An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Residential Phase II, Waterstone Park, Stone Castle, Kent

Site Code: KSTC 04

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 5825 7425

Written and Researched by Alexis Haslam
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2004

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting Ltd

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD
Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896

Email: pmoore@pre-construct.com

CONTENTS

1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted on land at Residential Phase II, Waterstone Park, Stone Castle, Kent, undertaken for CgMs Consulting Ltd between the 14th of July and the 6th of August 2004.

1.2 Fifty seven trenches were arranged across the site. The site was an open field area at the time of the evaluation, with an abandoned wheat crop covering the site. The site was divided into three specific areas in the form of an eastern field and a western field. Twenty six trenches were arranged in the eastern field (Trenches 1 - 26) with a further twenty nine trenches arranged in the western field (Trenches 27 - 55). A further two trenches (Trenches 56 and 57) were excavated to the north of the eastern field within the Blue Circle Technical Centre.

1.3 Geologically, several different forms of natural were observed across site including Seaford Chalk, brickearth, gravel and Boyn Hill Gravels. These deposits were observed at a lowest point of 26.23m OD in Trench 25 and at a highest point of 41.03m OD in Trench 51.

1.4 A layer of prehistoric colluvium was observed in the north of the western field and was found to contain burnt flint. This deposit of colluvium is most likely to relate to a dry valley running across this portion of the site.

1.5 Four postholes were observed in Trench 29/30 in the north west of the western field and were found to contain burnt flint, suggesting a prehistoric date. These postholes were set out in a square formation and are most likely to relate to the same structure.

1.6 In the eastern field, several features were recorded and found to contain pottery dated to between the Late Iron Age and Early Romano British period. These features included six pits, seven ditches and one posthole. A further four postholes, six ditches, one fire pit, one stakehole and one pit were also recorded. Two further ditches were also found in the western field, one of which contained pottery dated to this period.

1.7 A further colluvial deposit was observed in the eastern field sealing several of the Late Iron Age to Early Romano British features.

1.8 A subsoil deposit was observed across the entire site and was absent only in Trenches 33, and Trenches 56 and 57, located in the Blue Circle Technical Centre.

1.9 Two post-medieval quarry pits were observed cutting through the subsoil in the western field.

1.10 Topsoil covered the entire site at the time of the evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

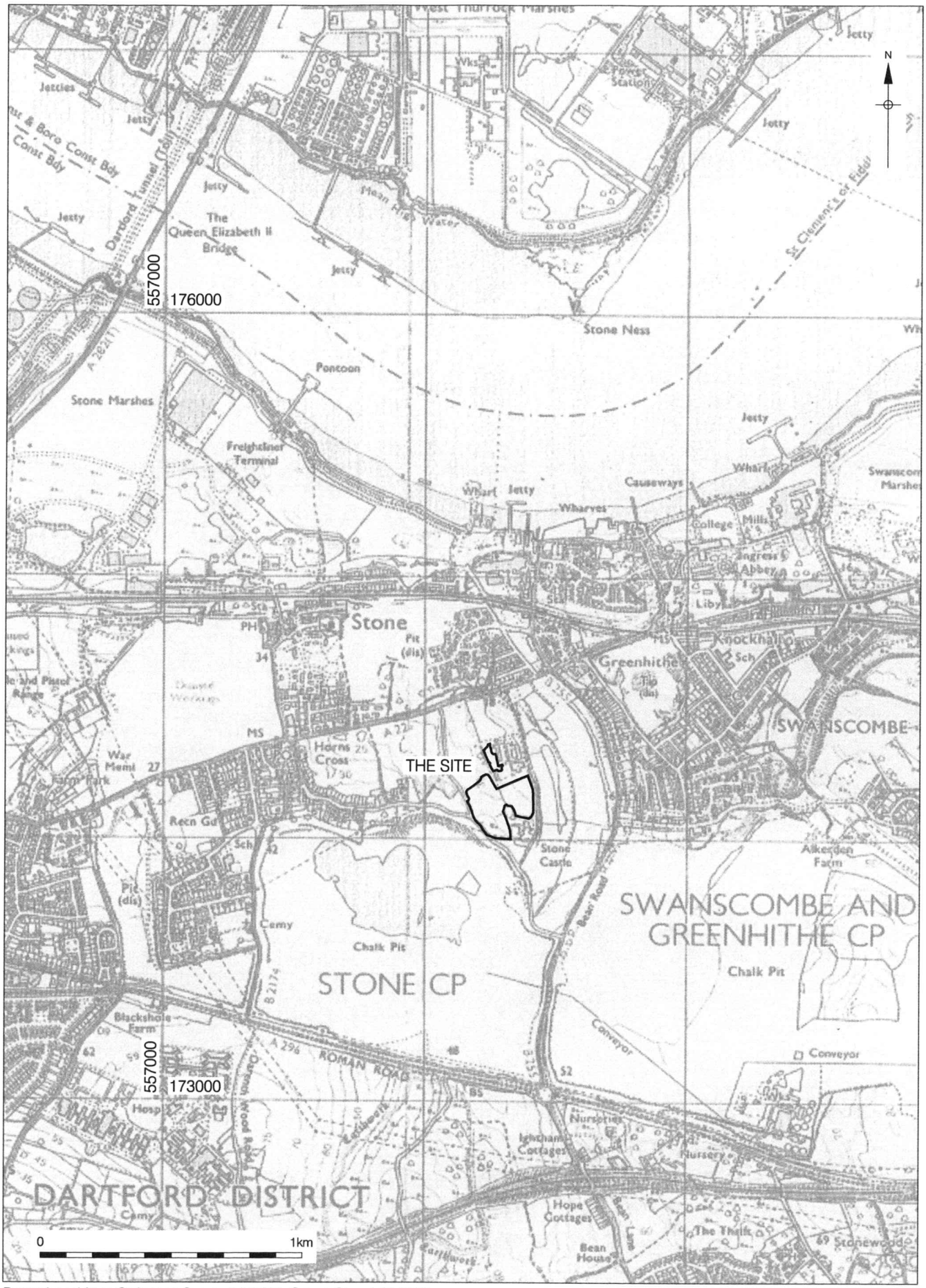
2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at Residential Phase II, Waterstone Park, Stone Castle, Kent, in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site for residential purposes. The archaeological impact of this scheme is likely to be severe, with all types of foundations leading to a significant degradation of the archaeological resource in these areas. The evaluation was conducted between the 14th of July and 6th of August 2004 and was commissioned by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting Ltd.

2.2 The site was located on land at Residential Phase II, Waterstone Park, Stone Castle, Kent, within the Kent Borough of Dartford. The site was situated north of Stone Castle itself and to the south of London Road (The A226). The area of excavation was bounded on the south by Stone Castle and grassland, by the Blue Circle Technical Centre and grassland to the north, by Hedge Place Road to the west and to the east by the castle access road. At the time of the evaluation, the site consisted of two fields overgrown with an abandoned wheat crop and an area of grassland within the Blue Circle Technical Centre.

2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 5825 7425.

2.4 The site was given the code KSTC 04.

2.5 The project was monitored by Duncan Hawkins on behalf of the client, and for the local planning authority by Ms Wendy Rogers, Kent County Council Archaeological Officer for Dartford. The site was project managed by Peter Moore and Pete Bowyer and supervised by the author, Alexis Haslam.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1993.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000

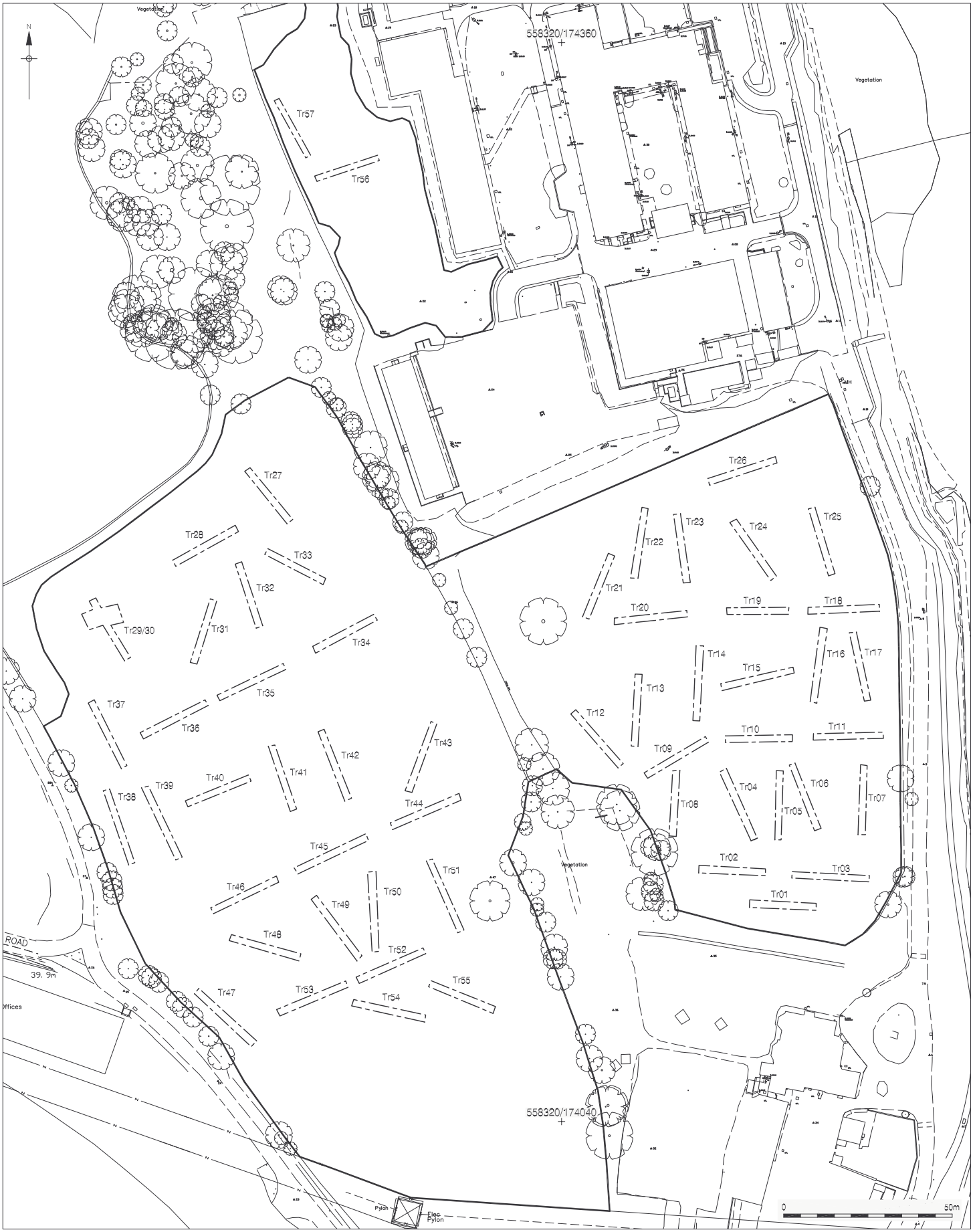


Figure 2
Trench Locations
1:1500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Kent Structure Plan and the Dartford Borough Council Local Plan adopted in 1995. The adopted Kent Structure Plan states:

"POLICY ENV17
IN THE CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT AND THROUGH POLICIES AND PROPOSALS IN LOCAL PLANS:

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES, TOGETHER WITH THEIR SETTINGS, WILL BE PROTECTED AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, ENHANCED. DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THEM WILL NORMALLY BE REFUSED.

DEVELOPMENT MAY BE PERMITTED WHERE THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE BEST REASONABLE MEANS OF CONSERVING THE CHARACTER, APPEARANCE, FABRIC, INTEGRITY AND SETTING OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENT, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OR HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.

WHERE THE CASE FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD DAMAGE OR DESTROY ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IS ACCEPTED BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY APPROPRIATE PROVISION FOR INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING WILL BE REQUIRED."

3.4 The Dartford Borough Local Plan states:

"**POLICY B11**

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

POLICY B12

OTHER SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE WILL BE PROTECTED FROM DEVELOPMENT WHERE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST IS OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE. WHERE THE INTEREST IS NOT OVERRIDING, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MAY BE PERMITTED WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SITE CAN BE PRESERVED EITHER IN SITU (THE PREFERRED OPTION) OR BY MAKING A DETAILED RECORD OF IT FOR FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCE. APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS WILL BE ATTACHED TO ANY PLANNING PERMISSION."

4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The British Geological Survey map 271 of the area (1:50,000 series) indicates that the site is underlain by Boyn Hill Gravels and undivided, mainly Seaford Chalk.

4.2 The site slopes down from west to east from a highest level of 36m OD in the northwest corner to a lowest level of 25m in the northeast corner.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The Archaeological desk based assessment[1] indicated a moderate to good potential for the Palaeolithic period, a low potential for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, a moderate potential for the Bronze Age period, a moderate to good potential for the Roman period and a low to moderate potential for the Anglo Saxon, early medieval and post-medieval periods.

5.2 Evidence abounds for Palaeolithic activity in the vicinity. Struck flints and faunal remains were discovered *ex situ* to the north of the site, and cultural material was found from several palaeo-landsurfaces at Globe Pit in Greenhithe. Neolithic material has been found along the Greenhithe stretch of the River Thames, and a small quantity of pottery and flints were recovered from quarries in the vicinity. A large assemblage of Bronze Age pottery was found to the south-west of Stone castle, and a socketed Bronze Age spearhead was recorded at the castle. Works in the neighbouring quarries have revealed an Iron Age hut circle and enclosure and a large Iron Age pit.

5.3 The route from London to Rochester passes to the north of the site, and excavations at a Stone Castle chalk pit to the north-east found evidence of a Romano-British settlement, including a cemetery. Other artefacts of Roman date have been variously found in the site's vicinity. A number of burials have also been found.

5.4 The Domesday Survey of 1068 records Stone as an agricultural estate, on land owned by the Bishop of Rochester. The rectangular stone tower at the site is the only surviving medieval fabric of the former castle, and is thought to have been built in the late thirteenth century. The 'castle' is probably best regarded as a defended residence. The area of the site is likely to have been used for hunting, woodland, and as an agricultural estate prior to the castle's construction.

5.5 During the late medieval and early post medieval period the area around the buildings is likely to have formed a park or hunting estate for the manorial complex. The main building of the castle as it currently stands is a late Georgian structure, which probably occupies the position of the medieval hall. The Georgian building was rebuilt in approximately 1825. By 1869 the current boundaries of the castle's grounds had been

[1] Hawkins, D. "Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Residential Phase II, Waterstone Park, Stone Castle, Kent". CgMs unpublished report, January 2004.

formed, although it is thought that these re-marked those from 1825. An Ordnance Survey map of 1868 indicates a large garden to the south-west of the castle. From the late 19th century to the first half of the 20th century the surrounding area of the castle was extensively quarried for chalk.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 In accordance with the specification[2], the trenches were arranged to fully investigate the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains across the site.

6.2 Fifty seven trenches were dug, with Trenches 1 to 26 being located within the eastern field of the site. Trenches 27 to 55 were located within the western field and Trenches 56 and 57 were located within the grounds of the Blue Circle Technical Centre. All Trenches were excavated to a width of 1.8m and to a length of approximately 20 metres. However, Trench 29/30 was extended to a maximum width of 10m. Four Palaeolithic test pits were also excavated, with two being located in Trench 47 and two in Trench 48. These test pits measured 1.8m in width and 3m in length and were excavated in order to investigate the Boyn Hill Gravels observed on site.

6.3 Trenches 1 to 55 were excavated using a 360 degree JCB type mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision, with a ditching bucket. Trenches 56 and 57 were excavated using a 180 degree JCB type mechanical excavator, also under archaeological supervision and fitted with a ditching bucket. Excavation by machine in spits continued through the topsoil and subsoil until natural chalk, brickearth and Boyn Hill Gravels were reached. In the western field a thick layer of colluvium was observed in several trenches, and for health and safety reasons, excavations ceased to continue beyond 1.2m in depth. Former quarry pits were also observed in Trenches 40 and 45.

6.4 A long section and the base of each trench were hand cleaned before recording.

6.5 The recording system used was the single context recording methodology with individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated, exposed and entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50 and the sections at 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A full photographic record of the investigations was also prepared, including both black and white prints and colour transparencies on 35mm film.

---

[2] Hawkins, D. “Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Residential Phase II, Waterstone Park, Stone Castle, Kent”. CgMs unpublished report, January 2004.

