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LAND SOUTH OF WESTHAM LANE, BARFORD, WARWICKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

APRIL 2017

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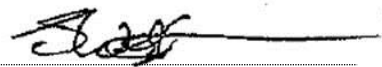
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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
2 METHODOLOGY	4
3 BACKGROUND	7
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS	10
5 FINDS ASSESSMENT	16
6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	17
7 SYNTHESIS	19
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	21

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Trench Descriptions
Appendix 2	Plates
Appendix 3	Figures

DRAWINGS	TITLE	SCALE
BM11197-015	Site Location	N/A
BM11197-016	Trench Locations	1:500
BM11197-017	Plan showing all features	1:125
BM11197-018	Plan and section of pits in Trench 7	1:40 / 1:20
BM11197-019	Plan and sections of curvilinear feature	1:40 / 1:20

SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Limited was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Midlands to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land south of Westham Lane, Barford, Warwickshire. The investigations were required to investigate the potential for archaeological remains ahead of a planning application for a new residential development being submitted to Warwick District Council.

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching revealed two distinct clusters of features, primarily comprising of pit like features located in the centre and northwest of the proposed development area. In addition, a small gully, roughly U-shaped in plan was revealed at the eastern edge of the cluster in the centre of the site and this has been tentatively postulated as being part of a drip gully or base of a small enclosure. A second large ditch was noted running broadly north to south at the west of the proposed development area, this feature was different in composition than anything else seen during the investigations and it is thought that this feature represents a former land boundary and is of a later date than the rest of the archaeology seen. Finally, a couple of small linears were noted in the north of the site which have been interpreted as probable field drainage.

Provisional dating of several pits and the gully provided a broad timescale from the later Prehistoric period and this combined with the morphological characteristics of the archaeology revealed is consistent with similarly dated sites revealed elsewhere in Warwickshire and of particular note, two sites to the immediate north and south of the current area of investigation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Limited (WAL) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey (West Midlands) (hereafter referred to as 'the client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land south of Westham Lane, Barford, Warwickshire (hereafter referred to 'the Site') (Site centred NGR: SP 26857 60375; Figure 1). The evaluation by trial trenching was required to establish the potential presence of any archaeological resource present at the site for which a planning application for residential development will be submitted to Warwick District Council.

1.1.2 Given the limited knowledge of the archaeological resource and the potential for impact by a new development, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) required a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to investigate this.

1.1.3 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and / or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quantity and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and international context as appropriate' (CIFA 2014a).

1.1.4 The project conformed to a brief that was prepared in consultation with John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Council (pers. comm). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was then produced (WA 2016) to provide a specific methodology based on the brief provided and this was approved by John Robinson prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

1.1.5 In addition, the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching conforms to the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014a);
- *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014b);
- *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and*

research of archaeological materials, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014c);

- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Morphe)*, Historic England: London (HE 2015);
- *Wardell Armstrong Archaeology: Excavation Manual*, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, internal document, edition 1.3 (WAA 2015).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Personnel

2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Ben Moore, Project Officer, who also compiled this report. He joined WAL in 2011 and has been practising archaeology professionally since 1999. Assisting in the completion of the fieldwork were Eleonora Montanari and Jaime Lavelle, illustrations were produced by Jonathan Webster. The finds assessment was conducted by Rob Hedge of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service and the palaeoenvironmental assessment was undertaken by Lynne Gardiner. The project was managed by Nick Daffern, Senior Project Manager, who was also responsible for the quality of the project. The report was proof read and edited by Jonathan Webster, Assistant Project Manager.

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP (2016), which set out the known archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 1km from the development area.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

2.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of a total of ten trenches across an investigation area measuring approximately 1.6 hectares in size. Five of the trenches measured 50m in length by 1.5m in width with the remaining five measuring 25m in length by 1.5m in width producing an overall sample size of 4% over the site. The trenches were placed using a combination of specifically placed trenches to target cropmarks and a random grid array designed to best capture any clusters of activity or linears regardless of orientation.

2.3.2 The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence / absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where observed;
- to establish the character of any potential features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
- to recover artefactual materials from as many contexts as possible to allow for a

refined chronological sequence of the site to be established;

- to recover palaeoenvironmental material to gain an understanding on site preservations, potential and gain an understanding of formation processes;
- to provide the Local Planning Authority with a characterisation of the potential of the site so an informed decision can be made.

2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a back-axled hoe 180⁰ wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all possible features were inspected for their potential, selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and palaeoenvironmental samples. All features were excavated and recorded according to professional standards using the format set out in the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology excavation manual (WAA 2015).

2.3.4 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context and the dates used to help determine the broad date phasing for the site. On completion of the fieldwork, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (CIFA 2014c). Please note, the following categories of materials will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified;
- modern pottery;
- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

2.3.5 On completion of the investigations the evaluation trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.4 The Archive

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with any specified local guidelines and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Warwick Museum or a suitable repository agreed with the Planning Archaeologist, with copies of the report sent to Warwickshire County HER, available on request. The original archive can be accessed using the

unique project identifier: **BM11197; WLB-A.**

- 2.4.2 WAL supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer funded archaeological work. As a result, details on the findings of this project will be made available by WAL as part of this national project. The project can be accessed under the unique project identifier: **Wardella2-277147.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The Site is located to the south of Westham Lane and west of existing residencies with frontage onto Wellesbourne Road to the east. To the southeast is a housing development (Bremridge Close), and to the southwest is the A429. There is a grass paddock to the west.
- 3.1.2 The area of investigation is approximately 1.6 hectares in size and is broadly rectangular in shape. There is an extant modern farm building against the eastern boundary and an iron fence running east-west across the centre of the site.
- 3.1.3 At the time of the investigations the site comprised two grass covered paddocks broadly flat in nature, at a height of c.45.85m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) at the northwest corner of the site rising imperceptibly to the south to a height of c.46.00m AOD.
- 3.1.4 The underlying solid geology is mapped as part of the Carboniferous Westphalian D sandstones of the Warwickshire Group at the western edge of the Warwickshire Coalfield. The superficial deposits are mapped as consisting of Quaternary river terrace gravels associated with the River Avon (Old *et al.* 1987).
- 3.1.5 An archaeological desk-based assessment (WA 2016) was produced on the known historical and archaeological background of the site and immediate vicinity. It is not intended to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview of that document, for more information please refer to the original report.
- 3.1.6 The assessment identified no designated heritage assets within the site boundary but there are two Scheduled Monuments, four Grade II* Listed Buildings, 45 Grade II Listed Buildings and two Conservation Areas within the 1km search area around the site.

3.2 Early Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 A worked flint dated to the Mesolithic was recorded 230m-245m west of the site suggesting hunter-gatherer activity in the area (HER references: **MWA1288** & **MWA12887**). Further flint tools were also found 270m and 320m north-west and 795m to the west (HER references: **MWA7288**; **MWA7308** & **MWA5314**).
- 3.2.2 At Wasperton, c. 2km south of the Site, a Neolithic/Bronze Age ring ditch has been recorded alongside a circular enclosure of possible Neolithic date.

3.3 Late Prehistoric/Iron Age

3.3.1 Iron Age activity in this area seems to have been extensive. Two cropmark complexes were recorded 40m north and 340m north-west of the study area (HER references: **MWA701**, **MWA4261**). During archaeological mitigation works ahead of the construction of the A429 bypass, evidence of Iron Age activity consisted of storage pits and a building 230m west of the site (HER references: **MWA12888**, **MWA12885**). Further to the north-west a double ditched settlement enclosure was associated with evidence intensive agricultural activity (HER reference: **MWA12891**).

3.3.2 Residual Iron Age pottery was also recovered from a pit 230m west of the site during fieldwork ahead of the construction of the A429 bypass.

