

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION ON LAND BETWEEN HILL  
BARTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND THE  
A3052 EXETER TO SIDMOUTH ROAD**

**prepared for Midas Homes**

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**Exeter Archaeology**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Midas Homes and presents the results of an archaeological trench evaluation undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) in September 2009, on land between Hill Barton Industrial Estate, Clyst St. Mary, and the A3052 Exeter to Sidmouth road. It represents archaeological work required by East Devon District Council prior to determination of a planning application for the extension of Hill Barton business park (planning ref: 09/0282/MOUT).

### 1.1 The site (SY 0002 9083, Fig. 1)

The site comprises three enclosed fields totalling approximately 7.45 hectares, bounded to the south by the A3052 and to the north by the existing Hill Barton industrial estate. All three fields were under pasture at the time of the evaluation. A high pressure gas main extending along the southern boundary of the site had reduced the area available for investigation to approximately 6.5 hectares. The underlying geology of the site consists of Drift over Permo-Triassic and Carboniferous reddish mudstone (SSEW 1983)

## 2. PROJECT SPECIFICATION

Specifications for archaeological evaluation were set out in a brief provided by Devon County Council's Historic Environment Service (DCCHES). The principal requirements were:

- production of a rapid desk-based assessment to place the development site in its historical and archaeological context;
- evaluative trenching to investigate a 5% sample, by area, of the proposed development site;
- reporting and archiving as appropriate.

## 3. AIMS

The principal aim of the project was to establish the presence or absence, character extent, depth and date of archaeological deposits within the site. The results of the evaluation will inform the planning process and are likely to form the basis of a subsequent programme of archaeological investigation within the site either prior to, and/or during construction, should planning consent be granted. The likely scope of such further work is set out in Section 9.

## 4. RESULTS OF DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

The site is bisected by the Farringdon/Clyst Honiton parish boundary. The tithe maps for Farringdon parish and Clyst Honiton (figs. 2 & 3) show the site as extending across five enclosed fields, two to the west of the parish boundary and three to the east. By 1888, two fields immediately to the east of the parish boundary had been combined into one large field with the removal of the E-W boundary. The N-S boundary between the two remaining fields had been straightened at its southern end (fig. 4). This configuration remained consistent until at least 1971/2 (OS 1:10560 maps). Later development of the land to the north truncated these fields and the E-W boundary to the west of the parish boundary was removed, creating the three fields

which persist to the present day. The only feature on the site unchanged from the tithe map is the parish boundary itself. No features were identified on the 1947 aerial photograph of this area (4458 CPE/UK 1974 11 APR 47 F20//MULTI (4); DCC No. 37/63.

No known sites of archaeological interest lie within the development area. The following are recorded within close vicinity of the site (Fig 1).

**1. Roman road (HER SY09SW/27)**

The A3052 is on the line of the Roman road from Charmouth to Exeter.

**2. Hill Barton Farm (HER SY09SW/31)**

Hill is documented in 1242 and 1402.

**3. Barrow SY 00130 90584 (HER SY09SW/69)**

Large annular dark mark recorded from the air in 1984. Visible on the ground in 1991 as low mound, 15-20m across and 0.3m high.

**4. Enclosure SY 00705 91280 (HER 73316)**

Possible rectangular enclosure visible on 1999-2000 aerial photograph above tip at Hill Barton Business Park.

**5. Parish Boundary SX 9925 9143 (HER SX 99SE/89)**

The parish boundary bank [to the west of the site], and other banks in the area, may be of early date - at least pre C14 – it is likely that the field boundaries were present before the manor and parish boundaries were laid out.

**6. Road SY 0016 9025 (HER SY09SW/17)**

Greendale Lane was probably in existence when the Clystwicton Charter was set out in the late 11th century as it is described as old at the time.

**7. Crealy Barton (HER SY09SW/4)**

The farm lies on the site of the settlement of Creely, which was probably in existence before 1066.

**8. Pond**

Water filled feature shown on Tithe Map. This may represent a pond or possible gravel pit as the HER record a number of marl pits and gravel pits in the area (09SW/61 & 65).

**5. METHOD**

Thirty trenches totalling 1,527m were excavated using a tracked machine fitted with a 2.15m wide toothless grading bucket. Trenches were positioned to achieve a representative spatial sample of the site.

Machining continued until either natural subsoil or archaeological deposits were reached. Where archaeological deposits were exposed, trenches were cleaned back by hand, and the deposits investigated and recorded.

Standard EA recording procedures were employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on pro-forma single context record sheets; a drawn record was compiled in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a photographic record was prepared in black and white film and digital (colour) format.

## 6. RESULTS (Figs. 5-9)

A consistent sequence of deposits was observed across the site consisting of reddish clay natural subsoil with frequent veins and patches of water worn gravels, below 200-350mm of reddish brown, friable, sandy clay silt topsoil. A thin, patchy layer of pale brown sandy clay subsoil was present over the central portion of field 1, observed in trenches 18, 27-31 and 36 only. In trench 30, the typical sequence had been truncated by stripping for the construction of recent services.

### 6.1 Trenches 1-7 (Fig. 5)

These trenches were not excavated due to their proximity to a high pressure gas main.

### 6.2 Trenches 8, 9, 11-17, 20-24, 26, 27, 32-34 (Fig. 5)

Each trench was excavated to a maximum depth of between 250 & 500mm. In each case natural subsoil was encountered below a typical sequence of deposits as described above. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

### 6.3 Trench 10 (Figs. 5 & 6)

This trench measured 37m, was aligned north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 300mm. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 200mm below topsoil. The terminus of a NE-SW aligned ditch (context 1002) cut natural from below the level of topsoil, approximately 15m from the southern end of the trench. It is described below.

Feature 1002 was a NE-SW aligned apparently curvi-linear ditch, terminating within the area of excavation. It measured approximately 1.6m wide and 390mm deep with 1.3m of length exposed in plan. Its profile consisted of moderately sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Its backfill (1003) consisted of moderately compact, reddish brown sandy clay with poorly sorted, rounded stone inclusions. Several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.

### 6.4 Trench 18 (Figs. 5 & 6)

This trench measured 100m, was aligned east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 300mm. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 250mm below topsoil. A ESE-WNW aligned ditch (context 1805) cut natural subsoil at the far eastern end of the trench and is described below.

Feature 1805 was an ESE-WNW aligned ditch. It measured 880mm wide and 260mm deep. It was exposed to a length of 6.85m within the area of excavation. In profile it exhibited moderately sloping sides with an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base. The backfill (1806) consisted of reddish brown clay loam with small-medium, poorly sorted, rounded pebble inclusions. Several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.

### 6.5 Trench 19 (Figs. 5 & 7)

This trench measured 100m, was aligned east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 400mm. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 250mm below topsoil. Three ditches (1902, 1904 & 1906) and one terminating ditch (1909) cut the natural

subsoil. These are described below. No physical or direct stratigraphic relationships were observed between these ditches.

Feature 1902 (Plates 3 & 4) was a NW-SE aligned ditch with a steep 'V' shaped profile, located at the western end of the trench. It measured 1.42m wide and 720mm deep and was exposed in plan to a length of 9.6m within the area of excavation. It contained four fills. Two primary fills (1913 & 1914) consisting of pinkish/reddish clay with occasional small sub-angular and rounded stone inclusions, appear to have resulted from natural silting and weathering of the ditch sides. A secondary fill (1912), consisting of compact, dark grey clay silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions, charcoal flecks and burnt bone fragments, appeared to have resulted from the disposal of domestic refuse. Abundant sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from this fill, in addition to fragments of roof tile. This material was sampled (sample <2>) for the recovery of charcoal, charred plant remains and bone fragments. A tertiary fill (1903) consisted of compacted mid brown clay silt, with occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. This fill represents the final and possibly deliberate infilling of the ditch. Several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit.

Feature 1904 was a NNE-SSW aligned ditch located at the approximate centre of the trench. It measured 1.3m wide, 300mm deep and was exposed in plan to a length of 2.2m within the area of excavation. In profile it had moderately sloping sides with a moderate break of slope to a flattish base. The backfill consisted of a single fill of dark reddish brown, moderately compacted sandy clay with unsorted, rounded stone inclusions. Several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this fill.

