LAND TO THE NORTH OF ASHBY ROAD, ULLESTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING

Planning Reference: 16/00373/OUT

PCA Report Number: R13043

October 2017

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND TO THE NORTH OF ASHBY ROAD, ULLESTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Gary Taylor & Kathryn Brook		05/10/2017
Graphics Prepared by:	Ray Murphy		06/010/2017
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	Josephine Brown	06/10/2017
Project Manager Sign-off:	Kevin Trott		06/10/2017

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1	09/10/2017	Kathryn Brook	Kevin Trott

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

Land to the north of Ashby Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire: Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**Harborough District Council**
Central National Grid Reference:	**SP 5101 8787**
Planning Reference:	**16/00373/OUT**
Site Code:	**ARUL17**
Written and Researched by	**Gary Taylor and Kathryn Brook**
Project Manager:	**Kevin Trott**
Commissioning Client:	**CgMs Consulting**

Contractor: **Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd**

Office 8
Roewood Courtyard
Winkburn
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG22 8PG

Tel: **01636 370140 / 07730 762587**

E-mail: **ktrott@pre-construct.com**

Web: **www.pre-construct.com**

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land to the north of Ashby Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (NGR SP 5101 8787). The evaluation was undertaken from 29th August to 1st September 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and the evaluation took place in anticipation of the re-development of the land. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The archaeological evaluation identified a limited sequence of archaeology with only a series of furrows being observed. Two orientations of furrows were recorded and suggest different phases of ploughing. Small fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from one of the furrows suggesting the agricultural activities they represent were in progress at that time. Late post-medieval and early modern material was also recovered from some of the other furrows suggesting the later phase of ploughing was of this date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land to the north of Ashby Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 5101 8787). The evaluation took place between the 29th August and 1st September 2017 (**Figures 1** and **2**).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following planning comments for the proposed construction of new residential housing.

1.3 Previous desk-based assessment identified good potential for prehistoric and Roman activity in the area. A geophysical survey was undertaken for the western half of this site by Stratascan in 2015. However, the survey identified little of archaeological note other than former field boundaries and ridge and furrow.

1.4 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2017) following consultation with the County Archaeological Officer.

1.5 The planned archaeological works involved the excavation of twelve, 30m trenches (**Figure 2**).

1.6 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.

1.7 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.

1.8 This report describes the results of the archaeological works. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Museums Services.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying bedrock geology on site comprises Mudstone belonging to the Mercia Mudstone Formation. Overlying the solid geology is diamicton (formerly known as boulder clay) belonging to the Oadby Member (British Geological Survey Map Viewer 2017).

2.1.2 Superficial geological deposits across the site consisted of brownish orange clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones (contexts 11, 22, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91, 101, 111 and 121).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The Site is to the east of the village core of Ullesthorpe, on the northern side of Ashby Road. It comprises approximately 2 hectares of land centred at National Grid Reference SP 5101 8787 (**Figure 1**). Bounded by Ashby Road to the south and outlying fields to the west, north and east, the site consists of grassed over, pasture. The site falls slightly from the southern boundary, which lies at c.122m OD, to the northern boundary at c.120m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER) shows that the development site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed through Desk Based Assessment (ULAS 2015; Report 2015-091) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015; Report J9112) undertaken in support of the planning application. The following is based upon the information obtained the Desk Based Assessment and the Geophysical Survey reports, and summarised in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2017).

3.1.2 A significant number of finds and features have been recorded in the vicinity of the site, including a Mesolithic occupation site (HER ref: MLE2599), Neolithic/Bronze Age activity (MLE7230) and a scatter of Roman pottery (MLE7918) and Medieval finds (MLE6779). Due to the site's proximity to these sites and artefact scatters, the Desk Based Assessment concluded that the site has 'good potential for prehistoric and Roman activity' (ULAS 2015; 1). St. Michael's church, located *c.*575m west-southwest of the study site, was built in the early 15th century, and contains a possible 12th century font. A possible fishpond, *c.*785m south of the site and a record of a 'Pinfold', *c.*815m west of the site, are the only other records dating from this period within the search area.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

3.2.1 The geophysical survey of the site comprised survey of a larger expanse of land off Ashby Road, comprising c.9ha in total but only included the western half of the current site. The eastern half of the site was not suitable for survey at the time. The geophysics did not reveal any features of probable archaeological origin, other than former field boundaries and ridge and furrow (Stratscan 2015).

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 With the results of the geophysical surveys available, 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

4.2.1 *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.

4.2.2 The archaeological evaluation addressed the following objectives:

- 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.

4.2.3 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 Ullesthorpe.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Fieldwork Methodology

5.1.1 The Evaluation took place between the 29th August and 1st September 2017 in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014); PCA is a CIfA registered organisation. The evaluation trenches were laid out in accordance with the archaeological Brief, prepared by Leicestershire County Council, and the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation, as accepted by the Counties Senior Planning Archaeologist (**Figure 2**).

5.1.2 All trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 13-ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with toothless ditching bucket. 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.

5.1.3 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 Leicestershire, including written, photographic and drawn records.

5.1.4 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Organisation (number 23) with the Chartered 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 (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 (CIfA 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 43 archaeological contexts were defined within the twelve 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 small assemblage of ceramic material,. Specialist examination was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 6, with a report in **Appendices 3**. Finds determined to be of archaeological significance or of use to further research will be retained.

5.3.4 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.

5.3.5 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 CIfA publication (CIfA 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 consisted of brownish orange clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones (contexts 11, 22, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91, 101, 111 and 121).

6.2 Additional deposits

6.2.1 Topsoil across the site consisted of a firm, mid brown clay with occasional small sub-angular stones (contexts 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100,110 and 120). A total of three fragments of modern pottery were recovered from 30, 60 and 110.

6.2.2 Underlying this in Trench 2 only was a subsoil consisting of firm mid brown silty clay with occasional small, sub-rounded stones (context 21).

6.3 Trench 1

6.3.1 Cutting the natural (context 11) was a series of four furrows, all aligned north-south. Where fully observed these were about 2m wide (Figure 3). One was sectioned and was 0.09m deep with a flat irregular base (context 13). It was filled with firm mid brownish grey silt sand/clay (context 12) which contained a small fragment of clay tobacco pipe and late post-medieval blue and white transfer printed pottery (not retained). Sealing the furrows was a topsoil layer approximately 0.39m deep which formed the uppermost layer in Trench 1 (context 10).

6.3.2 Other than the furrows no archaeological features were observed in Trench 1.

6.4 Trench 2

6.4.1 Overlying the natural (context 22) was a subsoil *c.*0.26m deep (context 21). This deposit, which may be colluvium, was in turn sealed by the topsoil (context 20) which was 0.34m deep.

