

Exford Drive (Southampton Regeneration), Harefield, Southampton: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Lovell Partnership Ltd between 4th July and 23rd November 2012 at the site of Exford Drive, Harefield, Southampton. The archaeological investigation consisted of 15 evaluation trenches.

The only feature of archaeological interest identified was a shallow undated gully. The general results of the evaluation indicate the site has experienced significant levels of horizontal truncation probably associated with the construction of the modern housing estate present on site. The survival of previously existing deposits is limited to isolated locations on the periphery of the site. Therefore the potential for features of archaeological interest to be present on site is negligible.

Based on the negligible potential for archaeological features it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The final decision in regards to the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork lies with Stephen Appleby, Archaeology Advisor to Southampton City Council.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation, consisting of 15 evaluation trenches, at the site of Exford Drive, Harefield, Southampton (Figure 1). The Exford Drive site is part of the Southampton Regeneration project, which also incorporates the sites at Laxton Close, Sholing, and Meggeson Avenue, Townhill, in the eastern suburbs of the city. Archaeological evaluations have taken place at Laxton Close and Meggeson Avenue and the results have been published as separate reports.
- 1.1.2 The Exford Drive site is located approximately 4km to the east of Southampton City centre, positioned on either side of Exford Drive, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 4621 1343. The site is bounded by Exford Avenue to the northwest and southwest, residential properties to the north, and parkland bordering Somerset Avenue to the southeast, and is roughly L-shaped covering an area of approximately 2 ha.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is Southampton City Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Stephen Appleby of the council's Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2.2 The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Zone or Conservation Area, nor does it contain any Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings.
- 1.2.3 At the time of the archaeological investigation, the site was occupied by vacant medium-rise residential flats and commercial premises associated with a mixture of soft landscape and hardstanding.
- 1.2.4 The development proposal is for the construction of multiple low rise residential units with associated parking facilities and landscaping.
- 1.2.5 A planning application (11/01400/FUL) has been submitted to Southampton City Council.
- 1.2.6 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Lovell Partnership Ltd to carry out the archaeological evaluation. The methodology was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2012), and was approved by Stephen Appleby of Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team.

1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 An inspection of the Geological Drift Map (1:50,000 Scale, Sheet 315) for the region shows the site to be overlying London Clay. The London Clay from the Eocene Period, within the Hampshire Basin, differs to that found in the London Basin having been deposited in a more shallow sea environment and consists of blue, brown and grey clay, yellow and grey sands and sandy loam with occasional pebble and sandstone beds. Lenticular bodies of sand may also be present as infill channels.
- 1.3.2 The topography of the Exford Drive site is a mixture of natural slopes and man-made terraces associated with the existing development, located at a height of approximately 53m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

- 1.3.3 Geo-technical site investigation works indicated that there was up to 1m of made ground or topsoil deposits overlying London Clay Formation deposits across the area of the site (Opus International Consultants (UK) Ltd 2010).

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The following information has been extracted from the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012).

Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.2 Palaeolithic activity in Hampshire would appear to be concentrated along the sea front and inland estuaries, and settlements and habitation gradually radiated into the hinterland.
- 2.3 Within the vicinity of Southampton, Mesolithic activity has been noted at Priory Avenue in St Denys, and Neolithic activity at nearby Shirley. Bronze Age artefacts were discovered in the 19th century at Southampton Common and Cobden Bridge, and Iron Age earthworks have been recognised at Lordswood and Aldermoor, with Iron Age buildings also found near to the city centre during excavations at Maddison Street.
- 2.4 A number of SHER entries from within a 500m radius demonstrate early prehistoric occupation of the area. For example Mesolithic to Late Iron Age finds, including a Bronze Age arrow head were found at 41 Wellington Avenue and a Lower Paleolithic flint axe handaxe was found in the garden of 702 Bitterne Road East.
- 2.5 To the east of the site, in high ground towards Eastleigh, are scheduled remains which illuminate prehistoric occupation in the area. This includes a Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age Bowl barrow are located near Moorgreen House, approximately 2km northeast of the site. Additionally, Hickley Wood Hill fort, a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age univallate hillfort is located on a gravel capped spur at Hinkley Fort c. 1km northeast from the site.

Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

- 2.6 During the Roman period the focus of settlement was north of the modern city at the bend in the River Itchen, where Bitterne now stands. Clausentum became an important port, and excavations have revealed traces of a bath-house, warehouses, roadways and tracks, and defences in the form of banks and walls.
- 2.7 The site is located c. 3km to the east of Clausentum and lies to the north of the Roman road which connected it to Portsmouth. As such there is scant evidence to suggest Roman occupation within 500m of the site.

Early Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)

- 2.8 The settlement in the Saxon period, Hamwic, was located to the north of the modern city centre in the Queensland, Belvidere, Chapel and Crosshouse areas of modern Southampton. The middle Saxon (c.700-850) town of Hamwic was situated further south around what is now Northam and St Marys.
- 2.9 The name Hamtun-scire was mentioned in the English Chronicle of 755. The first mention of the town that gave the name to the shire was made in the 9th century. The name Ham-tun means 'Home enclosure' and appears in the 837 English Chronicle as Hamtun/Hamtune. In 1045 the

settlement was referred to as Heantun. The prefix of south first appears in documentary evidence in the middle of the 10th century – Suthamtonia.

- 2.10 The Saxon settlement at Hamwic was a relatively prosperous port, trading with the continent and Scandinavia. It was one of the burghs created by King Alfred in response to the Danish raids of the 9th and 10th century.
- 2.11 By the medieval period settlement in Southampton again shifted, south to the area of the modern city centre. The Norman period saw the construction of the castle and town defences, which were all later refortified after a devastating raid by the French in the 14th century, and Southampton became one of the strongest fortified centres in England.
- 2.12 Exford Drive is located within the historic Parish of South Stoneham. The Parish church manor house and fisheries, which were mentioned in the Domesday survey, are located south of Swaythling village to the north, northwest of the site.
- 2.13 To the east of the site, on a high gravel plateau, are the scheduled remains of Telegraph Woods Beacon. Most notable is an Armada beacon dating to 1595, however the site may have been used since the 14th century.

Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)

- 2.14 By 1600 the town's prosperity had declined and it was described as a 'decayed port', though trade and shipbuilding did continue.
- 2.15 The site and surrounding landscape remain undeveloped until the 1930's, although 19th century development is represented by the following SHER entries: the Grade II listed early-mid 19th century cottage at 1 Bitterne Road, St Theresa's House, Former Harefield House and Grounds.
- 2.16 In the 20th century the urbanisation of the area continued. The Former Harefield Infant and Junior School and the Cold War Civil defence bunker at Somerset Avenue represent mid 20th century development of the area.
- 2.17 Development within the site itself is first recorded on the 1960-65 Ordnance Survey map (with construction occurring between then and 1955).

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:
 - To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the archaeology advisor to Southampton City Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

- 3.1.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012) defined the site procedures for the archaeological evaluation. This document detailed how the evaluation, initially consisting of 18 machine excavated trenches, later reduced to 15 (Figure 2), would be undertaken. All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IfA 2009 & 2010, EH 2008 & 2009). Provision was made for a report as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 3.2.2 During the evaluation the lengths and/or the locations of Trenches 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 18 were altered due to various constraints identified on site. Trenches 4, 9 and 12 were not excavated as deemed unnecessary by Stephen Appleby of Southampton City Council.
- 3.2.3 A unique site code for the project (SOU 1592) has been issued by the Southampton Heritage Environment Record, and was used as the site identifier for all records produced.
- 3.2.4 The evaluation took place on the 5th July and 23rd November 2012.
- 3.2.5 The locations and levels for the trenches were established using a Trimble R6 global positioning system.
- 3.2.6 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Paul Mason, AOC Project Manager. The site was monitored by Stephen Appleby on behalf of Southampton City Council.

4 Evaluation Results

4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Surface of Trench = 47.34m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
47.34-47.29m	0.00m	(100)	Tarmac.
47.29-47.13m	0.05m	(101)	Formation deposit. Loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel.
47.13-46.58m	0.21m	(102)	Natural. Compact, mid greyish brown, clayey sand gravel.
46.58-46.43m (NFE)	0.73-0.88m	(103)	Natural. Compact, orangey brown, sand.