Feature 1906 was a shallow NNW-SSE aligned ditch located towards the eastern end of the trench. It measured approximately 3.25m wide, 560mm deep and was exposed to a length of 2.4m within the area of excavation. Its profile was asymmetrical, its sides being moderately steeply sloping on the west side and gently sloping on the east, with an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base. It contained three fills. The primary fill (1908) of firm, reddish brown slightly sandy clay with occasional unsorted, rounded pebbles appeared to be redeposited natural, representing initial weathering of the ditch sides. The secondary fill (1907) consisted of soft, greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional poorly sorted small-medium and rare large, rounded pebbles, rare charcoal and abundant manganese flecks. This homogenous fill appeared to represent deliberate infilling. A significant volume of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit. The tertiary fill (1915) of firm, reddish brown sandy clay with rare stone inclusions, is likely to be later infilling due to compaction and slumping of the secondary fill.

Feature 1909 was an E-W aligned ditch, located at the western end of the trench, terminating within the area of excavation. It measured approximately 1.12m wide, 330mm deep and was exposed to a length of 4m within the area of excavation. Its profile was shallow with moderately sloping sides and a narrow concave base. It contained two fills. The primary fill (1911) consisted of redeposited natural resulting from weathering of the ditch edges. The secondary fill (1910) of moderately compact mid-brown sandy clay with poorly sorted stone inclusions and rare charcoal flecks appeared to represent deliberate infilling. Several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit.

## 6.6 Trench 25 (Figs. 5 & 8)

This trench measured 50m, was aligned north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 300mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 200mm below topsoil. Two linear features (2502 & 2504) cut the natural subsoil at the southern end of the trench and are described below.

Feature 2502 was a NNE-SSW aligned linear feature almost certainly representing a continuation of ditch 1904 in trench 19 and ditch 3702 in trench 37. It measured 1.5m across and was exposed to a length of 6.8m within the area of excavation. This feature was not excavated having been sampled already in trenches 19 and 37.

Feature 2504 was a NW-SE aligned slightly curvi-linear ditch with a 'V' shaped profile. It measured 1.6m wide, 650mm deep and was exposed to a length of 4m within the area of excavation. It contained three fills. A primary fill (2506) of compact mid grey brown clay represented initial weathering of the ditch sides. A Secondary fill (2507) consisting of mid yellowish brown, compact silty clay with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks appeared to represent gradual infilling. The Tertiary

fill (2505) of compact, mid reddish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions represented an upper fill affected by later plough action. The position and orientation of this ditch suggested that it represented a continuation of ditch 1906 in trench 19. However, its dimensions and profile were entirely inconsistent with ditch 1906.

#### 6.7 Trench 28 (Figs. 5 & 8)

This trench measured 50m, was aligned N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 400mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 400mm below approximately 100mm of very pale brown subsoil (2802). A small pit or post hole (2804) cut subsoil layer 2802 and is described below. All deposits were sealed by up to 300mm of topsoil.

Feature 2804 was a small sub-circular pit or posthole, partially exposed within the area of excavation, cutting subsoil layer 2802. It measured 970mm wide and 400mm deep. Its profile was a slightly irregular 'U' shape and its edges were very diffuse. It contained two fills. The primary fill (2805) consisted of pale reddish brown sandy clay mottled with strong brown sandy clay, with frequent manganese flecks. The interface between this fill and the surrounding natural was very poor. The second fill (2806) consisted of pale greyish brown slightly sand clay mottled with very pale grey sandy clay, with rare small-large rounded stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. This fill appears to have possibly been affected by later root activity. A single struck flint on Neolithic/Bronze Age date was recovered from this deposit.

#### 6.8 Trench 29 (Figs. 5 & 8)

This trench measured 50m, was aligned N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 450mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 450mm below approximately 150mm of very pale brown subsoil (2902) present over the northern third of the trench only. A narrow east-west aligned linear feature (2905) cut natural subsoil at the approximate centre of the trench and is described below. All deposits were sealed by up to 300mm of topsoil.

Feature 2905 was an E-W aligned slightly curvi-linear ditch. It measured 1.1m wide, 450mm deep and was exposed to a length of 2.15m within the area of excavation. In profile it had a moderate sloping southern side and steeply sloping northern side, with a narrow concave base. The backfill consisted of moderately compact reddish brown sandy clay, with poorly sorted small-medium rounded pebbles and moderate manganese flecking.

#### 6.9 Trench 30 (Figs. 65& 9)

This trench measured 50m, was aligned N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 450mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 450mm below approximately 50mm of very pale brown subsoil (3004) present over the northern third of the trench only. Subsoil 3004 was overlain by up to 70mm of buried topsoil, also present over the northern third of the trench only. Elsewhere topsoil and subsoil had been completely truncated by recent stripping for the construction of services. A narrow east-west aligned linear feature (3005) cut natural subsoil at the approximate centre of the trench and is described below. All deposits were sealed by up to 300mm of modern redeposited natural clay and recently deposited topsoil.

Feature 3005 was an E-W aligned slightly curvi-linear ditch. It measured 700mm wide, 310mm deep and was exposed to a length of 2.15m within the area of excavation. In profile it had a moderate sloping southern side and steeply sloping northern side, with a narrow concave base. The backfill consisted of soft, reddish brown sandy clay, with poorly sorted small-medium rounded pebbles and occasional manganese flecking. Feature 3005 appeared from its position, orientation and character to be a continuation of ditch 2905 in trench 29.

### 6.10 Trench 31 (Figs. 5 & 9)

This trench measured 98m, was aligned E-W and was excavated to a maximum depth of 450mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 400mm below approximately 100mm of very pale brown subsoil (2802). Two small post holes (3107 & 3109) were exposed at the western end of the trench in addition to a large pit at the far eastern end. These features are described below. All deposits were sealed by up to 300mm of topsoil.

Feature 3103 (Plate 2) was a sub-circular pit located at the far eastern end of the trench. It measured 1.75m wide, 2.50m long and 900mm deep. In profile it had steep concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It contained three fills. The primary fill (3106) consisted of a thin lens of compact, light grey clay. The secondary and principal fill (3105) consisted of brown, compacted clay with large rounded stone inclusions and charcoal flecking. The majority of these stone inclusions were clustered towards the centre of the fill forming a distinct lens within the apparently homogenous clay matrix. Charcoal inclusions were also concentrated approximately at the centre of this fill and were retained as sample <1>. The tertiary fill (3104) consisted of compact, greyish brown clay with occasional small rounded stone inclusions and frequent charcoal flecking.

Feature 3107 was a small circular posthole located at the western end of the trench. It measured 350mm wide and 80mm deep. In profile it had gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Its fill (3108) consisted of moderately compact, pale greyish brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecking.

Feature 3109 was a small circular posthole located at the western end of the trench. It measured 350mm wide and 80mm deep. In profile it had gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The backfill (3110) consisted of moderately compact, pale greyish brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecking.

### 6.11 Trench 35 (Fig. 5)

This trench measured 30m, was aligned N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 300mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 200mm below topsoil. At the southern end of the trench a pair of parallel NW-SE aligned linear features were exposed. Their position, orientation and character were consistent with their having been the flanking ditches of a hedge bank depicted on the OS 2nd edition map of 1903. At the northern end of the trench a small post hole (3503) was exposed and is described below.

Feature 3503 was a small circular posthole located at the northern end of the trench. It measured 200mm wide and 300mm deep. In profile it had vertical sides with a moderately sharp break of slope to a concave base. The backfill consisted of soft, pale greyish brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.

### 6.12 Trench 36 (Fig. 5)

This trench measured 30m, was aligned N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 400mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 400mm below approximately 100mm of very pale brown subsoil (3602). At the northern end of the trench a pair of parallel NW-SE aligned linear features (3603 & 3605) were exposed, representing a continuation of the hedge bank flanking ditches observed in trench 35. All deposits were sealed by up to 300mm of topsoil.

### 6.13 Trench 37 (Fig. 5 & 9)

This trench measured 50m, was aligned N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 460mm. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 250mm below



topsoil. A NNE-SSW aligned linear feature (3702) was exposed below topsoil at the northern end of the trench and is described below.

Feature 3702 was a NNE-SSW aligned ditch located at the northern end of the trench. It measured 1.3m wide, 320mm deep and was exposed in plan to a length of 7.1m within the area of excavation. In profile it had moderately sloping sides with a moderate break of slope to a concave base. The backfill (3703) consisted of a single fill of reddish brown, moderately compacted sandy clay with poorly sorted, rounded stone inclusions. Several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this fill. This ditch is almost certainly a continuation of ditch 1904 in trench 19.

