2 Prehistoric**

2.1 Ditch [114] produced 84 sherds with a fabric containing coarse fossil shell temper. The pieces appear to come from a single, large, handmade, vessel with a simple squared rim. The character of the sherds suggests this may be an urn of middle Bronze Age date in the Deverel-Rimbury tradition. Unfortunately there are no featured sherds to indicate a specific form, unless it is a simple bucket-shaped type.

2.2 A single bodysherd with a finer fossil shell and limestone tempered ware came from posthole [103]. This sherd is typical of the early–middle Iron Age in this region.

### **3 Roman pottery**

3.1 Roman pottery accounts for 61.5% of the recovered assemblage and largely appears to date to an episode of use in the 2nd century with a possible later ditch . It is overwhelmingly dominated by a diverse range of 'local' coarse wares, most, or all of which are likely to have come from the poorly documented Wiltshire pottery industry.

3.2 Continental imports are limited to five sherds of plain Central Gaulish samian and three sherds of Baetican amphorae. These latter sherds probably come from a globular bodied Dressel 20 type amphora which would have been used to transport olive-oil.

3.3 The only recognisable regional imports are 16 sherds of Dorset black burnished ware with examples of jars and plain-sided dishes.

3.4 The local wares are quite diverse but some of the more distinctive components can be highlighted. The group includes wheel-made black burnished sandy ware (WILBB) a ware well documented from Cirencester (Rigby 1982, fabric 5) where it appears to largely date to the Neronian period through to the mid-2nd century.

3.5 There are three sherds of Savernake ware (SAV GT), known in particular for its large handmade storage jars also largely made in the 1st and 2nd-centuries. AD.

3.6 The other two main categories of Wiltshire products are reduced (grey) or oxidised sandy wares. This industry was probably established in North Wiltshire from the Flavian period onwards continuing into the 2nd century and beyond (Anderson 1979).

3.7 Overall there is a very limited range of vessels present. Most of the rims are quite small and largely from jar forms with a few dishes/ bowls. The jars include examples with simple everted, flared, or rolled rims. The bowls/ dishes include flanged rim and plain-walled. There is at least one tankard base.

### **4 Post-Roman wares**

4.1 A single sherd of Minety ware came from ditch [212] dating to the medieval period (later 12th-15th century). A rim from a large glazed red earthenware bowl featured amongst the unstratified finds from Trench 5.

## **5 Site distribution**

5.1 Stratified pottery was recovered five of the seven trenches excavated with no ceramic finds from Trench 7 and just one unstratified find from Trench 5.

5.2 Most of the pottery came from ditches with single incidences of a pit and posthole.

5.3 Some 40% of the pottery came from Trench 1 although this is biased by the 84 sherds from a single prehistoric vessel from ditch [114]. The single Iron Age sherd also came from this trench located in the northern end of the site. The remaining sherds, as far as can be determined are early Roman but the sample is small.

5.4 Trench 2 produced 58 sherds from a single ditch. Aside from the single medieval piece which may be intrusive, the sherds all appear to date to the 2nd century.

5.5 The small group of sherds from Trenches 3 and 6 are also early Roman.

5.6 The sherds from enclosure ditch [412] in Trench 4 are slightly enigmatic and may indicate a later Roman date on the basis of a plain-sided BB1 dish and a flanged rim in Wiltshire grey ware. There is also a sherd from an unidentified burnt mortarium.

## **6 Summary and potential**

6.1 The work at Somerford Keynes produced a moderately large assemblage of pottery which seems to indicate some low density prehistoric activity in the area and a phase of activity dating to the early Roman period. There are hints of later Roman activity but further more diagnostic material would be required to be sure.

6.2 The assemblage is dominated by the presence of local wares and a remarkably limited repertoire of forms, as evidenced from the surviving rims which are heavily biased towards non diagnostic jars, means that precise dating is a little difficult.

6.3 Previous work to the south of Somerford Keynes at Neigh Bridge has identified a more intense level of activity also largely dating to the early Roman period (Brown 2007). The rarity of grog-tempered wares in the present assemblage suggests it did not start quite as early as Neigh Bridge and other sites in the locality although the sample is small which may bias results. This present group of material is thus very similar in part to Neigh Bridge and to other Roman rural settlement sites in the Cotswold Water Park.

6.4 The nature and size of the current assemblage would not justify further work at present unless further work is undertaken at the location.

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### Appendix 3: Building Material Assessment – Kevin Trott

The ceramic building material and fired clay fragments retained from the Somerford Keynes site in Gloucestershire were sorted according to type and fabric. The overall assemblage comprised of twelve fragments of Roman ceramic building material weighing 363g and eight pieces of fired clay weighting 116g. Table 1 summarise the tile type and fabric incidence by site period. Two fabric groups were defined on the basis of macroscopic characteristics for the Roman tile. No stamped tiles or 'signatures' were noted on any of the recovered tile fragments.

Context	Period	Tegula	Tile	Box Flue	Brick/pila	Fired Clay
Unstratified	2 <sup>nd</sup> century		1 (22g)	1 (11g)		
112						8 (116g)
307	2 <sup>nd</sup> century	1 (80g)	2 (21g)		1 (42g)	
407	2 <sup>nd</sup> century			1 (93g)		
413	3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century	1 (36g)	2 (12g)			
414	Roman			1 (3g)		
505	Roman		1 (1g)			
605				1 (43g)		
Totals		2 (116g)	6 (56g)	4 (150g)	1 (42g)	8 (116g)

Tegula; indeterminate tile fragments; box-flue and brick/pila tile were present along with fired clay from the archaeological investigations at Somerford. It was interesting that no imbrex fragments were recovered suggesting fragments may lie outside the trench limits.

The condition of the tile assemblage was poor with abraded edges and surfaces, no complete examples were found indicating the tile assemblage did not derive from its original primary location. The eight fragments of fired clay derive from a single unidentified item and its 'fresh' unabraded condition may indicate it was discarded not far from where it was used.

#### Roofing Tile

Two fragments of roofing tile *Tegulae* weighting 116g in Fabric 1 was recovered from the fill (307) of ditch [308] and from the upper fill (413) of the enclosure ditch [412]. Unfortunately the Tegula fragment from (307) was broken on its flange and its type cannot be paralleled.

#### Indeterminate Tile

Twelve fragments of indeterminate tile in Fabric 1, weighting 56g was recovered from the surface (Unstratified); the fill (307) of ditch [308]; the upper fill (413) of the enclosure ditch [412] and the upper fill (505) of posthole [504].

#### Tubuli (Box-Flue)

Four fragments from Box-Flue tiles weighting 150g was recovered from the surface (Unstratified); the upper fill (407) of ditch terminus [404]; the lower fill (414) of enclosure ditch [412] and the fill (605) of ditch [604]. The fragments derived from thin-walled tubes (c. 11-17mm thick) with incomplete keyed obverse or reverse panels at least 5 combs in width. Of the examples recovered in Fabric 1, the only flue tile with a corner present was from (407).

#### Brick/pila tile

A single small end fragment (36mm thick) from a brick or pila tile (possibly pedalis) in Fabric 2 was recovered from the fill (307) of ditch [308].

### The Fabrics

Fabric 1- a buff-pinky orange fabric with a soft sandy feel that can be marked with a finger-nail. The inclusions are sparse set in a clean, well-mixed micaceous clay matrix. Very occasional quartz, grog and dark red-brown or black iron-rich grains that is present. This fabric is represented in Tegula, indeterminate tile fragments and box-flue tiles.

