



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land
at Leaders Farm,
Lutterworth, Leicestershire.**



NGR: SP 5302 8423

Gavin Speed

ULAS Report No 2012-4
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**An Archaeological Evaluation
on land at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire.**

(SP 5302 8423)

Gavin Speed

For: Leicestershire County Council

Approved by:

Signed



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Accession Number XA.178.2011.**

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An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 5302 8423). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.

The evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods, this consisted of a probable roundhouse, enclosures, and ditches. Elsewhere, an undated earthwork enclosure was evaluated.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession no. XA.178.2011.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Leicestershire County Council in December 2011 on land at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 5302 8423). This was undertaken in advance of an application for proposed residential development.

The Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates a number of known archaeological sites within, and in the vicinity of, the proposed development area. An archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching was requested by Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority. The work was required in order to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present in order to determine the potential impact upon them from future development proposals.

This report presents the results of the trial trenching, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site lies on the south-west edge of Lutterworth (Figure 1 and 2) on land known as Leaders Farm (SP 5302 8423). The site composed of three fields, covering c.6ha of arable farmland and grassland. The ground had a gentle gradient that sloped 120m to 118m O.D from west to east. The site is bordered to the south by the A4303, the west and north by Coventry Road, and to the east by modern housing.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the underlying geology is likely to be Blue Lias Formation made up of mudstone and limestone. The drift geology of sands and gravels has overlying soils that are typically stagnogley soils.

3. Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates a number of known archaeological sites within, and in the vicinity of, the proposed development area. Prehistoric flint has been recovered in Field 2 during fieldwalking by the Lutterworth Fieldwork Group (MLE7034). To the west of the proposed development area, a number of prehistoric flint artefacts and Roman pottery sherds have also been recovered during fieldwalking (MLE10428; MLE18332). A cropmark of a possible enclosure is recorded to the south-east (MLE1916) in Field 3 and south of the A4303. A possible barrow is known to the south (MLE1920), and Roman pottery has been recovered to the south-east (MLE1942).

In 2011 a geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan (Biggs 2011). This identified numerous areas of archaeological potential. In the north (Field 1) lies a rectilinear set of anomalies that seem to be associated with a small circular feature enclosing a magnetic spike and two pits. The south-eastern field (Field 3) contained a significant number of anomalies with probable archaeological origins. This includes parallel positive and negative linear features and possible pits which are scattered in an amorphous pattern along the length of the field. A few positive linear features are also highlighted in the larger field to the south-west (Field 2). The survey also revealed a significant amount of ridge and furrow in the gradiometer data – some of which is in two directions in Field 3.

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To identify possible areas of archaeological potential liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish the location, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The objective was to gain an indication of the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which may be present in order that an informed planning decision can be taken.

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. The position of all the trenches was located using a Global Positioning System prior to their excavation. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with 2.25m and 1.8m wide toothless ditching buckets. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and leveled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (ULAS 2010) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008).

6. Results

Thirty-four trenches were excavated, ranging in length from 20 to 50 metres. The trenches were spread across the development site (Figure 3) over three fields. Some trenches were located over geophysical anomalies, while others were to test apparently blank areas and the extent of any archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence was revealed in all three fields, in trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 24, 26, and 31 as detailed below. In the remaining trenches no archaeological finds or features were identified.

The topsoil, consisting of grey-brown sandy-clay with occasional small rounded pebbles, was generally *c.* 0.25m in depth. Below this was a brown clay subsoil observed in some trenches, ranging in thickness from 0.05m to 0.2m. Full trench and context descriptions of all archaeological evidence and trench depths are provided in Appendix II.

Field 1 (Trenches 1-9)

Nine trenches were located in Field 1 (Figure 4 and 5) to target discrete anomalies from the geophysical survey (Biggs 2011). Seven trenches contained archaeological deposits (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9), trenches 2 and 8 contained no archaeological finds or deposits.

Trench 1 (figures 8 and 9)

Trench 1 located three archaeological features: a large ditch [7], and two small gullies [2] and [4].

Ditch [7] was 2.2 to 2.8m wide, and ran across the width of the trench (also 1.8m). It was over 0.74m deep (the base was not reached) and contained three fills, the lowest (12) consisting of a friable mid grey-brown silt-sand, and contained no finds. Over this lay a friable light grey-brown silt-sand (6), containing pottery sherds dating to the mid to late Iron Age. The uppermost fill consisted of a friable mid-brown silt-sand, which contained no finds. The ditch corresponds to a geophysical anomaly (1c in Biggs 2011) interpreted as an enclosure. It is presumably the same ditch seen in Trenches 3 and 9.

Two and a half metres to the south-west, and running parallel to ditch [7] lay a shallow linear feature [4]. This gully measured 0.39m wide by 0.08m deep and ran across the width of the trench (1.8m). It had gradually curving sides and a rounded base and contained a friable light grey-brown sand-silt (3). Within this were pottery sherds dating to the mid to late Iron Age. This probably corresponds to a geophysical anomaly (1a in Biggs 2011)

Seven metres to the south-west of gully [4] was a further gully [2], which lay on a slightly different alignment across the width of the trench. This was slightly narrower (0.2m), and shallower (0.05m) than [4] and contained a friable grey-brown sand-silt (1), within which were fragments of burnt daub with wattle perforation.

Trench 3 (figures 5, 10-14)

Trench 3 located three archaeological features: a large ditch [16], and two small gullies: [8] and [13].

Ditch [16] was *c.*2.75m wide, and ran across the width of the trench (2.3m). It had gradually sloping sides and a flattish base, and was 0.72m deep. It contained three fills. At its base lay (24) a friable mid grey-brown clay. Overlying this was a mid/light yellow-brown silt-sand with red sand mottling (23). Both were in turn sealed by (15), a mid dark brown-grey silt-sand. No finds were retrieved from either of these deposits. This ditch was re-cut on a slightly different alignment to the west [18]. This had sharper sides and a curving base, measuring 2.38m wide and 0.8m deep. It contained two fills. The primary deposit was probably slumping, seen only on the west-side, and consisting of mid brown-grey silt-sand (22) with no finds. Overlying this was a mid dark brown-grey silt-sand (17), from which two worked flints were recovered. Environmental samples were taken from both ditches, and a few unidentifiable charcoal flecks were present in (17). The ditch corresponds to a geophysical anomaly (1c in Biggs 2011) interpreted as an enclosure. It is presumably the same ditch seen in Trenches 1 and 9.

Gully [8] lay 5m north-west of ditch [18]. This was curvilinear, measuring 2.5m long, 1.2m wide, and 0.45m deep. It contained a firm mid grey-brown silt-clay (9) with pottery sherds of mid to late Iron Age, a fragment of a saddle quern, and fragments of animal bone. Gully [13] lay 9.9m north-west of gully [8], and was very similar in form, being curvilinear, measuring *c.*3m long, 0.85m wide, and 0.35m deep. It contained a firm mid grey-brown silt-clay (14) with fragments of animal bone. Environmental samples were taken from both gullies, but no ecofacts were present. Gully [8] and [13] correspond to a geophysical anomaly (1b in Biggs 2011) interpreted as a circular feature, possibly a roundhouse.

Trench 4 (figures 5, 15, & 16)

Trench 4 located one archaeological feature: ditch [38]. The ditch was located at the north-end of the trench and orientated north-west to south-east, curving sharply to a more north-south orientation. It measured 2.7m wide and 1.08m deep, the north-side having a more gentle slope, whereas the south-side was steeper, while it had a flat base. It contained two fills, the primary deposit consisted of a firmly compacted dark grey-brown silt-clay (39), which contained no finds. Overlying this was an upper deposit of compacted mid grey-brown silt-clay (40). Within this were large amounts of mid to late Iron Age pottery sherds, along with some animal bone fragments. Environmental samples were taken from both deposits, no ecofacts were present. The ditch correspond to a geophysical anomaly (1a in Biggs 2011).

Trench 5 (figures 17, 18 & 19)

Trench 5 located two archaeological features: ditch [28] and [30]. Ditch [28] ran across the length of the trench on a north-west to south-east orientation. It measured over 32m long, 0.75-1m wide and 0.29m deep. It had fairly steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single deposit of a mid to dark brown-grey silt-clay (27). Within this was a sherd of 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone. Environmental samples were taken, but no ecofacts were present. Mid-way along the trench a further ditch [30], orientated north-south, adjoined ditch [28]. This was similar in size and form to ditch [28]; it measured 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep, and had fairly steep sides and an irregular-uneven base. It contained a primary silt (31), over which lay a mid brown-grey silt-clay (29); no finds were recovered from these deposits.

Trench 6 (figures 19 & 21)

Trench 6 located one archaeological feature: ditch [11]. The ditch was located at the north-end of the trench and was orientated east-west, before it curved sharply to a more north-east-south-west orientation. It measured 9m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep, the north-side having a gentle slope, whereas the south-side was steeper, and it had a pointed base. It contained a single deposit of a mid grey-brown silt-clay (10) within which were large amounts of Roman pottery sherds, ranging in date but mostly from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. A fragment of Roman roof tile, coal, and animal bones were also present. Furrows were seen aligned east-west, as indicated on the geophysical survey (12 in Biggs 2011).

Trench 7 (figures 22 & 23)

Trench 7 located two archaeological features: ditch [33] and post-hole [35]. Ditch [33] was in the middle of the trench, and orientated north-south. Measuring 3.7m in length, 0.8m wide and 0.17m deep, it had concave sides and a flattish base. It contained a single deposit of mid brown-grey silt-clay (32), but with no finds. Environmental samples were taken, but no ecofacts were present. Post-hole [35] lay 5m south of the ditch. This was circular and measured 0.49m in diameter, 0.19m deep. It contained a mid-dark brown-grey silt-clay (34), with no finds. Furrows were seen aligned east to west, as indicated on the geophysical survey (12 in Biggs 2011).

Trench 9

Trench 9 located one archaeological feature: a large ditch [51]. Ditch [51] was unexcavated and measured c.2.75m wide. The ditch corresponds to a geophysical anomaly (1c in Biggs 2011), interpreted as an enclosure. It is presumably the same ditch seen in Trenches 1 and 3.

Field 2 (trenches 10-30)

Nineteen trenches were located in Field 2 (Figures 3; 6, 24) to target discrete anomalies from the geophysical survey (Biggs 2011). Archaeological deposits were present in Trenches 10, 24, and 26. Trench 22 contained a modern service pipe (anomaly seen on geophysical survey). Trench 27 contained traces of a modern shallow gully that ran parallel to the dual carriageway bank to the south. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological finds or features. Targeted geophysical anomaly '5' and '3' (Biggs 2011) were not seen in Trenches 10, 12, and 30. These could be geological.

Trench 10 (figures 25-27)

Trench 10 located three archaeological features: two ditches [37] and [47], and post-hole [50]. Ditch [37] was orientated east to west and measured c.0.8m wide and 0.29m deep. The north-side was steep, whereas the south-side was more gradual. It contained a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay (36), with no finds recovered. Environmental samples were taken, but no ecofacts were present. Ditch [47] lay at the north-end of the trench, it was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west, and measured over 3m long, 1.1m wide, and 0.24m deep. It contained an undated firmly compacted mid grey-brown silt-clay (48). The geophysical survey shows a faint east-west aligned anomaly (5 in Biggs 2011); it is probable that either of these ditches corresponds to this, though it is on a slightly different alignment. Post-hole [50] was sub-circular with a diameter of 0.6m and depth of 0.22m which contained an undated friable mid-dark brown-grey silt-clay (49).

Trench 24 (figures 28 & 29)

Trench 24 located one archaeological feature: a large ditch [45]. Ditch [45] was north-south orientated, 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep, it had gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (46). Within this seven sherds of 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery were recovered.

Trench 26 (figure 30 & 31)

Trench 26 located three archaeological features: two large ditches [42] and [52], and an associated gully [44]. Ditch [42] was c.1.84m wide and 0.43m deep. It was orientated north-west to south-east and had steep sides more gradually sloping towards the base. It contained a mid to dark brown-grey silt-clay (41), with no finds. The ditch was cut by a small gully [44]. This had almost vertical sides and a concave base, and ran parallel to the ditch and measured 0.56m wide and 0.29m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (43), with no finds. The ditch was cut by a later east-west furrow on its north-side. To the north was a further ditch [52], probably the same as ditch [42] as it corresponds to a geophysical anomaly (4 in Biggs 2011), showing it to be a small L-shaped enclosure/ditch.

Field 3 (trenches 31-34)

Four trenches were located in Field 3 (Figure 7, 32) to target discrete anomalies from the geophysical survey (Biggs 2011), and a known cropmark (MLE1916). Targeted geophysical anomalies '7' (Biggs 2011) were not seen in Trenches 32, 33, 34. These could be geological.

Trench 31 (figure 32-34)

Trench 31 was located to target a known earthwork bank that forms a large sub-rectangular enclosure (MLE1916). A 50m section was excavated across it, orientated east to west. The bank was formed of three layers: (19), (20), (21), the uppermost (19) consisting of a mid brown-grey silt-sand. Below this (20) consisted of a finer mid grey-brown silt-sand, below which (21) was a similar brown-grey silt-sand. No finds were retrieved from any of these layers. The bank was c.9.5m wide though the layers making up the bank had eroded and spread either side making the total length c.25m.

Trench 32, 33, 34

These trenches contained evidence for furrows, aligned east to west. No other archaeological deposits or finds were identified.

7. Discussion

The evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods in Fields 1 and 2.

The highest concentration of archaeological deposits were from Field 1 where evidence was revealed for an Iron Age enclosure and probable structure in the eastern-half of the field (Trenches 1,3, 5,9). Elsewhere there was evidence for ditches of both Iron Age and Roman date (Trenches 5, 6, 7). There was a high quantity of Roman material from the excavated features at the west-end of the field, indicating a Roman settlement site within the immediate

area. The site lies 1.8km north-east of the Roman road of Watling Street that connected London and Wroxeter.

Evidence from Field 2 was more scattered. Undated ditches and a post-hole were evident in Trench 10, whilst there may be a focus of activity around Trenches 24 and 26 with evidence for a Roman ditch and a further undated L-shaped ditch.

Within Field 3 a large earthwork bank that forms a large sub-rectangular enclosure (MLE1916) was examined. No dating evidence was retrieved from this. The earthwork measures *c.*210m north-south and *c.*47m east-west (figure 35). The interpretation of this earthwork is uncertain, and it may relate to medieval ploughing, as the furrows respect the earthwork and change direction either side of it (east-west on the west side, north-south on east side). The enclosure bank abuts a field boundary (separating Fields 2 and 3), and does not appear to continue beyond it as there was no evidence for the earthwork bank in Trenches 28 and 30 in Field 2. Also earlier work to the south of the site also noted that there was no evidence for the earthwork continuing west (Clarke 2002).

8. Conclusion

The evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods in Fields 1 and 2. No finds were retrieved from the excavated earthwork in Field 3. The archaeological evaluation has confirmed most of the strong geophysical anomalies (Biggs 2011), and identified that archaeology is present in areas presumed blank in the geophysical survey (such as the west-end of Field 1).

The site has the potential to contribute to research into Iron Age and Roman settlements in the East Midlands (Taylor 2006; Willis 2006)

9. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, accession number XA.178.2011.

