

**LAND ADJACENT TO THE WRESTLERS,
CHURCH STREET,
LANGFORD,
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE.**

NGR: TL 1848 4106

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

May 2012
Report No. 800

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between the 30th April and the 9th May 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford (NGR: TL 1848 4106). The project was commissioned by Caldecotte Consultants on behalf of Greene King.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of eight trenches across a proposed development area.

The evaluation identified extensive archaeological deposits across the study area; these included ditches, gullies, pits/cut features and postholes, as well as a burnt deposit, which was possibly related to industrial activity.

A small assemblage of struck lithics indicated that the earliest on-site activity probably dated to the Mesolithic, although no features were demonstrably datable to this period.

Limited evidence for Roman activity was present in the form of two residual pottery sherds and a piece of *tegula*. The general paucity of Roman finds suggested that the site was probably not located near to a focus of settlement, however, this does not preclude the possibility that Roman features related to other activities may be present within or near the study area.

The pottery assemblage was dominated by late Saxon and early Medieval wares, which were recovered from all of the trenches, apart from Trench 6. The pottery was generally unabraded and represents good dating evidence for on-site activity. The relatively high density of stratified features and deposits present within the trenches suggested fairly intensive settlement; the earliest phases of which may date to the later Saxon period. The lack of later Medieval wares suggested that the Medieval settlement focus shifted after the 13th Century.

A small number of features associated with Post-medieval/Modern material represent evidence for later activity.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case alluvial sand and gravel.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

Tegula

Roman roof tile.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in April and May 2012 on land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford (NGR: TL 1848 4106). The project was commissioned by Caldecotte Consultants on behalf of Greene King.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2012). The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with IfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2008) and MoRPHE, issued by English Heritage (2006).
- 1.3 The report constitutes an assessment of the results of the archaeological works. The code of conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is proposed to construct a new residential development at the site. In accordance with the principles of *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the archaeological policies of Central Bedfordshire Council, an archaeological desk based assessment and evaluation were required prior to the submission of a planning application.
- 2.2 The site is located between Church Street and Pound Close to the east and the River Ivel to the west. The King George Memorial Playing Fields are located to the north and the site is bounded by The Wrestlers Pub and rear gardens/paddocks to the south. The underlying geology consists of *Gault Formation* – Mudstone sealed by River Terrace Deposits - sand and gravel, which are overlaid by well drained coarse loamy soils of the *Sutton I Association* (Geology of Britain viewer; <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is situated on land which slopes gently downwards from east (32.95m OD) to west (31.64m OD). At the time of the fieldwork, the site comprised vacant scrubland.
- 2.3 The desk based assessment was produced by Foundations Archaeology (2012) prior to the commencement of the evaluation fieldwork. A summary of the results of the assessment is given below;
- 2.4 The site is located to the rear of the central part of the historic Medieval core of Church End, Langford (HER 17135) and is situated within a documented archaeological landscape.
- 2.5 **Evidence for Prehistoric activity:** Clear activity dating from the Prehistoric period is limited to a number of undated flint flakes recovered during archaeological monitoring at No. 3 Pound Close (HER 16117), which may be considered typical of a low-level background of flint tools found in many

areas of English riverine gravels. In addition, a number of 'British' mounds (HER 1420) are recorded in the vicinity of the site. No evidence for these features was identified within the site on aerial photographs. These features are assumed to be Prehistoric in date, but may represent earthworks of later origin.

- 2.6 **Evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity:** There is no evidence of Iron Age or Roman settlement in the study area and no finds of this period are recorded from within 500m of the site.
- 2.7 **Evidence for Saxon activity:** No evidence is known for an early Saxon settlement at Langford, although one can be postulated. There was clearly late Saxon settlement at Langford, which is first recorded in the will of Aethelgiva in AD 944, when she granted land at Langford to Aelfnota, although this need not necessarily be in the same location as an early Saxon settlement. The place-name is comprised of Old English 'long' and 'ford' and therefore translates as the Long Ford. The place-name is clearly based on the fact that the settlement was located at one or more fording places across the river and it has been suggested that the 'long' element may be based on the length of the settlement. There is, however, some doubt that the settlement had the same ribbon morphology during the Saxon period, when the name is first known to have been in existence: the 'long' element may, perhaps, originally refer to a long causeway across what may have been extensive areas of marshy ground. The Domesday Book notes it was held by the Thegn Lewin Tempus Rex Edwardus.
- 2.8 **Evidence for Medieval activity:** In 1086 the land, which afterwards became the manor of Langford, was held by Walter the Fleming. There is a field named 'Bury Garden' approximately 250m north of the site; the name 'Bury' is often a derivation of burh and can mean 'a fortified place'.
- 2.9 There are two main foci to the Medieval settlement at Langford, in the form of Church End (HER 17135) and Water End (HER 17136), with a further focus at Flexmore End. It has been postulated, from personal name evidence, that Church End, in which the site lies, was originally a Danish settlement, with Saxon villagers to the south at Water End and Flexmore End (Morris 1978). The village is believed to have begun as a linear settlement along Church Street and subsequently extended to the north and south.
- 2.10 At the time of the Domesday Survey Walter the Fleming possessed two mills in Langford worth 26s. 8d, although by AD 1368 these two mills were in ruins, and worth nothing for want of repair. A third mill, clearly described as new, was granted along with the church in AD 1142 by Simon de Wahull, as part of the endowment of Langford Rectory. This third mill may well have been on the site of the 19th century former corn-mill (HER 2628) which is still standing, albeit now as flats, on the banks of the Ivel, near the church.
- 2.11 The grant by Simon de Wahull demonstrates that there was already a church in Langford in AD 1142. The antiquity of this early church is unknown: mention of churches is rare in Domesday and no other early documentation survives

which mentions one. Morris (1978) states that the original grant was to the Knights Templar, although VCH (1908) states that it was granted rather to the Knights Hospitaller. In AD 1320 either a new church was built, or the existing church was rebuilt with the nave, aisles and tower added to an older chancel. Morris attributes this activity to the Templars, although this would seem unlikely as the order was suppressed in 1307. The present church of St Andrew (HER 1087) is believed to have 13th century origins which would suggest that, although it may have been the structure 'rebuilt' in the 14th century, it was not the church present in AD 1142, although it may, of course, have been located on, or near, the same site.

- 2.12 It is likely that Church Street is of considerable antiquity, linking the early village cores of Church End (HER 17152) and Water End (HER 17136), and that buildings may have been present on the frontage from an early period.
- 2.13 **Evidence for Post-medieval and Modern Activity:** The site is known to have contained a number of Post-medieval field boundaries which are no longer extant. No structures, with the exception of The Wrestlers public house and its outbuildings, have been constructed within the site.
- 2.14 **Evidence for Undated Activity:** The HER records two undated ditches, along with human and animal skeletal material at 3 Pound Close (HER 16117), immediately to the east of the current study area.
- 2.15 The study area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of features predominately relating to the Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the location, date, character, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) To attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;

iv) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A total of eight trenches were excavated across the proposed development area, as shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a 360° tracked mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All of the trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, some of which were potentially complex. It was, therefore, agreed with the archaeological representative of Central Bedfordshire Council that all of the archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned, in order to attempt to recover artefactual evidence, and that a selected sample of features were to be excavated. Due to the limited nature of the investigation, all stratigraphic relationships shown in plan only are provisional.
- 4.4 During the machine strip, Trench 6 was subject to severe flooding and was, therefore, recorded by means of a sketch plan, soil descriptions and photographs; all of which were undertaken from the edge of the trench section.
- 4.5 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A detailed description of all contexts identified in the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1, along with reports on the pottery, CBM, lithics, bone and miscellaneous finds in Appendices 2 – 5. A summary discussion is given below;
- 5.2 The natural sand and gravel substrates were encountered at an average depth of 0.57m (31.73m OD) below Modern ground, these were intermittently overlaid by a variable subsoil, which was, in turn, overlaid by a dark brown topsoil. Archaeological features were present, cut into the top of the natural deposits.
- 5.3 Visibility was good, with features visually distinct from the surrounding natural substrates and there was often very good visual differentiation between fills.

