

**SALTBOX, SHRIPNEY ROAD,
BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX**

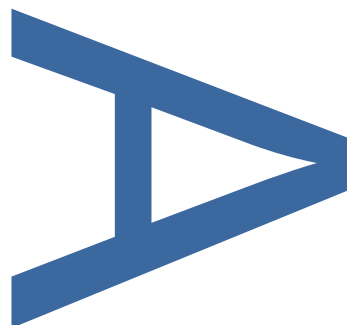
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PCA REPORT NO: 13517

SITE CODE: SAB18

JANUARY 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**SALTBOX, SHRIPNEY ROAD, BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

Site Code: SAB18
Central NGR: SU 93805 01638

Local Planning Authority: Arun District Council
Planning Reference: BE/102/17/OUT

Commissioning Agent: Terence O'Rourke Ltd
Client: Langmead Development

Written/Researched by: Dominic McAtominey, PCA Winchester
Project Manager: Paul McCulloch, PCA Winchester

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Winchester)
5 Red Deer Court
Elm Road
Winchester
Hampshire SO22 5LX

Tel: 01962 857330
E-mail: pmcculloch@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com

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January 2019

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: Saltbox Site, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Type of project: Evaluation

Report: R13517

| Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code: K5837 | | |
|---|---------------|------------|
| | Name & Title | Date |
| Text Prepared by: | D. McAtominey | 10/01/2019 |
| Graphics Prepared by: | D. Valk | 19/12/2018 |
| Graphics Checked by: | M. Roughley | 19/12/2018 |
| Project Manager Sign-off: | P. McCulloch | 16/01/2019 |

| Revision No. | Date | Checked | Approved |
|--------------|------|---------|----------|
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1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Terence O'Rourke Ltd on behalf of Langmead Development to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Saltbox Site, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. The Site is the subject of a hybrid development for commercial and leisure uses for which planning permission has been sought from Arun District Council (Ref: BE/102/17/OUT).

The evaluation has formed part of a staged approach to understanding the archaeological implications of the proposed development. The evaluation was completed as planned in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation between November 15th and December 5th 2018.

The evaluation revealed that the Site retains very little archaeological potential. A small number of linear ditches and discrete features of possible Iron Age and Romano British date were identified and investigated but no clear evidence of significant previous land use was recorded. The Site would appear likely to have remained marginal land for considerable periods in the past.

Geoarchaeological test pitting formed part of the investigation and was carried out in order to assess the Palaeolithic potential of the Pleistocene deposits present at the site. No Palaeolithic artefactual material or environmental indicators were identified and in consequence no further geo-archaeological investigation work is recommended.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Terence O'Rourke Ltd on behalf of Langmead Developments. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Saltbox Site, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site' (centred at NGR SU 93805 01638). The Site is the subject of a hybrid development for commercial and leisure uses for which planning permission has been sought from Arun District Council (Ref: BE/102/17/OUT).

2.1.2 The evaluation has formed part of a staged approach to understanding the archaeological implications of the proposed development of the site and was informed by a heritage statement (Terence O'Rourke 2017). It was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2018) approved by James Kenny, Chichester District Council, advisor to Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority.

2.1.3 This evaluation report provides the results of the evaluation, which comprised forty-one 30m X 2m, five 50m X 2m trial trenches and fifteen geoarchaeological test pits. This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site, an area of approximately 11ha, is located south of Shripney, West Sussex. It is bounded by farmland to the north, a caravan park and field to the south, the A29 Shripney Road to the east and the course of the Aldingbourne Rife to the west. The Site is presently a flat arable field and lies at 3m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2.2.2 The Site area is located on bedrock geology of White Chalk overlain with Brickearth (BGS 2018). Localised deposits of alluvium may be anticipated within the former channel of the Aldingbourne Rife to the immediate west of the Site, and these may extend into the Site itself.

2.3 Archaeological Background

2.3.1 The site area lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) as designated by West Sussex County Council HER in 2013 as being a 'very sensitive area for archaeology'. The designation extends beyond the site to North Bersted in the west and to include Oldlands Farm to the east and was drawn up to account for a multi-period archaeological zone including Mesolithic flint working and possible occupation; Neolithic pottery; a Bronze Age Beaker settlement dating to the Early Bronze Age; a Middle Bronze Age cremation with other contemporary burnt mounds; settlement evidence from Late Bronze Age to Roman- British periods, including an Iron Age warrior grave and World War Two features including pillboxes, a gun emplacement and a tank trap (Terence O' Rourke 2017).

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological/geoarchaeological remains and deposits within the site.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- To enable the Archaeological Advisor to Arun District Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site.

3.1.2 The site-specific aims were:

- To understand the spatial and vertical distribution of Quaternary sediments across the site.
- To characterise these sediments in terms of age, depositional environment, and palaeoenvironmental potential.
- To establish the presence or potential for human activity or environmental impact within the sediments.
- To establish whether alluvial deposits associated with the Aldingbourne Rife extend into the site.
- To establish whether archaeological remains associated with the multi- period site to the east at Oldlands Farm extend into the site.

3.1.3 This report on the results of the evaluation aims to provide a context for archaeological remains that were identified and provide sufficient information so that the future treatment of the remains, in respect of the proposed development, can be determined in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority. Additionally, the report is intended to provide sufficient information leading to the satisfactory discharge of the archaeological planning conditions attached to outline consent for the proposed development.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the evaluation results based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, trench recording sheets, drawings and digital photographs. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in a Trench Index in **Appendix 1** and photographs of the trenches in **Appendix 2** and specialist reports in **Appendices 3-8**. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **SAB18** and will in due course be deposited with The Novium, Chichester.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2018), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the commencement of works and on the advice of their archaeological advisor James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council.

4.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of forty-one trenches measuring 30m x 2m, five measuring 50m X 2m (**Plate 1**) and fifteen geoarchaeological test pits (**Plate 2**). The array of trenches was intended to provide a reasonable sample of the Site in order to establish its archaeological potential (**Figure 2**). All proposed trenches were opened and investigated between the 15th November and 5th December 2018.

4.2.3 Geoarchaeological test pits were machine excavated at the ends of trenches 1, 3, 7, 9, 19, 20, 22, 24, 33, 34, 36, 40 and 43 (**Appendix 8**). Because of groundwater, test pits were excavated adjacent to, rather than at the ends of, trenches 38 and 46.

4.3 Summary of Deposition Sequence

4.3.1 A similar deposition sequence was seen across the site with a topsoil depth of between 0.17m and 0.46m overlying a mid orange brown brick earth (**Figure 3, Plates 3**).

4.4 Archaeological Features

4.4.1 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13 – 17, 19 – 28, 30, 31, 33 – 45 were found to contain no archaeological features. Trenches 32 and 46 were observed to contain possible archaeological linear features but these trenches flooded very quickly, and the features could not be investigated. Ground conditions on Site made it impractical to attempt to relocate these trenches.

4.4.2 Trench 3 contained two north – south linear features (**Figure 4**). [304] (**Plate 4**) was a linear with gentle concave sides and a slightly concave base; the feature measured >2m in length, 1.10m in width and 0.53m in depth. This feature contained a single fill (305) of dark orange grey sandy clay material with occasional medium sized flint and burnt flint.

- 4.4.3 [306] (**Figure 4, Plate 5**) was a linear feature with moderately steep concave sides with a flat base, the feature measured >2m in length, 2.39m in width and 0.63m in depth. This feature contained fill (307) a mid brownish grey silty clay with common small to large flint inclusions, pottery and struck flint were recovered from this fill. (307) was overlain by (313) a dark brownish orange sandy clay with common small to large flint inclusions. (313) comprised redeposited natural, covering linear [306]. Two possible post/stake holes were cut into [306]. [308] was a small circular post/stake hole with vertical sides and a flat base on the western edge of [306] measuring 0.16m in diameter and 0.28m in depth. [310] was a smaller circular feature in the base of [306] with vertical sides, the base was not identified. [310] measured 0.06m in diameter and was excavated to a depth of 0.10m. [308] contained a single fill (309), [310] contained a single fill (311). These fills consisted of the same material as the single fill (307) of [306] and are therefore regarded as the same as (307); no finds were recovered from the post/stake holes.
- 4.4.4 Trench 4 contained a single east-west linear feature [404] (**Figure 5, Plate 6**). This feature had a straight, steep northern side and a shallower steep southern side, with a concave base measuring >2m in length, 1.95m in width and 0.74m in depth. This feature contained two fills, lower fill (406) was a mid brownish grey silty clay with common small to large flint inclusions. Upper fill (405) was a mid greyish brown silty clay with common small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from either context.
- 4.4.5 Trench 7 contained [704] (**Figure 6, Plate 7**), a small circular feature with steep straight sides and a concave base. The feature measured 0.56m in diameter and 0.30m in depth, it contained single fill (705) a mid brownish grey sandy clay material with occasional charcoal flecks which contained burnt flint finds.
- 4.4.6 Trench 10 contained [1003] (**Figure 7, Plate 8**) a small sub-circular feature with steep concave sides and a flat base. The feature measured 0.76m in length, 0.69m in width and 0.12m in depth, it contained a single fill (1004) a dark greyish black sandy clay material with occasional flint inclusions. (1004) contained pottery and burnt flint finds.
- 4.4.7 Trench 12 contained a large irregular feature [1203] (**Figure 8, Plate 9**). This feature was an irregular shape with gentle concave sides and a mostly flat base. [1203] measured >6m in length, 8.7m in width and 1.52m in depth and contained three distinct fills. Lower primary fill (1206) was a dark orange grey sandy clay material with frequent medium to large flint inclusions which contained pottery and non – local stone finds. The secondary fill (1205) was a light brownish grey mottled with mid brownish orange sandy clay with sparse charcoal inclusions which contained pottery of Late Prehistoric and Romano British date and burnt flint. The Upper fill/capping material (1204) was a mid brownish orange sandy clay with sparse small flint inclusions; no finds were observed.

- 4.4.8 Also observed in trench 12 was [1207] (**Figure 8**), which was only seen in section. This feature was thought to be a section of linear ditch with steeply sloped sides, the base was not excavated. The feature measured >2m in length and 1.3m in width. It contained two fills; lower fill (1209) was a light grey light brownish grey mottled with mid brownish orange sandy clay with sparse charcoal inclusions, no finds were observed in this fill. The upper fill (1208) was a mid brownish orange sandy clay material with sparse small flint inclusions, this context was considered to be the same as (1204) in 1203.
- 4.4.9 Trench 18 contained a north west – south east aligned linear feature [1804] (**Figure 9, Plate 10**). This feature had steep straight sides and a flat base. The feature measured >2m in length, 1.80m in width and 1.01m in depth. It contained two fills, lower fill (1805) was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and common small to large flint inclusions which contained pottery, burnt flint and struck flint finds. Upper fill (1806) was a mid orange brown silty clay material with sparse charcoal and common small to large flint inclusions, no finds were recovered from this context.
- 4.4.10 Trench 29 contained a north west – south east aligned linear feature [2903] (**Figure 10, Plate 11**). This feature had moderately steep straight sides and a flat base. The feature measured >2m in length, 1.50m in width and 0.58m in depth. This feature contained a single fill (2904) a mid orange brown silty clay material which contained occasional charcoal, and common small to large flint inclusions. Late prehistoric pottery and burnt flint were recovered from this context.
- 4.5 Conclusion**
- 4.5.1 The linear features in trench 3 have been interpreted as drainage ditches. [304] was not datable through finds material but the small amount of burnt flint could suggest it was pre-historic in origin. [306] can be provisionally dated as Romano British based on the small amount of pottery recovered from fill (307).
- 4.5.2 Linear feature [404] in trench 4 has been interpreted as a drainage ditch or possible field boundary; no finds were recovered from this feature. Feature [704] in trench 7 has been interpreted as a small pit, possibly a refuse pit; the only finds from this feature were burnt flint and burnt clay, suggesting a pre-historic date.
- 4.5.3 Feature [1003] in trench 10 has been interpreted as a small refuse pit, pottery from fill (1004) suggests an Iron Age date. Linear feature [1804] in trench 18 and [2903] in trench 29 have been interpreted as boundary or drainage ditches, pottery finds were found to be Roman in date.
- 4.5.4 Upon initial investigation [1203] in trench 12 was considered to be a ditch or large pit, however due to its irregularity and the poor drainage on the Site it is considered to be a natural feature with water lain fills. This feature contained pottery of Romano British date and a nail of 17th – 19th century; it is thought that these finds were water borne rather than purposefully deposited. [1207] has been interpreted as deep periglacial scarring or a possible paleochannel.

