

Tiverton Road, Cullompton DRAFT ver03

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation



The Old Dairy
Hacche Lane Business Park
Pathfields Business Park
South Molton
Devon
EX36 3LH

Tel: 01769 573555
Email: mail@swarch.net

Report No.: 100318
Authors: L Bray
B Morris

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1.0 Introduction

Location: Land adjacent to Tiverton Road, Cullompton
Parish: Cullompton
District: Mid Devon
County: Devon
NGR: 301408.107595
Planning Application no:
Proposal: Proposed residential development
DCHES ref: Arch/dc/md/13011

Ordnance Survey Map copying Licence No.: 100044808

1.1 Background

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on a site north of Tiverton Road in Cullompton, Devon (NGR: ST 01408 07565) in January-February 2010. This work was directed by B. Morris and L. Bray. The work was commissioned by Millwood Homes (Devon) Ltd. (the Client), at the request of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES), to investigate and record any archaeological features and material affected by the construction of a relief road and 48 dwellings.

The site lies to the west of the town of Cullompton, on the north side of Tiverton Road to the west of the town cemetery and adjacent to an electrical substation. The field covers an area of 1.2 hectares and is basically sub-rectangular, with an elongated triangular 'tail' on the south-east side following the road as it bends to the south. At the time of the evaluation the field was under grass, and contained a single small wooden stable building.

The site is almost flat, varying in height between 68.6m and 71.3m AOD, and slopes most obviously from south to north, but also towards the middle, forming a very slight valley. It is bounded to the south by Tiverton road, the surface of which lies between 0.5m and 2m below the level of the field. The northern boundary of the site is formed by the evocatively titled holloway Goblin Lane. The northern and eastern boundary hedges are lined by dumps of earth with some rubble, presumably from development(s) in the immediate vicinity. A modern wire fence running north-south divided the field into two roughly equal halves.

According to the British Geological Survey (1974) the underlying geology is recorded as part of the Exeter Group of Permian breccias and sandstones, although excavation revealed undifferentiated river terrace deposits of mixed clays and gravels covering the southern part of the field.

1.2 Archaeological Background

A desktop study and magnetometer survey for the site was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services (2009). A more detailed account of the history and development of the medieval town of Cullompton can be found in SWARCH (2006).

The desktop-assessment and retrogressive cartographic analysis failed to identify direct evidence of earlier activity on the site, although Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeological remains are known, or can reasonably be inferred to lie, close to or within the town (see Fig. 2). The magnetometer survey (see Fig. 3) identified a series of linear geophysical anomalies, including a possible trackway, but interference from metal fencing, recent services and scattered modern metallic debris rendered the identification of smaller features uncertain.

The site also lies only 200m to the west of a scheduled ancient monument [SAM 34260], an area that covers the Roman forts on top of St. Andrew's Hill. A series of Roman fortifications crown the hill, initially identified by aerial reconnaissance and subject to trial excavation in 1992 (see Simpson and Griffiths 1993). It had been suggested (Stephen Reed, pers. comm.) that Tiverton Road follows the line of a Roman road that originally ran up into the fort(s) on the hill, a road that was later redirected around the base of the hill to the south. If so, the original road would have bisected the site in question.

More recently, excavations on Shortlands Lane some 600m to the south-east have revealed a small part of a multi-phase Roman civilian settlement provisionally dated to the second and third centuries AD (SWARCH *forthcoming*). 2.5km to the south-west a Roman iron-smelting site has been excavated at Gingerlands (HER no.35873), and just under 1km to the north-east a prehistoric field system and the remains of up to five penannular drip-gullies was excavated on Willand Road (Hood 2007).

1.2 Summary of Principal Findings

This archaeological intervention uncovered the remains of a surprisingly complex series of intercutting linear features and some shallow irregular pits/postholes. While complex vertical stratigraphy need not be that unusual on rural sites, the surviving horizontal relationships are exceptional. There were very few stratified finds, and the bulk of the recovered material was derived from the topsoil and dates to the period AD 1500-1830. Most of the features could not be securely dated, but some of the recorded elements are Romano-British in date, and most of the others are likely to be contemporary or of Prehistoric date. No trace of the posited east-west Roman road was identified.

The evidence for domestic occupation is slight, and this complex of archaeological features probably represents a series of Prehistoric or Roman field boundaries rather than a settlement. However, a similar conclusion was reached following an archaeological evaluation for the nearby site at Willand Road, and that subsequently produced artefactual and structural evidence for Romano-British occupation in the 1st-2nd centuries AD and it would be unwise to rule out such a possibility here.

The complexity and undoubted longevity of certain elements is also significant. If some of these features do indeed predate the Roman conquest, then it suggests that other elements within the extant historic landscape could be of similar antiquity. The evidence for management change in c.1500 could indicate a date when the open fields of Cullompton began to be enclosed.

1.3 Methodology

An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken in January-February 2010, carried out in accordance with written schemes of investigation (Laing-Trengove 2009) drawn up in consultation with DCHES (see Appendices 1 and 2).

A series of trenches were dug by a tracked mechanical excavator with 1.2m wide toothless grading bucket under strict archaeological supervision. When deposits of archaeological significance were reached these were excavated by hand to the depth of natural. Features cut into the natural were also hand excavated and recorded. More substantial features were not fully excavated where their date and nature was deemed sufficiently understood, or where the ingress of water meant it was too difficult or dangerous to proceed. The spoil heaps were checked for artefacts.

The trench layout was drawn up in consultation with DCHES and was designed to locate and investigate the geophysical anomalies identified previously, as well as sample an appro-

priate proportion of the site (see Figs. 3 & 4). Additional trenches (TR#13-16) were opened to sample and investigate additional areas and clarify certain stratigraphical relationships.

For all excavated areas a photographic record, a drawn record at appropriate scales (1:20 or 1:50) and a written record of standard single context sheets was compiled. No bulk samples were taken given the absence of suitable contexts. The planning of trenches and features was carried out with reference to grid points tied into the OS National Grid by a Leica 1200 series GPS rover pack operating within the Leica SmartNet system (see Appendix 3).

2.0 Results of the Archaeological Evaluation

The entire field was covered by a considerable depth of topsoil, up to 1m in places and never less than 0.6m. The topsoil consisted of three main components, and was removed by a mechanical excavator under strict archaeological supervision. As such, finds could rarely be assigned to the individual contexts, and hand-excavation would undoubtedly have recovered far more artefactual material than was, in fact, the case. Even so, the vast majority of the finds from the site (e.g. 93% of the pottery) were recovered from the topsoil strip or the spoil heaps.

Context (001), the turf and plough soil, was a 0.2m thick layer of firm-to-soft mid-brown sandy-silt loam which was full of fibrous roots. This material was largely free of stones, but its lower boundary was defined by a marked concentration of stones and finds (pottery, clay pipe fragments, glass etc.).

Context (002), the upper soil, was a firm-to-soft, slightly reddish-brown sandy-silt up to 0.4m thick. It contained common small sub-rounded or sub-angular stones <20mm in diameter, with very occasional larger stones up to 80-120mm in diameter. This layer was largely free of finds, but occasional sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were noted.

Context (003), the lower soil, was a soft greyish-brown, slightly clayey silty-sand up to 0.4m thick. This layer was at its deepest on the northern half of the site, and was not always present to the south. It was almost stone-free, although occasional large, sub-rounded stones up to 120mm in diameter were noted. Very few finds were encountered, the only exceptions being very occasional fragments of abraded metal-working debris, flint/chert cores and five sherds of probably Iron Age pottery from Trench #9.

Root holes or worm burrows were present throughout the vertical profile, and also penetrated the upper levels of many of the features on site. Note that for most of the illustrations, the distinction between (001), (002) and (003) is not made, and in these cases the three layers are listed collectively as 'topsoil'.

The underlying natural substrate revealed by the excavations varied across the site. Below context (003) on the northern half of the site it was composed of firm purplish-red sands, the upper surface of which weathered to a light yellowish-brown. These deposits were characterised by frequent mineralisation caused by the mobilisation and re-deposition of iron/manganese minerals. On the southern half of the site, the subsoil was composed of highly varied undifferentiated river terrace deposits of stiff red or yellow clays, stony gravels (particularly in the south-west corner of the field) and coarse yellow or yellowish-brown sands.

2.1 Evaluation Trench One (Figs. 5 and 13)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 24m SSW-NNE at the eastern edge of the site. Three archaeological features were identified: a recent corroded iron water pipe, a modern service trench and a single linear feature [103].

Feature [103]: Linear cut [103] was c. 1m in width, had steeply sloping sides and was orientated NW to SE. The feature could not be fully excavated as the water table was breached and water ingress was too great. The (upper) fill of [103] was a mid-brown silt-clay (104) containing occasional flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions of up to 30mm size. A fragment of waterlogged roundwood approximately 50mm long and 20mm in diameter was recovered suggesting this feature may have significant potential for the preservation of organic material. Feature [103] cut the natural and was sealed by the topsoil.

2.2 Evaluation Trench Two (Figs. 5 and 13)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 34m N-S. Five archaeological features were identified: a recent corroded iron water pipe, a small linear pit [203] and three other linear features [206], [208] and [214].

Feature [203]: This feature was a linear pit 0.56m wide, 0.18m deep and *c.* 1.5m long, and was orientated NW to SE. It had steep sides and a concave base and was filled by (204), a light brownish-grey, slightly clayey silt-sand containing common stone inclusions of <20mm size and occasional flecks of charcoal. Feature [203] cut the natural and was sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [206]: This linear feature was orientated NE to SW and was 0.95m wide and 0.35m deep with a slightly irregular, asymmetric profile, the southern side being steeper than the northern. It contained the two fills. The lower of these (213) was a pale greyish-brown silt-sand containing common stone inclusions up to 30mm in size, while the upper fill (207) was a light brownish-grey slightly mottled sandy-clay also containing common stone inclusions of up to 30mm size. Feature [206] cut the natural and was sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [208]: This linear cut was *c.* 1m wide, was orientated NE to SW and had a uniform profile with sides sloping at *c.* 45°. Excavation reached a depth of 0.65m but also penetrated the water table resulting in excessive water ingress which prevented the base of the feature being reached. Four fills were encountered, the lowest of which (212) consisted of a firm, clean purple sand. This was overlain by (211), a greyish-brown silty-sand containing small lenses of yellow sand, abundant stone inclusions up to 50mm in size and occasional charcoal flecks. (211) was sealed by (210), a pinkish-brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal flecks. The upper fill of [208] was (209), a firm, greyish-brown sandy-silt with common stone inclusions up to 40mm in size and occasional flecks of charcoal. Feature [208] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [214]: [214] was a linear feature 0.6m wide and very shallow (*c.* 0.05m), orientated approximately E-W. It was filled by context (205), a light brownish-grey silty-sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and abundant stone inclusions up to 20mm in size, which gave it a gravelly texture. (205) filled [214] but also extended beyond its limits reaching a width of 2.2m at its greatest extent. Feature [214] cut the natural and was sealed by the topsoil.

2.3 Evaluation Trench Three (Figs. 5 and 13)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 20m SSW-NNE. It contained a single linear feature [303].

Feature [303]: This linear feature was orientated roughly E-W and was *c.* 0.9m wide, 0.5m deep with an irregular, U-shaped profile and a concave base. It contained a single fill (304), which consisted of a heterogeneous, mottled, greyish-brown silt-clay containing common charcoal flecks and occasional stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. Four fragments of flint were also recovered from this context. Feature [303] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

2.4 Evaluation Trench Four (Figs. 6 and 14)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 39m SSW-NNE. Seven archaeological features were identified: a recent corroded iron water pipe, a modern service trench, and five other linear features [403], [405], [407], [409] and [411].

Feature [403]: This feature was a heavily truncated linear cut orientated NW to SE with less than 50mm of its original depth surviving. It was c.0.9m wide with an irregular base and was filled by (404), a greyish-brown sandy silt-clay containing charcoal flecks and occasional stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. Feature [403] was cut into the natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [405]: This linear cut, orientated ENE to WSW, was c.1.2 m wide and 0.5m deep with an asymmetric, V-shaped profile. The southern slope of this feature was regular and steep while the northern slope was more irregular and shallower. Two fills were identified: the lower (419) was a yellowish-brown silt-clay with a slightly sandy texture. It contained occasional stone inclusions up to 60mm in size and rare charcoal flecks. The upper fill (406) was a greyish-brown silt-clay with a slightly sandy texture containing occasional stone inclusions up to 60mm in size and occasional flecks of charcoal. It was also characterised by flecks of black mineralization. Feature [405] was cut into the natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [407]: This feature was a c.1.2m wide linear cut orientated NW to SE. It was 0.7m deep with a slightly asymmetric V-shaped profile, steeper on the northern side with a narrow, flat base. Five distinct fills were identified, the lowest of which (418) was a clean reddish-brown clay. This was overlain by a lens of soft pinkish-brown sandy-clay (417) followed by a stiff, greyish-brown clay (416). Above this was (415), a greyish-brown silt-clay with a slightly sandy texture containing occasional charcoal flecks and stones up to 40mm in size. The upper fill of [407] was (408), a grey-brown, slightly clayey sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. A single fragment of flint was recovered from (408). Feature [407] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [409]: A steep-sided linear cut with a flat base orientated NW to SE, this feature was 0.54m wide and 0.36m deep and contained three fills. The lowest (421) was a mixed deposit comprised of re-deposited natural material including grey clay-silt, red clay and reddish-purple sand and contained occasional charcoal flecks. Overlying this was (420), a lens of slightly sandy, grey clay-silt containing abundant stone inclusions of 40 to 80 mm in size. The upper fill of feature [409] consisted of a soft, greyish-brown, slightly sandy clay-silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions up to 50mm in size. Feature [409] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [411]: This feature was a shallow linear cut orientated WNW-ESE, c.0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. It had a highly irregular profile. It was filled by (412), a dark grey sandy-silt containing common flecks and fragments of charcoal. The context also contained pockets of pale sand increasing in frequency with depth and occasional stone inclusions up to 80mm in size. Feature [411] was cut into the natural and sealed by the topsoil.

2.5 Evaluation Trench Five (Figs. 6 and 15)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 33m SSW-NNE connecting with the eastern ends of Trenches Six and Sixteen. Nine archaeological features were identified: a corroded

iron water pipe, seven linear features [503], [505], [507], [513], [515], [521] and [523], a posthole [509] and an irregular pit or posthole [519].

Feature [503] [Fig. 6(#5a), Fig. 15(5.3)]: Feature [503] was a linear cut or the terminus of a linear feature extending to the SE which was orientated NW to SE. It was c.2.2m wide with a maximum depth of 0.2m and an asymmetric profile which was very shallow on the northern edge and steep on the southern edge, although here the feature was truncated so the original profile could not be confirmed. The basal fill (525) consisted of a discrete layer of stones between 40mm and 60mm in size that had been pressed into the natural. This was sealed by (504), a light brown silty-sand with a slightly gritty texture which contained abundant patches of black mineralization. Feature [503] was cut into the natural and cut by Features [523] and [1606].

Feature [505] [Fig. 6(#5b), Fig. 15(5.4)]: This linear cut was orientated SE to NW and was 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. It had an open V-shaped profile and was filled by (506), a light brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal flecks. Feature [505] was cut into the natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [507] [Fig. 6(#5b), Fig. 15(5.4)]: Feature [507] was a linear cut that was orientated NW to SE. It was c.0.8m wide and up to 0.25m deep with an irregular base and fairly steeply sloping sides, although the southern edge, where it cut feature [519], was indistinct. The feature was filled by (508), a mottled, brownish-grey sandy-silt containing occasional flecks of black mineralization and charcoal and common stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. It was unclear whether feature [507] cuts or is cut by feature [519], but both features together are cut into natural and are sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [509] [Fig. 6(#5b), Fig. 15(5.5)]: An irregularly shaped sub-circular cut, c.0.5m in diameter and 0.17m in depth with an asymmetric profile, steeper on the northern side, with a broadly concave base. The single fill (510) consisted of a greyish-brown sandy clay-silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions of up to 20mm size.

Feature [513] [Fig. 6(#5a), Fig. 15(5.2)]: This feature was a NW to SE orientated linear cut c.1.2m wide and 0.2m deep. It had a gently sloping profile and was filled by (514), a brownish-grey clayey-sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and rare small stone inclusions. Feature [513] cut into natural and was sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [515] [Fig. 6(#5a), Fig. 15(5.1)]: A slightly curving linear cut orientated NW to SE overall with a flat base and sides which flare out from vertical in their upper parts. The feature was 0.7m wide at the top and 0.4m wide at the point at which the sides became vertical. A single fill (516) was encountered consisting of a heterogeneous deposit predominantly composed of medium sand but with clayey patches. It contained occasional stone inclusions up to 50mm in size. Feature [515] cuts natural and is sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [519] [Fig. 6(#5b), Fig. 15(5.4)]: Feature [519] was an irregular pit partially exposed within Trench Five. It was 1.1m along its N-S axis and a minimum of 0.35m wide along its NW-SE axis with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (520) consisting of a greyish-brown slightly sandy clay-silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and rare inclusions of small stones. It was unclear whether feature [519] cuts or is cut by feature [507], but both features together are cut into natural and are sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [521] [Fig. 6(#5b), Fig. 15(5.6)]: This was a c.1.2m wide linear cut, orientated E to W with an asymmetric, gently sloping profile with a pronounced break of slope on its northern side. The feature was 0.3m deep and filled by (522), a yellowish-brown sandy clay-silt containing occasional charcoal fragments and stone inclusions of up to 30mm in size. Feature [521] cut into the natural and was sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [523] [Fig. 6(#5a), Fig. 15(5.3)]: A linear cut orientated NW to SE along the SW edge of feature [503]. It was 0.45m wide and up to 0.25m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by (524), a light brownish-grey slightly clayey sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and common stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. Feature [523] was cut into Feature [503] and sealed by the topsoil.

2.6 Evaluation Trench Six (Figs. 7, 16 and 20)

This trench was 1.2m wide and was bisected by the wire fence running down the centre of the field. Its western segment was 11m long and its eastern arm was 34.5m long, and both were orientated SE-NW. It was bisected by Trench Seven, its western end connected with Trench Nine and its eastern end with Trench Five. Twelve archaeological features were identified, forming part of two bands of inter-cutting linears {1313} and {626}. These features and deposits are considered in greater detail below (see 5.17.2-3).

Feature [605] [Fig. 7(#6b), Fig. 16(6.1)]: This linear cut was orientated SSE to NNW and was c.0.6m wide and 0.1m deep with a gently sloping profile and a flat base. It was filled by (606), a greyish-brown clayey-sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions of up to 30mm in size. A single sherd of ?16th century pottery was recovered from this context. Feature [605] cut feature [613], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {626}.

Feature [613] [Fig. 7(#6b), Fig. 16(6.1)]: Feature [613] was a linear cut that was orientated SSE to NNW with a visible width of c.1.1m and a depth of 0.36m. It had a broad, regular gently sloping profile although truncation of the feature on the eastern side made this difficult to confirm. Two fills were identified: (619), the lower fill, was a moist, greyish-brown clay-sand containing occasional flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. This context yielded a single fragment of clay pipe stem. The upper fill (614) was a dense reddish-brown clay-sand containing occasional flecks of charcoal and rare stone inclusions up to 30mm. Three sherds from a late 17th – early 18th century North Devon trailed slipware dish were recovered from this context. Feature [613] cut feature [620], was in turn cut by features [605] and [622] and forms part of linear group {626}.

Feature [615] [Fig. 7(#6b), Fig. 16(6.1)]: This feature was either the terminus of a linear cut exposed by Trench Six, or a partially uncovered linear pit. It was on an orientation parallel to Linear Group {626}, running in a SSE-NNW direction and was c.0.7m wide and reached a maximum depth of 0.4m. It contained a single fill (616), which consisted of a mottled whitish-grey slightly sandy silt-clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and rare stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. Feature [615] cut feature [625], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {626}.

Feature [620] [Fig. 7(#6b), Fig. 16(6.1)]: This linear cut was orientated SSE to NNW with a width of c.0.9m and a depth of 0.4m. It had a gently sloping profile with fairly steep sides and a concave base. A single fill (621) was identified, which consisted of a moist reddish-brown sandy-clay containing occasional charcoal fragments and frequent stone inclusions between 100 and 150mm in diameter. Feature [620] was cut into natural, was truncated by features [613] and [625] and forms part of linear group {626}.

Feature [622] [Fig. 7(#6b), Fig. 16(6.1)]: This feature was a linear cut c.0.5m in width and 0.36m deep, orientated SSE to NNW. It possessed a strongly U-shaped profile with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill (623) consisting of a greyish-and yellowish-white mottled sandy-clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. This context yielded a single sherd of post-medieval pottery

and a fragment of metallurgical debris. Feature [622] cut features [613] and [625], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {626}.

Feature [625] [Fig. 7(#6b), Fig. 16(6.1)]: A probable linear cut truncated to the east and west by other features. The surviving profile suggests an original width of *c.*0.6m, a depth of 0.3m and a broad, possibly concave profile with a relatively flat bottom. It contained a single fill (624), consisting of a reddish-brown sandy-clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions up to 30mm. A single sherd of window glass was recovered from this context. Feature [625] cuts feature [621], is cut by features [622] and [615] and forms part of linear group {626}.

Feature [629] [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: This feature was a linear cut orientated NE to SW with a width of *c.*1m and a maximum depth of 0.3m. It has an asymmetric profile, steeper on the NE side with a concave base. Two fills were encountered. The lower fill (645) was a homogenous, slightly mottled, pinkish-grey clay-silt while the upper fill (630) was a homogenous pinkish-brown clay-silt containing common flecks of black mineralization and occasional stone inclusions of *c.*100mm in size. Feature [629] is cut into natural, is sealed by layer (646) and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [631] [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: A very shallow linear cut *c.*0.3m wide at maximum and *c.*0.1m deep with a gentle concave profile. It was orientated NE to SW and contained a single fill (632), consisting of a homogenous, yellowish-brown clay-silt with a slightly gritty feel which contains occasional flecks of black mineralization. Feature [631] is cut into natural, sealed by layer (646) and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [633] [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: This feature was a linear cut orientated NE to SW with an irregular, gently concave profile and a maximum width of *c.*0.3m. The feature was very shallow, reaching around 50mm in depth and containing a single fill (634). This consisted of a homogenous buff-brown clay-silt. Feature [633] was cut into natural, sealed by layer (646) and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [635] [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: This NE to SW orientated linear cut is the same as feature [1310]. Only its steep western edge was exposed, the nature of its profile and its depth remaining undetermined as it was not fully excavated. A single fill was identified (638), consisting of a homogenous mid-brown clay-silt containing occasional patches of black mineralization and rare flecks of charcoal. Feature [635] was cut into natural and cut by feature [640]. It could be correlated laterally to feature [1310] and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [639] [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: The extent of this linear cut was not fully determined and only the upper part of the steep eastern edge was exposed, although this suggested the feature was orientated NW to SE. Its dimensions and the nature of its profile could not be determined. Two fills were identified: the lowest (636) was a greyish-brown sandy clay-silt containing common small stone inclusions and dense concretions of black mineralization. The upper fill (642) was a mottled greyish-brown sandy clay-silt containing occasional stone inclusions of up to 40mm in size and patches of black mineralization. Feature [639] was cut into natural, sealed by layer (641) and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [637] [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: This NE to SW orientated linear cut was not fully excavated but the visible upper parts of its edges were steeply dipping and broadly symmetrical with a width of *c.*1.2m. A single fill (636) was visible which consisted of a greyish-brown sandy clay-silt with common inclusions of small stones. The context was also heavily mineralized containing abundant black concretions. Feature [637] cut layer (641) and feature (635), was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Layer (641) [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: Approximately 65% of this layer was composed of a reddish-brown clay-silt matrix, the remainder being comprised of stone inclusions of up to 50mm in size on average. The whole context was heavily concreted with black mineralisation forming a relatively hard surface. Layer (641) sealed feature [639], was cut by feature [640] and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Layer (646) [Fig. 7(#6c), Fig. 20(6.2)]: The material constituting this layer consisted of an orange-brown, homogenous clay-silt containing occasional stone inclusions up to 40mm in size and occasional charcoal fragments up to 10mm in size. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from this context. A highly abraded sherd of Samian and a tiny abraded sherd from a 14th-15th century South Somerset sandy ware jug. Layer (646) sealed features [629], [631] and [633], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {1313}.

2.7 Evaluation Trench Seven (Figs. 8, 16, 17 and 21; Plate 1)

This trench was 1.2m wide and was bisected by the wire fence running down the centre of the field. Its southern segment was 17.5m long and the northern arm was 69m long, running SW-NE. Trench Seven bisected Trench Six and was connected with the western end of Trench Fourteen and the eastern end of Trench Eight. Twenty-six archaeological features were identified, most of them (seventeen in all) forming part of three bands of intercutting linears {709}, {732} and {782}. These features and deposits are considered in greater detail below (see 5.17.2-3). In addition, there was a corroded iron water pipe, a modern service trench and three other linear features [711], [718] and [758], four shallow postholes [707], [727], [729] and [756] and an irregular linear pit, [749].

Feature [705] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.4)]: This feature was a shallow, SSE to NNW orientated linear cut with a width of c.0.6m and a depth of 50mm. The cut has near vertical sides and a flat base and contained a single fill (706). This consisted of a homogenous, clean, greyish-brown clay-sand. Feature [705] was cut into natural, sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [707] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.8)]: A shallow, sub-rectangular cut with a length and width of c.0.2m and a depth of 40mm. The feature had a strongly asymmetric profile with a vertical southern edge and gently sloping northern side. It contained a single fill (708), soft brown sandy-clay containing occasional charcoal fragments and stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. This yielded a single small sherd of 18th century pottery. Feature [707] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [711] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 17(7.11)]: This was a NE to SW orientated linear with a slightly irregular gently concave profile, a width of c.0.8m and a depth of 0.2m. It contained a single fill: (712) consisted of a homogenous, mid-brown silt-sand with a friable texture. Feature [711] was cut into natural and was itself cut by feature [780].

Feature [714] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 16(7.12)]: A linear cut orientated E to W with a width of c.0.6m and a depth of c.0.6m. It had a strongly U-shaped profile with vertical sides and a concave base and contained a single fill. This fill (715) was a friable, homogenous, brown silt containing rare flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions up to 20mm in size. Feature [714] cut into feature [779], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {782}.

