



Leen Farm PEMBRIDGE

(NGR SO 384 593)

Archaeological Watching brief



March 2006

SMR 43270

Hereford Archaeology Series 708

This report is produced by

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS LTD

Manager : A Boucher BSc
Assistant manager: N. Oakey BA MA MIFA

UNIT 1, PREMIERE BUSINESS PARK,
WESTFIELDS TRADING ESTATE,
FARADAY ROAD, HEREFORD
HR4 9NZ

Tel. (01432) 364901
Fax. (01432) 364900

for: Mr. Richard Norman
The Leen Farm
Pembridge
Herefordshire
HR6 9HN

Archaeological Investigations Ltd is a trading company wholly owned by the Hereford City and County Archaeological Trust Ltd, a registered charity founded in 1997 to further the work of the City of Hereford Archaeological Committee (founded in 1974) throughout Herefordshire. The Company maintains a core staff with a broad range of expertise, whilst also making extensive use of specialist contract personnel. Besides working on the buried archaeology of Hereford and the country in general, the Company specialises in geophysical survey, historical illustration and the archaeological recording and analysis of standing buildings. Work is usually on a commission basis on behalf of organisations such as English Heritage, the National Trust, and the Landmark Trust. The Company also accepts commissions from local authorities and private developers and provides specialist consultancy advice in relation to archaeology in the planning process and general environmental issues.

Cover picture

Stanchion pits being excavated for the proposed development.

Hereford City & County Archaeological Trust : Company Number 3283805
Registered Charity Number 1060840
Archaeological Investigations Ltd : Company Number 3356931 VAT 692 1750 23

Leen Farm Pembridge (NGR SO 384 593)

Archaeological Watching Brief

Text and Site Work
L. Craddock-Bennett BSc.

Contents

1. Summary
 2. Introduction
 3. Historical Outline
 4. Aims and Objectives
 5. Methodology
 6. Results
 7. Discussion
 8. Conclusion
 9. Bibliography
- Appendix 1: Site Archive
Figures

March 2006

©Archaeological Investigations Ltd

Leen Farm

PEMBRIDGE

(NGR SO 384 593)

Archaeological Watching Brief

1. Summary

The project was undertaken in response to proposals to develop the site by Mr. Richard Norman.

The main aims were to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed development to ensure that any archaeology present on the site was recorded to a satisfactory standard.

A total of 18 stanchion pits were recorded in all covering a total floor area of 22x25m.

No evidence for archaeology was found in any of the stanchion pits.

A deep deposit of redeposited river gravels was found across the site, suggesting the area has been subject to flooding from the nearby River Arrow in the past.

Flooding events are likely to have deterred occupation of the site explaining the lack of archaeology.

2. Introduction

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. was commissioned by Mr. Richard Norman to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Leen Farm, Pembridge prior to the construction of a dairy parlour on the site. The field work took place on the 1st March 2006.

In line with Planning Policy Guidelines Note 16, section 30 the Planning Authority has been advised that a programme of archaeological work was required, taking the form of archaeological monitoring during the excavation of footings for the proposed structure.

The site lies in the flood plain of the River Arrow at NGR SO 384 593, to the north of the lane connecting the villages of Staunton on Arrow and Pembridge (fig. 1).

The land is currently used as dairy pasture at the eastern edge of the dairy itself.

The geology is made up of old red sandstone bedrock overlain by redeposited river gravels sealed by a light brown sandy clay sub soil.

3. Historical background

There is evidence to suggest prehistoric occupation in the region of Leen Farm. To the SW of the site, Grinsell (1993) identifies a ringditch of uncertain date. Other earthworks and ditches are also listed on the SMR, however none have been securely dated (fig. 5).

Approximately 50m to the west of the site on a north/south axis is Rowe Ditch which has been variously dated to both the Roman and early medieval period. Excavators described the earthwork as ‘a substantial ditch.....a major barrier had crossed these fields and the rowe ditch had been continuously present across the floodplain’ (SMR 12681).

The area appears to be covered by the Hazeltree hundred by the time of the Domesday book (1086AD), the nearest recorded settlement being Staunton-on-Arrow, belonging to Osbern son of Richard. It is referred to as previously being waste, but valued at 60s by the time of the survey. Interestingly the neighbouring hundred, covering modern day Eardisland, is called Lene, hinting at medieval origins to the present day farm.

The earliest farm buildings associated with the site are dated to the 15th century.

The earliest available map of the area (O/S second edition 1903) shows no structures on the site, and it appears as it does today. The majority of the dairy structures to the west of the site post-date 1973 as they do not appear on the O/S map of this date (fig. 2).

4. Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the archaeological work was to enable archaeological features to be identified in the areas affected by the proposal.

The main objectives of the work were to:

- a. Identify the date and nature of any archaeological features discovered.
- b. Assess survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the study area.
- c. Produce a record of the features.

5. Method

A variation to the project design was that no archaeologist was present for the removal of topsoil across the site. This followed discussions between the Client and the County Planning Advisor which resulted in the decision that monitoring was not necessary for this phase of the project.

In total, eighteen stanchion pits were monitored for evidence of archaeology during their excavation (fig. 3). A 1:20 section drawing was made of each stanchion pit and all were located on a 1:50 scale drawing of the area. This drawing was then tied into the O/S grid using existing structures as reference points. Selected stanchion pits were photographed using 35mm black and white, and colour film. A context record was produced, numbered individually by pit, and registers maintained for photographs, drawings, and context records.

6. Results (Figure 6)

None of the stanchion pits that were monitored revealed any evidence of archaeology. The geology of each pit followed the same pattern.

