

**Marfield Quarry
Masham
North Yorkshire
Quarry Extension Phases 3 and 4
Archaeological Watching Brief
SE 2110 8277**

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Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Marfield Quarry, Masham, North Yorkshire during October 2006. The work involved monitoring topsoil-stripping operations prior to the commencement of quarrying operations in an extension to the quarry.

Seven small pits were identified during the Watching Brief, some of which contained burnt material. Finds recovered during the Watching Brief were limited to a single flint flake.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Marfield Quarry, Masham, North Yorkshire, SE 8277 2110 (Fig. 1) from the 6th to the 10th October 2006. The work was undertaken on behalf of Lafarge Aggregates Ltd in order to fulfil a condition attached to Planning Application Consent for mineral extraction on land to the north-west of the existing quarry workings (Planning Ref:500/32G/CMA).
- 1.2 The site code for the project was MAP 07.09.06.
- 1.3 All maps within this report have been reproduced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, License No. AL 50453A.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Lafarge Aggregates Ltd.

1. Site Description

- 2.1 Marfield Quarry is situated in the parish of Ellington High and Low, North Yorkshire, to the north-west of the town of Masham, at SE 8277 2110 (Fig. 1). Phases 3 and 4 of the quarry extension are located to the north-west of the existing quarry workings, approximately 0.9 km to the south of the village of Low Ellington (Figs. 2 & 3). At the time of the Watching Brief, the extension area was in use as arable land. The topography of the extension area was on fairly flat ground, falling slightly down hill at the eastern end of the area, with heights of between 106m AOD and 110m AOD (Pl. 1).

3. Geology

- 3.1 The site is located on soils of the East Keswick Association. These consist of well-drained fine or coarse loams over a parent drift of Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstones and shales (Mackney 1984).

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The current Watching Brief was part of an on-going programme of archaeological investigation within the boundaries of the quarry that commenced in 1988 with a Watching Brief by WYAS. A pre-planning evaluation of the quarry extension was commissioned by Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd (now Lafarge Aggregates Ltd) and was carried out between April 1995 and December 1996. The evaluation followed a staged format and consisted of a number of different techniques including a desktop study (Areas 1-14: MAP 1995i-Fig 2), geophysical survey (GSB 1995- Area 6, 9, 12 & 1996- Areas 8 & 13), fieldwalking (MAP 1995ii- Areas 6, 9, 12) and trial and sample excavations in Areas 6, 9, 12 & 14 (MAP 1997).

- 4.2 The most significant archaeological features that have been identified within the quarry were located in Area 12. Here, four lime kilns were excavated (MAP 1995 & 1996), after being identified by geophysical survey (GSB 1995 & 1996). The lime kilns dated from the late 17th to mid 18th centuries and were associated with the production of lime for agricultural improvement and building mortar. A rectangular burnt pit of 16th to 17th century date was also identified.
- 4.3 Two further kilns of late to mid 18th century date were identified in Phase 1 (Areas 6 and 8) in 1996 & 1999.
- 4.4 A late 17th to 18th century lime kiln was also recorded in Phase 4 (Area 14) in 2005. On this occasion, the area monitored during the Watching Brief covered an area of approximately 3600m² that comprised the eastern end of Phase 3 and the north-eastern part of Phase 4 (formerly Areas 8, 12 & 14 of the pre-planning evaluation).

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The current Watching Brief covered an area of 1.96ha that was situated within Phases 3 and 4 of the quarry extension (Area 12).
- 5.2 The topsoil within the monitored area was stripped by a 360° mechanical excavator that was fitted with a toothless bucket and acting under full archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 A drawn, written and photographic record was made of all archaeological features and deposits encountered. All significant features were planned in relation to existing landscape features and were tied into the Ordnance Survey grid.

6. Results

- 6.1 The extension area covered 1.96ha and formed a continuation to the west of the area stripped and monitored during the 2005 Watching Brief (Fig. 4). A total of seven features were identified at a height of between 110.10m and 109.70m AOD (contexts 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112 and 114), each of which were cut into the underlying natural subsoil.
- 6.2 Pits 102 and 104 were located close to each other (Fig. 5). Pit 102 was of sub-circular plan, with a diameter of 1.05m and a depth of 0.15m. The feature had a shallow, bowl-shaped profile and was filled by a deposit of sterile silty sand that included fragments of stone (context 101). Deposit 101 yielded a single flint fragment (Appendix 2).
- 6.3 Pit 104 had a sub-rectangular plan and measured 0.9m x 0.45m x 0.2m deep. The feature had a U-shaped profile and was filled by a deposit of silty clay that contained stones and cobbles, along with small amounts of charcoal and fragments of scorched pink clay (context 1003). The base of Pit 104 was also scorched, suggesting that the feature was a small fire pit.
- 6.4 Pit 106 was located towards the north-western end of the stripped area (Fig. 6). This feature was of irregular plan and profile, and measured 1.8m x 0.7m x 0.2m deep. The silty clay fill (context 105) contained a number of small cobbles and fragments of charcoal.
- 6.5 Pits 108 and 110 were situated close to each other (Fig. 7). Pit 108 was of sub-circular plan, with a diameter of 0.70m and a depth of 0.35m. Pit 108 was filled by silty clay that contained fragments of charcoal and cobbles (context 107)
- 6.6 Pit 110 was also sub-circular, with a diameter of 0.50m and a depth of 0.20m. The feature had a bowl-shaped profile and was filled by a deposit of sterile silty sand (context 109).

