

**Archaeological Evaluations
on land at 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby,
Leicestershire
(SK 7500 3122)**

Vicki Priest

For: Mr & Mrs Tetley

| |
|--|
| <p>Checked by Project Manager</p> <p>Signed: Date:.....</p> <p>Name:</p> |
|--|

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

Report 2004-099 ©2004

**Archaeological Evaluations on land at 16 Pinfold Lane,
Harby, Leicestershire (SK 7500 3122)**

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Introduction..... | 1 |
| 2. Geology and Topography | 2 |
| 3. Background | 2 |
| 4. Methodology | 2 |
| 5. Results..... | 2 |
| Trench 01 (Fig. 4) | 3 |
| Trench 02 (Fig. 5) | 3 |
| Trench 03 (Fig. 6) | 4 |
| 6. The Finds | 4 |
| 7. Discussion | 5 |
| 8. Archive..... | 5 |
| 9. Acknowledgements..... | 6 |
| 10. Bibliography | 6 |

Figures

| | |
|----------|---|
| Figure 1 | Site location |
| Figure 2 | Plan of the development area. Reproduced by drawings provided. |
| Figure 3 | Plan showing the location of the trenches. |
| Figure 5 | Trench 02: Post-excavation plan of ditch and west facing section. Scale 1:20). |
| Figure 6 | Trench 03: Post-excavation plan of features (Scale 1:20) and sections (Scale 1:10) |
| Figure 4 | Trench 01: Post-excavation plan of features (Scale 1:20) and selected sections (Scale 1:10). |

Plates

| | |
|---------|--|
| Plate 1 | Trench 01: post-excavation plan of ditch. |
| Plate 2 | Trench 02: post-excavation plan of gullies. |
| Plate 3 | Trench 01: post-excavation plan of features |
| Plate 4 | Trench 01: detail of butt end of gully and post-hole [06]. |

Archaeological Evaluations on land at 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 7500 3122)

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. C. Tetley to undertake an archaeological evaluation on ground to the side and rear of 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby, Leicestershire (NGR SK 7500 3122). The Desk-based Assessment (Speed 2004) confirmed that the village of Harby has produced signs of occupation and human activity dating from prehistoric times through to the present day. The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists a number of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Prehistoric, Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery and metalwork has been found just to the north-west of the site suggesting potentially extensive settlement activity.

Fieldwork took place on 25th – 26th May and comprised the examination of three trial trenches over the approximate locations of the proposed buildings.

Archaeological deposits were recorded in all three trial trenches. A number of gullies and post-holes probably indicative of structures were found in Trench 01 to the north of the site. Pottery suggests that these are Roman in date. Further features in Trench 02 to the south also contained Roman pottery and may be related to those features in Trench 01. An undated ditch was found in Trench 0, although its alignment with the gullies in Trench 02 might suggest a similar date.

The Archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services under accession No XA.161.2004.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. C. Tetley to undertake an archaeological evaluation in order to enable the planning authority to make an informed decision as to the implications of the proposals to build up to three houses on land at the side and rear of 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby (SK 7500 3122).

The village of Harby lies 20km to the south-west of Nottingham and 11km north of Melton Mowbray within the parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby (Fig. 1). Pinfold Lane is located on the north-east side of the village. The proposed development site encompasses 0.24 hectares upon which Mr. and Mrs. Tetley proposes to build up to three houses (Fig. 2).

The desk-based assessment concluded that the site had archaeological potential. The Senior Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority therefore

recommended a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to establish the presence, extent, state of preservation and significance of any buried remains. This programme was specified in the *Brief For Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the Side and Rear of 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby, Leicestershire* and a specification was written by ULAS to outline the methods to be used (Appendix I).

2. Geology and Topography

The site lies on vacant land to the side and rear of No. 16 and is currently being used as a garden (Fig. 2). Most of the land is grassed with trees, hedges and flower/vegetable beds. The underlying geology comprises Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142). The land lies at a height of c. 154m OD.

3. Background

The Desk-based Assessment (Speed 2004) identified that the village of Harby has produced signs of occupation and human activity dating from prehistoric times through to the present day. The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists a number of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites in the vicinity of the development area. Prehistoric, Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery and metalwork has been found just to the north-west of the site suggesting potentially extensive settlement activity.

The proposed development site lies within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village (SMR Ref. LE3541), which appears in the Domesday Book and dates from at least the 10th century. The medieval St. Mary's Church (LE3541) lies just to the north-west and a 'Butter Cross' indicates the presence of a medieval market place here (LE3544). The site was used as an orchard during the 19th – 20th centuries and there is evidence for medieval ridge and furrow surrounding the area.

