ST OSYTH PRIORY PARK, ST OSYTHS, TENDRING, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Walter McCall PhD, MIFA (Fieldwork & Report) Sophie Unger MA (Research) Charlotte Davies BA (Graphics) Andrew A. S. Newton MPhil PIFA (Editor)	
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District: Tendering	Site Code: STOWF08
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Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98 - 100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB.
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk Web: www.archaeolgicalsolutions.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

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Project details			
Project name	*St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring,, Essex: An archaeological evaluation.*		
Project description (250 words) *In October 2008, Archaeological Solutions Limited conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring, Essex (NGR TM 1167 1566). The assessment was commissioned in advance of a proposed residential development.* *The site lies within St Osyth's Priory Park adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 24) associated with the Priory and the registered park and garden. It occupies an area of known cropmarks plotted by the National Mapping Programme (NMP). To the south of the site is a substantial residential development whilst the edge of St Osyth's Creek lies to the immediate south-west. Land to the north of the site is agricultural in character and encompasses part of the Priory Park. The remains of the priory lie to the east of the site.* *The evaluation consisted of 35 trenches, which corresponded to the footprint of the proposed residential development. One hundred features were excavated in all, most of which were discreet ditches and pits. Finds were generally sparse throughout the site, although a number interesting features were securely dated providing a general occupation range from the high medieval to the 19th century.* *Among the excavated features was a post-medieval waterlogged timber structure in the vicinity of the older creek bed, an early post-medieval up-draught kiln with two firing tunnels for the production of peg tiles, associated waster pits, a road with a metalled surface and lateral drainage ditches, a series of post-medieval garden features, and medieval backyard rubbish pits.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*10-09 to 24-10-2008*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*?*
P. number	*3258*	Site code	*STOWF08*
Type of project	*Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Site status	*None*		
Current land use	*Agricultural land*		
Planned development	*Residential development*		
Main features (+dates)	*Medieval road, kiln, domestic rubbish pits, post medieval timber structure, and possible garden features*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Mostly tile, clay pipe stems, small bone pin*,		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Essex*	*Tendring*	*St Osyth*
HER/ SMR for area	*Essex Historic Environments Record*		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	*6.2ha*		
NGR	*TM 1167 1566*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c. 0-15m AOD*		
Project creators			
Specification issued by	*Historic Environment Management (HEM) team, Essex*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Walter McCall*		
Funded by	*City & Country Residential Ltd*		
Bibliography			
Full title	*St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring,, Essex: An archaeological evaluation.*		
Authors	*Unger, S, McCall, W*		
Report no.	*3211*		
Date (of report)	*November 2008*		

ST OSYTH PRIRY PARK, ST OSYTH, TENDRING, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September and October 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring, Essex (NGR TM 1167 1566). The evaluation was commissioned in advance of a proposed residential development.

The site lies within St Osyth's Priory Park, adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No.24) associated with the priory and the registered park and garden. It incorporates an area of known cropmarks plotted by the National Mapping Programme (NMP). To the south of the site is a substantial residential development, and the edge of St Osyth's Creek lies to the immediate south-west. Land to the north of the site is agricultural and encompasses part of the Priory Park. The remains of the priory lie to the east of the site.

The evaluation consisted of 35 trenches which encompassed the area of the proposed residential development. One hundred features were excavated, most of which were ditches and pits. Finds were generally sparse throughout the site, although the principal features were securely dated providing a general occupation range from the high medieval to the 19th century.

Among the excavated features was a post-medieval waterlogged timber structure in the vicinity of the older creek bed, an early post-medieval up-draught kiln with two firing tunnels for the production of peg tiles, associated waster pits, a road with a metalled surface and lateral drainage ditches, a series of post-medieval garden features, and medieval backyard rubbish pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September and October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring, Essex (NGR TM 1167 1566) (Figs 1 & 2). The evaluation was carried out as part of a pre-planning requirement of the local planning authority based on advice from Essex County Council Historic Environment Team (ECC HEM).

1.2 The evaluation (trial trenching) was conducted in accordance with a specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 29/08/2008) and approved by the local Planning Authority. It was conducted according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standards for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (both revised 2001). It also adhered to the relevant sections of the document Gurney (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO.

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It also sought to identify areas of previous ground disturbance.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note, which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 St Osyth is a medieval village *c*. 4km west of the coastal town of Clacton-on-Sea, the largest town on the Tendring peninsula to the far east of the county of Essex (Figs.1-2). St Osyth's Creek lies *c*.250m south-west of the site and flows into the Brightlingsea Creek, which joins the River Colne at the town of Brightlingsea.

2.2 The site is situated within St Osyth's Priory Park, part of the large land parcel in the village owned by the priory in the early medieval period. It is adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No.24) which relates to the priory, and the registered park and garden. The evaluation area covers the land south of the park within an area of known cropmarks plotted by the National Mapping Programme (NMP) (Fig.2). To the south of the site is a residential development. Land to the north of the site is agricultural and encompasses part of the priory park. The remains of the priory lie to the east. The present site is largely agricultural land.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within St Osyth comes from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within a 1km radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are plotted below (Fig.

3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

3.2.1 The principal source for these types of evidence was the Essex Record Office (ERO), Chelmsford. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced below (Figs 4-7).

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the Essex Record Office as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

3.4.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The site lies at an elevation of *c*.0-15m AOD and slopes significantly downwards in a south-westerly direction towards the creek. The solid geology of St Osyth consists of London Clay overlain by Glaciofluvial drift geology (BGS 1989). The soils of the area are of the Wix Association (SSEW 1983) and consist of deep permeable coarse loamy soils. They are often associated with drained sandy and coarse loamy soils with a slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983). These soils traditionally support cereal, sugar beat, and other arable crops as well as some grassland (SSEW 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (Heppell 2007).

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 Prehistoric evidence is poorly represented in St Osyth and as a consequence little is known about the prehistoric occupation of the area. Only occasional finds have been discovered in the general area of St Osyth. During an archaeological investigation by Time Team and Wessex Archaeology, a single heavily abraded sherd of prehistoric pottery was found (Wessex Archaeology 2005). Within the Priory Park (*c*. 500m north of the site) the EHER records the presence of a 'possible tumulus' (EHER 2837). This earthwork, along with another tumulus plotted closer to the priory (EHER 2828), is first depicted on a 1968 map. The National Monument Record states that tumuli are often prehistoric in date although Priory tumulus cannot be dated conclusively. Further prehistoric material has been uncovered during aggregate extraction within the park area including Iron Age material (EHER 2904).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.2 Likewise there is a dearth of Roman evidence in St Osyth. During aggregate extraction in 1962, the remains of a small Roman building were discovered in St Osyth Priory Park, *c*.1km north of the site (EHER 2890). It is thought that the building featured a wattle and timber superstructure with a thatch roof and has been tentatively dated to the 3rd/4th century. During excavations by Time Team and Wessex Archaeology in 2005, Roman material was revealed in association with a kiln in Trench 24 (Wessex Archaeology 2005). Although this material was thought to be residual and did not date the kiln, it indicates Roman activity. A Roman pit with a fluted brown ware vase was also discovered in the priory precinct (EHER 2822). In addition, the main piers of the undercroft at St Osyth's Priory were built almost entirely of Roman tile with some inclusions of brick (EHER 2820). Given the quantity of material discovered in the area, some type of building or brick works must have been close by and re-used in the medieval period.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 411 – 1539)

4.2.3 Documentary sources indicate that the settlement of St Osyth originated in the Anglo-Saxon period, dating from at least the 7th century when a nunnery was founded in the village (then named *Cicc* referring to the Creek) during the reign of *Sighere*, King of Essex (Wessex Archaeology 2005). It is thought Osyth was granted a nunnery by *Sighere*, her presumed husband, when she decided to retire as an abbess of the nunnery. However, legend says Osyth was murdered in her chapel during an attack by the Danes in 653 AD and was subsequently canonised. Whilst there is no mention of a religious house in Domesday Book, it is thought the chapel was situated in Nun's Wood where a 14th century ruin has been recorded. Archaeological investigations in the town have not produced much more evidence to enhance our knowledge of this period. Only one piece of Saxon pottery was found during an excavation by Colchester Archaeological Trust in 1999 to the south of the church. and two small sherds were recovered during the excavation by Time Team (Wessex Archaeology 2005).

4.2.4 The Domesday Book (1086) entry for St Osyth indicates that a substantial town existed prior to the foundation of the Augustinian Priory. No church was recorded but extensive land holdings with pasture land, woodland for livestock, and a mill were recorded (Morris 1986). The Augustinian Priory dedicated to St Peter and Paul (EHER 4; SAM 24) was founded in 1121 by the Bishop of London and became an Abbey in *c*.1150. Its most significant remains are the sub-vault of the Dorter range dating from the foundation. and a fine example of a 15th century gatehouse. St Osyth's became a wealthy monastic house and *Cicc* the largest parish in the county. The town was established along the eastern and southern boundaries of the abbey precinct and relied on the wealth of the abbey. In addition, the abbey held land in 36 towns and villages throughout Essex and Suffolk. St Osyth is an area of high archaeological potential due to the medieval priory/abbey and its associated structures. Finds of medieval pottery have been discovered in the priory precinct (EHER 2825). The site was likely to have been part of the abbey's holdings and often lands surrounding the abbey were used as arable or pasture land to supply the monks with goods to utilise and trade.

Post-medieval and Modern (AD 1540 – present)

4.2.5 The abbey was dissolved in 1539 and granted to Thomas Cromwell and later Thomas Darcy in 1553. Many medieval structures were demolished and new buildings constructed after the dissolution. Thomas Darcy also established the formal walled garden, which was almost certainly part of the Priory Park. By 1721, the priory and its land were passed to Betty Savage and her husband Fredric Zuylestein de Nassau who was 3rd Earl of Rochford. Rochford House

was built in this period and some of the grounds were remodelled including the area of Nun's Wood. Subsequent owners modernised the grounds including the construction of a 'new river' (possibly Dolphin Pond) and plantation. This activity may account for the dispersed earthworks in the park. Sales particulars from the 1858 auction detail extensive features in the park including 'Nuns Hall being the ruins of a Nunnery with a three horse stable attached' and 'Summer house, deer shed, boat house and engine house along with ornamental fish ponds'. By the late 19th century, the grounds had dramatically changed. Gravel extraction began in this period and continued into the 20th century.

Undated

4.2.6 Extensive cropmarks have been identified within the site boundaries (Fig. 2). A ring ditch (which falls outside the site boundaries) and other pits, linear ditches and rectangular enclosures are indicative of previous activity. The features may be infilled post-medieval field boundaries although it is also possible that these represent features of prehistoric date.

4.3 The site

Plan of the Parish of Chich St Osyth in the County of Essex, the Estate of Fredrick Nassau Esq. 1814 (Fig. 4)

4.3.1 The site encompassed several plots of land that may have been used for agriculture at this time. The plots were located on the outskirts of the main parkland.

1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1876 (Fig. 5) and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1897 (Fig. 6)

4.3.2 These maps both show the site in more detail with the site boundaries crossing seven linear plots of land, which were mostly undeveloped. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map depicts areas of trees or planting that extended into the site. By 1897, this area of trees is no longer depicted (but see Fig.7). The plots of land are divided into several smaller plots, likely the rear gardens to the properties along Mill Street. The remainder of the land still remained undeveloped at this time.

Ordnance Survey map 1915-24 (Fig. 7)

4.3.3 The later edition ordnance survey map shows very little change to the site. The previous area of planting is again depicted, contradicting the 1897 map. No other changes are apparent indicating that the majority of the land had remained undeveloped throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

5.1 Thirty-five trial trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 8). The trench locations were approved by ECC HEM and were generally planned to provide maximum coverage of the development area. Trenches 1 and 2 were located to investigate the alluvial deposits associated with an earlier course of St Osyth's Creek.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches scanned were by a metal detector.

5.3 The site was visited by Dr Rob Scaife who examined the trenches in the vicinity of a small topographical depression near an artificial pond (in particular Trench 35). He also examined the alluvial deposits within the old creek bed (Trench 1) (Appendix 3).

5.2 The measurements and orientation of each trench are tabulated below.

Trench No.	Length	Width	Orientation
1	40.0m	1.60m	NW/SE
2	40.0m	1.60m	NE/SW
3	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
4	40.0m	1.60m	N/S
5	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
6	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
7	40.0m	1.60m	N/S
8	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
9	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
10	40.0m	1.60m	N/S
11	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
12	40.0m	1.60m	N/S
13	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
14	35.0m	1.60m	E/W
15	42.0m	1.60m	N/S
16	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
17	42.0m	1.60m	N/S
18	40.0m	1.60m	N/S
19	40.0m	1.60m	N/S
20	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
21	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
22	36.0m	1.60m	N/S
23	38.0m	1.60m	E/W
24	42.0m	1.60m	N/S
25	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
26	42.0m	1.60m	N/S
27	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
28	44.0m	1.60m	N/S
29	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
30	40.0m	1.60m	NW/SE
31	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
32	42.0m	1.60m	N/S
33	40.0m	1.60m	E/W
34	40.0m	1.60m	N/S
35	40.0m	1.60m	N/S

Table 1: The measurement and orientation of trenches

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below;

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 9)

6.1.1 Trench 1 was located at the far western end of the site at its lowest point where the culvert drained into St Osyth Creek. The west end of the trench consisted of topsoil and a subsoil lying directly above the solid geology. The original bank of the older creek bed began near the mid-point of the trench at which point the natural geological deposit sloped gradually downwards reaching a maximum depth of 2.65m. Within the earlier creek bed, Subsoil L1001 was replaced by a series of alluvial deposits tabulated below. The eastern end of the creek bed was not present within Trench 1, although the solid geology did begin to rise at the east end of the trench.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 1.83m AOD		
0.00m – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown silt, sand and clay mix with occasional CBM and angular gravel.
0.48m – 0.79m	L1001	Subsoil. Medium red-brown silty clay.
0.79m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. Yellow-brown clay.