- 5.4 The archaeological deposits were generally well preserved, although there was evidence for plough damage in Trench 2, in the form of plough marks. Limited excavation indicated that archaeological features survived, in places, to depths of greater than 0.60m below the top of the natural.
- 5.5 **Trench 1** contained a total of seven possible features, which comprised three ditches, a cut feature and three possible features. Excavation indicated that cut [111] was stratigraphically earlier than ditch [112].
- 5.6 **Trench 2** contained 13 possible features, which included three ditches, two cut features and eight possible features. Ditch [216] probably represented a re-cut of earlier ditch [215]. Feature [217]/(218) was earlier than feature [219]/(220)/(203) and this was, itself, earlier than burnt deposit (204). It was noted that the part of fill (203) situated directly below deposit (204) had been discoloured; probably by high temperatures. Deposits (203) and (204) therefore represented good evidence for *in-situ* burning.
- 5.7 **Trench 3** contained 11 possible features, comprising two gullies, a ditch, a cut feature and seven possible features. Cut feature [314] was only partially investigated, however, it contained at least three layered fills, the lowest of which (316) was waterlogged. Gully [318] was demonstrably later than ditch [317].
- 5.8 **Trench 4** contained 19 possible features, which consisted of four ditches, a pit, a cut feature and 13 possible features. Excavation indicated that earlier ditch [421] had been re-cut by ditch [419].
- 5.9 **Trench 5** contained five possible features, which included three ditches, a posthole and a possible feature. Excavation demonstrated that ditch [507] had been re-cut by ditch [510].
- 5.10 **Trench 6** contained five possible features, including part of a possible curvilinear or rectilinear ditch. A fragment of Roman *tegula* was recovered from the top of fill (603).
- 5.11 **Trench 7** contained five possible features, which comprised three ditches, a possible posthole and a possible feature.
- 5.12 **Trench 8** contained 13 possible features, including three ditches, two gullies, two cut features and six possible features. Excavation indicated that cuts [819] and [820] represented two edges of a large feature, which was stratigraphically later than gullies [815] and [817].
- 5.13 Archaeological artefacts recovered from the trenches included a moderately sized ceramics assemblage, which was dominated by later Saxon and early Medieval wares, although a small amount of Roman and Post-medieval pottery/CBM was also present, a small assemblage of Mesolithic struck/burnt lithics, bone fragments, slag/industrial waste and a metal artefact.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified extensive and generally well preserved archaeological remains across the study area. Archaeological features were present in all of the trenches, with frequent evidence for stratified deposits.
- 6.2 Features present within the site included ditches, gullies, pits/cut features and postholes, as well as a burnt deposit in Trench 2. This deposit, along with the recovery of 13 pieces (392g) of slag from the eastern half Trench 2 (Appendix 5), indicated the potential for the presence of features related to industrial activity.
- 6.3 The recovered struck/burnt lithics indicated that the earliest on-site activity probably dated to the Mesolithic, although no features were demonstrably datable to this period.
- 6.4 Limited evidence for Roman activity was present in the form of two residual pottery sherds and a piece of *tegula*. The general paucity of Roman finds suggested that the site was probably not located near to a focus of settlement, however, this does not preclude the possibility that Roman features related to other activities may be present within or near the study area.
- 6.5 The pottery assemblage was dominated by late Saxon and early Medieval wares, which were recovered from all of the trenches, apart from Trench 6. The pottery was generally unabraded and represents good dating evidence for on-site activity. The relatively high density of stratified features and deposits present within the trenches suggested fairly intensive settlement; the earliest phases of which may date to the later Saxon period. The lack of later Medieval wares suggested that the Medieval settlement focus shifted after the 13th Century.
- 6.6 Features [418], [712], [822], (805) and (806) were associated with Post-medieval/Modern material and represent evidence for later activity.
- 6.7 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Bedford Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: The Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 1; 22.4m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = mottled orange brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of chalk.		
101	na	na	0.38	Topsoil; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained frequent small stones.	102	na
102	na	na	0.12	Topsoil-natural interface; mixed brown sand clay silt and gravel. Occurred intermittently within the trench.	nat.	101
103	4	1.5	?	Possible feature; deposit of light brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	nat.	104?
104	1.8	1.07	?	Possible ditch; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel. Not excavated.	103?	102
105	2	0.74	0.16	Fill of ditch [110]; dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[110]	102
106	0.8	0.67	0.28	Fill of feature [111]; light brown clay sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[111]	[112]
107	8	1	0.43	Fill of feature [112]; dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[112]	102
108	0.8	0.35	?	Possible feature; deposit of light brown clay sand silt. Not excavated.	nat.	[112]?
109	0.5	0.39	?	Possible feature; deposit of light brown clay sand silt. Not excavated.	nat.	[112]?
[110]	2	0.74	0.16	North - south aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 105.	nat.	105
[111]	0.8	0.67	0.28	Cut feature with a rounded profile. Contained fill 106.	nat.	106
[112]	8	1	0.43	East - west aligned ditch with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 107.	106	107

Land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 2; 23m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = mottled orange brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of chalk.		
201	na	na	0.42	Topsoil; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained frequent small stones.	202	na
202	na	na	0.13	Topsoil-natural interface; mixed brown sand clay silt and gravel. Occurred intermittently within the trench.	nat.	201
203	3.6	1.6	0.26	Fill of feature [219]; dark brown sand silt, which contained frequent small stones and occasional charcoal flecks. The part of this fill located directly beneath deposit 204 was discoloured.	220	204
				brown purple and had probably been affected by high temperature.		
204	3.3	0.65	0.12	Layer of light grey beige red purple compact chalk silt, the upper part of which was partially vitrified.	203	202
				Contained occasional charcoal flecks.		
205	1.5	1.25	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	202
				Not excavated.		
206	2.5	1.3	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and frequent	nat.	202
				chalk flecks. Not excavated.		
207	2	0.7	?	Possible feature; deposit of brown purple silt sand. Not excavated.	nat.	202
208	1.95	1.45	?	Possible feature; light olive beige red purple brown sand clay, which contained frequent stones and frequent charcoal flecks and occasional patches of chalk. Not excavated.	209?	202
209	2.35	0.78	?	Possible ditch; deposit of light brown sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	Plough mark, 208?
				Not excavated.		
210	1.35	0.72	?	Possible feature; deposit of light olive green sand clay. Not excavated.	?	202

Land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
211	6.9	1.8	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand, which contained occasional small stones, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional chalk flecks. Not excavated.	nat.	Plough mark, 202
212	1.3	0.38	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown silt sand, which contained occasional small stones. Not excavated.	nat.	Plough mark, [216]?
213	1.9	2	0.42	Fill of ditch [216]; mid brown silt sand, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[216]	202
214	1.83	1.5	0.16	Fill of ditch [215]; light brown silt sand, which contained occasional stones.	[215]	[216]
[215]	1.83	1.5	0.16	North - south aligned probable ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 214.	nat.	214
[216]	1.9	2	0.42	North - south aligned probable ditch with an uneven, rounded profile. Contained fill 213. Likely to be a re-cut of probable ditch [215].	214	213
[217]	0.35	0.3	0.28	Cut feature with a steep profile. Contained fill 218.	nat.	218
218	0.35	0.3	0.28	Fill of feature [217]; dark grey brown silt, which contained occasional small stones.	[217]	[219]
[219]	3.15	1.6	0.34	Cut feature with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fills 220 and 203.	218	220
220	?	0.87	0.06	Fill of [219]; mid brown silt sand gravel.	[219]	203
221	0.4	0.28	?	Possible feature; deposit of brown silt sand, which contained frequent small stones.	nat.	202

Land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 3; 21.4m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light orange brown sand and gravel.		
301	na	na	0.38	Topsoil; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained frequent small stones.	302	na
302	na	na	0.1	Topsoil-natural interface; mixed brown sand clay silt and gravel. Occurred intermittently within the trench.	nat.	301
303	1.9	0.47	?	Possible ditch/gully; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	302
				Not excavated.		
304	2.6	0.75	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	302
				Not excavated.		
305	3.1?	1.2	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand. Not excavated.	nat.	302
306	1.58	0.67	?	Possible feature; deposit of mixed orange brown clay gravel. Not excavated.	nat.	302
307	5?	0.96	0.08	Fill of ditch [317]; dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[317]	[318]
308	3.1	0.38	0.21	Fill of gully [318]; black brown clay sand, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[318]	302
309	4.9?	1.8	0.24	Fill of feature [314]; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	315	302
310	2.2	1.43	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark grey clay sand. Not excavated.	311?, 312? and 313?	302
311	1.5	0.42	?	Possible feature; deposit of light brown clay sand gravel. Not excavated.	nat.	310?
312	1.25	1	?	Possible feature; deposit of beige mixed clay sand chalk and gravel. Not excavated.	?	310?
313	6.3	2	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	nat.	310?
[314]	>1.94	1.8	>0.52	Cut feature with a uneven, sloping profile. Only partially investigated; excavation abandoned due to flooding. Contained fills 316, 315 and 309.	nat.	316
315	?	1.94	0.37	Fill of feature [314]; dark grey brown clay gravel, which contained occasional lumps of charcoal.	316	309
316	?	1.23	0.07	Fill of feature [314]; grey green clay silt sand gravel, which contained occasional lumps of charcoal.	[314]	315
[317]	4.6?	0.96	0.09	North - south aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 307.	nat.	307
[318]	3.1	0.38	0.21	Northeast - southwest aligned gully with a steep, rounded profile. Appeared to terminate at the northeast. Contained fill 308.	307	308

Land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 4; 21m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = orange brown sand and gravel.		
401	na	na	0.46	Topsoil; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained frequent small stones.	nat.	na
402	0.9	0.48	?	Possible feature; deposit of brown gravel sand. Not excavated.	?	401
403	3.6	2	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	401
				Not excavated.		
404	1.4	0.55	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	401
				Not excavated.		
405	1.42	0.75	0.47	Fill of cut [418]; dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[418]	401
406	1.11	1.11	0.21	Fill of pit [417]; dark brown clay sand gravel.	[417]	401
407	0.78	0.4	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown gravel sand. Not excavated.	nat.	408?
408	2.25	1.9	?	Possible ditch(es?); deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	407?	401
409	5.7	1.8	?	Possible features; four amorphous deposits of grey brown gravel. Uncertain if these represented archaeological activity or natural anomalies. Not excavated.	nat.?	401, 410?, [419]?
410	2.3	1.2	?	Possible ditch; dark grey gravel clay sand, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	409?	401
411	2.5	2.12	0.24	Fill of ditch [419]; dark grey gravel clay sand.	420	401
412	4	1.9	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown gravel sand. Not excavated.	nat.	413?, 414?, 415?
413	1.75	0.55	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel. Not excavated.	412?	401
414	1.4	0.7	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel. Not excavated.	412?	401
415	2.4	1.35	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel. Not excavated.	412?	401
416	0.6	0.42	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel. Not excavated.	nat.	401
[417]	1.11	1.11	0.21	Sub-circular pit with a shallow, uneven profile. Contained fill 406.	nat.	401
[418]	1.42	0.75	0.47	Cut feature with a rounded profile. Contained fill 405.	nat.	405
[419]	2	2.1	0.45	East - west aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Probable re-cut of ditch [421]. Contained fills 420 and 411.	422	420
420	?	1.6	0.23	Fill of ditch [419]; grey brown clay silt gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[419]	411
[421]	0.5	0.6	0.34	East - west aligned ditch with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 422.	nat.	422
422	0.5	0.6	0.34	Fill of ditch [421]; mid brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[421]	[419]

Land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 5; 22m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = orange brown to grey beige clay sand gravel.		
501	na	na	0.29	Topsoil; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained frequent small stones.	502	na
502	na	na	0.3	Subsoil; olive grey sand clay, which contained occasional small stones. Only occurred in the southern half of the trench.	nat.	501
503	0.37	0.37	0.18	Fill of posthole [512]; dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[512]	501
504	2	1.1	0.39	Fill of ditch [510]; grey brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	511	501
505	2.1	1.28	?	Possible ditch; deposit of mid brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	506?	501
506	1	0.9	?	Possible feature; deposit of grey brown clay sand. Not excavated.	nat.	505?
[507]	2	1	0.49	East - west aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fills 508 and 509.	nat.	508
508	?	0.56	0.11	Fill of ditch [507]; grey brown clay sand gravel.	[507]	509
509	2	0.96	0.4	Fill of ditch [507]; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional gravel.	508	[510]
[510]	2	1.1	0.48	East - west aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fills 511 and 504. Re-cut of ditch [507].	509	511
511	?	0.7	0.09	Fill of ditch [510]; grey clay sand gravel.	[510]	504
[512]	0.37	0.37	0.18	Sub-circular posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 503.	nat.	503

Land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 6; 22m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light beige brown clay sand gravel.		
601	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; dark brown clay sand silt; which contained frequent small stones.	602	na
602	na	na	0.28	Subsoil; dark brown sand silt clay.	nat.	601
603	11.3	1.8	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown clay sand, which contained occasional lenses of brown peat, frequent gravel, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional CBM fragments (one piece recovered and retained) and occasional bone fragments (not recovered). Not excavated.	nat.	605?
604	4	1.5	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown clay sand, which contained frequent gravel. Not excavated.	nat.	605?
605	6.5	0.8	?	Possible ditch; curvilinear deposit of dark brown clay sand. Not excavated.	603?, 604?	602
606	2.5	1.7	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown sand clay. Not excavated.	nat.	602
607	3.05	2.5	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	602
				Not excavated.		