4. Methodology

Three trenches were excavated using a tracked mini-excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision (Fig. 3). Trench 01 was 5.5m long x 3.2m wide and located within a vegetable plot in the north-west corner of the site. Trench 02 lay in the north-east corner of the site and was 14m x 1.3m long and oriented north - south. Trench 03 was 12m x 1.3m long and oriented east –west alongside a hedgerow. Work was carried out over two days (25th-26th May 2004).

5. Results

The topsoil across the site was a standard dark brown silty clay loam garden soil with numerous fibrous roots. Beneath this was a yellow-brown silty clay subsoil overlying yellow plastic natural silty clay with patches of orange sandy clay.

Trench 01 (Fig. 4)

Trench 01 was located to the north-west of the site within a part of the grounds turned over to a vegetable garden. Due to the topography of the land here this trench was 5.5m x3m wide.

| | South facing section | | | | West facing section | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------|-------|--------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Interval | 0m | 1m | 3m | 5m | 6m | 7m | 8m |
| Topsoil Depth | 0.25m | 0.25m | 0.27m | 0.29m | 0.28m | 0.3m | 0.28m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.6m | 0.6m | 0.57m | 0.57m# | 0.55m# | 0.53m | 0.53m |
| Base of Trench | 0.63m | 0.63m | 0.57m | 0.62m | 0.7m* | 0.62m | 0.6m |
| Context | 004 - 025 | | | | | | |

top of fill * base of cut feature

A number of features were recorded here cutting into the natural clay beneath the subsoil, which was more orange and sandy than to the south and east. Many of these features appeared to be badly truncated and all appeared to have very similar mid grey-brown silty-clay fills with orange mottles and charcoal flecks. There was a linear gully [04], 0.05m deep, running approximately east –west, from the west section and ending in a small post-hole [08]. South of this were six post holes varying in depth from 0.05m – 0.2m deep. To the east was an L-shaped feature [10] running beneath the north and east sections. This was up to 0.25m deep and the fill (11) contained more charcoal flecks than the other features. A fragment of animal bone, a fragment of pottery and some burnt clay were recovered from this feature. Two post-holes [12], [08] were recorded at each end of this feature. Two fragments of burnt clay were recovered from the fill of one of these post-holes (09).

Trench 02 (Fig. 5)

Trench 02 was located on a north-south orientation to the east of the site on grassed land next to an old hedge line.

| | West facing section | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|-------|
| Interval | 2m | 4m | 6m | 8m | 10m | 12m | 14m |
| Topsoil Depth | 0.3m | 0.35m | 0.2m | 0.2m | 0.22m | 0.2m | 0.21m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.5m | 0.47m | 0.46m | 0.48m | 0.55m# | 0.5m | 0.46m |
| Base of Trench | 0.7m | 0.66m | 0.65m | 0.69m | 1.17m* | 0.7m | 0.62m |
| Contexts | 001, 002, 003 | | | | | | |

top of fill * base of cut feature

One feature was recorded here – this was a ditch running north-east – south-west at an angle to the existing boundaries [01]. This ditch was approximately 0.7m deep

cutting through the natural clay. The fill was predominantly orange-brown sandy clay (02) with a pinker more sandy deposit at the base (03). This sandier deposit appeared to represent natural silting in of the ditch. There was a stonier clay fill along the northern edge and the natural clay appeared to have slumped into this northern side. This might indicate the presence of a bank along this side. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 03 (Fig. 6)

Trench 03 was orientated east-west on a grassed area just north of an existing hedge.

| | North facing section | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Interval | 0m | 2m | 4m | 6m | 8m | 10m | 12m |
| Topsoil Depth | 0.3m | 0.26m | 0.34m | 0.29m | 0.3m | 0.28m | 0.28m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.5m | 0.46m | 0.56m | 0.53m | 0.51m | 0.52m | 0.52m |
| Base of Trench | 0.53m | 0.5m | 0.61m | 0.57m | 0.58m | 0.63m | 0.55m |
| Contexts | 026, 027, 028, 029 | | | | | | |

The soil here was very loose due to the presence of large amounts of roots making the features quite hard to clarify. A linear gully [26] was recorded running north-east – south-west at an angle to the existing hedges. This was approximately 0.2m deep with a yellow-brown fill (27) and cut an earlier curving feature [28] with a lighter yellow-brown fill (29). It was unclear whether gully [28] continued on the other side of [26] but it seems likely. Two pieces of burnt clay and a small sherd of pottery were recovered from (27). A single piece of flint was recovered from the topsoil.