3.4 Romano-British

3.4.1 A single non-designated entry is recorded to have a direct impact on the proposed development and comprised a single sherd of Roman pottery (HER reference: **MWA9788**) recovered from the topsoil during an evaluation of the field to the immediate southeast, excavated in 2001 by Warwickshire Museum Field Services.

3.4.2 Occupation in the area is likely to have continued into the Romano British period. Cropmarks 40m north of the Site, other Roman features (HER reference: **MWA701**) and a Romano British field systems are recorded in the wider landscape within 1km of the study area. (HER references: **MWA12893**, **MWA12889**, **MWA13165**). Initial results of a site excavated immediately to the north suggest occupation in the vicinity dating from the mid Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period although the full results of this work are forthcoming.

3.5 Early Medieval/Medieval

3.5.1 Works ahead of the construction of the A429 bypass highlighted a number of features thought to be early medieval in date. A sunken-featured building and pottery dating to the fifth/sixth centuries 540m north-west (HER reference: **MWA10256**).

3.5.2 Barford is mentioned in the Domesday survey, indicating an established settlement by the 11th century. The medieval settlement (HER reference: **MWA9134**) is likely to have abutted the north east of the development area.

3.6 Post medieval

3.6.1 The first detailed map of the development area is the 1760 Barford Enclosure Map. The site was enclosed within a large field extending between the River Avon and

Westham Lane. A further map from 1806, illustrates the land was owned by the Earl of Warwick and indicates no boundary changes.

- 3.6.2 By 1887 the settlement is encroaching the Warwick and Stratford road adjacent to the Site. Both the Granville Arms Public House (SMR reference: **1364915**) and Barford House (SMR reference: **1035249**) were established.
- 3.6.3 The 2001 Warwickshire Museum Field Services (WMFS) evaluation recorded several pits and postholes dated to the eighteenth and nineteenth century. WAL has reviewed this report, as part of this commission and it would appear that the trenches undertaken by WMFS were excavated to the top of the subsoil. The WAL evaluation undertaken in February 2017 encountered remains below this depth and therefore discussions between John Robinson of Warwickshire CC and WAL have questioned whether, if the previous evaluation had dug beyond this depth, further features may have been encountered.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken between the 6th and 10th of February 2017, with ten trenches excavated across the area (Figure 2). The trenches were placed using a combination of specifically placed trenches to investigate previously noted cropmarks and a random grid array to best characterise the archaeological potential of the investigation area. It was noted during the course of the investigations that the archaeological features required up to 48 hours to weather out and become clear, for further details of the individual contexts see Appendix 1.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was situated in the northeast corner of the proposed development area, to the north of an extant farm building (Plate 1; Figure 2).

4.2.2 The trench was aligned northeast to southwest, and was excavated down onto a red sand natural substrate with occasional yellow patches (**102**) at a depth of between 44.97m and 45.05m AOD, up to 0.8m below the current ground surface. Above this was up to 0.4m of soft mid reddish brown subsoil (**101**) and 0.35m of soft mid brown sandy silt topsoil (**100**).

4.2.3 A 0.8m wide, north-west to south-east aligned linear feature [**103**] ran across the trench revealed at a height of 45.02m AOD, 6 metres from its north-eastern end and the 0.8m wide north-western rounded terminus of another linear feature [**104**] was recorded four metres further south-west uncovered at a height of 44.99m AOD (Figure 3).

4.2.4 **Trench 2:** Trench two was located to the north of the proposed development, 5 metres west of Trench 1 (Plate 2; Figure 2). It was 50m in length and aligned north-south. It was excavated onto a mid-red sand substrate with gravel patches (**202**) at a maximum depth of 45.01m AOD at the northern end of the trench, 0.86m below the current ground surface. Above this was up to 0.5m of subsoil (**201**) containing regular rounded pebbles and 0.35m of topsoil (**200**). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

4.2.5 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located towards the northwest of the proposed development, ten metres west of Trench 2. It was 25m in length and was aligned northwest to southeast (Plate 3; Figure 2). The trench was excavated onto a natural substrate

comprising mid orange sand with brown gravel banding **(301)** at a depth of between 45.02m and 45.10m AOD, up to 0.97m below the current ground surface. Above this was up to 0.6m of subsoil **(302)** and 0.37m of topsoil **(300)**. Several archaeologically significant features were recorded cutting through the natural substrate (Figure 3).

- 4.2.6 A possible north-south aligned feature **[303]** ran across the far north-western end of the trench exposed at a height of 45.02m AOD, but not enough was exposed within the trench to interpret this further. Immediately to the south of this, a pit **[304]**, at least 2.6m in diameter was observed at a height of 45.02m AOD. A further linear feature **[305]** aligned northeast to southwest and c. 0.8m wide was recorded running across the centre of the trench at a height of 45.10m AOD and south of this were a further five pits. Two small pits in proximity, **[306]** and **[307]** were seen at a height of 45.10m AOD and measured 0.4m and 0.8m in diameter respectively and a further three pits **[308, 309, 310]** measuring c. 3m in diameter were partially exposed towards the south-eastern end of the trench at a height of 45.04m AOD. These features were filled by light brown silty sand making them difficult to see until a period of weathering had taken place.
- 4.2.7 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 was located in the north-western corner of the proposed development, six metres west of Trench 3 (Figure 2). It was 50m long, 1.5m wide and was aligned north to south (Plate 4). It was excavated onto orange sand and brown gravel banded natural geology **(401)** at a depth of between 44.90m and 45.07m AOD, up to 0.92m below the current ground surface. Above this was 0.45m of subsoil **(402)** and up to 0.4m of topsoil **(400)**. A number of archaeological features were observed cutting through the natural substrate (Figure 3).
- 4.2.8 Three linear features were recorded running across the trench. These ranged in width from 0.4m and 1m in width. To the north end of the trench, linear features **[404]** was revealed at a height of 45.04m AOD and **[405]** was exposed at a height of 45.01m AOD, both linears were aligned northwest to southeast and east-west respectively. Northeast to southwest linear feature **[414]** was observed running across the southern end of the trench and was revealed at a height of 45.10m AOD.
- 4.2.9 Eight large pits were recorded, ranging in diameter from 2.6m to 2.8m in diameter along the entire length of the trench, from pit **[403]** at the north end revealed at a height of 45.02m AOD, to pits **[412]** and **[413]** towards the south seen at a height of 45.07m AOD. An area of intercutting features towards the centre of the trench **[410]** covering an area of 12m north to south and ranging in height from 45.10m to 44.99m

AOD, this feature was difficult to interpret within the confines of the trench but was likely to consist of yet more pits. A group of smaller pits [407, 408 and 409] around 1m in diameter were also observed 13m from the northern end of the trench and ranged in height from 45.02m to 44.95m AOD.