The archive contains:

- 34 trench recording sheets
- 1 context summary record
- 52 context sheets
- 1 photographic recording sheets
- 1 sample records sheet
- 1 drawing Index sheet
- 1 small finds list
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Survey data
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs
- 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives
- A box of finds

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York, under ID: universi1-117901. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Leaders Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire
Summary	<p>University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 5302 8423). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods, this consisted of a probable roundhouse, enclosures, and ditches. Elsewhere, an undated earthwork enclosure was evaluated.</p>
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: geophysics / Future: unknown
Current Land Use	Field
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Site Co ordinates	SP 5302 8423
Start/end dates of field work	1/12/2012-15/12/2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Study Area	6.2ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.178.2011 OASIS form ID: universi1-117901

10. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

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12. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was funded by Leicestershire County Council, and was carried out by Gavin Speed, Steve Baker, Tony Gnanaratnam, and Tim Higgins. The pottery, fired clay, building materials and industrial remains were analysed by Nicholas Cooper, the worked flint by Lynden Cooper, a quern stone fragment by John Thomas, the bone identification by Jen Browning, and the plant remains by Anita Radini, all of ULAS. Dr Patrick Clay managed the project. Teresa Hawtin of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

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9/02/2012

Appendix I: Figures

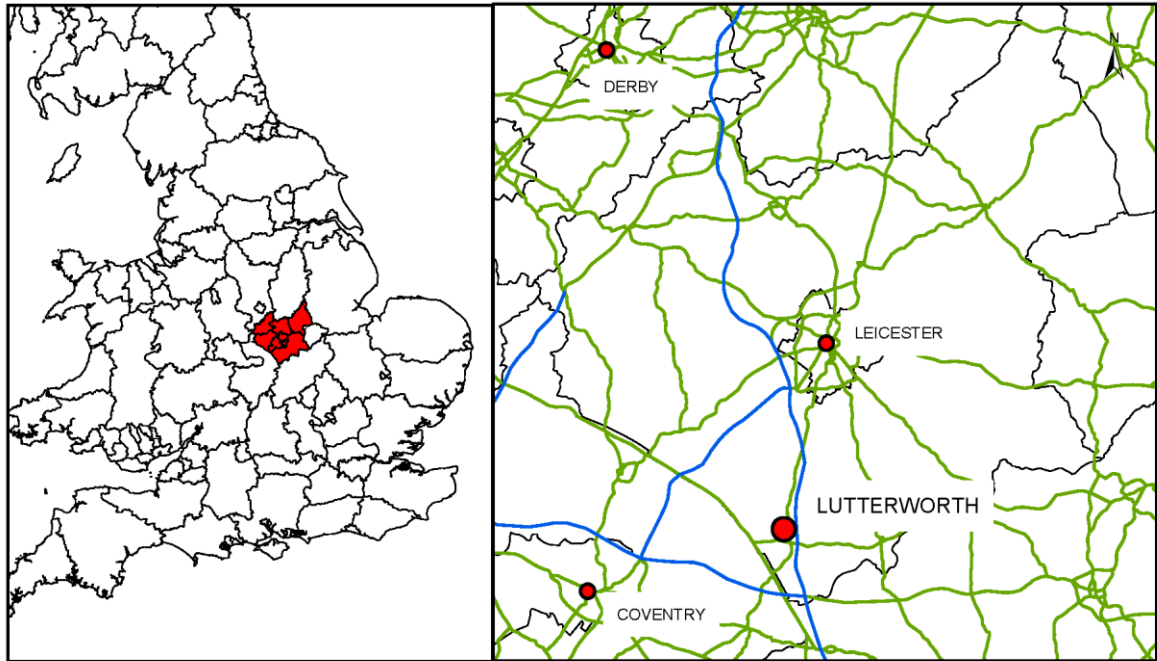


Figure 1: Site location within the UK and Leicestershire

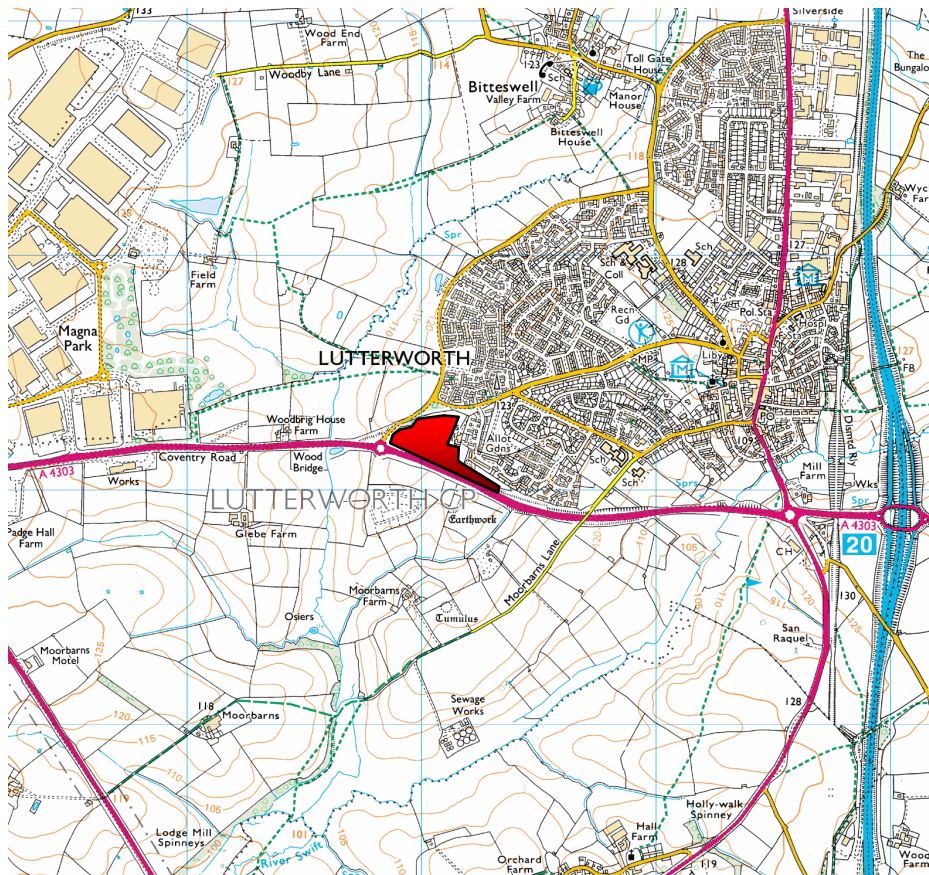


Figure 2: Site location (shaded)

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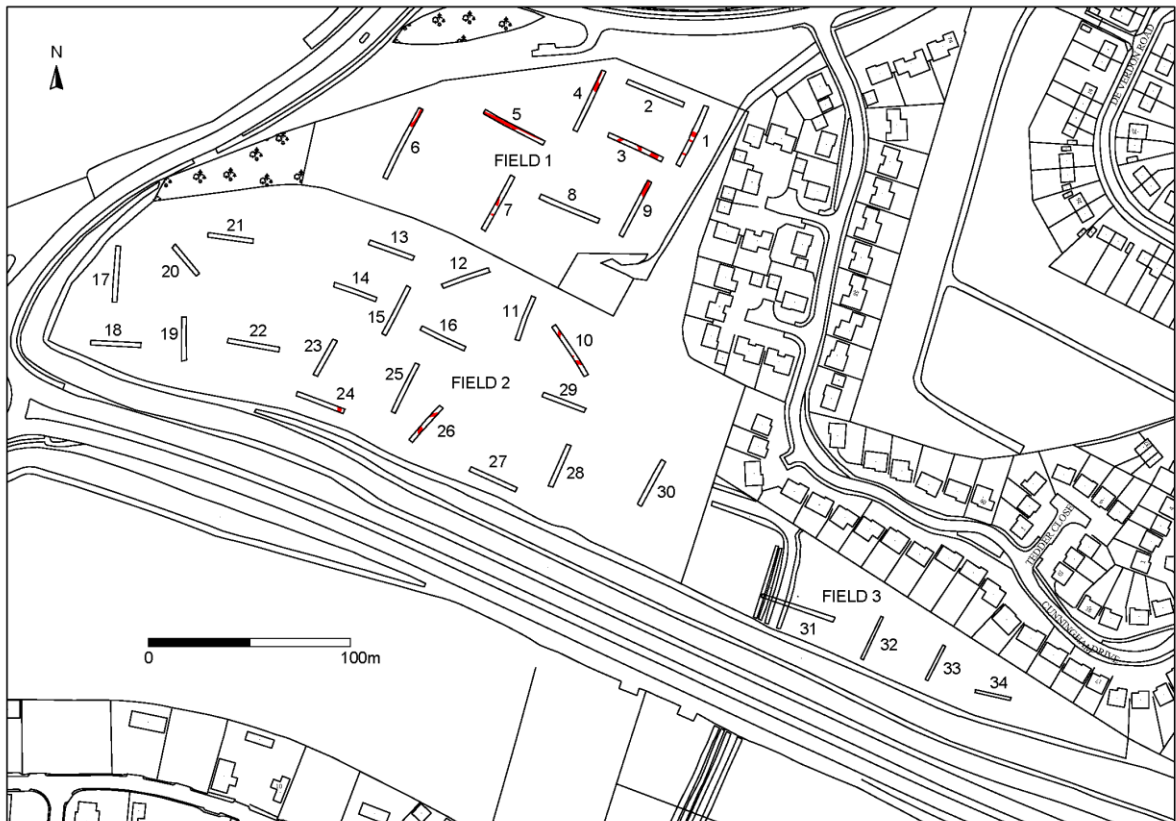


Figure 3: Trench plan, archaeological features shaded red.