6. The Finds

Very little was recovered from the site (see table below). A few fragments of glass and modern pottery were recovered from the topsoil across the site. The flint from the topsoil over Trench 03 was a flake that had been later utilised as a core. Although this shows that there was prehistoric activity in this area it is likely to be a stray find rather than indicative of any particular activity.

| Trench | Context | Description | | Comments |
|--------|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | Sherds | Weight | |
| 01 | (11) | - | - | Animal bone fragments – unidentifiable |
| 01 | (11) | frags | - | Burnt clay |
| 01 | (11) | 1 | 1g | Shell tempered, wheel made fabric – Roman |
| 01 | (09) | 2 frags | - | Burnt clay |
| 03 | Topsoil | - | - | Flint core on a flake |
| 03 | (27) | 2 | - | Burnt clay (1 x large lump) |
| 03 | (27) | 1 | 2g | Roman – BB1/GW1 (AD 120-400) |

The pottery was identified by Nick Cooper (ULAS). Only two sherds of pottery were recovered, both from stratified deposits. Trench 01 produced a small fragment of wheel-thrown pottery in a shell tempered fabric. Trench 03 produced a small sherd of Roman pottery containing mica, either black burnished ware or greyware (dating to AD 120 – 400). The burnt clay is undated but would not be out of context on a Roman site.

7. Discussion

The most obvious features identified during the evaluation were the gullies and post-holes from Trench 01. All of the fills from these features were very similar and their spatial relationships suggest that they are in fact broadly contemporary with each other. The scraps of pottery suggest a Roman date, and they seem most likely to represent some kind of structure. However not enough of the area was observed to be able to make any kind of coherent pattern out of the features. Again all of the features here have been badly truncated.

The ditch in Trench 02 is undated. It lies at the end of an existing hedge and may simply be a boundary ditch, although none are shown in this area on early edition OS maps. It also appears to be on a similar alignment with the gully in Trench 03 and may therefore be related to this. The silting in the base of the ditch indicates that it filled up naturally over time and the slumping along the northern edge suggests that there may have been a bank here that fell into the top of the ditch after it had gone out of use.

The pottery from the features in Trench 03 suggests they are Roman or earlier in date and may therefore be related to the features in Trench 01. The curving gully [28] is cut by [26] and must therefore be earlier and it probably continued on the other side of it. Both gullies are badly truncated and it is difficult to ascertain their function.

This area contains evidence for a possible Roman site; the post-holes and gullies in Trench 01 suggest some kind of structures. There is an extensive Roman occupation site just 70m to the north-west (SMR Ref. LE3550), which included around 574 sherds of Roman pottery (mostly later 3rd – 4th century in date) and a 4th century coin along with prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon finds. It may be that these features represent an extension of this site – perhaps outlying activity around the focal occupation area.

8. Archive

The Archive consists of trench sheets, context sheets, drawings and digital photos and will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services under accession No XA.161.2004.

9. Acknowledgements

The work was carried out by Vicki Priest and Leon Hunt. The project was managed by Richard Buckley. Many thanks to Mr. And Mrs. Tetley and family for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork.

10. Bibliography

Astill, G. & Grant, A., 1988, *The Countryside of Medieval England*. Blackwell: Oxford.

Priest, V. 2004, *Design Specification for Archaeological Work: Land to the side and rear of 16, Pinfold Lane, Harby, Leicestershire NGR (SK 7500 3122)*. 04-157

Speed, G. 2004 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land to the side and rear of 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 7500 3122)*. ULAS Report Number 2004-008