Sample Section: Deepest Point (8.66m from east end), North Facing 0.00m = -0.57m AOD		
0.00m – 0.53m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.53m – 1.38m	L1002	Freshwater alluvial deposit. Medium blue-grey silty clay
1.38m – 1.75m	L1191	Marine deposit. Dark grey silty clay with brown sand and frequent shells.
1.75m – 2.65m	L1192	Medium grey-blue clay, very compact.
2.65m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Description: *Given its elevation below the AOD, the land around Trench 1 was waterlogged from the outset and became a natural drainage point once the trench had been opened by the mechanical excavator. The existing field drains were maintained to allow the current agricultural fields to drain. A line of nine wooden posts (T1195, T1196, T1197, T1198, T1199, T1200, T1201, T1202, and T1203) and three associated stakes (T1204, T1205, and T1206) extended across the middle of the trench. A linear timber feature (T1193) oriented north/south spanned the west end of the trench.*

6.1.2 A sequence of nine wooden posts were revealed at the base of L1002, orientated north-west to south-east alignment. Seven of the nine posts (T1195-T1201) were present within the trench. They were round ranging in diameter from 60-110mm. Post T1201 was excavated in full and preserved at a length of 0.50m. Posts T1202 and T1203 were visible in the southern baulk and were 0.62m and 0.54m long respectively. The bases of the posts were tapered to a point allowing them to be driven into the ground. They pierced the marine deposit (L1191) and the lower alluvial clay layer (L1192).

6.1.3 Three small stakes (T1204, T1205, and T1206) accompanied Posts T1196, T1197, and T1198. Each was round, 30mm in diameter, and placed between 300mm and 500mm to the

north-east of its accompanying post. The stakes were not excavated. The function of the posts and stakes is not known.

6.1.4 Timber Structure T1193 (1.6m+ x 0.10m x 0.12m) consisted of three courses of single timbers, laid flat, aligned north-east/south-west. The timbers were equal in size (100mm x 40mm) and well cut with smooth faces and crisp squared corners. The middle timber appears to have split lengthwise at some point after construction.

6.1.5 Upright within the northern baulk of the trench at the north-east end of the timber frame was a single wooden post. This post (0.54m+ x 0.18m x 0.14m) was generally round with one flat side and a flat base. It was attached to the timbers by means of a mortise and tenon joint with the flat side of the post facing north-west. A second mortise in the post allowed the insertion of further timbers, not preserved, at a right angle to the first creating a north-west corner of a rectangular wooden structure.

6.1.6 The frame and upright post of Timber Structure T1193 were originally inserted into the lower layers of the freshwater alluvial deposit, L1002, above the marine deposit, L1191, creating a stable foundation for an overlying superstructure. No foundation cut was visible.

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 9)

6.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the east of Trench 1 and orientated north-east/south-west. The north-eastern end of the trench contained a continuation of the original creek bed. Consequently, the stratigraphy of Trench 2 was similar to that of Trench 1. It contained the same freshwater alluvial deposit (L1002) below the topsoil. A test pit was excavated in the south-western end of the trench to a depth of almost a metre below the topsoil, but the solid geology was not revealed. The sample sections are recorded below.

Sample Section: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 2.86m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT 1).
0.32m – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above (TT 1).
0.54m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT1).

Sample Section: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 1.24m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT 1).
0.34m – 1.32m+	L1002	Alluvial deposit. As above (TT 1).

Description A large pit (F1012) was located near the centre of the trench. It cut a ditch, F1010. Two small postholes (F1008 and F1014) were located either side of Ditch F1010. Southwards another pit (F1006) and a short linear feature (F1004) were revealed. All of the features were sealed by Subsoil L1001.

6.2.2 Pit F1012 (1.58m x 0.70m+ x 0.53m) was oval in plan. Its full dimensions are unknown as it extended beyond the north-west baulk of the trench. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1013, was a medium brown silty clay of compact consistency. It contained 15th – 16th century pottery (240g) and CBM (104g).

6.2.3 Ditch F1010 (3.00m+ x 1.54m x 0.45m) was linear in plan, orientated north-west to south-east. It had relatively steep sides and a narrow flattish base. Its fill, L1011, was a medium brown / red silty clay of fairly compact consistency. It contained 16th / 17th century pottery (150g), CBM (2094g) and animal bone (14g). The north-western end of Ditch F1010 was cut by Pit F1012.

6.2.4 Posthole F1014 (0.80m x 0.38m x 0.22m) was small and oval in plan. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a medium grey-brown clayey silt of fairly compact consistency. It contained mid 13th – 14th century pottery (102g).

6.2.5 Posthole F1008 (0.34m x 0.30m x 0.05m) was small and circular in plan. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1009, was a dark grey-brown clayey silt of firm consistency. No finds were present.

6.2.6 Pit F1006 (1.90m x 0.80m+ x 0.18m) was an irregular oval in plan. It had long, shallow sides. The base was not present within the trench. Its fill, L1007, was a compact medium grey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

6.2.7 Gully F1004 was linear in plan, 3.74m long, and orientated north-east/south-west. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, was a medium brown-grey clayey silt with moderate small stones. Two slots were excavated, one at each end. The finds from the southern terminus, Segment A (1.0m x 0.57m x 0.09m), comprise mid 13th – 14th century pottery (22g), oyster shell (284g), cockle shell (1g), and animal bone (1g). The finds from the northern terminus, Segment B (0.40m x 0.43m x 0.12m), comprise mid 13th – 14th century pottery (12g) and CBM (18g).

6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 10)

6.3.1 Trenches 3 - 10 were located on a gradual slope rising from west to east towards a level plateau in the centre of the site. Trench 3 was located just south of Trench 4 and was orientated east/west, extending along the southern boundary of the excavation area. Most of the trenches on the western slope were very shallow and contained a simple stratigraphic sequence consisting of topsoil overlying the solid geology.

Sample Section: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 4.186		
0.00m – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.27m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit.

Description: Trench 3 contained a small posthole (F1030) and a small gully (F1028) at its western end. Pit F1016 and Posthole F1020 were located in the centre of the trench. At the eastern end, large Ditch F1022 was cut by Posthole F1026. All of the features were sealed by Topsoil L1000.

6.3.2 Posthole F1030 (0.17m x 0.17m x 0.04m) was small and circular in plan with shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1031, was a friable light grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

6.3.3 Gully F1028 (1.75m + x 0.28m x 0.15m) was linear in plan and oriented north-east/south-west. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1029, was a moderately loose light grey-brown clayey silt. No finds were present.

6.3.4 Pit F1016 (1.55m x 1.08m+ x 0.19m) was a large irregular oval with shallow irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1017, was a compact medium orange-brown sandy clay with occasional small stones. Finds comprise 14th – early 16th century pottery (5g), CBM (5g), and oyster shell (44g).

6.3.5 Posthole F1020 (0.35m x 0.22m x 0.18m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1021, was a dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. Finds comprise CBM (3g). It was adjacent to Pit F1016

6.3.6 Gully F1018 was sinuous in plan, 1.20+m long, and orientated north-east/south-west. Two slots were excavated, tabulated below.

Segment	Profile	Fill	Description	Date/Finds
A	Steep, irregular sides, narrow base (0.40m x 0.12m x 0.17m).	L1019	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones.	CBM (28g), struck flint (<1g), oyster shell (<1g)
B	Steep, irregular sides, narrow base (0.30m x 0.20m x 0.23m).			CBM (20g)

Table 2: Segments of F1018

6.3.7 Posthole F1026 (0.35m+ x 0.36m x 0.17m) was irregular in plan with steep irregular sides and a small flattish base. Its fill, L1027, was a moderately firm medium grey-brown silty clay. Finds comprise CBM (38g). Posthole F1026 was cut by Ditch F1022.

6.3.8 Ditch F1022 (1.75m+ x 2.19m x 0.41m) was linear in plan, oriented north/south. It had an irregular profile. Its fill, L1023, was medium grey-brown silty clay with occasional stones. It contained 13th – 14th century pottery (46g), CBM (3309g), and animal bone (5g). It cut Posthole F1026.

6.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 10)

6.4.1 Trench 4 was oriented north-south and located just north of the Trench 3 at the base of the western slope of the site. The terrain sloped gradually from north to south resulting in a much deeper topsoil layer at the north end.

Sample Section: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 4.518		
0.00m – 0.57m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.57m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *A large tree hollow (F1052) was located at the northern end of Trench 4. Southwards was a ditch (F1050) and a pit (F1048). In the centre of the trench was a cluster of features comprising a field drain (F1046), a pit (F1042) and a small posthole (F1044). Another small posthole (F1040) was just east of this group. Southwards, a small pit (F1024) was located near the centre of the trench. All the features were sealed by Topsoil L1000.*

6.4.2 Tree Hollow F1052 (1.55m+ x 1.64m x 0.46m) was oval in plan with an irregular profile. Its fill, L1053, was a light grey-brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles and occasional manganese deposits. No finds were present.

6.4.3 Ditch F1050 (1.50m+ x 0.65m x 0.23m) was linear in plan and oriented north-west/south-east. It had irregular sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1051, was a light grey-brown clayey sand with frequent pebbles. No finds were present. The south-west side of Ditch F1050 cut Pit F1048.

6.4.4 Pit F1048 (1.05m+ x 1.14m + x 0.14m) was oval in plan with a shallow profile. Its fill, L1049, was a loose light grey-brown clayey sand with moderate pebbles. No finds were present.

6.4.5 Field Drain F1046 (1.55m+ x 0.15m x 0.20m) was linear in plan and oriented north-east/south-west. It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1047, comprised primarily small brown-grey pebbles. No finds were present.

6.4.6 Pit F1042 (1.07m+ x 1.0m x 0.46m) was oval in plan with steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1043, was a medium grey-yellow sandy clay of firm consistency with occasional pebbles. No finds were present. Pit F1042 cut Posthole F1044.

6.4.7 Posthole F1044 (0.35m+ x 0.35m x 0.07m) was oval in plan with a shallow profile. Its fill, L1045, consisted of grey-brown sandy clay with frequent pebbles. No finds were present.

6.4.8 Posthole F1040 (0.30m x 0.17m x 0.10m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1041, was a medium grey-brown sandy clay of friable consistency with frequent pebbles. No finds were present.

6.4.9 Pit F1024 (0.87m x 0.50m+ x 0.22m) was squarish in plan with rounded corners and an irregular profile. Its fill, L1025, was a light yellow-grey clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and small stones. No finds were present.

6.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 11)

6.5.1 Trench 5 was oriented east-west and located to the immediate south of Trench 7 on the western slope of the excavation area.

Sample Section: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 6.754m		
0.00m – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.40m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT1).

Description: *Trench 5 contained a field drain (F1058) at its western end. Near the centre of the trench was a linear ditch (F1054) and a large pit (F1056). Eastwards were an irregular ditch (F1038), a large tree hollow (F1036), and a small posthole (F1034). A small pit (F1032) was revealed at the far eastern end of the trench. All the features were sealed by the topsoil.*

6.5.2 Field Drain F1058 (2.10m+ x 0.23m x 0.22m) was linear in plan and orientated north-east/south-west. It had vertical sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1059, consisted of a dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent small stones. No finds were present.

6.5.3 Pit F1056 (1.53m+ x 1.00m+ x 0.23m) was oval in plan although its exact shape and dimensions are unknown. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1057, was a dark brown silty clay of compact consistency. Finds comprise CBM (65g). The eastern side of Pit F1056 was cut by Ditch F1054.

6.5.4 Ditch F1054 (1.60m+ x 0.71m x 0.32m) was linear in plan and oriented north/south. It had relatively steep sides and a narrow flattish base. Its fill, L1055, was a compact dark brown sandy clay. Finds comprise CBM (154g).

6.5.5 Ditch F1038 (1.75m+ x 1.10m x 0.18m) was an irregular linear, oriented north-east/south-west, with an irregular profile. Its fill, L1039, was a light yellow-grey clayey silt with a moderate small stones. No finds were present.

6.5.6 Tree Hollow F1036 (1.55m x 1.32m+ x 0.28m) was circular in plan with an irregular profile. Its fill, L1037, was a medium yellow-grey clayey silt with moderate stones. No finds were present.

6.5.7 Posthole F1034 (0.37m x 0.30m x 0.12m) was circular in plan with a shallow bowl-shaped profile. Its fill, L1035, was a dark grey-brown clay of compact consistency. No finds were present.

6.5.8 Pit F1032 (0.71m x 0.31m+ x 0.22m) was small and round in plan with relatively steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1033, was a light grey-brown silty clay of compact consistency. No finds were present.

6.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 11)

6.6.1 Trench 6 was oriented east/west running along the southern boundary of the excavation area to the immediate south of Trench 10. It was one of the few trenches on the western slope to contain a subsoil. The latter was also located in Trenches 1 and 2, although it becomes much shallower as the site rises in elevation.

