1998-145

Archaeological Evaluation

Marley Road at

~~Clebland~~, Harrietsham,

Maidstone, Kent.

June 1998

Archaeological Evaluation at [redacted], Marley Road, Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent.

Site Code: GLH98.
Site No.
O.S. NGR TQ 8747 5292

Introduction.

During June 1998 the Canterbury Archaeological Trust conducted a short predetermination evaluation on the plot of land known as Glebeland, in the village of Harrietsham (Fig. 1). The work was conducted for Kent County Council at the instruction of the Heritage Conservation Group. The evaluation was required because the land is being considered for development and the archaeological potential is such that it could place constraints on this The area is known to be rich in archaeological material; the Trust conducted an extensive rescue excavation on a plot of land adjacent to the site in 1997 and in 1985 KARU conducted excavations within the neighbouring rectory garden, a number of incidental finds have also been recovered from the nearby churchyard and surrounding land (see below).

Prior to evaluation a geophysical survey was commissioned; the survey was conducted by A. Bartlett of the Clark Laboratory of the Museum of London (Site at Marley Road, Harrietsham, Kent, MoLAS, 1998). This indicated the presence of a large number of features thought to be of potential archaeological nature. The purpose of the evaluation was to ascertain whether these features were of archaeological significance or whether they were natural anomalies.

In general the results of the evaluation indicate that a large proportion of the possible features shown by the geophysical survey are probably of an archaeological nature. Significantly not all of the features located during trenching were indicated by the geophysical survey and so it can be concluded that those areas which appear blank from the geophysical data may contain features. Most notable in this respect is the fact that the Late Iron Age road observed during the 1997 excavation, and located in trench 3 during this work, did not show up as an anomaly. Dating evidence from the features located and excavated was unfortunately poor though it is clear that they were of an archaeological nature. This paucity of cultural material is characteristic of both pre-historic and Anglo-Saxon sites, and so should not be considered to be negative in its implications.

Site Location and Geology.

Harrietsham is located at the foot of the North Downs, beneath a steep scarp. The underlying geology of the area is chalk, which is overlain by a head deposit in the area of this investigation (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 288). During the 1997 excavation the head was observed to consists of mixed clay, gravel and bracciated chalk with outcrops of solid chalk. The natural subsoil observed during this evaluation consisted entirely of bracciated chalk. To the west of the site there are several small lakes, these have been heavily altered by man but may mark the presence of natural springs.

The site is located in the north-east part of the field known as Glebeland; the southern part of the field has already been developed and this was the subject of the 1997 investigation by the Trust (Fig. 2). The site is bounded to the north by Marley Road, to the east by Church Road and to the south-east by St Welcume's Way. The church rectory occupies the north-west corner of the field and the church lies to the north of the field on the opposite side of Marley Road. An area of the field designated as open land separates the rectory from the area of investigation.

Archaeological Background.

The site lies beneath the south face of the North Downs, immediately below one of the major prehistoric track ways, The North Downs Way. However little evidence of prehistoric activity had been recovered in the vicinity until the excavation on the southern part of the field in 1997. This is probably due to the limited opportunities for investigation in the area rather than an absence of material.

Incidental finds within the graveyard of Harrietsham Church have suggested that the archaeological potential of the area is substantial. They include an Iron Age coin, two Roman cremation burials and several Anglo-Saxon finds (SMR NO TQ 85 SE 2). The Anglo-Saxon finds include a goblet, a crystal ball and a radiate bronze fibula. An Anglo-Saxon burial was reported a short distance from the site. Harrietsham church is a fine medieval church incorporating elements covering a wide date span, the earliest surviving part probably being eleventh-century or earlier.

In 1985 the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit (KARU) conducted the excavation of one or more trenches within the Rectory garden. Unfortunately this work has not been published and was not made generally known. The excavation indicated the presence of pits and ditches of unspecified Roman date. Additional communications suggest that the walls of a building were located and that box flue tiles were associated with it. Less well supported reports indicate that in the area around the Lakes, to the immediate west of the site, another standing section of wall was located along with an inhumation burial. Further watching brief work may have been undertaken by KARU in advance of the construction of the Glebe Medical Centre and the Harrietsham Community Hall. If this is so the work failed to locate or to report the extensive archaeological remains that undoubtedly exist(ed) in this area.

In 1997 the Trust conducted an excavation in advance of development of the southern portion of Glebeland (Fig. 2) (Glebeland, Harrietsham, Interim Report, CAT,1997). This work exposed significant archaeological strata, in places over 1.0 m deep, spread over most of the area of the development. The evidence from this work indicates multi-period occupation of the site beginning in the Late Iron Age and continuing throughout much of the Roman period, the site was abandoned for a short period before being reoccupied between the fifth and seventh centuries. Residual finds from features included Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery, indicating the proximity of earlier settlement.

The Iron Age and Roman occupation appears to have been centred to the west of the site, a large north-south aligned boundary ditch ran across the site, crossed on a causeway by a flint metalled road. The road was aligned roughly west to east, with its projected course extending across the centre of the area of the current investigation. Concentrated at the meeting of the road and the boundary ditch were a number of cremation burials, dated to the second half of the first century B.C. or the early first century A.D.. The evidence indicates that the flint road was contemporary with the burials and was therefore Iron Age. The road and ditch remained in use into the Roman period, with the ditch gradually becoming filled and having to be recut. To the west of the boundary ditch there was a greater density of features than to the east. The features on both sides of the boundary ditch consisted mainly of post-holes, ditches, gullies and large pits, there were no identifiable structures.

The Iron Age and Roman features were buried over much of the site by a layer of silt into which were cut the footings of seven large aisled buildings. The buildings were badly truncated and no occupation layers survived; they were formed from flint packed into foundation trenches with parallel lines of post-holes set close to their side walls, the two best preserved examples measured 12.5 m. wide and would probably have been 25 m. long. The evidence suggested these buildings to have been Anglo-Saxon, probably dating to the sixth or seventh century. The distribution of these buildings suggested that the settlement might extend north of the area of the excavation, into the western area of the current investigation.

The distribution of features was mainly in the centre and west of the site, with no survival on the east side against St Welcume's Road. However, as noted, the Iron Age road was aligned across the area under evaluation, and survival of features on the north side of the road was high. The stripping of topsoil for the formation of an access road from the north edge of the development to the north side of the field, opposite the west end of the churchyard, revealed features extending from the site to within 10.0 m. of Marley Road. These included pits and ditches, many of which may be expected to extend into the area of this investigation. None were excavated but surface finds from several indicated them to be Roman or later, possibly Anglo-Saxon.

Aims and Objectives.

The objective of the investigation was to determine the character, date, extent, quality and depth of any features observed. The aim being to determine whether the geophysical survey accurately indicates the presence of features in the two areas indicated in the report and to determine the presence and condition of the road within this area.

Method.

