

**LAND OFF LEICESTER ROAD AND FOSTON ROAD,
COUNTESTHORPE,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

NGR: SP 588 960 (Centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

October 2016
Report No. 1156



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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Land off Leicester Road and Foston Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Between 14th and 22nd September 2016 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land off Leicester Road and Foston Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 588 960 (Centred)). The project was commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of sixteen trenches within the site.

The evaluation has identified the presence of probable archaeological evidence within Trenches 4, 6, 7, 10, 14 and 16. This was in the form of a small possible pit, two gullies, a probable large pit and two field boundary ditches. No dating evidence was present in any of the cut features. Agricultural evidence was revealed by furrow bases within Trenches 6, 8, 9, 15 and 16, along with ploughscores within the surface of the natural deposits. A single fragment of late 17th century Blackware was present within the base of furrow [1502].

The absence of dating evidence within any of the cut features has limited the archaeological interpretation. It has been noted however, that the two gullies present in Trenches 6 and 10 are on a similar alignment to the furrows and drains identified by both the geophysical survey and archaeological trenching. Therefore it would seem likely that, given their orientation and lack of artefactual evidence, they are part of the drainage system in this part of the field.

It is possible that context [402] represented a natural feature, such as the base of a bush throw rather than an archaeological feature. Feature [1602] appeared to be a substantial archaeological cut feature, most likely a pit, but was only partly contained within the trench. This, combined with the lack of artefactual evidence, limits further identification.

The evaluation has identified the presence of a small number of archaeological features, which are mainly agricultural in nature. Very limited archaeological material was found during the investigation. Preservation conditions were poor across the site, due to truncation by deep ploughing.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

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

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

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

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

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

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

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

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 14th and 22nd September 2016 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land off Leicester Road and Foston Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 588 960 (Centred)). The project was commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2016), Cifa *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014) and the Generic Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial Trenching) issued by Leicestershire County Council (2015).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development will involve the construction of up to 170 dwellings and associated works with related access, infrastructure and landscaping, on land directly northeast of Countesthorpe, Leicestershire.
- 2.2 The site is bounded by Leicester Road to the west and Foston Road to the south, with residential properties beyond. In the south east and north west, field boundaries defined the site edges, with a commercial nursery and recreation ground beyond respectively. In the north east, arable land extended beyond the proposed edge of development.
- 2.3 The heights on site range from around 84m to 80m AOD and the underlying geology comprised *Blue Lias Formation* and *Charmouth Mudstone Formation* (undifferentiated) – mudstone, with superficial deposits of till, Mid Pleistocene - *Diamicton* and *Wigston Member* - sand and gravel (BGS; Geology of Britain On-line Viewer).
- 2.4 The site has been subject to a desk-based archaeological assessment (BSA Heritage 2016).
- 2.5 The site contains no features of heritage significance. No internal field boundaries survive which would be worthy of preservation on heritage grounds and no above ground archaeological features lie within the site. Hedgerows on the site's western and southern edges do reflect historical boundaries.
- 2.6 The site has archaeological potential for Roman or earlier remains. Recent archaeological investigations to the west and north found hitherto unsuspected features, including a small group of Bronze Age cremation urns to the west and Roman features to the north. Archaeological features to the west had been

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truncated by later ploughing and it is certain that the proposed site was cultivated in the Medieval period and in recent decades.

- 2.7 A geophysical survey was completed on this site in May 2016 by GSB Prospection, which revealed no likely archaeological features other than linear anomalies, which are likely to reflect the sub-surface remains of ridge and furrow and the ploughed out remains of field boundaries. These anomalies accord with alignments observed on aerial photographs and historic maps. Such remains are of negligible archaeological significance.
- 2.8 A number of other linear features have been interpreted as sub-surface field drains. A large area of magnetic disturbance on the site's north western boundary is likely to be due to the backfilling of a pond seen on aerial photographs. Another amorphous anomaly in the north of the site has been interpreted as due to natural ground conditions. Two other 'uncertain' linear responses are most likely to reflect past agricultural activity.
- 2.9 As a result of its identified archaeological potential, the archaeological advisor to Blaby District Council requested a programme of field evaluation be carried out to fully assess the potential impact on any heritage asset of archaeological interest, in accordance with paragraph 128 of the NPPF, prior to determination of the application. The main archaeological potential of the site was for finds and activities relating to the Prehistoric and Roman periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation 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. This would allow informed planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 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 characterize 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 which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to 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;

v) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A total of sixteen trenches were excavated within the site, as shown in Figure 2. The trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket through non-significant soil overburden (ploughsoil) into the top of weathered and plough/furrow damaged natural deposits, to an average depth of 0.05m below the top of the natural (Phase 1 Machining; Figure 9, Photographs 6 to 9).
- 4.2 A relatively small number of dispersed features were visible at this level. Due to poor soil visibility conditions, it was agreed with the archaeological representative of Leicestershire County Council that, subsequent to appropriate feature excavation and recording, the trenches would be further mechanically reduced into lower substrates, which would be more conducive to archaeological observation (Phase 2 Machining; Figure 9, Photographs 10 to 14). Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual. Any amendments to the approved excavation scheme were agreed on site with the archaeological representative of Leicestershire County Council and BSA Heritage.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1, along with a pottery report in Appendix 2 and miscellaneous finds in Appendix 3. A summary and discussion of the results is given below.
- 5.2 The general stratigraphic sequence was relatively uniform across the site. The natural orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton deposits were present between 0.29m and 0.35m below the Modern ground. These were directly overlaid by a dark brown friable clay sand ploughsoil, which contained Modern detritus throughout. There was evidence within all the trenches for truncation by ploughing, with ploughscores visible within the surface of the natural. Further agricultural evidence was revealed by furrow bases within Trenches 6, 8, 9, 15 and 16. Probable archaeological evidence was present within Trenches 4, 6, 7, 10, 14 and 16. This was in the form of a small possible pit, a gully, a probable pit and two field boundary ditches. No dating evidence was present within any of the cut features.
- 5.3 **Trench 1:** Trench aligned northeast-southwest. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