Fabric 2- a generally soft with soapy texture. Visible crushed argillaceous clay pellets and iron-ore fragments. Red-orange with creamy fired pellets with a slightly micaceous matrix. This fabric is almost exclusively used for the brick/pila tile.

Fired Clay Fabric- a light red buff soapy fabric that can be scratched with a finger nail, with visible white argillaceous clay pellets and crushed shell.

### Discussion

The fabrics used for the tile encountered on the site at Somerford have been identified on numerous other Romano-British sites across Gloucestershire e.g. Chester Street & Beeches Road in Cirencester (Darvill 1998 & 1986); Great Witcombe Villa (Leach 1998); North Gate Gloucester (Heighway 1983); Kingscote villa (Gutierrez, 1998) and Bredon's Norton villa (Allen, 2016). The limited number of fragments recovered indicates the presence of a Roman structure, complete with hypocaust system. The abraded nature of the pieces is not surprising in relation to the contexts that the tile fragments were recovered from i.e. ditch fills etc.

### Recommendations

If future work is to happen on this site it is recommended that all the tile is preliminary retained and following an assessment by a specialist much of the tile can be subsequently discarded on-site and diagnostic elements and complete/near complete examples are reported on/illustrated to be retained in the site archive.

### References

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## **Appendix 4: Glass Assessment – Kevin Trott**

A single fragment from the handle of a tall bottle was recovered from the upper fill (413) of the enclosure ditch [412]. The handle is ribbed, greenish colourless glass with fine bubbles. Form Isings 1957, 157, form 127. This glass vessel form first appears within late 3rd century contexts onwards (Harden 1968, 76, no 8, fig 26.6).

It is recommended this glass is retained within the site archive and if any further work is planned on the site, further fragments may be recovered that warrant illustration. If no work is undertaken and the site published, it is recommended that this fragment is illustrated (current drawing held by author for publication if required).

### **References**

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- Harden, D.B. 1968. 'The Glass' in ACC Brodrigg, AR Hands and PR Walker. Excavations at Shakenoak, near Wilcote, Oxfordshire, Part 1, privately printed.



## **Appendix 5: Animal Bone Assessment – Alexie Kendell**

### **Introduction**

The following is an assessment of a sample of animal bone recovered from land at Somerford Keynes (SKGL16). This report was commissioned by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (West) and is intended to be included within the site's evaluation report.

### **Methodology**

All bone specimens have been recorded to species/taxonomic category. Specimens that are unable to be attributed to species, such as ribs, vertebrae and fragments of long bone, have been categorised into "large, medium and small mammal", in order to support already identified species within this assemblage.

Analysis has followed established techniques and methodologies in which, details of the element, species, bone portion, and taphonomic data have been recorded. Publications used throughout analysis include (Hillson, 1992, 2005; O'Connor, 2000) with regards to mammal bones. Avian identification has been carried out with reference to (Cohen & Serjeantson, 1996). Any and all butchery marks present have been identified with the use of (Crabtree & Campana, 2008; Rixson, 1989).

### **Results**

The following sample comprises of animal bone from 14 different contexts. A total of 282 bone specimens were identified by species and element within each context.

The assemblage itself can be seen to have suffered a great deal of both excavation damage, and taphonomical disturbance. This can make species identification quite difficult. As a result, where possible, unidentifiable fragments have been recorded as 'medium mammal' and 'large mammal'. Medium mammal can be seen to be the most abundant, with a total of 122 specimens recorded. A total of 77 large mammal specimens have been recorded. Given the presence of both cattle and horse bone within this assemblage, it seems likely that these fragments could have originally been attributed to either one of these species.

The most frequently represented species is cattle, with a total of 72 identifiable specimens recorded. It should however be noted that a large proportion of these were identified as cranial fragments, and therefore may not be representative of patterns of consumption, rather the level of physical disturbance.

The second most represented species were sheep with a total of 4 specimens recorded. These primarily consisted of teeth and mandibular fragments. This can be seen to be quite typical, given that these areas of the skeleton and some of the strongest, and therefore likely to survive a high level of disturbance.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Total Fragments</b>
Mm	122
Lm	77
Cattle	72
Sheep	4
Horse	1
Unidentified	6

*Table 1: Number of identified specimens present.*

### **Pathology**

Signs of osteoarthritis can be seen on two cattle specimens. One displays minimal pathology on the proximal end of a cattle humerus found within context 705. The other can be seen on a cattle phalange within context 211. This example can be seen to be considerably more extensive than the previously mentioned example. Given the extent of bone growth around this bone it seems likely that this has occurred over a long period of time, and is the direct result of continues stress on the appendages. This would seem to indicate regular strain and excess weight being carried by the animal. Likely the result of having been put to work in the field for the majority of its life.

### **Butchery**

Minimal butchery marks could be identified within this assemblage due to the amount of excavation damage present. Of the recorded specimens, only two presented evidence of burning. Two large mammal fragments displayed large chop marks, presumably made from some form of small axe. Given that these are only present on the larger specimens, it is likely these were made during the initial dismemberment of the carcass, to allow for further butchery of individual limbs.

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- Hillson, S. (1992). Mammal bones and teeth. London: Institute of Archaeology, UCL.
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- O'Connor, T. (2000). Th Archaeology of Animal Bones. Gloucestershire: Texas A&M University Press.
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## Appendix 6: Plates 1 – 14



**Plate 1 – Overview of Trench 2 and site**



**Plate 2 – Representative Section, Trench 1**



**Plate 3 – Representative Section, Trench 6**



**Plate 4 – East Facing Section of Ditch [106] cutting pit [107]**



**Plate 5 – Bronze Age Pot - Pre Excavation**



**Plate 6 – West Facing Section of Enclosure Ditch [212]**



**Plate 7 – East Facing Section of Enclosure Ditch [412]**



**Plate 8 – South Facing Section of Ditches [306], [308] and [310]**



**Plate 9 – East Facing Section of Ditches [404], [403], and [405]**



**Plate 10 – West Facing Section of Curvilinear [203]**



**Plate 11 – North West Facing Section of [606] and [608]**



**Plate 12 – West Facing Section of [704]**





**Plate 13 – West Facing Section of Pit [204]**



**Plate 14 – South Facing Section of Pit [504]**

## Appendix 7: OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: PRECONST1-261757**

### Project details

Project name	Land at Somerford Keynes
Short description of the project	<p>This report provides the result of evaluation, which comprised 5 30m X 2m and 2 15m x 2m trenches opened between the 18th and 22nd July 2016. All Seven Trenches contained a mixture of linear ditches and pits, with a total of 28 ditches and 8 pits. The features varied in size and depth, with the linears generally correlating to the features identified on the geophysical data, although more were revealed than shown on the data. The remains of a possible enclosure ditch were seen in trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5. Finds were recovered from a large amount of the excavated features and included Animal Bone, CBM Pottery and one shard of Glass. With the exception of pieces of an Bronze Age vessel and 1 sherd of pottery from the Iron Age, Medieval and Post Medieval periods, the finds are tough to date to the Roman Period.</p>
Project dates	Start: 18-07-2016 End: 22-07-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SKGL16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	POSTHOLE Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Middle Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Bronze Age

Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	VESSEL Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

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#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GLOUCESTERSHIRE COTSWOLD SOMERFORD KEYNES Land at Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire
Postcode	GL7 6DT
Study area	1.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 02091 94887 51.652304602607 -1.96977209271 51 39 08 N 001 58 11 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 89m Max: 89m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council
Project design originator	Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Katherine Marshall
Type of	Developer

sponsor/funding  
body

Name of County to County Property  
sponsor/funding  
body

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Corinium Museum  
recipient

Physical Archive ID SKGL16

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass"

Digital Archive Corinium Museum  
recipient

Digital Archive ID SKGL16

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text","Spreadsheets"  
available

Paper Archive Corinium Museum  
recipient

Paper Archive ID SKGL16

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"  
available

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### Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Publication type

Title Land at Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Marshall, K.