- 4.5.5 In conclusion, the Site was found to contain sparsely distributed archaeological features. The linear ditches do not appear to represent a pattern suggestive of settlement or enclosure and the relative lack of discrete features limits any further interpretation of the Site. The ditches found across the Site may represent attempts to manage drainage. Though some features provided datable finds material, the assemblage was very small and contained few diagnostic pieces.
- 4.5.6 The aims of the evaluation were largely met and the limited archaeological evidence that was found appears to demonstrate that the Site was not extensively exploited and may have remained marginal land for extensive periods.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION

5.1 The Site Archive

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

5.2 Copyright

- 5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The Novium however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 5.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes The Chichester District Historic Environmental Record).
- 5.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Terence O'Rourke Ltd for commissioning the evaluation on behalf of Langmead Developments and to James Kenny, Chichester District Council, for his advice.

The evaluation was supervised by Dominic McAtominey, assisted by Bartlomiej Grden, James Bannister and Holly McLellan. Plant was provided by Ready Power and operated by Cameron Hardie. This report was prepared by Dominic McAtominey with Illustrations prepared by Diana Valk. The project was managed for PCA by Paul McCulloch.

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Appendix 1: Trench Index

| Site Code | Context Number | Trench | Type | Interpretation | Depth (m) BGL |
|-----------|----------------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| SAB18 | 101 | 1 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.42 |
| SAB18 | 102 | 1 | Layer | Natural | 0.42 + |
| SAB18 | 103 | 1 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.42 + |
| SAB18 | 104 | 1 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.42 + |
| SAB18 | 201 | 2 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.32 |
| SAB18 | 202 | 2 | Layer | Natural | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 301 | 3 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.26 |
| SAB18 | 302 | 3 | Layer | Natural | 0.26 - 0.46 |
| SAB18 | 303 | 3 | Layer | Natural | 0.46 + |
| SAB18 | 304 | 3 | Cut | Boundary/drainage ditch | 0.26 - 0.79 |
| SAB18 | 305 | 3 | Fill | Fill of ditch 304 | 0.26 - 0.79 |
| SAB18 | 306 | 3 | Cut | Possible boundary ditch | 0.42 - 0.89 |
| SAB18 | 307 | 3 | Fill | Fill of ditch 306 | 0.42 - 0.89 |
| SAB18 | 308 | 3 | Cut | Possible Post Hole in side of 306 | 0.89 - 1.17 |
| SAB18 | 309 | 3 | Fill | Fill of post hole 308 | 0.89 - 1.17 |
| SAB18 | 310 | 3 | Cut | Possible Stake Hole in base of 306 | 0.89 - 0.99 |
| SAB18 | 311 | 3 | Fill | Fill of Stake hole 310 | 0.89 - 0.99 |
| SAB18 | 312 | 3 | Layer | Chalk below 302, 303 | 0.89 + |
| SAB18 | 313 | 3 | Fill | Redeposited natural in linear 306 | 0.26 - 0.42 |
| SAB18 | 314 | 3 | Layer | Flinty Brick Earth | 0.46 + |
| SAB18 | 315 | 3 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.46 + |
| SAB18 | 401 | 4 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.45 |
| SAB18 | 402 | 4 | Layer | Natural | 0.45 + |
| SAB18 | 403 | 4 | Layer | Natural | 0.99 + |
| SAB18 | 404 | 4 | Cut | Possible drainage ditch | 0.33 - 0.99 |
| SAB18 | 405 | 4 | Fill | Upper fill of ditch 404 | 0.33 - 0.75 |
| SAB18 | 406 | 4 | Fill | Lower fill of ditch 404 | 0.75 - 0.99 |
| SAB18 | 501 | 5 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.17 |
| SAB18 | 502 | 5 | Layer | Sub soil | 0.17 - 0.31 |
| SAB18 | 503 | 5 | Layer | Natural | 0.31 + |
| SAB18 | 601 | 6 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.32 |
| SAB18 | 602 | 6 | Layer | Natural | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 701 | 7 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.27 |
| SAB18 | 702 | 7 | Layer | Sub soil | 0.27 - 0.45 |
| SAB18 | 703 | 7 | Layer | Natural | 0.45 + |
| SAB18 | 704 | 7 | Cut | Small pit, refuse? | 0.45 - 0.75 |
| SAB18 | 705 | 7 | Fill | Fill of pit 704 | 0.45 - 0.75 |

| Site Code | Context Number | Trench | Type | Interpretation | Depth (m) BGL |
|-----------|----------------|--------|-------|--|---------------|
| SAB18 | 706 | 7 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.45 + |
| SAB18 | 707 | 7 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.45 + |
| SAB18 | 801 | 8 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 802 | 8 | Layer | Natural | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 901 | 9 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.30 |
| SAB18 | 902 | 9 | Layer | Natural | 0.30 - 0.39 |
| SAB18 | 903 | 9 | Layer | Natural | 0.39 + |
| SAB18 | 904 | 9 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.39 + |
| SAB18 | 905 | 9 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.39 + |
| SAB18 | 1001 | 10 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.23 |
| SAB18 | 1002 | 10 | Layer | Natural | 0.23 + |
| SAB18 | 1003 | 10 | Cut | Cut of small burning/refuse pit | 0.23 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 1004 | 10 | Fill | Single fill of pit 1003 | 0.23 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 1101 | 11 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.30 |
| SAB18 | 1102 | 11 | Layer | Natural | 0.30 + |
| SAB18 | 1201 | 12 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.46 |
| SAB18 | 1202 | 12 | Layer | Natural | 0.46 + |
| SAB18 | 1203 | 12 | Cut | Possible pit, water related feature, pond? | 0.18 - 1.70 |
| SAB18 | 1204 | 12 | Layer | Redeposited natural capping linear 1203 | 0.18 - 0.94 |
| SAB18 | 1205 | 12 | Fill | Clay back fill of 1203, waterborne deposit? | 0.94 - 1.68 |
| SAB18 | 1206 | 12 | Fill | Silting/slumping in feature 1203 | 1.38 - 1.68 |
| SAB18 | 1207 | 12 | Cut | Possible linear ditch or peri glacial scarring | 0.18 - 0.58 |
| SAB18 | 1208 | 12 | Layer | Redeposited natural capping linear 1207 | 0.18 - 0.94 |
| SAB18 | 1209 | 12 | Fill | Clay fill of 1207 | 0.94 - 1.34 |
| SAB18 | 1301 | 13 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.28 |
| SAB18 | 1302 | 13 | Layer | Natural | 0.28 + |
| SAB18 | 1401 | 14 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.22 |
| SAB18 | 1402 | 14 | Layer | Natural | 0.22 + |
| SAB18 | 1501 | 15 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.29 |
| SAB18 | 1502 | 15 | Layer | Natural | 0.29 + |
| SAB18 | 1601 | 16 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.32 |
| SAB18 | 1602 | 16 | Layer | Natural | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 1701 | 17 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 1702 | 17 | Layer | Natural | 0.35 + |

| Site Code | Context Number | Trench | Type | Interpretation | Depth (m) BGL |
|-----------|----------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| SAB18 | 1801 | 18 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.32 |
| SAB18 | 1802 | 18 | Layer | Natural | 0.32 - 0.55 |
| SAB18 | 1803 | 18 | Layer | Natural | 0.55 + |
| SAB18 | 1804 | 18 | Cut | Ditch - drainage | 0.32 - 1.33 |
| SAB18 | 1805 | 18 | Fill | Lower fill of ditch 1804 | 0.32 - 0.92 |
| SAB18 | 1806 | 18 | Fill | Upper fill of ditch 1804, silting | 0.92 - 1.33 |
| SAB18 | 1901 | 19 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 1902 | 19 | Layer | Natural | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 1903 | 19 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 1904 | 19 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 2001 | 20 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.34 |
| SAB18 | 2002 | 20 | Layer | Natural | 0.34 + |
| SAB18 | 2003 | 20 | Layer | Chalky Brick Earth | 0.34 + |
| SAB18 | 2004 | 20 | Layer | Flint rubble | 0.34 + |
| SAB18 | 2005 | 20 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.34 + |
| SAB18 | 2006 | 20 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.34 + |
| SAB18 | 2101 | 21 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.30 |
| SAB18 | 2102 | 21 | Layer | Natural | 0.30 + |
| SAB18 | 2201 | 22 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.26 |
| SAB18 | 2202 | 22 | Layer | Natural | 0.26 + |
| SAB18 | 2203 | 22 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.26 + |
| SAB18 | 2301 | 23 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.32 |
| SAB18 | 2302 | 23 | Layer | Natural | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 2401 | 24 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 2402 | 24 | Layer | Natural | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 2403 | 24 | Layer | Chalky Brick Earth | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 2404 | 24 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 2501 | 25 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 2502 | 25 | Layer | Natural | 0.35 + |
| SAB18 | 2601 | 26 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.37 |
| SAB18 | 2602 | 26 | Layer | Natural | 0.37 + |
| SAB18 | 2701 | 27 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.33 |
| SAB18 | 2702 | 27 | Layer | Natural | 0.33 + |
| SAB18 | 2801 | 28 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.34 |
| SAB18 | 2802 | 28 | Layer | Natural | 0.34 + |
| SAB18 | 2901 | 29 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.38 |
| SAB18 | 2902 | 29 | Layer | Natural | 0.38 + |
| SAB18 | 2903 | 29 | Cut | Boundary/drainage ditch | 0.38 - 0.96 |
| SAB18 | 2904 | 29 | Fill | Fill of ditch 2903 | 0.38 - 0.96 |
| SAB18 | 3001 | 30 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.33 |
| SAB18 | 3002 | 30 | Layer | Natural | 0.33 + |