Six trenches were excavated by machine using a 1.5 m ditching bucket; four measuring 20 m. in length and two measuring 10 m.. The trench location was determined by the Heritage Conservation Group on the basis of the information provided by the geophysical survey. It was not possible to accurately reinstate the survey grid and so the trenches could not be located precisely. The trenches were all excavated to a depth at which it became apparent that features of an archaeological nature were present. Site records were maintained in accordance with the specification set by the Heritage Conservation Group.

Observations.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 & 5).

Trench 1 was located at the north-west corner of the area of the investigation, over a small cluster of magnetic and resistivity anomalies. The trench was 20 m. long, aligned roughly north-east to south-west; it was excavated to a depth of between 0.35m. and 0.4 m., exposing natural head chalk (1050) at a depth of 0.25 m. Cut into natural were eight features of which three were excavated (cuts 1002, 1004 & 1006); of the remaining five features four lay largely outside the trench limits but sufficient could be observed to suggest that they were man made. The fill of several of the features was very chalky and difficult to distinguish from the surrounding head chalk, only showing after thorough cleaning and rainfall.

A group of three intercutting features was located approximately 4 m. from the west end of the trench (cuts 1002, 1004 & 1008). Cut 1008 extended beneath the north trench edge; it appeared to be roughly circular in plan, measuring at least 2.75 m. across. The cut was filled by a chalky silt (1007) with few inclusions visible. The fill was not excavated from the cut and no cultural material was recovered. About 0.5 m to the south-east was a large oval cut (1004), 2.4 m. wide by over 1.3 m. long and 0.6 m. deep, extending beneath the south trench edge. The sides sloped irregularly at about 40° to an uneven flat base. The cut was filled by a chalky silt (1003) with occasional land snail, oyster shell, animal bone and daub, a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered. The appearance of the fill suggested that it had probably resulted from natural processes rather than intentional backfilling. Cutting the fills of these two features was an oval or circular cut, 2.6 m. wide and 0.55 m. deep, extending beneath the south section. The sides sloped down at about 45° to a flat base. The fill consisted of a chalky silt (1001), containing occasional flint, oyster shell, land snail, animal bone fragments, large ragstone boulders, carbon flecks, daub lumps and two pot sherds. The

pottery was prehistoric and appeared to be residual. The fill of the feature appeared to be the result of natural deposition. The fill was removed from within the trench.

Immediately to the west of this group of features was another cut (1010) filled by a grey-brown silt (1009), lying under the south trench edge. The limited extent of the feature visible indicated it to be circular or oval in plan, measuring 1.3 m. across. Another feature was observed at the west end of the trench, largely beyond the trench limits. The cut (1012) appeared to be circular in plan, measuring over 0.85 m. across, and was filled by a mid - light brown silt (1011). Neither of these features was sampled as they lay predominantly outside the trench.

To the east of the group of intercutting features a further three features were located, all extending under the north edge of the trench. Cut 1006 appeared to be the earliest of the three, and this lay sufficiently far into the trench to be excavated; the remaining two features (1014 & 1016) lay almost entirely outside the trench and so were not excavated.

Cut 1006 appeared to be sub-circular in plan with side sloping at about 75° to an uneven flat base; it measured over 1.7 m. across by 0.55 m. deep. The cut was filled by a light brown chalky silt (1005) with few inclusions; the latter consisting of a fragment of Roman tile, oyster shell, carbon flecking and animal bone. The west edge of this feature was cut into, against the section, by cut 1014. Only the southern 0.25 m. of the feature was visible; its south edge appeared to be linear with rounded corners, suggesting a sub-rectangular plan, its width being about 2.0 m.. The feature was filled by a mid brown chalky silt (1013). During machining a small group of iron work was retrieved from the upper part of the fill. Though it is not absolutely clear whether these were from the feature or from a later cut into it. A second apparently sub-rectangular feature (cut 1016) lay 0.5 m. to the east of cut 1014; as with cut 1014 only the southern 0.25 m. of the feature lay within the trench. The feature was filled by a mid brown chalky silt (1015). The cuts appeared similar in plan, though cut 1016 was slightly smaller at 1.8 m. wide, as did the fills, suggesting that they may have been contemporary and have served the same function.

Ascribing functions to the features observed in this trench was not possible, all of those sampled appeared to have been backfilled by natural processes, probably erosion and wind deposition, over a period of time. The nature of the inclusions did not suggest rubbish disposal as a primary, or even secondary function, rather it appeared to be an incidental action. The nature of the features was not suggestive of structural usage such as post support.

The features were sealed beneath 0.25 - 0.3 m. of topsoil.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 & 5).

Trench 2 was located on the west side of the site, 20 m. south of trench 1, it was 10 m. long aligned north-south. It was excavated to a depth of about 0.4 m., natural head chalk (1050) was encountered at 0.25 m.. Three archaeological and one natural features were located within the trench.

A large circular pit (cut 1022) was located 1.5 m. from the north end of the trench, extending into the east section. The cut was about 1.6 m. in diameter and over 0.8 m deep, the feature was not bottomed due to the practicality of space; the top break of slope was sharp and the sides sloped steeply down. The fill (1021) was a light brown chalky silt, becoming more chalky with depth. There were few inclusions in the deposit; these consisted mainly of flint and carbon flecking, though some land snail shells were present. No cultural material was recovered. The function of the feature was not apparent; its shape was consistent with use as a rubbish pit or a post-pit but no evidence for either function was observed. To the immediate south-west of this feature was an area of disturbance which excavation proved to be a natural, possibly an animal burrow.

About 3.0 m. from its south end an east-west aligned ditch (cut 1020) ran across the trench. The ditch was 1.15 m. wide and 0.45 m. deep; its top break of slope was sharp, the sides sloping inwards at about 45° before curving to a rounded base. The ditch was filled by a mid brown clayey silt (1019) with few inclusions, mainly flint and carbon flecking with a single fragment of animal bone. No cultural material was recovered. The ditch alignment was compared with the strip and map conducted on the area of the temporary access road during the 1997 excavation and a possible corresponding ditch was noted.

Against the west edge of the trench the ditch had been cut into by a later feature, post-dating its backfilling. The cut (1018) was circular in plan, with sides sloping steeply to a rounded base; it was 0.6 m. in diameter and 0.40 m. in depth. The fill (1017) was a uniform mid brown clayey silt with flint inclusions. The feature was possibly a post-hole. No cultural material was recovered from the feature.

The features were sealed beneath 0.25 m. of topsoil.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 & 5).

Trench 3 was located just to the south of site centre on the west side of the main area of anomalies shown by the geophysical survey. The position of the trench was also on the predicted alignment of the Iron Age road identified during the 1997 excavation. The trench was aligned roughly north-west to south-east and was 20 m. long.

