

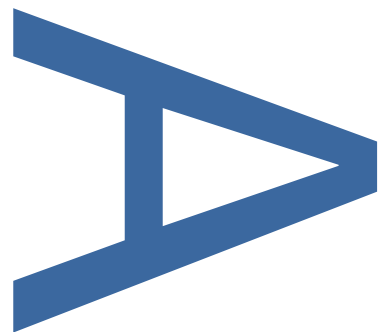
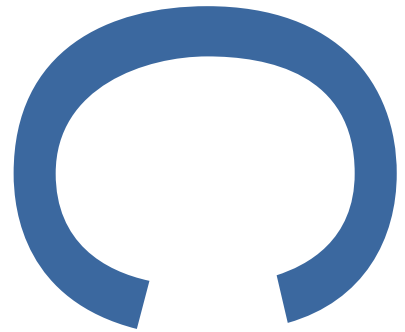
The Berries,  
Stanford Road,  
Swinford,  
Leicestershire:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION

**Planning Reference: 16/01285/FUL**

**PCA Report Number: R12944**

**July 2017**



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

THE BERRIES, STANFORD ROAD,  
SWINFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	R12944
Report Number	K4921

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**The Berries, Stanford Road, Swinford, Leicestershire:  
Report on an Archaeological Evaluation**

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**Local Planning Authority:**                      **Harborough District Council**

**Central National Grid Reference:**        **SP 57020 79126**

**Planning Reference:**                            **16/01285/FUL**

**Site Code:**                                        **BSSL17**

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**July 2017**

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## ABSTRACT

*This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land to the south of The Berries Stanford Road, Swinford, Leicestershire (Figure 1); centred at NGR SP 57020 79126. The evaluation was undertaken between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 as part of a planning condition (16/01285/FUL) for the erection of nine houses, an associated services and access. The archaeological work was commissioned by Andrew Granger & Co. Ltd on behalf of Mr & Mrs Walker. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.*

*The evaluation identified a series of gullies which predominantly ran on northwest-southeast alignments however a small number of these were observed on roughly northeast-southwest alignments. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from these features however several underwent environmental sampling in the hopes of obtaining more information; the results of these samples will be added as an addendum later. The gullies are likely to represent past drainage features and may relate to the site's use as an orchard. Probable evidence of past ploughing activities was also identified in the form of furrows; some of which overlay the gullies. The earthwork itself proved to be insubstantial and is likely to represent a former field boundary as a former access road to the farm lay below the ridge which it lay upon. Before this road, at the foot of the slope, a former waterway or drainage ditch was observed; this held evidence of a change in course or potential re-cutting; no dating evidence was recovered from this. A single sherd of Roman grey ware pottery was recovered from a deposit in Trench 2 however the deposit is likely to be the result of rooting and the pottery residual. Modern drainage features and services were also encountered during the evaluation.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land to the south of The Berries Stanford Road, Swinford, Leicestershire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 57020 79126). The evaluation took place between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 (**Figures 1 and 2**).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Andrew Granger & Co. Land & New Homes Ltd on behalf of Mr & Mrs Walker. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition (16/01285/FUL) for the erection of nine houses, associated services and access.
- 1.3 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Kathryn Brook of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Brook 2016) following consultation with Sophie Clarke, the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.
- 1.4 The planned archaeological works involved the excavation of four 20m trenches however following consultation with Richard Clarke, the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicester County Council, Trench 3 was extended to a length of 29m across a visible earthwork. The trench extension proved insufficient to determine the nature of an exposed feature and spatial constraints as well as an overhead power cable meant that the trench could not be extended further. Due to these issues, a fifth trench, measuring 14.5m, was opened across the earthwork and feature (see **Figure 2**).
- 1.5 The aim of the trial trenching evaluation was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains and /or deposits that may be impacted upon during the proposed development.
- 1.6 The archaeological works sought to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, and quality of any archaeological remains on 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 This report describes the results of the archaeological works. The site archive will be deposited when facilities are made available by Leicestershire County Council.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

- 2.1.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) indicates a solid geology of Charmouth Mudstone Formation. This sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 183 to 197 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.
- 2.1.2 Overlying this bedrock are superficial deposits of Oadby Member - Diamicton. These formed during the Quaternary Period (up to 2 million years ago) in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (British Geological Survey Map Viewer 2017).
- 2.1.3 The superficial geology was present across the site as a firm-friable mid blue grey mottled with orange sandy clay (context **03**). A variation in the natural was observed across the site which consisted of a firm-friable, light orangey brown clayey sand and gravel with occasional patches of gravel (context **04**).

### **2.2 Topography**

- 2.2.1 The development site is situated in a small field located immediately south of the Berries farm buildings. To the west and south of the site are large fields containing preserved remains of the medieval ridge and furrow. The site is currently used as pasture but was formally an Orchard. It is broadly flat bound by mixed hedgerow contain some mature trees. A site visit undertaken by ACD Environmental observed part of an enclosure in the form of two linear banks in the south-western portion of the site. Accessed will be via The Berries a spot height taken at the entrance to the site was recorded at 111m AoD.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER) shows that the development site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential.

#### 3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 The majority of known prehistoric activity is located some 800m-1000m to the west & southwest of the development site. The activity consists of large flint scatters identified during field walking, and some possible pits and ditches identified during a geophysical survey. A single flint flake was also found during a watching brief at a property on Chapel Street c.376m to the north of the site.

#### 3.3 Roman

3.3.1 There is little evidence of Roman occupation within the vicinity of the development site. A small scatter of pottery was identified during fieldwalking survey c.955m south-west of the site, and a single fragment of Roman pottery was recorded during an evaluation c.872m west of the site within a possible enclosure. Within the wider environment, the Roman road known as Watling Street, which ran from Richborough in Kent through London to Wroxeter in Shropshire, lies c.3.41km to the west.

#### 3.4 Saxon

3.4.1 Evidence for Saxon activity within the vicinity of the site is scarce and limited to the discovery of seven sherds of pottery during an evaluation, approximately 694m to the southwest, and two sherds of pottery recovered from a further evaluation of an enclosure c.870m to the southwest. However, the village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 supporting the premise that a village was established in Swinford before or during the late Saxon period.

#### 3.5 Medieval

3.5.1 Swinford is recorded as *Suineford* in the Domesday Book. It has two entries in the book under the lands held by the Bishop of Lincoln and the King.

3.5.2 The Domesday Book records:

*Ulf holds 2b of land in Swainford from the same Ralph. Godric held these lands from Ralph before 1066. Arnbern the priest holds 2½ c. of land in Swinford for the King. He has 1 plough with 2 small holdings, meadow, 3 acres.* The entry suggests the village was a small size settlement for the period.

3.5.3 The historic village core encompasses most of the modern village including the development site at its southernmost tip. The fields surrounding the site contain the earthwork remains of ridge and furrow cultivation associated with medieval and early post-medieval cultivation practices.



3.5.4 At the centre of the village is the Church of All Saints. Rebuilt in 1778 it still retains elements of the original 13<sup>th</sup> century building. The church is located c.256m north of the site within the central portion of the village. There have been several archaeological interventions within Swinford, only one of which has uncovered evidence for the medieval settlement c.98m to the north-west. The archaeological work revealed gullies suggestive of backyard activity approximate 175m to the northwest of the development site.

### 3.6 **Post-Medieval**

3.6.1 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, depicts the development site as an orchard. Aerial photos consulted for the DBA confirmed this.

## 4 PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

### 4.1 Project Aims

4.1.1 The project is 'threat-led' with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. Therefore, the broad aim of the archaeological project was to inform the Local Planning Authority and the Client regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site.

4.1.2 Due to the site's location in an area of archaeological significance, archaeological trial trenching was selected as the next most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site.

4.1.3 Additional aims of the project were:

- To compile a site archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as all artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered;
- To compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories, stratigraphic, artefactual, etc.

### 4.2 Research Objectives

*The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) will be referenced for specific research criteria.

The archaeological evaluation addressed the following objectives:

- To test the geophysical anomalies which are most likely indicative of buried archaeological remains;
- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation;
- to assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

In addition, the evaluation sought to address the following research questions:

- 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;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Romano-British activity;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon activity;

- To confirm the presence or absence of any medieval activity;
- To confirm the presence or absence of post-medieval activity relating to the wider settlement of Swinford.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 5.1.1 The Evaluation took place between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014); PCA is a CIfA registered organisation.
- 5.1.2 The evaluation trenches were laid out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation, as accepted by Sophie Clarke, the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council. However, due to the presence of a visible earthwork and following consultation with Richard Clarke, the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicester County Council, Trench 3 was extended to a length of 29m across the earthwork. The trench extension proved insufficient to determine the nature of an exposed feature and spatial constraints as well as an overhead power cable meant that the trench could not be extended further. Due to these issues, a fifth trench, measuring 14.5m, was opened across the earthwork and feature (**Figure 2**).
- 5.1.3 All trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with toothless ditching buckets. Deposits were removed in spits to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the clearly defined top of the natural sub-stratum, whichever was reached first. All potential archaeological features were identified and marked at the time of machine clearance of overburden.
- 5.1.4 All exposed deposits/layers were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded in accordance with PCA's fieldwork manual approved for use in Warwickshire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 5.1.5 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and, where considered appropriate, 100% excavated.
- 5.1.6 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Organisation (number 23) with the Institute for Archaeologists and will operate within the Institute's 'Code of Conduct'.

### **5.2 Recording Methodology**

- 5.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 5.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (e.g. 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).

5.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCAs printed *pro forma*.

5.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.

5.2.5 All finds encountered were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2014).

### 5.3 **Post-Fieldwork Methodology**

5.3.1 Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (HE 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.

5.3.2 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 48 archaeological contexts were defined within the 5 trenches. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, and phasing the stratigraphic data (**Appendix 1**). A written summary of the archaeological finds was then compiled, as described in Section 6 with a discussion and chronological sequencing of the site in Section 7.

5.3.3 The artefactual material from the evaluation comprised a moderate assemblage of ceramic material and animal bone. Specialist examination of both the ceramics, tobacco pipe and bone was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 6, with a report in **Appendices 3 to 5**.

5.3.4 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy of the project was to recover bulk samples where appropriate, from well-dated stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation and the range of feature types represented, with specific reference to the objectives of the evaluation. To this end eight environmental samples were taken for analysis with the results of these will appear in an addendum to this report.

5.3.5 No other categories of organic or inorganic artefactual material was represented. None of the material recovered during the evaluation required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.

5.3.6 The complete Site Archive will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to; in particular, a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document Walker, (UKIC 1990) and the relevant ClfA publication (ClfA 2014b). The depositional requirements of the body to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full.

