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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological
Strip, Map & Sample
excavation on land at
Boulton Moor,
Chellaston Lane,
Elvaston, Derbyshire
(Phases 1 & 2)
(SK 396 331)**

Leon Hunt and
James Patrick



ULAS Report No.2016-172
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**An Archaeological Strip, Map and
Sample excavation on land at
Boulton Moor, Chellaston Lane,
Elvaston, Derbyshire (Phases 1 & 2) (SK 396 331)**

**Leon Hunt
James Patrick**

for

Persimmon Homes Ltd

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An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation on land at Boulton Moor, Chellaston Lane, Elvaston, Derbyshire (Phases 1 & 2) (SK 396 331).

Leon Hunt and James Patrick

Summary

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out at Boulton Moor, Chellaston Lane, Elvaston, Derbyshire (NGR: SK 396 331).

The work was in two phases (Phases 1 & 2) and followed on from two separate phases of evaluations, which took place in 2014.

Phase 1 of the strip, plan and sample took place in 2014 and consisted of the monitoring of the stripping of an area in advance of a new road. Phase 2 took place in 2016 and consisted of the stripping of a small area on the southern edge of the site.

Much of the land had already been developed before Phase 1 of the strip, plan and sample could be completed and Phase 2 of the excavations took place when most of the newer area had also been mostly developed.

The evaluations in 2014 had revealed archaeological remains of Iron Age date, including pits and gullies and most significantly part of a pit alignment running north-west to south-east across the site.

Phase 1 of the strip, plan and sample work revealed further gullies, some with large amounts of Iron Age pottery within their fills. There were also a number of pits, similar to those revealed in the evaluation, but on a slightly different alignment. However, these may represent part of the same pit alignment and the fills contained similar early Iron Age pottery.

Much of the archaeology was very shallow and had been truncated by later ploughing.

Phase 2 took place close to where undated, but possibly related gullies and pits were discovered, along with a large unidentified feature, possibly a pond or large pit that contained Romano-British pottery.

Unfortunately, due to the area being almost completely developed, only a small area could be examined. This was negative for archaeological features.

The archive for the work will be deposited with Derby County Museums with accession number DBYMU: 2014.8.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation during ground-works at Boulton Moor, Chellaston Lane, Elvaston, Derbyshire (Phases 1 & 2) (NGR: SK 396 331).

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment and was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by South Derbyshire District Council for housing development by Persimmon Homes Ltd.

The Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the area around the southern part of Derby is rich in prehistoric archaeology, with two scheduled sites close to the assessment area, including the Swarkestone Lows barrow cemetery, which lies around 2.5km south-west of Boulton Moor.

A geophysical survey had been undertaken in 2003 but with inconclusive results (GSB Propection 2003). An archaeological evaluation carried out by ULAS in 2014 on Phase 1 of the new development located a number of Iron Age features including a pit alignment (Hunt 2014a). Further trial trenching in 2014 on Phase 2 of the development revealed a number of undated features, including pits and ditches plus a large possible pond feature, from which Roman pottery was retrieved (Hunt 2014b).

Site Location, Geology and Topography

Boulton Moor lies to the south-east of Derby. The evaluation focuses on the very north-eastern part of this area, which consists of parts of two large fields, both of which lie in the Elvaston parish on the western side of the new section of Snelsmoor Lane (Figures 1 & 2).

The site consisted of arable land, under stubble at the time of the evaluation, of 9.2 hectares. The land is flat and lies at a height of 45m aOD.

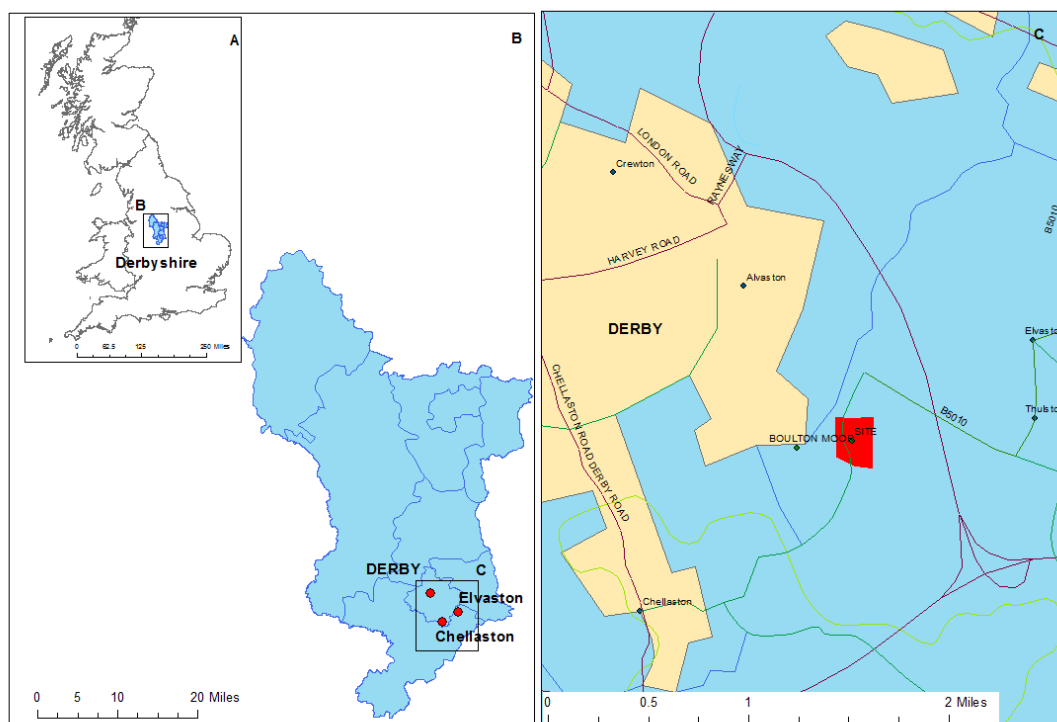


Figure 1: Site Location

The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying geology of the area is likely to be Branscombe Mudstone Formation, overlain by sand and gravel in the northern part of the site (Allenton Terrace Deposit), by Head (a combination of sand and gravel, silt and clay) towards the centre and south of the site and by Oadby Member Diamicton in the very south of the site.

The development proposal was for housing across most of the site, with new access from Snelsmoor Lane (Figure 3). Phase 1 consisted of the northern part of the

application area and Phase 2 consisted of the southern part. By the time of the strip, plan and sample excavation of Phase 1, the eastern part of Phase 1 was mostly completed. At the time of Phase 2 strip, plan and sample the vast majority of the development had been completed.