Land adjacent to The Wrestlers, Church Street, Langford: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 7; 19.8m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light brown clay sand gravel.		
701	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; dark brown black clay sand silt, which contained frequent small stones.	702	na
702	na	na	0.28	Subsoil; dark brown to olive grey silt clay.	nat.	701
703	2.5	0.8	0.08	Fill of ditch [710]; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[710]	702
704				void		
705				void		
706	0.6	0.47	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	nat.	702
707	0.28	0.28	?	Possible posthole; deposit of dark purple brown clay silt. Not excavated.	708?	702
708	8.5	1.8	0.11	Fill of ditch [712]; grey brown gritty clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small stones.	[712]	Land drain
709	1.5	0.68	0.12	Fill of ditch [711]; brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small stones.	[711]	[712]?
[710]	2.5	0.8	0.08	North - south aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 703.	nat.	703
[711]	1.5	0.68	0.12	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 709.	nat.	709
[712]	8.5	1.8	0.11	Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, flat base. Contained fill 708.	709	708

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 8; 30.8m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light beige sand and gravel.		
801	na	na	0.5	Topsoil; dark brown clay sand silt, which contained frequent small stones.	802	na
802	na	na	0.06	Topsoil-natural interface; mixed brown sand clay silt and gravel. Occurred intermittently within the trench.	nat.	801
803	1.7	0.7	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown silt sand, which contained occasional small stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	?	802
804	1.9	0.89	0.48	Fill of ditch [822]; dark brown silt sand gravel, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[822]	801
805	1.9	1.55	?	Possible ditch; deposit of dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	nat.	801
806	4	1.8	?	Possible feature; amorphous deposit of patchy dark brown beige silt sand. Not excavated.	nat.	801
807	1.2	0.73	0.22	Fill of cut [821]; dark brown sand silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[821]	801
808	1.25	1.15	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown clay sand silt gravel, which contained rare charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	nat.	[819]?
809	15.3	1.8	0.21	Fill of cut [819]/[820]; mid brown sand silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[819]/[820]	802
810	1.5	0.65	?	Possible feature; deposit of light grey beige silt clay, which contained rare charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	?	802
811	2	0.9	?	Possible feature; deposit of mid brown sand silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	nat.	[813]?
812	1.85	0.75	0.27	Fill of ditch [813]; dark brown sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	814	801
[813]	1.85	0.75	0.6	North - south aligned ditch with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fills 814 and 812.	811?	814
814	?	0.54	0.44	Fill of ditch [813]; mid brown clay sand gravel, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[813]	812
[815]	0.6	0.47	0.29	East - west aligned ditch/gully with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 816.	nat.	816
816	0.6	0.47	0.29	Fill of ditch/gully [815]; mid grey brown clay sand gravel.	[815]	[817]

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[817]	0.6	0.34	0.19	East - west aligned ditch/gully with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 818. Probably a re-cut of ditch/gully [815].	816	818
818	0.6	0.34	0.19	Fill of ditch/gully [817]: orange brown clay sand.	[817]	[819]
[819]	15.3	1.8	0.21	Large cut feature with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 809. Equivalent to [820].	818	809
[820]				Equivalent to [819].		
[821]	1.2	0.73	0.22	Cut feature with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 807.	nat.	807
[822]	1.9	0.89	0.48	North - south aligned ditch with a steep, 'U' shaped profile. Contained fill 804.	nat.	804
823	1.2	0.6	?	Possible feature; deposit of dark brown silt sand gravel. Possibly equivalent to 804.	nat.	801

APPENDIX 2: The Pottery and CBM

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 101 sherds with a total weight of 1502g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.29. All the wares are types which are well-known in the region. Where appropriate, the codings and chronology of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1977) were used, as follows:

- A05: **Maxey-type Ware**, 7th – 9th century. 2 sherds, 48g, EVE = 0.02.
 B01: **St Neots Ware** c. AD900-1100. 44 sherds, 535g, EVE = 0.42.
 B07: **Medieval Shelly Ware**: AD1100-1400. 5 sherds, 124g, EVE = 0.
 C03: **Fine sandy reduced ware**, 12th -13th C. 1 sherd, 32g, EVE = 0.
 C59b: **Sandy ware**, 12th -13th C. 15 sherds, 240g, EVE = 0.30.
 C60: **Hertfordshire-type Greyware**, mid 12th–mid 14th C. 21 sherds, 369g, EVE = 0.05.
 C73: **Sandy-shelly Ware**, 12th – 13th century. 8 sherds, 109g, EVE = 0.
 P01: **Glazed Red Earthenware**, 16th – 17th century. 2 sherds, 23g.
 P19: **Staffordshire Manganese Ware**, late 17th – 18th century. 1 sherd, 3g.

In addition, 2 sherds (19g) of residual Romano-British pottery were also present. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The assemblage was generally in good condition, with little evidence of attrition or wear, and indicates that the assemblage is reliably stratified.

Chronology and Pottery Occurrence

Each context-specific pottery group was given a Ceramic Phase date (CP) based on the range of ware types present. The scheme, and the pottery occurrence by phase, is shown in Table X1.

Table X1: Ceramic phase chronology and pottery occurrence per ceramic phase,

	Date	Defining Wares	No	Wt	EVE	Mean Wt
CP1	7 th - 9 th C	A05	2	48	0.02	24.0g
CP2	10 th - 11 th C	B01	23	311	0.66	13.5g
CP3	12 th – mid 12 th C	B07, C03, C59b, C73	32	531	0.41	16.6g
CP4	Mid 12 th – early 13 th C	C60	30	507	0.14	16.9g

The data show that the main period of pottery deposition was from at least the late Saxon period, probably the 10th century, until the late 12th – early 13th century. The two sherds of Maxey-type Ware indicate that occupation of the site could have started in the mid-9th century, although they could be from an earlier, unrelated phase of activity. The end-date for the assemblage is suggested due to the fact that glazed wares common on sites in the region from the early-mid 13th century onwards, such as Brill/Boarstall Ware (Bedfordshire fabric C09), are entirely absent.

The data also indicates that the pottery is quite well-preserved, with the mean sherd size generally quite large. St Neots ware often occurs in very small sherds due to the fragility of the material. For example, at North Raunds in Northants, the mean sherd

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size of the stratified St. Neots Ware was around 6g (Blinkhorn 2009). The fairly large sherd size from this site shows that the late Saxon pottery is very much a primary deposit, and has been deposited near its point of breakage.

The late Saxon rim assemblage is entirely jars and bowls, which is typical of the period. The Medieval assemblage shows a similar pattern, although jars are much more common. At least one Medieval sherd, a fragment of the lower base and body in B07, has rouletted decoration, which means it is almost certainly from a jug.

The overall impression is of a well-preserved domestic pottery assemblage of 9th/10th – early 13th century date, and indicates that there was substantial late Saxon and early Medieval activity in and around the area of these excavations.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	RB		F97		B01		C60		C03		B07		F363		F364		F425		F414		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
Tr3 U/S					5	38	1	11					1	6							U/S	
Tr4 U/S					1	14															U/S	
105					1	4															CP2	
107	1	13											3	50	7	75					CP3	
203					2	43															CP2	
205					1	5															CP2	
206					1	14	1	20													CP4	
209			2	48																	CP1	
211					1	2	4	146													CP4	
213					1	2	2	12					1	4							CP4	
220							2	11													CP4	
304					1	3															CP2	
305					3	72															CP2	
307					2	9	4	68			1	30	1	18							CP4	
308							1	12			1	14									CP4	
309					5	56			1	32	3	80	3	57							CP3	
313	1	6			4	117															CP2	
315													1	27							CP3	
403					4	22															CP2	
410					1	2															CP2	
411					2	18							2	15							CP2	
414					2	15															CP2	
420					2	29							1	10							CP3	
422													2	53							CP3	
504							3	40													CP4	
505					3	56	3	49													CP4	
708					1	10														1	3	PM
804																	2	23				PM
809														1	34							CP3
812					1	4																CP2
Total	2	19	2	48	44	535	21	369	1	32	5	124	15	240	8	109	2	23	1	3		

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A total of 16 fragments of CBM were noted. The occurrence, by number and weight of fragments per context by type is shown in Table 2. It was all Post-medieval, except for a fragment of Romano-British tegula from context 603, a fragment of unglazed Medieval floor tile from context 505 and an undiagnostic fragment from context 503.

Table 2: CBM occurrence per context by type

Contxt	RB Tegula		Med Floor		PMed Br		PMed Tile		UnDiag	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
405							1	135		
503									1	75
505			1	107						
603	1	290								
708					2	394	1	194		
805							3	83		
806					6	116				
Total	1	290	1	107	8	510	5	412	1	75

Bibliography

Baker, E and Hassall, E, 1979 The Pottery in D Baker, E Baker, J Hassall and A Simco Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977 *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* **13**, 147 – 239

Blinkhorn, P, 2009 The pottery from Langham Road and Burystead in M Audouy and A Chapman *Raunds. The origins and growth of a Midland village AD450-1500*, 172-93

APPENDIX 3: The Lithics

By Dr. Hugo Anderson-Whymark

Ten struck flints and one piece of burnt unworked flint were recovered from the evaluation. The struck flints form a coherent assemblage, primarily manufactured from a good quality dark brown flint. The assemblage comprises five flakes, two blades (a flake twice as long as it is wide), a bladelet (a blade under 40 mm in length), a crested blade and a truncated blade. The blades were struck from regular single platform and opposed platform blade cores, and the presence of a crested blade indicates that these cores were carefully prepared prior to flaking. Blade technology of this type is characteristic of the Mesolithic and the truncated blade is a distinctive Mesolithic tool.

