

**LAND AT SHREWSBURY PLACE,  
BAMPTON,  
OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR: SP 3127 0310**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Report No. 935  
January 2014



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**Quality Assurance**

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## **SUMMARY**

Between 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of five dwellings with associated parking and garages (Planning Ref: 12/0720/P/FP) on land at Shrewsbury Place, Bampton, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 3127 0310). The work was commissioned by Kirsty Williams on behalf of Hannick Homes.

The works comprised the monitoring of general groundworks. Due to the concentration of features in Area 1 and 2, these areas were excavated as a strip, map and sample; the rest of the site was then monitored as a watching brief.

A number of intercutting linear features and discrete pits were present, which indicated more than one phase of landscape use. The presence of two large refuse pits in the northeastern area of the site may suggest a focus of habitation within the vicinity.

Material of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval date was recovered during the course of the project.

## 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.

### *Iron Age*

The period traditionally dated between Iron 600 BC – AD 43

### *Medieval*

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

### *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.

### *OS*

Ordnance Survey.

### *Roman*

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

### *Saxon*

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Between 4th and 24th October 2013 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the erection of five dwellings with associated parking and garages (Planning Ref: 12/0720/P/FP) on land at Shrewsbury Place, Bampton, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 3127 0310). The work was commissioned by Kirsty Williams on behalf of Hannick Homes.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Foundations Archaeology (2013), which was based upon the standard brief issued by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (2013). The works were carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2008) and *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guideline rev. 2008)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning permission was granted for the erection of five dwellings with associated parking and garages (Planning Ref: 12/0720/P/FP). In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the policies of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011, an archaeological watching brief condition was attached to the permission.
- 2.2 The project's archaeological background was provided by the design for the archaeological watching brief issued by the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
- 2.3 Archaeological field evaluation of this site and a subsequent archaeological watching brief on an adjacent site have revealed a series of Medieval pits and ditches, which have been dated to the eleventh and thirteenth centuries. A Medieval barn has recently been identified to the north. These finds indicate extensive activity across the area during the Medieval period.
- 2.4 The site therefore has potential for the recovery for archaeological features and deposits predominantly associated with the Medieval period. This, however, did not prejudice the archaeological watching brief against the recovery of finds or features associated with other periods.

### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. This in turn would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.
- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated below.
- i) to identify, define and record any archaeological deposits 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) where possible, to recover a well-dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 All intrusive groundworks were monitored and recorded in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits. Groundworks were carried out under the constant direction of the archaeologist. Where machine excavation was required, it was used only for the removal of non-significant overburden, using suitable plant fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All archaeological deposits encountered during the watching brief were hand-excavated and recorded. Work ceased when significant archaeological remains were discovered in Areas 1 and 2 and the archaeological advisor to the LPA was notified in order that the remains could be assessed and suitable provision for their recording and/or preservation made. Areas 1 and 2 were subsequently excavated as a Strip Map and Sample recording exercise.
- 4.2 All archaeological deposits and features that were impacted upon by the groundworks were subjected to appropriate levels of investigation. Where possible, sections were cut through all linear features at appropriate intervals and all intersections, overlaps and terminals were investigated to provide a minimum 20% sample. Where possible, a minimum 50% sample of all non-linear features was hand-excavated. All spoil heaps were examined for finds. No human remains were encountered during the watching brief.



- 4.3 Wherever possible, each excavation context was excavated in such a way as to produce at least one representative cross-section of the deposit.
- 4.4 Decisions about the relative value of archaeological deposits and features were made in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the LPA.
- 4.5 Suitable contexts were subjected to environmental sampling at an appropriate scale in accordance with Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 2 (Environmental Sampling). Decisions regarding which contexts were suitable for environmental sampling were made in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the LPA.
- 4.6 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, were collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts were subject to preliminary study on site in order to help date archaeological features and contexts. All artefactual and ecofactual evidence were treated in accordance with the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 4 (Finds Manual).

## **5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 A detailed description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendices 1 and 2, with Appendices 2 to 4 detailing the Finds and Faunal information. A summary discussion is given below.
- 5.2 The natural gravel substrates were encountered at an average depth of 0.70m (70.22m OD) below the Modern ground level. The natural gravels were overlaid by subsoil (1002), which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and fragments of bone. Overlying the subsoil was topsoil (1001), which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and evidence of Modern disturbance, with finds of bone, industrial waste and chinaware pottery. The archaeological features were generally highly visible against the bright orange-yellow natural gravels.

### **STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE**

- 5.3 **Area 1:** An area of 11.40m by 6.78m (58.87m<sup>2</sup>) was machine stripped in the northeast quadrant of the watching brief area at an average depth of 0.72m (70.20m OD). A number of pits and intercutting linear features were present.
- 5.4 A ditch [1003] was orientated northwest-southeast in the west side of the area. Section 001 at the north end of the ditch contained only a single fill (1004), which yielded occasional flecks of charcoal and a fragment of unidentified animal bone. However, Section 003, at the south end of the ditch, contained both a primary (1007) and secondary fill (1008). Context (1007) contained occasional flecks of charcoal and was most likely equivalent to (1004). The presence of two fills in

Section 003 rather than the single fill present in Section 001 may indicate that this part of the ditch had been recut.

- 5.5 A small rim fragment accompanied by two small crumbs in a fine fossil shell-tempered ware was recovered from (1008). Such material is typical of the early or middle Iron Age. However, these small fragments of material were recovered from the secondary fill (1008) suggesting that they may be residual and so cannot be used to date the ditch securely.
- 5.6 A second ditch [1009] was orientated southwest-northeast and cut the northwest-southeast ditch [1003], before it terminated to the east. Ditch [1009] also contained a primary fill (1010) with occasional flecks of charcoal and bone and a secondary fill (1011) which was devoid of charcoal, but contained 17 fragments of unidentified animal bone. The edges of [1009], shown in Section 010, were more steeply angled towards its base, which may suggest that the ditch had been re-cut.
- 5.7 Sections 004 and 013 demonstrated that [1009] was stratigraphically later than [1003]. However, as no dateable material was recovered from either (1010) or (1011), no secure date can be assigned to [1009].
- 5.8 Another ditch [1031] was orientated north-south in the eastern side of Area 1. This ditch contained only one fill (1036) with occasional flecks of charcoal and 15 fragments of unidentified animal bone. This was in turn cut by a second ditch [1032], which was orientated east-west and ended in a terminus at its west end.
- 5.9 Section 015 of [1032] revealed that it contained a primary fill (1033) with flecks of charcoal. The ditch was then possibly re-cut by [1034] and filled by (1035), which also contained occasional flecks of charcoal along with 123 fragments of bone (domestic cattle) and a fragment of burnt clay. This material had a vitrified lining and so may have been part of a furnace or oven, but could not be dated. Stratigraphically, it would appear that (1033) is the same deposit as (1037) as they are both primary fills of [1032] and the matrix of both deposits was similar. Fill (1037) contained charcoal, 28 fragments of domestic cattle bone and a sherd of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman *mortarium*.
- 5.10 A possible large rubbish pit [1012] was located to the north of Area 1. However, much of feature lay beyond the limit of excavation, so the identification of it as a pit is tentative. Section 005 showed that the pit contained four fills: the primary fill (1013) contained occasional flecks of charcoal, while the secondary fill (1014) also contained flecks of charcoal and 67 fragments of bone (domestic cattle and sheep/goat). The tertiary fill (1015), contained neither charcoal nor finds, but the quaternary fill (1016) contained occasional flecks of charcoal and 629 fragments of bone (domestic cattle, sheep/goat) and six sherds of Saxon pottery.

- 5.11 The dating of this feature is conjectural as the interfaces between contexts (1014), (1015) and (1016) were poorly defined. As the sherds of Saxon pottery were only present in the upper fill of this feature they may perhaps be residual and do not point conclusively to this feature being of Saxon date.
- 5.12 Another possible rubbish pit [1005] is located to the north of Area 1, with part of the feature located outside the limit of excavation. The pit contained a single fill (1006), which contained occasional flecks of charcoal, 177 fragments of bone and shell (domestic pig/wild boar, goat/sheep, deer and oyster) and a sherd 12th-14th century Medieval pottery. Although a single sherd of possibly residual material was insufficient evidence to securely date (1006).
- 5.13 The final feature in Area 1 is a small, shallow, sub circular cut [1017], which may have been the base of a posthole. The primary fill (1018) could be interpreted as packing for possible post pipe (1019). Neither (1018) nor (1019) contained any charcoal or finds.
- 5.14 **Area 2:** An area of 6.77m by 5.19m (34.43m<sup>2</sup>) located south of Area 1 was machine stripped onto the natural gravels, at an average depth of 0.62m below the Modern ground level (70.10mOD). The natural gravels were covered by subsoil (1039) and two layers of topsoil (1040 and 1041). The subsoil (1039) appears to be equivalent to (1002) and the topsoil (1040) to (1001). It would appear that the upper 0.28m of the topsoil had been disturbed, which is why it appeared as a discrete horizon (1041) in Area 2.
- 5.15 A single linear feature [1042] was orientated northwest-southeast across the excavated area. This feature was most likely a ditch and was on the same alignment as [1003] in Area 1 and so was mostly likely a continuation of it. Section 017 revealed a primary fill (1043), which contained neither charcoal nor finds, and a secondary fill (1044), which also did not contain charcoal, but did yield three small fragments of animal bone (sheep/goat).
- 5.16 The soil matrix of (1044) resembled fill (1004)/(1008) of [1003], which would support the contention that [1042] is a continuation of [1003]. It further lends weight to the view that the ditch had been recut.