| Site Code | Context Number | Trench | Type | Interpretation | Depth (m) BGL |
|-----------|----------------|--------|-------|--------------------|----------------|
| SAB18 | 3101 | 31 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.34 |
| SAB18 | 3102 | 31 | Layer | Natural | 0.34 + |
| SAB18 | 3201 | 32 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | Flooded Trench |
| SAB18 | 3202 | 32 | Layer | Natural | Flooded Trench |
| SAB18 | 3301 | 33 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.32 |
| SAB18 | 3302 | 33 | Layer | Natural | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 3303 | 33 | Layer | Flinty Brick Earth | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 3304 | 33 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 3305 | 33 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.32 + |
| SAB18 | 3401 | 34 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.37 |
| SAB18 | 3402 | 34 | Layer | Natural | 0.37 + |
| SAB18 | 3403 | 34 | Layer | Chalky Brick Earth | 0.37 + |
| SAB18 | 3404 | 34 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.37 + |
| SAB18 | 3501 | 35 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.26 |
| SAB18 | 3502 | 35 | Layer | Natural | 0.26 + |
| SAB18 | 3601 | 36 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.33 |
| SAB18 | 3602 | 36 | Layer | Natural | 0.33 + |
| SAB18 | 3603 | 36 | Layer | Flinty Brick Earth | 0.33 + |
| SAB18 | 3604 | 36 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.33 + |
| SAB18 | 3605 | 36 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.33 + |
| SAB18 | 3701 | 37 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.26 |
| SAB18 | 3702 | 37 | Layer | Natural | 0.26 + |
| SAB18 | 3801 | 38 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.35 |
| SAB18 | 3802 | 38 | Layer | Natural | 0.35 - 1.00 |
| SAB18 | 3803 | 38 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 1.00 + |
| SAB18 | 3804 | 38 | Layer | Chalky paste | 1.00 + |
| SAB18 | 3901 | 39 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.31 |
| SAB18 | 3902 | 39 | Layer | Natural | 0.31 + |
| SAB18 | 4001 | 40 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.20 |
| SAB18 | 4002 | 40 | Layer | Natural | 0.20 + |
| SAB18 | 4003 | 40 | Layer | Flinty Brick Earth | 0.20 + |
| SAB18 | 4004 | 40 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.20 + |
| SAB18 | 4101 | 41 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.33 |
| SAB18 | 4102 | 41 | Layer | Natural | 0.33 + |
| SAB18 | 4201 | 42 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.30 |
| SAB18 | 4202 | 42 | Layer | Natural | 0.30 + |
| SAB18 | 4301 | 43 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.30 |
| SAB18 | 4302 | 43 | Layer | Natural | 0.30 + |
| SAB18 | 4303 | 43 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.30 + |
| SAB18 | 4304 | 43 | Layer | Chalky Brick Earth | 0.30 + |

| Site Code | Context Number | Trench | Type | Interpretation | Depth (m) BGL |
|-----------|----------------|--------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| SAB18 | 4305 | 43 | Layer | Chalky rubble | 0.30 + |
| SAB18 | 4306 | 43 | Layer | Chalky paste | 0.30 + |
| SAB18 | 4401 | 44 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.38 |
| SAB18 | 4402 | 44 | Layer | Natural | 0.38 + |
| SAB18 | 4501 | 45 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | 0 - 0.43 |
| SAB18 | 4502 | 45 | Layer | Natural | 0.43 + |
| SAB18 | 4601 | 46 | Layer | Turf and Topsoil | Flooded Trench |
| SAB18 | 4602 | 46 | Layer | Natural | Flooded Trench |
| SAB18 | 4603 | 46 | Layer | Chalky rubble | Flooded Trench |
| SAB18 | 4604 | 46 | Layer | Chalky paste | Flooded Trench |

Appendix 2: Photographs (Plates 1 - 11)



Plate 1. Trench 1 view to north, 1m scale



Plate 2. Test Pit in Trench 20 View to East, 2m scale



Plate 3. Representative Section Trench 45 View to west, 1m scale



Plate 4. Section of ditch [304] view to south, 1m scale



Plate 5. Section of ditch [306] view to north, 2m scale



Plate 6. Section of ditch [404] view to east, scale 1m



Plate 7. Section of pit [704] view to west, scale 0.3m



Plate 8. Section of pit [1003] view to east, scale 0.3m



Plate 9. Section of [1203] and [1207] view to north, 2m scale



Plate 10. Section of ditch [1804] view to west/northwest, scale 2m



Plate 11. Section of ditch [2903] view to northwest, scale 1m

Appendix 3: Specialist Report - Flint

Lithic Assessment

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

The archaeological excavations at the Saltbox site resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of struck flint. All of the pieces have been catalogued which includes details of their contextual origins, raw material and condition, and where possible a suggested date of manufacture (Appendix / Catalogue L01). This report summarises the information contained in the catalogue and assesses the assemblage's archaeological significance and its potential to contribute to the further understanding of the nature and chronology of activity at the site. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology established by Saville (1980).

Quantification

| Location | Decortication flake | Flake 1 | Blade: non- prismatic | Flake fragment >15mm | Retouched |
|----------|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Tr3 | | 1 | | | |
| Tr7 | | | | 1 | |
| Tr9 | | 1 | | | |
| Tr10 | | 2 | | | |
| Tr18 | | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Tr22 | | 1 | | | |
| Tr34 | 1 | | | | |

Table L01: Quantification of Struck flint by Evaluation Trench

A total of 17 pieces of struck flint were recovered during the investigations. They came from seven of the evaluation trenches and were present in low densities; the maximum number from any trench being the ten pieces recovered from Trench 18 (Table L01). Nine of the pieces were recovered from cut features and the remaining eight being recovered from near the surface of the natural brickearth.

Description

The struck flints are made from a fine-grained translucent black, dark grey or dark brown flint that has occasional lighter, opaque mottling. Cortex, which is present on all but one piece, is thin but rough and some thermal scar surfaces were also noted. It is likely that the raw materials were gathered from glacially affected deposits, such as are present underlying the site (see Palaeolithic Geo-archaeology report). The condition of the pieces varies; those from the features are mostly either chipped or burnt with the exception of the two pieces from pit [1004] which are in a good condition. The pieces from the brickearth sub-soils are in a generally better condition, suggesting that they had not been subjected to the same degrees of ploughing as those from the features.

No typologically diagnostic pieces are present but the technological attributes of the assemblage indicate that it was made over a long period. The presence of some blades, which whilst not prismatic are well produced, suggest activity at the site during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic, whilst many of the flakes are crudely produced and more reminiscent of the products of later Bronze Age or Iron Age industries. This includes the only retouched implement identified, a wide flake with light edge trimming recovered from ditch [1804].

Discussion

The assemblage is small and of mixed date. It indicates prehistoric activity at the site occurring over a long period, potentially from the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age, although its size suggests that this was low key and probably very sporadic. Most of the assemblage is likely to have been residually deposited. The only possible exception to this is the two flakes recovered from pit [1003] which are in a good condition and, although not refitting, appear to have been struck from the same core. They are not closely dateable but both are quite 'squat' (Martingell 1991; 2003), suggesting a later Bronze Age or Iron Age date.

Significance and Recommendations

The main significance of struck flint assemblage recovered during the investigations is that it demonstrates prehistoric activity at the site occurring over a long period. However, due to its size, lack of diagnostic pieces and the paucity of contextual associations its interpretative value is limited. It has been catalogued and no further metrical or technological analyses are warranted. As it demonstrates prehistoric activity at the site its presence should be included in the local HER and a brief mention made in any published accounts of the investigations.

Appendix 4: Specialist Report - Pottery and Burnt Clay

The prehistoric and Roman pottery, and burnt clay

By Eniko Hudak

The archaeological evaluation at Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex (SAB18) produced a small assemblage of pottery totalling 26 sherds weighing 114g, and a small amount of burnt clay totalling 16 fragments weighing 25g. The pottery was fully quantified using the standard measures of sherd count and weight. Estimated Vessel Equivalents were not recorded as there are no diagnostic fragments present in the assemblage. The assemblage was recorded using the Winchester fabric codes following the Winchester city excavations volumes (Biddulph and Booth 2011, Brown 2011).

Overall, a very restricted range of fabrics is represented in the Saltbox assemblage with prehistoric fragments being most common (Table 1). Only heavily fragmented body sherds were present in a variety of states ranging from fresh to heavily abraded, which is also reflected in the very low mean sherd weight of 4.4 g.

| Fabric | SC | Wt(g) |
|------------|----|-------|
| Burnt Clay | 16 | 25 |
| PHFabricB | 18 | 62 |
| SG | 1 | 3 |
| TSA | 1 | 4 |
| WC | 1 | 5 |
| WMN | 2 | 6 |
| ZM | 2 | 7 |
| ZMZ | 1 | 27 |
| TOTAL | 42 | 139 |

Table 1 – Quantification of the burnt clay and pottery per fabric

The prehistoric assemblage totals 18 fragments weighing 62g. All fragments could be assigned to a single broad fabric group based on the main inclusions according to the Winchester city groups (Brown 2011): Fabric B with predominantly flint temper, possibly of local origin. Sixteen fragments had abundant coarse flint tempering with fragments up to 5 mm in size, three are oxidized the rest reduced. Two fragments contained abundant medium sized flint particles not larger than 2 mm, both reduced. The absence of rim fragments makes the dating of this material is rather difficult, and a broad mid- to late-Iron Age date is suggested.

The Roman assemblage comprises a mere eight fragments weighing 52 g including a variety of coarse sandy grey and oxidized wares and a single fragment of grog-tempered ware with a broad Roman date (AD50-400) all possibly of fairly local origin, again with no diagnostic sherds present. There is a single fragment of South Gaulish Terra Sigillata dated to the mid-late 1st century AD, again, non-diagnostic and so heavily abraded that hardly any of its slip remains.

The pottery was recovered from six individually numbered contexts of Trenches 3, 10, 12, 18, and 29 (Table 1), and all fragments were stratified in a variety of ditches and pits. Burnt clay was recovered from five contexts of Trenches 7, 10, 12, 18, and 29 (Table 2). Trenches 10 and 29 produced only prehistoric pottery, Trench 3 produced only Roman pottery, and Trenches 12 and 18 yielded mixed assemblages. Although half of the site assemblage by sherd count was recovered from the pit/water feature of Trench 12, no real concentration of either the prehistoric or the Roman material was observed in the distribution.

| Context | SC | Wt(g) | Spot date |
|---------|----|-------|-------------------|
| 307 | 2 | 6 | AD50-400 |
| 1004 | 6 | 46 | later Prehistoric |
| 1205 | 8 | 14 | AD50-400 |
| 1206 | 5 | 16 | AD50-100 |
| 1805 | 2 | 28 | AD50-400 |
| 2904 | 3 | 4 | later Prehistoric |
| TOTAL | 26 | 114 | |

Table 2 – Distribution and quantification of the prehistoric and Roman pottery

| Context | Count | Wt(g) |
|---------|-------|-------|
| 705 | 4 | 2 |
| 1004 | 1 | 1 |
| 1205 | 7 | 13 |
| 1805 | 3 | 7 |
| 2904 | 1 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 16 | 25 |

Table 3 – Distribution and quantification of the burnt clay

The small size, dispersed nature, and lack of diagnostic sherds limit the discussion of the assemblage beyond dating. The prehistoric and Roman pottery is indicative of multi-period activity, but no evidence of the nature of this activity and neither of continuity of activity from the later prehistoric to the Roman period is present in the pottery assemblage. All pottery was fully recorded and needs no further analysis at this stage of work.

| Fabric/Form code | Expansion |
|------------------|---|
| PHFabricB | Fabric B, predominantly flint temper (Brown 2011) |
| SG | Dark grey fabric with abundant fine sand and common grog and iron oxides (Biddulph and Booth 2011) |
| TSA | South Gaulish Samian, La Graufesenque (Biddulph and Booth 2011) |
| WC | Orange fabric with medium and coarse sand (Biddulph and Booth 2011) |
| WMN | Orange fabric with medium sand, iron oxides, grey core, and external slip (Biddulph and Booth 2011) |
| ZM | Medium sandy greyware (Biddulph and Booth 2011) |
| ZMZ | Medium sandy greyware with iron oxides (Biddulph and Booth 2011) |

Table 4 – Fabric code expansions

Appendix 5: Specialist Report - Metal

The Metal Find from Saltbox Site, Bognor, West Sussex SAB18

By Callum Paisnel

Only one metal find was recovered from the Saltbox Site, Bognor, West Sussex; being an iron nail fragment from (1206) in irregular feature [1203]. It is possible to determine the manufacturing process by analysing the nail cross-section and head, thus giving a rough date. The nail appears to have been hand-wrought (owing to the square, even cross-section and slightly bulbous 'T' shaped head) therefore likely dating to pre-1800 (Vesser, 1997). Nelson (1968) states that this type of nail was popular throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The iron nail (1206) firmly dates to the Post-Medieval period.