## 6 THE RESULTS

*During the archaeological evaluation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example (context 123).*

### 6.1 Natural deposits

6.1.1 As discussed in **Section 2**, natural deposits across the site generally consisted of a firm-friable mid blue grey mottled with orange sandy clay (context **03**). A variation in the natural was observed across the site which consisted of a firm-friable, light orangey brown clayey sand and gravel with occasional patches of gravel (context **04**).

### 6.2 Trench 1

6.2.1 Only two modern features were identified in Trench 1.

6.2.2 A recent test pit was observed in the north of the trench and a modern, plastic water feed pipe was observed running along the trench on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment.

### 6.3 Trench 2

6.3.1 In the centre of the trench a shallow spread of mixed, mid-dark grey and mid brown silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded pebbles and a single sherd of Romano-British Grey ware pottery (**Appendix 3**). The spread was approximately 1.5m wide and c.0.04m deep (context **27**). It is possible that this thin spread of material was caused by root disturbance as the feature has no clear edges; as a result, the pottery may be residual.

6.3.2 Towards the northern end of Trench 2 a probable gully was identified which ran on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The gully had variable sides (moderate on the east and steep on the west) and a concave base; it measured c.0.4m x >1.8m and was approximately 0.2m deep (context **25**). The gully had a single, sterile fill of firm-friable mid blue grey silty clay with occasional medium-large sub-rounded stones and pebbles (context **26**).

6.3.3 Towards the southern end of the trench another gully was identified, running on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment; the gully was c.0.6m wide and c.0.2m deep with steep sides and a slightly rounded base (context **17**). It held a single fill of firm, pale-mid slightly bluey grey silty clay (context **18**). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature or similar features across site; because of this an environmental sample was taken of this fill (this will be added as an *addendum*).

6.3.4 The gully (context **17**) was overlain by shallow deposit of mixed mid grey brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles was identified (context **28**). The deposit appears to fall on a roughly northwest southeast alignment and potentially relates to the shallow remains of a furrow. This

would roughly correspond to a furrow in Trench 4 (context **13**) which also overlie a gully (context **11**).

#### 6.4 Trench 3

6.4.1 Towards the eastern end of Trench 3 a gully was identified running on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. This had moderate sides and a concave base and measure c.0.32m x >1.8m; it was approximately 0.12m deep (context **23**). The feature had a fill of loose friable mid orange brown with grey mottling silty clay with frequent irregular pebbles (context **24**).

6.4.2 Part of probable gully was exposed on the northern edge of Trench 3. The linear feature ran on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment and had moderate-steep sides and a flat base; it measured >0.26m x c.3.55m and was c.0.04m deep (context **19**). This held a single fill of firm, mid-dark orangey grey/blue sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones, occasional natural flint and very rare charcoal flecks (context **20**).

6.4.3 To the west of this feature another probable gully was revealed on the same roughly east-northeast-west-southwest alignment; the feature is truncated at its western end by another gully (context **23**). This had gradual sides and a concave/slightly irregular base; it measured c.0.45m x c.2.15m and was approximately 0.06m deep (context **21**). It held a single fill of mid orangey grey loose friable slightly sandy silty clay (context **22**). It is possible that this feature represents the same gully as context **19** but because only shallow remains have survived the feature appears broken.

6.4.4 The shallow remains of another probable gully on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment were identified in the centre of Trench 3. This feature had gradual sides, a concave base and was approximately 0.48m wide and c.0.03m deep (context **30**). The feature had a sterile fill of moderately firm mid grey and brown clay (context **31**).

6.4.5 At the western end of the trench the shallow remains of a gully were identified running on northwest-southeast alignment; the gully was probably overlain/truncated by a furrow (context **33**) but the relationship was not entirely clear. The gully had steep sides and a rounded base, it measured c.0.4m wide and c.0.1m deep (context **37**). It had a single fill of friable, mid-pale orange brown silty clay with very occasional small flint fragments (context **36**). The feature roughly corresponds to context **11** in Trench 4 and context **17** in Trench 2.

6.4.6 To the east of this gully and potentially overlying/truncating this was a probable furrow which ran on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The feature had gradual sides and a flat/irregular base; it was c.1.34m wide and c.0.22m deep (context **33**). It held a single fill of friable mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional roots and pebbles (context **32**). The furrow roughly corresponds to context **13** in Trench 4 and context **28** in Trench 2.

6.4.7 To the east of these features a probable tree throw was identified with variable sides and an irregular base (context **35**). The feature was approximately 0.23m deep and had a single fill of friable mid grey silty clay with occasional very small flint fragments and occasional roots

(context **34**). The relationship between this feature and the adjacent furrow (context **33**) was unclear due to root disturbance.

6.4.8 In the centre of Trench 3, the shallow remains of another possible furrow was identified on a roughly north-south. The feature had gradual-moderate sides and a concave/irregular base; it was c.1.1m wide and c.0.19m deep (context **38**). The feature held a single sterile fill of moderate-soft mid orange brown slightly sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles (context **39**).

6.4.9 The trench was extended to the east to cross a visible earthwork. The earthwork itself proved relatively unsubstantial and was merely a raised area of topsoil and subsoil at the top of a ridge. It is likely that this earthwork represents a former field boundary. Beyond the ridge was a possible ditch or watercourse which cut through a layer of colluvium (context **47**) and ran on a roughly north-south alignment at the base of the slope (context **40**). The feature had moderate sides but was not bottomed due to the water table being reached; the feature was exposed to a width of >2.5m and depth of 0.4m however the trench could not be extended any further due to spatial constraints. It held a single fill of friable-loose mid-dark slightly grey brown sandy shale clay with rare-occasional cattle and sheep bone (**Appendix 4**), moderate roots, occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles and occasional natural flint (context **41**). The feature was also observed in Trench 5 and allocated context number **42**. Based on size, the animal bone is tentatively dated to at least the post-medieval period (**Appendix 4**).

## 6.5 Trench 4

6.5.1 An undated gully which was probably related to drainage was identified in this trench, running on a southwest-northeast alignment. The gully had moderate sides and a flat/concave base; it measured c.0.34m x >1.8m and was approximately 0.12m deep (context **05**). The gully had a single fill of firm, mid blueish grey sandy clay with occasional small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional natural flint fragments and very occasional charcoal flecks (context **06**). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature or similar features across site; because of this an environmental sample was taken of this fill (this will be added as an *addendum*).

6.5.2 The cut of a probable furrow was identified in this trench, running on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The feature had gradual-moderate sides and a flat base; it measured c.0.94m x >1.8m and was approximately 0.09m deep (context **07**). It held a single fill of friable-firm mid orangey/brownish grey slightly silty sandy clay with occasional small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones, occasional natural flint and very occasional charcoal flecks (context **08**).

6.5.3 The shallow remains of a ditch or gully were identified in the centre of Trench 4, running on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The feature had moderate sides and a flat base; it measured c.0.7m x >1.8m and was approximately 0.16m deep (context **09**). It held a single fill



of firm, mid-dark orangey grey/blue sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones, occasional natural flint and very rare charcoal flecks (context **10**). The feature was sampled due to a lack of dating evidence; this will be added as an *addendum*.

- 6.5.4 Another probable ditch or gully was identified to the east of this, running on a similar, roughly northwest-southeast alignment. This feature had moderate sides a concave base (context **11**) and was overlain by a furrow (context **13**). The gully measured c.0.38m x >1m and was approximately 0.16m deep. It held a single fill of friable-firm mid-dark greyish orange sandy clay with occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones, occasional natural flint and rare charcoal flecks (context **12**). The feature was sampled due to a lack of dating evidence; this will be added as an *addendum*.
- 6.5.5 Overlying this gully was a probable furrow which ran on roughly the same northwest-southeast alignment. The feature had moderate sides and a flat base; it measured c.1.31m x >1.8m and was approximately 0.21m deep (context **13**). It held a single fill of friable-firm dark orangey brown slightly silty sandy clay with occasional small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones, occasional natural flint and rare charcoal flecks (context **14**). A sample was taken from this furrow due to the lack of dating evidence across site and as a representative sample of similar features; this will be added as an *addendum*.
- 6.5.6 Another gully was identified at the eastern end of the trench, running on the same northwest-southeast alignment. This had gradual-moderate sides and a flat base; it measured c.0.38m x >1.8m and was approximately 0.06m deep (context **15**). This held a single fill of friable, mid greyish orange clayey sand with occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles and occasional natural flint (context **16**).
- 6.5.7 Also observed within Trench 4 was a narrow layer of loose pebbles mixed with occasional sandy silt (context **29**). This layer lay under a shallow covering of topsoil; it measured c.3.8m x >1.8m and was approximately 0.06m deep. The layer probably relates to a relatively recent surface or trackway associate with the nearby garages or farm buildings.

## 6.6 Trench 5

- 6.6.1 Trench 5 was added to extend across the visible earthwork and determine the nature of a feature which lay to the east of this, at the base of the slope. The earthwork itself had already been determined to be relatively insubstantial and most likely represents a former field boundary which was located at the top of a slope.
- 6.6.2 The slope itself in Trench 5 ran downwards from west to east on a moderate gradient. A slight irregularity was noticed in the slope. This depression ran on a roughly north-south alignment along the slope, had an irregular base and gradual-moderate sides; it measured c.1m wide and c.0.1m deep (context **48**). The irregularity of this feature led it to be interpreted as the probable result of rooting and it may pertain to a former hedge or tree line associated with the former

field boundary. No distinct fill was associated with this and it was overlain by a layer of colluvium (context **47**).

6.6.3 To the east, at the base of the slope a linear feature was identified which corresponds with context **40** in Trench 3 and is likely to be the same feature. This ran on the same roughly north-south alignment, had moderate sides and a flat/irregular base; it measured c.2.6m wide and c.0.47m deep (context **42**). It held a single fill of friable-loose, mid-dark slightly grey brown sandy, shaley clay with rare-occasional cattle and sheep bone (**Appendix 4**), moderate roots, occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles and occasional natural flint (context **43**). A sample was taken from this fill the results of which will be added as an *addendum*. The feature was possibly truncated by a similar feature to the east however the fills were largely uniform with obvious cut; alternatively, this represent a slight change in course of a waterway or re-cutting/clearing of an open ditch. The size and level of preservation of the cattle bone recovered from the feature is suggestive of an animal dating from at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century and absent further dating evidence, the feature can tentatively be dated to the post-medieval period (**Appendix 4**).

6.6.4 The feature to the east ran on the same alignment, had moderate sides and a flat/irregular base and measured c.1.7m wide and c.0.47m deep (context **45**); it was truncated at its eastern end by a modern land drain. The feature held a fill that was indistinguishable from context **43** (context **46**). A sample was taken from this fill the results of which will be added as an *addendum*.