The topsoil had already been removed prior to archaeological monitoring.

Depth	Context Number (s)	Description
0.00m – (0.22-0.58m)	101,201,301,401,501,601,701,801,901,1001,1101,1201,1301,401,1501,1601,1701,1801	Light brown, sandy/silty clay subsoil containing small rounded and sub-rounded stones (20-40mm, <10%)
0.20m – 0.60m	102,202,302,402,502,602,702,802,902,1002,1102,1202,1302,1402,1502,1602,1702,1802	Brown/red loosely compacted river gravels comprising of rounded and sub-rounded stones (5-20mm, 80%)
0.60m -	303,1003	Red stoney clay natural containing angular stones/sedimentary bed rock (>50%)

7. Discussion

The geological stratigraphy within the stanchion pits revealed a deep deposit of river gravels. Considering the proximity of the River Arrow, approximately 30m to the south of the site, this is unsurprising. What is unclear is whether these gravels were deposited in a single event, or gradually built up over time. The latter scenario seems the most likely although the stratigraphy does not confirm this. If as suspected, the site lies in a rapidly changing environment, human activity is likely to be limited to a transient nature.

8. Conclusion

No evidence for archaeological activity was found on this site. Its position on the floodplain of the River Arrow has led to a deep stratigraphy of redeposited river gravels. In such a rapidly changing environment it is likely that human occupation would focus elsewhere.

9. Bibliography

Boucher, A.R., 2006, "*Leen Farm, Pembridge*", *Project design for archaeological watching brief*.

Youngs, S.M., 1981, "Medieval Britain in 1980", *Journal of the society for medieval archaeology*. Volume XXV, 184.

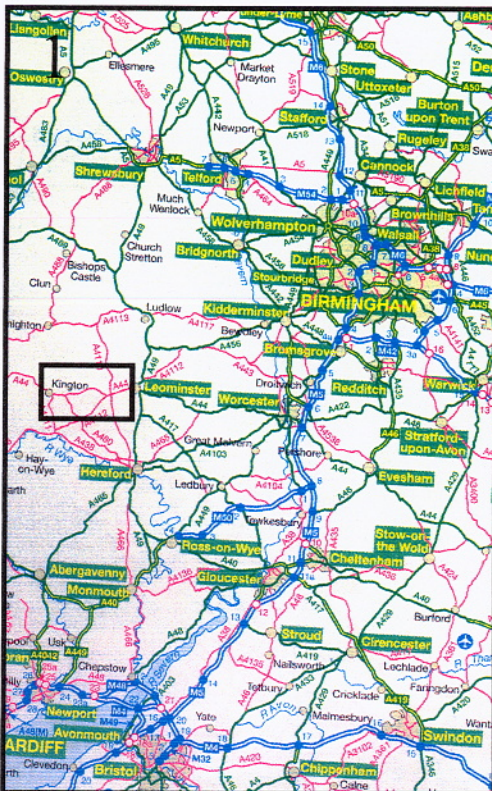
Morris, J. (ed.), 1983, "*Domesday Book – Herefordshire*", Phillimore.

Appendix Site Archive (Accession Number 2006-9)

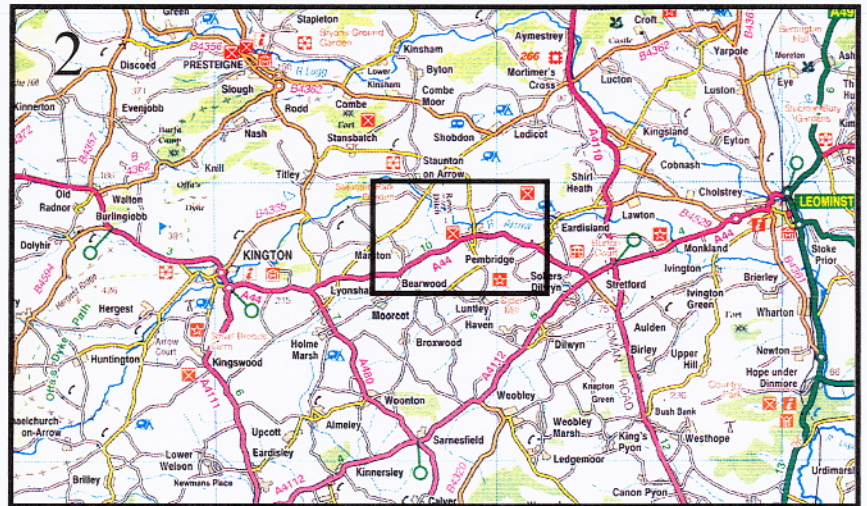
The archive will be held by Hereford City Museum.

1. Eighteen section drawings at 1:20 scale
2. One plan drawing at 1:50 scale
3. One drawing register
4. Two photographic registers
5. One context register
6. Three context sheets
7. One pack of colour photo's 6 exp
8. One pack of B&W photo's 6 exp
9. A copy of this report