Appendix 6: Specialist Report - Animal Bone

Katherine Marshall

Animal Bone was recovered from a single context at the Site (1206). A total of 72 fragments with a weight of 60g. However, due to the size and level of degradation it is not possible to distinguish any specific species.

| Context | Material | Fragments | Weight |
|---------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| 1206 | Animal Bone | 72 | 60g |

Appendix 7: Specialist Report – Environmental Samples

Environmental Samples

By David Ashby and Nick Watson – ARCA, Department of Archaeology, University of Winchester

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document reports on an assessment of three contexts excavated at the Saltbox Bognor Regis 2018 Site by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) in 2018. (1004) is burnt material from a possible prehistoric pit; (3304) is from a layer of brickearth and (3305) is from a layer of chalky rubble.
- 1.2 All the samples were delivered to the ARCA laboratories at the University of Winchester by PCA staff. The samples were contained in sealed white plastic tubs each with a volume of approximately 10 litres. Environmental Sample Sheets were provided too. The total volume was 30 litre.
- 1.3 The objective of the assessment was to recover, categorize, quantify and, if possible, date any artefact or ecofact that could aid in the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental interpretation of the context. Furthermore and based upon the assessment, recommendations are given regarding the potential of specific biological remains to provide more detailed and interesting evidence should any future analyses be decided upon.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The samples were processed in their entirety by flotation using meshes of 1mm and 250 µm for the residue and flot respectively. The flots were air dried at 40°C for 72 hours and then they were systematically examined under a low-power binocular microscope and quantitative observations made on the preserved biological remains. The residue fraction that was greater than 11.2mm was also systematically sorted to recover artefacts and preserved biological remains. The smaller 4mm and 2mm fractions were retained and stored.
- 2.2 The flots have been assessed using the following schema: 0-10 items is represented by + , 11-50 items ++, 51-100 items +++ and greater than 100 items ++++.
- 2.3 On occasion it is useful to describe relative sizes and this is done according to the Wentworth scale of sediment grain size:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Very fine sand size | 0.065-0.125 mm |
| Fine sand | 0.125-0.25mm |
| Medium sand | 0.25-0.5mm |
| Coarse sand | 0.5-1mm |
| Very coarse sand | 1-2mm |
| Granule | 2-4mm |
| Fine pebble | 4-8mm |
| Medium pebble | 8-16mm |
| Coarse pebble | 16-32mm |
| Very coarse pebble | 32-64mm |
| Cobble | >64mm |

2.4 The results are tabulated below. Where it is possible to draw inferences about the nature of the samples (with help from the information on the Environmental Sample Sheets) then these are made below each table as are any recommendations for further study. Exceptional results are in **Bold**.

| Context No. | Sample No. | Flot/ residue | Material | Weight (g) | Comments |
|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 1004 | 1 | | Burnt flint | 49.84 | |
| | | | Pot | 16.60 | Prehistoric |
| | | <i>flot</i> | | | |
| | | | <i>Charcoal</i> | + | <i>Three cereal grains</i> |

Identification of the grains is recommended and they could be dated, as well as dating of the pottery.

| Context No. | Sample No. | Flot/ residue | Material | Weight (g) | Comments |
|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---|
| 3304 | 2 | | Burnt Flint | 17.18 | |
| | | <i>flot</i> | | | |
| | | | <i>Charcoal</i> | + | <i>Unidentifiable comminuted charcoal</i> |

No further analysis is recommended.

| Context No. | Sample No. | Flot/ residue | Material | Weight (g) | Comments |
|-------------|------------|------------------|----------|------------|--|
| 3305 | 3 | flot | charcoal | + | Unidentifiable comminuted charcoal |

No further analysis is recommended.

Appendix 8: Specialist Report – Geoarchaeological Analysis

Geo-Archaeology Report

Barry Bishop December 2018

Introduction

The report describes the geo-archaeological investigations undertaken at the Saltbox site at Shripney in West Sussex (NGR 493805 101638). The investigations were undertaken to assess the Palaeolithic potential of the Pleistocene deposits present at the site. The site lies within an area of considerable archaeological importance for Palaeolithic studies with internationally important remains being found in both marine and terrestrially deposited sediments (Bates *et al.* 1997; Roberts and Parfitt 1999; Bates 2001; Wessex Archaeology 1994; Bates *et al.* 2007). In consequence and as part of the archaeological mitigation prompted by the proposed development of the site, a programme designed to characterize the Pleistocene deposits was formulated. A total of fifteen dedicated geo-archaeological test-pits (GTPs) were excavated which revealed a uniform sequence of Devensian / silt-clays overlying soliflucted and peri-glacially affected chalk. A small quantity of derived struck flints was also recovered, all coming from the disturbed upper surface of the silt-clays and attributed to between the Mesolithic and Bronze Age.

Background

Geology and topography of the site

The site lies on the Lower Coastal Plain of the West Sussex Coastal Corridor. It occupies a low interfluvial plateau located between the Lidsey Rife and Aldingbourne Rife which confluence c. 1km to the south (Figure 1). Bedrock geology is mapped as lying on the Littlehampton anticline of Cretaceous Lewes Nodular / Seaford / Newhaven / Culver / Portsdown Upper Chalk Formations, which is shown overlain by sands, silts and clays of undifferentiated terrace deposits (British Geological survey 2018). Terrace deposits are shown widespread in the area but in the vicinity of the site they have been truncated through erosion of the rifes which are infilled with marine deposits. The age of these marine deposits is not known but evidence produced during the investigations reported here would suggest that they are relatively recent. The site is relatively flat, with ground surface levels varying between 2m OD to 3m OD across most of the site but with a gentle slope downwards towards the Aldingbourne Rife to the west. It presently comprises a single arable field of c. 11 hectares.

Archaeology

The Palaeolithic archaeology of the West Sussex Coastal Corridor is inextricably linked to the interplay of marine incursions that led to the formation of raised beaches during warm interglacial periods, and the laying down of fluvial terrace deposits that occurred mostly during cooler periods of lower sea levels. Despite considerable recent research, the distribution and depositional environments of the main Quaternary sediments along this part of the Lower Coastal Plain is incomplete, due to the complexity of the record and a relative lack of archaeological investigation in the vicinity.

Overall, there is ample evidence for occupation along the West Sussex Coastal Corridor that commences prior to the Anglian glaciation and this includes the internationally important site of Boxgrove, situated c. 6km to the north of the site on the Goodwood / Slindon Raised Beach (Roberts and Parfitt 1999). This information has been synthesised in order to provide a research framework to inform curatorial need for the area (Bates *et al.* 2007). At least four raised beaches are known on West Sussex Coastal Corridor, dating from between the pre-Anglian MIS 13-16 to the late Ipswichian MIS 5e (Lovell and Nancarrow 1983; Bates *et al.* 1997; Wymer 1999; Bates *et al.* 2007; Bates and Briant 2009). The site lies in the vicinity of the two lowest, and youngest, of these, the Brighton / Norton Raised Beach and the Pagham Raised Beach. Only sporadic Palaeolithic finds have been reported from the former and none from the latter (Wymer 1999).

In summary, Bates *et al.* (2007, 62) conclude that “*The majority of the lower coastal plain contains sediments associated with later MIS 7 and post-MIS 7 time. On the basis of evidence from elsewhere in the country it is anticipated that likely incidence of human activity would be low. However, evidence for activity in this time span is known in the UK and if present would be of considerable national importance.*”

Methodology

The fieldwork reported here follows the methodologies developed by *Medway Palaeolithic Project* and the *Managing the Essex Pleistocene Project* (O'Connor 2015; Wenban-Smith *et al.* 2007). Its aims are to assess the nature and significance of any Pleistocene deposits and Palaeolithic remains present at the site, establish their distribution and depth across the site and to assess the archaeological significance of any deposits.

To achieve these aims, a total of fifteen dedicated geo-archaeological test-pits (GTPs) were excavated across the site within Evaluation Trenches that formed part of the general mitigation for the site (Figure 2).

The GTPs measured approximately 3m x 2m and were excavated under the supervision of the Palaeolithic specialist to the maximum reach of the mechanical excavator or until collapsing sides made further excavation impossible. The GTPs were excavated using a 360 degree mechanical excavator with a reach of c. 5m. In all test-pits sediment was removed using a 1.8m wide ditching bucket in spits up to 250mm thick, but followed the interfaces between sedimentary units wherever possible. Each sedimentary unit was numbered separately. Where safe to do so, sections of the upper c. 1m of each GTP was hand cleaned, described, drawn and photographed. The remaining depths of the GTPs were recorded from the sides. Samples (100 litres) from each significant geological unit was shaken through a 10mm mesh on site in order to retrieve artefacts and coarse ecofacts, and 10 litre bulk samples were taken for off-site clast size and lithological analyses.

Due to the looseness of the deposits and the rapid ingress of water, the sides of nearly all of the test-pits were very prone to collapse, causing many problems in the excavation and recording, although information of the basic stratigraphic succession and character of the deposits was successfully attained.

Results

Overview

Quaternary were deposits were recorded in all the GTPs excavated at the site. They comprise a complex set of cryoturbated / soliflucted chalk and gravel deposits that were overlain by a sandy and gravelly silt-clay, the surface of which had developed into top- and sub-soils that had been extensively disturbed by bio- and mechanical (e.g. ploughing) reworking. The deposits have been divided into three main Sediment Groups (see GTP01).

| Sediment group | Deposit | Period | Interpretation | Test-pits |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| Topsoil | TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown moderately organic silt-clay and fine sand, occasional angular flint pebbles and cobbles. Frequent root / worm holes. Massive. Structureless. | Recent | Biologically and mechanically reworked brickearth forming a topsoil horizon. | All |
| III | SANDY SILT-CLAY: Moderately compacted dull mid brown to grey silt-clay with some fine sand. Frequent root / worm holes, diminish with depth. Variable from absent to frequent and commonly concentrated towards the base of the deposit, thermally (frost) fractured flint pebbles and cobbles up to 200mm max. diam. which have a brown stained cortex. Mostly decalcified but sometimes calcified towards lower boundary. Occasional to frequent (?Mn) dark brown / black mineral flecks. Structureless with a 'blocky' texture. Diffuse contact with topsoil above. | Late Pleistocene / Holocene | Soliflucted brickearth | All |
| II | CHALKY SILT-CLAY / GRAVEL: Mottled variably light grey/brown/white chalk gravels, pebbles and small cobbles in a sandy silt-clay matrix. Variable from absent to moderate large thermally (frost) fractured flint pebbles and cobbles up to 300mm max. diam. which have a hard grey/white or soft chalky cortex. Structureless to chaotically bedded. Sharp but often heavily contorted contact with | Late Pleistocene | Cryoturbated and soliflucted chalk mixed with brickearth | All |

| | | | | |
|---|--|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | Sedimentary Unit III above including frequent ice wedging and periglacial striping. | | | |
| I | CHALK: White water saturated chalk ranging from a hard to paste-like texture. Occasional bands of large thermally (frost) affected flint nodules with a soft white chalky cortex. Diffuse contact with Sedimentary Unit II above | Cretaceous | Upper Chalk | All except 08, 10 |

Table GTP 01: Major sediment groups identified during geo-archaeological investigations at the Saltbox Site.

