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FOR PLANNING APPLICATION

Report on an archaeological evaluation at Redlands School, Weymouth, Dorset

Centred on NGR SY672823

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archaeology

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Redlands School, Weymouth, Dorset

(centred on NGR SY 672 823)

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology in support of a planning application, by Weymouth College, to develop facilities at Redlands School, Weymouth, Dorset (NGR SY 672 823).

The evaluation was undertaken in two phases and consisted of twenty-one machine excavated trenches and four hand dug test pits, within which were recorded a hearth / fire pit, four ditches and a spread of demolition materials, all of Romano-British date.

These results confirm the extent of the site previously identified by evaluation, and a subsequent watching brief, undertaken prior to the development of the existing all weather pitch on the site in 1997. These earlier investigations revealed Romano-British structures, stone built drains, corn dryer, 2 burials, metalled surfaces and spreads of demolition debris.

Severe modern truncation was observed across the northern part of the site, within the playing fields, and this appears to increase with depth to the west of the proposed new facilities.

The evaluation has enabled a deposit model to be created indicating areas of archaeological potential in relation to the proposed new facilities. The deposit model and this report will be submitted, along with a detailed construction methodology, in support of a planning application for the new facilities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in support of a planning application, by Weymouth College, to develop new facilities at Redlands school, Weymouth, Dorset (centred on NGR SY 672 823). The fieldwork was carried out in two phases with the first phase of works undertaken between the 19th and the 24th November 2008 and the second phase between the 26th and the 29th January 2009. The site location is shown on Fig. 1.

1.2 The first phase of work consisted of Trial Pits 1 – 4 to the north of the existing all weather pitch and Trenches 5 -16, in the area of the proposed car park and changing pavilion, to the south. The second phase of work (Trenches 20 -29) was undertaken within the eastern side of the playing fields, north of the all weather pitch. Trench and Trial Pit Locations are shown in Figs. 2 & 3.

1.3 The site lies around 28mOD and the underlying geology consists of both Plateau Gravel and Oxford Clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An archaeological evaluation undertaken by AC archaeology in 1997 and a subsequent watching brief carried out during the construction of the existing all-weather sports pitch uncovered the remains of a small Romano-British settlement which includes evidence for a building, a corn drying oven, a series of ditches, metalled surfaces, demolition spreads, an infant burial and a cremation pit.

2.2 A full account of the archaeological and historic background to the site was the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by AC archaeology in 2008 (Evans 2008).

2.3 Prior to the evaluation trenching a geophysical survey was undertaken to the north of the existing all weather pitch which identified a single anomaly in the area of the proposed northernmost pitch (Fig. 3).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The aim of the evaluation was to identify and record the presence, nature and extent of any archaeological features or finds which would be revealed, disturbed or placed under threat from the proposed construction work.

3.2 Phase one – November 2008

3.2.1 This phase of work was primarily concerned with gaining further information regarding the extent of the known archaeological remains and to establish at what depth they lie over the entire area of the proposed new car park. This phase of work was undertaken following consultation with the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council who requested the investigations so that the impact of any construction proposals (a "no-dig" methodology is proposed for the construction of the car park) could be adequately assessed.

3.2.2 The site archaeologist supervised a JCB excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket to excavate the trenches.

3.2.3 Prior to the determination of the scale of any evaluation trenching, required to the north of the existing all weather pitch, Weymouth College requested that four trial pits (Fig. 3) be excavated in order to establish if there had been any significant raising of ground levels within this area of the site (which may preserve archaeological remains at a depth not effected by the proposed development).

3.3 Phase two – January 2009

3.3.1 Following the results of the four trial pits, outlined in Section 3.2.3 above and presented in Section 4.2 below, it was determined that a series of evaluation trenches would be required to further assess the area of the proposed new pitches for archaeological remains.

3.3.2 The site archaeologist supervised a 5 ton tracked mini-digger equipped with a toothless grading bucket to excavate 10 trenches which each measured 20m in length by 1.6m in width across playing fields to the north of the site (Fig. 3).

3.4 The investigations were recorded on the appropriate *pro forma* sheets comprising parts of the AC Archaeology recording system. A photographic archive consisting of

digitally produced images was compiled; site plans were drawn at 1:20 and 1:50 with sections at 1:10. The site archive has been prepared using the unique site code ACW143 and is currently stored at the offices of AC archaeology (Wiltshire).

4. RESULTS

4.1 Phase One Trenches

Table 1: Trench 5 max depth 0.40m (Fig. 2)

Context	Description	Depth
500	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 – 0.20m
501	Naturally occurring yellowy brown clay	0.20 - 0.40m

No archaeological features or deposits were located within the trench. The lack of any subsoil in this area of the site suggests that the area may have been truncated in the past during the construction of the substation immediately to the west. Later trenching, to the north of the present all weather pitch (Section 4.3), and the watching brief undertaken in 1998, also suggest that the area c. 20m west of the railway cutting had undergone severe truncation; probably during the initial laying out of the sports pitches.

Table 2: Trench 6 max depth 0.31m (Fig. 2)

Context	Description	Depth
600	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.25m
601	Topsoil with layer of modern inclusions noted; Tarmac / concrete etc	0.25 - 0.30m
602	Naturally occurring yellowy brown clay with occasional flint gravels	0.30m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located within the trench. The lack of subsoil in this trench is also probably due to the reasons outlined for Trench 5 above.