Sample Section: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 5.05m		
0.00m – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.44m – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above (TT1).
0.49m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *Trench 6 contained a field drain (F1060) and a pit (F1062). All of the features were sealed by Subsoil L1001.*

6.6.2 Field Drain F1060 (15.2m+ x 0.12m x 0.39m) was linear in plan and oriented north-east/south-west. It had vertical sides and a narrow rounded base. Its fill, L1061, was a medium grey-brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles. Finds comprise 13th – 14th century pottery (<1g) and CBM (33g).

6.6.3 Pit F1062 (1.10m x 0.50m+ x 0.19m) was circular in plan with irregular shallow sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1063, was a light grey-brown silty clay. No finds were present.

6.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 11)

6.7.1 Trench 7 was oriented north/south and located to the immediate north of Trench 5.

Sample Section: South End, East Facing 0.00m = 6.263m		
0.00m – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.45m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *Two field drains were revealed at the northern end of Trench 7. Ditch F1074 traversed the middle of the trench and was cut by another field drain. Two curvilinear gullies (F1072 & F1068) were located in the southern half of the trench. Gully F1068 was cut by Gully F1070. All of the features were sealed by topsoil L1000.*

6.7.2 Ditch F1074 (1.75m+ x 0.95m x 0.18m) was linear in plan and oriented north-east/south-west. It had shallow irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1075, was a friable medium grey-brown silty sand with frequent pebbles. No finds were present.

6.7.3 Gully F1072 (1.60m + x 0.60m x 0.18m) was curvilinear in plan generally aligned north-west/south-east. It had steeply sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1073, was a medium grey-brown silty sand with frequent gravel and pebbles. Finds comprise CBM (128g).

6.7.4 Gully F1068 (1.50m+ x 0.85m x 0.20m) was curvilinear in plan, generally orientated north-east/south-west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1069, was a light to medium grey-brown clayey sand with occasional small pebbles. Finds comprise CBM (15g). Gully F1068 was cut by a small Gully F1070.

6.7.5 Gully F1070 (0.40m+ x 1.75m x 0.12m) was linear in plan with an irregular profile. It was orientated north-west/south-east and terminated just inside the west baulk. Its fill, L1071, was a light to medium grey-brown clayey silt. No finds were present.

6.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 12)

6.8.1 Trench 8 was located to the north of, and parallel to, Trench 9. Like Trench 6, the stratigraphy within Trench 8 comprised a thin intermittent band of Subsoil L1001, up to 0.10m thick.

Sample Section: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 9.57m		
0.00m – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.43m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *A large ditch (F1118) was located in Trench 8, just west of centre. It cut the subsoil, L1001. A ditch (F1088) and a pit (F1066) were sealed by the subsoil, L1001. A small posthole (F1095) and linear ditch (F1092) were revealed at the eastern end of the trench where no subsoil was present. They were sealed by the topsoil, L1000.*

6.8.2 Ditch F1118 (1.60m+ x 3.85m x 0.97m) was linear in plan and orientated north/south. It had stepped sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. Its primary fill, L1119, was a very compact dark red-brown sandy clay with moderate medium sized stone and flint. Finds comprise 14th – 15th century pottery (39g), CBM (192g), and oyster shell (<1g). Its principal

and upper fill, L1120, was also a very compact dark red-brown clay with occasional small flint and stones. Finds comprise 14th – 15th century pottery (<1g), CBM (1940g), animal bone (7g), and daub (202g).

6.8.3 Ditch F1088 (1.60m+ x 0.82m x 0.08m) was linear in plan, orientated north/south. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Fill L1089 was a friable medium grey silty sand. No finds were present.

6.8.4 Pit F1066 (0.80m+ x 0.65m x 0.40m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1067, was a friable mottled orange and brown silty sand with frequent small stones and flint nodules. Finds comprise struck flint (9g).

6.8.5 Posthole F1095 (0.25m x 0.15m x 0.09m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1096, was a medium yellow-brown silty sand of friable consistency. No finds were present.

6.8.6 Ditch F1092 (1.60m+ x 0.90m+ x 0.66m) was linear in plan orientated north/south. Only the western edge of the feature was present within the trench revealing a steeply sloping side. The base was not present within the trench. Its primary fill, L1093, was a medium yellow-brown and orange sand with occasional small stones. The upper fill, L1094, was a fairly loose medium yellow-brown silty sand with occasional small stones. No finds were present in either fill.

6.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 12)

6.9.1 Trench 9 was located to the south of and parallel to Trench 8. Unlike the adjacent trenches it contained no subsoil.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 7.62m		
0.00m – 0.52m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.52m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: Trench 9 contained two unexcavated field drains at its west end, and a posthole (F1064) located just east of centre. All features were sealed by the topsoil.

6.9.2 Posthole F1064 (0.40m x 0.40m x 0.14m) was small and round with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1065, was a dark grey-brown clayey silt of a semi-compact consistency. No finds were present.

6.10 Trench 10 (Fig. 13)

6.10.1 Trench 10 was the last of the trenches excavated on the western slope of the site. It was oriented north/south and located between Trenches 6 and 9.

Sample Section: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 7.76m		
0.00m – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.42m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: A small gully (F1079) terminated at the northern end of Trench 10. Southwards was a small oblong pit (F1081) and a large ?ditch terminus (F1083). Two field drains were also present within the trench. All of the features were sealed by Subsoil L1001.

6.10.2 Gully F1079 (1.75m+ x 0.41m x 0.14m) was sinuous in plan and orientated north-west/ south-east with a rounded terminus. It had a shallow profile. Its fill, L1080, was a medium grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

6.10.3 Pit F1081 (1.40m+ x 0.36m x 0.11m) was oval in plan with relatively steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1082, was a medium grey-brown silty clay. No finds were present.

6.10.4 ?Ditch F1083 (1.30m+ x 1.50m x 0.11m) was linear in plan and orientated east/west, with a rounded eastern terminus. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1084, consisted of a light grey-brown silty clay with small stones. No finds were present

6.11 Trench 11 (Fig. 13)

6.11.1 Trench 11 was located to the east of Trench 10 between Trenches 12 and 15. Trenches 11 - 26 were located on a level plateau in the middle of the site at the top of the western slope. The plateau sloped upwards gently in a north-easterly direction, reaching its highest point at Trench 26. Trenches 11 and 15 on the western edge of the plateau shared a common stratigraphy with Trenches 1, 2, 6, and 8 on the western slope in that they contained Subsoil L1001. The latter did not occur in any of the remaining trenches east of Trench 11 with the exception of the south end of Trench 18, which slopes downward just off of the central plateau.

6.11.2 The natural geological deposit began to show a marked change in composition within the trenches on the central plateau. Specifically, the yellow-brown clay of Trenches 1 - 10 gave way to a yellow-brown sand with pockets of gravel. This change was gradual and characterised by a steady increase in the quantity of gravel and sand within the solid geology in an easterly direction.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 9.09m		
0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.25-0.37	L1001	Subsoil. As above (TT1).
0.37m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. Yellow-brown sand and gravel with some traces of yellow-brown clay.

Description: *Just south of the midpoint of Trench 11 was a large ditch (F1161) cut by a pit (F1177) and a small gully (F1164). Immediately south of these intercutting features was Ditch F1179. All the features were sealed by the subsoil, L1001.*

6.11.3 Ditch F1161 (1.60m+ x 4.20m x 0.40m) was linear in plan and orientated east/west. It had a long shallow north side, a steeply sloping southern side, and a flattish base. The ditch was cut by Pit F1177. The fill north of Pit F1177, labelled L1162, was a very compact medium grey-brown sandy clay with occasional shells and small stones. Finds comprise pottery 15th – 16th century pottery (32g), CBM (94g), and animal bone (30g). Fill L1163 shared a common composition and consistency. Finds comprise 15th – 16th century pottery (5g) and CBM (407g).

6.11.4 Pit F1177 (2.05m x 1.60m+ x 0.70m) was a large oval in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base. It contained three fills. Its primary fill, L1178, was a compact dark grey-

yellow clay with occasional stones. Finds comprise CBM (1678g) and whelk shell (7g). Its second fill, L1157, was a dark grey sandy clay of a compact consistency with occasional small stones. Finds comprise pottery 15th – mid 16th century (400g), CBM (300g), animal bone (282g), and oyster shell (10g). Its upper fill, L1158, was a compact medium grey-brown sandy clay with occasional stones. Finds comprise 13th – 14th century pottery (104g), CBM (676g), animal bone (50g), oyster shell (30g), and iron nail fragments (100g).

6.11.5 Gully F1164 (1.60m+ x 0.97m x 0.25m) also cut Ditch F1161. It was linear in plan on a north/south alignment. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1165, was a compact dark grey sandy clay with occasional large stones. Finds comprise CBM (594g).

6.11.6 Gully F1179 (1.60m+ x 0.91m x 0.21m) was linear in plan, orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1180, was a compact dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional stones. Finds comprise CBM (178g) and animal bone (5g).

6.12 Trench 12 (Fig. 14)

6.12.1 Trench 12 was located south of, and perpendicular to, Trench 11 along the western edge of the plateau. Unlike those on the western slope, Trench 12 was one of the few trenches in the central sector to have a simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlying the solid geology.

Sample Section: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 8.50m		
0.00m – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.40m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT11).

Description: *A small pit (F1129) and a gully (F1125) were revealed at the south-western end of Trench 12. A field drain was present near the middle. All features were sealed by the topsoil.*

6.12.2 Pit F1129 (0.70m x 0.40m x 0.20m) was oval in plan with a shallow profile. Its fill, L1130, was a medium grey-brown sandy silt of loose consistency with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

6.12.3 Gully F1125 (5.60m+ x 0.40m x 0.20m) was linear in plan and orientated north-west/south-east. It had uneven sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1126, was a medium grey-brown silty sand of compact consistency with occasional small stones. The gully was excavated in two slots, Segment A (0.60m x 0.39m x 0.19m) and Segment B (0.55m x 0.40m x 0.20). No finds were present in either segment.

6.13 Trench 13 (Fig. 14)

6.13.1 Trench 13 was located south of Trench 14 and ran parallel to the southern edge of the excavation area. Given its location near the western end of the plateau and its east-west orientation, the west end was much deeper than the east (0.53m and 0.29m deep respectively)

Sample Section: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 7.15m		
0.00m – 0.53m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.53m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT11).

Description: *A roadway was revealed at the western end of Trench 13. It comprised metalled surface, L1135, flanked by drainage ditches, F1131 and F1133. A field drain cut the eastern side of the road. Eastwards was a small pit, F1152, and two intercutting ditches, F1143 and F1145. A second field drain was revealed at the west end of the trench. All of the features were sealed by the topsoil.*

6.13.2 Metalled Surface L1135 (1.60m+ x 1.46m x 0.20m x) was linear in plan, generally orientated north/south, running from the creek towards the Priory. It consisted of closely-packed rounded pebbles in a medium yellow and orange-brown sandy clay matrix laid directly on the natural geological deposit. It appeared convex in plan, likely to allow water to run-off and flow into the flanking drainage ditches. The surface was much disturbed by debris layer, L1136, and the original profile could not be defined. Finds comprise CBM (52g), struck flint (19g), oyster shell (<1g), and two iron nail fragments (11g). The finds may represent intrusions from debris layer, L1136, above.

6.13.3 Ditches F1131 and F1133 flanked Surface L1135 and served as drainage ditches. Ditch F1131 (1.60m+ x 1.60m x 0.65m) was linear in plan and was parallel to the western edge of the metalled surface. It had a bowl-shaped profile with an irregular stepped west side. Its fill, L1132, was a compact medium grey-brown sandy clay with moderate pebbles. Finds comprise 15th – 16th century pottery (25g), CBM (192g), animal bone (<1g), and oyster shell (7g). Ditch F1133 (1.60m+ x 2.10m x 0.40m) was parallel to the eastern side of L1135. It was also linear in plan on a similar alignment but appeared to curve slightly toward the south-west. It had a shallow bowl-shaped profile with a slightly irregular east side. Its fill, L1275, was primarily the same hard packed yellow and orange-brown sandy clay and pebbles from Surface L1135 mixed with dark grey silty-clay from the debris layer, L1136, above.

6.13.4 The metalled surface and ditches were overlain by L1136. The latter comprised a very compact grey-brown sandy clay with a large quantity of medium to large stones. Finds comprise CBM (1607g), animal bone (84g), coal (98g), and two iron nail fragments (88g). This compact layer served as a new road surface. Ditch F1133 was re-cut (F1276) to create a new drainage ditch (1.60m+ x 1.33m x 0.38m). It was slightly reduced in size and linear in plan. It adhered to the same alignment as its predecessor. It had relatively steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1134, was a compact dark grey silty-clay with occasional pebbles. Finds comprise CBM (136g) and animal bone (27g).

6.13.5 Pit F1152 (0.75m+ x 0.46m x 0.08m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1153, was a medium grey-brown sandy clay of compact consistency with occasional sub angular stones. No finds were present.

6.13.6 Gully F1143 (1.70m+ x 0.70m+ x 0.30m) was linear in plan, orientated north-west/south-east. It had an irregular profile. Its fill, L1144, was a compact medium grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small stones. Finds comprise 14th – 15th century pottery (192g), CBM (128g), animal bone (54g), and coal (27g). Its south-east end was cut by Gully F1145.