6.4.2 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

6.5 Trench 3

6.5.1 Truncating the natural deposits (context 31) were two northwest-southeast aligned furrows, both about 2m wide (Figure 4). A section excavated across one (context 33) indicated it was less than 10mm deep with a flat base. Filling the furrow was firm dark brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones (context 32). Overlying the furrows was a topsoil 0.39m

deep that formed the uppermost layer in Trench 3 (context 30). A piece of 19th century clay pipe was recovered from the topsoil.

6.5.2 Except for the furrows, no archaeological features were observed in this trench.

6.6 **Trench 4**

6.6.1 Natural deposit (context 41) was cut by two furrows, both aligned north-south and about 1.5m wide (Figure 5). A section excavated though one of the furrows recorded a shallow concave base 0.1m deep (context 43). It was filled with firm dark brown silty sand (context 42). A single fragment of 16th century, Post-medieval Red Earthenware, was recovered from the fill. Above the furrows was a topsoil layer approximately 0.42m deep which formed the uppermost layer in Trench 4 (context 11).

6.6.2 Other than the furrows no archaeological features were observed in Trench 4.

6.7 **Trench 5**

6.7.1 The natural (context 51) was sealed by the topsoil (context 50) which was 0.30m deep.

6.7.2 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

6.8 **Trench 6**

6.8.1 Natural deposit (context 61) was overlain by topsoil 0.26m thick that formed the uppermost layer in Trench 6 (context 60).

6.8.2 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

6.9 **Trench 7**

6.9.1 Cutting the natural (context 71) was a series of three furrows, all aligned northwest-southeast and about 1.5m wide. Sections were excavated across two of the furrows. One (context 73) was 0.09m deep with a shallow concave base. This was filled with firm mid greyish brown silty clay (context 72). The second furrow (context 75) was up to 0.18m deep with a flat irregular base. Filling this was firm mid greyish brown silty sand (74) which contained a fragment of Modern Earthen wear. Sealing the furrows was a topsoil layer 0.40m deep which formed the uppermost layer in Trench 7 (context 70).

6.9.2 Excluding the furrows, no archaeological features were observed in Trench 7.

6.10 **Trench 8**

6.10.1 A group of three furrows cut the natural (context 81). These were all aligned north-south and were 2-3m wide. A section excavated across the central furrow (context 82) showed it to be 0.23m deep with a shallow concave base. It was filled with firm dark orange-brown clayey sand (context 83) which contained occasional lumps of coal. Sealing the furrows was the topsoil (context 80) that was 0.35m thick.

6.10.2 No archaeological features, other than the furrows, were observed in this trench.

6.11 **Trench 9**

6.11.1 Truncating the natural deposits (context 91) were four furrows, three at approximately 2m wide and the fourth about 1.4m wide. Two of the furrows, towards the northern end of the trench, were close together, but some distance from the widely-spaced two to the south (Figure 6). Located at the north-eastern end of the trench was the narrower furrow (context 93). This was 0.21m deep with a flat irregular base. It was filled with firm mid greyish brown silty sand (context 92). Alongside this furrow was a wider example (context 95) which was 0.22m deep with a flat irregular base. This was also filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (context 94) which yielded modern glass fragments along with 5 sherds of 16th -19th century pottery. Overlying the furrows was a topsoil 0.23m deep that formed the uppermost layer in Trench 9 (context 90).

6.11.2 Except for the furrows, no archaeological features were observed in this trench.

6.12 **Trench 10**

6.12.1 Truncating the natural deposit (context 101) at either end of the trench were two furrows, both aligned approximately north-south (Figure 8). These were both filled with mid-dark brownish grey silty sand but were not investigated further. Above the furrows was a topsoil layer approximately 0.35m deep which formed the uppermost layer in Trench 10 (context 100).

6.12.2 Other than the furrows no archaeological features were observed in Trench 10.

6.13 **Trench 11**

6.13.1 The natural (context 111) was cut, at the southern end of the trench, by a furrow. This was filled with dark brown silty sand but was not examined further. It was sealed by the topsoil (context 110) which was 0.47m deep.

6.13.2 Except for the furrow, no archaeological features were observed in this trench.

6.14 **Trench 12**

6.14.1 Natural deposit (context 121) was truncated by two furrows, both oriented northwest-southeast. The furrow (context 123) located towards the southern end of the trench was 0.07m deep with a flat irregular base. It was filled with mid-dark orangey brown silty sand (context 122) that contained three abraded fragment of Potter's Marston Ware dating from the 12th -14th Century. The furrows were overlain by topsoil 0.38m thick that formed the uppermost layer in Trench 12 (context 120).

6.14.2 No other archaeological features were observed in this trench.

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 Summary

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation uncovered a limited sequence of archaeology with only furrows identified. Occasional artefacts of medieval to modern date were recovered from the furrows. Material dating from the 17th-19th centuries was recovered from the topsoil.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural sub-stratum

7.2.1 Phase 1 represents natural geological material exposed within all twelve trenches. This consisted of brownish orange clay, recognisable as diamicton.

7.3 Phase 2: Medieval to post-medieval

7.3.1 Furrows were recorded in 9 of the 12 trenches. Occasional fragments of medieval to late post-medieval pottery were recovered from several of the furrows. Some of the furrows broadly coincide with the north-south orientation of the ridge and furrow earthworks currently evident in the field. These extant earthworks are fairly straight and perhaps were formed by steam ploughing in the later post-medieval period. Artefacts from furrows on the same orientation confirm this dating.

7.3.2 However, some of the excavated furrows are on differing orientations, mostly northwest-southeast, and probably represent earlier phases of ploughing. Three fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from the one of the furrows in Trench 12, suggesting that these northwest-southeast furrows represent a medieval phase of agriculture.

7.3.3 It is likely that all the artefacts recovered from the furrows derive from manuring scatter spread on the land to improve its fertility.

7.4 Phase 3: Modern

7.4.1 Topsoil provided the modern ground surface.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1.1 The archaeological work fulfilled the aims of the archaeological evaluation and identified a series of medieval to post medieval furrows. No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. The investigation was supervised by Kathryn Brook & Donald Sutherland. Kevin Trott of PCA Midlands managed the site & edited this report. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by PCA's CAD department. Thanks to Gary Taylor for his finds report and to Paul Blinkhorn for his report on the pottery.

