

**LAND TO THE REAR OF HAWTREY CLOSE,  
SLOUGH,  
BERKSHIRE.**

**NGR: SU 989 798**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

March 2013  
Report No. 876

**Quality Assurance**

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with  
AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

Author: H. Nicholls

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Approved: R. King

QA Checked: D. King

*This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.*

## **CONTENTS**

Summary

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
- 6 CONCLUSION
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appendix 1: The Stratigraphic Data

## **FIGURE LIST**

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Trench Locations
- Figure 3: Trench 10; Plan and Sections
- Figure 4: Trench 12; Plan and Sections
- Figure 5: Trench 13; Plan and Sections
- Figure 6: Trench 14; Plan and Trench 15; Plan and Sections
- Figure 7: Trench 16; Plan and Sections
- Figure 8: Trench 17; Plan

## SUMMARY

Between the 20<sup>th</sup> February and the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land to rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough (NGR: SU 989 798). The works were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Planning permission has been granted for the development of land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough (**Planning Ref: P/01036/038**). In accordance with the principles of *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012; para. 128) and the archaeological policies of Slough Borough Council, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to the commencement of development groundworks, as a condition of planning permission.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of 19 trenches across the proposed development area.

The evaluation identified natural deposits of clays and gravels across the site. These natural deposits were predominantly situated below extensive alluvial deposits within the western half of the site, which were subsequently overlaid by a layer of subsoil and topsoil. In the eastern half of the site the alluvial deposits were absent, and the natural deposits were directly overlain by subsoil, followed by topsoil.

One possible Post-medieval/modern ditch was identified. No other securely dated archaeological features were present within the evaluated area. Undated features comprised one ditch, two probable and one possible ditch termini, one probable and one possible posthole, two possible pits, two possible tree boles or pits, and two features of unknown dimensions. All other features were identified as modern. All residual artefacts recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts were of Post-medieval date or later. Residual artefacts included one fragment of clay pipe, CBM, and chinaware. No focus of archaeological activity could be identified. There was no evidence of extraction on site, and therefore nothing to suggest that the site was part of the brickfields.

The evaluation works have indicated a low potential for archaeological deposits pre-dating the Post-medieval/Modern period. The undated, dispersed nature of the archaeological features identified suggests that these are probably either of an agricultural nature, or connected to works associated with the previous use of the site as a playing field.

## 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.

**Bronze Age:** The period between *circa* 2,000 BC to *circa* 800 BC

**CBM:** Ceramic Building Material.

**HER:** Historic Environment Record.

**Iron Age:** The period between *circa* 800 BC to AD 43.

**Medieval:** The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

**MGS:** Modern ground surface.

**Modern:** From 1900 to the present day.

**Natural:** In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

**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 from *circa* AD 1500 to 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 between AD 43 to *circa* AD 410.

**Romano-British:** Term used to describe the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture.

**Saxon:** The period between *circa* AD 410 and the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) sometimes referred to as Early Medieval.

**WSI:** Written Scheme of Investigation

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in March 2013 on land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough (NGR: SU 989 798). The works were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd (2012); IfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2008); and MoRPHE, issued by English Heritage (2006).
- 1.3 This report constitutes an assessment of the results of the archaeological works.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the development of land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough (**Planning Ref: P/01036/038**). In accordance with the principles of *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012; para. 128) and the archaeological policies of Slough Borough Council, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to the commencement of development groundworks, as a condition of planning permission.
- 2.2 The site consists of an area covering approximately 3.9ha and is bisected by Datchet Stream. There were no previously recorded archaeological remains within the site or its immediate environs. The site lies to the north of, and is associated with St Bernard's Convent, which is a grade II listed building. The burial ground of the convent is within the proposed development area and is to be retained within the development. The convent dates to the 1850s and is thought to have associations with the Slough and Langley Brickfields. There is no evidence that the site was part of the brickfields.
- 2.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation undertaken by CgMs Consulting noted that locations in similar topographic positions, on gravel deposits immediately adjacent to streams, elsewhere within east Berkshire have been favoured locations for Prehistoric, Roman and later settlement. The site lay within the agricultural holdings of nearby Medieval and Post-medieval settlement and was considered unlikely to contain occupation remains from these periods.
- 2.4 The study area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of features predominately relating to the Prehistoric, Roman and later 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 19 trenches were excavated across the proposed development area, as shown in Figure 2. The location/size of Trenches 5, 8, 12, 14, 18 and 19 were subject to minor alteration due to the need to work around other contractors, their equipment, tree and reptile protection fences, and areas of chipped wood produced from the clearing of the site. The alterations were agreed with Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology.
- 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 JCB equipped with a toothless grading bucket for Trenches 1 to 4, and a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket for the remainder of the trenches. Spoil tips were scanned for finds both visually and using a metal-detector.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## 5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 A detailed description of all contexts identified in the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. All trenches were excavated to the top of the natural substrate. A summary discussion is given below.
- 5.2 Trenches 1 to 7 were situated within a low-lying, flat, grassy field to the west of Datchet stream and were devoid of any archaeological features. Trenches 8 to 18 lay on a southwest facing, grassy slope along the base of which runs Datchet stream. Trench 19 lay on flat land within the rear garden of the demolished 82/84 Dolphin Road property. Trenches 8, 9, 11, 18 and 19 were devoid of any archaeological features. The remaining trenches revealed dispersed, undated, possible archaeological features.
- 5.3 **Trench 1:** The natural substrate consisted of mid orange and grey gravels and was encountered at an average depth of 1.2m (25.53m OD) below existing ground level at the west southwest end of the trench. These were overlaid by a layer of probable natural clean, mottled mid brown-yellow/ mid orange/ light grey sandy clay (105), which in turn was overlaid by a substantial layer of mid brown-yellow sand clay alluvium (104), with an average depth of 0.4m. Overlying the alluvium (104) was a layer of dark grey-brown silt clay (103) which in turn was overlain by a mid orange-brown silt clay subsoil (102), overlaid by topsoil (101).
- 5.4 Layer (103) petered out 29.9m from the west southwest end of Trench 1, by which point the subsoil (102) and alluvium (104) had become indistinguishable from one another. A layer of modern demolition rubble directly underlay the topsoil (101) between 24.5m and 31m from the west southwest end of the trench. The stratigraphic sequence, beyond 31m from the west southwest end of the trench, consisted of topsoil (101) overlying subsoil/alluvium (102)/(104), overlying natural plastic, mottled light yellow/light grey clay. These natural substrates were encountered at a depth of 0.8m (25.15m OD) below ground level.
- 5.5 A modern, vertical sided cut [106], containing a mixed rubble and brown-red gravel fill (107), ran perpendicular to the trench, 16.55m from the west southwest end. Brick, chinaware and glass were present within fill (107). The cut was 0.7m wide.
- 5.6 **Trench 2:** The natural substrates consisted of mid to dark grey gravels overlain by natural plastic light grey clay (203). The gravels were encountered at 1.1m (24.54m OD) below existing ground level at the southeast end of the trench and at 0.9m (24.86m OD) below ground level at the northwest end of the trench. A layer of mid orange-brown silt clay subsoil (202) overlay (203), which in turn was overlain by topsoil (201). A modern drainage pipe cut diagonally across, and flooded the trench at 5m from the southeast end. A baulk was left between 7.5m and 11m from the southeast end to prevent the rest of the trench from flooding. Another modern pipe cut across, and flooded

the trench at 11.3m so another baulk was left between 14.6m and 17.5m from the southeast end. No further modern services were encountered.

- 5.7 **Trench 3:** At the east end of the trench the natural substrates were encountered at 0.45m (25.19m OD) below existing ground level. These consisted of dark grey gravels overlain by natural plastic mid blue-grey clay (303). The west end of the trench was excavated to 1.2m (25.29m OD) below ground level onto natural plastic mid blue-grey clay (303). The natural gravels were not encountered at this end of the trench. A layer of mid orange-brown silt clay (302) overlay (303), which in turn was overlain by topsoil (301). The depth of (302) varied from 0.2m at the east end of the trench to 0.7m at the west end and probably represented an alluvial layer or a mixed subsoil/alluvium layer. A modern drainage pipe sealed with blue-grey clay cut diagonally across the trench between 2.7m and 5m from the east end of the trench.
- 5.8 **Trench 4:** The natural substrate, which consisted of a plastic mottled light brown-yellow/light grey clay was encountered at a depth of 0.8m (25.34m OD) below existing ground level at the east end of the trench and at a depth of 0.9m (25.85m OD) at the west end. The overlying stratigraphy was similar to that of Trench 3 consisting of a mixed subsoil/alluvial layer (402) overlaid by topsoil (401).
- 5.9 **Trench 5:** Natural mid orange clay with dark grey-black patches of water logging and patches of gravel was encountered at a depth of 1.2m (25.76m OD) below existing ground level at the southwest end of Trench 5. The natural substrate consisted of dark grey plastic clay with gravel patches at the northeast end of the trench, encountered at a depth of 1.25m (25.16m OD) below ground level. Roughly linear bands of clean, dark grey-black plastic clay ran diagonally across the trench at 12.4m and 15.5m from the southwest end. Excavation revealed these to be of natural origin. A mid yellow-orange sand clay alluvial layer (503) overlay the natural substrate at the southwest end of the trench and extended 15.5m to the northeast, getting increasingly shallow in depth. Mid grey-orange sand clay subsoil (502) overlay (503) and directly overlay the natural substrate beyond 15.5m, and was in turn overlain by topsoil (501).
- 5.10 **Trench 6:** The stratigraphy within Trench 6 was much the same as that in Trench 5, with the natural substrate consisting of mid orange plastic clay encountered at a depth of 1m below existing ground level (26.4m OD at the southeast end of the trench and 26.7m OD at the northwest end). This was overlain by an alluvial layer (604), which in turn was overlain by subsoil (602) and topsoil (601). Bands of dark grey-black plastic clay (603), similar to those encountered in Trench 5 ran horizontally through the alluvial layer in places before diving down into the natural clay. This could suggest the dark banding is a result of water logging, or where natural water channels have formed within the alluvial and natural layers.