6.6.5 At the eastern extent of the trench a layer of cobbling was identified within the topsoil (context **01**). The layer was approximately 0.15m deep and consisted of medium-large rounded stones mixed with topsoil (context **44**). The layer represents a former farm track which lead to the farm buildings to the north and according to the land owner was a former access road to the farm.

6.6.6 Cutting this trackway and towards the eastern extent of the trench a modern, plastic water feed pipe was identified, running on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment.

## 6.7 Additional Deposits

6.7.1 A topsoil layer of friable, dark grey brown sandy silt formed the upper layer across site and contained frequent small stones and occasional roots with very occasional pottery fragments and a single fragment of clay pipe; the layer was approximately 0.2m deep (context **01**).

6.7.2 Beneath the topsoil was a subsoil layer of friable-firm, light-mid orange brown very slightly silty clay approximately 0.28-0.6m deep (context **02**). The subsoil held frequent medium and small angular and rounded stones and occasional charcoal.

6.7.3 A layer of colluvium was observed in trenches 4 and 5 and had formed adjacent to the hill slope. This consisted of a friable-firm mid greyish orange sandy clay with very rare charcoal flecks, occasional roots, occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles and occasional natural flint; the deposit was c.3.26m wide and c.0.65m deep (context **47**).

## 7 DISCUSSION – THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

*The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data, and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods.*

### 7.1 Phase 1: Natural sub-stratum

7.1.1 Phase 1 represents natural geological material exposed within all 5 trenches. As discussed in **Section 2**, natural deposits across the site generally consisted of a firm-friable mid blue grey mottled with orange sandy clay (context **03**). A variation in the natural was observed across the site which consisted of a firm-friable, light orangey brown clayey sand and gravel with occasional patches of gravel (context **04**).

### 7.2 Phase 2: Colluvium

7.2.1 A layer of colluvium was observed adjacent to the hillslope in Trench 3 and Trench 5. This directly overlay the natural sub-stratum and underlay the subsoil layer. It was cut by Phase 3 features (contexts **42** and **45**). The layer consisted of a friable-firm, mid greyish orange sandy clay which was approximately 0.65m deep (context **47**).

### 7.3 Phase 3: Roman

7.3.1 In Trench 2, a shallow spread of mixed, mid-dark grey and mid brown silty clay was identified which held a single sherd of Romano-British Grey ware pottery (**Appendix 3**). However, the feature was only c.0.04m deep and interpreted as possibly being caused by tree rooting therefore the pottery is probably residual. Despite this interpretation, the find does suggest that there was an element of Roman activity in the vicinity of the site as highlighted in the archaeological background above.

### 7.4 Phase 4: Undated

7.4.1 Phase 2 represents several undated features which were identified across the site that lay beneath the subsoil and overlay the natural sub-stratum.

7.4.2 Potentially the earliest of these appear to be a series of gullies which ran across site and were observed in trenches 2, 3 and 4. In Trench 4 one such feature was observed, running on a roughly east-northeast-west-southwest alignment along the trench (context **05**). Similarly, a gully was identified in Trench 3 which appeared to run on a roughly east-northeast-west-southwest alignment (context **19**). The feature was relatively shallow (c.0.04m deep) and only a length of c.3.55m was observable. A similar feature was observed further to the west, on a similar alignment with a length of c.2.15m and a depth of c.0.06m (context **21**). It is possible that these represent the same feature with only shallow remnants surviving. Feature [**21**] was truncated at its western end by another gully (context **23**) which is largely representative of the remainder of the gullies observed on the site which ran on roughly northwest-southeast

alignments (contexts **09**, **15**, **17**, **23**, **25**, **30** and **37**). These series of gullies are likely to represent former drainage features or features related to past land management.

7.4.3 In Trench 5, two linear features were identified at the base of the slope, towards the east of the site, which shared a uniform fill of friable-loose, mid-dark slightly grey brown sandy, shale clay which was approximately 0.47m deep. The two features (contexts **42** and **45**) were interpreted as relating to former ditches or a water course with a possible re-cut or change in course representing the distinction between the two. In Trench 3, the western edge of the same feature as **[42]** was identified and allocated context number **40**.

7.4.4 The remnants of least two probable furrows were identified in trenches 2, 3 and 4 (contexts **07**, **13**, **28**, **33** and **38**). Features **[13]** and **[33]** are likely to represent the same furrow and both overlay the remains of gullies (context **11** and **37** respectively); these features were observed in trenches 4 and 3 respectively. Features **[07]**, **[28]** and **[38]** potentially correspond to one another and lie in trenches 4, 2 and 3 respectively; furrow **28** overlay a probable gully (context **17**). Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from these features however they are representative of past arable use of site.

## 7.5 **Phase 5: Subsoil**

7.5.1 Sub-soil was recorded in all 5 trenches. These deposits directly overlay the natural sub-stratum, colluvium (in trenches 3 and 5) or Phase 3 features. The subsoil consisted of a friable-firm, light-mid orange brown very slightly silty clay which ranged from 0.28-0.6m deep (context **02**).

## 7.6 **Phase 6: Modern**

7.6.1 A former road or track surface was identified in the east of Trench 5 which related to a former access road to the farmer buildings (context **44**). The surface lay within the topsoil layer which formed the uppermost layer on site. Cutting this layer was a modern, plastic water feed pipe and to the west of this lay a modern land drain. Another plastic water feed pipe was observed in Trench 1 along with a recent test pit. In Trench 4 a layer of pebbles was identified within the topsoil is likely to relate to the nearby garages or farm buildings and potentially formed a recent surface or trackway (context **29**).

## 7.7 **Phase 7: Topsoil**

7.7.1 A layer of topsoil formed the existing ground surface across the site and was recorded in all 5 trenches. This consisted of a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt formed the upper layer across site and contained frequent small stones and occasional roots with very occasional pottery fragments and a single fragment of clay pipe; the layer was approximately 0.2m deep (context **01**). A single sherd of medieval pottery along with two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a small piece of roof tile dating to the late medieval or early post-medieval period were recovered from the topsoil (**Appendix 3**).

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1.1 The observation fulfilled the aims of the archaeological evaluation and identified a sequence of archaeology which was largely undated.
- 8.1.2 Natural deposits on the site consisted of sandy clay and clayey sand deposits, discussed earlier, with reference to the British Geological Survey.
- 8.1.3 The most significant results of the programme of archaeological fieldwork concerns several undated features which were identified across site. The majority of and earliest of these were several gullies which were identified in trenches 2, 3 and 4 and potentially related to drainage or land management. At least two probable furrows were also identified, one of which overlay a gully; these indicate that the land was used for arable purposes in the past. The earthwork which was observed and investigated was determined to probably represent a past field boundary which lay at the top of a slope. At the base of the slope a linear feature was identified which has been interpreted as a former watercourse or drainage ditch.
- 8.1.4 There was no definitive evidence to suggest either prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon or medieval activity on the site, excluding a fragment of medieval pottery which was recovered from the topsoil and a sherd of Roman grey ware pottery recovered from a deposit which was likely caused by rooting.
- 8.1.5 Based on the results of the archaeological evaluation, a watching brief on any future groundworks may be determined to be an adequate response. This will be decided at the discretion of the planning archaeologist.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Andrew Granger & Co. Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of Mr & Mrs Walker. Additional thanks to Steve Jones and Hayley James for assisting with the evaluation. Also to Kevin Trott of PCA Midlands for managing the site & editing this report. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Charlotte Faiers of PCA's CAD department. Thanks to Paul Blinkhorn for the report on the ceramic material and to Kevin Rielly for the report on the animal bone.

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **10.1 Written Sources**

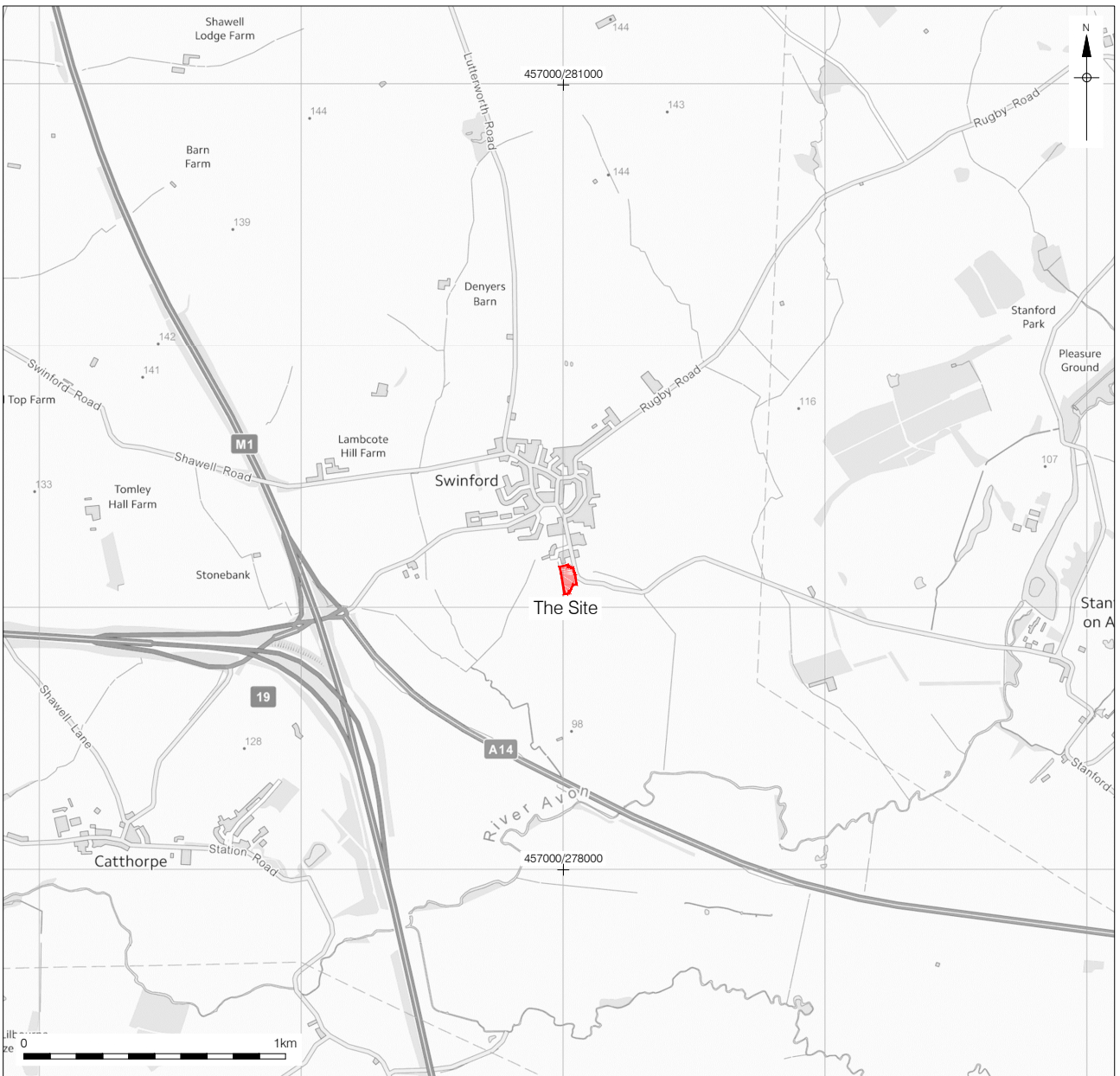
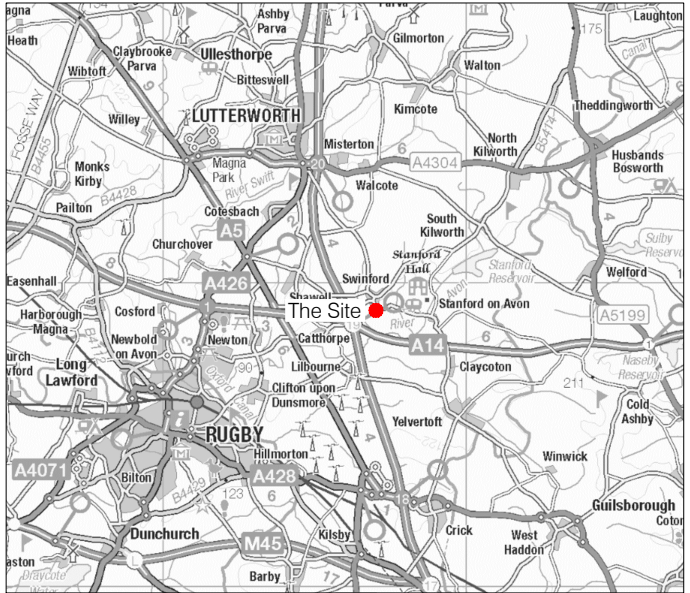
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### **10.2 Websites**