- 4.1.2 Trench 1 was located in the southwest corner of the site, orientated north-south and measured 10m by 2m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate A).
- 4.1.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was a compact, orangey brown, natural sand (103), recorded at a height of 46.58m AOD. Overlying natural sand (103) was a further natural deposit of compact, mid greyish brown clayey sand gravel (102) 0.55m thick. Above this was a loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel modern formation deposit (101), 0.15m thick, which was sealed by a 0.05m thick layer of tarmac (100).



Plate A. Trench 1 Looking Northeast

4.1.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 1.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Surface of Trench = 47.29m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
47.29-47.19m	0.00m	(200)	Tarmac.
47.19-46.99m	0.10m	(201)	Formation deposit. Loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel.
46.99-46.64m	0.30m	(202)	Made ground. Firm, grey, sandy silt.
46.99-46.39m	0.30m	(203)	Made ground. Firm, brownish grey, sandy silt.
46.51-46.11m	0.78m	(204)	Made ground. Soft, yellowish brown, sand.
46.11-46.03m	1.18m	(205)	Made ground. Firm, black, tar material.
46.60-46.25m	0.69m	(206)	Colluvial deposit. Firm, brown, sandy silt.
46.39-46.29m	0.90m	(208)	Made ground. Firm, brown, sandy silt.
46.39-46.29m	0.90m	(209)	Made ground. Compact, dark brown, silty sand gravel.
46.77-46.27m (NFE)	0.52m	(207)	Natural. Compact, orangey brown, sandy gravel.

4.2.2 Trench 2 was located in the southern corner of the site, orientated east-west and measured 17m by 2m in plan (Figures 2 & 9, Plate B).



Plate B. Trench 2 Looking Northwest

- 4.2.3 The earliest deposit recorded in was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy gravel (207), recorded at a height of 46.77m AOD. At the eastern end of Trench 2 this was overlain by a firm, brown, sand silt colluvial deposit (206) measuring up to 0.40m thick. In the western half of the trench the natural gravel (207) was overlain by a 0.10m thick weathered tarmac material (205) 2.50m in length. Both tarmac lens (205) and colluvial deposit (206) were situated below a soft, yellowish brown, redeposited sand made ground deposit (204) up to 0.40m thick. At the eastern end of the trench colluvial deposit (206) was also overlain by a compact, dark brown, silty sand made ground deposit (209) 0.10m thick, over which was subsequently deposited a further layer of made ground (208) comprising a firm, brown, sandy silt material, also 0.10m thick.
- 4.2.4 Sealing contexts (204) and (208) was a firm, brownish grey, sandy silt made ground (203) which occupied the full length of the trench and varied in thickness between 0.40m to 0.70m. Above made ground (203) was firm, grey, sandy silt artificial levelling horizon (202), 0.35m thick. Immediately above levelling layer (202) was a loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel modern formation deposit (201), 0.20m thick. Formation deposit (201) was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac (200) forming the existing yard surface.
- 4.2.5 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 2.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Surface of Trench = 52.82m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
52.82-52.62m	0.00m	(300)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, sandy clay.
52.62-50.62m	0.20m	(301)	Made ground. Soft, mid brownish grey, mixed clay. Occasional CBM fragments.
50.62-50.32m	2.20m	(302)	Soil horizon. Soft, Dark brown, sandy clay.
50.32-50.22m (NFE)	2.50- 2.60m	(303)	Natural. Compact, brownish yellow, clay.

4.3.2 Trench 3 was located adjacent to the western boundary of the site, orientated east-west and due to the depth of deposits was formed of two adjacent pits each measuring 4m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate C). The same horizons were identified in each pit.



Plate C. Trench 3 Looking Northeast

4.3.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 3 was a compact, brownish yellow, natural clay (303), recorded at a height of 50.32m AOD. Overlying this was a soft, dark brown, sandy clay buried topsoil deposit (302), 0.30m thick. Buried topsoil (302) was overlain by a soft, mid brownish grey made ground horizon (301) measuring up to 2m thick, which contained mixed clay deposits and occasional fragments of ceramic building material (CBM). Sealing made ground (301) was a dark brown, sandy clay modern topsoil horizon (300), 0.20m thick.

4.3.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 3.

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Trench 4 was not excavated.

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Surface of Trench = 52.73m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
52.73-52.67m	0.00m	(500)	Tarmac
52.67-52.52m	0.06m	(501)	Formation deposit. Loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel.
52.52-51.62m	0.21m	(502)	Made ground. Firm, yellowish brown, clay. Occasional CBM fragments.
51.62-51.52m (NFE)	1.12-1.22m	(503)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.5.2 Trench 5 was located adjacent to the western boundary of the site, orientated northwest-southeast and measured 10.50m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate D).



Plate D. Trench 5 Looking Northwest

4.5.3 The earliest deposit recorded in was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (503), recorded at a height of 51.62m AOD. Overlying this was a firm, yellowish brown, clay made ground deposit (502) measuring up to 0.90m thick, which contained occasional CBM fragments. Immediately above made ground (502) was a loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel modern formation deposit (501), 0.15m thick. Formation deposit (501) was sealed by a 0.05m thick layer of tarmac (500) forming the existing car park surface.

4.5.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 5.

4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 Surface of Trench = 56.90m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
56.90-56.82m	0.00m	(600)	Tarmac.
56.82-56.52m	0.08m	(601)	Concrete.
56.82-56.62m	0.08m	(602)	Formation deposit. Loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel.

56.62-56.37m	0.28m	(603)	Made ground. Firm, mid brown, silty clay. Occasional CBM fragments.
56.37-56.17m	0.53m	(604)	Made ground. Firm, brownish yellow, mixed clay.
56.17-55.87m	0.73m	(605)	Made ground. Firm, mid brown, silty clay. Occasional CBM fragments.
55.87-55.67m (NFE)	1.03- 1.13m	(606)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

- 4.6.2 Trench 6 was located in the northwest area of the site, orientated north-south and measured 25.50m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 3, Plate E).
- 4.6.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 6 was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (606), recorded at a maximum height of 55.87m AOD. Cut into the natural clay (606) for a distance of approximately 13m was a 0.40m wide concrete footing [607] with a maximum depth of 0.20m.
- 4.6.4 Sealing concrete footing [607] in the southern half of the trench was a firm, mid brown, silty clay made ground deposit (605), over 0.30m thick, which contained occasional fragments of CBM. Overlying made ground (605) was a firm, brownish yellow made ground deposit (604) composed of redeposited clay to a thickness of 0.20m. This in turn, was overlain by another made ground deposit (603) 0.25m thick, similar to deposit (605). Made ground (603) was sealed by a 0.30m thick layer on concrete (601).
- 4.6.5 In the northern half of the trench natural clay (606) was overlain by a loose, orangey brown, sandy gravel modern formation deposit (602), 0.20m thick. Both formation deposit (602) and concrete (601) were sealed by a 0.10 m thick layer of tarmac (600).



Plate E. Trench 6 Looking Northeast

- 4.6.6 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 6.

4.7 Trench 7

4.7.1 Surface of Trench = 53.14m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
53.14-53.02m	0.00m	(700)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
53.02-52.76m	0.12m	(701)	Made ground. Firm, yellowish brown, mixed clay. Occasional CBM fragments.
52.76-52.61m	0.38m	(702)	Soil horizon. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
52.16-52.01m	0.53m	(703)	Subsoil. Soft, yellowish brown, silty clay.
52.01-51.91m (NFE)	0.68- 0.78m	(704)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.7.2 Trench 7 was located adjacent to the southeast boundary of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 30m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate F).

4.7.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (704), recorded at a height of 52.01m AOD. Above this was a soft, yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil (703), 0.15m thick. Overlying subsoil (703) was a soft, dark brown, silty clay soil horizon (702), 0.15m thick, interpreted as a buried topsoil deposit. Sealing context (702) was a firm, yellowish brown mixed clay made ground deposit (701), up to 0.25m thick. Made ground (701) was overlain by a soft, dark brown, silty clay imported topsoil horizon (700), 0.10m thick.