## 7. THE FINDS

The excavations have produced an assemblage of pottery consisting principally of Roman coarsewares, together with a single sherd of amphora, a single Nene Valley ware sherd, and four sherds of middle Iron Age pottery. Roman building materials, small fragments of both industrial and domestic waste of Roman date and three worked flints were also recovered. These are summarised in Table 1 and described below.

Context	Date	Prehistoric pot		Roman Pot		Medieval pot		Roman tile		Lithics		Metals		Misc.	
		Qty	Wgt	Qty	Wgt	Qty	Wgt	Qty	Wgt	Qty	Wgt	Qty	Wgt	Qty	Wgt
1003	1st century			5	20										
1806	1st /2nd century			13	86										
1900	Modern									1	12				
1903	Late 2nd/3rd C			42	238			3	52						
1905	1st/early 2nd C	2	6	6	26										
1907	2nd century			71	342							1	22	9	1992
1908	2nd century			1	<1									1	4
1910	2nd century			3	10										
1912	3rd century			188	1392			22	824					10	280
2505	2nd century	1	12	8	156										
2507	2nd century	1	18												
2806	Neolithic/Early BA									1	4				
3100	Modern									1	32				
3703	2nd century			3	4	1	<1								
<b>Totals</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2275</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2276</b>

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context and category. Weights are in grams.

### Prehistoric pottery

A total of four sherds of prehistoric pot were recovered. All were of probable Middle Iron Age date and were residual in Roman contexts. They consisted of: one sherd of MIA Glastonbury Ware with incised herringbone decoration (2505); one plain granite derived body sherd (2507); one plain body sherd and one highly abraded undiagnostic sherd (1905).

### Roman pottery

#### *Amphora*

One sherd of Dressel 20 amphora. (2505).

#### *Fine wares*

One rim from a Nene Valley Ware, Barbotine decorated cup/beaker (c. 3rd/4th century). (1912).

*Coarse wares*

The majority of the coarse ware assemblage consisted of BB1, a large proportion of which was recovered from just two contexts (1907 & 1912). A smaller number of sherds of this fabric were recovered from contexts 1003, 1806, 1903, 1905, 1910 & 3703. The BB1 assemblage comprised 256 sherds exhibiting varying degrees of abrasion, many having lost their characteristic burnished surface. Of the sherds recovered 205 were relatively undiagnostic body sherds including 7 decorated with a lattice pattern. The remainder consisted of 10 flat base sherds, 4 base sherds with foot ring and 41 rims, representing a total of 26 identifiable vessels.

1. Flat rimmed dish, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 73.1b. (1912)
2. Bead rimmed bowl, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 42.2a, mid 2nd century. (1912).
3. Flanged dish, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 71, 2nd century. (1912).
4. Plain rimmed dish with lattice pattern decoration, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 93.1, late 2nd/3rd century. (1912).
- 5-7. Three plain rimmed dishes, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 56.1b, late 2nd/early 3rd century. (1912).
- 8-16. Eight cooking pots with short rims c. 2nd century AD. (1912).
17. Cooking pot with projecting rim, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 20, c.late 3rd/4th century. (1912).
18. Flanged dish, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 71. (1903).
19. Foot ring from bead rimmed bowl, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 42. c. 2nd century (1903).
20. Plain rimmed dish, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 56.1b, late 2nd/early 3rd century. (1903).
- 21/22. Two flanged bowls, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 54.1, late 1st century/ mid 2nd century to end of industry. (1903).
- 23-25. Three short rimmed cooking pots, c.2nd century AD. (1907).
26. Upright rimmed cooking pot, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 16, c.1st century AD. (1003).

Thirty three sherds of wheel thrown Gritty Grey Ware were recovered from contexts 1806, 1903, 1907 & 1912. At least six vessels were represented.

1. Cooking pot, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 10.2, c.160-200AD. (1912).
2. Cooking pot, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 10.1b, c.mid 3rd century. (1912).
3. Cooking pot, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 10.2b, c.late 2nd/3rd century. (1907).
- 4/5. Two cooking pots, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 10.2a, c.160-200AD. (1903).
6. Four body and three rim sherds from a short necked flagon, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991, type 1, c.1st/2nd century. (1806).

Thirty six sherds of South Devon Ware were recovered from contexts 1806, 1903, 1907, 1910, 1912 & 2505. This assemblage consisted of 33 heavily abraded body sherds and three rim sherds representing at least nine vessels including two short rimmed cooking pots and a flanged bowl, Bidwell and Holbrook 1991 type 16.1a, of late 4th-century date, from context 1907.

### *Discussion*

The majority of vessel types identified appear within the 2nd century AD, with a number of examples from contexts 1903, 1907 & 1912 continuing into the 3rd. Exceptions to this are a South Devon Ware flanged bowl, type 16.1a and a BB1 cooking pot of type 20 with a pronounced projecting rim, which date from the late 3rd or 4th century. A limited number of earlier vessel types are present within the assemblage; in particular a 1st century cooking pot from context 1003, of a type also known in the late Iron Age. This feature, being somewhat separate from the main concentration of activity and dated only by this early form, may represent an earlier phase of activity. Together with the residual sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, it points to possible continued activity on the site from the middle Iron Age onwards.

Only a single fineware sherd was recovered, a 3rd/4th century barbotine cup. Samian ware was completely absent from the assemblage. This is quite typical of the later Roman period, particularly in rural assemblages, where South Devon Ware becomes progressively more common. In contrast, the proportion of coarseware fabric types represented appears atypical of rural sites of 2nd/3rd-century date in the region. In particular the low proportion of indigenous South Devon Wares, constituting only around 10% of the overall assemblage contrasts with its predominance on some rural sites, for example; 78% at Turnspit, Rewe (Ugnow 2000) and 48% at Hayes Farm, Clyst Honiton (Simpson et al 1989. Perhaps the high proportion BB1 (accounting for 80% of the total) reflects the proximity of the site to the Roman town of Exeter, where BB1 remained the principal coarseware into the later Roman period. (Bidwell and Holbrook 1991) Certainly this aspect of the pottery assemblage is worthy of further study.

### **Medieval pottery**

A single very small sherd of late 13th/14th-century green glazed pottery was recovered and is likely to be intrusive.

### **Roman tile**

Twenty five fragments of tile from contexts 1912 & 1903. Four are fragments of *tegula* (roof tile) from context 1912. The remainder are too heavily worn to identify. The presence of roof tile is suggestive of a substantial building in the vicinity.

### **Lithics**

Three worked lithics were recovered. A small flake core from the topsoil in trench 31 is of clean dark grey flint, with unabraded cortex surviving on one face. Fresh cortex also covers much the dorsal face of a grey flint flake recovered from context 2806. A small simple end scraper produced on a brown cherty flint flake was recovered from the topsoil in trench 19. None of the pieces is obviously diagnostic, but would appear to represent the product of a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age industry utilising chalk derived flint and undertaking primary reduction of nodules on site.

### **Metal**

One fragment of highly corroded iron, possibly a bent nail or fixing, recovered from context 1907.

**Miscellaneous***Heat effected stone*

Six fire cracked, water worn, granite pebbles, with reddened exteriors (1907).

*Building stone*

Five fragments of red sandstone. Two fragments have regular form and are potentially worked (1912).

*Daub*

Two fragments of dry, but unfired clay. One exhibiting the possible impression of a small rounded lath (1912).

*Furnace lining*

Two fragments of highly fired clay furnace lining (1907).

*Slag*

One fragment of probable ironworking slag (1907).

**Faunal Bone**

One small fragment of degraded bone. Medium to large mammal (1908).

**Environmental Samples**

Both samples have been subject to floatation sieving in accordance with EH guidelines (EH 2002). A brief inspection by eye has shown both to contain wood charcoal. In addition sample <2> contains charred plant remains, burnt bone and has some metallic content.

**8. DISCUSSION****8.1 Prehistoric**

Two features can be tentatively attributed to the prehistoric period. A small pit or post hole (2804, trench 28), located in the NW area of the site, is dated Neolithic or Early Bronze Age by the occurrence of a struck flint flake within its fill. Slightly further north in trench 31, a large pit (3103), despite a lack of direct dating evidence, possesses characteristics consistent with a feature of prehistoric date. Its pale leached fill and lack of finds suggest that it is associated with neither the post medieval landscape, nor nearby Roman features whose fills are comparatively dark and rich in finds. Additionally, a small flake core of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date was recovered from the topsoil nearby. A third lithic artifact was recovered from the topsoil of trench 19 in field 2. In addition to these features and lithics, a number of residual sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from later Roman contexts.