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology

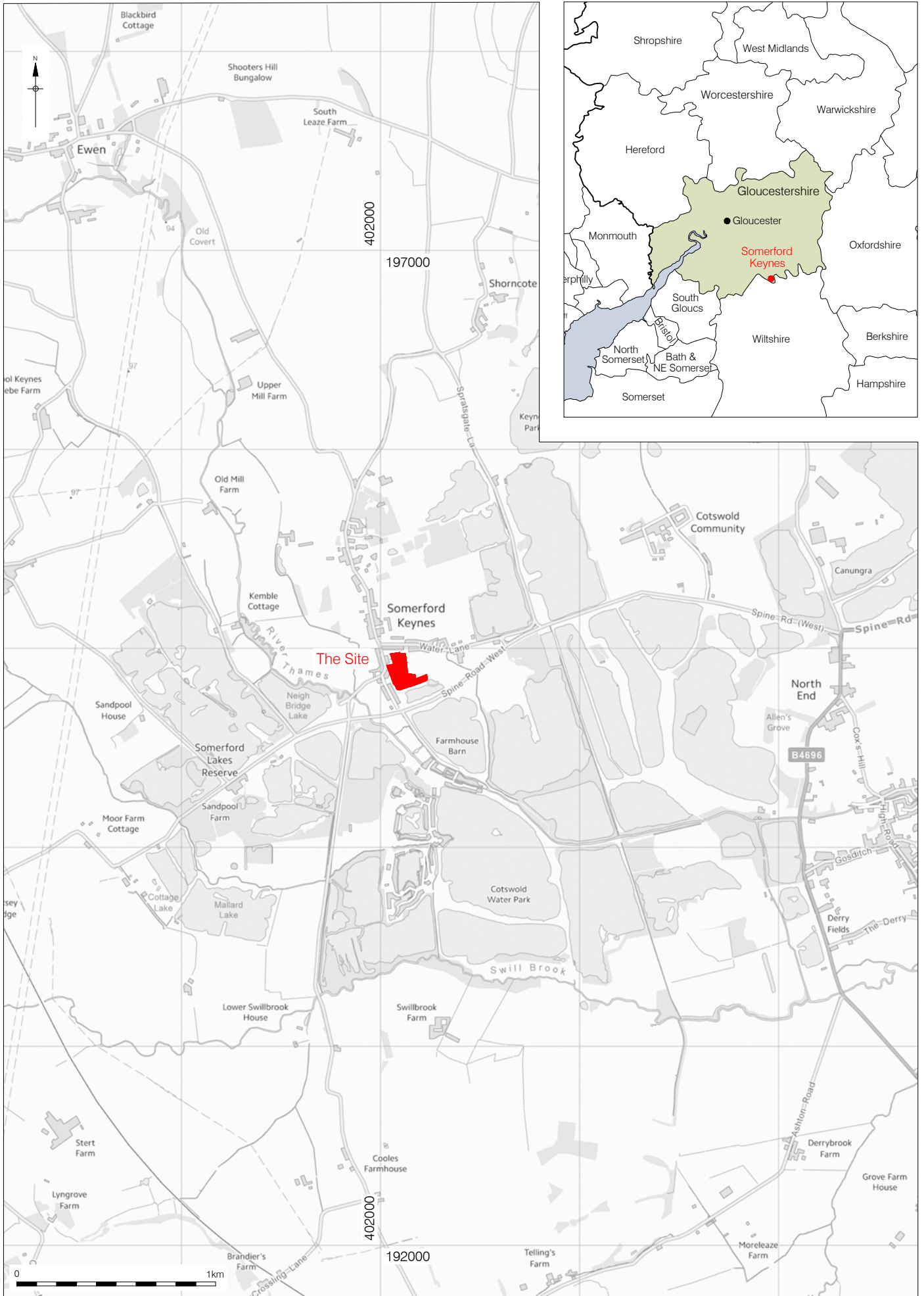
Place of issue or Winchester  
publication

Description            A4 ringbound - 31 pages, 14 plates, 9 figures

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Entered by             Katherine Marshall (kmarshall@pre-construct.com)