Feature [716] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 16(7.12)]: This feature was a linear cut orientated E to W with a width of c.0.6m and a depth of c.0.3m. It had a somewhat asymmetric profile with a steeper southern edge and an open V-shaped profile. A single fill was encountered (717) consisting of a friable, homogenous brown sandy-silt containing rare stone inclusions of up to

25mm in size. Feature [716] was cut into layer (776), was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {782}.

Feature [718] [Fig. 8(#7a), Fig. 16(7.3)]: This feature was a NE to SW orientated linear cut with a width of *c.* 1.5m and depth of *c.* 0.25m. It had a gently concave profile which was slightly asymmetrical as the base of the cut sloped towards the south. A single fill was identified (719) consisting of a homogenous, red clay-silt. Feature [718] was cut into the natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [722] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.7)]: A linear cut orientated SSE to NNW with a width of *c.* 0.5m and a depth of *c.* 0.25m. It had an asymmetric profile with a steeper southern side and a flat base. The feature contained a single fill (723), a homogenous, mid brown, slightly sandy clay-silt. Feature [722] was cut into feature [724], sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [724] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.7)]: A broad, SSE to NNW orientated linear cut, truncated at the north and south edges, with a minimum width of *c.* 1.3m and a depth of *c.* 0.15m. It had a gently concave profile with gently sloping sides and a relatively flat base. A single fill was encountered (725) consisting of a homogenous, reddish-brown, slightly sandy clay-silt containing occasional fragments of white quartz and rare stone inclusions of *c.* 2mm in size. This context yielded a number of finds including four fragments of 18th century clay pipe, the shattered base of an onion bottle and four sherds of 17th-18th century pottery. Feature [724] was cut into feature [739], itself cut by features [722] and [735] and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [727] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.6)]: This was a sub-rectangular posthole with a length of *c.* 0.3m, a width of *c.* 0.25m and a depth of *c.* 0.15m. It had a regular profile with vertical sides and a relatively flat base. A single fill was present (728), consisting of a greyish-brown, firm, silty-sand containing common flecks of charcoal and rare small stone inclusions. Feature [727] was cut into feature [705], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [729] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.5)]: An irregularly shaped, sub-circular posthole with a diameter of *c.* 0.2m and a depth of 0.15m. In profile the sides were near vertical although the southern edge had a pronounced step. The feature contained a single fill (730), a greyish-brown, firm sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal flecks. Feature [729] was cut into feature [705], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [737] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.7)]: This feature was a SSE to NNW orientated linear cut with a width of *c.* 1.4m and a depth of 0.6m. It had an asymmetric profile with a steeper northern edge and a relatively flat base. A single fill (738) was identified which consisted of a homogenous, reddish-brown, slightly sandy clay-silt. Feature [737] was cut into natural, itself cut by feature [739] and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [739] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.7)]: This heavily truncated linear cut was orientated SSE to NNW and originally may have had a gently concave profile. Its surviving dimensions were *c.* 0.6m in width and *c.* 0.2m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (740), an orange-brown clay-silt containing occasional small inclusions of stone up to 5mm in size. Feature [739] was cut into feature [737], was cut by feature [724] and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [731] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.7)]: This feature was a linear cut orientated SSE to NNW with a width of *c.* 1.1m and a depth of *c.* 0.25m. It had a strongly asymmetric, gently concave profile, with very gently sloping northern and steep southern edges. A single fill was

identified (726) consisting of a homogenous, light yellowish-brown clay-silt. Feature [731] was cut into feature [735], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [733] [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 21(7.9)]: A linear cut orientated NW to SE with a width of *c.*0.25m and a depth of *c.*0.3m. It had a fairly regular, slightly asymmetric profile with a steeper southern side and a flat base. Two fills were identified: the lowest (734) was a homogenous, clean red silt-sand which was sealed by (753), a homogenous, reddish-brown sandy-silt containing patches of red sand at its base close to its contact with (734). A sherd of 2nd century Romano-British Exeter Sandy Grey Ware was recovered from this context. Feature [733] was cut into layer (748) and sealed by the topsoil. Feature [733] and context (753) are the same as feature [751] and context (752). It forms part of linear group {709}.

Feature [735] [Fig. 8(#7b), Fig. 16(7.7)]: This feature was a SSE to NNW orientated linear cut with a width of *c.*0.35m and a depth of *c.*0.2m. Its profile was asymmetric and broadly U-shaped with a steep northern edge. The feature contained a single fill (736), a homogenous, reddish-brown clay-silt containing rare stone inclusions of up to 15mm in size. Feature [735] was cut into feature [724], was itself cut by feature [731] and forms part of linear group {732}.

Feature [741] [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 21(7.9)]: A NW to SE orientated linear ditch with a width of *c.*2m and a depth of 1m. It had a pronounced asymmetric profile, the northern edge being steepest, and its narrow base sloped to the south. The cut contained multiple fills the lowest of which (742) was a homogenous pinkish-red clay-sand containing occasional small stone inclusions. This was overlain by (743) a homogenous, soft, red medium sand which was sealed by (745) a thick heterogeneous deposit. This consisted largely of mottled light greyish-brown clay-silt which contained several distinct bands and lens of soft, brown medium sand. Feature [741] was cut into feature [746], was overlain by layer (748) and forms part of linear group {709}.

Feature [746] [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 21(7.9)]: This was a heavily truncated linear cut orientated NW to SE. The surviving portion suggests a broad profile of at least 1m width with a minimum depth of 0.4m. A gently concave profile seems most likely. A single fill was encountered (747) consisting of a homogenous, mottled reddish-brown clay-silt containing rare flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions of up to 30mm size. Feature [746] was cut into natural, was itself cut by [741] and forms part of linear group {709}.

Feature [749] [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 17(7.10)]: A cut falling partially within Trench Seven with an irregular morphology and a long axis of *c.*2m. It contains three fills the lowest of which (754) was a homogenous, red clay-sand which was sealed by (755), a homogenous, firm, orange-brown clay-silt containing occasional patches of black mineralisation. The uppermost fill (750) was a homogenous, orange-brown clay-silt containing occasional stone inclusions up to 10mm in size and rare flecks of charcoal.

Feature [751] [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 17(7.10)]: This feature was the same as feature [733]. The fill of this feature (752) was the same as (753) and yielded a sherd of Romano-British pottery (see above).

Feature [756] [Fig. 8(#7a), Fig. 16(7.2)]: A sub-circular cut with a dished, gently concave profile which was *c.*0.5m in diameter and *c.*0.1m deep. It contained a single fill (757) consisting of a friable, light brown silt-sand containing occasional stone inclusions of *c.* 15mm size. Feature [756] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [758] [Fig. 8(#7a), Fig. 16(7.1)]: A linear cut orientated roughly E to W with an irregular gently concave profile, a width of *c.*2.2m and a depth of 0.6m. The cut contained two fills the lowest of which (781) was a heterogeneous silt-sand with a gritty texture

containing abundant, poorly-sorted stone inclusions ranging in size from several millimetres to 70mm. This context was only present along the southern edge of feature [758] and was sealed by (759), a homogenous, light grey sandy-silt mottled with red. This context was slightly friable with a somewhat gritty feel due to the presence of common tiny inclusions of stone. Feature [758] was cut into natural and overlain by the topsoil.

Feature [766] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 17(7.12)]: This E to W orientated, truncated linear cut had a minimum width of *c.* 1m and a minimum depth of *c.* 0.7m. It had an asymmetric profile with a near vertical southern edge and a more gently sloping northern side and contained a two fills. The lowest of these (770) consisted of a very friable, homogenous, grey-brown sandy silt containing occasional stone inclusions up to 50mm in size. This was overlain by the upper fill (767), a friable, yellowish-brown, homogenous silt containing rare stones up to 15mm in size. Feature [766] was cut into natural, was truncated on its northern side by feature [779] and forms part of linear group {782}.

Feature [773] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 17(7.12)]: An E to W orientated linear cut with a width of *c.* 1m and a depth of *c.* 0.4m. It had an asymmetric profile with a steeper southern edge and a flat base. A single fill was identified (774) consisting of a firm, homogenous pinkish-buff silt-sand. Feature [773] was cut into layer (776), was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {782}.

Feature [775] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 17(7.12)]: A possible linear cut orientated E to W with a width of *c.* 6m and a depth of *c.* 0.2m. The northern edge was gently sloping but the southern edge is not clear and is possibly truncated. The feature had a relatively flat base and contained a single fill (776). This was a homogenous, orange-brown silt with rare stone inclusions up to 20mm in size. Feature [775] was cut into natural, was cut by features [716] and [773] and forms part of linear group {782}.

Feature [779] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 17(7.12)]: This feature was a linear cut orientated E to W which was truncated on its southern side by another feature. It had a surviving width and depth of *c.* 0.6m and *c.* 0.3m respectively with a possibly gently concave profile, although this could not be confirmed due to its truncation. Two fills were identified, the lowest of which (769) was a friable, homogenous, yellowish-brown silt containing occasional stone inclusions of between 30mm and 50mm in size. This was sealed by (768), a homogenous, friable, reddish-brown silt containing rare stone inclusions up to 30mm in size and occasional flecks of charcoal. Feature [779] was cut into feature [769], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {782}.

Feature [780] [Fig. 8(#7e), Fig. 17(7.12)]: This feature was a narrow, linear cut, orientated NE to SW. It had a regular V-shaped profile with a width of *c.* 0.5m and a depth of *c.* 0.25m. A single fill (713) was present which was a homogenous, orange-brown medium sand with a friable texture. It contained frequent patches of black mineralisation which was concentrated in an almost continuous concretion along the surface of the cut [780]. In plan these concretions had the appearance of the corrosion products from a metallic object. Feature [780] appeared to be a re-cut of [711] and was itself overlain by the topsoil.

Feature (783) [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 21(7.9)]: This feature consisted of a line of stones visible on stripping that was orientated roughly NE to SW across the trench. No cut was visible though it is possible this feature is the same as [1325]. It forms part of linear group {709}.

Layer (710) [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 21(7.9)]: This was an extensive deposit of material sealing the elements of linear group {709}. It was very similar to context (003) and thus difficult to differentiate, consisting of a greyish-brown clay-silt containing occasional stone inclusions of up to 40mm in size. A fragment of flint and a sherd of late 17th-early 18th Westerwalt stone-

ware were recovered from this context. Layer (710) sealed feature [733], was itself sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {709}.

Layer (748) [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 21(7.9)]: This layer sealed almost the entire width of linear group {709} and consisted of a firm, orange-brown clay-silt containing common stone inclusions up to 10mm in size on average, but with some reaching 80 to 200mm. The context was also hard and concreted in patches due to the presence of black mineralisation. Layer (748) sealed feature [741], was itself cut by feature [733] and forms part of linear group {709}.

Layer (772) [Fig. 8(#7c), Fig. 17(7.12)]: This was a homogenous, friable, reddish-brown sandy-silt containing common stone inclusions of between 30mm and 50mm in size. Layer (772) overlay the natural, was cut by features [779] and [773] and was part of linear group {782}.

2.8 Evaluation Trench Eight (Figs. 9 and 21; Plate 2)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 19.5m SE-NW, its SE end connecting with Trench Seven. At least five archaeological features and five layers were identified, forming a single contiguous archaeological complex spanning 16m of the trench. Some of these features and deposits are considered in greater detail below (see 5.17.3).

Feature [806]: A linear cut orientated roughly N to S with a width of c.0.8m and a depth of c.0.4m. It had a broadly symmetrical open U-shaped profile with a concave base and contained two fills. The lowest of these (807) was a homogenous, orange-brown clay-silt sealed beneath (808), a homogenous reddish-brown silt-clay containing rare stone inclusions of up to 3mm in size. Feature (806) was cut into layer (810), was sealed by layer (811) and forms part of linear group {805}.

Feature [812]: This feature was a linear cut orientated N to S which was not fully excavated – only its eastern side was partially exposed. It had a minimum width of c.1.4m and a minimum depth of 0.3m, the exposed part suggesting a gently concave profile. A single fill was identified (813), a light brown sticky clay with a heterogeneous texture as a variable proportion of sand was present. This was particularly high on the western side of the excavated area where the context would be better described as a sandy-clay. Excessive water ingress made this context difficult to examine. Feature [812] was cut into natural, was sealed by layer (809) and forms part of linear group {805}.

Feature [819]: A N to S orientated linear cut with a width of c.0.6m and a depth of c.0.5m. It had a broadly symmetrical U-shaped profile with steep sides with a concave base and contained two fills. The lowest of these (824) was a firm, reddish-brown silt-clay containing occasional tiny stone inclusions and frequent patches of black mineralisation. The feature was only apparent in the south-facing section of Trench Eight as excavation of the north-facing section did not reach a sufficient depth to expose its top. Feature [819] cut layer (809), was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {805}.

Layer (809): A deposit of a gritty, mottled, orange-brown silt-clay containing frequent to abundant stone inclusions averaging between 50mm and 100mm in size. The character of this material varied laterally; to the east of feature [812] it was less compact and the stones less well-fixed while to the west the deposit became harder and the layer of stones more durable forming what appeared to be a metallated surface. Five tiny abraded sherds of 1st-2nd century Romano-British Exeter Micaceous Grey Ware pottery were recovered pressed into

the stony surface between features [806] and [812]. A single flint flake was also recovered from this layer. Layer (809) overlay feature [812], layer (825) and layer (821) and was itself cut by feature [819] and sealed by layers (810) and (818). It forms part of linear group {805}.

Layer (810): This layer consisted of a homogenous, pinkish-orange clay-silt containing occasional patches of black mineralisation and flecks of charcoal. A single flint flake was recovered from this layer. It overlay layer (809), was sealed by layer (816) and cut by feature [806] and forms part of linear group {805}.

Layer (811): This was a deposit of homogenous light grey silt-clay with a leached appearance suggesting it had been subjected to the action of post-depositional processes. Layer (811) extended across the eastern part of Trench Eight, sealing feature [806] and layer (816) and forms part of linear group {805}.

Layer (816): This deposit contained two contexts; (816) and (815). The former, constituting the bulk of the layer, was a heterogeneous, mottled buff silty-sand containing common stone inclusions of up to 15mm in size. Context (815) consisted of a 50mm thick zone at the base of (816) which was heavily concreted due to the deposition of black mineralisation. Strictly speaking this was part of (816) which has been affected by post-depositional processes. Context (815) yielded a single fragment of tile of Romano-British date, provisionally identified as a product of the Hatherleigh tiling (see Laing-Trengove & Wheeler 2006). Layer (816) sealed layers (810) and (818), was overlain by layer (811) and forms part of linear group {805}. The context boundary between (816) and (818) was not abrupt, and the one graded into the other.

Layer (818): This was an extensive deposit covering much of Trench Eight, consisting of a firm, homogenous orange-brown clay-silt containing occasional small patches of black mineralisation. A single flint core was recovered from context (818). Layer (818) overlay layer (809), was sealed by layers (816) and (822) and forms part of linear group {805}.

Layer (821): This layer contained two contexts: (821) and (826). The latter was the lowest deposit and consisted of a homogenous, slightly sticky, brownish-grey clay-silt containing frequent flecks of black mineralisation. The overlying context (821) was very similar in character but had a higher silt content and was classified as a clay-silt. Layer (821) overlay natural, was sealed by layer (809) and forms part of linear group {805}

Layer (822): At the western end of Trench Eight the ground surface of the site fell into the slight linear depression orientated roughly north-south. Layer (822) is composed of two contexts, (822) and (823), which appear to have formed as deposits within this natural landform. The lowest (823) was a homogenous orange-brown clayey silty-sand while the upper consisted of a light grey mottled clay-silt. Context (822) (within layer (822)) sealed layer (818), was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {805}.

Layer (825): This deposit was a homogenous, yellowish-brown sandy-clay with a fairly sticky texture. It overlay natural, was sealed by layer (809) and forms part of linear group {805}.

2.9 Evaluation Trench Nine (Figs. 9 and 18)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 35.5m north-south, connecting with the western end of Trench Six. Three archaeological features were identified: a single linear feature; [908], an irregular depression [910] and an ephemeral narrow slot [906].

Feature [906]: This was an ephemeral linear cut with a width of *c.*0.1m, a depth of no more than *c.*10mm with a fill of topsoil. Feature [906] was cut into natural and was sealed by topsoil.

Feature [908]: A linear cut orientated E to W with a width of *c.*1m and a depth of *c.*0.5m. It had an asymmetric, V-shaped profile with a steeper southern edge and contained a single fill (909) consisting of a homogenous brown clay-silt. Feature [908] was cut into the natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [910]: This feature was an irregular shallow cut partially exposed by Trench Nine. It had a maximum, visible dimension of *c.*3m, reached a maximum depth of *c.*0.1m and contained a single fill (911). This was a poorly-sorted orange-yellow silty-sand containing occasional flecks of charcoal and frequent stone inclusions of *c.*1mm in size giving the context a gritty feel. Feature [910] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

2.10 Evaluation Trench Ten (Fig. 10)

This trench was bisected by Trench Fifteen, extended for 50.5m SW-NE and was 1.2m wide. Two archaeological features were identified: a corroded iron water pipe and a single large, deep modern linear feature [1003].

Feature [1003]: This was a modern linear cut identified as geophysical anomaly I which, upon excavation, proved to be *c.*1.5m wide with a steep-sided V-shaped profile. The bottom of the feature was not reached although it was excavated to a depth of *c.*2m and was filled with a mixture of re-deposited natural and topsoil. Feature [1003] was cut into context (002) in the topsoil and was sealed by (001).

2.11 Evaluation Trench Eleven (Figs. 10 and 18)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 46.5m SSE-NNW. Three archaeological features were identified: a linear [1119], a pit or terminus of a linear [1117] and a sub-rectangular pit [1105].

Feature [1105]: An elongated sub-rectangular pit with an irregular shape orientated roughly N to S. It was *c.*3.4m long, *c.*1m wide and *c.*0.3m deep with highly irregular base and steep sides. The feature contained a single fill (1106), a homogenous buff-brown silty-sand containing frequent stone inclusions of 20mm to 50mm in size and occasional flecks of charcoal. Feature [1105] was cut into the natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [1117]: This feature was possibly a linear cut terminating in Trench Eleven, or perhaps a pit partially exposed in the trench. It was truncated to the south, the surviving portion suggesting an irregular U-shaped profile with a steep northern edge, a concave base and a minimum width and depth of *c.*1m and *c.*0.5m respectively. The feature contained a single fill (1118) consisting of a buff-brown silty-sand containing common stone inclusions of 40mm to 60mm in size and occasional charcoal flecks. Feature [1117] was cut into natural and cut by feature [1119].

Feature [1119]: An east-west orientated linear cut with a width of *c.*1.5m and a depth of *c.*0.5m. It had an asymmetric V-shaped profile with the steeper edge to the south and contained a single fill (1120). This consisted of a buff-brown clayey silty-sand with lenses of red-purple sand, common stone inclusions of 40mm to 80mm in size and rare charcoal flecks. Feature [1119] cut feature [1117] and was sealed by the topsoil.

2.12 Evaluation Trench Twelve (Fig. 11 and 18)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 20m SE-NW. Three archaeological features were identified: two linear features, [1203] and [1205], and a narrow slot [1211].

Feature [1203]: A linear cut orientated N to S with a width of *c.* 1m and a depth of *c.* 0.4m. It had an asymmetrical, V-shaped profile with a steeper western side and contained a single fill (1204). This was a homogenous, slightly reddish-brown, friable silt containing rare inclusions of stone of 10mm to 20mm in size. Feature {1203} cut feature [1211] and was sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [1205]: This feature was a linear cut orientated roughly N to S with a width of *c.* 1m and a depth of *c.* 0.4m. It had an irregular V-shaped profile and contained two fills. The lowest of these (1213) was a homogenous friable orange-brown medium sand containing occasional stone inclusions of 20mm to 50mm in size. The upper fill (1206) consisted of a homogenous friable orange-brown fine sand containing common stone inclusions of up to 30mm in size. Feature [1205] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [1211]: A narrow (*c.* 0.25m wide), shallow (*c.* 50mm deep) linear cut with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (1212), a homogenous reddish-brown silt. Feature [1211] was cut into natural and truncated by feature [1203].

2.13 Evaluation Trench Thirteen (Figs. 11 and 20; Plate 3)

This trench was 3.5m wide and extended for 8.5m east-west, its eastern end connecting with Trench Six. Trench Thirteen was dug to provide a true 90° section through Linear Group {007}. It contained six features, grouped into a single band of inter-cutting linears {1313}. These features and deposits are considered in greater detail below (see 5.17.3).

Feature [1307]: A linear cut, of variable width ranging between *c.* 0.3m and 0.5m wide and *c.* 0.25m deep. It had an open V-shaped profile and a single fill (1308) which consisted of a homogenous, sticky, brown clay-silt. A single flint flake was recovered from this context. Feature [1307] cut into natural, was sealed by layer (1306) and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [1310]: This feature was a linear cut orientated NE to SW which had been truncated on its northern side. The surviving parts suggested a width of *c.* 1.4m, a depth of *c.* 0.9m and a steep roughly V-shaped profile with a concave base. Feature [1310] contained multiple fills the lowest of which (1314) consisted of a texturally heterogeneous, orange-brown clay-sand the grain size of which was slightly variable. The context contained occasional patches of black mineralisation and rare small charcoal inclusions. This was overlain by (1315), a light brown-grey clayey sand-silt with a gritty texture and frequent patches of black mineralisation. A homogenous, orange-brown silt-clay (1316) containing occasional patches of black mineralisation and rare flecks of charcoal sealed (1315) and was in turn overlain by (1317), a homogenous, brownish-grey clay-silt containing frequent patches of black mineralisation. The uppermost fill of this feature was (1318), which consisted of a slightly mottled, reddish-brown clay-silt containing rare flecks of charcoal. Feature [1310] was demonstrated to be the same as feature [635] and was cut into natural and in turn cut by feature [1319] and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [1319]: A linear cut orientated NW to SE with a width of *c.* 1m and a depth of 0.6m. It had an asymmetric U-shaped profile with the steeper side to the north. A single fill was present (1304), consisting of a firm reddish-brown clay-silt mottled with grey and

containing rare charcoal flecks and patches of black mineralisation. Feature [1319] may be the same as feature [640]. Its fill (1304) yielded a single flint flake. It cut features [1310] and [1320], was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [1320]: This NW to SE orientated linear cut was truncated on its northern and southern sides, the surviving profile suggesting a concave base but the form of the sides was not apparent. The feature was a minimum of *c.*0.3m wide and 0.3m deep and contained multiple fills. The lowest of these (1321) consisted of a homogenous, greyish-brown, slightly sandy clay-silt containing occasional patches of black mineralisation and small stone inclusions of up to 40mm in size concentrated at the context's base in contact with cut [1320]. This was overlain by (1322), a compact, reddish-brown, homogenous clay-silt which was in turn sealed by (1323), a homogenous, greyish-brown clay-silt containing rare flecks of charcoal and occasional patches of black mineralisation. The upper fill of [1320] was (1324), a homogenous greyish-brown clay silt containing occasional patches of black mineralisation. Feature [1320] was cut into natural, truncated by [1319] and [1325] and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Feature [1325]: This feature was a linear cut orientated NW to SE with a width of *c.*0.3m and a depth of *c.*0.2m. Its profile was steep-sided and fairly regular but asymmetric with a base sloping towards the south. Two fills were present, the lowest (1309) consisting of 70% to 80% closely packed stones ranging in size between 100mm and 200mm, the interstices being filled with a greyish-brown clay-silt. The upper fill of the feature (1327) was a homogenous, grey-brown, clay-silt with a slightly gritty texture. Feature [1325] was cut into feature [1320] and layer (1306), was sealed by the topsoil and forms part of linear group {1313}.

Layer (1326): This layer formed the fill of a slight *c.*2.5m wide, NW to SE orientated linear hollow in the natural to the north of feature [1325]. It consisted of a slightly reddish grey-brown clay-silt with a gritty texture containing frequent stone inclusions ranging up to 50mm in size. Layer (1326) overlay natural, was sealed by layer (1306) and formed part of linear group {1313}.

Layer (1306): This material consisted of a homogenous brownish-grey clay-silt containing occasional fragments of charcoal up to 25mm in size which were rarely present as discreet concentrations. Four flakes of flint and a single small sherd of pottery of post-medieval date (?16th century) were recovered from this context. Layer (1306) overlay feature [1307] and layer (1326), was cut by feature [1309] and forms part of linear group {1313}.

2.14 Evaluation Trench Fourteen (Figs. 11 and 19)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 25m SE-NW, its NW end connecting with Trench Seven. A single archaeological feature was identified: shallow linear [1405].

Feature [1405]: This feature was a slight linear cut orientated N to S with a shallow U-shaped profile, a width of *c.*0.25m and a depth of *c.*0.1m. A single fill was present (1406) consisting of a homogenous clay-silt with a friable texture. Feature [1405] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

2.15 Evaluation Trench Fifteen (Figs. 12 and 19)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 16.5m SE-NW bisecting Trench Ten. A single archaeological feature was identified: an irregular pit [1503].

Feature [1503]: An irregular oval cut *c.*2m in length, a visible width of 0.6m and a depth of *c.*0.2m, orientated roughly E to W. It had a slightly irregular gently concave profile and a single fill (1504). This consisted of a mixed heterogeneous deposit consisting predominantly of an orange-brown clay-silt with a higher clay fraction to the west. The fill also contained rare fragments of charcoal up to 10mm in size. Feature [1503] was cut into natural and sealed by the topsoil.

2.16 Evaluation Trench Sixteen (Figs. 12 and 20; Plate 4)

This trench was 1.2m wide and extended for 11m WSW-ENE, its ENE end connecting with Trench Five. It contained seven features, all but one of which formed part of a single group of inter-cutting linears {1603}. These features and deposits are considered in greater detail below (see 5.17.3).

Feature [1604]: This feature was a wide shallow linear cut orientated NW to SE and possibly terminating within Trench Sixteen. It was *c.*2.6m wide, a maximum of 0.25m deep and possessed gently sloping sides. A single fill was present (1629), a greyish-brown clay-silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal and stone inclusions of up to 30mm in size. Feature [1604] was cut into natural, was itself cut by feature [1626] and forms part of linear group {1603}.