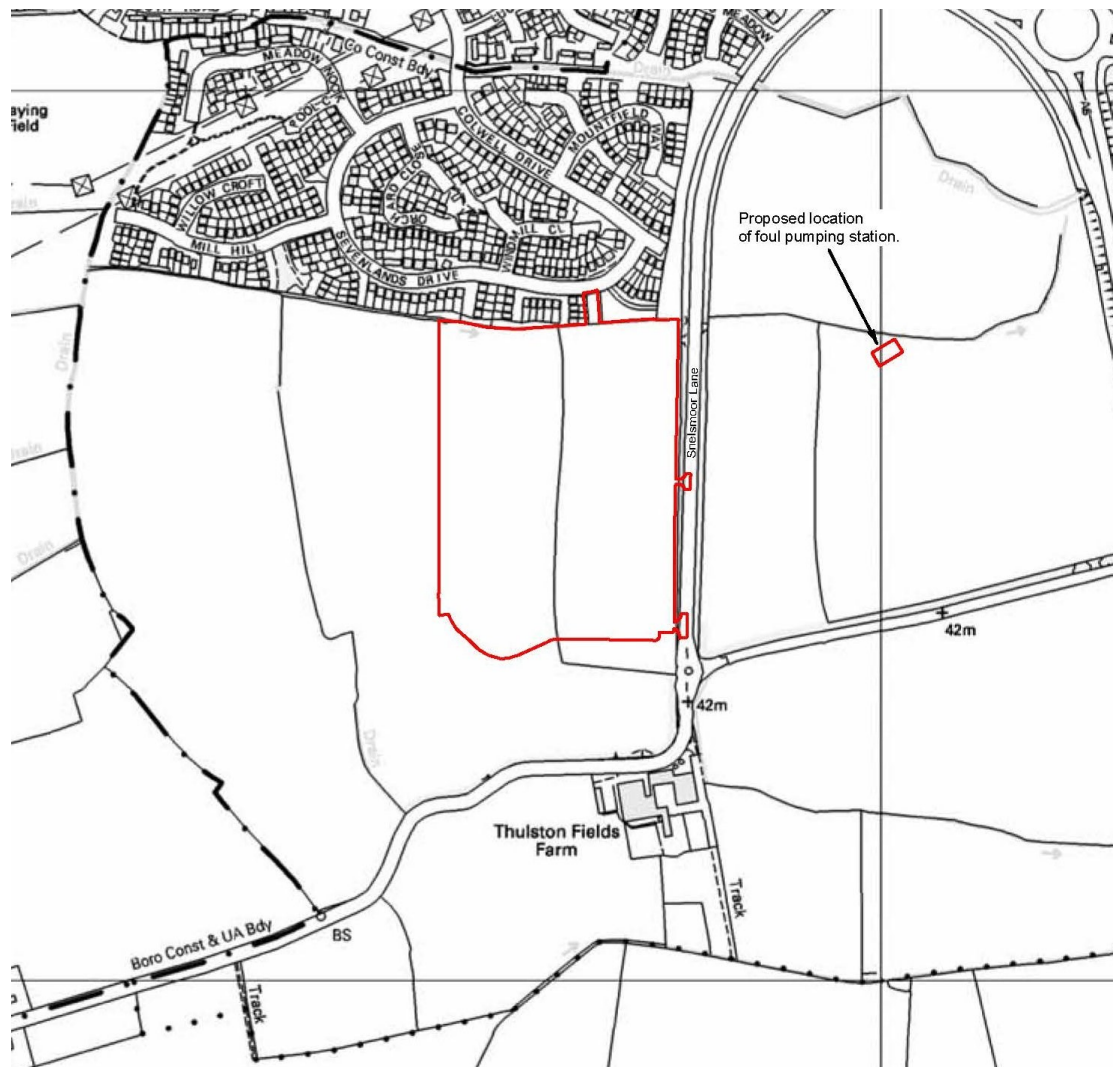


Figure 2: Proposed development area (Provided by Persimmon Homes Ltd)

Historical & Archaeological Background

The archaeological sites recorded by the Historic and Environment Record (HER) for Derbyshire show the southern area of Derby rich in Prehistoric remains with two scheduled sites close to the assessment area. These show the Swarkestone Lows Barrow cemetery situated approximately 2.5 kilometres south-west of Boulton Moor.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 consisted of parts of two large fields, effectively divided into four separate areas (Fields 1-4). Fields 1 and 2 in the northern part of the site (Phase 1) were evaluated in 2014 with the excavation of 24 30m x 2m trenches (Hunt

2014a). A further trench was placed on another area to the east of the site at the proposed site of a new pumping station.

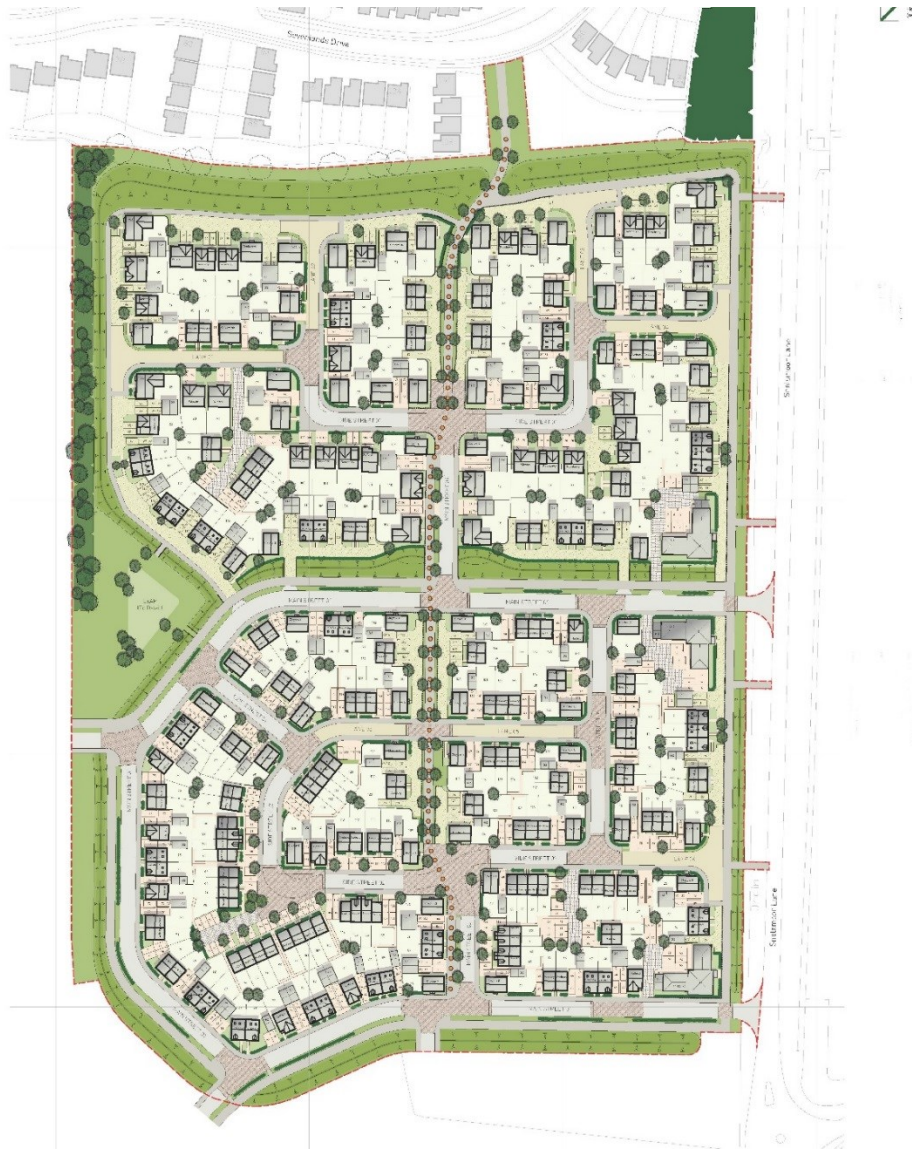


Figure 3: Plan of development proposal

The trenches within Field 1 at the eastern end of the site, plus the single trench on the eastern side of Snelsmoor Lane were negative for archaeological features.

However, archaeological features were found in six trenches in Field 2, and a further three small test pits were dug to follow the line of an apparent pit alignment. A number of small pits, post-holes and gullies were discovered broadly lying in the south-western side of Field 2 (to the west), defined by the pit alignment, which appeared to run from the north-west corner of the site towards the south-east. Pit alignments are normally dated to the Later Bronze Age or Iron Age. There were also medieval furrows present in most of the trenches.