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10.2 **Websites**

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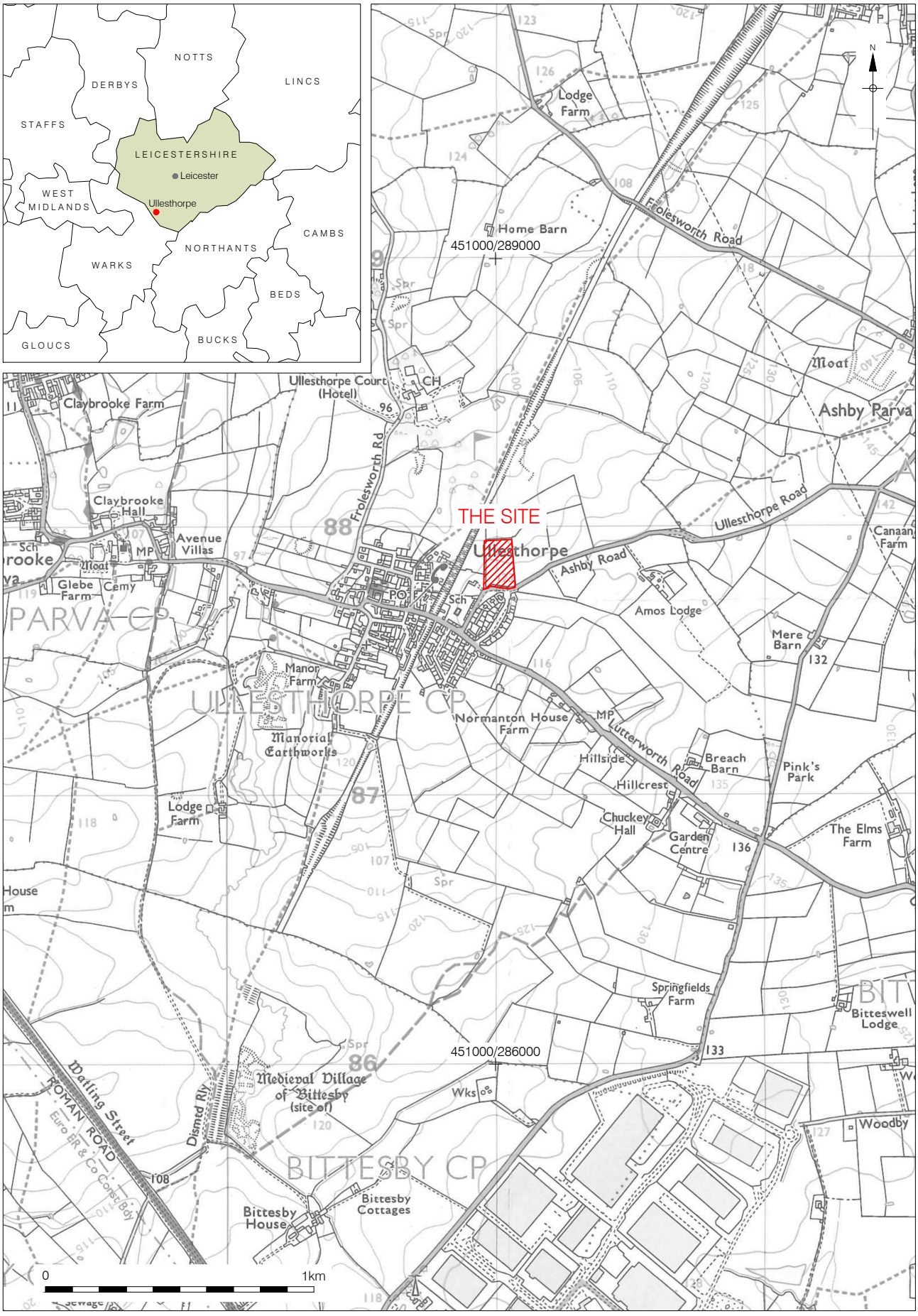