Sediment Group I was encountered in all test-pits with the exception of GTP 08 and GTP 10, where it is assumed to occur deeper than the machine could reach. It comprises white Cretaceous chalk that ranges in texture from hard to paste-like. In places, more-or-less *in-situ* seams of thermally shattered but intact translucent black flint nodules with unweathered chalky cortex were present. The present of flint seams demonstrate the chalk has not moved but its texture indicates that, at least in places, it has been thermally shattered and it had become saturated with groundwater. Its upper surface was recorded as undulating across the site at levels between -1.83m OD and +0.79m OD. It is interpreted as *in-situ* but thermally affected Cretaceous Upper Chalk.

Sediment Group II comprises a variable but unbedded or chaotically bedded flint and chalk gravel within a chalky sandy silt-clay matrix. This was encountered in all GTPs with heights on its surface ranging from -1.03m OD to +2.09m OD and in some places almost reaches the surface (beneath top- and subsoils). It has been interpreted as soliflucted chalk rubble.

Sediment Group III was encountered in all GTPs and consists of an unbedded sandy silt-clay containing varying but usually small quantities of matrix supported angular to rounded gravel, pebbles and cobbles. Mostly uncalcified but sometimes is calcified towards base of unit. Its surface had become mechanically and biologically reworked to form the basis of the present top- and subsoils. It was often seen to fill peri-glacial features such as ice-wedges and stripes that formed up to 1m into the underlying (Sediment Group II) deposits below. It has been interpreted as soliflucted and peri-glacially affected brickearth, and comparable to the recently described Devensian Woodend and Warblington Silts (Bates *et al.* 2007) as recorded near-by at Bersted.

Archaeological evidence

Each sedimentary unit was sieved on-site through a 10mm mesh with a minimum of 100 litres per unit being processed. In total, c. 6,000 litres of sediment were sampled. This resulted in the recovery of a small quantity of struck flint, all from the upper parts of Sediment Group III. These are technologically and typologically comparable to flint industries spanning the Mesolithic to Bronze Ages with no characteristically Palaeolithic pieces identified. Their recovery from the upper parts of the Pleistocene sequence suggests that they are intrusive and may have been introduced through biological (worms,

roots) or mechanical (ploughing) reworking of the brickearth. They are described and assessed in a separate report. No environmental indicators were recovered.

Summary and significance

The geo-archaeological evaluation at the site has produced useful information relating to the location and composition of the Pleistocene deposits in the area. The site lies in an area of considerable interest and potential for Palaeolithic studies on account of its well preserved stratigraphic evidence for coastal landscape change over the last 500,000+ years and the presence within that sequence of evidence for human occupation. The Palaeolithic investigations at the site revealed a uniform sequence of cryoturbated and soliflucted chalk, overlain by soliflucted brickearth. The latter is approximately equivalent to the Woodend and Warblington Silts identified in boreholes at Bersted and Woodend Farm near Colworth, dated to the Devensian cold stage (Bates *et al.* 2007, 35). No raised beach marine deposits or terrestrial gravel terrace deposits were identified, nor were any Palaeolithic artefacts or Pleistocene environmental remains recovered.

Due to a lack of precision in mapping it is unclear as to the extent of the lowest raised beaches in the Bognor Regis although the finding from the investigations reported here, combined with the accumulated evidence presented by Bates *et al.* (2007, map 42), would suggest that the most recent, the Pagham Raised Beach lies to the south with the next youngest, the Brighton / Norton Raised Beach, to the north. Using analogies with the Arun valley to the east, it is possible that any terrestrial terrace deposits have been in the vicinity of the site truncated during higher marine conditions (e.g. see Bates and Briant 2009, fig 2.7)

Recommendations

The geo-archaeological investigations have improved the understanding of the extent and condition of the Pleistocene deposits along the West Sussex Coastal Plain but considering the size of the site and that, despite intensive sampling, no Palaeolithic artefactual material or environmental indicators were identified, no further work is recommended for the geo-archaeological investigations.

Appendix 9: OASIS Record

OASIS ID: preconst1-338709

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex: An Archaeological Evaluation |
| Short description of the project | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Saltbox Site, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. The Site is the subject of a hybrid development. The evaluation formed part of a staged approach to understanding the archaeological implications of the proposed development. The evaluation was completed as planned in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation. The evaluation revealed the Site retains very little archaeological potential. A small number of linear ditches and discrete features of possible Iron Age and Roman date were identified and excavated but no clear evidence of previous land use was noted. |
| Project dates | Start: 15-11-2018 End: 05-12-2018 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | SAB18 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined |
| Monument type | DITCH Iron Age |
| Monument type | DITCH Roman |
| Monument type | PIT Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | POT Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | POT Roman |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural commercial |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | WEST SUSSEX ARUN BOGNOR REGIS Salt Box Site, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis |
| Postcode | PO22 9NW |
| Study area | 11 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | SU 93805 01638 50.806126661567 -0.668555950643 50 48 22 N 000 40 06 W Point |

Project creators

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Name of Organisation | PCA Winchester |
| Project brief originator | Terence O'Rourke Ltd |
| Project design originator | Paul Mason |
| Project director/manager | Thomas Hayes |
| Project supervisor | Dominic McAtominey |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive recipient | The Novium |
| Physical Contents | "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal" |
| Digital Archive recipient | The Novium |
| Digital Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Digital Media available | "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey" |
| Paper Archive recipient | The Novium |
| Paper Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex: An Archaeological Evaluation |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | McAtominey, D |
| Other bibliographic details | R13517 |
| Date | 2019 |
| Issuer or publisher | Pre-Construct Archaeology Winchester |
| Place of issue or publication | Winchester |
| Entered by | Dominic McAtominey (dmcatominey@pre-construct.com) |
| Entered on | 9 January 2019 |