Feature [1605]: A SE to NW orientated linear cut truncated by other features in its upper parts. It had a minimum width of *c.*1.7m and a depth of *c.*0.8m (from the level of the sub-soil) and a slightly asymmetrical, roughly V-shaped profile with a narrow, flat base and a steeper western edge. The feature contained multiple fills the lowest of which (1617) consisted of a re-deposited natural purplish sand which was overlain by (1618), a deposit of purplish sands, slightly cleaner in character than (1617). This was sealed by (1619), a heterogeneous, mottled reddish-brown silty-clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. The next fill in the sequence was (1620), which consisted of a series of alternating bands of pale grey clayey sand and reddish bands of sandy material. The uppermost fill (1621) was a clean yellow sand containing some bands with a pinkish tinge and some with common black mineralisation. Feature [1605] was cut into natural, truncated by feature [1622] and forms part of linear group {1603}.

Feature [1606]: A SE to NW orientated linear cut with a width of *c.*1.15m and a depth of *c.*0.3m which contained two fills. The lowest of these (1607) was a gritty greyish-brown silty-sand containing common patches of black mineralisation and occasional stone inclusions of 30mm to 60mm in size. This was overlain by (1608), a slightly gritty, reddish-brown sandy-clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal and stones of up to 30mm in size. Feature [1606] cut feature [1609] and was sealed by the topsoil.

Feature [1609]: A linear cut or sub-rectangular pit, the visible part of which measures *c.*1.1m NE to SW and *c.*0.35m SE to NW, with a depth of *c.*0.3m. Its profile was truncated to the east, but the western edge sloped moderately steeply to a flat base. A single fill was identified (1610), consisting of a mineralised gritty greyish-brown clayey-sand with a concentration of stone inclusions of between 40mm and 80mm in size at its base. Feature [1609] cuts layer (1613), is itself cut by feature [1606] and forms part of linear group {1603}.

Feature [1611]: A shallow, SE to NW orientated linear cut with a width of *c.*0.3m and a depth of *c.*50mm. It was filled with stone inclusions of between 40mm and 80mm in size set in a grey clayey matrix (1612) and may be similar to features [1325] and (783). This fill was very similar to the layer above (1613), and may indeed be a lower component of the same

deposit. Feature [1611] cut natural, was sealed by layer (1613) and forms part of linear group {1603}.

Feature [1615]: This feature was a SE to NW orientated linear cut with a width of *c.*0.8m and a depth of *c.*0.2m. Its profile was asymmetric, with a steep eastern edge, a gently sloping western side and a flat base. A single fill was identified (1616), consisting of a light brown sandy-clay containing common patches of black mineralisation and stone inclusions of up to 30mm in size. Feature [1615] forms part of linear group {1603}.

Feature [1622]: This SE to NW orientated linear cut was truncated by other features to the east and west, its surviving width and depth being *c.*0.45m and *c.*0.35m respectively. It had an asymmetrical V-shaped profile with the steeper edge to the west and contained a single fill (1623). This consisted of a buff-brown gritty clay-sand containing abundant black mineralisation and occasional stone inclusions up to 30mm in size. Feature [1622] was cut into feature [1605], was itself cut by features [1615], [1624] and [1626], and forms part of linear group {1603}.

Feature [1624]: A narrow post-pipe, with a width of *c.*0.1m and a depth of *c.*0.2m, that was defined by the absence of black mineralisation in (1623). This may indicate the existence and survival of a plank or post during the period when the minerals were deposited, and this might give some indication of how long that process could take. The sides of the post-pipe were parallel but just off-vertical, and it appeared to slope up from the SW to the NE. It contained a single fill (1625), a clean, buff-brown clayey-sand. Feature [1624] forms part of linear group {1603}.

Feature [1626]: This feature was a broad, linear cut orientated SE to NW with a width of *c.*1.5m and a depth of up to 0.3m. It had a roughly flat base, steeply sloping sides and contained a single fill (1627). This was a firm, buff-brown clay-sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions of up to 30mm in size. Black mineralisation was also present, concentrated at the boundary with (1621). Feature [1626] cut features [1623] and [1624], was sealed by topsoil and forms part of linear group {1603}.

Layer (1613): This layer contained two component contexts: (1613) and (1614). The lowest (1613) consisted of a layer of stones of between 40mm and 100mm in size, set in gritty greyish-brown material and heavily concreted by black mineralisation. This context was very similar to (1612), and it may be the case that this layer simply fills an existing hollow. This was overlain by (1614), a buff-brown silty-sand containing common black mineralisation. Layer (1613) overlay feature [1612], was itself cut by features [1615] and [1609] and forms part of linear group {1603}.

2.17 Group contexts crossing multiple trenches

2.17.1 Linear Feature Group {005}

This group consisting of a single linear feature, corresponding to Geophysical Anomaly A, and was identified in Trenches Two, Three and Four. It was excavated as features [208], [303] and [407].

2.17.2 Linear Feature Group {006}

This group consisted of a band of parallel, intercutting linear features orientated roughly N to S as identified in Trenches Six and Seven. In each trench there were seven features apparent which could be correlated based on their stratigraphic position. The features identified,

with their equivalents are as follows: [722]/[605], [724]/[622], [731]/[615], [734]/[613], [735]/[625] and [737]/[620].

2.17.3 Linear Feature Group {007} (see Fig. 22)

This linear feature group, orientated roughly N to S, was exposed in Trenches Six, Seven, Eight, Thirteen and Sixteen and comprises linear groups {709}, {805}, {1313} and {1603}. These linear groups encompass a large number of different features and layers (see above), making interpretation difficult. However, in each trench where {007} was present it was possible to identify repeated associations between features and layers in similar spatial and stratigraphic relationships to each other. Although these stratigraphic elements do not incorporate all the features and layers within {007}, they do simplify interpretation and enable a preliminary interpretation of its most common features to which other components of the group can be related. The identified elements are as follows:

Element A: SW Intercutting Ditches. In those trenches where {007} was present, and fully exposed this element consisted of a sizable ditch and a re-cut, often with multiple fills, situated on the south-western side of the group. In Trenches Six and Eight, this element was not fully excavated, but the upper parts of ditches were uncovered that suggested the presence of the appropriate features.

Element A comprised features:

[635], [639], [741], [746], [812], [1310], [1320], [1605] and [1622]

Element B: Late Re-Cut. This element occurred late in the sequence and consisted of a re-cut ditch running along roughly the same line as Element A. The re-cut was present only at the southern end of {007} in Trenches Thirteen (1313) and probably Six {1313} and Sixteen {1603}, but was absent in Trench Seven {709} and not exposed in Trench Eight {805}.

Element B comprised features:

[640], [1319] and [1626]

Element C: Linear Gap/Hollow. Although it was not assigned a context number, this element, consisting of a gap of between 1.5m and 3m width situated between elements A and D was consistently present, although sometimes truncated by later features as in Trench Sixteen. The surface of this element, especially in Trenches Six, Seven and Thirteen, was slightly depressed below the level of the subsoil.

Element D: NE Ditch. This element was a linear cut running along the north-east edge of linear group {007} which was present in trenches 6, 7, 8, 13 and probably 16.

Element D consisted of features:

[629], [733], [806], [1307] and probably [1606]

Element E: Silt Deposits. These layers of silt occurred relatively late in the stratigraphic sequence in each trench and tended to overlie many of the features of Linear Feature Group {007}, but were especially associated with Element C, the linear gap/hollow.

Element E consisted of layers:

(646), (710), (810), (811), (1306)

Layer (1614) was probably a heavily truncated remnant of element E.

Element F: Stony Layer. A layer containing abundant stone inclusions was present in all five trenches. The precise character of this varied laterally, consisting in most trenches of a silty layer containing stones. However, in Trench Eight it formed a more durable surface in many

places with the appearance of deliberately laid metalling. It also covered a much larger area in Trench Eight than in the other trenches.

Element F consisted of layers:
(641), (748), (809), (1326) and (1613)

Two of the trenches also contained features and layers which, although included in {007}, do not occur in the other trenches and are thus not part of the core group of stratigraphic elements described above.

In Trench Sixteen the sequence was complicated by several linear cuts (e.g. features [1604] and [1609]) which truncated earlier features and introduced a degree of uncertainty into the identification of Elements A to F.

In Trench Eight {007} included additional features and layers beyond the spatial limits of the distribution of Elements A to F. Most obvious was layer (809), which formed part of Element F, but extended beyond {007} to the west where it formed a stony metalled area. In addition, a series of silty layers were also present at the north-western end of Trench Eight (e.g. layers (816), (818) and (823)), which probably developed within the slight topographical depression at the centre of the site where such deposits would be prone to accumulate. A linear cut (feature [819]) and a possible associated bank (layer (821)) are also present at the western end of Trench Eight.

3.0 Summary of Finds

The evaluation at Tiverton Road, Cullompton, did not uncover any great quantity of artefactual evidence. The bulk of the finds were recovered during the topsoil strip, with most of those finds concentrated at the base of the upper topsoil layer (001). What follows is a summary of the more detailed accounts that can be found in Appendices 5-10.

A small assemblage (31 pieces) of worked chert and flint (see Appendix 5) were recovered, of which 16 were unstratified. No specifically datable pieces were present, and the assemblage is too small to indicate settlement, but as chert makes up just over half of the assemblage, this would suggest there was Mesolithic or early Neolithic activity in the general vicinity.

In terms of the Prehistoric and Romano-British ceramic evidence from the site (see Appendix 6), 5 sherds of probable Iron Age date were recovered during the topsoil strip (context (003)) in Trench Nine. A single rim sherd of Romano-British date was recovered during the topsoil strip in Trench Six, 5 tiny sherds from a single Exeter Micaceous Grey Ware vessel came from context (809), 1 sherd of Exeter Sandy Grey Ware jar came from context (752), and a single tiny abraded sherd of Samian came from context (646). All of this material can be dated to the 1st – 2nd centuries AD. Three fragments of Roman tile were also recovered. The topsoil strip in Trench Six produced two co-joining fragments of tile, identified as Fabric 3 from the Exeter Fortress, and context (815) produced a single tile fragment, provisionally identified as a product of the Hatherleigh Roman tiler.

311 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered (see Appendix 7), only 14 of which were stratified. The bulk of the pottery was dated to the period 1500-1830, and there were only 49 sherds of English industrial white wares. The pottery is largely domestic in character, and probably reached the field with of domestic waste from the town. The relative lack of 19th and 20th century material is noteworthy, and is mirrored in the clay pipe and glass assemblages.

48 fragments of clay pipe, and one wig-curler fragment, were recovered (see Appendix 9), and most of these came from the topsoil strip. None of the bowl fragments were decorated, and there were no maker's marks. There were no 19th century examples, and most of the bowls/fragments were later 17th or 18th in date. Two bowls were slightly earlier.

45 fragments of glass were recovered (see Appendix 10), mostly from the topsoil, and this assemblage was dominated by thick, dark green fragments of 18th century bottle glass, including a neck and two bases from late 17th – early 18th onion bottles.

Only a single modern animal bone (*Bos* tooth) was recovered from the topsoil in Trench Eleven (see Appendix 4).

A substantial quantity of metallurgical debris (see Appendix 8) was recovered – 37 fragments weighing 3.72kg – during the topsoil strip, mostly from the lower topsoil, context (003). Most of this material was abraded, and most if not all represent fragments of smithing slag. This volume of material is seen as unusual, and could indicate smithing activity in the immediate vicinity.

4.0 Interpretation

The volume and complexity of the archaeological remains uncovered on this site, especially in its eastern half, was unexpectedly high, consisting predominantly of a dense distribution of linear features oriented in different directions. Interpretation is thus difficult, especially given the nature of evaluation trenching which cuts many of the features at random. However, closer inspection enabled several more coherent features to be identified in the form of the Linear Feature Groups, {005}, {006} and {007}, as described in 5.17 (above).

Analysis of the sections cut through {007} permitted correlations to be made between the stratigraphic elements within each (5.17.3). The consistent stratigraphic relationships between these elements has in turn enabled the chronological development of {007} to be interpreted.

This consisted of four main phases (see Fig. 22);

PHASE 1

In the earliest phase, Elements A and C were in use. Element C, the linear gap/hollow, is best interpreted as the course of a path or track, the surface of which became worn with use and slightly hollowed. Probably contemporary with this was the cutting of a ditch that ran along its south-western edge (Element A), which is interpreted as a boundary ditch. The longevity of use of this track and boundary was significant and of sufficient length for the track to be slightly hollowed with use and the ditch to silt up, be re-cut and to silt up again.

PHASE 2

This phase saw the continued use of the track and the development of a stony layer (Element F) in its bed, which extended over the silted up ditches of Element A. In Trench Eight this layer had the appearance of a deliberately laid surface which extended to the west beyond Element A (see below). Probably during the period of its use, this stony surface was cut by another linear feature (Element D), running parallel to the line of {007} along its north-eastern edge. This was possibly another boundary ditch, although it was significantly shallower than those constituting the earlier Element A.

PHASE 3

This phase is represented by at least one silty layer (Element E) in each trench which is centred on the line of the Element C, the linear gap/hollow. These layers fill or overlie Element C and the other elements belonging to the earlier phases. The character of the contexts of which this element is composed suggests they could represent the disuse and silting up of the hollow track bed.

PHASE 4

The latest phase is represented by a linear cut (Element B) along the line of {007} on its south-eastern edge which, for much of its length cuts into or overlaps the features of Element A. Once more this is best interpreted as a boundary ditch, though given that the Phase 2 trackway and associated Phase 3 ditch may no longer have been visible, there must have been some expression in the topography, or an organic demarcation such as a hedge, for the Phase 4 ditch to follow.

In Trench Eight the Phase 2 stony layer (Element F) of {007} was much more extensive than in the other trenches, extending over Element A and *c.* 10m further west. The nature of this metallated area is unclear due to the limited area exposed by the evaluation trench. This westward extension of Element F was sealed by several silty deposits (e.g. (818) and (822) which may be the lateral equivalents of Element E. Their accumulation is possibly due to their location on the western side of the linear topographic depression running N to S and it is possible that they may have buried and protected any archaeological deposits beneath them.

Stratified finds on the site were relatively sparse, but sufficient were recovered from the contexts comprising {007} to enable a tentative interpretation of its chronology. Perhaps best dated is Phase 2, as five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from Element F in Trench Eight and a further large, unabraded sherd from Element D in Trench Seven. A flint flake was also recovered from Element D in Trench Thirteen, but this is probably residual. Thus the track and the metallised surface probably date to the Roman period. The probable longevity of Phase A – based on the stratigraphy of Element A and the general absence of finds – might suggest that the track and its initial period of its use might date to the Prehistoric period. Phases 3 and 4 are more difficult to date given the presence of both Roman pottery and flint. Three of the upper silting layers in Element E – (646), (710) and (1306) – have produced single sherds of very small, highly abraded late or early post-medieval pottery. Given the size of these single sherds, and the level of abrasion, it is probable they are intrusive. Therefore the best that can be said is that the disuse of the trackway, and the re-cutting of a boundary ditch that occurred in these phases, have a *terminus post quem* in the Roman period.

Linear Feature Group {006} appeared to run broadly parallel to {007}, approximately 8m to the west and was composed of six successive linear cuts along the same orientation. They are best interpreted as boundary ditches, the number of re-cuts implying a significant period during which a boundary was present along this line. Dating evidence from {006} was relatively abundant. Although in both Trenches Six and Seven the earliest feature ([620] and [737]) yielded no finds, in Trench Six clay pipes and pottery were recovered from feature [613], indicating a post-medieval date would be appropriate for most of the individual linear elements within {006}. This can be confirmed by the date of the pottery from the stratigraphically later features [605] and [622], and by the clay pipe bowls and onion bottle base from feature [724], the third re-cut in Trench Seven, which would indicate an 18th century date.

Taken together, Linear Feature Groups {006} and {007} are noteworthy. They delimit a broad north-south zone within which a land boundary has been present potentially from the Prehistoric period through into at least the 18th century. This is potentially highly significant as this period of use would straddle both the Roman conquest and the military occupation of the forts on St. Andrew's Hill to the east, AND the early medieval period, when so much else is seen to have changed. It is also significant that this band of linear features runs broadly parallel to the current north-south field boundaries to the east and west, which could suggest that the historic fieldscape around Collumpton incorporates and preserves elements of high antiquity.

Linear group {006} constitutes the only other inter-trench feature identified on the site. This had been identified as Geophysical Anomaly A, a linear feature orientated roughly east to west. A total of five flakes of flint were recovered from this feature suggesting a Prehistoric *terminus post quem*. It is most likely that {006} represents a prehistoric field boundary.

These three linear groups constitute those features which it was possible to correlate between trenches. Numerous additional features were identified in all the trenches, consisting predominantly of linear cuts, for which this was not possible. It seems most likely that they should be interpreted as field boundary ditches belonging to successive field systems and as such represent a story of agricultural and land use change over time. Little dating evidence was recovered from these features although finds of flints in the fills of some imply a *terminus post quem* for this process in the prehistoric period. Similar evidence was uncovered during evaluation at Willand Road c. 1km to the NE as follows:

“A subsequent trial trench evaluation revealed the presence of discrete archaeological features characterised by ditches postholes and a gully. A single pottery sherd, datable to the Roman period, was recovered from one of the ditches....In general, the archaeological remains appeared to represent agricultural activity, possibly dating to the Roman period.”(Hood 2007, 2.7)

Subsequent area excavation not only yielded an assemblage of 318 sherds of Roman pottery, but also evidence for Romano-British settlement in the form of circular cuts interpreted as roundhouse ring gullies. It thus remains possible that, given the unusual density of features at the Tiverton Road site, similar evidence may be present. In this context it is worth bearing in mind the extensive metalled area in Trench Eight, the function of which remains unknown, and also the presence of features such as [515] and [1405] which might be segments of roundhouse ring gullies. However, without further investigation this remains speculative, especially given the low density of finds which argues against the proximity of domestic activity in any period.

No trace of the suggested east-west Roman road was uncovered.

In terms of later activity, only components within Linear Feature Group {006} could be positively dated to the post-medieval period. Certain field boundaries in the vicinity of Cullompton – most notably those to the SSW, but also the small field immediately to the east adjacent to the scheduled area on St. Andrew's Hill – curve in a manner suggestive of enclosed open field strips. As the ditches of Linear Feature Group {006} appear to share a common north-south alignment with the field's extant east and west boundaries, this would suggest they formed part of Cullompton's open field system. The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation designates this field as a *Barton Field*, a regular enclosure laid out between the 15th and 18th centuries and incorporating some earlier curving land divisions. The bulk of the medieval and post-medieval pottery dates to the period 1500-1830, and the clay pipes and glass are broadly 17th-18th in date and thus also fall within this range. This would suggest there was a change in management regime *c.*1500, and this could mark the beginning of open field enclosure at Cullompton. Group {006} may represent a former boundary that went out of use when two smaller fields were amalgamated in the later 18th century.

5.0 Conclusion

This archaeological intervention uncovered the remains of a surprisingly complex series of intercutting linear features and some shallow irregular pits/postholes. While complex vertical stratigraphy need not be that unusual on rural sites, the surviving horizontal relationships – particularly those of Trench Eight and Linear Feature Group {007} – are clearly exceptional. It is probable a significant depth of archaeological layers survive in the base of the natural depression that runs south-north down the centre of the site.

There were very few stratified finds, and the bulk of the recovered material was derived from the topsoil and dates to the period AD 1500-1830. While most of the features could not be securely dated, enough material was recovered to date at least some of the recorded elements to the Romano-British period. Indeed, the absence of more recent artefacts that would suggest many, if not most of the linear features and pits encountered are of Prehistoric or Romano-British date.

The complexity and undoubted longevity of the elements within Linear Feature Group {007} is also significant. If this series of features does indeed predate the Roman conquest, then it suggests that other elements within the extant historic landscape could be of similar antiquity.

In broad terms, the volume of stratified artefacts, and the lack of evidence for domestic occupation more generally, seems to indicate that this complex of archaeological features represents the remains of a series of Prehistoric or Roman field boundaries rather than a settlement. However, a similar conclusion was reached following an archaeological evaluation for the nearby site at Willand Road, and that subsequently produced artefactual and structural evidence for Romano-British occupation in the 1st-2nd centuries AD. It would, therefore, be unwise to rule out such a possibility here, especially given the number, apparent longevity and stratigraphic complexity of the features at Tiverton Road.

The evidence for management change in *c.*1500 could indicate a date when the open fields of Cullompton began to be enclosed.

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- Hood, A.** 2007: *Land at Willand Road, Cullompton, Devon. Archaeological strip, map and sample: post-excavation assessment*. Report 556. Swindon: Foundations Archaeology.
- Laing-Trengove, D.** 2009: *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Tiverton Road, Cullompton, Devon*. South Molton: South West Archaeology Ltd.
- SWARCH** 2006: *St. Andrew's Nursing Home, Pye Corner, Cullompton, Devon: Results of a Desk-Based Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation*. SWARCH report 061117. Kentisbury: South West Archaeology.
- SWARCH** *forthcoming*: 'Life and Death in Roman Cullompton: excavations at Shortlands Lane 2009-10', *PDAS*.

Online Resources

Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation, accessed 05.03.10
http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/historic_environment/landscapes/landscape-characterisation/historiclandscapecharacterisationmaps.htm



Plate 1: North-west facing section of Linear Group {709} (scale: 2m).



Plate 2: Sondage through deposits at the NW end of Trench #8, showing surface of stony layer (809) (scale: 2m).



Plate 3: North-facing section through Linear Group {1313} in Trench #13 (scales: 1&2m).



Plate 4: North-facing section through linear [1605], part of Linear Group {1603} (scales: 2m).

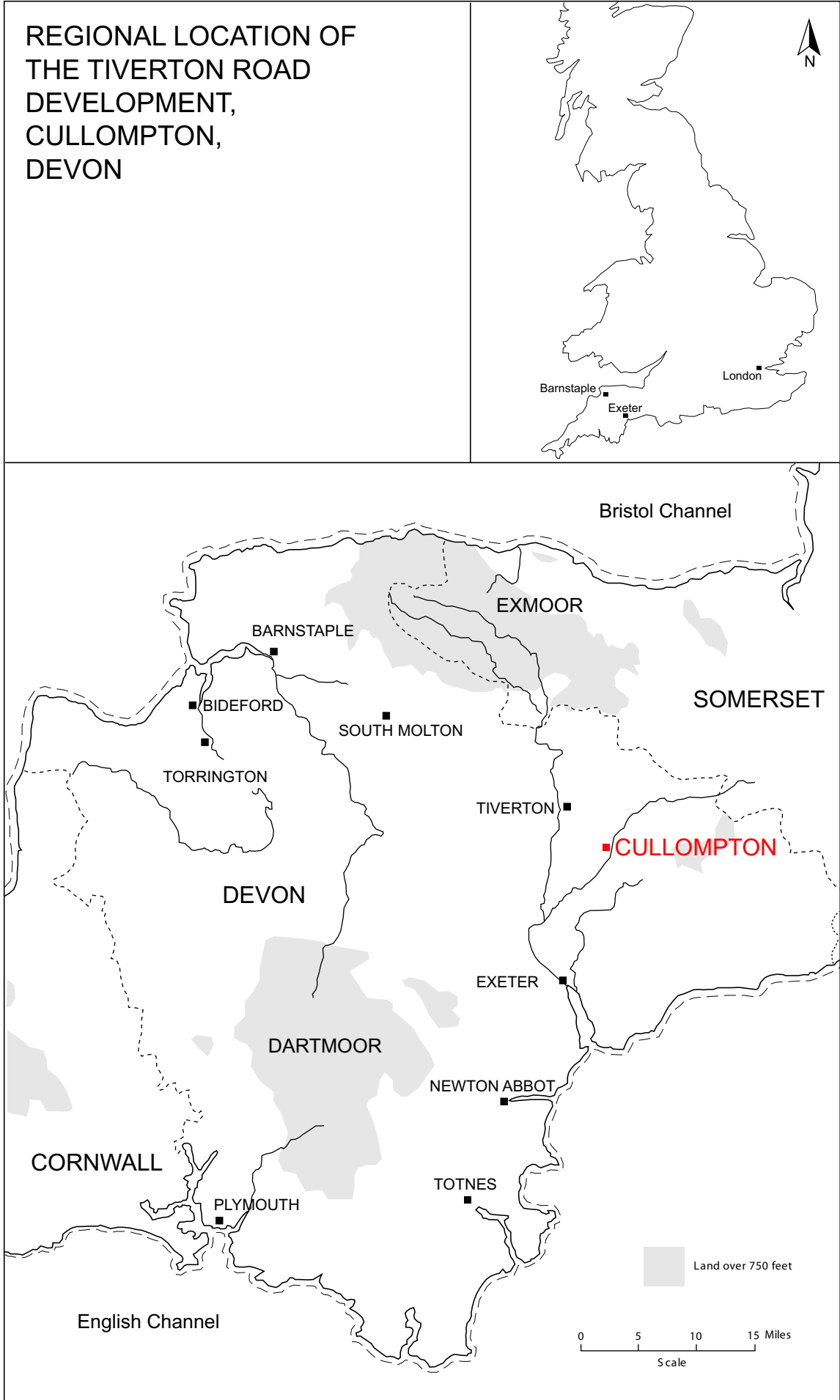


Fig. 1: Regional location.

Fig. 3: Trench and feature plan with geophysical interpretation. Geophysical anomalies are labelled as in original report (geophysical interpretation after Context One 2009, 14).