- 5.11 **Trench 7:** The natural substrate was encountered at depth of 1.2m below existing ground level (26.74m OD at the west end of the trench and 25.04m at the east end). The substrate consisted of a mottled light grey and mid yellow-orange plastic clay towards the west end of the trench, and light grey plastic clay towards the east end. At the east end of the trench the natural substrate was overlaid by a layer of mottled mid grey-brown/light grey silt clay (705) which was in turn overlaid by a layer of alluvium (704). Alluvial layer (704) directly overlay the natural substrate at the western end of the trench. In turn, this was overlaid by a layer of dark grey-black silt clay (703), subsoil (702) and topsoil (701). Dark layer (703) was not evident along the entire length of the trench; instead it was first visible 7m from the western end of the trench and petered out at 23m.
- 5.12 **Trenches 8, 9, 17 and 18:** The stratigraphic sequence within all four trenches was very similar. The natural substrate consisted of mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand. This in turn was overlaid by mid brown-orange silt sand, followed by topsoil. It was first assumed that the silt sand layer underlying the topsoil was a subsoil. However, similar layers were identified underlying topsoil, but overlying modern and Post-medieval/modern features in other trenches. It should therefore not be discounted that this subsoil may represent a dumped or constructed layer in some areas.
- 5.13 In Trench 8 the gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.35m (27.93m OD) at the east northeast end of the trench and at 0.6m (26.57m OD) at the west southwest end. The gravels were encountered at 0.4m (26.56m OD) at the south southeast end of Trench 9 and at 0.35m (26.86m OD) at the north northwest end. In Trench 17 the gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.3m (27.78m OD) at the north end of the trench. Natural mid grey sand clay underlay the natural orange gravels at the south end of Trench 17, at a depth of 0.91m (26.06m OD). In Trench 18 the gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.25m (27.62m OD) at the north northwest end of the trench and at 0.3m (27.77m OD) at the south southeast end. All four trenches were devoid of archaeological features. Trench 17 had a single, partially revealed semi-circular modern feature [1703], located 24m from the northern end of the trench. Fill (1704) within [1703] contained modern brick and a metal washer.
- 5.14 **Trench 10:** The natural substrate comprised mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand which was encountered at a depth of 0.67m (28.00m OD) below ground level at the north northeast end of the trench and at 0.31m (27.69m OD) below ground level at the south southwest end. The natural deposits were overlain by a mid brown-orange silt sand (1002), followed by topsoil (1001). Two northwest-southeast aligned linear features [1007] and [1009], a possible terminus [1011], and three partially exposed features [1003], [1005] and [1013] lay within the trench area.
- 5.15 Modern mentioned above dating evidence was retrieved from three of these features; [1007], [1009], and [1013]. Linear feature [1007] had a width of 1.9m and a depth of approximately 0.56m, 45° sloping edges and a wide, flat base. Modern tile fragments were present within basal fill (1015). Upper fill

(1008) was indistinguishable from layer (1002). Linear feature [1009] had a width of 1.3m and a depth of 0.44m, 45° sloping edges, and a flat base. The feature appeared to be sealed by layer (1002). A 1921 penny coin was identified securely within fill (1010). Feature [1013] lay close to the south southwest end of the trench and was only partially exposed, hampering interpretation. The edges were near vertical, and the base was flat. Modern glass, plastic and chinaware were present within fill (1014).

- 5.16 The three remaining features could not be accurately dated. Feature [1003] lay at the very north northeast end of Trench 10 and was only partially exposed. The exposed area was roughly semi-circular in plan. The feature had a depth of 0.35m, 50° sloping edges and a concave base. Fill (1004) consisted of a soft, clean mid grey-brown silt clay with occasional small flint pebbles. The feature appeared to be sealed by layer (1002). The limited knowledge of the feature's dimensions prevents any further interpretation regarding its function.
- 5.17 Feature [1005] was partially revealed against the east southeast edge of Trench 10, was semi-circular in plan, and had a width of 0.64m and a depth of 0.35m. The edges were 45° to 55° sloping and the base was concave. The base appeared to be rising up to the east southeast, suggesting the feature may not continue much beyond the trench area. The feature may therefore represent a posthole, although no other postholes were identified within the vicinity. The feature was sealed by layer (1002).
- 5.18 A length of 2.08m of possible ditch and terminus [1011] on a northwest-southeast alignment was revealed within the trench area. The linear feature had a width of 1.32m and a depth of 0.34m, 40° sloping edges and a shallow concave base. The feature appeared to be sealed by layer (1002). Due to the unknown nature of its entire dimensions it cannot be ruled out that the feature may represent a linear pit rather than a ditch terminus.
- 5.19 **Trench 11:** The natural substrate comprised mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand, which was encountered at a depth of 0.3m (27.44m OD) below existing ground level at the west end of the trench and at 1.3m (26.42m OD) below existing ground level at the east end. At the west end of the trench the natural substrate was overlaid by a mid brown-orange silt sand subsoil (1102), followed by topsoil (1101). The natural substrate was heavily truncated by a modern cut at the east end of the trench. The west edge of modern cut [1104] ran perpendicular to the trench, 13.2m from the west end and dropped at an angle of 45°. The east edge lay beyond the trench area. Multiple ash, clinker, and rubble fills lay within the cut, which had a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- 5.20 **Trench 12:** The natural substrate comprised mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand which was encountered at a depth of 0.35m (27.50m OD) below existing ground level at the north northwest end of the trench and at 0.55m (26.96m OD) below existing ground level at the south southeast end. At the north northwest end of the trench the natural substrate was overlaid by a mid brown-orange silt sand subsoil (1202), followed by

topsoil (1201). A possible shallow cut [1203], which ran diagonally across the trench, had altered the stratigraphic sequence from 10.2m from the north northwest end. This cut ran parallel to the hedge line at a distance of 8m, and may represent a natural hollow with the ground sloping down to the existing field boundary along the east edge of the site. However, the lack of subsoil within the hollow, which was seen to underlie the topsoil within the north northwest end of the trench, might suggest otherwise. The cut is probably associated with the construction of the field boundary and its associated bank. There is no visible boundary ditch associated with the field boundary.

- 5.21 Two further features lay within Trench 12, one of modern date, [1205], and one which remained undated, [1207]. Modern, linear ditch [1205] ran almost perpendicular to the trench on a northeast-southwest alignment, had a width of 2.2m, a depth of 0.45m, 40° sloping edges and a wide, flat base. Multiple fragments of chinaware were retrieved from its fill (1206). Possible feature [1207] was partially revealed against the east northeast edge of Trench 12, had a width of more than 1.05m and a depth of 0.2m. The west southwest edge was at an angle of 30°, the north northwest edge was very shallow with an angle of 10° whilst the base was flat. The other edges lay outside the trench area, hampering interpretation. The feature was overlain by a substantial layer of mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel (1215) which was almost indistinguishable from fill (1208). It should not be discounted that [1207] may represent a residual area of (1215), sitting in a natural hollow within the natural gravels and sands. No dating evidence was retrieved from this possible feature. Layer (1215) was overlain by topsoil (1201).
- 5.22 **Trench 13:** The natural substrate comprised mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand, which was encountered at a depth of 0.54m (27.76m OD) below existing ground level at the east northeast end of the trench and at 0.3m (26.74m OD) below existing ground level at the west southwest end. In turn this was overlaid by a mid brown-orange silt sand subsoil (1302), followed by topsoil (1301). Three features lay within Trench 13 from which no artefacts were recovered.
- 5.23 Possible ditch terminus [1303] extended into the trench area for a length of 2.7m on a northeast-southwest alignment. The linear feature had a width of 1.2m and a depth of 0.3m, 50° sloping edges and a concave base. The feature was sealed by subsoil (1302). Due to the unknown nature of the feature's entire dimensions it cannot be ruled out that it may represent a linear pit rather than a ditch terminus.
- 5.24 Possible pit [1305] had a diameter of 1m and a depth of 0.4m and appeared circular in plan, although a small area of the feature's southeast edge extended beyond the trench area. The feature was overlaid by subsoil (1302).
- 5.25 Posthole [1307] had a length of 0.42m, a width of 0.37m, and a depth of 0.29m. The feature was oval in plan, had near vertical edges, a concave base, and appeared to underlie subsoil (1302).