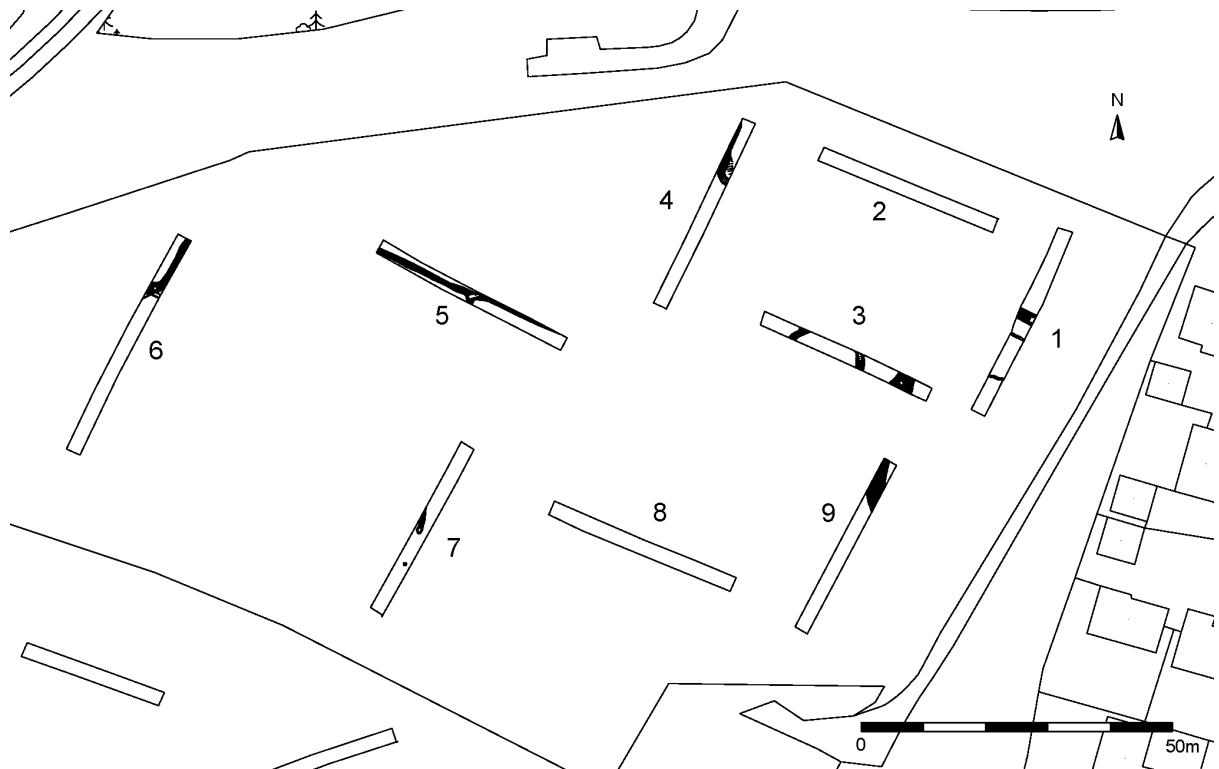


Figure 4: Field 1, archaeological features shaded

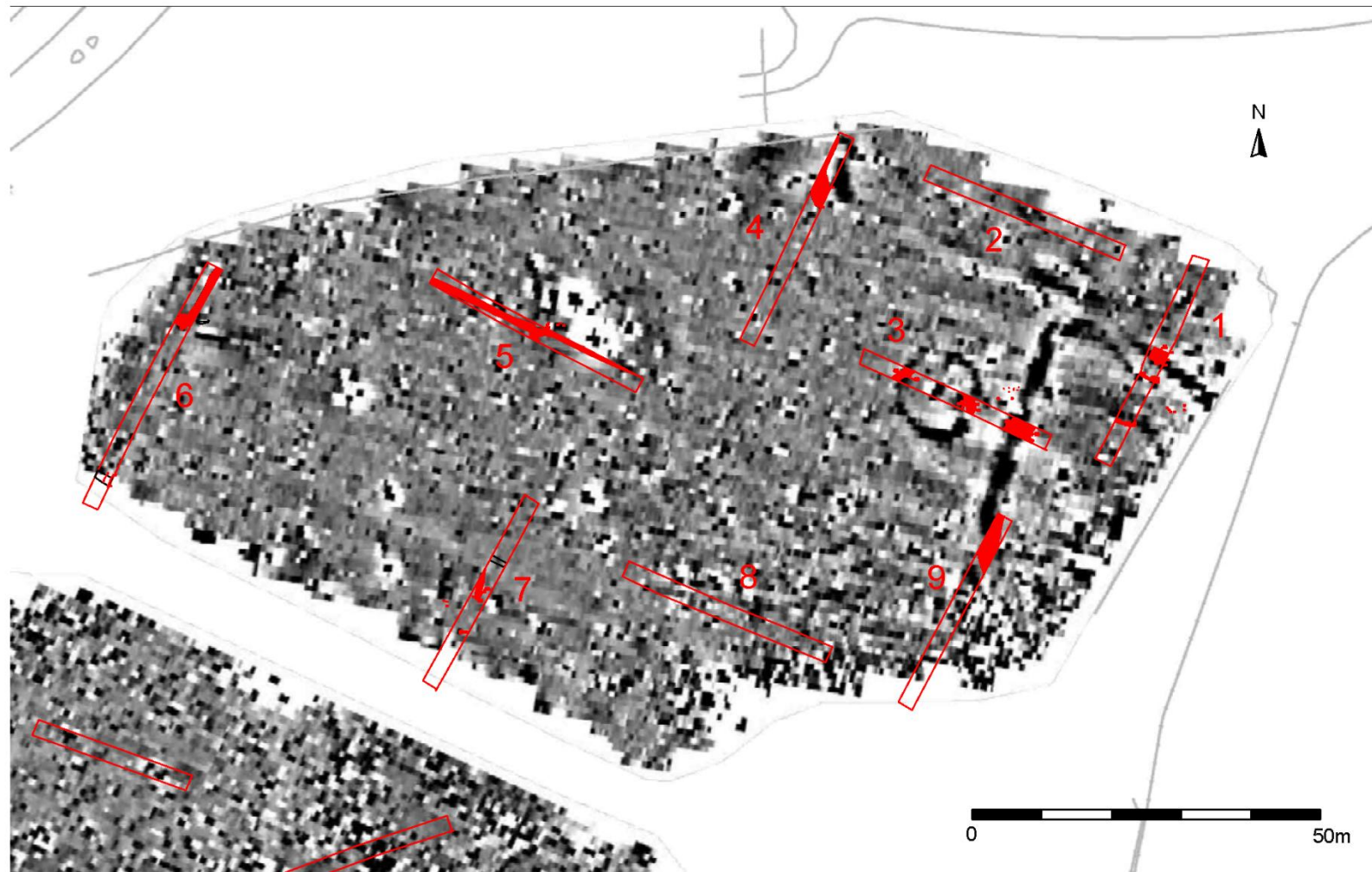


Figure 5: Field 1, archaeological features and geophysical survey plot

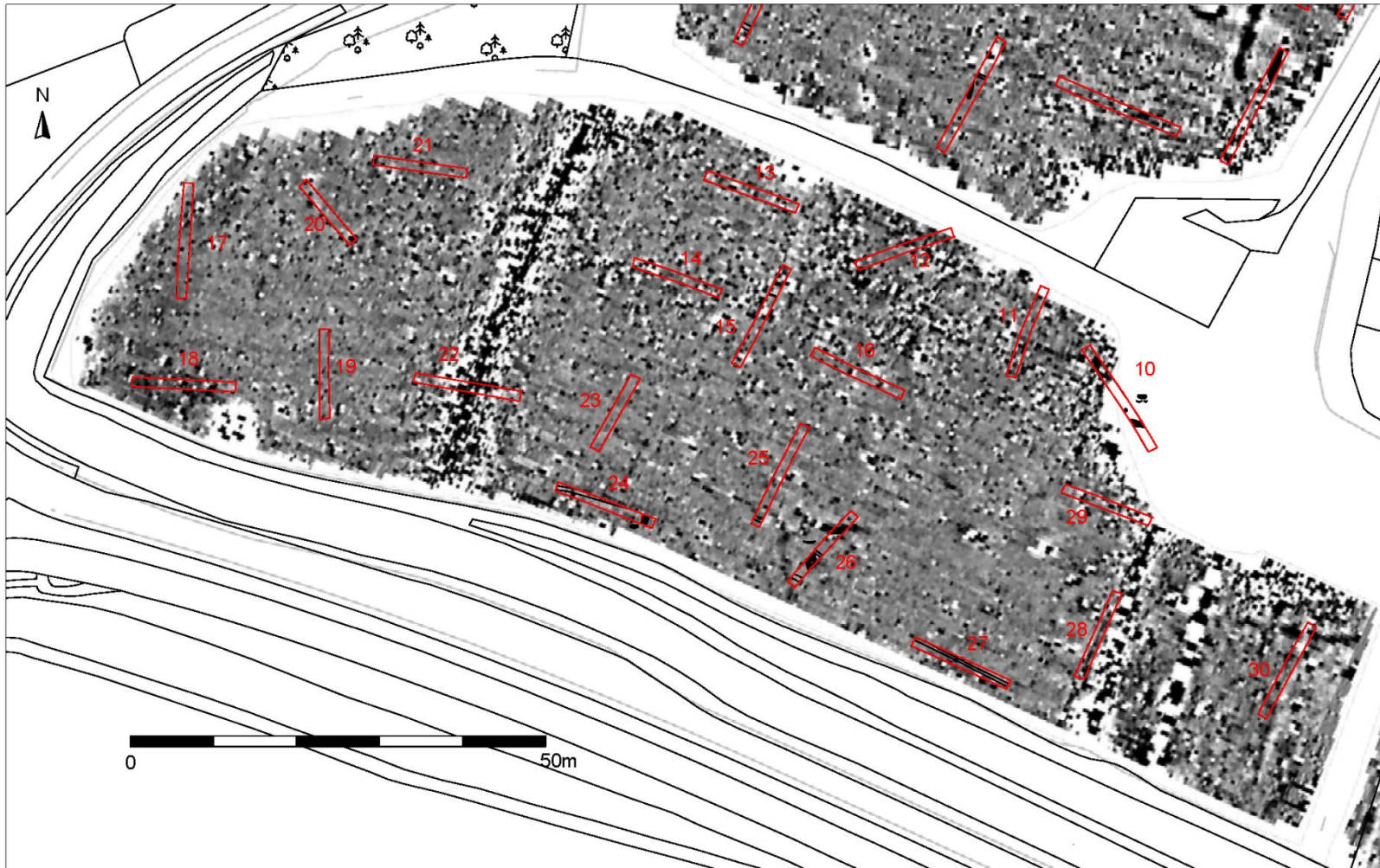


Figure 6: Field 2, archaeological features and geophysical survey plot

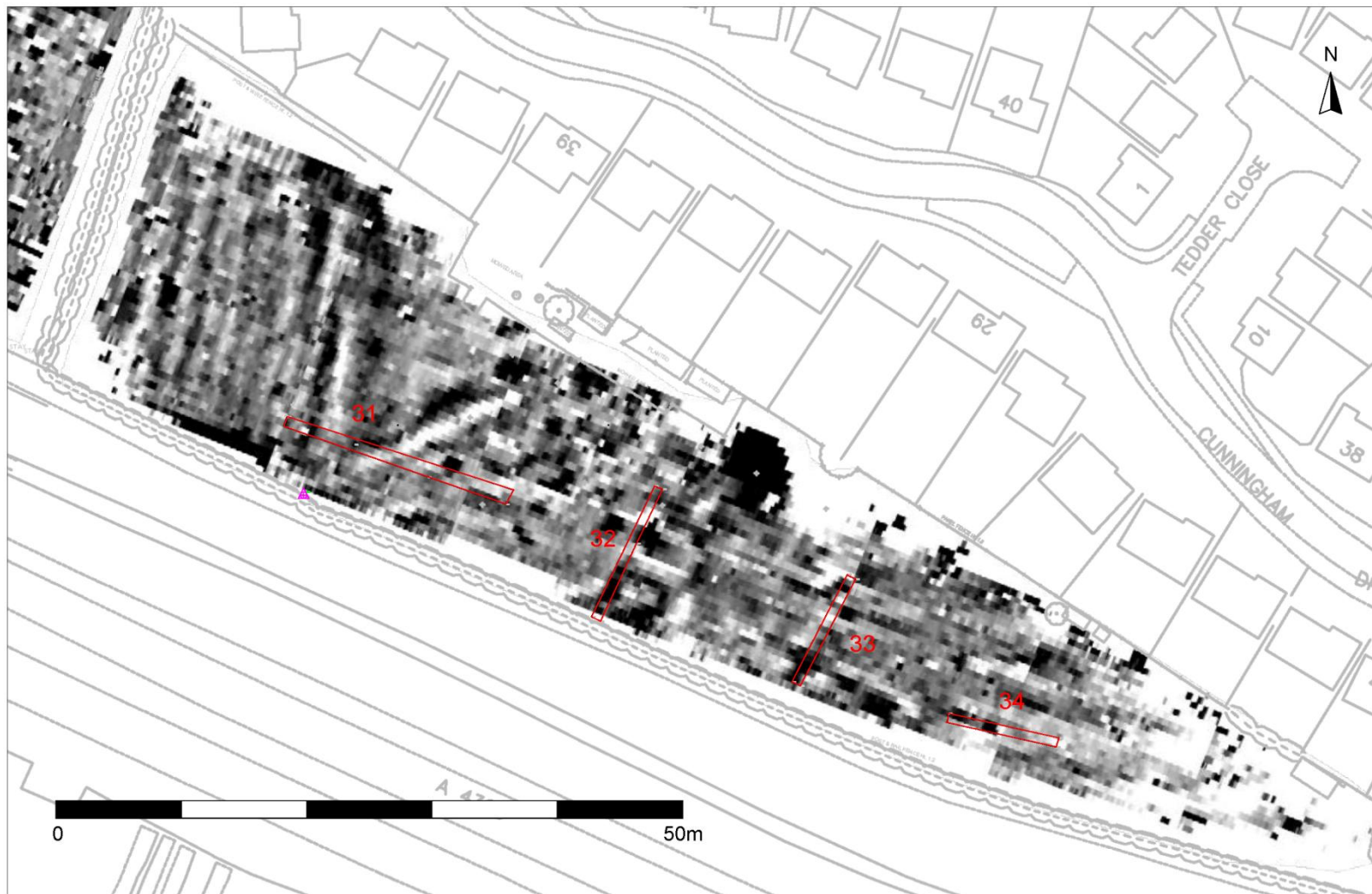


Figure 7: Field 3, archaeological features and geophysical survey plot

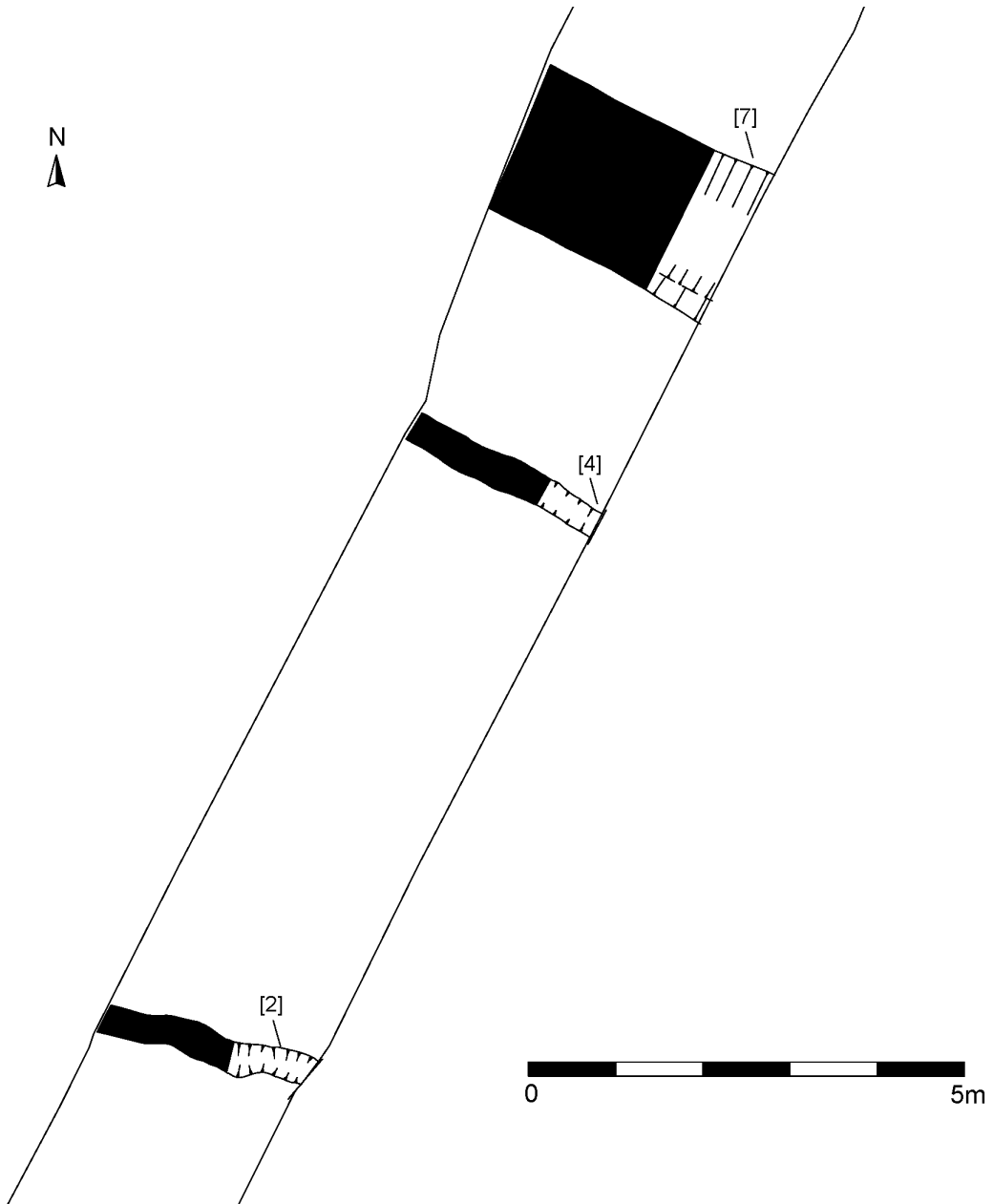


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 1

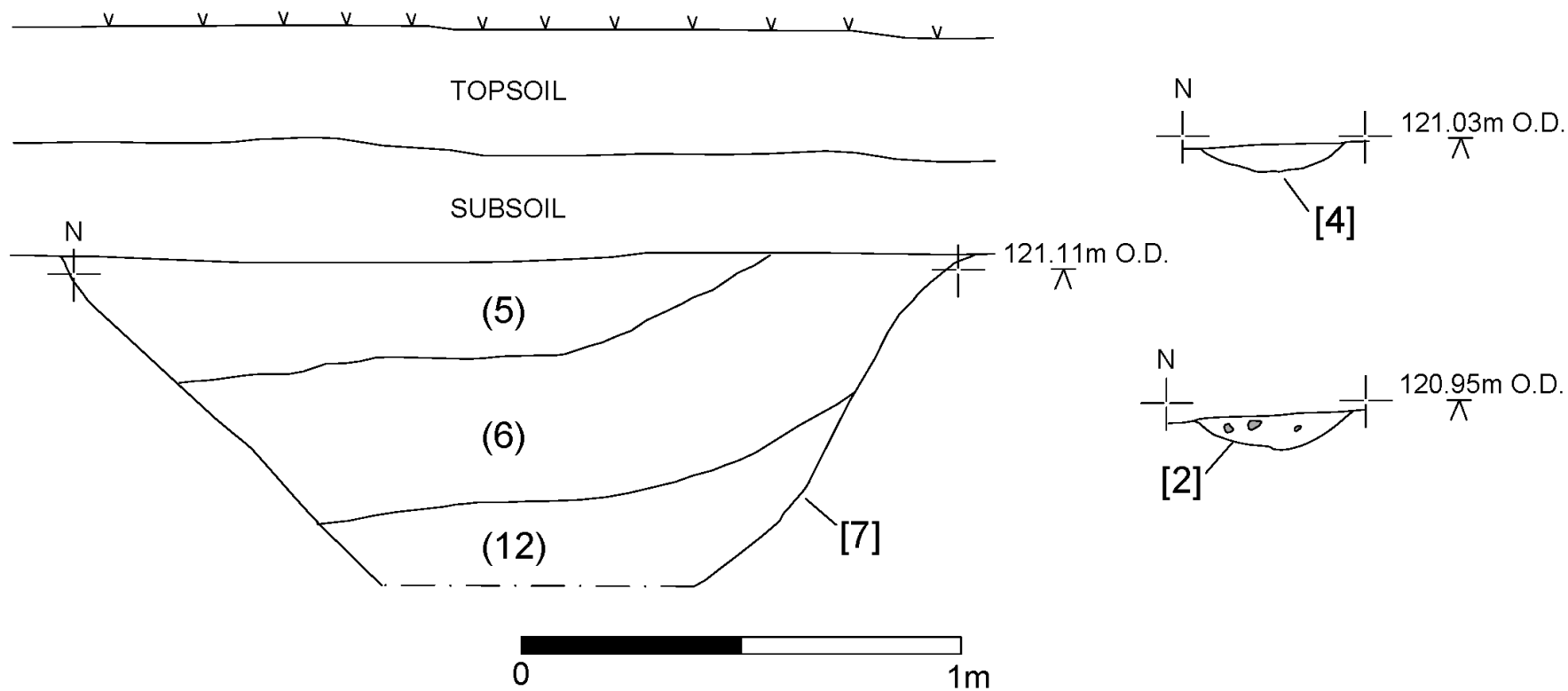


Figure 9: Sections of features within Trench 1

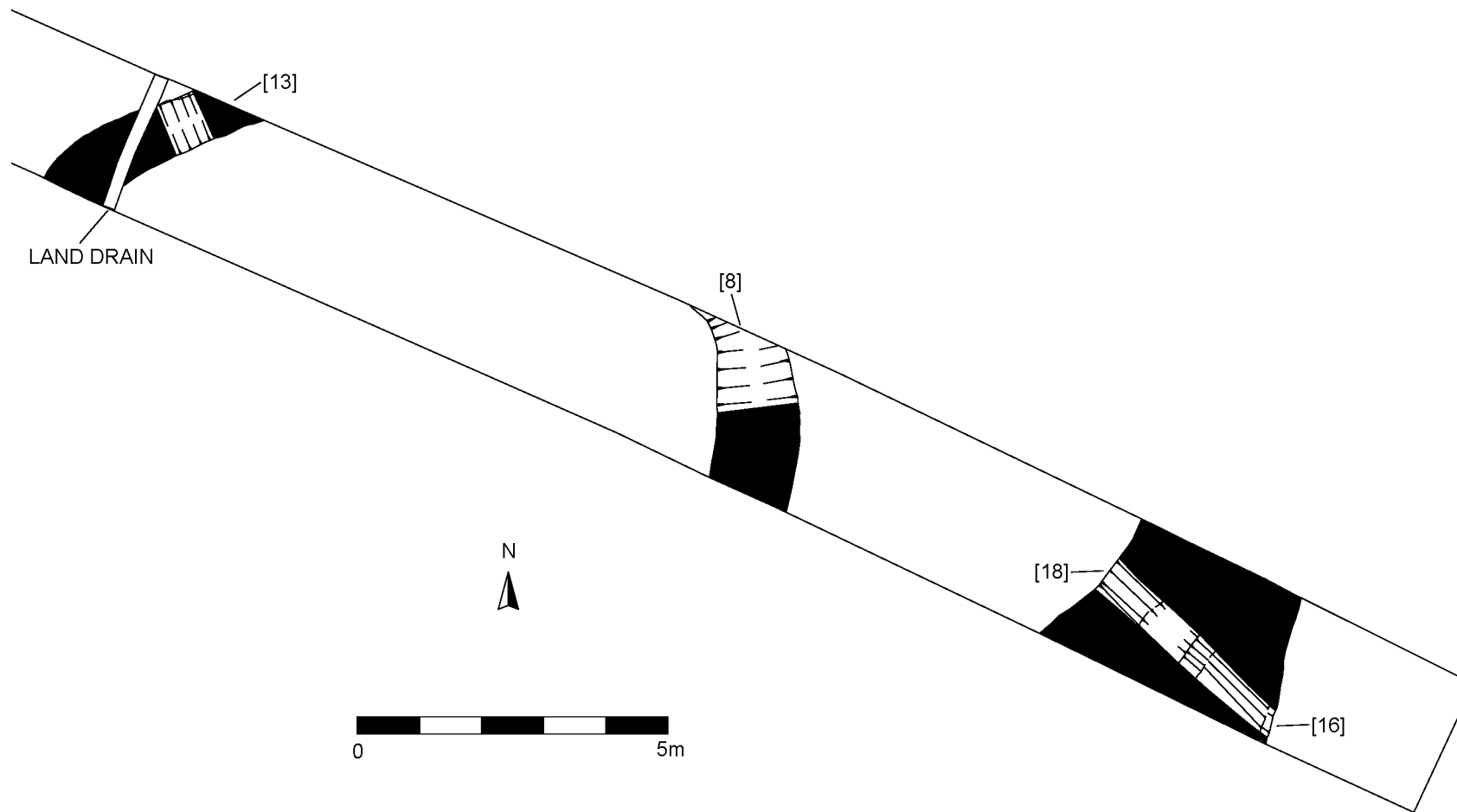


Figure 10: Plan of features within Trench 3

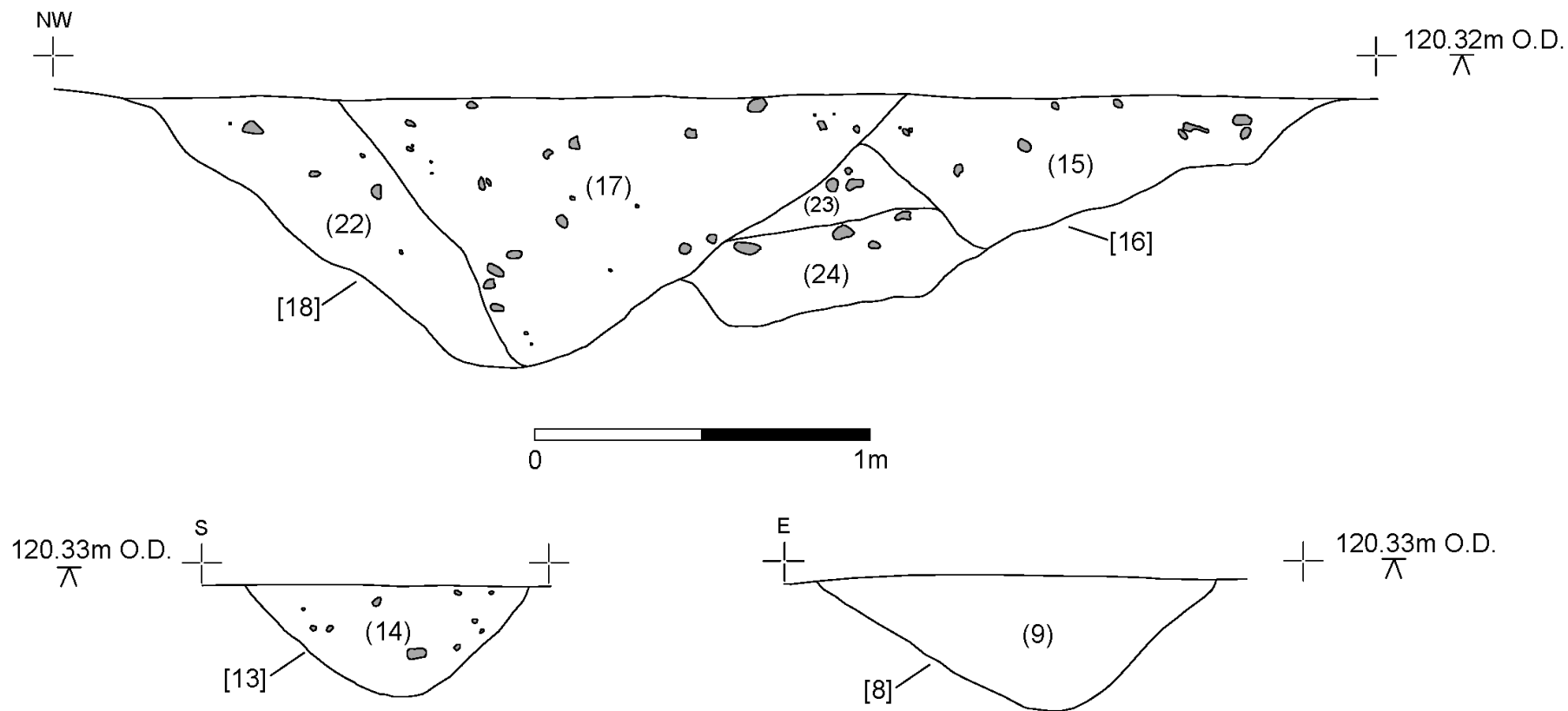