V Priest
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

02/06/2004

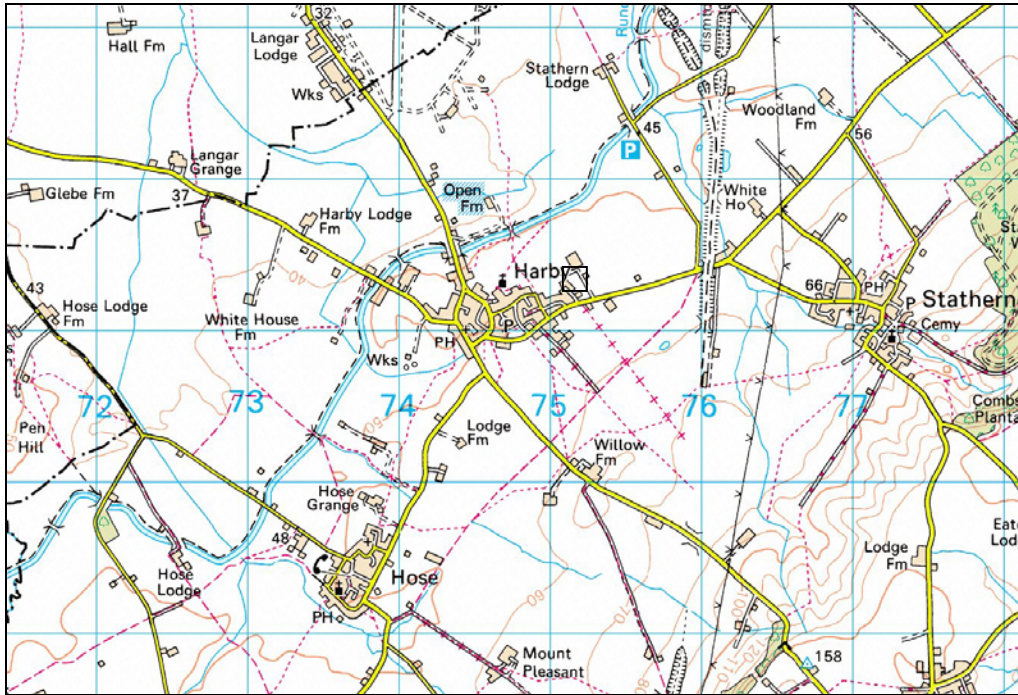


Figure 1: Site location.

Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

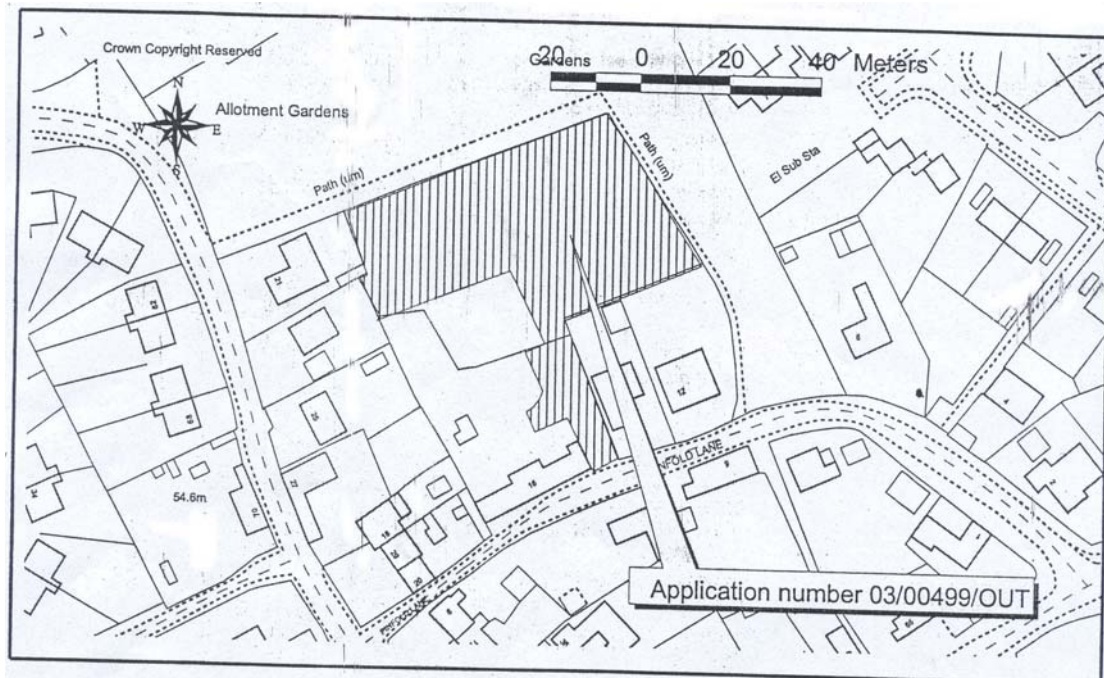


Figure 2: Plan of the development area. Reproduced from drawings provided by the client.