- 6.7 Pits 112 and 114 were located close to each other at the southern end of the extension area (Fig. 8). Pit 112 was circular, with a diameter of 0.45m, a depth of 0.15m and a bowl-shaped profile. It contained a deposit of silty clay that contained fragments of charcoal (context 111) and probably represented a fire pit.
- 6.8 Pit 114 was of sub-oval plan and measured 0.80m x 0.58m x 0.05m deep. The feature contained a charcoal-rich silty clay fill (context 113) and may have represented a surface fire.
- 6.9 All the archaeological features were sealed by a 0.20-0.40m deep deposit of modern ploughsoil (context 100)

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Seven features were identified during the Watching Brief, several of which (contexts 104, 112, 114) exhibited evidence of in-situ burning. However, the paucity of associated finds makes the dating of these features somewhat problematic. One undiagnostic flint flake was recovered from Deposit 101, and this may be residual given that a small flint assemblage was recovered from topsoil during the fieldwalking of Area 12 (MAP 1997). Consequently, whilst the features identified during the current Watching Brief may represent prehistoric activity, it is equally likely that they may represent features associated with medieval or post-medieval agricultural activity.

8. Bibliography

- GSB 1995 Marfield Quarry, Masham. Report of Geophysical Survey. Survey No. 95/95
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- Mackney, D.1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales
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- MAP 1995i Marfield Quarry, Masham, North Yorkshire. Proposed Quarry Extension. Desktop Evaluation
- MAP 1995ii Marfield Quarry, Masham, North Yorkshire. Proposed Quarry Extension. Areas 6, 9 & 12. Fieldwalking Survey
- MAP 1995iii Marfield Quarry, Masham, North Yorkshire. Archaeological watching Brief
- MAP 1997 Marfield Quarry, Masham, North Yorkshire. Proposed Extension Areas 6-14. Archaeological Evaluation
- MAP 1999 Marfield Quarry, Masham North Yorkshire, Phase 1. Earthwork Survey
- MAP 2005 Marfield Quarry, Masham North Yorkshire, Quarry Extension Phases 3 and 4. Archaeological Watching Brief