The flintwork is in variable condition and the presence of edge damage on some flints is consistent with their recovery from later archaeological features. The flints from contexts (105), (214), (412) and (809), although residual, are in fresh condition and it is unlikely that they have moved far from their original place of deposition.

The small assemblage of flints probably indicates the presence of a Mesolithic occupation site on, or in close proximity, to the evaluation area. Mesolithic sites are uncommon in Bedfordshire, with only 53 sites recorded on the HER. The known sites are typically located on elevated ridges or on low-lying sites close to rivers. The location of the current site close to a river is therefore typical of the period, although no other sites are known in close proximity.

No Mesolithic features or layers were identified by the evaluation, indicating that the majority of Mesolithic artefacts are probably contained within the topsoil and later archaeological features, but there is potential for *in-situ* Mesolithic archaeology if features, such as tree-throw holes or pits, are encountered.

Flint catalogue:

Context 101. Broken bladelet with moderate edge damage. Mesolithic.

Context 101. Flake with moderate edge damage.

Context 105. Broken flake with platform edge abrasion in fresh condition.

Context 206. Flake with slight edge damage.

SW edge of context 211/Natural. Fine parallel sided blade with use-damage, 50 mm long by 11 mm wide. Mesolithic.

Context 214. Truncated blade, 37 mm long by 14 mm wide. Oblique distal truncation with point to right hand side. Fresh condition. Mesolithic.

Context 410. Side trimming flake.

APPENDIX 4: Bone Register

Context No.	Type	No of Bone Frags	Total Weight (g)
101	undiagnostic	2	10g
107	animal bone	3	78g
107	undiagnostic	2	5g
203	animal bone	4	112g
203	undiagnostic	4	7g
204	undiagnostic	1	2g
205	animal bone	1	23g
205	undiagnostic	4	5g
206	animal bone	1	21g
207	animal bone	1	12g
207	undiagnostic	5	4g
211	animal bone	11	142g
211	undiagnostic	5	9g
212	undiagnostic	4	5g
213	undiagnostic	2	38g
220	animal bone	1	93g
304	animal bone	1	32g
304	undiagnostic	2	6g
308	undiagnostic	1	2g
309	animal bone	5	108g
309	undiagnostic	4	10g
313	animal bone	6	21g
313	undiagnostic	2	4g
315	animal bone	1	83g
403	undiagnostic	3	3g
403	animal bone	4	93g
420	animal bone	4	63g
420	undiagnostic	1	2g
503	animal bone	1	27g
504	animal bone	6	470g
504	undiagnostic	2	2g
505	animal bone	1	60g
708	animal bone	4	137g
708	undiagnostic	4	37g
709	animal bone	5	387g
709	undiagnostic	1	7g
805	undiagnostic	1	2g
809	undiagnostic	2	6g
812	animal bone	6	56g
TOTALS		118	2184g

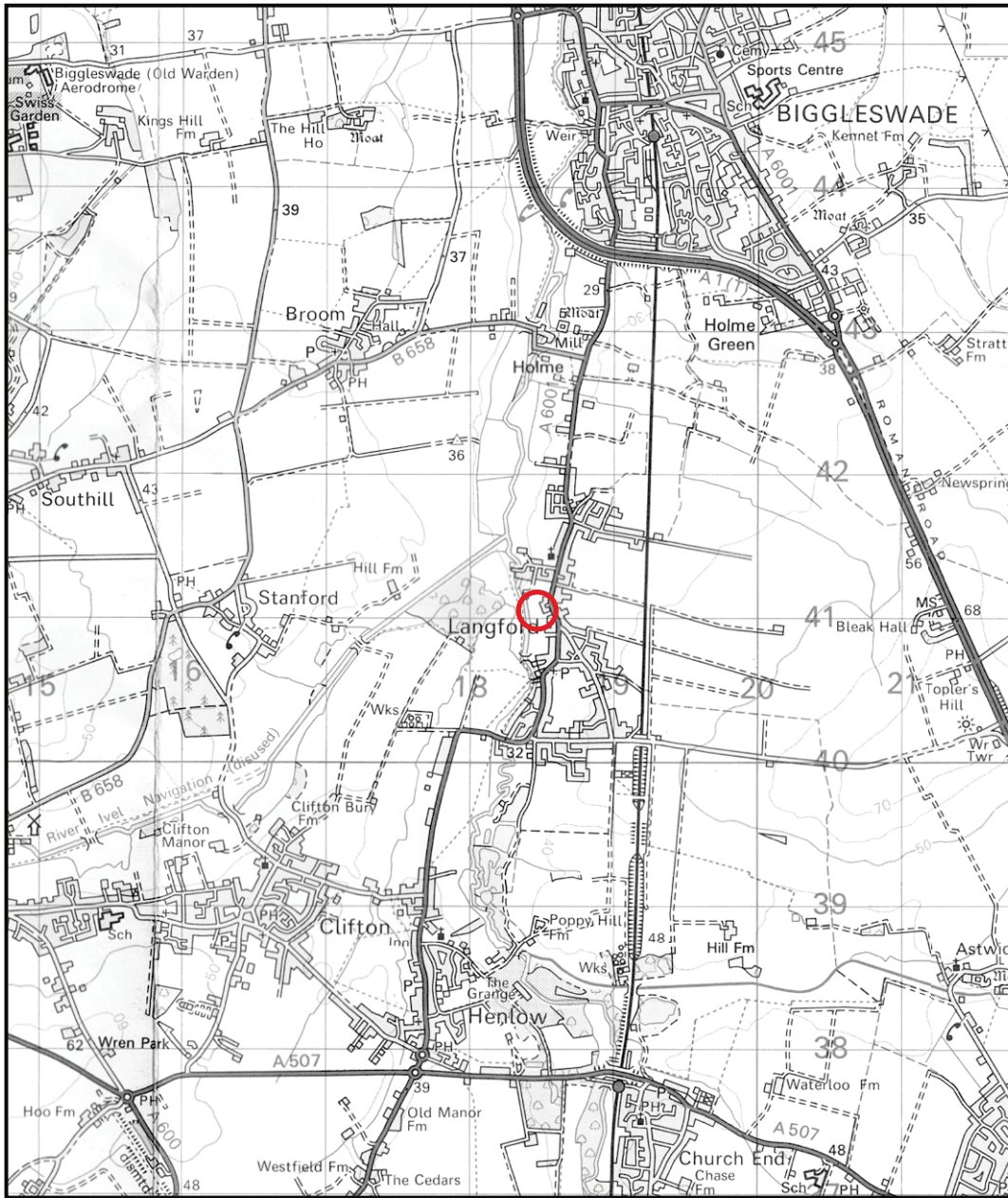
APPENDIX 5: Miscellaneous Finds

Context	Description and Weight
205	Four pieces of industrial waste/slag; 10g
208	Five pieces of industrial waste/slag; 156g
209	Four pieces of industrial waste/slag; 226g
410	Metal (Fe) artefact; 65g
803	Metal (Fe) nail fragment; 2g
805	Two fragments of Modern glass; 8g

A note on the metal artefact from context (410)

By Dr. Lynne Bevan

The metal artefact comprises a perforated crescentic fitting, but it is uncertain what it was used for. The shape is suggestive of a curved fitting to reinforce a shoe sole; a sort of cleat perhaps. It is very corroded and without an x ray and/or cleaning it is not possible to determine if there are more perforations in it. In view of the lack of positive identification and the absence of a secure associated date, no further work is recommended, although; a brief descriptive catalogue entry should be included with the site archive.