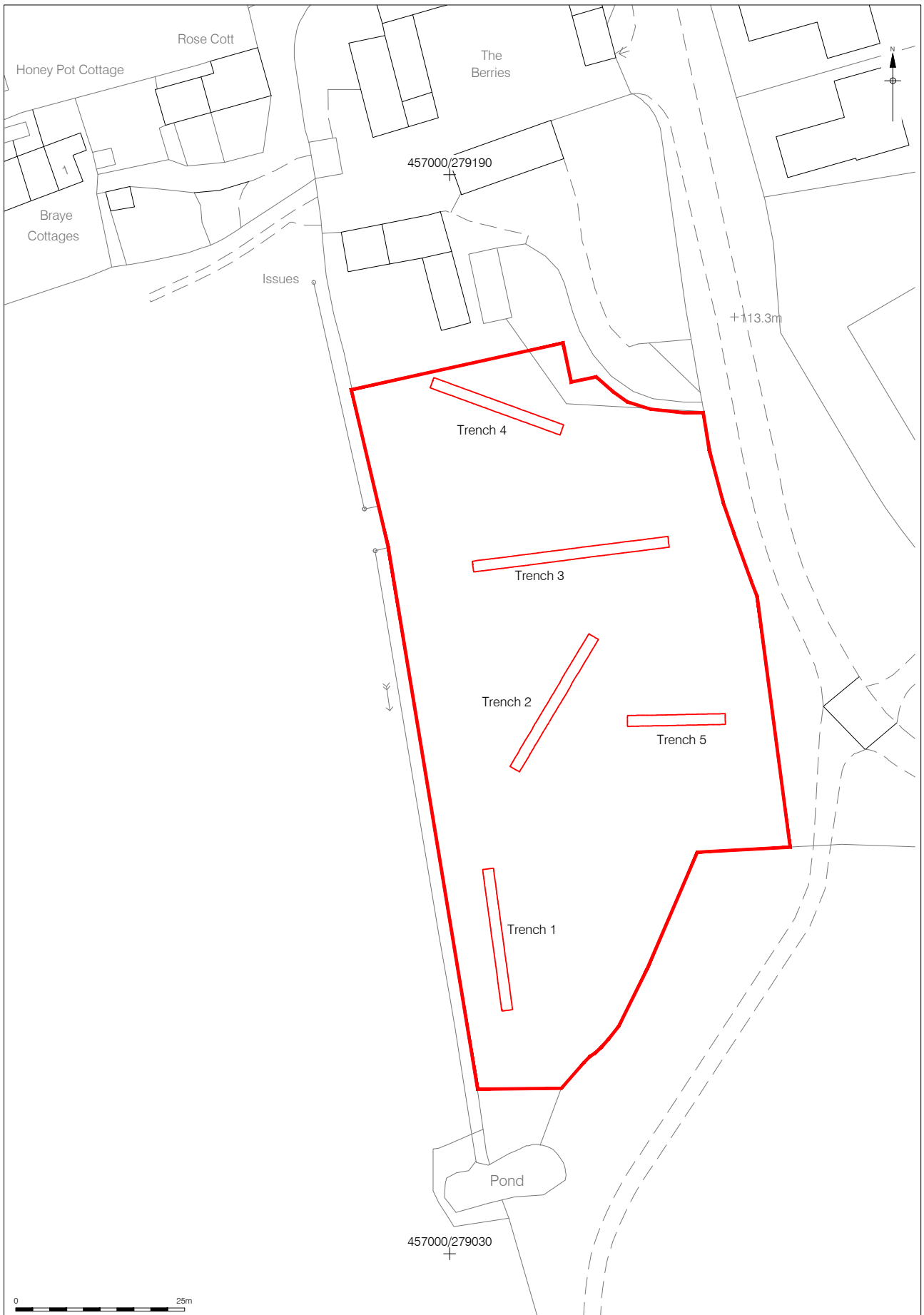
The British Geological Survey Map (BGS) - <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>  
Accessed on 16/05/2017



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 22/06/17 TC

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



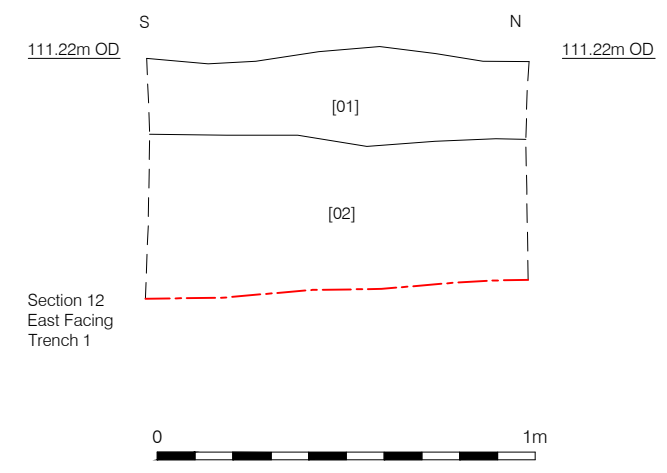
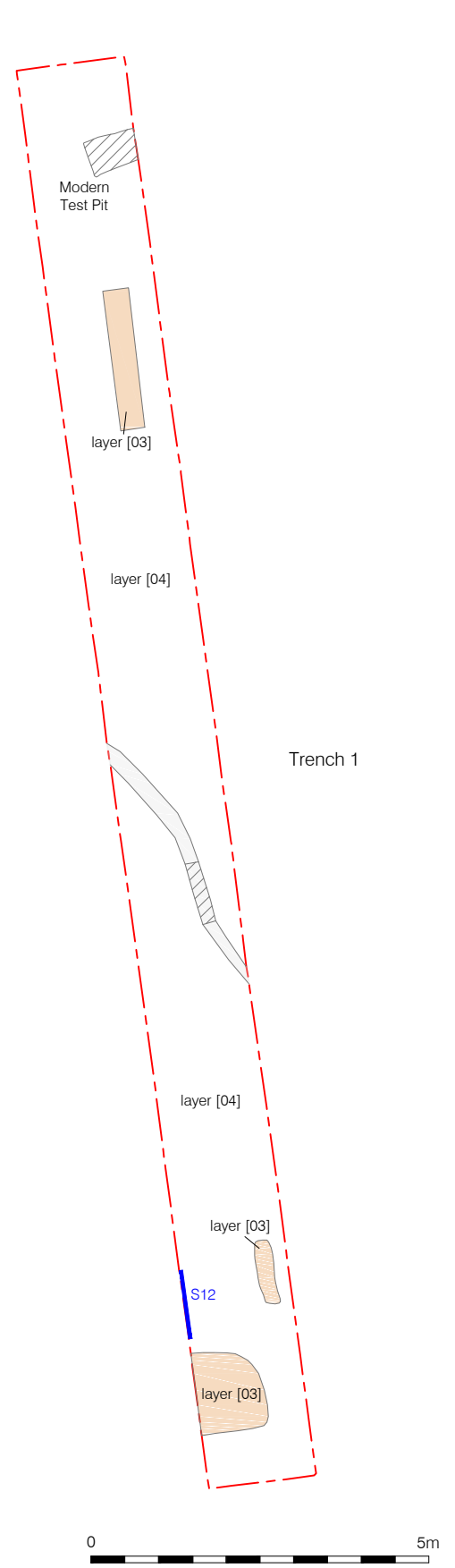


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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:800 at A4