At the north-west end and in the centre of the trench natural head chalk (1050) was observed at a depth 0.25 m. At the south-west end of the trench flint metalling (1046), apparently set into a crushed chalk deposit (1047), was exposed. The metalling was identical in appearance to that of the Iron Age road observed in 1997 and was on almost precisely the predicted alignment. The trench exposed approximately 6 m. of metalling, running across the road at an angle to its central axis. Only the north edge of the metalling was located, aligned roughly east-west. To the immediate north of the road surface was a linear feature (cut 1025), 1.6 m. wide, filled by a mid brown clayey silt (1024). Though not excavated the feature was thought likely to be a roadside ditch. A scatter of flints (1023) extended across the fill of the ditch forming a surface, it was poorer quality than the metalling to the south of the ditch and was interpreted as a late extension to the road surface, this is supported by the observations made during the 1997 excavation. A thin layer of grey brown silt (1034) was observed lying over the metalled surface. Despite the shallow depth of the road surface there was very little evidence for plough damage to the metalling.

Approximately 6.5 m. to the north-west of the road were two linear feature and a probable post-hole. The southern of the two linear features appeared to be a ditch (cut 1027), 1.0 m. wide, aligned roughly east-west. However on excavation it proved so shallow that a firm conclusion as to whether it was a natural feature or a severely truncated man-made feature was not possible. Its fill (1026) was a chalky-silt, similar to the material excavated from proven features. About 0.5 m. to the north of this feature, and parallel to it, was the second linear feature (cut 1031). Excavation of the feature indicated it to have a sharp top break of slope, with sides sloping in at about 60 ° and curving sharply to form a flat even base. The cut measured 2.75 m. across by 0.2 m. deep; the two sides observed were parallel, aligned east-west across the trench. The feature was filled by a chalky silt (1030) with few inclusions. Although no inclusions of clearly human origin were located the regularity of the features shape suggests that it was man-made; without exposing more of the feature it is difficult to interpret its function or nature. Cutting the fill of the linear feature (1031) was a curving feature (cut1033) filled by a brown clayey silt (1032). The feature lay largely outside the trench, but appeared likely to be a post-hole with a diameter of about 0.6 m.. No finds were recovered from the fill.

The features were sealed beneath about 0.25 m. of topsoil.

Trench 4 (Figs 4 & 6).

Trench 4 was located close to the east edge of the site, it measured 10 m. in length and was aligned roughly east-west. The position of the trench was chosen to locate and determine the nature of a large anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

Head chalk was encountered at a depth of about 0.2m at the west end of the trench, the remainder of the trench being taken up by a substantial feature (cut 1029). The west edge of the cut was identified 1.2 m. from the east end of the trench, extending in a straight line across the trench; its dimensions could not be determined, but it clearly measured in excess of 8.0 m. across. The feature was filled by a uniform mid brown clayey silt (1028) with flint an carbon inclusions. The fill was partially excavated by machine at the west end of the trench, indicating it to be over 2.0 m. deep. No finds were recovered from the fill and so no indication of dating could be obtained; however the nature of the fill suggested the feature to be of archaeological nature, and the backfilling to be intentional. The reason for the creation of this feature cannot be determined from the area exposed, but possible explanations include quarrying for chalk or flint, or a pond. The latter suggestion is less likely since the depth of the feature was great and there was no trace of waterlogged deposits or water-borne deposition.

The feature was sealed beneath about 0.25 m. of topsoil.

Trench 5 (Figs 4 & 6).

Trench 5 was located to the east of the centre of the site in the centre of the main area of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench measured 20 m. in length and was aligned roughly north-west to south-east.

Natural head chalk (1050) was identified at a depth of 0.3 m.. Two features were observed to cut the natural in this trench. At the north-west end of the trench a sub-circular or oval cut (1037), 2.2 m. in diameter, extended beneath the north section. The top break of slope was sharp with its sides sloping steeply but irregularly, under-cutting in places, to a rounded base at a depth of 0.95 m.. The lower fill (1036) of the feature consisted of a green tinged, light brown chalky silt with no inclusions. The upper fill (1035) was a mid brown clayey silt, containing small quantities of animal bone, oyster shell, flint, ragstone and Roman brick fragments. The nature of the fill suggested the feature may have been a cess or rubbish pit.

The second feature was located in the centre of the trench, extending under its north and south edges. The cut (1039) appeared circular in plan, with a diameter of 3.6 m. It was filled by a light brown chalky silt (1038). The fill was partially excavated but produced no cultural material and its depth was not determined. The function of the cut could not be determined.

The features were sealed beneath about 0.30 m. of topsoil.

Trench 6 (Figs 4 & 6).

Trench 6 was located in the north-west corner of the site, across a number of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 20 m. in length.

Natural head chalk (1050) was encountered at a depth of 0.25 m.. Cutting the natural at the south-west end of the trench was gully, aligned roughly east-west. The edges of the cut were parallel, the top break of slope sharp, the sides sloping down at about 60-80 °, turning sharply to a flat base. The gully was 0.45 m. wide reducing to 0.25 m. at its base, its depth was 0.25 m..

A substantial area of disturbance (1041), about 8.0 m. wide and extending to the north and south of the trench limits, was located mid way along the trench; its nature suggested it to be a pit complex. No attempt was made to excavate the disturbance as identifying individual

features was not possible in the limited area exposed and it was thought unlikely to contribute greatly to the data already gathered. No cultural material was observed while cleaning across the surface of the disturbance.

The features were sealed beneath about 0.25 m. of topsoil.

Discussion.

All six evaluation trenches exposed archaeological features, clearly indicating that the site located in 1997 extends into the area of the proposed development. The number of features encountered suggests a high level of activity across the whole area. The Late Iron Age road identified in the 1997 excavation was located in trench 3, on almost the exact predicted alignment. The state of preservation of the metalling was excellent indicating very limited damage from ploughing. This in turn suggests that the features over the rest of the site will not be extensively truncated and so the state of preservation of the archaeological record is anticipated to be high.

The evidence from trenches 1 and 2 indicates that there is a concentration of features in the north-west corner of the area under investigation. This corroborates the observations made during the topsoil stripping for the construction of the access road from Marley Road to the end of Harrison Close, during 1997. The strip and map conducted in this area revealed the presence of three ditches, four pits, apparent horizontal layers, and the footings of two large aisled buildings, thought to be Anglo-Saxon in date. The latter structures being located not far from the south-east corner of the proposed development area. The distribution of the buildings suggests that further structures could be located in the site of investigation, particularly in the south-east corner.

Assessing the concentration of features in the south-west of the site is more complexed. Trench 4 was located almost entirely over a large feature of indeterminate function, possibly a quarry pit, and so it is difficult to draw conclusions about the general area from this trench. Trench 3, while indicating the alignment and good preservation of the road and associated ditch, only exposed two other definite features. How this relates to the general density of features in the area in the area cannot be determined.

In the north-east corner of the field the density of features appears to be less than to the north-west, though the possible pit complex in trench 6 may indicate a concentration of activity in this area. However it must be emphasised that the sample of the area provided by these trenches was limited, representing a smaller percentage of the area than would normally be the case for a site of known potential, and this density may not be representative.