Table 3: Trench 7 max depth 0.71m (Figs. 2, 4a & 4b, Plate 1)

Context	Description	Depth
700	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 – 0.14m
701	Redeposited layer of natural – dark yellowy brown silty clay: at east end of trench	0.14 - 0.29m
702	Buried topsoil (as 700) at east end of trench under (701)	0.29 - 0.48m
703	Naturally occurring yellowy brown clay with occasional flint gravels	0.48m +
704	Spread of Romano-British demolition material; limestone fragments and occasional flints. Not excavated	0.30m +
705	Very dark grey silty clay with abundant flint gravels. Layer associated with demolition spread (704). Not fully excavated	0.28m +
706	Limestone rubble filled field drain. 0.45m wide	
707	Layer of subsoil at west end of trench	0.11 - 0.21m

Excavation of this trench revealed a spread of demolition rubble of Romano-British date at a depth of 300mm below the present ground surface. This demolition rubble is likely to be associated with the buildings revealed during the evaluation trenching undertaken in 1997 (Fig. 2).

Plate 1: Photograph detailing rubble spread at the western end of Trench 7

Table 4: Trench 8 max depth 0.62m (Figs. 2 & 5a)

Context	Description	Depth
800	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.17m
801	Redeposited layer of natural – dark yellowy brown silty clay:	0.17 - 0.27m
802	Buried topsoil: (as 800) under (801)	0.27 - 0.49m
803	Naturally occurring grey silty clay with flint gravels becoming yellowy brown and more clayey with depth; with rust coloured mottling	0.49m +
[804]	Cut for ditch north-east /south-west orientated at least 1m wide visible in trench for at least 6.4m. Could not be excavated due to high water table	0.49m +
805	Fill of ditch [804]. Dark grey clayey silt. Not excavated	.
806	Probable field drain trench - not excavated	.
807	Limestone rubble filled field drain	.
808	Limestone rubble - field drain	.
[809]	Cut for field drain (808)	0.31- 0.49m +
810	Grey brown silty clay fill backfill of trench [809]	0.31 - 0.49m

Excavation of this trench revealed a single feature of probable archaeological origin (804). Unfortunately, it was not possible to excavate this feature due to encountering the water table at the same depth (0.49m below the present ground surface). Surface cleaning of this feature retrieved seven sherds of pottery of Romano-British date, and it is therefore likely to be associated with the ditches and buildings revealed during the 1997 evaluation trenching (Fig. 2).

Table 5: Trench 9 max depth 0.46m (Fig. 2)

Context	Description	Depth
900	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam virtually inclusion free with heavy root action	0 – 0.32m
901	Naturally occurring yellowy brown clay with patches of flint gravel in a darker yellowy brown clay	0.32m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located within the trench. The location of this trench suggests that this may be due to the trench lying close to the railway cutting and consequently any archaeological remains that may have existed in this area of the site have been destroyed.

Table 6: Trench 10 max depth 0.40m (Fig. 2)

Context	Description	Depth
1000	Topsoil; dark yellowish brown clayey silt loam virtually inclusion free	0 – 0.30m
1001	Naturally occurring yellowy brown clay with patches of flint gravel at west end of trench	0.30m +
1002	Limestone rubble & flint nodule filled field drain at east end of trench	

No archaeological features or deposits were located within the trench. The location of this trench also suggests that this may be due to the trench lying close to the railway cutting and consequently any archaeological remains that may have existed in this area of the site have been destroyed. .

Table 7: Trench 11 max depth 0.55m (Figs. 2, 5b & 5c, Plate 2)

Context	Description	Depth
1100	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.34m
[1101]	Cut of ditch; a broad U-shaped feature which measures at least 1.50m in length by 0.92m in width and 0.25m in depth; north east / south west orientated	0.34 - 0.55m
1102	Fill of ditch [1101] mid grey brown clayey silty clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0.34 - 0.55m
1103	Possible metalled surface; immediately to east of ditch [1101] composed of flint gravel within grey brown silty clay running out of TP to east. Does not occur to the west of [1101]	0.34m +
1104	Context not used	
1105	Naturally occurring mid-yellowy brown clay	0.34 m +

Excavation of this trench revealed evidence of a broad u-shaped ditch, from which eight sherds of Romano-British pottery were retrieved. A possible metalled surface was also recorded from which a single sherd of Romano-British pottery was retrieved.

Plate 2: Photograph showing ditch (1101) and Surface (1103)

Table 8: Tench 12 max depth 0.35m (Figs. 2, 5d & 5e, Plate 3)

Context	Description	Depth
1200	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 – 0.20m
1201	Naturally occurring yellowy brown clay with flint gravel inclusions	0.20m +
[1202]	Cut of gully; U-shaped orientated north-west / south east. At least 1.5m in length by 0.70m in width and 0.15m deep	0. 20 – 0.35m
1203	Fill of gully [1202]; a brown silty clay with common flint gravel inclusions	0.20 – 0.35m

Excavation of this trench revealed evidence of a broad u-shaped ditch and although no datable material was retrieved from the fill of the feature, it is likely to be of the same Romano-British date of nearby features.

Plate 3: Photograph detailing oval Gully (1202)

Table 9: Trench 13 max depth 0.49m (Figs. 2 & 5f & 5g, Plate. 4)

Context	Description	Depth
1300	Topsoil; yellowy brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.21m
1301	Compacted grey silty clay with abundant flint gravels	0.21 - 0.30m
[1302]	North-east / south-west orientated ditch /gully cut. U-shaped, measuring a minimum of 1.10m by 0.33m in width and 0.19m deep	0.30 - 0.49m
1303	Fill of [1301]; dark grey silty clay with rust coloured mottling and abundant flint gravel inclusions	0.30 - 0.49m
1304	Naturally occurring pale yellowy brown clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling.	0.30m +

Excavation of this trench revealed a single u-shaped ditch which contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery.