6.6 Levels on the trenches were taken off nine Temporary Bench Marks established on the site with values of 31.63m OD, 28.87m OD, 27.92m OD, 31.86m OD, 32.75m OD, 34.90m OD, 35.64m OD, 40.53m OD and 37.31m OD. These TBMs was brought in from a spot height on a BT line cover to the south of Stone Castle itself with a value of 33.59m OD. The trenches were surveyed in by total station and tied into the Ordnance Survey grid.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

Fifty seven trenches were excavated across the site, with Trenches 1 to 26 situated in the eastern field, Trenches 27 to 55 located in the western field and Trenches 56 and 57 located within the grounds of the Blue Circle Technical Centre. The land forming the site sloped down from west to east from a height of 36m to 25m OD. Several different forms of natural were observed across the site and included natural Seaford Chalk, gravel, Boyn Hill Gravels and Brickearth. A palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from the Boyn Hill Gravels in the westernmost field. A thick prehistoric layer of colluvium was also observed in the western field and is likely to relate to a dry valley running along this portion of the site in a south-west north-east direction. Cut into this layer of colluvium were four postholes containing burnt flint, all of which were likely to have formed part of the same structure.

The majority of the archaeological features and deposits encountered on the site were located within the eastern field. Such features included six pits, seven ditches and one posthole, all of which contained pottery dated from as early as 10 B.C. through to as late as A.D. 170, suggesting that the site was occupied from the Late Iron Age into the early Romano British period. Further features were recorded in this field and included four postholes, six ditches one stakehole, one posthole and one fire pit. Unfortunately these features did not contain dateable materials. In the western field, two further ditches were also recorded, one of which contained pottery dated at between A.D 50 - 100. A layer of colluvium was observed in the eastern field sealing several of the Late Iron Age to Early Romano British features.

Subsoil was observed in all trenches apart from Trench 33 and Trenches 56 and 57 in the Blue Circle Technical Centre. Two post-medieval quarry pits were also observed in the western field cutting the subsoil. Topsoil was present across the entire site, sealing all of the trenches.

EASTERN FIELD

7.2 TRENCH 1 (Fig. 3)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.2.1 Trench 1 measured 1.8m in width and 19m in length and was situated at the southernmost point of the eastern field. The earliest deposit encountered was [5], the natural Seaford Chalk at the bottom of the trench. This chalk existed as a compact deposit, light greyish white in colour, and was observed at a highest level of 32.07m OD. Overlying the chalk, although recorded at the same level at the bottom of the trench, was a natural brickearth deposit [4]. This was recorded as a compact, mid reddish brown deposit of sand clay silt matrix, and was observed at a highest level of 32.30m OD.

Phase 4 – Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.2.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was [7], a sub-circular pit with sloping sides and a concave base. This pit ran into the Limit of Excavation (L.o.E.) to the south, and measured 0.28m from north to south and 0.6m from east to west as seen. The pit cut itself was recorded at a highest level of 31.95m OD and was up to 0.28m in depth. Filling [7] was pit fill [6], a soft, dark brown deposit of silt sand matrix, containing both charcoal flecks and Romano British pottery.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.2.3 Sealing the pit fill [7] was subsoil [2], a loose to compact, mid greyish brown deposit of silt sand matrix, up to 0.30m in thickness and recorded at a highest level of 32.34m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.2.4 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1], a loose, dark brown deposit of silt sand matrix with inclusions of both chalk and charcoal flecks. This deposit was up to 0.06m in thickness and was recorded at a highest level of 32.40m OD.

7.3 TRENCH 2 (Fig. 3)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.3.1 Trench 2 measured 1.8m in width and 19.4m in length, and was located to the north-west of Trench 1. The earliest deposits encountered in this Trench were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 32.48m OD.

Phase 4 – Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.3.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] at the southernmost end of Trench 2 was posthole cut [59]. This cut was circular in shape, with sharp sides and a flat to concave base, measuring 0.40m from east to west and 0.40m from north to south. The cut itself was up to 0.11m in depth and was recorded at a highest level of 32.08m OD. Filling cut [59] was deposit [58], a loose to soft deposit of sand silt matrix, mid greyish brown in colour with inclusions of medium sized flint nodules which were probably used for post packing. No further postholes were observed in this trench, meaning that no specific structure could be identified.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.3.2 Sealing posthole fill [58] was [3], a compact colluvial deposit of sand gravel silt matrix, mid orange brown in colour and containing inclusions of cbm, daub, charcoal flecks and chalk. This deposit was up to 0.24m in thickness, and was recorded at a highest level of 32.49m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.3.4 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil [2], which was up to 0.24m in thickness and recorded at a highest level of 32.72m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.3.5 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1], which was up to 0.32m in thickness and recorded at a highest level of 33.04m OD.

7.4 TRENCH 3 (Figs. 3, 4)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.4.1 Trench 3 measured 1.8m in width and 21.74m in length and was located to the north east of Trench 1. The earliest deposits encountered in Trench 3 were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4] at the base of the trench, recorded at a highest level of 31.31m OD. Overlying the natural brickearth [4] at the northernmost end of the trench was [36], a friable, light greyish yellow brown deposit of fine silty sand. This deposit was interpreted as a periglacial lens and was recorded at a highest level of 31.38m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.4.2 In the centre of Trench 3, and cut into the natural brickearth [4], was pit cut [10]. This pit ran into the L.o.E to the south and was not fully exposed, but measured 1.6m from east

to west and 0.6m from north to south as seen. The cut itself was rectangular in plan with rounded corners, near vertical sides and a flat base. The pit was recorded as being up to 0.95m in depth at a highest level of 31.12m OD and contained three fills. The earliest deposit encountered within pit cut [10] was [37], a friable, dark greyish brown deposit of silt sand matrix. This deposit contained inclusions of occasional charcoal and chalk flecks and was up to 0.15m in thickness at 30.44m OD. Overlying primary fill [37] was secondary fill [9], a friable light brownish grey deposit of sand silt matrix, containing cbm, bone, struck flint and Romano British pottery. This deposit was up to 0.45m in thickness at 30.84m OD. Sealing secondary fill [9] was tertiary fill [8], a friable, light greyish brown deposit of sand silt matrix containing cbm, burnt flint, struck flint, bone and Romano British pottery. This deposit was up to 0.28m thick at 31.12m OD. The original function of this pit is unclear, as the feature was not fully exposed. However, the nature of the three fills within cut [10] appear to suggest that a deliberate backfilling episode had taken place. For this reason the feature has been assigned the initial interpretation of a grain storage pit, which had been backfilled once it had gone out of use.

To the north of pit cut [10], and cut into the natural chalk [5] was ditch cut [25]. This ditch was aligned in a north-west south-east direction and went into the L.o.E to both the north and south of Trench 3. The ditch itself was up to 1.6m in width and 1.8m in length as seen, with sharp sides and a 'V' shaped base, and was recorded as being 0.75m in depth at a highest level of 31.31m OD. Filling [25] was [24], a friable, light grey yellow brown deposit of sand silt matrix, containing burnt flint, struck flint, bone and Romano British pottery. The nature of this ditch is likely to suggest that it was a field boundary, as no silting up of the feature was evident. However, the presence of large flint cobbles within fill [24] would appear to suggest that this feature, as with pit cut [10], was deliberately backfilled, possibly during an episode of re-landscaping. The alignment of ditch [25] correlates to that of ditch [21] observed in Trench 6 and, although the profiles of the two ditches were dissimilar, they can most probably be interpreted as being part of the same field boundary.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.4.3 Sealing tertiary pit fill [8], ditch fill [24] and periglacial lens [37] was the colluvial layer [3], which was 0.24m thick at 31.63m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.4.4 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil [2] which was up to 0.14m thick at a 31.60m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.4.5 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1] which was up to 0.20m thick at 31.80m OD.

7.5 TRENCH 4 (Fig. 3)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.5.1 Trench 4 measured 1.8m in width and 21.20m in length and was located to the north of Trench 2. The natural chalk [5] and brickearth [4] exposed at the bottom of Trench 4 were recorded at a highest level of 31.67m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.5.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] at the northern end of Trench 4 was circular pit cut [57]. This cut measured 0.45m from north to south, 0.45m from east to west and was 0.45m in depth at 30.8m OD. The cut itself had steeply sloping sides and a rounded base and was filled with [56], a firm, mid brown deposit of silt sand matrix with chalk and flint inclusions. No cultural material was retrieved from this fill..

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.5.3 Sealing pit fill [56] was subsoil deposit [2], which was to 0.08m thick at 31.42m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.5.4 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1] which was up to 0.12m thick at 31.54m OD

7.6 TRENCH 5 (Fig. 3)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.6.1 Trench 5 measured 1.8m in width and 19.8m in length and was located to the east of Trench 4. The natural Chalk [5] and brickearth [4] observed at the base of this trench were recorded at a highest level of 31.36m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.6.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was east-west aligned ditch cut [19], which ran into the L.o.E. to both the east and west of the trench and was also truncated on its northernmost edge by a modern pipe trench. This ditch cut measured 1.86m from east to west and 1.12m from north to south as seen, with steep sides and a concave to

rounded base, and was recorded as being 0.47m deep at a highest level of 31.08m OD. Filling [19] was deposit [18], a loose, mid orange brown deposit of silt sand matrix containing pottery, flint nodules and chalk flecks. This ditch was also picked up in Trench 6 where it was given the cut number [23], and in Trench 7 where it was given the cut number [41]. This ditch is most likely to represent a field boundary, as with no evidence of silting up, it is unlikely to have operated as a drainage ditch.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.6.3 Sealing ditch fill [18] was colluvial deposit 3, which was up to 0.07m thick at 31.22m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.6.4 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2], which was up to 0.17m thick at 31.39m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.6.5 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1], which was up to 0.15m thick at 31.54m OD.

7.7 TRENCH 6 (Figs. 3, 11)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.7.1 Trench 6 measured 1.8m in width and 20.8m in length and was located to the east of Trench 5. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 30.65m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.7.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was east-west aligned ditch cut [23]. This ditch ran into the L.o.E of Trench 6 on both the western and eastern sides and measured 1.8m from east to west and 0.75m from north to south, with a maximum depth of 0.5m at a highest level of 31.06m OD. The cut of the ditch had steep sides with a concave base and was filled with [22], a compact mid greyish brown deposit of silt clay sand matrix containing pottery along with chalk and charcoal flecks. This ditch is most likely to have existed as a field boundary, and was also observed in Trench [5] where it was assigned the cut number [19], and in Trench [7] where it was assigned the cut number [41]

Truncating ditch fill [22] was north-south aligned ditch cut [21]. This ditch also ran into the L.o.E on both the eastern and western edges of Trench 6, and measured 5.5m from

north to south and 0.7m from east to west as seen. The cut of this ditch had steep sides with a flat base and was recorded as being 0.85m deep at a highest level of 31.06m OD. Filling [21] was [20], a compact, mid greyish brown deposit of silt sand matrix, found to be containing pottery, cbm, struck flint and bone and large flint nodules. The alignment of ditch cut [21] correlates with that of cut [25] discovered in Trench 3 and is likely to represent the same field boundary system. The fact that fill [20] also contained large flint nodules, as was the case with fill [24] in Trench 3, would also appear to suggest that this ditch was deliberately backfilled as part of an episode of re-landscaping.

Cut into the natural chalk [5] at the base of Trench 6 was circular posthole cut [27]. This cut measured 0.15m in diameter and was up to 0.1m in depth at a highest level of 30.35m OD. Cut [27] had steep sides and a concave base and was filled by [26], a loose, sandy, dark brown deposit containing both chalk and charcoal flecks. Although no cultural material was retrieved from this fill, the close proximity of [27] to the eastern edge of ditch [21] may well indicate that the two features are associated.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.7.3 Sealing ditch fill [2] and posthole fill [26] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.15m thick at 30.65m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.7.4 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2] which was up to 0.2m thick 30.85m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.7.5 Overlying subsoil [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.1m thick at 30.95m OD.

7.8 TRENCH 7 (Fig. 3)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.8.1 Trench 7 measured 1.8m in width and 21.1m in length and was located to the east of Trench 6. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural brickearth [4] and natural chalk [5], recorded at a highest level of 29.9m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.8.2 Cut into the brickearth [4] was east-west aligned ditch cut [41], which ran into the L.o.E on both the western and eastern edges of Trench 7. The cut itself measured 1.8m from

east to west and 0.8m from north to south as seen and was 0.4m in depth at a highest level of 29.57m OD. Cut [41] had steep sides with a concave base and was filled by [40], a mid greyish brown, compact deposit of silt sand matrix, found to be containing bone along with flecks of both cbm and charcoal. The alignment of ditch [41] correlates in alignment with that of ditch [19] observed in Trench [5] and ditch [23] observed in Trench 6, and is thus likely to be part of the same field boundary system.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.8.3 Overlying ditch fill [40] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.12m thick at 29.83m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.8.4 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2] which was up to 0.28m thick zt 30.09m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.8.5 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1], which was up to 0.1m thick at 30.19m OD.

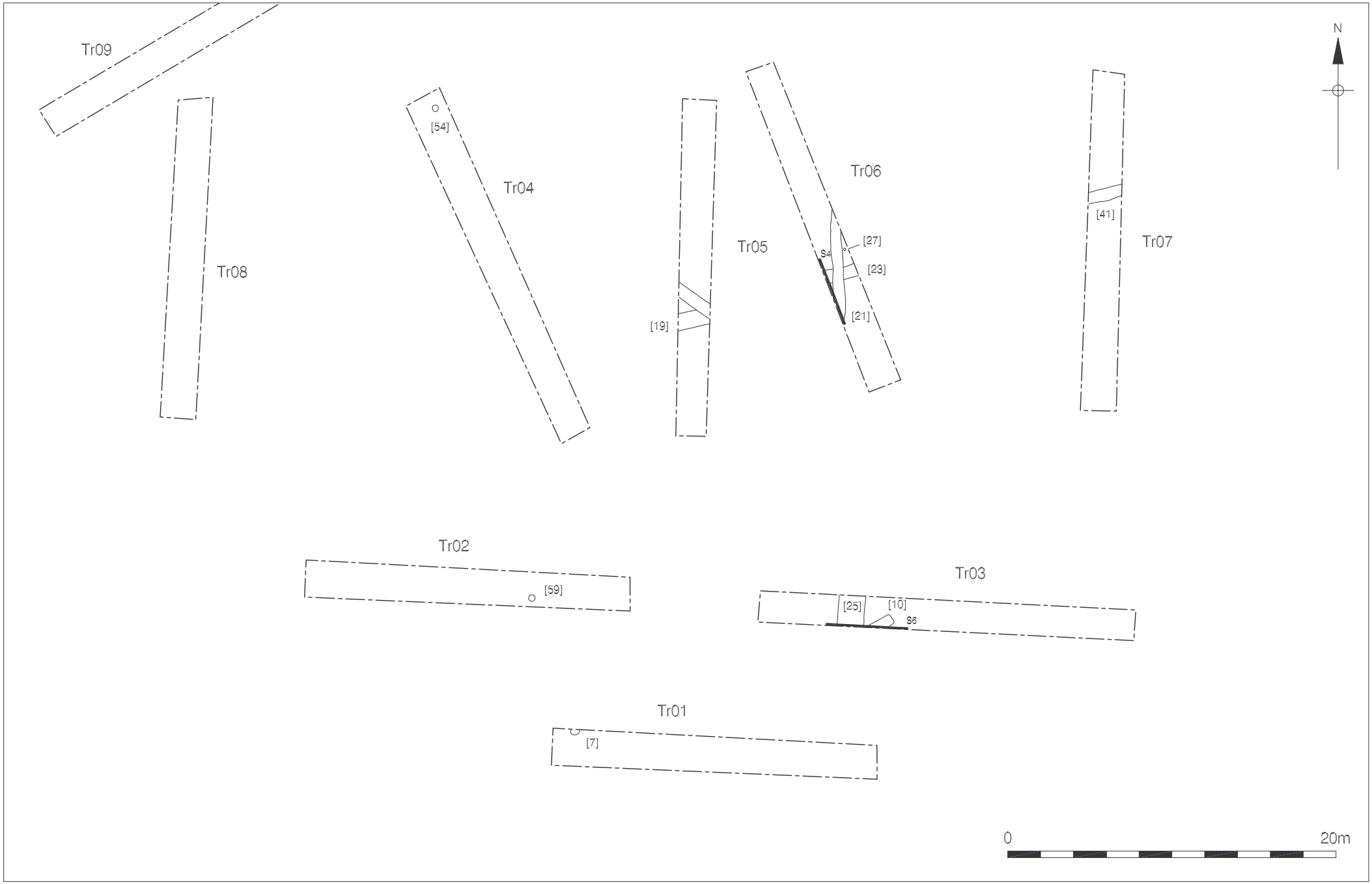


Figure 3
Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
1:300

7.9 TRENCH 8

Phase 1 - Natural

7.9.1 Trench 8 measured 1.8m in width and 20.4m in length and was located to the west of Trench 4. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], which were recorded at a highest level of 32.43m OD.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.9.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.07m thick and recorded at a highest level of 31.73m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.9.2 Sealing the colluvial deposit [3] was the subsoil [2], which was up to 0.08m thick and recorded at a highest level of 31.81m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.9.3 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1] which was up to 0.15m in thickness at a highest level of 31.96m OD.