19/09/17 RM

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,500,000; 1:20,000 at A4

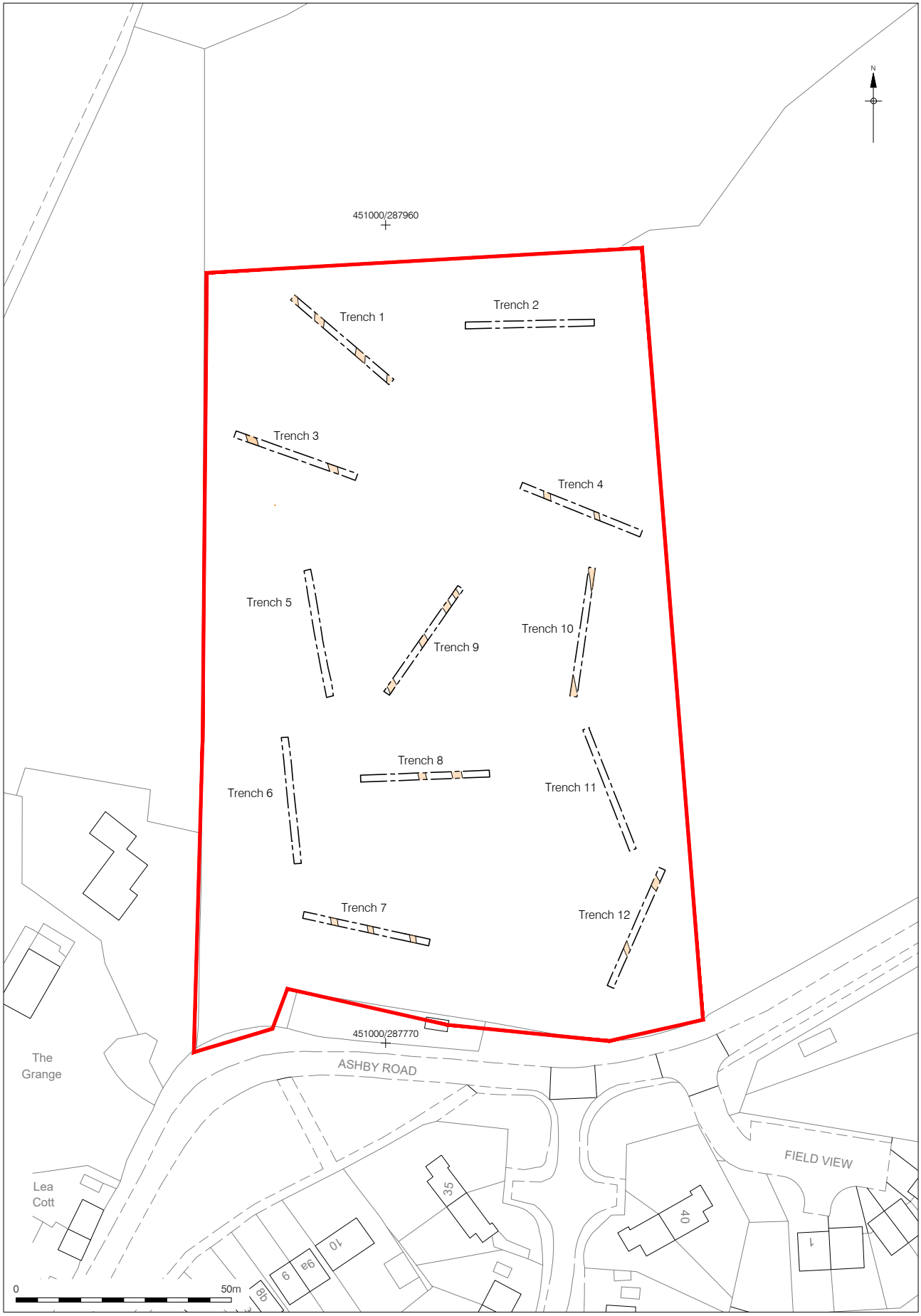

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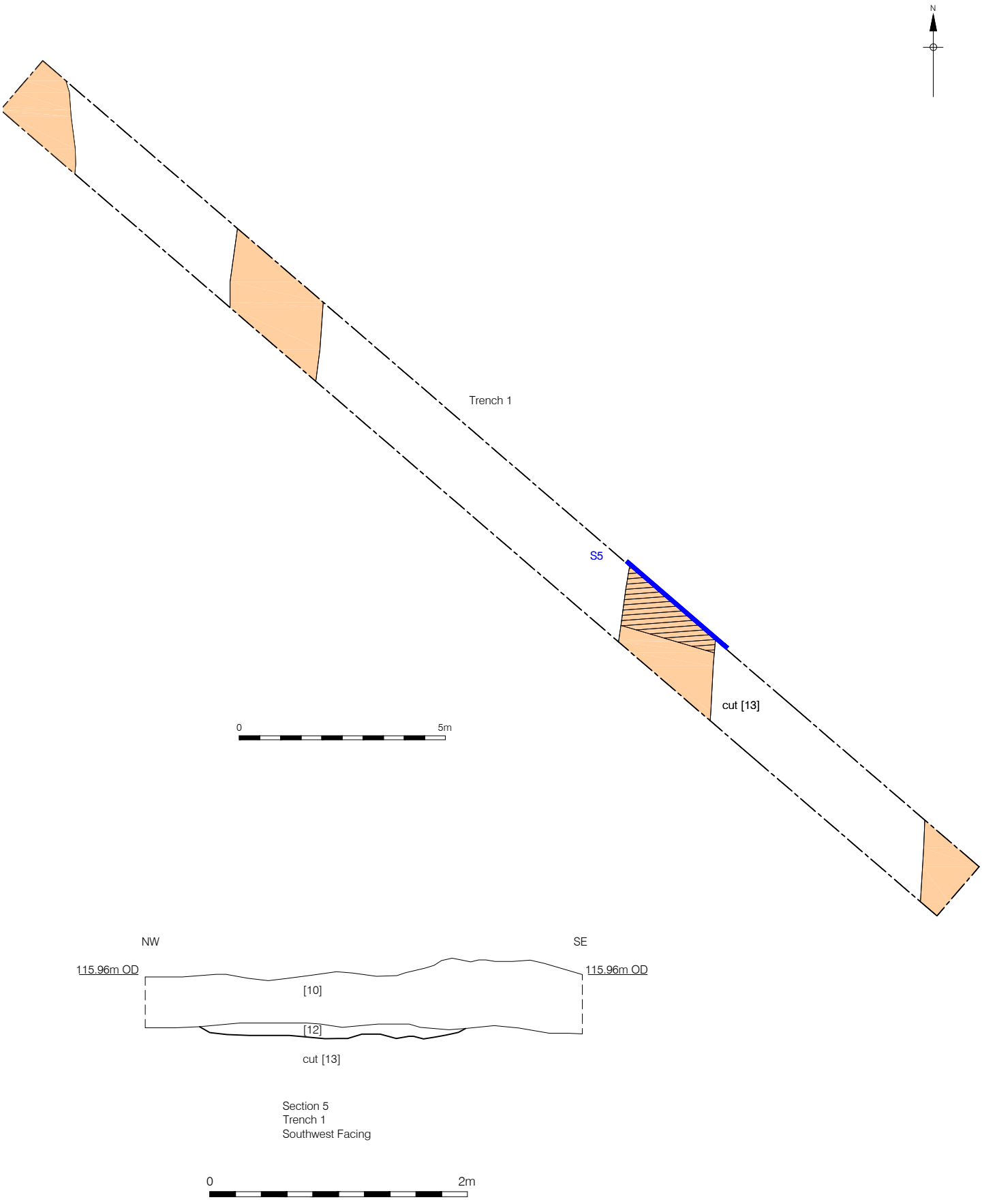
Figure 2
Trench Location Plan
1:1,250 at A4



Section 5
Trench 1
Southwest Facing

0 2m

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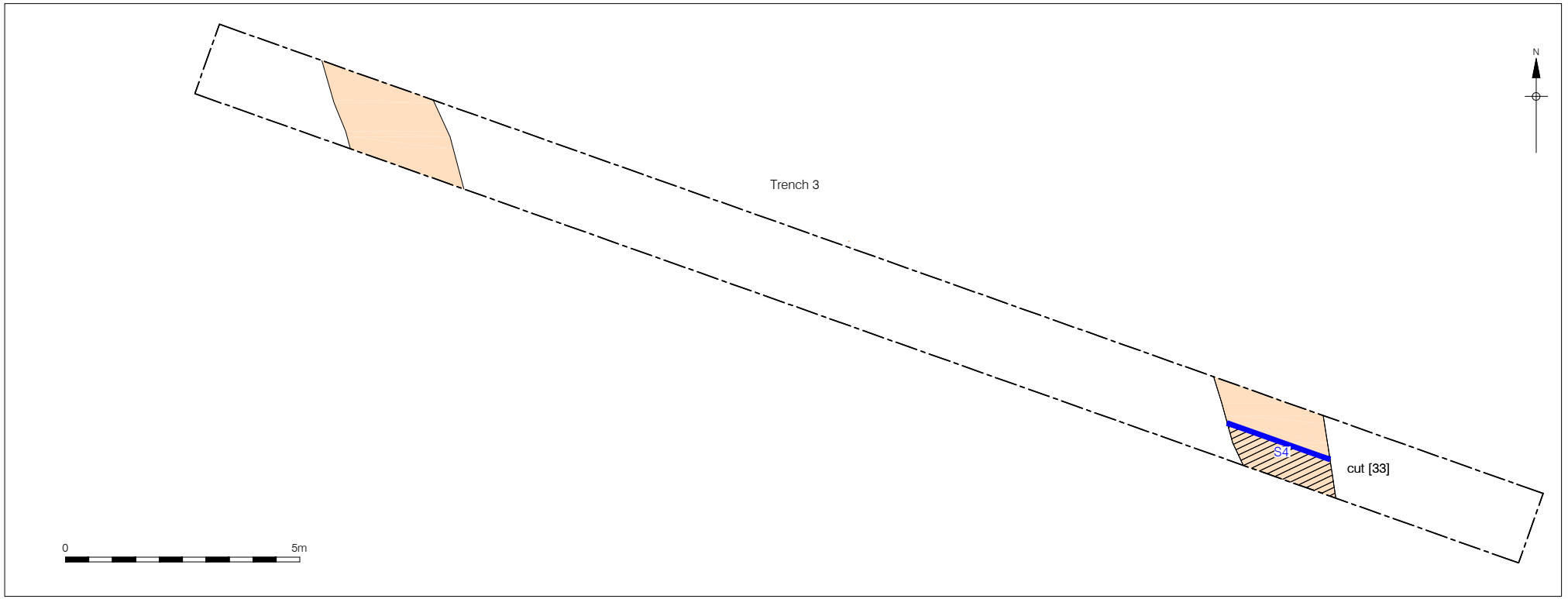
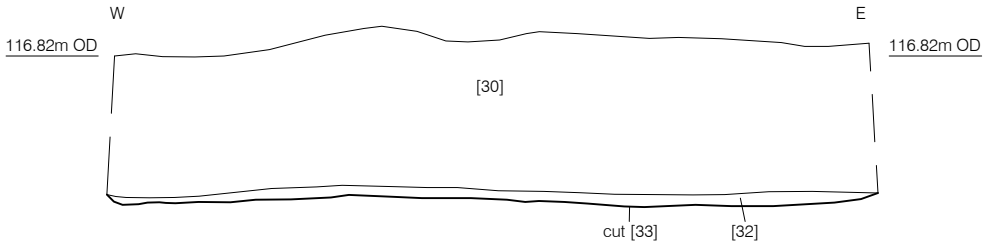
Figure 3
Plan and Section of Trench 1
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4