A total of twenty-two features were observed in the six trenches, consisting of: nine large pits; five possible post-holes; two ditches; a gully; a metalled road surface; a pit complex; a possible quarry pit; and two linear features. No masonry was observed and no features were identifiable as belonging to any structures. Interpretation of the two linear features, both from trench 3, was not possible within the area exposed; one may have been a natural feature while the other was sufficiently regular to be man-made, though its profile did not suggest it to be a ditch. The width and profile observed within the trench could be consistent with its having been a sunken featured building, a typical Anglo-Saxon form, but without wider soil stripping this interpretation remains questionable. The primary functions of the large pits were not readily determined, only cut 1037, in trench 5, had evidence for primary use for cess or rubbish disposal and it may be that the remainder served as storage pits. The bulk of the remaining pits appeared to have been backfilled over a period of time by natural processes, erosion and wind deposition.

The recovery of cultural material from the evaluation was minimal, only trenches 1, 3 and 5 produced any finds, as a result of which it is not possible to date the features closely. The three sherds of pottery recovered from features 1002 and 1004 in trench 1 were not

diagnostic, they were thought to be of late Iron Age date and were residual. The group of iron objects retrieved from the top of deposit 1013, in trench 1, are difficult to date, the latest piece probably deriving from a nineteenth century agricultural machine. As noted above the exact providence of these artefacts was not clear, they lay on the interface between the fill of the feature and topsoil, and though they were clearly buried as a group, their presence at the top of fill 1013 may be coincidental. The presence of Roman tile in two features, cuts 1004, trench 1, and 1037, trench 5, clearly dates these to the Roman period or later.

The regularity of shape of all but one of the features, combined with the nature of their fills leaves no doubt about their being man-made. The absence of dateable material from most of the sampled features makes it difficult to date the occupation of the site. However their appearance suggests them to be of some antiquity, a view supported by the known archaeology of the immediate area. That the features are not late medieval or post-medieval is almost certain since most appear to have been filled in over a period of time and it is unlikely that pits would have been left open for any length of time in an area of cultivation, the land being agricultural land given to the church in lieu of tithe or rent. The occupation of this part Glebeland, as with that developed in 1997 may be multi-phase, with features dating from the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, the metalled road surface and associated ditch being of known late Iron Age and early Roman date. The absence of cultural material is not unusual, particularly on pre-historic and Anglo-Saxon sites and so is not significant in itself

Comparison with Geophysical Survey.

As stated above it was not possible to reinstate the geophysical survey grid with any precision. The trenches were located by EDM total station and tied in to existing features in the landscape. They were than plotted on the 1:2500 scale map giving a best fit. The O.S. map contains a degree of error which compounds the problems of reinstatement of the geophysical survey grid, and so precise comparison of data is not possible. However broad comparison of the data can be made with a reasonable degree of confidence, though this requires slight adjustment of the position of the evaluation trenches in relation to the survey data.

Given the problems noted above correlation between the geophysical survey and the evaluation does exist, a number of the anomalies shown by the plot appear to coincide with features observed in the trenches. However the precise shapes and sizes of the features are more difficult to predict from the geophysical survey and notably the absence of anomalous survey data cannot be taken to indicate an absence of archaeological features. Most notable in this respect was the fact that there was no clear indication of the road alignment, despite its proximity to the surface and its high state of preservation, noted in trench 3. Observation of the survey plot in relation to the predicted road alignment suggests that the road may in fact show, but only by virtue of the lower density of anomalous readings along its path.

The cluster of features observed in trench 1 can be divided into two separate groups, one in the centre of the trench and one towards the south-east. These features are probably represented on the geophysical survey by two of the anomalies grouped in the north-west corner, a third anomaly probably lay just outside the trench, to its east and the beginning of this may just have been located (cut 1012). Trench 2 was positioned in order to locate a single anomaly close to its north end, and this probably corresponds with cut 1021, though the survey failed to show ditch 1020 or cut 1018. Trench 3 was positioned over a large area of anomaly to the north-west and an area of normal reading to the south-east. The latter corresponded with the road position, while the former may have been the linear features 1027 and 1031. Trench 4 was located to detect another large anomalous area and this can be associated with confidence with the large feature 1029, thought to be a quarry. Trench 5 is more difficult to compare, although it was located in an area of multiple anomalies only two features were located, one at the north-west end of the trench and the other in the centre. These can be made to correspond with areas of anomaly but only by severely distorting the trench position in relation to the remaining five trenches. Similarly trench 6 is difficult to

compare, indeed the possible pit complex 1041appears to lie in an area between anomalies. The gully (1045) in trench 6 may be shown by the magnetic susceptibility reading (?), but not by the resistivity or magnetometer survey.

Conclusion.

The results of the evaluation are clear in that they indicate the presence of archaeological features across the entire site. That these are of real significance is evident, the surrounding archaeological material has already been shown to be of high quality (Glebeland, Harrietsham, Interim Report, CAT,1997), incidental finds further strengthen this view as does the presence of eleventh century fabric within the neighbouring church. Dating of the site is less clear but the evidence would support Iron Age and Roman activity, with the distinct possibility of Anglo-Saxon occupation. The presence of the Iron Age road is itself of importance and any proposals for the area would have to take account of its presence, state of preservation and its early date. It is further possible that cremation burials will be found scattered along its length, although the bulk of those found in 1997 were clustered at its junction with the Iron Age boundary ditch. Finds from the churchyard include a goblet, brooch and crystal ball and are suggestive of Anglo-Saxon burials; the limits of such burial activity may not be confined to the present churchyard. There is therefore a small possibility of burials within the northern part of the field.

The comparison of the geophysical survey data with the evaluation data does suggest a broad degree of correlation. A significant number of the anomalies detected by the survey appear to be reasonably close to features observed. From this it can be assumed that a high proportion of the anomalies identified are archaeological features, conversely those area which appear blank in the survey cannot be assumed to be devoid of archaeological features. It can be suggested from ther evidence of both the evaluation and the geophysical survey that there is a relatively high concentration of features over the entire area of the site.

Confidence Rating.

Although the evaluation trenches represent a small sample of the area of the proposed development, much smaller than would be required normally in an area of known archaeological potential, the results are conclusive. They indicate the existence of the road suffering limited damage and allow the prediction of its course. They show the presence of features in all the areas high-lighted by the geophysical survey. Despite the limited quantity of cultural material the features are, beyond doubt, contemporary or overlapping with occupation to the south-west. The results of the evaluation, in isolation from the geophysical survey, can therefore be given a confidence rating of 95%. Correlation with the survey is less certain and can only be given a rating of between 60 and 70%.