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- 5.4 **Trench 2:** Trench aligned north-south. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.5 **Trench 3:** Trench aligned west northwest-east southeast. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.6 **Trench 4:** Trench aligned northwest-southeast. A small, sub-oval pit [402] was present at the southeastern end of the trench. The feature yielded occasional charcoal flecks, but did not contain any further artefactual evidence. With the exception of a single heavily abraded possible struck flint flake from the Ploughsoil, no further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.7 **Trench 5:** Trench aligned northeast-southwest. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.8 **Trench 6:** Trench aligned north northwest-south southeast. Probable archaeological evidence was restricted to a single north-south aligned gully [602], which contained rare charcoal flecks, but no further artefactual evidence. A total of two furrow bases were also present, on an east northeast-west southwest alignment, at the northwestern end of trench. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.9 **Trench 7:** Trench aligned north-south. An east northeast-west southwest aligned ditch cut [702] was located at the northern end of the trench. The feature did not contain any dating evidence, but it was present at approximately the same location as an old field boundary, which was identified by mapping in the geophysical report. Therefore, it is most likely that feature [702] was the remains of the field boundary. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.10 **Trench 8:** Trench aligned northeast-southwest. A single west northwest-east-southeast furrow [802] was present within this trench, this was cut by a Modern feature. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.11 **Trench 9:** Trench aligned northeast-southwest. A total of two west northwest-east-southeast furrows [902] and [904] were present within this trench. With the exception of a single sherd of late 17th century Blackware recovered from the ploughsoil, no further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.12 **Trench 10:** Trench aligned north-south. A single north-south aligned undated gully was present at the northern end of the trench. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.13 **Trench 11:** Trench aligned north northwest-south southeast. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

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- 5.14 **Trench 12:** Trench aligned northwest-southeast. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.15 **Trench 13:** Trench aligned east northeast-west southwest. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.16 **Trench 14:** Trench aligned east northeast-west southwest. A north-south aligned ditch cut [1402] was located at the northern end of the trench. The feature did not contain any dating evidence, but it was present at approximately the same location as an old field boundary, which was identified by mapping in the geophysical report. Therefore, it is most likely that feature [1402] was the remains of the field boundary. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.17 **Trench 15:** Trench aligned west northwest-east southeast. A single east northeast-west southwest furrow [1502] was present at the northwestern end of the trench, which contained a single fragment of late 17th century Blackware. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.18 **Trench 16:** Trench aligned northeast-southwest. A large undated, sub-circular cut [1602], only partly contained within the evaluation area, was present at the southwestern end of the trench. A total of four furrows ([1604], [1606], [1608] and [1610]) on a west northwest-east-southeast alignment were also present, evenly distributed across the length of the trench. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified the presence of probable archaeological evidence within Trenches 4, 6, 7, 10, 14 and 16. This was in the form of a small possible pit, two gullies, a probable large pit and two field boundary ditches. No dating evidence was present in any of the cut features. Agricultural evidence was revealed by furrow bases within Trenches 6, 8, 9, 15 and 16, along with ploughscores within the surface of the natural deposits. A single fragment of late 17th century Blackware was present within the base of furrow [1502].
- 6.2 The absence of dating evidence within any of the cut features has limited interpretation. It has been noted however, that the two gullies present in Trenches 6 and 10 are on a similar alignment to the furrows and drains identified by both the geophysical survey and archaeological trenching. Therefore it would seem likely that, given their orientation and lack of artefactual evidence, they are part of the drainage system in this part of the field.
- 6.3 It is possible that context [402] represented a natural feature, such as the base of a bush throw rather than an archaeological feature.

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- 6.4 Feature [1602] appeared to be a substantial archaeological cut feature, most likely a pit, but was only partly contained within the trench. This, combined with the lack of artefactual evidence limits further identification.
- 6.5 The evaluation has identified the presence of a small number of archaeological features, which are mainly agricultural in nature. Very limited finds, of uncertain, Medieval or later date, were also made during the investigation. Preservation conditions were poor across the site due to truncation by deep ploughing.
- 6.6 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with the appropriate museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Teresa Hawtin, the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage for their help during the course of the project.

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APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 1: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 84.64m OD		
101	n/a	n/a	0.32	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

				Trench 2: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 85.20m OD		
201	n/a	n/a	0.33	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. Modern land drain visible on east northeast-west southwest alignment at northern end of trench.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

				Trench 3: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 84.94m OD		
301	n/a	n/a	0.31	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 4: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 83.09m OD		
401	n/a	n/a	0.31	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus (one fragment of earthenware retained) and a single possible struck flint flake-heavily abraded.	Natural [402]	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
[402]	0.48	0.29	0.11	Possible small pit: sub-oval, slightly irregular cut. Contained (403).	Natural	401, 403
403	0.48	0.29	0.11	Fill of [402]: brown sandy clay fill, with occasional charcoal flecks present. No artefactual evidence was present within the excavated feature.	[402]	401
				No further archaeological features were present within this trench.		

				Trench 5: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 84.98m OD		
501	n/a	n/a	0.32	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

				Trench 6: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton, with patches of mid brown sand.		
				Top of natural at average height of 85.53m OD		
601	n/a	n/a	0.32	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus. A single sherd of 12 th century Marston ware was recovered from the base of the ploughsoil.	Natural [602], [604]&[606]	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. Modern land drain aligned west northwest-east southeast present at southeastern end of trench.		

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
[602]	2.45+	0.61	0.10	Ditch cut: north-south aligned linear cut with rounded profile and flat base. Contained (603).	Natural	603, 601
603	2.45+	0.61	0.10	Fill of [602]: mid brown clay sand with occasional small stone inclusions and rare charcoal. No artefactual evidence was present within the excavated feature.	[602]	601
[604] & [606]	2.2-2.7+	1.8-2.8	0.38+	Two east northeast-west southwest aligned furrows present at northwestern end of trench	Natural	605&607 601
605 & 607	2.2-2.7+	1.8-2.8	0.38+	Fill of furrows [604] and [606]: medium orange brown silty sand fill, with rare to occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles. A localised deposit of clinker was present in (605). No further artefactual evidence was present within the excavated features.	[604]& [606]	601

				Trench 7: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 84.12m OD		
701	n/a	n/a	0.32	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
[702]	1.7+	2.10	0.53	Ditch cut: east northeast-west southwest aligned cut with steep, rounded profile on northern edge and shallow step on southern edge. Cut by two Modern land drains.	Natural	703, 701
703	1.7+	2.10	0.53	Fill of [702]: mid brown clay sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions. Contained a single iron object, most likely a nail. No dating evidence was present within the excavated feature. Probable old field boundary.	[702]	701