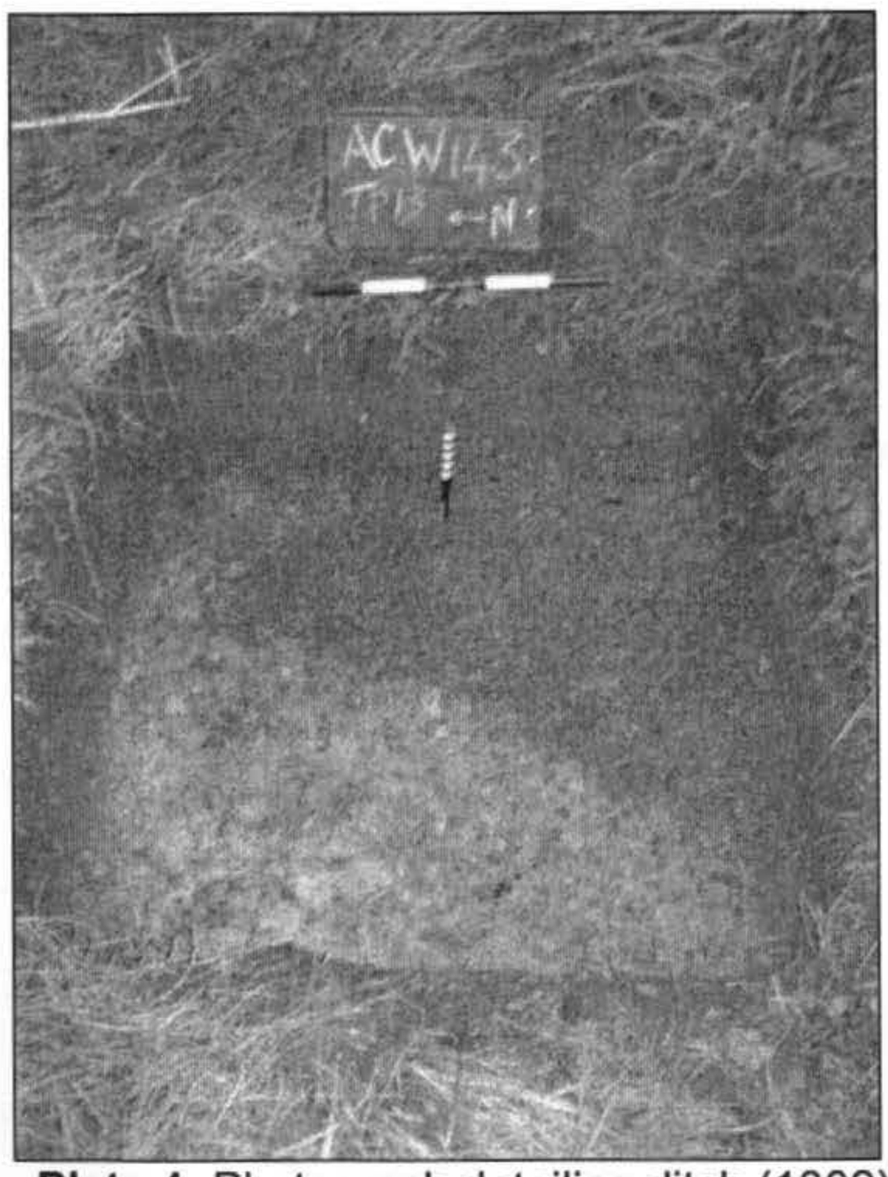

Plate 4: Photograph detailing ditch (1302)

Table 10: Trench 14 max depth 0.40m (Fig. 2)

Context	Description	Depth
1400	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.40m
1401	Naturally occurring pale yellowy brown clay with flint gravel inclusions	0.40 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located within the trench.

Table 11: Trench 15 max depth 0.44m (Fig. 2)

Context	Description	Depth
1500	Topsoil; dark greyish brown clayey silt	0 - 0.16m
1501	Grey silty clay with abundant flint gravels	0.16 - 0.40m
1502	Naturally occurring grey brown clay with rust coloured mottling	0.40 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located within the trench.

Table 12: Trench 16 max depth 0.20m (Fig. 2)

Context	Description	Depth
1600	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.20m
1601	Thin subsoil lens; grey silty clay	0.20m +
1602	Naturally occurring mid-yellowy brown compact silty clay with common flint gravel inclusions	0.28 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located within the trench.

4.2 Phase 1 Trial Pits in area to north of present all weather pitch

4.2.1 Four trial pits measuring 0.5m x 0.5m were excavated to the north of the present all weather pitch in order to establish if there was any made ground that may afford protection of underlying archaeological remains and therefore not require any further evaluation work.

Table 13: Trial Pit 1 max depth 0.38m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
100	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.25m
101	Thin subsoil lens; grey silty clay	0.25 - 0.28m
102	Mid-yellowy brown compact clay- redeposited clay layer	0.28 m +

Table 14: Trial Pit 2 max depth 0.30m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
200	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.20m
201	Redeposited mid-yellowy brown compacted clay	0.20m +

Table 15: Trial Pit 3 max depth 0.38m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
300	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.22m
301	Thin subsoil lens; yellowy brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0.22- 0.33m
302	Redeposited mid-yellowy brown compact clay	0.33m +

Table 16: Trial Pit 4 max depth 0.20m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
400	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey silt loam with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 - 0.20m
401	Redeposited compact dark greyish brown clay	0.20m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located within any of the trial pits. The absence of any subsoil (with the exception of Trial Pit 3) and the redeposited natural clay (101, 201, 401) suggested that the area had seen previous truncation and levelling, probably at the time the sports pitches were first laid out. There had been no makeup of the levels and deep cut archaeological features, such as ditches, corn driers and burials, which had been located elsewhere on the site, could still survive depending on the depth of truncation.

4.3 Phase Two Trenches

4.3.1 Following the results of the Phase one Trial Pits in this part of the site (Section 4.2 above) it was deemed necessary to undertake further evaluation trenching so that the archaeological resource in this area could be adequately assessed prior to determination.

Table 17: Trench 20 max depth 0.45m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.10m
2001	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.10 – 0.25m
2002	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling	0.25 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench, although intact deposits appeared to be present throughout with no evidence of truncation.