6.13.7 Gully F1145 (1.60m+ x 0.80m x 0.55m) was linear in plan, orientated north/south, with a V- shaped profile. Its primary fill, L1146, was a dark brown silty clay of a compact consistency with occasional small stones. Finds comprise CBM (44g) and animal bone (355g). Its upper fill, L1147, was a compact layer of light grey sandy clay with occasional stones. It contained no finds

6.14 Trench 14 (Fig. 15)

6.14.1 Trench 14 was located to the north of and approximately parallel to Trench 13.

Sample Section: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 8.50m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.32m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *A large ditch (F1099) was revealed at the western end of Trench 14. To the immediate east were three smaller gullies (F1101, F1103, and F1105). Just west of centre was a small ceramic kiln (M1077) cutting a large pit (F1107). The east side of the trench contained two pits (F1112 and F1114), a posthole (F1116), and two field drains. All features were sealed by Topsoil L1000.*

6.14.2 Ditch F1099 (1.60m+ x 1.15m x 0.40m) was linear in plan and orientated north/south with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1100, was a dark grey-brown silty clay of fairly compact consistency with frequent small stones. Finds comprise 15th – mid 16th century pottery (44g), CBM (278g), and oyster shell (106g).

6.14.3 To the immediate east of Ditch F1099 was a sequence of three ditches, which were generally equal in size, equidistant apart, and aligned north-east/south-west. Ditch F1101 (1.10m+ x 0.33m x 0.13m), was linear in plan with a narrow rounded terminus. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1102, was a compact light yellow-grey silty clay with frequent small gravel stones. No finds were present. Ditch F1103 (1.75m+ x 0.53m x 0.20m) was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1104, was a compact medium grey-brown silty clay with occasional small gravel stones. Finds comprise CBM (156g) and three iron nail fragments (74g). Ditch F1105 (1.75m+ x 0.69m x 0.14m) was linear in plan and had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1106, was a compact dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent small stones. Finds comprise CBM (19g).

6.14.4 Kiln M1077 (1.40m x 1.15m+ x 0.32) was located centrally in Trench 14. It was rectangular in plan, orientated north-east/south-west, with vertical sides and a flattish base. As part of the original construction cut, F1076, a low central spine was reserved bisecting the rectangular pit and creating two shallow hollows of equal size. The interior faces of F1076 and the top of the central spine were lined with a bonded tile wall, M1077, creating a rectangular tile kiln with two firing tunnels. Many of the tiles in the lining were large and thick (0.22m x 0.14m x 0.04m) and burnt on their inner face. Others were thinner with peg holes. Some of the tiles within M1077 were created specifically for the construction of the kiln walls while others were re-used peg tiles, probably wasters. Between 6 and 8 courses were present, bonded with 0.04m bands of clay forming air tight walls. The bonding material was a compact medium orange-yellow clay, and also served also as a kiln lining. This lining became fired through use of the kiln and was present within the various fills of firing tunnels. The following stratigraphic sequences were present within the two firing tunnels, presented from the primary to upper fill in the tables below.

NW Chamber Fill	Description	Dimensions	Finds
L1097	Mid orange-red firm clay.	0.25m+ x 0.47m x 0.10m	CBM (1239g), kiln lining (48g), Fe nail fragment (11g)
L1087	Mid grey-brown moderately firm silty clay with frequent	0.52m x 0.52m x 0.05m	CBM (2474g), burnt flint (28g)

	charcoal flecks		
L1090	Light yellow-brown firm clay.	0.34m+ x 0.48m x 0.04m	CBM (740g)
L1085	Mid yellow-brown moderately loose silty clay, occasional flint stones.	0.68m+ x 0.43m x 0.26m	CBM (10,258g), kiln lining (116g), burnt flint (<1g)

Table 3: Fills of south eastern firing tunnel of Kiln M1077.

Chamber Fill	Description	Dimensions	Finds
L1098	Mid orange-red firm clay.	0.47m x 0.48m x 0.04m	CBM (3464g)
L1091	Mid grey-brown moderately firm silty clay with frequent charcoal	0.77m x 0.50m x 0.04m	CBM (889g)
L1086	Light yellow-brown firm clay, occasional charcoal.	0.55m x 0.43m x 0.05m	CBM (760g)
L1078	Mid yellow-brown moderately loose silt clay, occasional flint.	0.82m+ x 0.58m x 0.26m	CBM 6030 (g), kiln lining (590g)

Table 4: Fills of north-western firing tunnel of Kiln M1077.

6.14.5 M1077 was an up-draught tile kiln with two firing tunnels. The tiles would have been covered in sand to stop them from sticking together, then stacked on the kiln floor and arched over the two firing tunnels with sufficient room to let the hot gases permeate through them. The kiln may have had an open top or vents to allow the gases to escape. The required temperature would have been steadily built up to 1200°c driving the remaining moisture out of the tiles. This process would have been carried out over several days (Drury 1981, 136). Wood was used to fire the kilns as suggested by the charcoal discovered within the various fills of the firing tunnels. A stoking pit was not located but may have been present on the north-eastern side of the kiln. When the kiln was last fired it collapsed, causing the deposition of layers in the firing tunnels. The uppermost fills of both chambers, L1085 and L1078, were clay and contained over 16Kg of tile. These presumably represent the original superstructure of the kiln.

6.14.6 Pit F1107 (1.76m x 1.00m+ x 0.25m) was rectangular in plan with rounded corners. It was cut by Kiln M1077. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1008, consisted of friable medium grey-brown silty sand with frequent small small stones and pockets of hard brown mineralised sand. Although the fill adjacent to Kiln M1077 appeared burnt, there is no evidence to suggest that Pit F1107 was a stocking pit.

6.14.7 Pit F1112 (0.72m x 0.35m+ x 0.23m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1113, was a dark grey to black loose silty sand. Finds comprise CBM (1915g). Given the high percentage of tile, this pit may have been used to bury pottery wasters or may have been a stoking pit for another kiln.

6.14.8 Pit F1114 (1.40m x 0.95m+ x 0.44m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1115, was a dark grey silty clay of compact consistency. Finds comprise 13th – 14th century pottery (18g), CBM (36g), animal bone (86g), oyster shell (<1g), and an iron nail fragment (9g). Pit F1114 cut Posthole F1116.

6.14.9 Posthole F1116 (0.35m x 0.36m x 0.22m) was circular in plan with a U shaped profile. Its fill, L1117, was a waterlogged dark grey to black clayey silt of compact consistency.

Trench 15 (Fig.15)

6.15.1 Trench 15 was located north of and perpendicular to Trench 11. Along with the adjacent Trench 11, it was one of the only two trenches on the central plateau to contain subsoil L1001.

Sample Section: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 10.47m		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.31m – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above (TT1).
0.48m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT11).

Description: A field drain was revealed at the western end of Trench 15 and a small pit (F1148) near the middle. A long narrow gully (F1150) was present at the eastern end. All of the features were sealed by Subsoil L1001.

6.15.2 Pit F1148 (1.18m x 0.90m x 0.26m) was oval in plan with steep sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1149, was a compact medium grey-brown silty sand with occasional small pebbles. No finds were present.

6.15.3 Gully F1150 (9.4m+ x 0.25m x 0.19m) was linear in plan and oriented north/south. It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1151, was a medium grey-brown silty sand of compact consistency with occasional small pebbles. Finds comprise CBM (5g).

6.16 Trench 16 (Figs 15)

6.16.1 Trench 16 was located to the east of Trench 15 towards the centre of the site. The stratigraphy of Trench 16 was different from that of the trenches along the western slope in that it contained Subsoil L1154 as opposed to L1001. L1154 was present on the northern and eastern sides of the central plateau where the ground level is more elevated. This group includes Trenches 16, 17, 20, 22 - 26.

Sample Section: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 9.70m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.27 – 0.65m	L1154	Subsoil. Compact layer of medium grey-brown silty sand with frequent small to medium stones.
0.65m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Description: A tree hollow (F1189), a small gully (F1187), and two field drains were located in the centre of Trench 16. All of the features were sealed by Subsoil L1154.

6.16.2 Tree Hollow F1189 (1.87m x 0.70m+ x 0.23m) was oval in plan with an irregular profile. Its fill, L1190, was a friable medium grey-brown silty sand with moderate small stones. No finds were present.

6.16.3 Ditch F1187 (1.6m+ x 0.67m x 0.28m) was linear in plan and orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill, L1188, was a friable medium grey-brown silty sand. Finds comprise 13th – 14th century pottery (126g).

6.17 Trench 17 (Fig. 21)

6.17.1 Trench 17 was located to the north of Trench 16 towards the centre of the site. It shared a common stratigraphic sequence with adjacent Trench 16.

Sample Section: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 11.71m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.39 – 0.52m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16).
0.52m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

6.17.2 Only features of natural origin were present within Trench 17.

6.18 Trench 18 (Fig. 16)

6.18.1 Trench 18 was located to the east of Trench 19 and followed the shallow decline towards the south. The higher northern end featured a simple stratigraphy of topsoil above solid geology. The south end sloped downward significantly and contained Subsoil L1001, which characterised trenches on the western slope of the site.

Sample Section: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 6.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.37 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above (TT2).
0.45m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Sample Section: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 9.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.29m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Description: *Two large tree hollows (F1223 and F1227) were revealed near the centre of Trench 18, and also a large ?ditch terminus (F1225). The southern half of the trench was dominated by a series of eight regular linear ditches (F1229, F1231, F1233, F1235, F1239, F1237, F1241, and F1243). The linear ditches shared a common size, shape, profile, and orientation. A large tree hollow occupied the southern end of the trench. Three field drains cut many of the features in the southern half of Trench 18. All the features were sealed by the topsoil. Subsoil L1001 appears only at the furthest southern end of the trench.*

6.18.2 Tree Hollow F1223 (1.60m+ x 2.15m x 0.15m) was irregular in plan with one straight side and one curved. It also had an irregular profile. Its fill, L1224, was a compact dark brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones. Finds comprise CBM (66g) and two iron knife fragments (44g).

6.18.3 ?Ditch F1225 (1.60m+ x 1.32m x 0.64m) was linear in plan and orientated north-east/south-west. It had steep sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1226, was a medium brown silty clay of compact consistency with occasional rounded stones. Finds comprise late 18th – 19th century pottery (30g), CBM (250g), clay tobacco pipe stem fragments (7g), and iron nail fragments (15g).

6.18.4 Tree Hollow F1227 (1.25m+ x 2.00m x 0.56m) was irregular in plan with an irregular profile. Its fill, L1228, was a compact medium brown silty clay with occasional flints. Finds comprise CBM (112g) and animal bone (3g).

6.18.5 The eight ditches to the south of Tree Hollow F1227 formed a group in that they were similar in shape, profile, size, orientation, proximity to each other, and fill composition. Ditches F1235, F1237, F1239, F1241, and F1243 had common squared terminations. The orientation of Ditch F1229 varied slightly being north-east/south-west alignment as opposed to east/west. All eight features are tabulated below from north to south.

Context	Shape & Profile	Fill	Description	Date/Finds
F1229	Linear, steep sides, flattish base (1.60m+ x 1.28m x 0.37m)	L1230	Compact dark brown silty clay with occasional stones.	17th / 18th C Pottery (15g), CBM (222g), animal bone (<1g), clay pipe stem fragments (<1g), charcoal (<1g), burnt flint (7g), iron nail fragments (33g)
F1231	Linear, steep sides, irregular base (1.60m+ x 0.50m x 0.19m)	L1232	Compact dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and stones	CBM (148g)
F1233	Linear, steep sides, flattish base (1.60m+ x 1.29m x 0.33m).	L1234	Compact dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and stones.	CBM (242g), clay pipe stem fragments (<1g), oyster shell (<1g), iron fragments (3g)
F1235	Linear, vertical sides, flattish base (1.30m+ x 1.20m x 0.31m)	L1236	Compact dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and stones	17th – 18th C Pottery (1g), CBM (102g), clay pipe stem fragment (<1g)
F1237	Linear, steep sides, flattish base (0.50m+ x 1.60m x 0.25m)	L1238	Compact dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and stones	Late 15th – 16th C Pottery (11g), animal bone (11g), CBM (154g)
F1239	Linear, steeply sloping sides and a flat base (1.05m+ x 1.58m x 0.49m)	L1240	Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional small flint and stones	19th – 20th C Pottery (5g), animal bone (15g), CBM (454g), clay pipe stem fragments (5g), slate (7g), iron nail fragments (56g).
F1241	Linear, steep sides, flattish sloping base (1.05m+ x 1.50m x 0.50m)	L1242	Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional small flint and stones	L18th – 19th C Pottery (29g), CBM (102g)

F1243	Linear, steep sides, flattish base (0.60m+ x 1.04m x 0.32m)	L1244	Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional small flint and stones	CBM (250g), clay pipe stem fragments (1g)

Table 5: Ditches within Trench 18

6.18.6 The common characteristics shared by these features suggest that they had a common date and function. It is possible that they represent post-medieval garden features. Alternatively they may represent extraction pits associated with Kiln M1077, which remained in use during the post-medieval period.

6.18.7 Tree Hollow F1245 (5.95m x 1.60m+ x 0.60m) was very large and irregular in plan with an irregular profile. Its fill, L1246, was a compact light grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small flints. Finds comprise mid 18th – Late 19th century pottery (106g) and CBM (506g), and a clay pipe stem fragment.

6.19 Trench 19 (Fig. 21)

6.19.1 Trench 19 was located to the south of Trench 16 and the east of Trench 14.

Sample Section: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 9.67m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.35m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Description: Only features of natural origin were present within Trench 19.

6.20 Trench 20 (Fig. 21)

6.20.1 Trench 20 was located to the east of Trench 17.

Sample Section: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 12.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.35 – 0.45m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16).
0.45m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 12.14m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.24 – 0.30m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16)
0.30m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: Only features of natural origin were present within Trench 20.

