

Archaeological Excavations
in
The Southern Extension to the
Dimmer Landfill Site
Alford near Castle Cary
CCD 09

Carried out for Viridor Waste (Somerset) Ltd.

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Archaeological Excavations at Dimmer Landfill Site

July to September 2009

Table of Contents

page	para	contents
1		Summary
1	1.0	Introduction
3	2.0	Topography and Geology
4	3.0	Archaeological Background
9	4.0	Historical Background
15	5.0	Historic Maps
21	6.0	Discussion of Historical Background and Maps
22	7.0	The Archaeological Evaluation - Methods
24	7.3	Field Trench 1
28	7.4	Field Trench 2
31	7.5	Farmyard Trench 3
33	7.6	Farmyard Trench 4
34	7.7	Farmyard Trench 5
36	8.0	Finds and Archive
38	9.0	Discussion
40		Acknowledgements
41		Bibliography

FINDS LIST 4 pages

CONTEXT LIST 17 pages

Figures

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Figure 1 | Extract from the 2002 Geophysical Survey |
| Figure 2 | Dimmer Landfill Site, showing 2009 Excavation Areas
(Viridor Waste plan) |
| Figure 3 | Layout of 2009 Archaeological Area 5 and Trench 6 |
| Figure 4 | Area 5 West - Cleaning and Excavation Plan |
| Figure 5 | Area 5 East - Cleaning Plan |
| Figure 6 | Area 5 East - Excavation Plan |
| Figure 7 | Area 5 - Sections of Excavated Features |
| Figure 8 | Area 5 - Sections of Excavated Features |
| | |
| Figure 9 | Trench 6 South - Cleaning Plan |
| Figure 10 | Trench 6 South - Excavation Plan including SW Extension |
| Figure 11 | Trench 6 North - Cleaning Plan |
| Figure 12 | Trench 6 North - Excavation Plan |
| Figure 13 | Trench 6 West Extension - Excavation Plan |
| Figure 14 | Trench 6 - Sections of Excavated Features |
| Figure 15 | Trench 6 - Sections of Excavated Features |
| Figure 16 | Trench 6 - Sections of Excavated Features |

Photographs

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Adjacent Cell, Cell djdj, under construction |
| 2 | Area 5 West |
| 3 | Area 5 East |
| 4 | Trench 6, South End, SW Extension |
| 5 | Gully 620 / 621 |
| 6 | Gully 622 / 623 |

**Archaeological Excavations within the South Extension to the
Dimmer Landfill Site
4th Phase of Excavations - July to September 2009**

Summary

The fourth phase of archaeological excavations undertaken in advance of new landfill cell construction – Cells N and P, within the southern extension to the Dimmer Landfill site - resulted in the recording of a series of late-prehistoric and roman period ditches, gullies and pits that were sealed below alluvial and colluvial clays¹. Although finds were generally sparse, late-Iron Age and Romano-British sherds were recovered from the fills of these features with occasional struck flint and chert tools and flakes, frequent fired clay fragments and sparse animal bone.

These feature are either adjacent to, or are within, what is assumed to be a prehistoric or roman period, penanular enclosure that was recorded during a geophysical survey carried out in 2002.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 By the late-1990s, the landfill site at Dimmer, situated approximately 3kilometres SW of Castle Cary, was almost full to capacity and Wyvern Waste Ltd. (now Viridor Waste Somerset Ltd.) needed to extend the landfill site into fields to the south and south-west of the existing dump. This southern extension consisted of four large pasture and arable fields plus a strip of land to the north of Dry Brook, the whole extension totalling approximately 75 acres.

The **grid reference** for the southern extension centres on **ST 612 308**.

1.2 In 1997, when the details of the planning application were being considered, Somerset County Council recommended that an archaeological watching brief should take place when a major stream running through the centre of the extension area, the Back Brook, was diverted into a new, artificial channel routed around the southern perimeter of the proposed extension. The construction of the new stream channel was monitored during 1997 and 1998, resulting in the recording of several clusters of prehistoric features - mainly small pits or gullies - some buried soil layers and a large, buried, palaeochannel.

¹ Excavation Phases 1 and 2 were undertaken in 2001 and 2003 - Report numbers 256 and 306 - and Phase 3 was undertaken in 2005, - Report number 372.

1.3 The construction method for the landfill extension consists of excavating a series of long, N-S oriented waste cells, each cell being ca.30metres wide and with lengths varying from around 250metres at the eastern end of the extension to around 800metres at the west end. The south end of the cells commence near to the southern edge of the extension, from the perimeter road near to the new course of the Back Brook, extending towards the higher clays west of the Wyvern Waste offices and storage areas and east of Manmead Wood.

1.4 The landfill cells are excavated down to impervious Lias mudstone or bedrock deposits at depths up to 5metres below the surface, thereby removing all silty clay or soft clay deposits above bedrock. Several large excavating machines work simultaneously on the excavation of the cells, depositing the clay into dumper trucks and storing the excavated material away from the construction area.

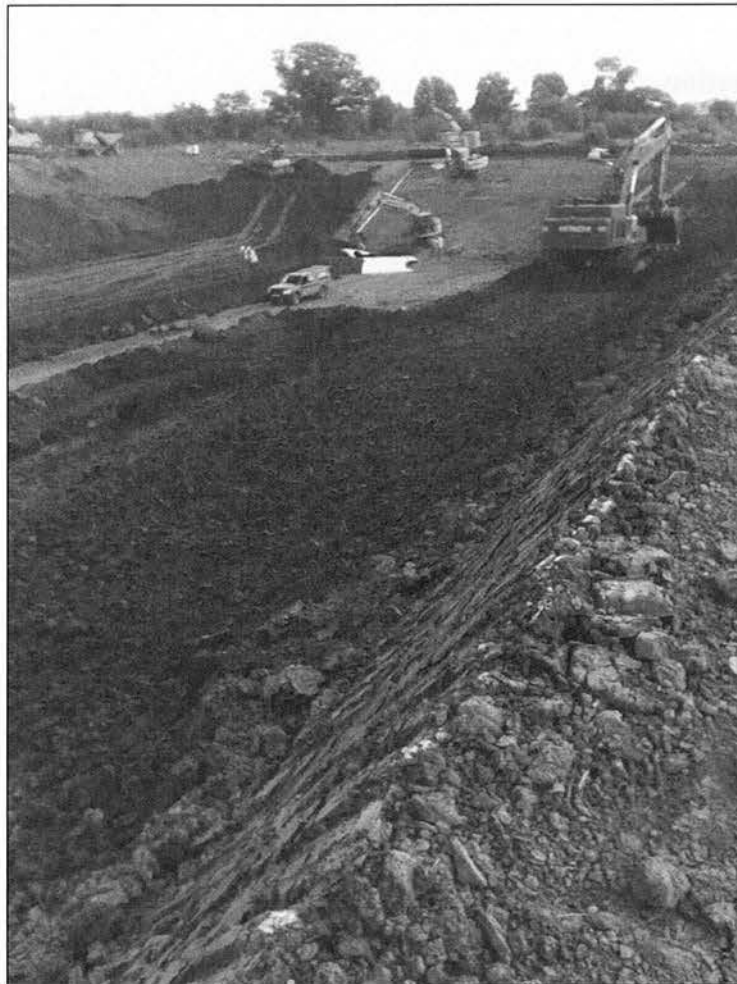


Photo 1 Landfill Cells K and L South (the adjacent cell group, SE of the 2009 excavation areas), under construction; south end, looking SE.

1.5 Because it was felt that archaeological monitoring of such large earth-moving projects would have been neither viable nor practical, and as it was not known where archaeological features or deposits would be found (apart from those areas already recorded within the new stream cut around the perimeter of the site), Wyvern Waste Ltd. were asked to fund excavation of specific areas prior to construction. This proposal was accepted and Wyvern Waste Ltd., now Viridor Waste (Somerset) Ltd, have subsequently funded archaeological excavations in areas specified by Somerset County Council, these areas being based on the known distribution and assumed extent of prehistoric features and finds.

1.6 The original, 1997-1998 watching brief results were contained in a report presented to Somerset County Council and Wyvern Waste Ltd. that was produced in 1998². Archaeological excavations in advance of cell construction were undertaken in 2001,³ 2003⁴ and 2005⁵ with archaeological watching briefs being carried out in 2000,⁶ 2004⁷ and 2006.⁸ The new landfill cells are being constructed sequentially from east to west.

1.7 In 2001, when construction of the new landfill cells commenced, archaeological excavations – Phase 1 -were undertaken on the site of the paleochannel recorded in 1998 and on two smaller sites on the south-eastern edge of the new extension area.

The palaeochannel proved to be a Middle to Late Iron Age feature, a natural watercourse that had been modified and re-cut a number of times before being sealed by thick alluvial and colluvial deposits, probably during the early Roman period.

These excavations were described in a report prepared for Somerset County Council and Wyvern Waste Ltd. that was completed in February 2002.⁹

² Hollinrake C. and N., 1998, *An Archaeological Watching Brief on the Creation of a New Stream Course at the Dimmer Landfill Site in 1997 and 1998*. Report number 134.

³ C. and N. Hollinrake Report number 256.

⁴ C. and N. Hollinrake Report number 306.

⁵ C. and N. Hollinrake Report number 372.

⁶ C. and N. Hollinrake Report number 212.

⁷ C. and N. Hollinrake Report number 346.

⁸ C. and N. Hollinrake Report number 384.

⁹ Hollinrake C. and N., 2002, *An Archaeological Excavation of an Iron Age Paleochannel within the Southern Extension of the Dimmer Landfill Site*. Report number 256.

1.8 The archaeological works at Dimmer included a **geoarchaeology** component whereby David Jordan of Terra Nova examined the various alluvial and natural clays on the site in order to determine the origin and composition of the various deposits.¹⁰

1.9 Archaeological excavations were undertaken in 2003 towards the central/south-western end of the landfill extension in advance of the cutting of new landfill cells - cells G to J – Phase 2. The area chosen for excavation was identified as having a high archaeological potential by the distribution of archaeological features recorded during the initial watching brief on the creation of the new stream.¹¹ Results from the 2003 season included the recording of a series of prehistoric ditches and gullies.

1.10 Archaeological Excavations in 2005 – Phase 3 – took place at the south end of new cells J and K. The results included the recovery of a Neolithic chert hand-axe, and investigation of drainage gullies and ditches dating from the prehistoric and Roman periods plus finds of prehistoric and Roman pottery and prehistoric flints.¹²

1.11 A **geophysical survey** of the SW part of the landfill extension, within the general area containing the greatest concentration of prehistoric features recorded in the archaeological watching brief of 1997-1998, was commissioned by Somerset County Council and carried out by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd. in 2002. The survey was designed to test whether caesium magnetometer surveys would work within the waterlogged, alluvial clays covering the site. The survey was completed in 2002 and a report was prepared for Somerset County Council, Wyvern Waste Ltd. and C. and N. Hollinrake Ltd..¹³

The geophysical survey recorded a series of field boundary ditches and a penanular feature that might represent a drainage ditch around either a prehistoric or roman period farm or small settlement or, more plausibly due to its size, depict an agriculture feature - a cattle or animal enclosure, for instance.

An extract from the geophysical survey is presented as **figure 1**.

¹⁰ *The Geoarchaeology of Deposits at Dimmer Landfill Site*, November 2001, Terra Nova.

¹¹ C. and N. Hollinrake Ltd. report number 306 to Somerset County Council.

¹² C. and N. Hollinrake Ltd, report number 372.

¹³ M.J. and A.C.K. Roseveare, *Investigation of Archaeological Features at Dimmer Lndfill Site*, project report number CAC20011, August 2002.

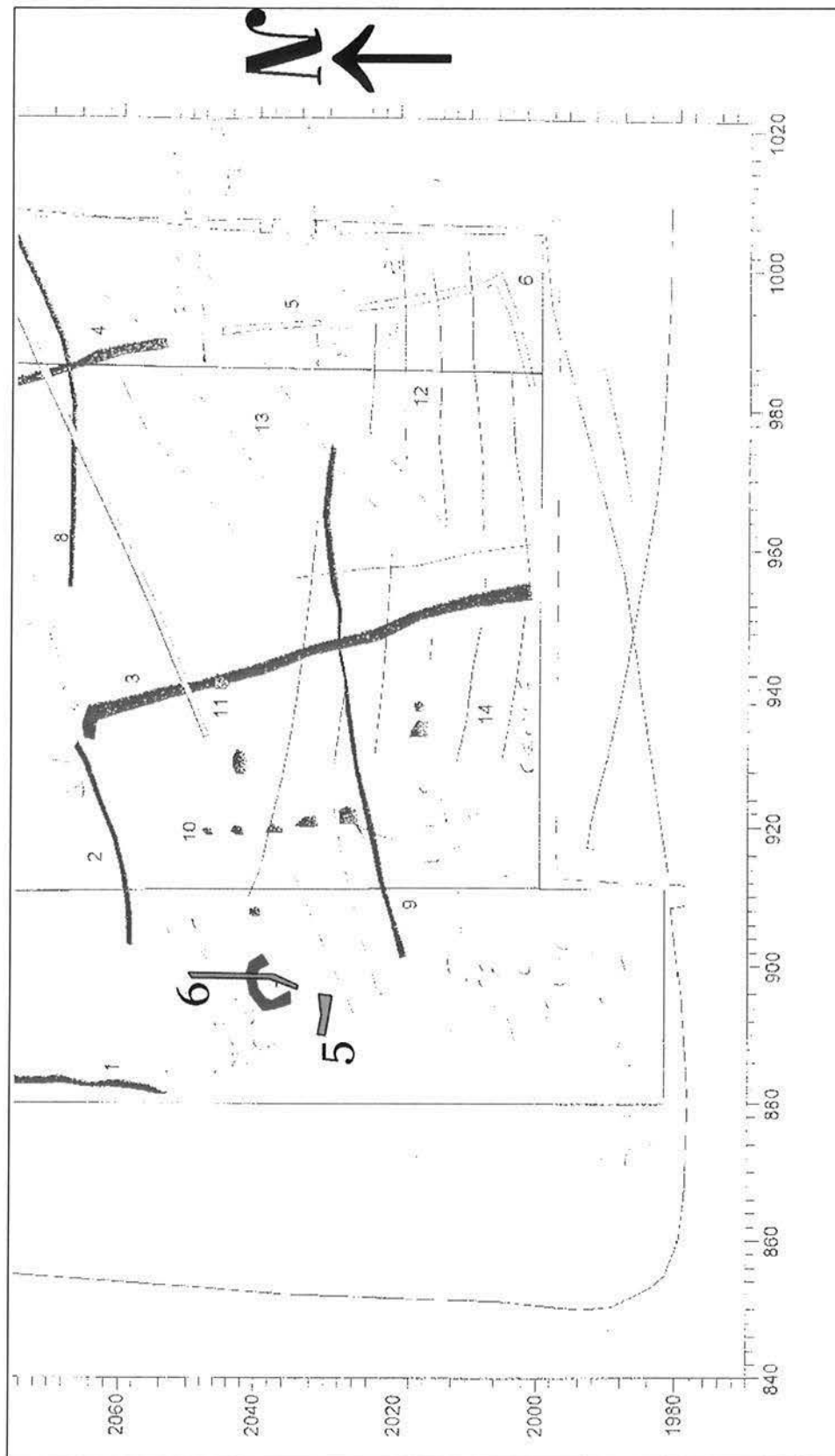


Figure 1 Extract from the 2002 Geophysical Survey. The 2009 archaeological areas – Area 5 and Trench 6 – have been superimposed over the position of the penanular ring ditch feature (in red).



Figure 2 Dimmer landfill site. 2009 Archaeological Areas marked in pink with position of the penanular ditch feature recorded during the geophysical survey marked in red (towards the west end of the site, near to the bottom of the figure).

Each grid square has sides of 100metres. North is to the left.

2.0 Topography and Geology

2.1 The southern extension to the landfill site is situated on relatively low lying land within the floodplain of the River Cary and consisted, originally, of a series of large fields standing between 30m and 32 metres above Ordnance Datum. The north and south borders of the extension were streams: Back Brook to the north, now diverted into the new channel around the extension area, and Dry Brook to the south, much of the latter within an artificially straightened channel. The River Cary flows from east to west, approximately 200metres south of Dry Brook and the landfill site.

2.2 Dry Brook is also the boundary between the parishes of Alford to the north and North Barrow to the south, and also, slightly to the west of the landfill site, between Lovington and North Barrow, and just to the east of the site between Castle Cary and North Barrow.

2.3 The southern extension lies almost entirely within the parish of Alford with the addition of a smaller area at the eastern end within Castle Cary parish (although this will not contain new landfill cells), the boundary between the two parishes being a field hedge and ditch. The parish boundary is contiguous with and apparently contemporary with the one between Alford and North Barrow, both consisting of mature, mixed hedges containing fairly regularly spaced boundary oaks.

2.4 The extension area lies on the southern edge of Alford parish, approximately 1.5kilometres south of the modern village that lies along the B3153 road. Alford church and the medieval village around it (now largely abandoned) are situated north of the road and adjacent to the River Brue, which forms the northern boundary of the parish, near to its confluence with the River Alham.

2.5 The Cary floodplain is surrounded by gentle hills. Higher ground lies approximately 500 metres to the north and the north-west where the ground rises to around 60 metres. Approximately 500 metres to the east the land rises very gradually towards the hills south of Castle Cary where, approximately two kilometres away from the landfill extension area, the ground rises to around 150 metres a.O.D..

Approximately 400 metres away to the south the land rises gently to around 50 metres a.O.D..

2.6 The fields within the extension area were mostly used as pasture although occasional arable cultivation, mainly for fodder maize, did sometimes occur. Their use, historically, was for meadow grass.

2.7 Geologically, the southern extension lies wholly within an area of alluvial river deposits of Pleistocene and recent date. Surrounding the alluvial flood plain [of the River Cary] are extensive deposits of Lower Lias clays with limestone of Jurassic date.

2.8 Approximately 3 kilometres to the east, around Castle Cary, the Lower Lias clays are overlain by Middle Lias silts and clays which are, in turn, overlain by Upper Lias sands, the upland being capped by limestones of the Inferior Oolite series.¹⁴

3.0 Historical & Archaeological Background The historical background has been covered in the 1998 report and only a brief summary will be presented here.

3.1 Alford, (*Aldedeford* or 'Ealdgyth's Ford' [over the River Brue]) is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD. In 1066, the manor, an estate gelded for 5 hides, was held by Godric, a Saxon thegn, and after the conquest by the Norman knight Ansger, holding from the Count of Mortain.

In 1086, the manor contained a mill and 50 acres of meadowland and had to provide eight 'blooms' of iron to their lord, although there is no modern evidence for either large-scale iron working or for any iron sources within the parish.

3.2 Until recently, Alford contained some of the best-preserved blocks of medieval ridge and furrow in Somerset. Although much has been ploughed out in recent years, some still survives to the north and north-west of the extension area.

The surviving ridge and furrow is a relic of Alford's medieval open fields which were all located north of Back Brook on the higher, drier, clays. These were largely unenclosed until around 1805 when a sale map indicates new enclosure boundaries cutting across the old blocks of cultivation strips.¹⁵ This same map also indicates that the meadowland between Back Brook and Dry Brook was contained within broadly the same field boundaries as those affected by the construction of the new, southern landfill extension.

¹⁴ Geological Survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift edition, Sheet 296, 1:50,000 series.

¹⁵ Somerset Records Office map DD/SAS C/212 and Box C/21Q2 for sale particulars.

3.3 The Archaeological Background has been fully covered in previous archaeological reports on the landfill extension and outlined within the preceding section of this report and will not be repeated further.

3.4 The 2001, 2003 and 2005 excavation phases did confirm both prehistoric and Romano-British frequentation of the site, including the presence of prehistoric ditches and gullies. These projects also underlined the difficulty of identifying prehistoric features that had been cut into alluvial clays and which had, subsequently, been re-filled or had filled naturally with alluvium. No clues to the location of the prehistoric settlement, or settlements, with which the various prehistoric features must be associated, were forthcoming during the 2001 and 2003 archaeological works although the earlier geophysical survey did seem to suggest possible structures, in the form of a ring ditch, NW of the area examined in 2005.

4.0 The 2009 Archaeological Excavations - Details, Location and Extent

4.1 The 2009 works were carried out in order to examine the area containing the penanular feature recorded during the geophysical survey. Because most of the relevant field boundaries used in previous years to locate the geophysical features have now been removed, the location plans generated by the geophysical report were scanned onto modern construction and cell plans to determine where the penanular feature should be found.

4.2 The resulting plan indicated that the possible penanular feature should be located below, or partly below three substantial, linear mounds of topsoil, each around 100metres long, which had been retained there for future use.

These mounds had become the home of a number of extensive badger setts, and as these animals are a protected species, the mounds could not be moved or disturbed during the breeding season, and a 5metre cordon was placed around them.

2.3 Because the badger setts could not be disturbed, the archaeological areas chosen were situated about 5 metres south and east of the topsoil mounds, as it was assumed that cultural material associated with the penanular enclosure should be found within the southern area whilst the area to the east of the mounds was expected

to either just clip the eastern edge, or lie just beyond the eastern edge of the penanular enclosure.

4.1 The 2001 archaeological excavations were recorded as Phases 1 and 2, the 2003 works were recorded as Excavation Area 3 and the 2005 archaeological excavation was identified as Excavation Area 4 (Areas 4 to 4C).

The 2009 site code was CCD 09 (Castle Cary, Dimmer, 2009).

The 2009 Archaeological Works were divided into two distinct areas; Excavation Area 5 and Excavation Trench 6: These numbers continue the numerical sequence as set out in paragraph 4.1, above.

4.2 The 2009 excavations took place between 20th July and 14th September with several breaks due to inclement weather. Prolonged wet weather was common, with consequent flooding of the archaeological areas due to the impervious Lias clays.

The archaeological work was carried out by Nick Corcos, Matt Law and Arthur Hollinrake with assistance from Charles Hollinrake.