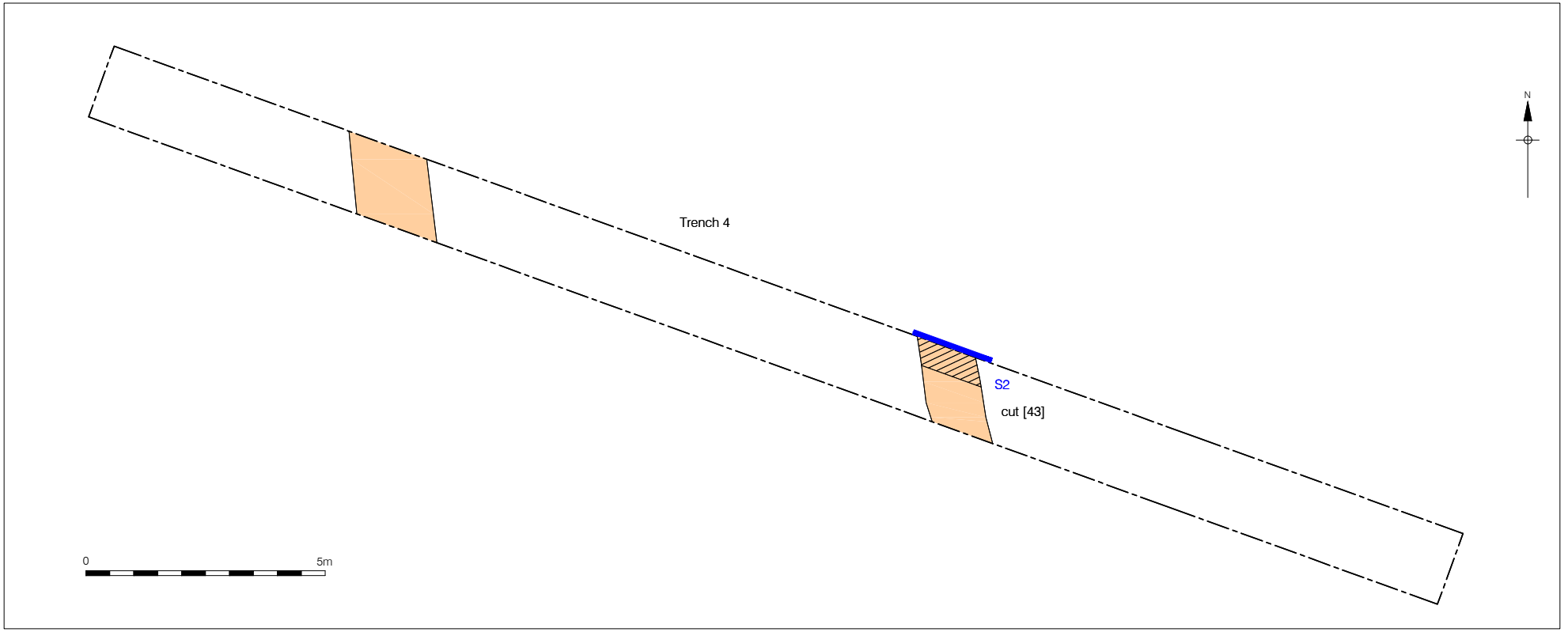
Section 4
South facing
Trench 3

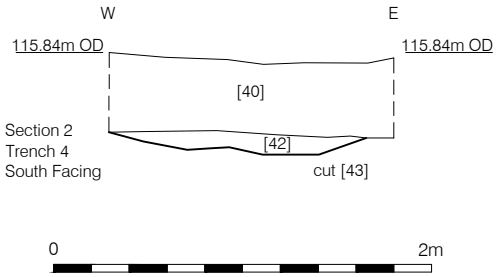
0 1m

Archaeological feature:
unexcavated/ excavated

06/10/17 RM

Figure 4
Plan and Section of Trench 3
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4





Archaeological feature:
unexcavated/ excavated

06/10/17 RM

Figure 5
Plan and Section of Trench 4
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