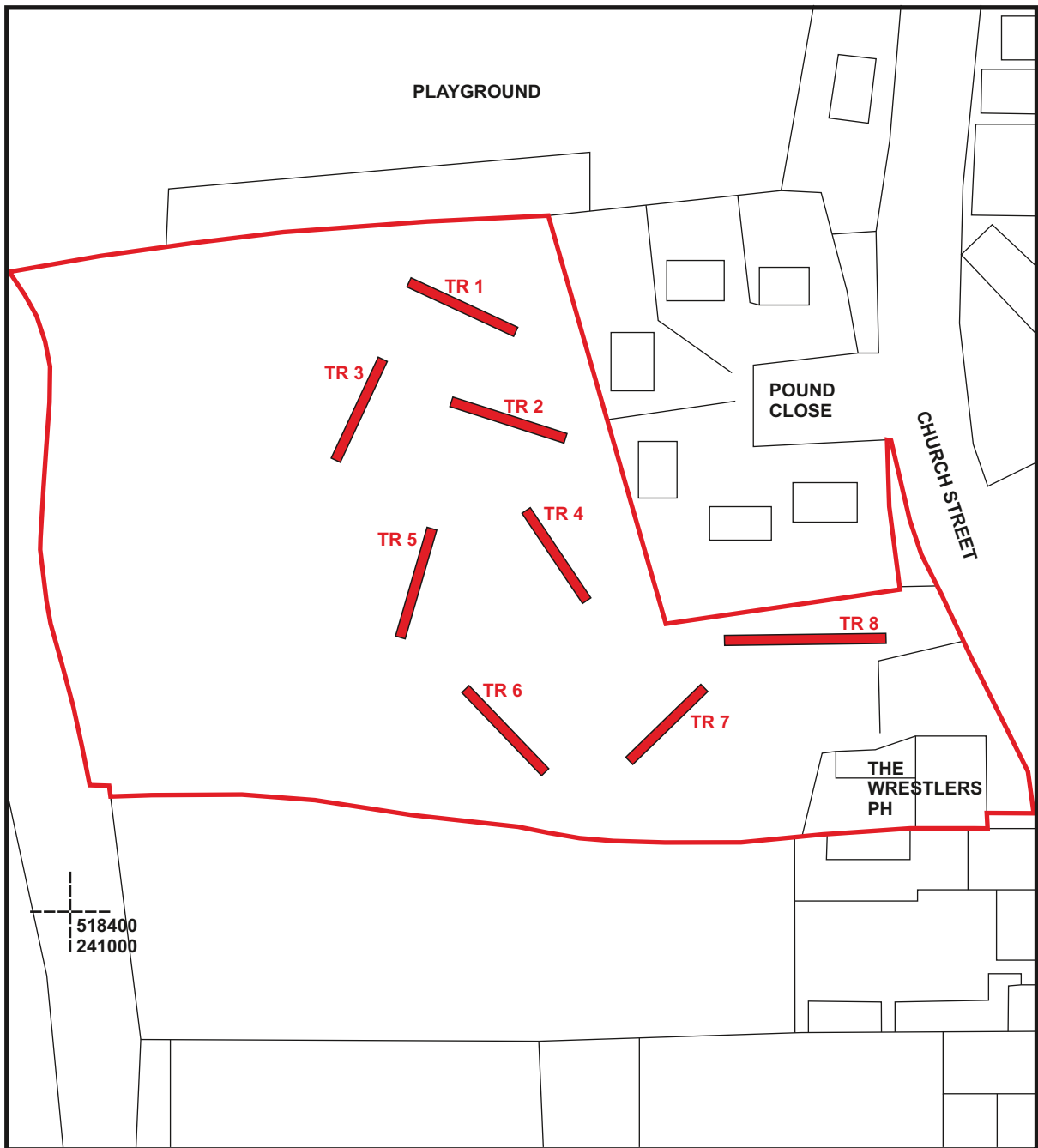


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FIGURE 1: Site Location

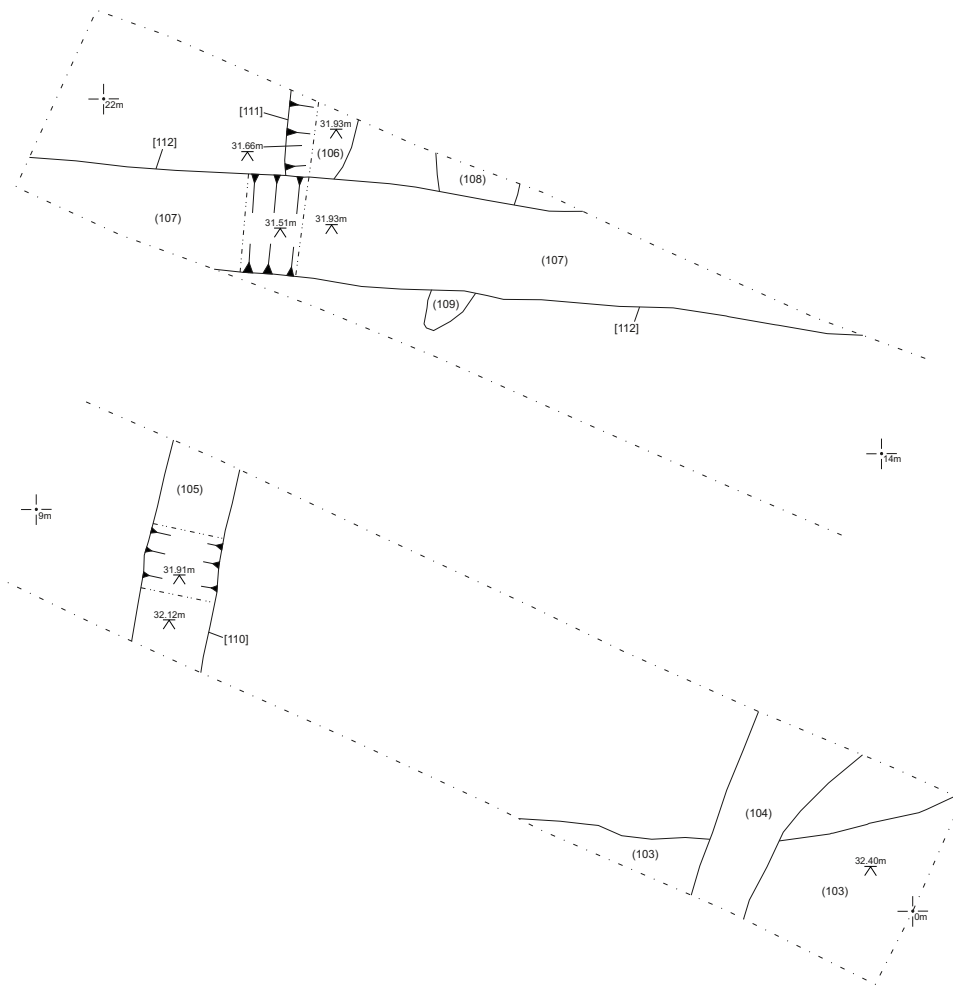


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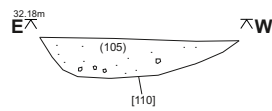
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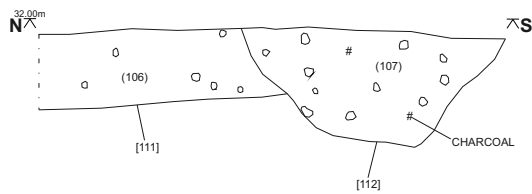
FIGURE 2: Trench Locations



NORTH FACING SECTION [110]



WEST FACING SECTION [111] and [112]



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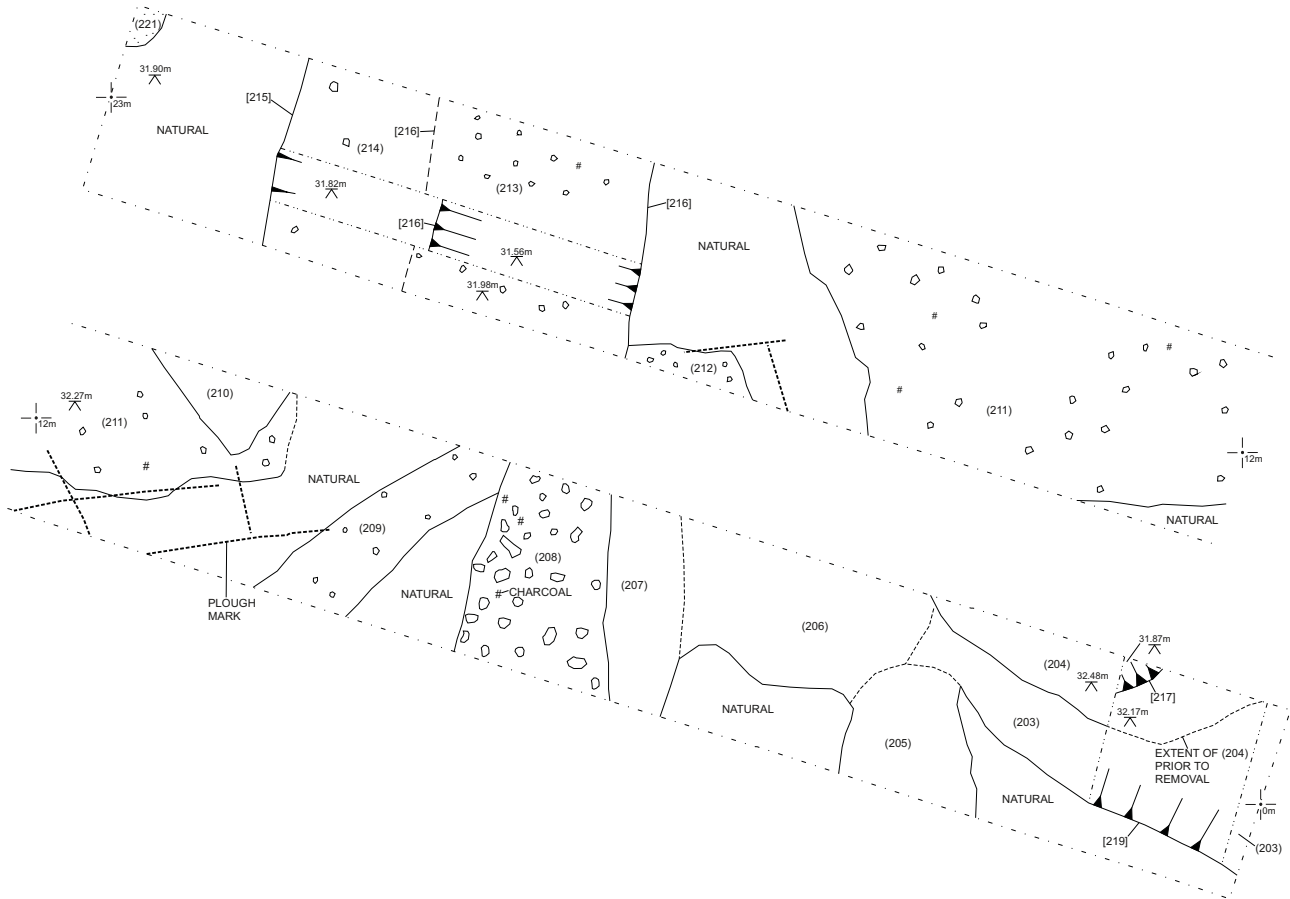
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PLANS

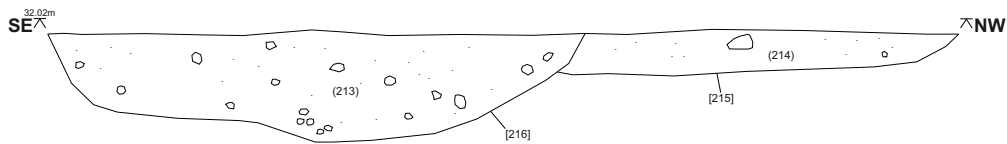
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SECTIONS

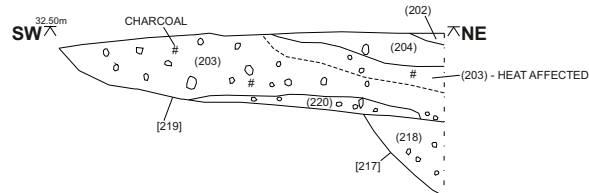
FIGURE 3: Trench 1 Plan and Sections



NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [215] and [216]



SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [217], [219] and (204)