6.21 Trench 21 (Fig. 21)

6.21.1 Trench 21 was located to the north of Trench 18 towards the centre of the site.

Sample Section: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 10.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.51m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.51m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Description: Only features of natural origin were present within Trench 21.

6.22 Trench 22 (Fig. 17)

6.22.1 Trench 22 was located to the south of Trench 20.

Sample Section: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 11.740m AOD		
0.00m – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.37m – 0.55m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16).
0.55m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Description: *Two field drains were revealed near the centre of Trench 22. Immediately south of these was a shallow ?pit (F1272). All features were sealed by Subsoil L1154.*

6.22.2 ?Pit F1272 (1.3m x 1.2m x 0.12m) was circular in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Fill L1273 was a light grey silty sand with occasional small stones. No finds were present. This feature may represent a pocket of subsoil, L1154, within a shallow hollow in the natural geological deposit.

6.23 Trench 23 (Fig. 17)

6.23.1 Trench 23 was located to the east of Trench 22 near the eastern edge of the central plateau of the site.

Sample Section: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 11.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.37 – 0.60m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16).
0.60m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Description: *A field drain was revealed in the western end of Trench 23. Near the centre was a large ditch (F1219), which extended into adjacent Trench 25 (see below). Both features were sealed by Subsoil L1154.*

6.24 Trench 24 (Fig. 21)

6.24.1 Trench 24 was located to the east of Trench 20.

Sample Section: South End, East Facing 0.00m = 11.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.51m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.51 – 0.78m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16).

0.78m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT11).

Description: Only features of natural origin were present within Trench 24.

6.25 Trench 25 (Fig. 17)

6.25.1 Trench 25 was located in the centre of the field to the north of Trench 20. It ran parallel to Trench 20 along the northern edge of the excavation limits of the site.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 12.21m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.30 – 0.51m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16).
0.51m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *A shallow gully (F1217) was located at the west end of Trench 25 and a larger ditch (F1219) at the east end. Both were sealed by Subsoil L1154.*

6.25.2 Gully F1217 (1.60m+ x 0.93m x 0.21m) was linear in plan, orientated north/south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1218, was a friable medium grey-brown silty sand. No finds were present.

6.25.3 Ditch F1219 (50m+ x 2.50m x 0.97m) was linear in plan running north/south across the eastern end of the trench and into Trench 23, 50m to the south. It had a gradually sloping west side, a stepped eastern side, and a narrow flattish base.

6.25.4 The three fills present within F1219 that are described from primary to upper fill in the table below.

Ditch Fill	Description	Depth	Finds
L1220	Mid grey-brown friable silty sand, moderate gravel stones.	0.47m	L18th – 19th C Pottery (24g), CBM (788g), clay pipe bowl fragment (14g)
L1221	Light green-grey compact silty clay.	0.15m	None
L1222	Mid grey-brown friable silty sand	0.52m	L18th – 19th C Pottery (128g), CBM (678g), animal bone (<1g), clay pipe stem fragments (5g)

Table 6: Fills of Ditch F1219.

6.26 Trench 26 (Fig. 17)

6.26.1 Trench 26 was located to the west of Trench 28 and marked the eastern boundary of the central plateau. The stratigraphy within Trench 26 follows the typical pattern among trenches in the northern and eastern halves of the plateau, although the topsoil is unusually thin at this point.

Sample Section: South End, East Facing 0.00m = 11.58mAOD		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).

0.04 – 0.22m	L1154	Subsoil. As above (TT16).
0.22m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *Trench 26 contained one ditch (F1266) at its north end, sealed by Subsoil L1154*.

6.26.2 Ditch F1266 (1.60m+ x 2.20m x 0.38m) was linear in plan, aligned east/west. It was not present in the adjacent Trench 24. It had irregular sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill, L1267, was a very loose dark brown sandy silt with moderate medium sub-rounded flints. Finds comprise 15th – 16th century pottery (42g), animal bone (306g), and a large quantity of CBM (2398g).

6.27 Trench 27 (Fig. 18)

6.27.1 Trench 27 was one of a group of trenches occupying a natural depression surrounding an artificial pond east of the central plateau. This depression was filled by a Subsoil L1183 consisting medium yellow-grey sandy silt. L1183 was limited to the trenches in the eastern portion of the site with the exception of Trench 34. The solid geology in the easternmost trenches consisted exclusively of sand with a much higher gravel content than in any of the previous trenches. This gravel is thought to represent colluvial material that was deposited within the natural depression before it was filled with subsoil L1183.

Sample Section: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 13.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.30 – 0.61m	L1183	Subsoil. Compact, medium yellow-grey sandy silt with moderate sub-angular stones.
0.61m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. Yellow brown sand with high quantity of gravel.

Description: *Trench 27 contained a ?ditch terminus (F1215) in the western half of the trench.*

6.27.2 Ditch F1215 (1.15m+ x 1.10m x 0.29m) was linear in plan, orientated north south. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1216, was a medium brown silty sand of loose consistency with moderate small stones. No finds were present.

6.28 Trench 28

6.28.1 Trench 28 was located towards the eastern boundary between Trenches 27 and 33.

Sample Section: South End, East Facing 0.00m = 13.73m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.35 – 0.77m	L1183	Subsoil. As above (TT27).
0.77m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT27).

Description: Only features of natural origin were present within Trench 28.

6.29 Trench 29 (Fig. 18)

6.29.1 Trench 29 was located towards the eastern boundary of the site, to the south and parallel of Trench 33.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 14.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.37 – 0.65m	L1183	Subsoil. As above (TT27).
0.42m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT1).

Description: *Trench 29 contained a ?ditch terminus (F1213) located just west of the trench centre.*

6.29.2 ?Ditch F1213 (1.25m+ x 0.60m x 0.13m) was linear in plan, aligned north/south, with a rounded northern terminus and a shallow bowl shaped profile. Its fill, L1214, was a loose medium orange-brown silty sand with frequent small gravel stones. No finds were present.

6.30 Trench 30 (Fig. 18)

6.30.1 Trench 30 was located in an orchard just east of the agricultural field constituting the main excavation area. It was parallel to the longstanding property boundary separating the Priory from the residential units to the south. Consequently, the trench contained a high quantity of backyard deposits suggesting that the area had been occupied by residential units as far back as the medieval period. The subsoil in Trench 30 was consistent in both composition and consistency to Subsoil L1183. It was very deep given the depth of the tree roots and grew thicker in an easterly direction as the trench deepened.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 15.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.32 – 0.55m	L1183	Subsoil. As above (TT27).
0.55m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit (As above (TT27).

Description: Trench 30 contained a high concentration of features, possibly associated with house plots to the south. A small gully (F1123) traversed the western end of the trench truncating a small pit (F1127) but not the elongated pit to the south (F1181). East of these features was a small pig burial (F1137) and another small elongated pit (F1166). In the centre of the trench were a pair of large intercutting pits (F1155 and F1140). Just east of centre were four pits (F1168, F1170, F1173 and F1184). A small gully (F1175) terminated in the east end of the trench.

6.30.2 Gully F1123 (7.5m+ x 0.81m x 0.21m) was linear in plan and orientated east to west. It was excavated in three segments, tabulated below from the west to east.

Segment	Profile	Fill	Description	Date/Finds
A	Moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.60m x 0.81m x 0.21m)	L1124	Very loose medium grey-brown silty sand with moderate gravel.	15th – 16th Century pottery (5g), slag (31g), oyster shell (1g)
B	Shallow sides, concave base (0.32m x 0.68m x 0.11)	L1124	Very loose dark grey-brown sandy silt	No finds.
C	Shallow sides, concave base (0.74m x 0.54m x 0.11).	L1124	Loose dark grey-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel.	CBM (15g), animal bone (<1g).

Table 7: Excavated segments of F1123

6.30.3 Segment B of Ditch F1123 cut a small pit, F1127 (0.91m x 0.90m x 0.27m). Pit F1127 was circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1128, was a friable dark grey silty sand with occasional small gravel. Finds comprise animal bone (3g), CBM (328g), and an iron nail fragment (13g).

6.30.4 A number of pits were excavated. The majority contained finds associated with domestic activity. The one exception was F1170, which was probably a post-medieval industrial waste pit.

Context	Shape & Profile	Fill	Description	Date/Finds	Observations
F1181	Oval, steep sides, concave base (1.5m x 0.40m+ x 0.38m)	L1182	Loose dark brown sandy silt, occasional small gravel.	CBM (274g), animal bone (32g), oyster shell (7g).	
F1137	Sub-rectangular, irregular profile (1.22m long x 0.67m+ wide x 0.27m deep)	L1138	Loose medium orange-brown sandy silt, occasional small sub angular flint, charcoal.	14th – 15th C Pottery (32g), CBM (136g), animal bone including an articulated pig skeleton (1962g), slate (3g), oyster shell (<1g)	
F1166	Oval, steep sides, flattish base (0.96m x 0.42m+ x 0.24m)	L1167	Loose dark grey silty sand, occasional gravel.	None.	
F1155	Circular, moderately sloping sides, flattish base (1.50m+ x 1.17m x 0.37m)	L1141	Loose medium grey silty sand, occasional pebbles.	17th – 18th C pottery (<1g), CBM (47g), animal bone including partial articulated sheep skeleton (150g), clay pipe stem fragment (9g), iron nail fragment (9g)	Cut F1140

F1140	Sub-rectangular, vertical sides, flattish base (1.32m x 1.10m+ x 0.65m)	L1142	Compact dark grey silty sand, frequent large stones and gravel.	Mid 13th – 14th C Pottery (38g), CBM (316g), worked bone pin (SF1), two iron nail fragments (11g), animal bone (196g) including an articulated cat skeleton (52g)	Cut by F1155
F1168	Oval, irregular bowl shaped profile (0.44m+ x 1.00m x 0.39m)	L1169	Loose dark grey silty sand, occasional small pebbles	CBM (106g), animal bone (7g)	
F1170	Elongated oval, irregular edges, concave base (1.25m x 1.05m+ x 0.49)	L1171	Loose dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional medium sized sub-angular stones.	Animal bone (122g), slate (<1g)	Cut by F1173
		L1172	Very loose light grey ash and silty sand, occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	Slag (166g), mussel shell (<1g), snail shell (<1g)	
F1173	Round, steep sides, flattish base (0.68m+ x 0.75m x 0.24m)	L1174	Loose dark grey silty sand, occasional sub-angular stones.	Oyster shell (7g)	Cut F1170
F1184	Irregular circle, steep sides, stepped base (2.8m x 1.60m+ x 1.11m)	1185	Loose dark grey-brown sandy silt, occasional sub angular small stones	15th – 16th C Pottery (38g), CBM (639g), animal bone (439g)	
		1186	Loose light grey-brown sandy silt with yellow sand, occasional small sub-rounded pebble and flints	None	

Table 8: Pits within Trench 30

6.30.5 Ditch F1175 (1.56m+ x 0.90m x 0.26m) was linear in plan, oriented north-east/south-west, with a rounded south-western terminus. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1176, was a very loose dark brown silty sand.

6.31 Trench 31

6.31.1 Trench 31 was oriented east-west and located between Trenches 34 and 35 to the south and Trench 28 to the north.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 15.12m AOD		
0.00 – 0.51m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.51 – 0.85m	L1183	Subsoil. As above (TT27).
0.85m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT27).

Description: Only features of natural origin were present within Trench 31.

6.32 Trench 32 (Fig. 19)

6.32.1 Trench 32 was oriented north/south and ran along the eastern boundary of the agricultural field that comprised the excavation territory.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 13.35m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.27 – 0.81m	L1183	Subsoil. As above (TT27).
0.81m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT27).

Description: *Trench 32 contained a large ditch (F1268) terminating at its southern end. It was sealed by subsoil L1183.*

6.32.2 Ditch F1268 (3.50m+ x 1.44m x 0.73m) was linear plan and orientated north-west/south-east with a rounded north-west terminus. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1269, was a dark brown sandy silt of friable consistency with frequent small stones. Finds comprise late 15th – early 17th century pottery (24g), animal bone (124g), and a large quantity of CBM (596g).

6.33 Trench 33 (Fig. 19)

6.33.1 Trench 33 was located north of and parallel to Trench 29 and ran along the northern boundary of the excavation area.

Sample Section: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 15.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.43 – 0.73m	L1183	Subsoil. As above (TT27).
0.73m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT27).

Description: *Trench 33 contained a pit (F1207) at its west end and two small gullies (F1209 and F1211) at its east end. All features were sealed by subsoil L1183.*

6.33.2 Pit F1207 (1.15m x 1.10m+ x 0.28m) was oval in plan with a shallow bowl shaped profile. Its fill, L1208, was a medium orange-brown silty sand of loose consistency with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

6.33.3 Ditch F1209 (1.60m+ x 0.70m x 0.17m) was linear in plan and orientated north-west/south-east. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1210, was a loose medium orange-brown silty sand with moderate small to medium stones. No finds were present.

6.33.4 Ditch F1211 (1.60m+ x 0.70m x 0.25m) was linear in plan and orientated north/south. It had flat, gradually sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1212, was a very loose dark orange-brown silty sand with moderate small to medium stones. Finds comprise CBM (92g).

6.34 Trench 34 (Fig. 19)

6.34.1 Trench 34 and Trench 35 ran north/south and were located due south of Trench 31. The two trenches shared a number of common features given their proximity. The stratigraphy of Trench 34, however, was unique in that it did not contain Subsoil L1183, but instead featured topsoil resting directly above the solid geology. Trench 34 was also the shallowest of the easternmost trenches.

Sample Section: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 14.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.45m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT27).