- 5.26 **Trench 14:** The natural substrate was the same as that in Trenches 8 to 18, encountered at a depth of 0.7m (28.09m OD) below existing ground level at the east end of the trench. This in turn was overlaid by a stratigraphic sequence of subsoil (1402) and topsoil (1401) similar to that seen in all trenches east of Datchet stream (Trenches 8 to 18). An intermediate layer of mid orange-brown clay silts with abundant gravel (1403) overlay the natural gravels towards the west northwest end of the trench, and underlay subsoil (1402). This layer probably represented a layer of mixed subsoil and natural. A single large, near vertical sided cut [1404] truncated the subsoil, layer (1403), and the natural substrate, at a distance of 5.3m from the west northwest end of the trench. The cut was overlaid by topsoil (1401), and filled with a very clean, re-deposited mid yellow-orange gravel fill (1405) with a depth greater than 1m. It was impossible to safely excavate to the base of the feature as the gravel fill (1405) was prone to collapse. The west northwest edge of the feature lay beyond the trench area making interpretation of the feature and its function impossible.
- 5.27 **Trench 15:** The natural substrate was the same as that in Trenches 8 to 18, and was encountered at a depth of 0.58m (28.13m OD) below existing ground level at the northwest end of the trench and at 0.64m (28.18m OD) below existing ground level at the southeast end. This in turn was overlaid by a layer of mid red-brown silt clay with occasional gravel (1503), a mid orange-brown clay-silt subsoil (1502) and topsoil (1501). Two possible shallow pits or tree boles were located within the trench area. Feature [1504] was roughly circular in plan with a diameter of 1.1m, had a depth of 0.24m and an irregular base, and was filled with a soft mid brown clay silt fill (1505). Feature [1506] appeared roughly oval in plan although its northeast edge extended beyond the trench area. This possible shallow pit or tree bole had a width of 1.2m, a depth of 0.18m, an irregular base and was also filled with a soft mid brown clay silt fill (1507). The relationship between feature [1504] and the subsoil (1502) was unclear, whilst feature [1506] appeared to cut the subsoil.
- 5.28 **Trench 16:** The natural substrate comprised mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand and was encountered at a depth of 0.45m below existing ground level (28.22m OD at the east end of the trench, and 27.91m OD at the west end). A layer of mid red-brown silt clay with occasional gravel (1603) overlay the natural substrate at the east end of the trench, followed in turn by a mid orange-brown clay silt subsoil (1602) and topsoil (1601). At the west end of the trench a layer of mid orange-brown silt clay with frequent gravel (1608) overlay the natural substrate. This in turn was overlaid by subsoil (1602) and topsoil (1601). There were three possible features within the trench area: [1604], [1609], and [1612]. Feature [1604] was securely dated as modern, whilst the other two features remained undated.
- 5.29 Feature [1604] was linear in plan, and had a northwest-southeast alignment. The probable ditch was 1.7m wide and 0.86m deep, had 45° sloping edges, and a wide flat base. Modern brick was retrieved from its fill (1605). A layer of mid orange-brown silt clay with frequent gravel (1608) directly overlay fill

(1605). This in turn was overlaid by a mid grey brown clay silt (1607), a mottled mid brown/ brown-orange silt clay (1606), followed by topsoil (1601).

- 5.30 Feature [1609] was also linear in plan, and had a north-south alignment. The probable ditch was 3.2m wide and 0.8m deep. No dating evidence was retrieved from the feature; however, upper fill (1610) within [1609] was directly overlaid by layer (1608), followed by topsoil (1601). Layer (1608) also directly overlay fill (1605) within modern linear [1604], and must therefore have been of modern date.
- 5.31 Feature [1612] represented the possible terminus of a linear feature, on a northeast-southwest alignment. The feature terminated against the north edge of the trench, from which it widened to 1.4m before narrowing considerably towards the southern edge of the trench, where it was 0.6m wide. The feature had a depth of 0.3m, 45° sloping edges and a flat base. The features fill (1613) consisted of a soft mid brown-grey silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions. The feature appeared to cut the subsoil (1602).
- 5.32 **Trench 19:** The natural substrate consisted of mid grey gravels which were encountered at a depth of 0.6m (27.50m OD at the southwest end of the trench and at 27.35m OD at the northeast end of the trench) below the existing ground level. Towards the centre of the trench the grey gravels comprised only a thin layer overlying natural mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand. Three steep-sided modern cuts were visible within the trench area at 4.5m, 21.3m and 26m from the southwest end of the trench. The first two were semi-circular in plan and extended beyond the trench area; the third was square in plan. All three contained modern artefacts such as fragments of glass, clinker, plastic and chinaware.
- 5.33 Visibility during the evaluation works was good and there was no evidence for extensive truncation within the investigated area, although some Modern disturbance was noted in Trench 11 at the south of the site.

## 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 A number of features were identified during the course of the project; of these all were late Post-medieval or modern, or undated in origin. Undated features comprised one ditch, two probable and one possible ditch terminus, one definite and one possible posthole, two possible pits, two possible tree boles and two features of unknown dimensions. All residual artefacts recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts were of Post-medieval date or later. Residual artefacts included one fragment of clay pipe, CBM, and chinaware. No focus of archaeological activity could be identified. There was no evidence of extraction on site, and therefore nothing to suggest that the site was part of the brickfields.

- 6.2 The evaluation works have indicated a low potential for archaeological deposits pre-dating the Post-medieval/Modern period. The undated, dispersed nature of the archaeological features identified suggests that these are probably either of an agricultural nature, or connected to works associated with the previous use of the site as a playing field.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited with an appropriate depository as named by the LPA. 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**

CgMs Consulting Ltd, 2012, *Land to the rear of St Bernard's Preparatory School, Hawtrey Close: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*.

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (Swindon).

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Fiona Macdonald of Berkshire Archaeology, Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting, and Martin Allen and Steve Atkins of Linden Homes for their help during the course of the project.



## APPENDIX 1: The Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>Trench 1: 40m by 1.8m; natural (at average 25.34m OD) = mid orange and grey gravels</b>		
101			0.3	Dark black-brown silt topsoil with occasional charcoal inclusions and brick fragments	102 109 natural	
102			0.15-0.5	Mid orange-brown silt clay subsoil with fragments of CBM	103	101 109
103			0.15-0.2	Dark grey-brown silt clay	104 108	102
104			0.45-0.5	Mid brown-yellow sand clay alluvium	105	103
105			0.15-0.35	Mottled mid brown-yellow/ mid orange/ light grey sandy clay	natural	104
[106]		0.7		Modern north-south aligned linear cut	103	
107		0.7		Mixed brown-red gravel with frequent brick inclusions, occasional china and rare glass. Fill of [106]	106	101 102?
108			0.2	Layer of probably natural plastic mottled orange/ grey clay	natural	103
109			0.15	Layer of modern demolition rubble with inclusions of brick, mortar and coal ash	102	101
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 2: 41m by 1.8m; natural (at average 24.70m OD) = mid to dark grey gravels</b>		
201			0.3	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	202	
202			0.2-0.7	Mid orange-brown silt clay	203	201
203			0.2	Natural plastic light grey clay.	natural	202
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 3: 30.9m by 1.8m; natural (at average 25.24m OD) = dark grey gravels</b>		
301			0.3-0.4	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	302	
302			0.2-0.7	Mid orange-brown silt clay mixed subsoil/ alluvium layer	303	301
303			0.1-0.3	Natural plastic mid blue-grey clay	natural	302
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 4: 40m by 1.8m; natural (at average 25.60m OD) = plastic mottled light brown-yellow/ light grey clay</b>		
401			0.2	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	402	
402			0.5-0.6	Mid orange-brown silt clay mixed subsoil/ alluvium layer	403	401
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.	natural	402

# Land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation

				<b>Trench 5: 40m by 1.8m; natural (at average 25.46m OD) = mid orange clay with dark grey-black patches of water logging and patches of gravel</b>		
501			0.2-0.3	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	502	
502			0.4-1.0	Mid grey-orange sand clay subsoil	503	501
503			0.3-0.4	Mid yellow-orange sand clay alluvial layer	natural	502
[504]	>1.8	0.92	0.33	Southeast-northwest aligned linear, probable natural band of water logged clay. Steeply sloping SW edge and near vertical NE edge, wide flat base.		
505	>1.8	0.92	0.33	Fill of [504] Natural dark grey plastic clay with one fragment of flint		
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 6: 41m by 1.8m; natural (at average 26.55m OD) = mid orange plastic clay</b>		
601			0.2	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	602	
602			0.35	Mid grey-orange sand clay subsoil	604	601
603				Bands of natural dark grey-black plastic clay		
604			0.1-0.4	Mid yellow-orange sand clay alluvial layer	natural	602
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 7: 42.5m by 1.8m; natural (at average 25.89m OD) = mottled light grey and mid yellow-orange plastic clay at the west end with a light grey plastic clay at the east end.</b>		
701			0.25-0.3	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	702	
702			0.25-0.3	Mid grey-orange sand clay subsoil	703	701
703			0.25-0.5	Dark grey-black silt clay	704	702
704			0.2-0.7	Mid yellow-orange sand clay alluvial layer	705	703
705		17.5	0.1	Mottled mid grey-brown/light grey silt clay	natural	704
706		3.2	>0.3	Band of natural plastic mottled yellow grey and orange clay		
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 8: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 27.25m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand</b>		
801			0.15-0.2	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	802	
802			0.2-0.4	Mid orange-brown sand silt subsoil with frequent gravel inclusions	natural	801
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		