7.10 TRENCH 9 (Figs. 4, 5, 6)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.10.1 Trench 9 measured 1.8m in width and 20.7m in length and was located to the north of Trench 8. The earliest deposits encountered in this Trench were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 31.96m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.10.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was sub-rounded stakehole cut [15]. This stakehole 0.09m from north to south and 0.06m from east to west and was up to 0.13m in depth at a highest level of 30.31m OD. The cut itself had near vertical sides and a concave base and was filled by [14], a friable dark grey brown deposit of sand silt matrix with inclusions of charcoal flecks. No cultural material from this fill was retrieved, and it was truncated from above by later pit cut [13].

Also cut into the natural brickearth [4] at the eastern end of Trench 9 was sub oval pit

cut [17] which ran into the L.o.E at both the eastern and northern edges of the Trench. Due to the fact that this pit was not fully exposed, an exact interpretation cannot be divulged. The pit itself measured 0.8m from north to south and 0.6m from east to west as seen and was recorded as having a maximum depth of 0.16m at 30.56m OD. The cut of the pit had gently sloping sides and a concave base and was filled by [16], a firm to friable deposit of sandy silt, light to mid grey brown in colour and containing pottery along with occasional charcoal and daub flecks.

Truncating both pit fill [16] and cutting into stakehole fill [14] from above was sub oval pit cut [13]. This pit was not fully exposed as it ran into the L.o.E to the north, but was recorded as having dimensions of 0.68m from north to south, 0.66m from east to west, and a maximum depth of 0.3m at a highest level of 30.57m OD. The pit cut had gradually sloping edges, with a concave to almost horizontal base and contained both a primary and secondary fill. The primary fill of pit cut [13] was [12], a firm, burnt, mid brownish grey deposit of sand silt matrix, containing a large amount of charcoal flecks and frequent burnt red patches. No cultural material was retrieved from this fill, which was up to 0.06m thick at 30.46m OD. Overlying primary fill [12] was secondary fill [11], a friable deposit of sand silt matrix, mid to dark brown grey in colour and found to be containing pottery, with occasional flecks of daub and charcoal. This deposit was 0.24m thick at a highest level of 30.57m OD. As this feature was not fully exposed, a precise interpretation cannot be given at this point in time. However, the nature of burnt deposit [12] and infilled deposit [11] may well be indicative of a backfilled fire pit.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.10.3 Sealing secondary pit fill [11] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.05m thick at 30.69m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.10.4 Overlying colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil [2], which was up to 0.08m thick at 30.77m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.10.5 Sealing subsoil [2] was topsoil [1], which was up to 0.32m thick at 31.09m OD

7.11 TRENCH 10 (Figs. 5, 11)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.11.1 Trench 10 measured 1.8m in width and 19.86m in length and was located to the east of Trench 9. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4], which were recorded at a highest level of 29.93m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.11.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4], was sub oval pit cut [31]. This pit cut was not fully exposed as it ran into the L.o.E on the north side of the trench. As seen, the pit measured 1.2m from north to south, 1.6m from east to west and had a maximum depth of 0.4m at 29.83m OD. The cut of the pit had steep to gentle sloping sides with a concave base and contained three separate fills. The primary fill of pit cut [31] was [30], a soft to friable dark grey brown deposit of silt sand matrix, found to be containing both pottery and bone, along with frequent flecks of charcoal and daub. Deposit [31] was up to 0.3m in depth at a highest level of 29.63m OD. Overlying primary fill [30] was secondary fill [29], a firm, light grey brown deposit of silt sand matrix, containing inclusions of bone and pottery, along with large nodules of flint. This deposit was up to 0.27m in depth at a highest level of 29.83m OD. Sealing secondary deposit [29] was tertiary fill [28], a firm to compact, light yellowish brown silty sand containing occasional flecks of charcoal and daub and small flint nodules. This deposit was up to 0.15m in depth at a highest level of 29.83m OD. As this feature was not fully exposed, an exact interpretation cannot be given at this time. However, pit [31] appears to have been deliberately backfilled at some point in time, as suggested by the large flint nodules present within the secondary fill [29]. This is suggestive of the re-landscaping of the site at some point in time, as also exampled by pit [10] in Trench 3 and the ditches [25] and [21] in Trenches 3 and 6 respectively.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.11.3 Sealing tertiary pit fill [28] was the colluvial layer [3], which was at least 0.07m thick at 30.26m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.11.4 Sealing colluvial layer [3] was subsoil deposit [2], which was up to 0.1m thick at 30.36m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.11.5 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil [1], which was up to 0.35m thick at 30.71m OD.

7.12 TRENCH 11 (Figs 4, 5)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.12.1 Trench 11 measured 1.8m in width and 23.76m in length and was located to the east of Trench 10. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 29.04m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.12.2 Cut into the natural chalk [5] was north-south aligned ditch cut [61], which ran into the L.o.E to both the north and southern sides of the trench. Cut [61] measured 1.8m in length from north to south and 1m in width from east to west, and was up to 0.26m in depth at a highest level of 28.16m OD. The cut itself had steeply sloping sides with a rounded to 'V' shaped base, and was filled by [60], a soft deposit of clay sand silt matrix, mid brown in colour and containing inclusions of flint pebbles. No cultural material was recovered from this ditch, but it is most likely to represent a field boundary.

Truncating ditch fill [60] from above was east-west aligned ditch cut [53], which ran into the L.o.E to the north side of the trench, and measured 1.99m in length from east to west and 0.3m in width from north to south. Cut [53] was up to 0.2m in depth at a highest level of 28.16m OD, with concave sides and a rounded base which butt ended to the west. Filling [53] was [51], a firm deposit of sandy silt, mid light brown in colour and containing flint pebbles. To the west of ditch cut [53] was ditch cut [51], which continued along the same alignment as [53]. Ditch cut [67] ran into the L.o.E. to the south of the trench, and measured 1.8m in length from east to west and 0.38m in width from north to south as seen, butt ending to the east. The ditch cut was up to 0.19m in depth at 28.43m OD and had concave sides and a rounded base. Filling [67] was [66], a firm deposit of mid light brown sandy silt containing flint pebbles. As with fill [51], no cultural material was retrieved from [66]. The similarity in cuts [53] and [67] both in terms of alignment and profile would appear to suggest that they are contemporary. Although no cultural material was retrieved from either of the fills, the fact that [53] butt ends to the east and [67] butt ends to the west, with a gap of approximately 2m between the two ditches, may well be indicative of an entrance to an enclosure boundary.

Truncating ditch fill [51] was east-west aligned ditch cut [52], which ran into the L.o.E. to

the north side of the trench. This cut measured 3.40m from east to west and 0.5m from north to south as seen, with a maximum depth of up to 0.11m at 28.14m OD. The cut itself had concave edges and a rounded base and was filled by [5], a firm deposit of sandy silt, mid greyish brown in colour and containing flint pebbles. No cultural material was retrieved from this fill. The similarity in alignment of [52] and [53] seems to suggest that [52] is in fact a re-cut of the original ditch [53].

Cut into the natural brickearth [4] to the eastern end of Trench 11 was oval pit cut [43] which measured 1.47m from east to west and 1m from north to south. The pit had steep sides with a concave base and was 0.36m in depth at a maximum height of 28.02m OD. Filling [43] was [42], a firm deposit of sandy silt, brown in colour with inclusions of pottery, both burnt and struck flint and chalk and charcoal flecks. No specific function could be ascribed to this pit, but as with pit [10] in Trench 3 it appeared to have been backfilled, again suggestive of an episode of re-landscaping.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

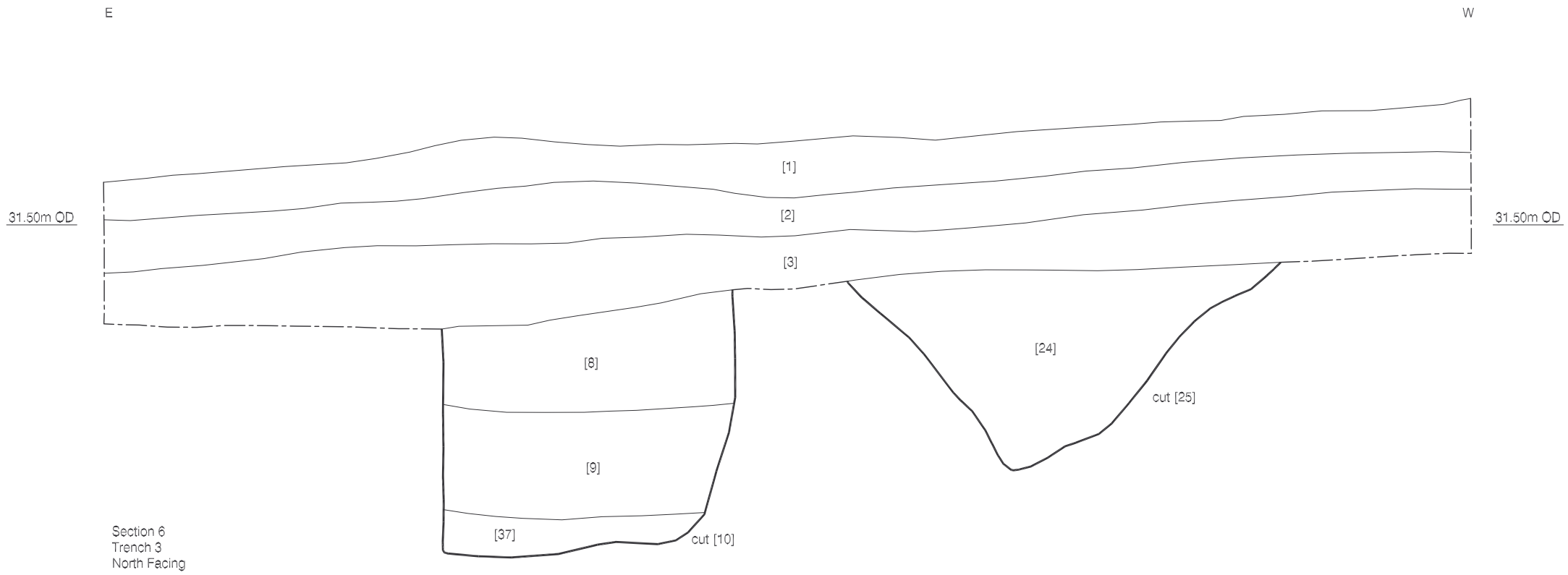
7.12.3 Sealing pit fill [42] and ditch fill [50] was colluvial deposit [3], which was at least 0.35m thick at 28.55m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

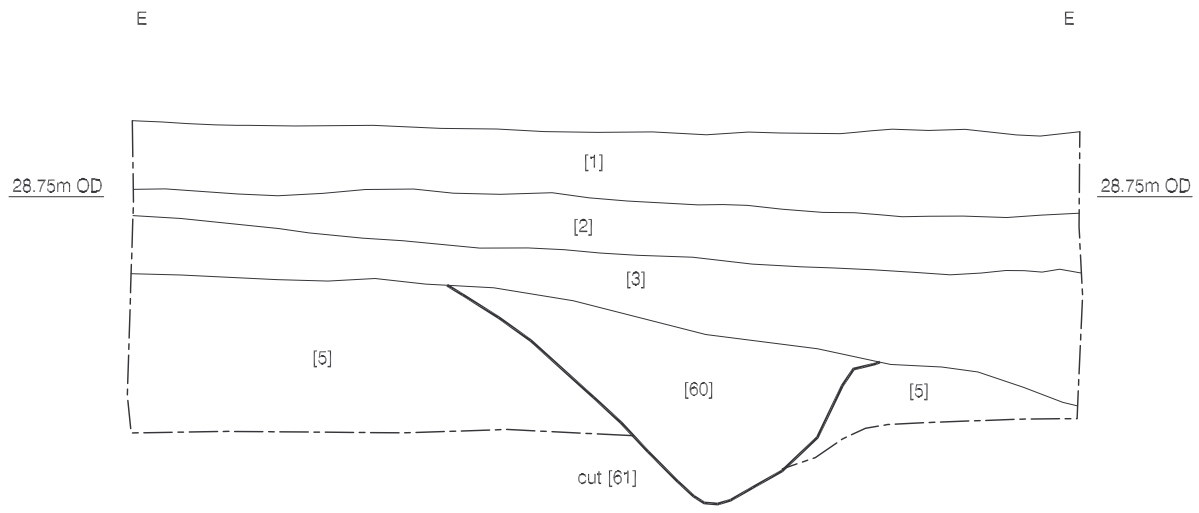
7.12.4 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2] which was up to 0.15m thick at 28.70m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

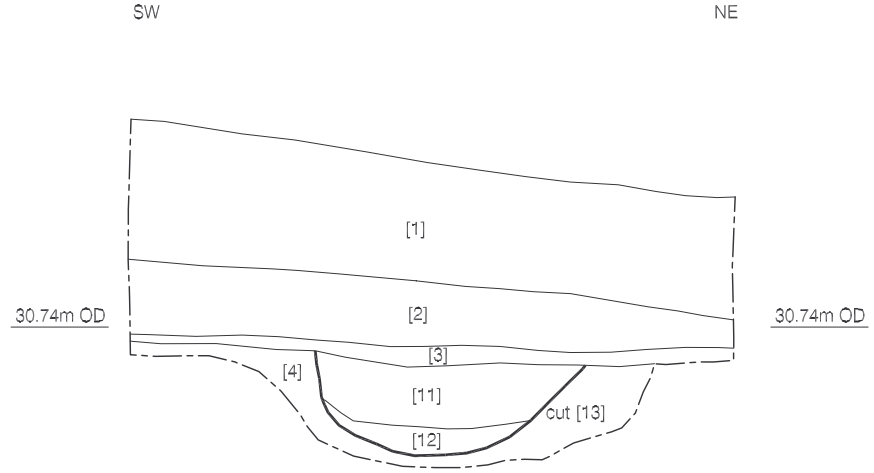
7.12.5 Overlying subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.22m thick at 28.92m OD.



Section 6
Trench 3
North Facing



Section 16
Trench 11
South Facing



Section 2
Trench 9
South East facing

Figure 4
Sections 2, 3 & 16
1:20

7.13 TRENCH 12 (Fig. 6)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.13.1 Trench 12 measured 1.8m in width and 22.75m in length and was located to the north-west of Trench 9. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 32.04m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.13.2 Cut into the natural brickearth at the centre of Trench 12 was north-east south-west aligned ditch cut [63], which ran into the L.o.E. at both the western and eastern edges of the trench. This ditch measured 1.8m in length from east to west and 0.8m in width from north to south and was up to 0.13m in depth at a highest level of 31.94m OD. The cut of ditch [63] had shallow, concave sides with a flat base and was filled with [62], a firm deposit of sandy silt, light orange grey in colour and containing inclusions of pottery, and charcoal flecks. This ditch is most likely to represent a further field boundary, despite its shallow nature.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.13.3 Sealing ditch fill [62] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.09m thick at 32.13m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.13.4 Overlying colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil [2], which was at least 0.14m thick at 32.27m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.13.5 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.2m thick at 32.47m OD.

7.14 TRENCH 13

Phase 1 - Natural

7.14.1 Trench 13 measured 1.8m in width and 21.6m in length and was located to the east of Trench 12. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 31.61m OD.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.14.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.15m thick at 31.31m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.14.3 Overlying colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil [2], which was at least 0.1m thick at 31.41m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.14.4 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m thick at 31.71m OD.

7.15 TRENCH 14

Phase 1 - Natural

7.15.1 Trench 14 measured 1.8m in width and 22.6m in length and was located to the east of Trench 13. The earliest deposits encountered in this trench were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 30.16m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.15.2 Overlying the natural brickearth [4} was subsoil [2], which was at least 0.15m thick at 329.97m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.15.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.2m thick at 30.17m OD.