**8.2 Roman**

The Roman period is represented by a group of linear features located within fields 1 & 2, broadly concentrated towards the centre of the site. Eleven separate exposures were observed within seven trenches with dating evidence recovered from nine of the features. Based on the location, orientation and character of each observation it is reasonable to estimate that the group consists of seven ditches comprising four

observed only once each (1002, 1805, 1902 & 1909) and three made up of the following associated observations: 1904, 2502 & 3702; 1906 & 2504; 2905 & 3005.

The overall layout of these features is uncertain from the limited exposure achieved during the trench evaluation. However, they are likely to represent a complex of ditches, articulating boundaries and divisions associated with a rural settlement or farmstead. The volume of domestic pottery recovered is strongly suggestive of nearby settlement and the occurrence of roof tile from the fill of 1902 hints at a substantial building in the vicinity.

Evidence from the pottery assemblage provides a date range for these features of between the 1st and 4th centuries. All features containing pottery had material attributable to the 2nd century, while potential 1st-century material was limited to the fill of features 1002, 1805 and 1904, and 3rd/4th century material was recovered from 1902 & 1906. This spread of dates points firstly to a long period of occupation on the site (although the complete absence of samian ware from the assemblage brings the likely focus of activity into the later 2nd/3rd century) and secondly to the possibility of distinct and identifiable phases to the development of the site over two centuries or more.

### **8.3 Post-Medieval**

A pair of parallel ditches observed in trenches 35 and 36 are consistent with the location and orientation of a hedge bank present on historic mapping until at least 1971/2 (OS 1:10560 maps). No trace was found of east-west boundary seen to bisect field 2 on the Farringdon Tithe Map (fig 2).

### **8.4 Undated features**

Three undated post holes (3107, 3109 & 3503) were located within the NW corner of site. Features 3107 & 3109, positioned at the western end of trench 31, exhibited a similar shallow, truncated profile. Feature 3503, positioned at the northern end of trench 35, was relatively deep and vertical-sided. No pottery or other dating evidence was recovered from the fills of these features.

## **9. CONCLUSIONS AND POTENTIAL FURTHER WORK**

The site has been subject to a comprehensive archaeological trench evaluation which has produced evidence for previously unrecognised prehistoric and Roman activity. Roman remains comprise a group of ditches, widely dispersed across the site. Concentrations of domestic pottery and ceramic roof tile from features in trench 19 indicate nearby settlement of 2nd/3rd century date and suggest strongly that the focus of this activity is located within the development area.

Archaeological remains are present immediately below the level of topsoil and it seems likely that any surviving archaeology has been subject to truncation by ploughing. It is reasonable to suggest, however, that there is potential for the preservation of further features, deposits and artefacts of both the prehistoric and Roman periods; in particular; the survival of building remains associated with 2nd/3rd century settlement.

Based on current information it is not possible to accurately assess the full extent of surviving remains. In very broad terms, prehistoric cut features appear to be limited to the northern half of field 1 while survival of Roman material is concentrated towards the centre of the site, in the vicinity of trench 19. Large areas of the site are of lower archaeological potential. In particular; field 3, the northern side and NE corner of field 2 and the SW corner of field 1. The diffuse spread of Roman features, however, and the unknown extent of possible Roman period field systems, means that no area of the site can be designated with confidence as archaeologically 'sterile'.

Should planning consent be granted, it is likely that further archaeological investigations within the site will be required in mitigation of the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource. The extent of such works will range from:

- Monitoring and recording (watching brief) during groundworks (ground reduction, foundation and service trenching, access and landscaping etc.)
- localised area excavation in those areas identified as of high archaeological potential, with either monitoring and recording, or no further work elsewhere
- Extensive area excavation with either monitoring and recording, or no further work elsewhere

#### 10. PROJECT ARCHIVE AND 'OASIS' REPORT

A fully integrated project archive has been compiled and will be deposited at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, under museum accession number 350/2009.

A report of the evaluation (including a pdf version of this document) will be submitted to the on-line database OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS), under OASIS ID: exeterar1-65144

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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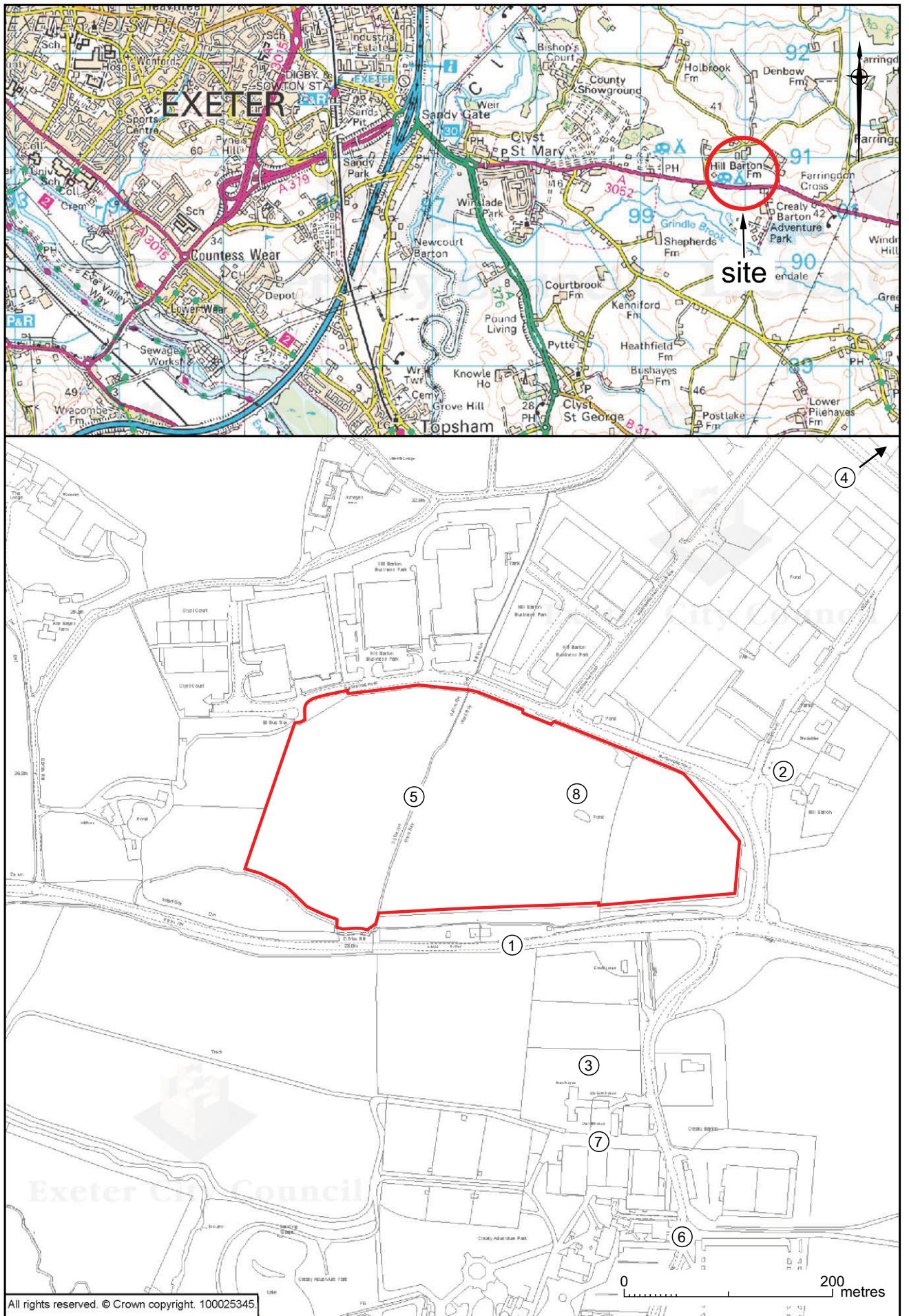


Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:5000 and 1:50000)