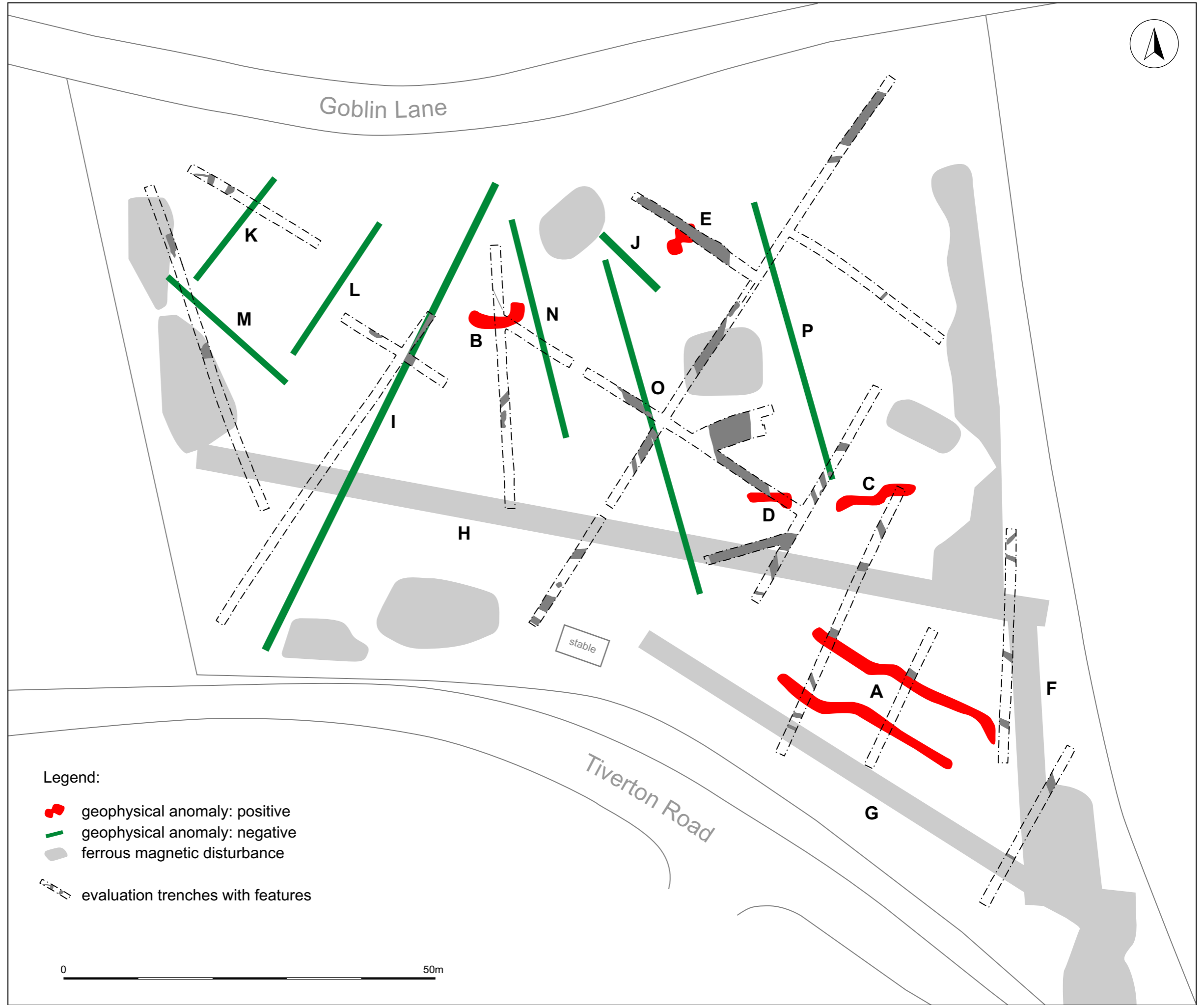
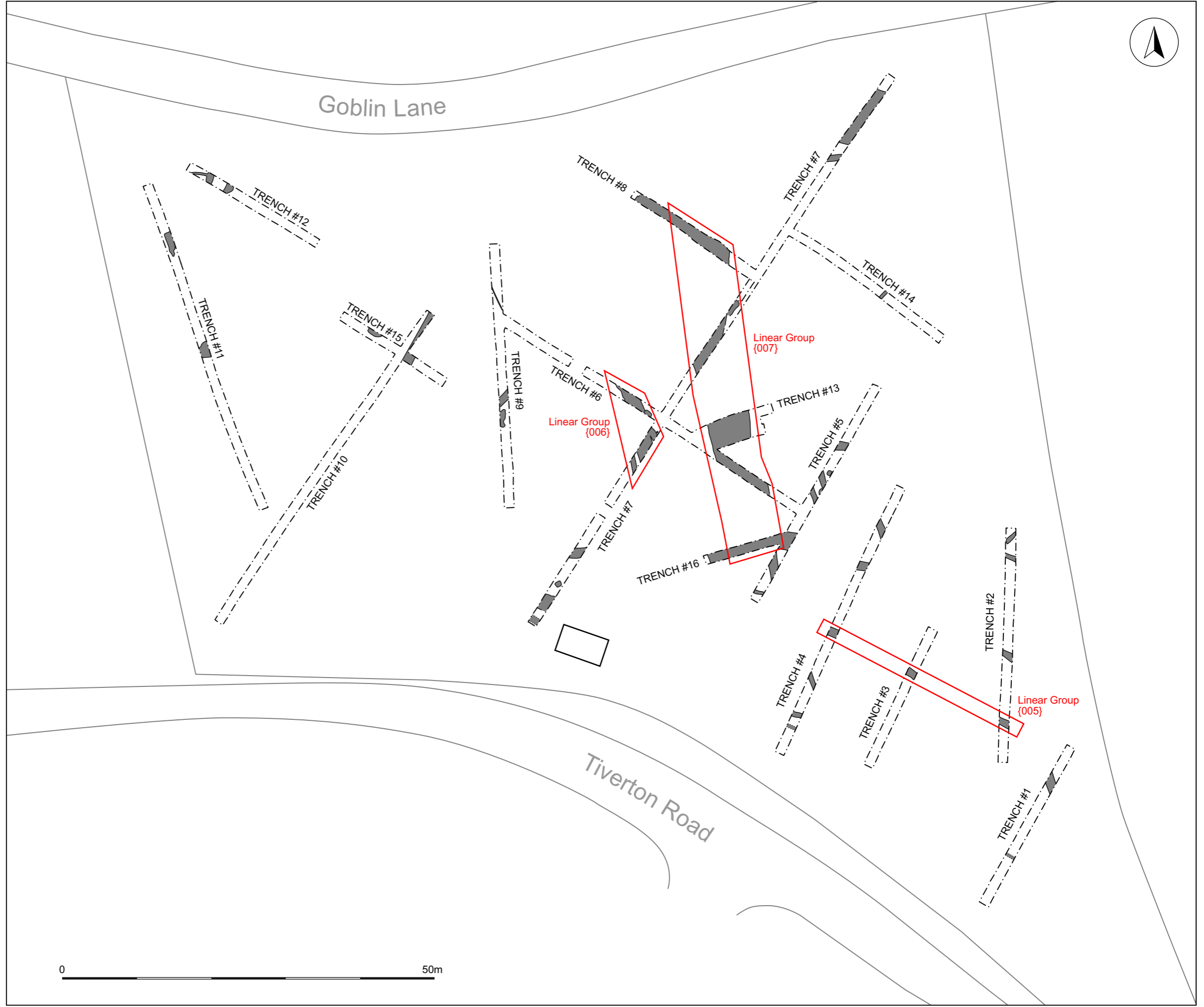
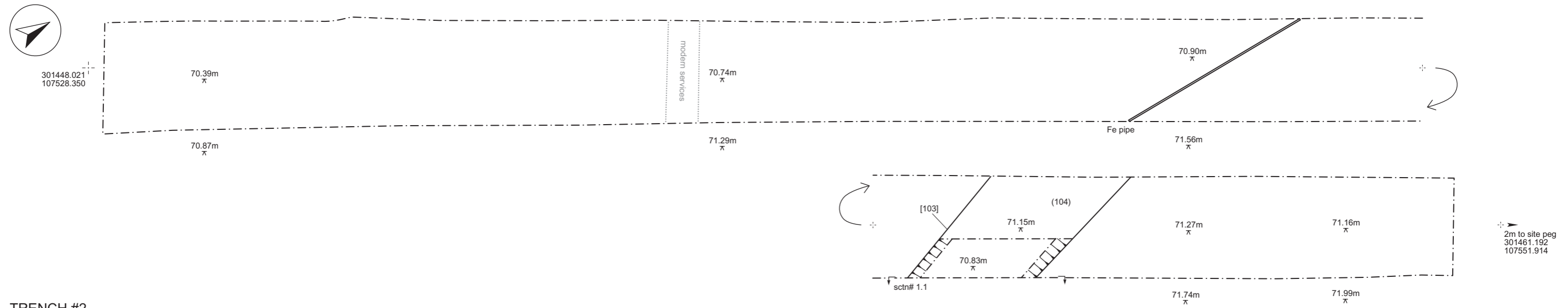


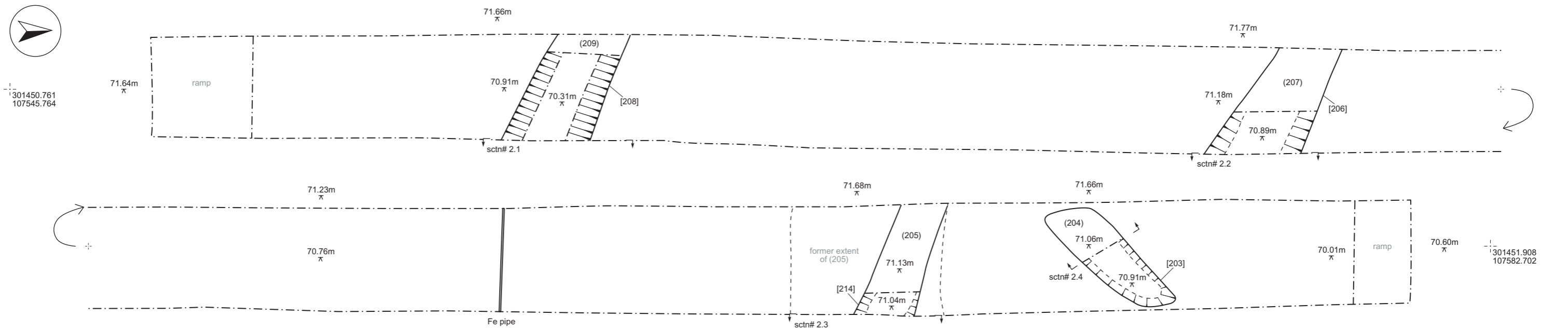
Fig. 4: Trench and feature plan, showing Linear Groups {005}, {006} and {007}.



TRENCH #1



TRENCH #2



TRENCH #3

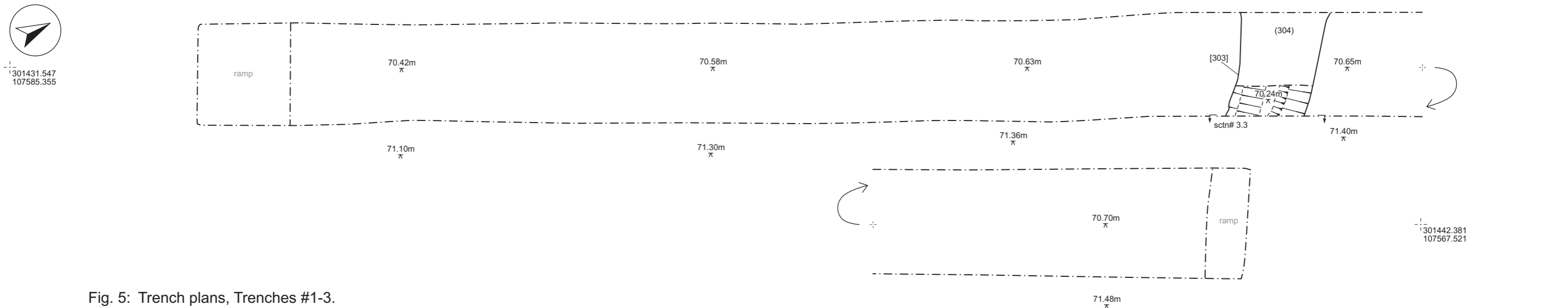
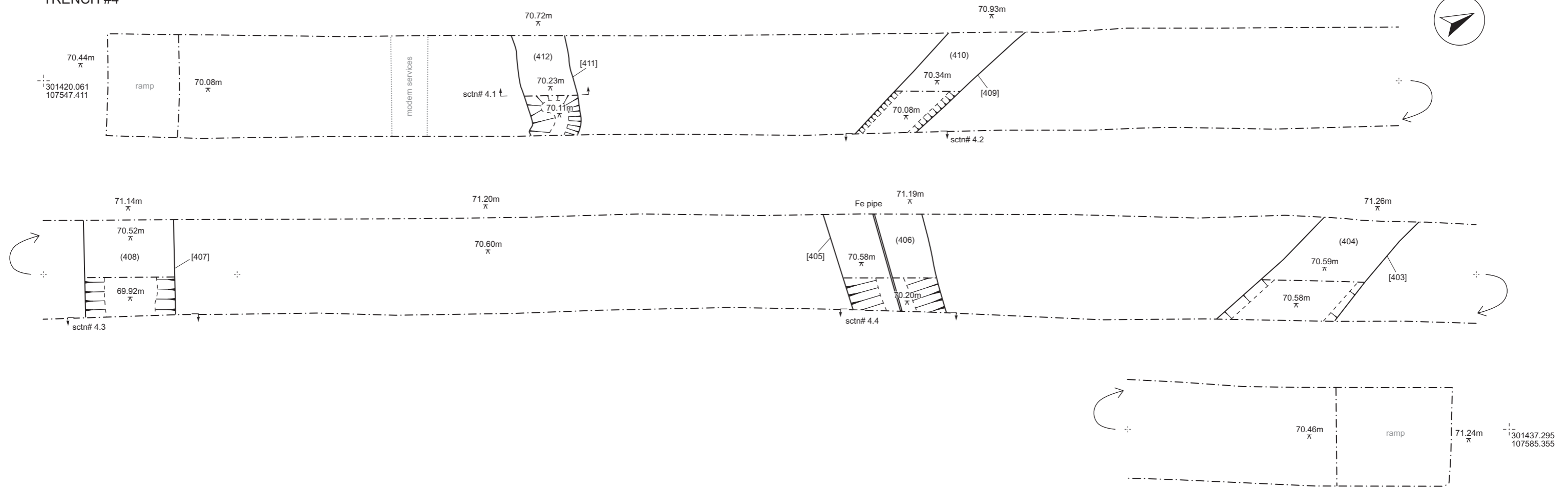


Fig. 5: Trench plans, Trenches #1-3.



TRENCH #4



TRENCH #5

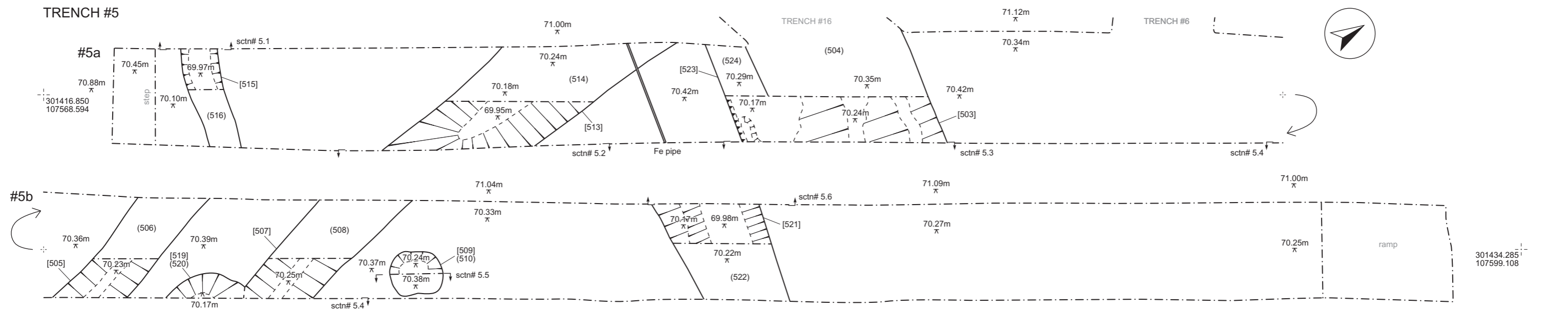


Fig. 6: Trench plans, Trenches #4-5.



TRENCH #6

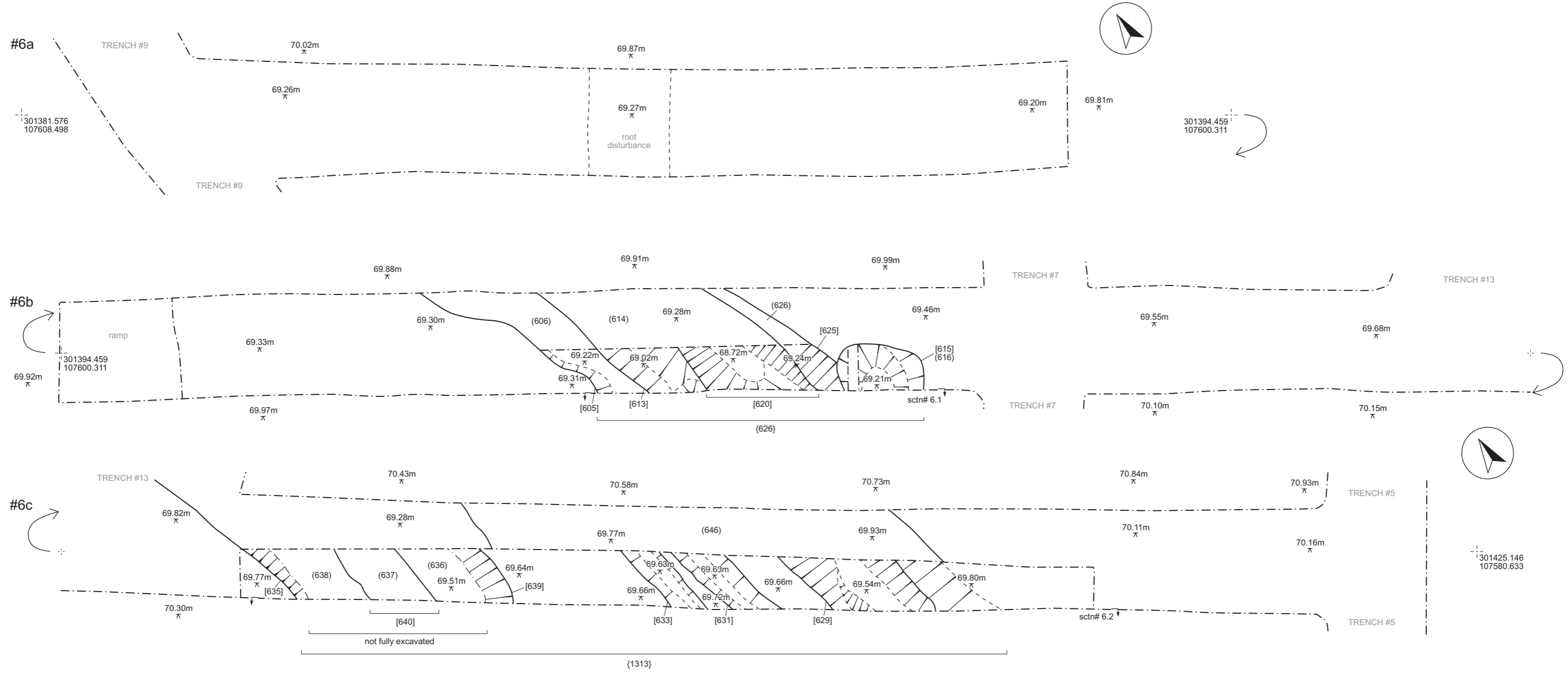


Fig. 7: Trench plans, Trench #6.



TRENCH #7

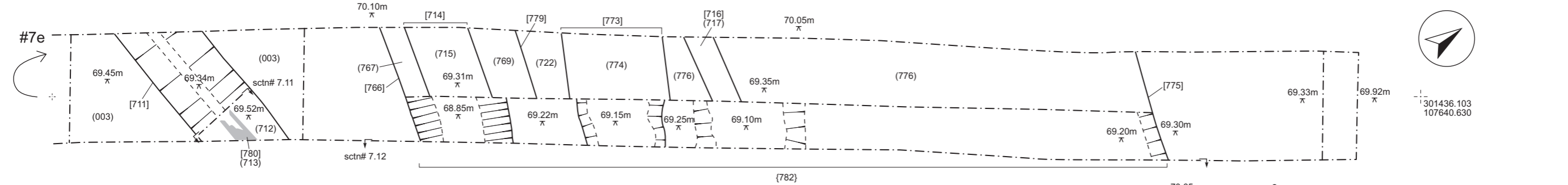
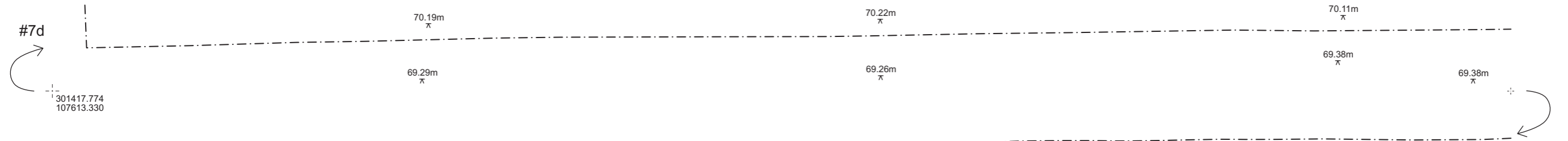
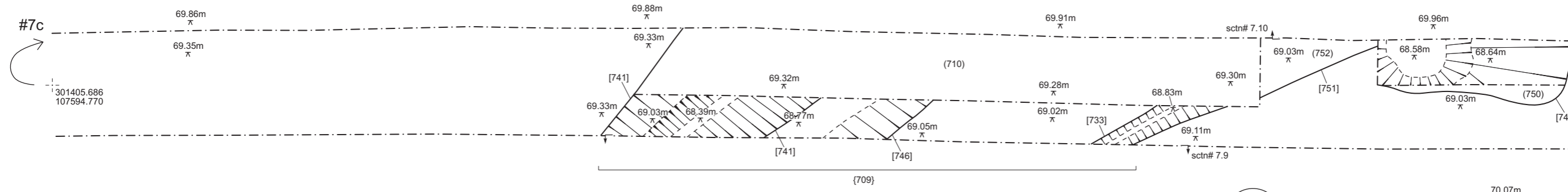
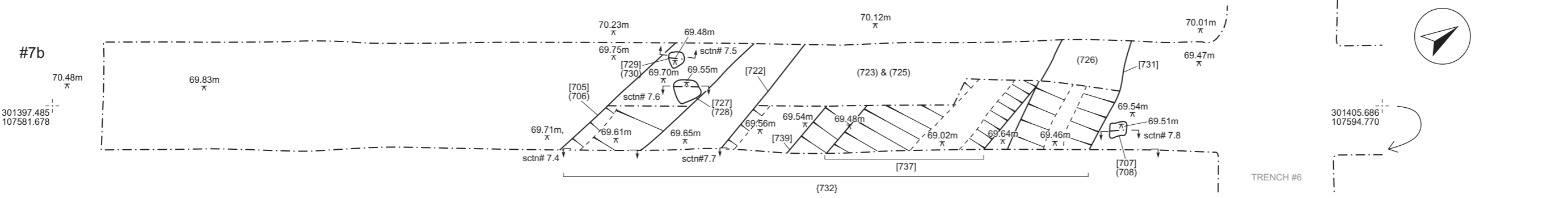
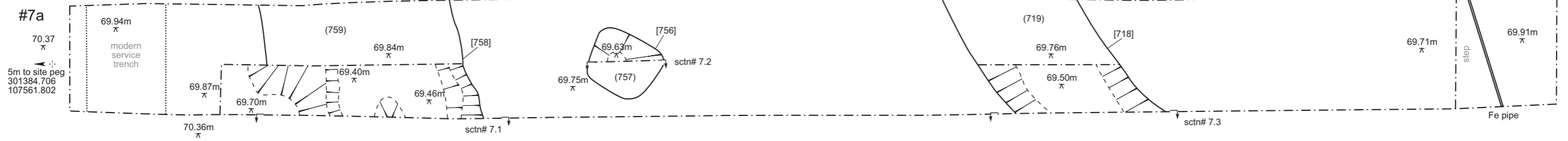
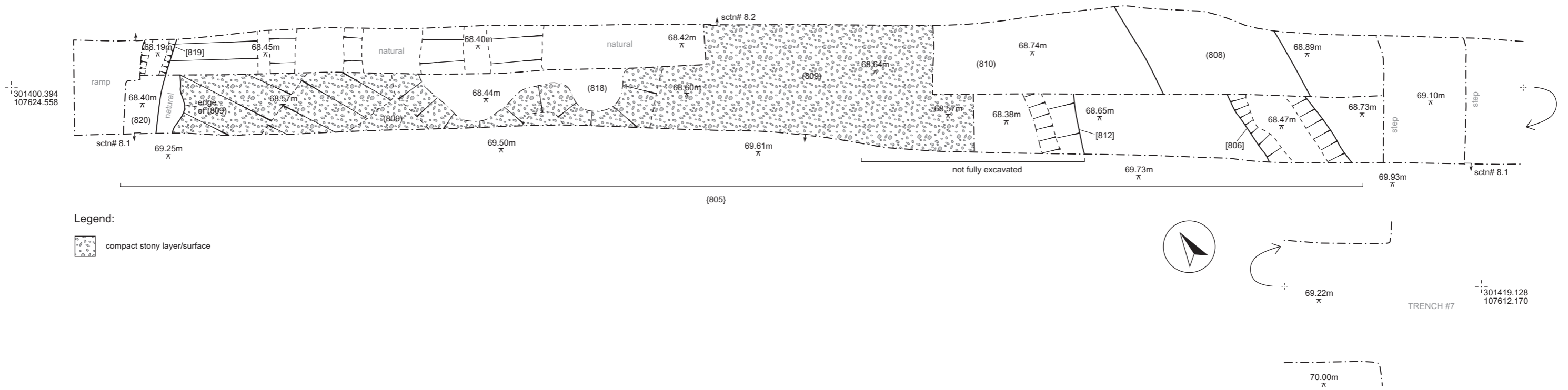


Fig. 8: Trench plans, Trench #7.