## WATCHING BRIEF

- 5.17 **Service Trench:** An east-west service trench of 20m by 0.60m was cut in the northwest quadrant of the site to a depth of 0.88m below the Modern ground level, where the natural gravel substrates were encountered at a depth of 0.43m below the Modern ground level. The trench cut through subsoil (3002), which was overlaid by topsoil (3001). Deposits (3002) and (3001) were similar to the subsoil and topsoil encountered elsewhere on the site.

- 5.18 Two areas of Modern disturbance were present within the service trench. These cut through the subsoil and into the natural gravels. Both contained Modern material and were not subjected to further investigation.
- 5.19 **Plot A:** Footings 0.60m wide were cut around the perimeter of the plot and east-west through its centre to a depth of 0.90m below the Modern ground level. In the central footing, a possible east-west linear feature [3003]/[3007] was present, which cut through the subsoil (3002) and into the natural deposits but did not contain any artefactual evidence. The linear was re-cut by [3006]/[3009], which did not contain charcoal, but did yield five fragments of unidentified bone and undated ceramic.
- 5.20 Section 023 further showed that to the south of [3007] there was another possible cut [3012], running horizontally to the limit of excavation. This cut contained (3011), which was also devoid of charcoal and finds. Cut [300712] was truncated by a Modern cut, which made it problematic to interpret.
- 5.21 Feature [3003] was on a similar alignment to [1009] in Area 1. The profiles of both ditches were also similar which would suggest that they were the same feature.
- 5.22 **Plot B:** Footings 0.60m wide were cut around the perimeter of the plot and east-west through its centre to a depth of 0.95m below the Modern ground level. The footings cut through the same topsoil (1045) and subsoil (1046) observed elsewhere on the site.
- 5.23 Traces of a possible northwest-southeast ditch [1047]/[1051]/[1054] were identified in the south, central and north footings of the plot. Sections 018-020 all showed that the ditch had a steeply sloping profile through the subsoil into the natural gravels. The corresponding fills, (1048), (1052) and (1055) did not yield any charcoal and only in (1048) were there finds of five fragments of unidentifiable bone. The ditch was sealed by subsoil. No trace of this feature was observed in Plot A.
- 5.24 A second feature [1057] was present in the north footing of Plot B. It appeared to be a north-south linear feature, although no trace of it was observed in either the central or southern footings, or in Plot A. The feature appeared to cut through the subsoil into the natural gravels on its western edge, the eastern edge of the cut was indistinct. Cut [1057] contained a fill (1058) with occasional flecks of charcoal throughout and a small lens of charcoal at the base. The indistinct nature of [1057] and the limit of the excavation make this feature difficult to interpret.
- 5.25 **Plot C:** Footings 0.60m wide were cut around the perimeter of the plot and north-south and east west through its centre to create a series of house plots of various sizes. The footings cut through the topsoil (1001) and subsoil (1002) observed

elsewhere on the site and into the natural gravels to a depth of 0.85m below the Modern ground level.

- 5.26 Traces of a possible northwest-southeast ditch [1022]/[1024]/[1026] were identified in three footings and cut through the subsoil into the natural gravels. The corresponding fills, (1023), (1025) and (1027) contained occasional flecks of charcoal but no finds were present in any of the sections. Traces of this ditch were detected but indistinct in the northernmost footing of Plot C.
- 5.27 Cut [1020] of a possible pit was exposed in the southwest footing of the plot. The cut contained a fill (1021), which was devoid of either charcoal or finds. This feature was not present in any of the surrounding footings, so has tentatively been recorded as a possible pit.
- 5.28 A possible drain [1028] of Post-medieval/Modern date was uncovered in the southeast corner of Plot C. The possible drain cut through the natural gravels and contained fill (1029) with frequent flecks of charcoal, but no finds. At the base of fill (1029), there was limestone capping (1030) which covered a void, which may have been a drain or soakaway. The void was below the limit of excavation, but photographic evidence showed it was constructed from limestone blocks arranged in a narrow rectangle with a curved wall at the eastern end.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring has confirmed the presence of archaeological features and deposits within the site. The works identified a complex of intercutting linear features and discrete pits that may indicate more than one phase of landscape use.
- 6.2 The north-south aligned ditches in the northwest quadrant of Area 1, were cut by the ditches aligned east-west, but the dating evidence recovered from these features was not precise enough to allow a firm chronology to be assigned to this phasing. An earlier archaeological field evaluation of this site and a subsequent watching brief on an adjacent site revealed a series of Medieval pits and ditches. However, although only one sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered during this current phase of works, it is likely that these features are related to Medieval activity.
- 6.3 Material of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval date were recovered during the works, predominantly from the strip, map and sample excavations.
- 6.4 The presence of two large refuse pits in the northeastern area of the site may possibly suggest a focus of habitation within the vicinity.

- 6.5 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Oxfordshire County Museum. A short report, which will combine the results of the previous evaluation and the current project, will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

## 7 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Foundations Archaeology, 2013 *Land at Shrewsbury Place, Bampton, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

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## 8 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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### APPENDIX: The Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>AREA 1:</b> 11.40m by 6.78m (58.87m <sup>2</sup> ) at average 70.20m OD		
1001	?	?	0.40	Deposit of dark brown, friable sandy-silt, frequent gravel inclusions, occasional small stones	1002	Nat
1002	?	?	0.32	Deposit of light brown, friable sandy silt, frequent gravel inclusions, occasional small stones	Nat	1001
				<b>Section 001:</b> North facing		
[1003]	6.87	1.37	0.64	Cut of northeast-southwest linear feature, sloping 45 degree sides, slightly rounded base	Nat	1004
1004	?	?	0.64	Fill of [1003], red-brown, friable gravel-silt, occasional small stones	[1003]	1002
				<b>Section 002:</b> West facing		
[1005]	1.35	0.70	0.23	Cut of rubbish pit with sloping sides and flat base	Nat	1006
1006	1.35	0.70	0.23	Fill of [1005], mid-dark brown, friable sandy-silt, frequent gravel inclusions, occasional small stones	[1005]	1002
				<b>Section 003:</b> South facing		
1007	?	0.64	0.23	Primary fill of [1003], light orange-brown, friable sand-gravel = 1004	[1003]	1008
1008	?	1.40	0.30	Secondary fill of [1030], red-brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	1007	1002
				<b>Section 004:</b> North and East facing		
[1009]	4.11	1.40	0.62	Cut of southwest-northeast linear feature with sloping profile	[1003]	1002
1010	?	1.40	0.21	Primary fill of [1009], mid orange-brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	[1009]	1011
1011	?	1.40	0.29	Secondary fill of [1009], mid brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	1010	1002
				<b>Section 005:</b> South facing		
[1012]	?	1.74	0.74	Cut of round base feature, possibly a pit	Nat	1002
1013	?	?	0.10	Base fill of [1012], mid orange brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	[1012]	1014
1014	?	?	0.12	Second fill of [1012], dark brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	1013	1015
1015	?	?	0.18	Third fill of [1012], orange-brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	1014	1016
1016	?	?	0.34	Upper fill of [1012], mid brown, friable clay-sand-gravel		

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>Section 006: South facing</b>		
[1017]	?	0.39	0.16	Cut of sub circular feature with shallow rounded profile	Nat	1002
1018	?	?	?	Primary fill of [1017] dark brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	[1017]	1018
1019	?	0.18	0.09	Secondary fill of [1017], orange-brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	1018	1002
				<b>Section 010: East facing</b>		
[1009]	4.11	1.40	0.62	Cut of southwest-northeast linear feature with sloping profile	Nat	1002
1010	?	1.40	0.21	Primary fill of [1009], mid orange-brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	[1009]	1011
1011	?	1.40	0.29	Secondary fill of [1009], mid brown, friable clay-sand-gravel	1010	1002
				<b>Section 015: West facing</b>		
[1032]	3.76	1.20	0.58	Cut of southwest-northeast linear feature with sloped sides and rounded base	Nat	1033
1033	?	0.80	0.16	Primary fill of [1032], dark brown, friable gravel-sand-silt, occasional small stones. Possibly equivalent to (1037)	[1032]	[1034]
[1034]	?	0.80	0.40	North-south sloping cut into (1033)	1033	1035
1035	?	0.80	0.40	Primary fill of [1034], mid red-brown, friable gravel-silt, occasional small stones. Possibly equivalent to (1038)	[1034]	1002
				<b>Section 016: South and West facing</b>		
[1031]	4.04	1.30	0.59	Cut of north-south linear feature with sloping sides and flat bottom	Nat	1036
1036	?	0.75	0.60	Fill of [1031], red-orange, friable silt-gravel	[1031]	[1032]
[1032]	3.76	1.20	0.58	Cut of southwest-northeast linear feature with sloped sides and rounded base	1036	1037
1037	1.40	1.10	0.40	Primary fill of [1032], dark-brown, friable silt-gravel. Possibly equivalent to (1033)	[1032]	1038
1038	0.28	0.15	0.17	Secondary fill of [1032], yellow-brown, friable gravel-silt. Possibly equivalent to (1035)	1037	1002
				<b>AREA 2: 6.77m by 5.19m (34.43m<sup>2</sup>) at average 70.20mOD</b>		
1039	?	?	0.14	Deposit of mid red-brown, friable silt gravel with occasional small stones	1040	Nat
1040	?	?	0.22	Deposit of mid-dark brown, friable silt gravel, occasional small stones	1039	1041
1041	?	?	0.28	Deposit of mid brown-grey, friable silt gravel, occasional small stones	1040	N/A



CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>Section 017: Southwest facing</b>		
[1042]	7.00	1.53	0.63	Cut of northwest-southeast linear feature with sloping sides and rounded base	Nat	1043
1043	?	0.69	0.27	Primary fill of [1042], yellow-orange, friable silt-gravel, occasional small stones	[1042]	1044
1044	?	1.53	0.35	Secondary fill of [1042] mid red-brown, friable silt-gravel	[1042]	1039
				<b>SERVICE TRENCH</b>		
3001	?	?	0.30	Deposit of dark grey-brown, friable clay-sand with occasional modern disturbance	3002	N/A
3002	?	?	0.13	Deposit of bright orange-brown, friable clay-silt	Nat	3001
				<b>PLOT A</b>		
				<b>Section 022: East facing</b>		
[3003]	?	1.40	0.90	Primary cut of possible east-west linear feature, with sloping sides and rounded base. Possibly equivalent to [1009]	Nat	[3006]
3004	?	1.04	0.38	Fill of [3003], mixed orange-brown, friable, clay-sand-gravel	[3003]	[3006]
[3006]	?	1.10	0.50	Secondary cut of east-west linear feature with steeply sloping sides and flat base	3004	3005
3005	?	1.10	0.50	Fill of [3006], mid dark brown, friable, clay-sand-silt	[3006]	3001
				<b>Section 023: West facing</b>		
[3007]	?	1.48	0.84	Primary cut of possible east-west linear feature, with sloping sides and rounded base. South side truncated by modern cut	Nat	3008
3008	?	0.82	0.33	Fill of [3007], mottled brown-orange, friable, clay-sand-silt	[3007]	[3009]
[3009]	?	1.84	0.50	Secondary cut of east-west linear feature with sloping sides and flat base, truncated at south end by modern cut	3008	3010
3010	?	1.84	0.50	Fill of [300], mix brown-light orange, friable, clay-silt-gravel	[3009]	3001
[3012]	?	?	1.14	Possible cut, which had reduced level of natural, cut by modern disturbance	Nat	3011
3011	?	1.03	0.58	Light orange, friable clay slit, may be fill of [3012] or subsoil, cut by modern disturbance	[3012]	Nat

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
<b>PLOT B</b>						
1045	?	?	0.48	Deposit of dark-mid brown, friable silt-gravel, much disturbed, filled with demolition rubble. Possibly equivalent to (1049), (1053), (1056) and (1059)	1046	N/A
1046	?	?	0.47	Deposit of yellow-brown, friable silt-gravel, occasional small stones	Nat	1045
<b>Section 018: South facing</b>						
[1047]	?	1.09	0.88	Cut of possible north-south linear feature, east side steeply sloping, west side cut away by machine, base not visible at LOE. Possibly equivalent to [1051] and [1054]	Nat	1048
1048	?	1.09	0.33	Fill of [1047], mid brown-yellow, friable silt-gravel, occasional small stones, occasional fragments of bone	[1047]	1049
1049	?	1.09	0.62	Deposit of mid brown, friable silt-gravel, much disturbed by root action and service pipe, contained demolition rubble: CBM, glass, nails, and looses stone in quantity. Possibly equivalent to (1045), (1053), (1056) and (1059)	1048	N/A
1050	?	0.38	0.22	Lens of Charcoal in (1049), boundaries indistinct	1049	N/A
<b>Section 019: South facing</b>						
[1051]	?	1.41	1.22	Cut of possible north-south linear feature, east side steeply sloping, west side cut away by machine, base not visible at LOE. Possibly equivalent to [1047] and [1054]	Nat	1052
1052	?	1.41	0.45	Fill of [1051] mid yellow-brown, friable gravel-silt, occasional small and large stones	[1051]	1053
1053	?	?	0.74	Deposit of mid-brown, friable gravel-silt. Layer disturbed by root action and modern service pipe. Possibly equivalent to (1045), (1049), (1056) and (1059)	1052	N/A
<b>Section 020: South facing</b>						
[1054]	?	1.80	1.07	Cut of north-south linear feature with sloping sides, base not visible at LOE. Possibly equivalent to [1051] and [1047]	Nat	1055
1055	?	1.80	0.32	Fill of [1055], mid yellow-brown, friable silt-gravel, occasional small stones	[1054]	1056
1056	?	?	0.40	Deposit of mid brown, friable silt-gravel, much disturbed by root action, contained modern debris, occasional small stones, no charcoal. Possibly equivalent to (1045), (1049), (1053) and (1059)	1055	N/A
<b>Section 021: North facing</b>						
[1057]	?	1.28	1.35	Cut of possible linear feature, with sloping side to west. Profile of east side not visible due to disturbance. Base of fill not visible at LOE.	Nat	1058
1058	?	1.28	0.88	Fill of [1057], mid brown-grey, friable silt-gravel.	[1057]	1059

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1059	?	?	0.47	Deposit of mid brown-grey, friable silt-gravel, much disturbed by root action, contained modern debris, occasional small-medium stones. Possibly equivalent to (1045), (1049) and (1053)	1058	N/A
				<b>PLOT C</b>		
				<b>Section 007: North facing</b>		
[1020]	?	1.54	0.38	Cut of sloping sided feature with flat base	Nat	1021
1021	?	1.54	0.38	Fill of [1020], red-brown, plastic clay-silt.	1021	1001
				<b>Section 008: North facing</b>		
[1022]	?	0.94	0.56	Cut of round based linear feature with sloping sides, east side angled steeply, more gentle slope on west	Nat	1023
1023	?	0.94	0.56	Primary fill of [1022], red brown, plastic clay-silt	[1022]	1002
				<b>Section 009: South facing</b>		
[1024]	?	0.90	0.34	Cut of linear feature with flat base and sloping sides, steeper on west side, more gentle in east. Possibly equivalent to [1022] and [1026]	Nat	1025
1025	?	0.90	0.34	Fill of [1024], red-brown, plastic clay-silt	[1024]	1002
				<b>Section 011: South facing</b>		
[1026]	?	0.62	0.25	Cut of linear feature with flat base and sloping sides. Possibly equivalent to [1022] and [1024]	Nat	1027
1027	?	0.62	0.25	Fill of [1026], red-brown, plastic clay-silt	[1026]	1002
				<b>Section 012: West facing</b>		
[1028]	?	?	0.64	Steeply sloping cut through natural gravels with flat base	Nat	1029
1029	?	?	0.64	Fill of light brown, friable silt	[1028]	1001
1030	?	0.18	0.11	Limestone capping for drain	Nat	1029

**APPENDIX 2: Charcoal and Finds**

<b>CXT</b>	<b>CHARCOAL</b>	<b>FINDS</b>
<b>AREA 1</b>		
1001	Occasional flecks	Bone, industrial waste and chinaware pottery
1002	Occasional flecks	Bone
<b>Section 001</b>		
1004	Occasional flecks	1 fragment of unidentified bone
<b>Section 002</b>		
1006	Occasional flecks	177 fragments of bone (domestic pig/wild boar, goat/sheep, deer, oyster) and 1 sherd 12th-14th century Medieval pottery
<b>Section 003</b>		
1007	Occasional flecks	None
1008	None	4 sherds Iron Age pottery
<b>Section 004</b>		
1010	Occasional flecks	5 fragments of unidentified bone and undated ceramic
1011	None	17 fragments of bone (sheep/goat, oyster)
<b>Section 005</b>		
1013	Occasional flecks	None
1014	Occasional flecks	67 fragments of bone (domestic cattle, sheep/goat)
1015	None	None
1016	Occasional flecks	629 fragments of bone (domestic cattle, sheep/goat) and 6 sherds of Saxon pottery
<b>Section 006</b>		
1018	None	None
1019	None	None
<b>Section 010</b>		
1010	Occasional flecks	Bone and undated ceramic
1011	None	None
<b>Section 015</b>		
1033	Occasional flecks	None
1035	Occasional flecks	123 fragments of bone (domestic cattle) and 1 sherd of pottery - vitrified lining, no date
<b>Section 016</b>		
1036	Occasional flecks	15 fragments of unidentified bone
1037	Occasional flecks	28 fragments of bone (domestic cattle) and 1 sherd 3rd-4th century Roman mortarium
1038	Occasional flecks	None
<b>AREA 2</b>		
1039	None	None
1040	None	None
1041	None	None

Land at Shrewsbury Place, Bampton, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

<b>CXT</b>	<b>CHARCOAL</b>	<b>FINDS</b>
<b>Section 017</b>		
1043	None	None
1044	None	3 small fragments of bone (sheep/goat)
<b>SERVICE TRENCH</b>		
3001	None	Fragments of chinaware pottery
3002	None	None
<b>Section 022</b>		
3004	None	None
3005	None	6 fragments of unidentified bone and undated ceramic
<b>Section 023</b>		
3008	None	None
3010	None	None
3011	None	None
<b>PLOT B</b>		
1045	None	None
1046	None	None
<b>Section 018</b>		
1048	None	5 fragments of unidentified bone
1049	None	None
1050	In quantity	None
<b>Section 019</b>		
1052	None	None
1053	None	None
<b>Section 020</b>		
1055	None	None
1056	None	None
<b>Section 021</b>		
1058	Occasional flecks	None
1059	None	None
<b>PLOT C</b>		
<b>Section 007</b>		
1021	None	None
<b>Section 008</b>		
1023	Occasional flecks	None

Land at Shrewsbury Place, Bampton, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

<b>CXT</b>	<b>CHARCOAL</b>	<b>FINDS</b>
<b>Section 009</b>		
1025	None	None
<b>Section 011</b>		
1027	Occasional flecks	None
<b>Section 012</b>		
1029	Frequent flecks	None
1030		none

## **APPENDIX 3: The Pottery**

For: Foundations

Site: Shrewsbury Place, Bampton, Oxon

Site code: SPB13

Status: assessment / spot date

Author: Dr. Jane Timby

Date: December 2013

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The evaluation resulted in the recovery of 14 sherds of pottery weighing 157 g dating to the later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. In addition there one large fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) and a piece of vitrified fired clay present.
- 1.2 Pottery was recovered from just six contexts ranging from single pieces to a maximum of six fragments from context (1016).
- 1.3 The sherds were quite well-preserved in terms of surfaces and edge abrasion but moderately well broken-up with an overall average sherd size of 11.2 g.
- 1.4 For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabrics in order to ascertain date and quantified by sherd count and weight. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1.