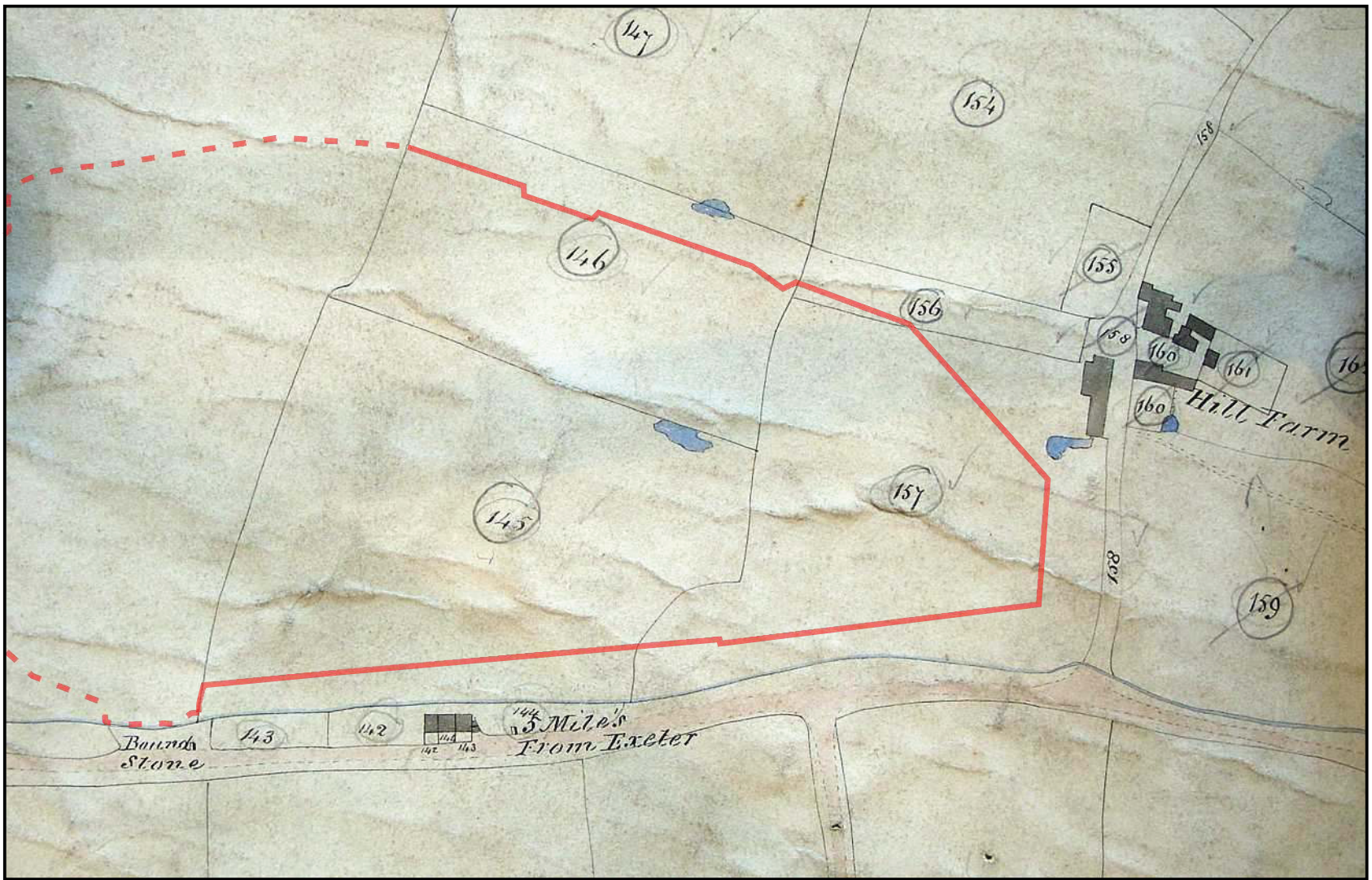


Fig. 2 The eastern part of the site in 1839. Farringdon parish tithe map, reduced to 1:2500.

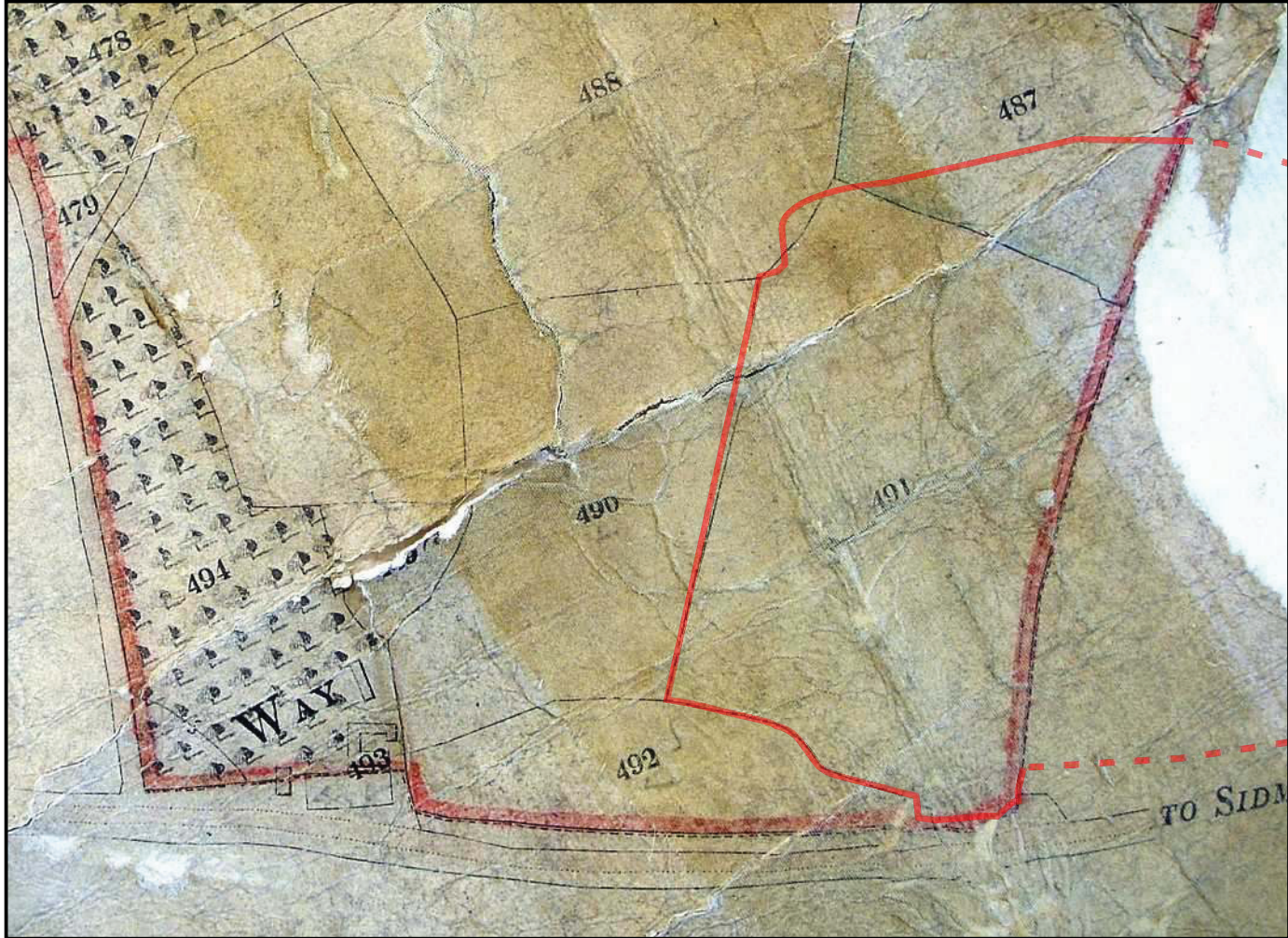


Fig. 3 The western part of the site in 1839. Clyst Honiton tithe map (damaged), enlarged to 1:2500.