7.16 TRENCH 15 (Fig. 5)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.16.1 Trench 15 measured 1.8m in width and 23m in length and was located to the east of Trench 14. The earliest deposits encountered in this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 29.29m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.16.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was north-south aligned ditch cut [47], which ran into

the L.o.E. to the south side of the trench and was truncated to the north by later posthole cut [45]. Ditch cut [47] measured 1.54m in length from north to south and 0.81m in width from east to west and was up to 0.32m in depth at a highest level of 28.55m OD. The cut itself had gradually sloping sides with a concave base and was filled by [46], a firm deposit of silt sand matrix containing inclusions occasional charcoal flecks and gravels. No cultural material was retrieved from fill [46], although the nature of the ditch is somewhat suggestive of a field boundary.

Also cut into the natural brickearth [4] was posthole cut [49] which measured 0.2m from north to south and 0.25m from east to west. This posthole had steeply sloping sides and a concave base and was up to 0.25m in depth at a highest level of 28.41m OD. Filling [49] was context [48], a deposit of firm silty sand, mid brown grey in colour and containing frequent gravels. No clear structure could be discerned relating to this single posthole.

Truncating both ditch fill [47] and posthole fill [48] was posthole cut [45] which measured 0.25m from north to south and 0.32m from east to west with a maximum depth of up to 0.3m at 28.47m OD. The cut of the posthole had steeply sloping sides and a concave base and was filled by [44], a firm to friable mid grey brown deposit of silt sand matrix containing inclusions of charcoal flecks and gravel. This posthole may well have been a replacement for earlier posthole cut [49], although there were no further postholes observed within Trench 15 to discern a specific structure. However, Cut [45] may well be related to a further posthole in Trench 17, which was given the cut number [35]. Both of these features were incredibly similar in nature.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.16.3 Sealing posthole fill [44] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.04m thick at a highest level of 28.55m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.16.4 Overlying colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2] which was up to 0.1m thick at 28.65m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.16.5 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was 0.32m thick at 28.98m OD.

7.17 TRENCH 16 (Fig. 5)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.17.1 Trench 16 measured 1.8m in width and 21.42m in length and was located to the east of Trench 15. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of Trench 16 were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], observed at a highest level of 28.45m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.17.2 Cut into the natural brickearth at the centre of Trench 16 was north-west south-east aligned ditch cut [55] which ran into the L.o.E. at both the western and eastern edges of the trench. Cut [55] measured 1.8m in length and 1.18m in width as seen, with a maximum depth of 0.42m at 27.92m OD. The cut itself had moderate to steep sides with a concave to flat base and was filled by [54], a loose deposit of silty sand, orange brown in colour and containing pottery, burnt flint and chalk flecks. This ditch was also observed in Trench 17 where it was given the cut number [33] and interpreted as a field boundary.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.17.3 Sealing ditch fill [54] was colluvial deposit [3], which was at least 0.14m thick at a highest level of 27.96m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.17.4 Overlying colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2] which was at least 0.21m thick at 28.18m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.17.5 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was 0.16m thick at 28.34m OD.

7.18 TRENCH 17 (Fig. 5)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.18.1 Trench 17 measured 1.8m in length and 20.7m in length and was located to the east of Trench 16. The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was the natural brickearth [4] observed at a highest level of 27.74m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.18.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was east west aligned ditch cut [33] which ran into the L.o.E. at both the western and eastern edges of the trench. This ditch measured 1.8m in length and 1.24m in width as seen and was up to 0.39m in depth at 27.32m OD. The cut of the ditch had sharp concave edges and a flat base and was filled by [32], a soft, dark grey brown deposit of silt sand matrix containing pottery, both burnt and struck flint and frequent charcoal flecks and fragments along with medium sized flint nodules. This ditch is likely to be related to ditch cut [55] observed in Trench 16, forming part of the same field boundary system.

To the northern end of Trench 17 and also cut into the natural brickearth [4] was circular posthole cut [35] which measured 0.46m from north to south, 0.42m from east to west and was up to 0.26m in depth at 27.07m OD. The cut for this posthole had sharp to concave edges with a concave base and was filled by [34], a soft to loose dark grey deposit of silt sand matrix with inclusions of charcoal flecks and flint nodules. The flint nodules discovered within [34] are most likely to have been used as post packing. No further postholes were discovered within Trench 17, meaning that no specific structure could be discerned and no cultural material was retrieved from [34]. However, [35] does bear a resemblance to posthole [45] discovered in Trench 15 and the two features may well be structurally related.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.18.3 Sealing both posthole fill [34] and ditch fill [32] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.17m thick at 27.54m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.18.4 Sealing colluvial layer [3] was subsoil deposit [2] which was at least 0.14m thick at 27.68m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.18.5 Overlying subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil [1], which was up to 0.34m in depth at 28.02m OD.

7.19 TRENCH 18 (Fig. 5}

Phase 1 - Natural

7.19.1 Trench 18 measured 1.8m in width and 20.8m in length and was located to the north of

Trench 17. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 26.76m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.19.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was east-west aligned ditch cut [39], which ran into the L.o.E. to the north of the trench at the easternmost end. Ditch cut [39] measured 12.8m in length from east to west and 0.84m in width from north to south and was up to 0.18m in depth at 26.24m OD. Three separate slots were dug into the ditch at regular intervals, which revealed a cut with gently sloping sides and a concave to flat base. Filling [39] was [38], a loose deposit of silt sand matrix, mid orange brown in colour and containing inclusions of chalk flecks and small sub angular pebbles. No finds were retrieved from fill [38], but the ditch was interpreted as being part of a field system.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.19.3 Sealing ditch fill [38] was subsoil deposit [2], which was at least 0.48m thick at 26.88m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.19.4 Overlying subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was 0.38m thick at 27.26m OD.

7.20 TRENCH 19

Phase 1 - Natural

7.20.1 Trench 19 measured 1.8m in width and 17m in length and was located to the west of Trench 18. The earliest deposits encountered in this Trench were the natural chalk [5] and natural brickearth [4], observed at a highest level of 27.67m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.20.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.2m thick at 27.52m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.20.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.15m thick at 27.67m OD

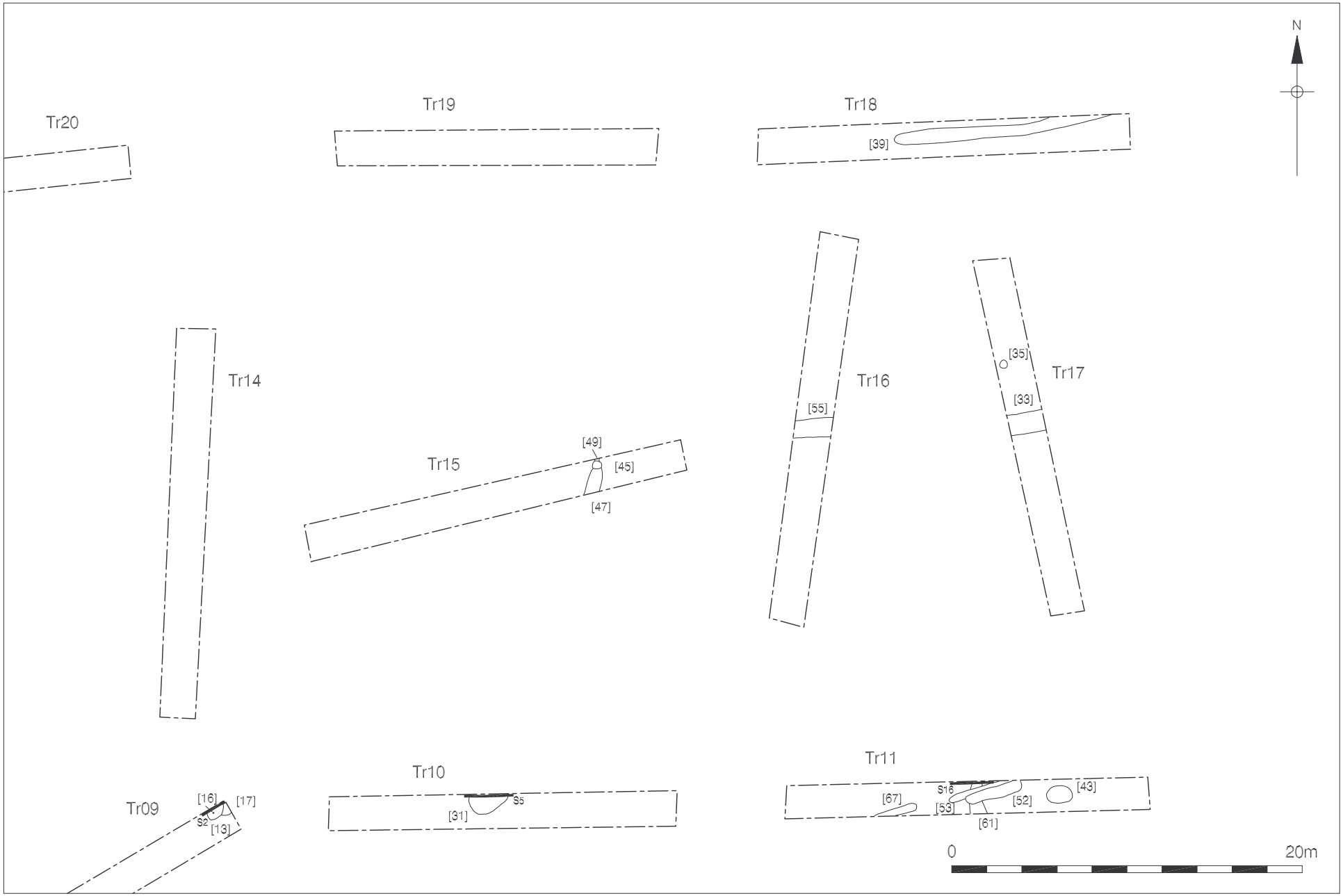


Figure 5
Trenches 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19
1:300

7.21 TRENCH 20

Phase 1 - Natural

7.21.1. Trench 20 measured 1.8m in width and 20m in length and was located to the west of Trench 19. The earliest deposits encountered in this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], which were observed at a highest level of 29.37m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.21.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.13m thick at 28.77m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.21.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.14m thick at 28.9m OD.

7.22 TRENCH 21

Phase 1 - Natural

7.22.1 Trench 21 measured 1.8m in width and 20m in length, and was located to the north-west of Trench 20. The earliest deposits encountered in this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], observed at a highest level of 29.67m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.22.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.13m thick at 28.62m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.22.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.18m thick at 28.8m OD.

7.23 TRENCH 22 (Fig. 6)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.23.1 Trench 22 was located to the east of Trench 21 and measured 1.8m in width and 21.1m in length. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural

brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 28.44m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.23.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] at the base of this trench was sub circular firepit cut [65], which ran into the L.o.E. on the eastern edge. The pit itself measured 0.85m from north to south and 0.65m from east to west as seen, with a maximum depth of 0.1m at 27.07m OD. Pit cut [65] had shallow concave sides and a flat base and was filled by [64], a soft, dark grey deposit of silty sand, including a frequent amount of charcoal flecks and fragments. The presence of large amounts of charcoal and a burnt daub appearance around the base and edges of the cut were suggestive on *in situ* burning and hence the interpretation of a Firepit. No cultural material was retrieved from fill [64].

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.23.3 Sealing Firepit fill [64] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.11m thick at 27.12m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.23.4 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.09m thick at 27.22m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.23.5 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.2m thick at 27.42m OD.

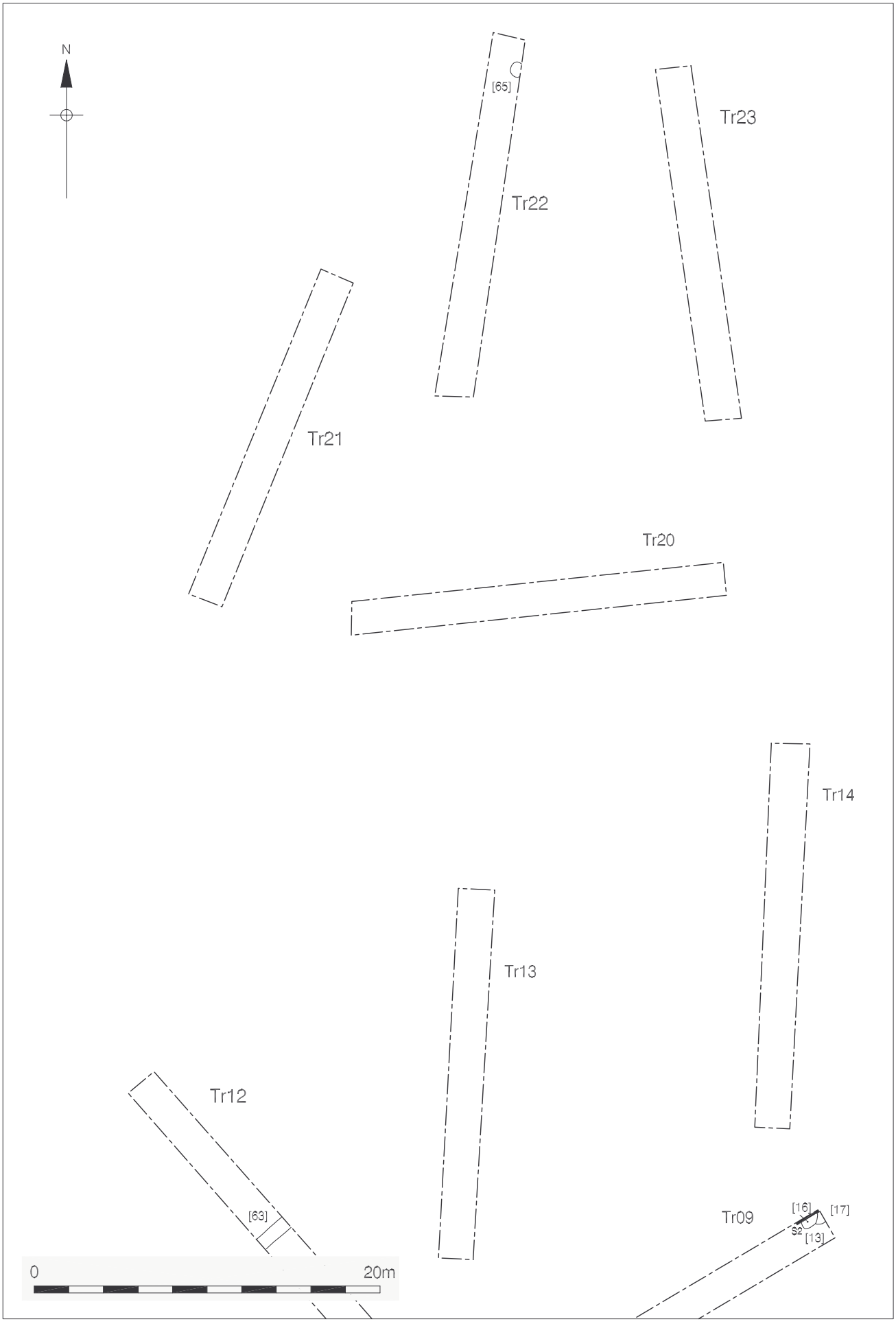


Figure 6
Trenches 9, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22 and 23
1:300

7.24 TRENCH 23

Phase 1 - Natural

7.24.1 Trench 23 was located to the east of Trench 22 and measured 1.8m in width 21m in length. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 27.86m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.24.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.19m thick at 27.2m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.24.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.31m thick at 27.51m OD.

7.25 TRENCH 24

Phase 1 - Natural

7.25.1 Trench 24 was located to the east of Trench 23 and measured 1.8m in width and 20.8m in length. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural brickearth [4], observed at a highest level of 26.77m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.25.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.25m thick at 26.56m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.25.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.3m thick at 26.86m OD.

7.26 TRENCH 25

Phase 1 - Natural

7.26.1 Trench 25 measured 1.8m in width and 21m in length and was located to the east of Trench 24. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural

brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 26.23m OD.

Phase 5 - Colluvium

7.26.2 Overlying the natural brickearth [4] was colluvial deposit [3], which was up to 0.1m thick at 26.33m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.26.3 Sealing colluvial deposit [3] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.2m thick at 26.53m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.26.4 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.3m thick at 26.83m OD.

7.27 TRENCH 26

Phase 1 - Natural

7.27.1 Trench 26 was located to the north-west of Trench 25 and measured 1.8m in width and 20m in length. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 25.45m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.27.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.12m thick at 25.55m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.27.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.1m thick at 25.65m OD.

WESTERN FIELD

7.28 TRENCH 27

Phase 1 - Natural

7.28.1 Trench 27 was located in the north-eastern corner of the western field and measured 1.8m in width and 20.5m in length. The earliest deposits encountered in the base of this

trench were the natural chalk [5] which was overlain in patches by the natural gravel [90], a compact, light brownish red deposit of silty gravel, observed at a highest level of 32.66m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.27.2 Sealing the natural gravel [90] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.07m thick at 32.7m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.28.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.14m thick at 32.91m OD.