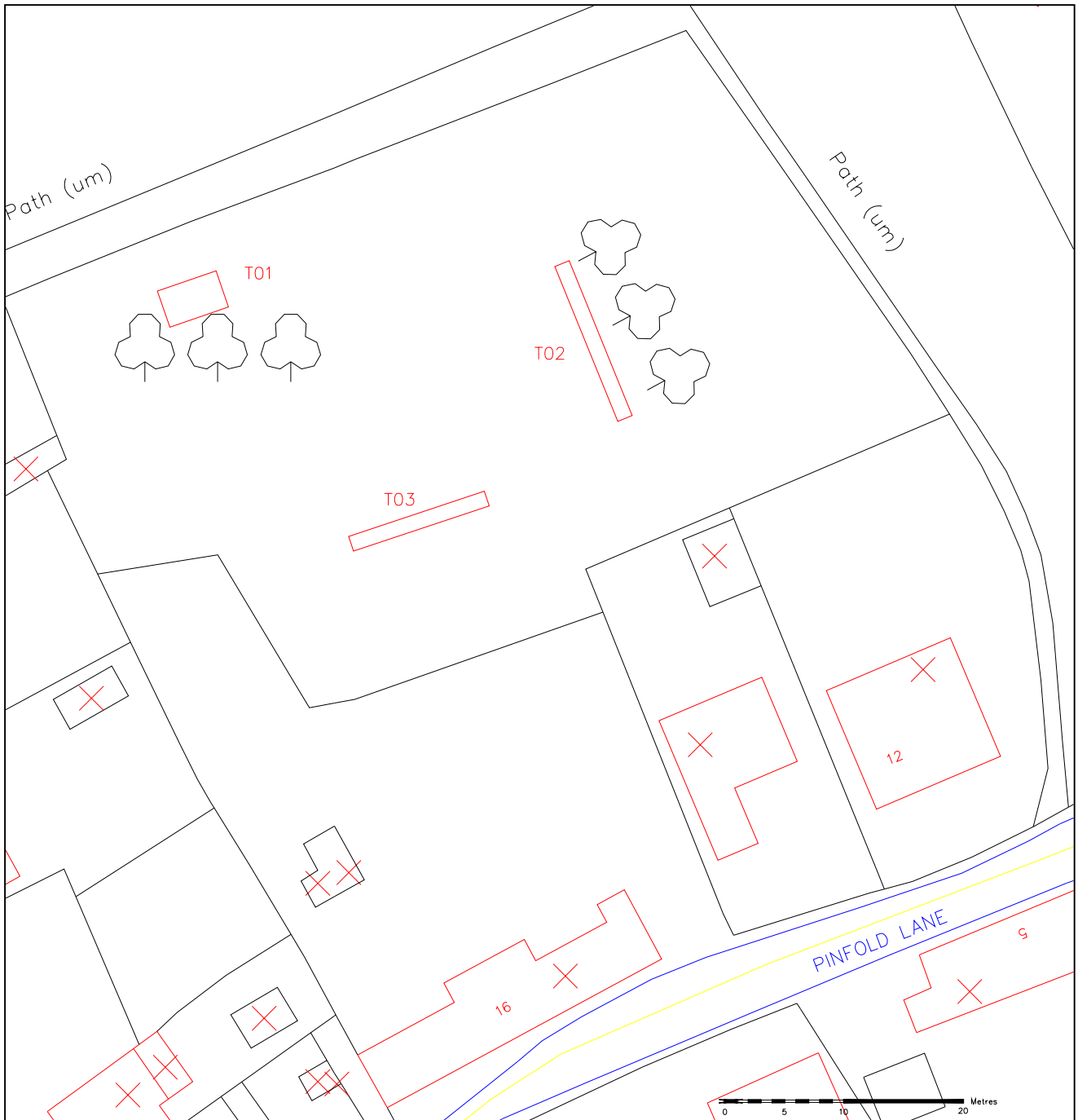


Figure 3 Plan showing the location of the trenches.