### **2 Later Prehistoric**

- 2.1 A very small rim fragment accompanied by two small crumbs in a fine fossil shell-tempered ware came from (1008). Such material is typical of the early or middle Iron Age.

### **3 Roman**

- 3.1 A single rim sherd from an Oxfordshire white ware mortarium (OXF WH) with the edge of the spout came from (1037). This is probably Young (1977) form M22 dating to the later Roman period.

### **4 Saxon**

- 4.1 Six sherds, all from (1016), appear to be of Saxon date. The pieces comprises three sherds of oolitic limestone tempered ware (LIME); one rim from a handmade jar in a sandy ware with organic material (SAOR); one angular quartz sand and oolitic limestone-tempered ware (QTZLI) and one igneous (granitic) rock-tempered ware. This latter sherd is an import probably from the

Charnwood Forest area, Leics. The limestone-tempered wares have a burnished finish.

## **5 Medieval**

- 5.1 Two sherds of Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered wares (Mellor 1994, fabric OXAC) from plain jars / cooking pots came from contexts (1006) and Plot 5 u/s. These are likely to date within the period from the later 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **6 Undated**

- 6.1 A strap handle in a very fine, well-fired fabric with a yellowish buff exterior and grey interior core came from Plot 5 u/s. The handle has a roughly burnished finish suggesting it is unlikely to be medieval in date. It may be Roman or possibly another Saxon import. Further work would be required to try and identify this piece.

## **7 Other ceramic material**

- 7.1 The end of a handmade brick was recovered from (1030) which is probably of post-medieval date.
- 7.2 A fragment of burnt clay with a highly vitrified surface came from (1035) which suggests it is from a furnace or oven. This cannot be dated.

## **8 Potential and further work**

- 8.1 The assemblage, although small, is extremely diverse and hints at a complex site history spanning the later prehistoric through to the medieval period on the basis of the pottery.
- 8.2 The Saxon material is perhaps the most interesting especially with the presence of Charnwood Forest material and this alone flags up the site as of considerable interest archaeologically.
- 8.3 If further work is undertaken this assemblage should be added to any future reporting.

## References

Mellor, M, 1994, *A synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford region*, Oxoniensia LIX reprint

Young, C J, 1977, *The Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region*, BAR 43, Oxford



**APPENDIX 4: Faunal Remains Report (by Natasha Moakes)**

Context	No. Of fragments	Weight (g)	Species (firm ID)	Species (tentative ID)	Butchery Notes
1004	1	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
1006	177	1381	Domestic pig/wild boar, goat/sheep, deer, oyster	Domestic cattle, chicken	N/A
1010	5	17	N/A	N/A	N/A
1011	17	136	Oyster, goat/sheep	Domestic pig/wild boar	N/A
1014	67	452	Domestic cattle, goat/sheep	Domestic pig/wild boar	One of unidentified fragments shows both shearing and multiple fine cuts marks, indicating butchery. Piece of ulna has two small circular puncture marks that could have been caused by butchery or eating, but could also be due to postdeposition taphonomy.
1016	629	4874	Goat/sheep, domestic cattle, oyster	Domestic pig/wild boar, deer, chicken, large rabbit/hare, small mammal tooth (possibly shrew/mole)	Cut and shear marks evident on multiple bones from various species, but were particularly evident on cattle bones
1035	123	1243	Domestic cattle	Goat/sheep, domestic cat	Shear marks on beef ribs
1036	15	73	N/A	Goat/sheep	N/A
1037	28	240	Domestic cattle	Goat/sheep, domestic pig/wild boar	Shear marks on vertebra
1044	3	21	Goat/sheep	N/A	N/A
1048	5	19	N/A	Goat/sheep, domestic pig/wild boar	N/A
3005	6	173	N/A	Goat/sheep	N/A
U/S	3	69	Goat/sheep	N/A	Possible cut mark on medial side of one rib fragment

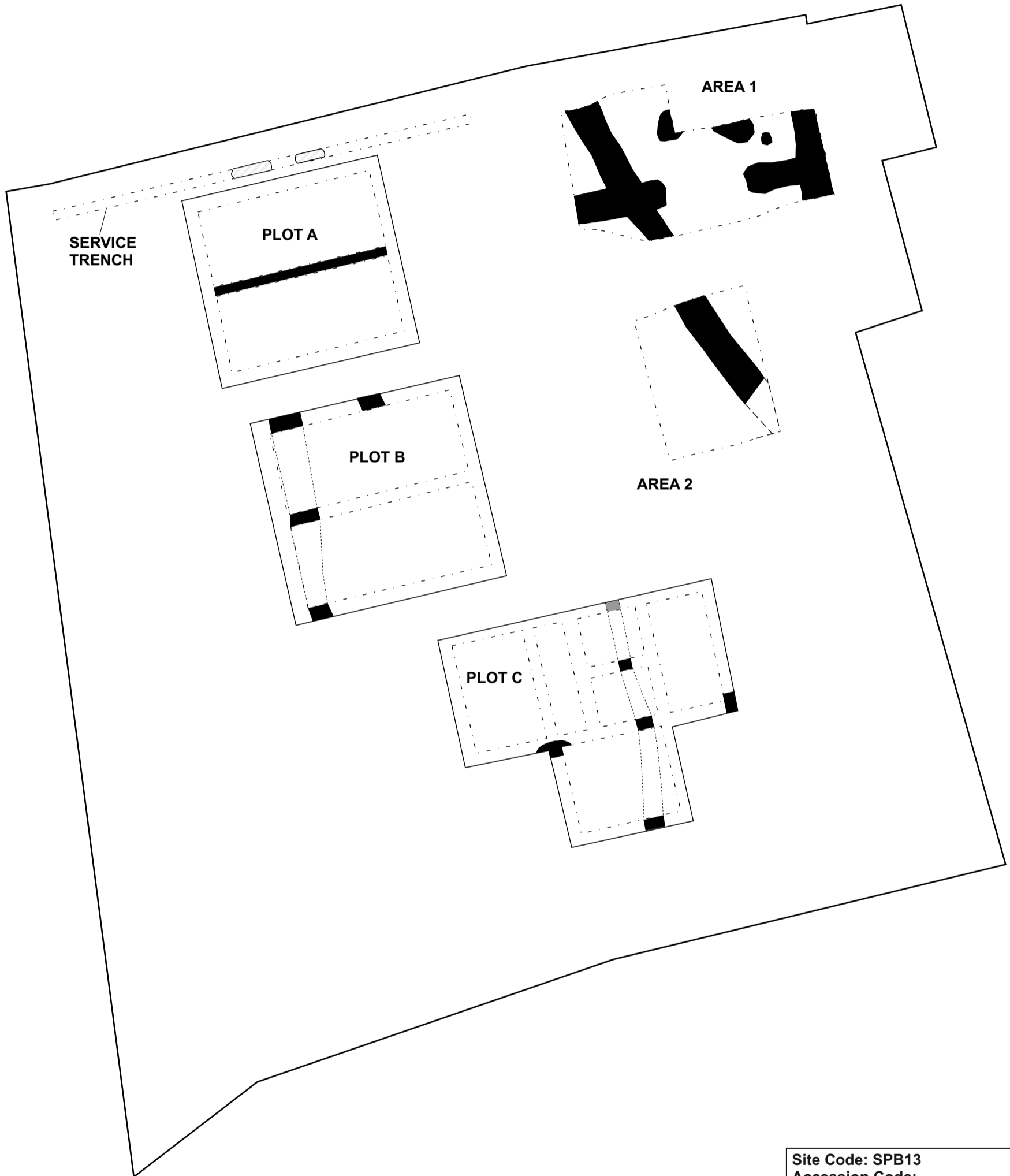


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**Site Code: SPB13**  
**Accession Code:**


N




0m 100m  
1:2500@A4


**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



Site Code: SPB13  
 Accession Code:

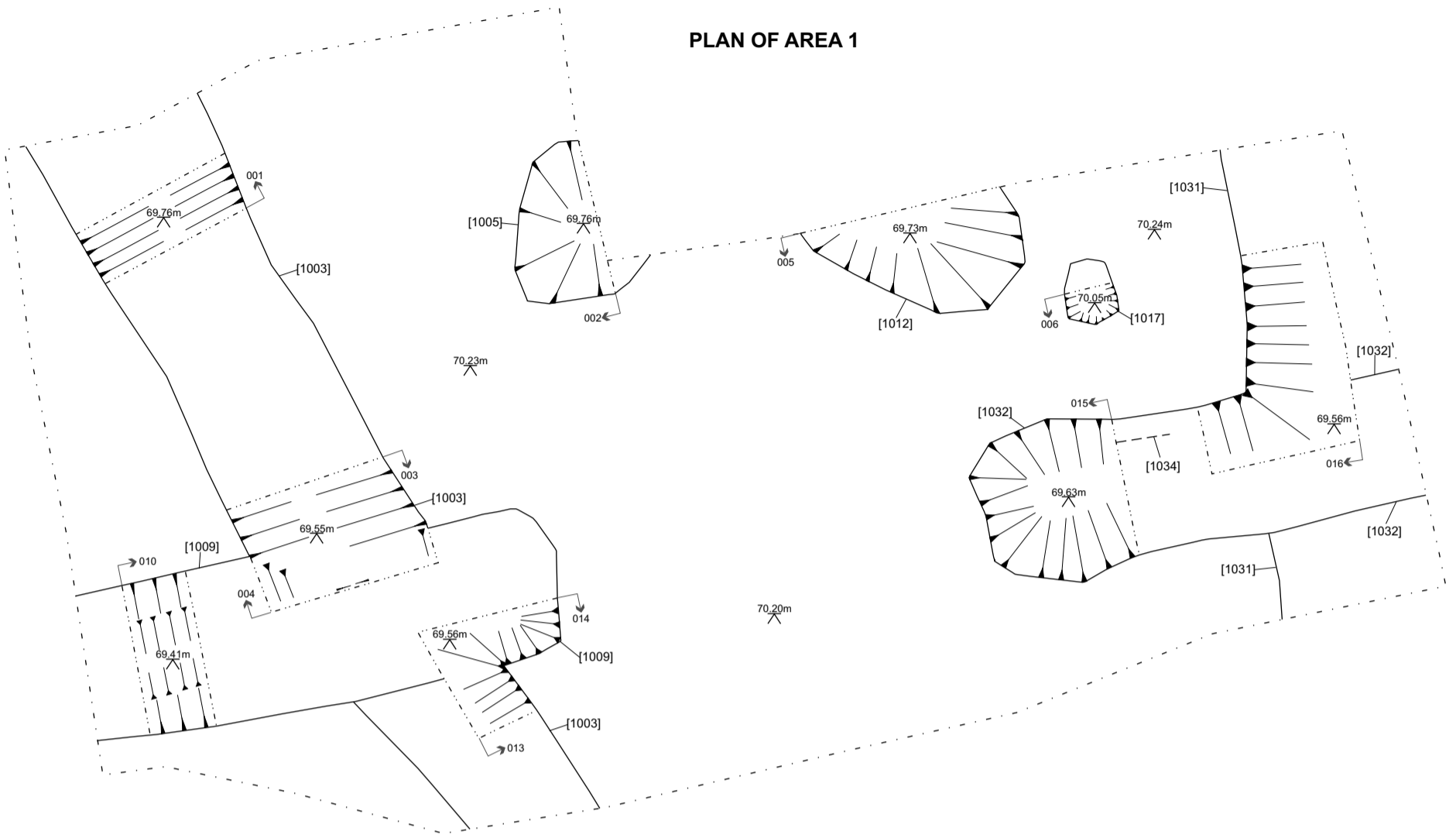
N  


 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES**  
 **POSSIBLE FEATURE**  
 **MODERN DISTURBANCE**

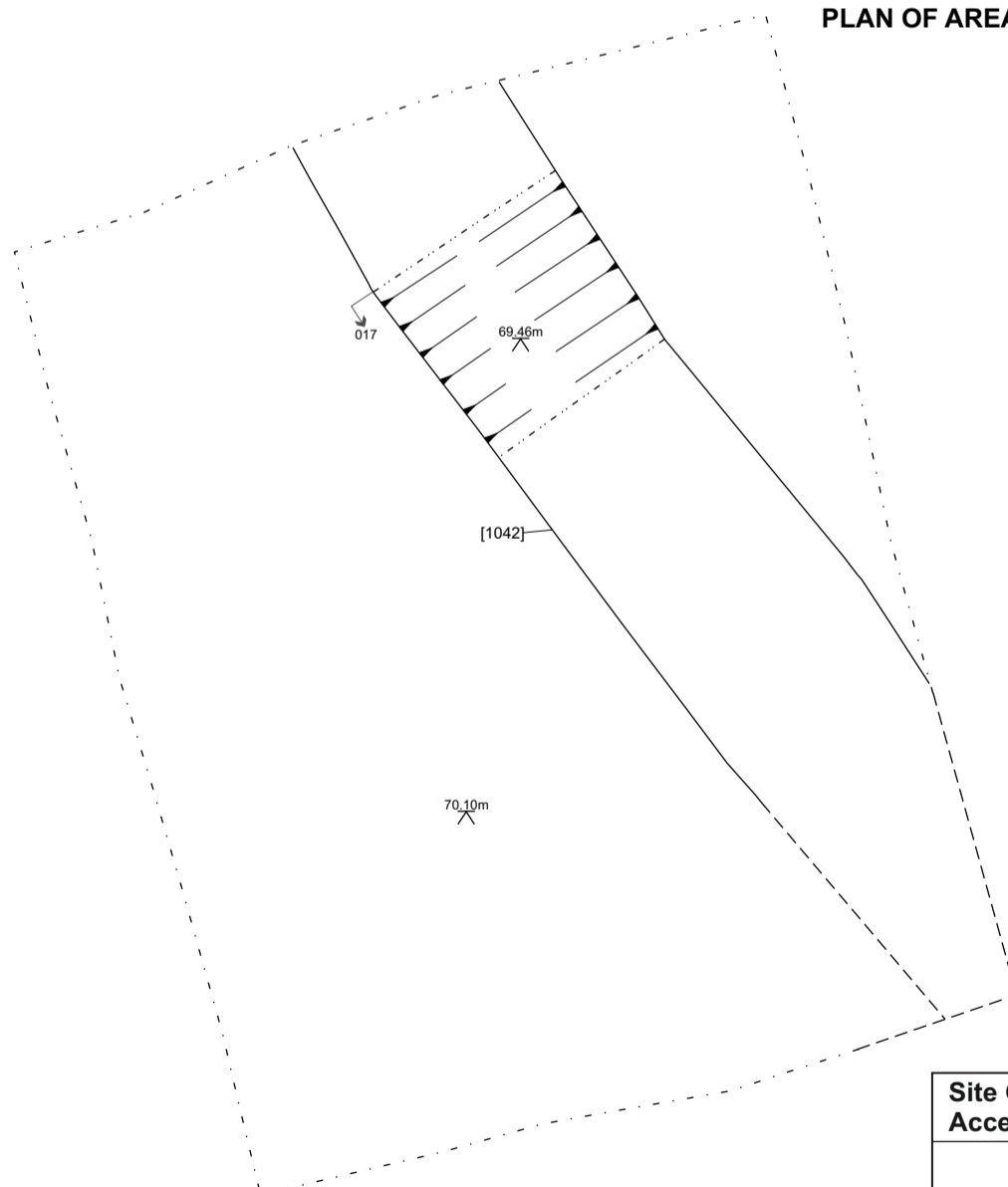
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 1:200@A3

**FIGURE 2: Study Area**

**PLAN OF AREA 1**



**PLAN OF AREA 2**

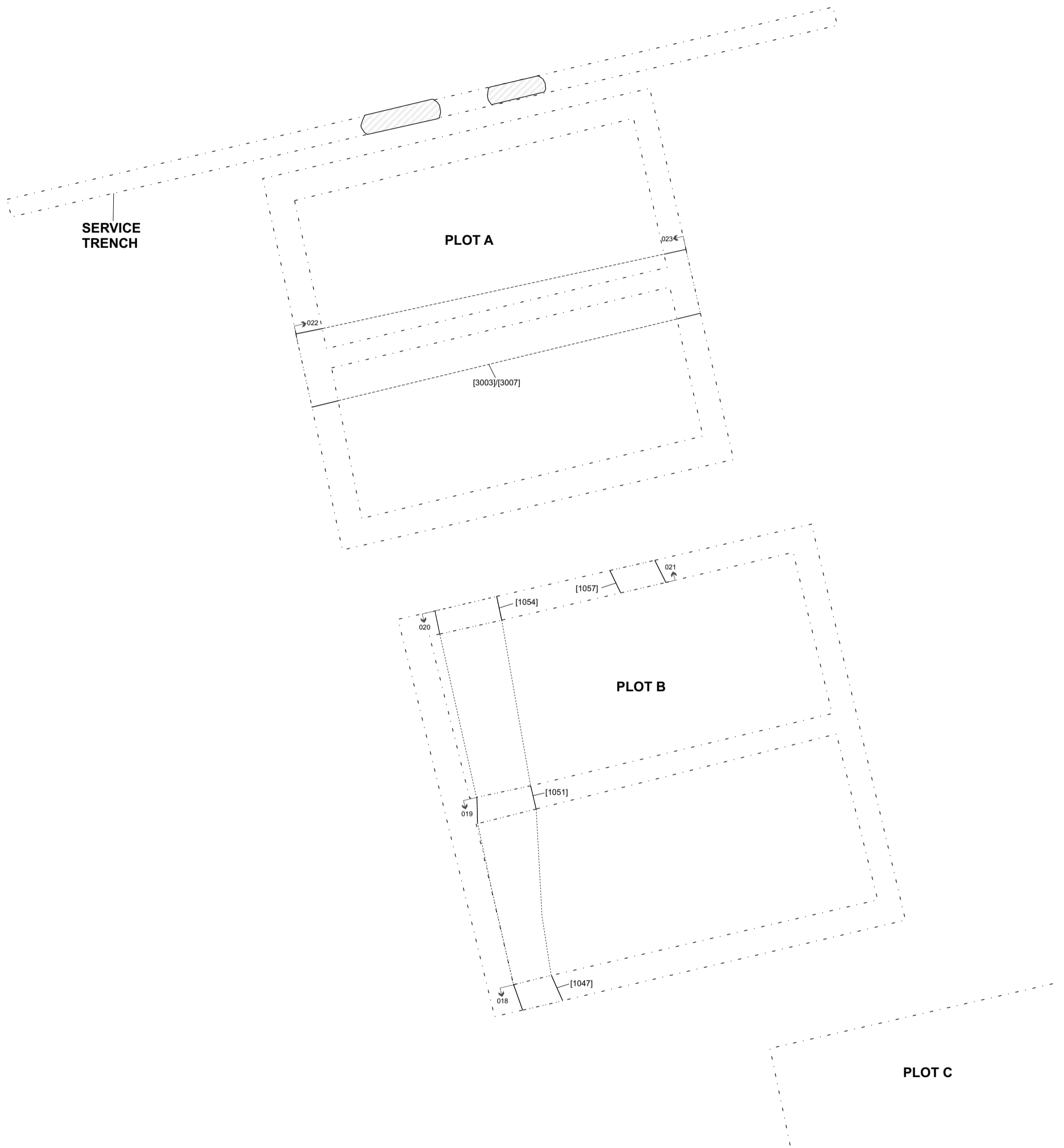


Site Code: SPB13  
Accession Code:

N



0m 2m  
1:50@A3

**FIGURE 3: Trench Locations**



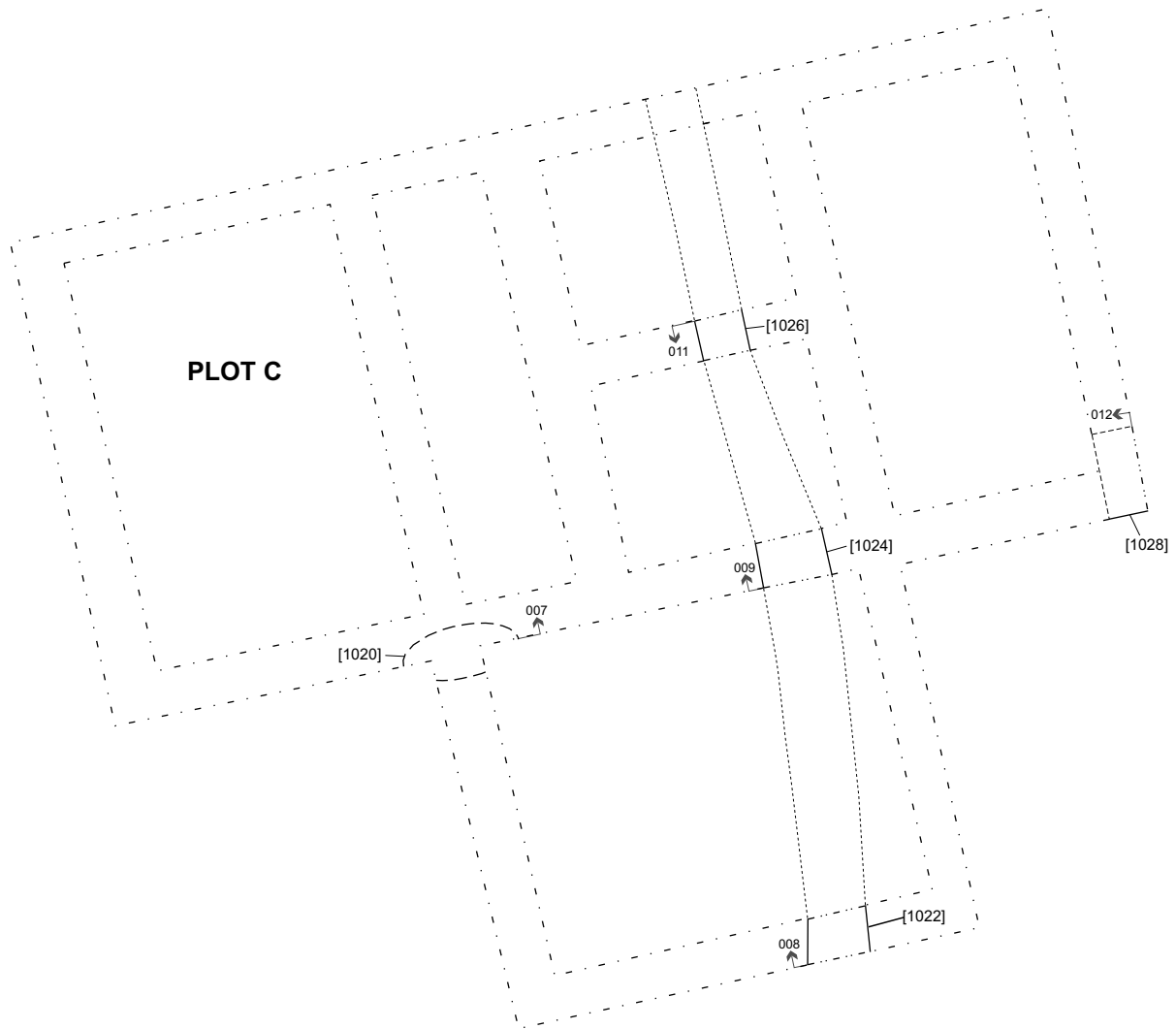
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 Accession Code:

**N**

  
  
 0m 4m  
 1:100@A3

**MODERN DISTURBANCE**

**FIGURE 4: Location of Plots A and B**

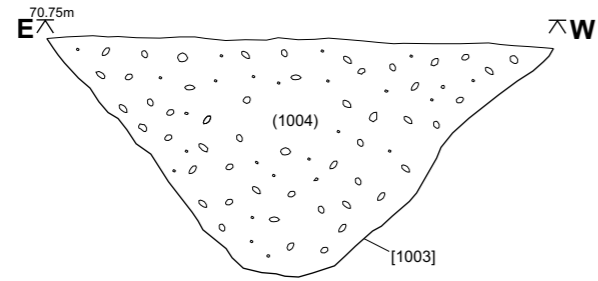


Site Code: SPB13  
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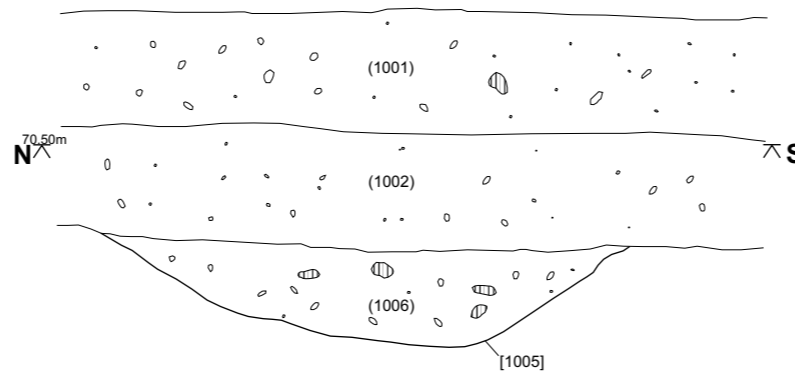
A north arrow pointing upwards, labeled 'N'. Below it is a scale bar showing 0m on the left and 4m on the right. The scale bar is divided into two segments, with the right segment being thicker. Below the scale bar is the text '1:100@A4'.

**FIGURE 5: Location of Plot C**

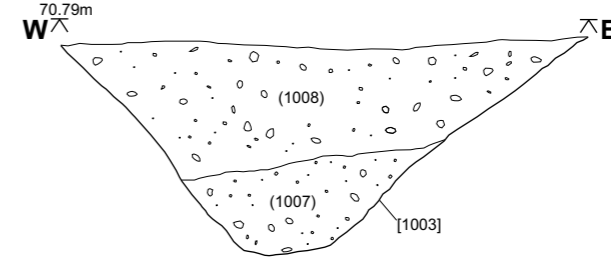
001: NORTH FACING SECTION [1003]



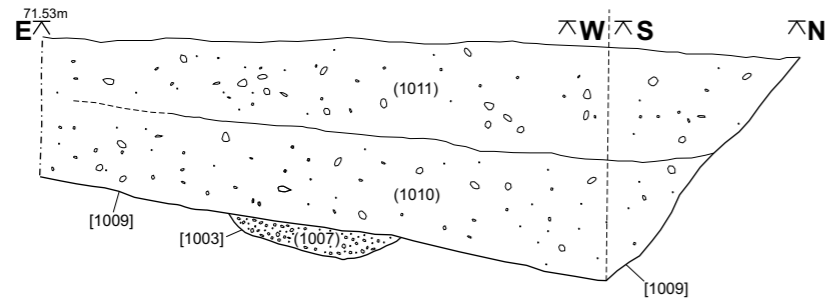
002: WEST FACING SECTION [1005]



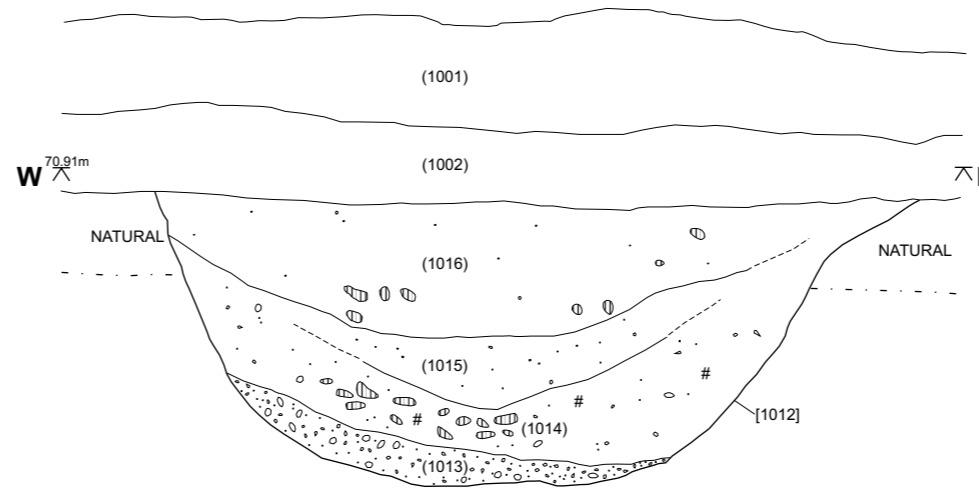
003: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1003]



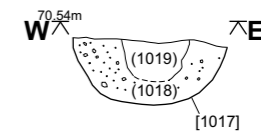
004: NORTH and EAST FACING SECTIONS [1009]