5.0 Archaeological Excavation 2009 - Methods and Recording

5.1 The area chosen for the 2009 archaeological investigation was agreed through consultation between C. and N. Hollinrake Ltd. and Mr. James Pitcher, site manager at Dimmer, on behalf of Viridor Waste (Somerset) Ltd.

5.2 Jones Bros. of Ruthin, Wales, the construction firm excavating the new waste cells, provided a Komatsu C130 excavating machine with a 6ft grading bucket and drivers as and when they were required, and Jones Bros. also supplied toilet facilities and storage space. A temporary benchmark with the level related to Ordnance Datum was also provided by GPS personnel from Jones Bros. GPS was used to determine the position of the 2009 excavation areas and also of the assumed, prehistoric penanular ditch recorded during the geophysical survey, because all of the original field boundaries and tbn positions used on previous excavations, no longer exist.

5.3 For each of the 2009 excavation areas, the topsoil and the overlying, alluvial, orange clays were removed by an excavating machining using a wide, straight edged ditching bucket. The upper, orange clays, which lie directly below the topsoil and

which appear to extend over all of the landfill extension area, appear to be either late-Roman or post-Roman in origin as they seal archaeological horizons containing features dating to either the Roman or the prehistoric periods. This layer is assumed to be a mix of alluvial clay forming the Cary flood plain, and colluvial run-off from the surrounding hills.

5.4 Within each of the excavation areas, the upper deposit lying directly below the topsoil, always identifiable as a plastic, slightly sandy, pale orange to buff, alluvial or colluvial clay, sometimes containing thin lenses of blue clay or speckled with brown mottles, was removed down to surfaces that included geological deposits of either mixed, Lias clays, or orange, gritty, sandy, gravelly clays or Lias bedrock, into which artificial, linear features or negative features had been cut and which were filled by brown or grey-brown silty clays.

The depth of the upper alluvial clays varied across the site but was generally between 0.40m-0.50metres. No pre-modern archaeological features were cut through, the upper clays.

5.5 All Excavation Areas were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections and excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate.

In addition, the archaeological works were recorded photographically using colour transparency slides, colour and black and white print film and digitally.

5.6 After the initial cleaning and planning process had been completed, all archaeological features were examined, either through full or partial excavation. Linear features were sectioned at intervals along their length in order to provide secure dating; although dateable finds or artefacts in all features were rare.

5.7 Archaeological features were generally identified through their soft, brown or grey-brown fills, sometimes with the addition of charcoal flecks together with small and minute fragments of orange or red, fired clay, chert pebbles and small and large lumps of orange chert. It was often difficult to differentiate between artificial features filled by these soft, slightly organic clays and natural or geological deposits of orange or pale orange, alluvial clays. As a rule, only by examining all of the patches and spreads thought to be artificial could their origin be determined.

5.7.1 A further difficulty arose during either wet or hot weather. Heavy rain tended to flood the archaeological surface, due to the impermeable Lias clays into which archaeological features have been cut. In addition, hot, dry weather, such as was experienced during the excavation and investigation of both Area 5 and Trench 6, but particularly the latter, causes the exposed surface of the Lias clay to both fracture, curl upwards in plates and to bleach, making identification of features and fills particularly difficult.

In order to ease that situation, any features or potential features disclosed during the initial surface cleaning were highlighted by plastic labels, either marking the centre of the feature or defining the edges of features and then covered by plastic sheets in order to conserve ground moisture.

5.8 Archaeological Finds and Artefacts recovered during the excavation were washed, dried, sorted, listed and marked with either their respective context number which were preceded, in Area 5 by the figure 5 ([511], [527], for example) and in Area 6 by the figure 6 ([601], [602], for example), as unstratified from a particular area ([Area 5 U/S Spoil], for example), or as finds recovered during the initial surface cleaning, after machining had been completed, and which were then recorded *in-situ* – A5/C11, for instance (Area 5, Cleaning Bag 11).

The recovered finds were also marked with the same **Somerset County Museum Accession Number** that has been used on previous projects at Dimmer: **TTNCM 78/1998**. As all finds are also marked with their respective context number, that context number provides the identification for the particular year or project.

5.9 The Finds Archive Finds recovered during the various archaeological interventions at Dimmer are deposited in the Somerset County Museum under the above accession number. At present, whilst a new museum complex at Taunton is under construction, the 2009 finds will be retained by C. and N. Hollinrake until the museum is ready to receive new material.

The Paper Archive, consisting of fieldwork plans, inked plans, background information, photographs and reports, *pro-forma*, site record sheets – context, sample, level and graphic registers, plus *pro-forma* fieldwork sample sheets - will be deposited in the Somerset Record Office, in Taunton.

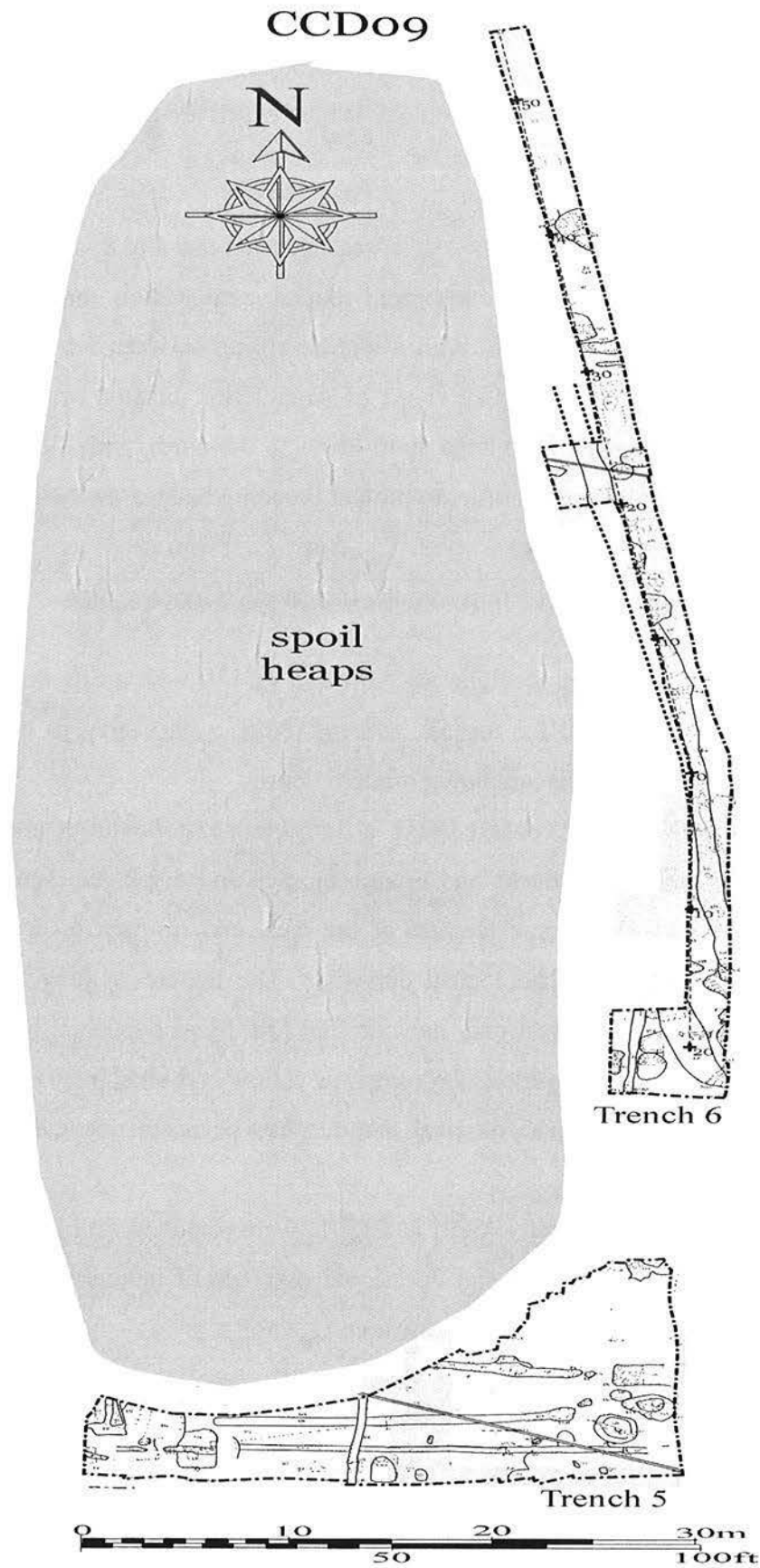


Figure 3 Disposition of Archaeological Area 5 and Archaeological Trench 6. The main archaeological features are depicted. Topsoil heaps are shaded.

6.0 The 2009 Archaeological Excavation - Results

Please refer to the Finds and Context Tables which are presented at the end of this fieldwork report.

6.1 Archaeological Area 5 see figures 3 and 4 to 8

6.1.1 Area 5 was an open, trapezoid-shaped, excavation area measuring approximately 28metres long W-E, with a width varying between 5m at the W end and 15m at the E end. The irregular shape of Area 5 was dictated by the boundary rope around the south side of the large spoil heaps to the north, with the rope placed 5m away from the spoil heaps in order to protect breeding badgers in their setts within the spoil heaps from disturbance.

The north edge of Area 5 mirrored the line of the boundary rope.

6.1.2 A tracked excavating machine - a Komatsu PC130 with a 6ft, straight-edged grading bucking – removed the topsoil, context [500], a dark grey to brown silty, humic clay up to 25cms thick containing modern debris.

The topsoil lay over context [501], a light orange, colluvial or alluvial, silty clay containing manganese flecks and orange mottles and displaying some signs of bioturbation. Apart from some features at the west end of Area 5, deposit [501] overlay all features and archaeological deposits. The features cutting through the lower part of [501], at the west end, indicate that [501] was deposited in more than one episode. [501] overlay yellowish-orange, or yellow and blue, natural Lias clay – context [502] into which archaeological features had been cut, recognised by their grey to dark grey silty fills.

The topsoil and subsoil – [500] and [501] were removed over the whole area down to natural Lias clay [502] and occasional outcrops of natural, Lias bedrock – [503], which were exposed over the whole area.

6.1.3 Only one obviously modern feature was present within Area 5 - context [518], towards the eastern end of Area 5 - a plastic pipe serving as a land drain that was contained within a deep, narrow trench filled with grey, limestone scalplings. [518] had cut through all of the upper deposits, [500], [501] and [502].

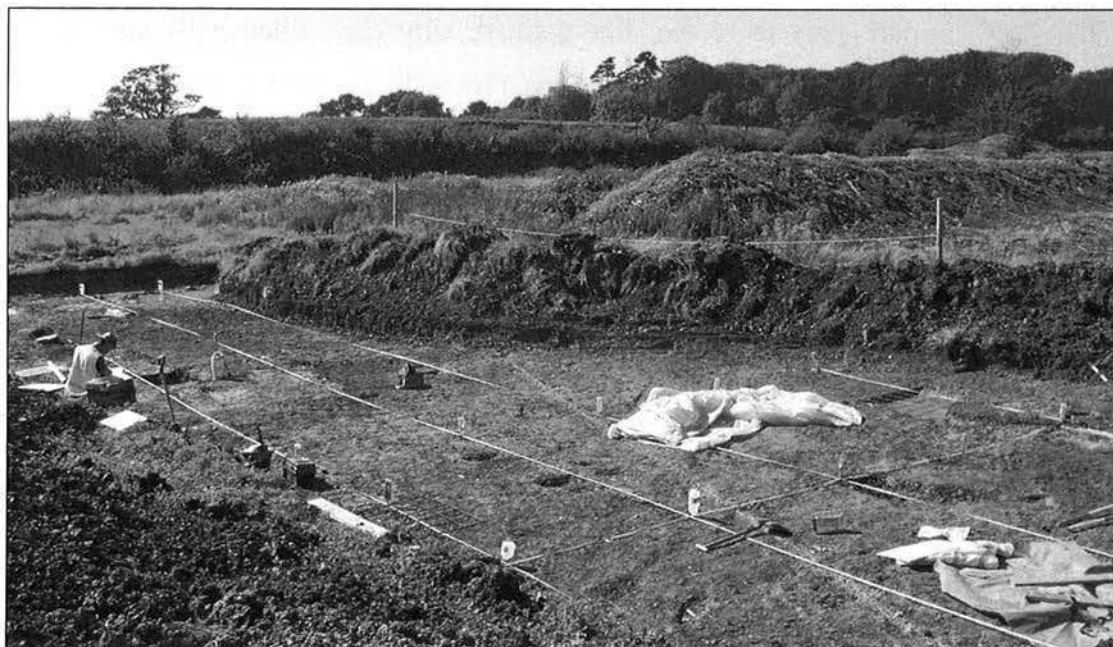


Photo 2 2009 Area 5, west end; planning, showing grid tapes, some excavated features and plastic sheets, employed to stop features and clays from drying out. Topsoil spoil heap in background with blue protective boundary rope. Looking NW

6.1.4 After machining had been completed, the initial cleaning plan – shown on **figures 4** and **5** – depicted two narrow, W-E aligned ditches or gullies, a number of pit-like features and several spreads and patches of grey-brown silty clays.

The two W-E aligned gullies were filled by contexts [507] and [509]. These two features were crossed by a later gully or channel – cut [539], oriented roughly N-S and filled by [510].

6.2 Context [510], the grey, silty fill of N-S oriented gully [539], that crossed two earlier, linear, W-E aligned gully features filled by [507] and [508], resembled an artificial feature with straight, parallel sides and a relatively uniform width of about 0.40m. [510] was earlier than the modern drain pipe [518]. No finds were recovered from the fill which was only around 10cms thick.

Although [510] / [539] was thought during excavation to be a palaeochannel, its straight edges and regularity probably indicates that this is an artificial feature. At its south end (within the excavation area) a sondage cut into the feature revealed that [539] had cut through an earlier silty fill of a probable palaeochannel, - context [541] within cut or feature [540]. A small fragment of fired clay was found within [541] which was over 0.45m deep.

As [539] crossed two, W-E oriented gullies, filled by [507] and [509], it must be later than those features.

6.2.2 [507] a dark grey to brown, fine-grained, silty clay, filled gully cut [526]. [526] was shallow, between around 10cms and 15cms thick, and was 40cms to 50cms wide. Fill [507] was excavated and removed in four locations within sondages. Only one sherd of pottery was recovered – a sandy, grey rim sherd dateable to the Romano-British period. No other finds were recovered from [507] / [526] although a cleaning find from the surface – A5/C8 was also a sherd of Roman-period BBW pot.

6.2.3 [509] was a dark, grey-brown silty clay with manganese flecks. It was the fill of a W-E gully – cut [537] and was shallow – only 5cms to 10 cms deep - and around 50cms to 60cms wide. No finds were recovered from the fill but, like [507], a surface cleaning find - A5/C11 - was a sherd of Roman-period pottery.

6.2.3.1 As roman period pottery was found in both [507] and [509] – indicating that these features were dateable either to the Roman period or later, and as these fills were crossed by [510] / [539], the latter feature, whether artificial or natural, must be either late-Roman period, post-Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval.

6.2.4 Towards the western end of Area 5, gully [507] / [526] cut through a large spread of dark brown, clay silt – context [508]. [508], although seemingly within a square cut, is probably the remnant of a buried soil filling a slight depression in the natural Lias clay. The northern part of [508] was given the context number [520] during the initial cleaning phase. The feature, or spread, was only 2cm – 3cm thick.

Gully [507] / [526] also cut through another dark spread – [521].

Other remnants of an old, buried soil consisted of contexts / features [512], [513], [528] and [529]. All contained similar fills and none contained any dateable finds.

Feature [511], a relatively large, rectangular deposit of grey-brown silty clay in the centre of Area 5, near to its south edge, was only 10cms thick and contained no finds, although a lump of fired clay was found on its surface – A5/C9.

[511] might also be a remnant of a buried soil.

6.2.5 Gully [507] / [526] continued near to the western end of Area 5 as contexts [522] and [523], with short gaps between [507] and [522] and between [522] and [523] created by slightly deeper machining.

No finds were recovered from either context.

6.2.6 Another small linear feature near to the west end of Area 5 consisted of cut and fill [506]. This was up to 0.40m deep and contained no finds, although a fragment of fired clay was found on its [machined] surface during cleaning – A5/C1.

6.2.7 Other probable archaeological features at the western end of Area 5 consisted of contexts [504] and [505]; small spreads of darker clay with no finds. Continuous flooding in this area precluded proper investigation.

6.2.8 Near to the eastern end of Area 5, running through the NW side of the eastern extension, was another narrow W-E aligned linear gully – cut [542] filled by [515].

Fill [515] was a dark brown silty clay, 10cm-15cm deep, and contained two very small sherds of pottery, one probably Romano/British and one possibly late-prehistoric. Fired clay fragments were also associated with [515].

[542] cut into the south side of a spread of dark brown silty clay, [516]. This spread is probably another buried soil remnant.

6.2.9 Near to the NE corner of Area 5, in the eastern extension, was a straight-sided feature with a square end, aligned W-E, 1.6m wide and over 3.0m long. It extended to the east beyond the edge of Area 5. One small sherd of either late-prehistoric or roman pottery was recovered from the grey-brown silty clay fill of this feature – context [533]. The cut – [550] - was around 25cms deep and might represent the western end of a relatively large ditch or pit.

6.2.10 A shallow pit, cut [553] filled by [532], south of the west end of [550], contained burnt clay, flecks of fired clay and frequent charcoal specks but no dateable finds.

6.2.11 Immediately south of [553] was a circular feature filled by [536]. Initially, it was thought that this might be a ring ditch filled by grey-brown silty clay [531]. Excavation, however, proved that [531] was the outer, primary fill of a circular pit, cut [538]. The secondary, later fill of [538] was [536].

Romano-British pottery was recovered from [531].

A small, circular cut at the base of [538] might be a posthole – cut [549] filled by [548]. A second possible posthole recorded within the base of [538] was cut and

fill [543]. It could not be determined whether these two posts were contemporary with, or later than, the main pit.

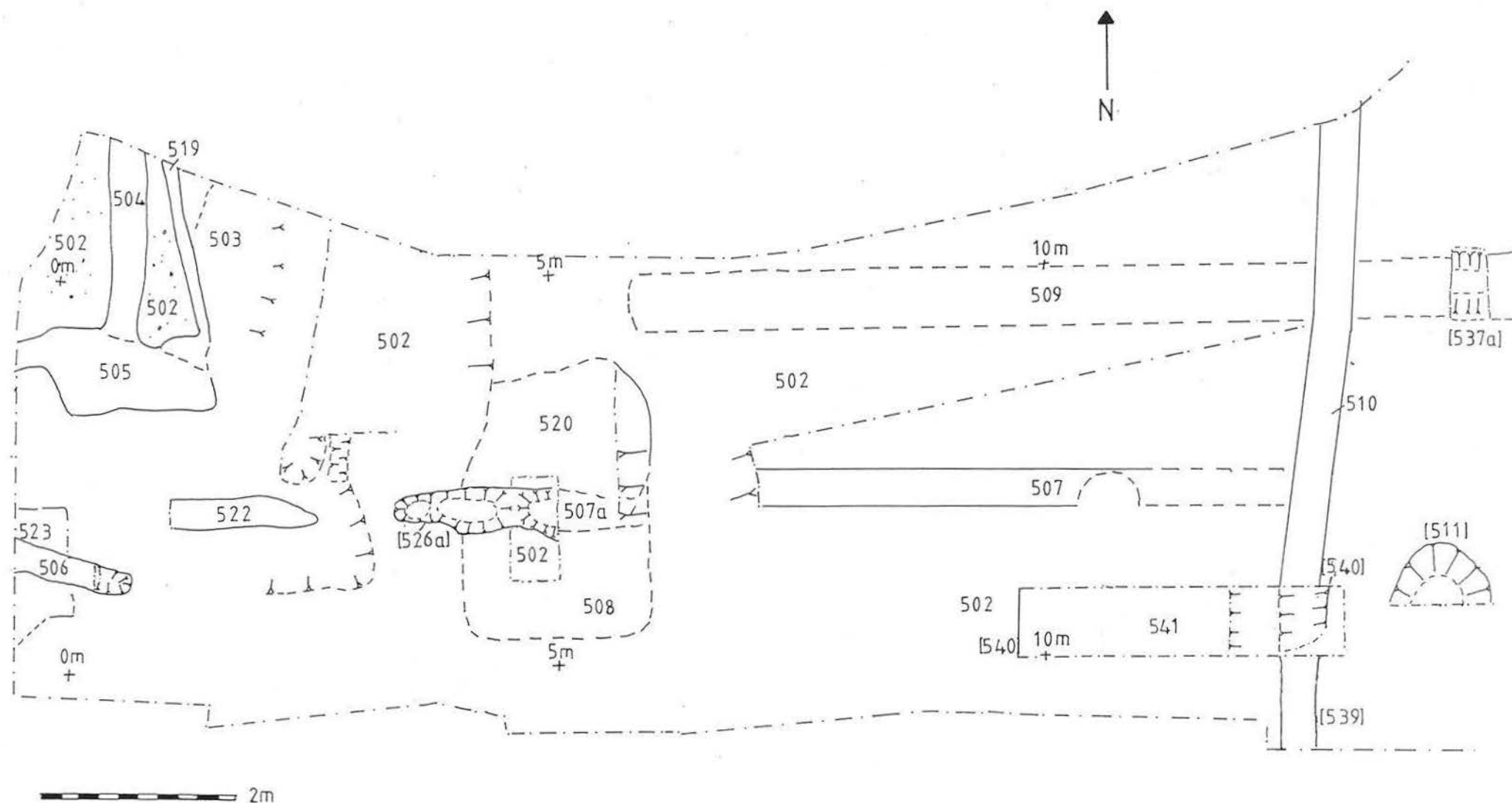
6.2.11 Roman pottery was also recovered from a shallow, circular pit feature immediately NE of pit [538]: Cut [547] contained fills [545] and [546] and a rim sherd of samian pottery was recovered from [545]. The sherd was very abraded and was probably deposited in either the later-Roman period or the post-Roman period.