The Phase 2 evaluation consisted of 27 further trenches, placed across the two southern areas (Fields 3 & 4) (Hunt 2014b). Archaeology was discovered in five trenches, mainly those in the southern part of the two fields. The features consisted of large and medium sized pits, gullies, ditches and a large feature, possibly a very

large pit or pond. All the features, apart from the 'pond' were negative for finds. Two sherds of (Roman?) pottery were recovered from the 'pond' feature. There were also furrows present in most trenches.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the strip plan and sample excavation are:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground-works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground-works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev.2014) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (rev. 2014).

A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other ground-works by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works.

During both phases of work the excavations were carried out by a large tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket, and the spoil was removed by dumper trucks.

The upper soils were stripped to the height of the archaeological remains or to the natural sub-stratum. Archaeological remains were excavated and cleaned by hand.

Results

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the strip plan and sample excavation consisted of the supervision of an area strip at the southern edge of Field 2, in advance of the construction of a road. This was carried out between 28th – 31st July 2014. This work was close to where much of the archaeological remains were discovered during the initial evaluation (Figure 4).

The excavated area measured approximately 130m by 18m and was broadly rectangular oriented east to west. The area had already been stripped of topsoil to a depth of between 20-30cm. This was reduced further by between 10-20cm to expose the archaeological deposits.

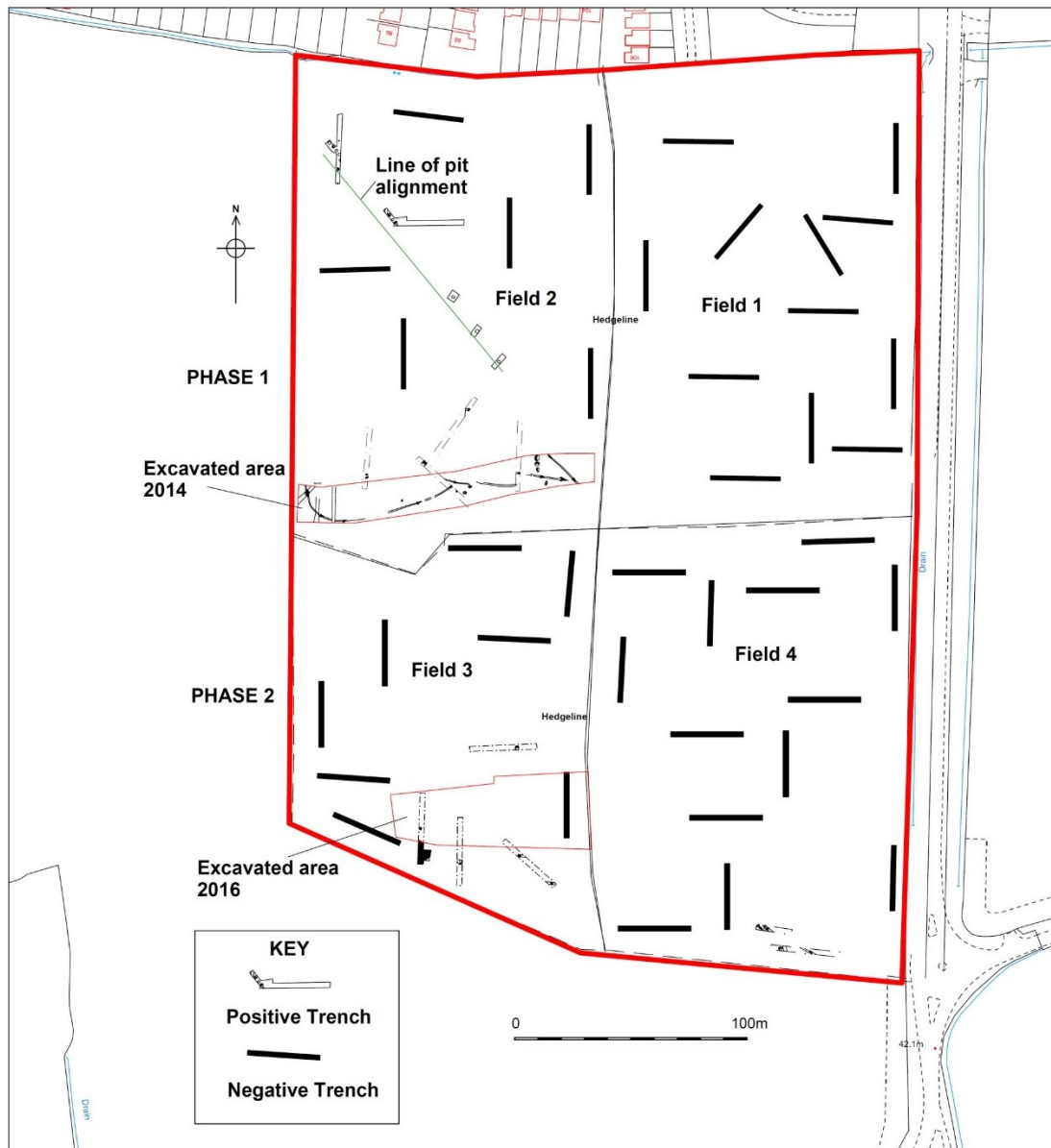


Figure 4: Plan of Boulton Moor archaeological investigations, showing trenches and location of strip, plan and sample areas

Eastern section

At the southern end of the stripped area were a number of linear and discrete features along with the remains of Trench 16 from the Phase 1 evaluation (Figure 5).

A narrow linear gully, running north-west to south-east lay at the edge of the area [36]. This was 17.6m long and between 0.33m and 0.5m wide, with moderate to steep sides and a curved flattish base at between 0.11m and 0.20m depth (Figure 6a & 6b).

The fill (37) was a yellowish brown sandy silty-clay with frequent small rounded pebbles but no other inclusions or finds. The gully lay on a very similar alignment to the pits in the Phase 1 evaluation.