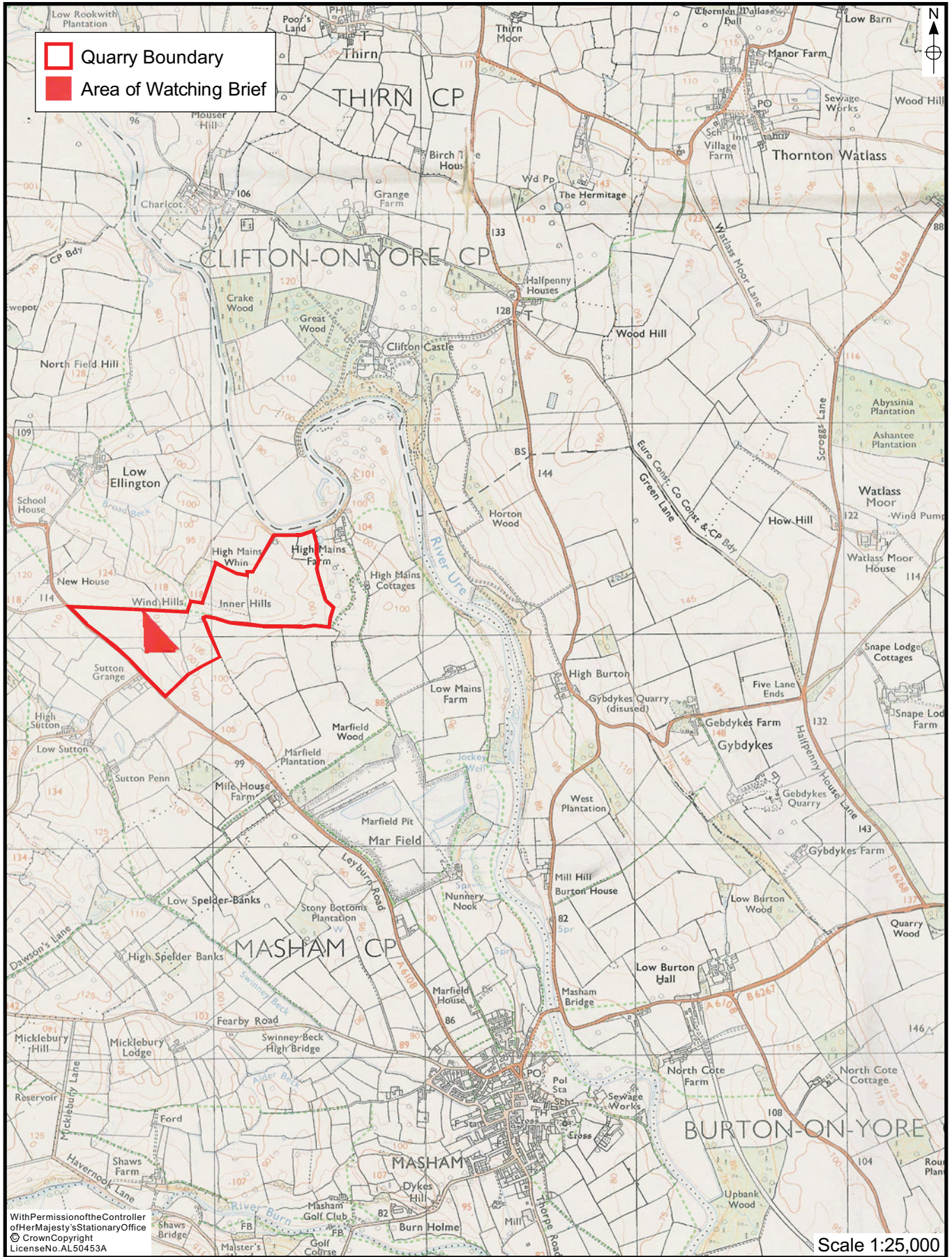


Figure 1. Site Location