Entered on             5 September 2016



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 05/08/16 JS

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



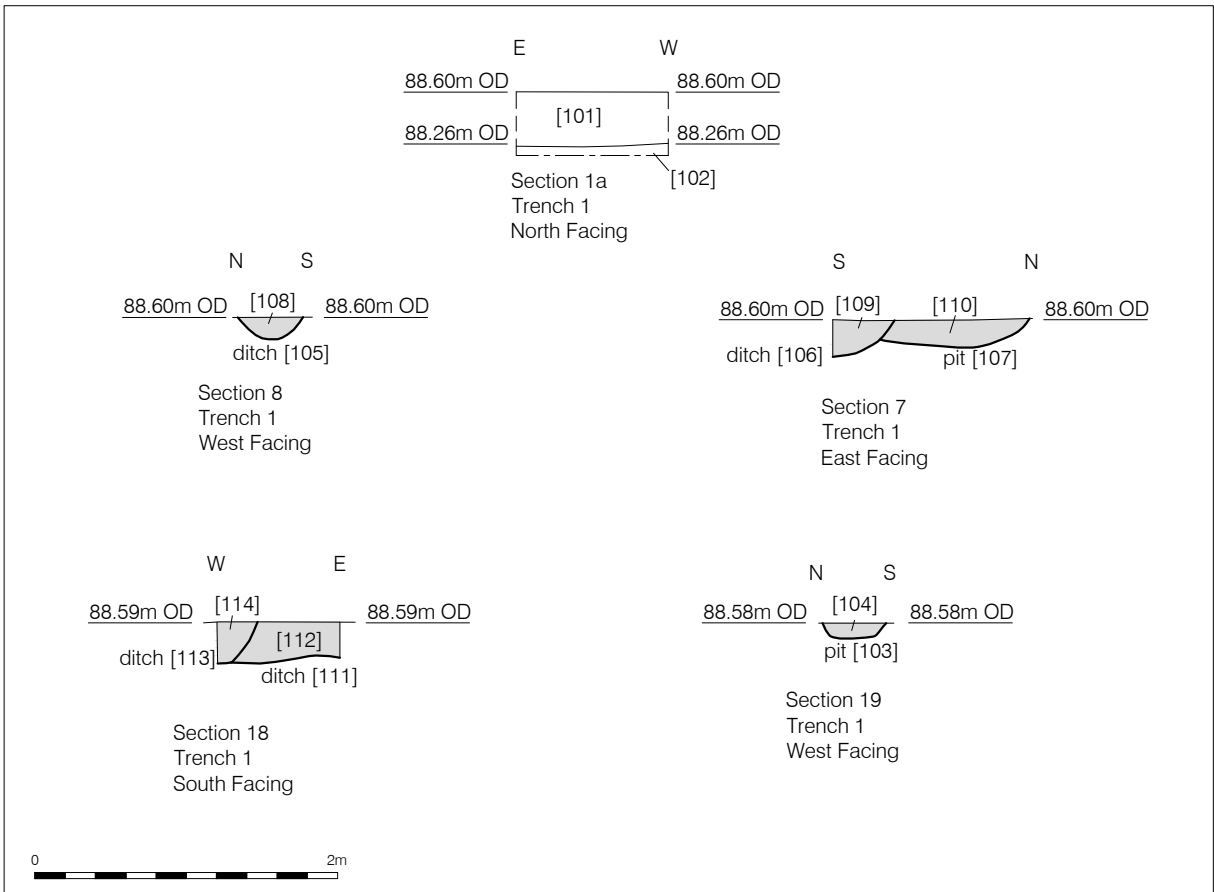
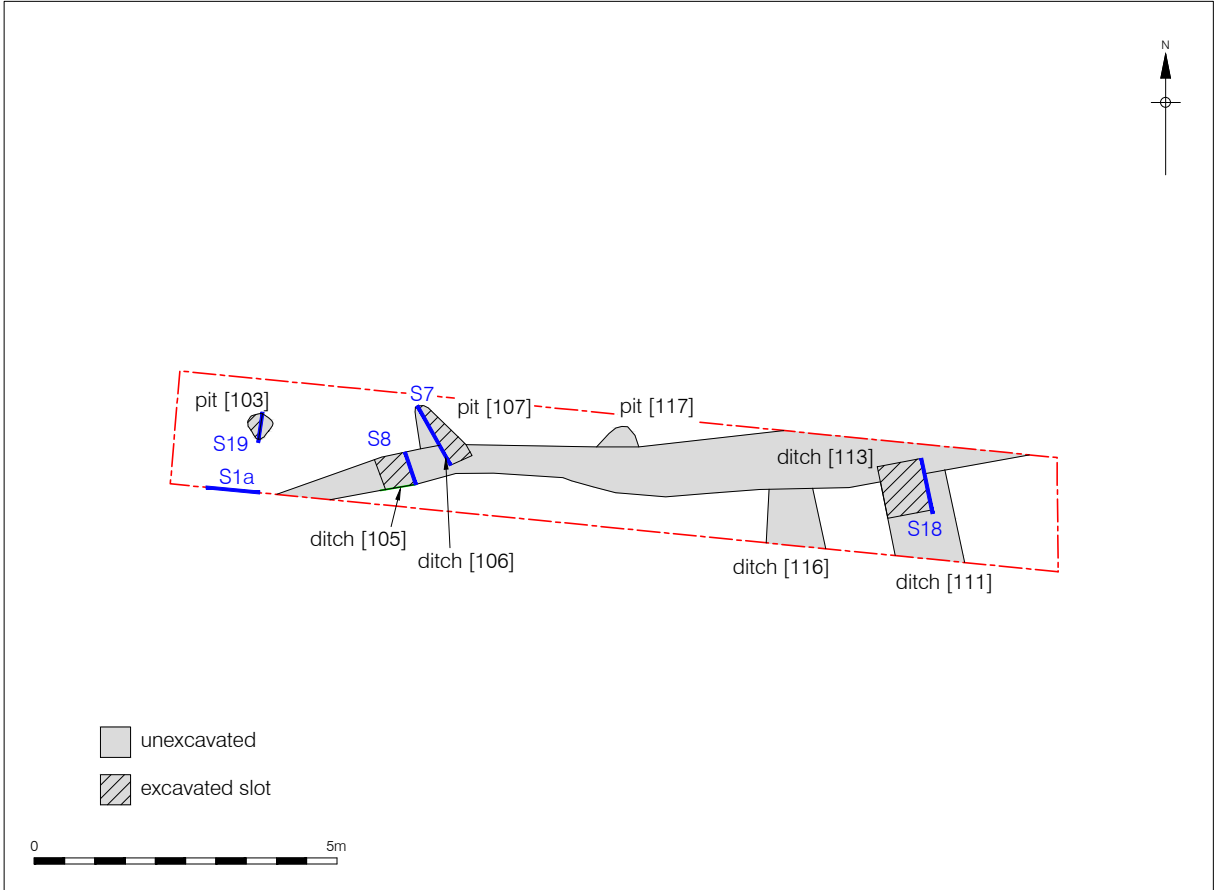