Description: *Two small intercutting gullies (F1247 and F1249) were located at the north end of Trench 34. Near the centre of the trench was a shallow pit (F1251) and a broad ditch (F1253). Eastwards was a small gully (F1255), a large rectangular pit (F1257) and an elongated pit (F1260). All features are sealed by the topsoil.*

6.34.2 Gully F1247 (22.00m+ x 0.52m x 0.30m) was linear in plan orientated north-east/south-west and recorded in Trench 35 to the west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1248, was a friable medium brown silty sand. No finds were present. Gully F1247 cut Gully F1249.

6.34.3 Gully F1249 (1.60m+ x 0.74m x 0.35m) was linear in plan and aligned east/west. It had an irregular profile. Its fill, L1250, was a dark brown silty sand with moderate small stones. No finds were present.

6.34.4 Pit F1251 (1.4m x 0.50m x 0.04m) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1252, was a friable medium grey-brown silty sand with occasional large stones and pebbles and small angular flints. No finds were present.

6.34.5 Ditch F1253 (22.00m+ x 2.30m x 0.80m) was linear in plan orientated east/west and recorded in Trench 35 to the west. Segment A was excavated in Trench 34 and Segment B in Trench 35. Segment A had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1254, was a friable dark grey-brown silty sand with moderate stone and gravels. Finds comprise 16th – 18th century pottery (33g), CBM (947), animal bone (189g), slate (19g), and oyster shell (7g).

6.34.6 Gully F1255 (22.00m+ x 0.52m x 0.05m) was linear in plan orientated slightly north-east/south-west and recorded in Trench 35 to the west. Segment A was excavated in Trench 34. It had a shallow bowl shaped profile. Its fill, L1256, was a friable medium grey-brown silty sand of friable consistency with occasional medium to large pebbles. No finds were present.

6.34.7 Pit F1257 (4.52m x 1.30m+ x 1.06m) was rectangular in plan with steep sides and a sloping flattish base. Two fill were present. The principal and primary deposit, L1258, was a friable dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional small to medium stones, pebbles, and flint. Finds comprise CBM (1279g), animal bone (431g), a glass bottle fragment (13g), and an iron nail fragment (11g). In the very centre of the pit at a depth of 0.25m was a secondary fill, L1259, a very compact light yellow-grey clay filled with extensive modern brick and rubble remains. The south-east corner of Pit F1257 was cut by Pit F1260.

6.34.8 Pit F1260 (3.9m x 1.00m+ x 0.54m) was an elongated oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1261, was a friable medium to dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional small to medium stones and pebbles. Finds comprise 17th – 18th century pottery (5g), CBM (78g), and animal bone (4g). Pit F1260 cut the south-east corner of Pit F1257.

6.35 Trench 35 (Fig. 20)

6.35.1 Trench 35 was located just west of Trench 34 and shared a common stratigraphy with most of the easternmost trenches.

Sample Section: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 14.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above (TT1).
0.37 – 0.72m	L1183	Subsoil. As above (TT27).
0.72m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT27).

Description: *Many features recorded in Trench 34 were visible in Trench 35 comprising Gullies F1247 and F1255 and Ditch F1253. Another large ditch, F1270, was located in the south half of the trench and was cut by Ditch F1253. All features were sealed by the subsoil, L1183.*

6.35.2 Ditch F1247 was excavated and described in Trench 34.

6.35.3 Ditch F1253 was linear in plan running east/west across the trench. Segment B (0.60m x 2.34m x 0.78m) had gradually sloping sides and a narrow concave base. Like Segment A, Fill L1254 was a friable dark grey-brown silty sand with moderate stone and gravel inclusions. Finds comprise 16th – 18th century pottery (5g), CBM (28g), and slate (<1g). Ditch F1253 cut Ditch F1270.

6.35.4 Ditch F1270 (2.20m+ x 1.42m x 0.23m) was linear in plan and orientated north-west/south-east. It had gradually sloping sides and a sloping flattish base. Its fill, L1271, was a light grey-brown silty sand of friable consistency with occasional small to medium stone and pebbles becoming more frequent near the base of the ditch. No finds were present.

6.35.5 Gully F1255 was linear in plan running east/west. Segment B (0.40m+ x 0.52m x 0.05m) and had a shallow bowl shaped profile similar to that in Trench 34. Its fill, L1256, was a friable medium grey-brown silty sand of friable consistency with occasional medium to large pebbles. No finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological trial trench evaluation at land at St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 A number of different stratigraphic patterns were present throughout the 35 trenches at St Osyth's Priory Park. The first was observed in Trenches 1 and 2, which occupied the lowest point of the site, at the far west, where the fields drained into St Osyth's Creek. Both trenches revealed evidence for an older creek bed and associated alluvial deposits, though the full sequence was observed in Trench 1 only. The north-west end of the trench displayed a simple sequence of the agricultural topsoil (L1000), a medium red-brown silty clay subsoil (L1001), and the yellow-brown clay of the natural geological deposit (L1003). In the area of the older creek bed, a different sequence was observed.

8.2 Visible within the solid geology was the sloping west side of the earlier creek bed. This natural feature occupied the entire eastern half of the trench and carried on into Trench 2 reaching a maximum depth of 2.65m below modern ground level. The older creek bed was a sediment filled tributary channel, waterlogged throughout but with evidence of a fluctuating water table causing oxidation and gleying of the upper sediments (Rob Scaife *pers. comm.*).

8.3 The stratigraphic sequence was recorded and tabulated above (see Scaife, this report for further analysis of the palaeochannel). At the lowest point within the palaeochannel was L1192, a very compact layer of medium blue-grey clay. This layer appeared to be consistent throughout although soil analysis revealed a series of successive depositions, particularly at the lowest level. The soil in the very bottom of the creek bed, from 2.60m downwards, revealed evidence for contact with brown silty sand. Above this was a 500mm layer of grey clay resembling the material constituting the majority of the level. Between 2.40 and 2.55m was slightly peaty humic silty clay with monocot remains.

8.4 Above this thick clay layer was a thinner marine deposit, L1191, recorded at between 1.60 and 1.70 metres (see Rob Scaife, this report). In the western half of the trench this layer consisted of dark grey silty clay with extensive shell and bone content and some pottery. At the east end of the trench, L1191 was characterised more as a brown sandy layer with an equal amount of shells. Further finds from this layer comprise pottery (166g), CBM (370g), animal bone (30g), and charcoal (10g). Further analysis has revealed that the material within L1191 is late medieval in date. It is unknown, however, whether the shells are *in situ*, part of a midden or waste dump, or beach sorted material. If the latter situation is correct, L1191 must have been deposited above the basal alluvial silt during a period of inundation in the late medieval period.

8.5 Above L1191 was a thick fresh water alluvial deposit, L1002, described as a grey-brown mottled (gleyed) silt and clay with the clay content increasing down the profile (Scaife, this report). Timber Feature T1193 and all nine posts were contained within this context. The environmental sample taken from this context contained finds including masonry, CBM, loose wood remains, and glass dating to the 17th century. This evidence supports a post-medieval date for the context and the features therein, including Timber Structure T1193 and the neighbouring posts.

8.6 Subsoil L1001 was absent above the palaeochannel fills. In section, the bank of the palaeochannel appears to cut the subsoil in Trenches 1 and 2. In reality, the medium red-brown

silty clay of Subsoil L1001 slowly built up along the edges of the creek as it silted up. This same subsoil was visible in a number of trenches on the western slope of the excavation area sealing the archaeological features below.

8.7 The alluvial fills of the palaeochannel and Subsoil L1001 alike are sealed by the agricultural Topsoil L1000, measured at some 0.60m thick. This soil is characterised as colluvial material with a chalk/liming horizon (Scaife, this report). The topsoil did not vary greatly in its composition or stratigraphic position anywhere within the site.

8.8 The same stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (L1000), subsoil (L1001), and solid geology (L1003) was present in Trench 6, which ran east-west along the lower southern edge of the site, and in the southern end of Trench 18, which also sloped down to a lower level. Subsoil L1001 was not present, however, in either Trench 12 or Trench 13, which occupy the lower southern territory between Trenches 6 and 18. Likewise, a simple topsoil over solid geology sequence was visible among the remaining Trenches on the western slope including Trenches 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Subsoil L1001 reappears in Trenches 11 and 15, which occupied the western edge of the central plateau of the site.

8.9 On this central plateau, Subsoil L1001 was replaced by Subsoil L1154, a compact layer of medium grey-brown silty sand with frequent small to medium stone inclusions. A sequence of topsoil (L1000), subsoil (L1154), and solid geology (L1003) was present among the trenches on the north and east crests of the plateau where the ground level rises. Trenches here included 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26. Trenches 14, 19, and 21, meanwhile, displayed only topsoil above solid geology. It is likely that Subsoil L1154 represented an earlier agricultural horizon on the area of the field that was most given to natural drainage through all periods of occupation. The solid geology, meanwhile, became much sandier and more gravel filled and less clayey. This transformation was complete among the easternmost trenches.

8.10 The final stratigraphic sequence to be observed at the site was present among Trenches 27 – 35 to the east, with the exception of Trench 34. Within these trenches, Subsoil L1154 was replaced by Subsoil L1183, a thick layer of medium yellow-grey sandy silt with moderate sub-angular stones. These trenches were located in the vicinity of a small topographical depression in proximity to an artificial pond. Soil analysis of deposits from Trench 28 revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence to that outlined above (see Scaife, this report). At the very bottom of the trench at a depth of 0.82m, lay basal Pleistocene river terrace gravels (L1003). Above this was L1183, a 0.44m thick layer of sandy sub-soil containing Pleistocene pebbles. This subsoil was then sealed by the modern topsoil, a dark, humic, homogeneous agricultural plough soil and containing some reworked Pleistocene gravel (see Scaife, this report). It was concluded that this slightly depressed area was filled and levelled with coarser sands, probably colluvial/hill wash caused and aided by continued agriculture (see Scaife, this report).

8.11 Subsoil L1183 was absent from Trench 34, which was also much shallower than other trenches in this part of the site, at a depth of 0.45m. This trench shared at least 3 archaeological features with Trench 35. One explanation for the absence of L1183 may be that the natural depression was not present within Trench 34 resulting in an absence of fill material. If this was the case, the thick subsoil of Trenches 32 and 30 may not be the same material as L1183, but may represent an earlier agricultural horizon.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Summary of the archaeology

Trench	Feature	Feature type	Spot Date
1	T1195	Wooden post	-
1	T1196	Wooden post	-
1	F1197	Wooden post	-
1	T1198	Wooden post	-
1	T1199	Wooden post	-
1	T1200	Wooden post	-
1	T1201	Wooden post	-
1	T1202	Wooden post	-
1	T1203	Wooden post	-
1	T1204	Wooden stake	-
1	T1205	Wooden stake	-
1	T1206	Wooden stake	-
1	T1193	Linear wooden feature	-
2	F1012	Pit	15th-16th C
2	F1010	Ditch	16th/17th C
2	F1008	Posthole	-
2	F1014	Posthole	Mid 13th-14th C
2	F1006	Pit	-
2	F1004	Linear	Mid 13th-14th C
3	F1030	Posthole	-
3	F1028	Gully	-
3	F1016	Pit	14th-early 16th C
3	F1020	Posthole	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
3	F1022	Ditch	13th-14th
3	F1026	Posthole	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
4	F1052	Tree hollow	-
4	F1050	Ditch	-
4	F1048	Pit	-
4	F1046	Field drain	-
4	F1042	Pit	-
4	F1044	Posthole	-
4	F1040	Posthole	-
4	F1024	Pit	-
5	F1058	Field drain	-
5	F1054	Linear	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
5	F1056	Pit	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
5	F1038	Ditch	-
5	F1036	Tree hollow	-
5	F1034	Posthole	-
5	F1032	Pit	-
6	F1060	Field drain	13th-14th C
6	F1062	Pit	-
7	F1074	Ditch	-
7	F1072	Linear	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval

7	F1068	Gully	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
7	F1070	Gully	-
8	F1118	Pit	14th-15th C
8	F1088	Ditch	-
8	F1066	Pit	-
8	F1095	Posthole	-
8	F1092	Ditch	-
9	F1064	Posthole	-
10	F1079	Gully	-
10	F1081	Pit	-
10	F1083	?Ditch	-
11	F1161	Pit	15th-16th C
11	F1177	Pit	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
11	F1164	Gully	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
11	F1179	Gully	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
12	F1129	Pit	-
12	F1125	Gully	-
13	L1135	Metalled surface	-
13	F1131	Ditch	15th-16th C
13	F1133	Ditch	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
13	F1152	Pit	-
13	F1143	Gully	14th-15th C
13	F1145	Gully	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
14	F1099	Ditch	15th-mid 16th C
14	F1101	Ditch	-
14	F1103	Ditch	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
14	F1105	Ditch	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
14	M1077	Kiln	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
14	F1107	Pit	-
14	F1112	Pit	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
14	F1114	Pit	13th-14th C
14	F1116	Posthole	-
15	F1148	Pit	-
15	F1150	Gully	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
16	F1187	Ditch	13th-14th C
16	F1189	Tree hollow	-
18	F1223	Tree hollow	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
18	F1225	Ditch	Late 18th-19th C
18	F1227	Tree hollow	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
18	F1229	Ditch	17th/18th C
18	F1231	Ditch	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval

18	F1233	Ditch	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
18	F1235	Ditch	17th-18th C
18	F1237	Ditch	Late 15th-16th C
18	F1239	Ditch	19th-20th C
18	F1241	Ditch	Late 18th-19th C
18	F1243	Ditch	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
22	F1272	Pit	-
23	F1219	Ditch	Late 18th-19th C
25	F1217	Gully	-
26	F1266	Ditch	15th-16th C
27	F1215	Ditch	-
29	F1213	Ditch	-
30	F1123	Gully	15th-16th C
30	F1127	Pit	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
30	F1181	Pit	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
30	F1137	Pit	14th-15th C
30	F1166	Pit	-
30	F1155	Pit	17th-18th C
30	F1140	Pit	Mid 13th-14th C
30	F1168	Pit	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
30	F1170	Pit	-
30	F1173	Pit	-
30	F1184	Pit	15th-16th C
30	F1175	Ditch	-
32	F1268	Ditch	-
33	F1207	Pit	-
33	F1209	Ditch	-
33	F1211	Ditch	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
34 & 35	F1247	Gully	-
34	F1249	Gully	-
34	F1251	Pit	-
34 & 35	F1253	Ditch	16th-18th C
34 & 35	F1255	Gully	-
34	F1257	Pit	Presence of CBM suggests post-medieval
34	F1260	Pit	17th-18th C
35	F1270	Ditch	-

Table 9: Summary of recorded features

9.1.1 Overall, the trenches at Priory Park at St Osyths were moderately occupied by archaeological features. One hundred features were discovered in all covering an occupation range of 13th to 19th century.