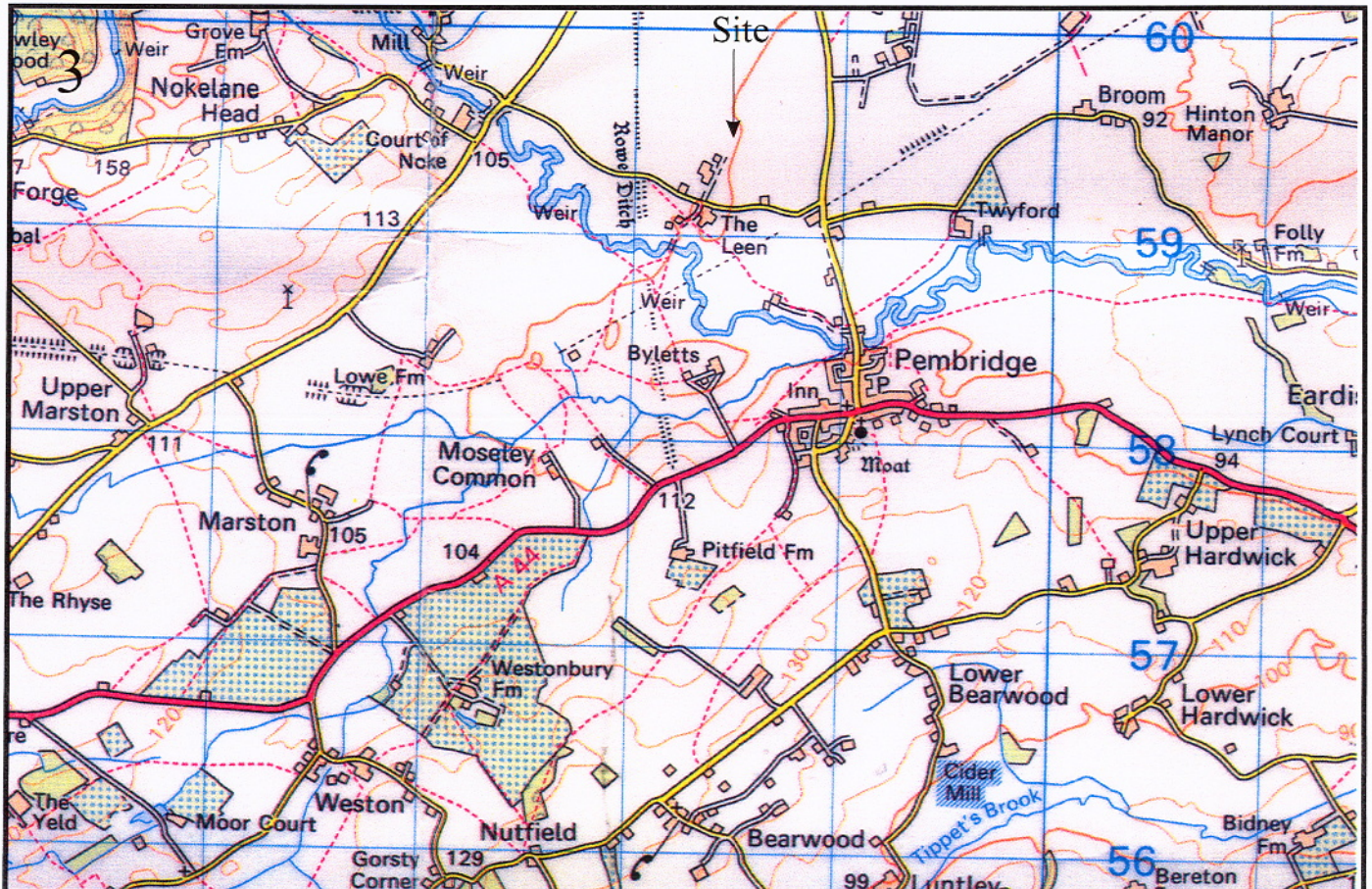
Location Map. Leen Farm, Pembridge



Scale 1:1,315,000



Scale 1:144,000

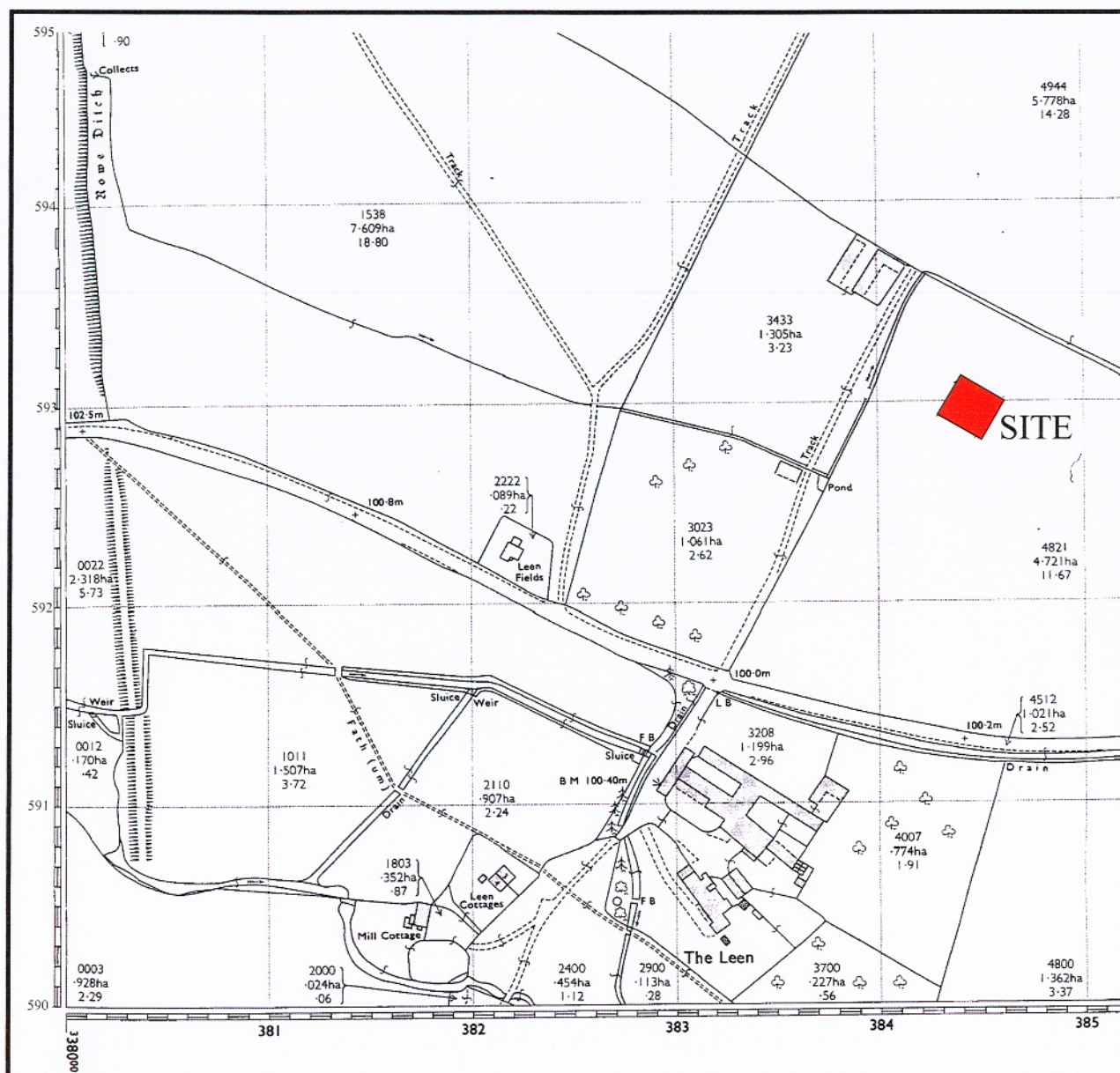


Scale 1:50,000

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping, by permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright Archaeological Investigations Ltd. Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Westfields Trading Estate, Faraday Road, Hereford. HR4 9NZ. License Number AL100015338