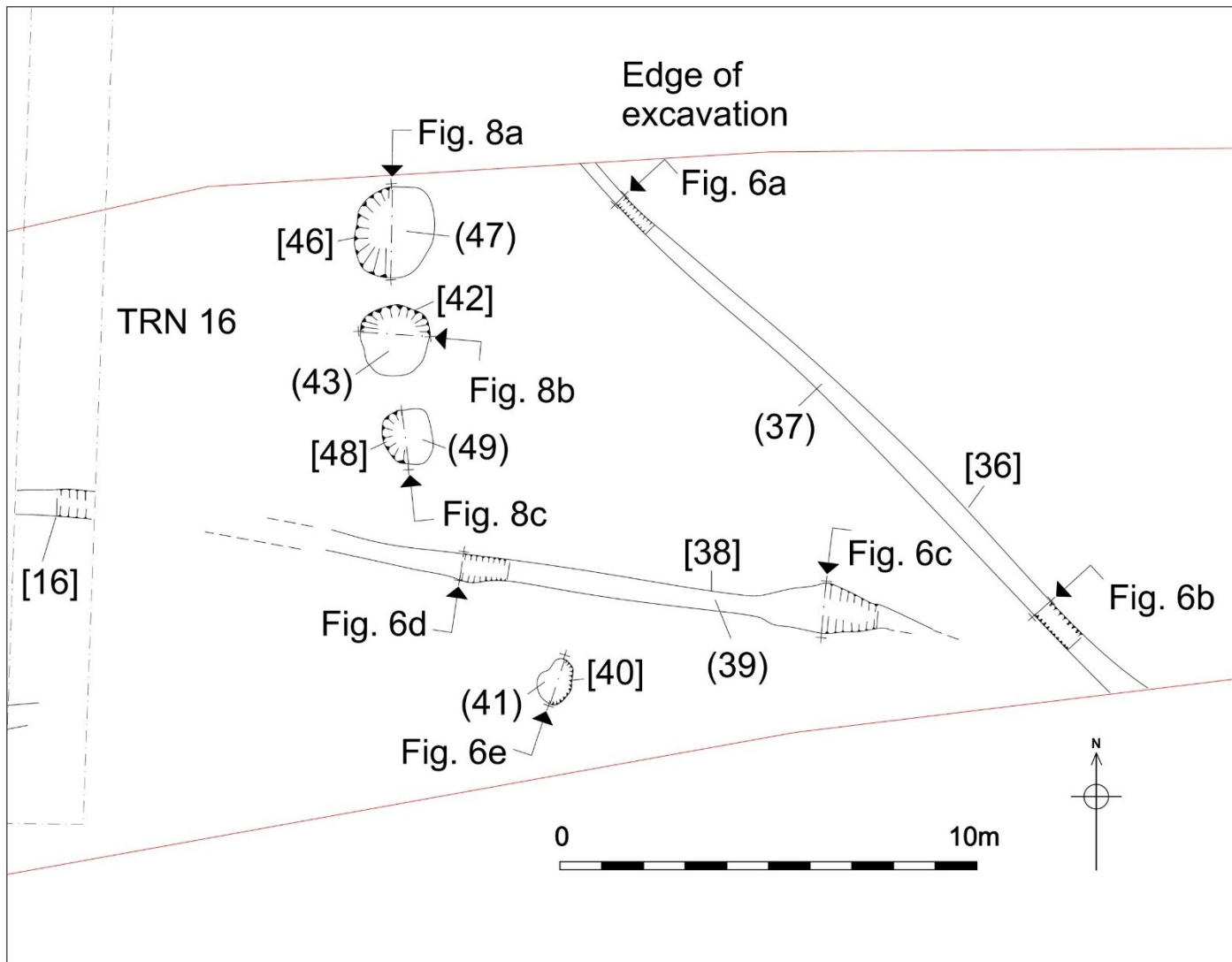


Figure 5: Features at eastern end of stripped area

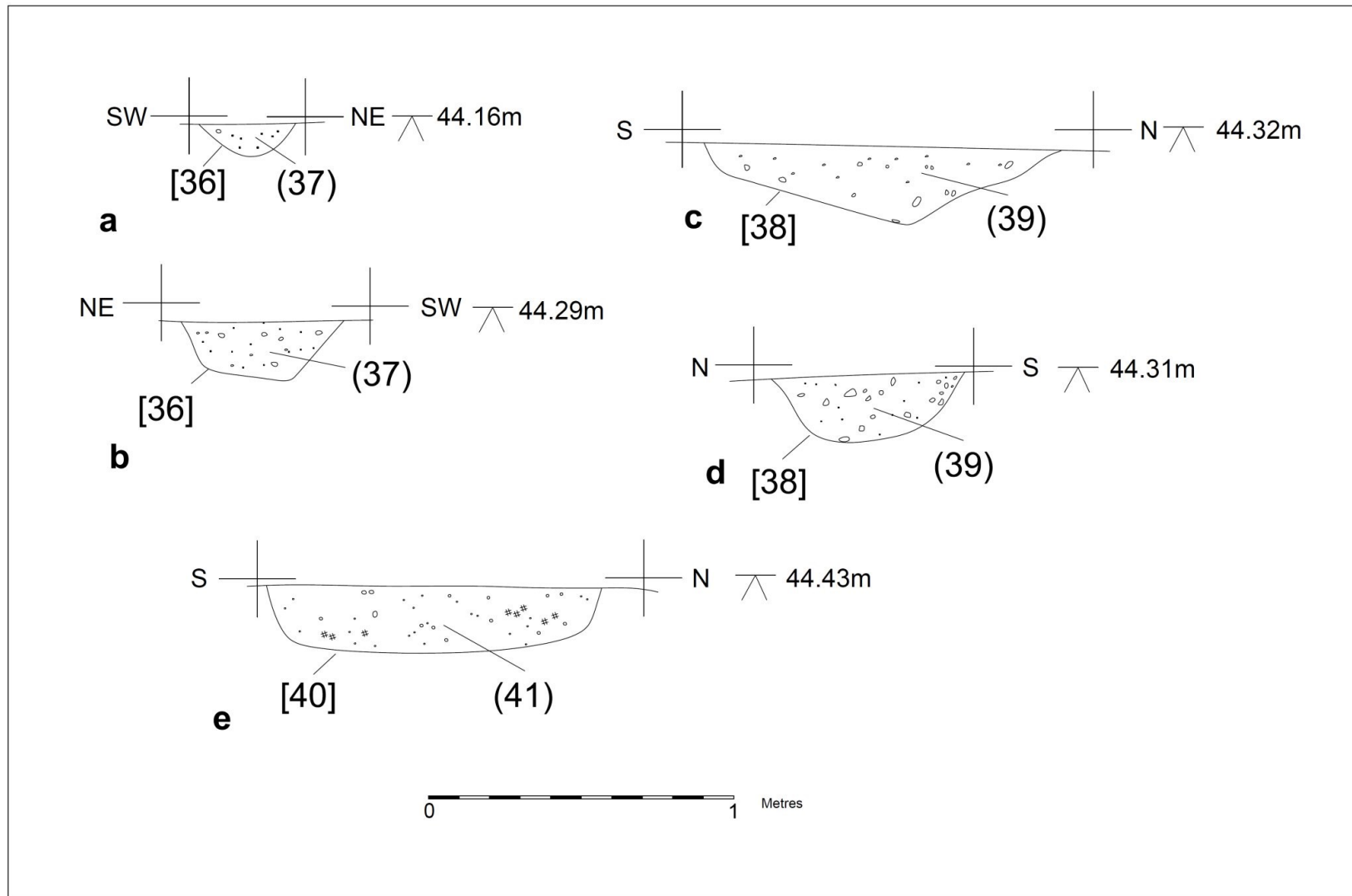


Figure 6: Sections of features at eastern end of stripped area

To the west of this on an east to west alignment was a narrow ditch or gully, which did not appear to relate to gully [36]. This feature [38], ran for around 15m and appeared truncated at both ends, and continued as feature [16] revealed in Trench 16 from the evaluation. The feature was between 0.42 and 1.6m wide, bulging out close to the eastern end. It was 0.21m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flattish base (Figure 6c & 6d, and 7). The fill (39) was identical to (37), also with no finds.



Figure 7: Feature [38], looking east

To the south of linear feature [38] was an amorphous or sub-oval pit [40], which measured 1.1m by 0.43m to 0.70m and was 0.20m deep (Figure 6e). It had steep sides and a flat base. The fill (41) was a yellowish grey brown sandy-silt with frequent sub rounded pebbles but no finds.

To the north of [38] was a row of three medium to large sized pits aligned north to south. They became increasingly smaller from north to south. The northernmost [46] was 2.16m wide and 1.9m wide and 0.50m deep (Figure 8a & 9). It was sub-circular with moderate to shallow sides and a concave flattish base. The fill (47) was a yellowish brown or grey sandy-silt with frequent small and medium stones, some charcoal flecks and early Iron Age pottery.

The middle pit [42] was circular of 1.5m diameter with moderate sides and a concave base at 0.41m deep. The fill (43) was a mottled grey and brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, charcoal and early Iron Age pottery.

The southern pit [48] was sub-circular measuring 1.2m by 1.1m and was 0.30m deep. The fill (49) was very similar to the other two pit fills (43) and (47) and also contained similar pottery.