Plate F. Trench 7 Looking Northeast

4.7.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 7.

4.8 Trench 8

4.8.1 Surface of Trench = 53.33m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
53.33-53.25m	0.00m	(800)	Tarmac.
53.25-52.98m	0.08m	(801)	Concrete.
52.98-52.83m (NFE)	0.35- 0.50m	(802)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.8.2 Trench 8 was located adjacent to the south-east boundary of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 7m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate G).

4.8.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 8 was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (802), recorded at a height of 52.98m AOD. Above this was a layer of concrete (801) 0.25m thick, which was subsequently overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac (800).

4.8.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 8.



Plate G. Trench 8 Looking Northeast

4.9 Trench 9

4.9.1 Trench 9 was not excavated.

4.10 Trench 10

4.10.1 Surface of Trench = 56.05m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
56.05-55.97m	0.00m	(1000)	Tarmac.
55.97-55.66m	0.08m	(1001)	Concrete.
55.66-55.61m	0.39m	(1002)	Tarmac.
55.61-55.51m (NFE)	0.44- 0.54m	(1003)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.10.2 Trench 10 was located in the central area of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 6m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate H).

4.10.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 10 was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (1003), recorded at a height of 55.61m AOD. This was sealed by layer of uncompacted tarmac (1002) 0.05m thick, which was subsequently overlain by a 0.30m thick layer of concrete (1001). Sealing concrete (1001) was a layer of tarmac (1000), 0.10m thick.

4.10.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 10.



Plate H. Trench 10 Looking Northwest

4.11 Trench 11

4.11.1 Surface of Trench = 58.97m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
58.97-58.80m	0.00m	(1100)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
58.80-58.42m	0.17m	(1101)	Made ground. Firm, dark brown, silty clay. Gravel lenses.
58.42-58.32m	0.55m	(1102)	Subsoil. Firm, mid brown, silty clay.
58.32-58.22m (NFE)	0.65- 0.75m	(1103)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.11.2 Trench 11 was located adjacent to the northwest boundary of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 15m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate I).

4.11.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (1103), recorded at a height of 58.32m AOD. Above this was a firm, mid brown, silty clay subsoil deposit (1102), 0.10m thick. Overlying subsoil (1102) was a firm, dark brown, silty clay made ground deposit (1101), up to 0.40m thick. Made ground (1101) was overlain by a soft, dark brown, silty clay imported topsoil horizon (1100), 0.20m thick.



Plate I. Trench 11 Looking Northeast

4.11.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 11.

4.12 Trench 12

4.12.1 Trench 12 was not excavated.

4.13 Trench 13

4.13.1 Surface of Trench = 53.89m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
53.89-53.81m	0.00m	(1300)	Tarmac.
53.81-53.54m	0.08m	(1301)	Concrete.
53.34-53.24m (NFE)	0.35- 0.45m	(1303)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, silty clay.

4.13.2 Trench 13 was located in the central area of the site, orientated east-west and measured 15m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 4, Plate J).

4.13.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 13 was a compact, yellowish brown, natural silty clay (1303), recorded at a height of 53.34m AOD. This had been cut by an irregular modern intrusion (1302) which measured approximately 2m by 0.40m in plan, by 0.05m deep, and contained a bluish grey, clayey silt material. Sealing intrusion (1302) was a 0.30m thick layer of concrete (1301) overlain by a layer of tarmac (1300), 0.10m thick.

4.13.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 13.



Plate J. Trench 13 Looking Northwest

4.14 Trench 14

4.14.1 Surface of Trench = 53.46m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
53.46-53.38m	0.00m	(1400)	Tarmac.
53.38-53.06m	0.08m	(1401)	Concrete.
53.06-52.90m (NFE)	0.40- 0.55m	(1408)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.14.2 Trench 14 was located in the northern area of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 16m by 1.60m in plan (Figures 2 & 5, Plate K).



Plate K. Trench 14 Looking Northwest

- 4.14.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (1408), recorded at a height of 53.06m AOD. This had been cut by three different features located at regular intervals along the trench. Positioned at either end of the trench were two irregular oval features [1405] and [1407], no greater than 1.40m in length, with shallow, gradual profiles up to 0.20m deep. Both features were filled with a firm, brownish grey, silty clay deposit (1404) and (1406) which did not contain any finds. The features are thought to be either the remnants of tree pits or the result of modern disturbance.
- 4.14.4 In the centre of the trench was a linear northwest-southeast aligned gully [1403] which was 0.80m wide by 0.30m deep, with a steep sided, flat based profile. The fill of the gully (1402) was similar to feature fills (1404) and (1406) although it did contain occasional flecks of charcoal. It is unclear if gully [1403] is the result of modern activity or pre-dates the construction of the mid 20th housing estate.
- 4.14.5 Sealing the fills of features [1403], [1405] and [1407] was a 0.30m thick layer of concrete (1401) overlain by a layer of tarmac (1400), 0.10m thick.

4.14.6 No finds of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 14.

4.15 Trench 15

4.15.1 Surface of Trench = 53.30m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
53.30-53.17m	0.00m	(1500)	Topsoil. Soft, dark greyish brown, silty clay.
53.17-52.48m	0.13m	(1501)	Made ground. Firm, yellowish brown, mixed clay.
52.48-52.31m	0.82m	(1502)	Soil horizon. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
52.31-52.21m	0.99m	(1503)	Subsoil. Soft, brownish yellow, silty clay.
52.21-52.11m (NFE)	1.09- 1.19m	(1504)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.15.2 Trench 15 was located adjacent to the northeast boundary of the site, orientated north-south and measured 3m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate L).

4.15.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (1504), recorded at a height of 52.21m AOD. Above this was a soft, brownish yellow, silty clay subsoil (1503), 0.10m thick. Overlying subsoil (1503) was a soft, dark brown, silty clay buried topsoil horizon (1502), 0.15m thick. Sealing buried topsoil (1502) was a firm, yellowish brown mixed clay made ground deposit (1501), 0.70m thick. Made ground (1501) was overlain by a soft, dark greyish brown, silty clay imported topsoil horizon (1500), 0.15m thick.



Plate L. Trench 15 Looking Northwest

4.15.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 15.

4.16 Trench 16

4.16.1 Surface of Trench = 55.54m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
55.54-55.37m	0.00m	(1600)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
55.37-55.27m	0.17m	(1601)	Made ground. Soft, mid brown, silty clay. Gravel lenses.
55.27-55.07m (NFE)	0.27-0.47m	(1602)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.16.2 Trench 16 was located adjacent to the northwest boundary of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 15m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 8, Plate M).



Plate M. Trench 16 Looking North

4.16.3 The earliest deposit in Trench 16 was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (1602), recorded at a height of 55.27m AOD. Above this was a soft, mid brown, silty clay made ground deposit (1601), up to 0.10m thick. Made ground (1601) was sealed by a soft, dark brown, silty clay imported topsoil horizon (1600), 0.20m thick.

4.16.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 16.

4.17 Trench 17

4.17.1 Surface of Trench = 53.14m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
53.14-53.06m	0.00m	(1700)	Tarmac.
53.06-52.76m	0.08m	(1701)	Concrete.
52.76-52.66m (NFE)	0.38-0.48m	(1702)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

4.17.2 Trench 17 was located in the northern area of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 15m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 6, Plate N).



Plate N. Trench 17 Looking Northeast

- 4.17.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, yellowish brown, natural clay (1702), observed at a height of 52.76m AOD. This was overlain at the northeast end of the trench by discrete layer of bluish grey clay (1703) measuring 0.60m by 0.30m in plan, thought to be the result of modern disturbance. Sealing layer (1703) was a 0.30m thick layer of concrete (1701) overlain by a layer of tarmac (1700), 0.10m thick.
- 4.17.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 17.

4.18 Trench 18

- 4.18.1 Surface of Trench = 55.20m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
55.20-55.09m	0.00m	(1800)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
55.09-54.87m	0.11m	(1801)	Made ground. Firm, mid brown, clay. Occasional fragments CBM.
54.87-54.75m	0.33m	(1802)	Subsoil. Soft, mid yellowish brown, silty clay.
54.75-54.60m (NFE)	0.45-0.60m	(1803)	Natural. Compact, brownish yellow, clay.