				Trench 8: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 82.70m OD		
801	n/a	n/a	0.30	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. One west northwest-east-southeast furrow [802] present, this was cut by a Modern feature.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 9: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 80.96m OD		
901	n/a	n/a	0.32	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus, fragment of Modern CBM retained. Single sherd of late 17 th century Blackware was also recovered from the ploughsoil.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. Two west northwest-east-southeast furrows ([902] & [904]) and two Modern land drains were present.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

				Trench 10: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 86.23m OD		
1001	n/a	n/a	0.30	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. Modern sub-rectangular cut present at north end of trench.		
1002	9.65+	0.36	0.13	Fill of [1003]: mid brown silty sand fill with rare charcoal flecks and occasional sub-rounded flint pebble inclusions. No artefactual evidence was present within the excavated feature.	[1003]	1001
[1003]	9.65+	0.36	0.13	Cut of gully: linear cut orientated north-south, with rounded profile.	Natural	1002, 1001

				Trench 11: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 85.90m OD		
1101	n/a	n/a	0.30	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 12: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 85.28m OD		
1201	n/a	n/a	0.29	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. Modern land drain aligned west northwest-east southeast present near the centre of the trench		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		
				Trench 13: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 86.06m OD		
1301	n/a	n/a	0.33	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		
				Trench 14: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton, with patches of mid brown sand.		
				Top of natural at average height of 84.33m OD		
1401	n/a	n/a	0.30	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural.		
[1402]	1.6	3.1		Cut: north-south aligned cut. On similar alignment to mapped old field boundary. Not excavated.	Natural	1403, 1401
1403	1.6	3.1		Fill of [1402]: dark brown silty sand fill. No charcoal or artefactual evidence visible in plan.	[1402]	1401

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 15: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 80.96m OD		
1501	n/a	n/a	0.31	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. An east northeast-west southwest furrow [1502] was present at the northwestern end of the trench, which contained a single fragment of late 17 th century Blackware.		
				No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.		

				Trench 16: 50m by 1.6m. Natural = orange to brown clay sand gravel diamicton.		
				Top of natural at average height of 82.27m OD		
1601	n/a	n/a	0.35	Ploughsoil: dark brown friable clay sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus. A single sherd of late 14 th century Midland Purple ware along with a fragment of 18 th century salt glazed stoneware were recovered from the ploughsoil.	Natural	n/a
				Frequent ploughscores visible across the surface of the natural. A total of four furrows ([1604], [1606], [1608] and [1610]) on a west northwest-east-southeast alignment were present, evenly distributed across the length of the trench.		
[1602]	2.6+	1.3+	0.53	Cut: sub-circular cut only partly contained within the evaluation trench. The probable large pit had a steep, sloping profile, with an undulating, flattish base. Contained (1603).	Natural	1603, 1601
1603	2.6+	1.3+	0.53	Fill of [1602]: mid to dark orange brown sandy clay, with rare charcoal flecks. No artefactual evidence was present within the excavated feature.	[1602]	1601

APPENDIX 2: The Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 6 sherds with a total weight of 72g. It is largely post-medieval. It was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares, late 17th century +. 2 sherds, 15g.

EA10: Modern Earthenwares, 1800+. 1 sherd, 7g.

PM: Potter’s Marston Ware, 1100-1300. 1 sherd, 7g.

MP1: Midland Purple Ware, 1370-1550. 1 sherd, 20g.

SW5: English Brown Salt-glazed Stoneware, 1700+. 1 sherd, 23g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region.

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

Cntxt	PM		MP		EA6		SW5		EA10		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
Tr4 401									1	7	MOD
Tr6 601	1	7									12thC
Tr9 901					1	12					L17thC
Tr15 1503					1	3					L17thC
Tr16 1601			1	20							L14thC
Tr16 1601							1	23			18thC
Total	1	7	1	20	2	15	1	23	1	7	