Figure 1

Area covered by stanchion pits

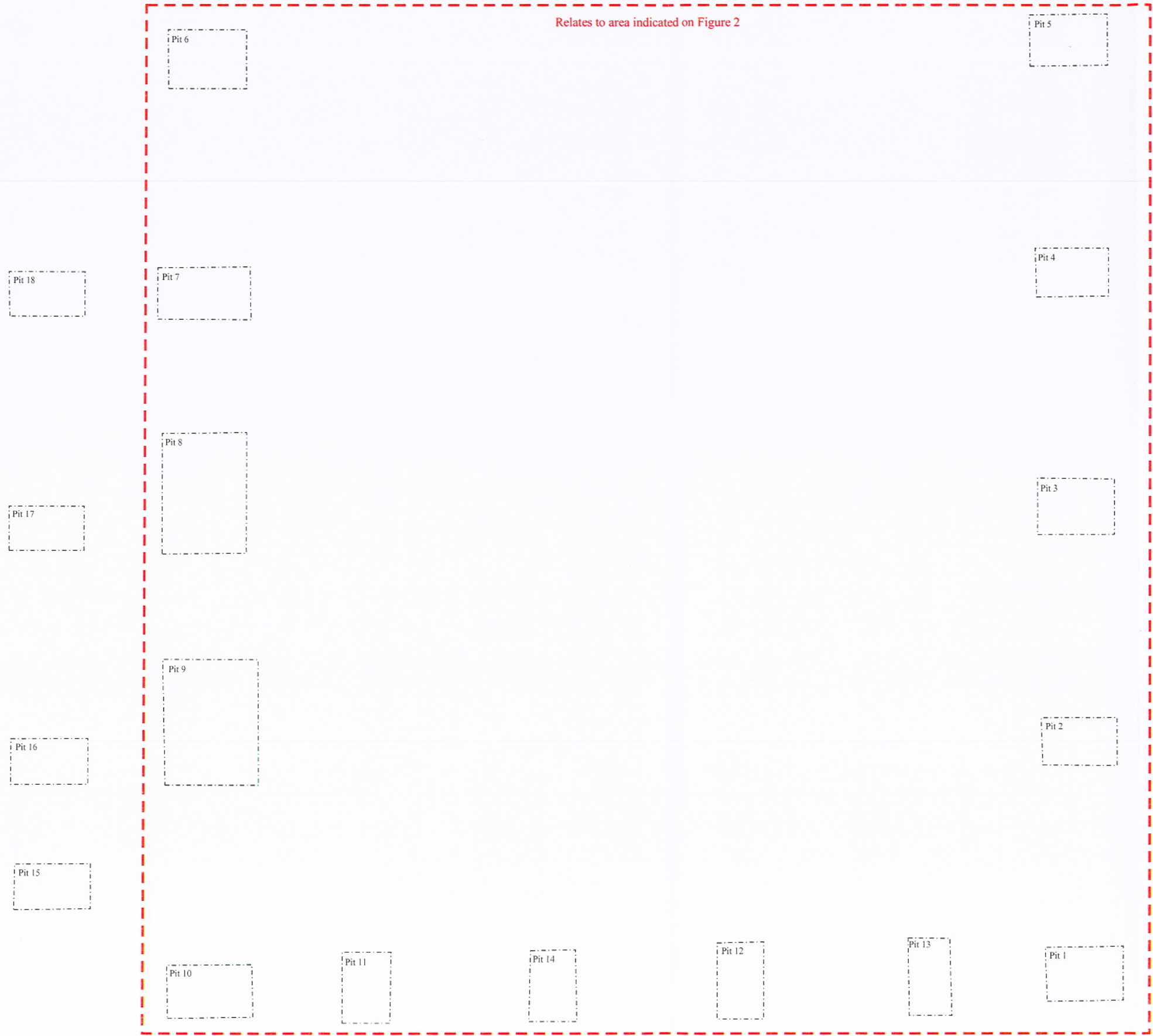


Scale 1:2500

Reproduced from the 1973 Ordnance Survey mapping, by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright Archaeological Investigations Ltd. Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Westfields Trading Estate, Faraday Road, Hereford, HR4 9NZ. License Number AL 100015338