Photo 3 East end of Area 5 - work in progress. Looking N with the topsoil heaps containing the badger setts in the background

6.2.12 In the NE corner of the eastern extension of Area 5, feature [552] was an amorphous hollow within the natural clay. This is probably not an artificial feature but might have been a tree bowl or tree roots.

AREA 5-CLEANING AND EXCAVATION PLAN(WEST)



CCD 09

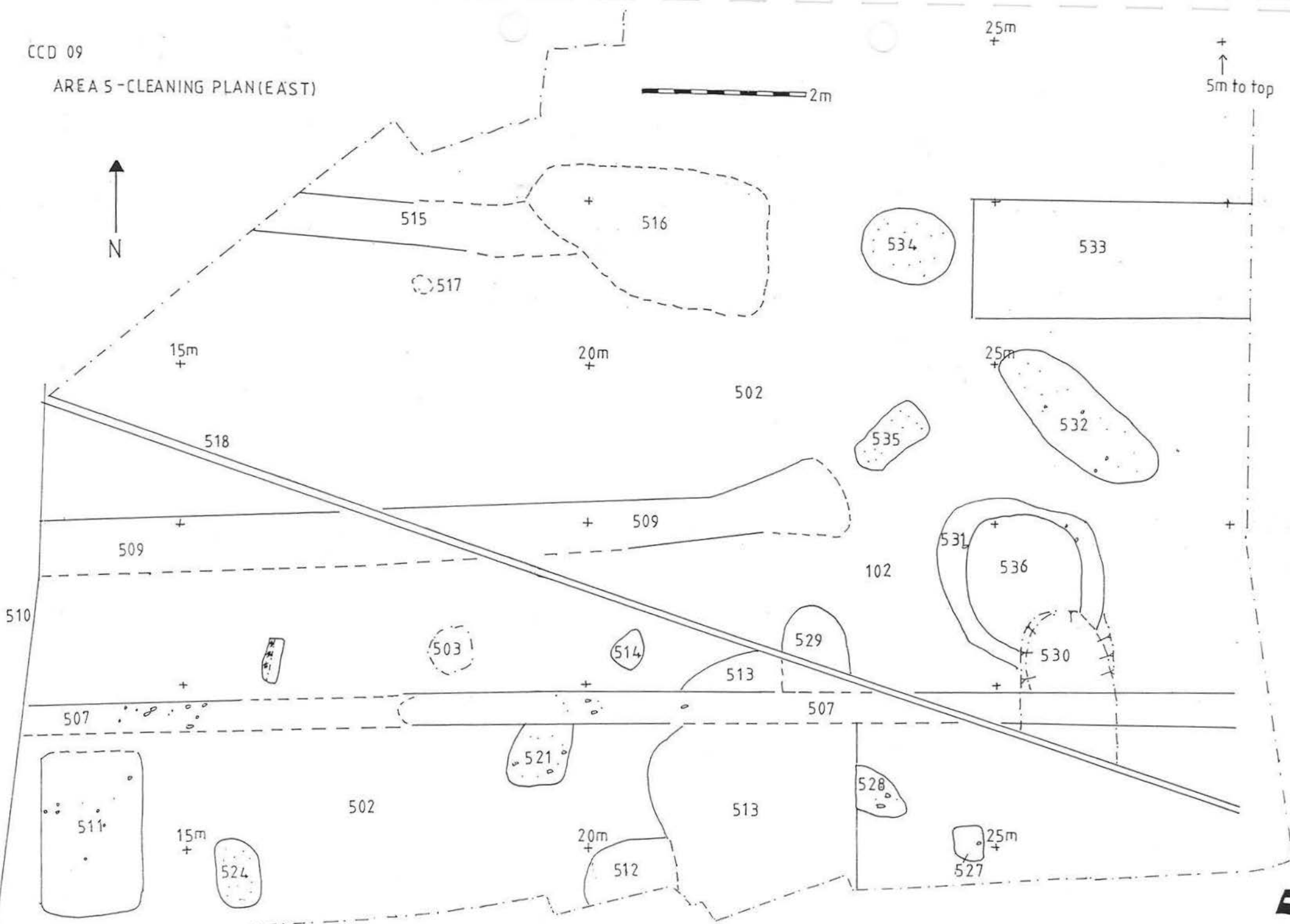
AREA 5 - CLEANING PLAN (EAST)



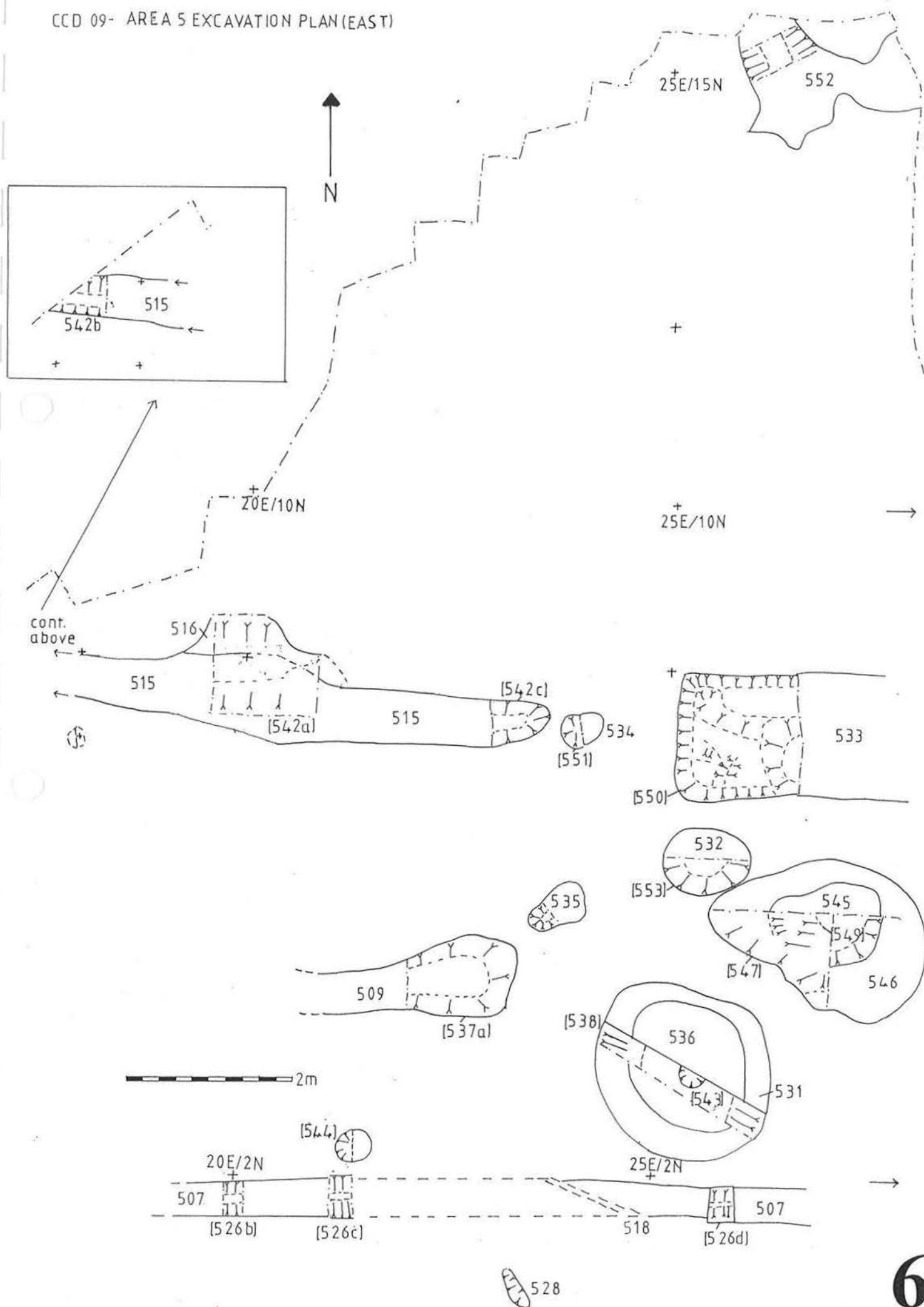
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25m
+

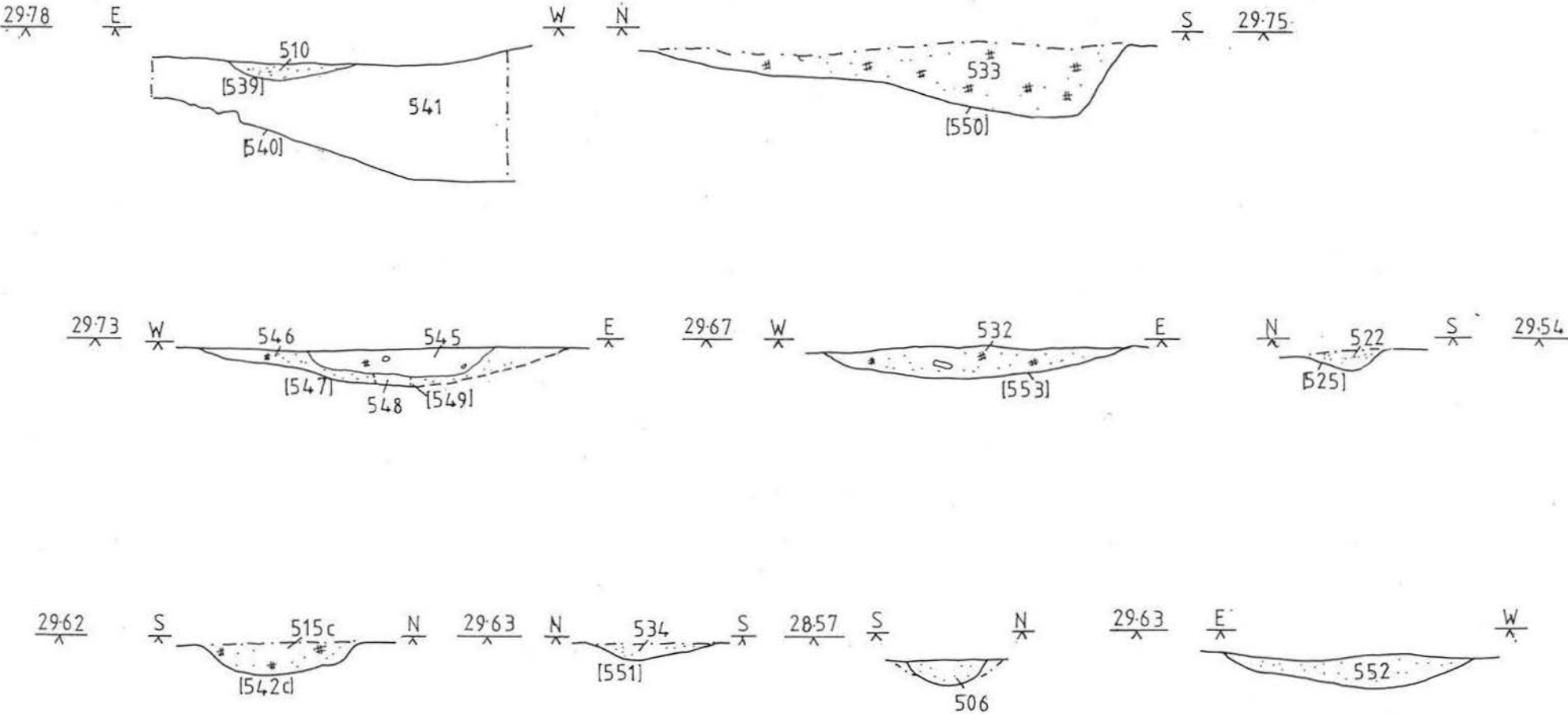
5m to top
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CCD 09- AREA 5 EXCAVATION PLAN (EAST)

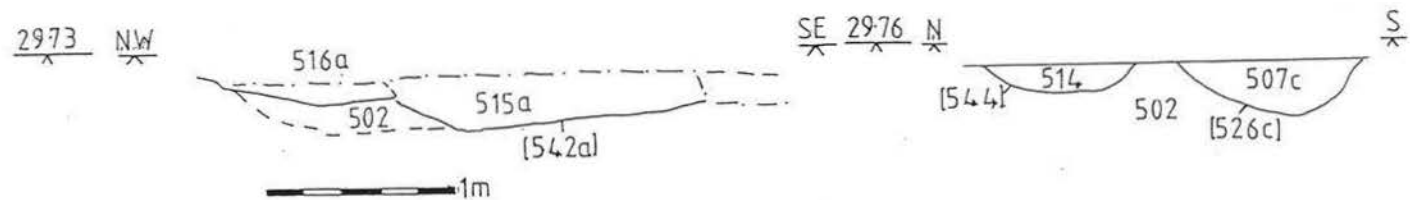
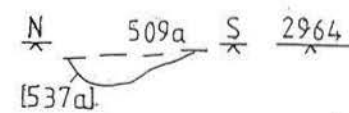
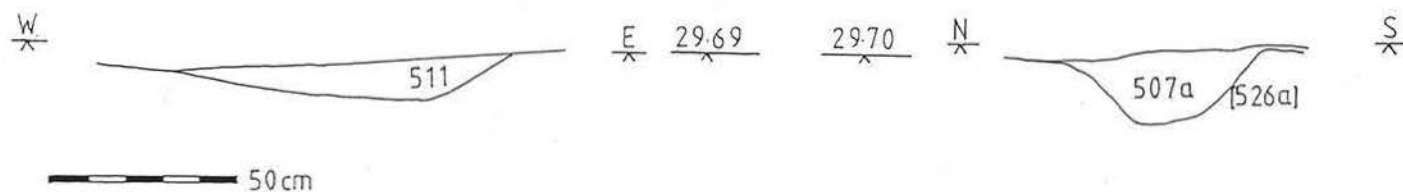
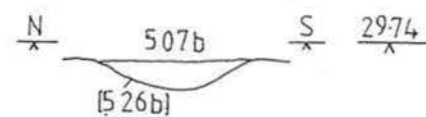
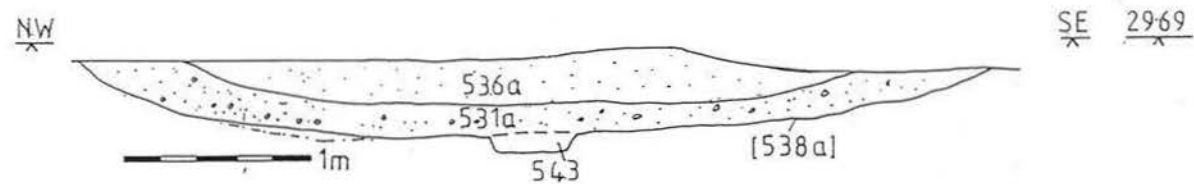


CCD 09 AREA 5 SECTIONS



50cm

AREA 5 - SECTIONS



6.3 Trench 6 see figures 3 and 9 to 16

6.3.1 Area 5 was cut as near to the spoil heaps as possible as it was thought, prior to the excavation, that the penanular feature shown on the geophysical survey would be found at the south end of the area containing the spoil heaps and the badger setts.

As there was no trace of any large, curving ring ditch within Area 5, it was decided, with the agreement of Mr. James Pitcher, manager of the Dimmer Landfill Site, that we would cut a long trench, approximately 5metres east of, and parallel with the spoil heaps, as it was thought possible that the penanular ditch might cross into that area.

A long, N-S trench was then cut by machine just over 5metres east of the spoil heaps and the badger setts. It was slightly 'dog-legged', following the line of the boundary rope, and, as with Area 5, the trench, numbered Trench 6, was cut down to either the surface of the natural, yellow Lias clay or to outcrops of Lias bedrock.

After the initial cleaning had been completed when the trench had been cut, it was realised that two features at the south end of the trench might be prehistoric and so this area was extended west by about 3metres, to the edge of the boundary rope. A similar extension was made, for similar reasons, near to the centre of the trench.

Trench 6 was cut from S to N and commenced about 12 metres north of the NE extension to Area 5. Archaeological contexts and features within Trench 6 will be described from south to north and will include, from the start of the context and feature descriptions, the later trench extensions mentioned above.



Photo 4 west extension at S end of Trench 6, showing pale grey fills of archaeological features. Looking NW.

6.3.2 At the southern extremity of Trench 6 as a ditch feature – cut [644] filled by dark, grey-brown silty clay [635]. The fill was flecked with charcoal and contained numerous flecks and small fragments of fired clay. [635] contained no pottery or dateable material. The ditch was ca.1.60m wide and ca. 30cm – 35cm deep with a rounded base and ran slightly to the NW of Trench 6, on a NW-SE alignment. The feature is assumed to be prehistoric.

6.3.3 Ditch [644] cut through a shallow pit immediately to the west, cut [656] filled by a silty clay containing flecks of fired clay – [655]. [655] contained no dateable finds.

6.3.4 A narrow, shallow gully – cut [643] - ca.0.50m wide x ca.0.15m deep, filled by silty clay [638] was aligned roughly N-S. It was excavated in two sondages at the N and S ends of the west extension, at the S end of Trench 6, and contained no finds.

A further feature running below the west side of the extension, cut [651], filled by [639], contained no finds apart from natural lumps of chert, or cherty flint. The feature was not uniform, either in shape or in section, and might be a tree bole.

6.3.5 Ditch [644] appeared to be cut by a pit or similar feature – cut [648] filled by [636] and [654]. [636] contained a small, Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery sherd and two small fragments of fired clay.

6.3.6 A further pit or gully extended beyond the east section at the south end of Trench 6, where cut [634] defined the west end of a ditch or pit that was filled by silty clay [633]. The fill contained numerous small fragments of fired clay but no dateable pottery or other artefacts.

6.3.7 Immediately north of [634 / [633], was three intercutting pits or gullies running below and beyond the east side of the evaluation trench that were cut, in turn, by a relatively modern ditch feature.

At the south end was the earliest feature, a shallow cut [632] filled by grey-brown silty clay [631]. The fill contained a prehistoric flint core.

[632] was cut by a pit or gully, cut [647] filled by [646]. [647] was over 30cms deep and the fill - [646] – which was flecked by fired clay fragments, contained a sherd of Late Iron Age or Roman pottery.

[647] was cut, in turn, by a relatively modern feature, cut [645] filled by a very soft, very dark, grey-brown silty clay – [629]. [629] contained frequent tree or scrub roots and loose wood and the whole feature which cut obliquely through a large part of Trench 6 is almost certainly a grubbed-out, and partly backfilled, post-medieval to modern field boundary. The top of cut [645] could be seen immediately below the topsoil.

Fill [629] is the same context as fills [609] and [622], north of [645] / [629], where this same ditch was previously excavated.

6.3.8 There was a gap of around 15 metres that contained no features apart from modern ditch [645] (where it was identified as cut [610] filled by [609]).

6.3.9 Beyond this gap, the trench contained a sub-circular pit [627] filled by [624] cut through the western end of a linear ditch or gully – [621] – that extended east beyond the east side of the evaluation trench.

Pit [627] was shallow, only ca.20cms deep and roughly 1.20m in diameter. The fill, [624], contained numerous fragments of fired clay but no dateable finds.

[627] cut through linear feature [621].

[621] was ca.0.20m deep with sharp sides and a flat base and around 1.60m wide; it extended beyond the east side of the trench.

[621] was filled by yellow-brown silty clay [620] which was very heavily flecked with fired clay and charcoal. The fill was lighter in colour near to the base, where organic matter had leached out. No dateable finds were recovered from [621].



Photo 5 Shallow gully [621] and fill [620] looking E.

In the west section of the trench, opposite cuts [621] and [627], a probable ditch feature could be seen in the exposed stratigraphy.

A western extension to the trench was then cut to expose this feature.

6.3.10 A linear ditch or gully, cut [623] filled by [622], running N-S, just below and beyond the west edge of the evaluation trench, plus the eastern end of a smaller feature to the west of the N-S aligned ditch, was revealed in the base of the west extension.

[622] was a soft, loose, dark fill containing numerous tree roots and wood. The metal cap of a modern shotgun cartridge was also recovered from [623].

This is the same, modern boundary feature as [609] / [610] and [645] / [629].

A modern land drain or French drain, [605], consisting of a narrow trench filled by grey scalplings, crossed and cut into the surfaces of ditch [623] and pit [627].



Photo 6 modern feature [623] / [622] looking S

6.3.11 There was a small cluster of feature a further 6m to the north of [621].

A small W-E aligned drain or gully, cut [618], had a pointed western end within the trench and extended beyond the east side of the trench. [618] was filled by brown silty clay [619] which was heavily flecked by fired clay specks and with charcoal. A small group of fired clay fragments was collected from the surface of [619] during the initial trench cleaning

Immediately to the north of [618] / [619] was a relatively large ditch crossing the full width of the trench.

6.3.12 Ditch [617] was aligned W-E and extended beyond both the west and east sides of the trench. [617] was over 1 metre wide and appeared to be widening to the east. The sides of [617] were fairly steep with a gently curving base and the feature was filled by [616], a brown, greasy, silty clay with streaks of natural, blue clay. Within the fill were a number of late-prehistoric or early Romano/British pottery sherds and small fragments and flecks of fired clay.



Photo 7 Late Iron Age gully 617 and small gully 619 Looking E.

6.3.13 Apart from sondages or excavations into natural or disturbed clay – contexts [657] and [658] – where darker coloured Lias clays resembled archaeological features, the last archaeological group recognised within Trench 6 consisted of three features cutting each other at around 40 metres north. Beyond the 40 metre peg, only hard, natural, blue and yellow Lias clays, with some outcrops of Lias bedrock, were present in the northern end of the trench.

6.3.14 The last group of archaeological features was found between the 38m and 42m pegs. A small, circular or sub-circular, shallow pit – [628] - ca. 0.30m in diameter and only about 10cms deep, extended out of the west section. [628] was cut by a

large ?pit? feature – [615]. [615], filled by silty clay [614], containing two sherds of either late-Iron Age or Roman period black burnished ware pottery.