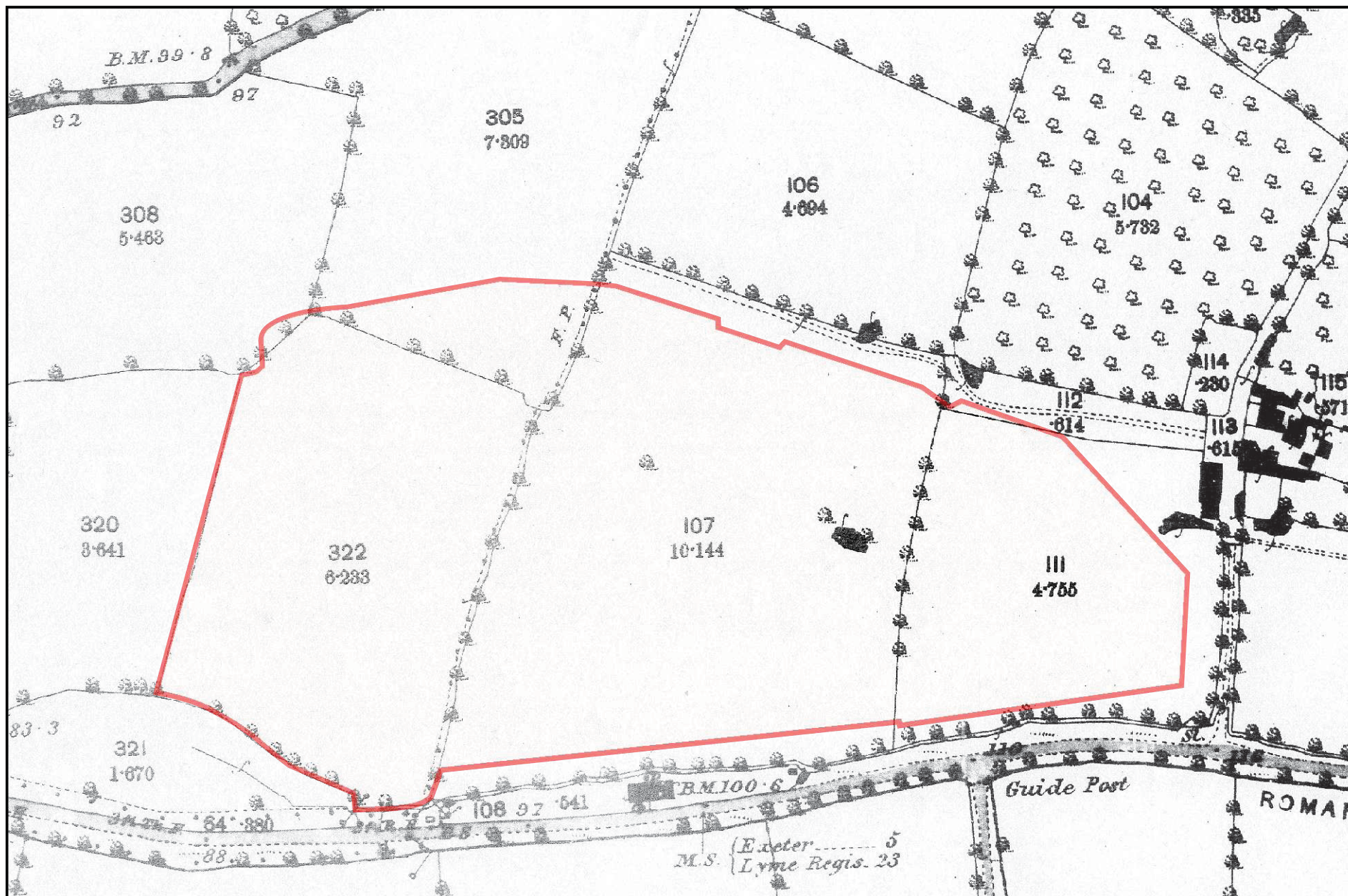


Fig. 4 The site in 1888. Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map sheet LXXXI.9, published in 1889.

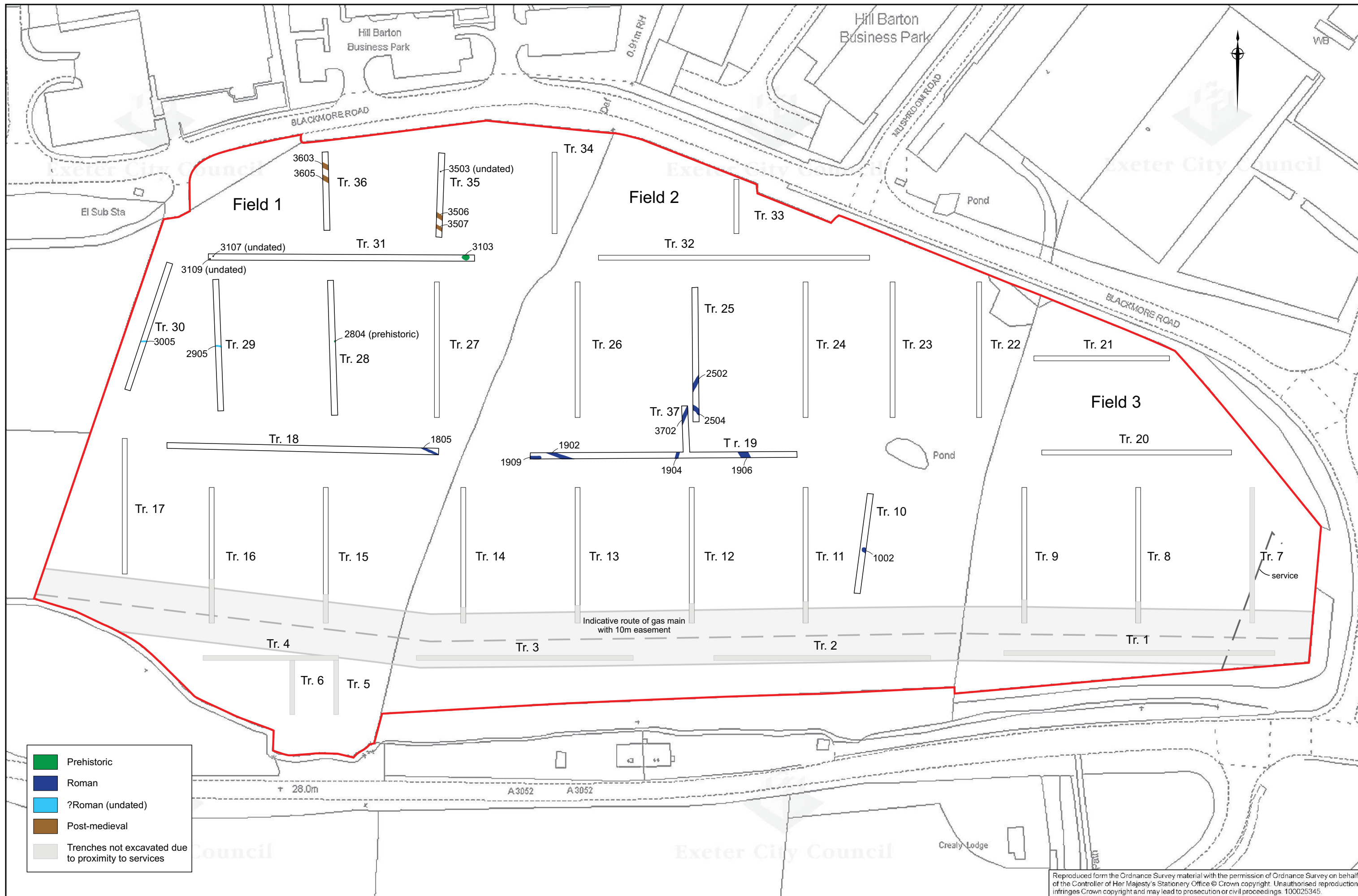
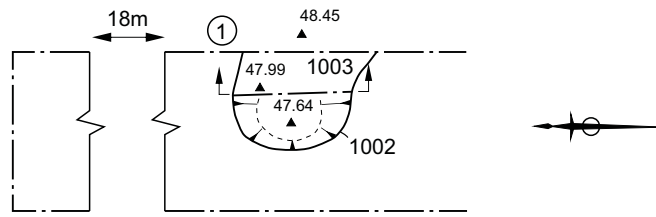


Fig. 5 Trench location plan. Scale 1:1250@ A3.