Table 18: Trench 21 max depth 0.35m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2100	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 – 0.10m
2101	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.10 – 0.20m
2102	Redeposited pale grey / yellowy brown clay	0.20- 0.30m
2103	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling: 'teeth' marks evident within base of trench from earlier mechanical ground reduction works	0.30 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench and the natural clay showed signs of truncation by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket (tooth marks visible scarring the clay).

Table 19: Trench 22 max depth 0.45m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2200	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.10m
2201	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.10 – 0.20m
2202	Redeposited pale grey / yellowy brown clay	0.20 – 0.30
2203	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling: 'teeth' marks evident within base of trench from earlier mechanical ground reduction works	0.30 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench and the natural clay showed signs of truncation by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket (tooth marks visible scarring the clay).

Table 20: Trench 23 max depth 0.40m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2300	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.10m
2301	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.10 – 0.20m
2302	Redeposited pale grey / yellowy brown clay	0.20 - 0.30m
2303	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling: 'teeth' marks evident within base of trench from earlier mechanical ground reduction works	0.30m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench and the natural clay showed signs of truncation by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket (tooth marks visible scarring the clay).

Table 21: Trench 24 max depth 0.40m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2400	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.10m
2401	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.10 – 0.25m
2402	Redeposited pale grey / yellowy brown clay	0.25 – 0.35m
2403	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling: 'teeth' marks evident within base of trench from earlier mechanical ground reduction works	0.35 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench and the natural clay showed signs of truncation by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket (tooth marks visible scarring the clay).

Table 22: Trench 25 max depth 0.38m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2500	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.15m
2501	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.15 – 0.27m
2502	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling: 'teeth' marks evident within base of trench from earlier mechanical ground reduction works	0.27 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench and the natural clay showed signs of truncation by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket (tooth marks visible scarring the clay).

Table 23: Trench 26 max depth 0.40m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2600	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.10m
2601	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.10 – 0.25m
2602	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling	0.25 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench, although intact deposits appeared to be present throughout with no evidence of truncation.

Table 24: Trench 27 max depth 0.37m (Figs. 3, Plate 5)

Context	Description	Depth
2700	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.15m
2701	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.15 - 0.25m
2702	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling	0.25 m +
2703	Cut of oval shaped fire pit / hearth demonstrating *in situ* burning on base	0.25 - 0.37m
2704	Fill of [2703]; charcoal rich silty clay	0.25 - 0.37m
2705	Number given to another possible feature just visible as a stain of charcoal extending east out of trench (at east end). Not excavated	0.25m +

Excavation of this trench revealed an oval shaped fire pit/hearth (2703) with evidence of in situ burning. There is also evidence of a further feature (2705) at the far eastern edge of the trench but there was not enough exposed within the trench to make excavation possible. Although no datable material was retrieved from this feature it is thought likely that it is of Romano-British date.

Plate 5: Photograph detailing oval pit/hearth (2703)

Table 25: Trench 28 max depth 0.36m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2800	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.12m
2801	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.12 - 0.28m
2802	Redeposited pale grey / yellowy brown clay	0.28 - 0.34m
2803	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling	0.34 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench, although intact subsoil deposits appeared to be present throughout with no evidence of truncation.

Table 26: Trench 29 max depth 0.41m (Fig. 3)

Context	Description	Depth
2900	Topsoil; mid-brown clayey sandy silt	0 - 0.11m
2901	Subsoil; dark grey brown clayey silt	0.11 – 0.27m
2902	Redeposited pale grey / yellowy brown clay	0.27 – 0.31m
2903	Grey brown residual subsoil surviving to a greater depth at east end of trench under 2902	0.31 – 0.36m
2904	Naturally occurring yellowy brown silty clay with flint gravel inclusions and rust coloured mottling	0.36 m +

No archaeological features or deposits were located in this trench, although intact subsoil deposits appeared to be present throughout with no evidence of truncation.

5 FINDS

By Emma Firth

5.1 The finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. Finds were then quantified according to material type within each context. All metal finds will be x-rayed in order to confirm identification of objects. The assemblage was scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. This information is briefly discussed below. Finds totals by context and material type are given in Table 27.

5.2 Animal Bone

A total of 79 fragments (308g) of animal bone was recovered from two contexts, the majority (77 fragments, 298g) from context 705 and two fragments from context 1102. All the bone is fragmentary, and some animal bone from context 705 has butchery marks.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

Four pieces (370g) of Roman ceramic building material were recovered from context 705.

5.4 Flint and Chert

A total of nine pieces of worked flint and chert was recovered, of which only one recognisable objects as noted - a scraper from context 2704. A single piece of chert recovered from context 800 has evidence of retouching along one edge. The remaining flint is all debitage.

5.5 Iron Objects

A total of six iron objects were recovered, five from context 705, which include a small piece of comparable with Manning's B71, two t-clamps (common Roman nail with a number of uses including attaching box flue tiles to wall) and three unknown objects. A single flat piece of iron was recovered from context 1300.

5.6 Fired Clay

A total of five (34g) small featureless fragments of fired clay were recovered from context 2704. The date of these fragments is possibly prehistoric and they are dated on their association with flint also recovered from this context.

5.7 Slag

A single, small fragment of iron slag was recovered, as with other finds the majority of this was recovered from context 705 (3 fragments, 311g) and a single piece from context 1000. A possible piece of imbrex was recovered from context 1000.

5.8 Roman Pottery

A total of 108 sherds (1092g) of pottery was recovered and is parallel with that recovered during excavations in 1997. The majority of the Romano-British pottery (80 sherds, 680g) was recovered from context 705 with a date range from 2nd to 4th century and includes locally produced coarsewares and finewares. This context includes a range of BB1 forms, including Type 2 jars together with other coarsewares and very abraded New Forest and Oxford colour coated wares. An Oxford colour-coated mortarium in an orange, slightly micaeceous fabric with a brown slip was noted and is Form Young C100 with a date range from 300AD to 400AD. The grits of this mortarium are pink and white sub rounded quartz. The pottery from the other contexts is mainly small, abraded, undiagnostic sherds of BB1 and other coarsewares.