- 4.2.10 **Trench 5:** Trench 5 was situated towards the centre of the proposed development, was 50m in length and was aligned north-west to south-east (Plate 5; Figure 2). It was positioned to intersect and investigate a series of cropmarks identified during aerial photograph analysis. The trench was excavated onto mid brown gravel natural substrate with bands of orange sand (501) at a depth of between 45.06m and 45.18m AOD, a maximum of 0.82m below the current ground surface. Above this was up to 0.45m of subsoil (502) followed by 0.38m of topsoil (500). A series of twelve pits were encountered cutting through the natural geology (Figure 3).
- 4.2.11 A concentration of seven pits [505] to [511] were recorded towards the north-western end of the trench, with the pits ranging from 1m to 4m in diameter and revealed at a height of 45.12m AOD. Towards the centre of the trench was another cluster of three smaller circular pits [512], [513] and [514], all roughly 1 metre in diameter and seen at a height of 45.20m AOD. A shallow circular pit [503] was excavated 12m from the south-eastern end of the trench. It was revealed at a height of 45.16m AOD and measured 0.9m in diameter by 0.16m deep and filled with light greyish brown silty sand (504) containing occasional sub-rounded pebbles. Another pit of similar size [515] was recorded 4 metres further southeast.
- 4.2.12 **Trench 6:** Trench 6 ran for 50m along the eastern side of the proposed development area and was aligned north-south (Plate 6; Figure 2). It was excavated onto light brown gravel natural substrate with bands of orange clay (601) at between 45.10m and 45.22m AOD, up to 0.92m below current ground level. Up to 0.6m of subsoil (602) sat above this, followed by 0.32m of topsoil (600). Five pits were observed cutting the natural geology in the southern half of the trench (Figure 3).
- 4.2.13 Three of the pits [603], [605] and [607] were observed directly after the trench was cleaned and a further two [609] and [610] became visible after 48 hours of weathering. Pit [603] was located at the 12 metres from the southern end of the trench, with half of the pit running under the western baulk and seen at a height of 45.15m AOD. It was 1.04m in diameter, 0.37m deep, with a flat base and vertical sides (Plate 7). It was filled by firm light brownish grey silty sand (604) containing occasional angular pebbles. Pits [605] to the south was uncovered at a height of 45.23m AOD

(Plate 8) and **[607]** towards the centre of the trench were 1.15m and 1.6m in diameter respectively. They had shallow sides, uneven bases and were also filled with brownish grey silty sand. Another two pits **[609]** and **[610]** were recorded in the southern half of the trench measuring 2.6m and 3.1m in diameter respectively and were seen at a height of 45.21m AOD.

- 4.2.14 **Trench 7:** Trench 7 was located within the central area of the proposed development, directly south of Trench 5 (Plate 9; Figure 2). The trench was aligned north-south and was 25m long. The natural substrate was reached at between 45.24m and 45.31m AOD, at a maximum depth of 1m below the current ground surface and comprised reddish brown gravel and sand with darker red clay patches (**702**). Above this was up to 0.6m of subsoil (**701**) and 0.3m of topsoil (**700**). A series of archaeological features were observed cutting through the natural substrate along the length of the trench (Figure 3).
- 4.2.15 At the north end of the trench, a curvilinear gully **[703] / [705]** was recorded (Plate 10; Figure 5). Revealed at a height of 45.19m AOD at its the northern end to a height of 49.27m AOD at its southern end. The entire length of the western north-south aligned side of the gully was within the trench, as well as the start of the northern and southern east-west sides before they disappeared under the eastern baulk of the trench. The north-south side of the gully was 7.44m long. It was between 0.67m and 0.7m wide and between 0.24m and 0.3m deep with a shallow v-shaped profile. It was filled by a single deposit of friable mid greyish brown silty sand (**704**) / (**705**) with occasional charcoal flecks and sub-angular stones throughout. Fill (**704**) contained a worked flint flake. Three possible stakeholes **[710 -712]** were recorded in the base of the gully. These were 0.05m wide and 0.05m deep.
- 4.2.16 Towards the southern end of the trench a series of pits were recorded. Pit **[707]** was circular and 1.48m in diameter (Plates 11 and 12). It had near vertical sides, a flat base and was 0.34m deep. It was filled by a single deposit of compact mid brown silty sand (**713**) (Figure 4).
- 4.2.17 Another sub-circular pit was excavated, 0.4m further north. Pit **[708]** was also c.1.4m in diameter and sub-circular in plan but was markedly different in profile (Plates 11 and 13). The pit had steep sides, stepping on the south-eastern side, creating a horizontal shelf, and terminated in a possible posthole. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m (Figure 4). A fragment of worked stone was retrieved from light reddish brown silty sand tertiary fill (**716**).

- 4.2.18 Within the vicinity of pits [707] and [708] another three pits [718, 719, 720] and a possible northwest to southeast aligned ditch [721] were observed after a period of weathering.
- 4.2.19 **Trench 8:** Trench 8 was positioned to intersect and investigate a series of earthworks identified during aerial photograph analysis. It was located towards the western boundary of the proposed development around 30m south of Trench 5 (Plate 14) (Figure 2). It was 50m in length and aligned northwest to southeast. The trench was excavated onto yellow and orange sand with clay and gravel patches at between 45.15m and 45.31m AOD, a maximum of 0.96m below the current ground surface. Above this was 0.6m of subsoil (801) and 0.35m of topsoil (800). Several archaeological features were recorded cutting through the natural substrate (Figure 3).
- 4.2.20 At the southern end of the trench, a large pit was excavated against the south-western baulk of the trench and revealed at a height of 45.18m AOD. Pit [803] was at least 2.1m in diameter, 0.68m deep and contained five separate fills (Plate 15). The sides were steep to vertical and it had a flat base. The primary fill (806) comprised redeposited natural sands and gravels that presumably slumped from the pit sides during its use. The other, siltier deposits above this seem likely to have accumulated over time once the pit went out of use. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills.
- 4.2.21 Another smaller pit was excavated, 24m from the north-western end of the trench. Pit [804] was revealed at a height of 45.22m AOD and measured 0.9m in diameter and 0.75m deep. It was circular in plan and with steep sides terminating in a possible posthole (Plate 16). It is similar in profile to pit [708] in Trench 7. As with pit [708], the primary fill (811) comprised redeposited natural gravels and sand. The base of the feature may represent a post hole, later backfilled. The remaining two fills seem likely to have accumulated once the feature went out of use.
- 4.2.24 Another series of pits were observed once weathering had occurred, including a series of intercutting features (817) towards the southeast of the trench and three more discreet pits, c.2m in diameter revealed at around the height of c.45.31m AOD. The large boundary ditch [903] excavated in Trench 9 was also visible running across Trench 8 [805].
- 4.2.22 **Trench 9:** Trench 9 was in the southwest corner of the proposed development area, to the south of Trench 8. It was 25m in length and was aligned northwest to southeast

(Plate 17; Figure 2). The trench was excavated onto natural substrate comprising reddish brown gravels and sand with red clay patches **(902)** at between 45.26m and 45.37m AOD, up to 0.9m below the current ground surface. Above this were up to 0.45m of subsoil **(901)** and 0.4m of topsoil **(900)**.

4.2.23 At the north-western end of the trench, a three metre wide, north-south aligned ditch **[903]** was recorded at a height of 45.32m AOD (Plate 18; Figure 3). The ditch was 0.6m deep with shallow uneven sides that broke gently to a concave base. It was filled with a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand **(904)** containing occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular pebbles. This is likely to have represented a gradual silting up of the ditch over time. A possible continuation of this ditch was recorded in Trench 8. No other archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

4.2.20 **Trench 10:** Trench 10 was located in the far southeast corner of the proposed development area. It was 25m in length and aligned northeast to southwest (Plate 19; Figure 2). The trench was excavated onto natural substrate **(1001)** comprising mid reddish brown gravels with reddish brown clay banding. This was reached at between 45.11m and 45.20m AOD, up to 0.91m below the current ground surface. Above this were up to 0.4m of subsoil **(1002)** and 0.33m of topsoil **(1000)**. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The recovery of artefactual remains from the course of the evaluation were relatively sparse with only three worked flint pieces (11.2g) being identified and recovered, two from fills of a pit and the last redeposited within the topsoil.

Period	object specific type	Count	weight (g)
Later Prehistoric	Worked flint	3	11.2

Context	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Date	Context TPQ Date range
500	End-scraper	1	5.7	Later prehistoric	1500BC – 43AD
704	Flake	1	3.2	Later prehistoric	1500BC – 43AD
714	Flake	1	2.3	Later prehistoric	1500BC – 43AD

5.2 Discussion

5.2.1 Three pieces of worked flint were recovered. All were on mid-to-dark grey translucent flint of moderate quality, and all bore traces of cortex indicating a secondary, possibly fluvial source.