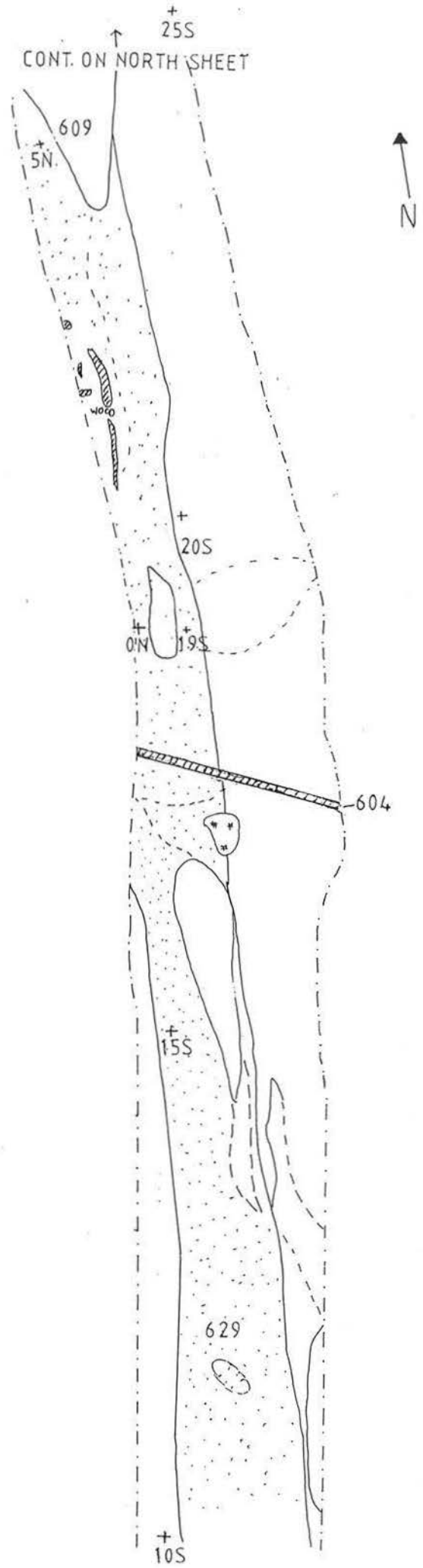
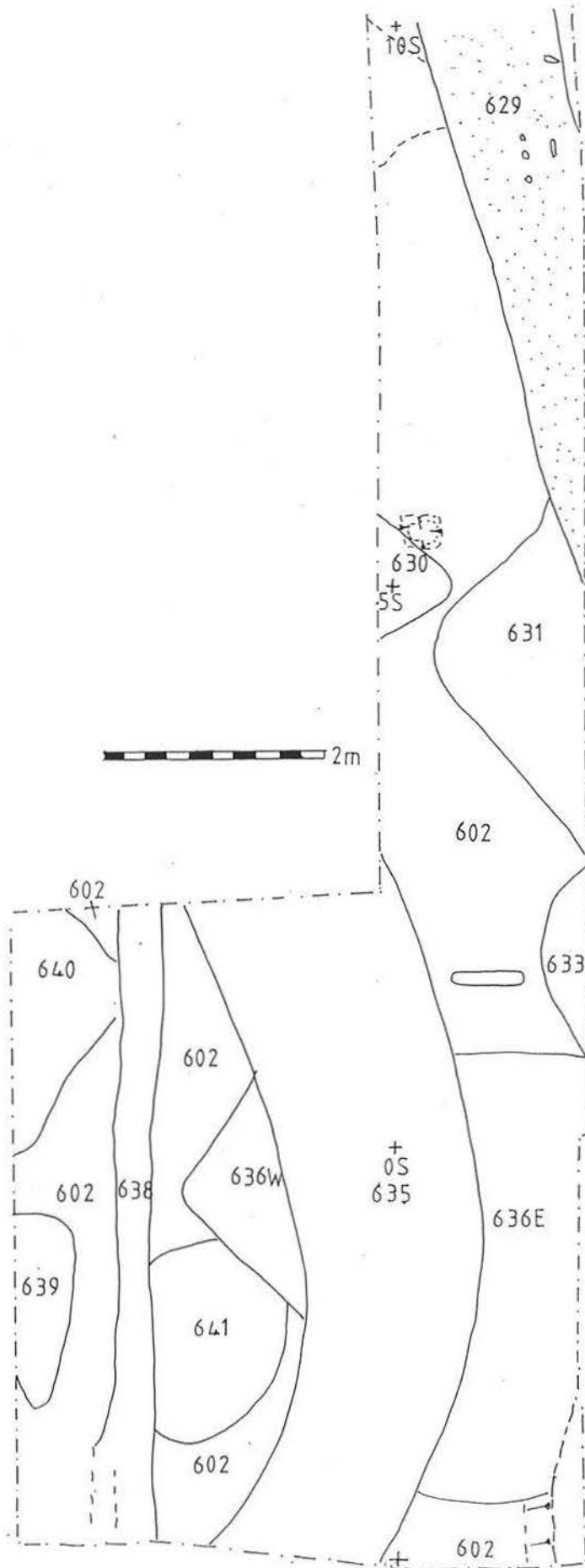


Photo 8 Late Iron Age or Roman pit [615] filled by [614] Looking N.

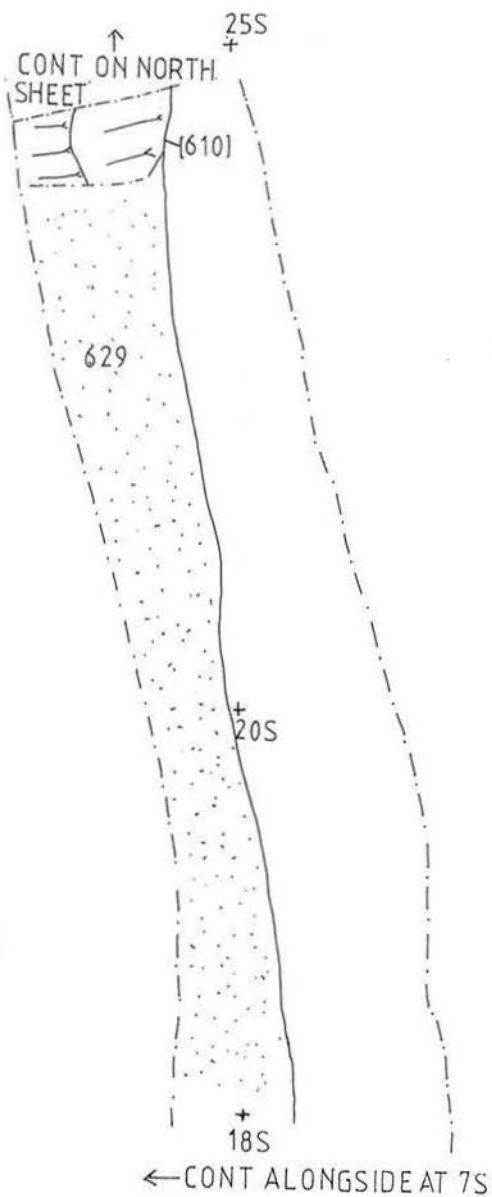
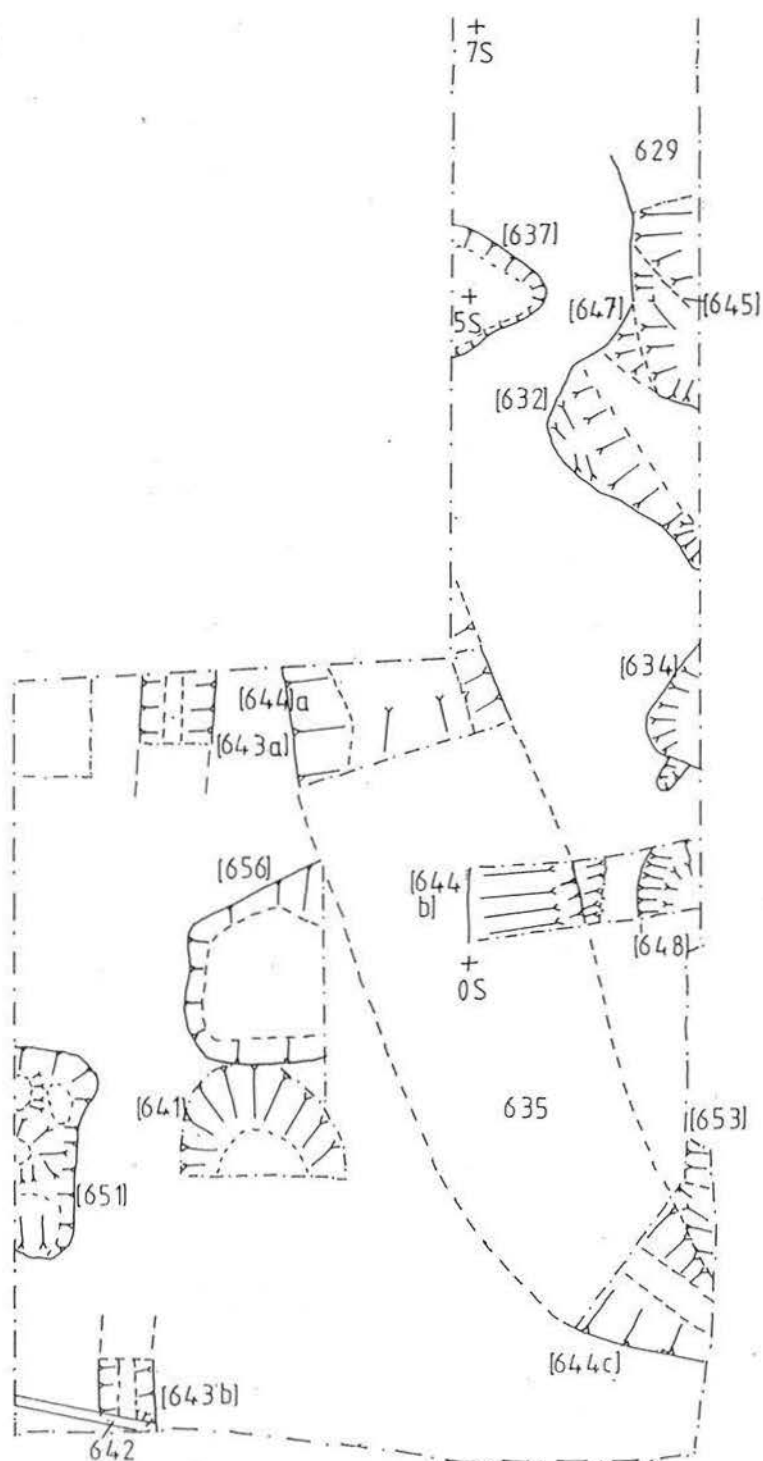


Photo 9 central part of Trench 6, - west extension - showing modern land drain and the badly cracked, Lias clay surface. Looking N

CLEANING PLAN TR.6 (SOUTH)



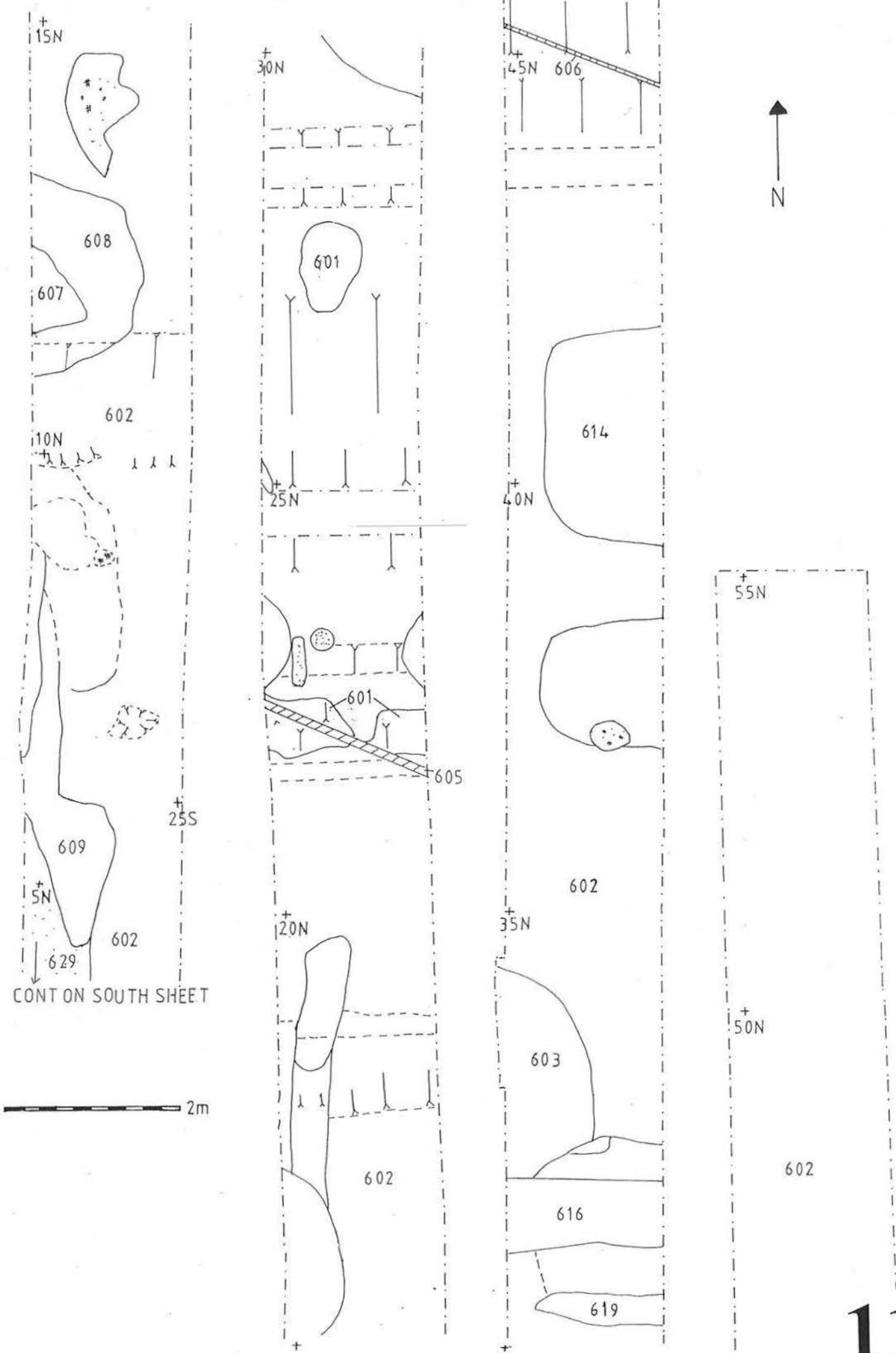
EXCAVATION PLAN TR. 6 (SOUTH)



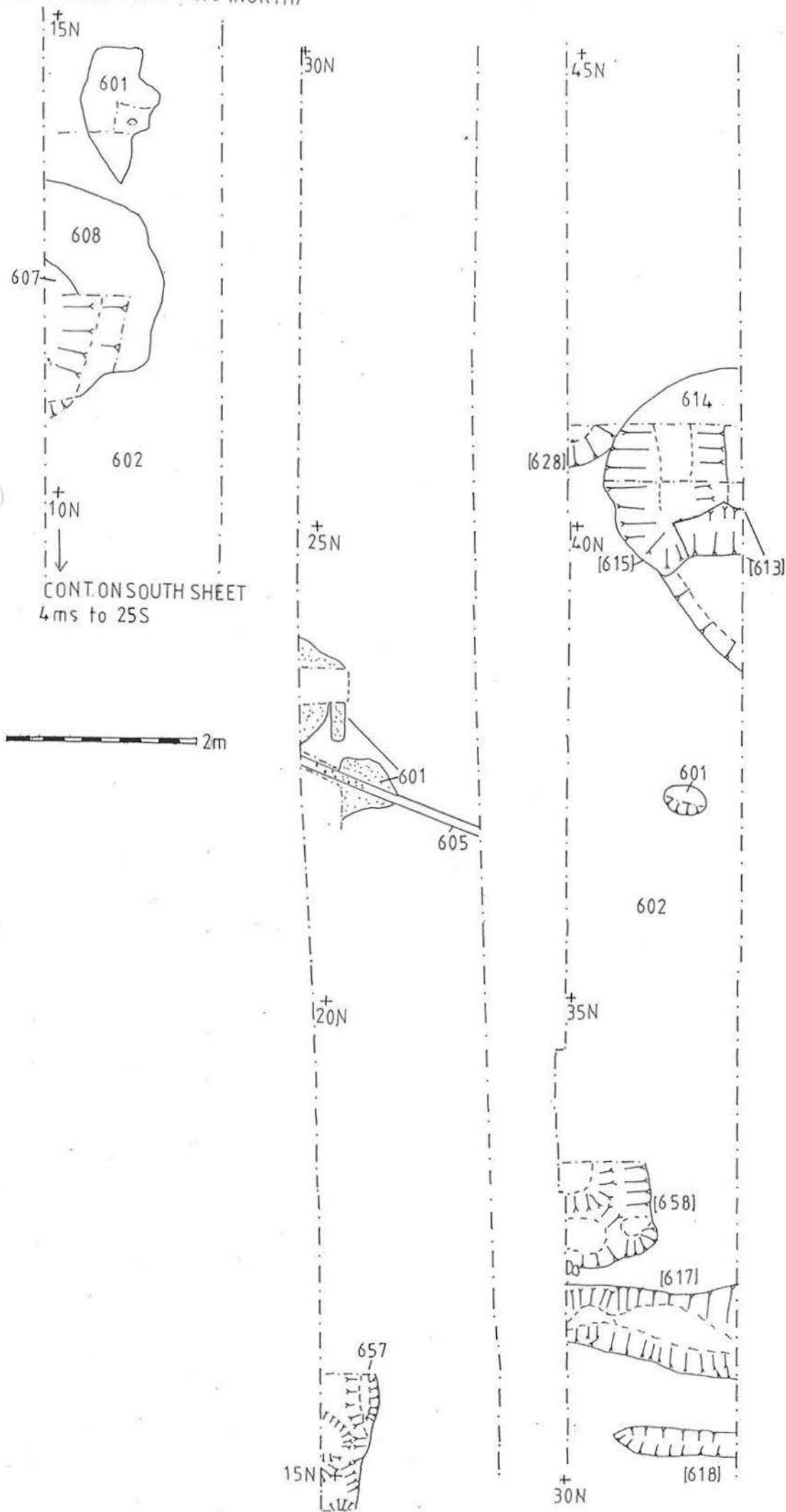
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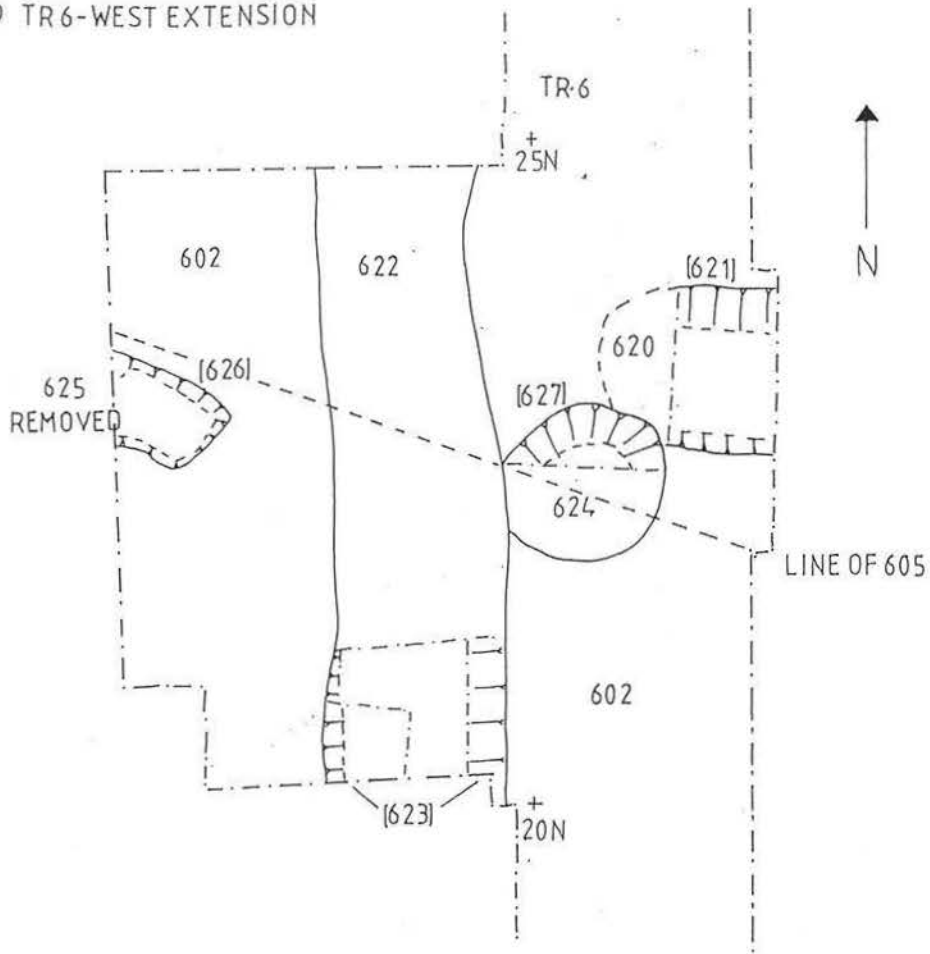
CLEANING PLAN TR-6 (NORTH)