5.9 Medieval Pottery

A single base sherd (18g) was recovered from context 2704. The fabric of this sherd is a micaeceous fabric with flint and limestone temper and has a probable date range as 12th century.

Table 27: Finds by Context

Context	Animal Bone		CBM		Chert		Flint		Fe	fired clay		Slag		Roman Pottery		medieval pottery	
	no.	wgt (g)	no.	wgt (g)	no.	wgt (g)	no.	wgt (g)	no.	no.	wgt (g)	no.	wgt (g)	no.	wgt (g)	no.	wgt (g)
500							1	2						9	14		
700					2	32											
705	77	298	3	311			1	4	6					80	680		
800					1	24								2	22		
805														7	30		
1000			1	59													
1102	2	10					5	45						8	307		
1103														1	3		
1300									1			1	21				
1303														1	36		
2400																1	18
2704							2	16		5	34						
Total	79	308	4	370	3	56	9	67	7	5	34	1	21	108	1092	1	18

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 At the southern end of the site *in situ* Romano-British deposits were encountered immediately beneath the topsoil. These consisted of gullies and ditches and a spread of demolition debris. These features are similar to a number of features uncovered in an earlier (1997) evaluation and watching brief on the site and they are indicative of a small Romano-British settlement.

6.2 At the northern end of the site Trenches 23 & 28 showed a depth of soil before the natural clay was encountered; indicating intact deposits. Trench 27 was the only trench to reveal any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed new pitches. The rest of the trenches in this area of the site indicated that the site had previously been truncated by a mechanical machine fitted with a toothed bucket (perhaps during the land drainage scheme in 1948), prior to levelling the site with redeposited natural clay and a thin topsoil.

6.3 Across the site a number of field drains were encountered. The earliest consisted of limestone rubble filled drains and were largely orientated north to south. These are thought to be of post-medieval date and relate to a system of drainage established before the land was turned into sports pitches. A second set of field drains generally north-east / south-west aligned and consisting of a pierced plastic pipe set within flint gravel were located in the area to the north of the existing all weather pitch. These drains were cut into the layer of redeposited clay (levelling deposit) which underlies most of the site and probably date to the land drainage scheme undertaken in the 1970s.

Broadwey
Higher Manor Farm
Ford
Upwey Sta
Lorton House
The Look Out
Schools
Nottington Court
Redlands
Egdon House
Fig. 3
Fig. 2
Lorton Meadows Nature Reserve
Two Mile Copse
Redlands Farm
Corfe Hill House
Radipole Manor
Causeway Farm
Mount Pleasant Business Park
ton
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Fig. 1: Site Location