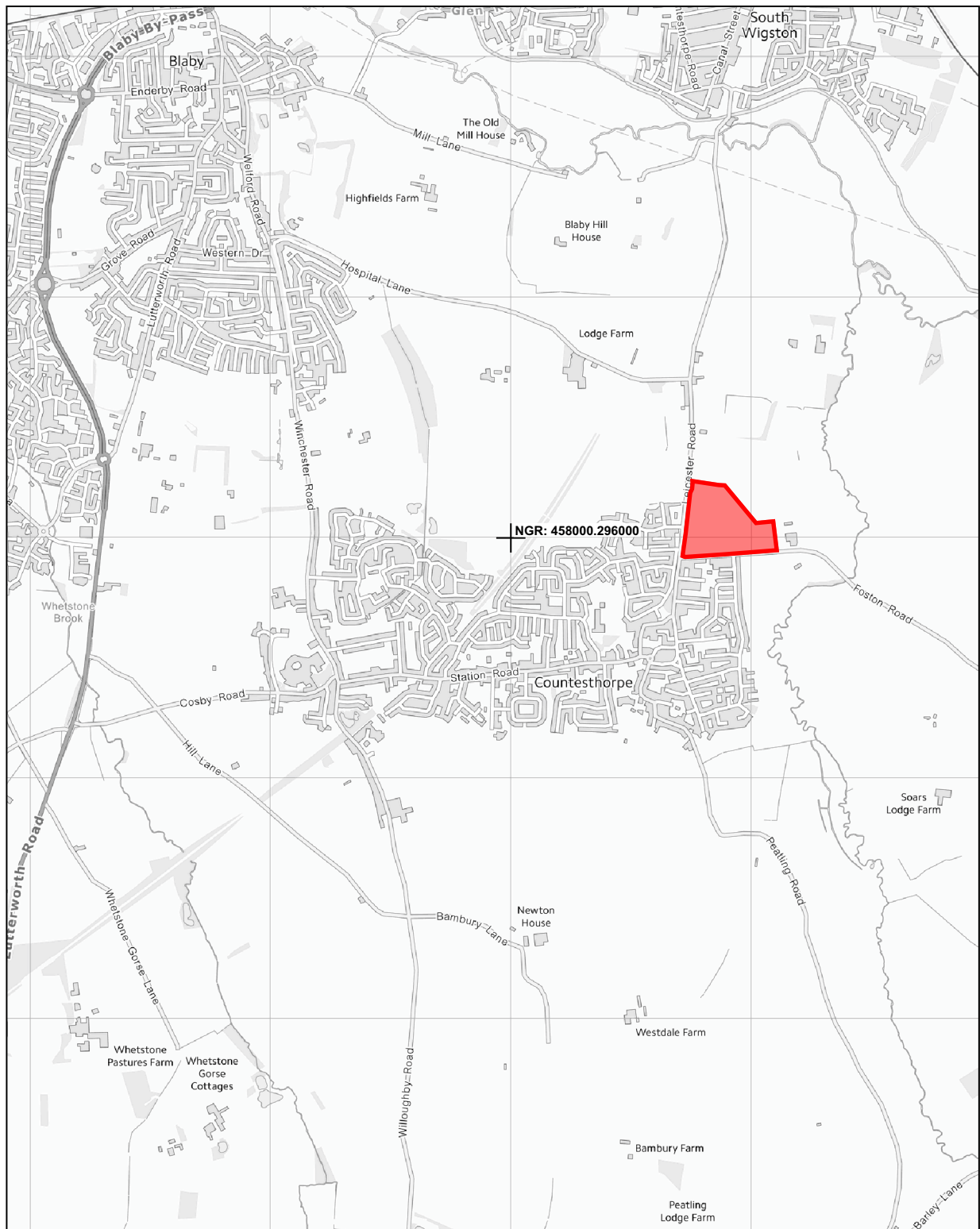
Bibliography

Sawday, D, 1994 The post-Roman pottery in P Clay and R Pollard *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester. Excavations 1962-71* Leics. Museums

Land off Leicester Road and Foston Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 3: The Miscellaneous Finds

Context No.	Description	Quantity
201	Fe object, appears machine made	1
401	Heavily abraded flint flake	1
703	Fe object, probably a nail	1
901	CBM, late post-medieval/Modern brick fragment	1











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FIGURE 1: Site Location



KEY TO GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

-  Old Field Boundary - Mapped
-  Old Field Boundary - Possible
-  Uncertain Origin - trend
-  Natural
-  Ploughing
-  Drain
-  Magnetic Disturbance
-  Ferrous

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N




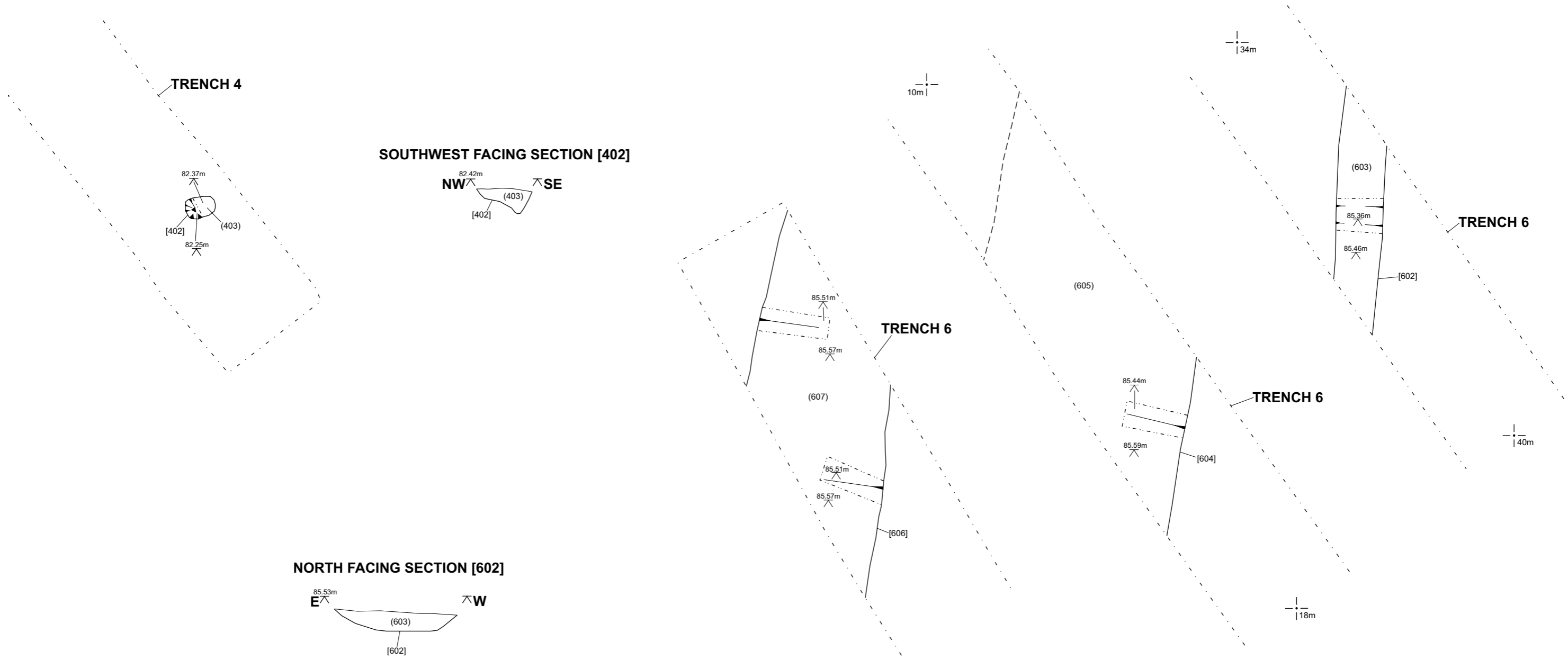
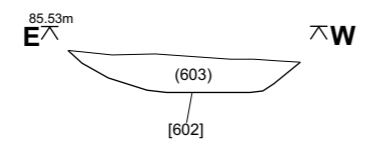
-  = PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATION
-  = ACTUAL TRENCH LOCATION
-  = FEATURE
-  = FURROW



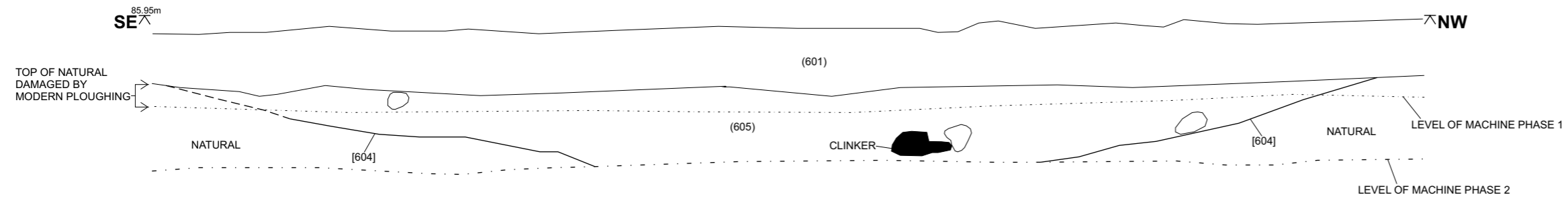
FIGURE 2: Trench Locations



NORTH FACING SECTION [602]



NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [604]



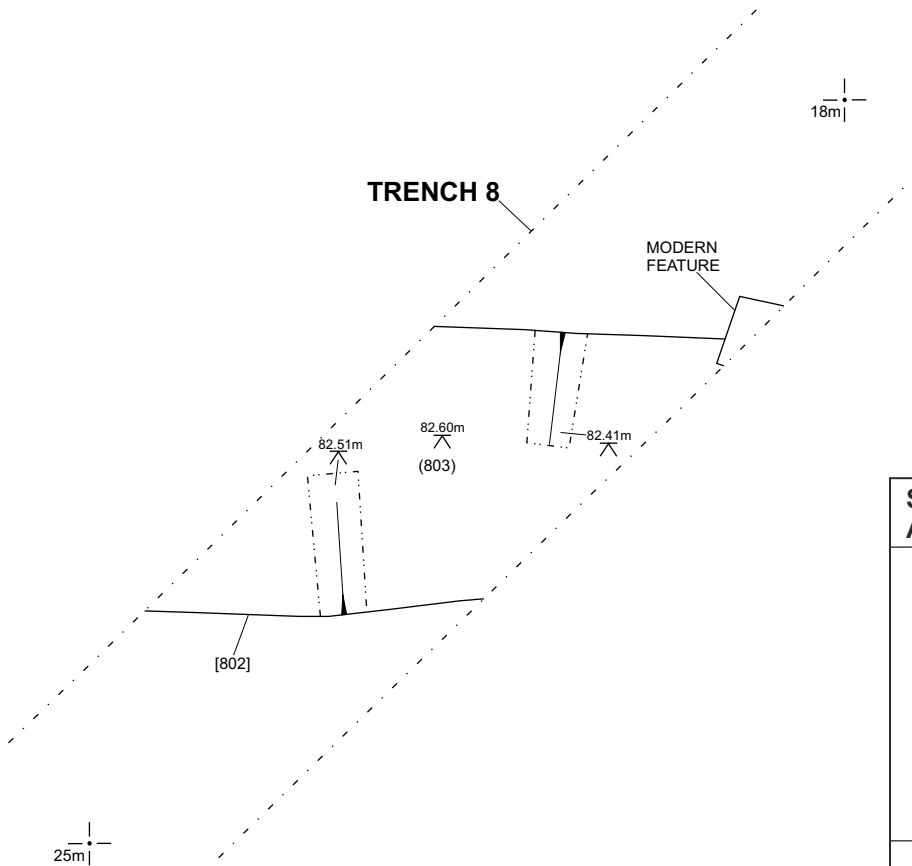
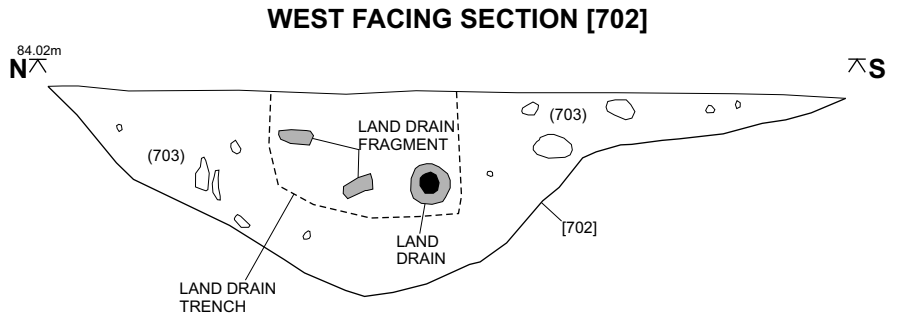
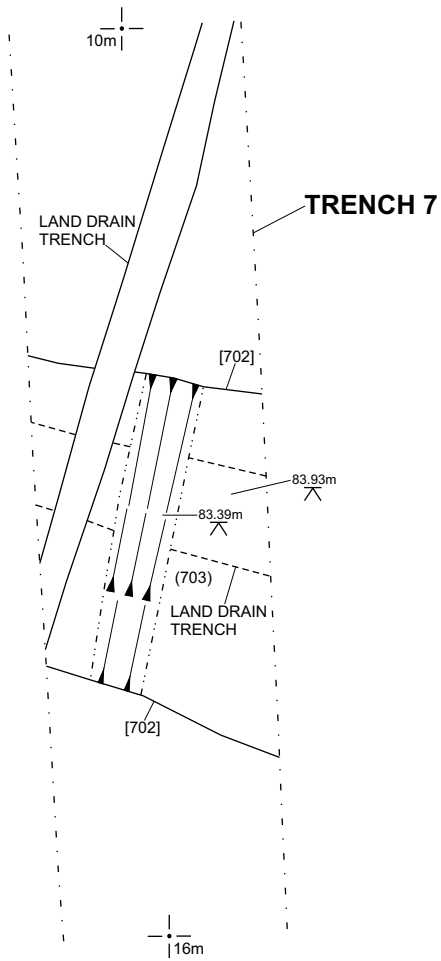
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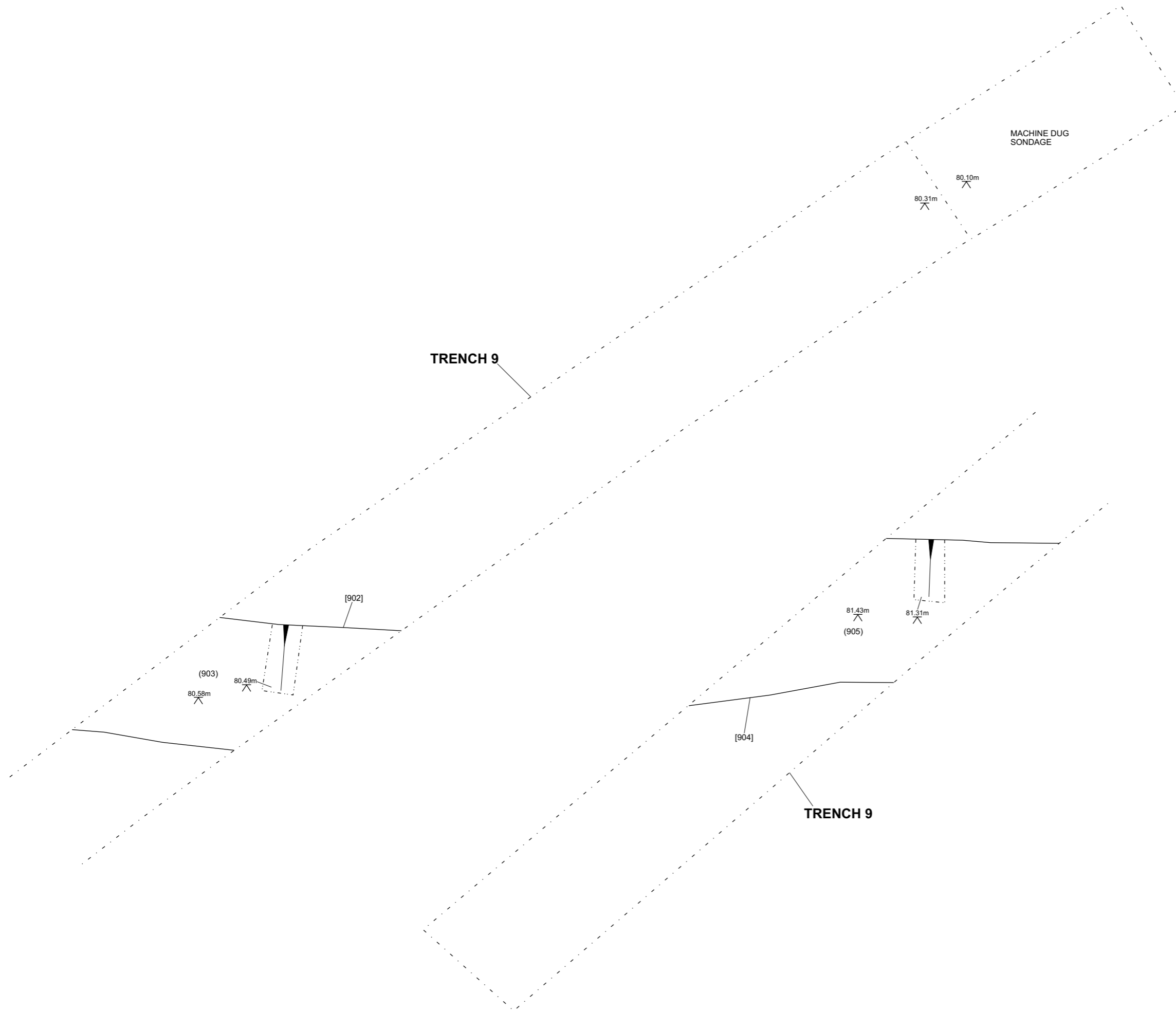
0m 2m
PLANS