Context No.	Trench No.	Description.	Stratigraphically Below	Stratigraphically Above
1000	1-6	Machined material/topsoil.		
1001	1	Chalky silt, fill of cut 1002. Probably deposited by natural processes. Contained animal bone ,oyster shell, Roman tile & pre-historic pot sherds.	1000	1002
1002	1	Oval or sub-circular cut, 2.6 m. wide x 0.55 m. deep. Function uncertain, waste material within cut appeared incidental.	1001	1003, 1007
1003	1	Chalky silt, fill of cut 1004. Probably deposited by natural processes. Contained animal bone ,oyster shell, Roman tile & pre-historic pot sherds.	1002	1004
1004	1	Large oval cut, 2.4 m. wide x over 1.3 m. x 0.6 m. deep. Function uncertain, waste material within cut appeared incidental.	1003	1050
1005	1	Chalky silt, fill of cut 1006. Probably natural backfilling. Contained carbon flecking, animal bone & oyster in small quantities. No cultural material recovered.	1014	1006
1006	1	Sub-circular cut, over 1.7 m. across. Function uncertain, possibly a rubbish pit.	1005	1050
1007	1	Chalky silt, fill of cut 1008. Not excavated & no cultural material recovered.	1002	1008
1008	1	Sub-circular cut, over 2.7 m. in diameter. Function uncertain, possibly a rubbish pit.	1007	1050
1009	1	Grey brown silt filling cut 1010. Not excavated & no cultural material recovered.	1000	1010
1010	1	Sub-circular cut, measuring over 1.3 m. in diameter. Lay largely outside of trench. Possibly a rubbish pit or post-pit.	1009	1050
1011	1	Mid brown clay silt, fill of cut 1012. Not excavated & no cultural material recovered	1000	1012
1012	1	Circular cut, measuring over 0.85 m. across extending under the section. Function uncertain, possibly a rubbish pit or post-pit.	1011	1050
1013	1	Mid brown chalky silt, fill of 1014. Partially excavated to remove small group of iron work & prevent contamination of earlier feature, cut 1006.	1000	1014
1014	1	Apparently rectangular feature, about 2.0 m. wide, lying mainly outside the trench. Function uncertain.	1013	1005
1015	1	Mid brown chalky silt, fill of 1016. Not excavated & no cultural material recovered.	1000	1016
1016	1	Apparently rectangular feature, about 1.8 m. wide, lying mainly outside the trench. Uncertain function.	1015	1050
1017	2	Mid brown clayey silt, fill of cut 1017. Few inclusions, mainly flint, carbon & chalk flecks. No cultural material was recovered.	1000	1018
1018	2	Circular cut, 0.60 m in diameter x 0.4 m. in depth. Possibly a post-hole.	1017	1019
1019	2	Mid brown clayey silt, fill of ditch 1020. Contained a single animal bone fragment.	1018	1020
1020	2	East-west aligned ditch, 1.15 m wide x 0.45 m deep. V-shaped profile with a rounded base.	1019	1050
1021	2	Light brown chalky silt, fill of cut 1022. Few inclusions, mainly flint & carbon flecking.	1000	1022

1022	2	Circular pit, measuring over 1.6 m in diameterand excavated to a depth of 0.8 m.. Possibly a post-pit or rubbish pit. Not bottomed due to practical considerations.	1021	1050
1023	3	Poor quality flint metalling extending over fill 1024 of roadside ditch 1025.	1034	1024
1024	3	Clayey silt backfill to roadside ditch 1025. Not excavated.	1024	1025
1025	3	Cut of roadside ditch. Width c. 1.75 m., depth not observed.	1024	1050
1026	3	Clay silt with high chalk content, possibly natural.	1000	1027
1027	3	Linear feature, possibly natural. Too shallow to draw any real conclusions on its nature.	1026	1050
1028	4	Mid brown silty clay, w. chalk & carbon inclusions, filling cut 1029. Devoid of any cultural material.	1000	1029
1029	4	Large feature extending beyond the north, west &south trench limits. Only east edge visible, 1 m. from end of trench. Shape & size not determined, but over 8m. across by 2m. deep. Possibly a quarrry or pond.	1028	1050
1030	3	Chalky silt, fill of cut 1031. Contained few inclusions, no cultural material.	1033	1031
1031	3	Large linear cut, extending across the width of the trench. Full dimensions not observed; width 2.75 m., depth 0.2 m.. Sides sloping steeply to a flat base. Insufficient area exposed to determine shape or function.	1030	1050
1032	3	Brown clayey silt, fill of cut 1033. Contained few inclusions, no cultural material.	1000	1033
1033	3	Circular cut, 0.6 m. in diameter, possibly a post-hole.	1032	1030
1034	3	Grey brown silt accumulation over flint metalled road surface.	1000	1023, 1046
1035	5	Mid brown clay silt, upper fill of cut 1037. Contained some animal bone & oyster, & 2 fragments of Roman tile.	1000	1036
1036	5	Green tinged - light brown chalky silt, lower fill of cut 1037. V. organic in appearance. Possibly cess or rotted vegetation. Contained few inclusions, no cultural material.	1035	1037
1037	5	Sub-circular or oval cut, 2.2 m. across x 0.95 m. deep. Probably a cess or rubbish pit.	1036	1050
1038	5	Light brown chalky silt, fill of cut 1039. Partially excavated. No cultural material was recovered.	1000	1039
1039	5	Large circular cut, about 3.6 m. in diameter. Function not determined. Possibly a rubbish pit.	1038	1050
1040	6	Area of disturbance, consisting of areas of silt, clay and gravel of different colours and consistencies. Appeared to represent the fills of several intercutting features. Insufficient area exposed to disentangle the sequence.	1043	1041
1041	6	General number assigned to apparent complex of intercutting features.	1040	1050
1042	6	Mid brown clay, fill of cut 1043. Contained few inclusions & no cultural material. Not excavated as it lay close against the section.	1000	1043

1043	6	Circular or oval cut, dimensions not determined. Cut the south side of pit complex 1040/1041.	1042	1040
1044	6	Mid brown clayey silt, fill of gully 1045. No inclusions.	1000	1045
1045	6	Linear gully aligned roughly east-west. Sides sloped steeply down turning sharply to a flat base; width 0.44 m., depth 0.25 m..	1044	1050
1046	3	Flint metalled road surface.	1034	1047
1047	3	Apparent crushed chalk bedding to road.	1046	1050?
1048	-	Not assigned.		
1049	-	Not assigned.		
1050	1-6	Head chalk.		