Figure 11: Sections of features within Trench 3



Figure 12: View of ditch [16], Trench 3 under excavation, looking NE



Figure 13: View of excavated section through ditch [16]. Scale 1m x 0.5m



Figure 14: View of gully [13]. Scale 1m x 0.5m.

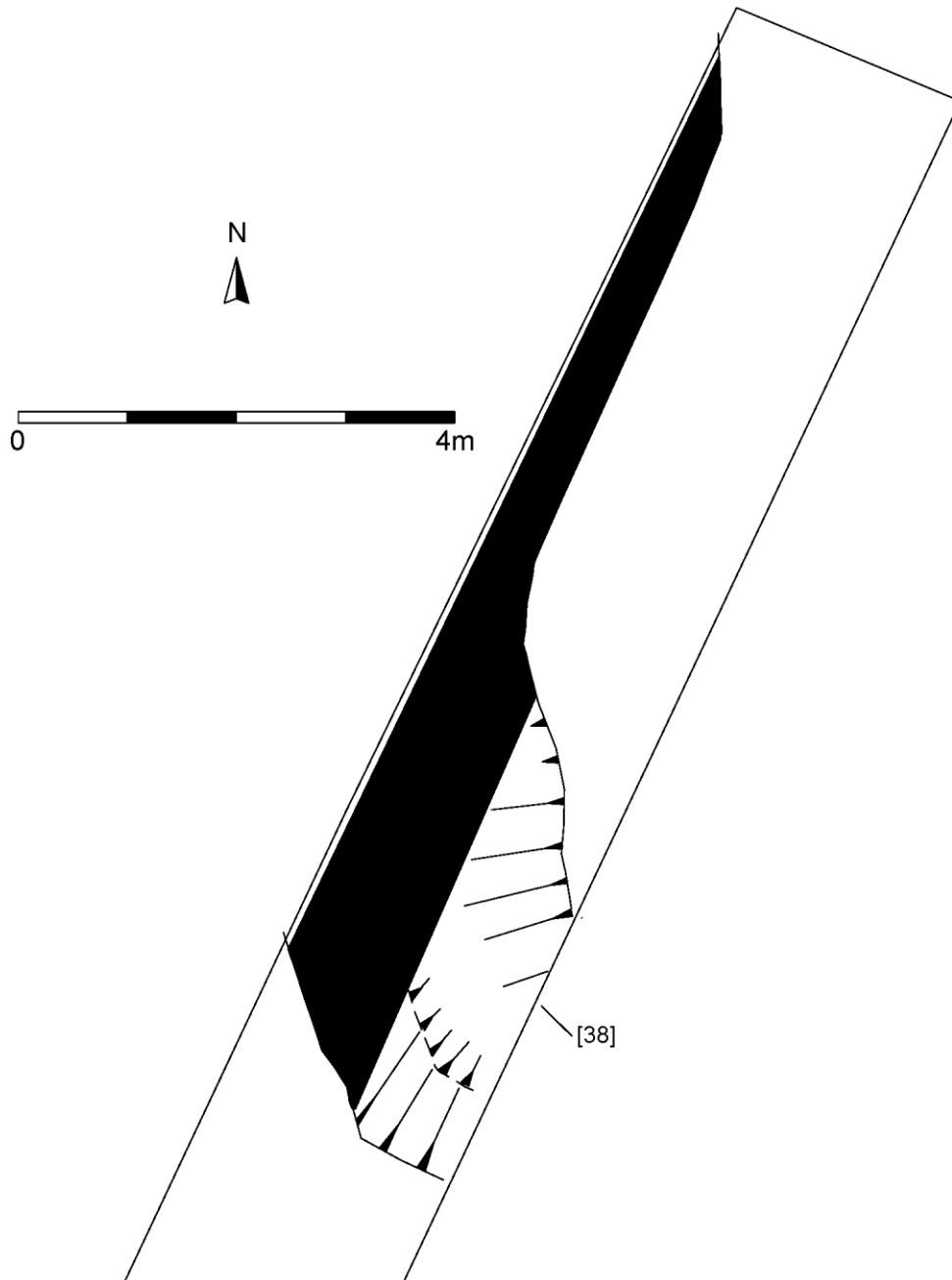


Figure 15: Plan of archaeological features in Trench 4

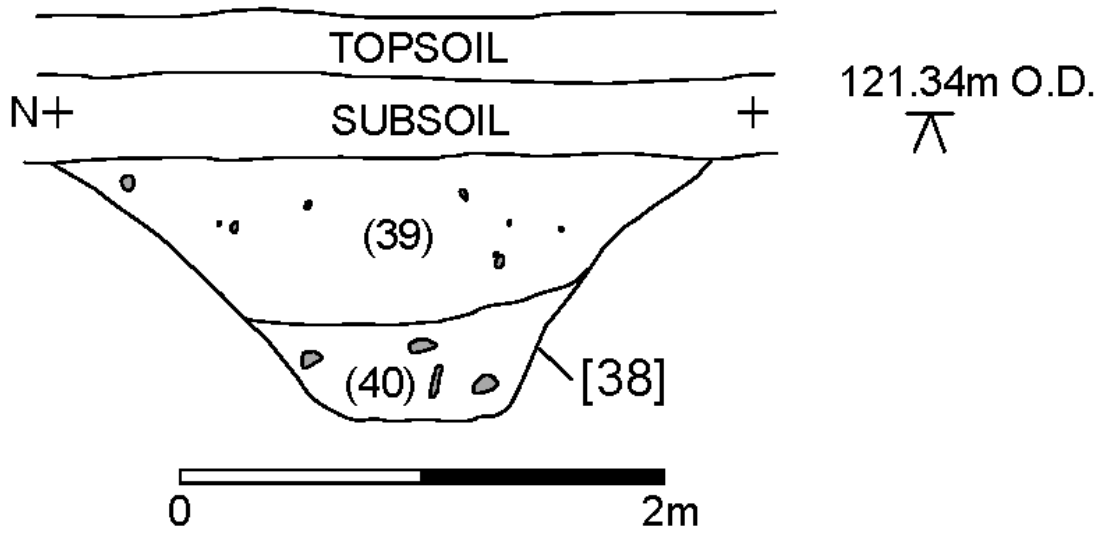


Figure 16: Section of feature in Trench 4



Figure 17: View of ditch [38], Trench 4. Scale 1m.

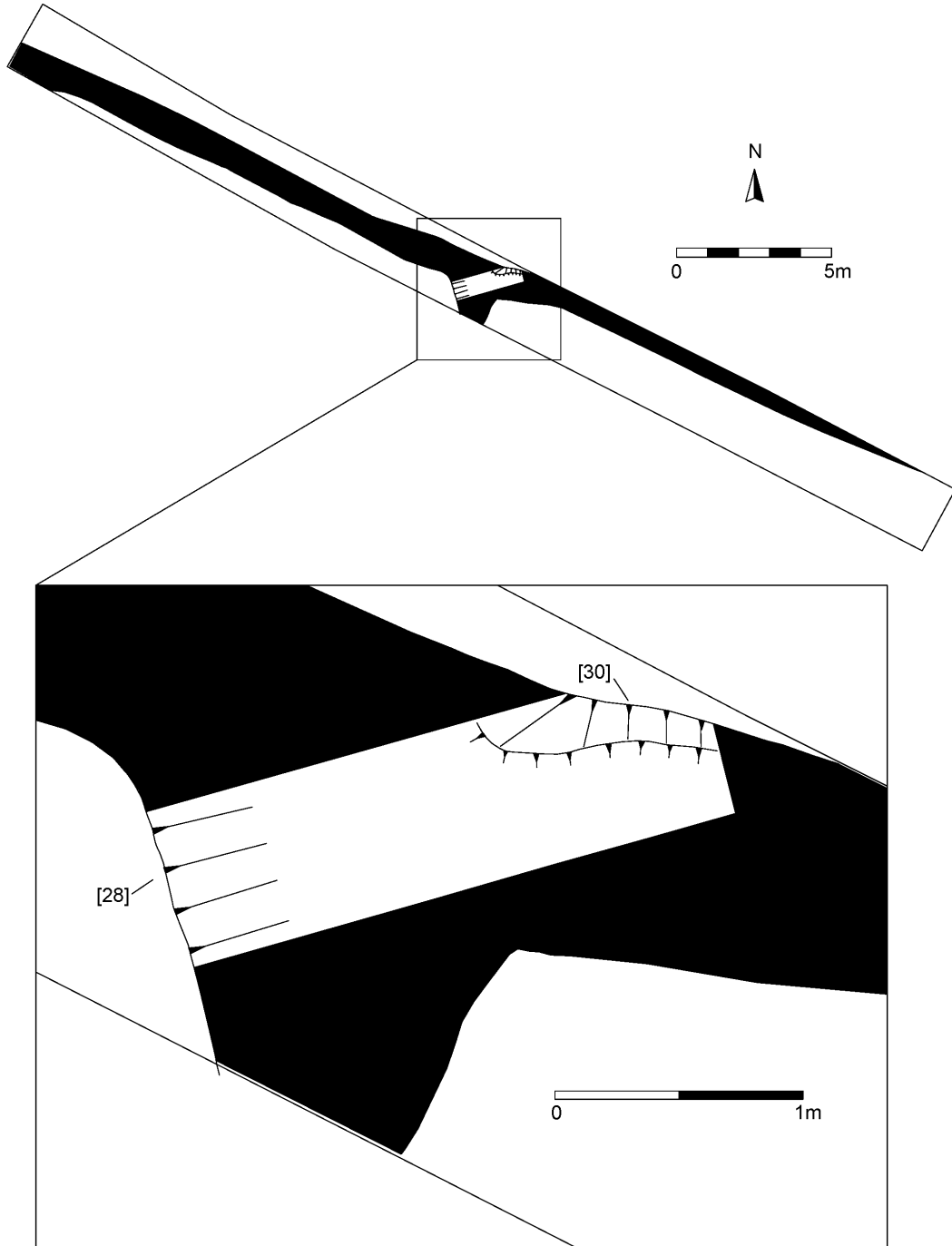


Figure 18: Plan of archaeological features in Trench 5

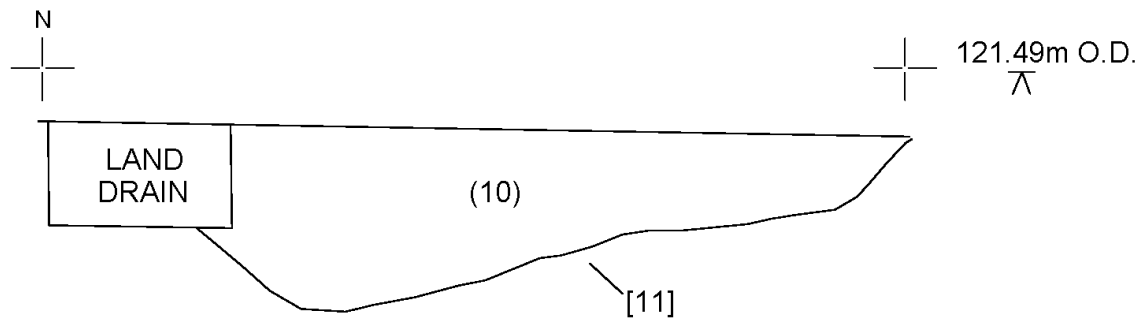


Figure 19: Section of archaeological features in Trenches 5 and 6



Figure 20: View of ditch within Trench 5. 1m scale.