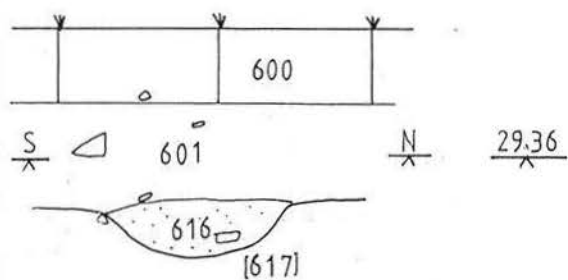
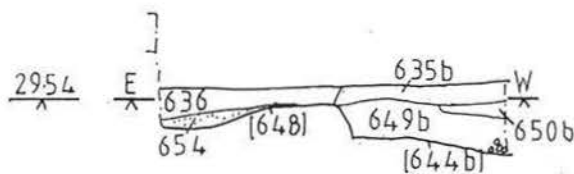
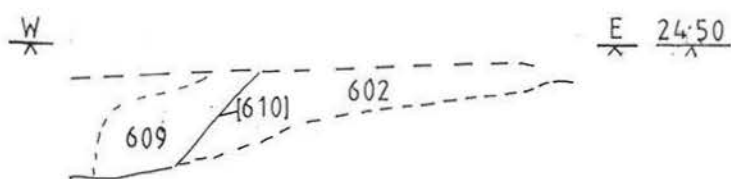
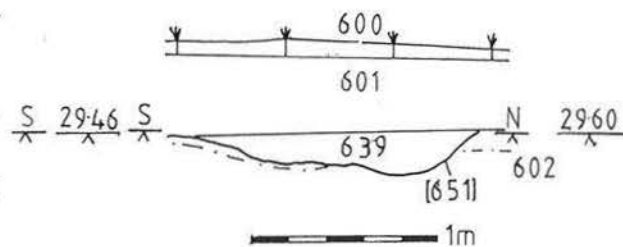
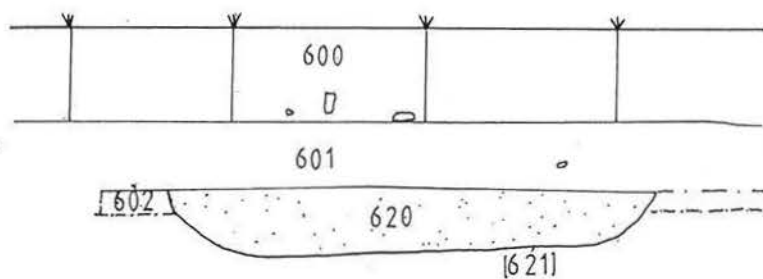
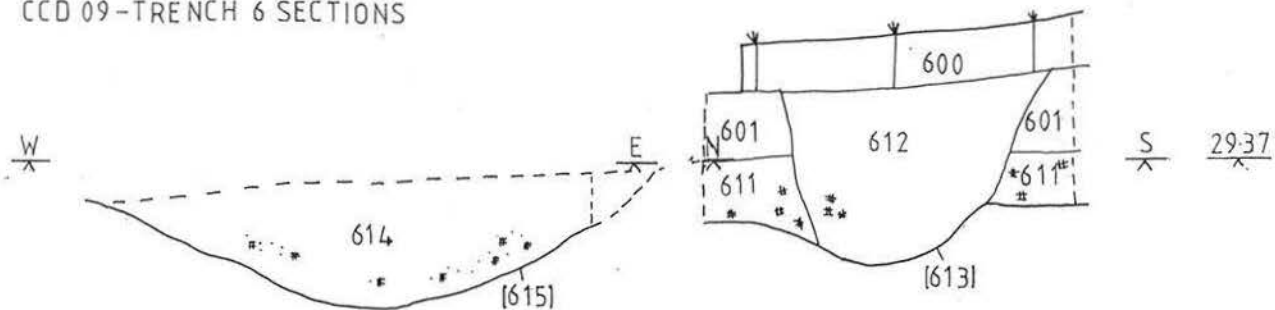
EXCAVATION PLAN TR.6 (NORTH)



CCD 09 TR6-WEST EXTENSION

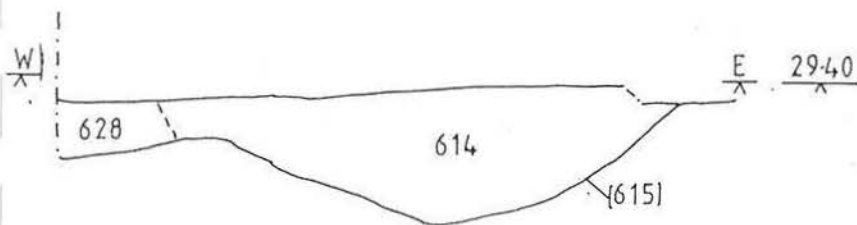
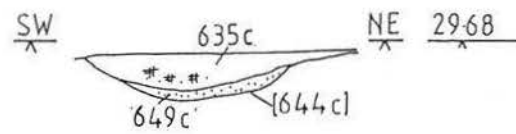
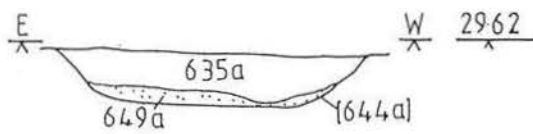
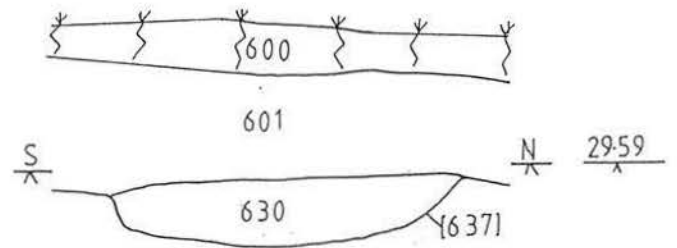
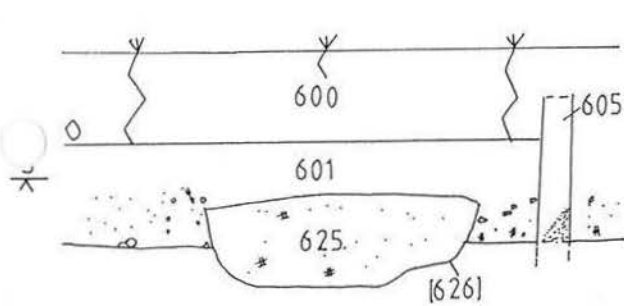
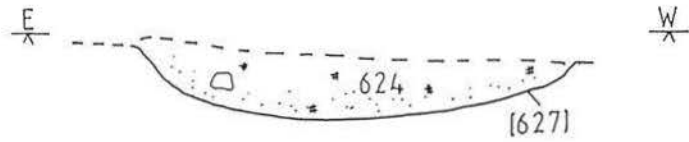
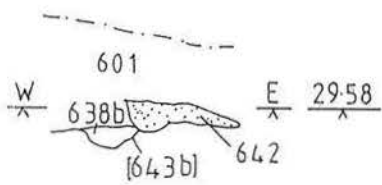


CCD 09-TRENCH 6 SECTIONS



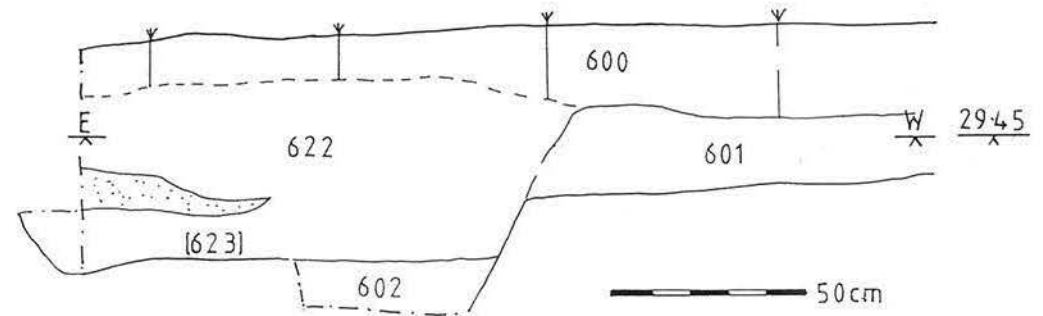
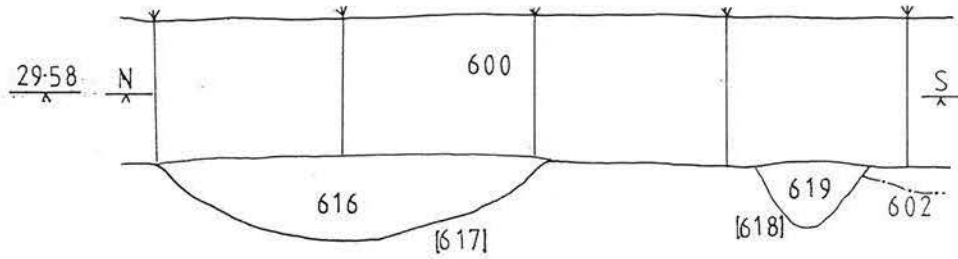
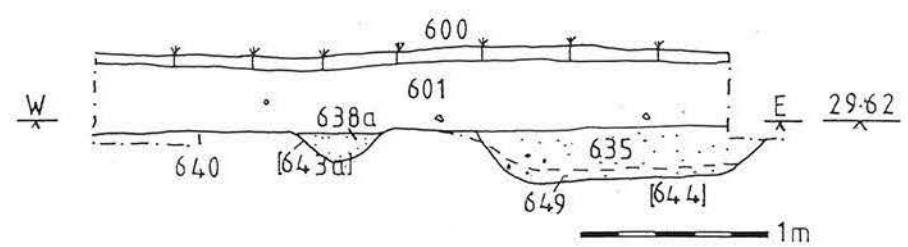
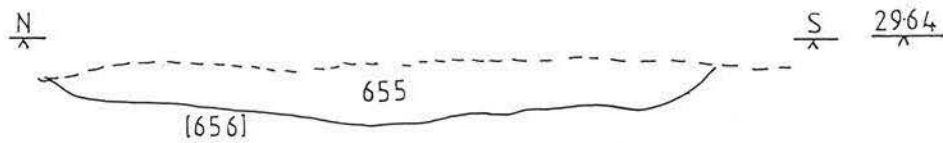
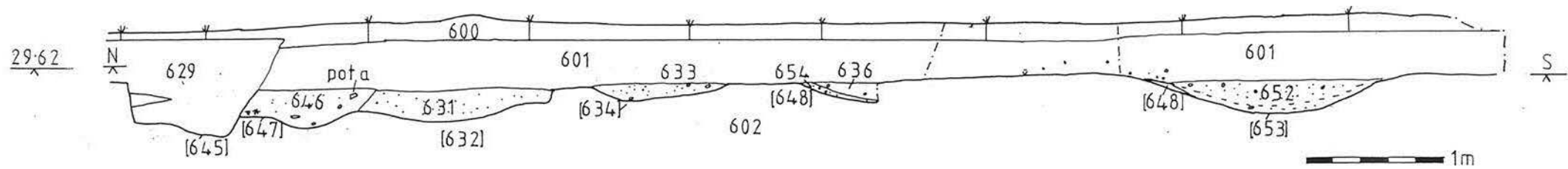
50cm

TRENCH 6-SECTIONS



50cm

CCD 09 TRENCH 6 SECTIONS



7.0 Discussion

7.1 A relatively dense spread of archaeological features was recorded in both excavation areas during 2009.

Those features that could be dated were generally found to have belonged to either the later-prehistoric period or the earlier part of the roman period. Some features that contained no dateable material were, therefore, undated and these could belong to the prehistoric or roman period or later (?pre-medieval)..

7.2 The vast majority of archaeological features were relatively shallow and this probably points to a long episode, or numerous episodes of ploughing, possibly during the medieval or post-medieval periods when most of this area appears to have been used as meadow land but when some arable and fodder cultivation was also carried out.

7.3 Finds within features were not especially common and this would suggest that an occupation or settlement focus is not to be found in the immediate vicinity of the modern landfill extension. The 2002 geophysical survey, however, does depict a penanular enclosure, a type of feature normally associated with the prehistoric period: This dating would, of course, accord with the majority of the recovered finds.

The scarcity of finds, however, might indicate that the penanular feature might not be the site of a farmstead, or similar small settlement, but might have been used for agricultural purposes, possibly as a seasonal stock enclosure.

7.4 It is not certain that the penanular enclosure has been properly located on existing maps of the landfill site. Trench 6 should have contained at least one arm of one of the ditches that form and define the enclosure; but if it is present it was not recognised.

7.5 The spread of archaeological features, though, was not uniform, and the northern part of Trench 6 was archaeologically blank. It might be supposed, therefore, that the northern part of Trench 6 was either outside or beyond the boundaries of the penanular enclosure and of the archaeological features that might either be found within or which were associated with that enclosure.

7.6 It is often difficult to determine the function of archaeological features when they are found in trenches as the area being examined is so small.

7.7 When the topsoil heaps are removed, and after the badgers have left, a larger, rectangular investigation area, situated within the space bounded on the south by Area 5 and on the east by Trench 6, might be opened and examined, and that should determine the exact position, date, form and function of the penanular enclosure.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mr. James Pitcher of Viridor Waste (Somerset) Ltd., manager of the Dimmer Landfill Site, for all of his help and support for the ongoing archaeological works.

The site crew of the 2009 construction firm, Jones Bros of Ruthin, were always most helpful and we would particularly like to thank their site agent, Mr. Martin Thomas, for his help and interest, for provision toilets and of storage space and for the supply of excavating machines and drivers whenever they were required, particularly machine operator Wayne Williams.

Mr. James Sadler provided GPS readings, and other GPS readings were taken by Mr. Stuart Maidment, on behalf of Viridor Waste Ltd.

For this report, the Finds List and Context List were recorded and compiled by Arthur Hollinrake and the inked plans were drawn by Faith Cairns. Pottery was washed and marked by Val Stevens and described by Charles Hollinrake.

Computer graphics were prepared by Nancy Hollinrake and the report was written by Charles Hollinrake.

Charles Hollinrake
9th March 2010

context	{	pottery		}	{	building materials	miscellaneous
	qty	fabric & weight	surface	century	qty	description	
Area 5							
Area 5 - Cleaning							
A5 / C1 - over 506							1 x small chert lump, not worked. discarded. 3g
A5 / C2 - over 506							1 x fired clay frag. 4g
A5 / C3 - over 502							1 x small fired clay lump. <1g
A5 / C4							1 x small pale slag fragment. 1g
A5 / C5 - over 502							1 x FLINT chip, brown, all-over patination. 2g
A5 / C6 - over 502	1	reduced, quartz & grey stone (not limestone) inclusions. 1g	dark grey - brown to black surfaces	1st BC - 1st AD			
A5 / C7 - over 502	1	fine sandy, oxidised, grey core. 1g	sandy gritty surfaces	?LIA or ?12th-14th			
A5 / C8 - over 507							2 x small ?fired clay or ?stone frags. 1g, 1g
A5 / C9 - over 511							1 x fired clay lump. 4g
A5 / C10 - over 515							1 x fired clay frag. 1g
A5 / C11 - over 509	1	BBW. 4g		1st - 4th			
A5 / C12 - over 515							1 x small fired clay frag. <1g
A5 / C13 - over 509							1 x small bone frag. <1g
A5 / C14 - over 515							1 x fired clay frag. <1g
A5 / C15 - over 507							4 x small fired clay frags. 2g
A5 / C16 - over 502							1 x small fired clay frag. 1g
A5 / C17 - over 502							1 x small snail shell. <1g
A5 / C18 - over 533							1 x tooth, abraded. <1g
A5 / C19 - over 533							2 x very small snail shells. <1g
A5 / C20 - over 535	1	small BBW. 1g		1st - 4th			
A5 / C21 - over 516							1 x very small fired clay fragment. <1g
Area 5 - Contexts							
507 A	1	rim, small bead, oxidised, sandy, grey core. 4g	gritty surfaces. Pot A	1st - 4th			
515 A	1	small sherd, BBW. <1g	Pot A	1st - 4th			2 x very small fired clay frags. Fired Clay A. <1g
							1 x fired clay frag. Fired Clay B. 1g
							1 x small, dark grey, ?slag fragment. <1g
515 C	1	very small sherd, fine black sandy. <1g		?LIA			
517							1 x small chert frag, brown. discarded. 2g

context	{	pottery		}	{	building materials	miscellaneous
	qty	fabric & weight	surface	century	qty	description	
Area 5 - Continued							
531 A	1	BBW. 4g	Pot A	1st - 4th			1 x fired clay lump. Fired Clay A. 4g
	2	joining, soft orange, sandy, quartz and brown grit temper with ?some grog. ?Prob. Shepton Mallet Ware. 7g	Pot B	1st - 4th			1 x fired clay frag. 1g
							2 x small fired clay frags. 1g
							c.5 x very small fired clay frags = 1g
							27 x chert & limestone lumps, various sizes, natural. Discarded 395g
							1 x small chert chip, red-brown. ?probably natural. 2g
533 A	1	dark grey, abundant quartz temper. 1g	black outer surface. Pot A	?LIA - ?1st BC - 1st AD			1 x small fired clay fragment. Fired Clay A. <1g
535							1 x large fired clay lump. Fired Clay A. 12g
541							1 x fired clay fragment. 2g
545	1	Rim fragment, Samian ware, very abraded. 3g	Pot A	1st - 4th			
Area 5 - U / S							
U/S West Section	1	small BBW sherd. 2g		1st - 4th			
U / S Spoil - East End of Area 5	1	fine sandy, light grey. ?Probably greyware type. 1g	fine orange outer surface	1st - 4th			
Trench 6							
Trench 6 - Cleaning							
T6 / C1	1	grey, abundant quartz temper - poorly sorted - up to 3mm. 4g	oxidised surfaces	?MIA or ?LIA			
T6 / C2 - over 601	1	BBW. 3g		1st - 4th			
T6 / C3 - above 614	1	dark grey - black, abundant small quartz temper. BBW. 2g	one abraded surface	1st - 4th			1 x fired clay fragment. 9g
T6 / C4 - over 601							1 x small fired clay fragment. <1g
T6 / C5 - over 602	1	small sherd, pale oxidised. <1g	smooth surfaces	?post-medieval			
T6 / C6 - over 616	1	grey, buff, small quartz temper. 1g	reduced surfaces	?IA or ?earlier			
T6 / C7 - over 616							3 x fired clay fragments. <1g
T6 / C8 - over 602	1	black, abundant small quartz temper. 1g	oxidised gritty outer surface	?prob. LIA			
T6 / C9 - over 619							4 x fired clay fragments. 5g
T6 / C10 - over 619							3 x ?fired clay or ?pottery fragments. discarded. <1g
T6 / C11							1 x fired clay fragment. 6g

context	{	pottery		}	{	building materials	miscellaneous
	qty	fabric & weight	surface	century	qty	description	
Trench 6 - Cleaning - Continued							
T6 / C12 - over 609							5 x joining Fe nail fragments. 2g
T6 / C13 - over 629							1 x large Fe ?nail or ?punch fragment, pointed end - flattened point. c.8mm diameter x c.75mm long. 13g. ?C19-20th
T6 / C14 - over 608							1 x shotgun cartridge frag, 12 bore firing head. discarded. 6g
Trench 6 - Contexts							
600	1	pale off-white. 11g	white glaze	18-19th	1	floor tile fragment, oxidised fabric, blue glaze above. discarded. 4g	1 x Fe ox-shoe. 647g
600 - above 620	1	hard sandy. 6g	oxidised outer surface, reduced inner surface, khaki brown glaze inside	17-18th			
	2	joining sherds, earthenware, grog temper, abraded. 1g, 2g		?probably 18th			
602 @ c.20m N							1 x FLINT flake, grey-brown. 1g
608	1	?possible pottery fragment, dark grey. <1g	oxidised surfaces. Fired Clay B	?pre-historic			1 x fired clay fragment. Fired Clay A. 2g
612	1	?small abraded pottery sherd, dark grey or ?fired clay. <1g		?pre-historic			9 x fired clay fragments. 2g
614	1	small sherd, BBW. 1g	Pot A	1st - 4th			2 x fired clay fragments. 1g
	1	BBW. 4g	Pot B	1st - 4th			1 x ?quartz fragment, not worked. discarded. Flint A. 2g
616	5	body sherds, same pot, grey, sandy, very fine quartz temper. ?LIA sandy ware or ?BBW. 5g	orange - brown surfaces. Pot A	?LIA or ?1st - 4th			1 x fired clay fragment. 2g
							10 x very small fired clay fragments. 2g
							1 x quartz fragment. natural. discarded. 15g
620							32 x fired clay fragments. 15g
622							1 x animal bone - ?large rodent femur. discarded. C20th
							1 x shotgun cartridge / firing cap / 12 bore. discarded. 4g
624							9 x fired clay fragments. 9g

context	{	___ pottery ___	_____	_____}	{	building materials }	miscellaneous
	qty	fabric & weight	surface	century	qty	description	
Trench 6 - Continued							
631							1 x FLINT, ?core, worked, cortical, dark brown. 7g
633							11 x small fired clay fragments. <1g
635							1 x small flint / chert, not worked. discarded. 5g
							1 x small flint /chert, not worked, white. discarded. 1g
635 A							8 x fired clay fragments. <1g
							4 x flint / chert. not worked. discarded. 152g
635 C							22 x fired clay fragments. 5g
							5 x chert fragments. not worked. discarded. 20g
636	1	black, fine. 3g	sandy, abraded, brown outer surface	?LIA or 1st-4th			2 x fired clay fragments. <1g
639							25 x flint & ?sandstone fragments. Flint not worked. Modern from hardcore. discarded. 279g
646	1	black, sandy. 1g	oxidised - brown inner surface	?LIA or 1st-4th			
Trench 6 - U / S							
Trench 6 Machining - North End	2	joining, base sherds, hard oxidised, sandy. 114g	inner brown glaze	18-19th	1	ceramic tile fragment, factory made, white fabric, shiny pale blue surfaces. discarded. 23g. C20th	
	1	small sherd, oxidised. 1g	smooth surfaces	18-19th			