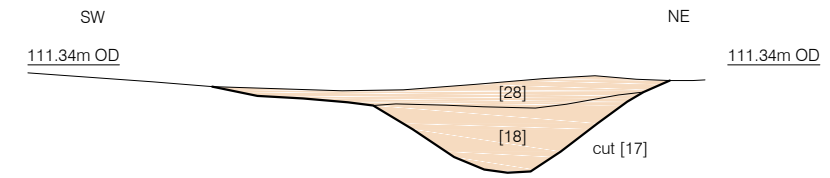
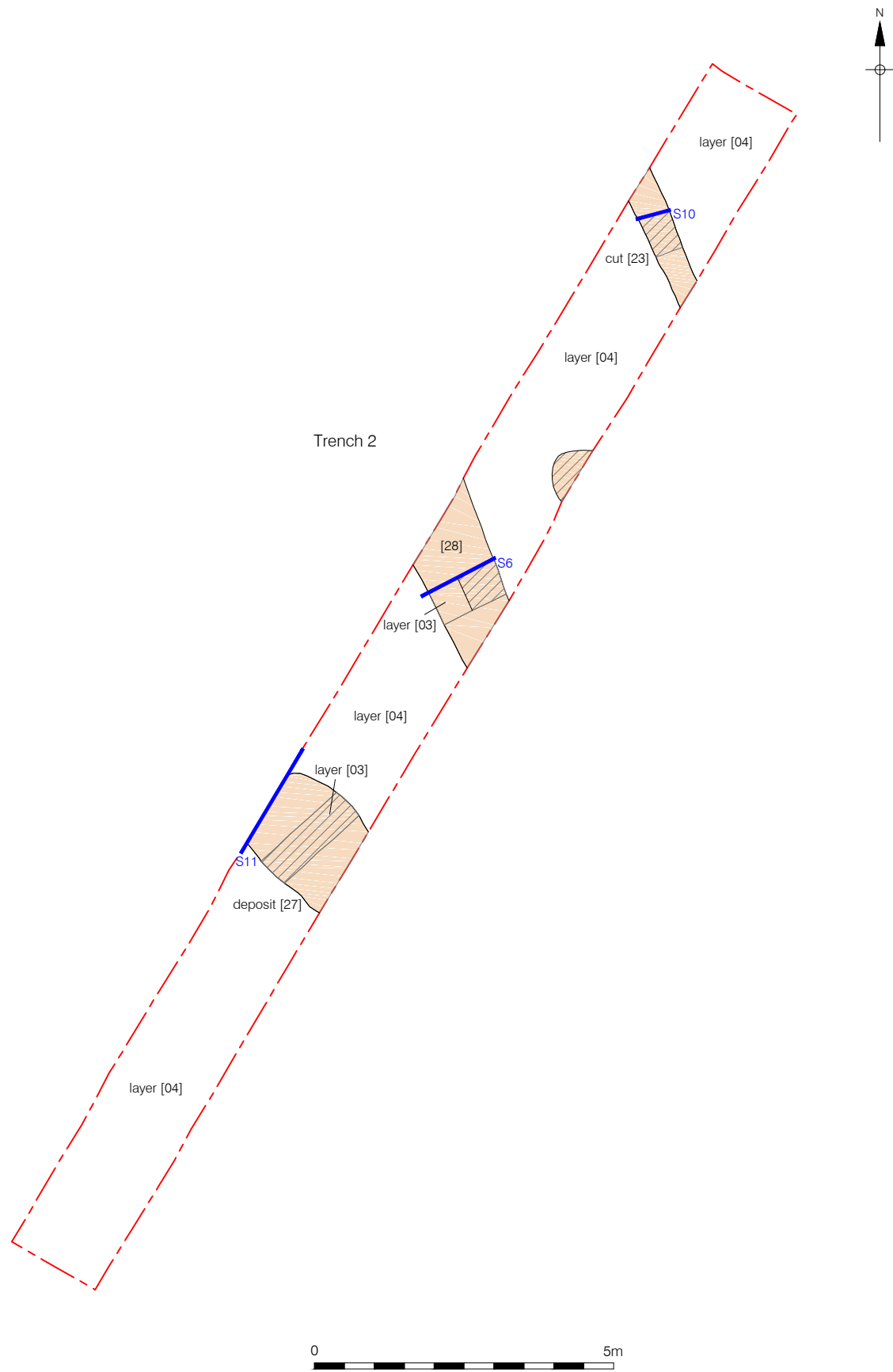
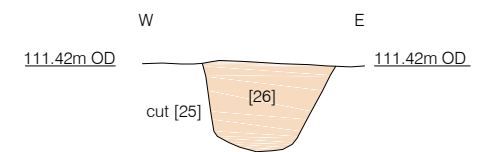
 Modern feature: excavated/ unexcavated  
 Archaeological feature  
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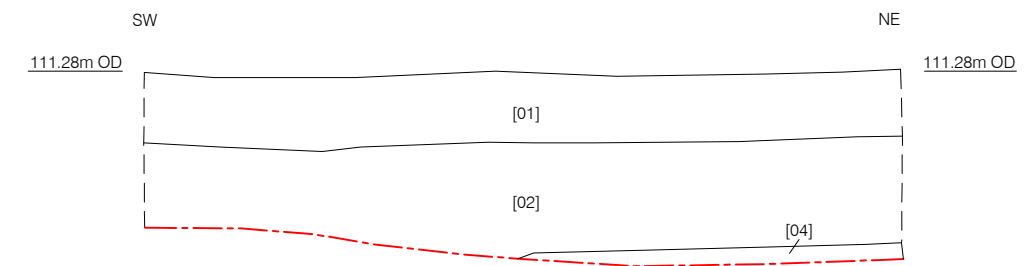
Figure 3  
 Trench 1: Plan and section  
 Plan at 1:100 and section at 1:20 at A3



Section 06  
South East Facing  
Trench 2



Section 10  
South Facing  
Trench 3

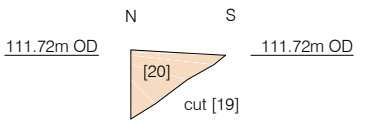
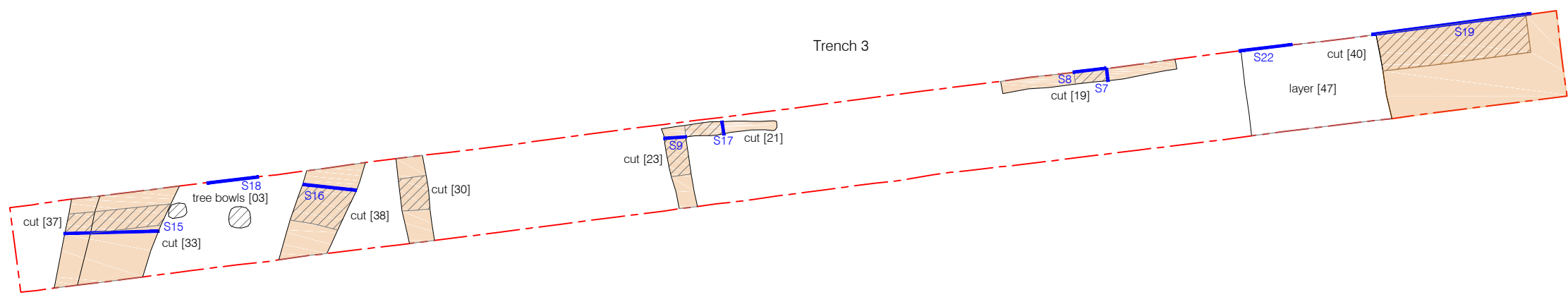


Section 11  
South East Facing  
Trench 2

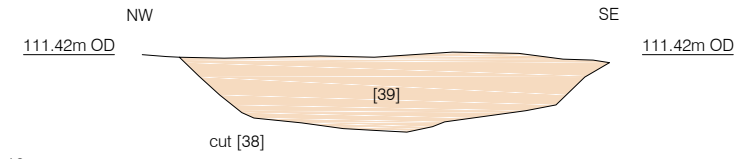


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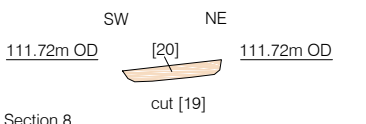
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Trench 2: Plan and sections  
Plan at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3



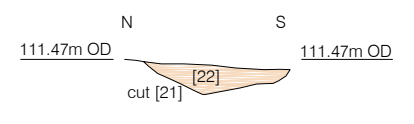
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Trench 3



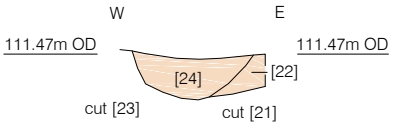
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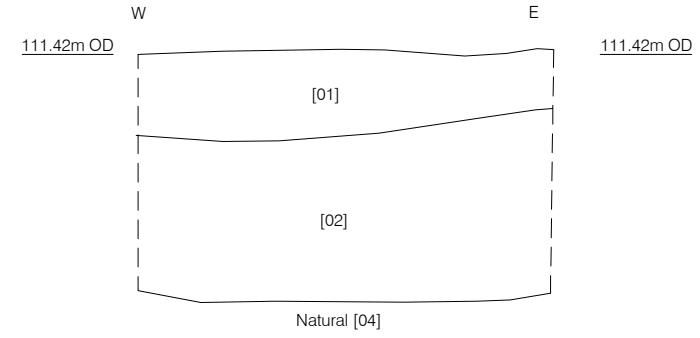
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Trench 3



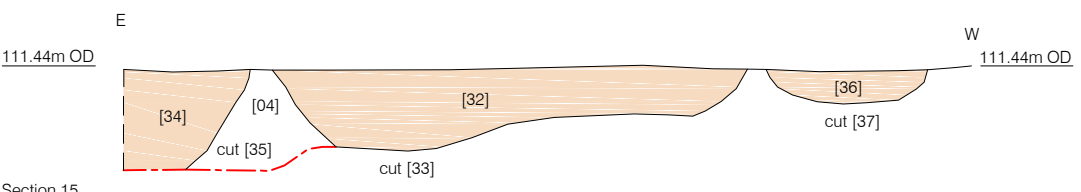
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Trench 3



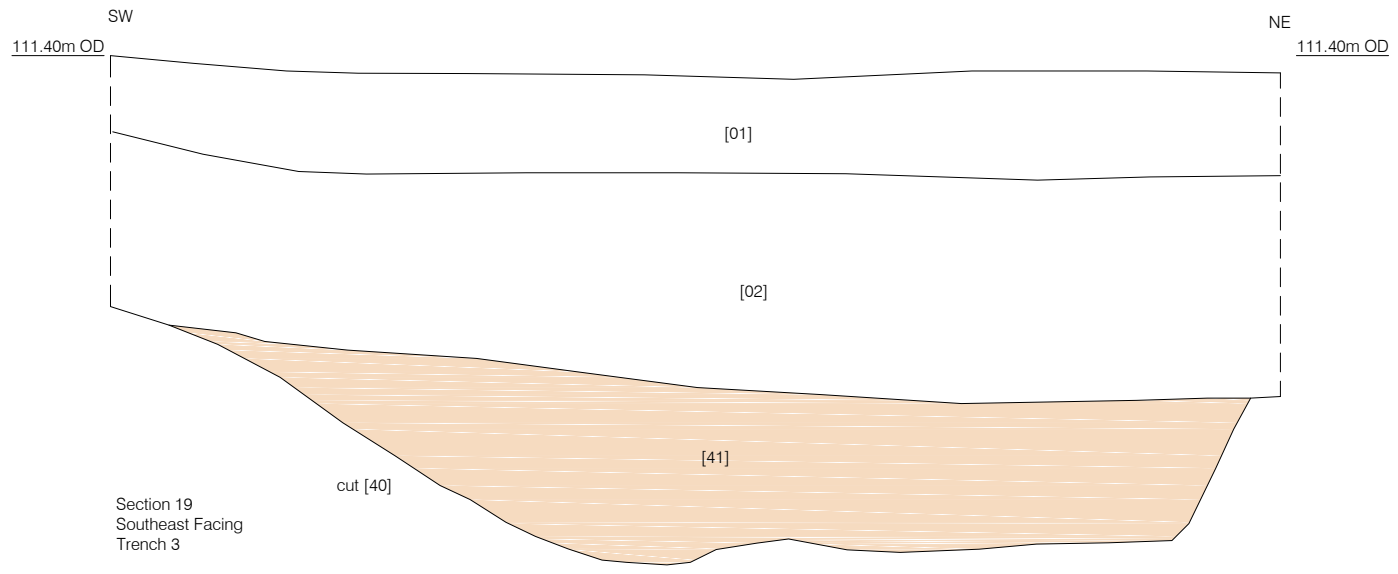
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South Facing  
Trench 3