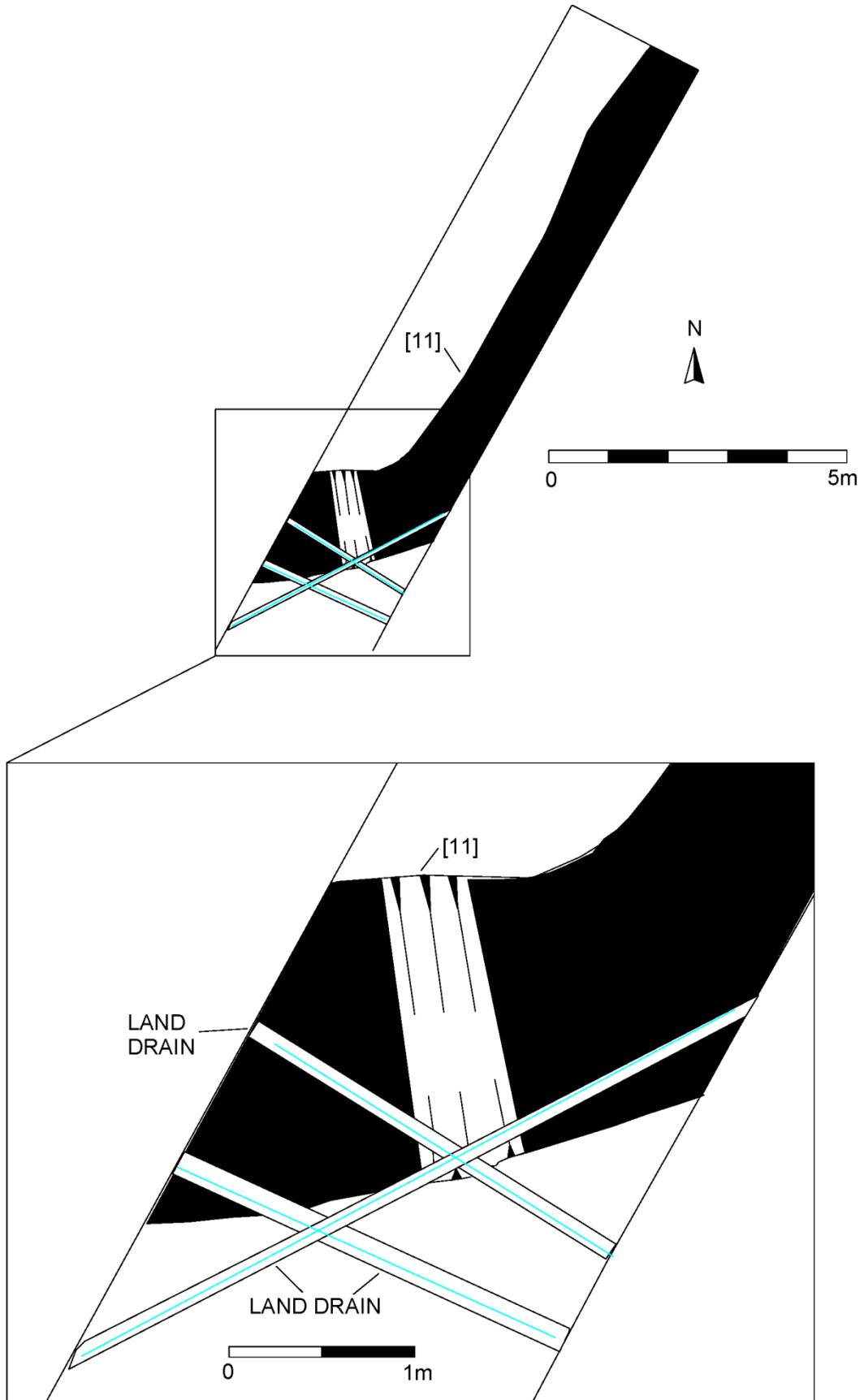


Figure 21: Plan archaeological feature in Trench 6

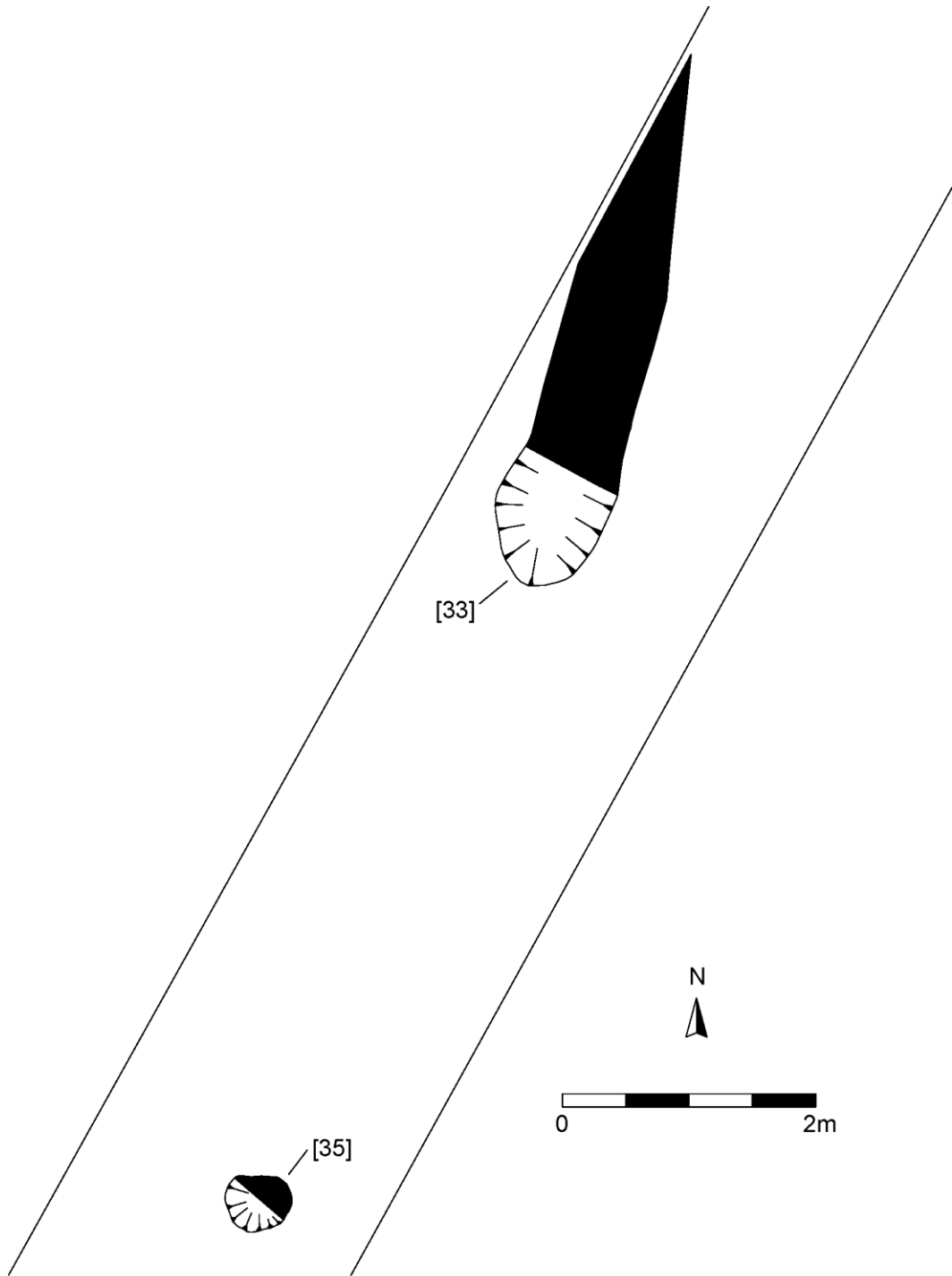


Figure 22: Plan of archaeological features in Trench 7

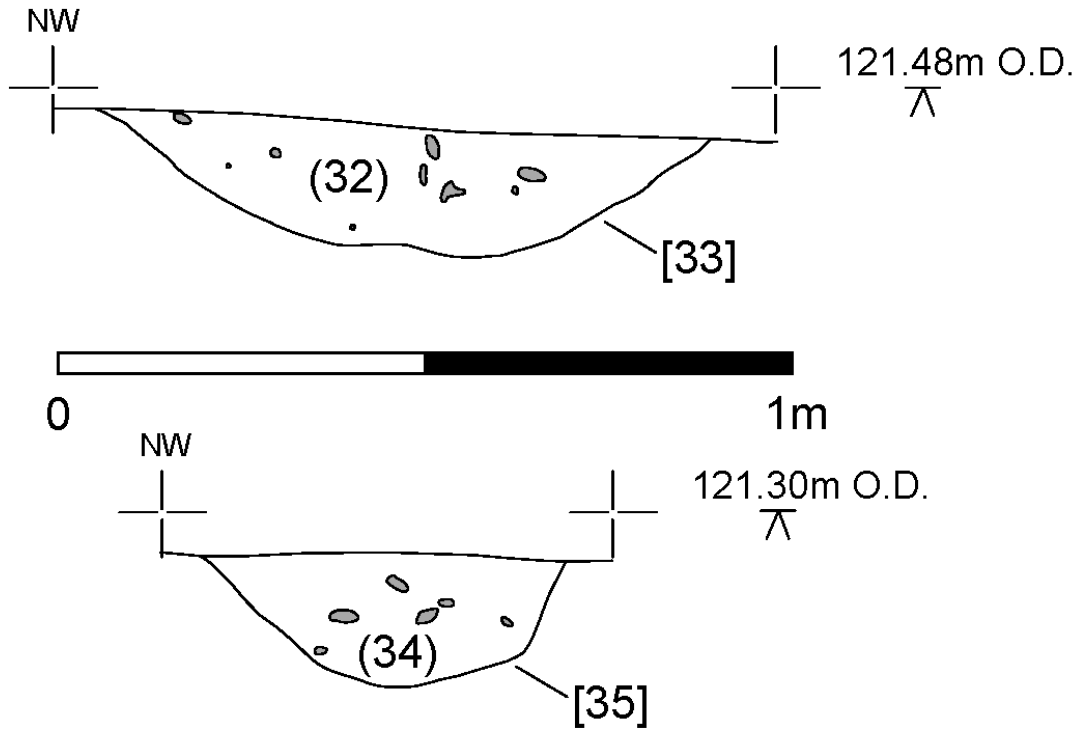


Figure 23: Sections of features in Trench 7

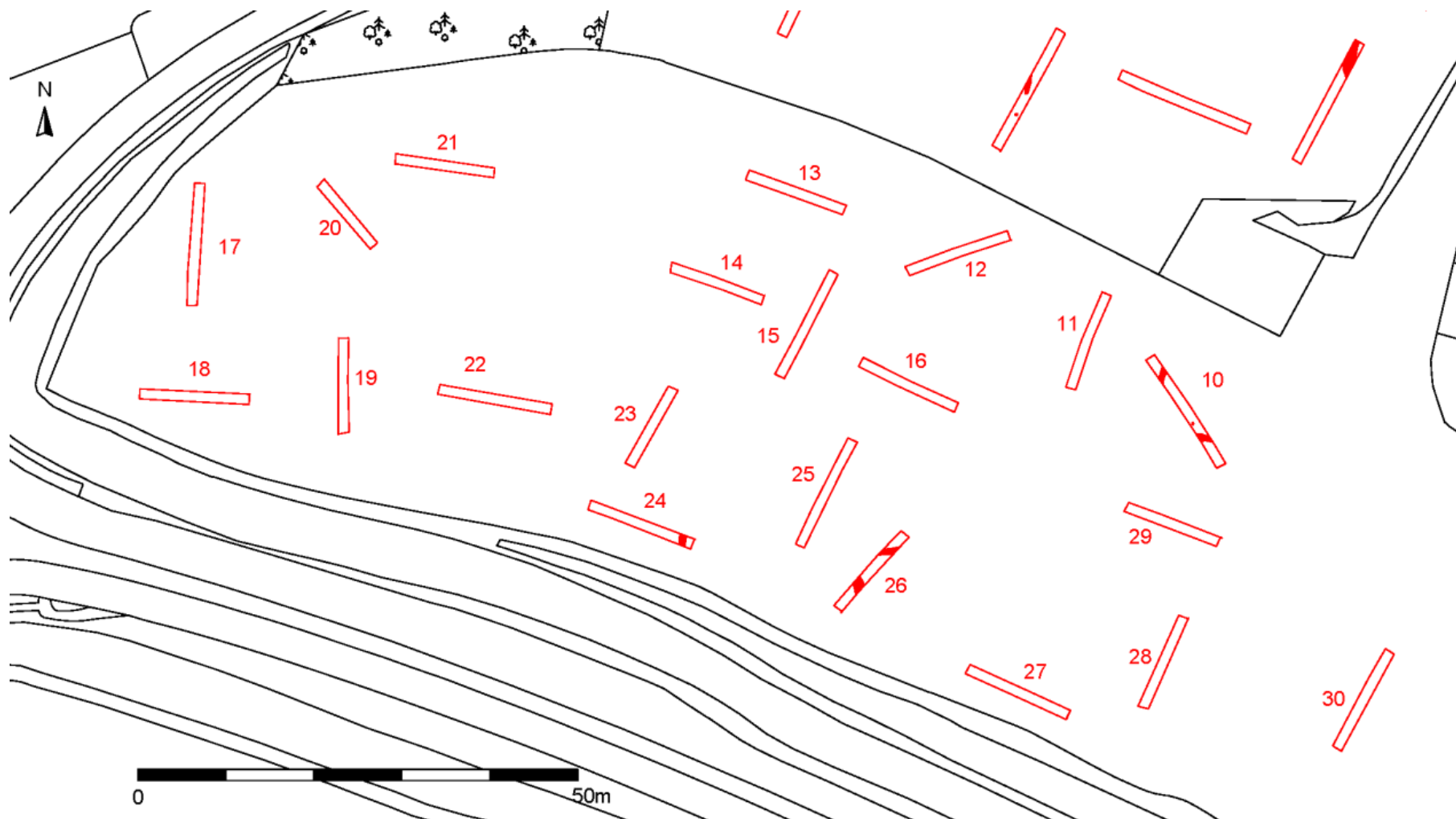


Figure 24: Field 2, features shaded

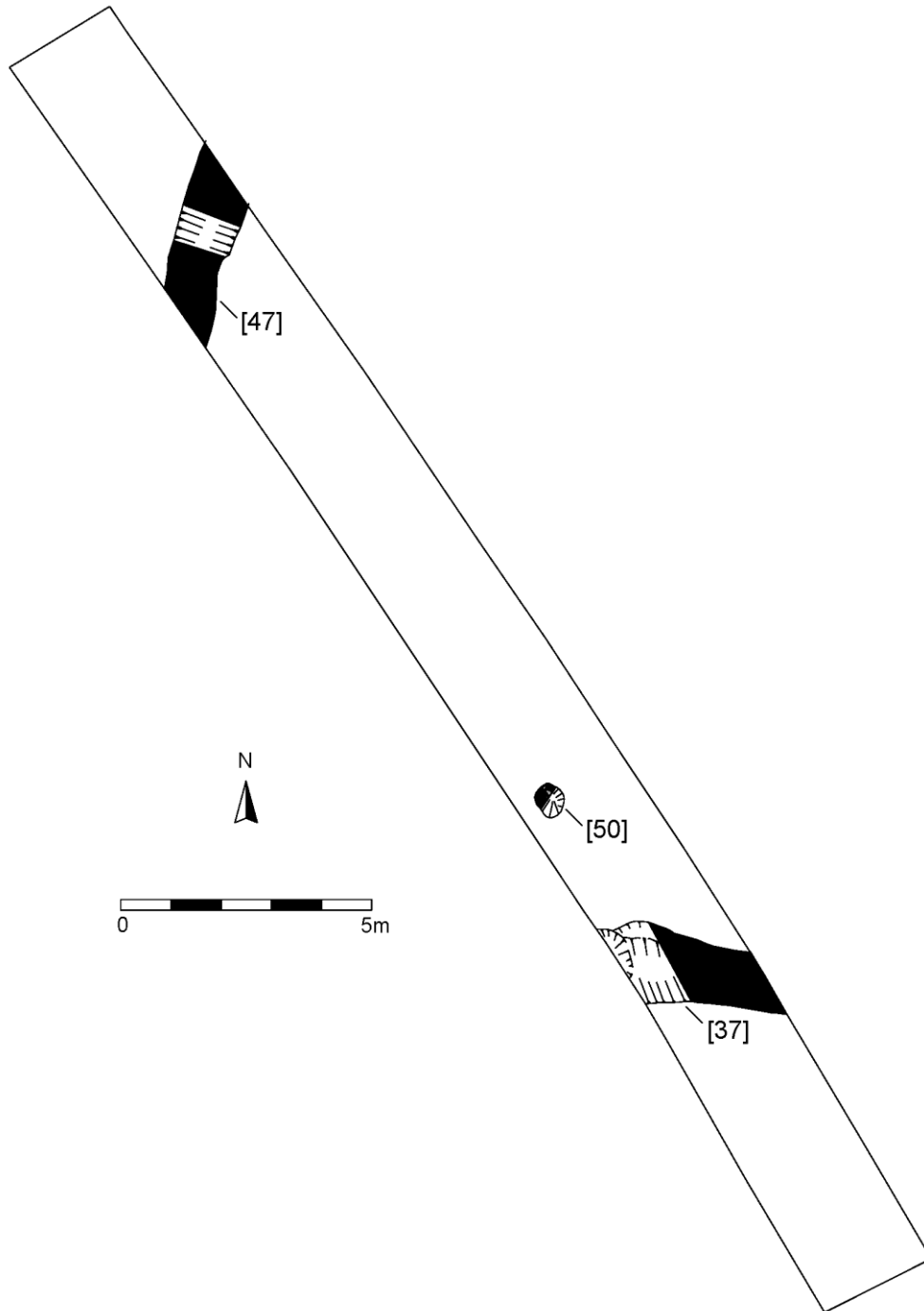


Figure 25: Plan of archaeological features in Trench 10

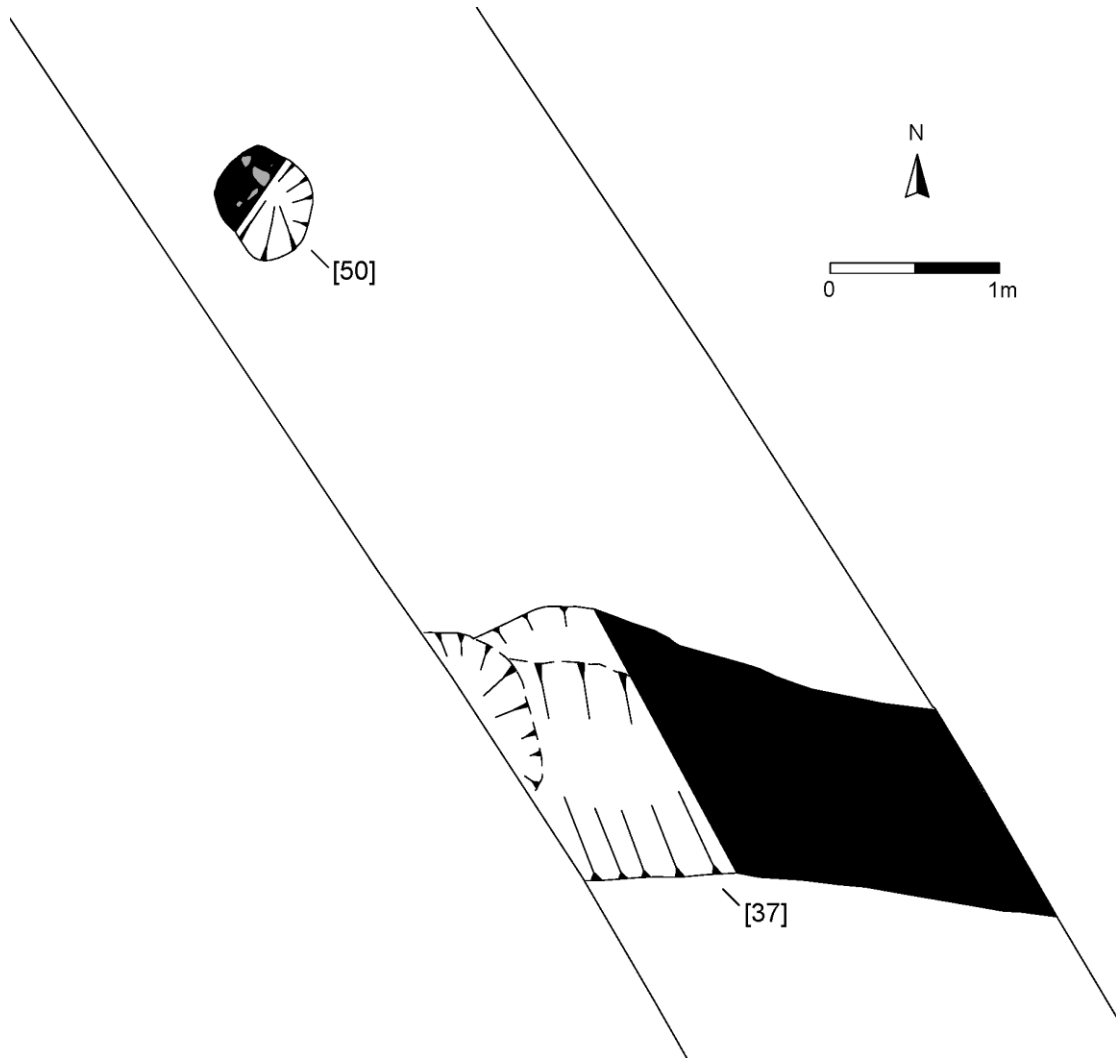