0m 1m
SECTIONS

FIGURE 3: Trenches 4 and 6, Plans and Sections



<p>Site Code: LRC16 Accession Code: X.A69.2018</p>	
<p>N</p> 	
<p>0m ————— 2m</p> <p>PLANS</p>	
<p>0m ————— 1m</p> <p>SECTIONS</p>	
<p>FIGURE 4: Trenches 7 and 8, Plans and Section</p>	



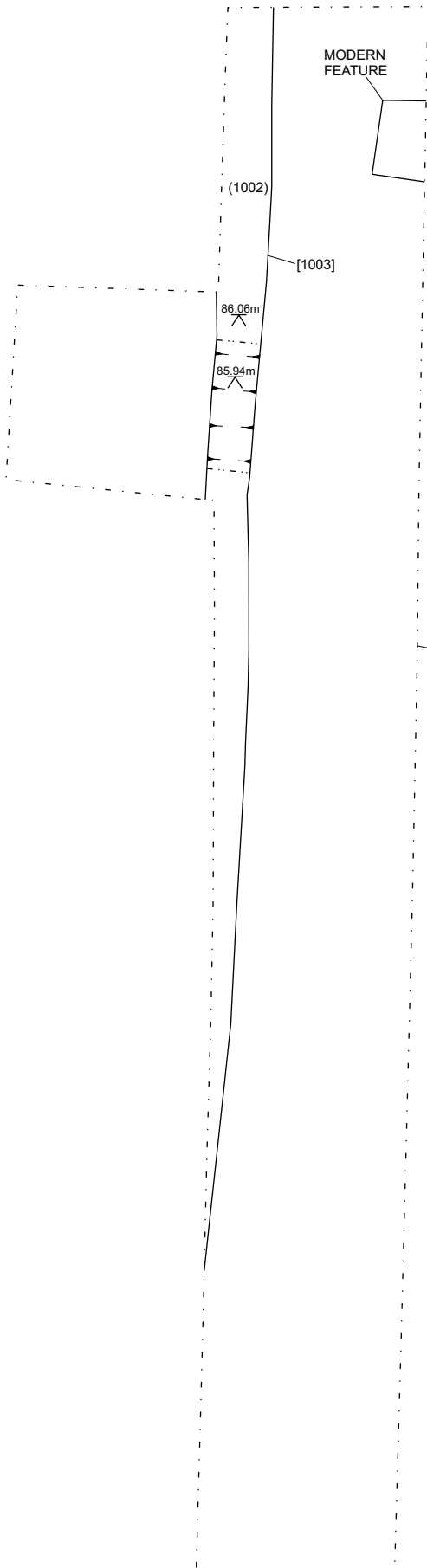
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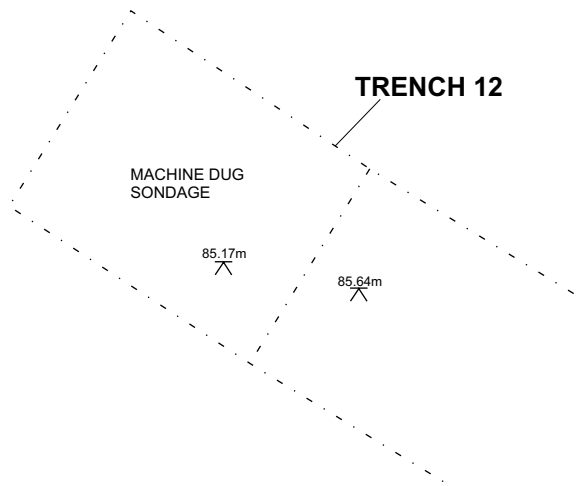
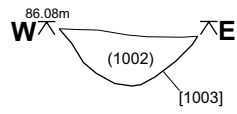
0m 2m