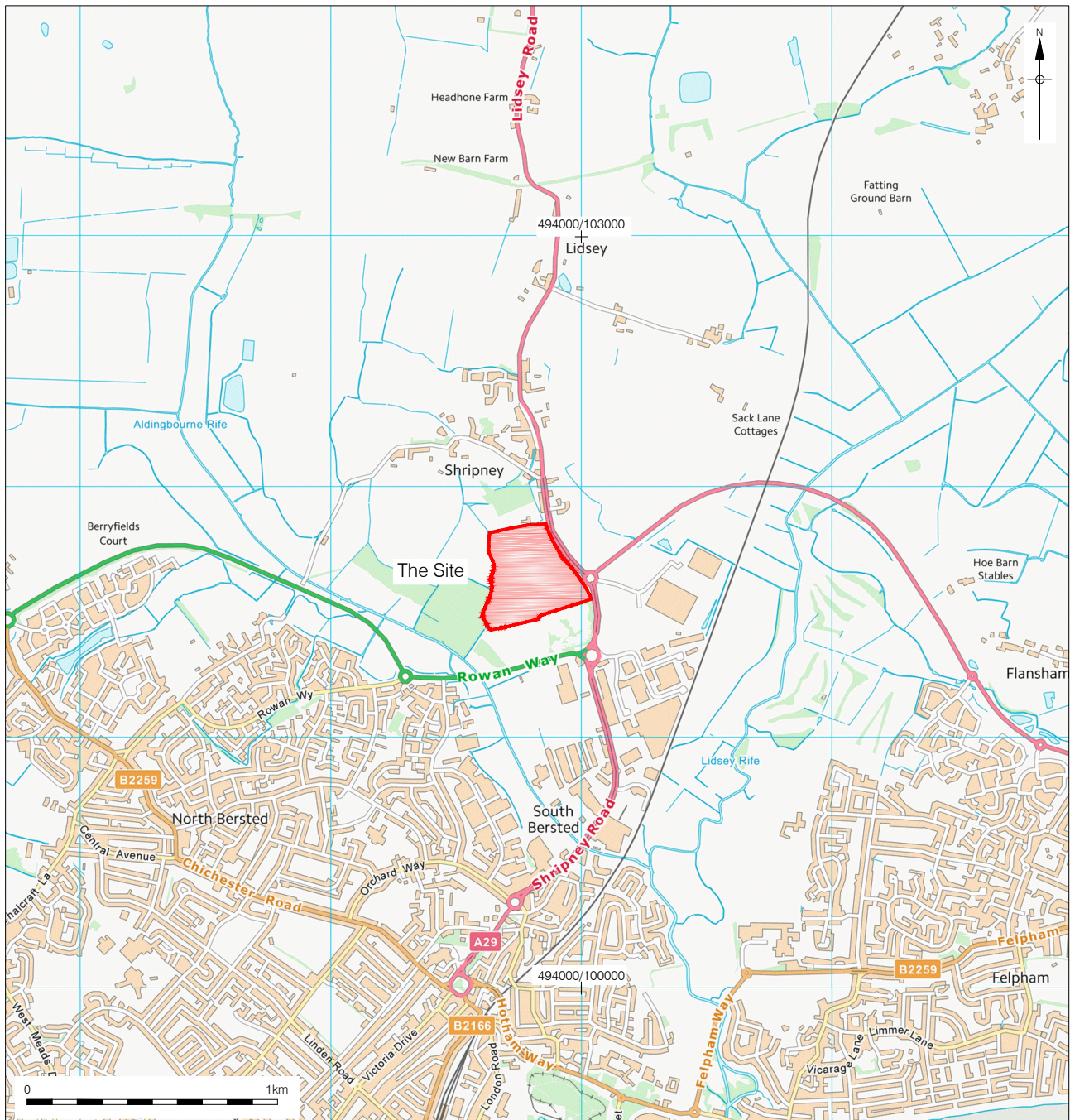




Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,600 at A3

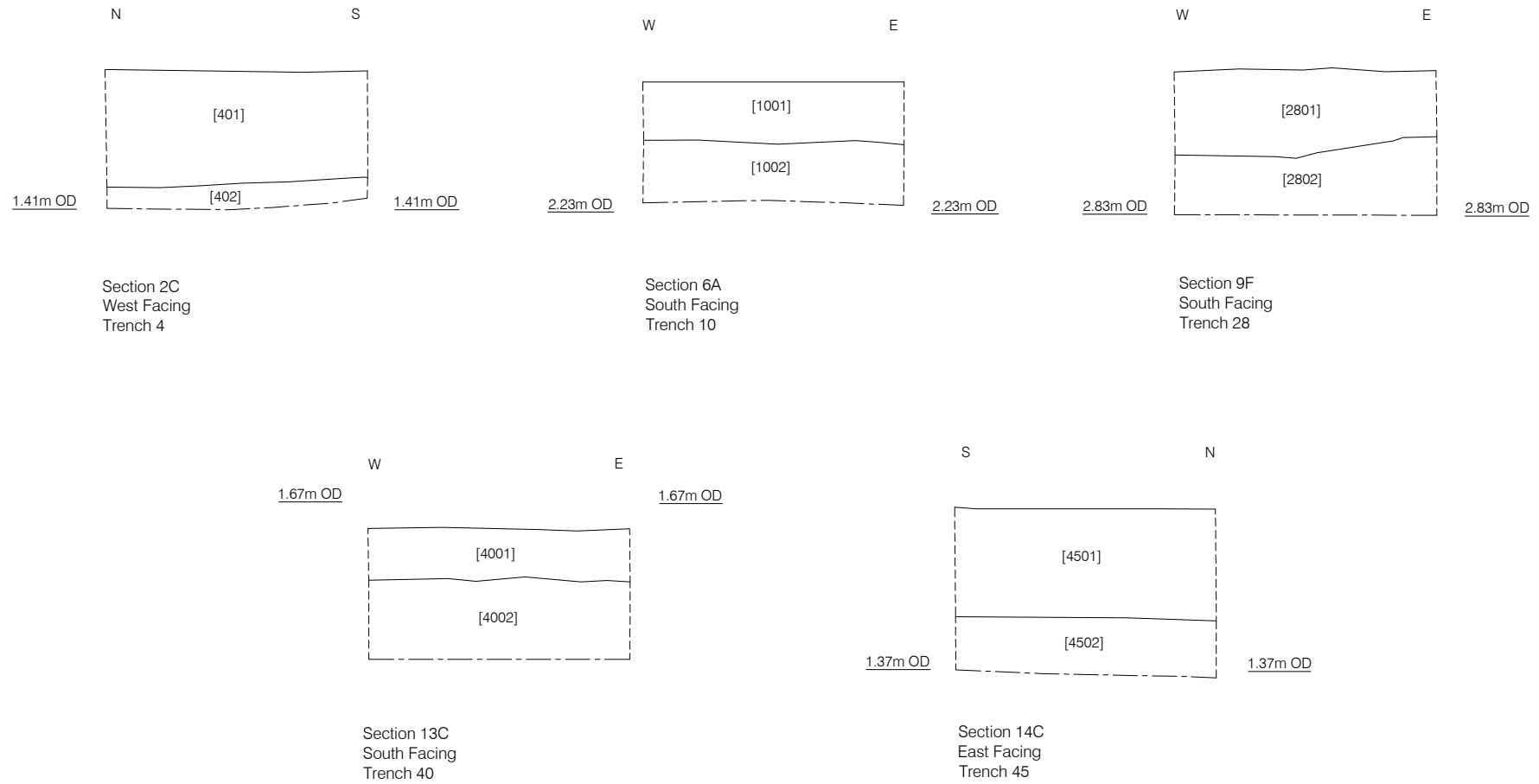


Figure 3
Representative Sections
1: 25 at A4

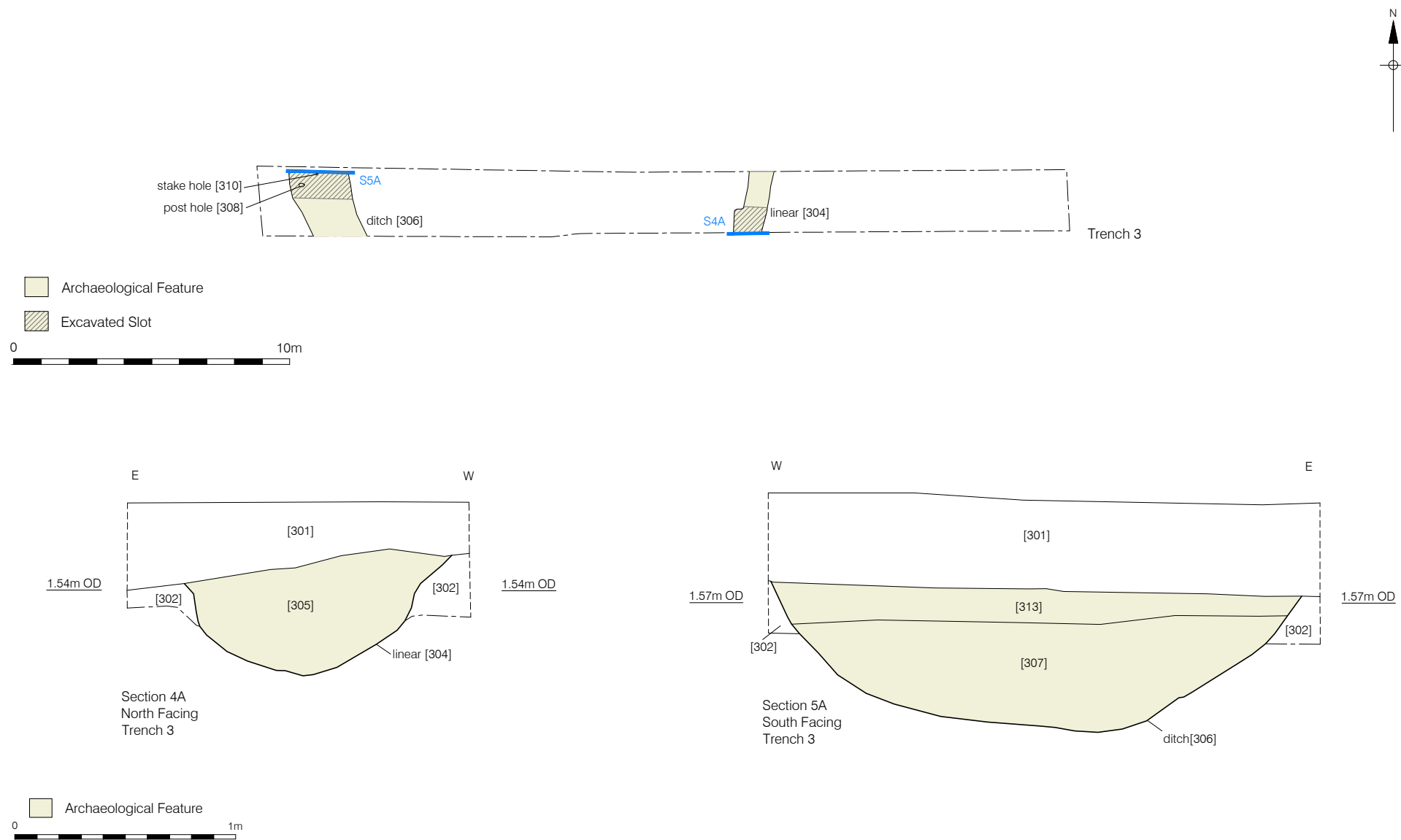


Figure 4
Trench 3 Plan and Sections
Plan at 1:200 and Sections at 1:25 at A4

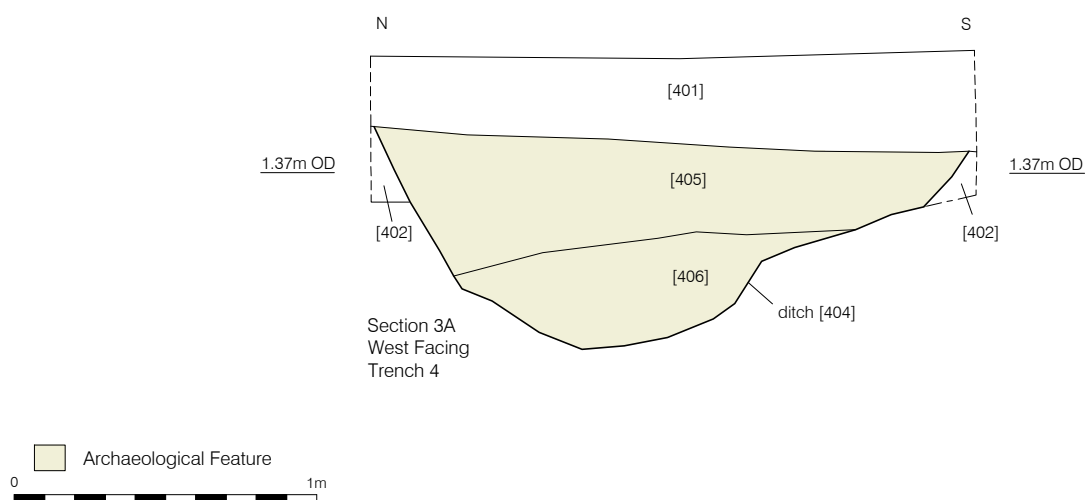
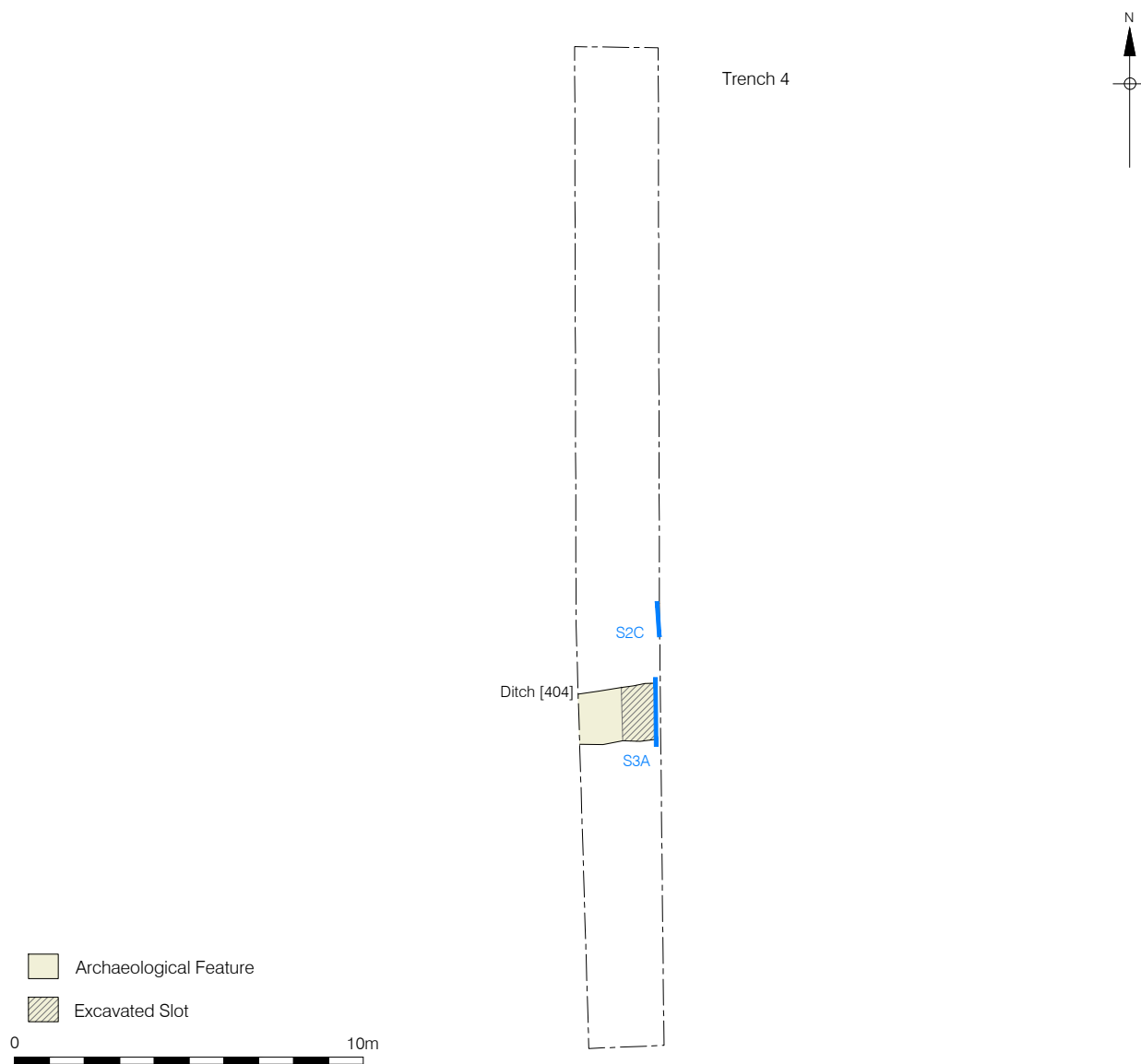