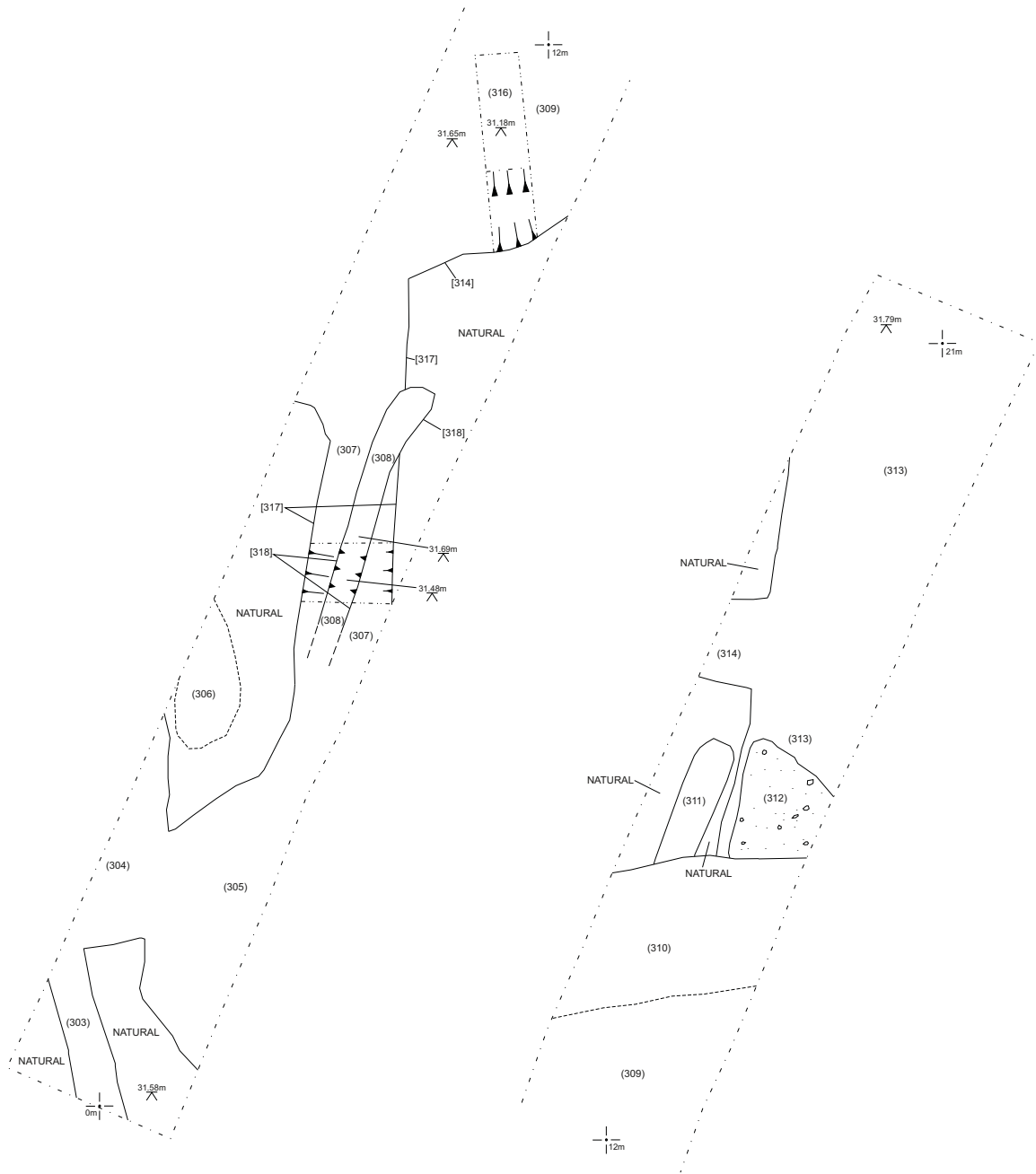
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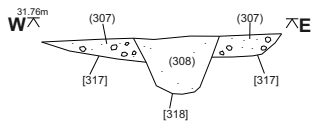
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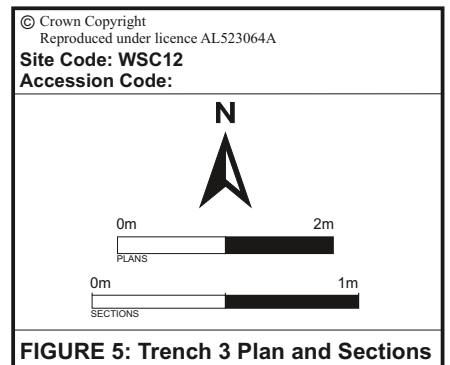
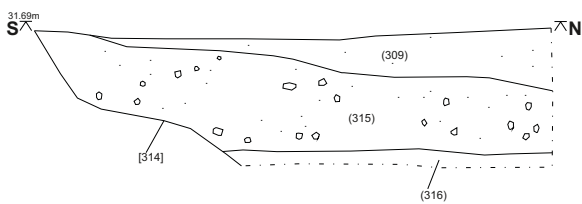
FIGURE 4: Trench 2 Plan and Sections

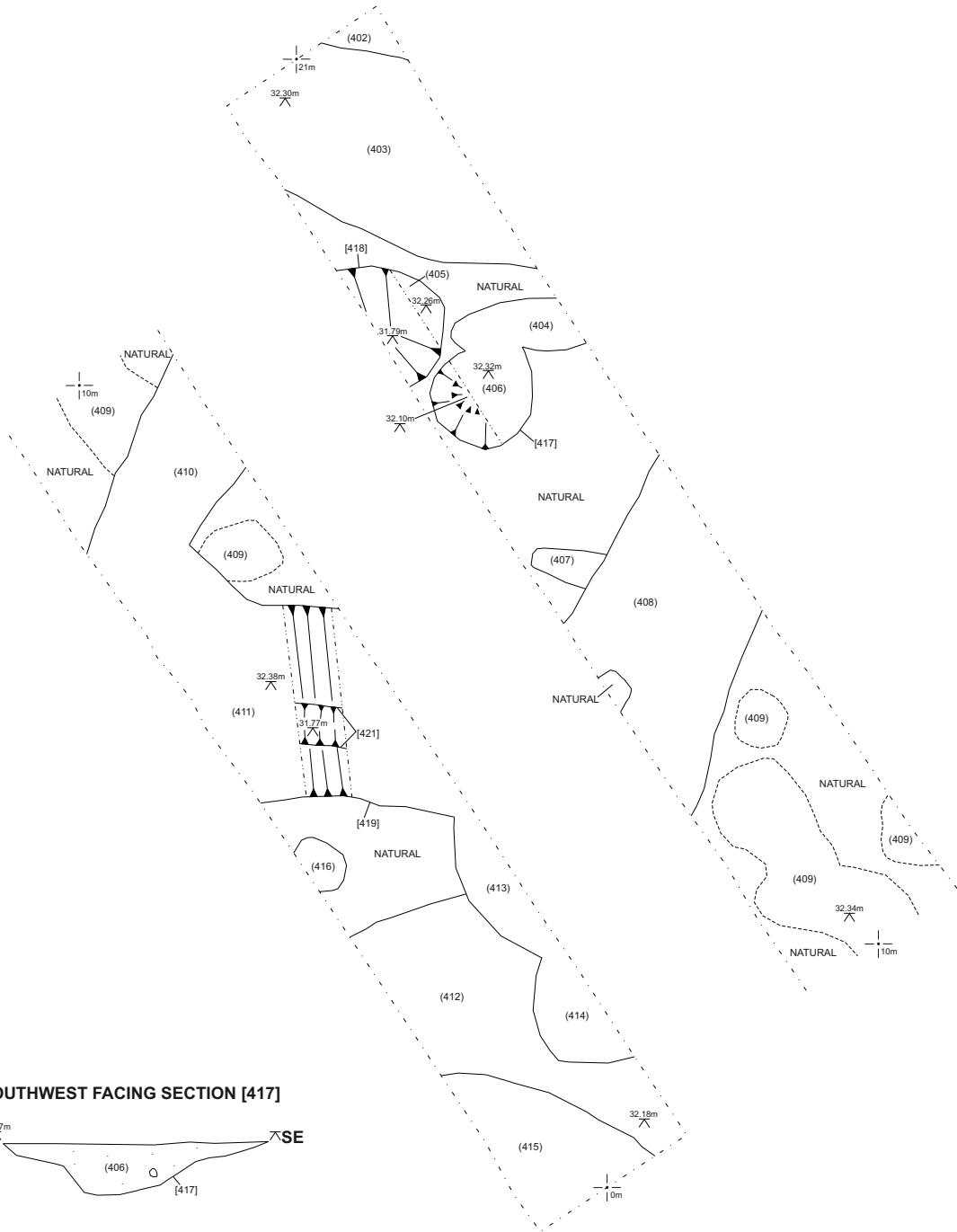


SOUTH FACING SECTION [317] and [318]



EAST FACING SECTION [314]

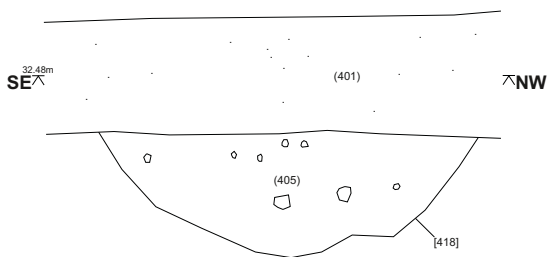




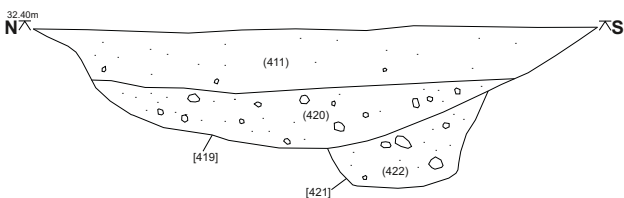
SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [417]



NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [418]



WEST FACING SECTION [421] and [419]