7.29 TRENCH 28

Phase 1 - Natural

7.29.1 Trench 28 was located to the west of Trench 27 and measured 1.8m in length and 19m in length. The earliest deposit observed at the base of this trench was the natural gravel [90], recorded at a highest level of 31.82m OD at the northern end of the Trench.

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.29.2 Sealing the natural gravels [90] was colluvial layer [77], a firm, light greyish brown deposit of silty sand containing both burnt and struck flint. This deposit was seen to be overlying [90] at the northernmost end of the trench, but was of such a depth at the southern end that it was not fully excavated for health and safety reasons. This colluvial layer appears to be part of a dry valley running from the south-west to the north-east of the western field and was observed in several trenches. In Trench 28 [77] was recorded as being at least 0.19m in depth at a highest level of 32.23m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.29.3 Sealing the colluvial layer [77] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.21m thick at 32.44m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.29.4 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1], which was up to 0.09m thick at 32.53m OD.

7.30 TRENCH 29/30 (Fig. 7)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.30.1 Trench 29/30 was located to the west of Trench 28 and measured 19.42m in length and was extended up to a maximum width of 11m following the discovery of several postholes situated within the trench itself. For this reason the trench was given both numbers 29 and 30. The earliest deposit encountered was the natural gravel [90], recorded at a highest level of 35.62m OD towards the northern end of the trench.

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.30.2 Sealing the natural gravel [90] was colluvial deposit [77], recorded at a highest level of 35.23m OD. Deposit [77] was observed sealing [90] towards the northern end of the trench, but was not fully excavated due to health and safety reasons. The thickness of the colluvium increased towards the south as it entered the dry valley. Although not fully excavated, [77] was observed as being at least 0.29m in thickness.

Phase 3 - Prehistoric

7.30.3 Cut into colluvial deposit [77] to the northern end of the trench were four postholes, arranged in a square formation and approximately 0.4m in distance from one another. Sub square posthole cut [79] measured 0.14m from north to south, 0.19m from east to west and was 0.15m in depth at 35.23m OD. The cut had near vertical sides and a tapered base and was filled by [78], a firm, dark grey deposit of sand silt matrix, containing inclusions of burnt flint, possibly used as post packing. To the east of cut [79] was sub circular posthole cut [81], which measured 0.26m from north to south and 0.3m from east to west with a maximum depth of 0.22m at 35.23m OD. Cut [81] had steeply sloping sides and a rounded base and was filled by [80], a deposit identical in nature to fill [78]. To the south of cut [81] was sub circular posthole cut [85], measuring 0.22m from north to south, 0.26m from east to west and up to 0.23m in depth at 35.23m OD. Cut [85] had steeply sloping sides and a rounded base and was filled by deposit [84], which was identical in nature to fill [78]. To the west of cut [85] was sub circular posthole cut [83], measuring 0.17m from north to south, 0.21m from east to west and up to 0.13m in depth at 35.23m OD. The cut had vertical sides and a tapered base and was filled by [82] a deposit also identical to fill [78]. These four postholes clearly represent some form of small structure. In terms of cultural material, only burnt flint was retrieved from the fill, which would be suggestive of a prehistoric date. However, no specific period in prehistoric terms can be pinpointed without further dating evidence.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.30.4 Sealing posthole fills [78], [80], [82] and [85] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.45m thick at 35.06m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.30.5 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.35m in depth at 35.41m OD.

7.31 TRENCH 31

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.31.1 Trench 31 was located to the south-east of Trench 29/30 and measured 1.8m in width and 20m in length. For health and safety reasons Trench 31 could not be excavated down to natural deposits. The earliest deposit encountered was colluvial deposit [77] which was not full excavated but at least 0.25m thick at 32.57m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.31.2 Sealing colluvial deposit [77] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.4m thick at 32.97m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.31.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 33.27m OD.

7.32 TRENCH 32

Phase 1 - Natural

7.32.1 Trench 32 was located to the south of Trench 28 and measured 1.8m in width and 20m in length. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural gravel [90], recorded at the northern end at a highest level of 31.73m OD.

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.32.2. Sealing natural gravel [90] at the northernmost end of the Trench was colluvial deposit [77], recorded as up to 0.65m in depth at a highest level of 32.11m OD. At the southern end of the trench, [77] was not fully excavated due to health and safety reasons.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.32.3 Sealing colluvial deposit [77] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.15m thick at 32.26m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.32.4 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.1m in depth at 32.36m OD.

7.33 TRENCH 33 (Figs. 7, 11)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.33.1 Trench 33 was located to the east of Trench 32 and measured 1.8m in width and 18m in length. A machine sondage was dug to the south of the trench by Archaeoscope of Royal Holloway in order to investigate the dry valley running south-west to north-east across the western field. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this sondage was the natural chalk [5], recorded at a highest level of 30.08m OD. Sealing natural chalk [5] was gravel deposit [90], which was at least 0.43m thick at 30.41m OD. Overlying gravel deposit [90] was [89], a loose deposit of silty sand, light greenish yellow in colour, and up to 0.33m thick at 30.74m OD. Sealing the layer of sand [89] was [88], a stiff deposit of sandy silt, light yellowish brown in colour and almost brickearth like in nature, up to 0.34m in thickness and recorded at a highest level of 31.11m OD.

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.33.2 Overlying sandy silt deposit [88] was colluvial deposit [77], which was up to 0.95m in thickness at 32.06m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.33.3 Sealing colluvial deposit [77] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.48m in depth at 32.54m OD.

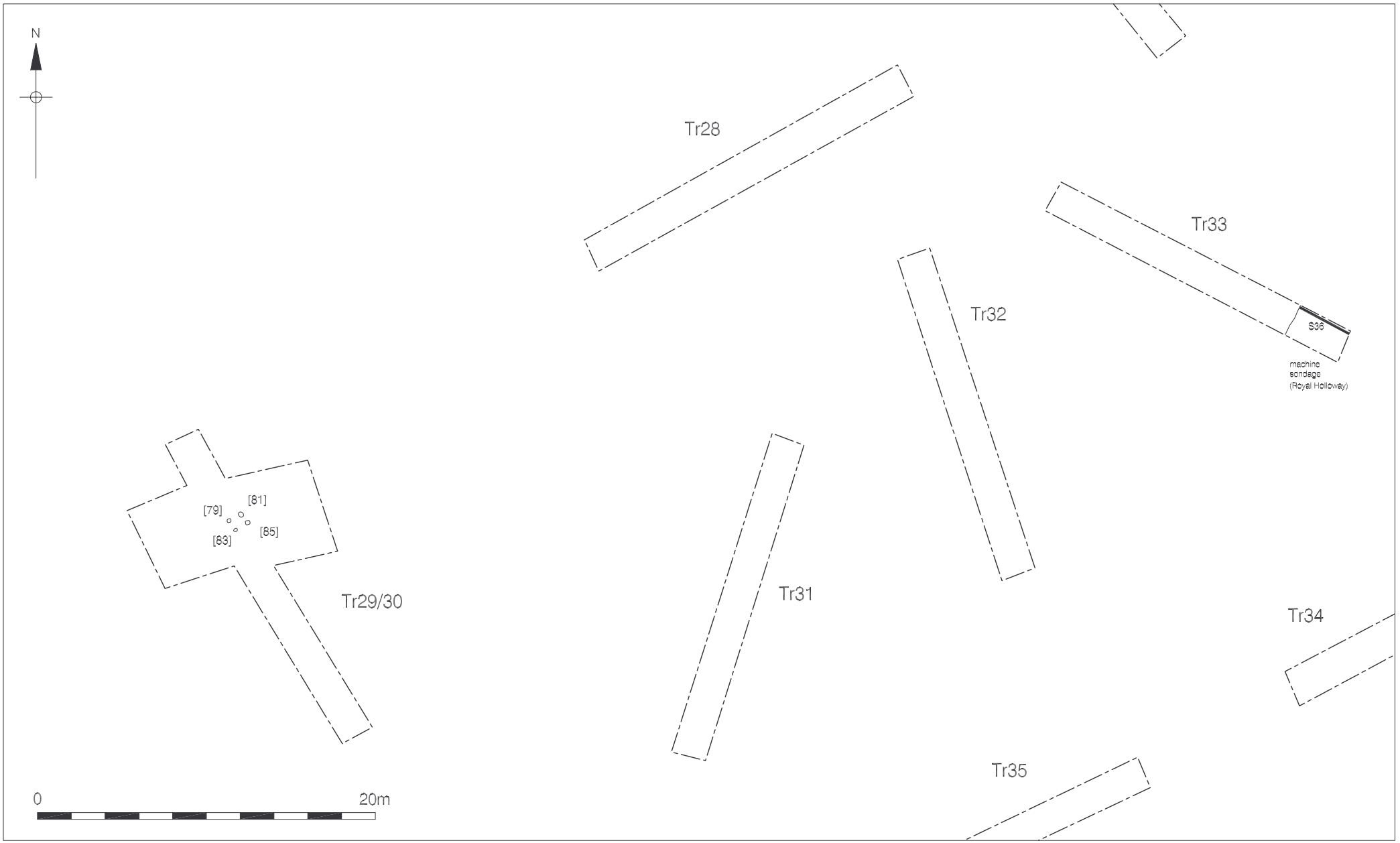


Figure 7
Trenches 28, 29/30, 31, 32, 33
1:300

7.34 TRENCH 34

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.34.1 Trench 34 was located to the south of Trench 33 and measured 1.8m in width and 20m in length. For health and safety reasons Trench 31 could not be excavated down to natural deposits. The earliest deposit encountered was colluvial deposit [77] which was not fully excavated but at least 0.25m thick at 31.92m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.34.2 Sealing colluvial deposit [77] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.4m thick at 32.32m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.34.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.35m in depth at 32.67m OD.

7.35 TRENCH 35

7.35.1 Trench 35 was located to the east of Trench 34 and measured 1.8m in width and 20m in length. For health and safety reasons Trench 31 could not be excavated down to natural deposits. The earliest deposit encountered was colluvial deposit [77] which was not fully excavated but at least 0.25m thick at 32.62m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.35.2 Sealing colluvial deposit [77] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.45m thick at 33.07m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.35.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 33.37m OD.

7.36 TRENCH 36

Phase 1 - Natural

7.36.1 Trench 36 measured 1.8m in width and 22m in length and was located to the east of Trench 35. Natural chalk [5] and the Boyn Hill Gravels [74], a firm deposit of sandy gravels, were observed at the base of this trench and were observed in patches. They were sealed by brickearth deposit [4], recorded at a highest level of 33.74m OD.

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.36.2 Overlying the natural brickearth [4] was colluvial deposit [77], which was up to 0.25m thick at 33.56m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.36.3 Sealing colluvial deposit [77] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.3m thick at 33.86m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.36.4 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.35m in depth at 34.21m OD.

7.37 TRENCH 37

Phase 1 - Natural

7.37.1 Trench 37 measured 1.8m in width and 22m in length and was located to the east of Trench 36. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 34.94m OD.

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.36.2 Overlying the natural brickearth [4] was colluvial deposit [77], which was up to 0.12m thick at 34.86m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.37.3 Sealing colluvial deposit [77] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.28m thick at 35.14m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.37.4 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 35.44m OD.

7.38 TRENCH 38

Phase 1 - Natural

7.38.1 Trench 38 was located to the south of Trench 37 and measured 1.8m in width and 23m in length. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural Boyn Hill Gravels [74] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 35.64m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.38.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4]] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.15m thick at 35.26m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.38.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.35m in depth at 35.61m OD.

7.39 TRENCH 39

Phase 1 - Natural

7.39.1 Trench 39 measured 1.8m in width and 23.5m in length and was located to the west of Trench 38. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5], the natural Boyn Hill Gravels [74] and the natural brickearth [4], observed at a highest level of 35.58m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.39.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.1m thick at 35.05m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.39.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 35.35m OD.

7.40 TRENCH 40 (Fig. 8)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.40.1 Trench 40 was located to the west of Trench 39, measuring 1.8m in width and 20m in length. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural chalk [5], recorded at a highest level of 34.52m OD.

Phase 2 - Prehistoric Colluvium

7.40.2 Sealing the natural chalk [5] was colluvial deposit [77], which was at least 0.08m thick at 33.69m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.40.3 Sealing the colluvial deposit was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.39m thick at 34.18m OD.

Phase 7 - 19th - 20th Century

7.40.4 Cut into the subsoil [2] was cut [76] which measured at least 14.70m from east to west and ran into the L.o.E. at the western end of the trench. The cut also ran into the L.o.E. to the northern and southern edges of the trench, measuring 1.8m from north to south. This cut was not fully excavated due to health and safety reasons. Filling [76] was [75], a firm to friable deposit of silty sand, mid reddish brown in colour and containing inclusions of charcoal flecks, cbm and yellow stock brick. This feature is most likely to represent a 19th to 20th century chalk quarry pit and, although not fully excavated, was at least 0.6m in depth at 34.18m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.40.4 Sealing quarry pit backfill [75] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 34.48m OD.

7.41 TRENCH 41

Phase 1 - Natural

7.41.1 Trench 41 was located to the east of Trench 40, and measured 22.4m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 34.5m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.41.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.11m thick at 34.18m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.41.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.27m in depth at 34.45m OD.

7.42 TRENCH 42

Phase 1 - Natural

7.42.1 Trench 42 was located to the east of Trench 41 and measured 21.9m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural chalk [5], recorded at a highest level of 33.87m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.42.2 Sealing the natural chalk [5] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.1m thick at 34.13m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.42.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.2m in depth at 34.33m OD.

7.43 TRENCH 43

Phase 1 - Natural

7.43.1 Trench 43 measured 21.75m in length and 1.8m in width and was located to the east of Trench 42. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 33.88m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.43.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.22m thick at 33.58m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.43.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 33.88m OD.

7.44 TRENCH 44

Phase 1 - Natural

7.44.1 Trench 44 measured 22.4m in length and 1.8m in width and was located to the south of Trench 43. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 39.77m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.44.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.14m thick at 39.98m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.44.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.2m in depth at 40.18m OD.

7.45 TRENCH 45 (Fig. 8)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.45.1 Trench 45 measured 21.8m in length and 1.8m in width and was located to the west of Trench 44. The earliest deposits encountered in this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 35.79m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.45.2 Sealing the colluvial deposit was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.15m thick at 35.05m OD.

Phase 7 - 19th - 20th Century

7.40.4 Cut into the subsoil [2] was cut [69] which measured at least 12.20m from east to west. The cut also ran into the L.o.E. to the northern and southern edges of the trench, measuring 1.8m from north to south. This cut was not fully excavated due to health and safety reasons. Filling [69] was [68], a compact deposit of mixed rubble, chalk and brickearth containing inclusions of charcoal flecks, cbm and yellow stock brick. This feature is most likely to represent a 19th to 20th century chalk quarry pit, and although not fully excavated, was at least 0.6m in depth at 35.3m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.45.3 Sealing quarry pit backfill [68] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at

35.65m OD.

7.46 TRENCH 46 Fig. 8)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.46.1 Trench 46 measured 20.8m in length and 1.8m in width and was located to the west of Trench 46, The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5], the natural Boyn Hill Gravels [74] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 36.63m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.46.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] at the base of this trench was east west aligned ditch cut [71], measuring 15.75m in length from east to west and 0.5m in width from north to south as seen. The ditch ran into the L.o.E. to both the north and south of the trench. Two slots were excavated along the ditch and revealed a cut with gently sloping sides and a concave base, up to 0.16m in depth at a highest level of 36.24m OD. Filling [71] was [70], a firm deposit of silty sand, light grey brown in colour and containing inclusions of occasional small flint nodules. This ditch was interpreted as a field boundary, and unfortunately no cultural material was retrieved from fill [70].

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.46.3 Sealing ditch fill [70] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.15m thick at 36.17m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.46.4 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 36.47m OD.