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
Area 5				
Area 5 Dimensions =		c.0.6m deep x c.5.75m wide (N-S) at the W end - c.4.9m wide in the centre of the area - c.15.6m wide at the E end x c.28.5m long (E-W)		
500	Deposit	Same as 600 . Moderately compact, dark grey-brown silty humic clay. Contained occasional irregular stones, C20th pottery & ceramic tile (not collected). c.25cm thick. Extends throughout whole of Area 5. Cut by 518 . Overlay 501	Turf & Topsoil. Removed by machine.	post-medieval to modern
501	Deposit	Same as 601 . Firm, light orange-brown clay. Contained frequent small manganese flecks within the lower c.20cm of the deposit; ca.40cm deep. Underlay 500 . Cut by 504, 505, 506, 519 . Overlay all other features. Overlay 502, 503	Sub-soil. Colluvium with some bioturbation. Removed by machine. The lower c.10cm of 501 was cut by several features at the W end of Area 5 suggesting a later date for those features.	post-roman to post-medieval
502	Geological Deposit	Same as 602 . Stiff, orange-yellow, sandy, Lias clay with occasional orange mottles. Contained moderate amounts of small to medium sized natural chert lumps, 1 x C1st BC to-1st AD pottery sherd, 1 x ?LIA or ?C12th-14th pottery sherd, 1 x small fired clay frag. 1 x small snail shell. Cleaning over 502 recovered 1 x small, fired clay lump & 1 x FLINT chip. Up to c.25cm depth exposed - not bottomed. Underlay 501 . Cut by all excavated features. Overlay 503	Natural Lias clay subsoil. 502 shaded down to blue & yellow-blue Lias clay. The excavation level of Area 5 exposed the surface of 502 & small areas of 503 . All cleaning finds are surface finds.	Geology
503	Geological Deposit	Same as 603 . Firm, orange, Lias clay (c.60%) mixed with abundant natural Lias bedrock & sandstone fragments (c.40%). No significant finds or inclusions. Up to c.5cm depth exposed - not bottomed. Occurred in patches throughout Area 5. Underlay 502	Surface of bedrock. 503 underlay 502 and was exposed in rough patches on the excavation surface.	Geology
504	Cut & Fill	Fill = Firm, grey to grey-brown silty clay. Contained occasional small chert lumps. Cut = Linear. Aligned c.N-S. Up to c.10cm deep in the S-facing section - bottomed. c.35cm wide. c.2m length exposed N-S. Very steep sided. Not excavated due to excessive flooding at the W end of Area 5. Underlay c.25cm of 501 . Cut through 501 Lower . ?Associated with 505, 519 .	?A channel or small drainage ditch at the NW corner of Area 5. ?Probably associated with 505 to its South as 504 was not recorded S of 505 . 504 cut through the lower c.10cm of 501 . ?Appeared to be associated with gully 519 to its east (c.65cm at the S end to c.20cm at the N end as exposed).	?medieval
505	Cut & Fill	Fill = Firm, dark grey to black, loamy clay. Contained occasional chert gravels. Cut = Irregular- rectangular shape in plan as exposed. Not excavated due to excessive flooding at the W end of Area 5. c.10cm thick in the E facing section of Area 5. Up to c.90cm exposed N-S. Up to c.2m exposed E-W. Underlay c.25cm of 501 . ?Cut through 501 Lower . ?Associated with 504, 519 .	Possibly a ?sump or the ?eastern terminus of a drainage ditch. ?Appeared to be associated with gullies 504 & 519 which extend from 505 to the N. ?Possibly associated with 506 to the S. Not excavated due to excessive flooding at the W end of Area 5.	?medieval

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
506	Cut & Fill	Fill = Soft to moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay. Contained occasional dark red manganese nodules, small angular stones - mostly chert (<2cm). Cleaning over 506 recovered 1 x fired clay frag. Cut = Linear. Aligned c.WNW-ESE. Sharp break of slope - top. Steep sides. Rounded break of slope - base. Small rounded. Rounded terminus at E end. c.40cm deep. c.30cm. c.1.6m length exposed - continued beyond the E-facing section. Sondage = c.40cm E-W at the E end. Underlay c.25cm of 501. Cut through 501 Lower, 523	Gully - with a rounded terminus at its E end. 506 was cut through the lower c.15cm of 501. ?Possible association with 505 - c.1.5m to the N & possibly on the same alignment. 506 was aligned at right angles to 504.	?medieval
507	Fill	Firm, dark grey-brown, fine grained silty clay. Contained moderate amounts of hard orange manganese nodules & soft orange-red fired clay flecks, occasional small sub-rounded & sub-angular stones (various types) and chert, rare charcoal flecks and small lumps <1cm. Cleaning over 507 recovered = 2 x small ?fired clay or ?stone frags. 4 x small fired clay frags. From c.7cm thick at the W end to c.15cm thick at the E end. 40-50cm wide. c.25m long (E-W). Cut by 518. Underlay 501. Filled 526	Silted up fill of a ?large drain or gully, cut 526. 507 crossed the full length of Area 5 (E-W) from the west facing section to its terminus positioned at c.3.5m east of the east-facing section. Excavated in 4 x sondages. Partially truncated by machine near its W end.	RB
507 A		Contained 1 x 1st BC - 4th AD pottery sherd. c.20cm average depth. From 1cm up to 18cm thick in W-facing section of sondage. Up to 55cm wide. Sondage A = c.1.65m E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 526 A	Sondage A was located at the rounded terminus at the W end of gully cut 526A.	
507 B		No finds. 20cm thick. c.40cm wide. Sondage B = c.25cm E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 526 A	Sondage B was located c.1m W of Sondage C. c.15.5m from the W end of the feature.	
507 C		No finds. c.15cm thick. c.50cm wide. Sondage C = c.40cm E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 526C	Sondage C was c.16.5m from the W end of the feature & c.14cm S of 514.	
507 D		No finds. c.7cm thick. c.50cm wide. Sondage D = c.25cm E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 526D	Sondage D was near the E end of the exposed feature. c.18cm S of 531.	
508	Deposit	Same as 520. Firm, dark (green) brown, clayey silt. Contained occasional small, hard dark red manganese nodules. 2-3cm thick. c.1.5m N-S. c.1.5m E-W. Underlay 501. Cut by 526A. Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil. Equated to the S half of 520. Thin deposit with poorly defined edges (rectangular in plan with rounded edges). Cut by late-IA or	?IA or ?RB
509	Fill	Firm, dark grey-brown, silty (c.10%) clay. Contained occasional manganese flecks. Cleaning over 509 recovered 1 x BBW sherd & 1 x small bone frag. c.7cm thick. Mostly c.50cm wide - up to c.1m at the terminus (Sondage A). c.18m exposed E-W. Cut by 518. Underlay 501. Filled 537	Silted up fill of gully cut 537. Terminus excavated at its eastern end. 509 was not as well defined as 507 and was less defined at its western exposed extent. Extended beyond the S-facing section of Area 5 at its western, exposed extent. Excavated in 1 x sondage [509A].	prob R/B
509 A		No finds. 7cm thick. From c.60cm wide at the E-facing section up to c.1m wide in the centre of the sondage. Sondage A = c.1.3cm E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 537A	Sondage A was located at the E terminus of the gully.	

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
510	Fill - ?Palaeo - channel	Moderate to firmly compact, mid-grey silty clay with frequent blue-grey-brown mottles. No significant finds or inclusions. 10cm thick. 40cm wide. c.6.30m long N-S (extended beyond the N&S facing sections). Sondage = 70cm -S. Cut by 518 . Underlay 501 . Filled 539 . Overlay 541	Probably the silted up fill of a palaeo-channel (539) as 510 was very clean. Distinct from 541 (below) by the blue-grey mottles within 510 . Cut by modern land drain 518 at its N end.	pre-historic
511	Deposit	Moderate to soft, mid-grey-brown, silty clay. Contained moderate amounts of small hard orange manganese nodules, occasional small sub-angular limestone (2-3cm). Cleaning over 511 recovered 1 x fired clay lump. 10cm thick. c.1m E-W. c.2m N-S. 64cm excavated N-S. Underlay 501 . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil. If 511 is the fill of a pit (rectangular in plan with rounded edges) then it appears to have been heavily truncated.	?IA or ?RB
512	Deposit	Same as 513 , 528 , 529 . Moderate to soft, mid-grey-brown, clay with organic smearing. Contained occasional chert lumps (c.10%). Up to 4cm thick. c.70cm exposed N-S (extended beyond N-facing section). c.1.25m E-W. Underlay 501 . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil. Appeared to be an extension of 513 at its SW exposed corner. Sub-circular in plan - originally resembled a small pit.	?IA or ?RB
513	Deposit	Same as 512 , 528 , 529 . Firm, grey-brown clay (c.95%). Contained occasional chert lumps (c.5%) and fired clay flecks. From 4cm up to 15cm thick. c.2.4m E-W. c.3.2m exposed N-S (disappeared beyond N-facing section). Sondage through 513 = c.50 N-S x c.1.1m E-W. Underlay 501 . Cut by 518 , 526 . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil. Large sub-rectangular shaped area with 512 , 528 & 529 around its edges - which appeared to be potential features after cleaning. Cut by large R/B gully 526 .	?IA or ?RB
514	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compact, dark grey-brown clayey silt. Contained occasional lumps of fired clay up to 5cm, charcoal & manganese small lumps & flecks. 6cm thick. c.40cm diameter. c.20cm excavated E-W (W half). Underlay 501 . Filled 544	Fill of small rounded pit 544 - c.14cm N of gully 507C .	?IA or ?RB
515	Fill	Firm, dark grey-brown, silty clay (c.95%). Contained occasional chert lumps, fired clay flecks, small manganese flecks. Cleaning over 515 recovered 3 x fired clay frag. From c.12cm thick at the E end (terminus) to c.15cm at its exposed W end. c.50cm-70cm wide (N-S). Up to c.9.6m exposed (E-W). Underlay 501 . Filled 542	Fill of gully cut 542 . Aligned E-W at the NE corner of Area 5. Terminus at the E end - W end was beyond the E-facing section. Excavated in 3 x sondages.	LIA - RB
515 A		Cleaning over 515A recovered 1 x BBW pottery sherd. c.13cm thick. c.65cm wide (N-S). Sondage A = 1.3m E-W. Underlay 501 . Filled 542A . Overlay 516	Sondage A was c.4m W of the ditch terminus - with Sondage B to its W & Sondage C to its E. R/B pot on the surface of the fill.	
515 B		Up to 15cm thick. c.50cm wide. Sondage B = up to c.70cm E-W. Underlay 501 . Filled 542B	Sondage B was excavated against the SE-facing section of the NE corner of Area 5.	
515 C		Cleaning over 515C recovered 1 x ?LIA pottery sherd. Up to 12cm thick. 53cm wide (N-S). Sondage C = 63cm E-W. Underlay 501 . Filled 542C	Sondage C was excavated at the terminus of the feature at its eastern end.	
516	Deposit	Firm, dark grey-brown, silty clay. Cleaning over 516 recovered 1 x very small fired clay fragment. 7cm thick. 45cm E-W. 1.1m N-S. Underlay 501 . Cut by 542A . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil - filling a hollow. S side of 516 was cut by gully 542C .	?IA or ?RB

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
517	Deposit	Firm, dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained occasional chert. 4cm thick. c.30cm E-W. c.40cm N-S. Underlay 501 . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil. 517 appeared to be a potential post-hole after cleaning. However, the feature was very shallow, and the sides and base lacked good definition.	?LIA - RB
518	Cut & Fill	Similar to 604 , 605 , 606 , 642 . Fill = Loose grey scalplings. Contained 1 x plastic pipe. Cut = Linear. Aligned NW-SE. Vertical cut. Not bottomed. c.30cm deep as exposed. c.6cm wide. c.16.5m length exposed NW-SE. Underlay the surface of 500 . Cut through 500 , 501 , 502 , 507 , 509 , 510 , 513 , 529	Modern land drain which crossed the E end of Area 5 from the SE corner.	modern
519	Cut & Fill	Fill = Firm, grey silty clay. Contained occasional small chert lumps. Cut = Linear. Aligned c.NNW-SSE. c.10cm deep in the S facing section. c.14cm wide. c.2.1m length exposed. Not excavated due to excessive flooding at the W end of Area 5. Underlay c.25cm of 501 . Cut through 501 Lower. ?Associated with 505 , 519 .	?A channel or small drainage ditch at the NW corner of Area 5. ?Probably associated with 505 to it's South as 519 was not recorded S of 505 . 519 cut through the lower c.10cm of 501 . ?Probably associated with gully 504 to its west but on a slightly different alignment.	? medieval
520	Deposit	Same as 508 . Firm, dark (green) brown, clayey silt. Contained occasional small, hard dark red manganese nodules. c.2-3m thick. c.1.25m N-S. c.1.9m E-W. Underlay 501 . Cut by 526A . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil. Equated to the N half of 508 . Thin deposit with poorly defined edges (rectangular in plan with rounded edges). Cut by late-IA or RB gully cut 526 .	?IA or ?RB
521	?Deposit	Dark grey-brown clay. Unexcavated - depth unknown. c.60cm N-S. c.70cm E-W. Underlay 501 . Cut by 526 . ?Overlay or ?cut through 502	?Probably a remnant of a buried soil - associated with 513 . Possibly an unexcavated feature but resembled another spread of buried soil. N edge cut by 526	?IA or ?RB
522	Fill	?Same as 523 . Firm, dark grey-brown, silty clay. No significant finds or inclusions. 8cm thick. c.30cm wide. c.1.5m survived E-W - truncated by machine at its W end. Underlay 501 . Filled 525A	Fill of gully cut 525 . Possibly associated with 507 c.85cm to the E & 523 c.1.1m to the W.	?IA or ?RB
523	?Fill	?Same as 522 / 525 . Firm, dark grey-brown, silty clay. Contained occasional chert lumps. Up to c.50cm exposed N-S. Up to c.60cm exposed E-W - disappeared beyond the E-facing section Area 5. Not excavated due to excessive flooding at the W end of Area 5. Underlay 501 . ?Cut by 506 .	?Possibly either a remnant of a buried soil or ?a truncated western continuation of gully 525 c.1.1m to the on the same alignment.	?IA or ?RB
524	?Fill	Dark grey-brown clay. Unexcavated - depth unknown. c.60cm N-S. c.70cm E-W. Underlay 501 . ?Overlay or ?cut through 502	Unexcavated. ?Possible pit or post-hole. c.1m E of 511 . c.1.5m S of 507 .	?IA or ?RB
525	Cut	?Same as 523 . Linear. Aligned E-W. Rounded W end. 8cm deep. c.30cm wide. c.1.5m survived E-W - truncated by machine at its W end. Sharp break of slope - top. Gradually sloping sides (more so on the N side). Rounded break of slope - base. Concave base. Filled by 522 . Cut through 502	Cut for a gully - silted up by fill 522 . Possibly associated with 526 c.85cm to the E & more likely with 523 c.1.1m to the W. 525 was smaller than 526 , but was positioned on the same alignment.	?IA or ?RB

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
526	Cut	Linear. Aligned E-W. From c.20cm deep at the W end to c.15cm thick at the E end. 40-50cm wide. c.25m long (E-W). Regular - parallel sides. Extended beyond the W-facing section. Underlay 501 . Filled by 507 . Cut through 502 , 508 , 513 , 520 , 521	Cut for a large drainage gully. Filled by 507 . 526 crossed the full length of Area 5 (E-W) from the west facing section to its terminus positioned at c.3.5m east of the east-facing section. Excavated in 4 x sondages recorded as 526 A , B , C & D . Partially truncated by machine near its W end.	RB
526 A		Up to 18cm deep in W-facing section of sondage. Up to 55cm wide. Sondage = c.1.65m E-W. Sharp break of slope - top. Steep sides. Gently rounded break of slope - base. Small - rounded - undulating base. Irregular, gently pointed terminus at the W end. Filled by 507A . Cut through 502 , 508 , 520	Sondage A was located at the rounded terminus at the W end of the feature. Buried soil 508 / 520 was cut by 526A . ?Possible association with small gully 525 , c.85cm to the W on the same alignment.	
526 B		20cm deep. c.40cm wide. Sondage = c.25cm E-W. Sharp break of slope - top. Gently rounded sides. Concaved base. Filled by 507B . Cut through 502	Sondage B was located c.1m W of Sondage C. c.15.5m from the W end of the feature.	
526 C		c.15cm thick. c.50cm wide. Sondage = c.40cm. Sharp break of slope - top. Gently rounded sides. Concaved base. Filled by 507C . Cut through 502	Sondage C was c.16.5m from the W end of the feature & c.14cm S of 544 .	
526 D		c.7cm thick. c.50cm wide. Sondage = c.25cm E-W. Sharp break of slope - top. Gently rounded sides. Concaved base. Filled by 507D . Cut through 502	Sondage D was near the E end of the exposed feature. c.18cm S of large pit cut 538 .	
527	Deposit	Loose, pale orange-brown silty clay. Contained occasional chert lumps. c.1-2cm thick. c.25cm diameter. Underlay 501 . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a truncated patch of buried soil. 527 had the appearance of a square post-hole after cleaning. c.1.3m E of 513 . c.1.5m S of 526 .	?LIA - RB
528	Deposit	Same as 512 , 513 , 529 . Fill = Moderate, grey-orange silty clay (c.95%). Contained frequent dark grey (?manganese) flecks and chert lumps (c.5%). c.2cm deep. c.10cm wide. c.50cm long (c.NW-SE). Underlay 501 . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a truncated patch of buried soil - filling a small thin hollow, possibly created by root action. Curved hollow with rounded ends and irregular sides & base.	?LIA - RB
529	Deposit	Same as 512 , 513 , 528 . Moderately compact, grey-brown loamy clay. Contained frequent chert lumps (c.10%). 1-2cm thick. c.80cm E-W. c.1.1m N-S. Underlay 501 . Cut by 518 . Overlay 502	?Probably a remnant of a truncated patch of buried soil - at the NE corner of 513 . N of 526 .	?LIA - RB
530	Context Withdrawn			
531 A	Fill	Similar to 546 . Stiff, grey-brown sandy clay. Contained frequent fired clay fragments (c.2-5mm) and small charcoal lumps (c.2mm), occasional small to medium sized chert lumps (more than in 536). 531A also contained 2 x RB pottery sherds (BBW + Shepton Mallet ware) & frequent fired clay. c.5cm thick. c.2.3m NW-SE. c.1.8m NE-SW. Sondage through 531A = Linear slot - c.40cm wide x c.2.3m NW-SE. Underlay 536 . Filled 538 . Overlay 543	Lower fill /primary fill of large pit cut 538 . Underlay 536 which may be the base of 501 . 531A resembled a circular feature after cleaning. 531 contained a greater quantity of charcoal, manganese, fired clay and pottery than 536 . 531 contained more frequent inclusions towards the centre and the base of the fill.	RB

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
532	Fill	Stiff, mid-brown sandy clay mixed with some loam. Contained frequent orange lumps & mottles, moderate amounts of charcoal, fired clay & manganese lumps (up to 5mm), occasional angular chert lumps (up to 3cm). c.10cm thick. 80cm N-S. c.1m E-W. S half excavated = c.45cm N-S x c.1m E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 553	Fill of pit cut 553. Broad shallow pit, 532 contained burnt waste. Possibly associated with fill 548 c.2cm SW. Large rectangular pit 533 was c.30cm to the N.	?LIA - RB
533	Fill	Firm, dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained occasional manganese lumps. Cleaning over 533 recovered 1 x tooth, abraded., 2 x very small snail shells. 25cm thick. 1.6m N-S. <3.3m E-W - extended beyond the eastern section of Area 5. 25cm deep. Underlay 501. Filled 550	Fill of large rectangular pit cut 550. ?Possibly a large ditch terminus. Situated at the NE end of Area 5. c.1.55m E of gully terminus 542C. c.30cm N of pit 553 & c.70cm N of pit 547.	LIA - RB
533 A		Contained 1 x ?1st bc - 1st AD pottery sherd, 1 x fired clay lump. Sondage A = c.1.4m x c.1.45m E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 550A	Sondage A was excavated at the W end of pit 533 exposing cut 550A.	
534	Fill	Firm, mid-grey-brown silty clay. No significant finds or inclusions. 4cm thick. 39cm N-S. 56cm E-W. Half sectioned - E half = c.20cm E-W x 39cm N-S. Underlay 501. Filled 551	Fill of small pit cut 551. Situated c.20cm E of the terminus of gully 542C and c.70cm W of large rectangular pit 550.	?LIA - RB
535	Deposit	Firm, dark yellow-brown silty clay. Contained occasional fired clay fragments. Cleaning over 535 recovered BBW sherd, 1 x fired clay fragment. 3cm thick. 54cm NW-SE. 80cm NE-SW. SW half excavated = 30cm SW-NE x c.34cm NW-SE. Underlay 501. Overlay 503	?Probably a remnant of a truncated patch of buried soil - filling a small thin hollow, ?possibly created by root action. Situated c.40cm NE of 537A. c.1m SW of 553.	IA-RB
536	Fill	Similar to 545. Firm, grey-brown clay. Contained moderate amounts of small charcoal and manganese lumps & flecks, occasional fired clay flecks & small lumps (up to 1cm), rare small to medium sized chert lumps (up to 5cm). Up to 15cm deep. c.1.75m diameter. Sondage = Linear slot - c.40cm NE-SW. Underlay 501. Overlay 531. Filled 538	Upper fill / central fill of large circular pit cut 538. Circular in plan. ?536 may possibly be the base of sub-soil 501 overlying and compressing 531 beneath. Clear distinction between 536 & 531 - 536 was lighter, harder with more clay & fewer inclusions.	RB
537	Cut	Linear. Aligned E-W. c.7cm thick. Mostly c.50cm wide - up to c.1m at the terminus (Sondage A). c.18m exposed E-W. Continued beyond the S-facing section of Area 5 at its western exposed extent. Filled by 509. Cut through 502	Cut for a gully filled by 509. Parallel to gully cuts 526 (c.2m to the S) & 542 (c.2.6m to the N). Excavated in 1 x sondage.	RB
537 A		N side = sharp break of slope - top & base. S side = Gentle break of slope- top. Concave sides. Gently undulating base.	Sondage A was located at the terminus at the east end of the gully. The terminus bowled out until it was roughly twice the width of the rest of the gully to the W. 537A was c.1.2m NW of large pit cut 538.	
538	Cut	Similar to 547. Roughly circular. Up to 21cm deep. c.2m NE-SW x c.2.3m NW-SE. Sondage A = c.40cm wide x c.2.3m long (NE-SW). Sharp break of slope - top. Gradually sloping sides (c.45° angle). Rounded break of slope - base. Large flat base. Filled by 531, 536. ?Cut by 543. Cut through 502	Cut for a large circular pit - filled by 531 & possibly 536 (which may be the base of the sub-soil). 538 appeared to have been cut by ?post-hole 543 at its centre.	LIA - RB