# Land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation

				<b>Trench 9: 0m by 1.8m; natural (at average 26.71m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand</b>		
901			0.2	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	902	
902			0.15-0.2	Mid brown-orange silt sand subsoil	natural	901
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 10: 40m by 1.8m; natural (at average 27.85m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand</b>		
1001			0.1-0.3	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1002	
1002			0.3-0.5	Mid brown-orange silt sand subsoil	1004 1006 1012 natural	1001
[1003]			0.35	Partially exposed semi-circular feature with a concave base	natural	1004
1004			0.35	Soft mid grey-brown silt clay fill of [1003] with occasional small flint pebbles	1003	1002
[1005]		0.64	0.35	Partially exposed semi-circular feature with a concave base. Possible posthole	natural	1006
1006		0.64	0.35	Dark brown clay silt fill of [1005] with frequent flint gravel inclusions	1005	1002
[1007]		1.9	0.56	Modern northwest-southeast aligned linear ditch with 45° edges and a wide, flat base	1002?	1001
1008		1.9	0.45	Upper fill of [1007]. Mid orange-brown silt sand with occasional flint gravel inclusions	1015	1001 1002?
[1009]		1.3	0.44	Northwest-southeast aligned linear ditch with 45° edges, and a flat base	natural	1010
1010		1.3	0.44	Fill of [1009]. Dark brown-grey silt clay with abundant gravel inclusions. Finds: 1921 penny coin	1009	1002
[1011]	2.08	1.32	0.34	Possible ditch terminus on a northwest-southeast alignment	natural	1012
1012	2.08	1.32	0.32	Mid to dark brown sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions. Fill of [1011]	1011	1002
[1013]		0.9	0.25	Partially exposed possible pit of modern date	1002	1014
1014		0.9	0.25	Fill of [1013]. Soft dark brown silt clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. Finds: glass and plastic and china fragments	1013	1001
1015			0.15	Basal fill of [1007]. Dark brown sand clay with abundant flint gravel inclusions	1007	1008
				<b>Trench 11: 40.2m by 1.8m; natural (at average 26.93m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand</b>		
1101			0.1-0.2	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1102	
1102			0.2	Mid brown-orange silt sand subsoil		1101
1103			0.35	Fill of [1104]. Layer of dark purple-black clinker and ash		1101
[1104]		>13.2	1.2	Very large modern cut with 45° west edge. East edge lay beyond trench area.		
1105			>0.4	Fill of [1104]		1101

## Land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation

[1106]				VOID		
1107			>0.4	Fill of [1104]		1101
[1108]				VOID		
1109			>0.3	Fill of [1104]. Mid brown silt with abundant mixed orange and grey gravels and frequent charcoal flecks. Finds: brick, plastic		1101
1110			0.2	Fill of [1104]. Dark grey-black silt		1101
1111			0.15	Fill of [1104]. Light grey ash and rubble	1112	
1112			0.4	Fill of [1104]. Mid orange-brown sand clay with brick inclusions	1113	1111
1113			0.1	Fill of [1104]. Dark black sandy silt with ash	1114	1112
1114			0.3	Fill of [1104]. Mid grey-brown silt sand with rubble and mortar inclusions	1115	1113
1115			0.1	Fill of [1104]. Very dark black silt with abundant ash and charcoal	1104	1114
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 12: 41m by 1.8m; natural (at average 27.23m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand</b>		
1201				Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1202	
1202				Mid brown-orange silt sand subsoil	natural	1201
[1203]		c.9m	>0.4	Possible shallow cut running parallel to and possibly associated with hedge bank and its construction. Possibly just a natural hollow.	natural	1204
1204		c.9m	>0.4	Fill of [1203]. Light grey-brown silt sand with frequent gravel inclusions and occasional fragments of CBM	1203	1201
[1205]		2.2	0.45	Modern ditch cut on northeast-southwest alignment.	natural	1206
1206		2.2	0.45	Fill of [1205]. Mottled mid orange-grey silt clay with occasional gravel, and rare charcoal flecks and china fragments	1205	1218
[1207]	>2.1	>1	0.2	Partially revealed, possible cut with shallow west southwest and north northwest edges	natural	1208
1208	>2.1	>1	0.2	Fill of [1207]. Mid orange-brown sand silt with occasional gravel	1207	1215
1209			0.1	Thin layer of mid orange sand with abundant gravel	1210	1220
1210			0.18	Layer of dark black-brown sandy silt with frequent brick, tile and gravel inclusions	1211	1209
1211			0.15	Mid brown-orange sand silt with frequent gravel	1215	1210
[1212]		2.1	0.35-0.65	Possible modern cut seen in trench section	1215? 1216 1217	1213
1213			0.35	Light grey-white mortar and lime dumped layer, or fill within [1212]	1212 1218	1214
1214			0.3	Possible upper fill within [1212] but uncertain due to its similarity to (1215)	1213	1211
1215			0.35-0.5	Layer of mid orange-brown sand silt with frequent gravel	1216	1211

# Land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation

1216			0.05	Possible layer or lens of mid orange sand and gravel. If this represents a lens then (1215)=(1217)	1217	1215
1217			0.2	Layer of mid orange-brown sand silt with frequent gravel	1218	1213 1216
1218			0.15-0.3	Mottled mid grey-brown/ orange sand silt with frequent gravel	1206	1213 1217
1219				VOID		
1220			0.1	Thin layer of dark purple-black grit with occasional brick and mortar fragments and abundant coal ash, charcoal and clinker	1209	
				<b>Trench 13: 40m by 1.8m; natural (at average 27.25m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow-orange sand</b>		
1301			0.1-0.17	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1302	
1302			0.15-0.31	Mid orange-brown silt sand subsoil with frequent gravel	1304 1306 1308?	1301
[1303]	2.7	1.2	0.3	Probable ditch terminus or linear pit on a northeast-southwest alignment	natural	1304
1304	2.7	1.2	0.3	Mid to dark brown soft clay sand fill of [1303]. Finds: a single fragment of rough, possible flint debitage	1303	1302
[1305]		1	0.4	Possible pit cut, roughly circular in plan although one edge extended beyond the area of the trench	natural	1306
1306		1	0.4	Soft dark brown clay sand fill of [1305]	1305	1302
[1307]	0.42	0.37	0.4	Oval posthole with near vertical sides and concave base	natural	1308
1308	0.42	0.37	0.4	Soft dark brown clay sand fill of [1307] with frequent gravel inclusions	1307	1302? 1301
				<b>Trench 14: 41m by 1.8m; natural (at average 28.09m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow- orange sand</b>		
1401			0.15-0.25	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1402	
1402			0.2-0.4	Mid orange-brown clay silt subsoil with occasional gravel inclusions	1403	1401
1403			0.2-0.25	Layer of mid orange-brown clay silt with abundant gravel inclusions	natural	1402
[1404]		>5.3	>1	Large, near vertical sided cut which extended beyond west northwest end of trench	1402 natural	1405
1405		>5.3	>1	Clean re-deposited gravel fill of [1404]	1404	1401
				<b>Trench 15: 40.4m by 1.8m; natural (at average 28.16m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow- orange sand</b>		
1501			0.2-0.25	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1502	