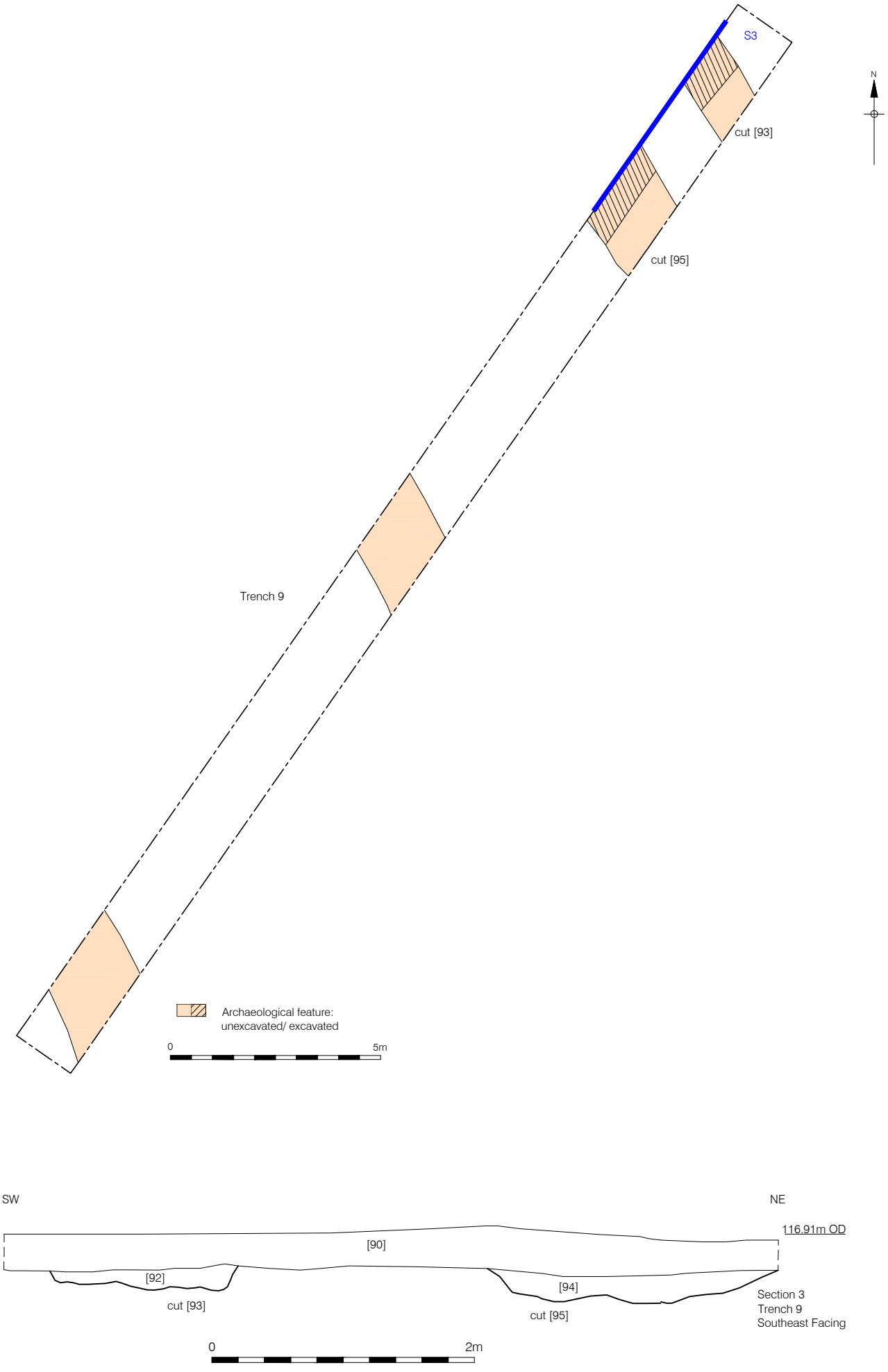


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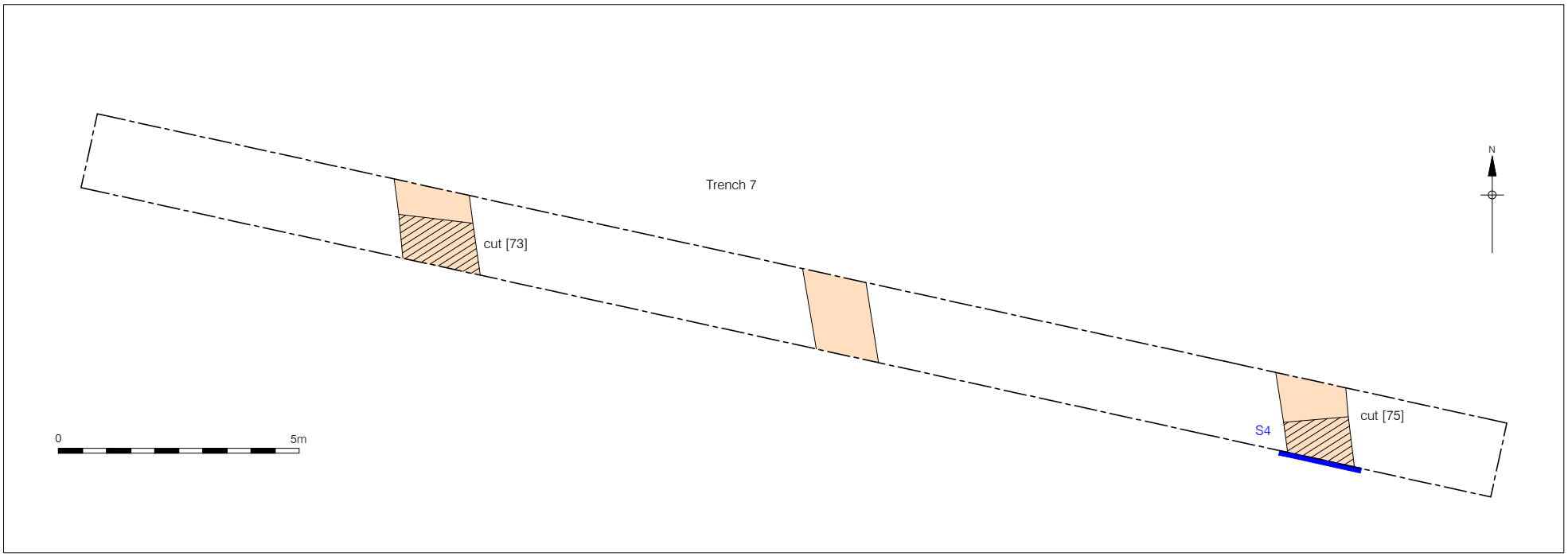
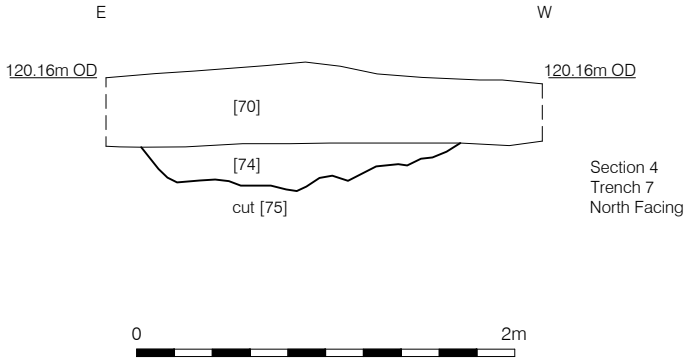
Figure 6
Plan and Section of Trench 9
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