- 4.18.2 Trench 18 was located adjacent to the northern corner of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 10m by 1.80m in plan (Figures 2 & 7, Plate O).



Plate O. Trench 18 Looking Southwest

- 4.18.3 The earliest deposit identified was a compact, brownish yellow, natural clay (1803), recorded at a height of 54.75m AOD. Above this was a soft, mid yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil deposit (1802) 0.10m thick. Cut into subsoil (1802) was a vertically sided, 0.40m wide, modern service trench [1805], located centrally within Trench 18. This contained a dark brown, silty clay fill (1804) sealed by a firm, mid brown, clay made ground deposit (1801), 0.20m thick, which contained occasional fragments of CBM. Made ground (1801) was overlain by a soft, dark brown, silty clay imported topsoil horizon (1800), 0.10m thick.
- 4.18.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 18.

5. Finds

- 5.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation no finds were collected.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site. Undisturbed natural clay or sandy gravel was observed on site at a maximum height of between 46.58m AOD and 58.62m AOD. This is approximately comparable to the modern site topography.
- 6.2 The only feature of interest was identified in Trench 14 in the form of a horizontally truncated northwest-southeast aligned shallow gully. The age of the gully is uncertain and is interpreted as being of limited significance.
- 6.3 Undisturbed soil horizons were identified in six of the 15 evaluation trenches excavated. *In-situ* subsoil or colluvial deposits were recorded in Trenches 2, 11 and 18, with any former over lying soil horizons having being removed by a phase of modern horizontal truncation and replaced by a series of made ground horizons. Buried subsoil and topsoil horizons were identified in Trenches 3, 7 and 15, which had been sealed by varying depths of modern made ground deposits as part of later landscaping. In Trenches 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 17 all former soil horizons had been removed by horizontal truncation and replaced by modern made ground deposits and hardstanding surfaces. In the trenches where former soil horizons did survive no archaeological features were evident.

- 6.4 The results of the evaluation indicate that the site has experienced significant levels of horizontal truncation probably associated with the construction of the modern housing estate. The survival of previously existing deposits is limited to isolated locations on the periphery on the site. The lack of archaeological features identified in these locations indicates the potential for features of archaeological interest to be present on site is negligible.
- 6.5 Based on the negligible potential for archaeological features it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The final decision in regards to the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork lies with Stephen Appleby, Archaeology Advisor to Southampton City Council.

7 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 7.1 Due to the nature of the results at this stage of the archaeological investigation, publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the Hampshire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 7.2 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, digital and black and white photographs, will be deposited with the local recipient museum.

8 Bibliography

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EXFORD DRIVE (SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION), HAREFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