Figure 26: Detailed plan of features [37] and [50] in Trench 10

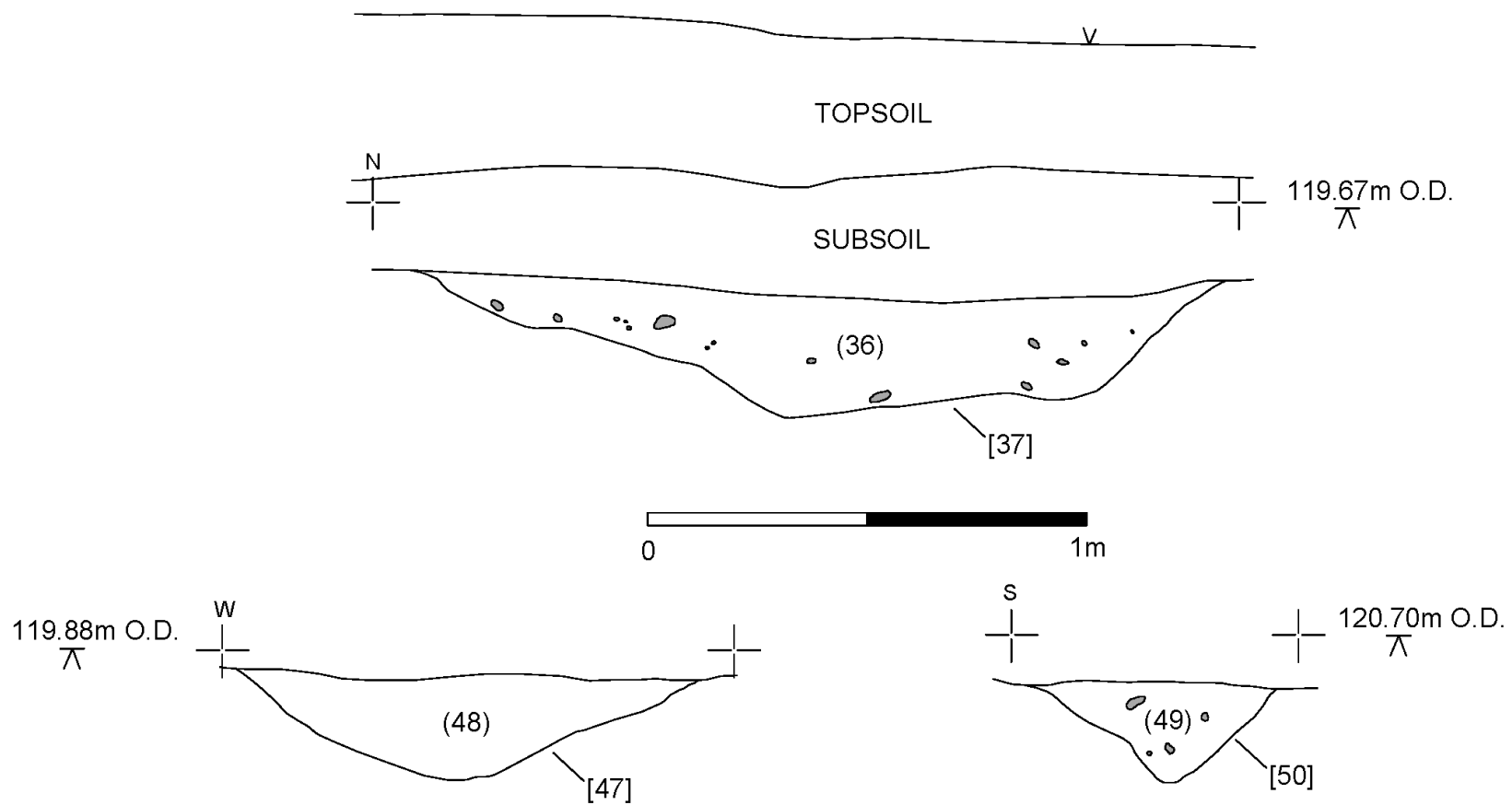


Figure 27: Sections of archaeological features in Trench 10

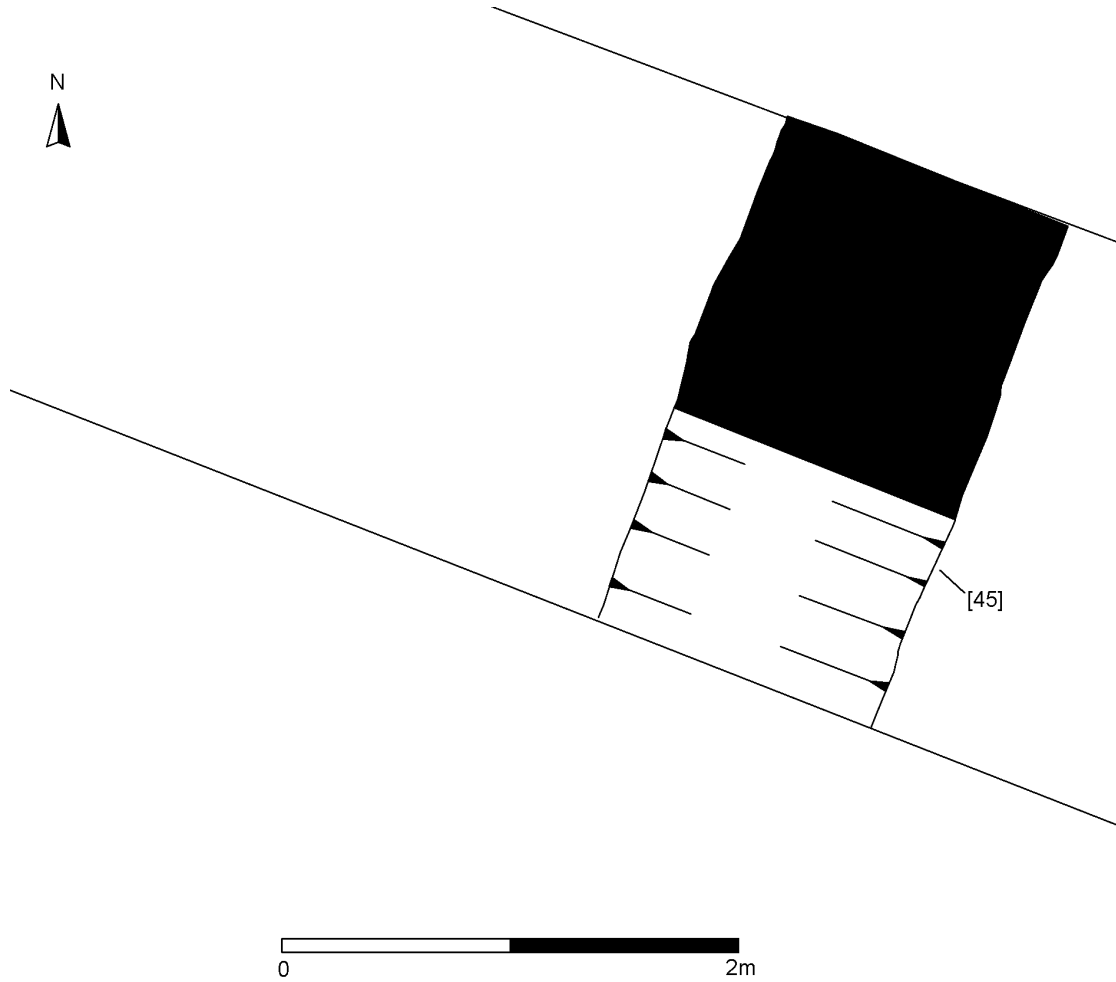


Figure 28: Plan of archaeological feature in Trench 24

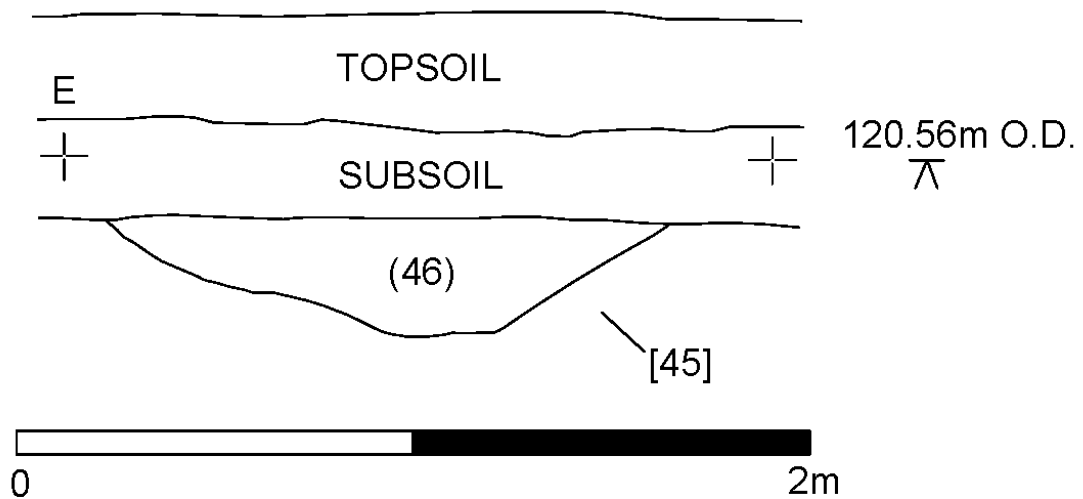


Figure 29: Section of archaeological feature in Trench 24

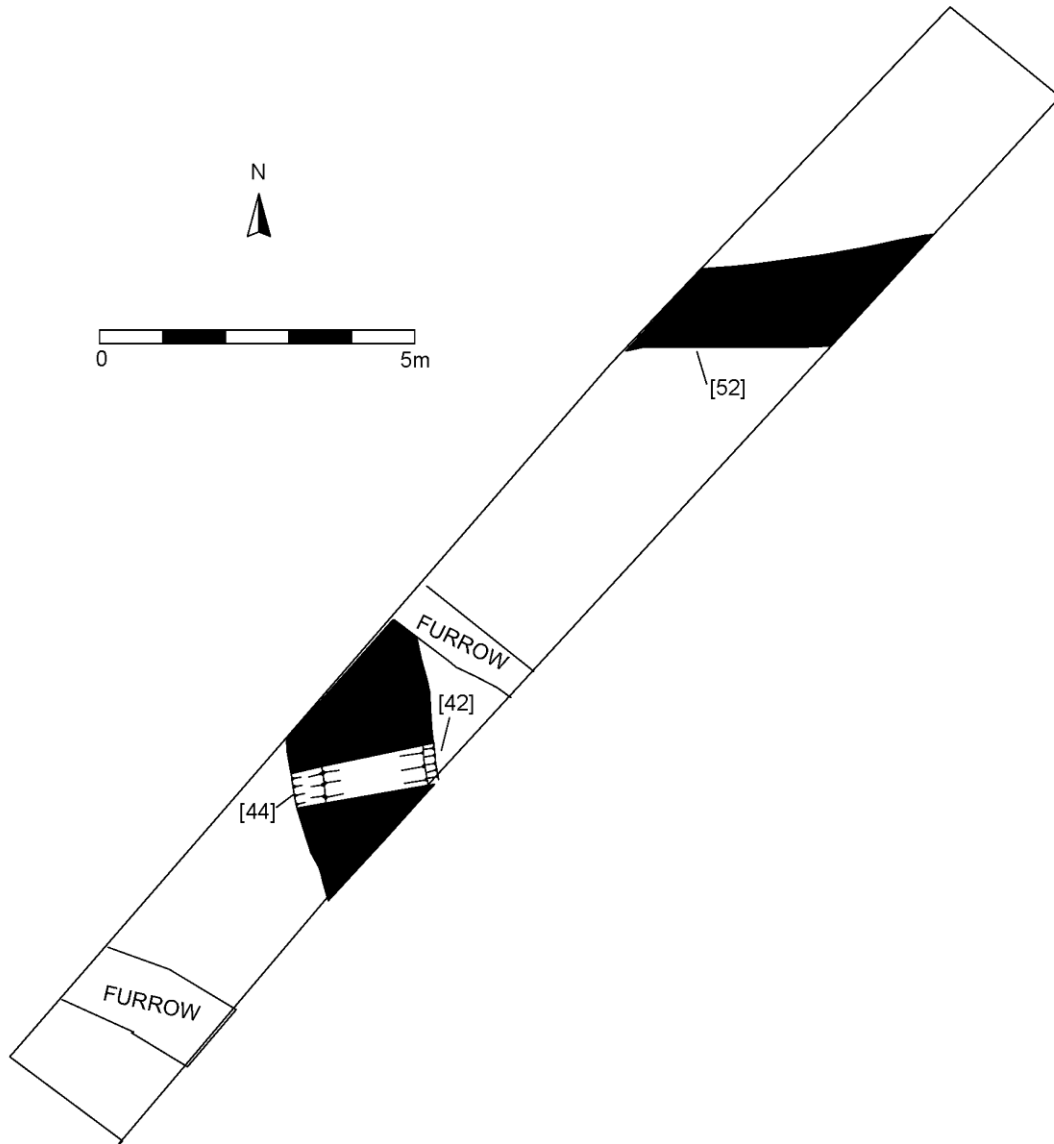


Figure 30: Plan and section of archaeological features in Trench 26

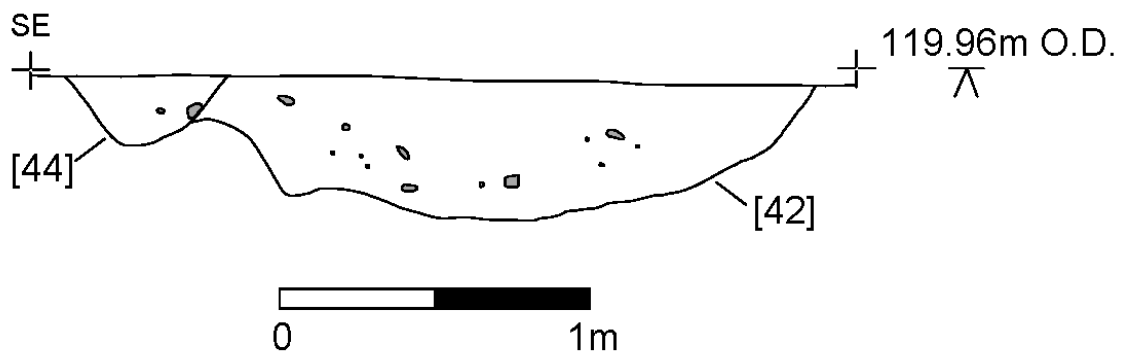


Figure 31: Section of archaeological feature in Trench 26