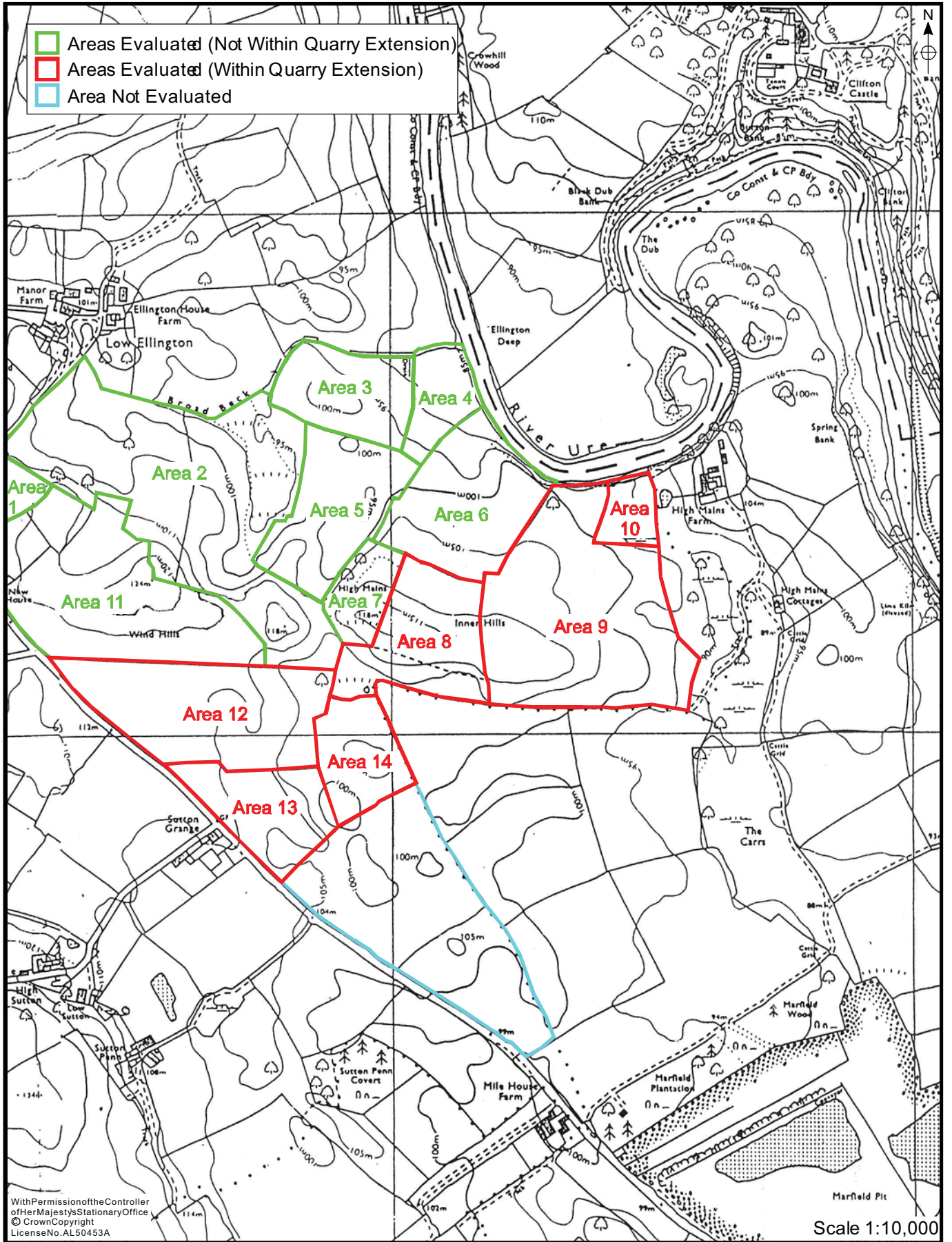


Figure 2. Location of Evaluation Areas 1-14