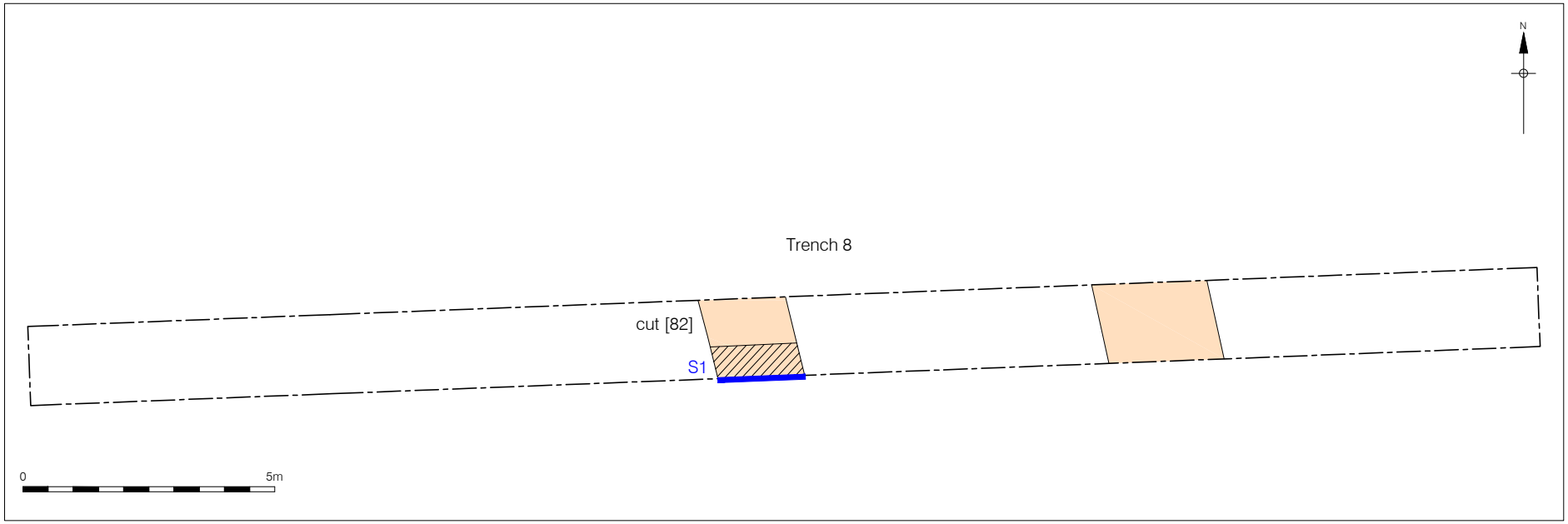


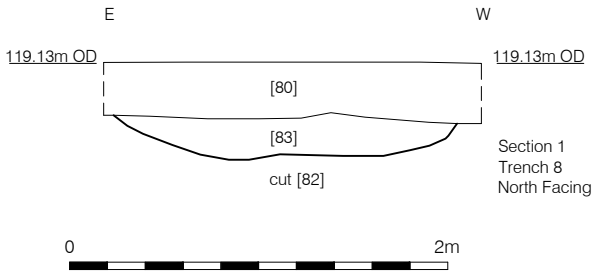


Archaeological feature:
unexcavated/ excavated

06/10/17 RM

Figure 7
Plan and Section of Trench 7
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

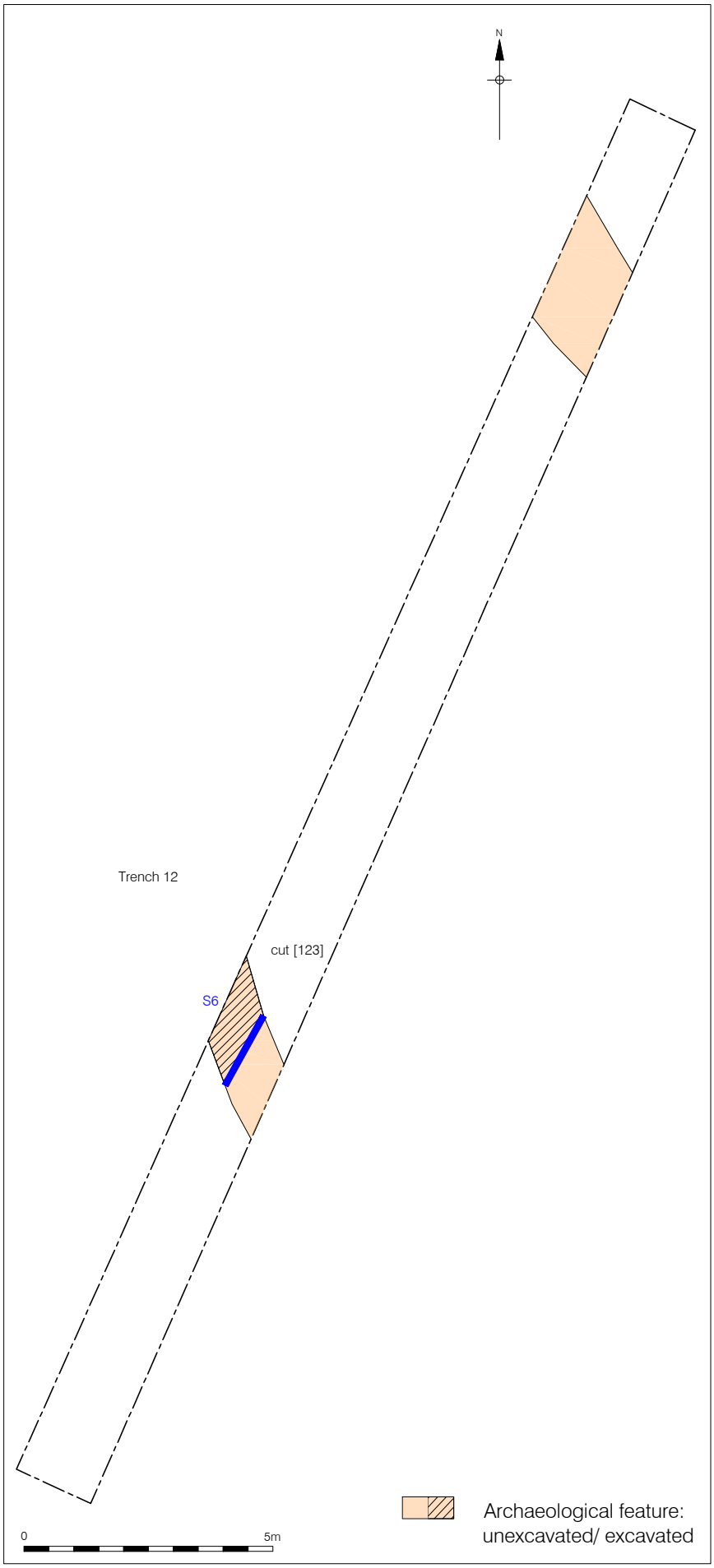


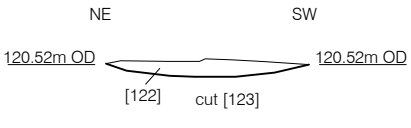


Archaeological feature:
unexcavated/ excavated

06/10/17 RM

Figure 8
Plan and Section of Trench 8
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4





Section 6
Trench 12
Northwest Facing

06/10/17 RM

Figure 9
Plan and Section of Trench 12
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

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.