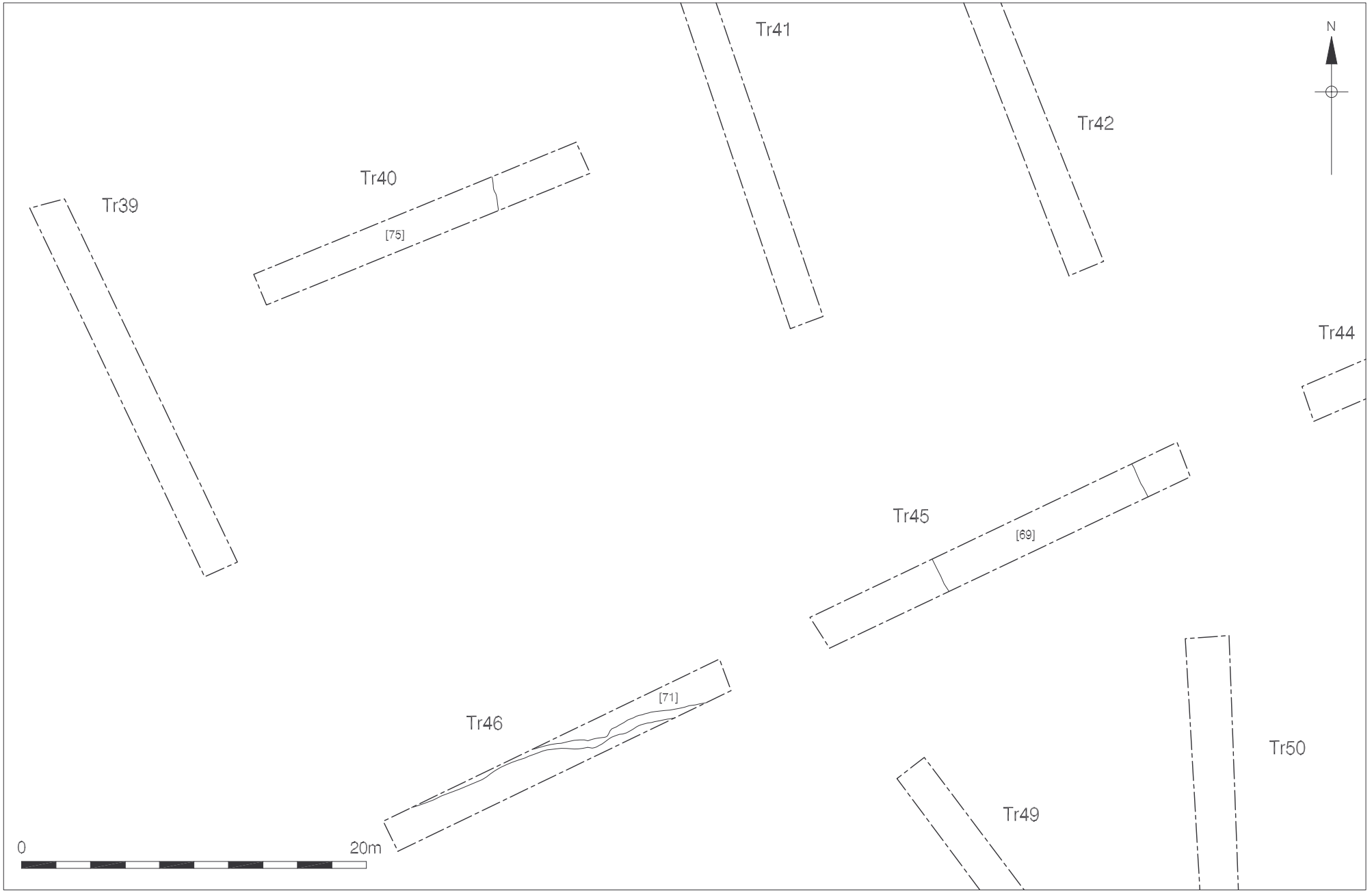


Figure 8
Trenches 39, 40, 41, 42, 45 and 46
1:300

7.47 TRENCH 47 (Fig. 9)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.47.1 Trench 47 measured 23.4m in length and 1.8m in width and was located to the south-west of Trench 46. Two Palaeolithic test pits were excavated at both the northern and southern ends of this trench, both of which measured 1.8m in width and 3m in length. The earliest deposit encountered was the natural chalk [5], recorded at a highest level of 36.52m OD. Overlying the natural chalk [5] was [93], a stiff, mid grey brown deposit of brown clay sand matrix, up to 0.2m thick at 36.72m OD. Overlying deposit [93] was [92], a mid to dark reddish brown stiff clay sand, up to 0.62m thick at 37.34m OD. Overlying deposit [92] was [91], a firmly compacted mid reddish brown gravel, 0.62m thick at 37.34m OD. Deposit [91] was sealed by the natural Boyn Hill Gravels [74]and natural brickearth [4], 0.17m thick at 37.49m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.47.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.2m thick at 38.33m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.47.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 38.63m OD.

7.48 TRENCH 48 (Fig. 9)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.48.1 Trench 48 measured 20.5m in length and 1.8m in length and was located to the east of Trench 47. Two Palaeolithic test pits were excavated in this trench, one being located at the western end and one being located at the eastern end. The earliest deposit encountered was the natural chalk [5], recorded at a highest level of 36.12m OD. Sealing the natural chalk [5] was [94], a moderately compacted light yellowish grey sandy degraded chalk, 0.9m thick at 37.02m OD. The Boyn Hill Gravels [74] sealed [94], and were up to 0.22m thick at 37.24m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.48.2 Sealing the natural Boyn Hill Gravels [74] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.2m thick

at 37.5m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.48.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.37m in depth at 37.87m OD.

7.49 TRENCH 49

Phase 1 - Natural

7.49.1 Trench 49 was located to the east of Trench 48 and measured 21m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 36.9m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.49.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.09m thick at 37.06m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.49.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.11m in depth at 37.17m OD.

7.50 TRENCH 50

Phase 1 - Natural

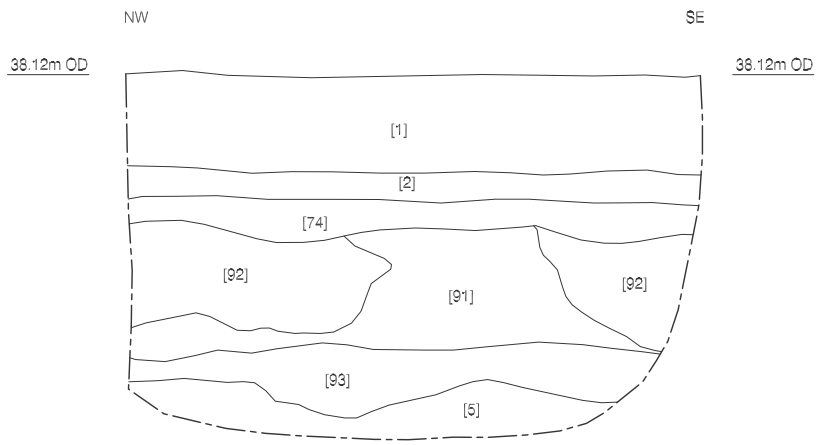
7.50.1 Trench 50 was located to the east of Trench 49 and measured 21m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposit encountered in the base of this trench was the natural chalk [5], recorded at a highest level of 36.75m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

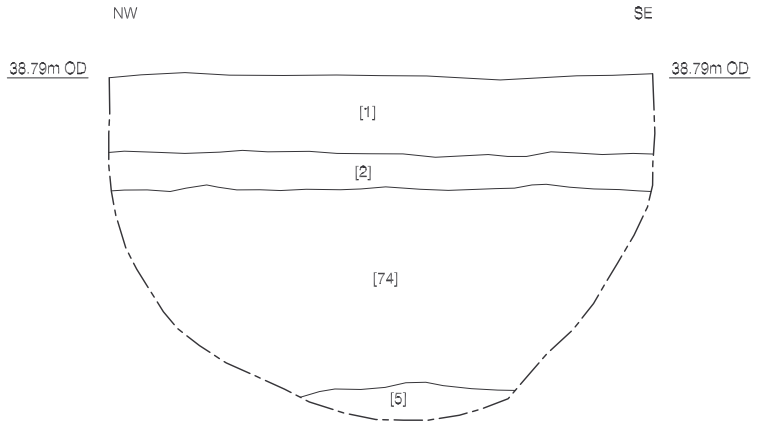
7.50.2 Sealing the natural chalk [5] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.07m thick at 36.45m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

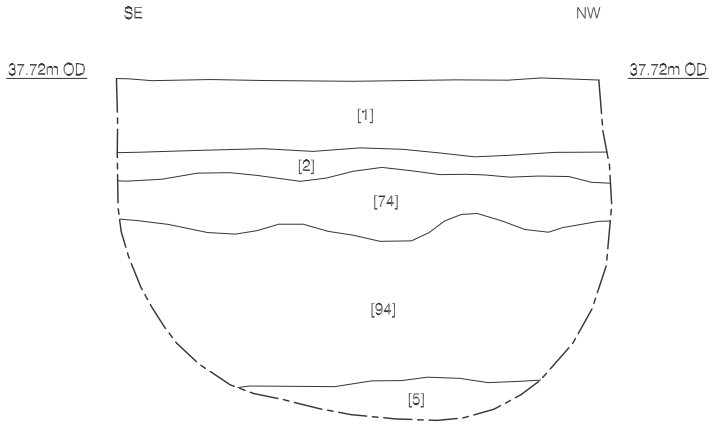
7.50.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.12m in depth at 36.57m OD.



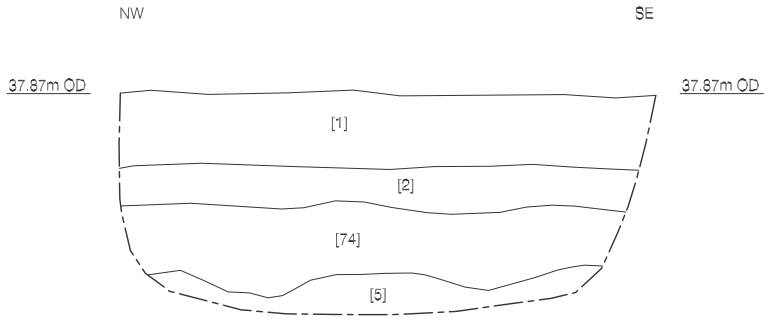
Section 56
Trench 47
South West Facing



Section 57
Trench 47
South West Facing



Section 58
Trench 48
North East Facing



Section 59
Trench 48
South West Facing

Figure 9
Sections 56 - 59
through Paleolithic deposits
1:40

7.51 TRENCH 51

Phase 1 - Natural

7.51.1 Located to the east of Trench 50 was Trench 51, measuring 22m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposits encountered in this trench were the natural gravels [90] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 41.03m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.51.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.1m in depth at 41.27m OD.

7.52 TRENCH 52

Phase 1 - Natural

7.52.1 Trench 52 was located to the south-west of Trench 51 and measured 20.5m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 37.35m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.52.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.07m thick at 37.37m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.52.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.16m in depth at 37.53m OD.

7.53 TRENCH 53

Phase 1 - Natural

7.53.1 Trench 53 was located to the west of Trench 52 and measured 21m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 38.04m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.53.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.18m thick at

38.37m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.53.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.12m in depth at 38.49m OD.

7.54 TRENCH 54 (Fig. 10)

Phase 1 - Natural

7.54.1 Trench 54 was located to the south of Trench 53 and measured 22m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 37.85m OD.

Phase 4 - Late Iron Age - Early Romano British

7.54.2 Cut into the natural brickearth [4] was north-east south-west aligned ditch cut [73] which ran into the L.o.E. at both the southern and eastern edges of the trench. As seen, the ditch measured 8.25m in length and 0.75m in width with a depth of 0.21m at 37.39m OD. The cut [73] had gently sloping sides with a concave base and was filled by [72], a firm deposit of sandy silt, light grey brown in colour and containing inclusions of pottery, bone and small flint nodules. This feature was interpreted as a field boundary.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.54.3 Sealing ditch fill [72] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.3m in depth at 38.11m OD.

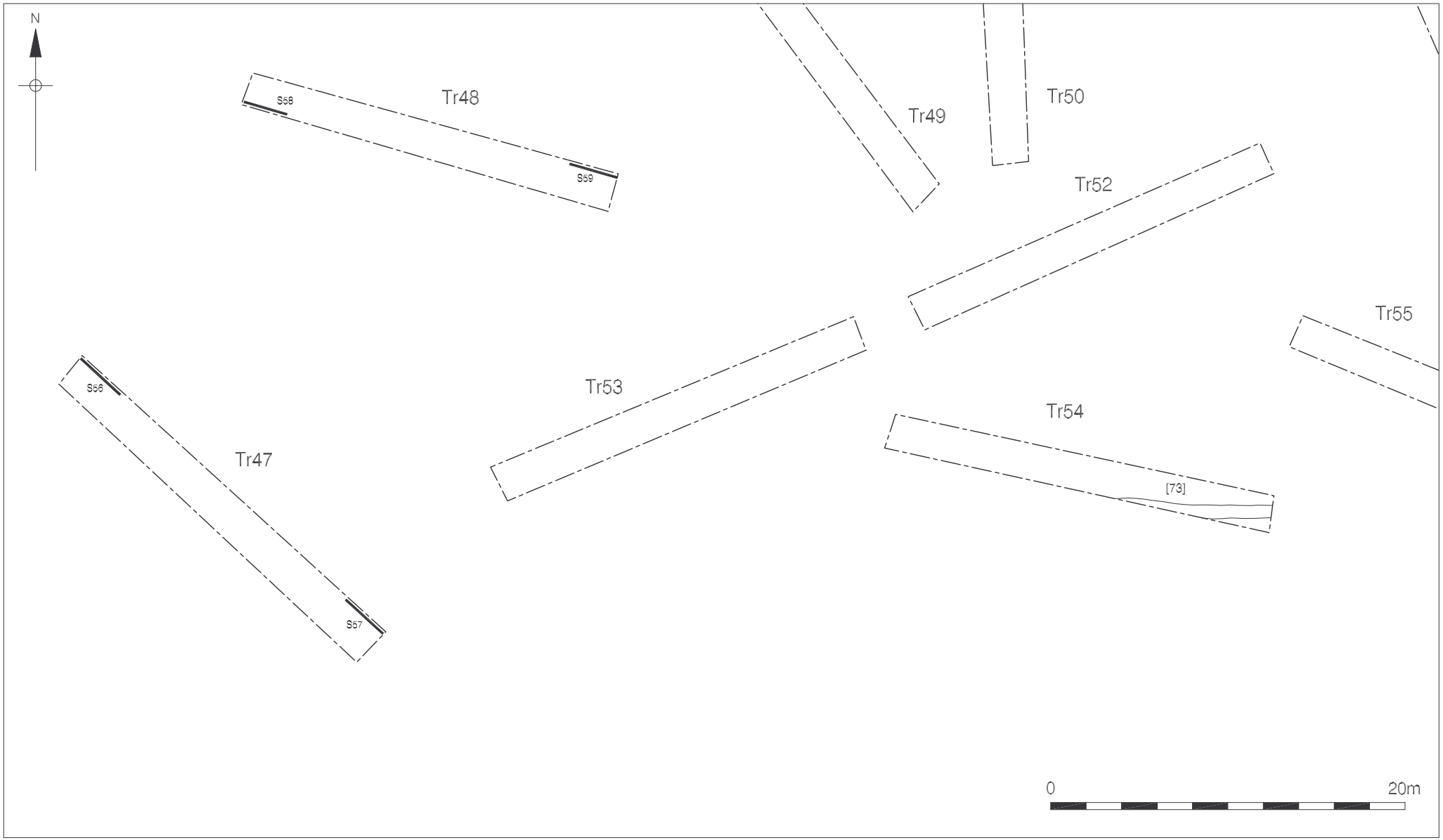


Figure 10
Trenches 47, 48, 52, 53 and 54
1:300

7.55 TRENCH 55

Phase 1 - Natural

7.55.1 Trench 55 was located to the east of Trench 54 and measured 19m in length and 1.8m in width. The earliest deposits encountered at the base of this trench were the natural chalk [5] and the natural brickearth [4], recorded at a highest level of 36.73m OD.

Phase 6 - Subsoil

7.55.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [4] was subsoil deposit [2], which was 0.17m thick at 36.64m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.55.3 Sealing subsoil deposit [2] was topsoil deposit [1] which was up to 0.13m in depth at 36.77m OD.

BLUE CIRCLE TECHNICAL CENTRE

7.56 TRENCH 56

Phase 1 - Natural

7.56.1 Trench 56 was located on open grassland to the eastern rear of the Blue Circle Technical Centre. The trench measured 1.6m in width and 20m in length. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was natural sand [87], a loose deposit, mid yellow orange in colour and recorded at a highest level of 28.28m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

7.56.2 Sealing natural sand deposit [87] was topsoil deposit [86], a friable layer of silty sand, dark brown grey in colour and up to 0.25m in depth at 28.24m OD.