Figure 2

Stantion Pit Location Plan



AI Ltd.
HFD-MG-2006-9
Drawing Number 1
Plan of Stanchion pits

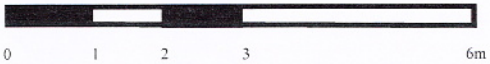
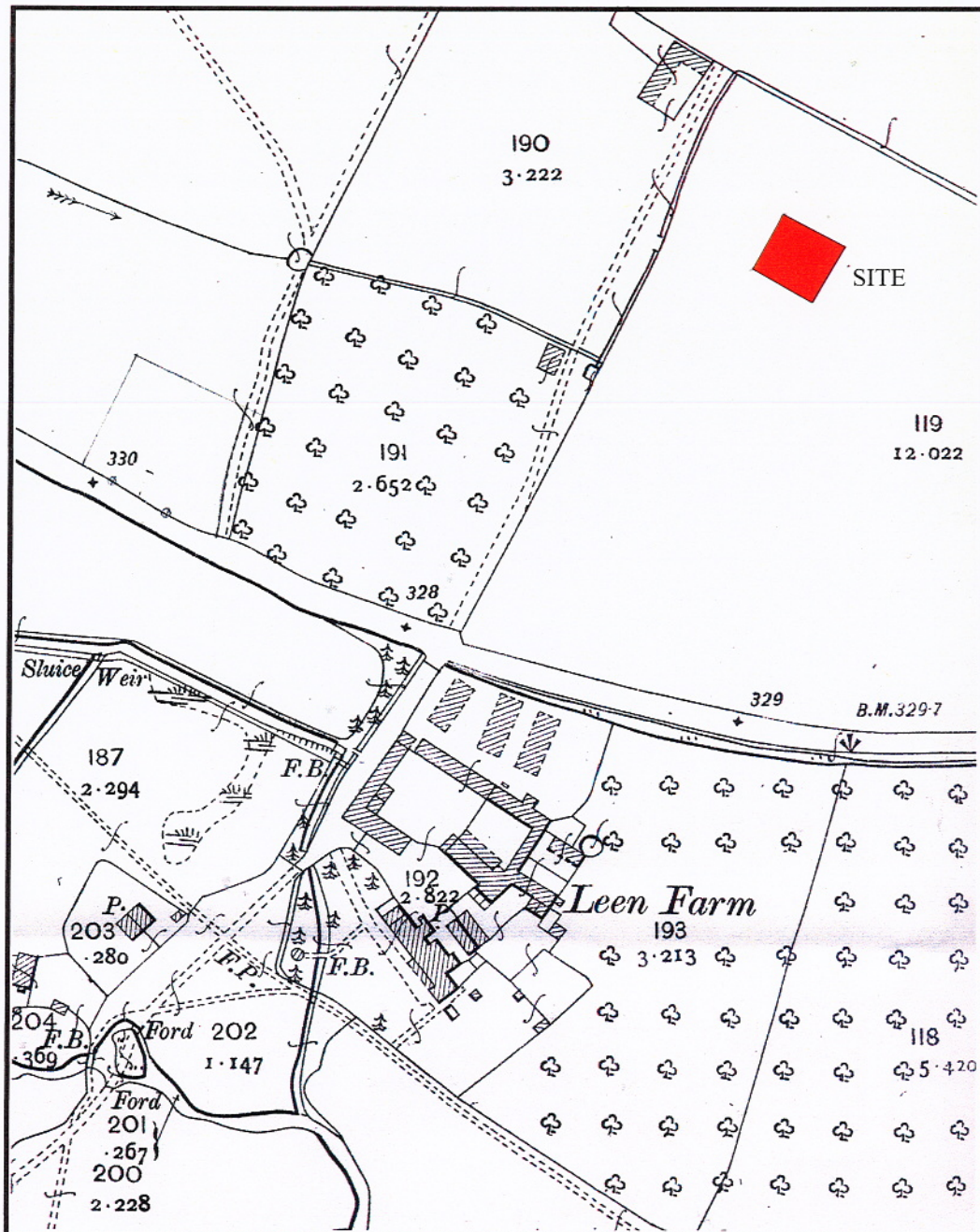
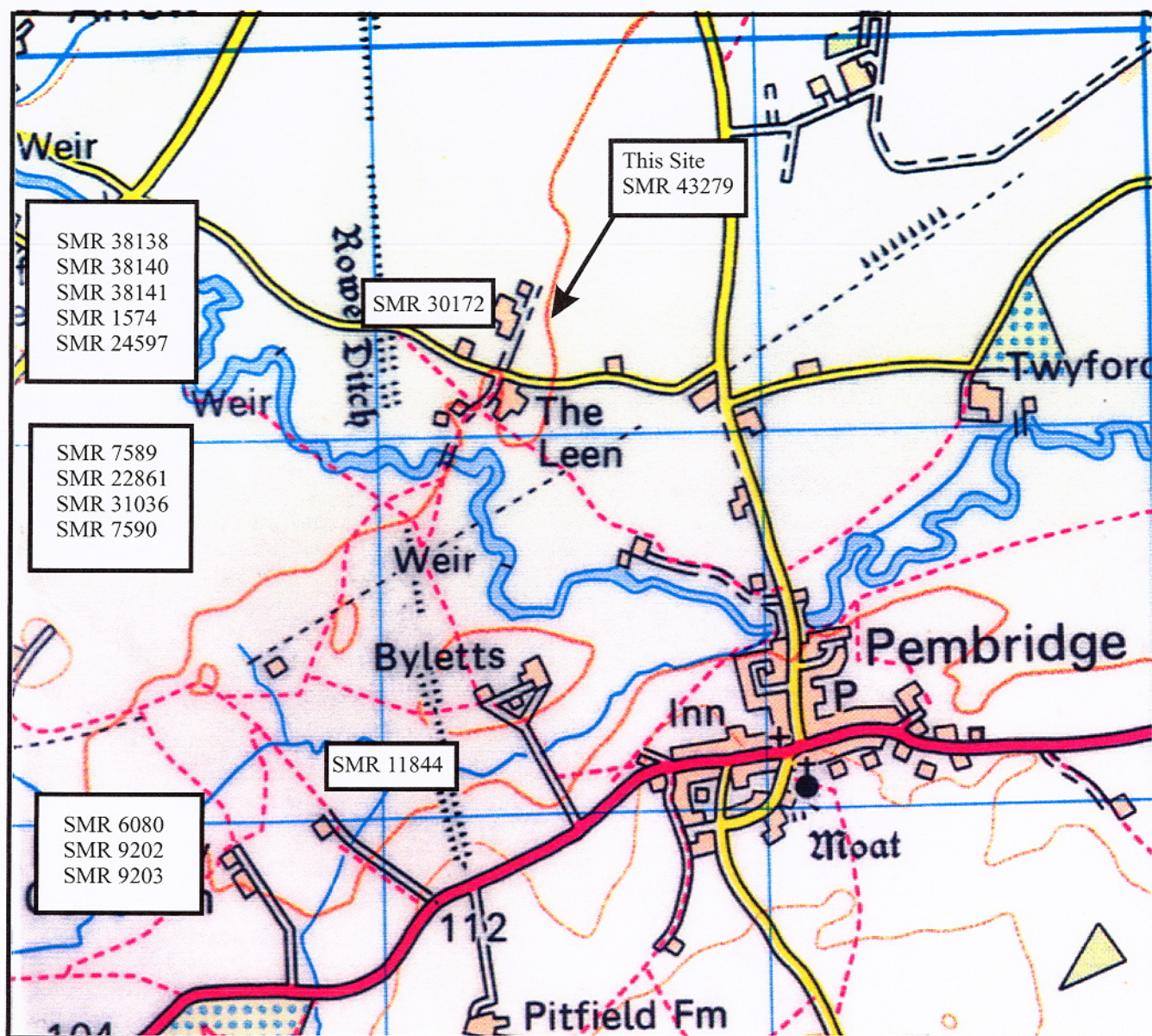