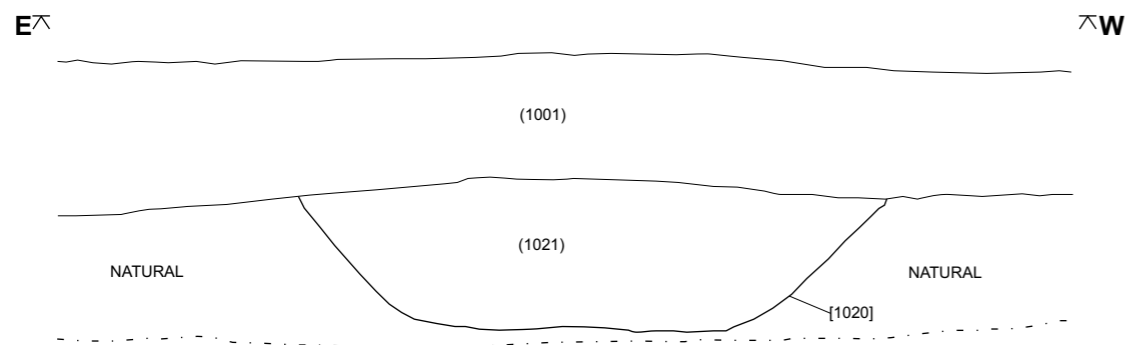
005: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1012]



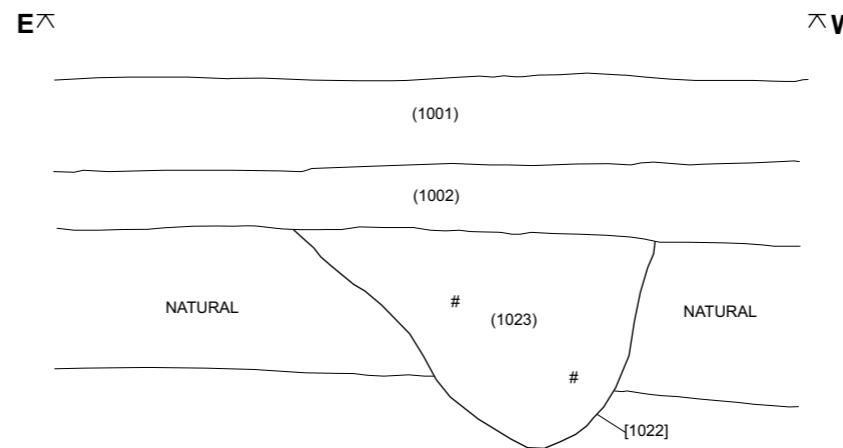
006: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1017]



007: NORTH FACING SECTION PLOT C [1020]

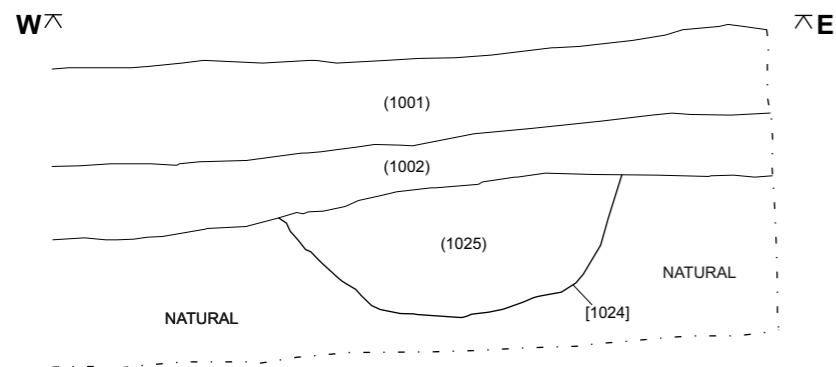


008: NORTH FACING SECTION PLOT C [1022]

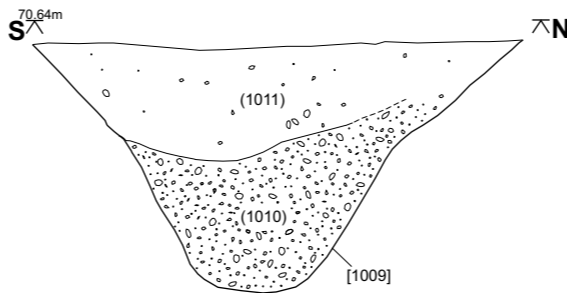


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Accession Code:
<b>FIGURE 6: Sections 001 - 008</b>

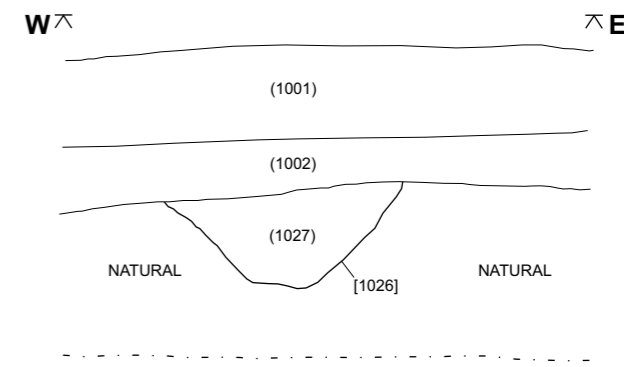
009: SOUTH FACING SECTION PLOT C [1024]



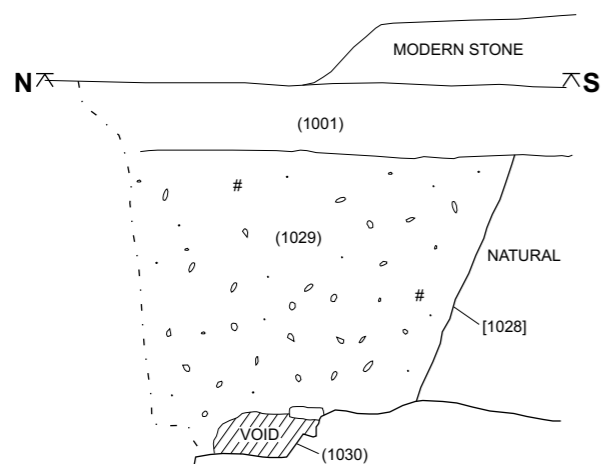
010: EAST FACING SECTION [1009]



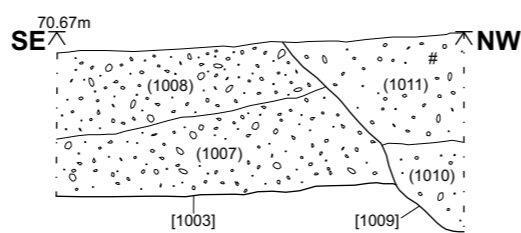
011: SOUTH FACING SECTION PLOT C [1026]



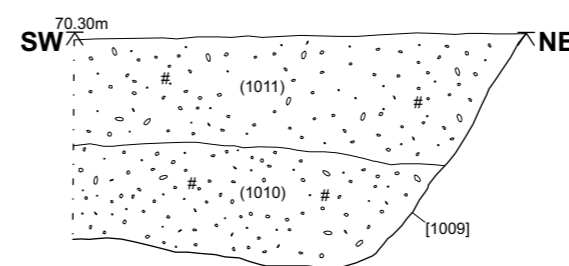
012: WEST FACING SECTION PLOT C [1028] and [1030]



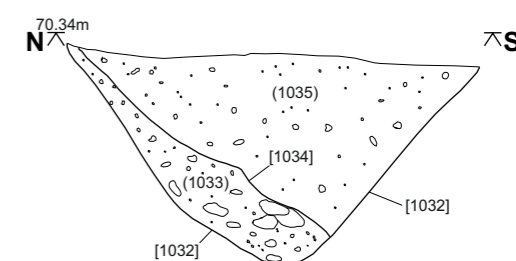
013: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1003] and [1009]



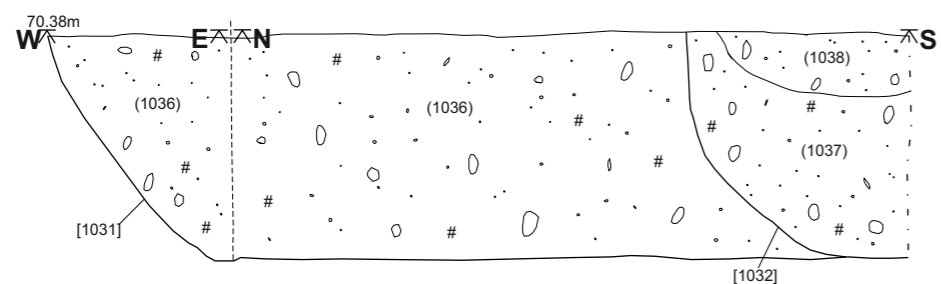
014: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1009]



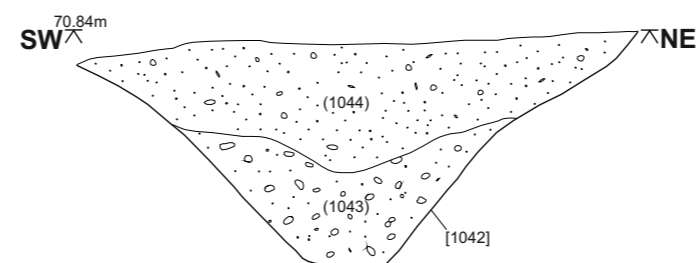
015: WEST FACING SECTION [1032] and [1034]






016: WEST FACING SECTION [1031] and [1032]



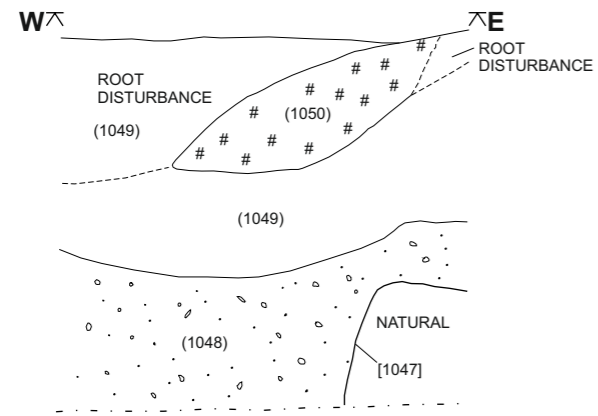
017: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1042]