Trench	Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	Above	Below
			Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
1	10	Layer	Mid brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-angular and angular stones	Topsoil	0.39m deep	12	-
	11	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium sub-angular stones	Natural	-	-	13
	12	Fill	Mid-brownish grey	Firm silty sand/clay	Infrequent small-medium rounded stones	Fill of 13	0.09m deep	13	10
	13	Cut	Linear cut, approximately southwest-northeast alignment with concave sides and flat irregular base			Furrow	>1.75m x 2.18m x 0.09m deep	11	12
2	20	Layer	Brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.34m deep	21	-

	21	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded stones	Subsoil	0.26m deep	22	20
	22	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium sub-angular stones	Natural	-	-	21
3	30	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.39m deep	32	-
	31	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium stones	Natural	-	-	32
	32	Fill	Dark brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small rounded stones; infrequent charcoal flecks	Fill of 33	<0.01m deep	33	30
	33	Cut	Linear cut, approximately north-south alignment with imperceptible sides and flat base			Furrow	>1.5m x 2.55m x <0.01m deep	31	32
4	40	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.42m deep	42 & 41	-
	41	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium stones	Natural	-	-	40 & 43
	42	Cut	Linear Cut, northwest-South east alignment with curved sides and flat base			Furrow	>1.5 x 2.36x 0.10m deep	43	41
	43	Fill	Dark Brown	Silty Sand	Infrequent small and sub-rounded stones and	Fill of 43	0.10m deep	40	43

					charcoal				
5	50	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.30m deep	51	-
	51	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium stones	Natural	-	-	50
6	60	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.26m deep	61	-
	61	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium stones	Natural	-	-	60
7	70	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.26m deep	71,72 & 74	-
	71	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium stones	Natural	-	-	70, 73 & 75
	72	Fill	Mid greyish brown	Firm Silty Clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	Fill of 73	0.09m	73	70
	73	Cut	Linear Cut, northwest-South east alignment with concave sides and flat base			Furrow	>1.5m x 1.5 x 0.09m deep	71	72

	74	Fill	Mid Greyish Brown	Firm Silty Clay	Infrequent medium rounded and sub-rounded stones	Fill of 75	0.18m deep	75	70
	75	Cut	Linear Cut, northwest-South east alignment with concave sides and flat irregular base			Furrow	>1.5m x 1.72m x 0.18m deep	71	74
8	80	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.35m deep	81	-
	81	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium sub angled stones	Natural	-	-	80
	82	Cut	Linear Cut, north-south alignment with concave shallow sides and concave base			Furrow	>1.5m x 1.9m x 0.23m deep	81	83
	83	Fill	Dark orange brown	Firm Sandy Clay	Regular rounded and sub rounded pebbles. Occasional fragments of coal and charcoal flecks	Fill of 82	0.23m deep	80	82
9	90	Layer	Dark-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.35m deep	91, 92 & 94	-
	91	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium sub angled stones	Natural	-	-	90, 93 & 95
	92	Fill	Mid Greyish brown	Silty clay	Infrequent small rounded stones and fragments of coal	Fill of 93	0.21m deep	93	90

	93	Cut	Linear aligned northwest –southeast. Shallow concave side with a irregular base.			Furrow	>1.5m x 1.44m x 0.21m deep	91	92
	94	Fill	Mid Greyish brown	Silty clay	Infrequent small rounded stones and fragments of coal	Fill of 95	0.22m deep	95	90
	95	Cut	Linear aligned northwest –southeast. Shallow concave side with a irregular base.			Furrow	>1.5m x 2.18m x 0.22m deep	91	94
10	100	Layer	Dark-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded stones	Topsoil	0.35m deep	101	-
	101	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium stones	Natural	-	-	100
11	110	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.26m deep	111	-
	111	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium sub angled stones	Natural	-	-	110
	120	Layer	Mid-brown	Firm silty clay	Infrequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	Topsoil	0.26m deep	121 &122	-
	121	Layer	Mid-brownish orange	Clay	Infrequent small-medium sub angled stones	Natural	-	-	120

	122	Fill	Mid / dark orange brown	Silty Clay	Infrequent small-sub rounded stones	Fill of 123	0.07m	123	121
	123	Cut	Linear aligned northwest –southeast concave shallow sides flat base			Furrow	>1.5m x 1.16m x 0.07m deep	121	122

Appendix 2: Site Photographs

Plate 1: Northwest facing view of Trench 1.

Plate 2: East facing view of Trench 7.

Plate 3: West facing view of Trench 8.

Plate 4: Southwest facing view of Trench 9.

Plate 5: North facing view of furrow [75].

Plate 6: Southeast facing view of furrows [93] & [95].

Plate 7: East facing view of furrows [124]

Appendix 3: Report on the Ceramic Material

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 14 sherds with a total weight of 85g. It is all medieval or later, was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

EA: Post-medieval Red Earthenware, mid 16th century. 1 sherd, 7g.

EA3: Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware, 1680-1750. 1 sherd, 19g.

EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares, late 17th century +. 4 sherds, 31g.

EA10: Modern Earthenwares, 1800+. 5 sherds, 20g.

PM: Potter's Marston Ware, 1100-1300. 3 sherds, 8g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region. The assemblage is mostly in fairly good condition, and appears reliably stratified.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	PM		EA		EA3		EA6		EA10		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
30									1	4	MOD
42			1	7							M16thC
60									1	9	MOD
74							2	13			18thC
94					1	19	2	18	2	2	MOD
110									1	5	U/S
122	3	8									12thC
Total	3	8	1	7	1	19	4	31	5	20	

A single fairly large fragment of flat roof-tile (weight = 107g) occurred in context 42. It is unglazed, and in an orange sandy, iron-rich fabric. It is 13mm thick, and 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: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-297702

Project details

Project name	Land to the north of Ashby Road
Short description of the project	The archaeological evaluation identified a limited sequence of archaeology with only a series of furrows being observed. Two orientations of furrows were recorded and suggest different phases of ploughing. Small fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from one of the furrows suggesting the agricultural activities they represent were in progress at that time. Late post-medieval and early modern material was also recovered from some of the other furrows suggesting the later phase of ploughing was of this date.
Project dates	Start: 29-09-2017 End: 06-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ARUL17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	FURROW Medieval
Monument type	FURROW Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH ULLESTHORPE Ashby Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 5101 8787 52.485992035099 -1.248721669182 52 29 09 N 001 14 55 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Richard Clarke
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Kathryn Brook

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service

Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Ashby Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire: Report on an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Taylor, G. and Brook, K.
Other bibliographic details	R13034
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Entered by	Kathryn Brook (kbrook@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	6 October 2017

P C A

PCA CAMBRIDGE
THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM
UNIT 19A, TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
TURSDALE
DURHAM DH6 5PG
t: 0191 377 1111
e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON
UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925
e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK
OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370410
e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH
QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01223 845522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK
UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485490
e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER
5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549
e: winchester@pre-construct.com