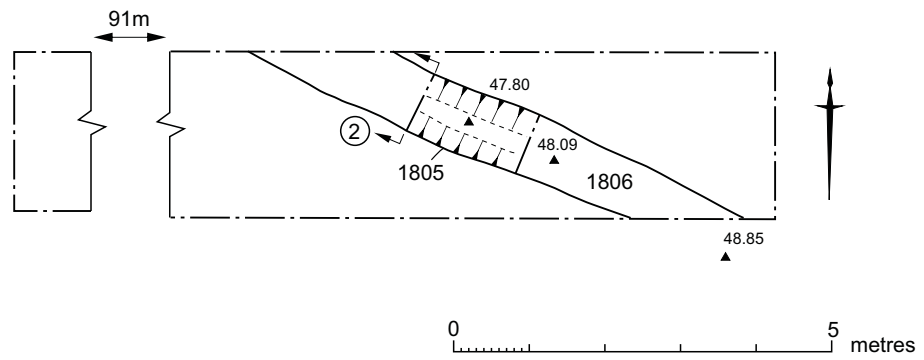
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# Plans

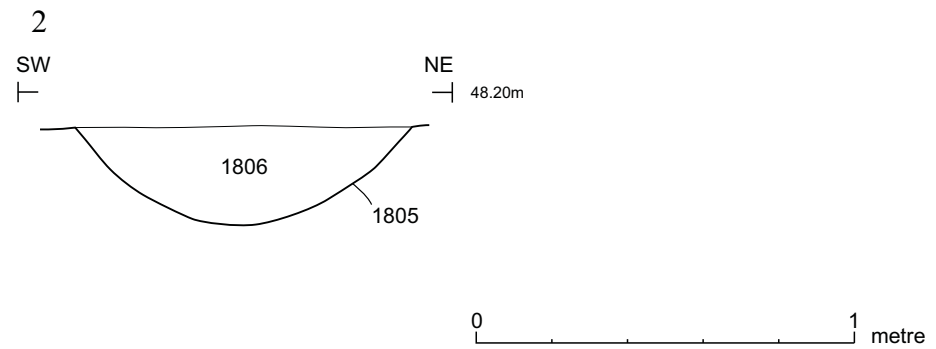
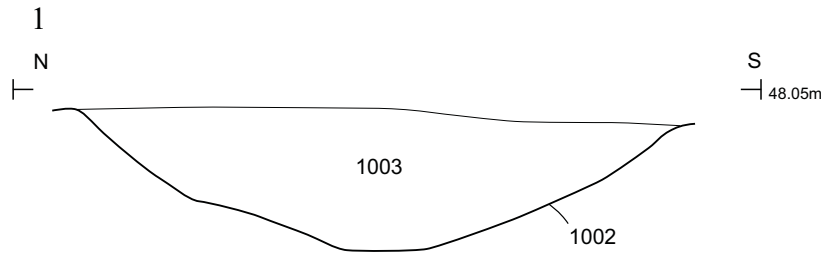
## Trench 10