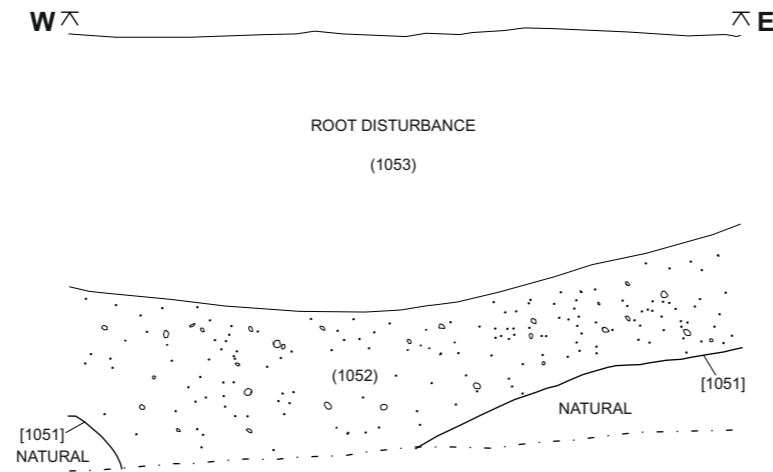
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Accession Code:
 BONE  CHARCOAL
 0m 1m 1:20@A3
<b>FIGURE 7: Sections 009 - 017</b>



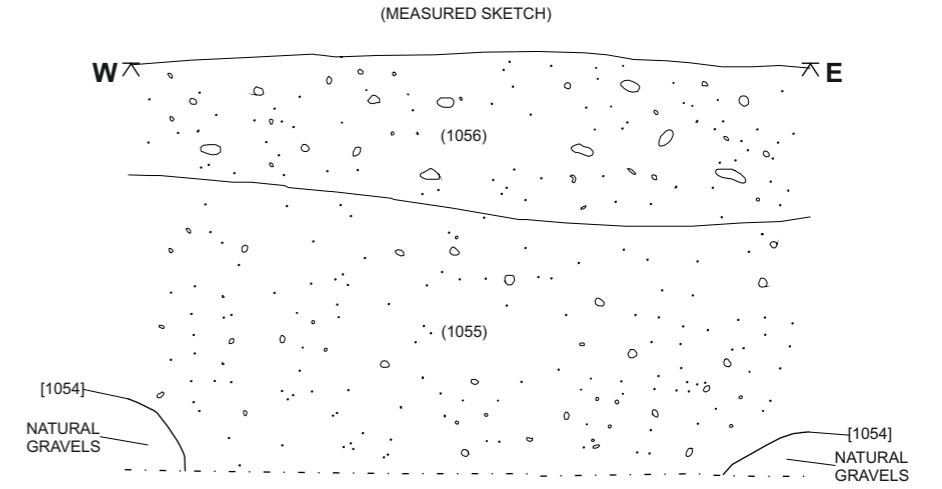
**018: SOUTH FACING SECTION PLOT B [1047]**



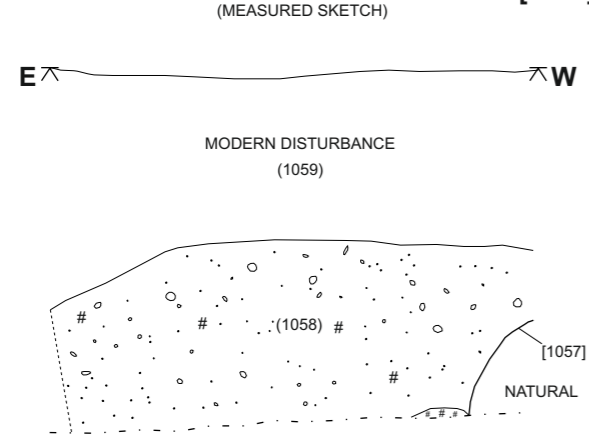
**019: SOUTH FACING SECTION PLOT B [1051]**



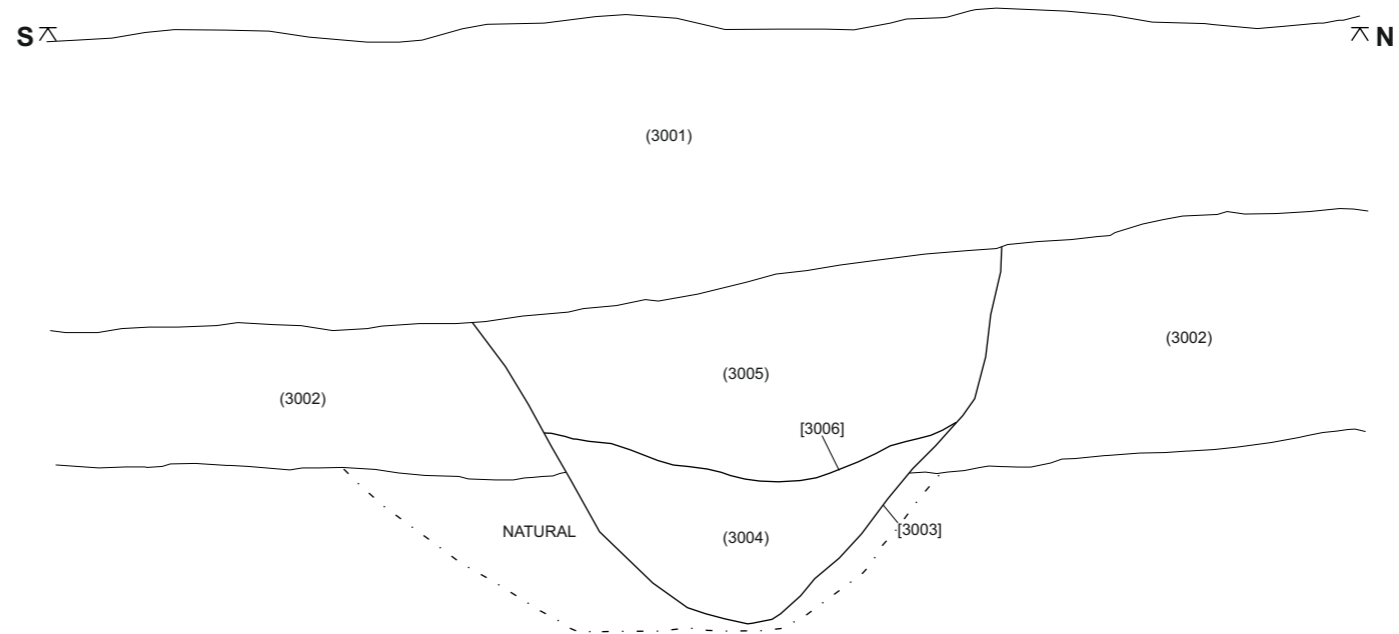
**020: SOUTH FACING SECTION PLOT B [1054]**



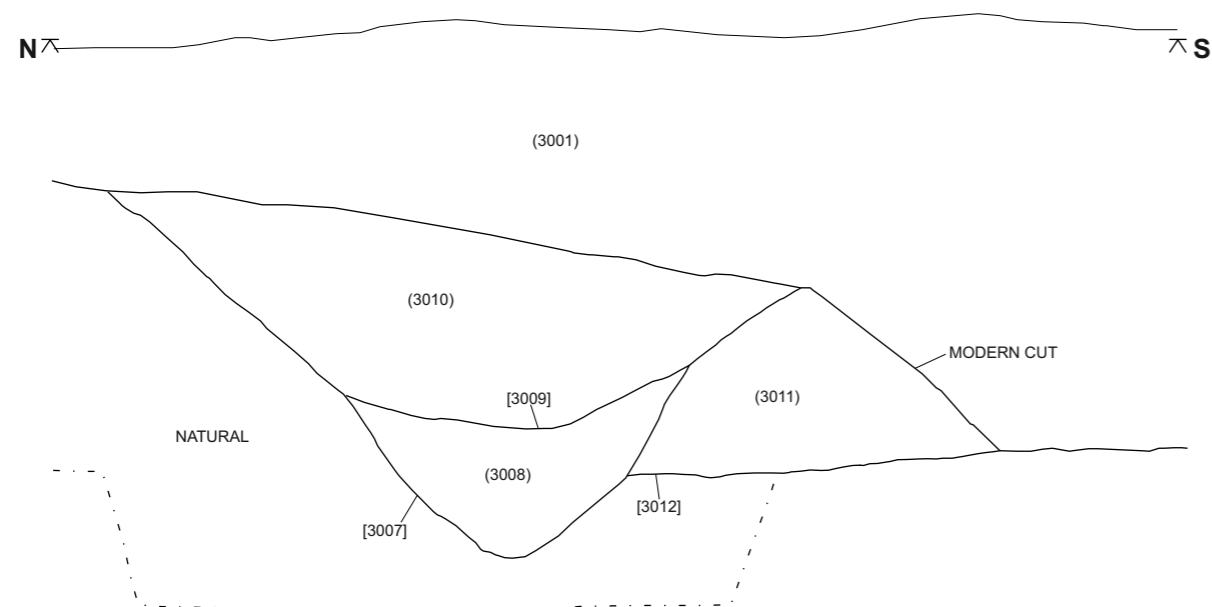
**021: NORTH FACING SECTION PLOT B [1057]**






**022: EAST FACING SECTION PLOT A [3003] and [3006]**



**023: WEST FACING SECTION PLOT A [3007] and [3009]**



<p><b>Site Code: SPB13</b>  <b>Accession Code:</b></p>
<p>  BONE   CHARCOAL         </p>
<p>             0m 1m            1:20@A3         </p>
<p><b>FIGURE 8: Sections 018 - 023</b></p>