Figure 3  
Trench 1 Plan and Sections  
Plan 1:125, Sections 1:50 at A4



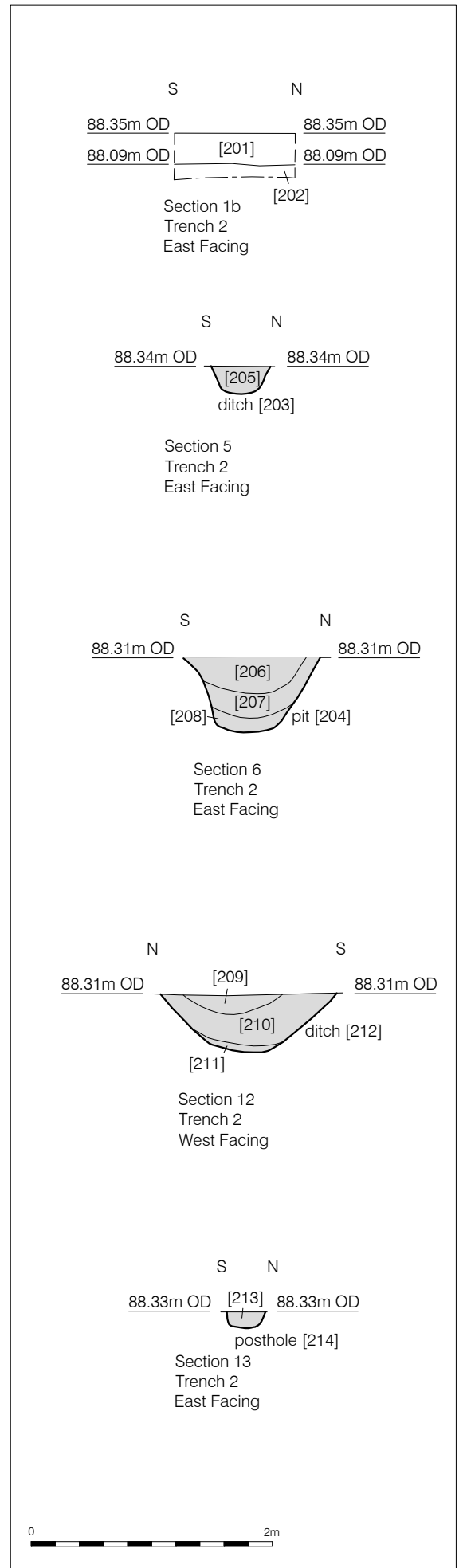
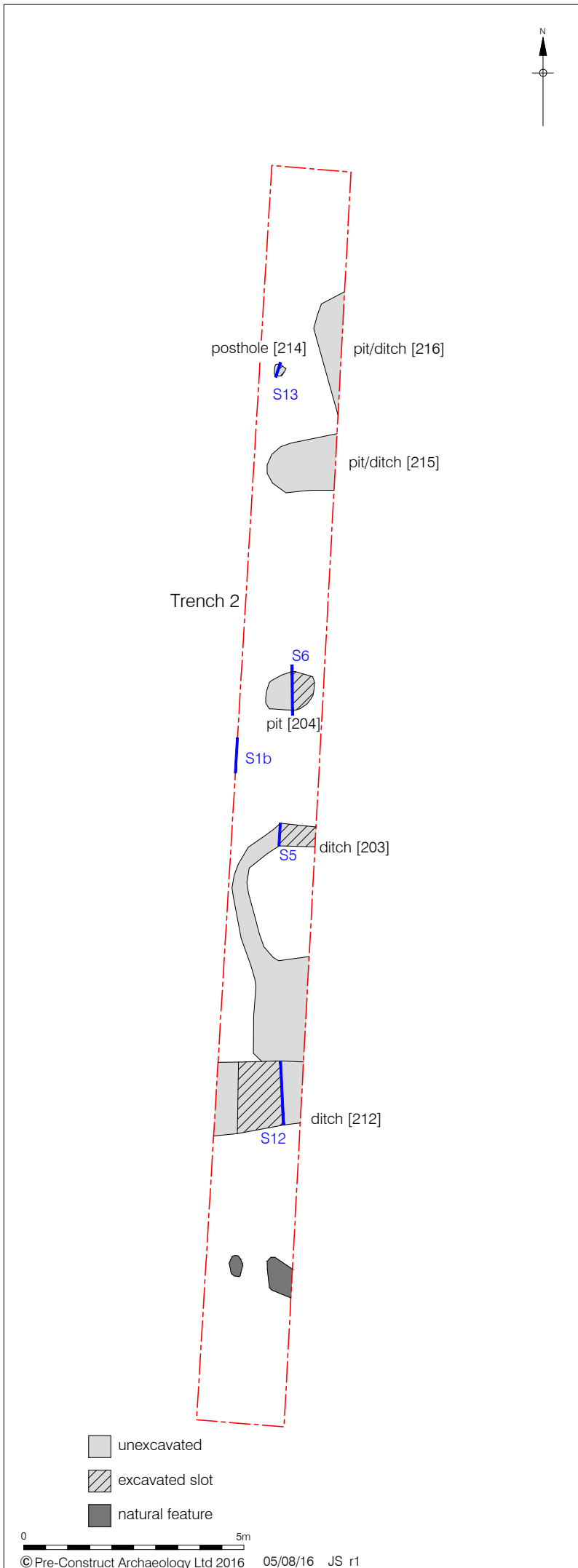
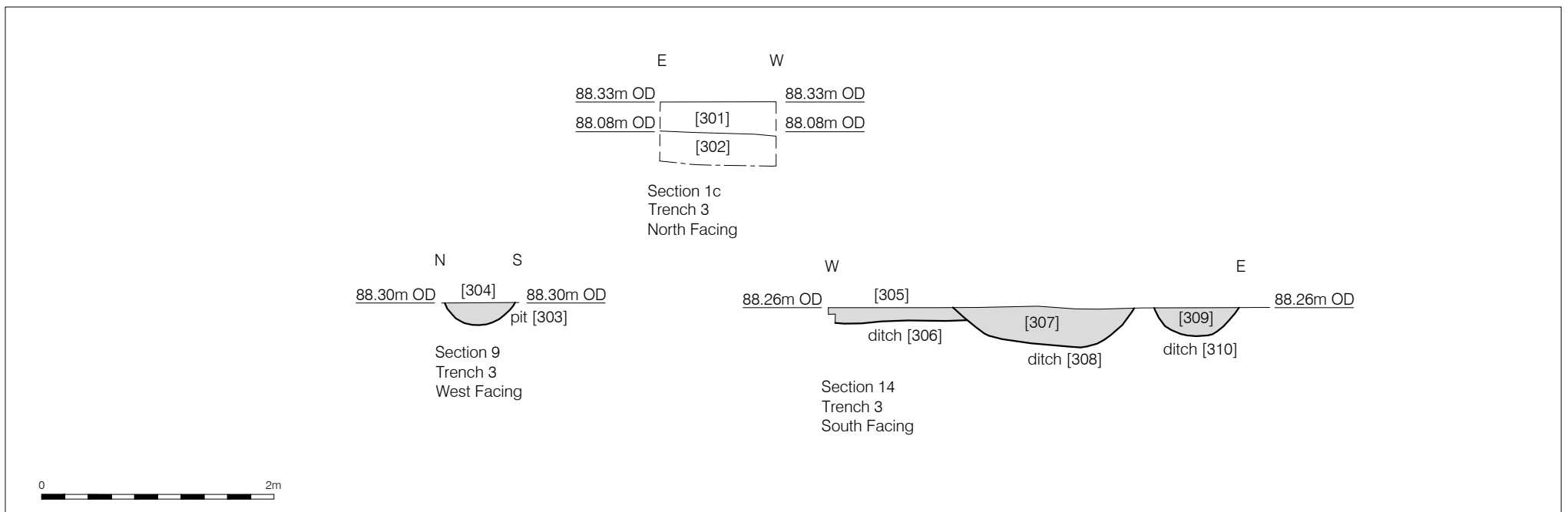
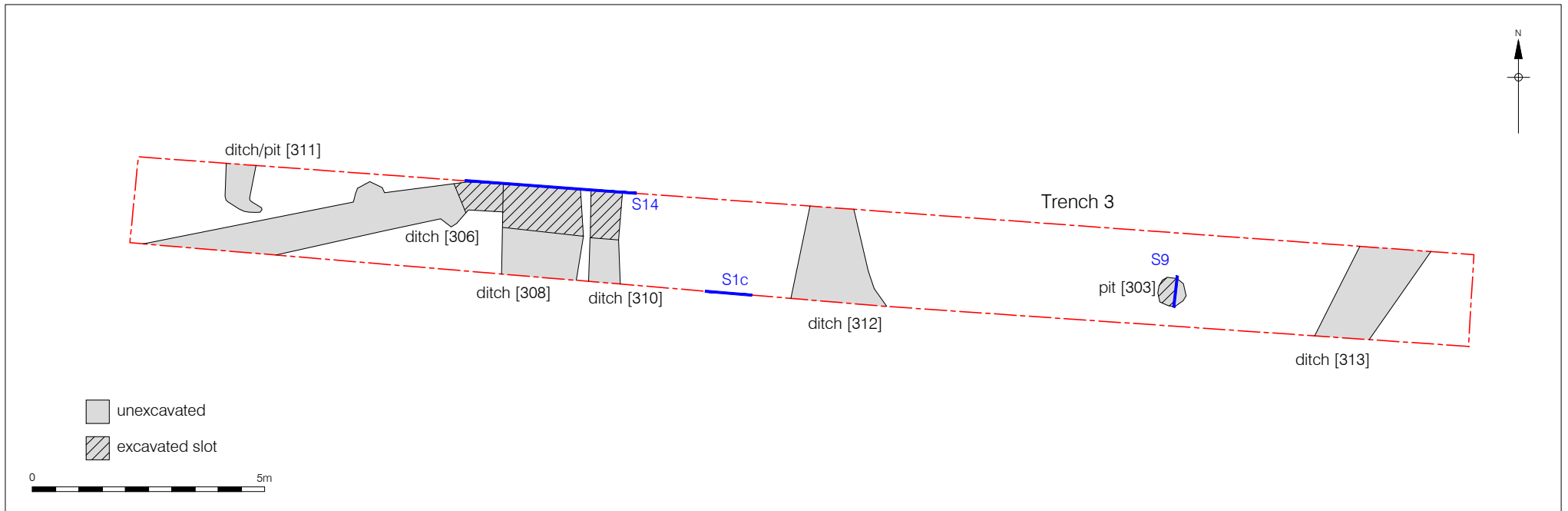