Figure 5
Trench 4 Plan and Section
Plan at 1:200 and Section at 1:25 at A4

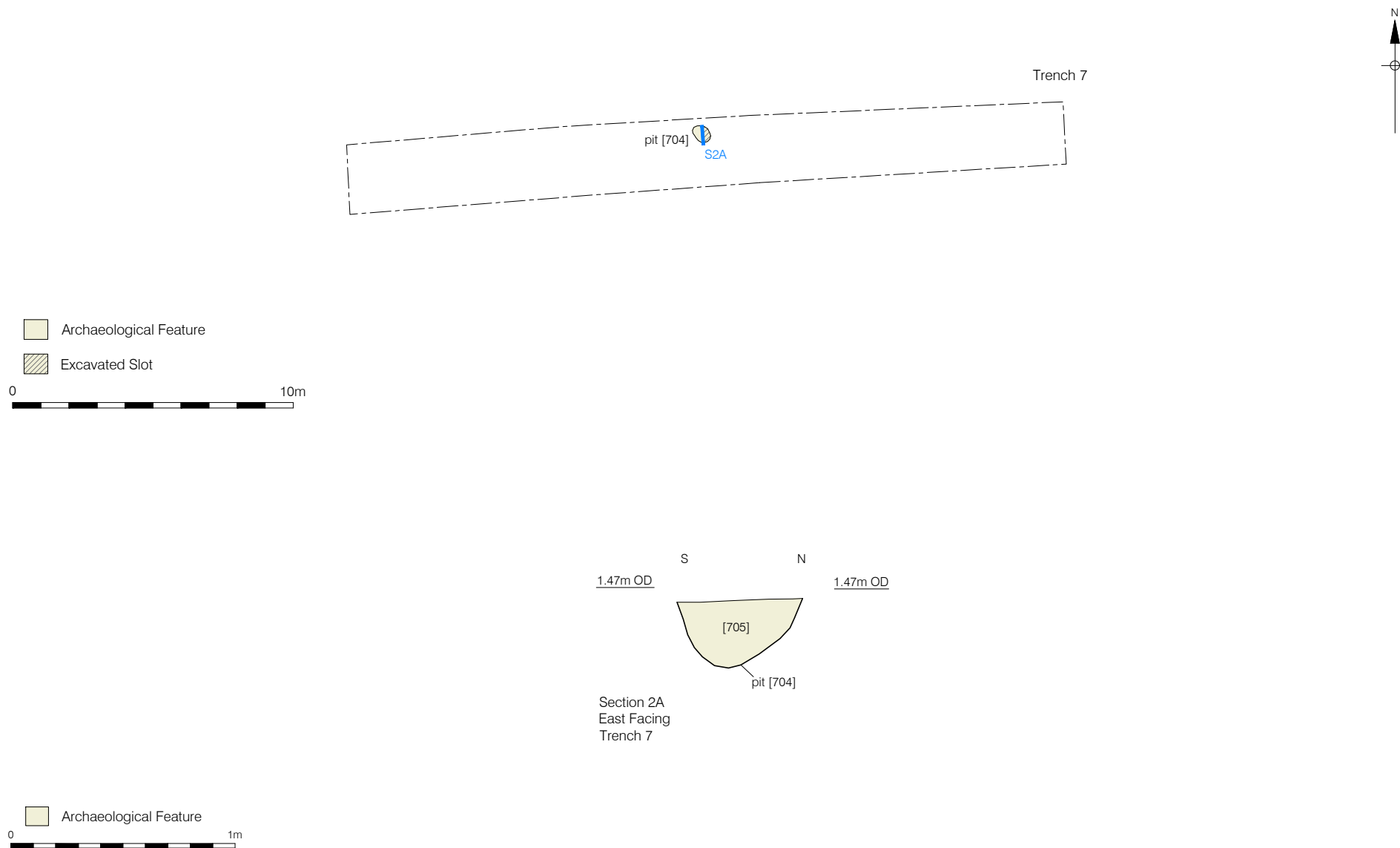


Figure 6
Trench 7 Plan and Section
Plan at 1:200 and Section at 1:25 at A4

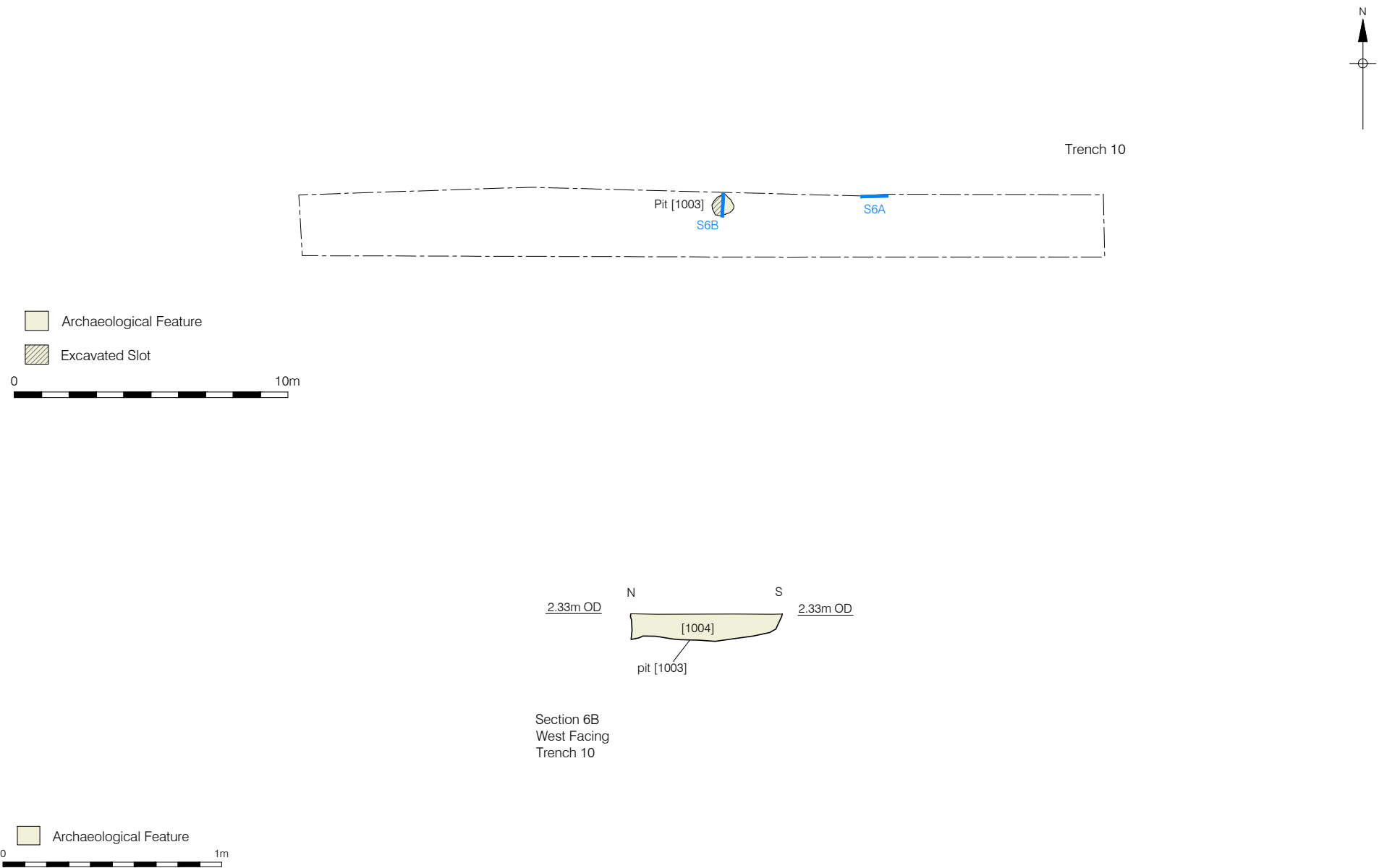
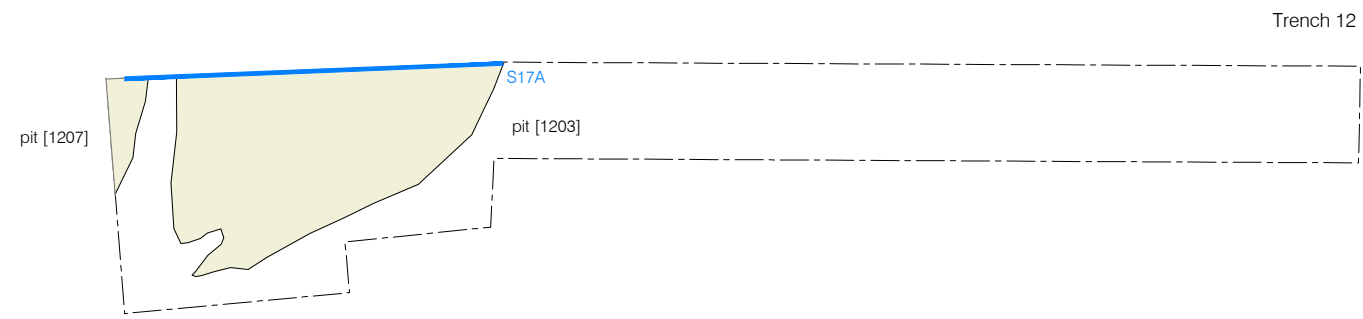
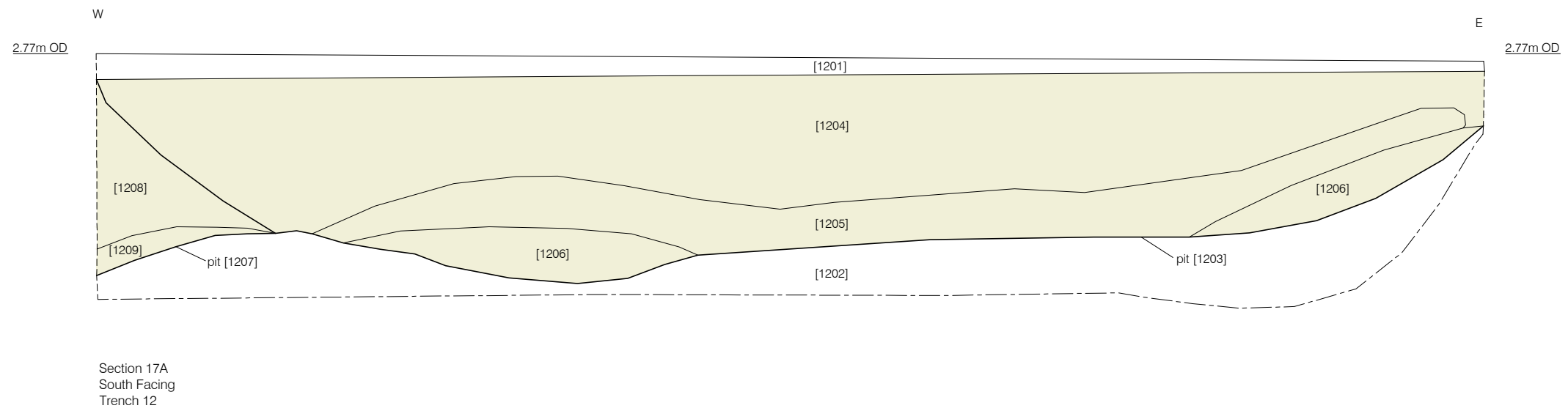