Figure 3



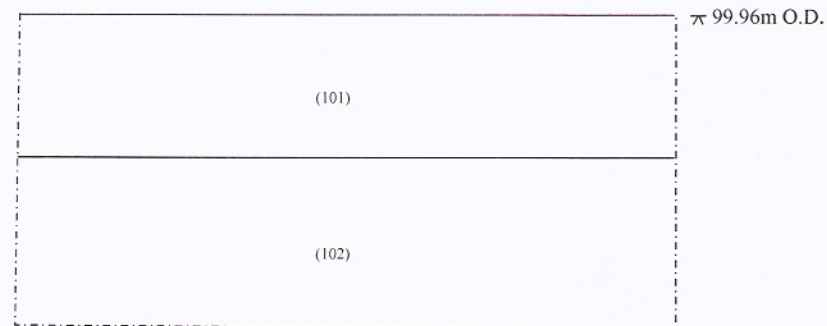
1903 O/S map of Leen Farm
Scale 1:2500

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping, by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright Archaeological Investigations Ltd. Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Westfields Trading Estate, Faraday Road, Hereford. HR4 9NZ. License Number AL100015338

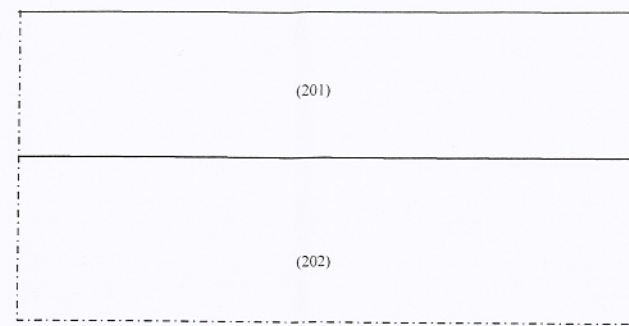


SMR Location map
Scale 1:50 000

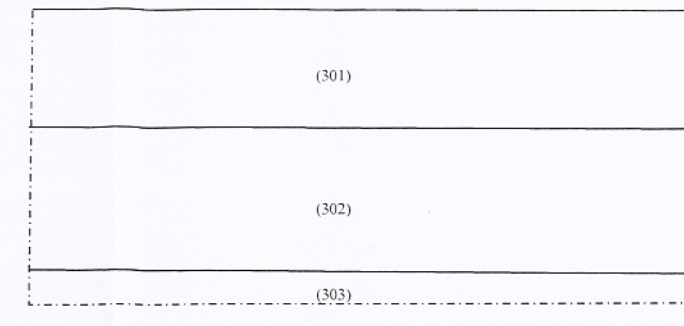
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping, by permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright Archaeological Investigations Ltd. Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Westfields Trading Estate, Faraday Road, Hereford. HR4 9NZ.
License Number AL 100015338