TRENCH #8



TRENCH #9

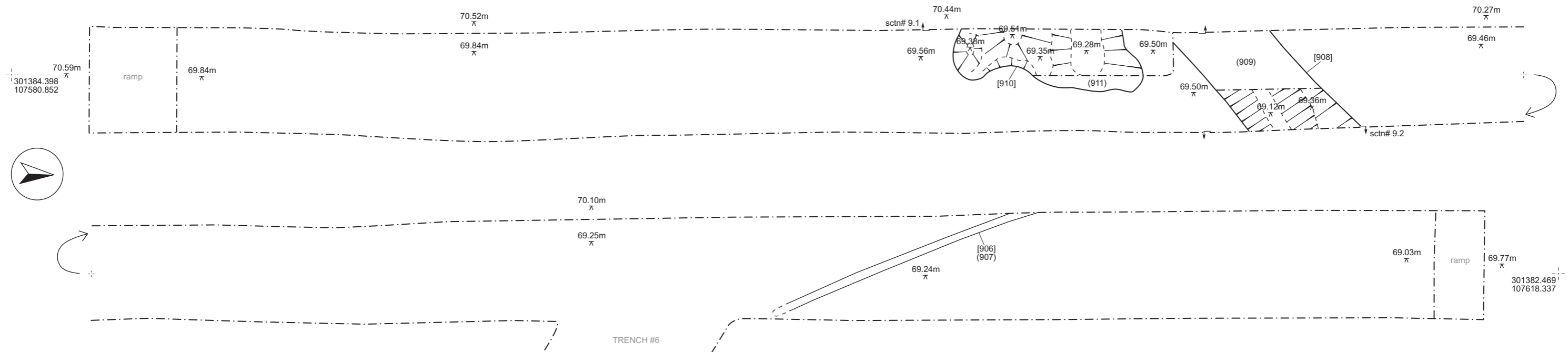
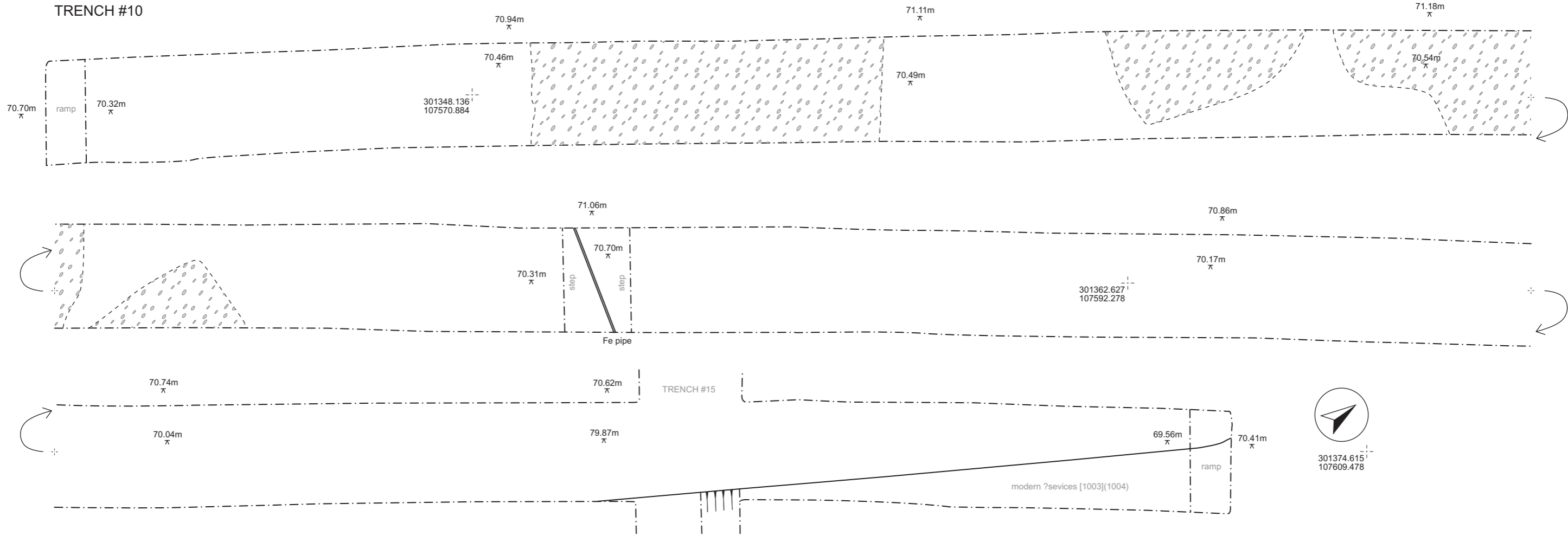


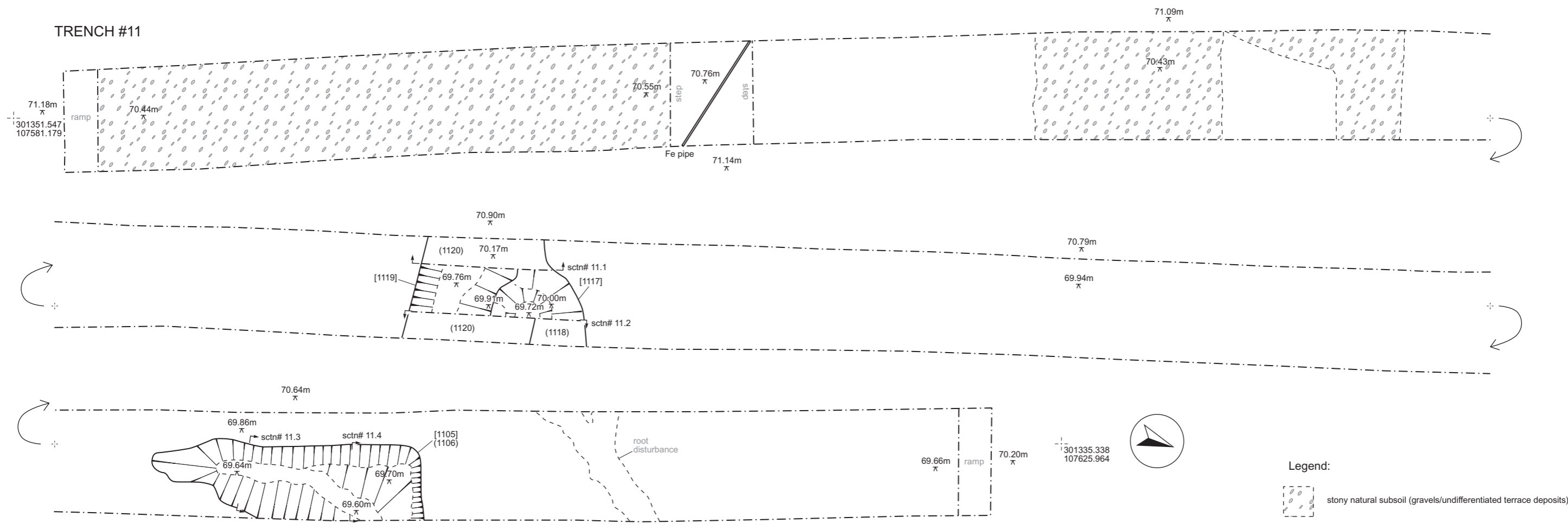
Fig. 9: Trench plans, Trenches #8-9.



TRENCH #10



TRENCH #11



Legend:

- stony natural subsoil (gravels/undifferentiated terrace deposits)

Fig. 10: Trench plans, Trenches #10-11.



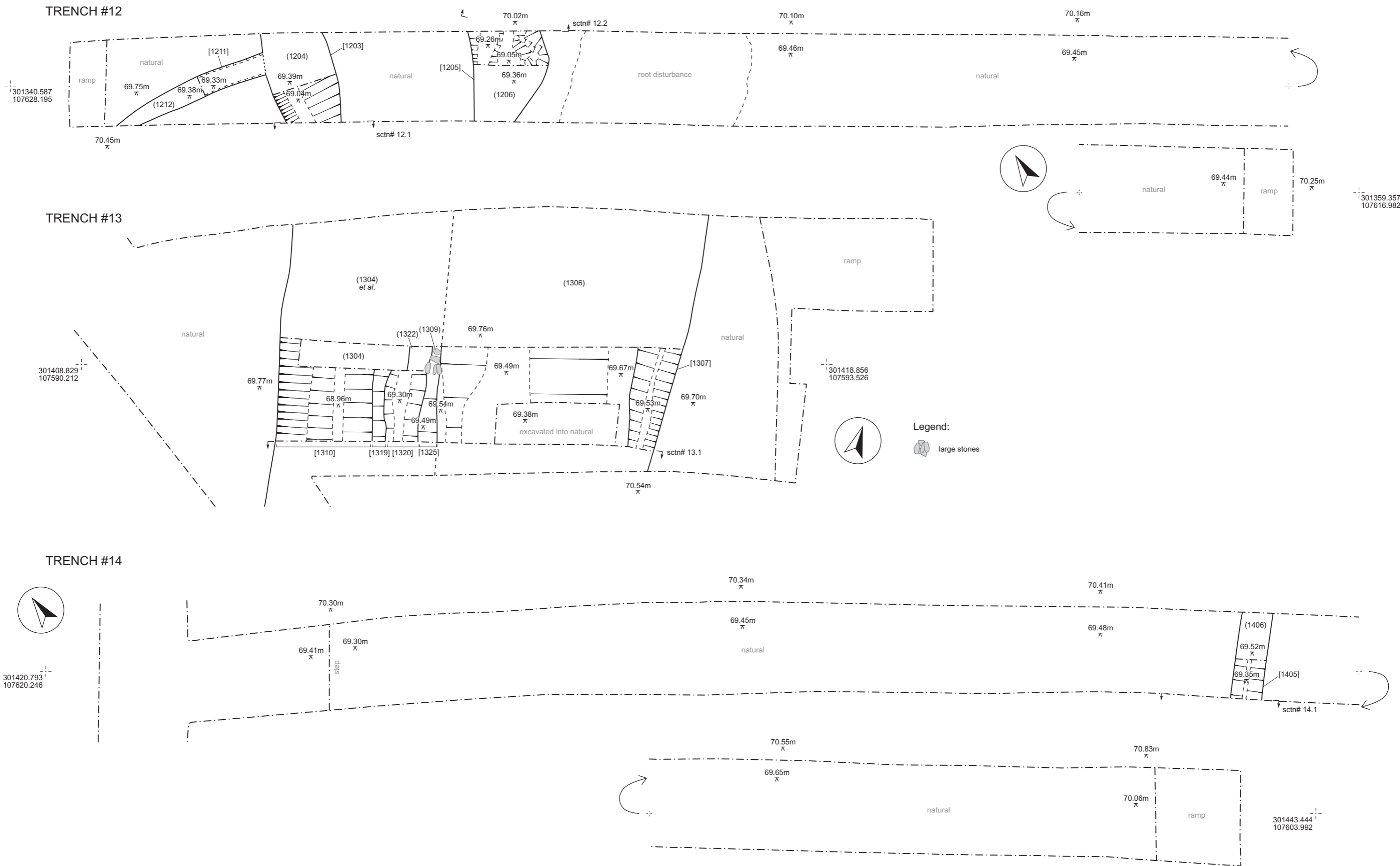


Fig. 11: Trench plans, Trenches #12-14.

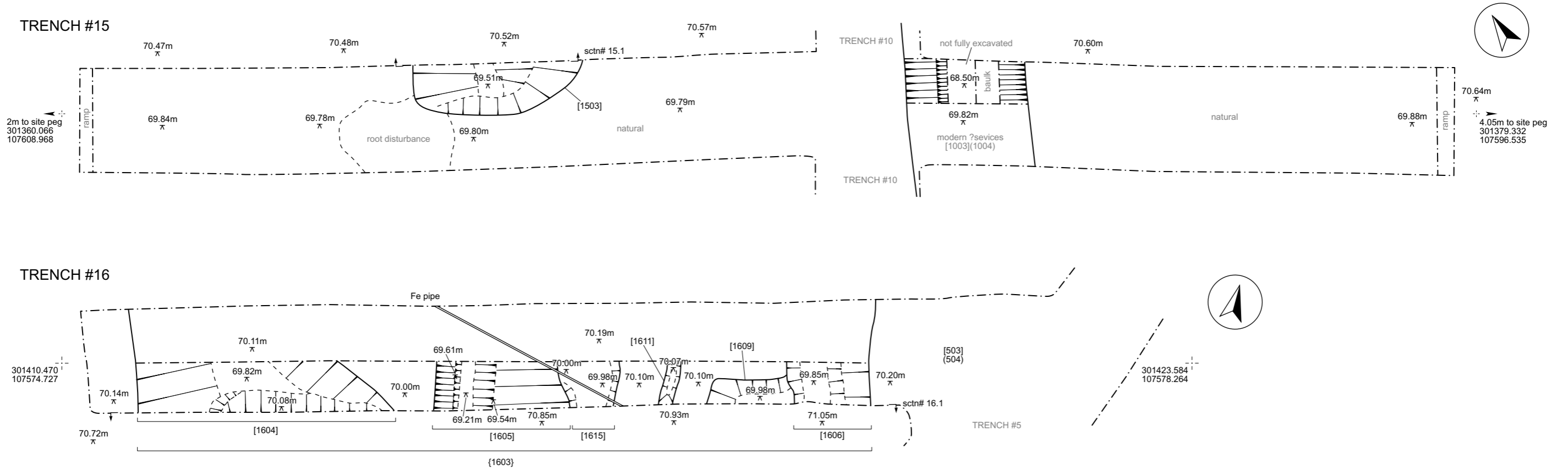
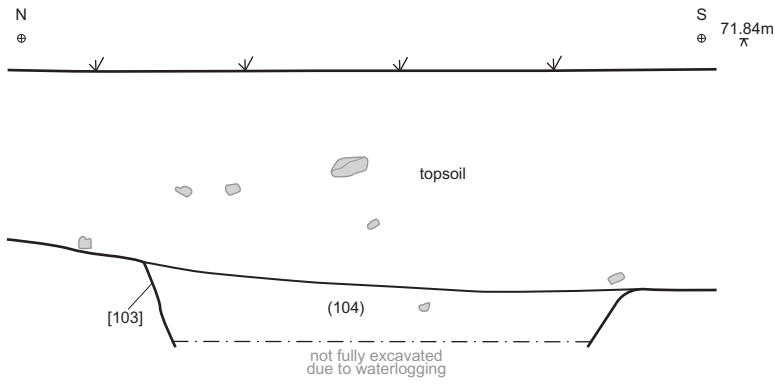
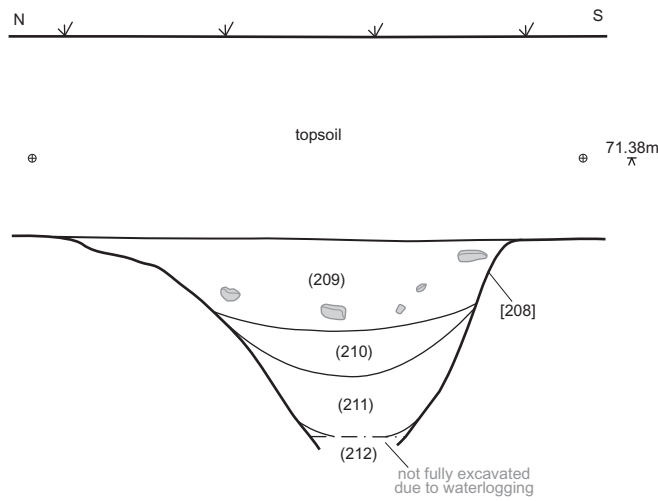


Fig. 12: Trench plans, Trenches #15-16.

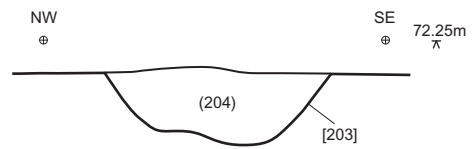
Section 1.1: west-facing section of [103]



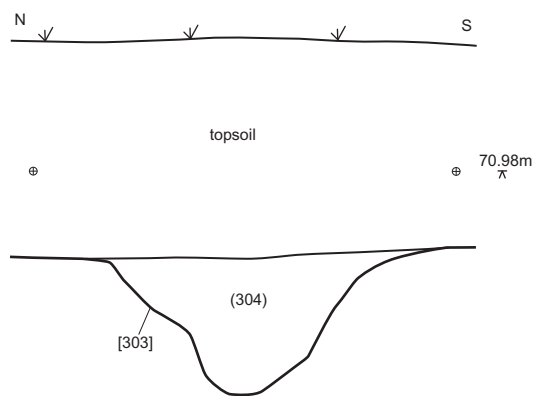
Section 2.1: west-facing section of [208]



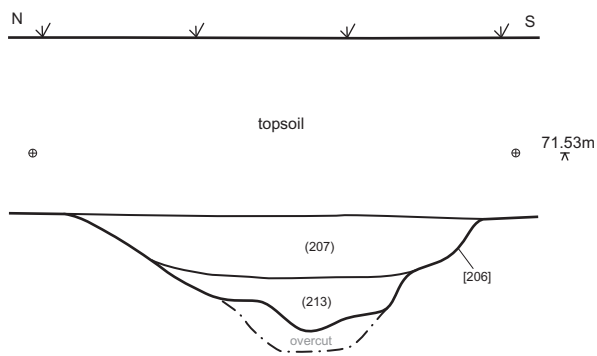
Section 2.4: north-east facing section of [203]



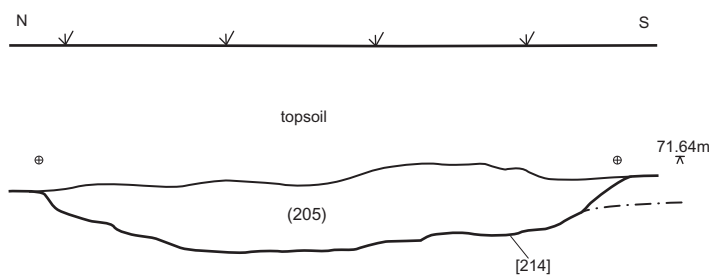
Section 3.1: west-facing section of [303]



Section 2.2: west-facing section of [206]



Section 2.3: west-facing section of [214]




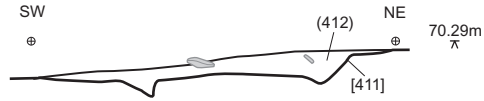
Legend:
 stones

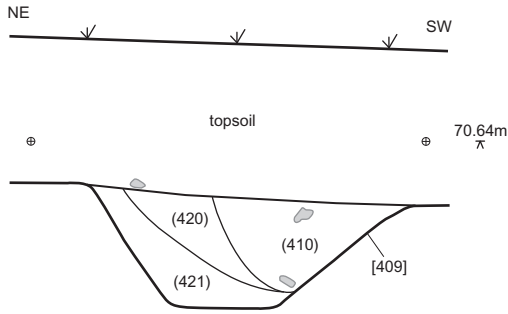
Fig. 13: Sections 1.1, 2.1-2.4 & 3.1.



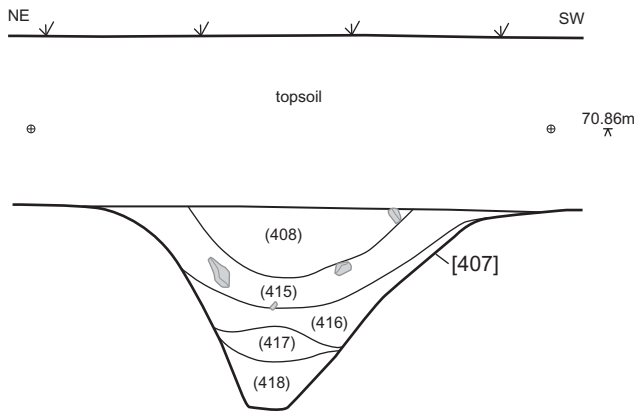
Section 4.1: south-east facing section of [411]



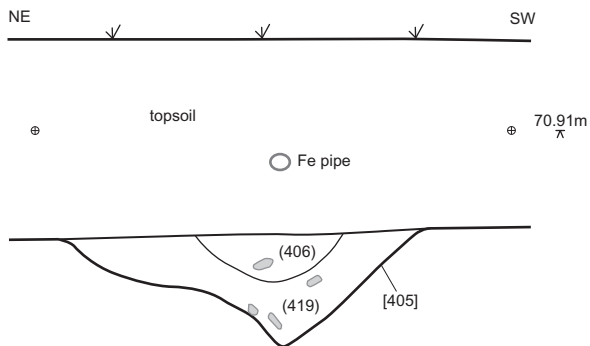
Section 4.2: north-west facing section of [409]



Section 4.3: north-west facing section of [407]



Section 4.4: north-west facing section of [405]



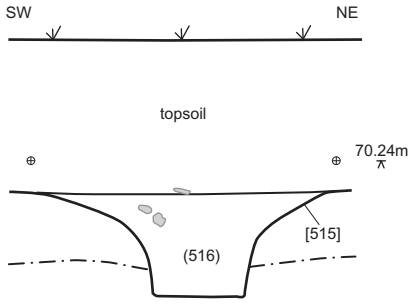
Legend:



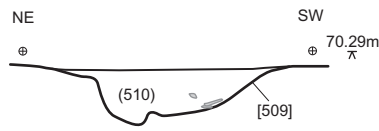
Fig. 14: Sections 4.1-4.4.



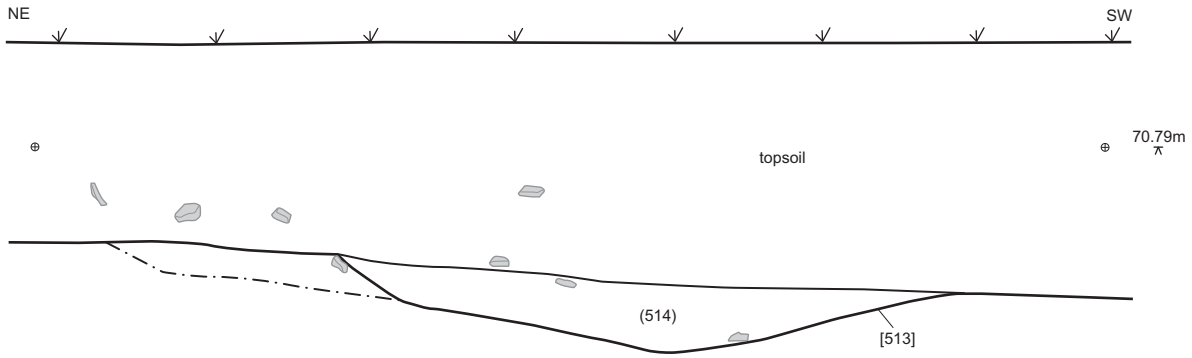
Section 5.1: south-east facing section of [515]



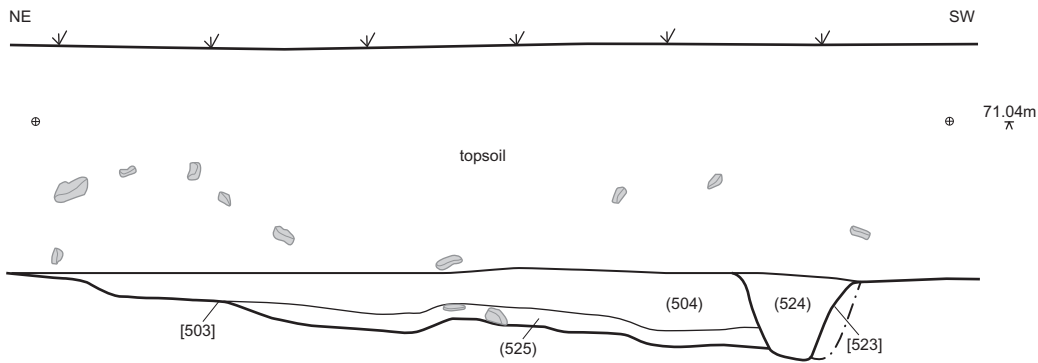
Section 5.5: north-west facing section of [509]



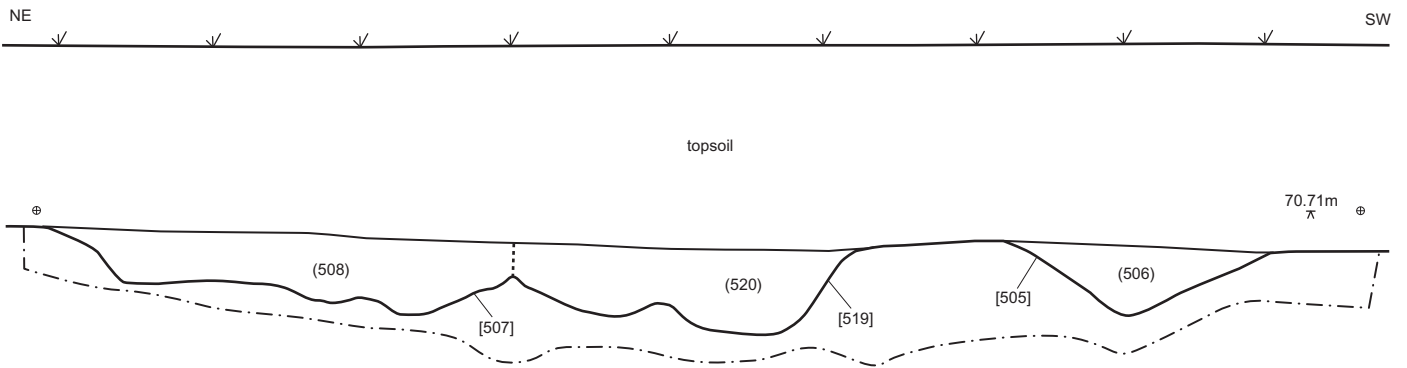
Section 5.2: north-west facing section of [513]



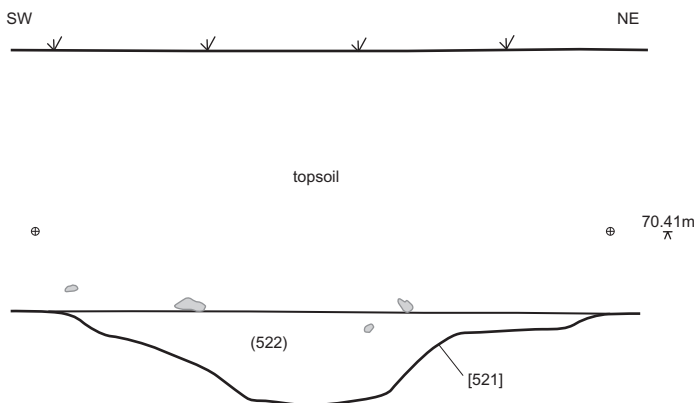
Section 5.3: north-west facing section of [503] and [523]



Section 5.4: north-west facing section of [505], [507] and [519]



Section 5.6: south-east facing section of [521]




Legend:
 stones

Fig. 15: Sections 5.1-5.6.