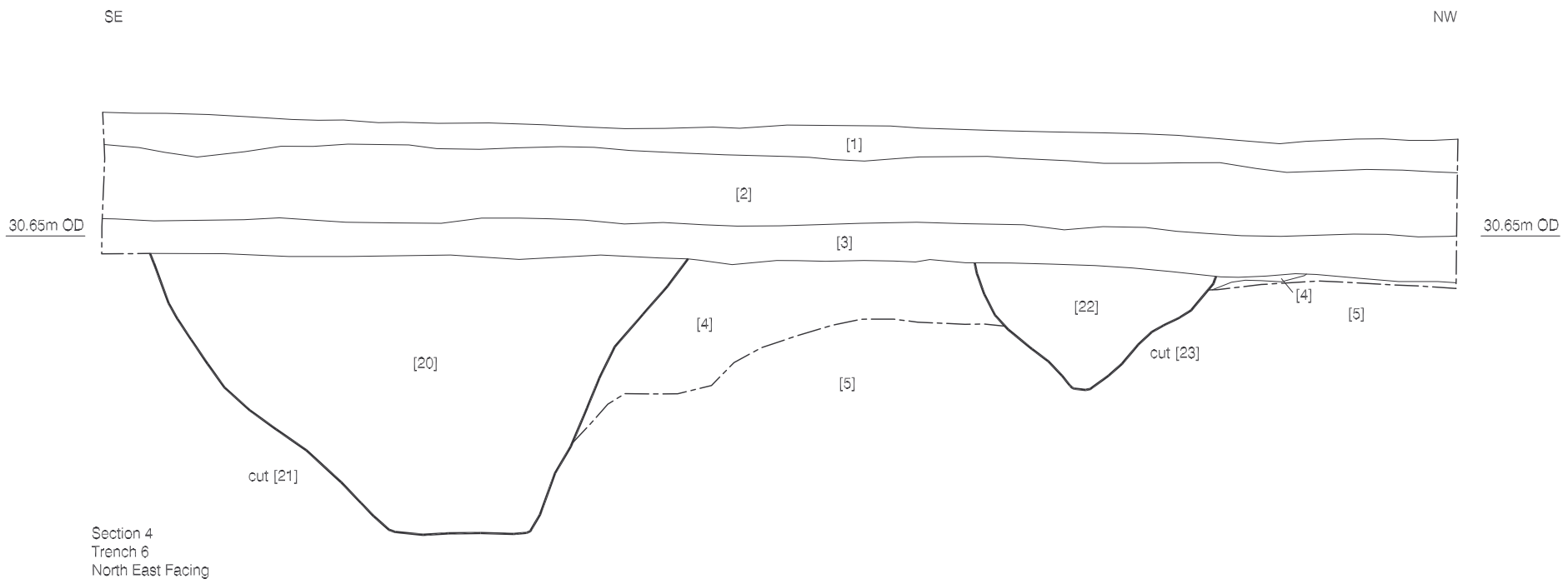
7.57 TRENCH 57

Phase 1 - Natural

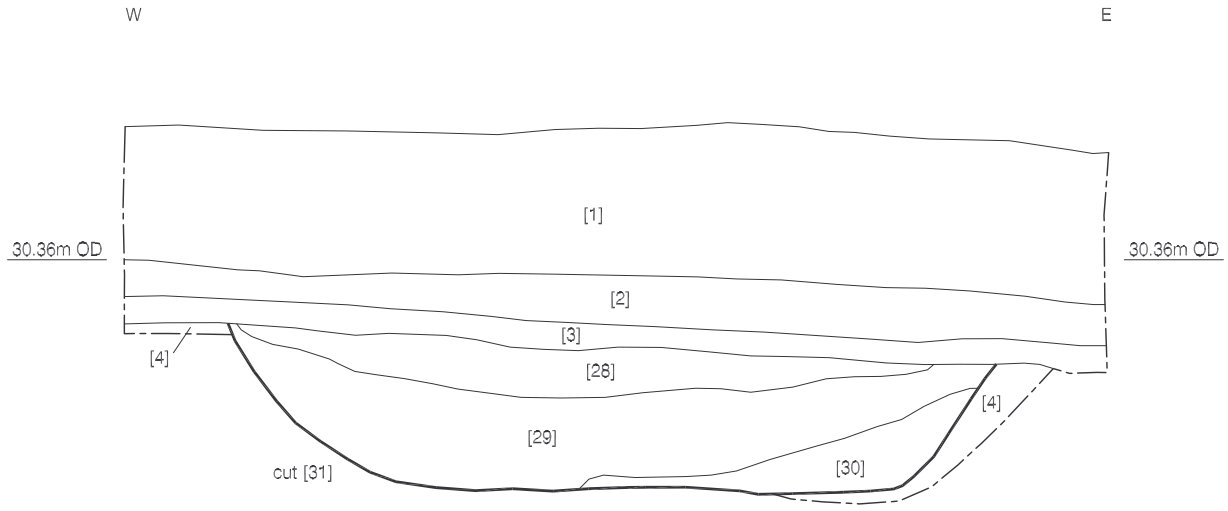
7.57.1 Trench 57 was located to the north-west of Trench 56 and measured 1.6m in width and 20m in length. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural sand [87], recorded at a highest level of 27.37m OD.

Phase 8 - Topsoil

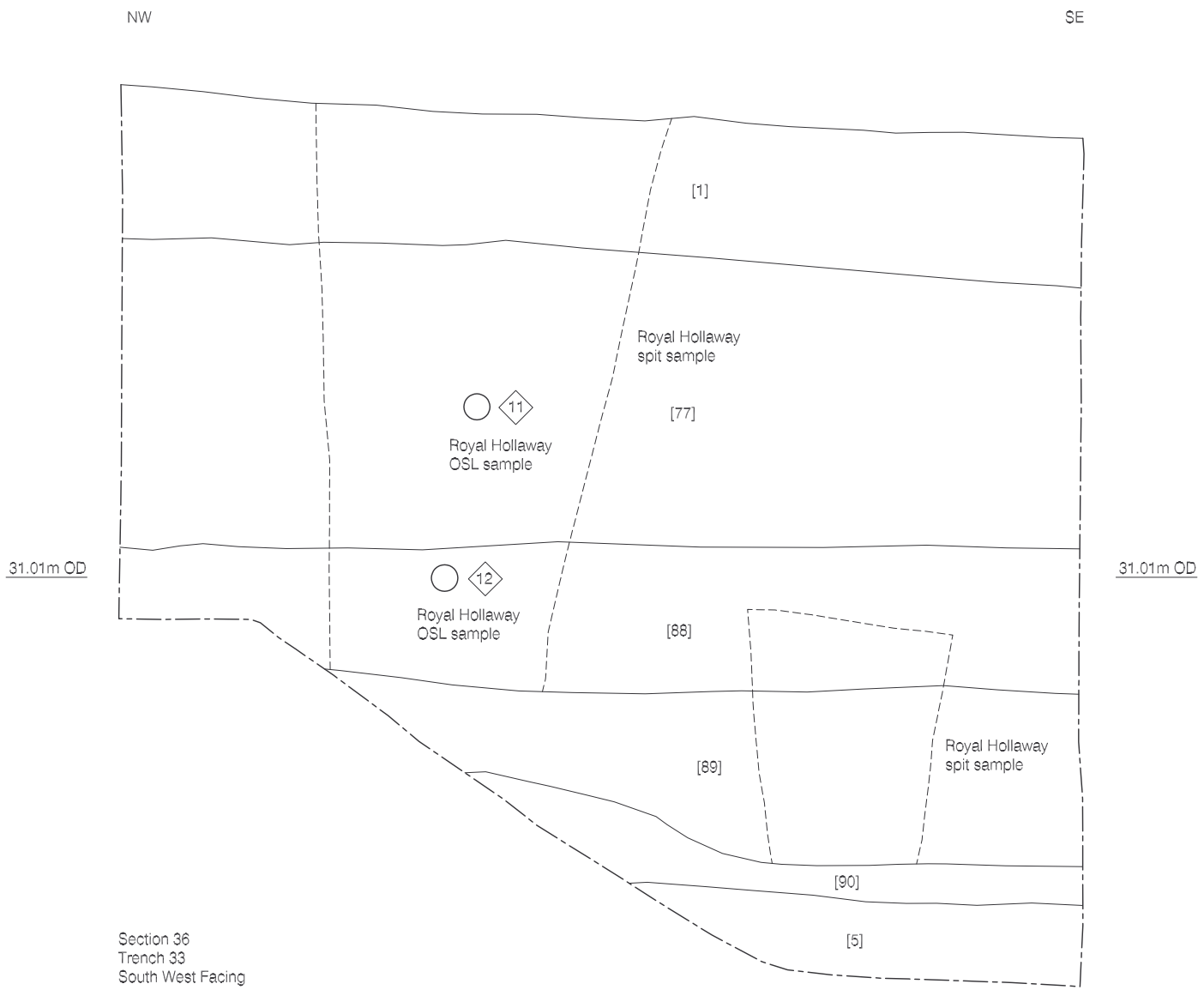
7.57.2 Sealing natural sand deposit [87] was topsoil deposit [86], which was at least 0.35m thick at 28.24m OD.



Section 4
Trench 6
North East Facing



Section 5
Trench 10
South Facing



Section 36
Trench 33
South West Facing

Figure 11
Sections 4, 5 & 36
1:20

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 One of the principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. The earliest deposits encountered on the site were the natural deposits of Seaford Chalk, gravel, Boyn Hill gravels and brickearth, observed at between 41.03m OD in Trench 51 and 26.23m OD in Trench 25. The earliest evidence of human activity encountered on the site relates to the recovery of an Acheulian handaxe recovered from the topsoil, just above the Boyne Hill Gravels, during the excavation of test pits in Trench 47.

8.2 To the north of the western field, a prehistoric colluvial deposit, up to 0.95m in thickness, was observed and was found to be containing struck flint. This layer is likely to represent a natural dry valley crossing this portion of the site in a south-west, north-easterly direction.

8.3 Four postholes were observed cut into the prehistoric layer of colluvium in Trench 29/30 in the western field, the fills of which were found to contain burnt flint. For this reason the four features were tentatively ascribed to the prehistoric period. Assembled in a square formation, all four postholes are likely to have been related, forming some form of small structure. The nature of this structure is as yet unclear, but the small distance between each of the postholes (approximately 0.4m) is unlikely to be indicative of either a grain store or the central structural element of a dwelling.

8.4 The vast majority of the features encountered on the site were located in the eastern field and contained pottery dating to between the Late Iron Age and Early Romano British period. The features containing pottery included six pits, seven ditches and one posthole and are likely to indicate an occupation of this site during this period. Many of these features appeared to have been deliberately backfilled, with the pits in Trenches 3 and 10 being of particular interest. Several of the ditches located within this area of the site also appeared to have been deliberately backfilled, and most probably demarcate field boundaries as opposed to drainage channels as very little evidence of silting up of these features appeared to have taken place. The evidence of these deliberately backfilled features appears to point towards a systematic re-landscaping of this site, with ditches and pits being closed rather than simply falling into disuse and abandonment. A further two ditches were also observed in the western field, one of which was found to contain pottery dating from the Late Iron Age to Early Romano British period. Further

features, including four postholes, six ditches one pit, one stakehole and one fire pit were observed in the eastern field, but contained no pottery. Within the eastern field, many of these features were sealed by a colluvial deposit.

8.5 Two quarry pits were observed in the western field and are likely to date to between the 19th and 20th centuries. These pits were most likely to have been caused by chalk quarrying.

8.6 The archaeological evaluation has proved that there is evidence of activity on the site dating back to as far as the Palaeolithic period, as evidenced by the retrieval of the Acheulian handaxe in Trench 47. A further four post prehistoric structure was also observed in Trench 29/30. The vast majority of features encountered on the site, however, relate to the Late Iron Age to Early Romano British period and were located within the eastern field. These features, in the forms of pits, ditches and postholes, relate to occupation and usage of the site during this period. Evidence for the deliberate backfilling of these features also suggests that the site was re-landscaped rather than falling into abandonment and disuse.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Wendy Rogers, Kent County Council's Officer for Dartford Borough, and Peter Hills of the Blue Circle Technical Centre.

9.2 The author would also like to thank Steve Every and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Peter Moore for his project management and editing. Thanks also to Pete Bowyer for his further project management and assistance. Thanks to Graham Sharwood for the surveying and also to the field staff for all of their hard work and effort: Stella Bickelmann, Streph Duckering, Neil Hawkins, Thomas Shane Maher, Ashley Pooley and Chris Rees. A further thank you to Lisa Lonsdale and Rob Nicholson for technical and logistical support. Finally, thank you to Barry Bishop in his assistance with investigating the Palaeolithic deposits, and Nick Branch and Gemma Swindle of Archaeoscope, Royal Holloway, for assisting with geological and environmental analysis and investigation on site.

APPENDIX 1 - CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Trench	Phase	Comments
1	Layer	1-55	8	Topsoil
2	Layer	1-32,34-55	6	Subsoil
3	Layer	2,3,5-13,15-	5	Colluvial Deposit
		18,22-26		
4	Layer	1-26,36,39,41	1	Natural Brickearth
		43-47,49-55		
5	Layer	1-11,14-16,	1	Natural Chalk
		17-20,26-27,		
		33,36,39-42,		
		45,46,48-50,		
		52-55		
6	Fill	1	4	Fill of [7]
7	Cut	1	4	Pit Cut
8	Fill	3	4	Upper Backfill of [10]
9	Fill	3	4	Secondary Fill of [10]
10	Cut	3	4	Rectangular Roman Pit Cut
11	Fill	9	4	Final Fill of [13]
12	Fill	9	4	Primary Fill of [13]
13	Cut	9	4	Pit Cut
14	Fill	9	4	Fill of [15]
15	Cut	9	4	Stakehole
16	Fill	9	4	Fill of [17]
17	Cut	9	4	Pit Cut
18	Fill	5	4	Fill of [19]
19	Cut	5	4	Ditch Cut
20	Fill	6	4	Fill of [21]
21	Cut	6	4	Ditch Cut
22	Fill	6	4	Fill of [23]
23	Cut	6	4	Ditch Cut
24	Fill	3	4	Fill of [25]
25	Cut	3	4	Roman Ditch Cut
26	Fill	6	4	Fill of [27]
27	Cut	6	4	Posthole Cut
28	Fill	10	4	Tertiary fill of [31]
29	Fill	10	4	Secondary Fill of [31]
30	Fill	10	4	Primary Fill of [31]
31	Cut	10	4	Pit Cut
32	Fill	17	4	Fill of [33]
33	Cut	17	4	Ditch Cut
Context	**Type**	**Trench**	**Phase**	**Comments**

34	Fill	17	4	Fill of [35]
35	Cut	17	4	Posthole Cut
36	Layer	3	1	Brickearth layer over [4]
37	Fill	3	4	Primary Fill of [10]
38	Fill	18	4	Fill of [39]
39	Cut	18	4	Ditch Cut
40	Fill	7	4	Fill of [41]
41	Cut	7	4	Ditch Cut
42	Fill	11	4	Fill of [43]
43	Cut	11	4	Pit Cut
44	Fill	15	4	Fill of [45]
45	Cut	15	4	Posthole Cut
46	Fill	15	4	Fill of [47]
47	Cut	15	4	Ditch Cut
48	Fill	15	4	Fill of [49]
49	Cut	15	4	Posthole / Beamslot Cut
50	Fill	11	4	Fill of [52]
51	Fill	11	4	Fill of [53]
52	Cut	11	4	Ditch Cut
53	Cut	11	4	Ditch Cut
54	Fill	16	4	Fill of [55]
55	Cut	16	4	Ditch Cut
56	Fill	4	4	Fill of [57]
57	Cut	4	4	Pit Cut
58	Fill	2	4	Fill of [59]
59	Cut	2	4	Posthole Cut
60	Fill	11	4	Fill of [61]
61	Cut	11	4	Ditch Cut
62	Fill	12	4	Fill of [63]
63	Cut	12	4	Ditch Cut
64	Fill	22	4	Fill of [65]
65	Cut	22	4	Cut for a Firepit
66	Fill	11	4	Fill of [67]
67	Cut	11	4	Ditch Cut - Same as [53]
68	Fill	45	7	Fill of [69]
69	Cut	45	7	Post Medieval Quarry Pit
70	Fill	46	4	Fill of [71]
71	Cut	46	4	Ditch Cut
72	Fill	54	4	Fill of [73]
73	Cut	54	4	Roman Ditch Cut
74	Layer	36,38,39,46-	1	Boyn Hill Gravels
		48,53		
75	Fill	40	7	Fill of [76]
76	Cut	40	7	Post Medieval Quarry Pit

Context	**Type**	**Trench**	**Phase**	**Comments**

77	Layer	28-37,40,47	2	Colluvial Deposit
78	Fill	29/30	3	Fill of [79]
79	Cut	29/30	3	Posthole Cut
80	Fill	29/30	3	Fill of [81]
81	Cut	29/30	3	Posthole Cut
82	Fill	29/30	3	Fill of [83]
83	Cut	29/30	3	Posthole Cut
84	Fill	29/30	3	Fill of [85]
85	Cut	29/30	3	Posthole Cut
86	Layer	56, 57	8	Topsoil
87	Layer	56, 57	1	Natural Sand
88	Layer	33	1	Natural Deposit - Brickearth
89	Layer	33	1	Natural Sand
90	Layer	27-29/30,32	1	Natural Gravel
		33,51		
91	Layer	47	1	Natural Gravel
92	Layer	47	1	Natural Clay Sand
93	Layer	47	1	Natural Clay Sand
94	Layer	48	1	Natural Sandy Chalk

APPENDIX 2

SPOT-DATING OF THE POTTERY FROM STONE CASTLE, KENT (KSTC 04).