Trench No.	Context No.	Material	Quantity	Weight	Comments	Find No.	Dsk
1	1001	Pottery	2	3		8	k
1	1001	Roman Tile	3	95	worn and abraded	9	d
1	1001	Shell	2	35	oyster	11	d
1	1001	Bone	12	80		10	k
1	1001	Stone	1	30	burnt flint	12	d
1	1003	Pottery	1	3		13	k
1	1003	Roman Tile	4	40		14	d
1	1003	Shell	6	40	oyster	15	d
1	1003	Bone	2	5		16	k
1	1003	Glass	1	2	vitrified? fragment	17	k
1	1005	Roman Tile	2	20		18	d
1	1005	Bone	1	5		20	k
1	1005	Slag	1	60		22	k
1	1013	Slag	1	760		7	k
5	1035	Roman Tile	1	105		24	d
5	1035	Shell	1	2	snail	23	d
5	1035	Bone	5	40		25	k
5	1035	Imbrex	1	125		19	d

Trench No.	Context No.	Material	Quantity	Weight	Comments	Find No	Dsk
1	1013	Iron	2?		looped metal strip fittings (incomplete, dimensions: l: 80mm and 110mm, w:24mm, th: 3mm (not weighed distorted by dry clay	1 and 2	k
1	1013	Iron	1	66	blade from agricultural machine, dimensions: l: 180mm, w: 20 - 35 - 20mm, th: 4 - <1mm	3	k
1	1013	Iron	1	86	shears arm, l: 252mm	4	k
1	1013	Iron	1	68	agricultural tool, incomplete, ?hoe	5	k
1	1013	Iron	1	40	agricultural tool blade fragment, l: 90mm	6	k
1	1001	Stone	2		rubble lumps - to be identified	26 + 27	k

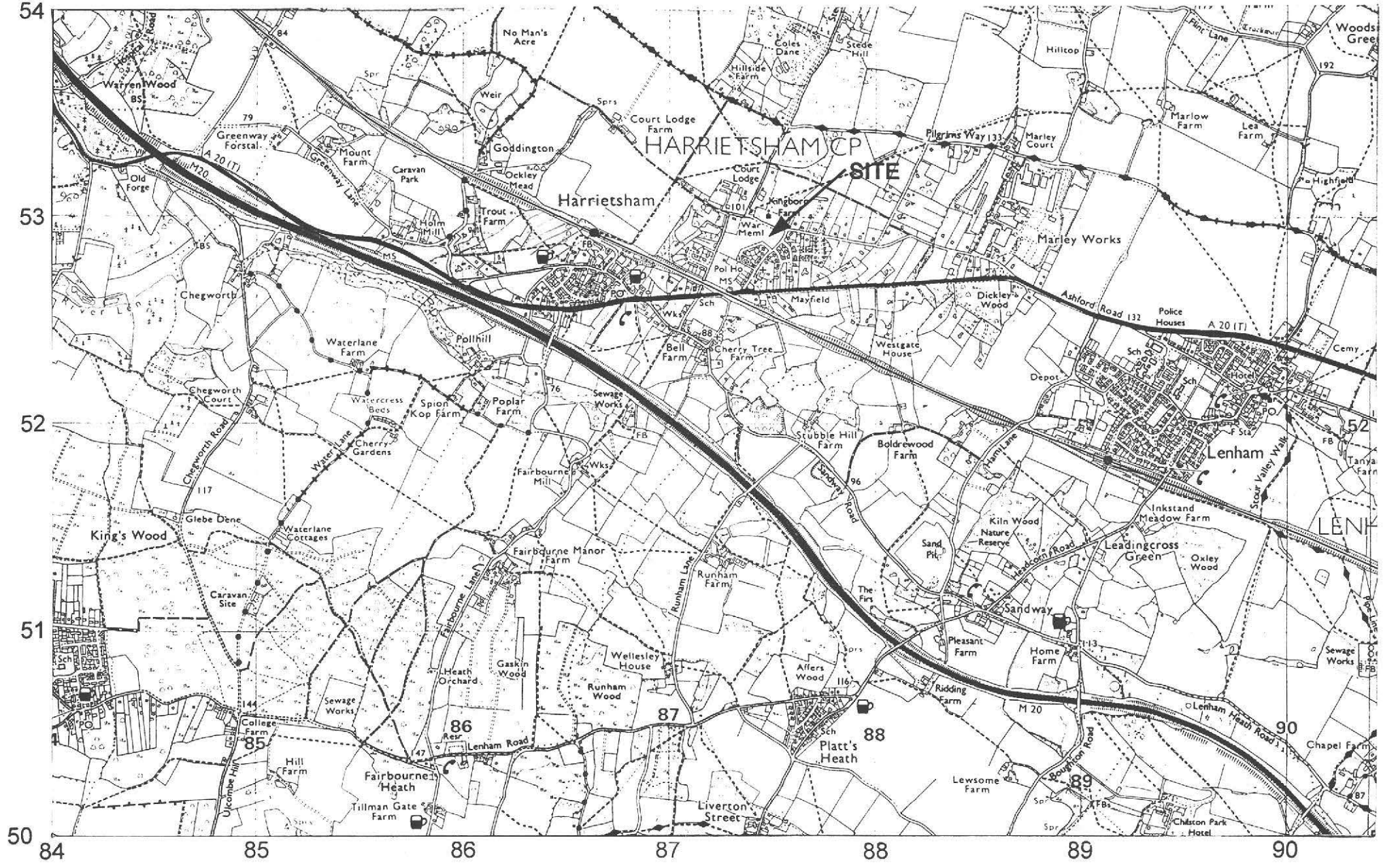


Fig 1: Plan of the Harrietsham area, showing the site location.