PLANS

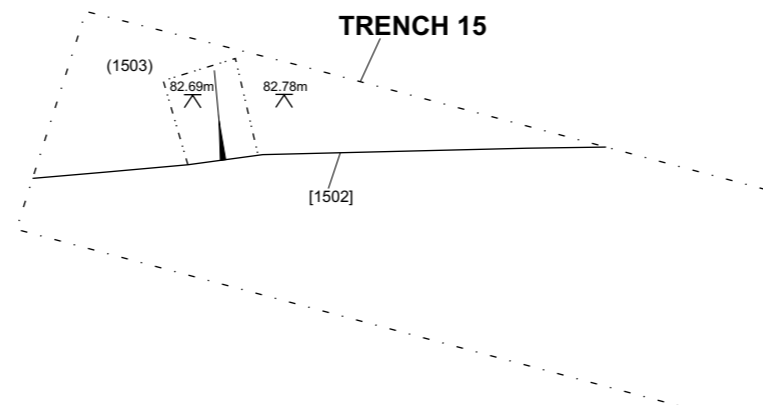
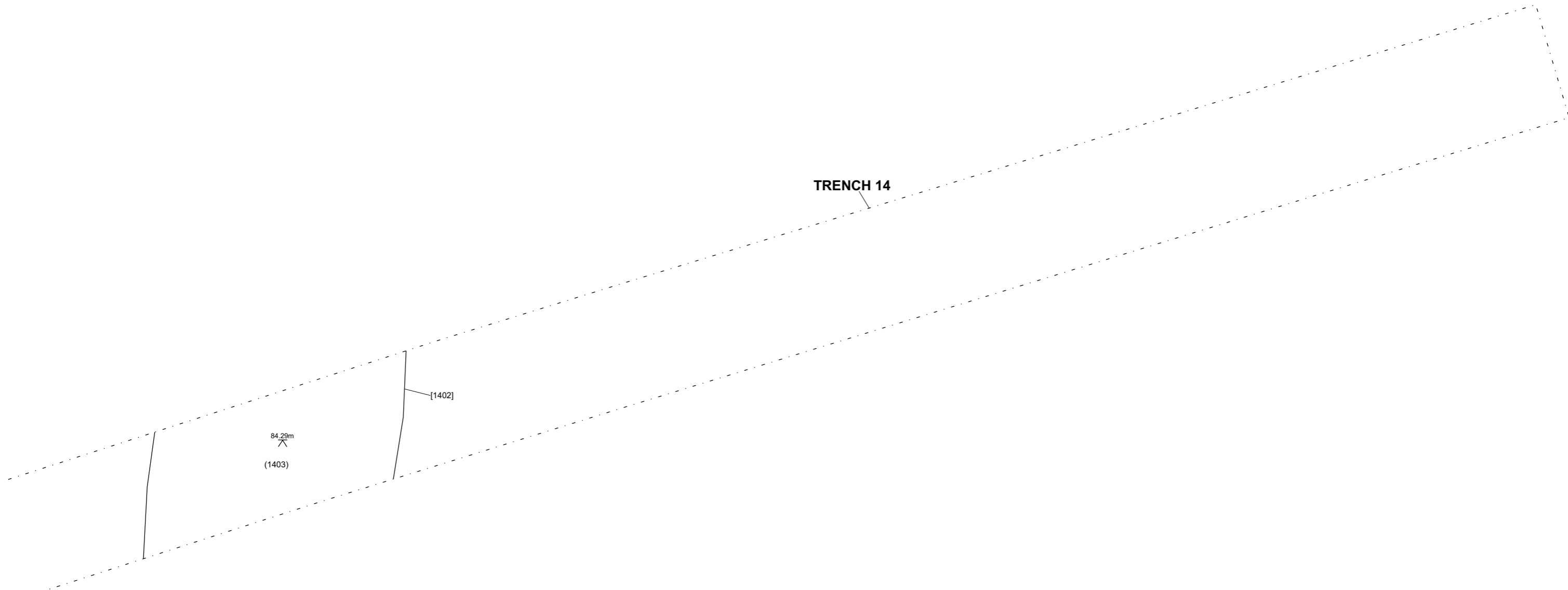
FIGURE 5: Trench 9 Plans



SOUTH FACING SECTION [1003]



<p>Site Code: LRC16 Accession Code: X.A69.2018</p>	
<p>N</p>	
<p>0m 2m</p> <p>PLANS</p>	
<p>0m 1m</p> <p>SECTIONS</p>	
<p>FIGURE 6: Trenches 10 and 12, Plans and Section</p>	



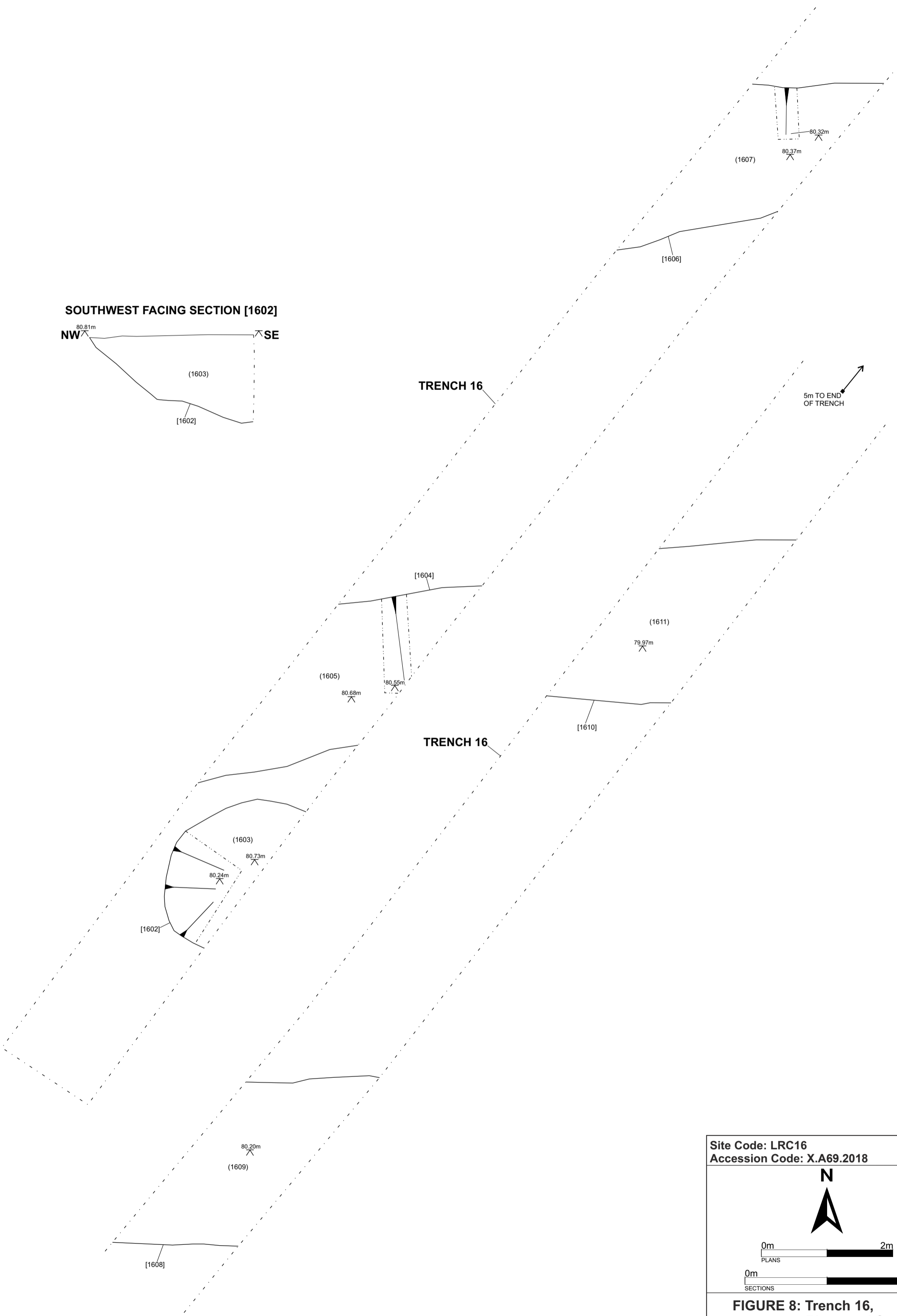
Site Code: LRC16
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N