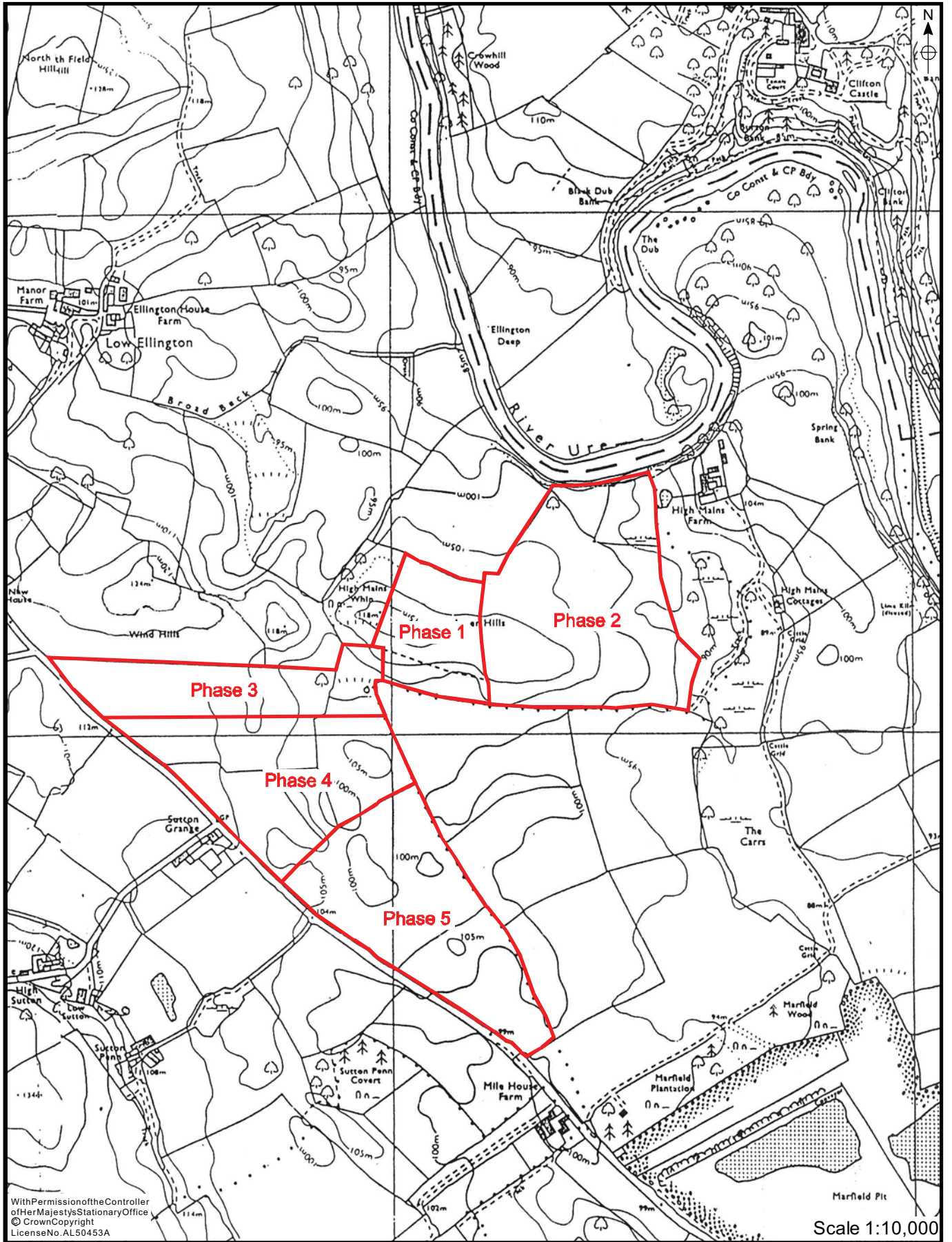
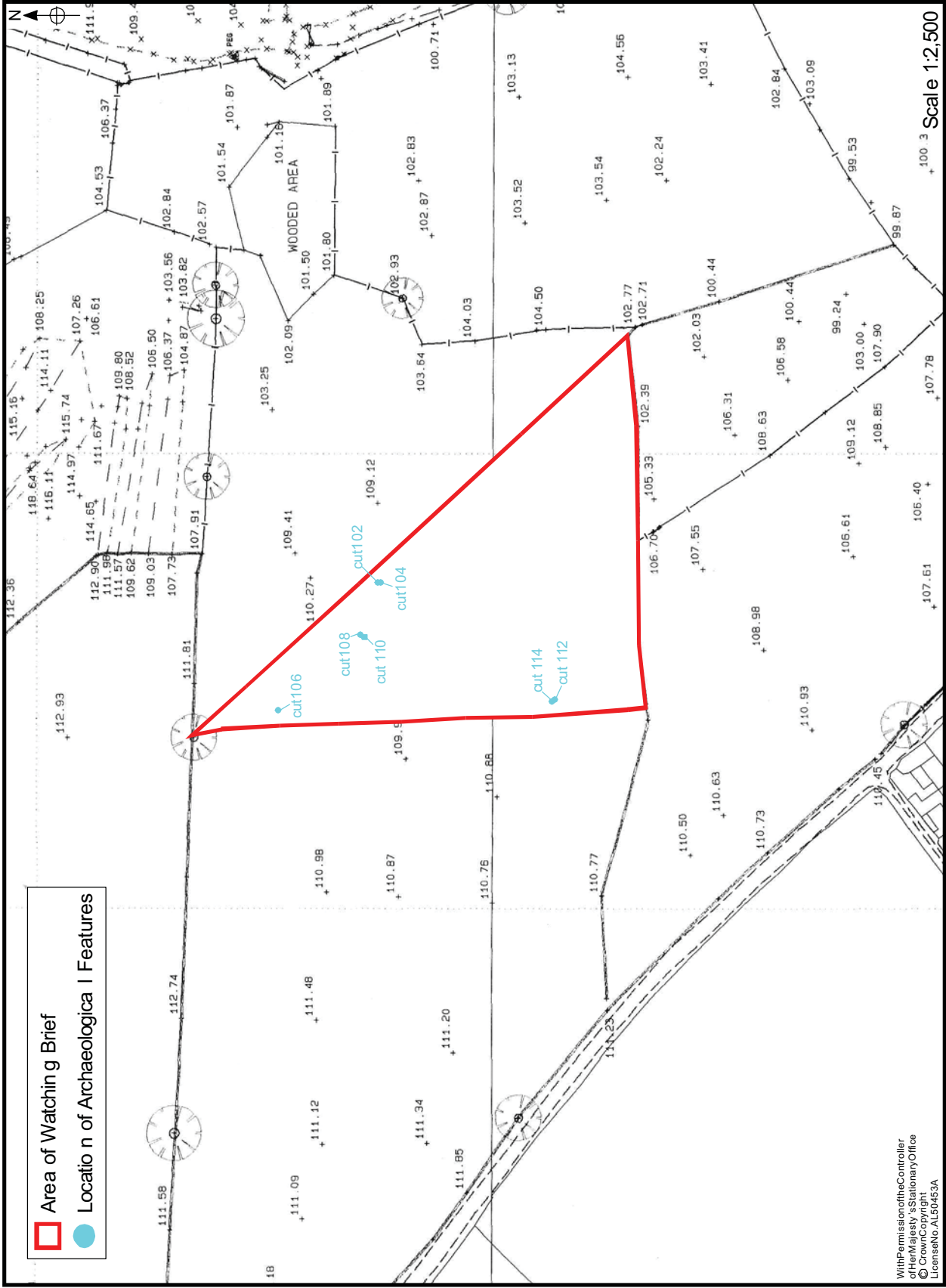