## Trench 18



# Sections:



Heights relative to arbitrary bench mark of 50m

Fig. 6 Trench 10: Plan and sections

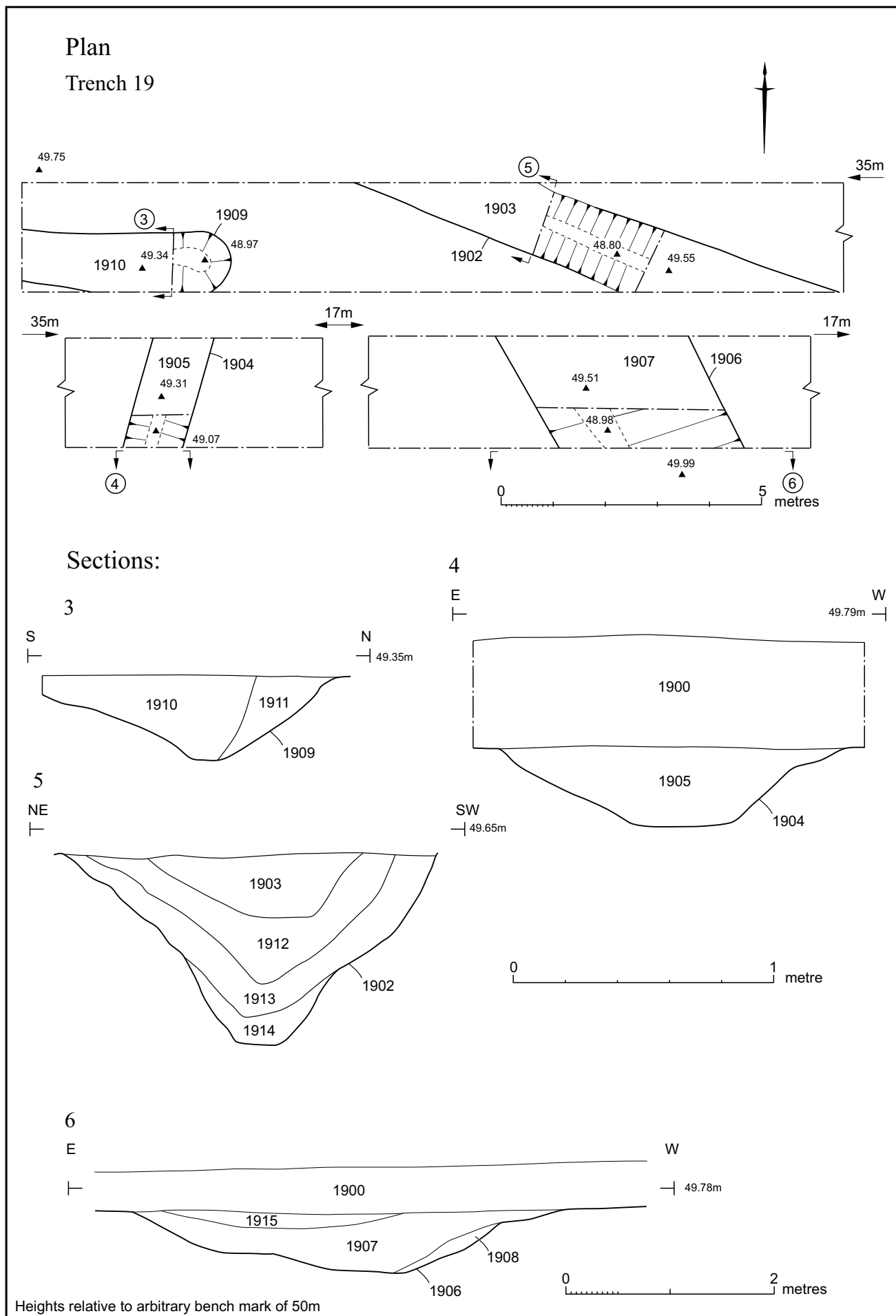


Fig. 7 Trench 19: Plan and sections

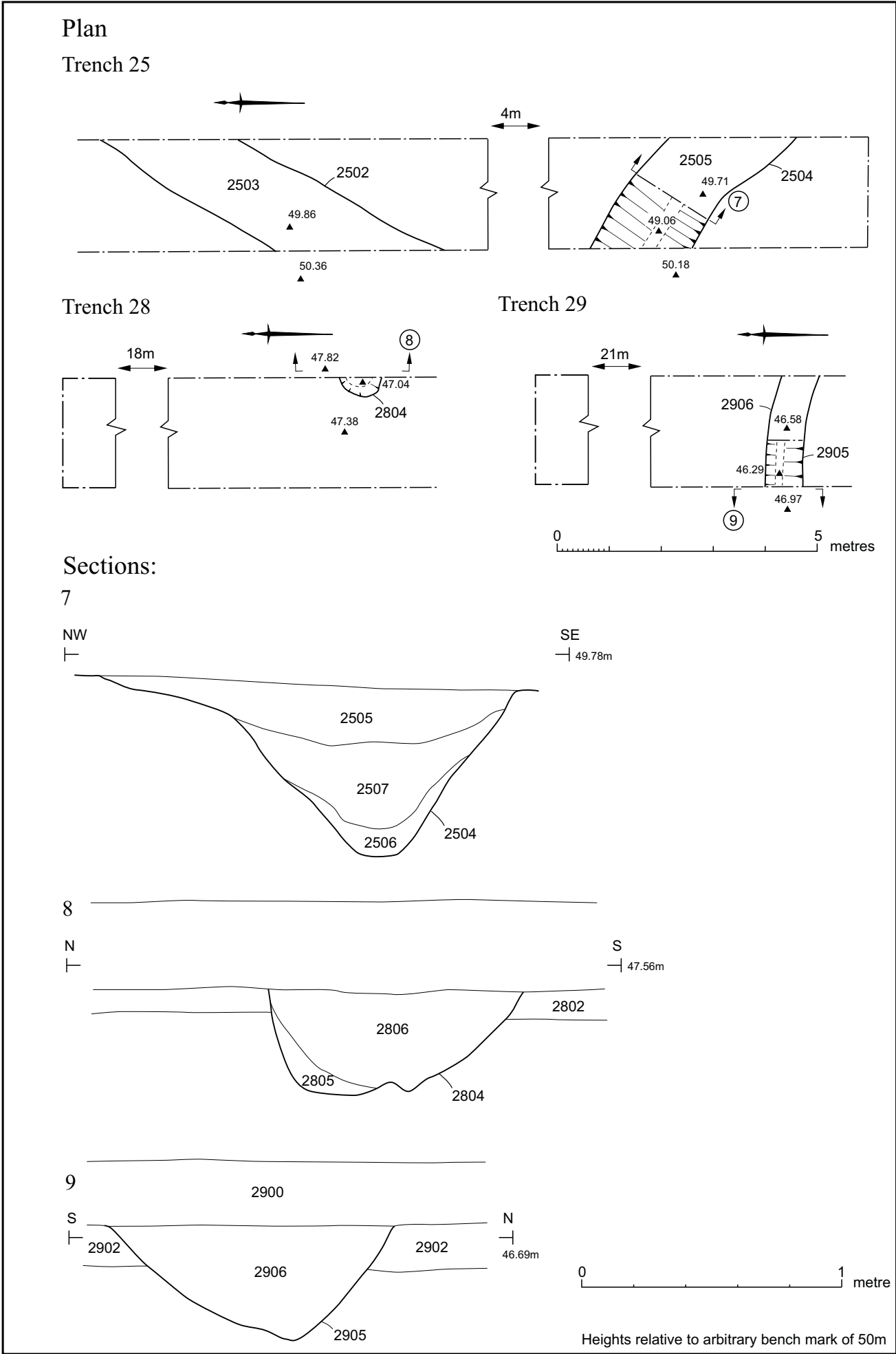
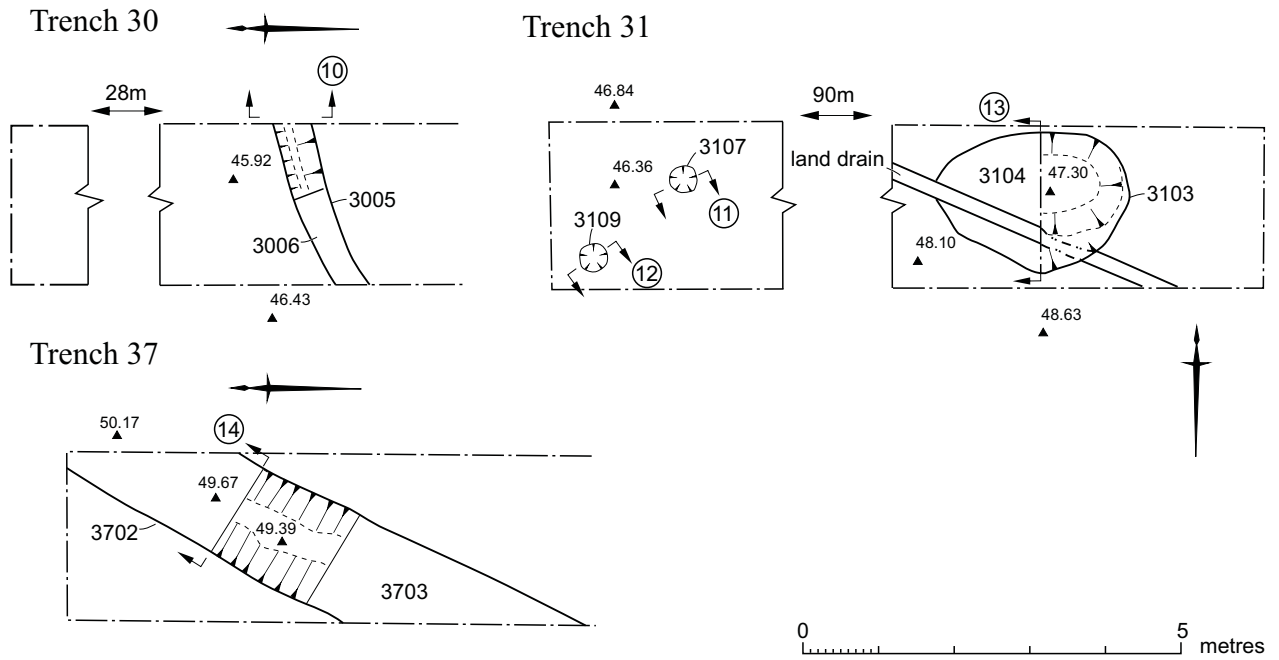
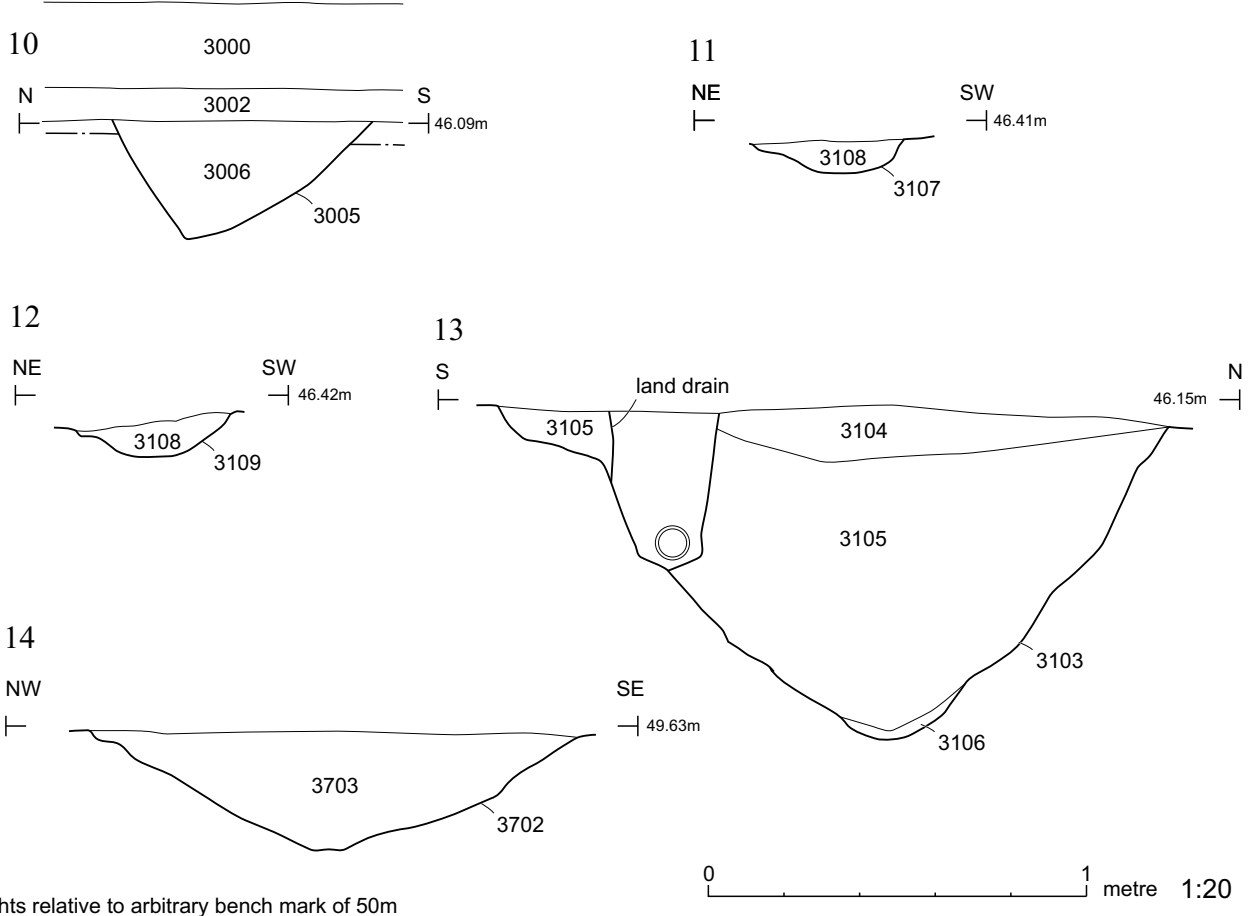


Fig. 8 Trenches 25, 28 and 29: Plan and sections

Plans



Sections:



Heights relative to arbitrary bench mark of 50m

Fig.9 Trenches 30, 31 and 37: Plans and sections





Pl. 1 General view of site, looking east.



Pl. 2 Section through pit 3103, looking west. 1m scale.



Pl. 3 Excavation of ditch 1902, working shot, looking south-east.



Pl. 4 Section through ditch 1902, looking south-east. 1m scale.