Figure 4  
Trench 2 Plan and Sections  
Plan 1:125, Sections 1:50 at A4



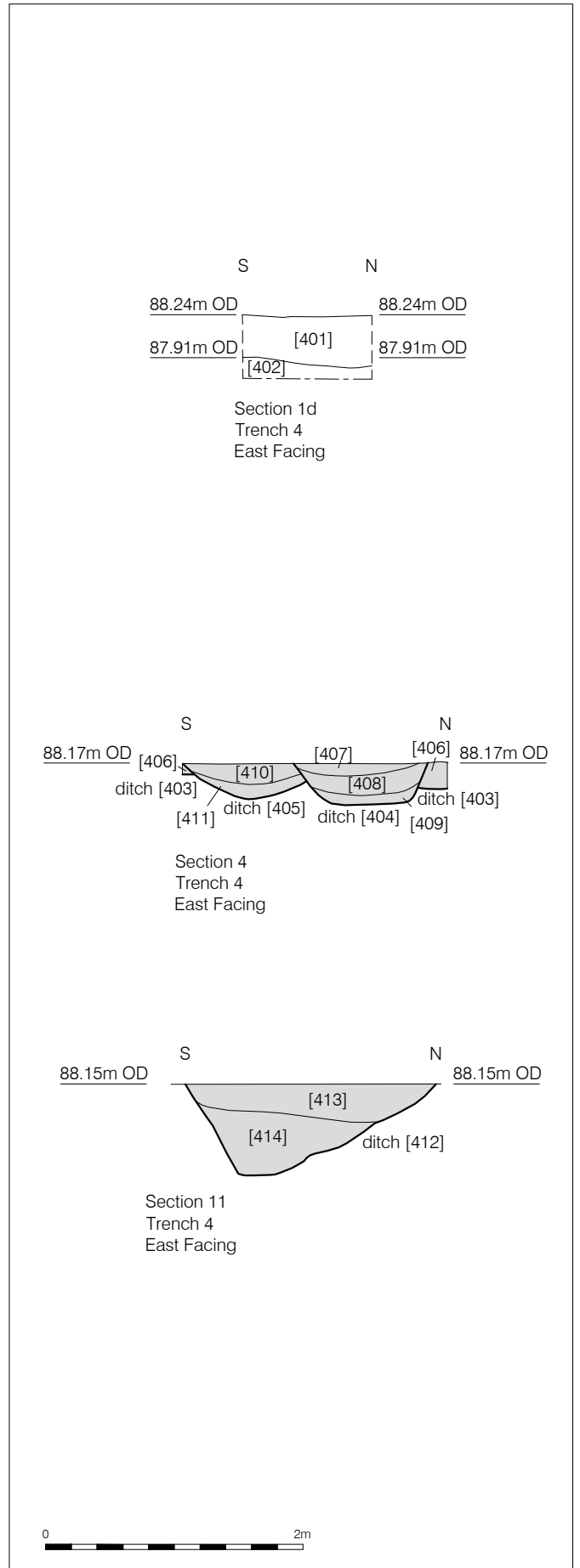
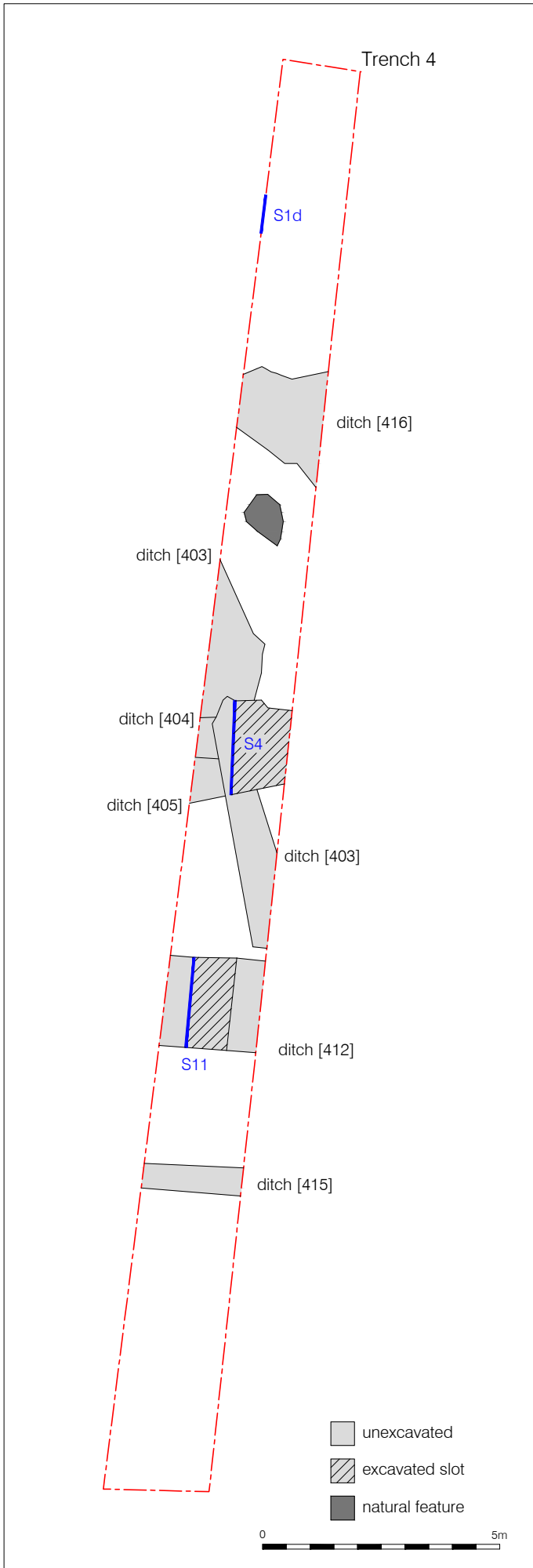