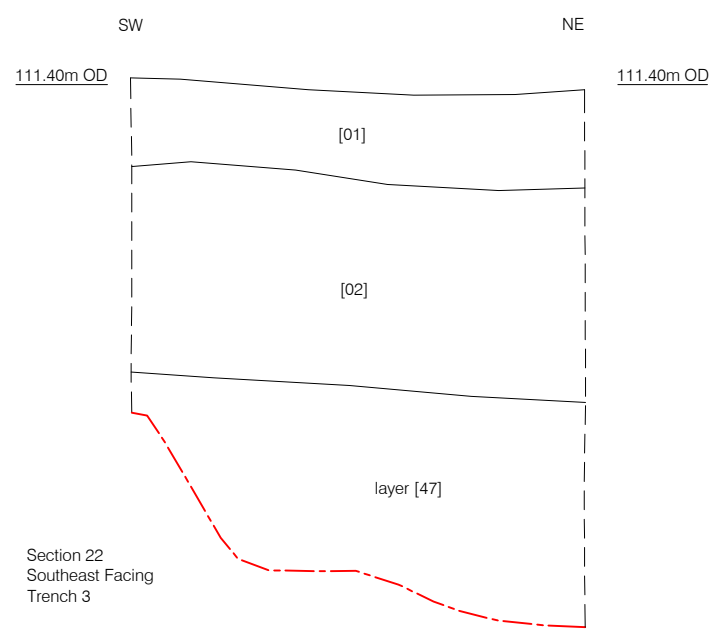
Section 18  
South Facing  
Trench 3



Section 15  
North Facing  
Trench 3



Section 19  
Southeast Facing  
Trench 3

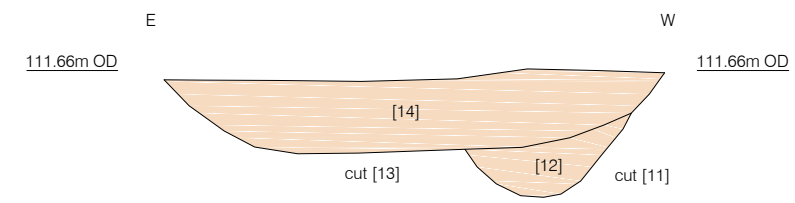
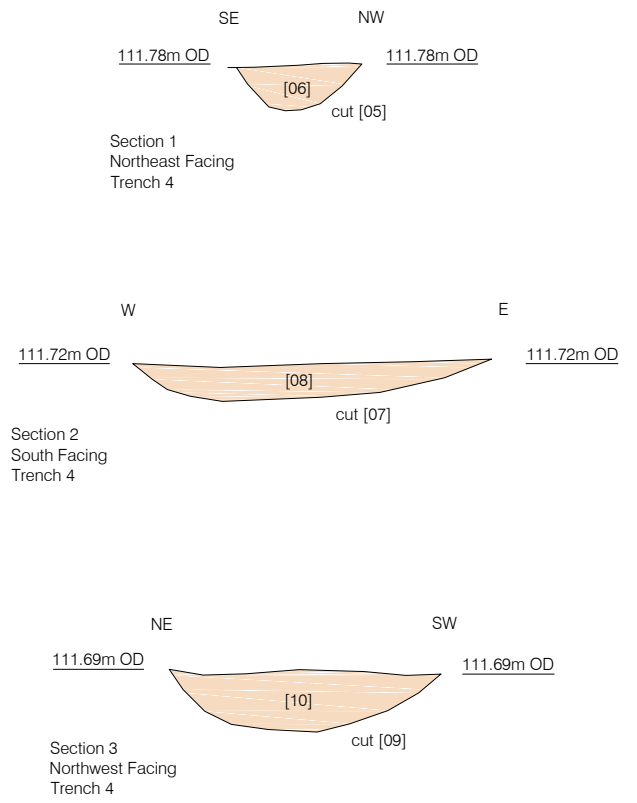
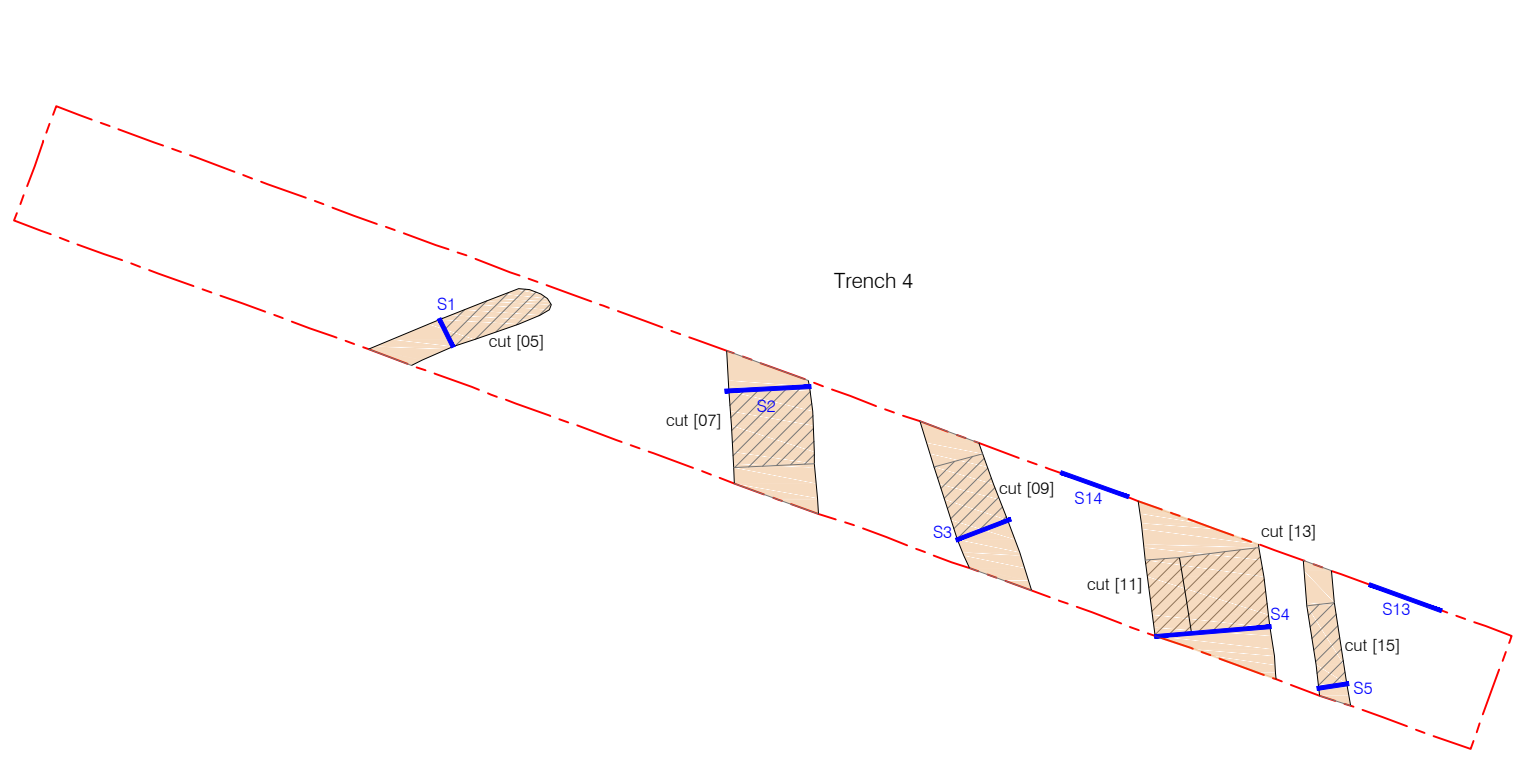


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Southeast Facing  
Trench 3

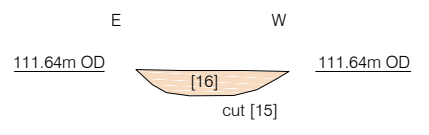


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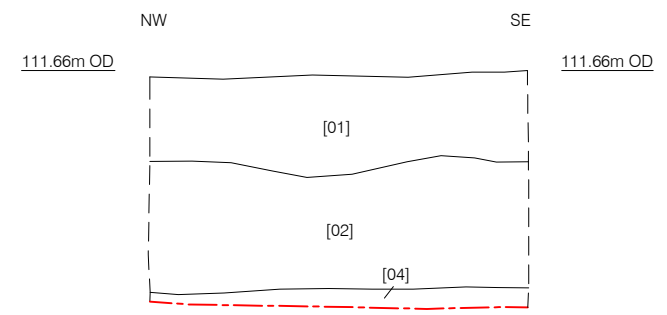
Figure 5  
Trench 3: Plan and sections  
Plan at 1:100 and section at 1:20 at A3