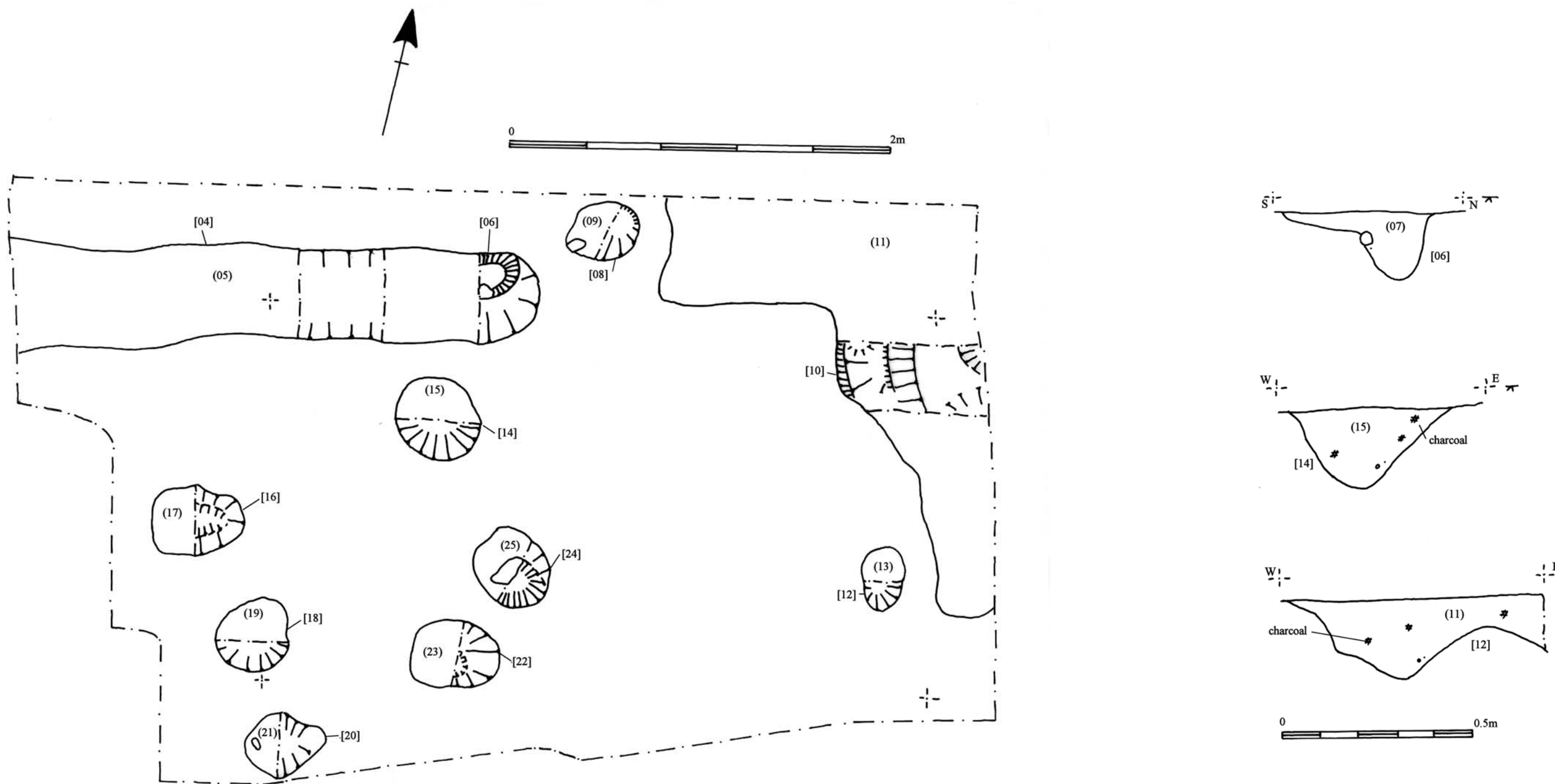


Figure 4 Trench 01: Post-excavation plan of features (Scale 1:20) and selected sections (Scale 1:10).