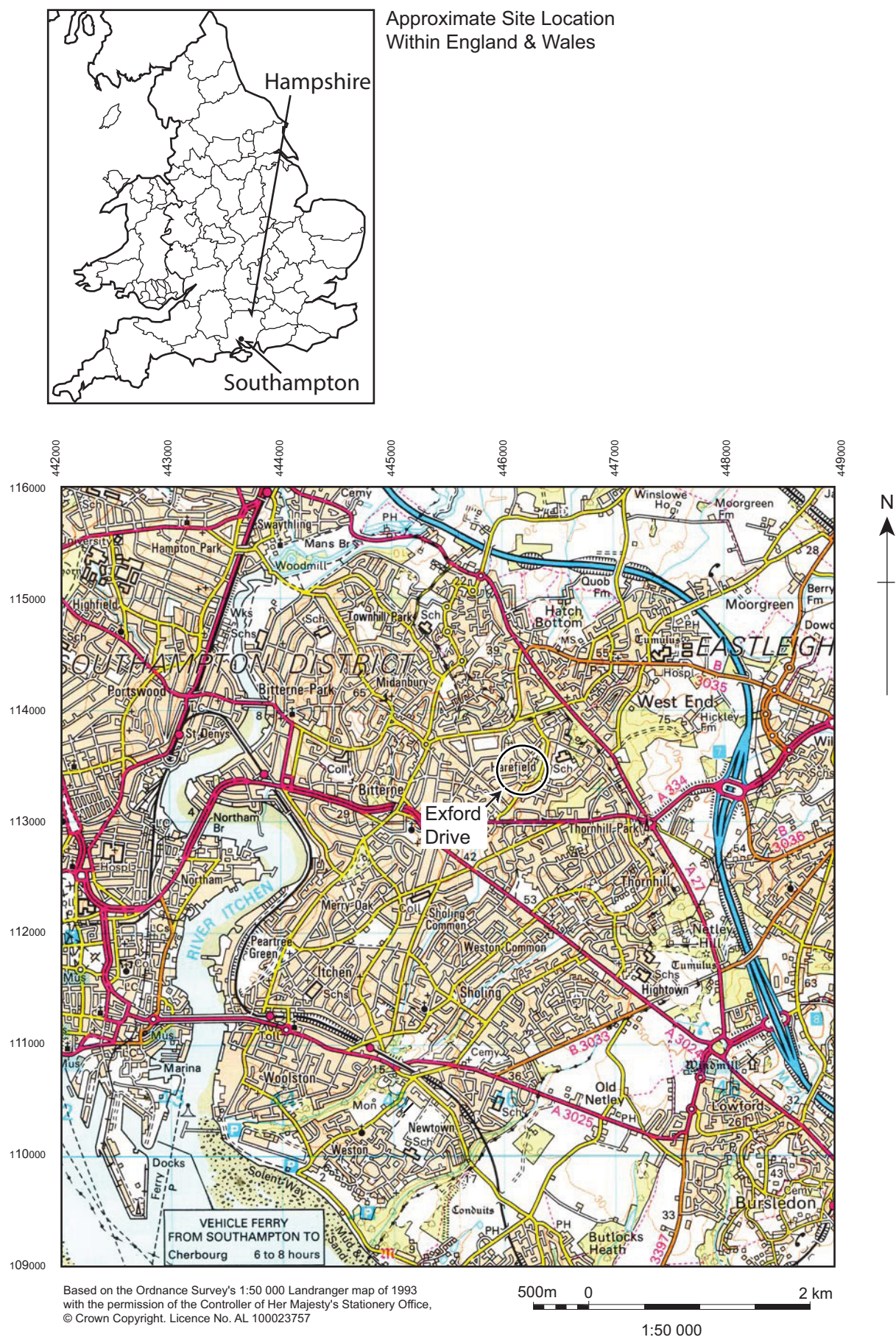


Figure 1: Site Location

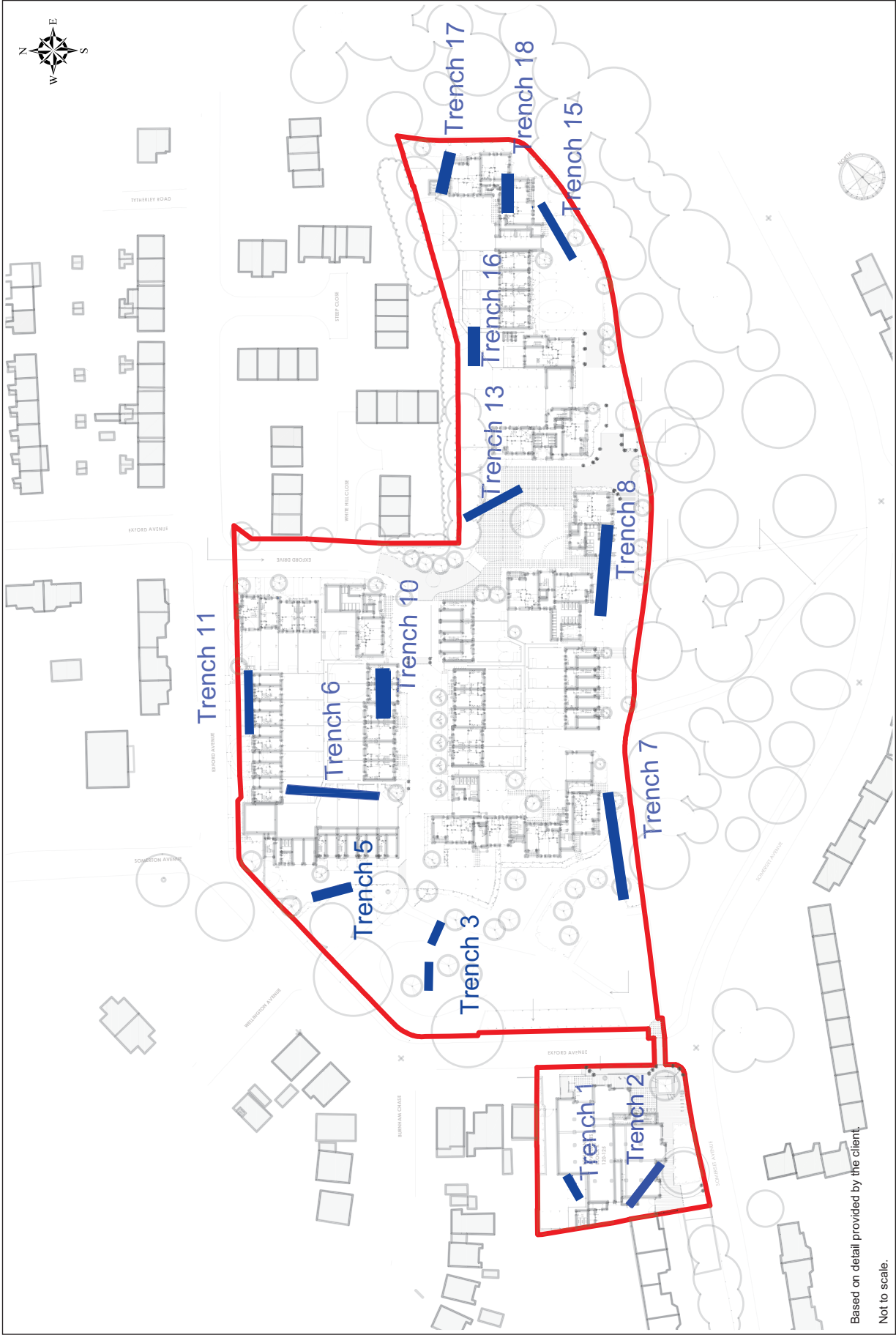


Figure 2: Detailed Site/Trench Location Plan