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
539	Natural Cut ?Palaeo - channel	Linear. Aligned N-S. 10cm deep. 40cm wide. c.6.30m long N-S (disappeared beyond the N&S facing sections). Sondage = 70cm N-S. Gentle break of slope - top. Concaved sides & base. Filled by 510. Overlay 541	Appeared to be the natural cut of a palaeo-channel. 539 was higher than the eastern side of ?palaeo-channel 540 & appeared to respect the same N-S alignment, ie. a later continuation of 540.	post-roman or medieval
540	Natural Cut ?Palaeo - channel	Linear as exposed. Aligned N-S. Exposed dimensions = Up to 45cm deep as exposed. ?4.35m wide (E-W). Extended beyond the N & S sides of the trench. Sondage exposing 540 = 70cm N-S x 1.2m E-W. Only the E side exposed = Gradual break of slope - top. c.40° side. Gradual, rounded break of slope - base. Flat, even base. Filled by 541. Cut through 502	Appeared to be the natural cut of a palaeo-channel. 540 underlay smaller, later ?palaeo-channel 539. Silted up fill 541 was exposed at c.4.35m wide (E-W), but only c.1.1m E-W was exposed of 540. In theory palaeo-channel 540 crossed Area 5 from N-S.	pre-historic
541	Fill - ?Palaeo - channel	Firm, mid-green-brown silty clay. Contained moderate amounts of small orange manganese nodules, occasional sub-angular chert lumps (up to 1cm), 1 x fired clay fragment. Up to 45cm depth exposed. 4.35m wide (E-W). Extended beyond the N & S sides of the trench. Sondage excavating 541 = 70cm N-S x 1.1m E-W. Cut by 539. Filled 540	Appeared to be the silted up fill of a palaeo-channel (541). Natural cut 539 truncated the top-east side of 541. The surface of 541 was exposed in a western extension of the main sondage. 541 was much closer in appearance to the natural than 510 and was not easy to see on the machined surface. In theory, 541 crossed Area 5 from N-S.	pre-historic
542	Cut	Linear. Aligned E-W. From c.12cm deep at the E end (terminus) to c.15cm deep at its exposed W end. c.50cm-70cm wide (N-S). Up to c.9.6m exposed (E-W) - disappeared beyond the E-facing section of the NW corner of Area 5. Filled by 515. Cut through 502, 516	Cut for a small drainage ditch or gully. Aligned E-W at the NE corner of Area 5. Parallel with gully cuts 537 (c.2.7m to the S) and 526 (c.5.2m to the S). Terminus at E end. Excavated in 3 x sondages.	LIA - RB
542 A		13cm deep. 45cm wide. Sondage A = 1.1m E-W. Sharp - break of slope - top. Shallow, slightly concaved sides. Flat, gently undulating base. Filled by 515A. Cut through 502, 516	Sondage A was c.4m W of the ditch terminus - with Sondage B to its W & Sondage C to its E. 542A truncated ?buried soil 516 on both sides.	
542 B		Up to 15cm deep. c.50cm wide. Sondage B = up to c.70cm E-W. Sharp - break of slope - top. Concaved sides. Flat base. Filled by 515B. Cut through 502	Sondage B was excavated against the E-facing section of the NE corner of Area 5.	
542 C		Up to 12cm deep. 53cm wide (N-S). Sondage C = 63cm E-W. Sharp break of slope - top. Steep sides. Concaved break of slope-base. Concaved base. Rounded - bowled side at the E end. Filled 542C. Cut through 502	Sondage C exposed the cut for the rounded terminus at the E end of the gully. 542C was c.20cm W of small pit cut 551 & c.2.5m W of large rectangular pit cut 550.	
543	Cut & Fill	Similar to 548/549. Fill = Stiff, grey-brown sandy clay. Contained occasional fired clay fragments and small charcoal lumps (c.2mm). Cut = Only the SW half exposed. Circular. c.5cm deep. c.15cm NE-SW. c.20cm NW-SE. Sharp break of slope -top & base. Short, regular vertical sides. Flat base. ?Underlay 531A. ?Cut through 538A	543 appeared to be a post-hole cut through the base of the centre of pit 538. The fill within 543 was generally indistinct from 531 except that 543 contained fewer inclusions - probably filled by 531.	late R/B or later

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
544	Cut	Sub-circular. 7cm thick. c.40cm diameter. c.20cm excavated E-W (W half). Sharp break of slope - top. Short, fairly steep sides. Rounded break of slope - base. Gently concaved base. Filled by 514. Cut through 502	Circular cut, filled by 514. c.14cm N of gully cut 526C. Possible ?small pit or ?post-hole.	n.d
545	Fill	Similar to 536. Firm, grey-brown clay. Contained occasional manganese flecks, small angular chert lumps, rare small charcoal & fired clay lumps, 1 x Samian pottery sherd. Up to c.16cm thick. Smooth - oval shaped = c.1.1m N-S. c.1.4m E-W. Half sectioned (S half removed) = 64cm excavated N-S. Underlay 501. Overlay 546. Filled 547	Upper fill of large circular pit cut 547. Overlay lower fill 546. Similar to 536 in cut 538 - except 545 contained RB pottery, where as 536 did not. ?545 may have been the base of sub-soil 501 - compressing the surface of 546.	RB
546	Fill	?Same as 548. Similar to 531. Stiff, grey-brown silty sandy clay. Contained frequent manganese and small charcoal lumps (c.5mm), occasional small fired clay lumps (up to 1cm), small to medium sized chert lumps. From 2cm up to 8cm thick. c.1.9m N-S. c.2.37m E-W. Quarter section = c.1.1m N-S. c.1.5m E-W. Underlay 545. ?Overlay 548. Filled 547	Lower fill of large pit cut 547. 546 resembled a narrow ring ditch after cleaning. 531 contained a greater quantity of charcoal, manganese and fired clay than 545. 546 was only c.2cm thick in the centre of the feature where it surrounded 549. The relationship between 546 & 548 was not easy to discern, ?546 may overlie 548 (similar to 531 overlying 543) or, more likely, 546 filled 547 & 549 (ie. 546 was the same as 548).	R/B or later
547	Cut	Similar to 538. Oval. Up to 18cm deep. c.1.9m N-S. c.2.37m E-W. Quarter section exposed (SW quarter) = Gentle break of slope - top. Short, shallow, gradually sloping sides (c.45° angle). Rounded break of slope - base. Large flat base. Filled by 545, 546. ?Cut by 549. Cut through 502	Cut for a large circular pit - contained upper fill 545 & lower fill 546. 547 appeared to have been cut in the by ?post-hole 549 prior to backfilling - making it similar to pit cut 538 c.60cm to the S. Pit cut 553 was c.2cm NW of 547 without inter-cutting one another.	late R/B or later
548	Fill	?Same as 546. Similar to 543. Firm, dark brown-grey silty clay loam. Contained a moderate amount of manganese flecks (up to 2mm). Quarter sectioned. Quarter section = 5cm thick. 12cm exposed E-W. ?12cm exposed N-S. ?Underlay 546. Filled 549	Fill of ?post-hole cut 549. ?Possible that if 548 is the same as lower fill 546 in pit cut 547 - the distinction was not as clear as that between 543 & 531 in cut 538. Separate number retained for convenience.	LIA-RB
549	Cut	Similar to 543. Circular. Quarter sectioned. c.8cm deep. Quarter section = 5cm thick. 12cm exposed E-W. ?12cm exposed N-S. W side = Sharp break of slope - top. Near vertical side. Sharp break of slope- base. Flat base. Filled by 548. Cut through 547	?Appeared to be post-hole cut through the base of large pit cut 547 - similar, but not as well defined as 543. Filled by 548.	LIA-RB
550	Cut	Rectangular. Slightly rounded right angled corners at the NW, NE, SE, SW. 25cm thick. 1.6m N-S. <3.3m E-W (disappeared beyond the eastern section of Area 5). Sondage A = c.1.4m x c.1.45m E-W. S side = Sharp break of slope - top & base with a steep side. N & W sides = very gentle break of slope - top. ca.25cm deco. Gentle concave sides & a very gentle break of slope - base. Irregular, undulating base. Filled by 533. Cut through 502	Large rectangular cut, filled by 533, at the east end of Area 5. ?Possible large pit or ?ditch terminus. Sondage A exposed the W end of cut 550.	?LIA - RB

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
551	Cut	Sub-circular. 4cm deep. 39cm N-S. 56cm E-W. Half sectioned - E half = c.20cm E-W x 39cm N-S. Gentle break of slope - top. Concaved sides & base. Filled by 534. Cut through 502	Cut for a small pit. Situated c.20cm E of the terminus of gully 542C and c.70cm W of large rectangular pit 550.	?LIA - RB
552	Cut & Fill	Fill = Moderately compact, dark green-brown, heavily mottled, clayey silt. Contained moderate amounts of small grits, hard orange manganese nodules & ?fired clay. Irregularly shaped spread = Up to 1.4m N-S x up to 2m E-W. Not present in the extreme NE corner of Area 5. Cut = ?Linear - irregular. Sondage = 12cm deep. From 77cm (SE facing section) to 92cm wide SW-NE (NW facing section). NW facing section = Sharp break of slope - top. Irregular - gradually sloping sides. Rounded break of slope - base. Rounded base. Underlay 501. Cut through 502	Irregularly shaped cut & fill - partly excavated at the NE corner of Area 5. It appeared most likely that 552 was natural feature, either a palaeo-channel or tree bowl as it was not a well defined feature. However, it is possible that 552 was ?a poorly preserved gully, ?possibly one that curved around to the E.	
553	Cut	Sub-circular. c.10cm thick. 80cm N-S. 1.1m E-W. Shallow break of slope - top. Very gradual sloping sides. Gently rounded break of slope - base, gently rounded base. c.10cm deep. 80cm N-S. c.1m E-W. S half excavated = c.45cm N-S x c.1m E-W. Filled by 532. Cut through 502	Cut for a fairly large bowl shaped pit filled by 532. Situated between, and possibly associated with 550 c.30cm to the N & 547 c.2cm to the S. 553 & 547 did not appear to cut one-another.	
Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
Trench 6				
Trench 6 Dimensions =		c.0.5m deep x c.1.85m wide (E-W) x c.55m long (N-S)		
Tr.6 W Extension =		c.3m E-W x c.4.8m (N-S) - Extends through the E facing section - From c.20m to c.24.8m on the N tape		
Tr.6 S Extension =		c.3.25m (E-W) x c.6m (N-S) - Extends through the E facing section - N edge of Tr.6 S extension = c.2.3m on the S tape		
600	Deposit	Same as 500. Moderately compact, dark grey-brown silty humic clay. Contained occasional irregular stones various stones, C17-20th pottery, ceramic tile, iron fragments, charcoal lumps. c.14cm thick. Extends throughout whole of Trench 6. Overlay 601	Turf & Topsoil. Removed by machine.	post-medieval to modern
601	Deposit	Same as 501. Firm, light orange-brown clay. Contained frequent small manganese flecks, occasional small stones. Cleaning over 601 recovered 1 x BBW, c.35cm thick. Underlay 600. Cut by 604, 605, 606. Overlay all other features	Sub-soil. Colluvium with some bioturbation. Removed by machine. ?Cleaning find suggested that the base of 601 may be Romano-British in origin.	post-roman to post-medieval
602	Geological Deposit	Same as 502. Stiff, orange-yellow, sandy Lias clay with occasional orange mottles. Contained moderate amounts of small to medium sized natural chert lumps. Cleaning over 602 recovered 1 x ?probably LIA, 1 x post-medieval pottery. 1 x flint flake. Only recorded in plan. Underlay 601. Cut by all excavated features. Overlay 603	Natural Lias clay subsoil. 602 shaded down to blue & yellow-blue Lias clay. The excavation level of Trench 6 exposed the surface of 602 & small areas of 603. All cleaning finds are surface finds.	Geology
603	Geological Deposit	Same as 503. Firm, orange, Lias clay (c.60%) mixed with abundant natural Lias bedrock & sandstone fragments (c.40%). No significant finds or inclusions. Only recorded in plan. Occurred in patches throughout Trench 6. Underlay 602	Upper bedrock. 603 underlay 602 and was exposed in rough patches on the excavation surface.	Geology

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
604	Cut & Fill	Similar to 518, 605, 606, 642. Fill = Loose grey scalplings. Cut = Linear. Aligned c.NE-SW. Vertical cut. Not bottomed. c.30cm deep as exposed. c.6cm wide. c.2.1m length exposed. Underlay the surface of 600. Underlay the surface of 600. Cut through the base of 600, 629.	Modern land drain between 17m and 18m on the S tape of Tr. 6.	modern
605	Cut & Fill	Similar to 518, 604, 606, 642. Fill = Loose grey scalplings. Cut = Linear. Aligned .NE-SW. Vertical cut. Not bottomed. c.30cm deep as exposed. c.6cm wide. c.5.15m length exposed. Underlay the surface of 600. Underlay the surface of 600. Cut through the base of 600, 622, 624.	Modern land drain between 22m and 23m on the N tape of Tr. 6. 605 also extended through Tr.6 W extension.	modern
606	Cut & Fill	Similar to 518, 604, 605, 642. Fill = Loose grey scalplings. Cut = Linear. Aligned c.NE-SW. Vertical cut. Not bottomed. c.30cm deep as exposed. c.6cm wide. c.2m length exposed. Underlay the surface of 600. Underlay the surface of 600. Cut through the base of 600, 602.	Modern land drain between 45m and 46m on the N tape of Tr. 6. 605 also extended through Tr.6 W extension.	modern
607	Deposit	Same as 601. Firm, light orange-brown clay. Contained frequent small manganese flecks, occasional small stones. Exposed dimensions = c.10cm thick. up to c.60cm E-W. Up to c.1m N-S (half exposed against the E facing section). c.60cm excavated N-S (S half). Cut by 629. Underlay 601. Overlay 608	Appeared to equate to the same as the base of sub-soil 601 - compressing the surface of deposit 608. 607 formed a semi-circle in the centre of 608. 607 was partly cut by modern ditch 629 in the E facing section.	medieval
608	Deposit	Moderately compact, dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained occasional small fired clay fragments, charcoal flecks, manganese nodules, small sub-angular stones. Cleaning over 608 recovered 1 x shotgun cartridge. 1 x ?possible pre-historic pottery, 1 x fired clay fragment. Exposed area = c.2.3m N-S. Up to 1.26m E-W. Quarter sectioned against the E facing section = Up to 22cm thick. Up to 1.26m E-W. 1.25m excavated N-S. Underlay 607. Overlay 602	?Probably the natural silting of a natural hollow - possibly a tree bowl. ?Possible pit fill. The shotgun cartridge does not appear to have originated within 608 as underlay the sub-soil.	pre-historic up to medieval
609	Fill	Same as 622, 629. Very soft, dark grey-brown silty clay loam. Contained frequent small snails, plastic sheeting, roots. Cleaning over 609 recovered 5 x joining Fe nail fragments. Excavated extent = 61cm thick. 40cm wide (E-W - extended beyond the E facing section). 52cm excavated N-S. Underlay the surface of 600. Filled 610	Sondage through the backfill of a modern (probably) field boundary ditch. The upper c.10cm consisted of turf & topsoil. 609 underlay the surface of the turf & topsoil.	modern
610	Cut	Same as 623, 645. Linear. Aligned N-S. Excavated extent = 61cm thick. 40cm wide (E-W - extended beyond the E facing section). 52cm excavated N-S. Only E side exposed - Sharp break of slope - top. Steep side. Gradual break of slope - base. Concaved base. Filled by 609. Cut through 600	Cut for a modern (probably) field boundary ditch. Backfilled with 609. Cut through 600 - machine cut. ?Possibly contained hedgerow.	modern

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
611	Deposit or Cut and Fill	Fill = Firm, dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained frequent very small manganese flecks, occasional fired clay fragments (<2mm). Cleaning over 611 recovered 1 x fired clay fragment. Cut = 13cm deep. Up to 3.32m wide (N-S - in the W facing section). Up to c.85cm exposed E-W. Underlay 601. Cut by 613, 615. Overlay 602	Either ?the natural in-fill of a wide, shallow, natural hollow or ?the W edge of a pit which mostly underlay the W-facing section. 611 was recorded up to 85cm to the S of 613, but only a thin c.18cm strip was extant to the south of 613 / E of pit 615. Both 613 & 615 appeared to cut 611. 611 was not recorded in the W half of Tr.6.	pre-historic
612	Fill	Firm, dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained 1 x small ?pre-historic pottery sherd, occasional manganese flecks. 26cm thick. 59cm wide (N-S). 1.38m exposed E-W (disappeared beyond W facing section). Cut by 615. Filled 613	Silted up fill within the western terminus of small ditch cut 613. Cut by large pit cut 615 at its NW corner.	pre-historic - ?IA
613	Cut	Linear. Aligned E-W. 26cm thick. 59cm wide (N-S). 1.38m exposed E-W (disappeared beyond W facing section). Sharp break of slope - top (130°). Steep sided. Sharp break of slope - base. Flat base. Cut by 615 at its NW corner - dissecting the rounded terminus at the W end of the feature. Filled by 612. Cut through 611	Cut for a small drainage ditch with a partly destroyed terminus at its W end where it was cut by large Romano-British pit cut 615. Fill 612 contained pre-historic pottery.	pre-historic - ?IA
614	Fill	?Same as 628. Firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay. Contained 2 x BBW sherds, 1 x fired clay, 1 x natural flint lump, occasional small fired clay and manganese lumps (<2mm). Cleaning over 614 recovered 1 x BBW, 1 x fired clay fragment. 36cm thick. c.2m E-W. Up to 1.68m N-S. c.1m excavated N-S (S half). Underlay 601. Filled 615	In-fill of large Romano-British pit cut 615. Fired clay & manganese inclusions became more frequent towards the base of the fill. Relationship with 628 unclear.	RB
615	Cut	Circular. 36cm deep. c.2m E-W. Up to 1.68m N-S. c.1m excavated N-S (S half). Sharp break of slope - top (c.150°). Steep top with a gently concave break of slope - base. Flat or undulating base. Filled by 614. Cut through 612, 611, 628	Cut for a large pit. In-filled by 614. 615 cut through the NW & NE corners of prehistoric ditch terminus 613, the E side of 611 and probably 628 to the W of 615.	RB
616	Fill	Moderate to stiff, mixed, mid-brown, greasy, silty clay with frequent light blue Lias clay streaks. Contained 5 x ?LIA or 1st - 4th pottery sherds from the same pot, 11 x fired clay fragments, moderate amounts of manganese, natural chert lumps up to 4cm, rare small charcoal lumps & flecks. Cleaning over 616 recovered 1 x LIA or pre-historic pottery sherd, 3 x fired clay fragments. c.1.9m exposed E-W - fully excavated against both sections. W facing section = c.24cm thick. c.1.12m wide (N-S). E facing section = c.15cm thick. c.48cm wide (N-S). Underlay 601. Filled 617	Fill of small ditch - cut 617. ?Appeared to have gradually silted up. Contained LIA or early RB pottery.	LIA
617	Cut	Linear. Aligned E-W. c.1.9m exposed E-W - fully excavated against both sections. W facing section = c.24cm thick. c.1.12m wide (N-S). E facing section = c.15cm deep. c.48cm wide (N-S). Extended beyond both sections. Sharp break of slope - top (c.130°). Steep - concave sides. Moderate break of slope - base. Undulating - flat base. Filled by 616. Cut through 602	Cut for a small drainage ditch - filled by 616. ?The excavated dimensions implied that the gully flowed to the E & ?possibly terminated not far W of the E-facing section. Roughly parallel with 'V-shaped' gully 618, c.60cm to the S.	LIA

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
618	Cut	Linear. Aligned E-W. 17cm deep. 30cm wide (N-S). 1.28m excavated E-W (extended beyond the W-facing section). Pointed terminus at the W end. Sharp break of slope - top. Steep - straight sides. 'V-shaped' base - becoming more gradual towards the pointed terminus at the W end. Filled by 619. Cut through 602	Cut for a small 'V-shaped' gully with a gently pointed terminus at its W end. Filled by 619. Parallel with gully 617 - c.60cm to the N.	?RB
619	Fill	Firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay. Contained occasional red-orange manganese streaks & mottles, charcoal & fired clay flecks. Cleaning over 619 recovered 4 x fired clay (possibly abraded pottery fragments). 17cm thick. 30cm wide (N-S). 1.28m excavated E-W (extended beyond the W-facing section). Underlay 601. Filled 618	Silted up fill of the western terminus of 'V-shaped' gully cut 618.	?RB
620	Fill	Moderately compact, mixed, mid-yellow-brown silty clay becoming lighter towards the base of the fill. Contained frequent manganese flecks, fired clay fragments & charcoal - becoming more frequent towards the base of the fill. 20cm thick. 1.6m wide (N-S). Up to c.1.25m exposed E-W. c.80cm excavated E-W - extended beyond the W facing section. Underlay 601. Cut by 627. Filled 621	Fill of a ?pit or ?ditch terminus - cut 621. Fill became similar to the natural clay (601) towards the base - but was distinguished by the fired clay & charcoal lumps & flecks. Cut by pit 627 on it's SW corner.	?LIA - RB
621	Cut	Sub-circular. 20cm deep. 1.6m wide (N-S). Up to c.1.25m exposed E-W. 80cm excavated E-W - disappeared beyond the W facing section. Very sharp break of slope - top (c.150°). Concaved sides & break of slope- base. Flat base. Filled by 620. Cut through the base c.10cm of 601	Cut for a ?pit or ?ditch terminus - silted up by 620. The stratigraphy implied that 621 was roughly contemporary with 626 & 627.	?RB - early medieval
622	Fill	Same as 609, 629. Very soft, dark grey-brown silty clay loam. Contained frequent wood (large roots) & fine roots, snail shells, 1 x shotgun cartridge, 1 x animal bone fragment. 56cm thick. c.1.3m wide (E-W). c.2m excavated N-S. c.4.6m exposed N-S through Tr.6 W extension. Cut by 605. Filled 623	Recent backfill of a modern (probably) field boundary ditch - cut 623. Cut below the base of the turf and topsoil.	modern
623	Cut	Same as 610, 645. Linear. Aligned N-S. 56cm deep. 1.33m wide (E-W). c.2m excavated N-S. c.4.6m exposed N-S through Tr.6 W extension. Near vertical break of slope - top & sides. Sharp break of slope - base. Flat - slightly undulating base. Cut by 605. Filled by 622. Cut through the base of 600, 624.	Cut for a ?modern ditch. Backfilled with 622. Cut through the base of 600. 623 was excavated in the W extension of Tr.6W. This feature ran along a considerable length of the E facing section - referred to as 629 when described cutting the E facing section. 623 cut the W edge of pit 624.	modern
624	Fill	Compact, mid-brown-orange silty clay. Contained moderate amounts of fired clay fragments, manganese, occasional charcoal & angular chert lumps up to 5cm. 18cm deep. c.1.2m diameter. c.50cm excavated N-S (N half). Cut by 605, 623. Filled 627	Fill of pit cut 627. The N edge of 624 was cut by modern ditch 623. Modern drain 605 cuts through the S half of the fill.	?RB - early medieval