0 2m

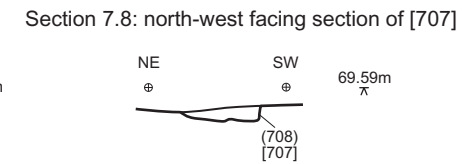
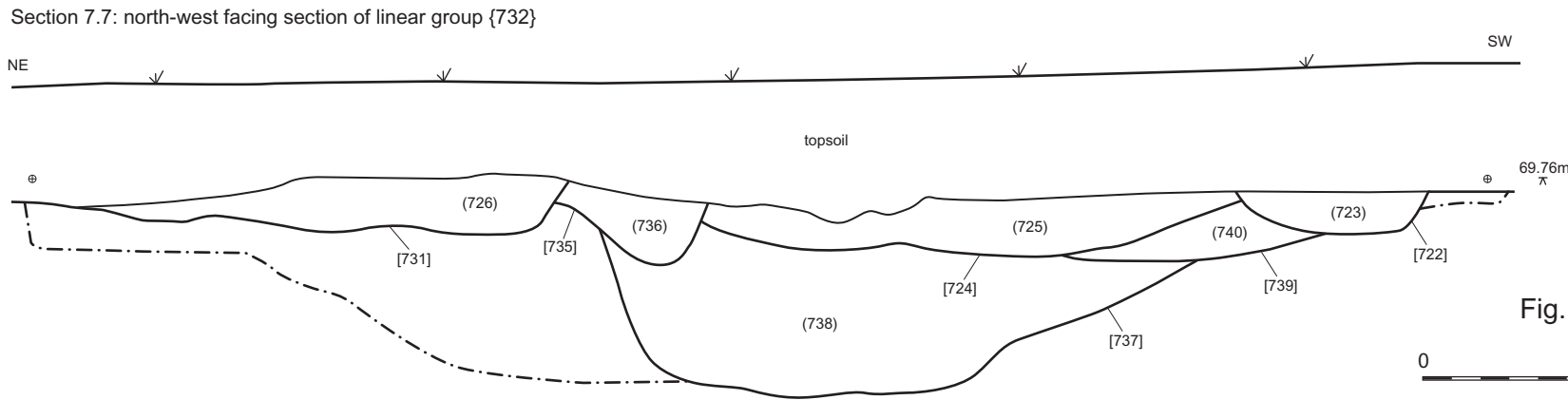
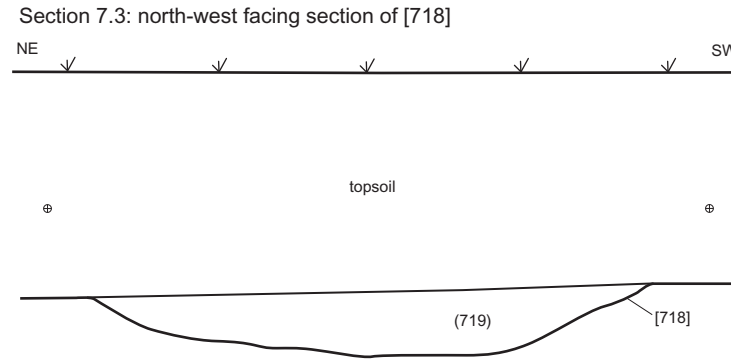
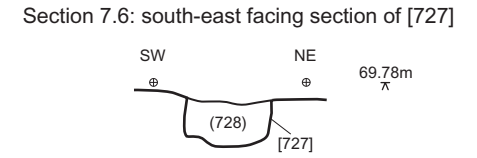
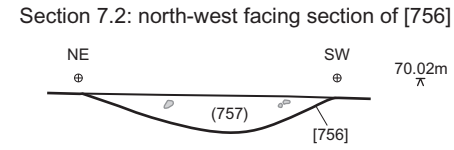
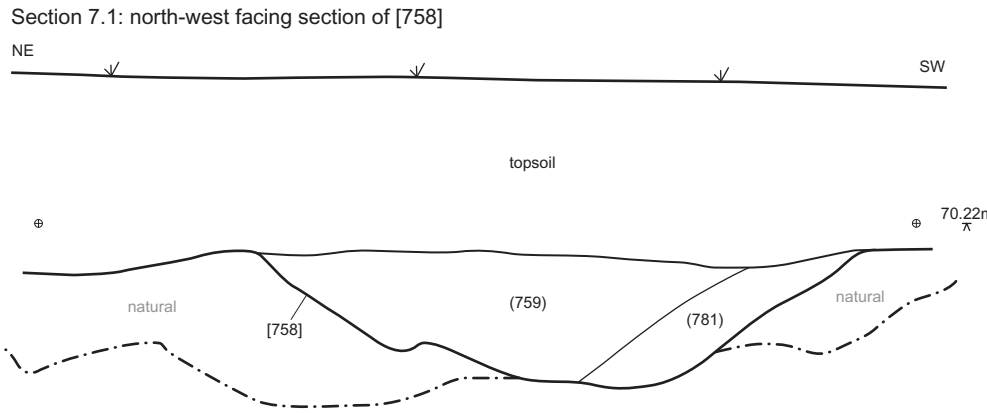
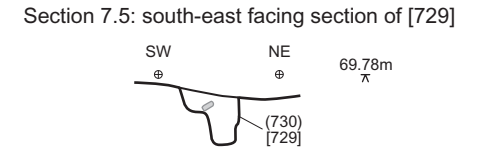
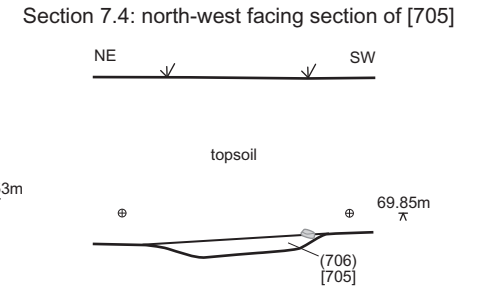
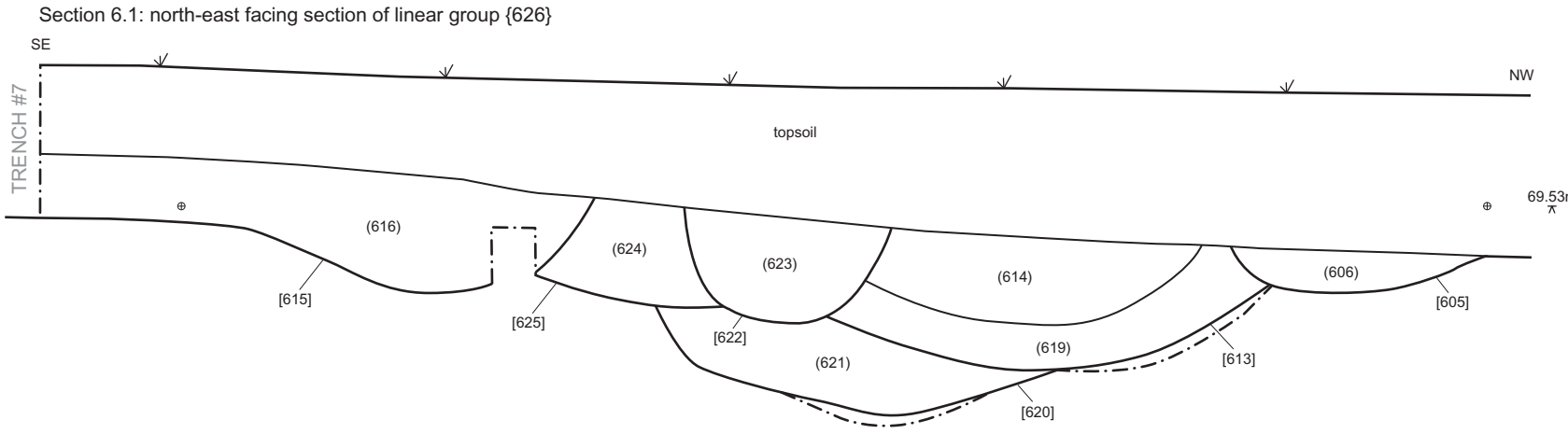
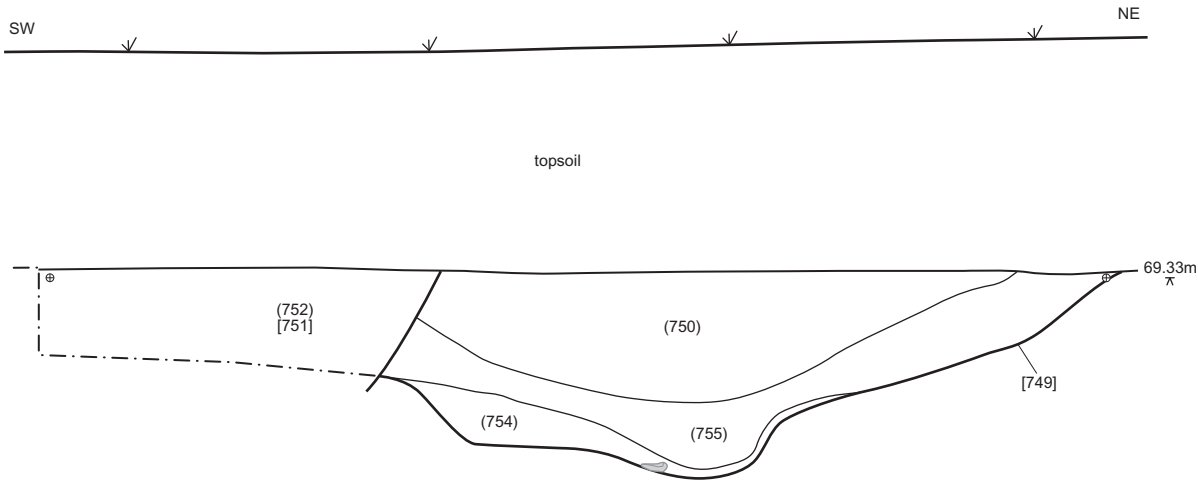


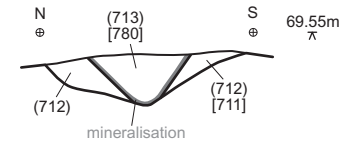
Fig. 16: Sections 6.1 & 7.1-7.8.



Section 7.10: south-east facing section of [749] & [751]



Section 7.11: west facing section of [711] & [780]



Section 7.12: north-west facing section of linear group {782}

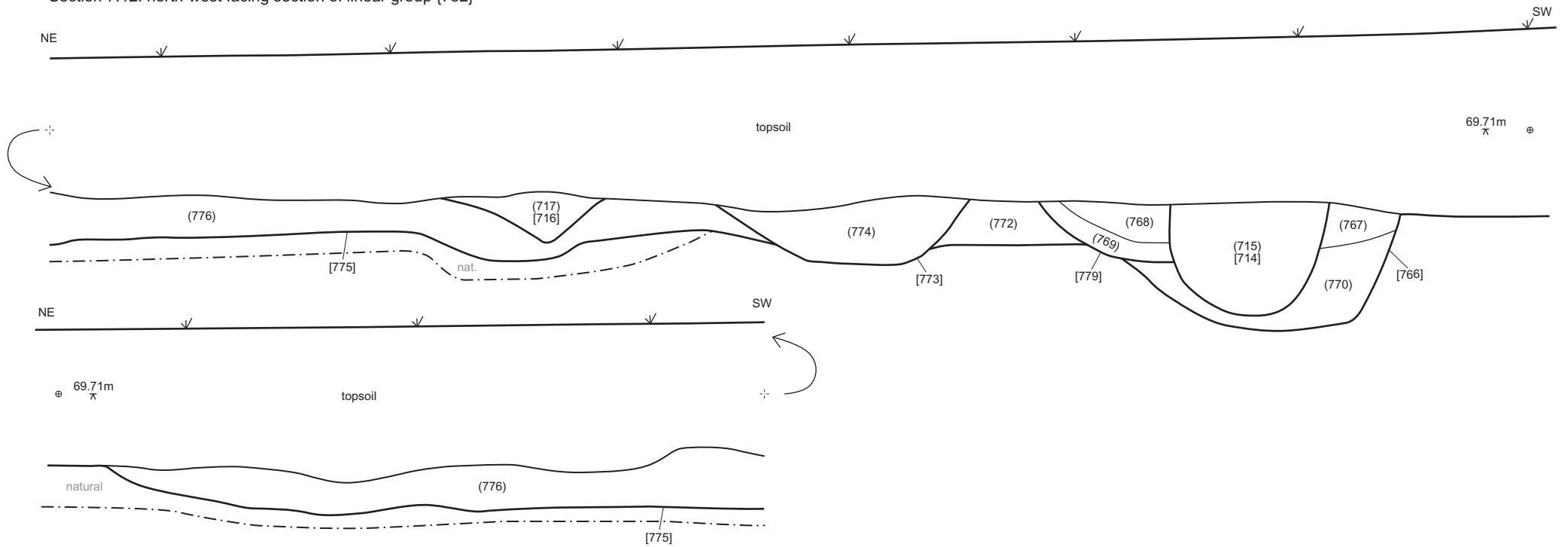
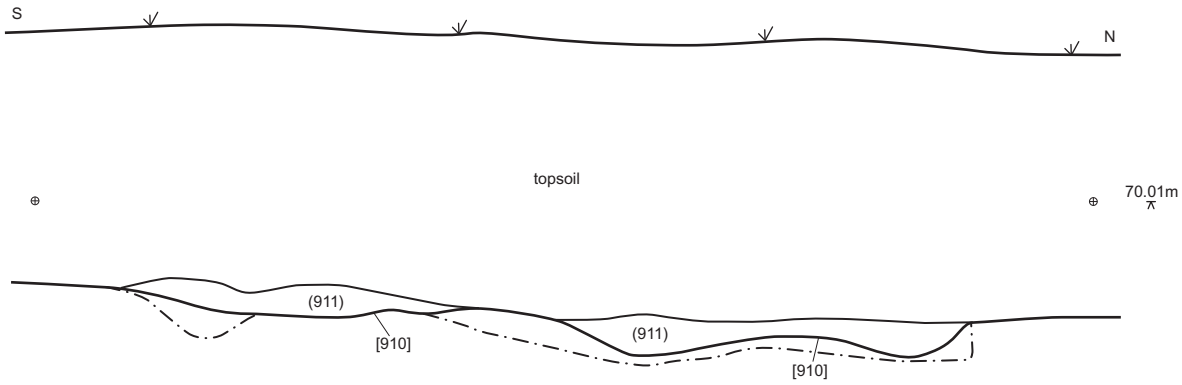


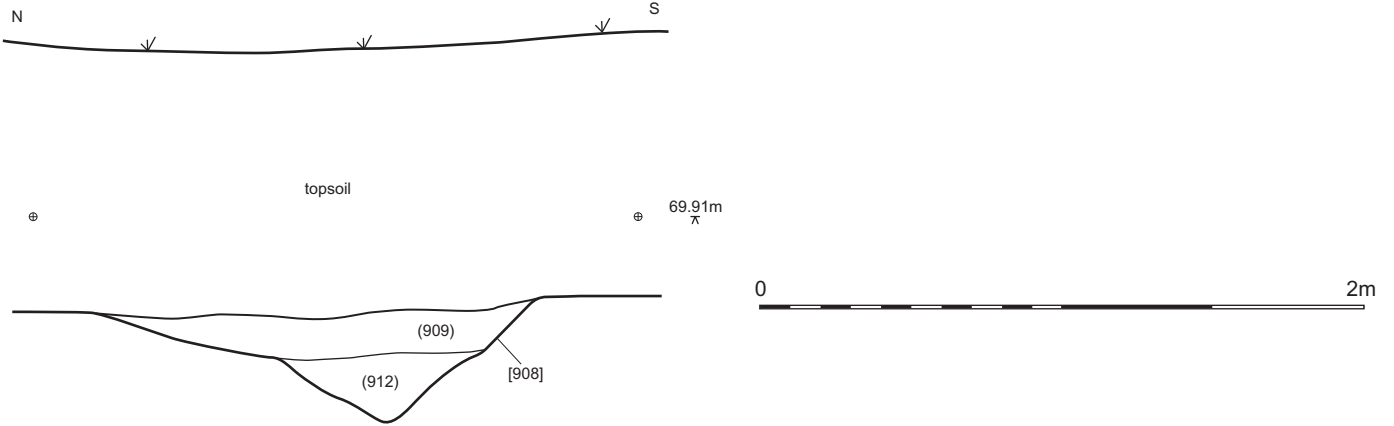
Fig. 17: Sections 7.10-7.12.



Section 9.1 east-facing section of [910]



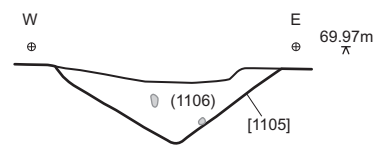
Section 9.2 west-facing section of [908]



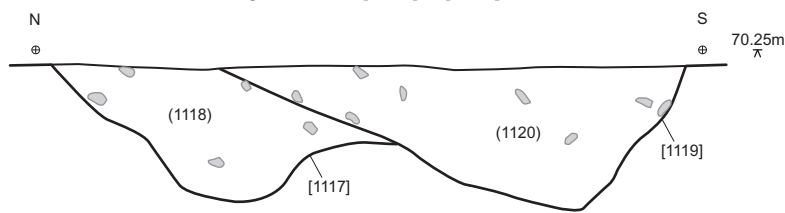
Section 11.1 east-facing section of [1119]



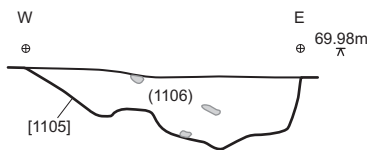
Section 11.3 south-facing section of [1105] (south sondage)



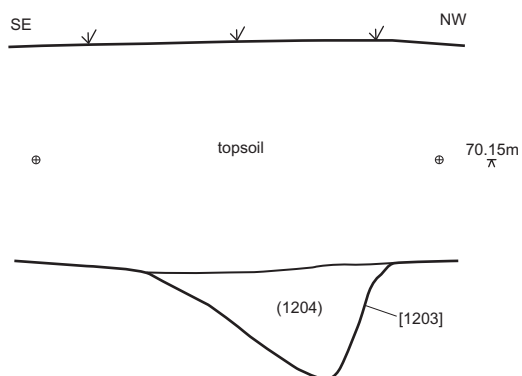
Section 11.2 west-facing section of [1117] & [1119]



Section 11.4 south-facing section of [1105] (north sondage)



Section 12.1 north-east facing section of [1203]



Section 12.2 south-west facing section of [1205]

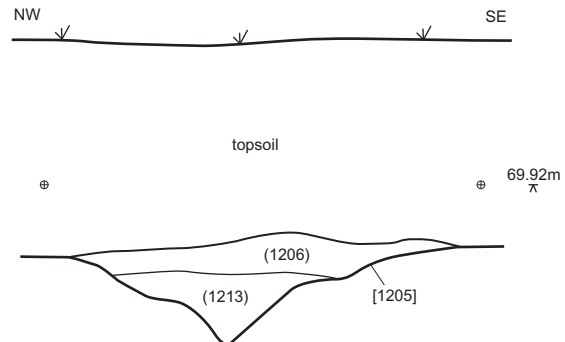
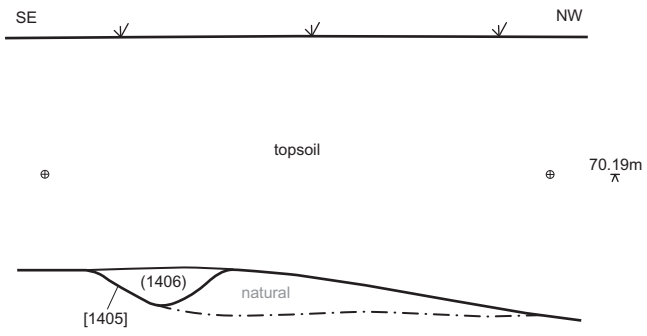


Fig. 18: Sections 9.1-9.2, 11.1-11.4 & 12.1-12.2.



Section 15.1 south-west facing section of [1503]

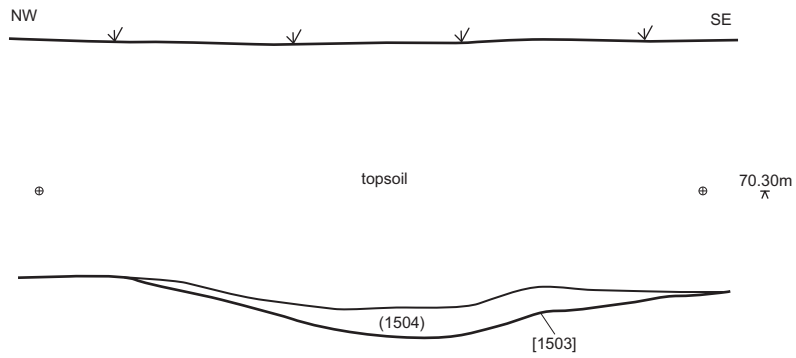
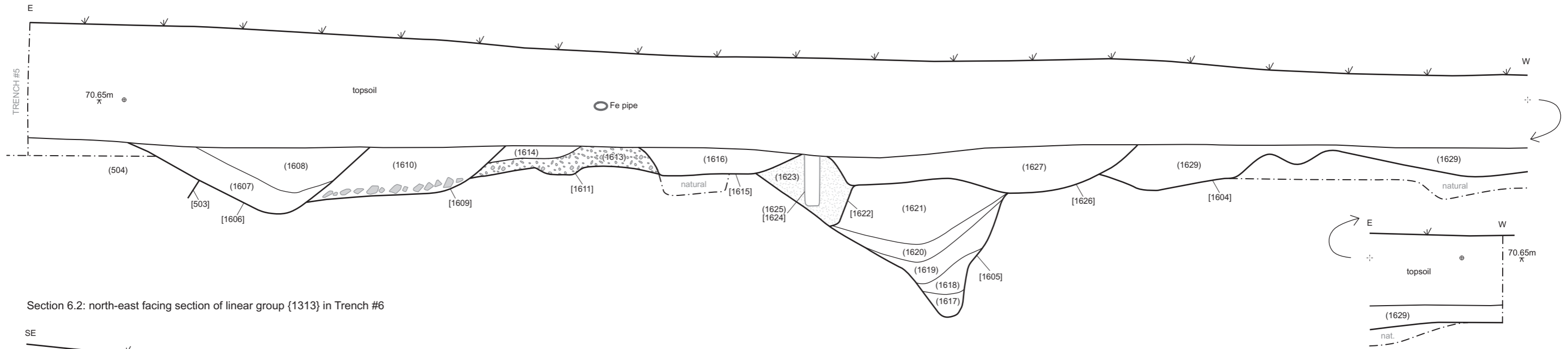
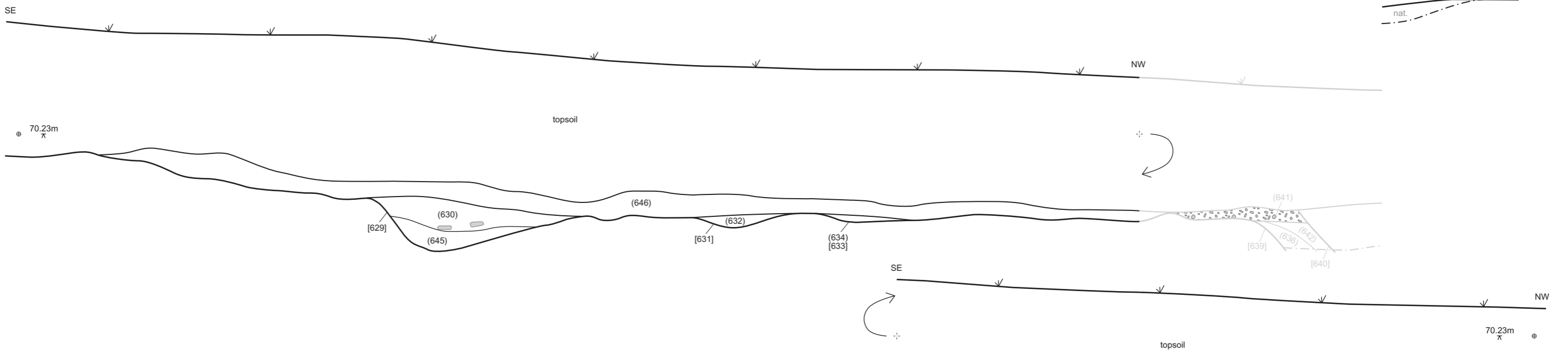


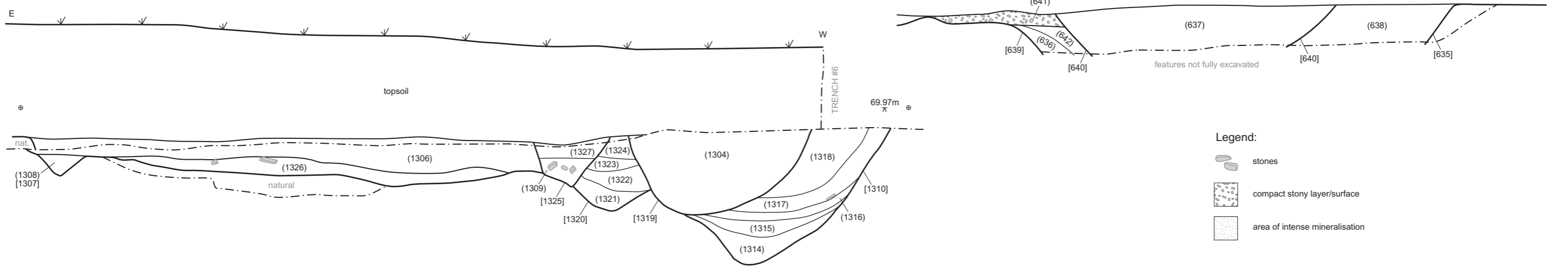
Fig. 19: Sections 14.1 & 15.1.