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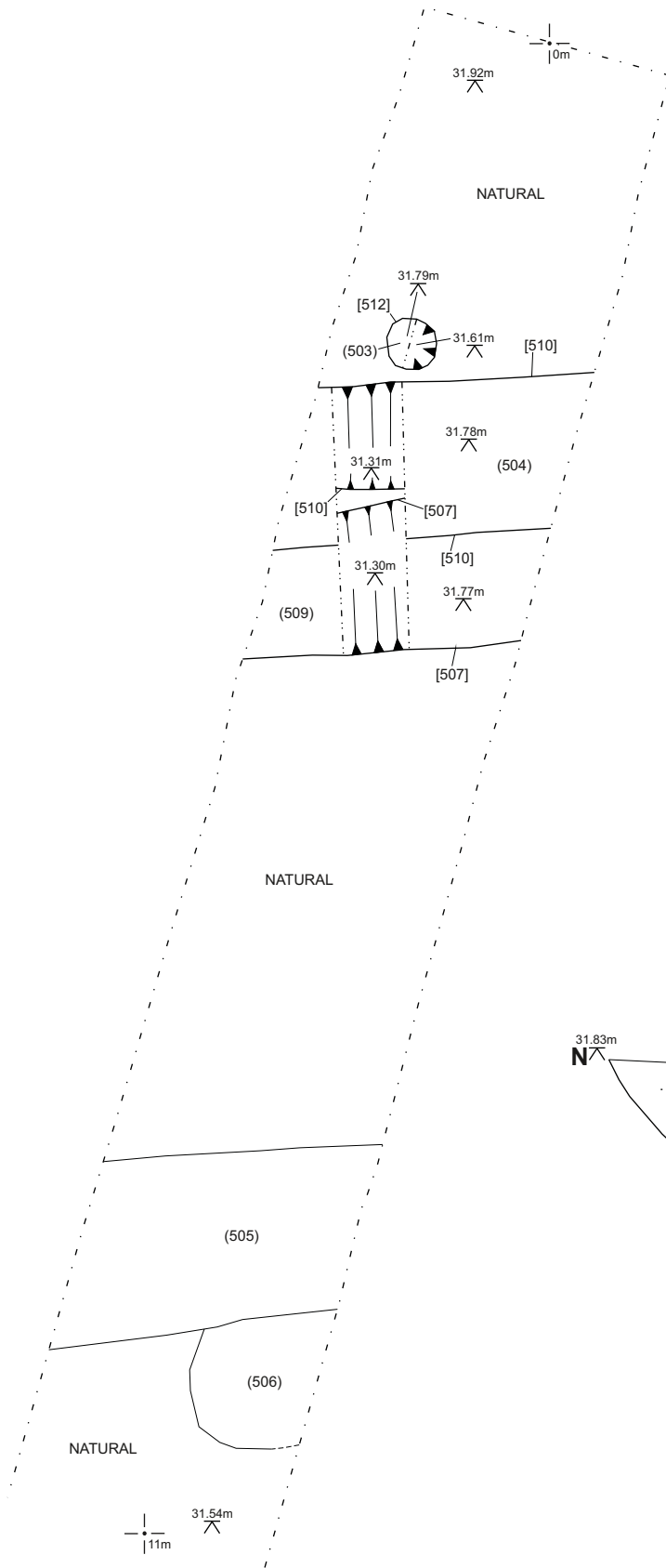
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PLANS

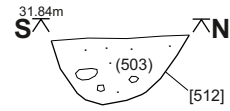
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SECTIONS

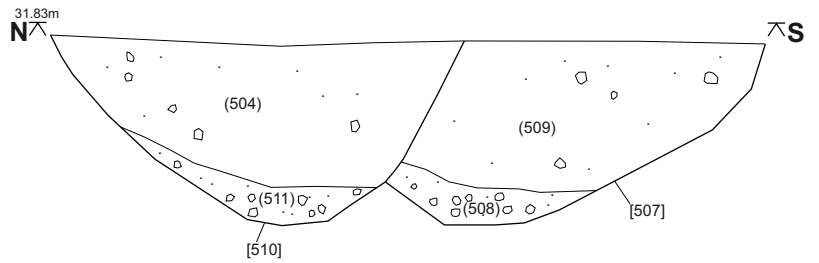
FIGURE 6: Trench 4 Plan and Sections



EAST FACING SECTION [512]



WEST FACING SECTION [507] and [510]



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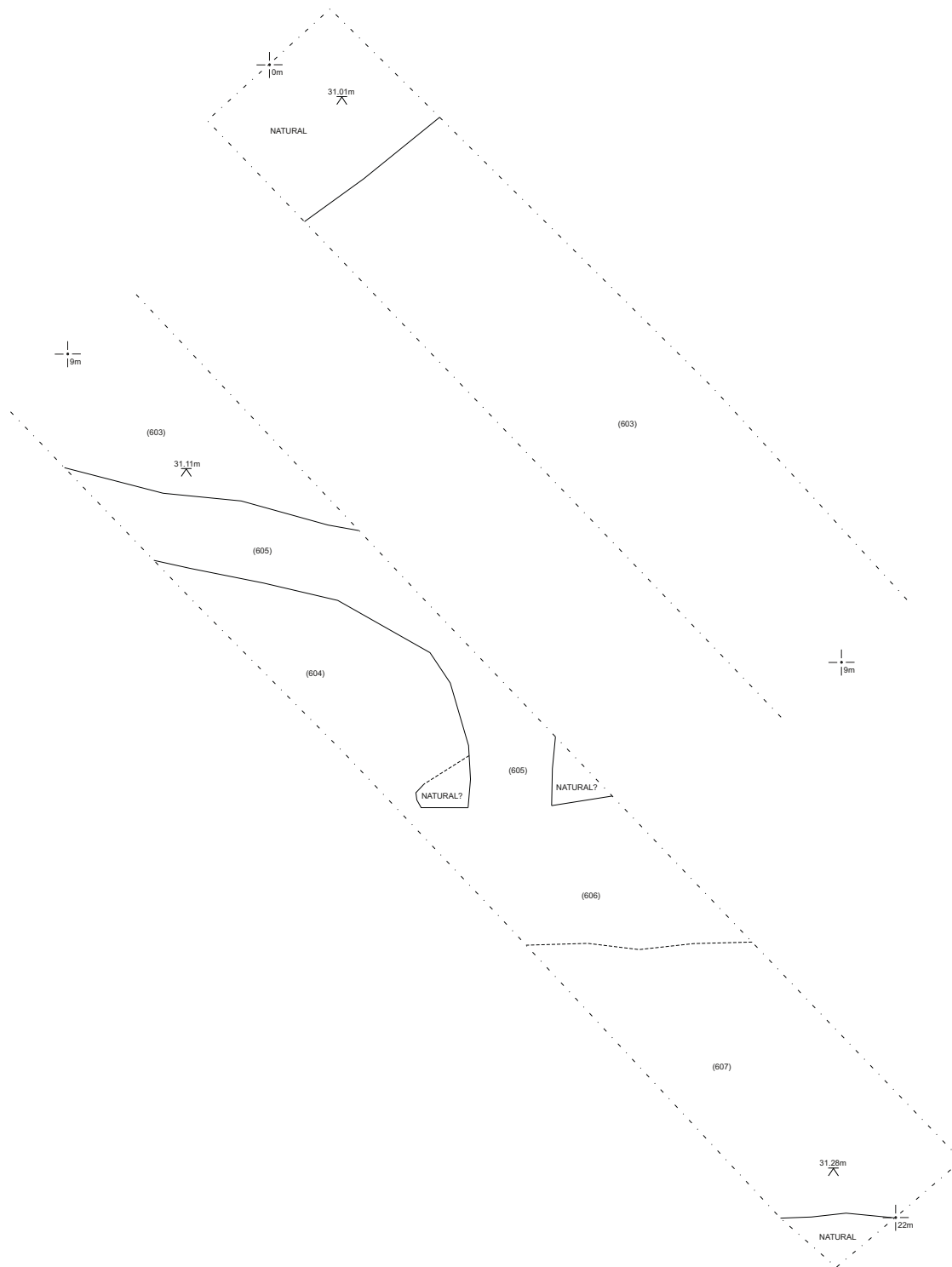
0m 2m