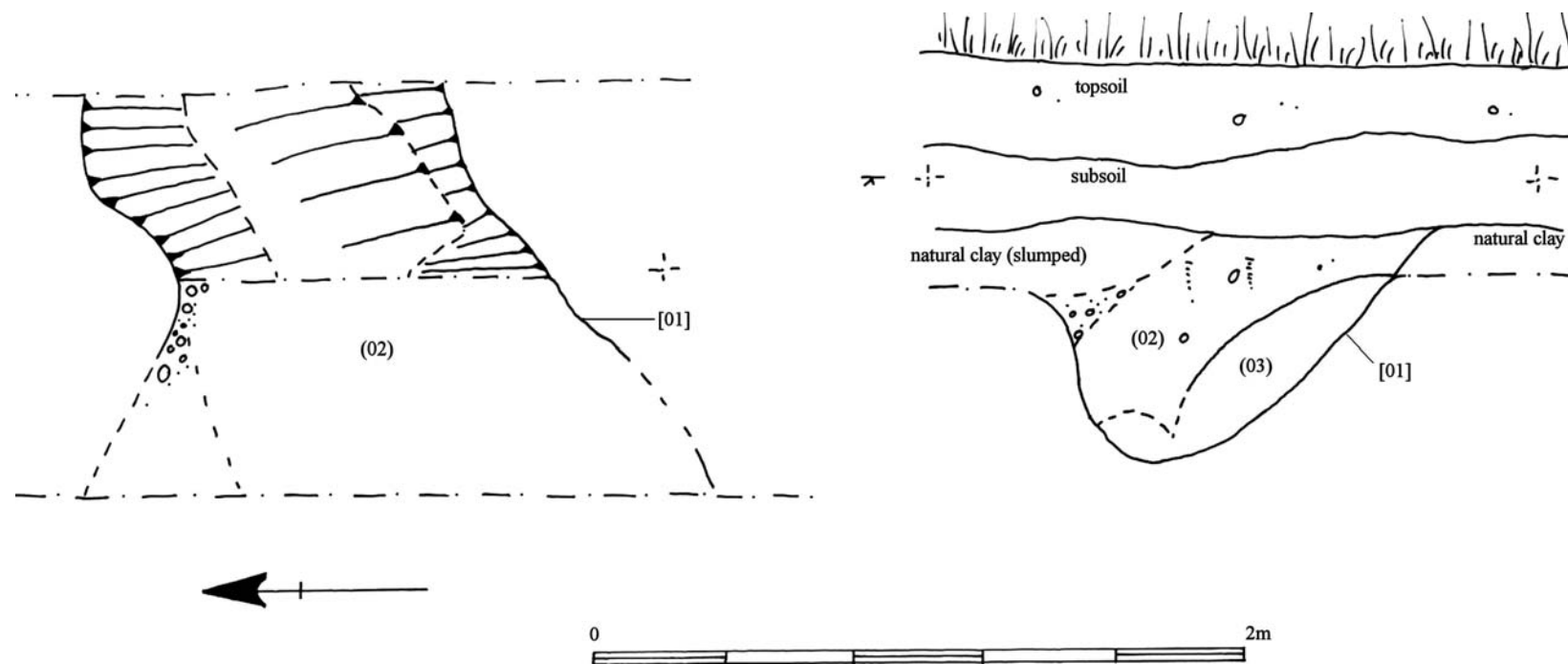


Figure 5 Trench 02: Post-excavation plan of ditch and west facing section (Scale 1:20).