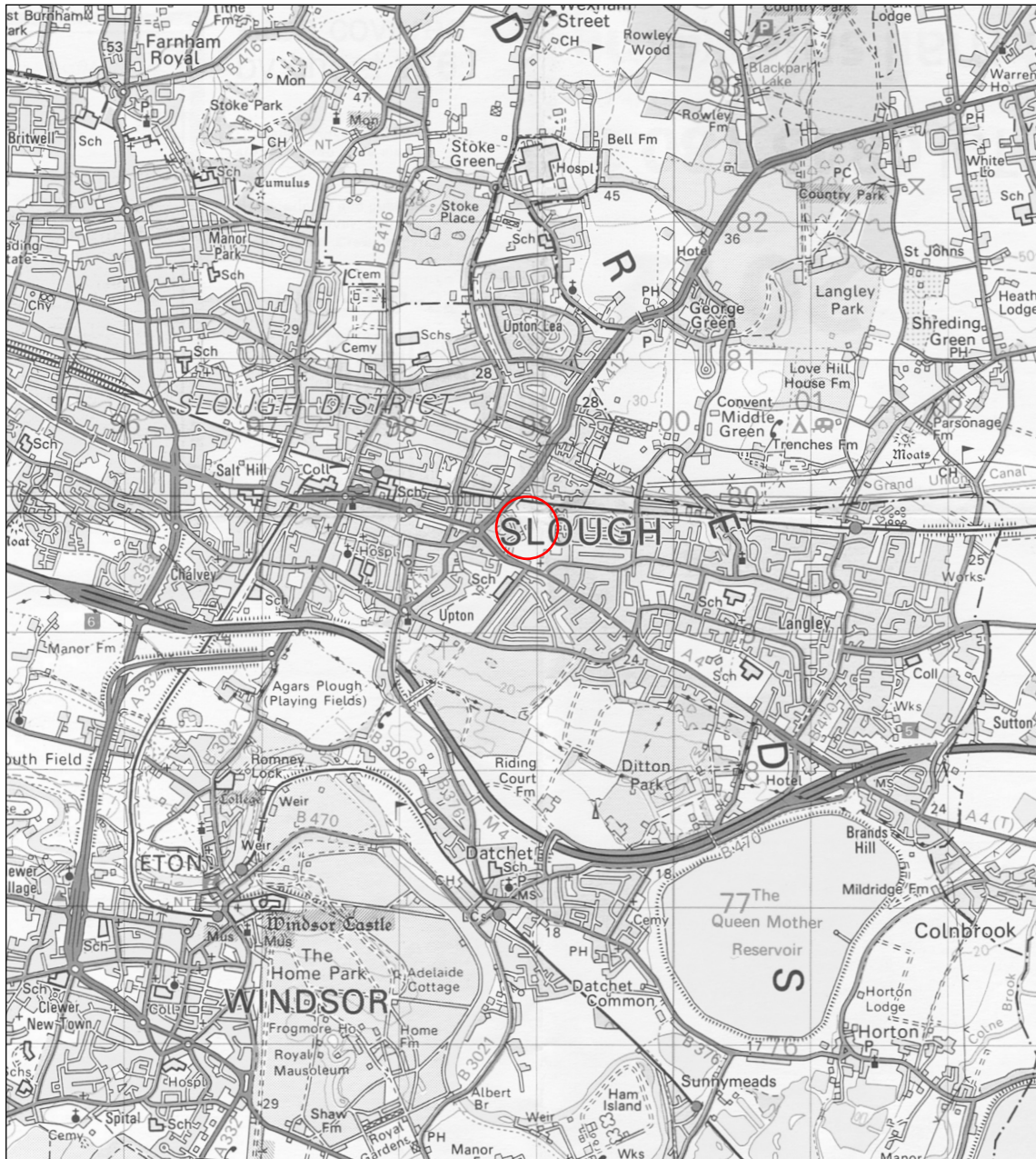
## Land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation

1502			0.2-0.4	Mid orange-brown clay silt subsoil with occasional gravel	1503	1501
1503			0.1-0.3	Layer of mid red-brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions	natural	1502
[1504]		1.1	0.24	Possible treebole, roughly circular in plan	1502?	1505
1505		1.1	0.24	Soft mid brown clay silt fill of [1504]	1504	1501 1502?
[1506]		1.2	0.18	Possible treebole, roughly oval in plan although one edge partially extended beyond the trench area	1502	1507
1507		1.2	0.18	Soft mid brown clay silt fill of [1506]	1506	1501
				<b>Trench 16: 30.5m by 1.8m; natural (at average 28.07m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow- orange sand</b>		
1601			0.15-0.2	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1602 1606 1608	
1602			0.1-0.2	Mid orange-brown clay silt subsoil with occasional gravel	1603 1608	1601
1603			0.1-0.2	Layer of mid red-brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions	natural	1602
[1604]		1.7	0.86	Modern ditch cut on northwest-southeast alignment		1605
1605		1.7	0.86	Mid grey-brown sand silt fill of [1604] with frequent gravel inclusions and rare brick fragments	1604	1608
1606			0.1	Mottled mid brown/ brown-orange silt clay layer	1607	1601
1607			0.12	Mid grey brown clay silt layer	1608	1606
1608			0.1-0.12	Layer of mid orange-brown silt clay with frequent gravel	1610 natural	1602 1607
[1609]		3.2	0.8	Large, wide ditch cut on a north-south alignment	natural	1611
1610		3.2	0.75	Mid to dark brown silt clay fill of [1609] with frequent gravel inclusions	1611	1608
1611			0.2	Mid brown-grey sand clay fill of [1609] with abundant gravel inclusions	1609	1610
[1612]		0.6-1.4	0.3	Possible terminus on northeast-southwest alignment	1602?	1613
1613		0.6-1.4	0.3	Soft mid brown-grey silt clay fill of [1612] with occasional gravel inclusions	1612	1601
				<b>Trench 17: 40m by 1.8m; natural (at average 26.92m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow- orange sand</b>		
1701			0.1-0.2	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1702	
1702			0.15-0.3	Mid orange-brown sand silt subsoil with frequent gravel inclusions	natural	1701
[1703]	>1.1	1.8	0.25-0.45	Modern feature. Partially revealed against east edge of trench	1702?	1704 1707?

## Land to the rear of Hawtrey Close, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation

1704			0.25	Soft, loose mid brown silt fill of [1703]. Finds: brick fragments and one alloy/metal washer	1703	1707
[1705]		c.0.4	c.0.3	Short roughly linear patch of darker natural, probably a result of root/natural disturbance		
1706		c.0.4	c.0.3	Mid orange-brown sand silt with abundant gravel inclusions fill of [1705]	1706	1702
1707		1.8	0.2	Possible upper fill of [1703]. Mid brown-orange silt sand with abundant gravel	1704	1701
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 18: 48.8m by 1.8m; natural (at average 27.70m OD) = mid yellow-orange gravels with patches of yellow- orange sand</b>		
1801			0.1-0.15	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1802	
1802			0.1-0.15	Mid orange-brown sand silt subsoil with frequent gravel inclusions	natural	1801
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>Trench 19: 28m by 1.8m; natural (at average 27.43m OD) = mid grey gravels overlying mid yellow-orange gravels and orange sand patches</b>		
1901			0.2-0.4	Dark black-brown silt topsoil.	1902	
1902			0.15-0.3	Mid orange-brown clay silt subsoil with occasional gravel inclusions	natural	1901
[1903]		1.5	0.6	Partially revealed, semi-circular modern pit cut	1902	1904
1904		1.5	0.6	Dark brown-black silt fill of [1903] with occasional gravel, plastic, and animal bone inclusions	1903	1901
[1905]	1.2	0.9	>0.2	Square, modern pit cut with near vertical edges	1902	1906
1906	1.2	0.9	>0.2	Dark brown-black silt fill of [1905] with frequent gravel, charcoal, glass, iron and chinaware	1905	1901
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		