Figure 7
Trench 10 Plan and Section
Plan at 1:200 and Section at 1:25 at A4



Archaeological Feature



Archaeological Feature



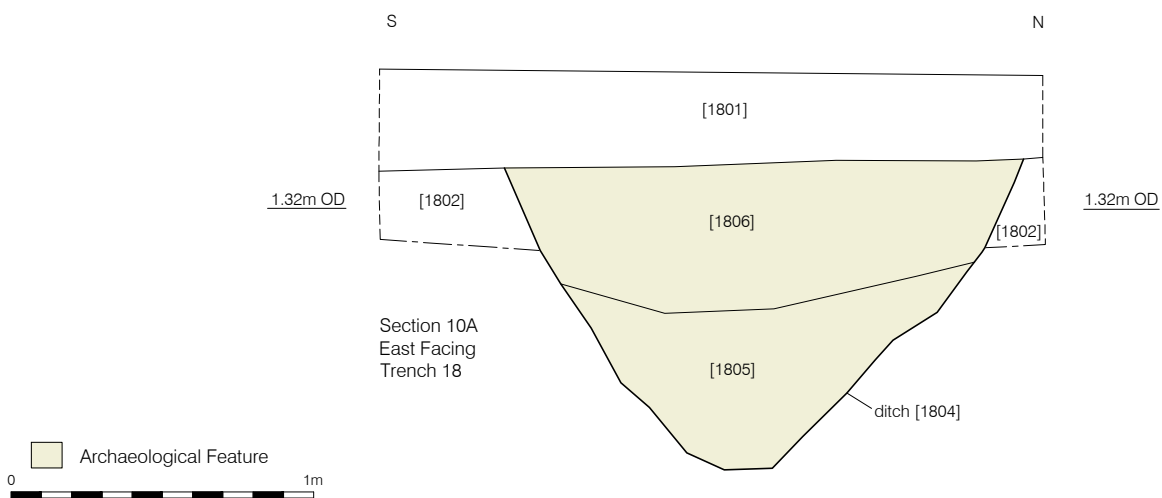
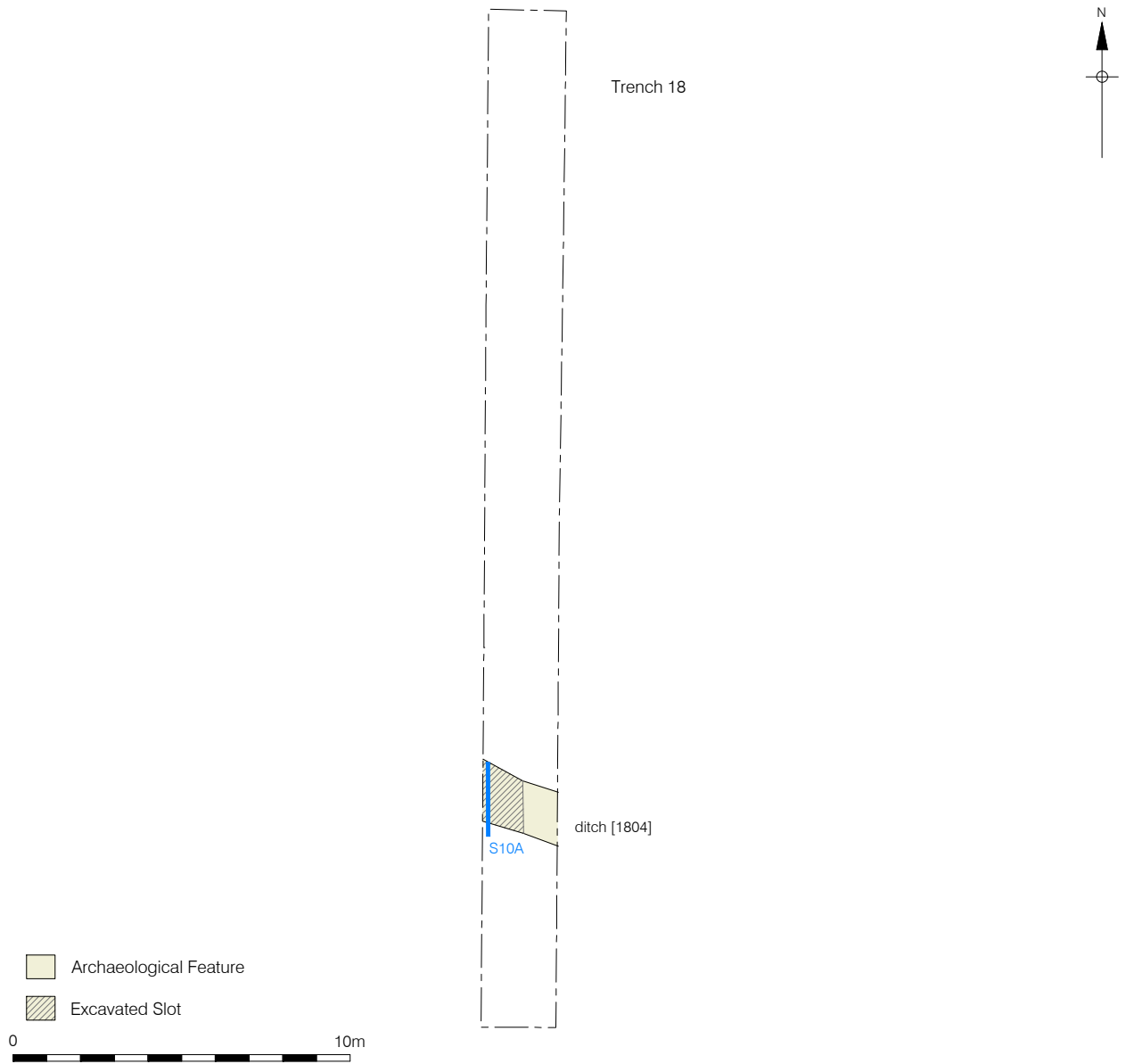


Figure 9
Trench 18 Plan and Section
Plan at 1:200 and Section at 1:25 at A4

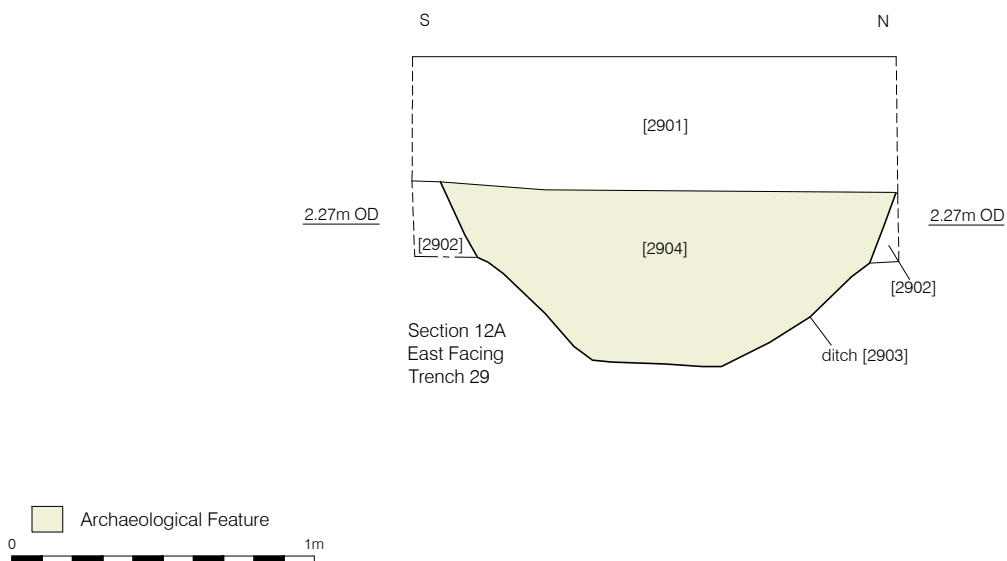
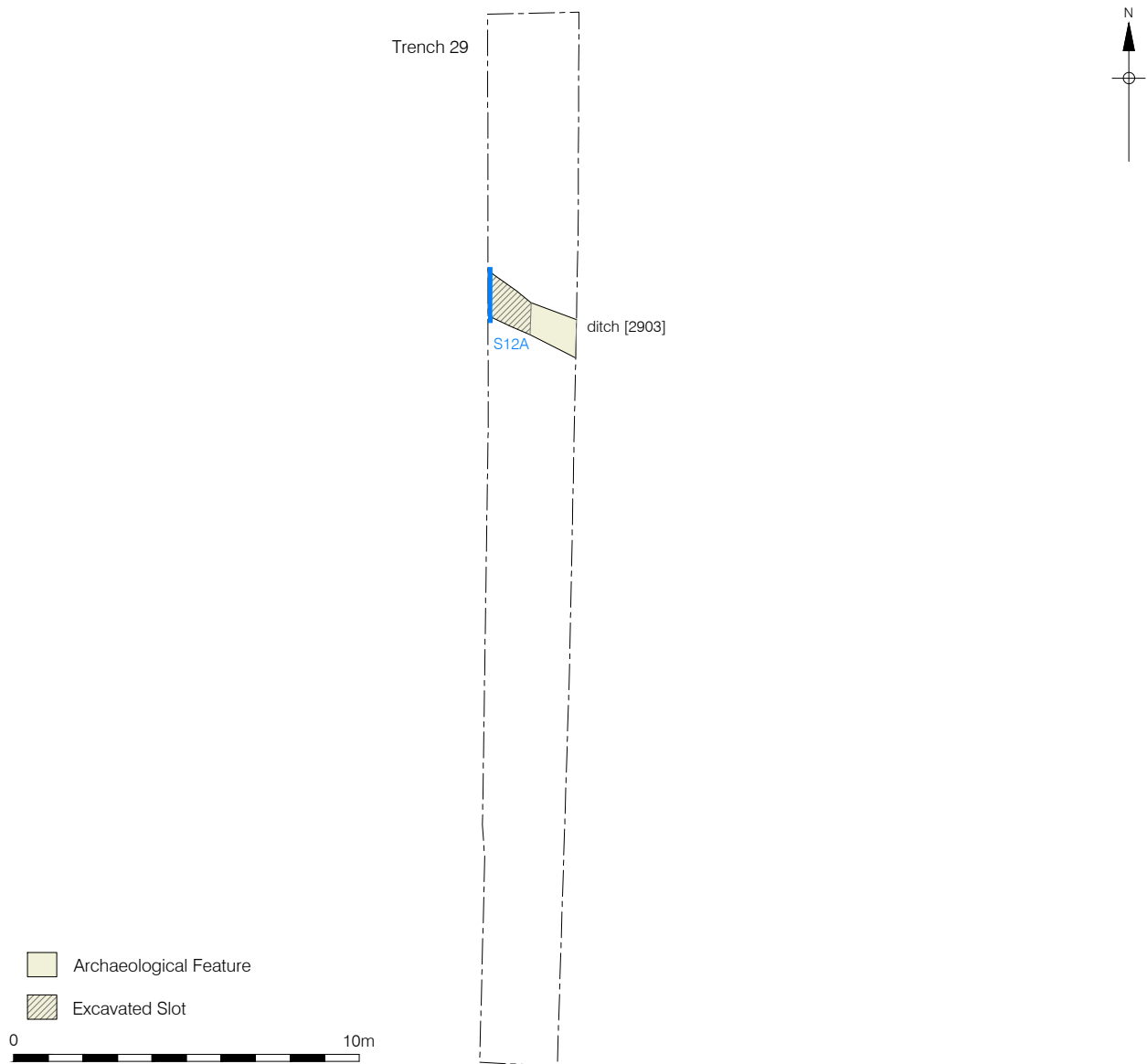


Figure 10
Trench 29 Plan and Section
Plan at 1:200 and Section at 1:25 at A4

PCA

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