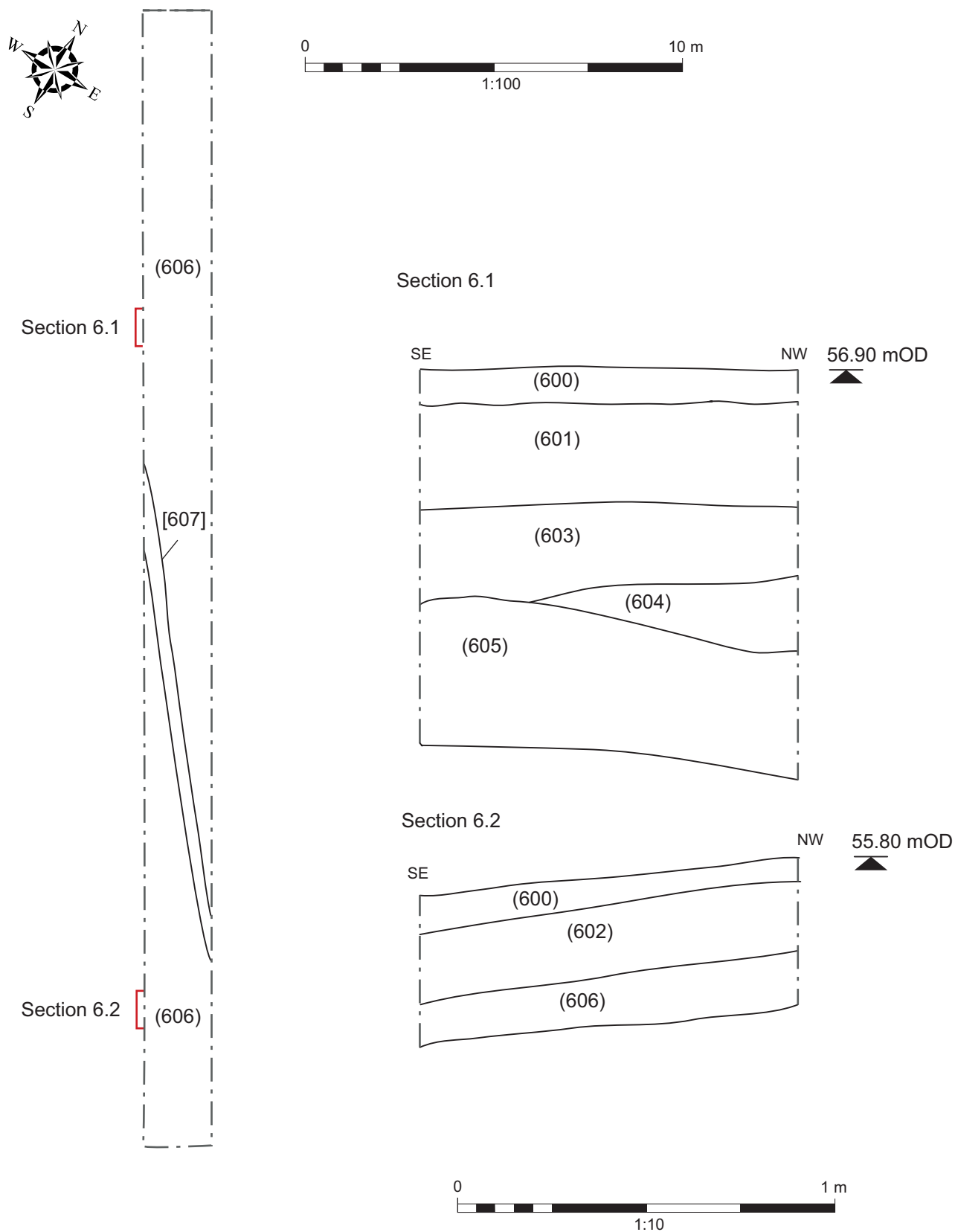


Figure 3: Trench 6: Plan and Sections

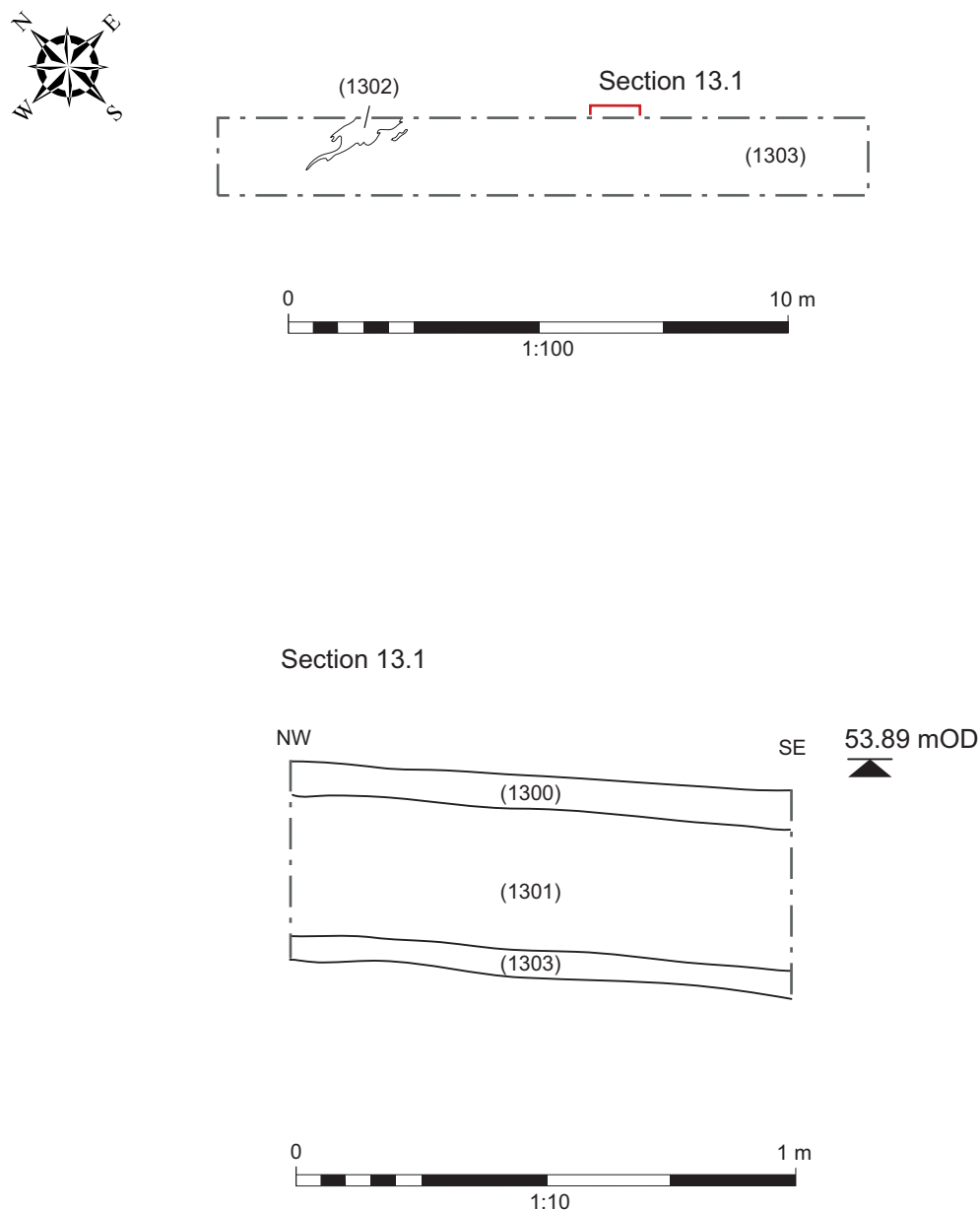


Figure 4: Trench 13: Plan and Section