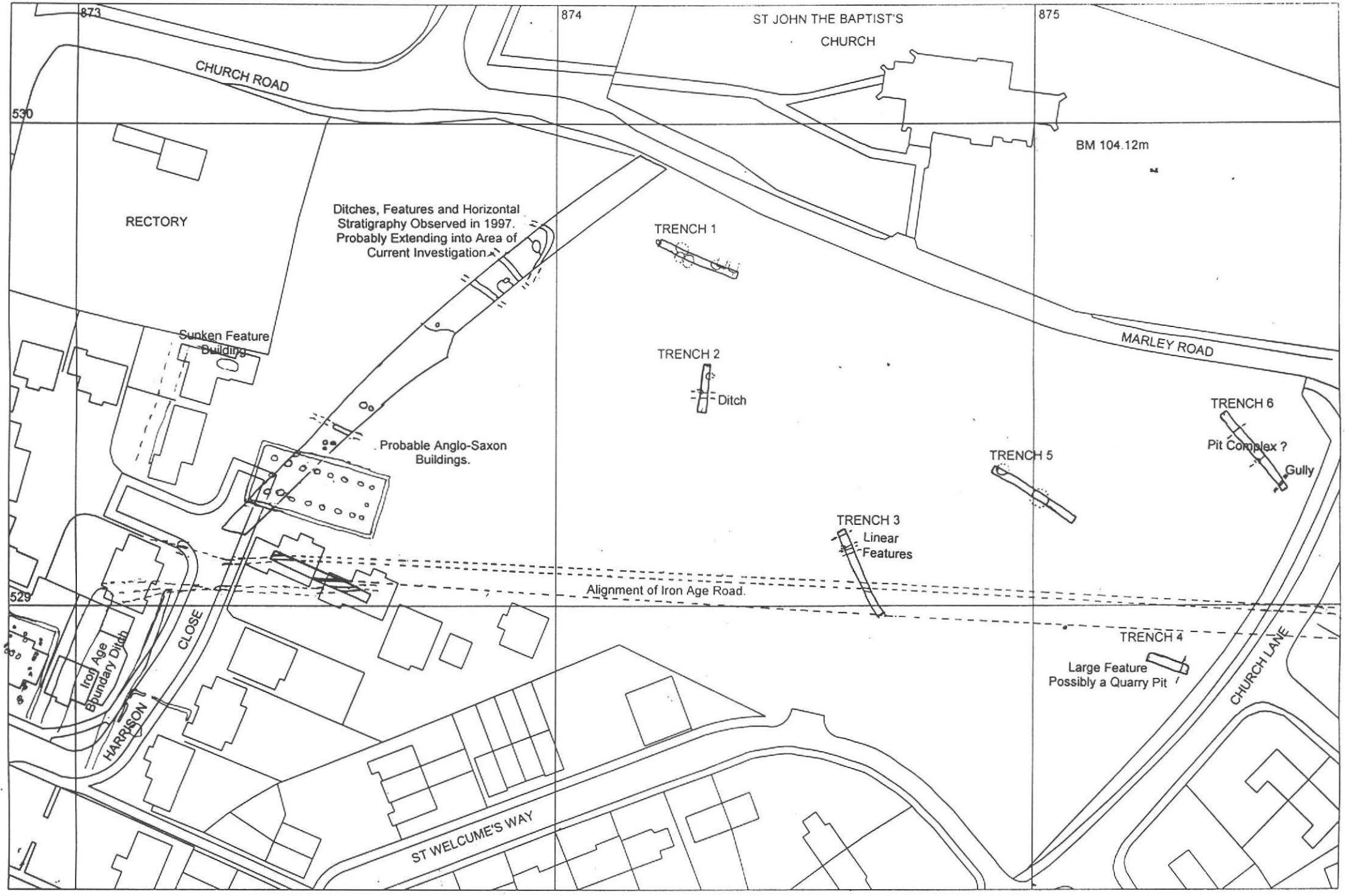


Figure 2: Features located in evaluation trenches, together with principal features observed during 1997 Excavation
Scale 1:1000

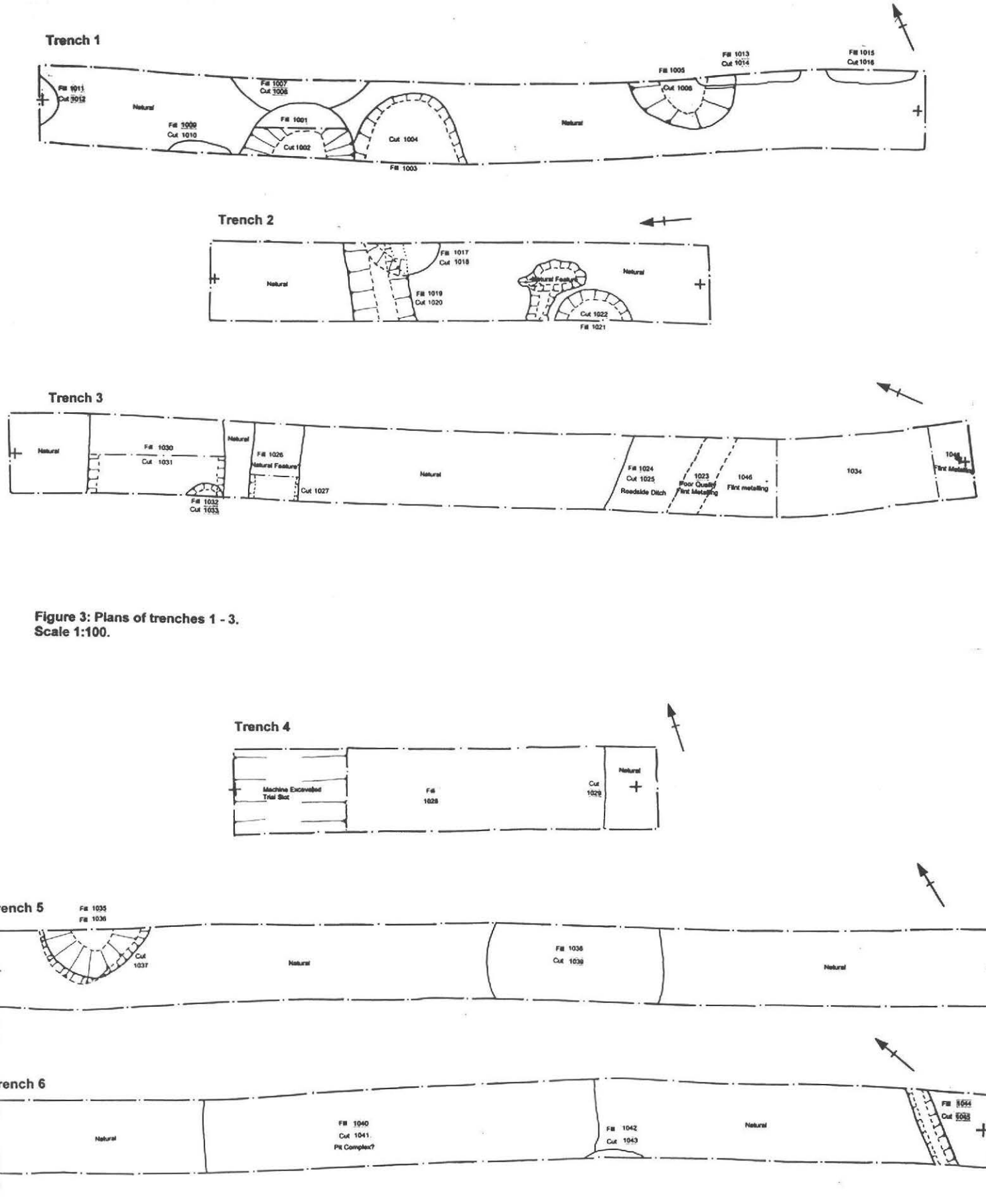
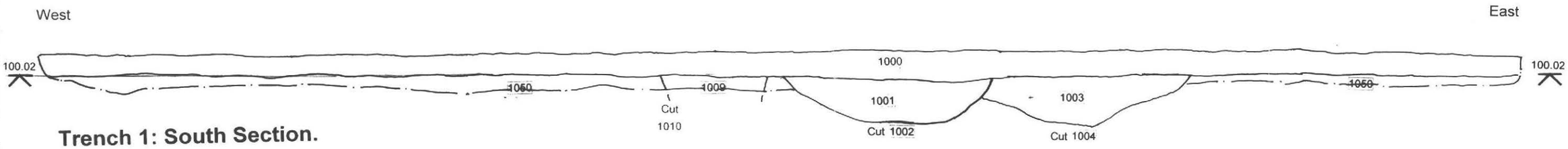
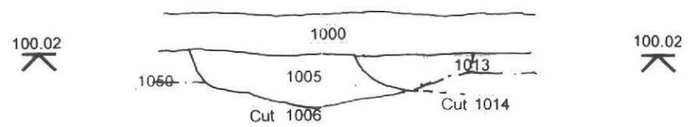


Figure 3: Plans of trenches 1 - 3.
Scale 1:100.