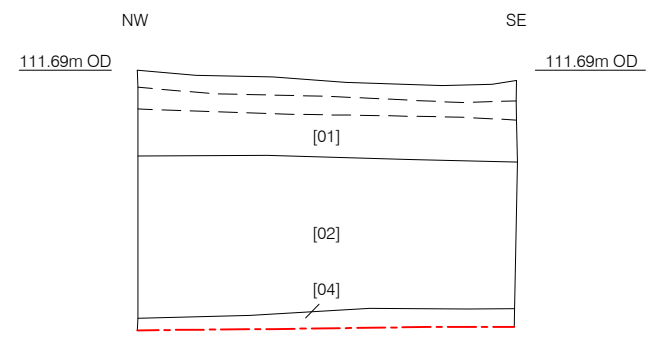
Section 4  
North Facing  
Trench 4



Section 5  
North Facing  
Trench 4



Section 13  
Southwest Facing  
Trench 4



Section 14  
Southwest Facing  
Trench 4

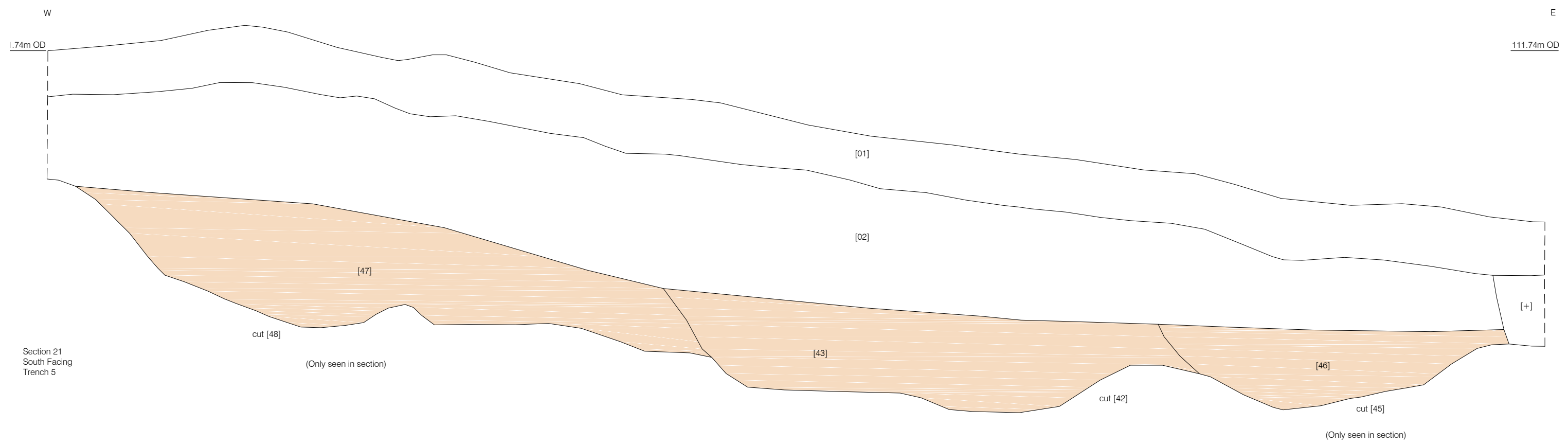
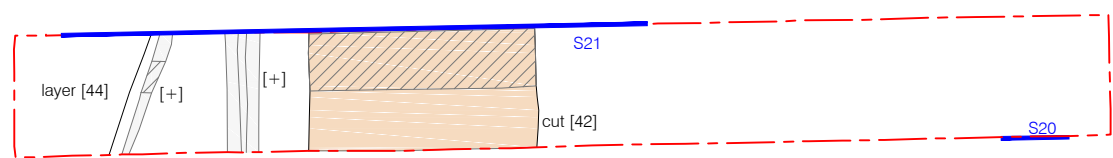


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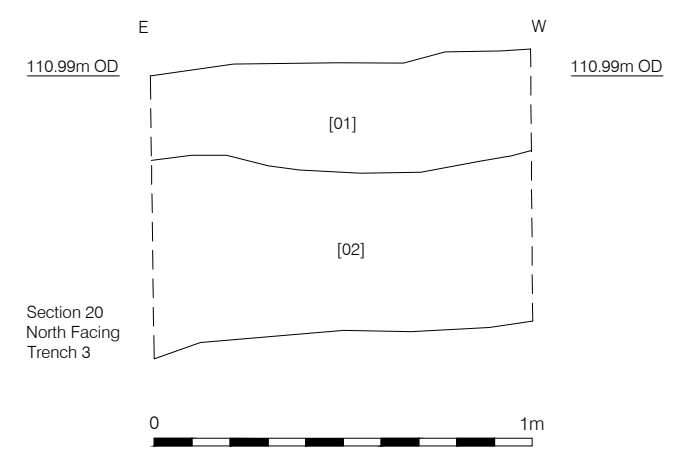
Figure 6  
Trench 4: Plan and section  
Plan at 1:100 and section 1:20 at A3



Trench 5



Section 21  
South Facing  
Trench 5



Section 20  
North Facing  
Trench 3



- Modern feature: excavated/ unexcavated
- Archaeological feature: excavated/ unexcavated

Figure 7  
Trench 5: Plan and section  
Plan at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3

## Appendix 1: Context Index

Abbreviations: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation; their dimensions in metres (in the order length x width x depth; or diameter x depth); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
01	Layer	Dark grey brown	Friable sandy silt	Frequent small stones	Topsoil	c.0.2m deep	02	-
02	Layer	Mid-light orange brown	Friable-firm very slightly silty clay	Frequent medium and small angular and rounded stones; occasional charcoal	Subsoil	c.0.28-0.6m deep	03;04	01
03	Layer	Mid blue grey mottled with orange	Firm-friable sandy clay	-	Natural sandy clay	>0.2m deep	-	02
04	Layer	Light orangey brown	Firm-friable clayey sand and gravel	Occasional gravel	Variation in natural – clayey gravelly sand		-	02
05	Cut	Linear cut on southwest-northeast alignment with moderate sides and a flat/concave base			Cut of gully – possibly related to drainage	c.0.34m x >2.4m x c.0.12m deep	04	06
06	Fill	Mid blueish grey	Firm sandy clay	Occasional small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles; occasional natural flint fragments; very occasional charcoal flecks	Sterile fill of gully [05]	c.0.34m x >2.4m x c.0.12m deep	05	02

07	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with gradual-moderate sides and a flat base			Probable cut of furrow	c.0.94m x >1.8m x c.0.09m deep	04	08
08	Fill	Mid orangey/brownish grey	Friable-firm slightly silty sandy clay	Occasional small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones; occasional natural flint; very occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of furrow [07]	c.0.94m x >1.8m x c.0.09m deep	07	02
09	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with moderate sides and a flat base			Shallow remains of cut of ditch/gully in Trench 4	c.0.7m x >1.8m x c.0.16m deep	04	10
10	Fill	Mid-dark orangey grey/blue	Firm sandy clay	Occasional small sub-rounded stones; occasional natural flint; very rare charcoal flecks	Fill of [09]	c.0.7m x >1.8m x c.0.16m deep	09	02
11	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with moderate sides and a concave base. Overlain and truncated by probable furrow [13]			Cut of ditch/gully	c.0.38m x >1m x c.0.16m deep	04	12
12	Fill	Mid-dark greyish orange	Friable-firm sandy clay	Occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones; occasional natural flint; rare charcoal flecks	Fill of [11]	c.0.1m deep	11	13
13	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with moderate sides and a flat base			Cut of probable furrow overlying ditch/gully [11]	c.1.31m x >1.8m x c.0.21m deep	04;12	14
14	Fill	Dark orangey brown	Friable-firm slightly silty sandy clay	Occasional small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones; occasional natural flint; rare charcoal flecks	Fill of furrow [13]	c.1.31m x >1.8m x c.0.21m deep	13	02
15	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with gradual-moderate sides and a flat base			Shallow remains of cut of possible gully	c.0.38m x >1.8m x c.0.06m deep	04	16



16	Fill	Mid greyish orange	Friable clayey sand	Occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles; occasional natural flint	Fill of [15]	c.0.38m x >1.8m x c.0.06m deep	15	02
17	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with steep sides and slightly rounded base			Cut of gully possibly related to drainage	c.0.6m wide; c.0.2m deep	04	18
18	Fill	Mid-pale slightly bluey grey	Firm silty clay	Very occasional angular stone fragments (small	Fill of gully [17]	c.0.6m wide; c.0.2m deep	17	28
19	Cut	Linear cut on east-northeast-west-southwest alignment with moderate-steep sides and a flat base			Shallow remains of cut of gully	c.3.55m x >0.26m x c.0.04m deep	03	20
20	Fill	Mid-dark orangey grey/blue	Firm sandy clay	Occasional small sub-rounded stones; occasional natural flint; very rare charcoal flecks	Fill of [19]	c.3.55m x >0.26m x c.0.04m deep	20	02
21	Cut	Linear cut on east-west alignment with gradual sides and a concave/irregular base. Truncated by [23]			Cut of shallow, ephemeral gully or possible remains of furrow in Trench 3	c.0.45m x c.2.15m x c.0.06m deep	04	22
22	Fill	Mid orangey grey	Loose-friable slightly sandy silty clay	Occasional small rounded stones	Fill of [21]	c.0.45m x c.2.15m x c.0.06m deep	21	02
23	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with moderate sides and a concave base.			Cut of gully in Trench 3	c.0.32m x >1.8m x c.0.12m deep	03	24
24	Fill	Mid orange brown with grey mottling	Loose-friable sandy silty clay	Frequent irregular pebbles	Fill of gully [23]	c.0.32m x >1.8m x c.0.12m deep	23	02
25	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with variable sides (steep-moderate) and a concave base			Cut of linear feature; possible gully or furrow. No finds	c.0.4m wide; c.0.2m deep	04	26

26	Fill	Mid blue grey	Firm-friable silty clay	Occasional medium-large sub-rounded stones and pebbles	Sterile fill of gully/furrow [25]	c.0.4m wide; c.0.2m deep	25	02
27	Layer	Mixed mid-dark grey and mid brown	Friable silty clay	Occasional small-medium rounded pebbles; single sherd of greyware pottery (probably residual)	Thin spread or area of root disturbance seen in south of Trench 2; no clear edges	c.1.5m wide; c.0.04m deep	03	02
28	Fill	Mid grey brown	Friable silty clay	Occasional rounded pebbles	Fill overlying gully [17]; probably relates to overlying furrow as it lines up with a similar feature in Trenches 3 and 4 to the northwest	c.1.2m wide; c.0.6m deep	18	02
29	Layer	Mid-dark grey	Loose pebbles mixed with occasional sandy silty	Replete with pebbles	Pebble layer under shallow covering of topsoil. Possible recent surface or track associated with nearby farm buildings/garages	c.0.06m deep x >1.6m x c.3.8m wide	01	01
30	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with gradual sides and a concave base			Shallow remains of cut of possible gully	c.0.48m wide x c.0.03m deep	04	31
31	Fill	Mid grey and brown	Moderately firm clay	-	Sterile fill	c.0.48m wide x c.0.03m deep	30	02
32	Fill	Mid greyish brown	Friable silty clay	Occasional roots; occasional rounded pebbles	Fill of furrow [33]	c.1.34m wide x c.0.22m deep	33	02
33	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with gradual sides and a flat/irregular base			Cut of furrow; appears to cut tree throw [35] in plan however this is not as clear in section. Probably cuts gully [37] however, again, this is not clear in section	c.1.34m wide x c.0.22m deep	04	32