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
625	Fill	Firmly compacted, mid-brown, greasy, silty clay. Contained occasional charcoal flecks, small limestone & chert fragments, manganese (less than 601). 20cm deep. 70cm wide N-S. 82cm exposed E-W. Underlay 501. Filled 626	Silted up fill of gully cut 626. Excavated against the E facing section of Tr.6 W extension.	?RB - early medieval
626	Cut	Roughly linear. Aligned c.ESE-WNW - curved round gently to the S & E. 20cm deep. 70cm wide N-S. 82cm E-W. Sub-square terminus at the E end of 626 with rounded corners at the W & S corners. Sharp break of slope - top. Vertical sides. Short, rounded break of slope - base. Broad - flat base. Filled by 625. Cut through the base c.10cm of 601	Cut for what appeared to the eastern terminus of a gully - silted up by 625. The stratigraphy implied that 626 was roughly contemporary with 621 & 627.	?RB - early medieval
627	Cut	Circular. 18cm deep. c.1.2m diameter. c.50cm excavated N-S (N half). Sharp break of slope- top. c.45° sides. Rounded break of slope - base. Gently concaved base. Cut by 622. Filled by 624. Cut through ?base of 601, 620	Cut for a circular pit - filled by 624. 627 was originally thought to be a western continuation of 621, however, on excavation it was clear that 627 was a pit cutting 620. The stratigraphy of 627 implied that it was roughly contemporary with 621 & 626.	?RB - early medieval
628	Cut & Fill	Fill = Firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay. Cut = ?Possibly circular in plan - ?half exposed against the E facing section. Exposed dimensions = 10cm deep. 30cm E-W. 35cm N-S. Gentle break of slope - top. Gentle - concaved SE slope. Base not seen. Underlay 601. Cut by 615. Cut through 602	?Possibly the base of a small pit. Appeared to be cut by 615 from the E. 628 was slightly lighter than 614, but it is possible that 628 & 615 were directly associated features.	?LIA - RB
629	Fill	Same as 609, 622. Very soft, dark grey-brown silty clay loam. Contained frequent wood (large roots) & fine roots, snail shells. Cleaning over 629 recovered 1 x large ?Fe punch or nail C19-20th? c.30cm thick. Excavated extent = 43cm E-W. 84cm N-S - against the E facing section. Underlay the surface c.8cm of 600. Cut by 604. Filled linear cut 645	Recent backfill of a modern (probably) field boundary ditch - cut 645. Underlay the surface of the turf & topsoil.	modern
630	Fill	Moderate to firm, mid-grey-brown clayey silt with frequent patches of blue-grey & orange-red mottles. Contained moderate amounts of manganese streaks. 18cm thick. Excavated dimensions = 72cm E-W. 95cm N-S (against E facing section). Underlay 601. Filled 637	Fill of pit cut 637.	?LIA - RB
631	Fill	Fairly soft, mid-grey-brown silty clay. Contained 1 x worked flint core, occasional fired clay. 36cm deep. 1.27m wide (N-S). 1.12m excavated N-S (against the W facing section). Underlay 601. Cut by 647. Filled 632	Fill of pit cut 632. Cut by pit cut 647 from the N - which contained LIA -RB pottery.	?IA or pre-historic
632	Cut	Sub-circular. 36cm deep. 1.27m wide (N-S). 1.12m excavated N-S (against the W facing section). Sharp break of slope - top (c.120°). Concave, moderately steep sides. Sharp break of slope - base. Gently undulating base. Cut by 647. Filled by 631. Cut through 602	Cut for a pit - filled by 631 which contained worked flint. The north side of 632 was cut by ?LIA - RB pit cut 647 - both underlay 601. The N edge of 632 was c.28cm S of pit 634.	?IA or pre-historic
633	Fill	Friable, dark brown silty clay. Contained frequent fired clay & charcoal lumps & flecks <5mm, limestone fragments <1cm, occasional chert up to 5cm. 14cm deep. Up to 94cm wide (excavated against the W facing section). 44cm excavated N-S. Underlay 601. Filled 634	Fill of pit cut 634. 633 contained frequent inclusions.	?pre-historic

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
634	Cut	Roughly circular - irregular at the SW edge. 14cm deep. Up to 94cm wide (excavated against the W facing section). 44cm excavated N-S. Sharp break of slope- base. Steep sides. Short, sharp break of slope-base. Roughly flat base. Filled by 633. Cut through 602	Cut for a pit - filled by 633. Cut 634 was c.30cm S of pit 632 & c.50cm N of pit 648 in the W facing section.	?pre-historic
635	Fill	Moderately firm, mixed, mid to dark - grey-brown silty clay with occasional light blue & orange mottles. From 16cm thick (S end) up to 30cm thick (N end). From 1.2m (S end) up to 1.4m wide (N end). c.6m exposed c.NW-SE. Underlay 601. Filled 644	Excavated in 3 x sondages - 635 A,B & C. Ditch 635 / 644 took a turn towards the E at the S end of Tr.6 S extension.	?LIA - RB
635 A	Fill	Contained moderate amounts of charcoal, manganese & fired clay flecks, 8 x fired clay lumps recovered, occasional natural chert. c.30cm deep. c.1.66m wide E-W (N facing profile). Sondage A = From c.60cm long (N-S) on the E side up to c.1m N-S on the W side (oblique shape in S facing section). Underlay 601. Overlay 649A. Filled 644A	Silted up, upper fill of ditch cut 644A. Sondage A was excavated against the S facing section of Tr.6 S Extension.	?LIA - RB
635 B	Fill	Contained occasional manganese flecks. 11cm thick. 85cm width excavated E-W. Sondage B = 85cm N-S. Cut by 648. Overlay 650B. Filled 644B	Upper fill of ditch cut 644B. Sondage B was excavated c.1m S of Sondage A. 653B was not fully excavated in the sondage. Three fills were detected in Sondage B. 635B appeared to be cut by 648 from the E.	?LIA - RB
635 C	Fill	Contained frequent small fired clay flecks & fragments <1cm, moderate amounts of small manganese lumps <2mm, occasional limestone & chert fragments up to 5cm, charcoal flecks. 16cm thick. c.1.1m wide NE-SW in the SE facing section. Sondage C = 75cm NW-SE. Underlay 601. Cut by 653. Overlay 649C. Filled 644C	Upper / main fill of ditch cut 644C. Sondage C was excavated against the W facing section of Tr.6 S extension - where the ditch turned towards the SE. Cut by 653 from the N (in the W facing section).	?LIA - RB
636	Fill	Firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay. Contained 1 x ?LIA or RB pottery sherd, occasional fired clay fragments. 9cm thick. 70cm excavated N-S. 87cm excavated E-W. Underlay 601. Overlay 654. Filled 648	Upper fill of ?pit cut 648. Overlay thin lower fill 654.	LIA-RB
637	Cut	?Sub-circular (not fully exposed). 18cm deep. Excavated dimensions = 72cm E-W. 95cm N-S (against E facing section). Sharp break of slope - base. Concaved sides. Gentle break of slope - base. Flat, even base. Filled by 630. Cut through 602	Cut for a pit. Filled by 630, which contained ?LIA-RB pottery.	LIA - RB
638	Fill	Soft to moderately compact, mid-grey-brown silty clay with small patches of blue-grey & orange-red mottling. Contained moderate amounts of small manganese nodules. c.6m exposed N-S. Underlay 601. ?Cut by 642. Filled 643	Fill of small gully cut 643. Crossed the full N-S length of Tr.6 S extension - W of ditch 644.	pre-historic
638 A	Fill	14cm thick. c.54cm wide E-W. Sondage A = c.50cm N-S. Underlay 601. Filled 643A	Sondage A was excavated against the S facing section of Tr.6 S extension. 638A was c.45cm W of ditch fill 635A in section.	pre-historic
638 B	Fill	9cm deep. c.42cm wide (E-W). Sondage B = from 45cm (W side) up to c.50cm (E side) N-S. Cut by 642. Underlay 601. Filled 643B	Sondage B was excavated against the N facing section of Tr.6 S extension.	pre-historic

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
639	Fill	Firm, mixed, dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained frequent light orange-brown streaks and mottles (c.30%), occasional manganese streaks. 24cm thick. 60cm excavated N-S. 1.6m N-S (excavated against the W facing section). Underlay 601. Filled 651	Fill of cut 651. ?Possibly the E end of a large pit or ?tree bowl. Uneven cut.	pre-historic
640	Deposit	Same as 601. Firm, light orange-brown clay. Contained frequent small manganese flecks, occasional small stones. Sondage = Up to 8cm thick. 56cm E-W. 75cm N-S. Underlay 601 upper. Overlay 602	640 equated to the lowest few centimetres of sub-soil 601 filling a shallow dip in the surface of 602. Appeared to be a potential pit after cleaning. NW corner of Tr.6 S extension.	RB-early medieval
641	Geological Deposit	Same as 602. Firm, mixed, mid-grey-brown-orange Lias clay. Sondage = Up to c.1.25cm E-W. .85cm N-S. Underlay 601	641 appeared to be a potential pit after cleaning. However after shallow excavation it was clear that 641 was a natural variant within natural clay 602 mixed with some of the base of 601.	Geology
642	Cut & Fill	Similar to 518, 604, 605, 606. Fill = Loose grey scalplings. Cut = Linear. Aligned c.ESE-WNW. Up to c.45cm depth exposed. c.6cm wide. 80cm ESE-WNW. Vertical cut - base not exposed. Underlay the surface of 600. Cut through 638.	Modern land drain at the SW corner of Tr.6 S extension. Cut through the W edge of gully 638 / 643 in the N facing section.	modern
643	Cut	Linear. Aligned N-S. Moderate break of slope- base. Smooth, concaved sides & break of slope - base. Flat, even base. Filled by 638. Cut through 602	Cut for a small gully that crossed through the W side of Tr.6 S extension. Excavated in sondages, A & B. 643 did not appear to cut the W edge of pit 656. ?Appeared to run deeper to the N.	pre-historic
643A	Cut	14cm thick. c.54cm wide E-W. Sondage A = c.50cm N-S. Deeper, broader & with a more rounded profile than 643B. Filled by 638A. Cut through 602	Sondage A was excavated against the S facing section of Tr.6 S extension. 643A was c.45cm W of ditch cut 644A in section.	pre-historic
643B	Cut	9cm deep. c.42cm wide (E-W). Sondage B = from 45cm (W side) up to c.50cm (E side) N-S. Steeper sided, with a less rounded base than 643A. Cut by 642. Filled 638B. Cut through 602	Sondage B was excavated against the N facing section of Tr.6 S extension - near it's SW corner.	pre-historic
644	Cut	Linear - curving. Aligned c.NNW-SSE. Underlay 601. Cut by 648. Filled by 635. Cut through 602, 655	Excavated in 3 x sondage A, B & C (from N to S). 644 was slightly curving, taking a turn to the E in the SE quarter of Tr.6 S extension.	?LIA - RB
644 A	Cut	Linear. Aligned NNW-SSE. c.30cm thick. c.1.66m wide E-W (N facing profile). Sondage A = From c.60cm long (N-S) on the E side up to c.1m N-S on the W side (oblique shape in S facing section). Sharp break of slope- top. Near vertical sides. Short - rounded break of slope- base. Flat, broad base. Filled by 635A. Cut through 636	Cut for a ditch. Contained upper fill 635A & lower fill 649A. Sondage A was excavated against the S facing section of Tr.6 S Extension - at its NE corner.	?LIA - RB
644 B	Cut	Linear - beginning to curve towards the SE at its S end. Aligned c.NNW-SSE. 33cm deep. 85cm width excavated E-W. Sondage B = 50cm N-S. Only the E side exposed. Sharp break of slope- top. Steep side. Sharp break of slope - base. Slightly concaved base. Filled by 635B, 649B, 650B. Cut through 602	Cut for a ditch. Contained upper fill 635A, middle fill 650B & primary fill 649B. Three fills were detected in Sondage B, two fills were detected in sondages A&C. 644B appeared to be cut by pit 648 from the E. Sondage B was excavated c.1m S of Sondage A.	?LIA - RB

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
644 C	Cut	Linear. Aligned NW-SE. 22cm deep. 1.1m NE-SW in the SE facing section. Sondage C = Up to c.75cm NW-SE. Sharp break of slope- top. Steep top of slope. Gently rounded lower sides & break of slope- base. Very gently concaved base. Cut by 653. Filled by 635C, 649C	Cut for a ditch. Contained upper fill 635C & primary fill 649C. Cut by 653 from the N (in the W facing section). E facing section was unaffected.	?LIA - RB
645	Cut	Same as 610, 623. Linear. Aligned N-S. 29cm. 43cm excavated E-W. 80cm excavated N-S. Sharp break of slope - top. Steep, near vertical sides. Sharp break of slope - base. Flat base. Filled by 629. Cut through the lower c.8cm of 600.	Cut for a modern ditch. 645 was the most southerly recording of this large modern ditch which dominated much of the trench. Cut through the N end of LIA-RB pit fill 646.	modern
646	Fill	Compacted, dark to mid-grey-brown silty clay. Contained 1 x ?LIA or RB pottery sherd, occasional fired clay fragments. 32cm deep. Up to 61cm survived N-S (at its base). 71cm excavated N-S (disappeared beyond the W facing section). Underlay 601. Cut by 645. Filled 647	Fill of pit cut 647. Cut by modern ditch 645 from the N, in the W facing section.	LIA - RB
647	Cut	Sub-circular. 32cm deep. Up to 61cm survived N-S (at its base). 71cm excavated N-S (disappeared beyond the W facing section). Only the southern side survived. Sharp break of slope - top. Concaved side. Moderate break of slope- base. Undulating, concaved base. Cut by 645. Filled by 646. Cut through 631	Cut for a pit. Filled by 646 which contained a LIA-RB pottery sherd. One of a series of pits excavated along the W facing section at the S end of Tr.6. The N end of 647 was cut by modern ditch 645. Pit fill 631 was cut by the S edge of 647.	LIA - RB
648	Cut	?Appeared to be Sub-circular. p to 13cm deep. Excavated dimensions = 70cm N-S. 87cm E-W (?quarter sectioned). Only the NW edge exposed. Gentle break of slope - top. Very gradually sloping side. Moderate break of slope - base. Flat base. Filled by 636, 654. Cut through 635B	Cut for either ?a pit or (less likely) ?a ditch terminus. Filled by primary fill 654 & upper fill 636 The W edge of 648 appeared to cut ditch fill 635 in sondage B, however, the relationship was not obvious. 636 contained a LIA or R/B pottery sherd.	LIA - RB
649 A	Fill	Firm, mixed, grey-brown silty clay mixed with grey-blue re-deposited natural clay (c.30-40%). Contained frequent small manganese lumps (<2mm), moderate amounts of degraded limestone fragments. 7cm thick. Up to 1.25m E-W. Sondage A = From c.60cm long (N-S) - E side, up to c.1m N-S - W side. Underlay 635A. Filled 644A	Primary fill of ditch cut 644 in Sondage A. 649A was a mixture of silt, colluvium and underlying natural clay (602), hence it was firmer than the upper fills. This primary fill was recorded consistently through the three sondages excavating ditch cut 644.	?LIA - RB
649 B	Fill	Firm, mixed, mid-yellow brown silty clay mixed with grey-blue re-deposited natural clay (c.30-40%). Contained occasional manganese flecks. 15cm thick. 87cm width excavated (E-W). Sondage B = 50cm N-S. Underlay 650B. Filled 644B	Primary fill of ditch cut 644 in Sondage B. In Sondage B - a central fill (650) was recorded which overlay 649B.	?LIA - RB
649 C	Fill	Firm, mixed, orange-brown-grey silty clay with re-deposited orange-blue natural clay (c.30-40%). Contained moderate amounts of small fired clay, manganese & charcoal flecks. 3cm thick. 1.1m NE-SW in the SE facing section. Sondage C = Up to c.75cm NW-SE. Underlay 635C. Filled 644C	Primary fill of ditch cut 644 in Sondage C.	?LIA - RB

Context No.	Type	Description of Context	Interpretation	Suggested Date
650	Fill	Firm, very dark greyish-brown silty clay. Contained rare manganese flecks. 9cm deep. 87cm width excavated (E-W). Sondage B = 50cm N-S. Underlay 635B . Overlay 649B . Filled 644B	Secondary fill of ditch cut 644 in Sondage B. A secondary fill of this ditch was only recorded in Sondage B. 650 was darker & firmer than upper fill 635B .	?LIA - RB
651	Cut	Irregular, oval shaped. 24cm deep. 60cm excavated N-S. 1.6m N-S (excavated against the E facing section). Only W side exposed = Very gentle. Concaved, uneven side. Gentle break of slope - base. Uneven base. Filled by 639 . Cut through 602	The E edge of a large cut which was partly exposed & excavated against the E facing section of Tr.6 S extension. ?Possibly a ?pit or ?tree bowl. 651 did not appear to be cut by gully 643 .	pre-historic
652	Fill	Moderately compact, brown-grey silty clay. Contained moderate amounts of manganese & fired clay flecks & occasional lumps up to 2cm, occasional small sub-angular chert & limestone lumps. 22cm thick. Up to 30cm excavated E-W. c.1.45m N-S. Underlay 601 . Filled 635	Fill of cut 653 . Only partly excavated against the S end of the W facing section of Tr.6 S extension. 653 appeared to cut ditch 644C to the S	?LIA - RB
653	Cut	?Linear. Aligned ?E-W. 22cm deep. Up to 30cm excavated E-W. c.1.45m N-S. Sharp break of slope - top. Steep cut - especially at the top. Rounded break of slope - base. Gently concaved base. Filled by 653 . Cut 635C	Cut, only partly exposed against the W facing section of Tr.6 S Extension where it appeared to cut the N side of ditch 635 / 644 in sondage C. However, this was the area that the ditch took a turn to the E and it is possible that 653 is associated with ditch 644 .	?LIA - RB
654	Fill	Firm, mixed, mid-blue-grey & mid-orange-brown silty clay. Contained occasional manganese flecks. 8cm deep. Quarter sectioned. 54cm N-S. 90cm E-W. Underlay 636 . Filled 648	Primary fill of ?pit cut 648 . Not cut by 644B as it was only the upper fill that may have been cut by the ditch.	LIA-RB
655	Fill	Firm, dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained moderate amounts of manganese & occasional fired clay. 13cm deep. 1.13m E-W. 1.75m N-S. Cut by 644 . Filled 656	Fill of shallow pit cut 656 . Cut by LIA - RB ditch cut 644 on its E side.	?IA or pre-historic
656	Cut	Sub-circular. 13cm deep. 1.13m E-W. Sharp break of slope - top. Short, steep sides. Irregular break of slope - base. Broad - flat base. Filled by 655 . Cut through 602	Cut for a shallow pit - backfilled with 656 .	?IA or pre-historic
657	?Deposit or ?Tree Bowl	Fill = Moderately compact light grey brown clay. No significant inclusions - except 1 x MIA-LIA pottery sherd recovered from the surface of 657 (T.6/C1). Cut = Only the E edge exposed. Irregular - roughly linear. Aligned c.NNE-SSW. From c.7cm - Up to c.18cm deep. From From c.40cm (S end) up to c.60cm (N end) wide E-W - Continued beyond the E-facing section. . Sondage = c.1.4m N-S. Irregular break of slope - top. Gradual to near vertical rounded sides. Irregular break of slope - base. Highly irregular base - generally level with frequent undulations and occasional small steep-deep sections. Underlay 601 . Cut through 602	657 appeared to be a potential pit. Located at c.16m on the N tape - c.1.5m N of 608 . However the irregular nature of the cut implied that 657 was not a man made feature - ?tree bowl - filled with material similar to 601 . 1 x pre-historic sherd recovered from cleaning over 657 .	?pre-historic
658	?Deposit or ?Tree Bowl	Fill = Moderately compact light grey brown clay. No significant finds or inclusions. Cut = Only the S & E edges exposed. Sub-rounded. From c.6cm - Up to c.12cm deep. Sondage = c.1.1m N-S x c.1m E-W - Continued beyond the E-facing section. Irregular break of slope - top. Gradual to near vertical rounded sides. Irregular break of slope - base. Highly irregular base - generally level with frequent undulations. Underlay 601 . Cut through 602	658 appeared to be a potential pit. Located at c.32m on the N tape - c.5m N of 617 . However the irregular nature of the cut implied that 658 was not a man made feature - ?tree bowl - filled with material similar to 601 .	?pre-historic