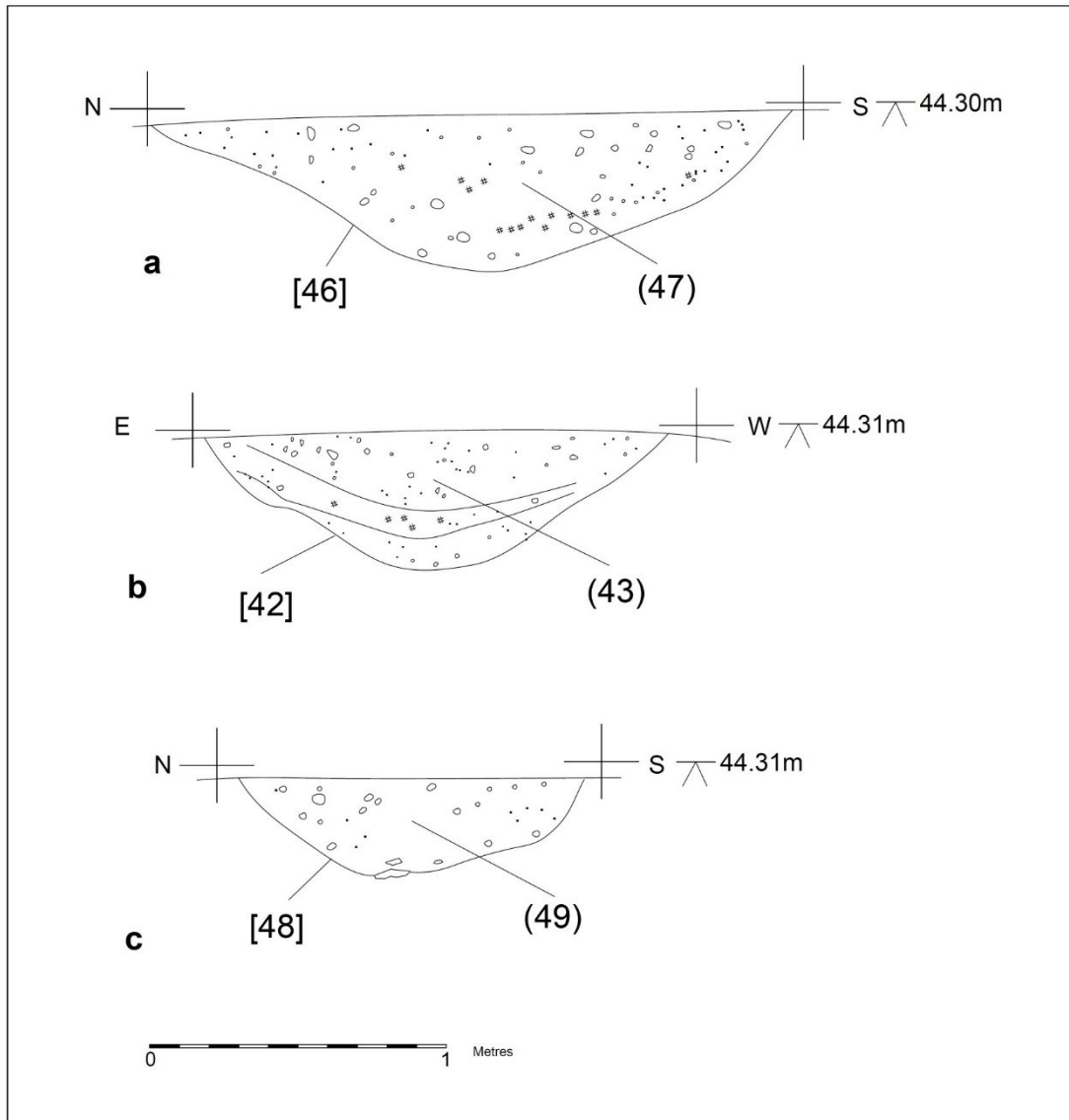


Figure 8: Pit sections from the eastern end of trench



Figure 9: West facing section of large pit [46]

Middle section

To the west of the remains of Trench 16 there were few obvious features (Figure 10). There was a very faint linear feature running from the south-western corner of Trench 16 to the west for around 17m but this was not sampled. At the western end of the feature, which appeared to be very truncated, a second, more tangible linear feature was revealed on a similar alignment.

This feature [30] was visible for 11m and appeared to run into the line of Trench 17, from the Phase 1 evaluation although it had not been visible during that time and did not appear now (possibly due to truncation). It was 0.28m wide with moderate sides and a concave base at 90mm depth (Figure 11a). The fill (31) was a mid to dark brownish grey sandy-silt with rounded pebbles, and a large assemblage of Iron Age pottery, all from one vessel.

At the eastern end of [30] were two similar pits [34] and [44]. The larger [34] was sub-circular in shape and measured 1.20m by 0.90m and was 0.14m in depth with steep side and a flat base, very similar to the profile of [40] (Figure 11b). The smaller [44] was 1.10m by 1m, but only 50mm deep (Figure 11c). Both fills (35) and (45) were mid to dark brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from either fill. These pits lay close to small pit [24] revealed during the evaluation.

The linear feature [30] appeared to cut another faint linear feature running broadly south-west to north-east to the west of Trench 17. This feature appeared to be the continuation of feature [14] seen in Trench 17 during the Phase 1 evaluation.