Figure 3. Location of Phases 1-5



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Figure 4. Area of Watching Brief and Locations of Features

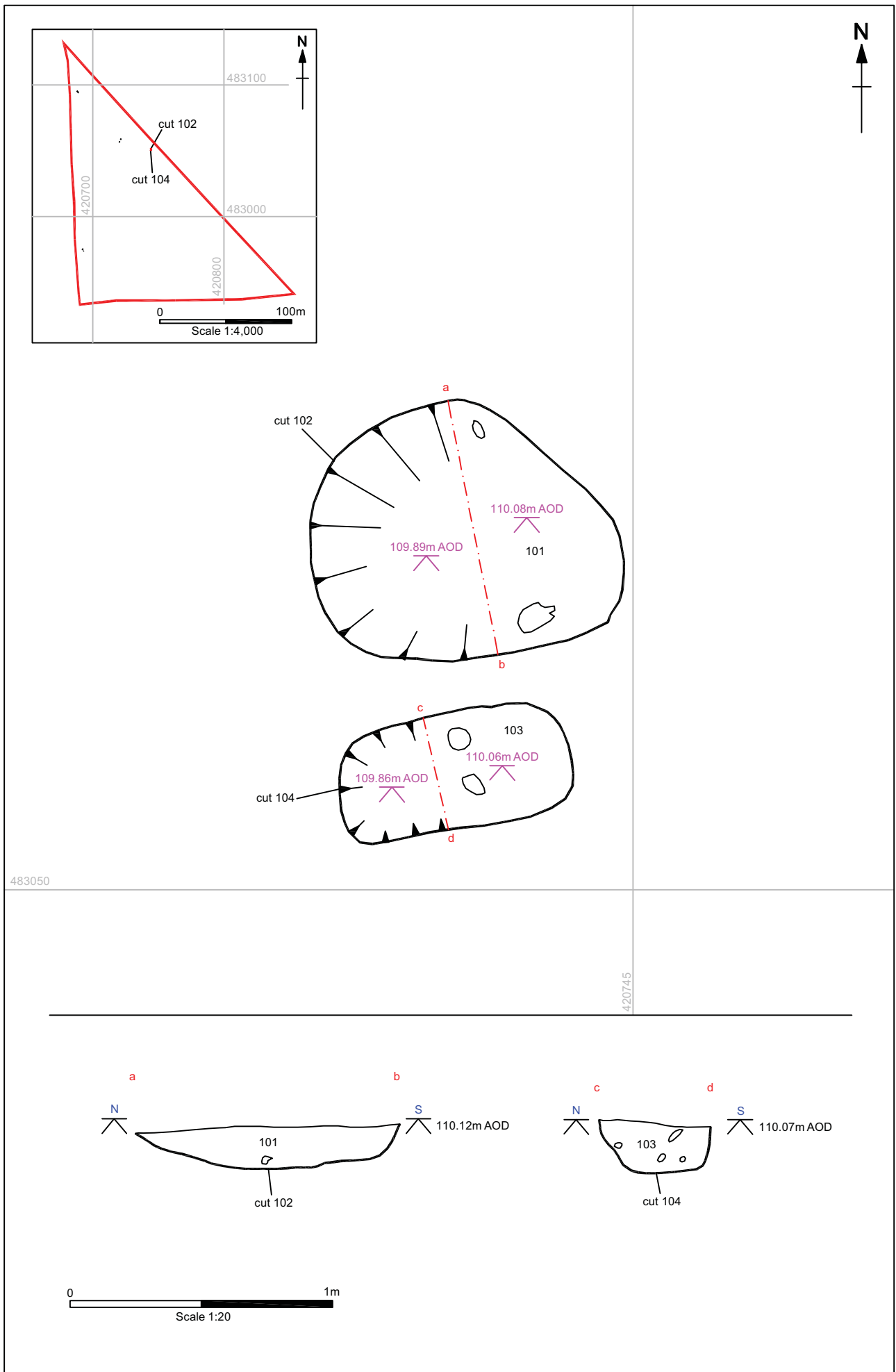


Figure 5. Plan and Sections of Pit Cuts 102 and 104

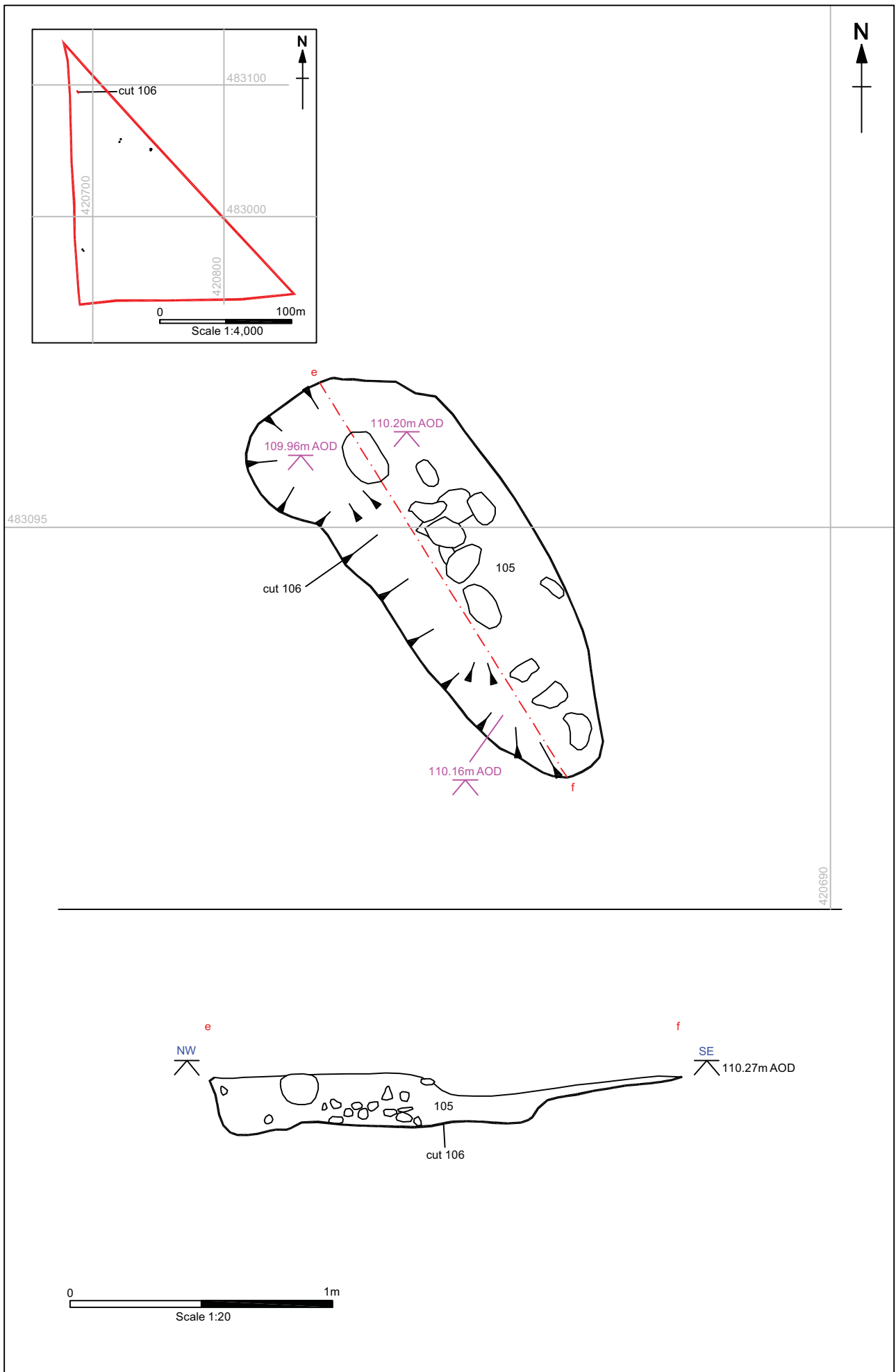


Figure 6. Plan and Section of Pit Cut 106

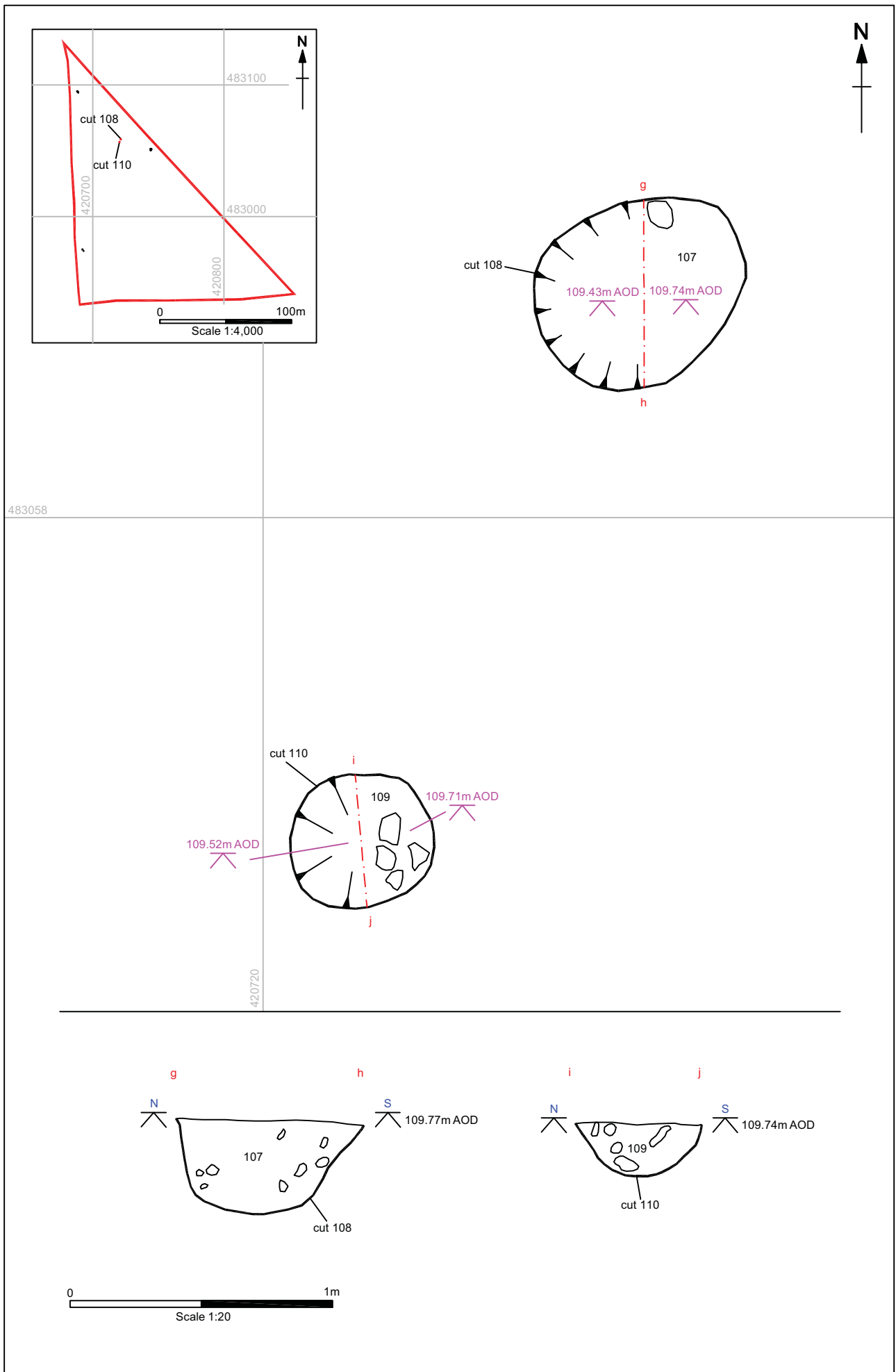


Figure 7. Plan and Sections of Pit Cuts 108 and 110

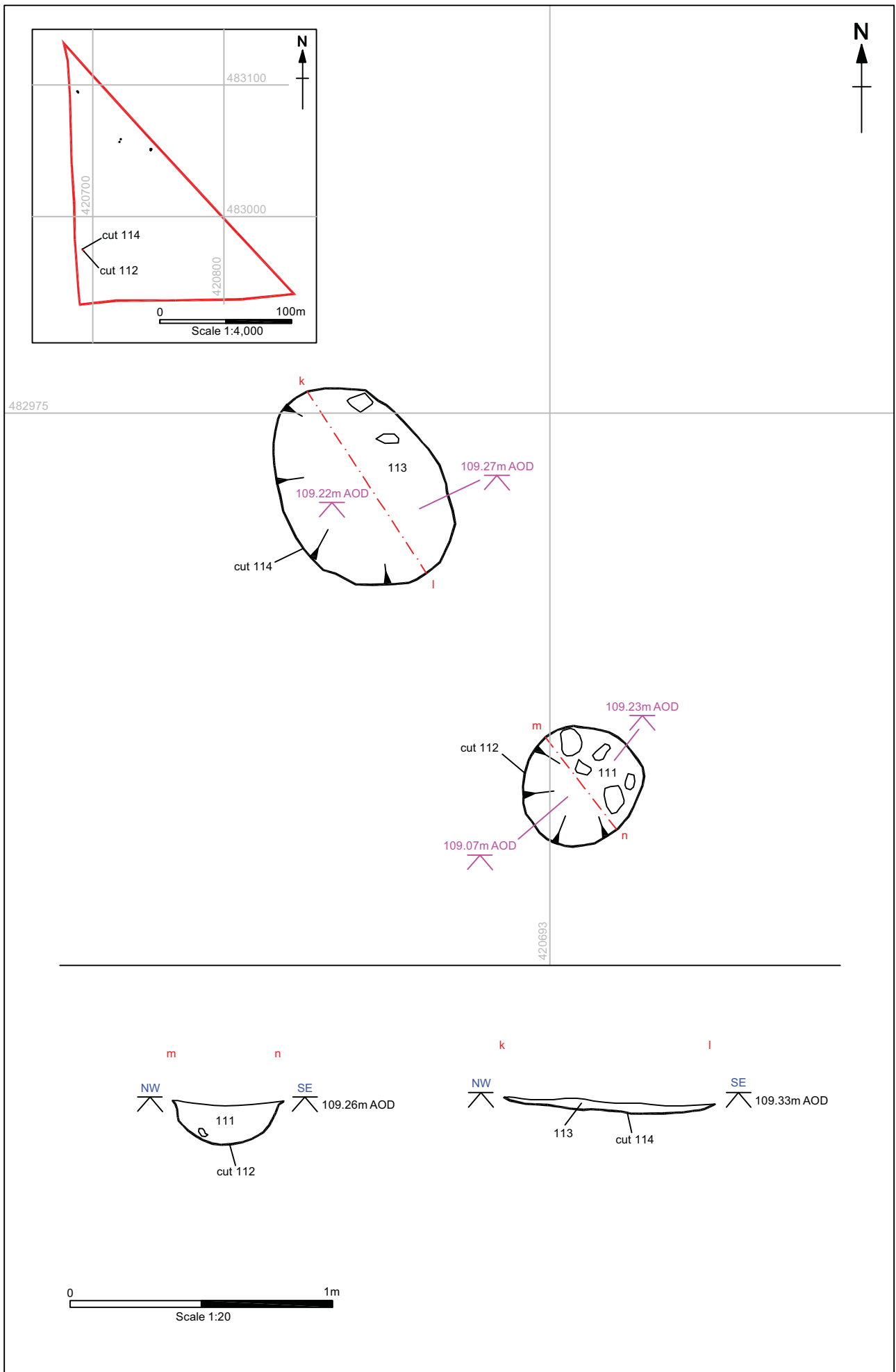


Figure 8. Plan and Sections of Pit Cuts 112 and 114



Plate 1. View of Topsoil Strip. Facing South



Plate 2. View of Topsoil Strip. Facing South East



Plate 3. Pit Cuts 102 and 104. Facing East



Plate 4. Pit Cut 106. Facing East



Plate 5. Pit Cut 108. Facing East



Plate 6. Pit Cut 110. Facing West



Plate 7. Pit Cut 112. Facing East



Plate 8. Cut 114. Facing East

APPENDIX 1

Marfield Quarry, Masham 07.09.06

Context Listing

Context	Description
100	Deposit 10YR 5/2; loamy clay, topsoil/ploughsoil
101	Deposit 10YR 6/3, silty sand; fill of Cut 102
102	Cut Cut; pit filled by 101
103	Deposit 10YR 4/3, silty clay; fill of Cut 104
104	Cut Cut; pit filled by 103
105	Deposit 10YR 3/3, silty clay; fill of Cut 106
106	Cut Cut; pit filled by 105
107	Deposit 10YR 5/3, silty clay; fill of Cut 108
108	Cut Cut; pit filled by 107
109	Deposit 10YR 4/3, silty sand; fill of Cut 110
110	Cut Cut; pit filled by 109
111	Deposit 10YR 4/3, silty clay; fill of Cut 112
112	Cut Cut; pit filled by 111
113	Deposit 10YR 3/3, silty clay; fill of Cut 114
114	Cut Cut; pit filled by 113

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