5.2.2 The quality of work was poor, and indicative of casual exploitation of locally-available raw material. Edge-damage was evident along the lateral margin of the flake from **(714)**. The only retouched piece was an end-scraper on an irregular chunk of flint; in addition to the scraper edge, this was retouched along the left lateral margin, probably for ease of handling.

5.2.3 Few firm conclusions can be drawn from such a small assemblage; however, the techniques are suggestive of later prehistoric flintworking (Butler 2005, 181). A date of Middle Bronze Age or later (1500BC – 43AD) is therefore postulated, although an earlier origin cannot be ruled out.

6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk environmental samples were taken during the course of the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and the results of the palaeoenvironmental assessment was undertaken in accordance with Campbell et al. (2011) and English Heritage (2008).

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The bulk environmental samples were processed in-house and the colour, lithology, weight and volume of each sample was recorded using standard WAL pro forma recording sheets, Table 1. A small sub-sample (c.5ml) of sediment was removed prior to processing each sample in order to have their pH levels tested. This was done by mixing the sediments with distilled water and using a Hanna HI98100 Checker Plus meter. The samples were then processed with 500 micron retention and flotation meshes using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973). Once dried, the residues from the retention mesh were sieved to 4mm and the artefacts and ecofacts removed from the larger fraction and, where relevant, forwarded to the relevant specialists. The smaller fraction was also examined and scanned with a magnet in order to recover any micro-slugs, such as hammerscale. After sorting the residues were bucket floated in order to maximise any archaeobotanical and charcoal yield; the residues were then discarded.

6.2.2 The flots were scanned using a stereo microscope (up to x45 magnification). Any artefactual or ecofactual finds would be recovered and noted on the pro forma. Once the flot was sorted it was discarded with any materials bagged, Table 2.

6.2.3 Charcoal was identified using Hather (2000) and nomenclature followed Stace (2010).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Sample <1>, from (714), earliest fill of pit [708]:

6.3.2 The 9.6kg (5l) sample from the earliest fill yielded no artefacts other than magnetic matter; which was naturally occurring geology. There was a significant amount of flint present but this represented the natural geology as opposed to being modified by human agency. The pH level was 7.56. The initial flot was very small (<5ml) and consisted mostly of very fine rootlets, the re-flot contained a small quantity of comminuted charcoal, of which a single fragment could be identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.). No other presence of ecofactual material was observed.

6.3.3 Sample <2>, from (716), fill of pit [708]:

6.3.4 This slightly larger sample (23.05kg/14l) was taken from a fill higher in the pit stratigraphy. The results were comparative with the previous sample in that no artefactual material was observed; with the magnetic matter being naturally occurring geology. The only ecofactual yield was a small fragment of charcoal from the flot. It could not be identified to species; only diffuse-porous roundwood. The re-flot consisted only of comminuted charcoal, however two fragments were large enough to enable identification; oak and possible whitebeam (cf. *Sorbus* sp.). The pH was 7.4.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The paucity of material offered no potential for discussion.

6.5 Statement of potential and recommendations

6.5.1 Hurst (2011, 118) stated that there is very limited environmental evidence from this part of the country, especially with regard to the Bronze Age and Iron Age. Hurst (op. cit., 104) further suggested that the slightly acidic soils may be the cause; especially for molluscan studies. Yet the pH levels taken from the samples indicated a slight alkalinity. These levels should ensure decent preservation for a whole suite of palaeoenvironmental data, such as, but not exclusive to, charcoal, molluscs, charred plant remains and bone. Furthermore, Hurst (op. cit. 130) stated that environmental work should be carried out routinely, 'as even the poor evidence will be of significance for future reference.' Therefore, if any archaeological interventions should be undertaken in the area then a sample strategy that would reflect the potential recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains should be implemented.

6.5.2 Although charcoal fragments were observed they would not be suitable for radiocarbon AMS dating. The presence of oak within the comminuted charcoal from <2> would also negate the potential for submitting a selection for AMS. The size of the remainder of the fragments limit identification, these can be discarded as can the magnetic matter.

7 SYNTHESIS

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching revealed archaeological features in all but two of the trenches excavated across the study area. These were exposed at a depth of between 0.8m and 1m below the present ground level, the archaeology revealed consisted primarily of pits, with a U-shaped gully and a couple of linears also present. Dating evidence was recovered from the fills of two features: a circular steep sided pit and the gully, both in Trench 7, where flint flakes datable to the later prehistoric period were found. An end scraper datable to the same period was also found in the topsoil removed from Trench 5.
- 7.1.2 The gully recorded in Trench 7 had a series of stakeholes cut into its base, in the two sections excavated across it. The fact that stakeholes of identical size and in a similar position within the gully profile were found in two separate segments of the gully may suggest that they continued along the rest of its length, although this can only be supposition. The fact that they were filled with the same material as the ditch may indicate that they were contemporary with it, and were removed when the gully went out of use and filled with colluvial material. The presence of stakeholes suggest a structural interpretation for the gully, possibly an enclosure marked by a wooden palisade or hurdles.
- 7.1.2 The investigations helped to demonstrate that the foci of activity is most likely concentrated in the centre and northwest of the site. Trenches 1, 2, 6, 9 and 10 were relatively sterile with only a few pits recorded in Trench 6 and none in Trenches 1, 2, 9 and 10. A ditch revealed running north-south in Trench 9 and also visible in Trench 8 and was noted to be associated with a still extant earthwork bank running across the site and as such is currently interpreted as a later feature associated with agriculture, most likely a field boundary although the ditch did seem to be sealed by the subsoil in the trenches and no stratigraphic relationship between it and the earthwork could be established. Likewise the linears seen in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 are currently thought to be associated with field management and not associated with the majority of the archaeology revealed. Although it should be noted that at present this interpretation is based on orientation and morphological traits as no dating was recovered from any of the features.
- 7.1.4 The fact that no pits were recorded in the three trenches excavated furthest to the east indicate that the activity recorded elsewhere did not continue in this direction and the area as a whole may be at the eastern edge of any activities present. The lack

of artefactual and / or ecofactual remains would suggest that the activities present are unlikely to be associated with occupation directly and the recent archaeological investigations to the north has demonstrated that the foci of settlement activity in the local landscape lies there. At present little further interpretation can be provided as no evidence has been recovered that could help demonstrate if the features are related to industrial, agricultural or mineral extraction practices. Although this is a common problem in the interpretation of prehistoric landscapes in this part of Warwickshire. However, the conclusions of the acidity levels of the soils combined with the numbers of artefactual remains recovered from the site to the immediate north allows for a confidence that degradation of the archaeological remains is unlikely to have occurred and the lack of material recovered is a true reflection of the sparsity of material present.