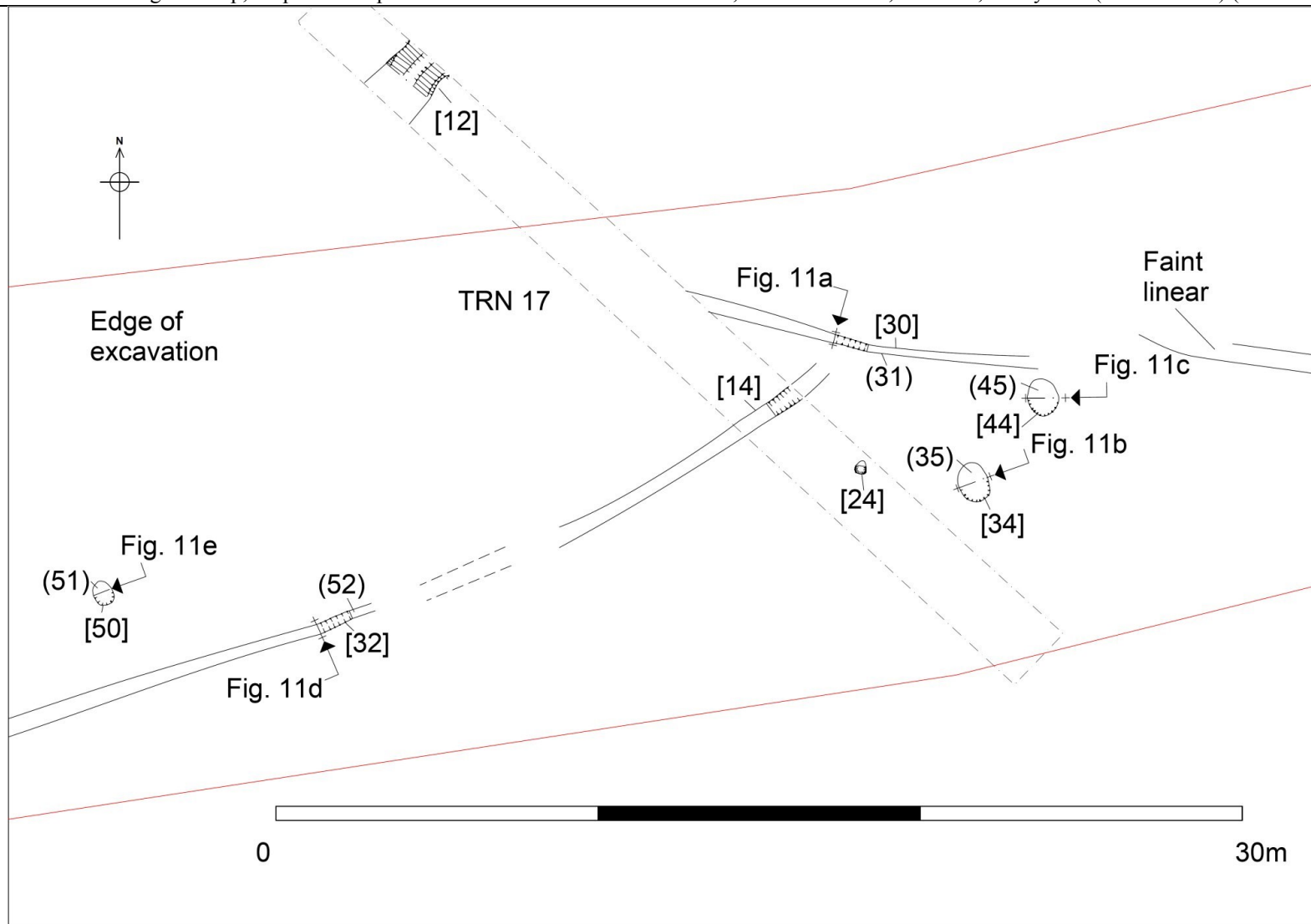


Figure 10: Plan of middle section of stripped area

At the western end this feature was very faint and could not be identified in two areas close to the edge of excavation. This section was renumbered [32] and ran for 15m, giving a total length (including the section numbered [14]) of over 30m (Figure 10).

The section sampled here was 0.30m wide and was 0.18m deep with a fill (52) of mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles (Figure 11d).

To the north of [32] was single solitary oval pit [50], which measured 0.78m by 0.58m. It had moderately sloped sides and a slightly concave base at 0.17m depth (Figure 11e). The fill was a mid greyish brown silty-clay with rounded pebbles and no finds.

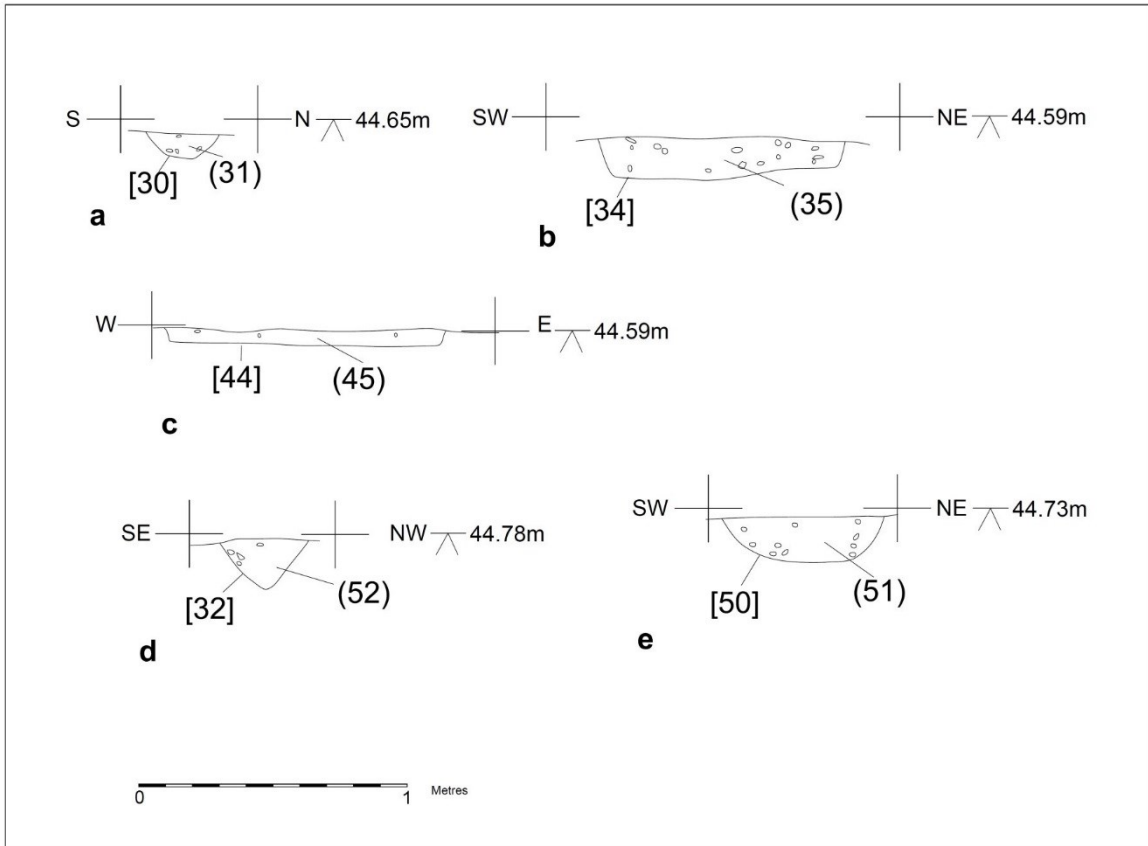


Figure 11: Sections of features in the middle section of stripped area

Western Section

Beyond the western end of this section of [32] there was little archaeology that could be identified. Feature [32] appeared to continue 11m-12m to the west, before curving to the north-west and into the baulk of the stripped area close to the north-western edge, where it turned further northwards. This length was 26m in total (Figure 12).

It was truncated by a furrow close to the southern edge of the area and here it was 0.48m wide with moderate sides and a U-shaped base at 0.22m depth. The fill (53) was a mid to dark brownish grey sandy-silt with rounded pebbles (Figure 14a).