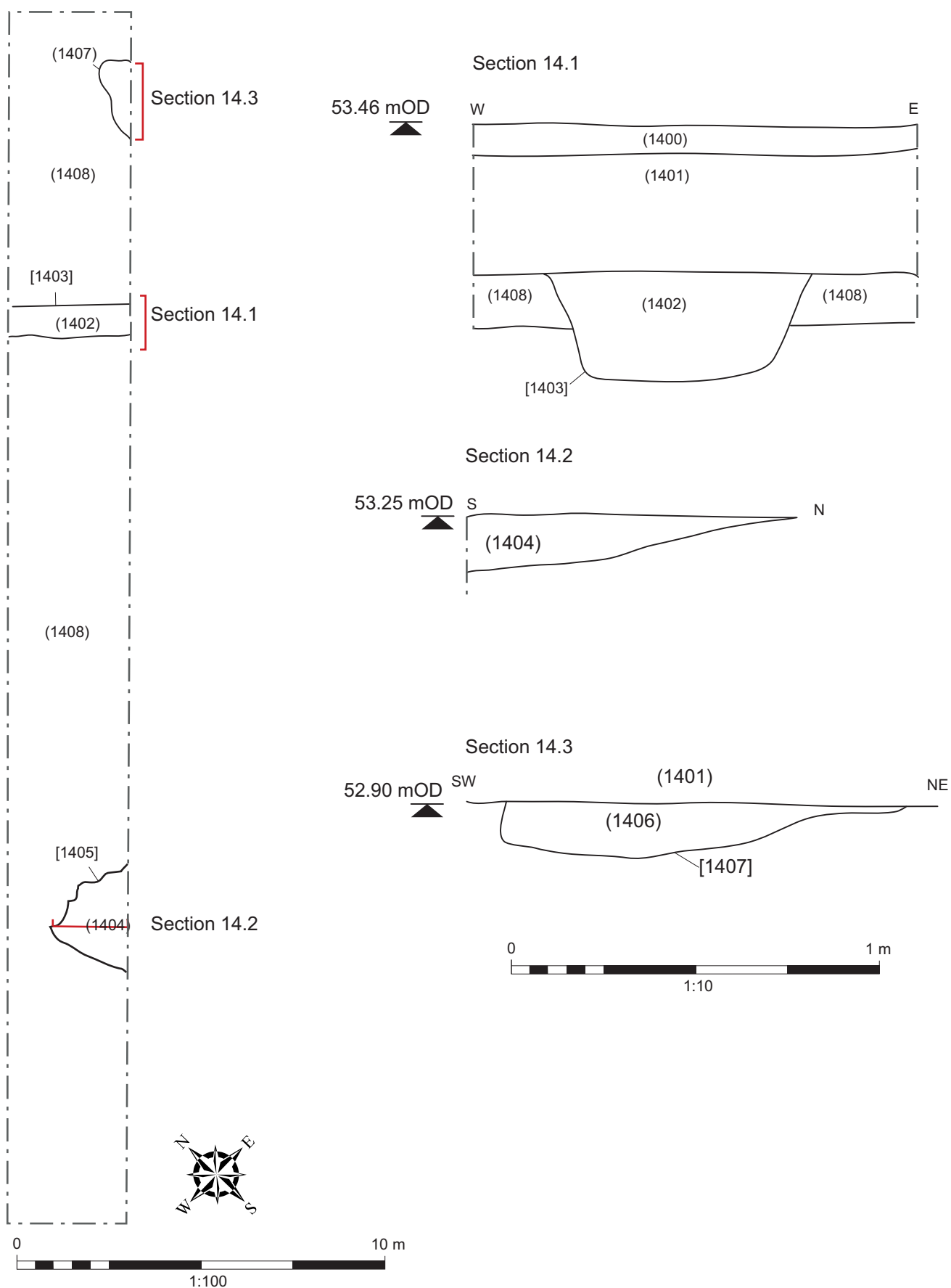


Figure 5: Trench 14: Plan and Sections

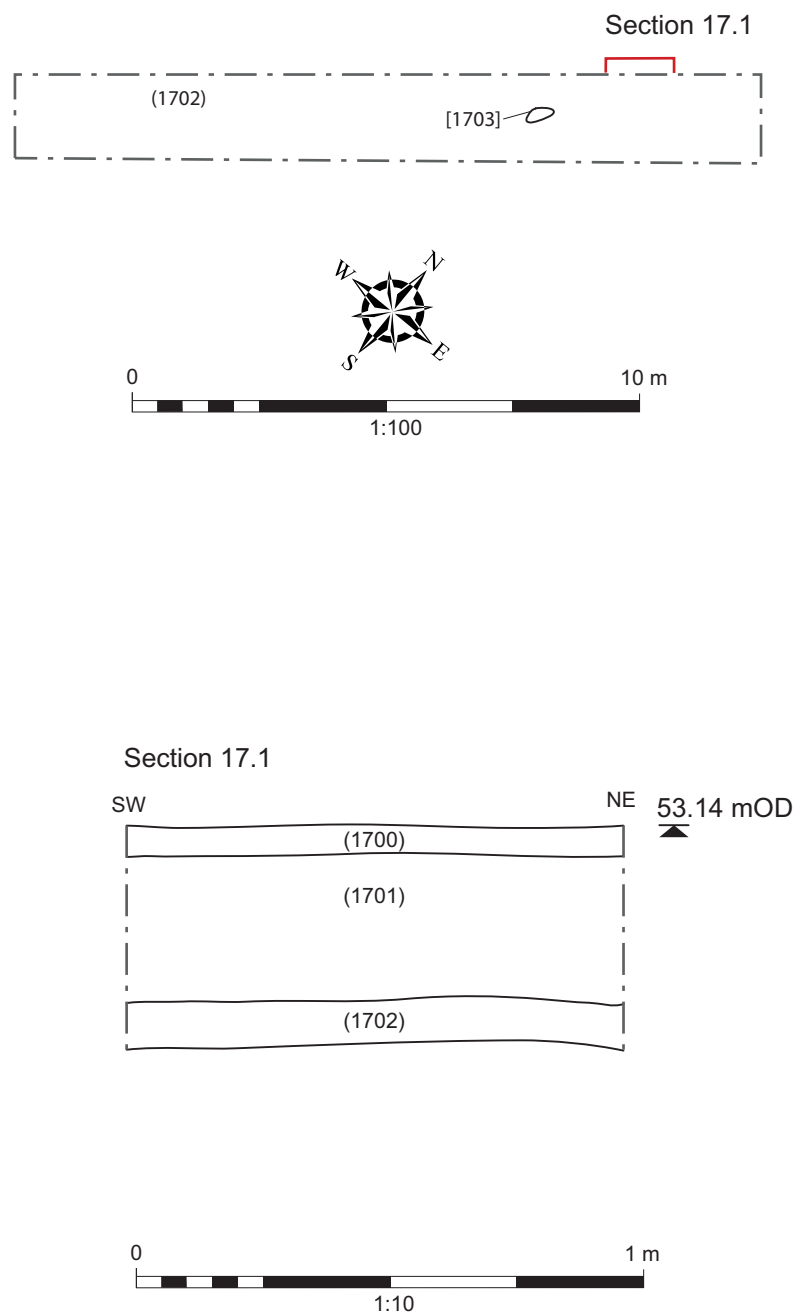
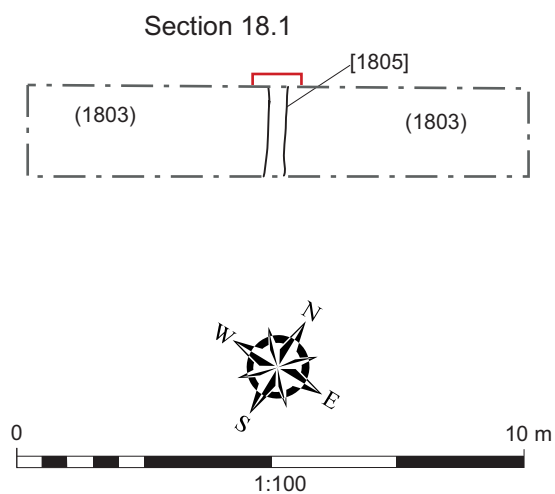