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APPENDIX 1
TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 25m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NE - SW
 Average Depth: 0.7m Maximum Depth: 0.8m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
100	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.35m	
101	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand	0.40m	
102	Natural Substrate	Red sand with yellow patches	N/A	
103	Linear Feature	0.8m wide NW – SE aligned linear feature	UNEXC	Ditch of unknown date
104	Linear Feature	North-western terminus of NW-SE aligned 0.8m wide linear feature	UNEXC	Ditch terminus of unknown date

Trench 2

Length: 50m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S
 Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 0.86m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
200	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.35m	
201	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand	0.50m	
202	Natural Substrate	Soft mid red sand with gravel patches	N/A	

Trench 3

Length: 25m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S
 Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 0.92m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
300	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.37m	
301	Natural Substrate	Mid orange sand with brown gravel banding	N/A	
302	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand	0.5m	
303	Feature	Possible N-S aligned linear	UNEXC	Extends beyond the current limit of excavation
304	Feature	Possible circular pit >2.6m Ø	UNEXC	
305	Feature	NE-SW aligned 0.8m wide linear	UNEXC	Possible ditch
306	Feature	Possible pit 0.4m Ø	UNEXC	
307	Feature	Possible pit 0.8m Ø	UNEXC	

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
308	Feature	Possible pit >3.0m Ø	UNEXC	
309	Feature	Possible pit >3.0m Ø	UNEXC	
310	Feature	Possible pit >3.0m Ø	UNEXC	

Trench 4

Length: 50m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S
 Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 0.92m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
400	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.4m	
401	Natural Substrate	Orange sand with brown gravel bands	N/A	
402	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand.	0.4m	
403	Feature	>2.9m Ø pit	UNEXC	
404	Feature	0.4m wide NW-SE aligned linear feature	UNEXC	
405	Feature	0.6m wide E-W aligned linear feature	UNEXC	
406	Feature	>1.30m Ø pit	UNEXC	
407	Feature	>1.48m Ø pit	UNEXC	
408	Feature	>1.17m Ø pit	UNEXC	
409	Feature	>3.16m Ø pit	UNEXC	
410	Feature	Area of cut features 12m N-S	UNEXC	Impossible to interpret within the confines of the trench. Probable intercutting pits
411	Feature	>3.76m Ø pit	UNEXC	
412	Feature	>3.2m Ø pit	UNEXC	
413	Feature	>3.5m Ø pit	UNEXC	
414	Feature	0.8m wide NE-SW aligned linear feature	UNEXC	

Trench 5

Length: 50m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NW-SE
 Average Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 0.82m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
500	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.38m	
501	Natural Substrate	Mid brown gravel with bands of orange sand	N/A	
502	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand	0.4m	
[503]	Cut	0.9m Ø circular pit	0.16m	Small shallow pit. Function and date unknown

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
504	Deposit	Soft light greyish brown silty sand	0.16m	Fill of pit [503]
505	Feature	>1.73m Ø pit	UNEXC	
506	Feature	>1.65m Ø pit	UNEXC	
507	Feature	>2.45 Ø pit	UNEXC	
508	Feature	1.09 Ø pit	UNEXC	
509	Feature	>3.20m Ø pit	UNEXC	
510	Feature	>4.04m Ø pit	UNEXC	
511	Feature	>2.5m Ø pit	UNEXC	
512	Feature	0.87m Ø pit	UNEXC	
513	Feature	1.36m Ø pit	UNEXC	
514	Feature	1.3m Ø pit	UNEXC	
515	Feature	1.44m Ø pit	UNEXC	

Trench 6

Length: 50m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S
 Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 0.92m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
600	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.32m	
601	Natural Substrate	Light brown gravel with bands of orange clay	N/A	
602	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand	0.6m	
[603]	Cut	Circular pit with vertical sides and a flat base 1.04m Ø	0.37m	Extends beyond the current limit of excavation
604	Deposit	Firm light brown silty sand with occasional angular pebbles	0.37m	Single homogenous fill of pit [603]. No obvious interpretation of depositional process.
[605]	Cut	Sub-circular pit with shallow sides and concave base 1.15m Ø	0.33m	
606	Deposit	Firm mid brown silty sand	0.33m	Homogenous single fill of pit [605] likely to represent a single episode of colluvial infilling
[607]	Cut	Sub oval pit 0.4m Ø with shallow sides and uneven base	0.12m	
608	Deposit	Firm mid brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular stones	0.12m	As with the other fills of pits in Trench 6, this was homogenous and silty. Likely to have been a single episode of colluvial infill.
609	Feature	>2.54m Ø pit	UNEXC	
610	Feature	>3.10m Ø pit	UNEXC	

Trench 7

Length: 25m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S
 Average Depth: 0.9m Maximum Depth: 1.0m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
700	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.3m	
701	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand	0.5m	
702	Natural Substrate	Reddish brown gravel and sand with darker red clay patches	N/A	
[703]	Cut	Cut of gully that is broadly U-shaped in plan c.0.7m wide with shallow v-shaped profile	0.22m	Broadly U-shaped gully with rounded corners, c. 7.4m N-S. Unknown length E-W.
704	Deposit	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and sub-angular stones	0.22m	Single fill of [703]. Contained a worked flint fragment. Also fills possible stakeholes [710] and [711] so seems likely to have represented one episode of colluvial infilling once stakes had been removed and gully went out of use.
[705]	Cut	Cut of gully c0.68m wide, with a v-shaped profile	0.38m	Same feature as [703]
706	Deposit	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and sub-angular stones	0.38m	Fill of [705]. See (704) above. Also fills stakehole [712]
[707]	Cut	Circular pit with sharp sides and flat base 1.48m Ø	0.34m	
[708]	Cut	Sub-rounded pit with steep sides, stepped to SE side and terminating in a possible post hole. 1.48m Ø	1.12m	
709		VOID		
710	Feature	Stakehole 0.05m Ø	0.05m	Stakehole in base of gully. The three stakeholes were filled by same material that fills the ditch into which they are cut, suggesting that they were contemporary with it and once they were removed, the gully went out of use and silted up.
711	Feature	Stakehole 0.05m Ø	0.05m	See above
712	Feature	Stakehole 0.05m Ø	0.05m	See (710) above

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
713	Deposit	Mid brown silty sand with occasional reddish, siltier lenses, occasional gravel and rare charcoal flecks. 1.48m Ø	0.34m	Single fill of pit [707]. Occasional lenses of reddish, more silty material suggest that the pit filled up in a series of short colluvial episodes but without any significant periods of stabilisation between them.
714	Deposit	Loose reddish grey coarse sand with frequent gravel and water worn pebbles throughout	0.51m excavated	Probable primary fill of pit [708] Contained a worked flint flake. Material seems to be initial collapse from the edges of the pit as the material through which it is cut is very similar and very loose and unstable.
715	Deposit	Compact mid greyish brown / red sandy silt with occasional gravel	0.29m	After initial collapse represented by fill (714), this fill also seems to represent erosion of material from higher up the sides of pit [708]
716	Deposit	Compact to friable mid to light brown silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks	0.31m	Homogenous fill of pit [708] above (715) likely to represent an episode of colluvial infilling after the pit went out of use
717	Deposit	Compact to friable dark brown silty sand with charcoal patches	0.13m	Most recent fill of pit [708]. Seems to represent a dump of material into the top of pit [708] once it was almost completely backfilled / silted up. Possibly material cleared from a fire or hearth

Trench 8

Length: 50m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NW – SE
 Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 0.96m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
800	Topsoil	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles	0.35m	
801	Subsoil	Compacted mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional small pebbles,	0.30m	

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		charcoal and CBM fragments		
802	Natural Substrate	Compacted yellowish orange brown clayey sand with gravel patches	N/A	
[803]	Cut	Cut of large circular pit, with sub-vertical sides and flattish base. 2.10m \emptyset	0.68m	
[804]	Cut	Cut of circular pit, with sub-vertical sides and flattish base. Shallow feature, measuring 0.9m in \emptyset	0.75m	
[805]	Cut	Cut of NE-SW aligned ditch. Approx.1.5m in width	UNEXC	Same as ditch [903]. Feature slightly curves in trench 8. Cuts through natural substrate [802] and is sealed by subsoil [801]. In close proximity to a N-S aligned linear feature observed running across the site but no stratigraphic relationship could be established between the two.
806	Deposit	Compacted dark reddish brown silty sand with very frequent gravel and occasional pebbles	0.51m	Primary fill of [803], consisting in slumps of redeposited Natural Substrate
807	Deposit	Compact mid greyish brown sand with occasional thin dark red silty lenses and occasional gravel. Slump of material from the side of the pit	0.13m	Secondary fill of [803]. The lenses of silt suggest this was a gradually accumulating deposit comprising of material slipping from the ditch sides due to erosion.
808	Deposit	Compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt. Redeposited material	0.16m	Tertiary fill of [803], representing material dumped against the NW side of the pit, possibly from the SE side.
809	Deposit	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel and yellowish sand bands.	0.29m	Fourth fill of [803]. A dump of material possibly from NE side.
810	Deposit	Compact mid brown silty sand with occasional gravel and yellowish sand lenses. Presence of bioturbation (roots)	0.38m	Most recent fill of [803]. Silty material with yellowish sand lenses, suggesting a gradual accumulation of material due to colluvial infilling