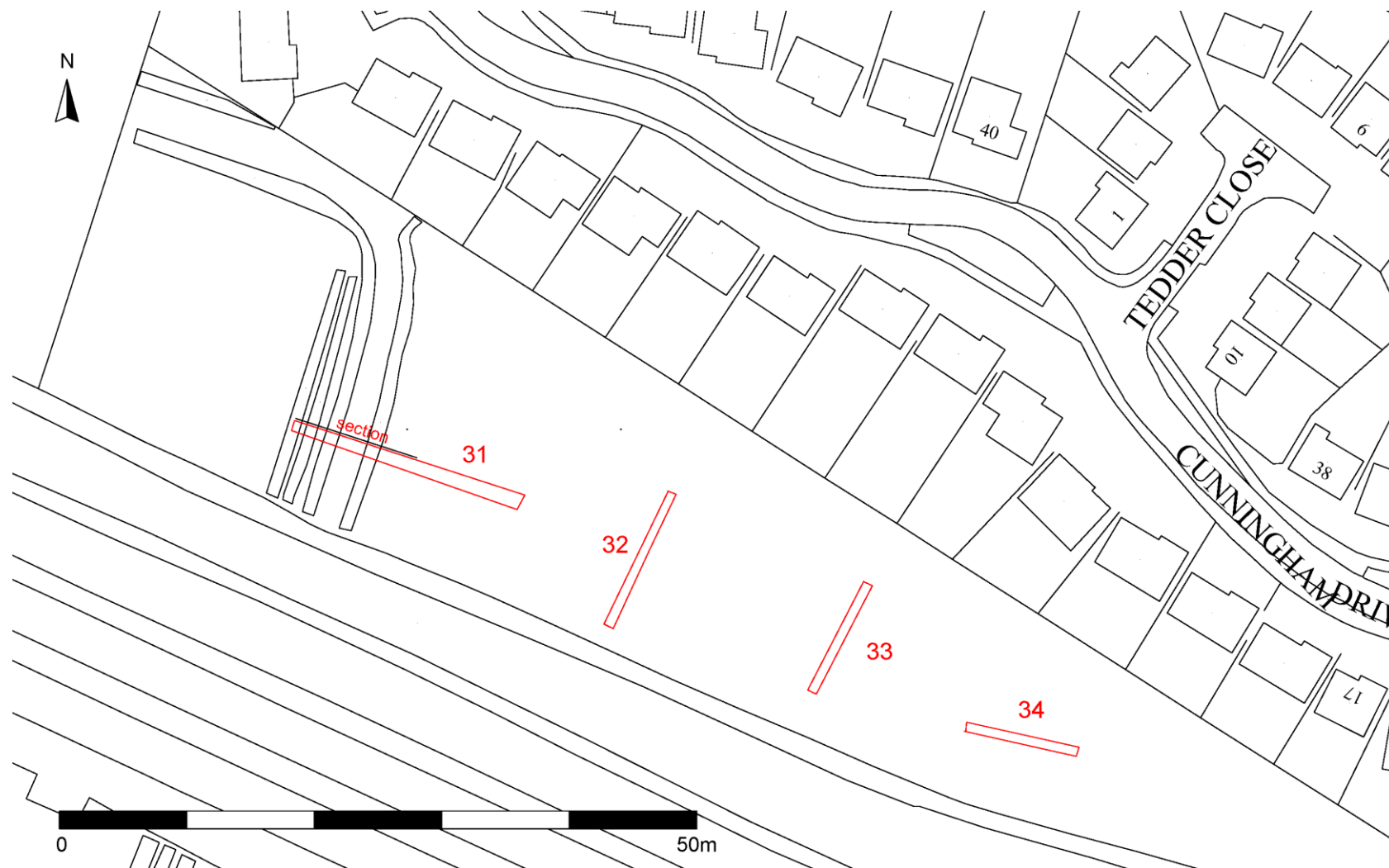


Figure 32: Field 3, showing location of section drawing in Trench 31, along with plan of earthwork

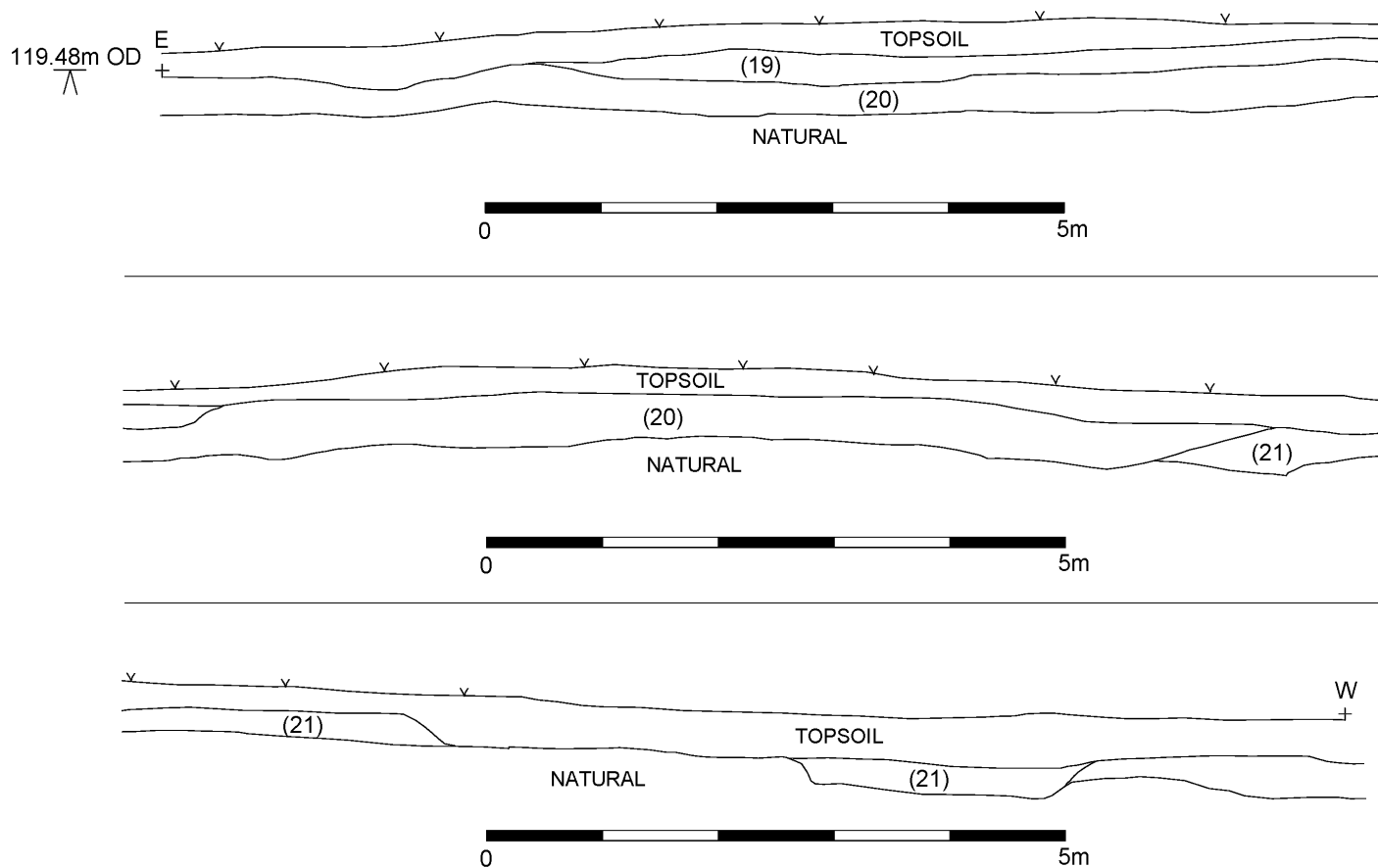


Figure 33: Section of archaeological feature in Trench 31. Note: this is a continuous section from the west-end, the drawing is broken up into three segments for visual ease



Figure 34: View of Trench 31 under excavation, note slope of bank. Looking west.



Figure 35: Detail of Ordnance Survey map showing the earthwork in Field 3.

Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25 000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

Appendix II: Trench Details & Context List

Trench Details

TRENCH	FIELD	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	CONTEXTS	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)	LEVEL OF ARCHAEOLOGY (metres above. O.D)
1	1	NNE-SSW	34.3 x 2.6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Enclosure ditch [7], two small gullys / ditches [2] and [4]	0.5-0.7	121.31
2	1	NW-SE	30 x 2.25	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.5-0.63	-
3	1	NW-SE	30 x 2.35	[8], (9), [13], (14), (15), [16], (17), [18], (22), (23), (24)	Enclosure ditch [16] and recut [18], two small gullys / ditches likely form a roundhouse [8] and [13]	0.47-0.65	121.29
4	1	NNE-SSW	33 x 2.35	[38], (39), (40)	Ditch [38]. Iron Age pottery.	0.35-0.5	121.49
5	1	NW-SE	33.5 x 2.35	(27), [28], (29), [30]	Ditch [28] and [30]	0.35-0.52	121.78
6	1	NNE-SSW	38.3 x 2.25	(10), [11], [25]	Ditch [11], furrow NE-SW	0.4-0.47	121.76
7	1	NNE-SSW	30 x 2.35	(32), [33], (34), [35]	Terminus of ditch [33], and pit / post-hole [35]	0.35-0.5	121.49
8	1	NW-SE	31 x 2.35	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.5-0.56	-
9	1	NNE-SSW	30 x 2.35	[51]	Ditch [51], unexcavated	0.35-0.43	120.77
10	2	NW-SE	28 x 2.4	(36), [37], [47], (48), (49), [50]	To ditches [37] and [47], also a small posthole [50]	0.44-0.63	120.17
11	2	NNE-SSW	24 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains at south-end orientated E-W	0.45-0.58	-
12	2	NE-SW	24 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.36-0.58	-
13	2	NW-SE	23x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.42-0.53	-
14	2	NW-SE	21 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.35-0.49	-
15	2	NNE-SSW	27 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Furrows E-W.	0.4-0.55	-
16	2	NW-SE	23 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drain N-S	0.41-0.52	-
17	2	NNE-SSW	25 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.34-0.46	-
18	2	NW-SE	24 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drain NW-SE.	0.35-0.47	-
19	2	NNE-SSW	20 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Furrows E-W	0.38-0.53	-
20	2	NW-SE	26 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.3-0.45	-
21	2	NW-SE	26 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.35-0.5	-
22	2	NW-SE	24 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drain N-S.	0.5-0.63	-
23	2	NNE-SSW	20 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drain N-S.	0.45-0.5	-
24	2	NW-SE	27 x 2.4	[45], (46)	N-S ditch. Furrow aligned E-W.	0.33-0.55	-
25	2	NNE-SSW	26 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.4-0.53	-
26	2	NNE-SSW	24 x 2.4	(41), [42], (43), [44]	Ditch confirms geophysical anomaly. Furrows aligned E-W	0.47-0.56	120.53
27	2	NW-SE	26 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Modern linear E-W parallel with edge.	0.44-0.55	-
28	2	NNE-SSW	23 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains or different orientations.	0.67-0.78	-
29	2	NW-SE	22 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or	0.61-0.8	-

					deposits.		
30	2	NNE-SSW	24 x 2.4	-	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.49-0.64	-
31	3	NW-SE	50 x 1.6	(19), (20), (21)	Excavated section through a bank and ditch of an enclosure cropmark. No finds.	0.46-0.99	119.49
32	3	NNE-SSW	30 x 1.6	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Furrows E-W	0.6-0.85	-
33	3	NNE-SSW	28 x 1.6	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Furrows E-W	0.4-0.65	-
34	3	NW-SE	30 x 1.6	-	No archaeological finds or deposits. Furrow E-W	0.45-0.6	-

Context List

CONTEXT	CUT	BELOW	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	FINDS?
1	2		1	Gully fill	Burnt daub with wattle perforation
2		1	1	Gully cut	-
3	4		1	Gully fill	Two sherds of mid to late Iron Age pottery
4	4	3	1	Gully cut	-
5	7		1	Enclosure ditch fill	None
6		5	1	Enclosure ditch fill	6 sherds of mid to late Iron Age pottery
7		12	1	Enclosure ditch cut, same as [16]. Seen on geophysical survey.	-
8		9	3	Gully cut, possibly a roundhouse, same as (14). seen on geophysical survey. Same as [13].	None
9	8		3	Gully fill.	11 sherds of mid to late Iron Age pottery. Saddle quern fragment. Two worked flints
10	11		6	Ditch fill	85 sherds of Roman pottery from 8 vessels, mainly 2nd to 4th century AD. Roman roof tile fragment. Fragment of coal. Large mammal and cattle bone.
11			6	Ditch cut	None
12	7		1	Ditch fill	None
13	13		3	Gully cut. Probably a roundhouse seen on geophysical survey. Same as [7].	-
14	13		3	Gully fill, probably a roundhouse, same as (8).	Animal bone
15	16		3	Enclosure ditch fill.	None
16			3	Enclosure ditch cut, same as [7], seen on geophysical survey.	-
17	18		3	Enclosure ditch fill.	Two worked flints
18		22	3	Enclosure ditch recut.	-
19			31	Excavated section through a bank and ditch of an enclosure cropmark.	None

20			31	Excavated section through a bank and ditch of an enclosure cropmark.	None
21			31	Excavated section through a bank and ditch of an enclosure cropmark.	None
22	18		3	Enclosure ditch fill.	None
23	16		3	Enclosure ditch fill.	None
24	16		3	Enclosure ditch fill.	None
25		26	6	Furrow cut	-
26	25		6	Furrow fill	None
27	28		5	Ditch fill	One sherd of 2nd to 4th century AD Roman pottery. Animal bone.
28		27	5	Ditch cut	-
29	30		5	Ditch fill	None
30		29	5	Ditch cut	-
31	28		5	Ditch fill	None
32	33		7	Ditch terminus fill	None
33		32	7	Ditch terminus cut	-
34	35		7	Post-hole fill	None
35		34	7	Post-hole cut	-
36	37		10	Ditch fill	None
37		36	10	Ditch cut	-
38		39	4	Ditch cut	-
39	38	40	4	Ditch lower fill	None
40	38		4	Ditch upper fill	40 sherds of mid to late Iron Age pottery. Animal bone.
41	42		26	Ditch fill.	None
42		41	26	Ditch cut confirms geophysical anomaly.	-
43	44		26	Gully fill	None
44		43	26	Gully cut, confirms geophysical anomaly.	-
45		46	24	N-S ditch cut	-
46	45		24	N-S ditch fill	7 sherds of 2nd to 4th century AD Roman pottery.
47		48	10	Ditch cut	-
48	47		10	Ditch fill	None
49	50	SUB	10	small posthole fill	None
50		49	10	small posthole cut	-
51			9	Ditch, same as Trench 1 and 3, unexcavated	-
52			26	Ditch, same as [42], unexcavated	-

Appendix III: Finds Reports

This appendix contains the finds and environmental plant remains reports.

The Iron Age Pottery *Nicholas J Cooper*

Introduction

A total of 44 sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery weighing 212g was retrieved from four contexts.

Methodology

The pottery has been analysed by form and fabric using the ULAS/Leicestershire County Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011, 62, Table 1), with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Groups Guidelines (PCRG 1992), and quantified by sherd count and weight.

Analysis of Assemblage by Fabric, Form and Decoration

Table 1: Quantified record of Iron Age pottery

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	Date
3		S2	jar	scored	2	10	M-L Iron Age
6	7	S2	jar	scored	6	36	M-L Iron Age
9	8	S2	jar	scored	11	34	M-L Iron Age
40	38	S2	jar	scored	25	132	M-L Iron Age
Total					44	212	

Table 1 illustrates that the assemblage from the four contexts consistently occurs in a sandy fabric with shell tempering (Fabric S2) which is the most common fabric type in southern and eastern parts of Leicestershire as well as in Northamptonshire and Rutland (Cooper 2000). All of the sherds have scored decoration, and the single rim from (40) is of an upright, flattened form and clearly comes from a slack shouldered jar typical of East Midlands scored ware assemblages across the region from the 4th century BC to the earlier 1st century AD (Elsdon 1992, 85, Fig.1.6). The fact that all the vessels are scored probably points to a date in the Late Iron Age.

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Leicester: University of Leicester, School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

The Roman Pottery

Nicholas J Cooper

Introduction

A total of 93 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 196g was recovered from three contexts, the majority from context (10) [11]. The material was classified using the ULAS/Leicestershire Roman pottery form and fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight. The full record is presented below (Table 2).

Results

Table 2: Quantified record of Roman pottery

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	Date
10	11	samian	misc	misc	2	2	L1st-2nd
10	11	C2NV	beaker/jug	HPM 63?	9	146	4th cent
10	11	MO4	mortarium	reeded rim	1	25	L3rd-4th
10	11	GW5	jar	necked	2	10	2nd-4th
10	11	GW4	jar	necked	5	20	M2nd-L3rd
10	11	CG1B	jar	square bead	10	47	L3rd-4th
10	11	GW9	jar	misc	24	122	2nd-4th
10	11	BB1	jar	HB 20.1	32	137	L3rd-4th
27	28	GW5	jar	necked bead	1	15	2nd-4th
46	45	GW5	jar	misc	7	40	2nd-4th
Total					93	564	

Dating

The assemblage from (10) [11] is quite closely dateable to the Later 3rd or 4th century, although some residual material such as the samian sherds are apparent. The material is consistently abraded and so was probably exposed on the surface, perhaps in a midden, for some time before incorporation into the feature. However, a number of diagnostic forms occur which demonstrate a consistently later Roman date including the base of thick-bodied beaker or jug in Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric C2NV) (Howe *et al.* 1980 no.63), a reeded rim mortarium from the Mancetter-Hartshill kilns (Fabric MO4), not far from the site, and a south-east Dorset BB1 cooking pot with obtuse lattice decoration (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 103 and fig.29 form 20.1). The group also included a jar from the Harrold shell-tempered industry in Bedfordshire (Fabric CG1B) with a squared bead, again demonstrating a fairly distant connection, and tending to confirm the later Roman date. The other two contexts (27) and (46) only contained grey ware (Fabric GW5) jar sherds and are not closely dateable, though if they are in close proximity to (10), a later Roman date is probably likely, taking into account their abraded condition.

Reference

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- Pollard, R., 1994 The Iron Age and Roman Pottery in P. Clay and R. Pollard *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester; Excavations 1962-71*, 51-114. Leicester: Leicestershire County Council, Museums, Arts and Records Service.

Fired Clay *Nicholas J Cooper*

Introduction

A total of two fragments of fired clay was recovered from context (1) and are detailed in the table below (Table 3).

Results

Table 3: Fired clay

Context	Cut	Count	Weight	Description
1	2	2	10	burnt daub with wattle perforation

Discussion

One of the fragments bore part of a perforation indicating a wattle and daub structure in the vicinity which was subsequently burnt.

Roman Building Materials *Nicholas J Cooper*

Introduction

An assemblage of two fragments of building material came from (10) [11] and are detailed in the following table (Table 4)

Results

Table 4: quantified record of building materials

Context	Cut	Fabric	Type	Count	Weight	Date
10	11	sandy	tegula	2	48	L3rd-4th

Discussion

The occurrence of roof tile fragments would indicate the existence of a stone founded building in the vicinity with a tiled roof.

Introduction

A single fragment of coal was recovered from context (10) [11] as detailed in Table 5

Results

Table 5: Record of coal

Context	Cut	Count	Weight	Date
10	11	1	3	L3rd-4th

Discussion

This single occurrence is a rather tentative indication that some high temperature activities, rather than simply domestic heating was taking place.

Introduction

A total of four pieces of worked flint was recovered as detailed in Table 6 below.

Results

Table 6: record of flint recovered from the site.

Context	Cut	Description
9	8	two secondary flakes
17	18	two secondary flakes

Discussion

The groups represents a rather undiagnostic collection with a broad Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

Small find 1 (9) [8] is a broken fragment from a saddle quern, made from a fine-grained piece of sandstone. The fragment measures *c.*230mm x 105mm x 75mm thick and weighs *c.*3.5kg. It is difficult to estimate the complete size and shape of the object from the rather irregular fragment that remains but probably half of the original artefact is represented. There is some evidence for limited and crude shaping but overall, the natural shape of the stone appears to have been utilised. The working surface is slightly concave and was originally prepared by pecking. This has been worn smooth through use, particularly noticeable around the other edges, and is

slightly concave. This quern fragment was found in association with a probable roundhouse of Iron Age date and the style of quern would be in keeping with this suggested period of use.

The Animal Bone Jennifer Browning

Introduction and Dating

The animal bones recovered during hand-excavation during an evaluation at Leader's Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, were assessed to evaluate preservation and variety and therefore provide an indication of the faunal potential, should the site progress to excavation. The bones were recovered from features of Iron Age and Roman date.

The Assemblage: Preservation and Composition

The sample consists of 232 fragments from four different features, provisionally dated to the Iron Age and Roman period. The presence of a number of joining fragments reduced the total to 216 (table 7). Surface condition was briefly assessed by context, following Harland et al (2003) and was found to range from good to poor. However, the assemblage is particularly fragmented and both new and old breaks were observed. The frequency of bones attributed to a large mammal (not identifiable to a higher level) is indicative of extensive fragmentation and also points to a likely bias towards the survival of the bones of the larger species. No bones from small creatures, such as fish, birds or small mammals, were recovered. However, if present, these could be retrieved through the adoption of an appropriate sampling strategy during excavation.

Cattle were positively identified in the assemblage (table 1), with teeth, a mandible and long-bones such as humerus, radius and metapodial fragments surviving. The presence of shaft fragments from medium sized animals indicates that sheep and pigs are likely to have been present on the site although no diagnostic fragments were recovered during this intervention. Despite the preservational issues, fine cut marks were noted on some bones indicating that the assemblage could potentially provide information on modifications such as butchery, gnawing and pathologies. Teeth and some epiphyses were recovered, suggesting that there is also some potential to investigate animal husbandry.

Table 7: Summary of bones recovered from each feature (Key: indet. = indeterminate)

Provisional date	Feature	Count	Context	Condition	Cattle	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Indet.	Total
Roman	ditch	11	10	good	4	44			48
Iron Age	roundhouse gully	14	13	poor		3	4	84	91
Roman	ditch	28	27	poor	1	34			35
Roman	ditch	28	27	fair		34			34
Iron Age	ditch	38	40	good	3	3	1		7
Iron Age	ditch	38	40	fair			1		1
Total					8	118	6	84	216

Archaeological Potential

Despite the growing number of Iron Age sites in the region, the recovery of environmental remains and animal bones is a research priority for environmental archaeology in the East Midlands (Monckton 2006, 272), as many sites have produced relatively small and poorly preserved animal bone assemblages. Larger assemblages in the wider landscape recovered from sites at Crick (Hammon 1998), Enderby (Gouldwell 1991) Humberstone, Leicester (Charles 2000; Browning 2011), have helped shed further light on animal husbandry, butchery, cultural practices and diet within the region and would provide useful comparison. The importance of rural Roman assemblages from the region must be particularly emphasised, as these are currently very rare and study of the rural economy has been identified as a gap in current knowledge (Monckton 2006, 277). The variable condition of the bones could potentially limit the type of information that the assemblage could provide if, for example, epiphyses and butchery marks are not frequently preserved. However, the recovery of a larger sample could still provide valuable information to aid investigation into the use of animal resources in these under-represented periods.

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Assessment of Potential for Environmental Analysis

Anita Radini

Introduction

A site evaluation was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth. Ten soil samples were taken for the recovery

of archaeobiological evidence from gullies and ditches. All the samples were assessed for potential of environmental analysis. Volume of soil sampled is shown in table 8.

Materials and Methods

Samples 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, were processed in a sieving tank with 0.5mm mesh and flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The remaining samples, which appeared to be green in color and consisted of fine clay and small gravels, were sub-sampled in volumes of 2.5 litres of soil. Each sub-sample was wet sieved by bucket-flot into a 0.3mm mesh sieve, in order to increase the chances of retrieving small ecofacts. All flots retrieved were scanned for visible presence of charred plant remains (such as charcoal fragments and flecks), animal bone fragments, and any other biological remains such as insects or snails.

Table 8: Environmental sample details

Sample	Context	Cut	Feature	Volume L
1	14	13	gully	6
2	9	8	gully	7
3	17	18	ditch	8
4	15	16	ditch	7
5	27	28	ditch	7
6	32	33	gully	8
7	36	37	gully	6.5
8	39	38	ditch	8
9	40	38	ditch	7
10	41	42	ditch	6

Results and Discussion

Overall, the archaeobotanical assemblage was very poor. A few charcoals flecks were recovered only from sample 3 (17). The fragments were very small and no identification was possible. Moreover, no relevant 'ecofact' was retrieved in any of the other samples. A few very small rootlet fragments were present in sample 1 (14) and 3 (17), suggesting a degree of soil disturbance.

Conclusion

It is possible to state that the samples were unproductive, with some possibly intrusive charcoal flecks resulting from soil shifting on site in the past. Therefore no further work is required.

Despite the assemblage being very poor, soil conditions can vary largely across site and it is important that in any future excavation an appropriate sampling strategy is adopted.

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