Figure 6: Trench 17: Plan and Section



Section 18.1

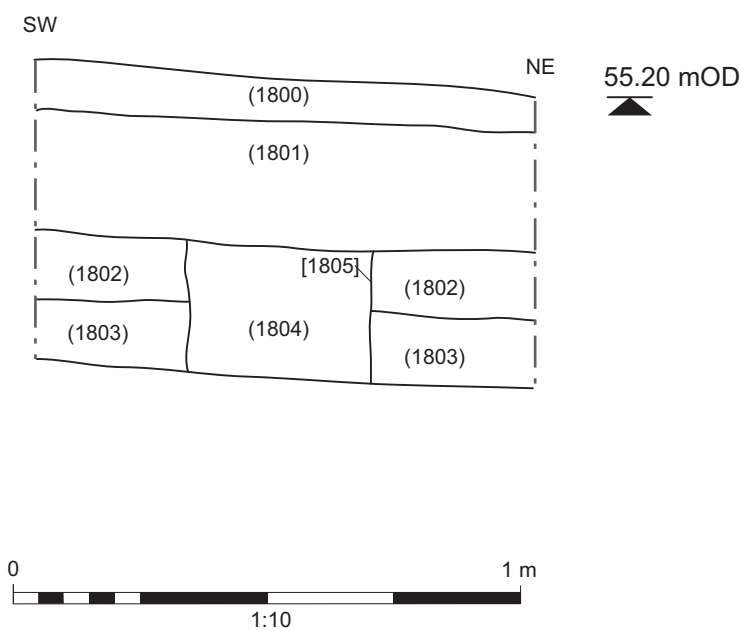


Figure 7: Trench 18: Plan and Section

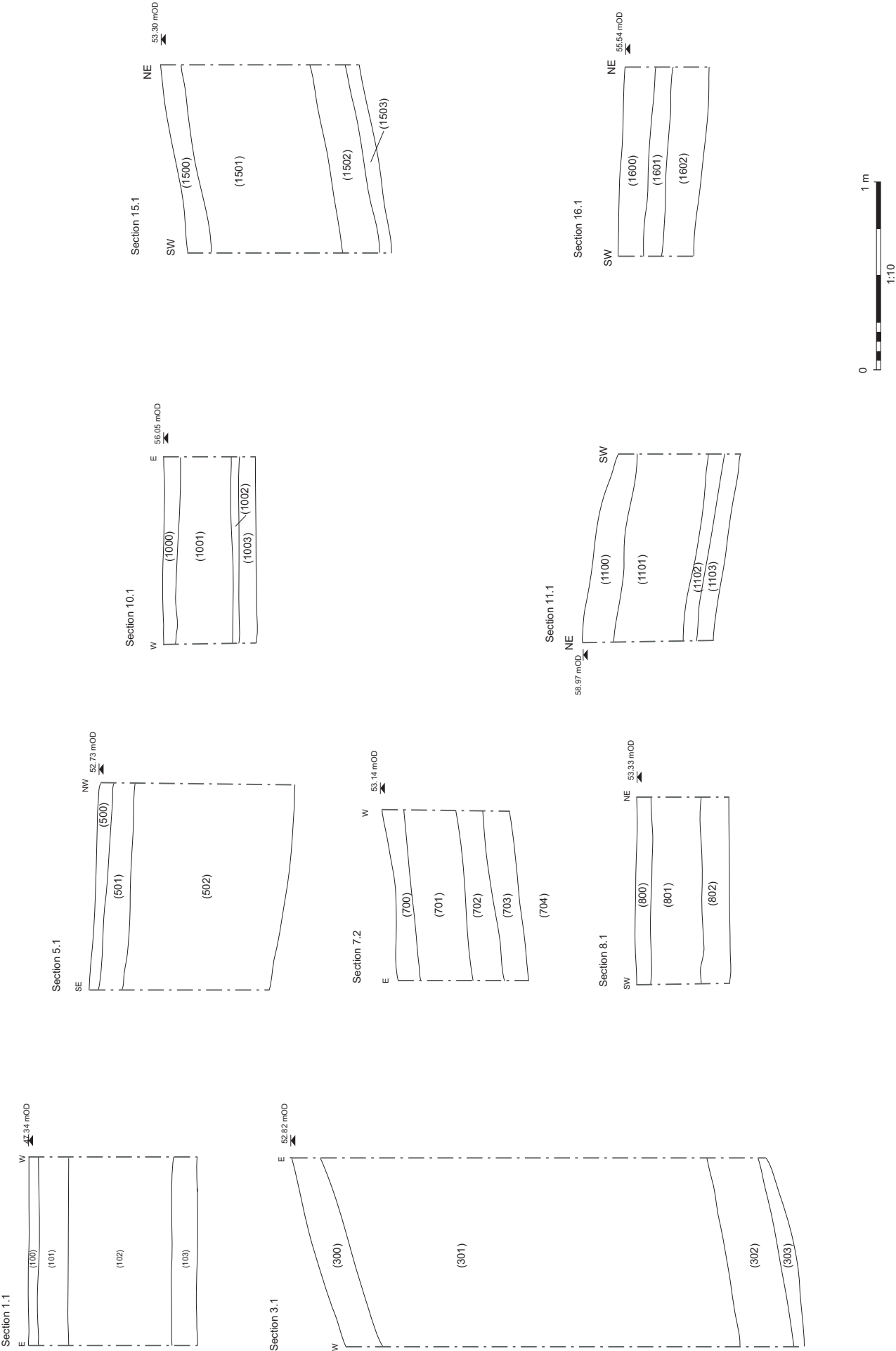


Figure 8: Trench Sections

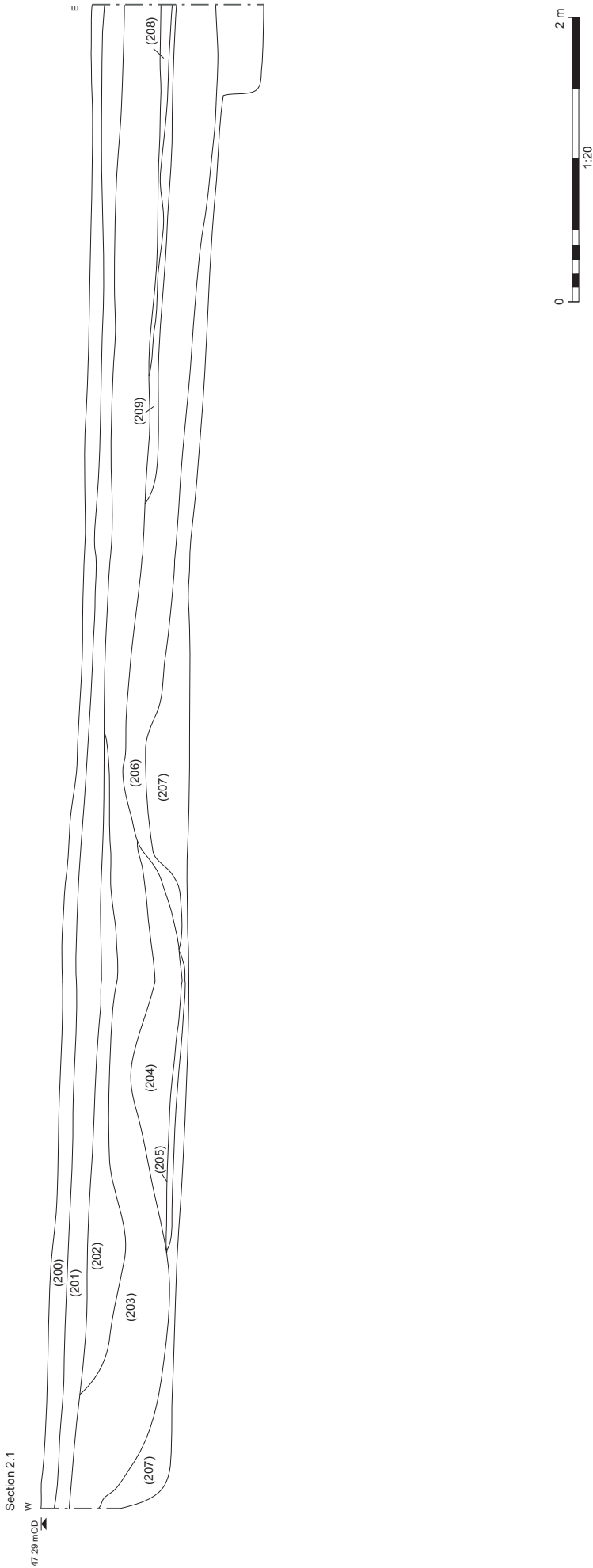


Figure 9: Trench 2 Section

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Tarmac	10.00m	2.00m	0.05m
101	Made Ground	10.00m	2.00m	0.16m
102	Natural	10.00m	2.00m	0.55m
103	Natural	2.50m	1.50m	0.15m+
200	Tarmac	17.00m	2.00m	0.10m
201	Made Ground	17.00m	2.00m	0.20m
202	Made Ground	6.50m	2.00m	0.35m
203	Made Ground	15.00m	2.00m	0.70m
204	Made Ground	4.00m	2.00m	0.40m
205	Made Ground	2.50m	2.00m	0.08m
206	Made Ground	3.50m	2.00m	0.35m
207	Natural	15.00m	2.00m	0.10m+
208	Made Ground	3.50m	2.00m	0.10m
209	Made Ground	6.70m	2.00m	0.10m
300	Topsoil	17.00m	1.80m	0.20m
301	Made Ground	17.00m	1.80m	2.00m
302	Buried Topsoil	17.00m	1.80m	0.30m
303	Natural	17.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
500	Topsoil	10.50m	1.80m	0.06m
501	Made Ground	10.50m	1.80m	0.15m
502	Made Ground	10.50m	1.80m	1.00m
503	Natural	10.50m	1.80m	0.10m+
600	Tarmac	25.40m	1.80m	0.08m
601	Concrete	7.00m	1.80m	0.27m
602	Made Ground	18.40m	1.80m	0.20m
603	Made Ground	7.00m	1.80m	0.25m
604	Made Ground	3.20m	1.80m	0.20m
605	Made Ground	6.00m	1.80m	0.30m
606	Natural	25.40m	1.80m	0.10m
607	Concrete Footing	13.00m	0.40m	0.20m
700	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.12m
701	Made Ground	30.00m	1.80m	0.26m
702	Buried Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.15m

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
703	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.15m
704	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
800	Tarmac	6.70m	1.80m	0.08m
801	Concrete	6.70m	1.80m	0.27m
802	Natural	6.70m	1.80m	0.15m+
1000	Tarmac	6.00m	1.80m	0.08m
1001	Concrete	6.00m	1.80m	0.31m
1002	Tarmac	6.00m	1.80m	0.05m
1003	Natural	6.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1100	Topsoil	15.00m	1.80m	0.17m
1101	Made Ground	15.00m	1.80m	0.38m
1102	Subsoil	15.00m	1.80m	0.10m
1103	Natural	15.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1300	Tarmac	15.00m	1.60m	0.08m
1301	Concrete	15.00m	1.60m	0.27m
1302	Layer	2.00m	0.40m	0.05m
1303	Natural	15.00m	1.60m	0.05m+
1400	Tarmac	16.60m	1.60m	0.08m
1401	Concrete	16.60m	1.60m	0.32m
1402	Fill of [1403]	0.80m	1.60m	0.30m
1403	Cut of Gully	0.80m	1.60m	0.30m
1404	Fill of [1405]	1.40m	0.95m	0.21m
1405	Cut of Tree Pit	1.40m	0.95m	0.21m
1406	Fill of [1407]	1.00m	0.45m	0.14m
1407	Cut of Tree Pit	1.00m	0.45m	0.14m
1408	Natural	16.60m	1.60m	0.15m+
1500	Topsoil	36.00m	1.80m	0.13m
1501	Made Ground	36.00m	1.80m	0.69m
1502	Buried Topsoil	36.00m	1.80m	0.17m
1503	Subsoil	36.00m	1.80m	0.10m
1504	Natural	36.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1600	Tarmac	15.00m	1.80m	0.17m
1601	Made Ground	15.00m	1.80m	0.10m

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1602	Natural	15.00m	1.80m	0.20m+
1700	Tarmac	15.00m	1.80m	0.08m
1701	Concrete	15.00m	1.80m	0.30m
1702	Natural	15.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1703	Layer	0.60m	0.30m	0.05m
1800	Topsoil	10.00m	1.80m	0.11m
1801	Made Ground	10.00m	1.80m	0.22m
1802	Subsoil	10.00m	1.80m	0.12m
1803	Natural	10.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1804	Fill of [1805]	1.80m	0.37m	0.17m+
1805	Cut of Service Trench	1.80m	0.37m	0.17m+

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-138343

Project details

Project name Exford Drive, Harefield, Southampton

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Exford Drive, Harefield, Southampton. The only feature of archaeological interest identified was a shallow undated gully. The general results of the evaluation indicate the site has experienced significant levels of horizontal truncation probably associated with the construction of the modern housing estate present on site. The survival of previously existing deposits is limited to isolated locations on the periphery on the site. The lack of archaeological features identified in these locations indicates the potential for features of archaeological interest to be present on site is negligible.

Project dates Start: 04-07-2012 End: 23-11-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any project codes associated reference 32084 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference SOU1592 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type GULLY Uncertain

Methods techniques & "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Exford Drive, Harefield,
Southampton

Postcode SO18 5LB

Study area 2.00 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 4621 1343 50 -1 50 55 04 N 001 20 33 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 46.58m Max: 58.62m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief City Archaeologist
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project Paul Mason
director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding

body

Name of Lovell
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Seacity Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID SOU1592

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography"
available

Digital Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to archive

Paper Archive SeaCity Museum
recipient

Paper Archive ID SOU1592

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
available

Paper Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to archive

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE: A
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION

Author(s)/Editor(s) MacQuarrie, H.

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or London
publication

Description A4 text, 4 illustrations, 35 pages bound between plastic covers

Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title EXFORD DRIVE (SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION), HAREFIELD,
SOUTHAMPTON:AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clarke, C.

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or London
publication

Description A4 text, 9 illustrations, 39 pages bound between plastic covers

Entered by Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 29 November 2012



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