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
811	Deposit	Loose mid reddish grey sand with gravel and pebbles. Deposit with fluvial origin.	0.32m	Primary fill of [804], slumped from pit sides not long after it was excavated. No sign of initial silting below it.
812	Deposit	Compact greyish brown sand with dark reddish silty bands and occasional gravel.	0.37m	Secondary fill of [804] representing a rapid episode of dumping of material against the NW side of the pit, possibly from its SE side.
813	Deposit	Compact dark to mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Bioturbation (roots)	0.45m	Tertiary fill of [804]. Homogenous nature suggests a single episode of colluvial infilling.
814	Feature	Approx. 2m Ø pit	UNEXC	
815	Feature	Approx. 2m Ø pit	UNEXC	
816	Feature	Approx. 2m Ø pit	UNEXC	
817	Group of features	Group of intercutting pits, between 1 and 2m Ø. Total length 3m, > 1 m in width.	UNEXC	

Trench 9

Length: 25m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NW – SE
 Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 0.9m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
900	Topsoil	Friable dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles	0.4m	
901	Subsoil	Compacted mid reddish/orangey brown clayey sand	0.3m	
902	Natural Substrate	Compact yellowish mid reddish brown gravelly sand with dark red clayey patches	N/A	
[903]	Cut	Cut of N-S running ditch, with gently sloping sides and flat base. 3m in width	0.6m	Possible boundary ditch, undated. The linear feature continues in trench 8. The ditch cut thorough the natural substrate [902] and was sealed by subsoil [901]. Possibly associated with an earthwork noted running N-S across the site in close proximity but

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
				this earthwork was not visible in section in the sides of Trenches 8 or 9, so no stratigraphic relationship between the two could be established.
904	Deposit	Friable mid brown silty sand, with occasional sub angular small pebbles and charcoal flecks	0.6m	

Trench 10

Length: 25m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.85m Maximum Depth: 0.91m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1000	Topsoil	Soft mid brown sandy silt	0.33m	
1001	Natural Substrate	Loose mid reddish brown gravelly sand with yellowish brown silty clay mottling	N/A	
1002	Subsoil	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand	0.5m	

APPENDIX 2
PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, general view looking northeast; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 2: Trench 2, general view of trench looking south; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 3: Trench 3, general view looking southeast; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 4: Trench 4, general view looking north; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 5: Trench 5, general view looking northwest; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 6: Trench 6, general view looking south; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 7: East facing section of pit [603]; 1 x 1m scale



Plate 8: South-east facing section of pit [605]; 1 x 1m scale.



Plate 9: Trench 7, general view looking north; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 10: South-western corner of enclosure [703], facing east; 1 x 0.4m scale.



Plate 11: Pits **[707]** and **[708]**, facing south; 1 x 1m scale.



Plate 12: Southwest facing section of pit **[707]**; 1 x 1m scale.



Plate 13: Northeast facing section of pit [708]; 1 x 1m scale.



Plate 14: Trench 8, general view of trench looking southeast; 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 15: Northeast facing section of pit **[803]**; 1 x 1m scale.



Plate 16: Pit **[804]** facing south, 1x1m scale



Plate 17: Trench 9, general view of trench looking southeast; 2 x 1m scales.