PLANS

0m 1m

SECTIONS

FIGURE 7: Trench 5 Plan and Sections

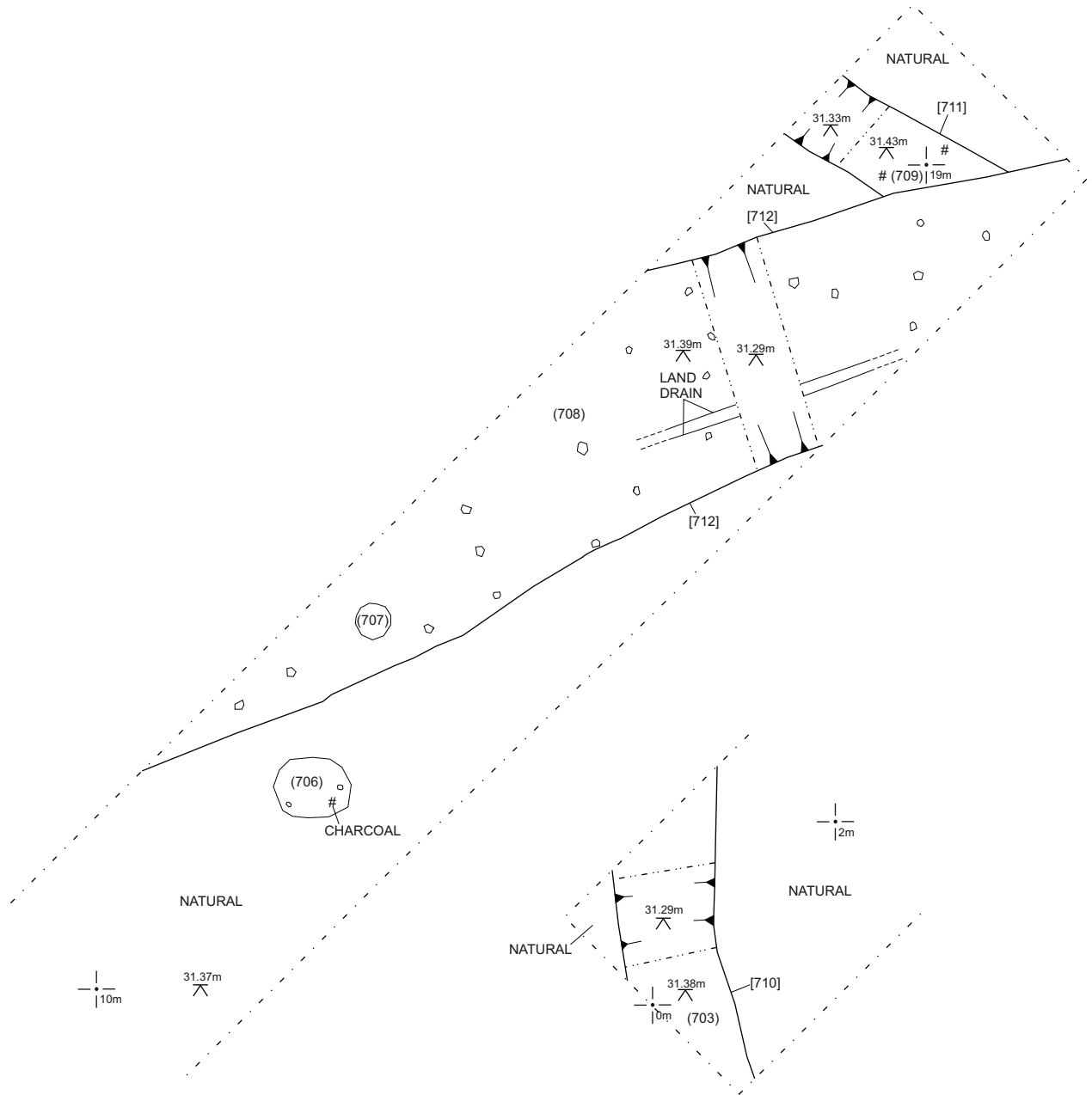


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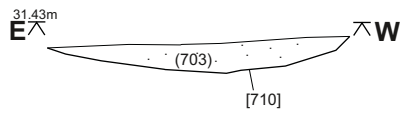
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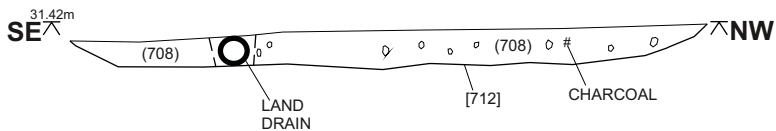
FIGURE 8: Trench 6 Sketch Plan



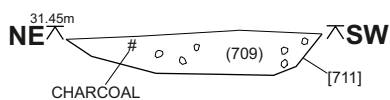
NORTH FACING SECTION [710]



NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [712]



NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [711]



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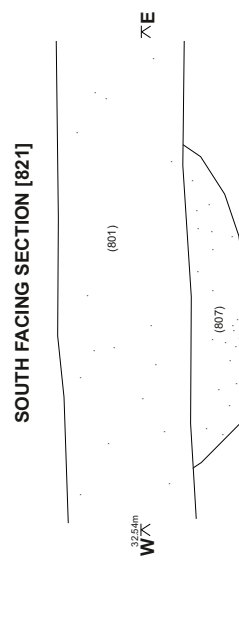
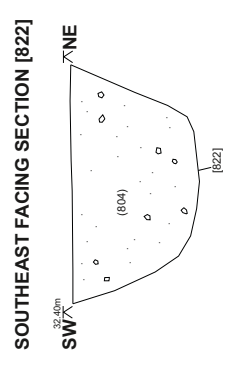
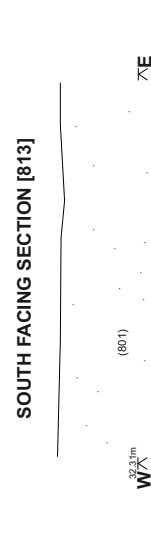
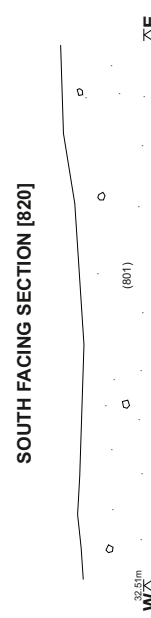
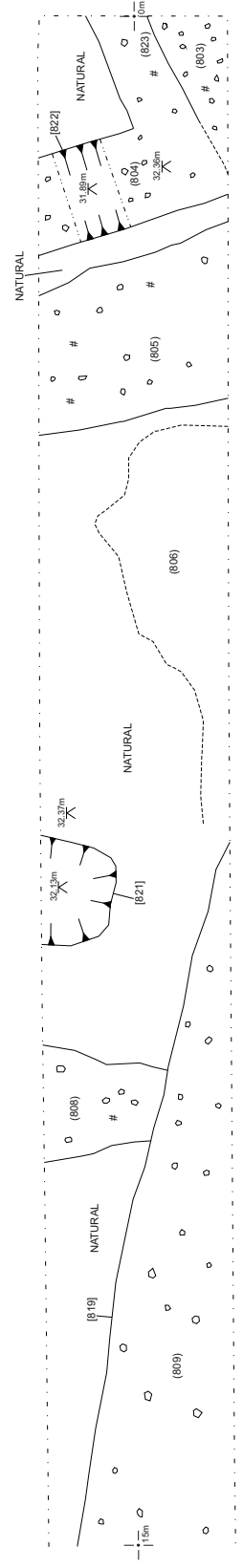
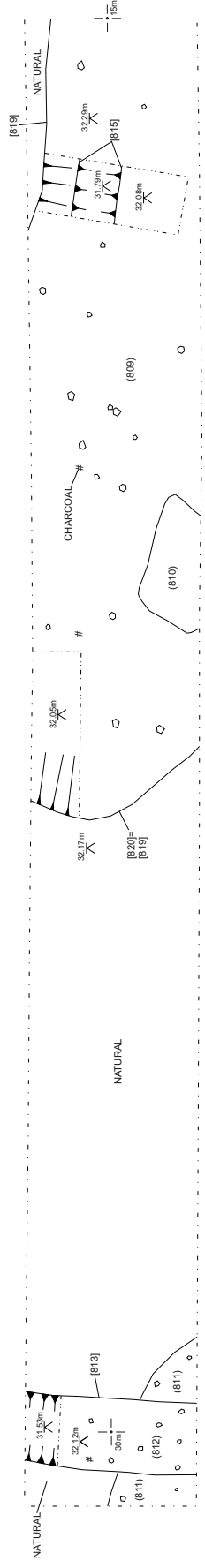
0m 2m

PLANS

0m 1m

SECTIONS

FIGURE 9: Trench 7 Plan and Sections



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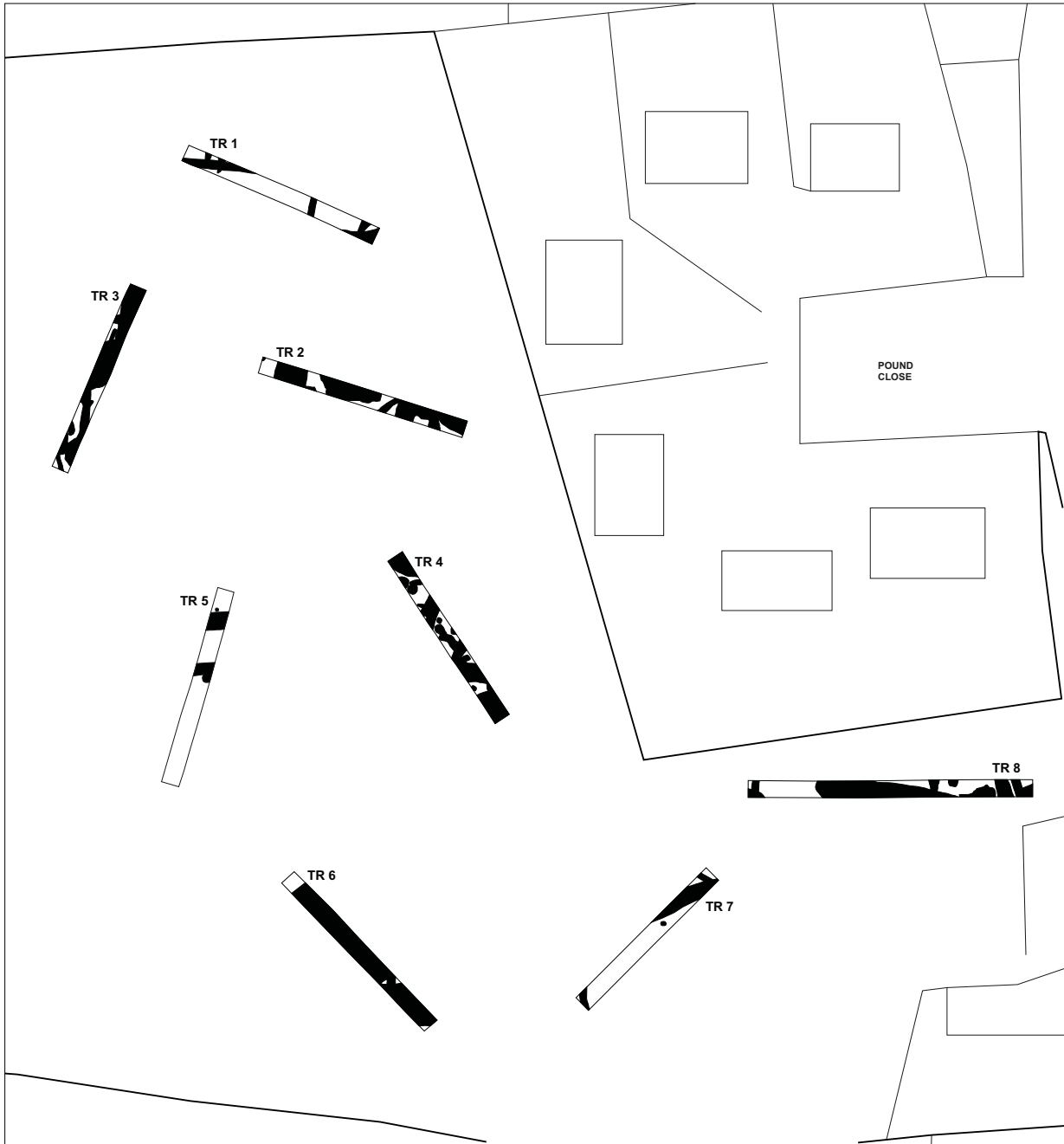
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PLANS

0m

SECTIONS

FIGURE 10: Trench 8 Plan and Sections



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0m 20m

■ = IDENTIFIED FEATURE

FIGURE 11: Feature Location Plan