Figure 6  
Trench 4 Plan and Sections  
Plan 1:125, Sections 1:50 at A4

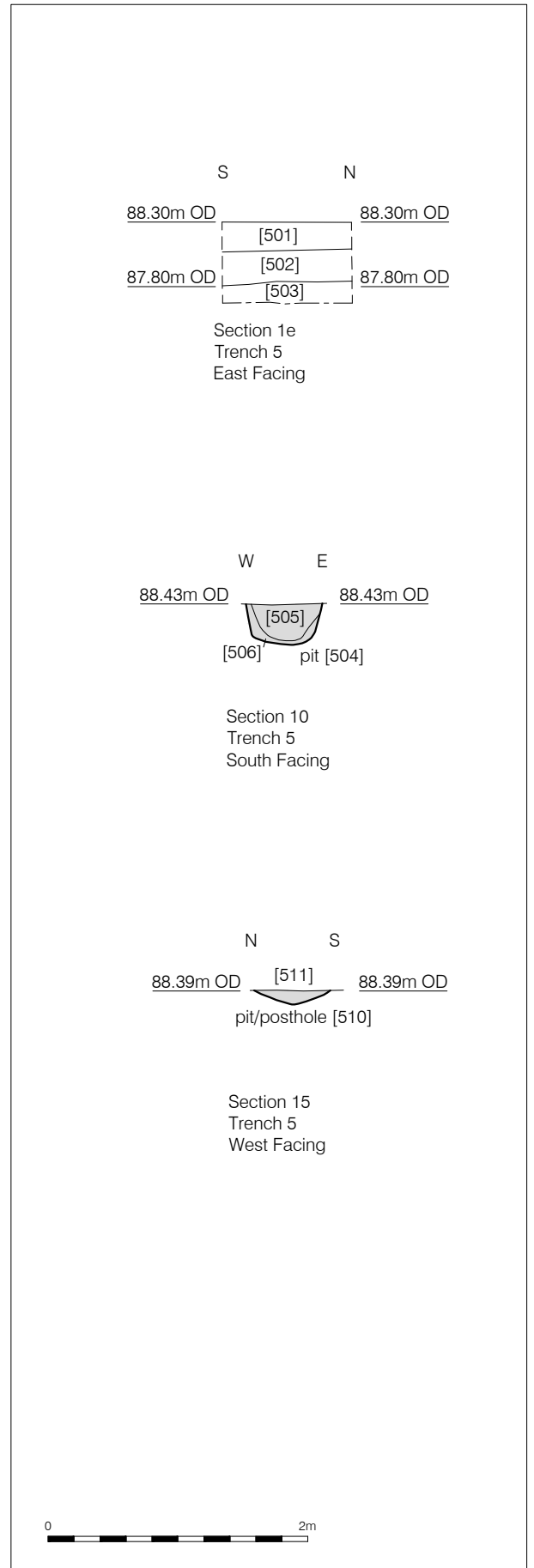
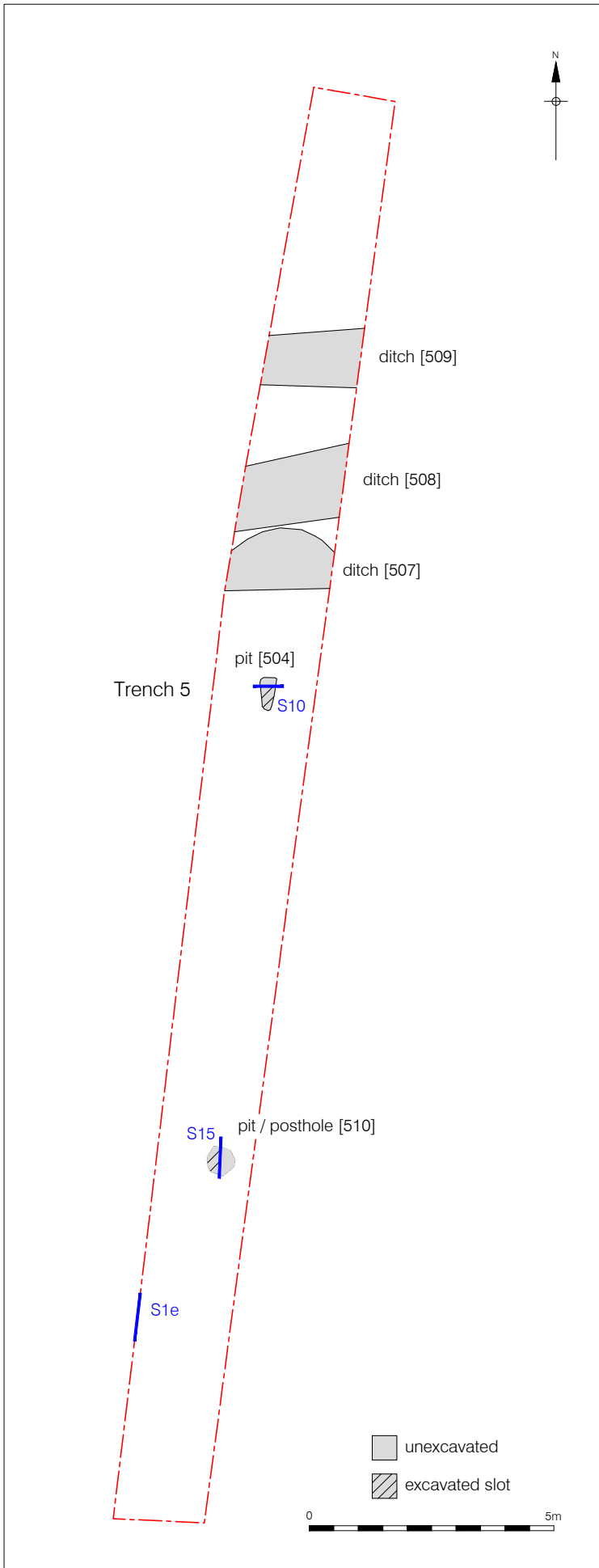


Figure 7  
 Trench 5 Plan and Sections  
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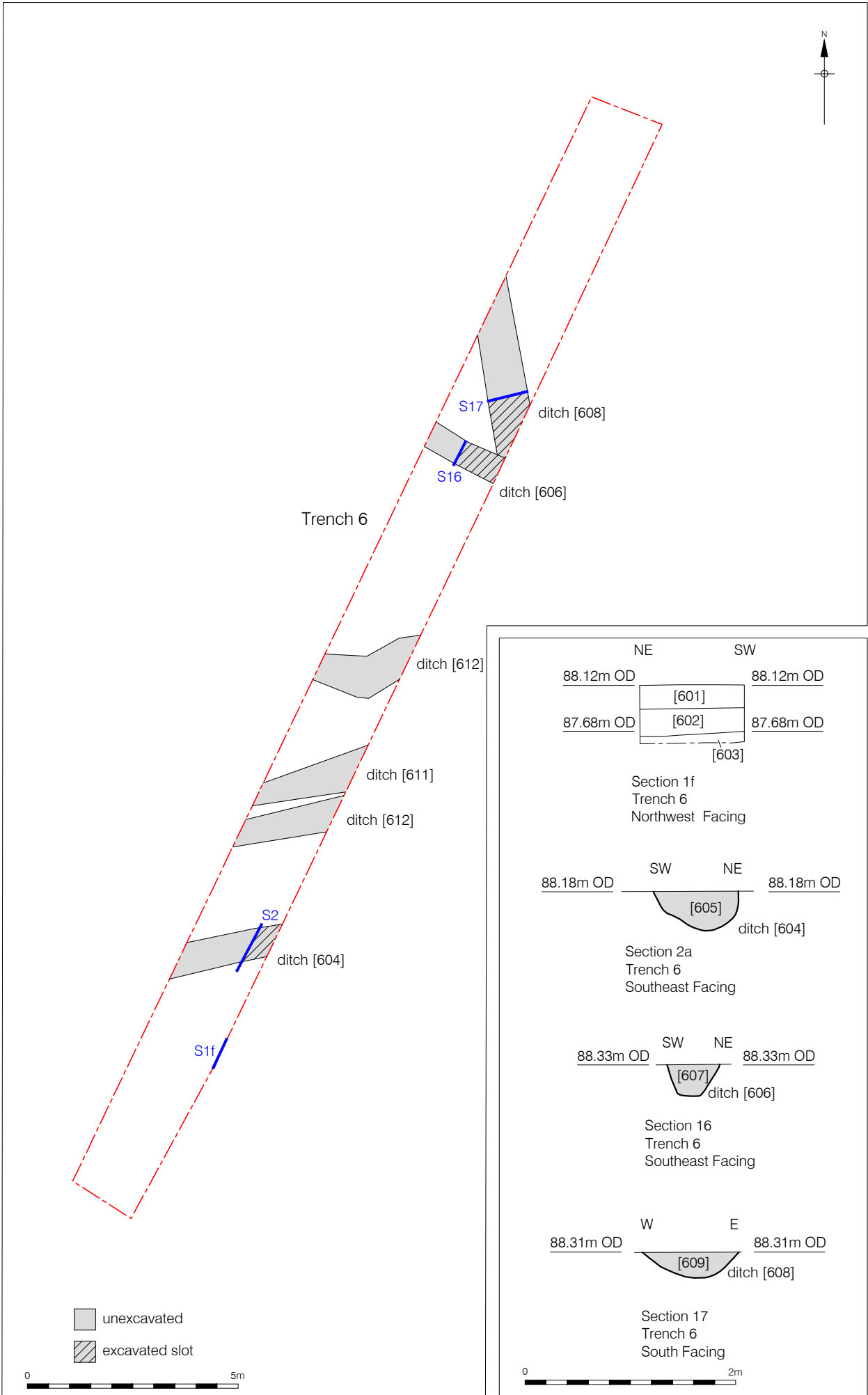