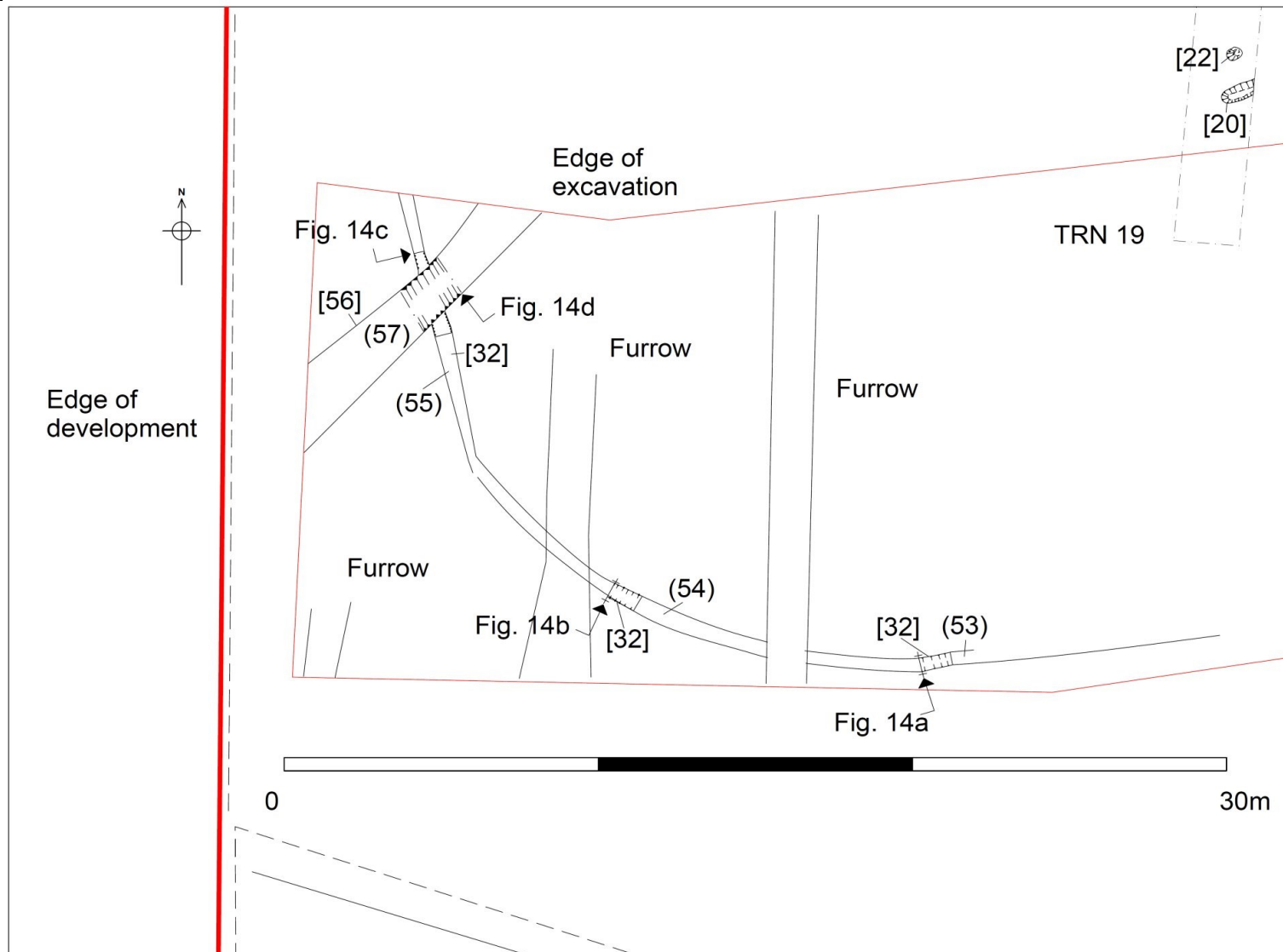


Figure 12: Features at western end of stripped area



Figure 13: Linear feature [32] post-excavation, looking west

Close to where it was truncated again further to the west it was 0.42m wide and 0.19m deep with moderate sides and curved base. The fill (54) was mid orange brown sandy- silt with rounded pebbles (Figure 14b)

As it turned northwards [32] cut a wider but more shallow ditch [56], which ran 9m from south-west to north-east across the stripped area. Here [32] was 0.45m wide and much deeper at 0.37m depth. It had steep sides and a flattish base (Figure 14c). The ditch [56] was 0.86m wide with very shallow sides and flat base at 0.13m depth (Figure 14d). The fill of [32] here (55) was a mid to dark brownish grey sandy-silt with rounded stones. The fill of the ditch (57) was the same. No artefacts were found in either feature.

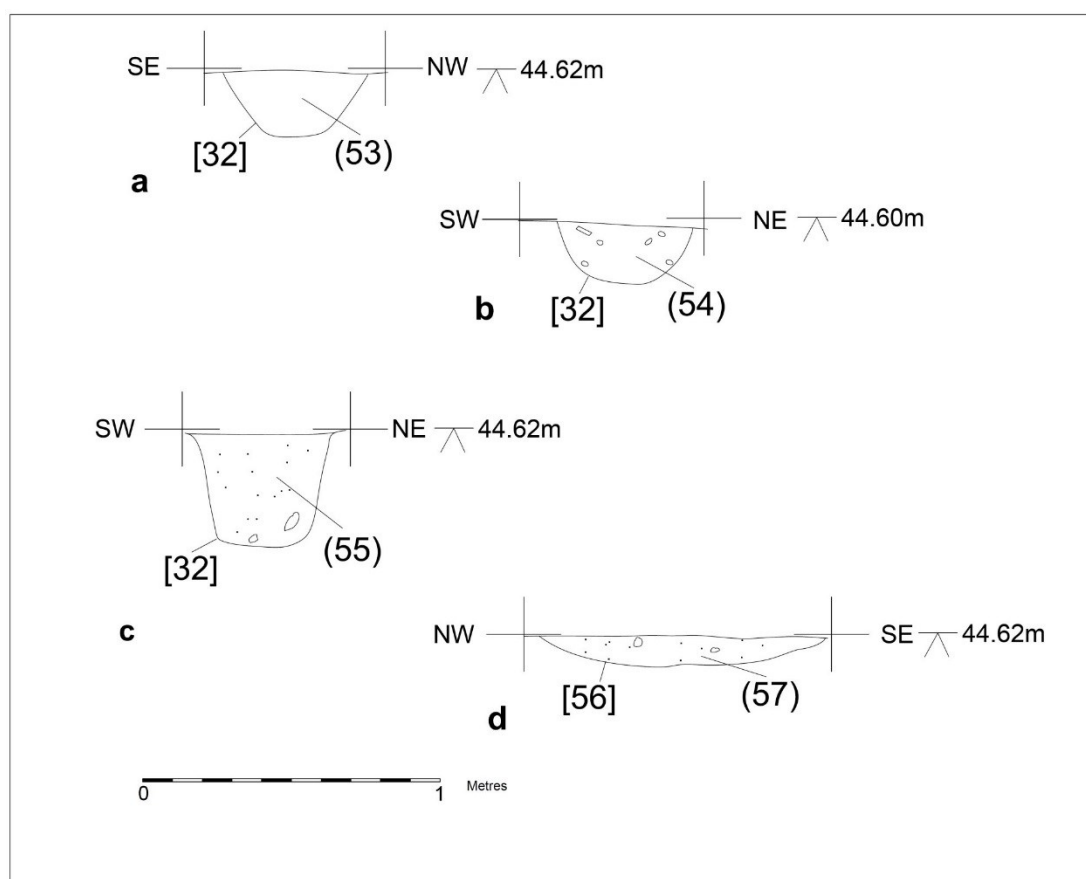


Figure 14: Sections of features at western end of stripped area

This completed the strip, plan and sample excavation of the new road. After these visits no further work was planned on Phase 1 of the new development at the Boulton Moor site and the area in which the pit alignment was revealed during the evaluation lay under a large spoil heap, which would not be moved for several months.

During this time the Phase 2 evaluation was carried out (Hunt 2014b) and more archaeological features discovered at the southern end of Fields 3 and 4, including pits, gullies, ditches and a large pond-like feature from which Roman pottery was retrieved.

Unfortunately, ULAS were not contacted about the removal of the spoil heap and the subsequent development of most of the rest of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas. Only a small area of undeveloped land of Phase 2 remained by the time of the next archaeological visits in 2016 (Figure 15).

Phase 2

Phase 2 of the strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out between 13th December 2016 and 19th December 2016.

The work was carried out by a large tracked excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide ditching bucket with two 5 tonne dumper trucks to remove the spoil. The stripping of topsoil and sub-soil was undertaken in strips moving north to south, which then changed to east to west in order to enable deposition of the garden soil along the northern side of the strip (Figure 16).



Figure 15: The remainder of the study area in Phase 2 prior to commencement of works, looking north-east



Figure 16: Phase 2 strip, looking south with former hedgerow along the eastern side

The ground on the eastern half had been built up with compacted soil along with temporary hard-core for a long term compound during the housing development. Approximately 15 metres of garden soil (north-south) was built up directly south of the buildings under construction fronting the study area.

In due course this compound area would be built on. However, the built up garden soil should have resulted in the limited disturbance of any archaeological features encountered. On the western half of the strip, the surface dropped down where landscaping was absent although the topsoil had been heavily rutted by dumper trucks. The topsoil surface was slightly truncated on the eastern half where the ground had been built up reducing it to a depth of 0.20 metres, while at the western end the topsoil was approximately 0.30m deep.



Figure 17: Towards the end of strip, looking west

The topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown silty-clay. The subsoil had an average depth of 0.15m and consisted of a mid orangish brown sandy-silt with moderate rounded pebbles. Despite the rutting at the western end the potential for preservation of archaeological features was good with the ground dropping down to almost a metre in depth on onto a light yellow silty-clay.

At the eastern end the depth was shallower at 0.30m of undisturbed topsoil and subsoil onto a natural sub-stratum of mid orange brown sandy-silt with frequent gravel. A landscaped overburden of up to 0.70m overlay the truncated topsoil totalling an overall depth of around a metre (Figure 17).