0m 2m

PLANS

FIGURE 7: Trenches 14 and 15, Plans



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N

0m 2m
 PLANS

0m 1m
 SECTIONS

FIGURE 8: Trench 16, Plans and Section

EXCAVATED FEATURE SECTIONS



PHOTOGRAPH 1: FEATURE [402] WEST FACING SECTION



PHOTOGRAPH 2: FEATURE [602] NORTH FACING SECTION



PHOTOGRAPH 3: FEATURE [702] WEST FACING SECTION



PHOTOGRAPH 4: FEATURE [1003] SOUTH FACING SECTION

MACHINING PHASE 1



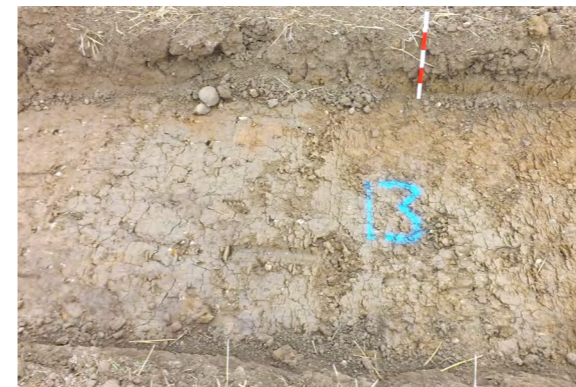
PHOTOGRAPH 5: FEATURE [1602] SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION



PHOTOGRAPH 6: PHASE 1 MACHINING - REPRESENTATIVE TRENCH



PHOTOGRAPH 7: PHASE 1 MACHINING - BASE OF TRENCH 3 SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL SAND GRAVEL AND CLAY DIRECTLY BENEATH PLOUGHSOIL. THE BASE OF A MODERN PLOUGH SCORE IS VISIBLE AS A DARK BROWN LINEAR FEATURE



PHOTOGRAPH 8: PHASE 1 MACHINING - BASE OF TRENCH 13 SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL SAND GRAVEL AND CLAY DIRECTLY BENEATH PLOUGHSOIL



PHOTOGRAPH 9: PHASE 1 MACHINING - BASE OF TRENCH 15 SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL GRAVEL AND CLAY DIRECTLY BENEATH PLOUGHSOIL. THE BASE OF A MODERN PLOUGH SCORE IS VISIBLE AS A DARK BROWN LINEAR FEATURE

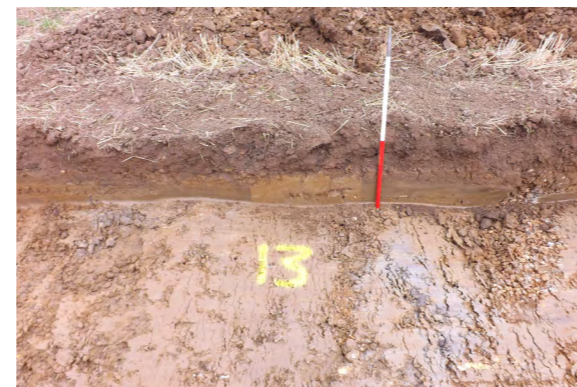
MACHINING PHASE 2



PHOTOGRAPH 10: PHASE 2 MACHINING - REPRESENTATIVE TRENCH



PHOTOGRAPH 11: PHASE 2 MACHINING - TRENCH 3 SECTION SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL SAND GRAVEL AND CLAY DIRECTLY BENEATH PLOUGHSOIL



PHOTOGRAPH 12: PHASE 2 MACHINING - TRENCH 13 SECTION SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL GRAVEL AND CLAY DIRECTLY BENEATH PLOUGHSOIL



PHOTOGRAPH 13: PHASE 2 MACHINING - TRENCH 16 SECTION SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL CLAY DIRECTLY BENEATH PLOUGHSOIL



PHOTOGRAPH 14: PHASE 2 MACHINING - TRENCH 16 SECTION SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL CLAY AND GRAVEL DIRECTLY BENEATH PLOUGHSOIL

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS ADJACENT TO CURRENT SITE (LEICESTER ROAD, COUNTSTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE: ASSESSMENT REPORT. WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY, 2010. REPORT NO. 75391.02



PHOTOGRAPH 15: WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY'S EXCAVATION AREA SHOWING VARIABLE NATURAL BROWN ORANGE BEIGE CLAY SAND GRAVEL UNDER SHALLOW SOIL OVERBURDEN



PHOTOGRAPH 16: WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY'S EXCAVATION AREA SHOWING EARLY PREHISTORIC PIT CUT INTO VARIABLE NATURAL BROWN ORANGE CLAY SAND GRAVEL

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FIGURE 9: Photographs