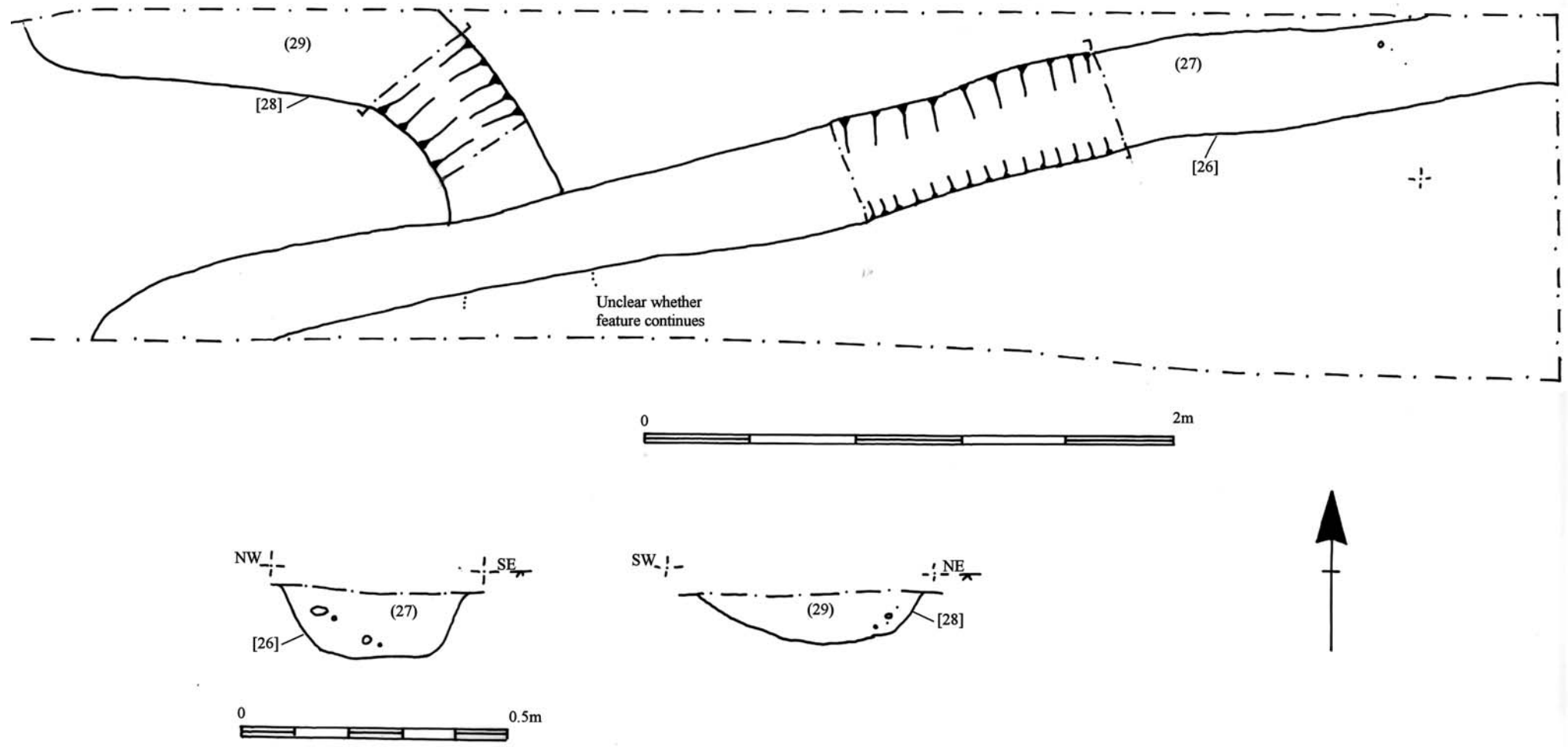


Figure 6 Trench 03: Post-excavation plan of features (Scale 1:20) and sections (Scale 1:10).



Plate 1 Trench 01: post-excitation plan of ditch.



Plate 2 Trench 02: post-excitation plan of gullies.



Plate 3 Trench 01: post-excitation plan of features.

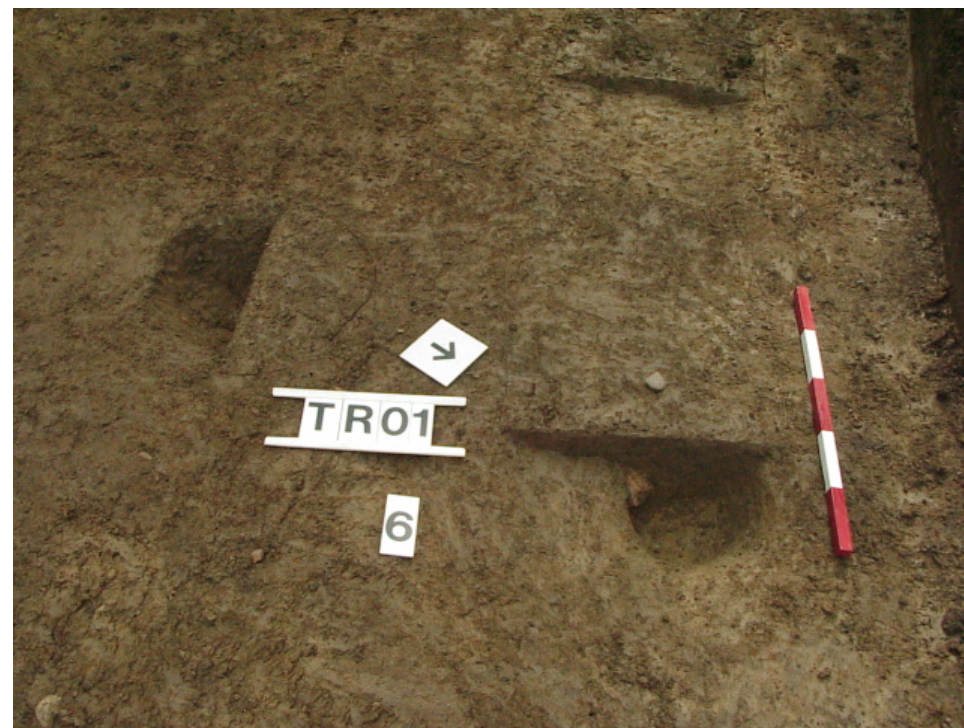


Plate 4 Trench 01: detail of butt end of gully and post-hole [06].