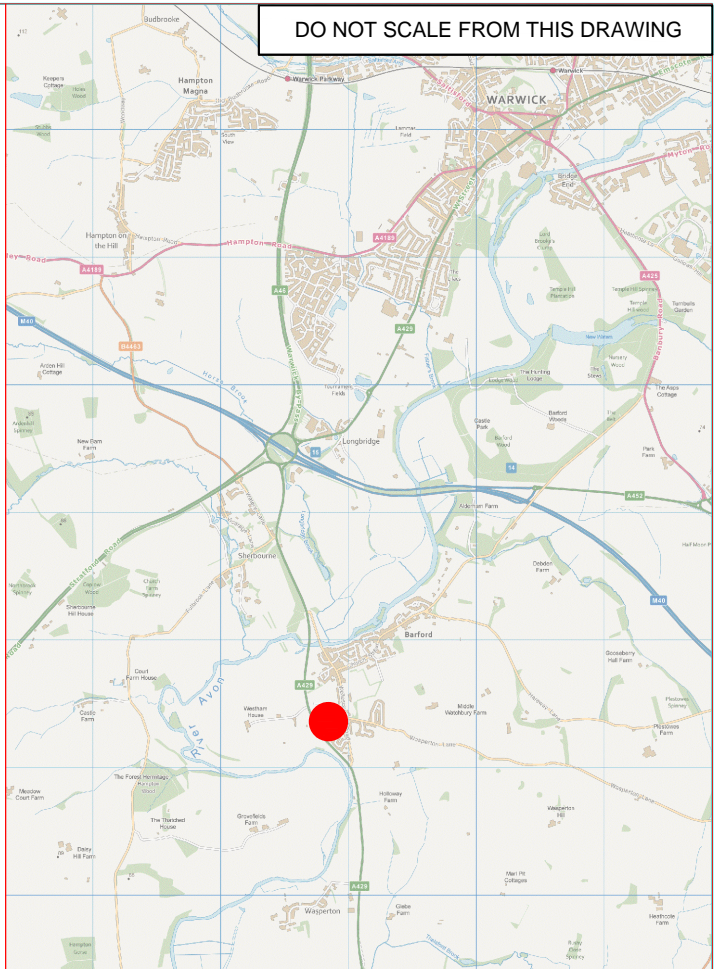


Plate 18: Ditch **[903]**, facing north, 1x1m scale

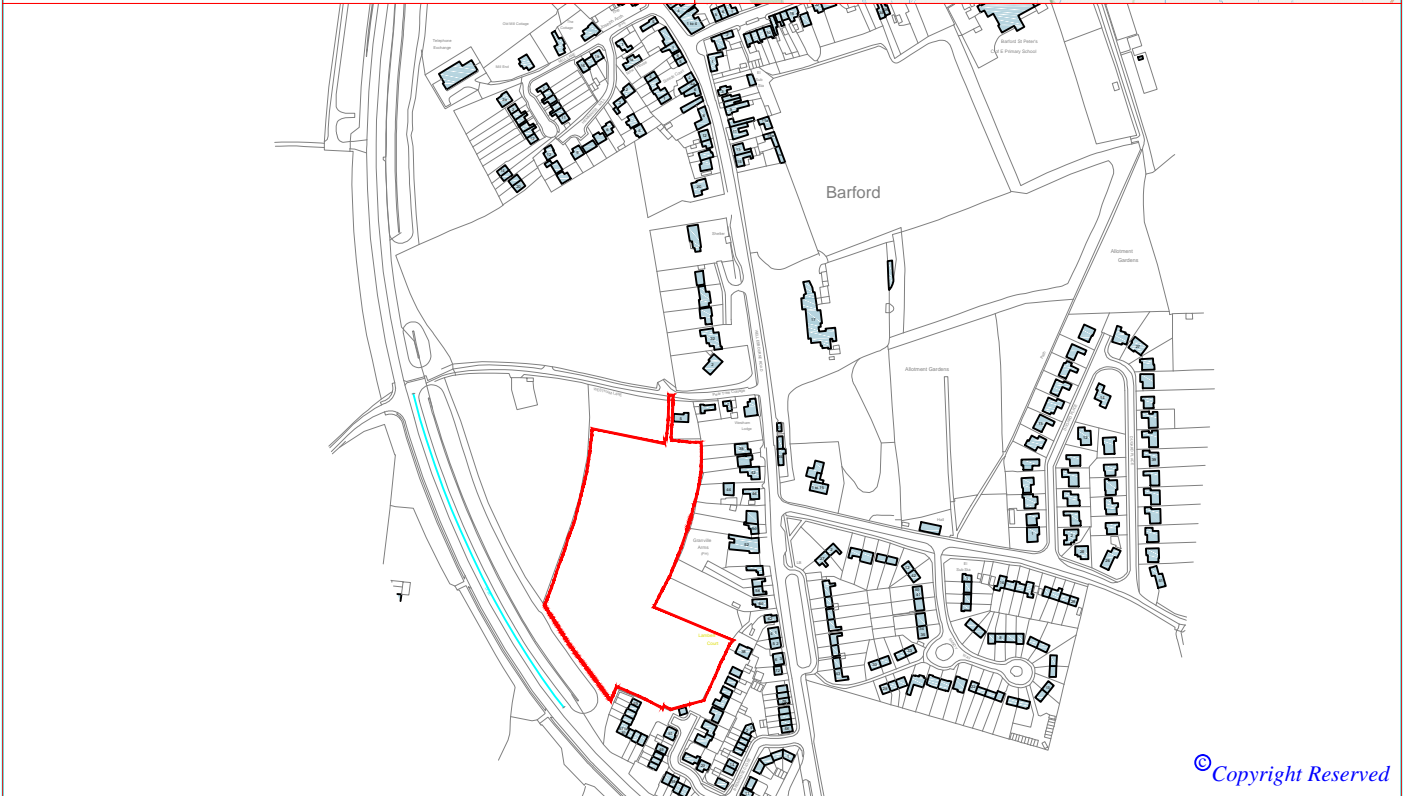


Plate 19: Trench 10, general view looking northeast; 2 x 1m scales.

APPENDIX 3
FIGURES



DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING



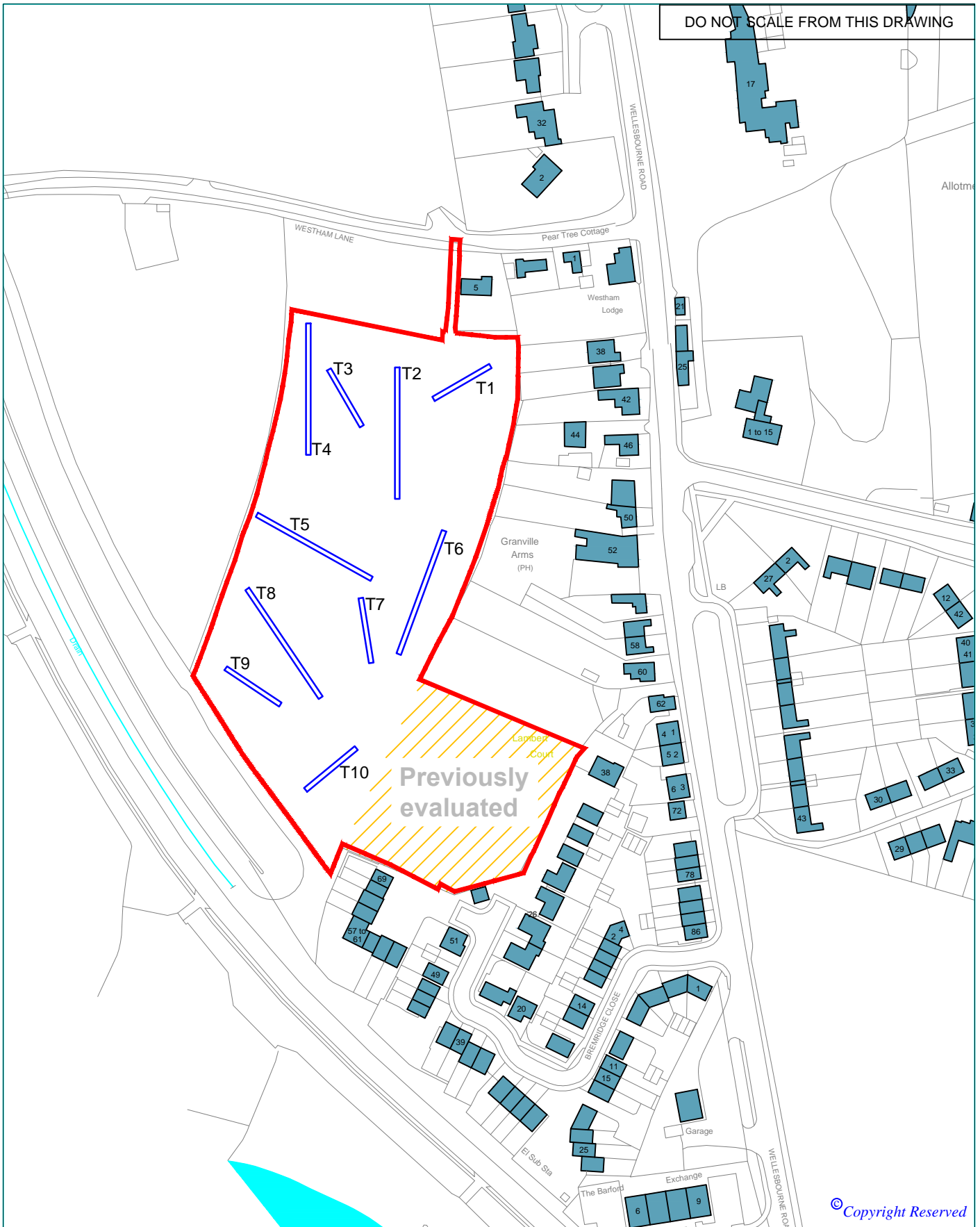
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DRAWN BY			JW	CHECKED BY	ND	DATE
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 1: Site Location				APPROVED BY	AP