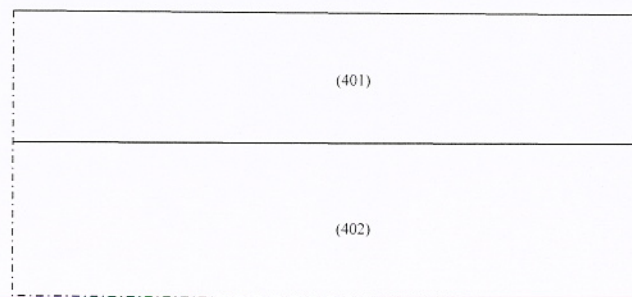
Trench 1
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 3



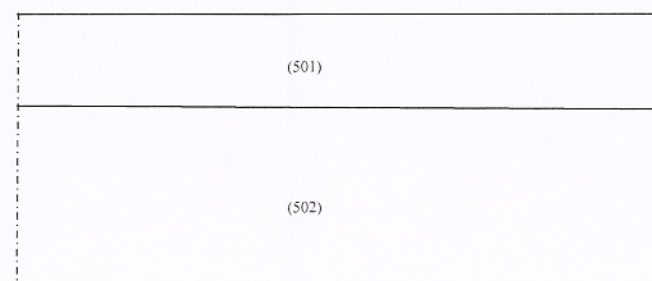
Trench 2
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 4



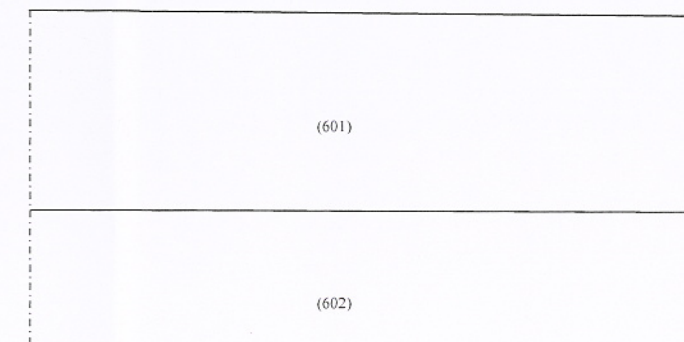
Trench 3
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 5



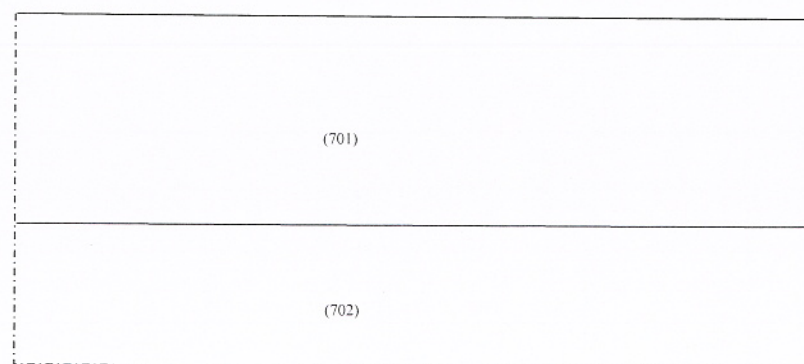
Trench 4
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 6



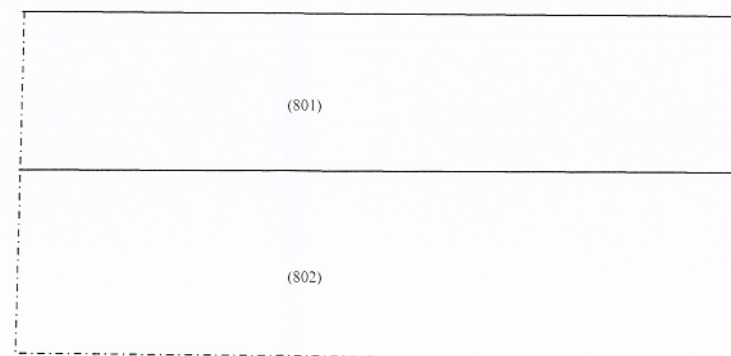
Trench 5
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 7



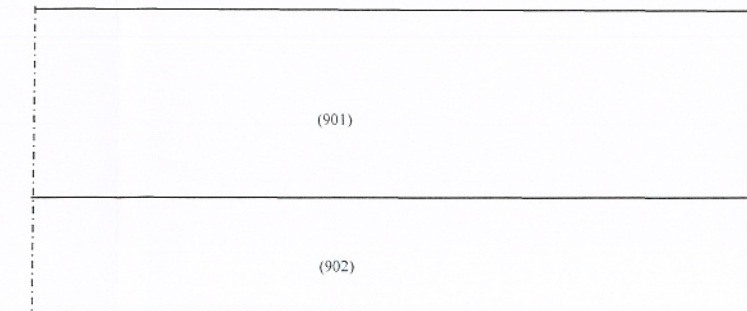
Trench 6
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 8