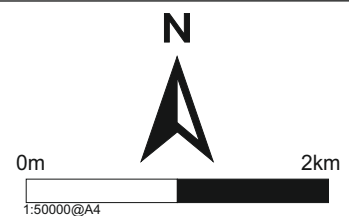




© Crown Copyright  
Reproduced under licence AL523064A

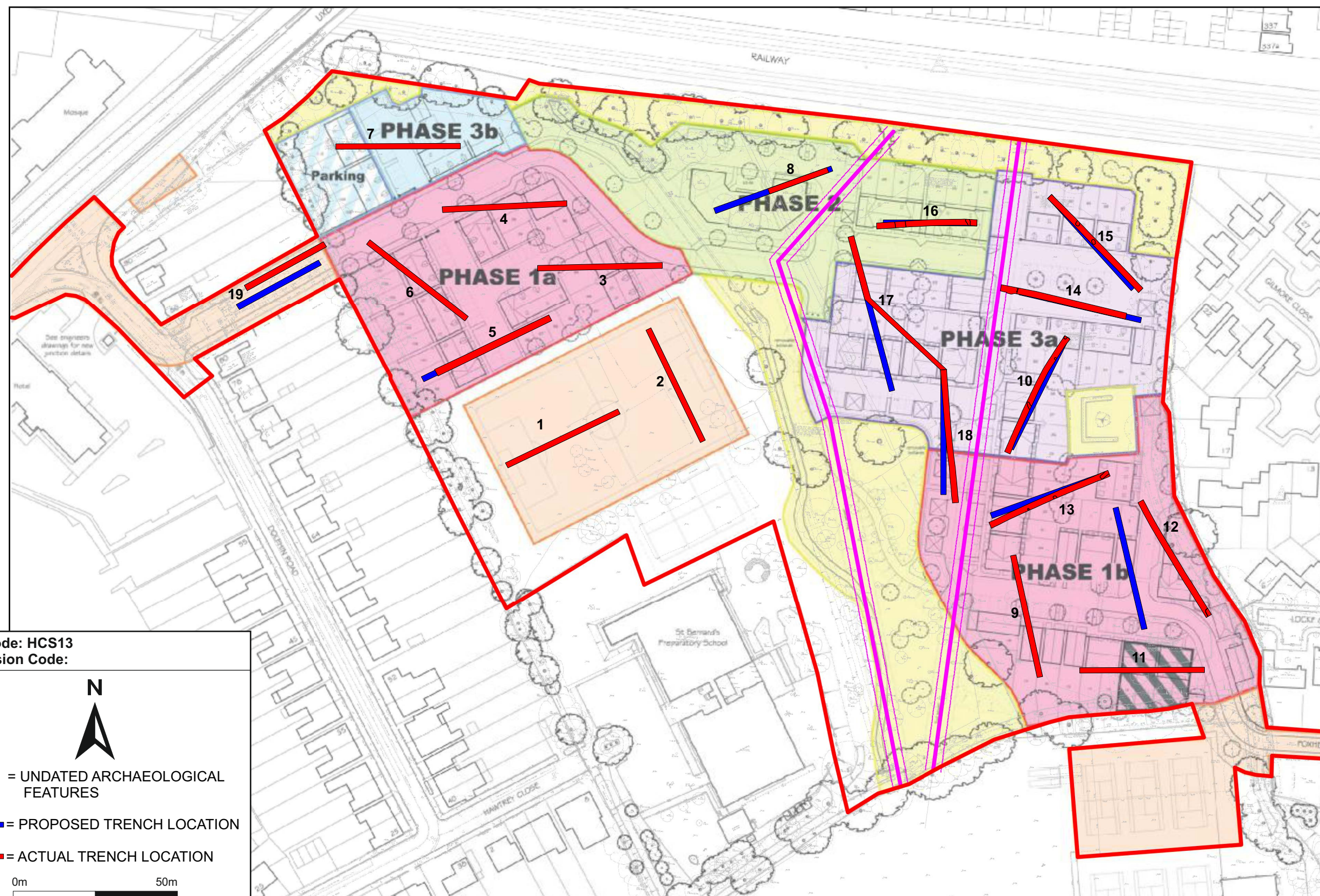
**Site Code: HCS13**

**Accession Code:**



**FIGURE 1: Site Location**

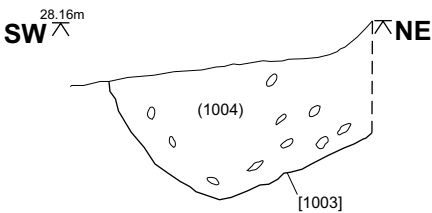




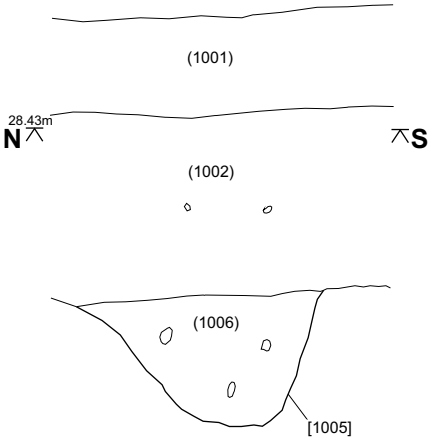
**FIGURE 2: Trench Locations**



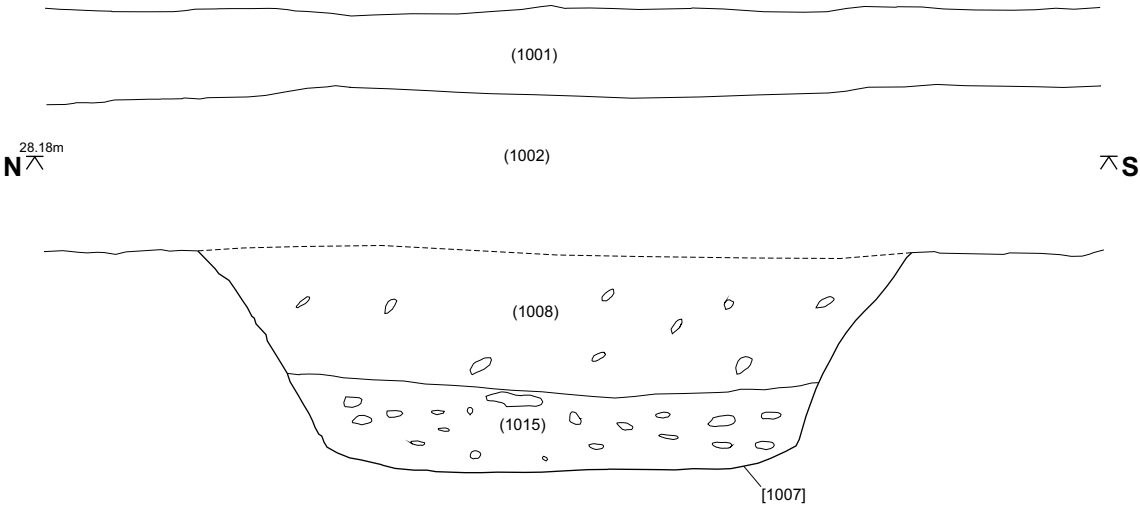
001: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1003]



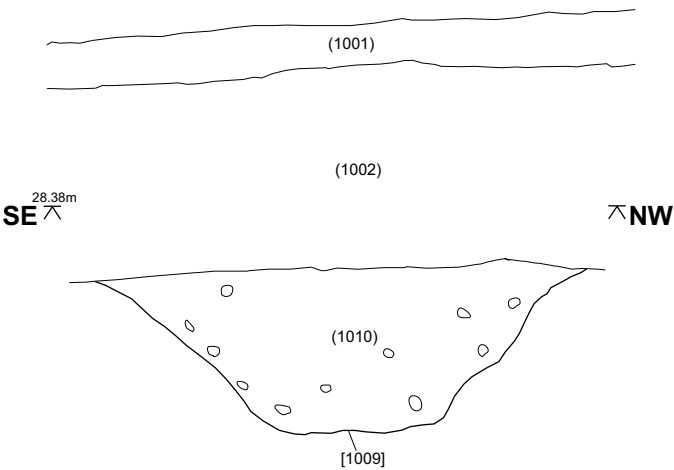
002: WEST FACING SECTION [1005]



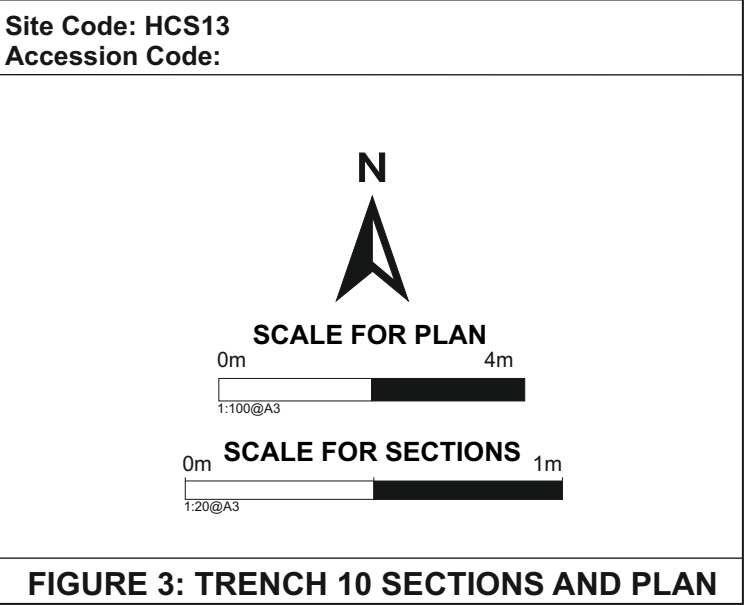
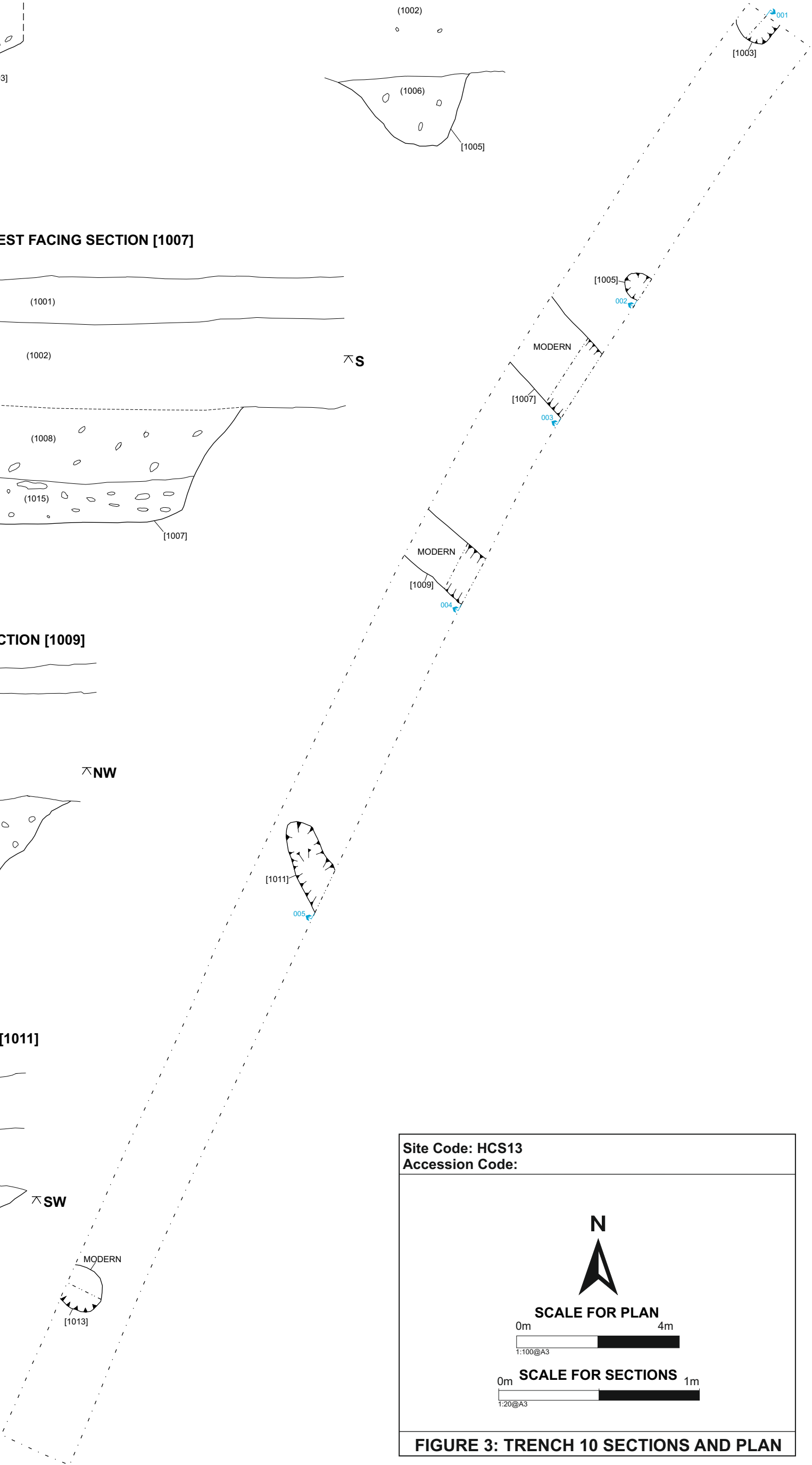
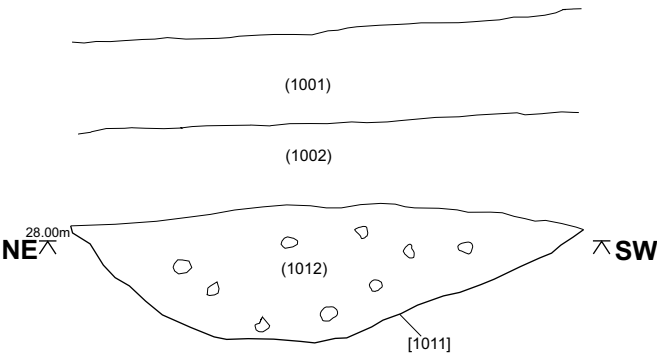
003: WEST FACING SECTION [1007]