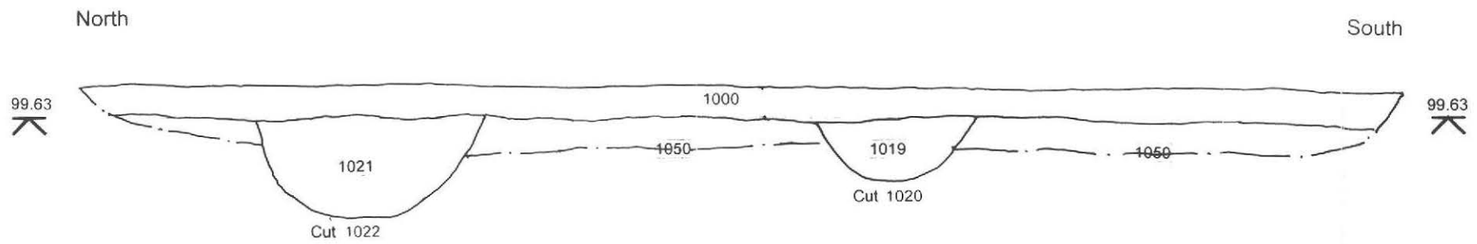
Figure 4: Plans of trenches 4 -6.
Scale 1:100.



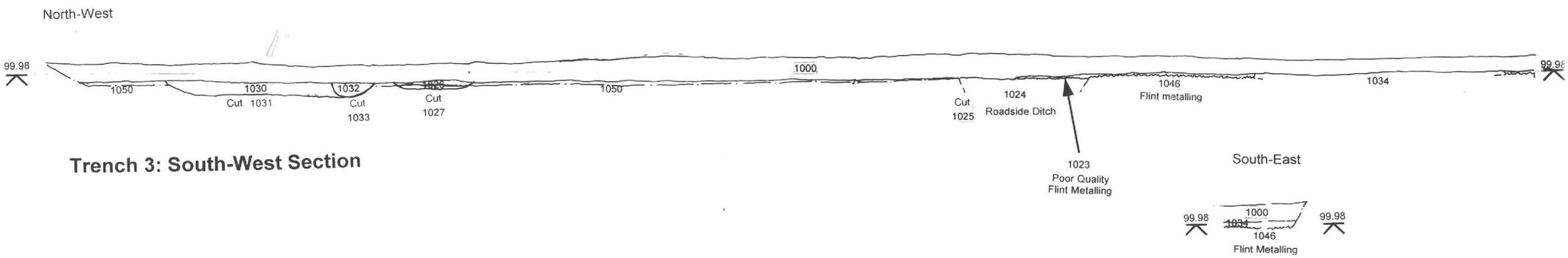
Trench 1: South Section.



Trench 1: North section detail, showing cut 1006

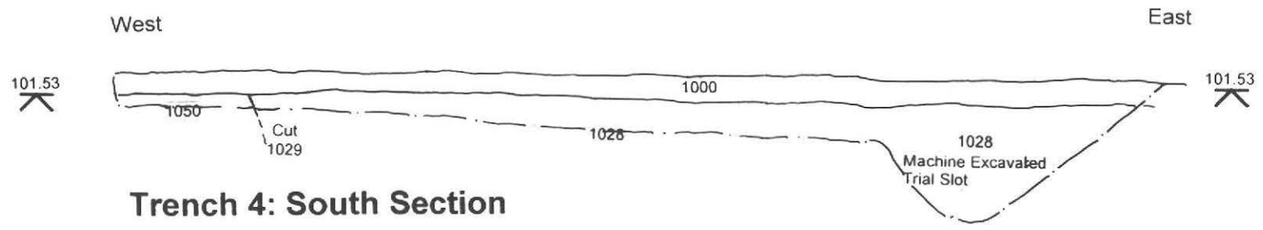


Trench 2: East Section

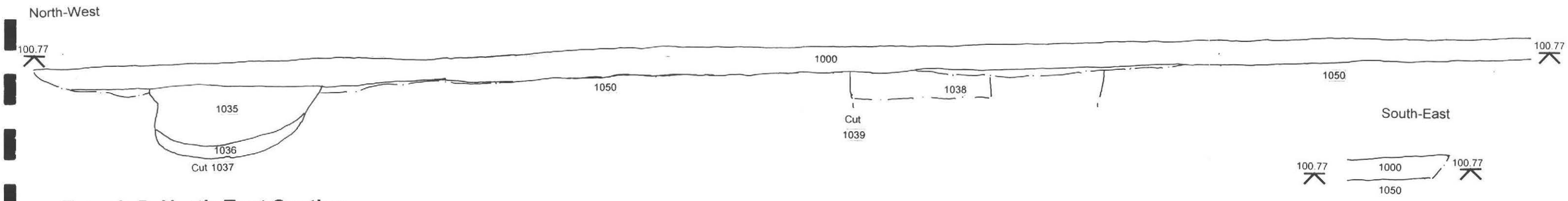


Trench 3: South-West Section

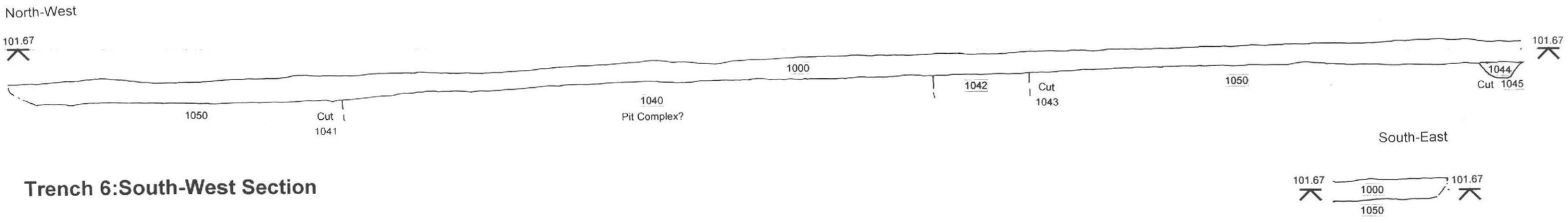
Figure 5: Sections of trenches 1 -3.
Scale 1:50.



Trench 4: South Section



Trench 5: North-East Section



Trench 6:South-West Section

Figure 6: Sections of trenches 4-6.
Scale 1:50.