34	Fill	Mid grey	Friable silty clay	Occasional very small flint fragments; very occasional roots	Mixed fill of probable tree throw [35]	c.0.23m deep	35	33?
35	Cut	Curvilinear cut with variable sides (vertical on north; steep on south) and a slightly irregular base; possible truncated by furrow [33]			Probable tree throw; possible cut to west by furrow [33] but quite ephemeral potentially due to root disturbance	c.0.23m deep	04	34
36	Fill	Mid-pale orange brown	Friable silty clay	Very occasional small flint fragments	Fill of gully [37]	c.0.4m wide; c.0.1m deep	37	02
37	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with steep sides and a rounded base; possibly truncated by [33] however relationship is not entirely clear			Cut of gully	c.0.4m wide; c.0.1m deep	04	36
38	Cut	Linear cut on north-south alignment with gradual-moderate sides and a concave/irregular base			Cut of possible furrow	c.1.1m wide; c.0.19m deep	04	39
39	Fill	Mid orange brown	Moderate-soft slightly sandy clay	Occasional rounded pebbles	Sterile fill of [38]	c.1.1m wide; c.0.19m deep	38	02
40	Cut	Linear cut on north-south alignment with moderate sides; not bottomed due to water table			Cut of possible ditch/watercourse	>2.5m; c.0.4m deep	03	41
41	Fill	Mid-dark slightly grey brown	Friable-loose sandy, shale clay	Rare-occasional animal bone; moderate roots; occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles; occasional natural flint	Fill of [40]	>2.5m; c.0.4m deep	40	02
42	Cut	Linear cut on north-south alignment with moderate sides and a flat/irregular base			Cut of ditch/former waterway; same as [40]	c.2.6m wide; c.0.47m deep	04	43

43	Fill	Mid-dark slightly grey brown	Friable-loose sandy, shale clay	Rare-occasional animal bone; moderate roots; occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles; occasional natural flint	Fill of [42] – same as (41)	c.2.6m wide; c.0.47m deep	42	02
44	Layer	Mixed mid grey and mid-dark grey brown	Medium-large rounded stones and topsoil	Replete with medium-large rounded stones	Cobbled area; former farm track	c.0.15m deep	01	01
45	Cut	Linear cut on north-south alignment with moderate sides and a flat/irregular base; truncated at eastern edge by a modern land drain			Cut of ditch/former waterway. This lies to the east of [42] and has the same fill; it potentially represents a slight change in course of a water way or relocation of ditch	c.1.7m wide; c.0.47m deep	04	46
46	Fill	Mid-dark slightly grey brown	Friable-loose sandy, shale clay	Rare-occasional animal bone; moderate roots; occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles; occasional natural flint	Fill of [45]	c.1.7m wide; c.0.47m deep	45	02
47	Layer	Mid greyish orange	Friable-firm sandy clay	Very rare charcoal flecks; occasional roots; occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones and pebbles; occasional natural flint	Hill wash observed in Trenches 3 and 5; ephemeral interface with subsoil	c.3.26m wide; c.0.65m deep	04	02
48	Cut	Linear cut on roughly north south alignment with irregular base and gradual-moderate sides			Depression in slope; possibly relates to a cut but irregular base suggests this has been caused by rooting and may relate to a former hedge line	c.1m wide; c.0.1m deep	04	47

## **Appendix 2: Site Photographs**



**Plate 1:** Southeast facing view of site.



**Plate 2:** Northwest facing view of Trench 1.



**Plate 3:** Southwest facing view of Trench 2.



**Plate 4:** Northeast facing view of Trench 3.





**Plate 5:** Southwest facing view of Trench 3 extension.



**Plate 6:** West facing view of Trench 5.



**Plate 7:** View of southeast facing Section 1 and feature [05].



**Plate 8:** View of northwest facing section 2 and probable furrow [07].



**Plate 9:** View of southeast facing Section 4 with features [11] and [13].



**Plate 10:** View of south-southeast facing section of feature [38].



**Plate 11:** Northwest facing View of intersecting features [21] and [23].



**Plate 12:** Western end of south facing Section 21 showing earthwork and slope.



**Plate 13:** North facing view of [45], east end of Section 21.



**Plate 14:** View of part of south facing Section 21. Showing waterlogged [42] in centre and [45] on right.

## Appendix 3: Report on the Ceramic Material

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 93g. It was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

**EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares**, late 17<sup>th</sup> century +. 1 sherd, 70g.

**EA10: Modern Earthenwares**, 1800+. 1 sherd, 3g.

**PM: Potter's Marston Ware**, 1100-1300. 1 sherd, 19g.

In addition, a single small bodysherd of Romano-British Grey Ware (weight = 1g) was noted. It occurred in context (27). The rest of the assemblage occurred in the topsoil layer (1). All the fabrics are common finds in the region. The sherd of PM is from the rim of a jar and is in very good condition. It is also heavily sooted on the outer surface, indicating it was probably used for cookery. The fragment of EA6 is from the rim of an internally-glazed bowl, a common product of the tradition. It is also in very good condition.

A small piece (weight = 58g) of flat, unglazed roof-tile also occurred in context (1). It is in a red sandy fabric, and is 12mm thick. It is very damaged, and most likely of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

### Bibliography

Sawday, D, 1994      The post-Roman pottery in P Clay and R Pollard *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester. Excavations 1962-71* Leics. Museums

## **Appendix 4: Report on the Animal Bone**

*By Kevin Rielly*

### **Introduction**

The area of investigation is a small field (some 115 by 50m) situated at the southern edge of the village of Swinford, this about 5km north-east of Rugby. 5 evaluation trenches were excavated across, these revealing a series of gulleys and furrows (the latter related to ridge and furrow agriculture) as well as the remains of a parallel bank and ditch/watercourse, the former interpreted as a former field boundary. There was very little dating evidence with most of the potsherds retrieved from the topsoil (3 out of 4 sherds), generally indicative of Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. The few bones were hand recovered from the aforementioned 'waterway', this unfortunately undated.

### **Methodology**

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone 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**

The site provided a total of 7 animal bones, all retrieved from the ditch/waterway [40]/[42] and [45]. These include a cattle sacrum and two lumbar vertebrae (possibly from the same animal) as well as a shaft piece of a sheep/goat metacarpus from fill (41) within [40]; the proximal end of a cattle metatarsus from fill (43) in [40]; and finally a sheep/goat tibia shaft and proximal metatarsus from fill (46) in [42]. The cattle metatarsus is rather large with a proximal breadth of 60.8mm suggestive of an animal dating from at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century (data from PCA archives). Notably these bones were in very good condition and minimally fragmented.

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

The positive aspects of this collection include the fact that the bones are well preserved and perhaps well dated, judging by the evidence pertaining to the later post-medieval era on the basis of size. This is a rather concentrated assemblage which may suggest that all date to approximately the same period. The level of preservation would also suggest that the soil conditions are conducive for the survival of smaller bones and thus any further work in this area should include the taking of bulk samples. The negative aspects essentially relate to the quantity of bones or indeed of any other finds. It can perhaps be proposed, based on the current evidence, that this area was not used for waste disposal with the possible exception of the ditch/waterway. Certainly, any further work should concentrate on the eastern part of the site, extending along this feature. Finally, the significance of the bones from this site should also be placed in context where it would appear that this whole county as



provided very few sites with post-medieval animal bone reports and these essentially from excavations in Leicester (Albarella and Pirnie 2008) although a small collection was also documented on from Market Bosworth (Rielly 2014).

### **References**

Albarella, U, and Pirnie, T, 2008 A Review of Animal Bone Evidence from Central England  
([http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/animalbone\\_eh\\_2007/index.cfm](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/animalbone_eh_2007/index.cfm))

Rielly, K, 2014 Assessment of animal bone recovered from Market Bosworth Parish Hall, 25 Park Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (MBPH13), PCA unpublished report

## Appendix 5

### The Clay Tobacco Pipe

By Gary Taylor

Artefacts recovered during investigations at Stansford Road, Swinford, Leicestershire are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2008).

#### The Clay Pipe

##### Introduction

The clay pipe was analysed in accordance with guidelines prepared by Davey (1981). A single fragment of clay pipe weighing 6g was retrieved.

##### Results

Ctx	Bore diameters, /64"						Total	Wt(g)	Comments	Context date
	9	8	7	6	5	4				
01				1			1	6	Stem only	17 <sup>th</sup> century

##### Provenance

The clay pipe was recovered from the topsoil. It is probably a local product.

##### Discussion

A fragment of clay pipe of probable 17<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered.

##### Potential

Other than providing tentative dating evidence the clay pipe is of limited potential and can be discarded.

##### References

ClfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Davey, P, 1981 Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations. *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 4: 65-88.

##### Abbreviations

ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

## **Appendix 6: Oasis Form**

10.3 **OASIS ID: preconst1-290070**

## Project details

Project name	The Berries, Stanford Road, Swinford
Short description of the project	The evaluation identified a series of gullies which predominantly ran on northwest-southeast alignments however a small number of these were observed on roughly northeast-southwest alignments. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from these features however several underwent environmental sampling in the hopes of obtaining more information; the results of these samples will be added as an addendum later. The gullies are likely to represent past drainage features and may relate to the site's use as an orchard. Probable evidence of past ploughing activities was also identified in the form of furrows; some of which overlay the gullies. The earthwork itself proved to be insubstantial and is likely to represent a former field boundary as a former access road to the farm lay below the ridge which it lay upon. Before this road, at the foot of the slope, a former waterway or drainage ditch was observed; this held evidence of a change in course or potential re-cutting; no dating evidence was recovered from this. A single sherd of Roman grey ware pottery was recovered from a deposit in Trench 2 however the deposit is likely to be the result of rooting and the pottery residual. Modern drainage features and services were also encountered during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2017 End: 11-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BSSL17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	GULLIES Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"

Development type Housing estate

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

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### Project location

Country England

Site location LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH SWINFORD The Berries, Stanford Road, Swinford, Leicestershire

Study area 4279 Square metres

Site coordinates SP 57020 79126 52.406787342575 -1.161709482362 52 24 24 N 001 09 42 W Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Kathryn Brook

Project director/manager Kevin Trott

Project supervisor Donald Sutherland

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### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Physical Archive ID X.A23.2017

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"

Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A23.2017
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A23.2017
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Berries, Stanford Road, Swinford, Leicestershire: Report on an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sutherland,D.
Other bibliographic details	R12944
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	PCA Newark Office
Place of issue or publication	Newark

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Entered on	12 July 2017

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