Context	Type	Small find	Total	Description	Weight (g)	Spot date
101	Flint	1	1	1 flake	5g	prehistoric
111	Pottery	N/A	1	1 body sherd	15g	prehistoric

Context 101: Primary flint flake; no secondary re-touch. Percussion bulb and discoidal scarring present. Non diagnostic

APPENDIX 3

Drawing Archive Listing

Drawing	Scale	Type	Description
1	1:20	Plan	Cuts 102 and 104
2	1:10	Section	West facing section of Cut 102
3	1:10	Section	West facing section of Cut 104
4	1:20	Plan	Cut 106
5	1:10	Section	South west facing section of Cut 106
6	1:20	Plan	Cuts 108 and 110
7	1:10	Section	West facing section of Cut 108
8	1:10	Section	West facing section of Cut 110
9	1:20	Plan	Cuts 112 and 114
10	1:10	Section	South west facing section of Cut 114
11	1:10	Section	South west facing section of Cut 114

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Archive Listing

Digital Camera

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South
2	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	North-west
3	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	West
4	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	West
5	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	East
6	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	North
7	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South-east
8	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South-east
9	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	East
10	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South-east
11	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South
12	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South
13	Deposit 103	1x1m	East
14	Deposit 103	1x1m	East
15	Deposit 103	2x1m	West
16	Deposit 103	2x1m	West
17	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South
18	Cuts 102 and 104	2x1m	East
19	Cuts 102 and 104	2x1m	East
20	Cuts 102 and 104	2x1m	East
21	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South
22	Deposit 105	1x1m	South
23	Deposit 105	1x1m	South
24	Cut 106	1x1m	East
25	Cut 106	1x1m	North
26	Cut 106	1x1m	North-east
27	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	South
28	Overall view of stripped area	N/A	North
29	Deposit 107	1x1m	West
30	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	North-east
31	General working shot of topsoil stripping	N/A	North-east
32	Cut 108	1x1m	East
33	Cut 108	1x1m	East
34	Cut 108	1x1m	East
35	Cut 110	1x1m	West
36	Cut 108	1x1m	East
37	General view of site	N/A	North-east
38	General view of site	N/A	South-west
39	Deposits 111 and 113	2x1m	East
40	Deposits 111 and 113	2x1m	East
41	Cut 112	1x1m	East
42	Cut 112	1x1m	East
43	Cut 114	1x1m	East
44	Cut 114	1x1m	East

APPENDIX 5

Environmental Sample Listing

No.	Context	Description	Type	No. of tubs
1	103	Single fill of Cut 104	GBA	1
2	105	Single fill of Cut 106	GBA	1
3	107	Single fill of Cut 108	GBA	1
4	111	Single fill of Cut 112	GBA	1
5	113	Single fill of Cut 114	GBA	1

Environmental Sample results forthcoming.

APPENDIX 6

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Charlie Morris

Post-excavation

Charlie Morris *report*

Charles Rickaby *Appendices*

Nigel Cavanagh *editorial*

Dave Knight *CAD and illustrations*

Finds

Anne Finney *dating/analysis*

Charlie Morris *processing*

Charles Rickaby *cataloguing*