Figure 8  
 Trench 6 Plan and Sections  
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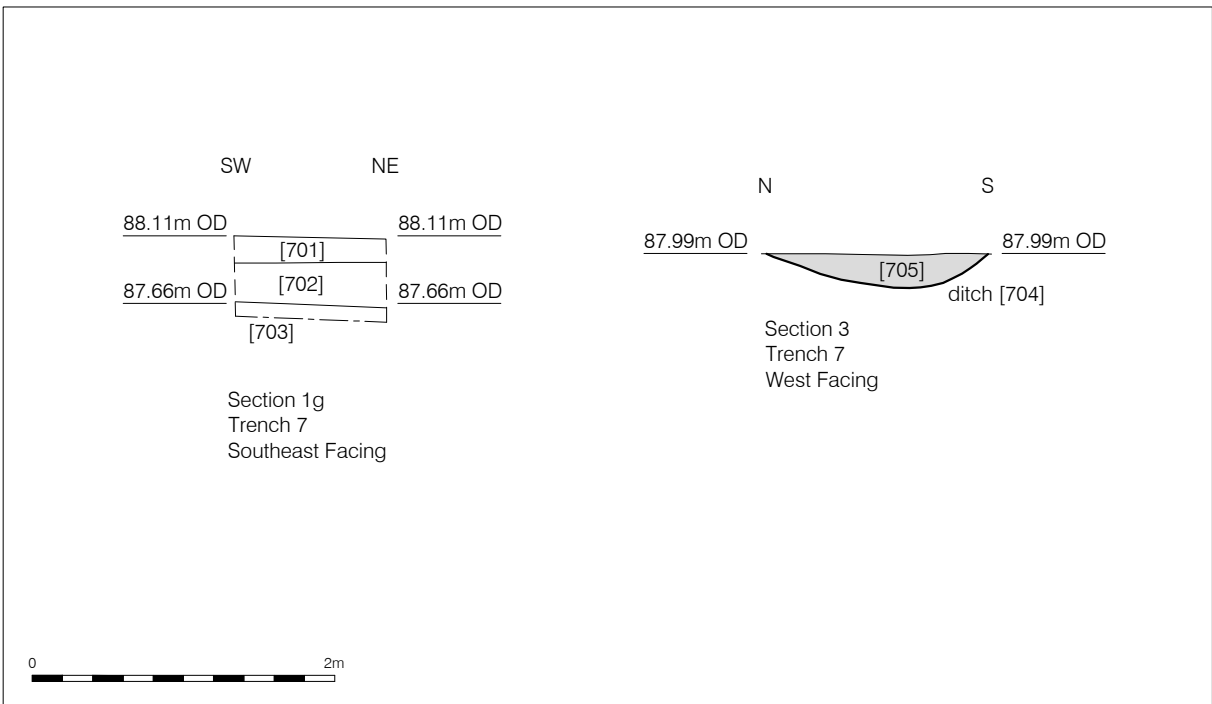
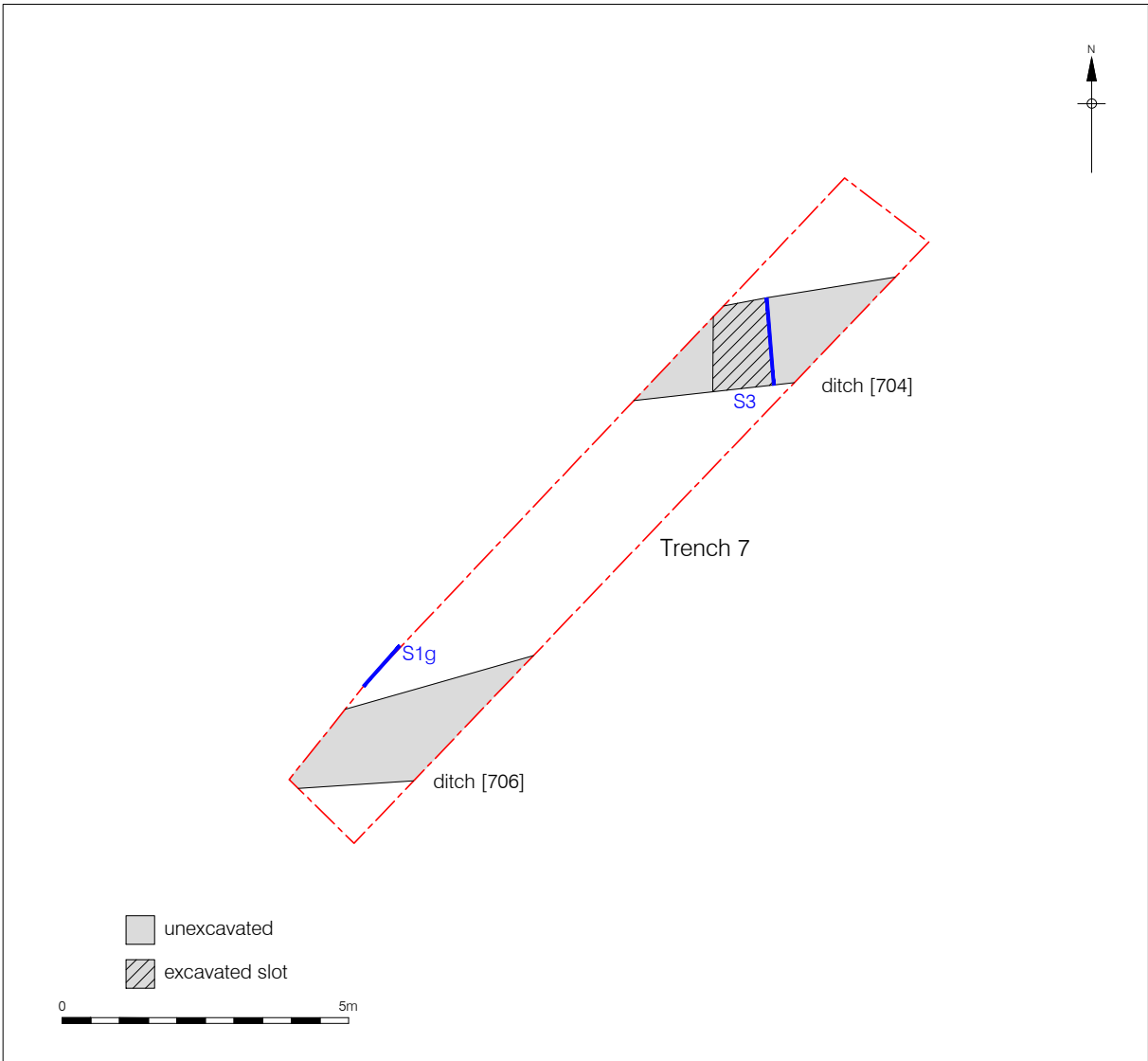


Figure 9  
Trench 7 Plan and Sections  
Plan 1:125, Sections 1:50 at A4

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