Section 6.2: north-east facing section of linear group {1313} in Trench #6



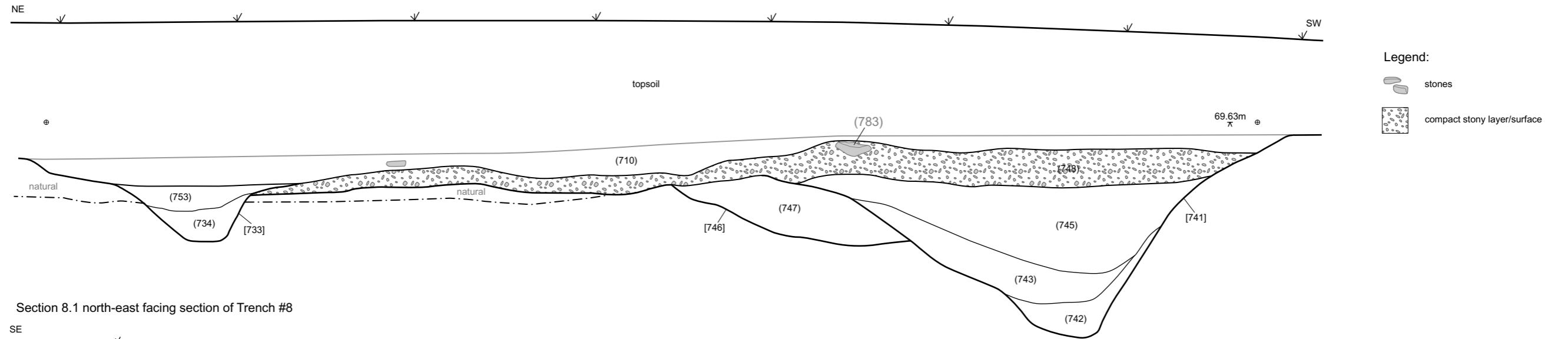
Section 13.1 north-facing section of Trench #13



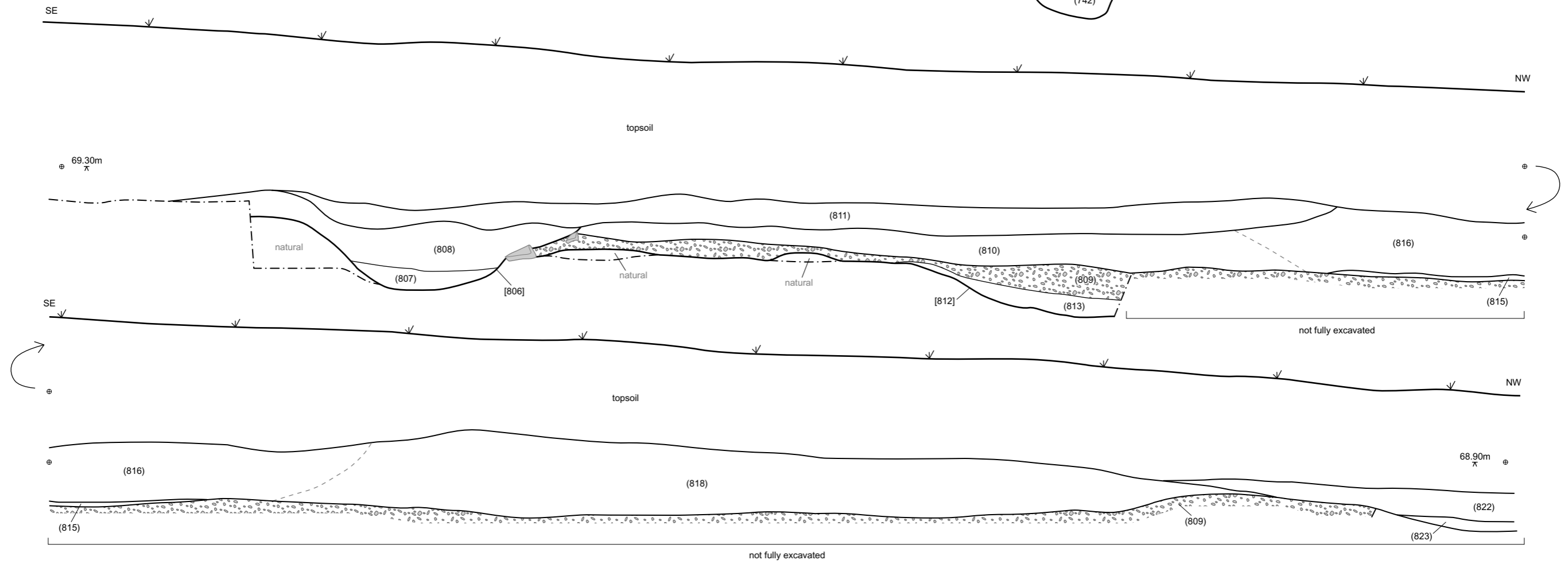
Legend:

- stones
- compact stony layer/surface
- area of intense mineralisation

Fig. 20: Sections 6.2, 13.1 & 16.1.



Section 8.1 north-east facing section of Trench #8



Section 8.2 south-west facing section of Trench #8 (western end)

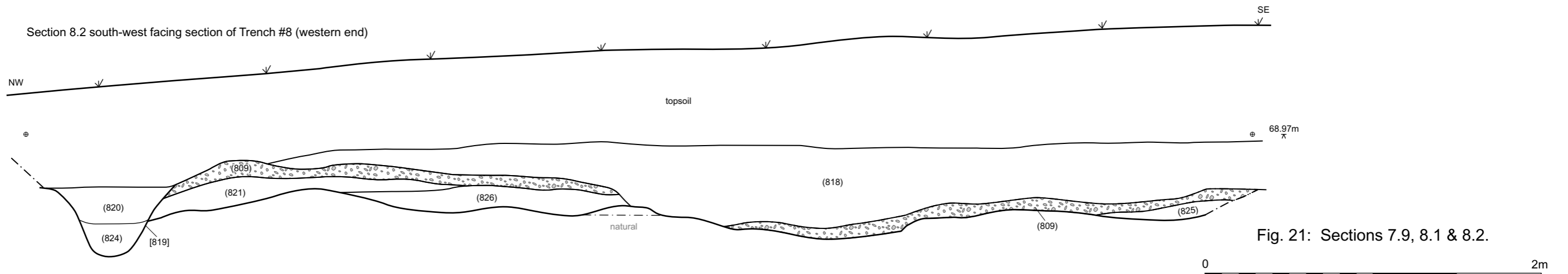
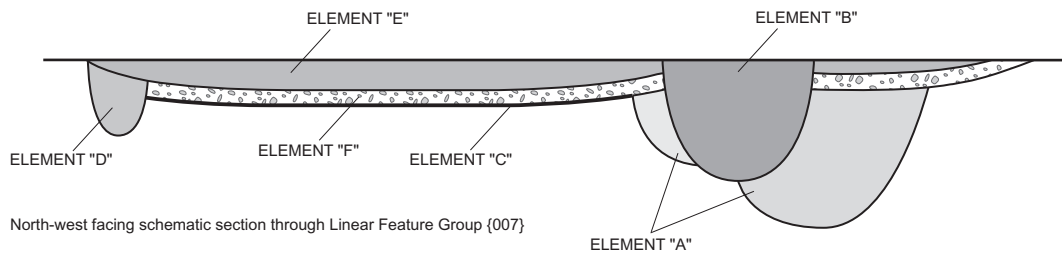


Fig. 21: Sections 7.9, 8.1 & 8.2.





North-west facing schematic section through Linear Feature Group {007}

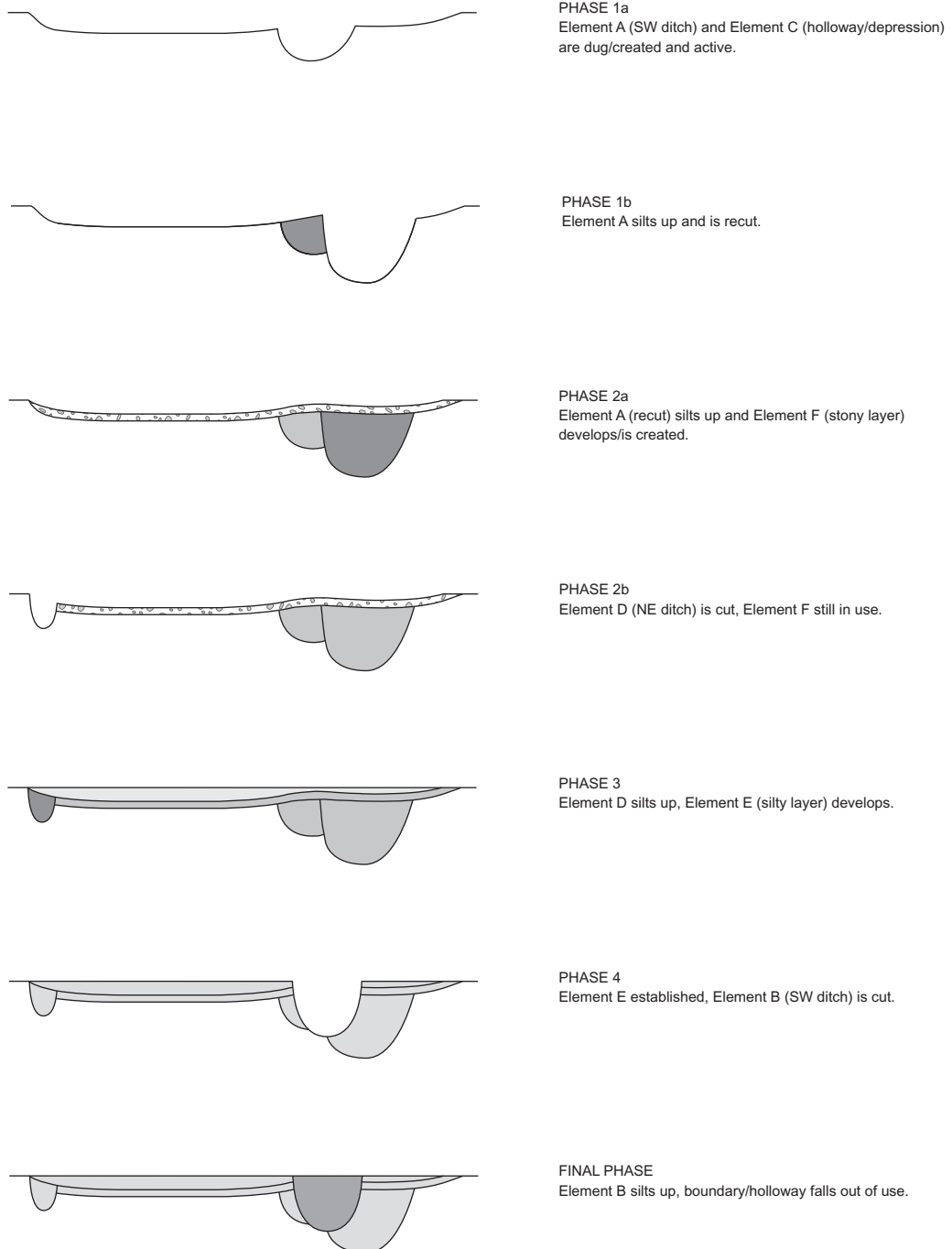


Fig. 22: Schematic representation of Linear Feature Group {007}, with phase diagram.

APPENDIX 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Location: Land adjacent to Tiverton Road, Cullompton

Parish: Cullompton

District: Mid Devon

County: Devon

NGR: 301408.107595

Proposal: proposed residential development

Historic Environment Service ref: Arch/dc/md/13011

1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES) at the request of Mike Smith of Millwood Homes (Devon) Ltd in order to identify the archaeological impact of development within the above area. The Archaeological Assessment is being undertaken in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 20 of Central Government's *PPG16 - Archaeology and Planning* (1990) and Mid Devon District Council's Local Plan Policy ENV7 on archaeology. The works described below are the *first stages* of a programme of archaeological works. Depending upon the results of this stage further evaluative and/or recording works will be required in mitigation for the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource.

1.2 The principal objectives of these works are to gather sufficient information to identify sites of archaeological potential which are likely to be affected by the proposed development and to provide recommendations for archaeological preservation and/or recording (as appropriate).

1.3 In the light of the results of these investigations it may be possible to determine the nature and scope of the archaeological mitigation required by the impact of the development. However, if the results are insufficient to determine the mitigation further archaeological works may be required. If any further archaeological work is found to be necessary, a further proposed Specification may be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor, for approval by the HES in its role as the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor.

1.4 The proposed development is centred on NGR 301408.107595.

1.5 The place-name of Cullompton is probably based on the Old English for 'farm on the Culm River'. The earliest documentary reference is as '*Columtune*' in a Saxon chart of the late 9th century and later in Domesday as '*Colump*'. The town was granted a charter in 1278 and developed with the flourishing woollen industry. The parish church of St Andrew has its origins in the early 15th century, while a continuity of settlement from prehistory through to the modern town is demonstrated by the presence of crop marks - indicative of prehistoric funerary monuments and settlement - findspots of flint tools, spindle whorls and a Saxon stirrup, the presence of a Roman fort on St Andrew's Hill - some 200m to the east of the area under consideration - and medieval and post medieval buildings in the town. As such, Cullompton lies within an area of archaeological potential ranging from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval and modern periods.

Recent excavations on the west side of Willand Road have exposed a significant amount of prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological deposits and artefacts. The exposed deposits take the form of the remains of funerary monuments, pits and field systems/enclosures and suggest that prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the area is more extensive and intense than our records currently show and reflects the lack of archaeological investigation in and around the town. Prehistoric activity to the south of the town is attested to by the presence of cropmarks again identified through aerial photography. The area subject to this archaeological investigation is not too dissimilar to the landscape to the north and south of the town and may also contain archaeological sites of prehistoric or later date. A find of part of a late Bronze Age socketed axe-head within the area indicated increases the potential for the presence of prehistoric deposits within this area.

1.6 It is recommended that the archaeological contractor prepare a method statement/project design based on this brief which shall set out the agreed works required by the HES.

1.7 No alteration shall be made to this brief without prior consultation with the HES.

2. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

2.1 *Desk-based assessment*

The programme of work shall include an element of desk-based research to place the development site into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments. An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER. In addition, it will involve the examination of other *known* relevant cartographic, documentary and photographic sources held by the Devon Record Office, West Country Studies Library and the County Historic Environment Service. The reporting requirements for the desk-based work will be confirmed in consultation with the HES. The results of the assessment should be discussed with the HES and based on this consultation may determine the positioning of geophysical survey areas and evaluative excavations.

2.2 *Geophysical survey*

A programme of geophysical survey should be implemented with consideration of the results of the desk-based research, topographic analysis and site inspection. The location of proposed geophysical survey areas, methodology and techniques used should be agreed in advance with the HES and undertaken by a professional archaeological geophysical consultant.

2.3 *Evaluation of the site*

A series of trenches will be excavated across the proposed development area. The location of these excavations will be determined in consideration of the results of the desk-based assessment, the results of the geophysical survey, the below-ground impact of the proposed development and the site topography. These excavations will investigate specific anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as well as investigating 5% of the application area.

2.3.1 Details of the strategy for positioning trenches must be agreed with the HES and should be excavated by a 360° tracked or JCB-type machine - fitted with a toothless grading bucket - to the surface of archaeological deposits or *in situ* natural ground - whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and fully recorded by context as per the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994 - revised 2001). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawing shall be drawn at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

2.3.2 As a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.
- iv) one long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts

Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

2.3.3 The full depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. This need not require excavation to natural deposits if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

2.3.4 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling strategies should be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required.

2.3.5 The photographic record shall be made in B/W print supplemented by digital or colour transparency. If digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints must be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.

2.3.6 Human remains must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

2.3.7 Should gold or silver artefacts be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3. REPORTING

3.1 The report shall collate the results of the desk-based research, summarise the results of the geophysical survey, and the results of the evaluative trenches - describing features, deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation. It shall be illustrated, and shall show the site in relation to known archaeological deposits/sites around it, in order to place the site in its archaeological context. Exposed archaeological deposits will be appropriately illustrated and shown in relation to the site boundaries. A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.

3.2 The report shall include a statement of the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource, and shall indicate any areas where further archaeological work is required - such as further evaluation and/or investigation and recording is recommended (but these will be subject to review by the HES, who will make final recommendations to the Local Planning Authority).

3.3 On completion of the report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the County Historic Environment Service in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES – on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record. The information gained by these investigations shall be available for public reference after a period of six months from completion of the report. However, information deemed to be commercially sensitive may be withheld from the public domain for an extended period in agreement with the HES.

3.4 The archaeological contractor shall complete an online OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) form in respect of this work.

4. MONITORING

4.1 The archaeological consultant shall agree monitoring arrangements with the County Historic Environment Service and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed with the HES, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

4.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 3.4 above.

5. PERSONNEL

The work shall be carried out by a professional archaeological contractor to be agreed with the HES. Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA), or by a person of similar standing. The work shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant IFA Standards and Guidance.

6. FURTHER WORK

In the light of the results of the archaeological evaluation it will be possible to identify what further work, (e.g. further evaluative work to clarify the site stratigraphy, area excavation, etc), if any, is needed as mitigation for the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

This would need to be completed before determination of the Planning Application in order to enable the Local Planning Authority to make an informed and reasonable decision on the application, in accordance with the guidelines contained within paragraph 21 of Central Government's PPG16. Should the site be demonstrated to be archaeologically sterile then there would be no requirement for further archaeological works.

7. CONTACT NAME

Stephen Reed, Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council, Environment, Economy and Culture Directorate, Matford Offices, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW

Tel: 01392-383303 Fax: 01392-383011 email: stephen.reed@devon.gov.uk

20th August 2008

APPENDIX 2

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND AT TIVERTON ROAD, CULLOMPTON, DEVON.

Location: Land adjacent to Tiverton Road
Parish: Cullompton
District: Mid Devon
County: Devon
NGR: 301408.107595

Planning Application no:
Proposal: Proposed residential development
DCHES ref: Arch/dc/md/13011

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and details the proposed scheme and methodology for archaeological evaluation to be undertaken prior to the development of land adjacent to Tiverton Road, Cullompton, Devon. It has been drawn up by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mike Smith of Millwood Homes (the Client) with regard to the archaeological works required as a condition of planning consent for the above works. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes conforms to a brief as supplied by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) (Stephen Reed, 20.08.09).

The Archaeological Assessment is being undertaken in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 20 of Central Government's *PPG16 - Archaeology and Planning* (1990) and Mid Devon District Council's Local Plan Policy ENV7 on archaeology.

The work described below is part of the *first stage* of a programme of archaeological works. Depending upon the results of this stage further evaluative and/or recording works will be required in mitigation for the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The place-name of Cullompton is probably based on the Old English for 'farm on the Culm River'. The earliest documentary reference is as '*Columtune*' in a Saxon chart of the late 9th century and later in Domesday as '*Colump*'. The town was granted a charter in 1278 and developed with the flourishing woollen industry. The parish church of St Andrew has its origins in the early 15th century, while a continuity of settlement from prehistory through to the modern town is demonstrated by the presence of crop marks - indicative of prehistoric funerary monuments and settlement - findspots of flint tools, spindle whorls and a Saxon stirrup, the presence of a Roman fort on St Andrew's Hill - some 200m to the east of the area under consideration - and medieval and post medieval buildings in the town. As such, Cullompton lies within an area of archaeological potential ranging from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval and modern periods.

Recent excavations on the west side of Willand Road have exposed a significant amount of prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological deposits and artefacts. The exposed deposits take the form of the remains of funerary monuments, pits and field systems/enclosures and suggest that prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the area is more extensive and intense than our records currently show and reflects the lack of archaeological investigation in and around the town. Prehistoric activity to the south of the town is attested to by the presence of cropmarks again identified through aerial photography. The area subject to this archaeological investigation is not too dissimilar to the landscape to the north and south of the town and may also contain archaeological sites of prehistoric or later date. A find of part of a late Bronze Age socketed axe-head within the area indicated increases the potential for the presence of prehistoric deposits within this area.

3.0 AIMS

- 3.1 To evaluate the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits across the proposed development area to inform as to the requirement for any further investigations in mitigation for the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.
- 3.2 To undertake further archaeological investigations as appropriate based on the results of the evaluation.
- 3.3 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.0 METHOD

4.2 Evaluation excavations:

A series of trenches will be excavated across the proposed development area. The locations of these excavations will be determined in consideration of the below-ground impact of the proposed development, the site topography the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. The excavation will investigate 5% of the area affected by the proposed development. The total length of trenching will be at least 450 metres (see attached plan). Details of the strategy for positioning the trenches will be agreed with the DCHES.

4.2.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)*.

4.2.2 The evaluation trenches will be opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direct control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence.

4.2.3 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

4.2.4 Once the level of the archaeology has been reached all archaeological material will be excavated by hand down to the depth of the archaeology, although this need not require excavation to natural deposits if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

4.2.5 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IFA guidelines.

4.2.6 If archaeological features are exposed, then as a *minimum*:

i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;

ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);

iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features;

iv) one long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.

4.2.7 Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts.

Any variation of the above or decisions regarding expansion will be considered in consultation with the Client and DCHES.

4.2.9 In exceptional circumstances where materials of a particularly compact nature are encountered, these may be removed with a toothed bucket, subject to agreement with archaeological staff on site.

4.2.10 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.

4.2.11 Human remains must be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

4.2.12 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, must be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4.3 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.

4.4 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn.

4.4.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.

4.4.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.

4.4.3 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench. The provision of such measures will be the responsibility of the client.

4.5 SWARCH shall agree monitoring arrangements with the DCHES and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed with the DCHES, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

The DCHES shall inspect the site and monitor the fieldwork being undertaken by SWARCH. This monitoring will include examination of excavated areas as well as the primary site record (context sheets, drawings, sample record sheets etc). No areas subject to archaeological work will be regarded as completed and available for construction without such monitoring and upon confirmation from the HES that the agreed works in those areas have been satisfactorily completed.

Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 5.1 This will be based on IFA guidelines and those advised by DCHES and will consist of:
- 5.1.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate and digital and black & white photography.
 - 5.1.2 Survey and location of features.
 - 5.1.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.
- Any variation of the above shall be agreed in consultation with the DCHES.

- 5.2 Should suitable deposits be exposed (e.g. palaeoenvironmental) then scientific assessment/analysis/dating techniques will be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon.

6.0 FURTHER WORK

- 6.1 The evaluation excavation represents the first stage of the archaeological investigation of the site and further archaeological intervention may be required if deposits or features are exposed that are considered by DCHES to be archaeologically important.
- 6.2 If no archaeological deposits are exposed by the evaluation it may be decided by DCHES that no further archaeological works will be required.
- 6.3 The need for further archaeological work and the means of investigation (monitoring and recording, trenching or open area excavation) will be determined in consultation with DCHES and the Client once the results of the evaluation is known. Subsequent work will be carried out in accordance with the above specification (4.0 and 5.0).
- 6.4 The development shall not proceed until the requirement for further archaeological intervention has been established by the DCHES.

7.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT

- 7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. This will include relevant correspondence together with context sheets, field drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under accession number 446/2009. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to.
- 7.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), will also be deposited with the above museum (under the accession number above) in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the DCHES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to and any sampling procedures will be carried out prior to deposition and in consultation with the museum. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.
- 7.3 Upon completion of this stage of fieldwork SWARCH will supply the DCHES with a *statement of impact* of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource that contains sufficient detail to allow the HES to determine the scope of further archaeological work that may be required.
- 7.4 If the evaluative investigations represent the only archaeological works undertaken the results will be presented to the DCHES in an appropriately illustrated and detailed formal report. If subsequent archaeological mitigation work is undertaken the results of both stages of work (evaluation and mitigation) will be presented in a full, illustrated report.
- 7.5 An illustrated summary report will be produced as soon as possible following completion of fieldwork, specialist reports allowing. A draft report will be submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority. Copies of the report will be provided to the DCHES as

well as the Client. If few or no archaeological deposits are exposed then, with advance agreement with the DCHES, the submission of a short HER entry will be acceptable.

- 7.6 The report will include the following elements:
- 7.6.1 A report number, date, version number and the OASIS record number;
 - 7.6.2 A copy of the DCHES brief and this WSI;
 - 7.6.3 A location plan and overall site plan including the boundaries of the site, the location of the evaluative trenches in relation to those boundaries and all exposed archaeological features and deposits;
 - 7.6.4 Plans and sections of significant features or deposits at a relevant scale;
 - 7.6.5 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
 - 7.6.6 An assessment of significant artefacts, historical and/or architectural features, environmental and scientific samples together with recommendations for further analysis;
 - 7.6.7 Any specialist reports commissioned;
 - 7.6.8 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.
- 7.7 DCHES will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork, dependant on the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc, the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced. The report will be supplied to the DCHES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy will be provided to the HES in digital format, in a format to be agreed in advance with the DCHES, on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the HER.
- 7.8 Should particularly significant features, below-ground remains or finds be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements –including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DCHES.
- 7.9 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) database under OASIS record number southwes1-694349.

8.0 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys; the excavation work will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel directed by Brynmor Morris. Relevant staff of the DCHES will be consulted as appropriate. Where necessary appropriate specialist advice will be sought, (see list of consultant specialists in Appendix 1 below).

Deb Laing-Trengove
South West Archaeology Ltd
The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon EX36 3LH
Telephone: 01769 573555 email: deblt@swarch.net 26.08.2009

Appendix 1 – List of specialists

Building recording

Robert Waterhouse
13 Mill Meadow, Ashburton TQ13 7RN Tel: 01364 652963
Richard Parker
Exeter Archaeology, Custom House, The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN Tel: 01392 665521
exeter.arch@exeter.gov.uk

Conservation

Richard and Helena Jaeschke
2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD Tel: 01271 830891

Curatorial

Alison Mills
The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon
The Square, Barnstaple, North Devon. EX32 8LN Tel: 01271 346747

Thomas Cadbury
Curator of Antiquities
Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS Tel: 01392 665356

Fiona Pitt
Plymouth City Museum, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL4 8AJ Tel: 01752 204766

Geophysical Survey

Substrata
Tel: 07788 627822

GSB Prospection Ltd.
Cowburn Farm, Market Street, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD13 3HW Tel: 01274 835016
gsb@gsbprospection.com

Human Bones

Louise Lou
Head of Heritage Burial Services, Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OES
Tel: 01865 263 800

Lithics

Martin Tingle
Higher Brownston, Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ Tel: 01548 821038

Metallurgy

Sarah Paynter
Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9LD
Tel: 02392 856700 sarah.paynter@english-heritage.org.