Trench 7
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 9



Trench 8
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 10



Trench 9
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 11

Trench Section Drawings

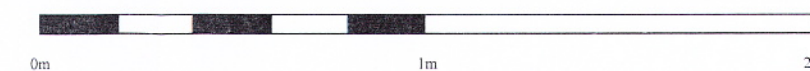
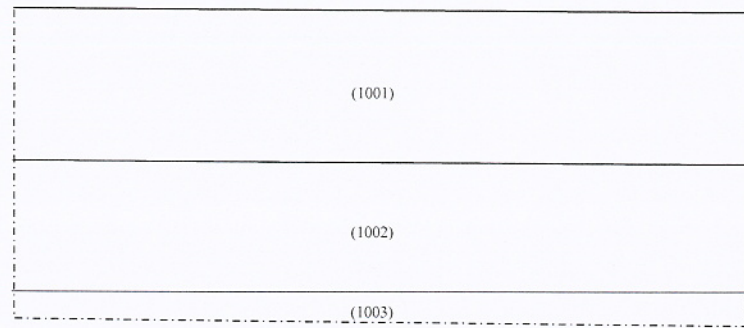
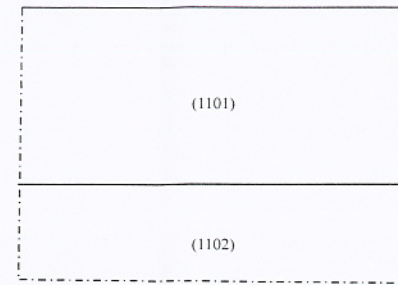


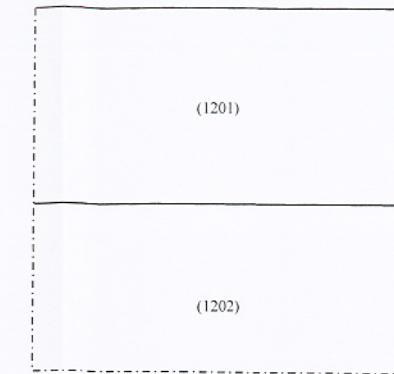
Figure 6



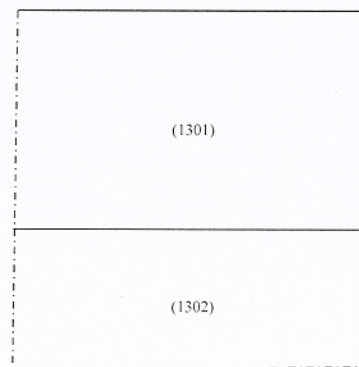
Trench 10
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 12



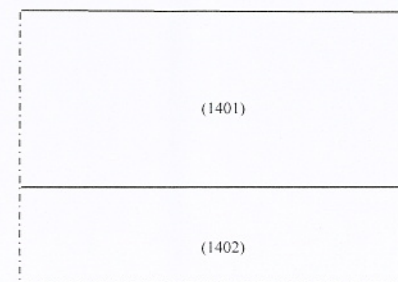
Trench 11
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 13



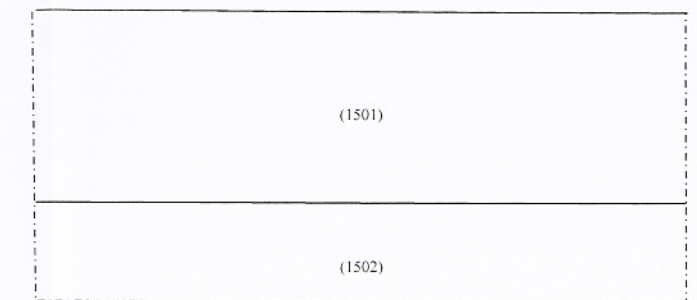
Trench Number 12
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 14



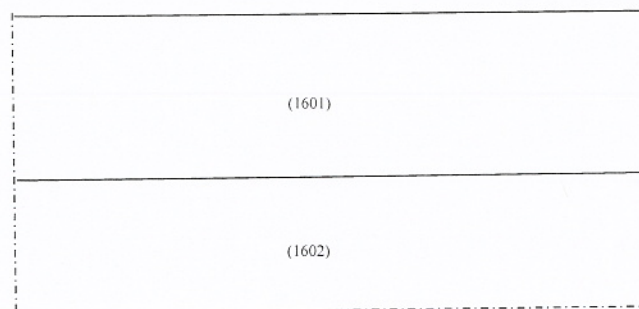
Trench 13
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 15



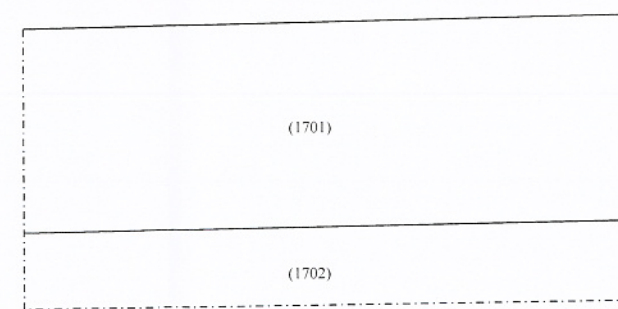
Trench 14
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 16



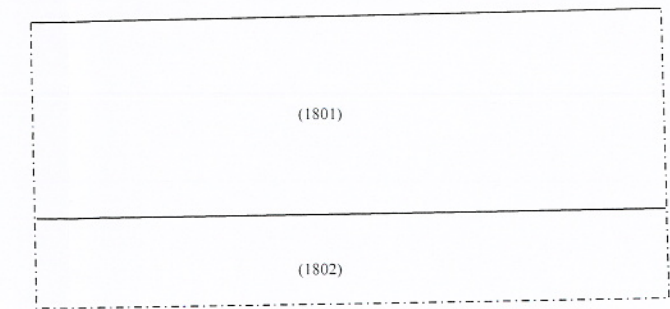
Trench 15
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 17



Trench 16
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 18



Trench 17
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 19



Trench 18
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 20