004: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1009]

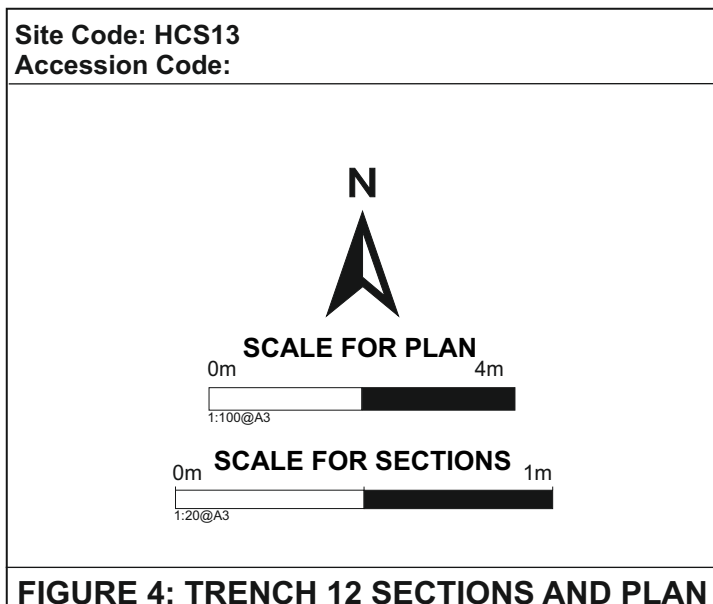
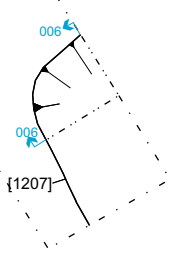
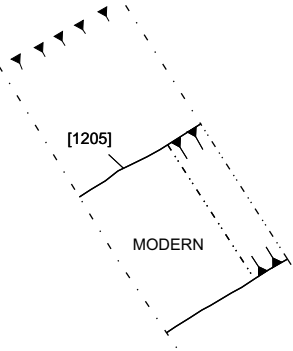
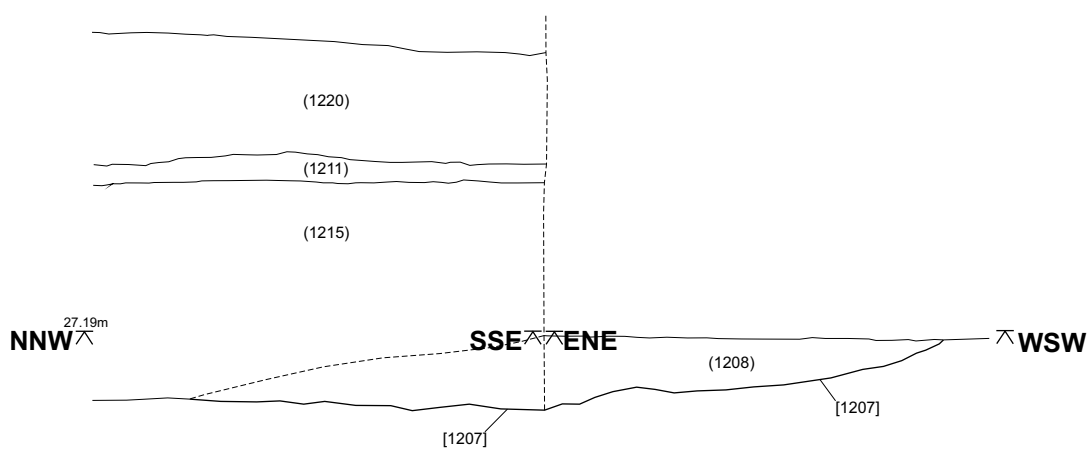


005: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1011]

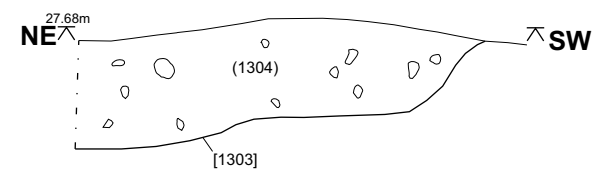




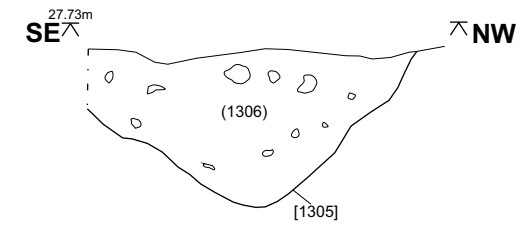
006: WEST SOUTHWEST AND NORTH NORTHWEST FACING SECTIONS [1207]