your earth our world

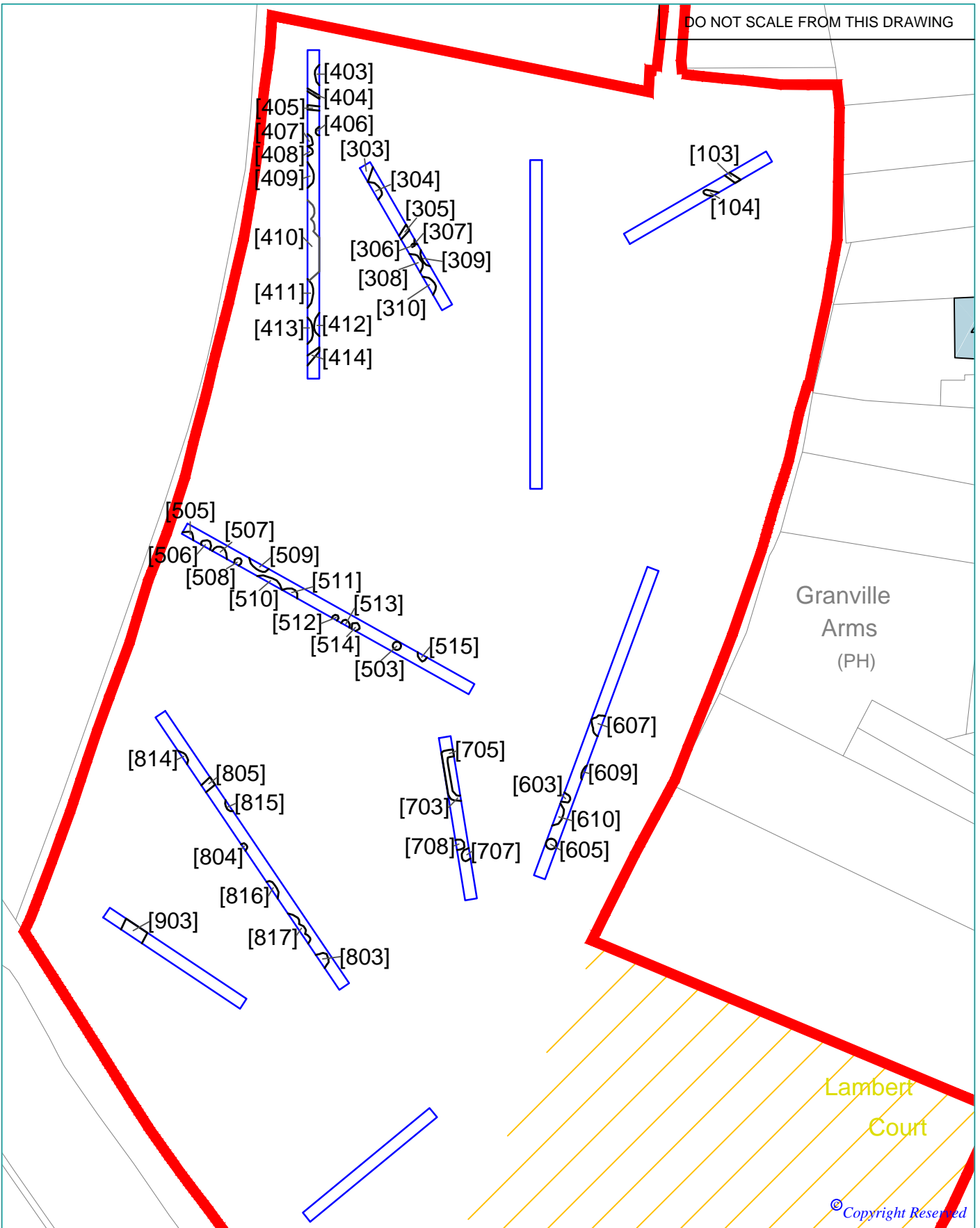
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					APPROVED BY	AP



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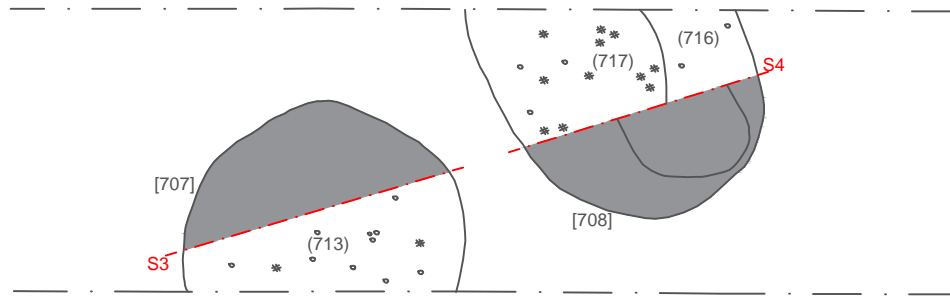
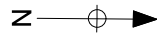


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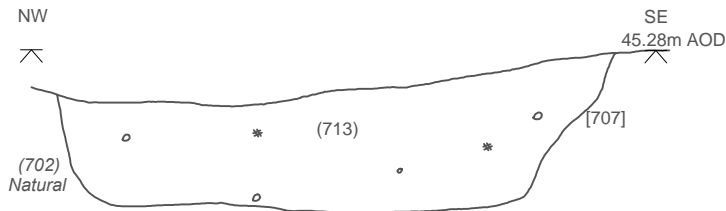
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Figure 3: Plan showing all features.

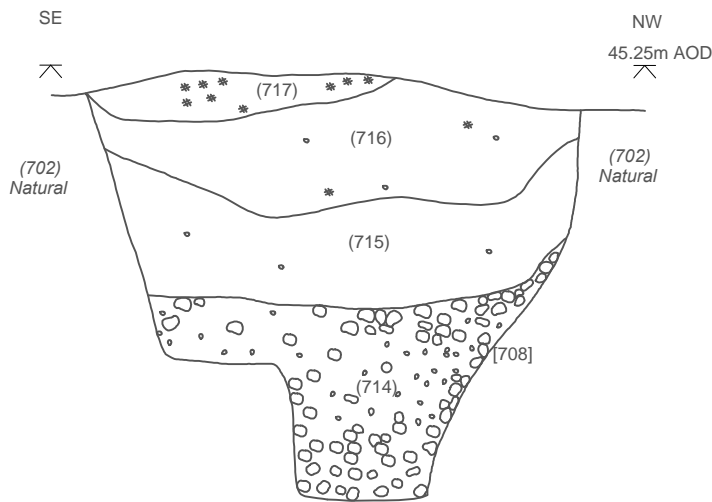




Plan of pits in trench 7.



Section 3. Southwest facing section through pit [707].



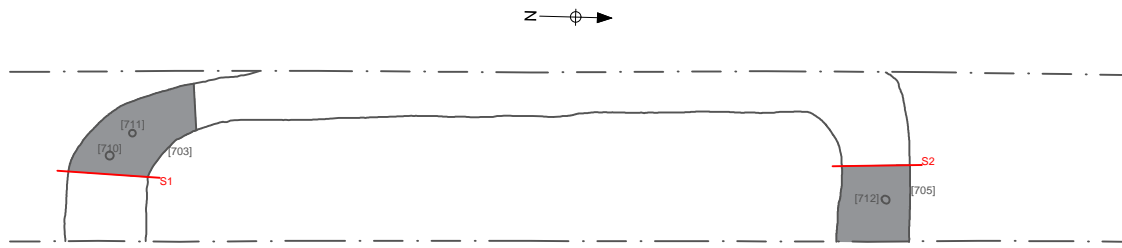
Section 4. Northeast facing section through pit [708].



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CLIENT	Taylor Wimpey (West Midlands)		DRG No.	BM11197-018	REV	001
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DRAWN BY			JW	CHECKED BY	ND	DATE
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Figure 4: Plan and section of pits in Trench 7.			AP			

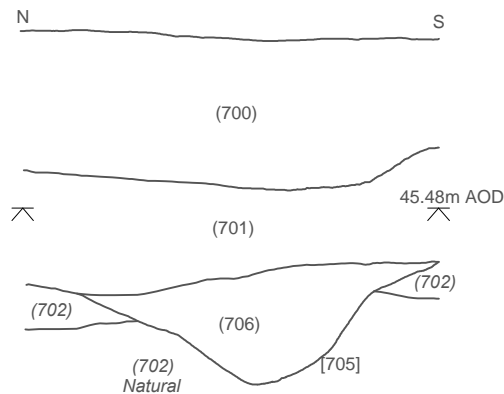




Plan of curvilinear feature in Trench 7.



Section 1. West facing section through linear [703].



Section 2. West facing section through linear [705].



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CLIENT	Taylor Wimpey (West Midlands)		DRG No.	BM11197-019	REV	001
	PROJECT	Land south of Westham Lane, Barford, Warwickshire	SIZE	A4	SCALE	1:40 / 1:20
DRAWN BY			JW	CHECKED BY	ND	DATE
DRAWING TITLE			APPROVED BY			
Figure 5: Plan and sections of curvilinear feature			AP			



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