Fig. 2: Location plan, Trial Pit 1 and Trenches 5-16

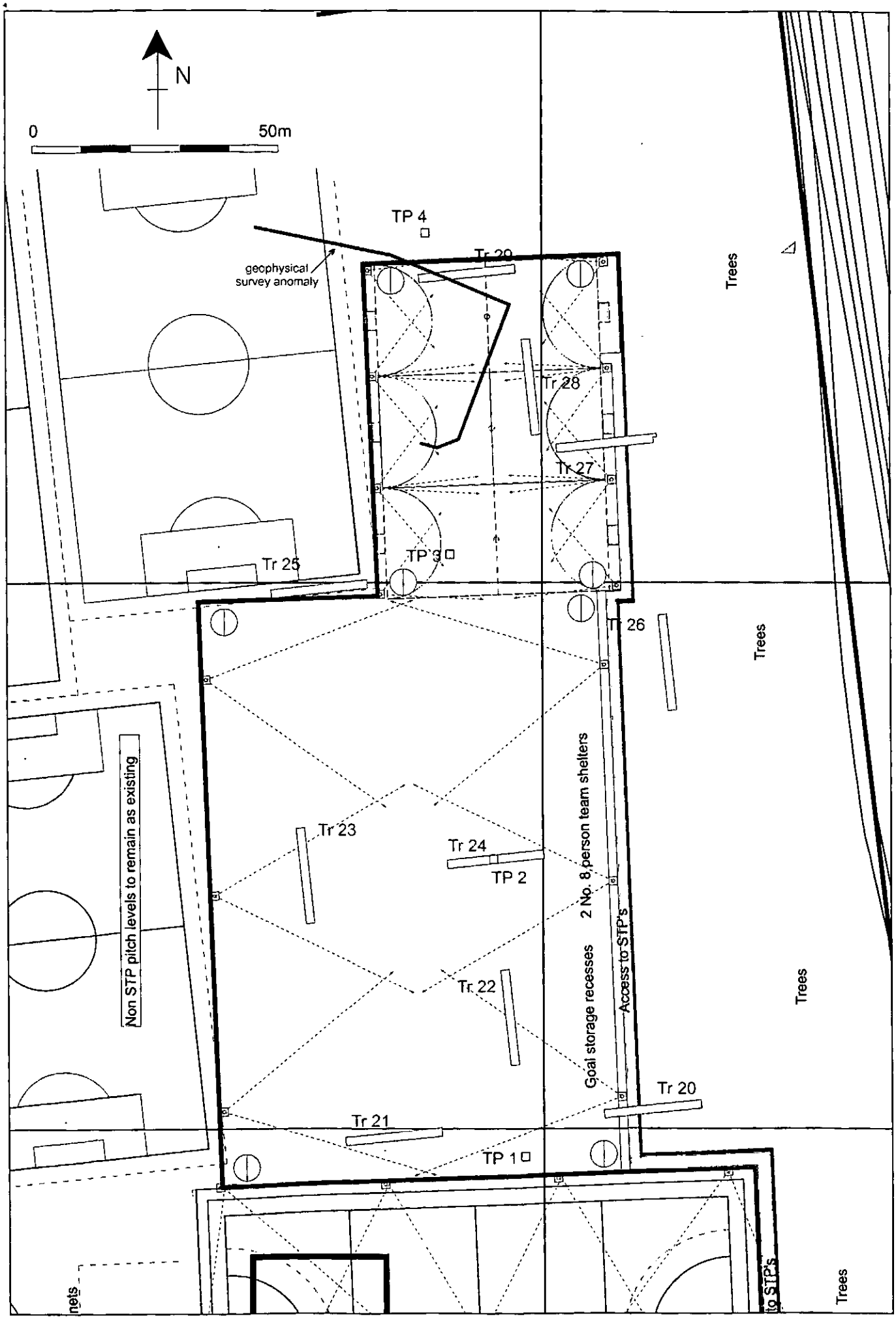

Fig. 3: Location plan, Trial pits 1-4 and Trenches 20-29

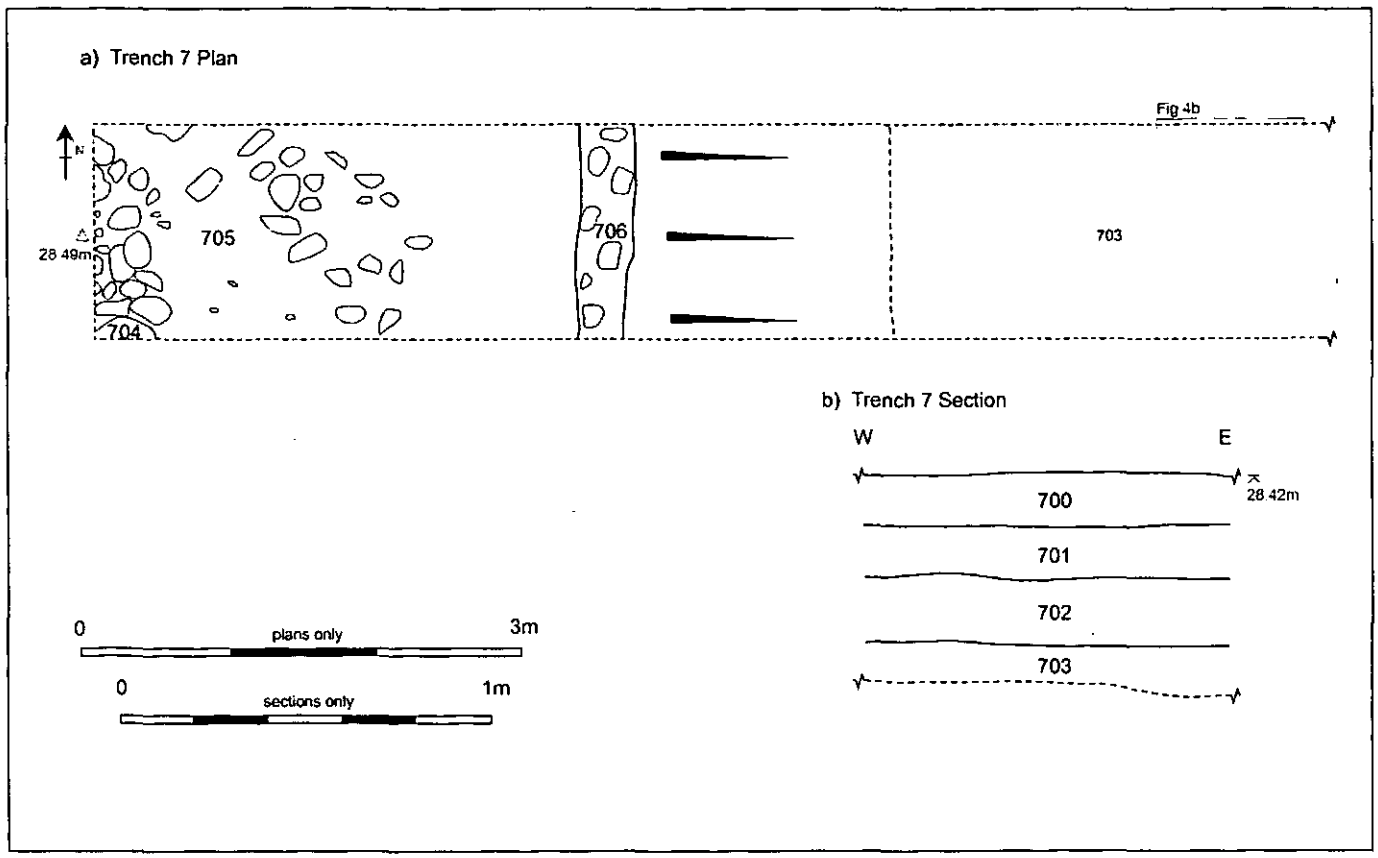

Fig. 4: Plan and section, Trench 7

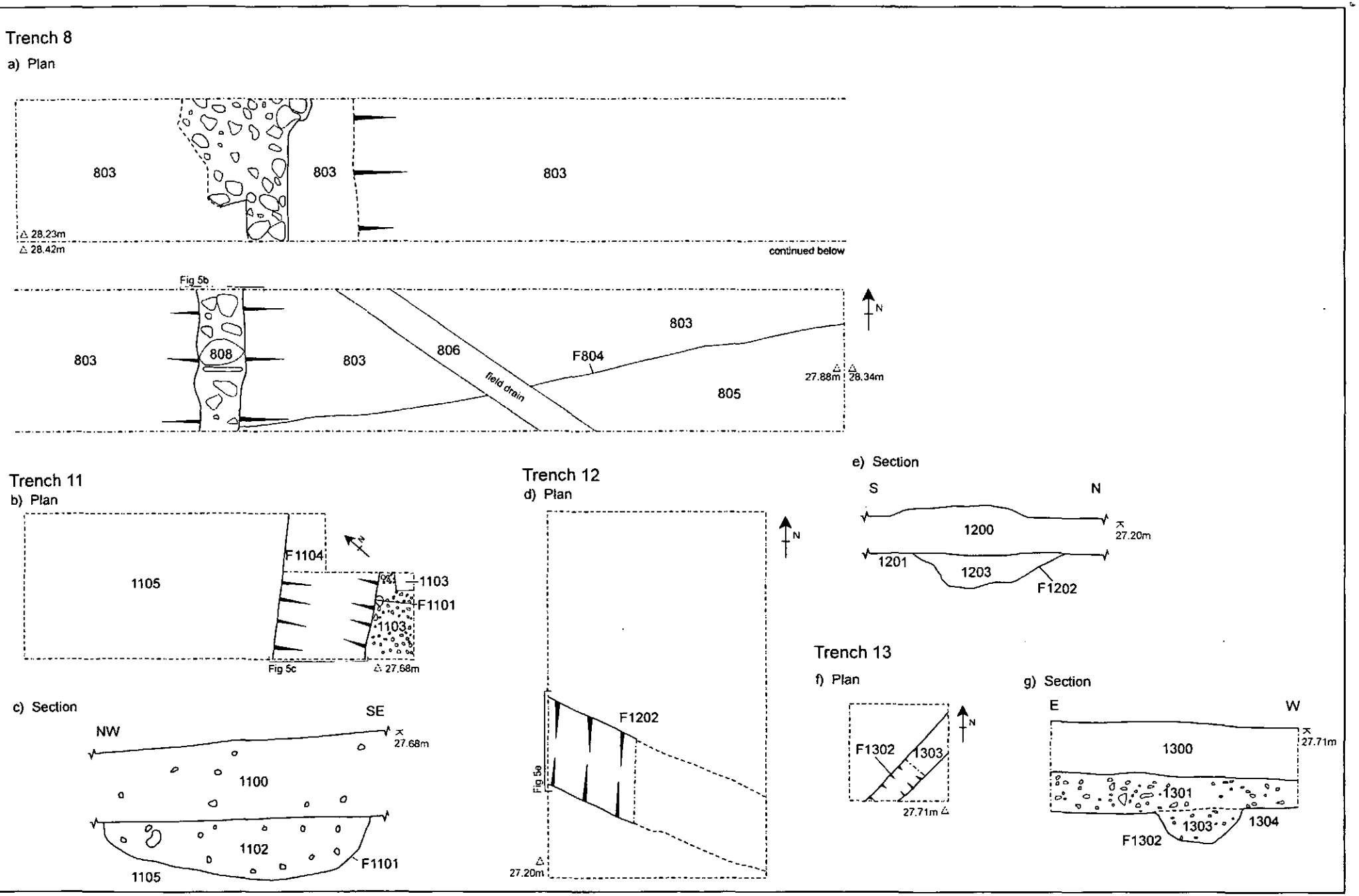

Fig. 5: Plans and sections, Trenches 8, 11, 12 and 13

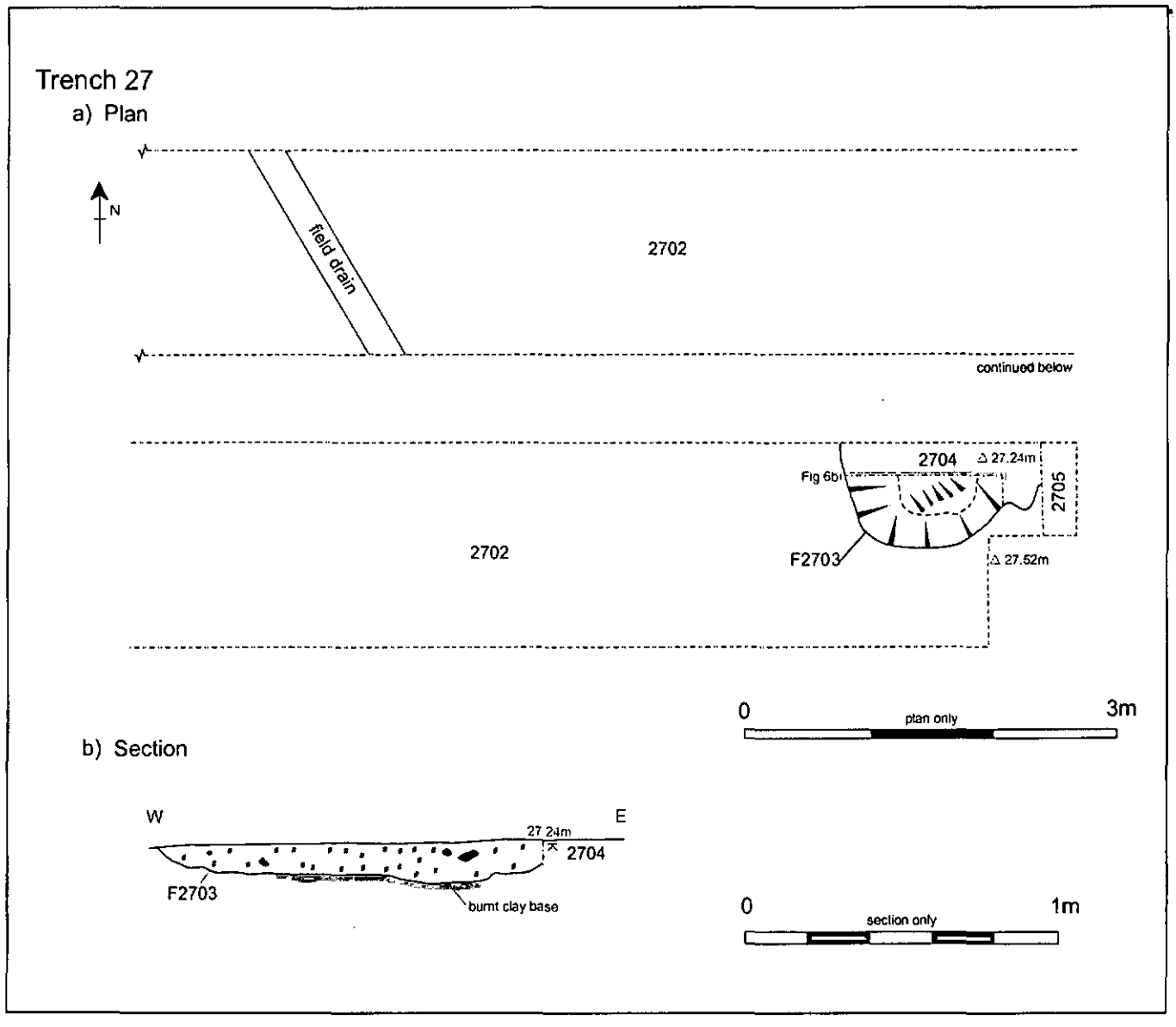

Fig. 6: Plan and section, Trench 27

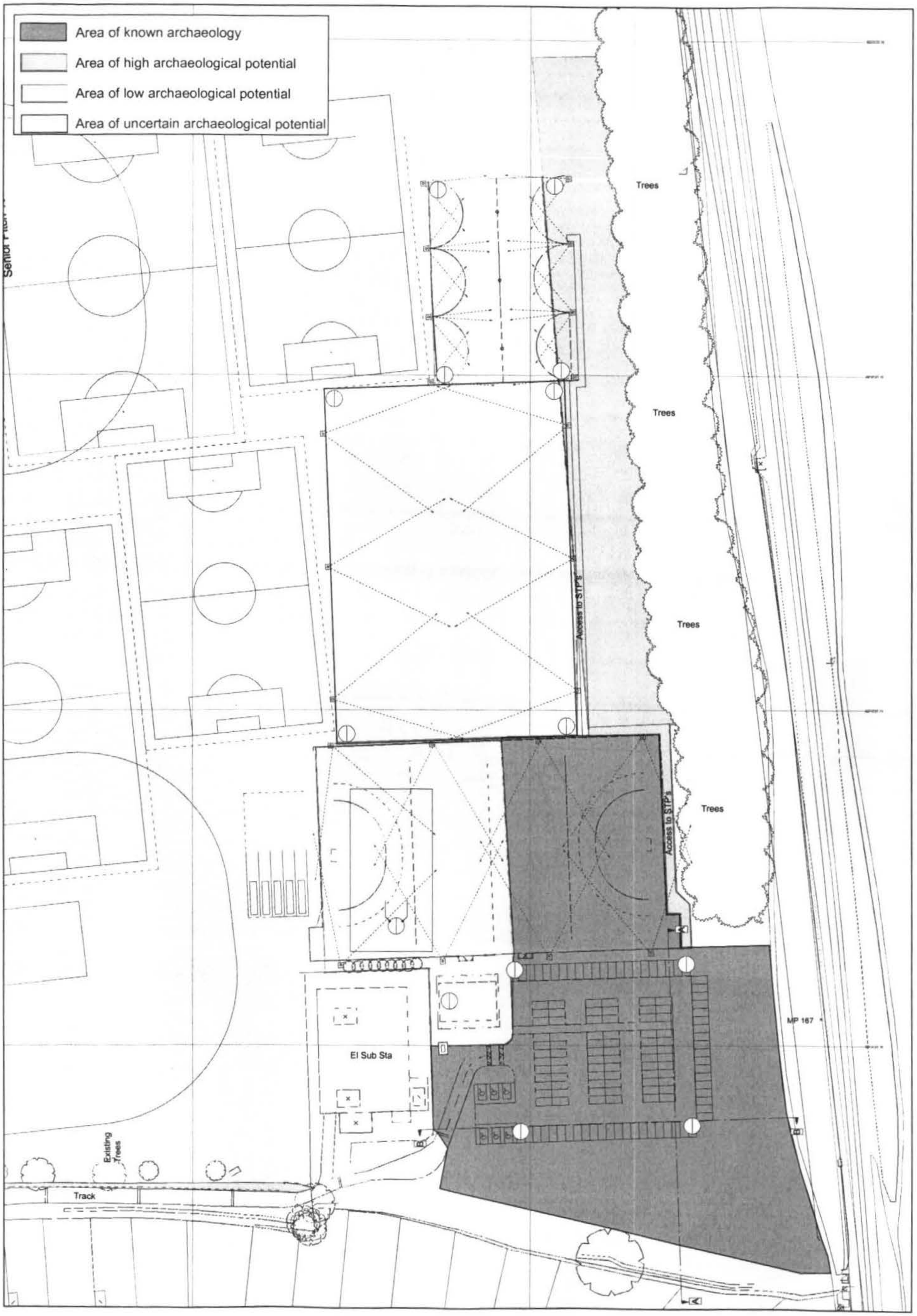

Fig. 7: Deposit model

6.4 The results of the evaluation trenching have enabled a deposit model detailing the archaeological potential of the site in relation to the proposed new facilities to be created (Fig. 7). The deposit model illustrates areas of known archaeological remains, areas of high potential for archaeological remains and areas of low potential for archaeological remains. The area of known archaeology lies within the area of the proposed car park and an area of high archaeological potential lies in a band c. 20m wide to the west of the railway cutting. From this point the site appears to have undergone severe truncation the further to the west within the area evaluated during the course of this investigation.

6.5 Following the results of the evaluation trenching it was decided by the design team that the orientation of the proposed new pitches would be altered to run parallel with the existing pitch rather that the eastern hedge line in order to move the proposed pitches away from the known archaeological remains located in Trench 27. These changes are reflected in the position of the pitches shown on all figures in this report

6.6 A detailed construction methodology for the proposed facilities in these two areas of the site will be submitted along with this report as part of the planning application.

7 REFERENCES

Belcher, M, 2008 Redlands Sports Centre, Weymouth Dorset: Geophysical Survey.

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