By

Malcolm Lyne

Fabrics

Coarse

C1. Handmade coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware
C2. Handmade fine 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware
C3. Patchgrove type ware
C4. Wheel-turned silt and fine grog tempered ware
C5. Silt-tempered ware
C6. Wheel-turned pink-brown fabric with silt-sized to 0.30 mm. quartz fired smooth black
C7. Handmade fabric with profuse up-to 0.30 mm. quartz filler
C8. Handmade fabric with profuse up-to 0.50 mm. quartz filler
C9. Handmade with coarse up-to 2.00 mm. calcined flint filler
C10. Handmade coarse-sanded fabric with sparse additional calcined flint filler
C11. Handmade very-fine-sanded greyware with additional sparse shell
C12. Handmade North Kent shell-tempered ware

Fine

F1. Gallo-Belgic Whiteware
F2. South Gaulish Samian
F3. Fine Upchurch greyware

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm.	Comments
TR 3+	F2	Ritt 12 bowl	AD.43-80	1	17gm	
TR 9+	C9	Jar base	Late Iron Age	1	23	Abraded
	C12	Closed form	L.I.A.-AD.80	3	38	Abraded
				4	61 gm	
+	C1	Closed	L.I.A.-AD.50	2	4	Abraded
	C2	Jar	L.I.A.-AD.80	1	12	Abraded
	C9		Late Iron Age	1	3	Abraded
	C12		L.I.A.-AD.80	1	4	Abraded

				5	23 gm	
TR15 3	C5	Misc sherd	?	2	9 gm.	Abraded
6	C2 C12	C7.1 Jar Closed	L.I.A.-AD.80 L.I.A.-AD.80	10 2	78 8	Fresh Abraded
			L.I.A.-AD.80	12	86 gm.	
8	C2 C12	B2.1 jar Jars	L.I.A.-AD.80 L.I.A.-AD.80	31 9	204 148	
			L.I.A.-AD.80	40	352 gm.	
9	C2 C4 C8 C9 C12 F1	B1.3 Jar B1.6 jar B5.5 Barrel jar Closed Bead-rim jar Closed	L.I.A.-AD.80 10BC-AD.60 L.I.A.-AD.50 AD.30-60 Late Iron Age L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.30-70	 43 18 1 1 3 1	 478 104 11 3 18 3	 Mostly 1 pot Abraded
			AD.30-50	67	617 gm	
11	C1 C2 C4 C7 C12 F2	Bead-rim store jar GB platter copy Neck- cordoned jar Necked jar Jar Store-jar Bead-rim jar Open form	L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.43-80 L.I.A.-AD.80 L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.30-70 L.I.A.-AD.170 L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.43-110	 34 41 2 2 17 1	 712 412 47 10 270 11	
			AD.43-70	97	1462gm	
18	C2	Misc	L.I.A.-AD.80 but probably residual	1	9 gm	v.abraded
20	C1 C9 C10 C12	Jars Misc Misc	L.I.A.-AD.80 Late Iron Age AD.30-70 L.I.A.-AD.80	7 2 1 2	31 7 19 12	Abraded Abraded Flake
			AD.43-80	12	69 gm	
22	C11	Closed	AD.50-70+	1	4 gm	
24	C2 C3 C7 C12 F3	Closed Pollard 19 jar shoulder Closed GB Platter copy	L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.50-150 AD.70-150 L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.43-70	9 1 1 2 1	87 13 2 16 7	
			AD.50-80+	14	125 gm	
29	C1 C2 C3 C12	Closed Miniature pot Jar Bead-rim jar Storage-jar	L.I.A.-AD.50 L.I.A.-AD.70 AD.50-150 L.I.A.-AD.80 L.I.A.-AD170	6 11 3 31	63 118 73 625	
			AD.50-80+	51	879 gm	

30	C3 C4 F1	Ev.rim jar with bosses Bead-rim Flagon	 AD.50-70 L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.30-70	 27 10 17	 424 32 157	
			AD.43-70	54	613 gm	
32	C2		L.I.A.-AD.80	1	5 gm.	Abraded poss residual
42	C2 C6	Jar Beaker base	L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.50-100+	2 4	17 8	Abraded
			AD.50-100	6	25 gm	
54	C6 C12	Misc chips Bead-rim jar	AD.50-100+ L.I.A.-AD.80	5 2	8 11	 Abraded
			AD.50-100	7	19 gm	
56	C2 C6		L.I.A.-AD.80 AD.50-100+	2 1	29 6	
			AD.50-100	3	35 gm	
58	C2	Jar	L.I.A.-AD.80	1	4 gm	
62	C2	Neck- cordoned jar	L.I.A.-AD.80	5	135 gm	Fresh one jar. Bl.paint décor
72	C6	Closed	AD.50-100+	12	20 gm	Fresh 1 pot

APPENDIX 3

Evaluation of the Pleistocene deposits and Palaeolithic artefacts from Waterstone Park Residential Phase II, Stone Castle, Kent

Site Code: KSTC 04

Barry John Bishop August 2004

INTRODUCTION

This report describes and comments on the Pleistocene geology encountered during an Archaeological Field Evaluation of the above site. In addition, the description of a handaxe tip, found during topsoil stripping, is also included.

Deposits mapped as part of the Boyn Hill Gravel Formation are shown as present in the southwest and northwest of the site by the Geological Survey (British Geological Survey 1998). These equate with the Middle Pleistocene Orsett Heath Gravel Formation, generally thought to have been deposited during late OIS 12 to early OIS 10, around 430,000 to 350,000BP: Bridgland 1994, although the upper parts of the sequence as recorded at Barnfield Pit (Swanscombe Stage III) may indicate deposition continued until OIS 8, *c.*303,000 – 245,000BP) (Conway *et al.* 1996, fig 8.7; 239).

Pleistocene deposits of the Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath formation are preserved as a band from Dartford through Stone to Northfleet along the south banks of the lower Thames valley. They can contain significant quantities of artefactual and palaeo-environmental information and are perhaps best known for the discovery of hominid remains at Swanscombe during the 1930s and 1950s. A summary of the Palaeolithic archaeological background has been prepared by Wenban-Smith (2000) for the residential Phase I of the project.

METHODOLOGY

Stratified Palaeolithic deposits were only encountered in two of the Evaluation Trenches, 47 and 48, both confined to the southwestern extremities of the proposed development. The Palaeolithic evaluation involved the excavation of four trial pits, at either end of these two trenches, down to solid chalk. The trial pits measured *c.*2m X 3m in plan and were machine excavated until the Tertiary bedrock was encountered, using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket in spits of no more than 100mm thickness, taking care not to cross stratigraphic boundaries. Representative sections of each trial pit were cleaned by hand, photographed and drawn where it was safe to enter the trench, and were photographed and drawn from the side if the trench had become to deep to enter safely.

Due to the clayey nature of the deposits it was proved difficult to pass the resultant sediment through a sieve but as the volume produced was relatively low it was decided to hand sort through all of the spoil to ascertain whether any artefacts or environmental indicators were

present. Although this method lacked volume-control, it was thought appropriate as an evaluation tool and permitted the examination of greater quantities of sediment than would have been possible by sieving alone.

GEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

Trench 47 North End (Trial Pit 47N; Section 1)

(Levels given are on surface of deposit)

[1] Loose dark grey humic silty sand. 38.12mOD. Agricultural topsoil

[2] Loose light brown gravels, rounded to sub-angular pebbles and occasionally cobbles in a sandy matrix. 37.64mOD. Weathered and agriculturally reworked version of [3].

[74] Firmly compacted mid reddish brown rounded to sub-angular gravel, pebbles, including Tertiary pebbles, and occasional cobbles in a stiff clayey sand matrix. 37.49mOD.

[91] Firmly compacted mid reddish brown rounded to sub-angular gravel, pebbles, including Tertiary pebbles, and occasional cobbles in a stiff clayey sand matrix. 37.32mOD. Same as [3].

[92] Pockets of firmly compacted mid to dark reddish brown stiff clayey sand. 37.34mOD.

[93] Large thermally fractured but otherwise unabraded flint nodules in a stiff mid-greyish brown clayey sand matrix. 36.72mOD.

[5] Chalk. 36.52mOD.

Trench 47 South End (Trial Pit 47S; Section 2)

(Levels given are on surface of deposit)

[1] Loose dark grey humic silty sand. 38.79mOD. Agricultural topsoil

[2] Loose light brown gravel, rounded to sub-angular pebbles and occasionally cobbles in a sandy matrix. 38.40mOD. Weathered and agriculturally reworked version of [10].

[74] Firmly compacted mid reddish brown rounded to sub-angular gravel, pebbles, including Tertiary pebbles, and occasional cobbles in a stiff clayey sand matrix. 38.23mOD.

[5] Chalk. 37.17mOD.

Trench 48 West End (Trial Pit 48W; Section 3)

(Levels given are on surface of deposit)

[1] Loose dark grey humic silty sand. 37.72mOD. Agricultural topsoil

[2] Loose light brown gravel, rounded to sub-angular pebbles and occasionally cobbles in a sandy matrix. 37.32mOD. Weathered and agriculturally reworked version of [14].

[74] Firmly compacted mid reddish brown rounded to sub-angular gravel, pebbles, including Tertiary pebbles, and occasional cobbles in a stiff clayey sand matrix. 37.24mOD.

[94] Moderately compacted light yellowish grey sandy degraded chalk. 37.02mOD.

[5] Chalk. 36.12mOD.

Trench 48 East End (Trial Pit 48E; Section 4)

(Levels given are on surface of deposit)

[1] Loose dark grey humic silty sand. 37.87mOD. Agricultural topsoil

[2] Loose light brown gravel, rounded to sub-angular pebbles and occasionally cobbles in a sandy matrix. 37.49mOD. Weathered and agriculturally reworked version of [19].

[74] Firmly compacted mid reddish brown rounded to sub-angular gravel, pebbles, including Tertiary pebbles, and occasional cobbles in a stiff clayey sand matrix. 37.29mOD.

[5] Chalk. 36.95mOD.

Summary

Existing ground level in the proximity of the trial pits containing Pleistocene deposits was relatively flat but with a gradual slope downwards to north and east. This was mirrored by the form of the underlying Tertiary deposits, which sloped down from 37.17mOD in trial pit 47S to 36.12mOD in trial pit 48W. Agricultural soils had formed over the site to a depth ranging from 0.40m to 0.50m, and ploughing had disturbed the top 0.10 – 0.25m of the surface of the Pleistocene deposits.

The Pleistocene deposits were predominantly composed of poor- or unbedded rounded to sub-angular gravel, pebble and occasionally cobble sized clasts within a stiff clayey sand matrix. In trial pit 47N, these deposits contained substantial pockets of clast-free clayey sand, which may have formed from ice-wedging. The upper surface of these deposits ranged from 37.24mOD to 38.24mOD and appeared to peter-out to the east and north, where they had been truncated by natural geological erosion. In addition, their upper surfaces had evidently been truncated by soil formation and agricultural reworking. The lack of bedding structure may indicate that these deposits represented soliflucted or ‘mass flow’ material.

The deposits were found overlying an undulating chalk surface but were separated from the chalk in trial pit 47N by a deposit of flint nodules in a clayey matrix and in trial pit 48W by a deposit of degraded chalk (coombe rock).

Despite the close examination by hand of all of the excavated Pleistocene deposits, no artefactual material or environmental indicators, such as bone or mollusc, were recovered.

PALAEOLITHIC ARTEFACTS

The only artefactual implement of Palaeolithic date was recovered during topsoil removal at the topsoil at the southern end of Evaluation Trench 47. This consisted of the tip of a slightly rolled, finely worked pointed handaxe finished by soft hammer flaking, and which had broken along thermal faults. It is of Acheulian date, corresponding to Wymer’s (1968) type F, it measures >100mm X >70mm X >34mm and weighs 130g. It was made from an opaque mottled grey flint with no original cortex present. It is unrecorticated but one face had become

stained a light brown colour.
Its condition would suggest that it had only been in the abrasive conditions of the plough zone for a limited duration, possibly having been disturbed from the underlying Pleistocene deposits. Their probable deposition from solifluction would indicate that had it originated from them it was still unlikely to have been from an '*in situ*' context. Handaxes of similar form have been found in great profusion in the area, the majority of pointed types probably originating from the middle deposits of the Swanscombe Member (Stage II).

DISCUSSION

The evaluation of the Palaeolithic archaeology and geology has confirmed limited survival of remnants of stratified gravel deposits confined to the southwestern perimeter of the site. No other areas of horizontally stratified Pleistocene deposits were observed in other evaluation Trenches although to the north and east of the horizontally stratified deposits patches of similar sediment were noted sunk into the chalk and occupying solution hollows, and as convoluted patches within the brickearth colluvium.
No clast lithological analyses (stone counts) were conducted but it is likely that the sediments were originally deposited fluvially by an ancestral Thames although it is probable that the deposits encountered here had experienced a degree of solifluction. With their surface levels ranging from 37.24 – 38.23mOD these deposits equate to the highest parts of the Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath formation as recorded in the area, which have recently been shown to extend to a surface level of up to 39mOD (Wenban-Smith and Bridgland 2001).
Due to their limited extent and fragmentary nature it is difficult to confidently correlate the deposits at Stone with other Pleistocene sequences in the area. Nevertheless, they are perhaps most closely comparable in general characteristics and height to the 'stiff brown gravelly clays' of the Upper Gravels (Swanscombe Stage IIId) recorded at the Barnfield Pit at a height of up to 35.54mOD (Conway *et al*. 1996, 83, 131), and to the solifluction deposits recorded at the Swan Valley Community School site which attained a height of 39mOD (Wenban-Smith and Bridgland 2001, 230). They are of different character and with much higher basal levels than the Pleistocene deposits recorded during the residential Phase II of the project, which were tentatively assigned to the middle phase of the Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath formation (Wenban-Smith 2000, 40), which may also support an interpretation that they correlate to the later phase of these deposits.
The height of the underlying chalk at Stone suggest that these deposits occupy a channel-edge location.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Palaeolithic Evaluation at the site has confirmed the presence of remnants of Pleistocene deposits associated with the Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath Gravel Formation at the site, but due to

their limited extent and lack of contained artefactual material or environmental indicators adds few further details to our existing knowledge of the deposit. A single unstratified Palaeolithic implement was recovered from the proximity of the deposits but could not conclusively be demonstrated to originate from them. Nevertheless, the area is rich in Palaeolithic sites and the Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath deposits are recognized as amongst the best researched and most significant Palaeolithic resources in Britain and have the potential to contain significant assemblages of artefactual material and a variety of biological information, including hominid remains. It is therefore recommended that a watching brief should be maintained where the proposed development affects the Pleistocene deposits in order to map their extent, monitor for the presence or absence of any artefactual material and to test for the presence of deposits which could be of potential palaeo-environmental significance. A watching brief should also be maintained across the site during topsoil stripping to search for further Palaeolithic artefactual material, which even if residual could have important research potential (eg Wenban-Smith and Bridgland 2001, 222-223).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1998 *Dartford: England and Wales Sheet 271, Solid and Drift Geology, 1: 50, 0000, 2nd series*. Keyworth. Nottingham.

Conway, B., McNabb, J. and Ashton, N (Eds.) 1996 *Excavations at Barnfield Pit, Swanscombe, 1968-72*. British Museum Occasional Paper 94. British Museum Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities. London.

Wenban-Smith, F.F. 2000 Palaeolithic Field Evaluation Report. In: C. Hall, An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Res 1, Stone Castle, Stone, Dartfor, Kent. Unpublished Pre-Construct Archaeology Manuscript.

Wenban-Smith, F.F. and Bridgland, D. 2001 Palaeolithic Archaeology at the Swan Valley Community School, Swanscombe, Kent. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 67, 219-259.

Wymer J.J. 1968 *Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain as Represented by the Thames Valley*. John Baker. London.