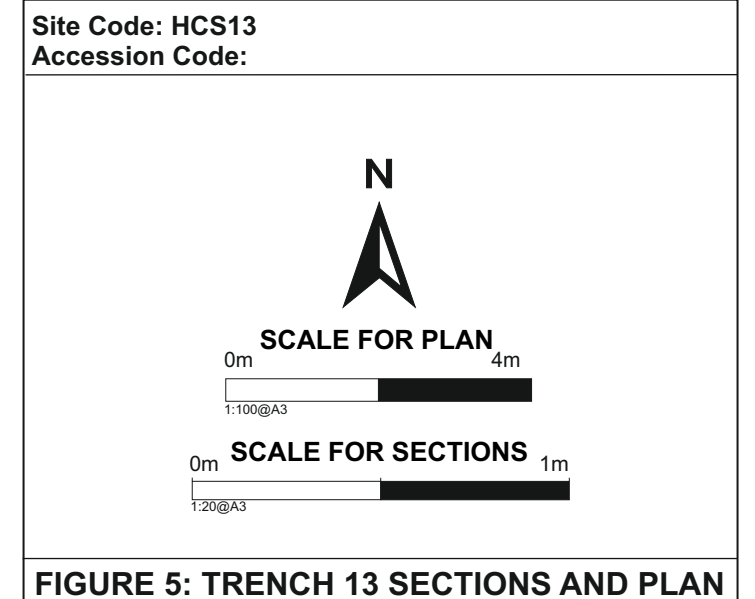
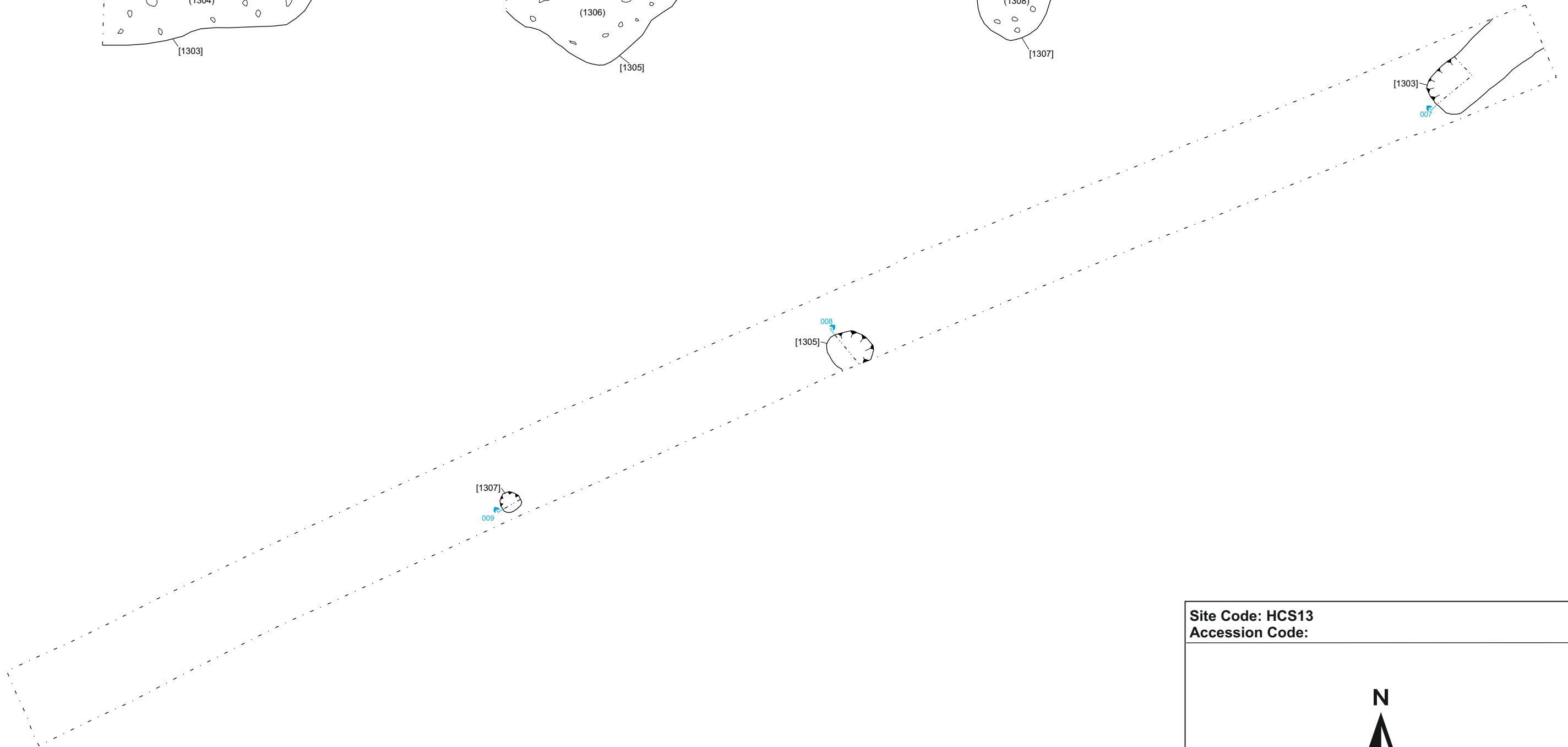
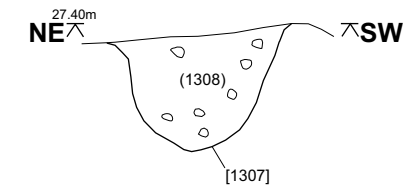
007: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1303]



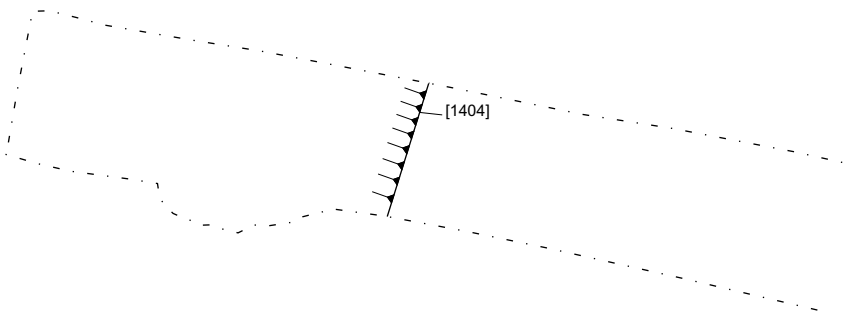
008: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1305]



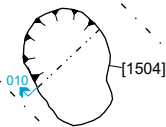
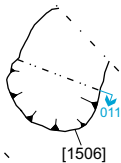
009: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1307]



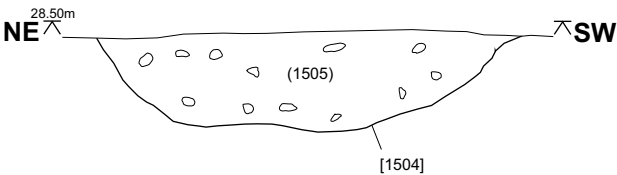
PLAN OF WEST NORTHWEST END OF TRENCH 14



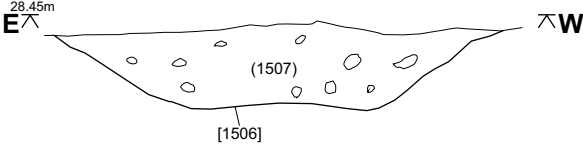
PLAN OF NORTHWEST END OF TRENCH 15



010: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1504]



011: NORTH FACING SECTION [1506]



Site Code: HCS13  
Accession Code:

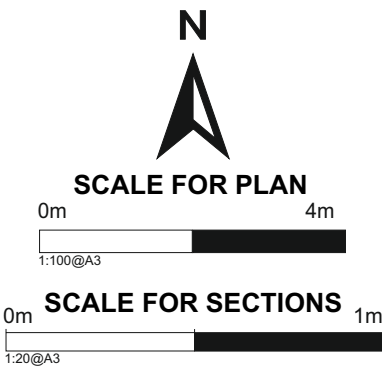
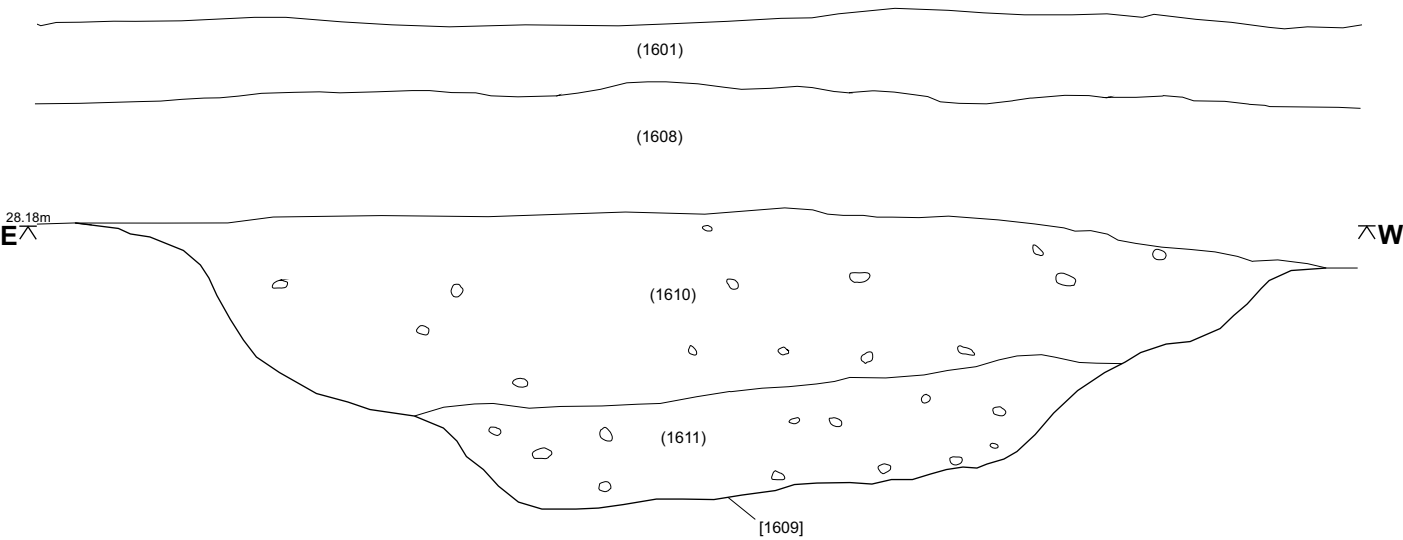


FIGURE 6: TRENCH 14 AND 15 SECTIONS AND PLAN

012: NORTH FACING SECTION [1609]



013: NORTH FACING SECTION [1612]