Palaeoenvironmental/Organic

Vanessa Straker
English Heritage SW, 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND Tel: 0117 9287961
vanessa.straker@english-heritage.org.uk

Dana Challinon (wood identification) Tel: 01869 810150

Julie Jones (plant macro-fossils) juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk

Heather Tinsley (pollen analysis) heathertinsley@aol.com

Ralph Fyffe (pollen analysis) University of Plymouth

Pottery

John Allen,
Exeter Archaeology, Custom House, The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN Tel: 01392 665918

Henrietta Quinnell
39 Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN Tel: 01392 433214

Timber Conservation

Liz Goodman
Specialist Services, Conservation Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN
Tel: 0207 8145646 lgoodman@museumoflondon.org.uk

APPENDIX 3

GPS metadata

Leica System 1200, Local Coords CSV

Job Name: 0000000000CTR10

Date: 21/01/2010

| Location | Easting | Northing | Ortho Height (m) |
|----------|------------|------------|------------------|
| TR1s | 301448.021 | 107528.350 | 70.629 |
| TR1n | 301461.192 | 107551.914 | 71.825 |
| TR2s | 301450.761 | 107545.764 | 71.560 |
| TR2n | 301451.908 | 107582.702 | 71.537 |
| TR3s | 301431.547 | 107544.918 | 70.720 |
| TR3n | 301442.381 | 107567.521 | 71.504 |
| TR4n | 301437.295 | 107585.355 | 71.151 |
| TR4s | 301420.061 | 107547.411 | 70.294 |
| TR5s | 301416.850 | 107568.594 | 70.554 |
| TR5n | 301434.285 | 107599.108 | 70.809 |
| TR6e | 301425.146 | 107580.633 | 70.943 |
| TR6m | 301394.459 | 107600.311 | 69.810 |
| TR7Es | 301397.485 | 107581.678 | 70.429 |
| TR7Ems | 301405.686 | 107594.770 | 69.447 |
| TR7Emn | 301417.774 | 107613.330 | 69.240 |
| TR7En | 301436.103 | 107640.630 | 69.757 |
| TR8w | 301400.394 | 107624.558 | 69.078 |
| TR8e | 301419.128 | 107612.170 | 70.207 |
| TR14w | 301420.793 | 107620.246 | 70.146 |
| TR14e | 301443.444 | 107603.992 | 70.953 |
| TR13e | 301418.856 | 107593.526 | 70.516 |
| TR13w | 301408.829 | 107590.212 | 70.100 |
| TR16w | 301410.470 | 107574.727 | 70.383 |
| TR16e | 301423.584 | 107578.264 | 70.912 |
| TR7Ws | 301384.706 | 107561.802 | 70.379 |
| TR9s | 301384.398 | 107580.852 | 70.740 |
| TR9n | 301382.469 | 107618.337 | 69.691 |
| TR6w | 301381.576 | 107608.498 | 70.137 |
| TR15e | 301379.332 | 107596.535 | 70.506 |
| TR10n | 301374.615 | 107609.478 | 70.189 |
| TR15w | 301360.066 | 107608.968 | 70.272 |
| TR10m | 301362.627 | 107592.278 | 69.946 |
| TR10s | 301348.136 | 107570.884 | 70.422 |
| TR11s | 301351.547 | 107581.179 | 71.112 |
| TR11n | 301335.338 | 107625.964 | 69.996 |
| TR12w | 301340.587 | 107628.195 | 69.845 |
| TR12e | 301359.357 | 107616.982 | 70.051 |
| TBM2 | 301457.596 | 107580.793 | 72.460 |
| TBM1 | 301405.597 | 107515.206 | 69.503 |

APPENDIX 5

Worked Stone *by Martin Tingle*

Introduction

The assemblage is composed of 31 pieces weighing 0.897kg, recovered from trial trenching of the topsoil and the excavation of features cut into the subsoil.

Raw Materials

The worked stone assemblage is composed of 16 pieces of greensand chert and 15 pieces of flint, both of which have some examples of water rolled cortex, suggesting that they may have originated from river gravels. The chert has a range of 6 different colours from mid Brown (7 examples) to Orange (5 examples) with 4 individual examples of darker or lighter browns and greys. The flint is unpatinated and varies in colour from a grey-green to grey-black with white mottled inclusions.

Composition and Technology

| Find | No. Chert | Weight (g) | No. Flint | Weight (g) |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Blade | | | 1 | 2 |
| Secondary Flake | 1 | 12 | 1 | 7 |
| Tertiary Flake | 4 | 79 | 4 | 27 |
| Uncorticated Flake | 2 | 15 | 2 | 9 |
| Broken flake | 1 | 7 | 4 | 14 |
| Core Fragment | 5 | 369 | | |
| Keeled Core | 1 | 96 | | |
| Multi-platform Core | 1 | 230 | | |
| Retouched Flake | 1 | 7 | 2 | 12 |
| Scraper | | | 1 | 11 |
| Total | 16 | 815 | 15 | 82 |

Table 1: The composition of the assemblage

Although little can be deduced from such a small assemblage, it is notable that all the cores and core fragments are made from greensand chert while three of the four retouched tools are made from flint. This may indicate localised working of chert while flint was brought to the area, either as flake blanks or as retouched tools. The only scraper recovered appears to have been repeatedly re-sharpened until it apparently became unusable. Two flint flakes from contexts (408) and (1304) show evidence of having been burnt.

Distribution

Just over half the worked stone is unstratified (16 pieces weighing 723g) with most of the remaining pieces concentrated within features in Trench #8 (4 pieces) and Trench #13 (5 pieces).

Dating

There are no specifically datable pieces within the assemblage. However, the presence of worked chert may indicate Mesolithic to early Neolithic activity. While chert makes up a substantial component of Mesolithic assemblages in East Devon it is noticeably absent from Neolithic and later assemblages in the South West, with the exception of the ditch at Membury (Tingle 2006, 47).

Conclusion

This is a small assemblage given the size of the area examined and the number of contexts sampled. It indicates a low level of prehistoric activity in the immediate area, given the likely timescales involved.

Terminology

Throughout this analysis the term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint while 'patination' denotes the colouration of the flaked surfaces exposed by human or natural agency. Following Andrevsky (1998, 104), dorsal cortex is divided into four categories. The term *primary flake* refers to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face, while *secondary flakes* have cortex on 50% to 99% of the dorsal face. *Tertiary flakes* have cortex on 1% to 49% of the dorsal face, while flakes with no dorsal cortex are referred to as *non-cortical*.

A blade is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as its breadth. These often have parallel dorsal flake scars, a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio.

Bibliography

Andrevsky, W. 1998: *Lithics. Macroscopic approaches to analysis*. Cambridge University Press.

Tingle, M. 2006: Excavations of a possible causewayed enclosure and Roman site at Membury, 1986 and 1994-2000. *Devon Archaeological Society Proceedings* vol.64, 1-52.

APPENDIX 6

Prehistoric and Roman Ceramics *by Imogen Wood*

The fourteen sherds and three ceramic tile fragments were subjected to typological and macroscopic fabric analysis to determine their date and possible origin of production. Any comments on fabric compositions are only preliminary and would require petrological analysis for confirmation if required. The overall date range is between the Late Iron Age to the 2nd century AD, representing both local and imported wares.

The assemblage from Tiverton Road consists of 17 sherds:

Five Late Iron Age sherds 2nd -1st century BC

One Romano-British sherd made locally 1st – mid 2nd century AD

Six Roman sherds made locally 1st – 2nd century AD

One Samian sherd from Central Gaul Late 2nd century AD.

Three Roman tile fragments

One undiagnostic sherd

The list below describes each sherd, suggests date range, fabric and composition.

Trench #6 (topsoil strip)

- One abraded Romano-British rim sherd of a flanged dish with interior and exterior burnishing and sooting under the rim. Probable date: 1st – mid 2nd century AD.
Fabric= A well sorted fabric, dark reduced fabric throughout with few inclusions generally less than 0.005m in size.
Inclusions= Frequent rounded quartz crystal, rare sub-rounded quartzite and rare ferrous pieces. Probable source: south Devon.
- One very abraded coarse ware basal sherd. Unfortunately the condition of sherd renders it undiagnostic, but fabric texture suggests date range of Prehistoric to Post-Roman.
Fabric= A sorted soft oxidized fabric with frequent inclusions.
Inclusions= frequent sub-rounded quartzite 0.003m>, frequent well rounded (some polished) quartz crystal and rare rounded ferrous black pieces.
- Two co-joining hard red sandy high fired tile fragments, 0.018m in thickness. Preliminary fabric analysis suggests similarities with Fabric 3 from the Roman Fort at Exeter, suggesting a broad Roman date for the tile fragment.
Fabric= A well sorted oxidised sandy fabric with few inclusions.
Inclusions= A fine sand composed of quartz and quartzite grains and fine muscovite flecks, with rare occurrences of muscovite laths.

Context (809)

- Five sherds of the same fabric, possibly from the same vessel.
All sherds are abraded body sherds with light grey fabric and buff coloured interior. Preliminary fabric analysis suggests the vessel belongs to the Exeter Micaceous Grey Ware group, originating in Devon. The date range of this ware in Exeter is between the late 1st-2nd century AD.
Fabric= A well sorted fine reduced fabric with a powdery texture dominated by fine muscovite mica with few inclusions.
Inclusions= Occasional rock fragments possibly sandstone with heavy muscovite content and frequent very fine muscovite. Rare occurrences of sub-angular to sub-rounded quartzite 0.002>m in size and rare well-rounded grog or red ferrous pieces.

Context (752)

- One wheel-made coarse-ware body sherd with a light grey fabric. Preliminary fabric analysis suggests it is an Exeter Sandy Grey Ware jar. The ware in Exeter has been dated to the mid-2nd century AD, originates in south Devon and is found commonly throughout Devon.
Fabric= A sorted reduced light grey sandy fabric with frequent small inclusions.
Inclusions= Occasional rock fragments lamella conglomerate of muscovite, tourmaline and feldspars, possibly granitic derived sandstone pieces 0.003-0.001 m in size. Frequent very fine muscovite mica pieces less than half a millimetre in size and occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz crystal 0.001m> in size.

Trench #9 context (003)

This context produced five sherds of pottery, one of which was too abraded to classify. They are listed below by fabric:

- Two co-joining basal sherds, handmade with exterior sooting, probable small coarseware cooking pot. Fabric texture and inclusions suggest a possible Late Iron Age date.
Fabric= A dark reduced poorly fired fabric with frequent inclusions.
Inclusions= Frequent well-rounded polished quartz crystal grains 0.005m in diameter, and frequent sub-rounded quartzite grains 0.004m in size. There are also rare well-rounded rock fragments, buff in colour and 0.004m in diameter.
- One very abraded handmade bead rim sherd of coarseware jar. Fabric texture and rim form suggests a possible Late Iron Age date.
Fabric= A reduced grey fabric with frequent inclusions.
Inclusions= There are frequent rounded quartz crystal grains, some polished with red staining 0.001m and frequent sub-rounded quartzite grains 0.002m in size. There are also rare occurrences of well-rounded ferrous pieces.
- One abraded body sherd from a handmade small coarseware jar. Fabric texture and form suggest a possible Late Iron Age date.
Fabric= A dark reduced sherd with oxidised patches and frequent inclusions.
Inclusions= There are frequent well-rounded quartz crystal grains 0.002m and occasional rounded quartzite grains 0.003m. There are also rare occurrences of rounded black and white rock fragments 0.001m, also a single piece of rounded chert 0.001m and rare black ferrous pieces.

Context (646)

- One wheel-made fineware body sherd with a soft powdery red fabric and some remnant areas of red slip. Preliminary fabric analysis suggests this is central Gaulish Terra Sigulata dating to the 2nd century AD, due to distinctive limestone calcareous inclusions.
Fabric= A soft powdery red oxidised fabric with sparse inclusions all less than half a millimetre in size.
Inclusions= There are occasional sub-rounded off-white limestone pieces less than half a millimetre in size and occasional fine quartz and quartzite sand. There are rare muscovite mica pieces and rare occurrences of rounded calcareous voids which are most likely the result of limestone degradation in firing process.

Context (815)

- One fragment of red curved tile with a soft sandy fabric containing moderate inclusions, with a characteristic white streak running through it. The preliminary fabric analysis suggests a similar composition to Roger Taylor's Hatherleigh Group 1, sample 6, petrological series for Roman Tiles in Devon (see Laing-Trengove & Wheeler 2006). This would indicate the tile was produced in the Hatherleigh area with a broad Roman date range. The tile is 0.025m thick.
Fabric= It has a fine powdery low-fired oxidised fabric with a white streak and coarse inclusions
Inclusions= There are occasional sub-rounded quartz and quartzite grains from 0.001m suggesting a granitic derived sand. There are also rare black and white fragments of an igneous origin 0.003m in size and rare off-white slate/shillet fragments 0.005m. Some rare pieces of muscovite are present 0.005m.

Bibliography

Laing-Trengove, D. & Wheeler, J. 2006: A Roman Tile Kiln on Hatherleigh Moor and the sources of some Roman tile in Devon, *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* vol.64, 53-70.

APPENDIX 7

Medieval & Post-Medieval Ceramics *by Graham Langman*

The material from Tiverton Road, Cullompton consists of 311 sherds weighing 4.142 kg that are medieval or post-medieval in character. These derive from eight contexts, topsoil stripping and unstratified finds. A brief assessment was carried out to determine the significance of the assemblage. The pottery from stratified deposits was quantified using sherd and minimum number of vessel counts per fabric and in addition a total weight per context was recorded. Only sherd counts per fabric and total weight was deemed necessary for topsoil and unstratified material. Where recognisable, vessel forms were briefly noted and spot dates provided. A summarised fabric table giving sherd counts per fabric has been produced and will reside with the site archive. The results of this assessment are discussed below.

| Context | Spot date | Sherds | Vessels | Weight (g) |
|--------------|---|--------|---------|------------|
| 606 | post medieval (?16 th century) | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 614 | late 17 th /early 18 th century | 4 | 1 | 12 |
| 623 | post 1650 (?2 nd ½ 17 th century) | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 646 | 14 th /15 th century | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 708 | 18 th century | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 710 | late 17 th /early 18 th century | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 725 | 17 th /18 th century | 4 | 2 | 50 |
| 1306 | post medieval (?16 th century) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| topsoil | date range: 14 th to 19 th centuries | 283 | - | 3823 |
| unstratified | 15 th and 17 th /18 th century | 14 | - | 238 |
| Totals | | 311 | 9 | 4142 |

Table 1: Context dating and quantification (all weights given are in grams).

The pottery from this site, although modest in size, is of some archaeological interest as it presents the first real opportunity to study material of a medieval or post-medieval date from the Market town of Cullompton. Nothing from this period has yet been published from this location and to the author's knowledge no sizeable archaeological assemblage has been available to view.

The stratified material, sadly, consists of only 14 sherds weighing a mere 81 grams. It is therefore difficult to produce any meaningful dating or interpretation of the wares present. As can be seen from Table 1 (above) the earliest material is from context (646) and consists of a single worn scrappy jug sherd in a South Somerset sandy ware fabric, dateable to the 14th or 15th century. The post-medieval assemblage seems to be broadly 16th to 18th century and the wares examined appear quite worn and battered. However there are sherds from two vessels that are worthy of further comment. The first is an imported yellow-glazed white ware from context (725), possibly a 17th century product from the Low Countries. The second is a late 17th or early 18th century North Devon trailed slipware bowl base, from context (614). This type of ware is an uncommon find and was a short-lived and minor product of the North

Devon slip-decorated wares, sgraffito and plain yellow-glazed slipwares being more prevalent and widely distributed.

The topsoil and unstratified pottery is by far the major source of material from these excavations available to scrutinise, consisting of 297 sherds weighing 4.061 kg. However any conclusions that can be drawn from this collection, given the nature of its deposition, should be treated with caution and should be seen as providing background information. The assemblage is broadly 1500-early 19th century in date and, like the stratified material, many of the sherds exhibit a worn and battered appearance. There are only four sherds that are medieval in character and these are 14th or 15th century South Somerset sandy ware jugs. Therefore the majority of the collection, some 293 sherds, is of a post-medieval date.

There are foreign imports present, the earliest being an early 16th century Raeren stoneware mug, 17th century types include four sherds (probably the same vessel as context (725)), of a yellow-glazed white ware of a possible Low Countries origin and sherds from a Portuguese tin-glazed bowl. It is interesting to note that imports of this type in Devon are reaching inland market towns some distance from any major port – other examples being found in Crediton, for instance (Allan & Langman *forthcoming*) – although it should be stressed that this is not a case of direct contact with the Continent but an example of market redistribution. Other wares include the ubiquitous Frechen (post 1550) and Westerwald stonewares (1660-1720 types) and a single example of a Chinese *famille rose* porcelain dish (mid 18th century).

Tin-glazed Delftware both decorated and plain are represented by three sherds from three vessels, including a drug jar and bowl base, these are probably English types attributable to the late 17th or early 18th century. English regional imports are all 18th century or later and include 18th century Staffordshire salt-glazed table wares, Creamwares and yellow-glazed slipware cups and dishes from Bristol or Staffordshire.

Only 49 sherds are of the late 18th/19th century period consisting of English industrial white wares either plain or transfer printed and together with English stonewares and Porcelain are possibly no later than the 1830's. Unsurprisingly, local coarsewares make up the bulk of the assemblage, the majority of which – some 190 sherds – are South Somerset products. Distinctive 16th century fabric and forms have been noted, consisting of jugs and bowls with external sooting, showing evidence of usage. 17th and 18th century forms and fabrics are a major component of the coarseware assemblage. Vessel types are typically domestic in nature, with bowls, cups, chafing dishes, chamber pots, dishes, jugs and a pipkin being present. Only eight sherds show any signs of decoration using slip and sgraffito techniques, trailed or plain slip under glaze. North Devon wares are sparse, three sherds in total, and are of a gravel-free or gravel-tempered fabric. Together with the stratified decorated vessel from context (614), this clearly demonstrates that North Devon wares had little impact in the sale of ceramics for this part of Devon.

While examining this collection of wares several other types of ceramics were encountered in the form of building materials. Roof furniture, consisting of ridge tiles broadly 16th to late

18th century in date, and undiagnostic brick fragments of an indeterminate post-medieval date, may derive from a building or buildings in the vicinity. Of some interest is the presence of a single late 14th/15th century medieval floor tile. The fabric is akin to South Somerset products and the underside is pierced with holes. It is 27mm thick and the glaze has worn away from the upper surface, usually a sign of usage, although there are traces of a green glaze on the underside and significantly down the side of two broken edges. Such traits often indicate kiln waste material, although the fragment shows no signs of being over-fired or warped. Perhaps the tile originally cracked during the firing process allowing the surface glaze to run into crevices. Without more examples it would be unwise to make any extravagant claims that this example is a waster.

In conclusion the ceramic assemblage from this archaeological intervention has provided a first meaningful glimpse into ceramic fabrics and types of pottery being used in Cullompton during the late medieval and post-medieval periods. Medieval activity is sparse and on this evidence is attributable to the 14th or 15th centuries. Post-medieval activity is more evident with the majority of wares falling between the 16th to early 19th centuries and a heavy bias towards 17th and 18th century types. It is difficult to determine whether this material derives from a single or several households, although it is clearly domestic in nature. Given the lack of stratification for the bulk of the collection it is not worth pursuing any further detailed study of this material. With the information already recorded perhaps its real value lies in future regional or national studies of the wares present and hints at potentially more meaningful deposits in the area.

APPENDIX 8

Archaeometallurgical Debris *by Lee Bray*

Introduction and Overview

This report is an assessment of the metallurgical debris assemblage recovered by South West Archaeology during the archaeological evaluation at Cullompton, Tiverton Road, during January and February 2010. The assemblage contained a total of 37 fragments of debris weighing a total of 3.72kg. This material was almost entirely unstratified, though most of this was recovered from context (003), the lowest horizon of the topsoil. There was only a single stratified fragment.

Quantification and Assessment

Table 1 (below) shows the distribution of the assemblage by trench and broadly suggests that, as might be expected, the number of fragments recovered was proportional to the length of the trench.

| Trench | Unstratified Fragments | Stratified Fragments |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 4 | |
| 2 | 1 | |
| 3 | 1 | |
| 4 | 7 | |
| 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | 7 | |
| 8 | 1 | |
| 9 | 1 | |
| 10 | 1 | |
| 11 | 3 | |
| 12 | 5 | |
| 13 | 1 | |
| 14 | 2 | |

Table 1 Distribution of the metallurgical debris assemblage by trench.

The material in the assemblage was composed of a mixture of mostly amorphous fragments of slag and vitrified material consistent with generation by a metallurgical process. Many were abraded which, combined with a near absence of clearly diagnostic textures or morphologies, makes identification of the precise nature of the process difficult, although the red or orange staining on the surface of many suggests ferrous metallurgy.

However, four fragments were magnetic and several had morphologies reminiscent of fragmented smithing hearth bottoms indicating that smithing probably generated at least some of the assemblage. The absence of any textures or morphologies indicative of smelting may imply that smithing is responsible for a higher proportion or even the entire assemblage.

Given the relatively small area excavated, the density of metallurgical debris on the Tiverton Road site is slightly unusual, perhaps suggesting the location at which the material was generated was relatively nearby. The size of many of the fragments, which averaged around 60mm and reached over 100mm, suggests the material has been discarded as waste rather than deliberately spread on the fields to improve the physical characteristics of the soil.

Apart from the single stratified fragment, which was recovered from a post-medieval context, the date of the assemblage cannot be determined and may fall anywhere between the Iron Age and post-medieval period or from several.

Statement of Potential

The residual nature of this assemblage and the concomitant lack of association with any features or deposits that could be associated with metallurgical operations, combined with the absence of significant textures or morphologies, mean there is no potential for further work on this material.

APPENDIX 9

Clay Pipes by Bryn Morris

A total of 48 fragments of clay pipe, and one wig-curler, were recovered during the evaluation. Most of this material was recovered during the topsoil strip, and most of that came from the base of the upper topsoil layer (001). Only two contexts, (619) and (725), contained stratified material. (619) produced a single stem fragment, and the material from (725) included a nearly complete early 18th century bowl.

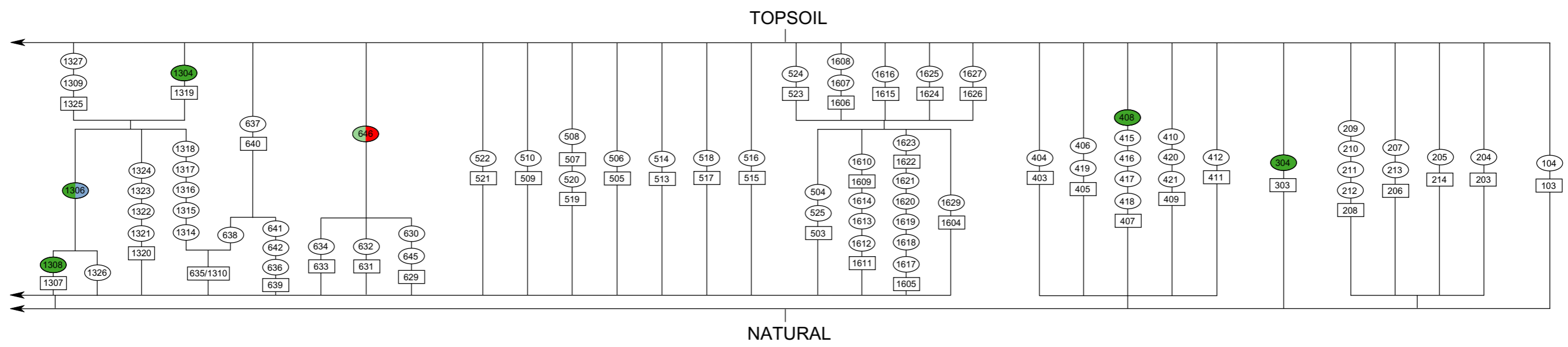
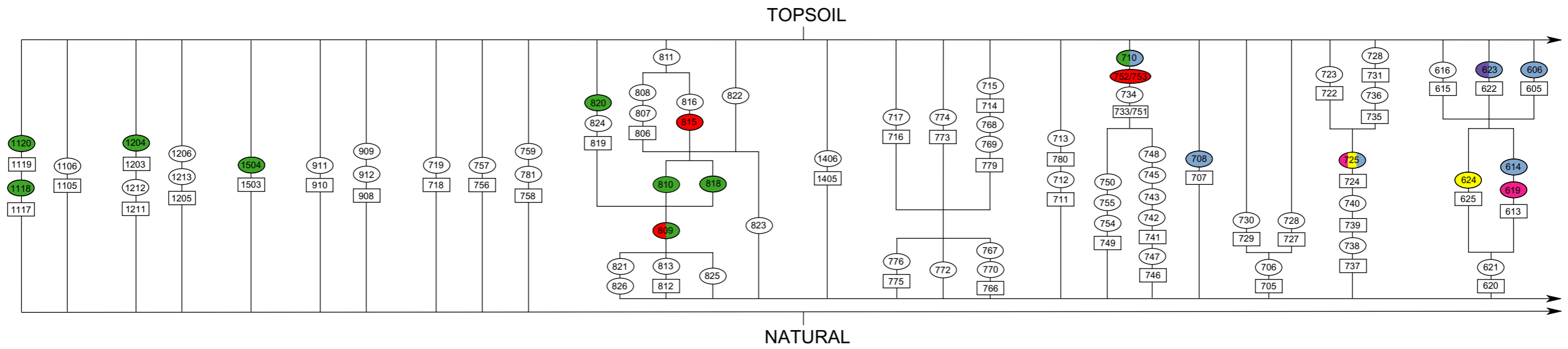
None of the surviving bowls or bowl fragments bear a maker's marks, and decoration is limited to the usual milling around the rim. In general, most of the examples from the evaluation date to the late 17th or earlier 18th century, although there are two early 17th bowls from Trenches #7 (fragmentary) and #10. Given the relative abundance of 17th and 18th bowls, the absence of 19th century examples is surprising, but in accordance with the results of the pottery analysis.

APPENDIX 10

Glass by Bryn Morris

A total of 45 fragments of glass weighing 1.409kg were recovered during the evaluation. With the exception of 6 fragments (5 fragments from the base of a single vessel) from context (725), and a single tiny fragment of medieval or post-medieval window glass from context (624), all of the finds came from the topsoil strip. The assemblage is dominated by fragments of dark green, thick 18th century bottle glass, a fair proportion of which have clear signs of surface abrasion.

Only three vessels could be identified with any certainty. The vessel base from context (725) is from a late 17th or early 18th century onion bottle, as is the intact bottle neck from the topsoil strip in Trench #7. The topsoil strip in Trench #6 produced the base of a late 17th onion bottle.



Appendix 11: Stratigraphic matrix for Cullompton, Tiverton Road.

Key

- Flint flakes
- Glass
- Post-medieval ceramic
- Clay pipe
- Medieval ceramic
- Metallurgical debris
- Roman ceramic