Conclusion

The strip, plan and sample excavation carried out after the evaluation on Phase 1 of the proposed development at Boulton Moor (now Buttercup Leys development) did identify archaeological features.

The archaeological features consisted mainly of narrow gullies, which were truncated and faint in places. They mainly ran south-east to north-west as did the pit alignment observed during the Phase 1 evaluation.

Linear feature [38] appeared to be the continuation of [16] revealed in Trench 16, and linear feature [32] appeared to be the extension of [14] located in Trench 17. Trenches 16, 17 and 19 were located during the work.

The western end of [32] curved northwards and cut a shallow ditch [56] lying south-west to north-east, which was reminiscent of a furrow, but in the wrong alignment compared to the other three furrows identified during the work. The furrows were encountered running north to south as in the previous evaluation.

There were several pits, some deeper than others, with a group of three large pits towards the eastern end, [42], [46] and [48]. All these contained Iron Age pottery, and were of a similar size and shape to those of the pit alignment revealed during the evaluation.

The trench evaluation carried out subsequently on Phase 2 of the work did not locate any of these pits. Therefore, the three pits in the strip, plan and sample excavation, which appear to end before linear feature [38] may represent the end of the pit alignment. The pit alignment appeared to turn more to the south, so it is possible that these three pits in a north to south alignment are the end of the same line.

The linear features appeared to be gullies or very shallow truncated ditches. Despite careful stripping the features often showed interruptions, suggesting later heavy truncation by ploughing, with the archaeology visible around 0.40m below the ground level.

The subsequent Phase 2 evaluation did not reveal any further archaeological features to the immediate south of these features, although there were further, mainly undated features 100m further south. The Phase 2 strip, plan and sample was centred on this area.

Although there was some potential for the continuation of archaeological remains on the southern side of Phase 2 as revealed by the former evaluation (Hunt 2014) Phase 2 of the strip, plan and sample excavation proved negative for archaeological remains. However only a small section of Phase 2 remained with all of Phase 1 recently built on. The remaining area was situated at the south-west corner of Phase 2 and bounded by the new estate road with the area south of this not only destroyed by the road but a by large flood alleviation drainage ditch and landscaping. This resulted in only a small area of around 80m by 25m to be observed.

This covered an area of four previous evaluation trenches including Trenches 34 and 37, which included two linear features running east to west ditch, although these features were not visible due to being under the new estate road. Former Trench 33 showed a pit at the west end along with Trench 35 to the north but these features were now under the new houses.

Therefore, although there was potential for further archaeological remains in the area the exercise showed only the thin remains of three north to south aligned furrows along with the eastern hedge row which was seen continuing through undeveloped fields to the south leading out of the application area.

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Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Persimmon Homes Ltd. for their co-operation and to 'Paul John' Plant for undertaking the ground- works. The archaeological work was carried out by the authors and the project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Derby Museum with the complete archive from Phase 1 and Phase 2 evaluations and strip, plan and sample excavations. It will be deposited with accession number DBYMU: 2014.8.

The Phase 1 archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of Phase 1 evaluation report (ULAS Report No. 2014-101)
- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2016-172)
- 25 Trench Recording Sheets
- 4 Watching brief recording sheets
- 1 Context record
- 44 Context sheets
- 2 Contact Sheets of digital photographs
- 1 CD of digital photographs

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-xxxx
	Project Name	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation on land at Boulton Moor, Chellaston Lane, Elvaston, Derbyshire (Phases 1 & 2) (SK 396 316).
	Start/end dates of	28-07-2014 to 19-12-2016

	field work			
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/ Not Known		
	Project Type	Strip, plan and sample excavation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Arable / Partially developed		
	Monument Type/Period	Pit (Iron Age) Pit (Unknown) Gully (Iron Age) Gully (Unknown) Ditch (Unknown)		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery (Iron Age)		
	Development Type	Housing		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Boulton Moor, Snelsmoor Lane, Elvaston, , Derby		
	Study Area	9 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 396 316		
	Height OD	45m OD max		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (SCC)		
	Project Design Originator	Dr. Patrick Clay		
	Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Leon Hunt James Patrick		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer Persimmon Homes Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Derby Museum	Derby Museum	Derby Museum
	ID (Acc. No.)	DBYMU: 2014.8	DBYMU: 2014.8	DBYMU: 2014.8
	Contents	Finds	Photos	Watching brief records Reports Trench sheets
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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06-02-2017

Appendix: The Iron Age Pottery from Boulton Moor DBYMU.2014.8 (Phase 1, Strip, Map and Sample).

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

A total of 91 sherds of Iron Age pottery weighing 1459g was retrieved from gully fill (31) [30], and pit fills (43) [42], (47) [46] and (49) [48]. The average sherd weight of 16g is relatively high and the pottery is in fairly good condition, with many joining sherds belonging to a maximum of four vessels. This suggests that the material was deposited soon after breakage.

Methodology

In the absence of a comprehensive prehistoric fabric series for Derbyshire, the pottery has been analysed by form and fabric using the Leicestershire County Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011, 62, Table 1), with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group's Guidelines (PCRG 1997), and quantified by sherd count and weight.

Analysis of Assemblage by Fabric, Form and Decoration

The complete record of the stratified assemblage is presented below (Table 1)

Table 1: Quantified record of Prehistoric pottery

Iron Age Pottery from Boulton Moor DBYMU.2014.8					
Context	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	Dating	
(31) [30]	Q1 Ferr	65	1070	Early Age	Iron
(43) [42]	Q5	4	44	Early Age	Iron
(43) [42]	Q4	2	35	Early Age	Iron
(47) [46]	Q1	2	20	Early Age	Iron
(48) [49]	Q1 Ferr	13	280	Early Age	Iron
(48) [49]	Q5	1	10	Early Age	Iron
Total		91	1459	ASWt 16g	

The material from gully fill (31) [30] is all from one vessel (with a number of joining sherds), a large coil-built jar with a diameter of at least 240mm and a body thickness of up to 15mm, produced in quartz sand tempered fabric (Q1 Ferr) with moderate angular fragments of ferruginous (mudstone?) of 1-5mm, which may be naturally occurring in the clay. The surfaces are uneven and untreated and there is no indication of scored decoration.

Pit fill (43) [42] produced four joining body sherds from a jar of 180mm in diameter and with a vessel thickness of 9mm. Fabric is opened with angular fragments of crushed white pebble quartz (Q5), a long-lived fabric seen in Iron Age pottery from Lockington and in Neolithic pottery from Aston on Trent, for example. Joining base sherds from a second vessel in a coarse

quartz sand fabric (Q4) were also recovered. Pit fill (47) [46] contained two body sherds from a jar in Fabric Q1, with a diameter of 180mm and a body thickness of 8mm. Pit fill (49) [48] contained more sherds belonging to the same jar in Q1 Ferr (some conjoining) as found in (31). A single sherd in Q5 comes from the same vessel as that in (43).

Discussion

The lack of diagnostic rim sherds or decoration, makes it difficult to be too precise over the date of the assemblage but, given the lack of scored decoration, it is more likely that it pre-dates the East Midlands scored ware tradition current from the 4th or mid-3rd century BC to the earlier 1st century AD (Elsdon 1992, 85, Fig.1.6), and large, undecorated jars are a feature of the Early Iron Age assemblage from Willington, Derbys (Elsdon 1979, no.5). The fabric of the material containing ferruginous fragments (Q1 Ferr) is the same as that from the evaluation context (8), thought to be the fill of one of the alignment pits. Whether the three pits here also belong to that alignment is unclear, but the cross-joins between them and gully (30), indicates that they are all broadly contemporary and that an Early Iron Age, or perhaps an Early to Middle Iron Age, date is applicable.

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