9.1.2 Medieval occupation is also present in the form of backyard refuse/rubbish Pits F1137 and F1140 in Trench 30; Pit F1016 in Trench 3; Ditch F1004 and Posthole F1014 in Trench 2; Pit F1118 in Trench 8; Pit F1114 in Trench 14; and Ditch F1187 in Trench 16. Medieval pottery was also discovered in Field Drain F1060 in Trench 6.

9.1.3 The post-medieval period is represented by evidence for tile production in the form of a small up-draft kiln M1077 with two firing tunnels and presumably a stoking pit in the unexcavated area to the south of the trench. This feature was discovered in Trench 14. The square shallow pits in Trench 18, originally thought to represent post-medieval garden features, may represent extraction pits for the acquisition of clay from sometime during the lifetime of the kiln. Pit F1112, also in Trench 14 just a few metres from the kiln, may have been a wasters pit.

9.1.4 A number of other post-medieval features were present on the site. Most took the form of discreet ditches and pits scattered among the trenches throughout the site. Trench 1 was of interest in that contained preserved remains of timber structures associated with the older creek bed following an initial silting stage. These timber structures take the form of a squared timber structure of mortise and tenon construction and possibly an associated row of posts for a wattle fence extension. The spatial relationship of these features within the trench and the content of the surrounding fill suggests a 17th century date.

9.1.5 Absent from the site was evidence from prehistoric, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon periods. This observation is not surprising given the lack of supporting evidence throughout the region for earlier occupation within the desk-based assessment. Fortunately, modern contamination was also absent at the site given the preservation of the agricultural land and the overall lack of development.

9.2 Interpretation of the Site: Archaeology and History

9.2.1 The site clearly witnessed some degree of activity in the medieval period as the various, somewhat scattered, features of this date demonstrate. The earliest pottery recovered from the site was of 13th century date suggesting that activity commenced at around this time. The nature of this medieval activity is not entirely apparent but may be considered peripheral activity associated with medieval settlement at St Osyth's.

9.2.2 Utilisation of this site clearly intensified in the late medieval and post-medieval period. The majority of features containing dateable pottery are of 15th to 16th century or later date while numerous features were found to contain post-medieval CBM. Much of the post-medieval CBM recovered from the site came from Kiln M1077. It seems possible that this kiln, and possibly others that may have existed in the area, were the focus of this post-medieval activity. The communication links that the site had in the form of Metalled Surface L1135, which may represent a road, and the former line of St Osyth's Creek recorded as a palaeochannel (see Scaife, this report), suggest that brick and tile may have been produced at this site and transported elsewhere. The possibility that the timber structure and related posts and stakes recorded in Trench 1 may represent a jetty or landing platform associated with the former route of the creek may further support this suggestion.

9.2.3 The presence of related activity in the form of possible food production, animal husbandry and possibly other trade activities, as suggested by some elements of the faunal assemblage (see Morris, this report) indicate that it is unlikely that the recorded evidence represents a purely industrial site. Instead, it seems more likely the site witnessed crofting, or similarly arranged occupation, with domestic occupation and other activity in close proximity to small scale industrial activity. This crofting activity may have taken place on land granted by the Priory. Of course, no associated dwellings were identified during the programme of archaeological evaluation.

9.3 Preservation of Archaeology

9.3.1 The agricultural activity at the site has resulted in the truncation of most of the archaeological features at the site. Fortunately, however, the absence of modern development has resulted in relatively untainted archaeological deposit with very little evidence for residual contamination.

9.4 Finds and Environmental Evidence

9.4.1 The majority of the finds assemblage comprised post-medieval CBM and much of this may be considered to be associated with Kiln M1077. It is representative of what was probably a major part of the economy of this site, and possibly of the surrounding area.

9.4.2 With the notable exception of a single sherd of possibly Iron Age pottery, the pottery assemblage was of medieval to early modern date. This has helped characterise the most intense phase of activity at the site as the post-medieval and may help support the notion that the site was the focus of small scale industrial activity in the form of tile (and possibly brick) production at this time.

9.4.3 The animal bone assemblage has helped identify food production or consumption was occurring at the site through the presence of domestic species and evidence for butchery.

9.4.4 Environmental analysis has helped identify the presence of a palaeochannel representing a former route of the St Osyth's Creek which may have been of importance in the communication links, and therefore the economy, of the population occupying or utilising this site in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

9.5 Research Potential

9.5.1 The identification of this site as a location of late medieval and post-medieval tile production, with possible related domestic activity, adds to what is currently known about the secular and religious communities in the St Osyth's area at this time. It has the potential to help further characterise the nature of the settlement/s in the area and possibly to help understand the economy of the area.

9.5.2 Furthermore, the evidence recorded at the site may be considered to relate to research subjects such economy and the archaeology of industrialisation and manufacture which are set out as important research themes for the medieval and post-medieval periods in the eastern counties (Ayers 2000, 27-32; Gilman, Gould & Green 2000, 33-42).

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will be deposited with Colchester Museum within the next six months, and will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2.* The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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Website 1
http://www.stosyth.gov.uk/default.asp?calltype=ourhistory

APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Map	Scale	Location
1814	Plan of the Parish of Chich St Osyth in the County of Essex, the Estate of Fredrick Nassau Esq.	-	ERO
1876	1st Edition Ordnance Survey map	25”	ERO
1897	2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map	6”	ERO
1915-24	3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map	6”	ERO

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000			6	Topsoil	16th - 17th	(6), 31g			
1001			1	Subsoil	Mid 18th - 19th	(1), 26			
1002			1 2	Layer	Late 16th - 18th	(1), 3g	 3504	 36	Glass Bottle Fragment (1), 9g
1003				Layer					Daub/Fired Clay (5), 118g
1004	1005	A B	2	Linear Feature Fill	Mid 13th - 14th Mid 13th - 14th	(2), 22g (2), 12g	 18	1	Oyster Shell (40), 284g Cockle Shell (1), <1g
1010	1011		2	Ditch Fill	16th/17th	(5), 150g	2094	14	
1012	1013		2	Pit Fill	15th - 16th	(11), 240g	104		
1014	1015		2	Posthole Fill	Mid 13th - 14th	(2), 102g			
1016	1017		3	Pit Fill	14th - Early 16th	(3), 5g	5		Oyster Shell (1), 44g
1018	1019	A B	3	Linear Feature Fill			28 20		Struck Flint (1), <1g Oyster Shell (1), <1g
1020	1021		3	Posthole Fill			3		
1022	1023		3	Ditch Fill	13th - 14th	(4), 46g	3309	5	
1026	1027		3	Posthole Fill			38		
1054	1055		5	Linear Feature Fill			154		
1056	1057		5	Pit Fill			65		
1060	1061		6	Field Drain Fill	13th - 14th	(1), <1g	33		
1066	1067		8	Pit Fill					Struck Flint (2), 9g
1068	1069		7	Ditch Fill			15		
1072	1073		7	Linear Feature Fill			128		
1076	1077 1078 1085		14	Tile from Kiln Wall Kiln Fill - East Side Kiln Fill - Secondary West Side			3379 6030 10258		Kiln Lining (1), 44g Kiln Lining (33), 590g Kiln Lining (2), 116g Burnt Flint (2), <1g

	1086			Kiln Fill - Secondary East Side			760		
	1087			Kiln Fill - Secondary West Side			2474		Burnt Flint (1), 28g Kiln Lining (4), 24g
	1090			Kiln Fill - West Side			740		
	1091			Kiln Fill - Secondary East Side			889		
	1097			Kiln Fill - West Side			1239		Kiln Lining (2), 48g Fe Nail Fragment (1), 11g
	1098			Kiln Fill - East Side			3464		
1099	1100		14	Linear Feature Fill	15th - Mid 16th	(2), 44g	278		Oyster Shell (10), 106g
1103	1104		14	Linear Feature Fill			156		Fe Nail Fragments (3), 74g
1105	1106		14	Linear Feature Fill			19		
1112	1113		14	Pit Fill			1915		
1114	1115		14	Pit Fill	13th - 14th	(2), 18g	36	86	Oyster Shell (3), <1g Fe Nail Fragment (1), 9g
1118	1119		8	Pit Fill	14th - 15th	(3), 39g	192		Oyster Shell (2), <1g
	1120				14th/15th	(1), <1g	1940	7	Daub (9), 202g
1123	1124	A	30	Ditch Fill	15th - 16th	(2), 5g			Slag (1), 31g Oyster Shell (1), 1g
		C					15	<1	
1129	1130		12	Pit Fill					Fe Nail Fragment (1), 9g
1127	1128		30	Pit Fill			328	3	Fe Nail Fragment (1), 13g
1131	1132		13	Ditch Fill	15th - 16th	(5), 25g	192	324	Oyster Shell (1), 7g
1133	1134		13	Ditch Fill			136	27	
1135			13	Layer			52		?Struck Flint (1), 19g Oyster Shell (1), <1g Fe Nail Fragments (2), 11g
1136			13	Layer			1607	84	Coal (1), 98g Fe Fragments (2), 88g
1137	1138		30	Pit Fill	14th - 15th	(7), 32g	136	1962	Slag (2), 126g Slate (1), 3g Oyster Shell (1), <1g
1140	1142		30	Pit Fill	Mid 13th - 14th	(5), 38g	316	196	**SF1:** Bone Pin (1), <1g Oyster Shell (1), <1g

				Pit Fill - Animal Burial				52	Fe Nail Fragments (2), 11g
1143	1144		13	Ditch Fill	14th - 15th	(2), 192g	128	54	Coal (3), 27g
1145	1146		13	Ditch Fill			44	355	
1150	1151		15	Ditch Fill			5		
1155	1141		30	Pit Fill	17th - 18th	(2), <1g	47	150	Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1), 3g Oyster Shell (1), 9g Fe Nail Fragment (1), 9g
1077	1157		11	Ditch Fill	15th - Mid 16th	(22), 400g	300	282	Oyster Shell (1), 10g Cockle Shell (2), <1g Fe Nail Fragments (2), 66g
	1158				13th - 14th	(5), 104g	676	50	Oyster Shell (1), 30g Fe Nail Fragments (3), 100g
1161	1162 1163		11	Pit Fill	15th - 16th 15th - 16th	(1), 32g (1), 5g	94 407	30	
1164	1165		11	Ditch Fill			594		
1168	1169		30	Ditch Terminus Fill			106	7	
1170	1171 1172		30	Pit Fill				122	Slate (2), <1g Slag (2), 166g Mussel Shell (1), <1g Snail Shell (1), <1g
1173	1174		30	Gully Fill					Oyster Shell (2), 7g
1177	1178		11	Pit Fill			1678		Whelk Shell (1), 7g
1179	1180		11	Gully Fill			178	5	
1181	1182		30	Pit Fill			274	32	Oyster Shell (3), 7g
1184	1185		30	Pit Fill	15th - 16th	(3), 38g	639	439	
1187	1188		16	Linear Feature Fill	13th - 14th	(6), 126g			
1191			1	Layer	Late 13th - 14th	(2), 166g	370	30	Charcoal (3), 10g
1211	1212		33	Linear Feature Fill			92		
1219	1220		25	Ditch/Pit Fill	Late 18th - 19th	(1), 24g	788		Clay Pipe Bowl Fragment (1), 14g

	1222				Late 18th - 19th	(8), 128g	678	<1	Clay Pipe Stem Fragments (2), 5g
1223	1224		18	Pit Fill			66		Fe Knife Fragments (2), 44g
1225	1226		18	Pit Fill	Late 18th - 19th	(8), 30g	250		Clay Pipe Stem Fragments (2), 7g Fe Nail Fragments (2), 15g
1227	1228		18	Tree Bole/Pit Fill			112	3	
1229	1230		18	Ditch Fill	17th/18th	(2), 15g	222	<1	Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1), <1g Charcoal (2), <1g Burnt Flint (1), 7g Fe Nail Fragments (4), 33g
1231	1232		18	Ditch Fill			148		
1233	1234		18	Ditch Fill			242	13	Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1), <1g Oyster Shell (2), <1g Fe Fragment (1), 3g
1235	1236		18	Pit Fill	17th - 18th	(1), 1g	102		Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1), <1g
1237	1238		18	Pit Fill	Late 15th - 16th	(1), 11g	154	11	
1239	1240		18	Pit Fill	19th - 20th	(1), 5g	454	15	Clay Pipe Stem Fragments (2), 5g Slate (1), 7g Fe Nail Fragments (4), 56g
1241	1242		18	Pit Fill	Late 18th - 19th	(3), 29g	102		
1243	1244		18	Pit Fill			250		Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1), 1g
1245	1246		18	Pit Fill	Mid 18th - Late 19th	(8), 106g	506		Clay Pipe Stem Fragments (3), 7g Fe Nail Fragments (2), 11g
1253	1254	A	34	Linear Feature Fill	16th - 18th	(2), 33g	947	189	Slate (1), 19g Oyster Shell (1), 7g
		B	35		16th - 18th	(1), 5g	28		Slate (1), <1g
1257	1258		34	Linear Feature Fill			1279	431	Glass Bottle Fragment (1), 13g Fe Nail Fragment (1), 11g
1260	1261		34	Linear Feature Fill	17th - 18th	(1), 5g	78	4	
1266	1267		26	Ditch Fill	15th - 16th	(3), 42g	2398	306	

1268	1269		32	Ditch Terminus Fill	Late 15th - Early 17th	(3), 24g	596	124	Slate (1), 15g Oyster Shell (7), 36g
U/S				Near Trench 2	13th - 14th	(1), 106g	877	262	
			15		Late 13th - Early 15th	(4), 36g			Oyster Shell (5), 28g
			20		Prehistoric - Iron Age?	(1), 15g			Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1), <1g

APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Flint

By Andrew Peachey

The evaluation produced a total of four fragments (29g) of struck flint and two fragments (29g) of burnt flint. The struck flint included both retouched implements and debitage and is probably residual although Pit F1066 contained only struck flint. The burnt flint fragments were entirely recovered from Kiln F1076 (L1085 and L1087) and are almost certainly a bi-product of the industrial processes associated with this feature (and do not merit further discussion).

Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'non-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as it's breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

Raw Materials

The struck flint has been manufactured from high quality natural flint probably sourced from primary chalk deposits. The flint is dark grey with an off-white cortex and few internal imperfections. The end scraper in Layer L1135 is in a particularly high quality flint that is near black in colour. Although St. Osyth is outside the chalk bearing flint belt that runs through much of East Anglia (Whittaker 1994, 3) it remains feasible that such flint may have been present in a local secondary source such as clay containing flints, however it is highly unlikely such flint could have been sourced from coastal or gravel deposits and is remains possible the flint was not sourced locally.

Lithic technology

The implement types and debitage present in the three features containing struck flint have close affinities with the lithic technology of the early Neolithic period; however any characterisation is limited by the small sample size. Pit F1066 (L1067) contained a retouched blade and a tertiary flake of debitage. The blade is narrow with a length of 38mm and width of 12mm, and has fine unilateral retouch. The tertiary flake has blade-

like proportions but has slightly irregular sides. Layer L1135 contained a single end scraper fashioned from very high quality dark grey (near black) flint. Steep retouch had been applied the distal end and both lateral edges of the dorsal side, while shallower retouch had bee applied to the same areas on the ventral side. The resulting scraper has relatively blunted edges and is of a type probably used to scrape fresh hide or meat. An irregular secondary flake of debitage was also contained in Linear F1018 (L1019).

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The Pottery
by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 145 sherds weighing 2.128 kg. The overall character of the assemblage is of abraded sherds dating between the high medieval and transitional periods. The medieval and early post-medieval pottery was probably all locally produced from the north Essex area with the exception of several sherds of stoneware. The mean average sherd size is 14.7g, but some larger diagnostic pieces such as rims and handles were recovered. All the pottery was examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded on Excel database. The pottery is tabulated below by ware, sherd number, fabric weight and average sherd size (Table 1).

Ware/fabric (with Essex code)	*Date*	*Sherd Count*	*Fabric weight*	*Average sherd weight*
Flint and sand	Prehistoric – Iron Age?	1	16	16
F20* Sandy grey ware	12th-14th	27	495	18.3
F21A* Colchester slipped and glazed ware	early 13th-14th	6	39	6.5
F21A* Colchester coarse ware	early 13th-mid 16th	11	192	17.4
F21 medieval sandy orange ware	Early 13th-mid 16th	42	811	19.3
F21* " with clear glaze	15th-mid 16th	10	158	15.8

F21* " white slip lines over reduced surfaces	15th-mid 16th	5	66	13.2
F40 Post-medieval red earthenware	early 16th-19th	25	197	7.8
F45B* Siegburg stoneware	early 14th-early 16th	1	10	10
F45C* Raeren stoneware?	late 15th-16th	1	12	12
F45D* Frechen stoneware	mid 16th-17th	1	8	8
F46A* Tin glazed earthenware	mid 16th-18th	1	4	4
F50* Staffordshire marbled slip ware	Late 17th-18th	1	4	4
F45* English stonewares	Late 17th-18th	2	40	20
F45G* Nottinghamshire stoneware	18th	3	34	11.3
F48C* Creamware	Early 18th-late 19th	2	30	15
F48 factory made earthenwares	Mid 18th-19th	6	12	2

Table 1 The wares/fabrics by sherd number, weight and average weight

The diagnostic sherds

Other than one unstratified prehistoric sherd from near Trench 20 comprising sparse coarse flint, and medium to coarse quartz sand temper, and possibly of Iron Age date, all the remaining pottery ranges from medieval to early modern. The medieval pottery almost exclusively comprises sandy grey wares of 12th-14th century date and sandy orange wares of the early 13th to mid 16th centuries (Cottar 2000, 91 and 108). There is nothing to certainly date any of the pottery before the mid 13th century.

Greywares

The majority of the greyware sherds are small and undiagnostic but Gully F1179 contained a thumbed jug base, and although the form cannot be ascertained, such decoration appears to be most common on small rounded jugs mainly dated to the second half of the 13th century (Cottar 2000, 101). A Colchester-type coarse ware sherd was also present in this context. Layer L1191 contained a fragment from a heavy (153g) medieval greyware groove decorated strap handle, similar to examples from squat jugs from Colchester (Cottar 2000, Fig. 65.48). Similar broad handles from large vessels at Danbury were dated to the late 13th-14th centuries (Cottar 2000, 101). A similar handle (108g) was unstratified from near Trench 2.

Colchester wares

Seventeen sherds of the sandy orange wares (23%) are Colchester-type wares containing coarse grey and milky coloured quartz fabrics with occasional flint inclusions. Posthole F1014 contained two sherds including a Colchester type ware jug rod handle and rim in particularly coarse sand temper. This comprises common sub-rounded to rounded grey, clear and white quartz, and sparse flint and burnt organics; surfaces are orange-brown and core grey. Six Colchester sherds were white slipped under green or clear glaze and would match an early 12th-14th century date (Cottar 2000, 108). Such slipped and glazed sherds were present in Pits F1137 and F1142, an example in linear feature F1099 may have been residual, as it included later looking sandy oxidised wares including a bowl rim of similar form to types from Colchester dated late 15th-16th century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 441 No. 2107).

Fabric 21
This group comprises the remainder of sandy oxidised wares, some of which may also have been products from Colchester. The majority, including better fired and finer fabrics sometimes with painted slip lines or clear/brown glaze, appear late medieval. Ditch F1143 contained a large piece (136g) of rounded jug base with faint thumb marks/decoration immediately above the base angle. The oxidised surfaces had patches of clear glaze, either indicating glaze had been applied higher up on the jug, or that the vessel was dripped upon by other glazed vessels during firing.

Ditch F1156 contained 26 sherds, nearly all red earthenwares including two examples with internal white slip, and two with external white slip lines, over reduced surfaces, one also with patchy clear glaze. Forms include a flanged jar rim 18 cm in diameter, a jug rim, and a small 4cm diameter pedestal base. A sherd of Siegburg stoneware is also present in pale grey fabric with external 'corrugated' surface and with thin, clear salt glaze on the inner surface. These wares were first imported from the Rhineland in small amounts in the earlier 14th century and continued until they were replaced by highly decorated wares in the early 16th century. A date of 15th-early16th century is probable for this assemblage.

Two sherds from pit F1154 match similar descriptions to 15th-16th century pottery from Angel's Yard, Colchester that contained mica but lacked chert (Cottar 2000, 108).

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The Ceramic Building Materials
By Andrew Peachey

The evaluation produced a total of 845 fragments (62843g) of post-medieval CBM (Table 2). The bulk of the CBM is accounted for by fragments of peg tile, notably including a high concentration in Kiln M1077, while sparse fragments of brick and occasional fragments of ridge tile are also present. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and described below. Any extant dimensions or typological characteristics were also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the archive.

CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg tile	772	50038
Ridge tile	3	380
Brick	70	12425
Total	845	62843

Table 2: Quantification of CBM types

The peg tile and ridge tile occur in a single fabric with oxidised red surfaces (2.5YR 5/6-5/8) and a core that may be similarly oxidised or fade to a reduced dark grey. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.5mm, occasionally larger) and sparse to occasional flint (1-8mm). The fabric is hard with an abrasive feel. The peg tile has partial dimensions of ?x165x12-14mm and while generally flat has often become warped during firing. The peg tile in this assemblage has circular peg holes, a sanded base and often exhibits slight grooved on the top of each side where the clay was present into the tile mould. The ridge tile is similarly manufactured with a thickness of 12-14mm, a sanded base and a slight lip at either end where the clay was pressed into a mould or knife-trimmed. The only major concentration of peg tile in the assemblage is in the fills of Kiln M1077, which account for 316 fragments (28781g) of the peg tile in the assemblage, or 40.93% of the peg tile by fragment count (57.52% by weight). Much of the peg tile from Kiln M1077 has been burnt or over-fired (as a result of secondary firing), indicating that peg tile was probably used to construct the super-structure, lining and/or the floor of the kiln. Beyond Kiln M1077 peg tile is near ubiquitous in contexts that contained CBM, but is never present in any significant concentration. Ridge tile was only recorded in two contexts (Layer L1002 and Pit F1118) and is a very rare occurrence in the assemblage.

The assemblage contains at least two types of brick in a single fabric that are probably contemporary in the late 16th to early 18th centuries. Both bricks are in an oxidized red fabric (2.5YR 4/6-4/8) with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm, occasionally larger), sparse red and black iron rich grains (0.2-2.5mm) and sparse-occasional cream and dark red clay pellets/grog and flint (<10mm). The most common type of brick, accounting for a total of 26 fragments (7229g) has partial dimensions of ?x100-105x50mm with a smooth base and regular slightly rounded/sharp arrises. This type of brick was probably produced from the 16th to early 18th centuries (Ryan 1996, 95). The only small concentration of this type of brick is in Ditch F1022 (L1023) which includes fragments from at least three bricks, while sparse further fragments of this brick type are present in Ditches F1010, F1219, Pits F1012, F1127, Layer L1136 and Kiln M1077 (L1078). The second type of brick has partial dimensions of ?x110x60mm with a smooth base and regular slightly rounded/sharp arrises. This type of brick could have been produced between the late 16th and early 19th centuries (Ryan 1996, 95). A near complete example of this type of brick

was present in Layer L1002 while further fragments were present in Linear F1253 and Ditch F1266. Intriguingly further fragments of brick in a comparable fabric were recovered from Kiln F1076, in total 38 fragments (798g), but due to a high level fragmentation (probably the result of thermal fracturing) these could not be assigned to either type. These fragments are notable because a substantial number exhibit splashes of lead glaze on their 'upper' surfaces that probably dripped onto the bricks during the stacking or firing of the kiln. The bricks may have been incorporated into the floor or lining of the kiln or acted as supports or spacers within it.

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The Animal Bone
By Dr James Morris

Introduction

The trial trenching carried out at West Field, St Osyths, resulted in the hand collection of approximately 654 fragments of animal bone. An initial scan was carried out to assess the general nature of the assemblage, its preservation and areas of further investigation. Spot dating indicates the majority of the faunal remains come from the high (AD1250-1400) and late medieval (AD1400-1500) periods.

Of the 654 fragments present, 537 (82%) were recovered from features within Trench 30, which is the trench situated closest to St Osyths abbey. However, 397 of the animal bones recorded from this trench came from associated bone groups (ABGs). In total five ABGs were recorded from this site, with all but one recovered from trench 30. In comparison the second largest trench assemblage, consists of 42 bones from trench 14.

A number of unstratified faunal remains were also collected from the site. As the work carried out on the assemblage consists of an initial scan, unstratified remains are not considered in this report.

Methods

The faunal remains from each context were scanned in line with MAP2 procedures (Archaeological Solutions 2003; Davis 1992; English Heritage 1991; 2002) during which each fragment was identified to species. When it was not possible to identify to species the bones were recorded as unidentified. As the scan is to ascertain the assemblage's potential, bird and fish bones are not identified to species and are recorded as 'BIRD' and 'FISH'.

For an assessment of this nature element information was not recorded. The number of fragments with available taphonomic, butchery, ageing and metrical information was also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Access database which will be included in the site archive.

Results-preservation

The preservation of the majority of the assemblage is good. A small amount of erosion and fragmentation (when two or more inter-fitting fragments from the same bone are present) was noted. A small number of elements from all periods had canid gnawing present.

It was noted during the scan that the faunal remains from contexts L1011 in Trench 2, L1180 in trench 11, L1228, L1230 and L1240 in trench 18 were particularly poorly preserved. There does however, appear to be no preservation pattern per trench, as a number of contexts in Trench 18 also have very well preserved bones. The highly eroded and gnawed elements present in the above contexts are likely to represent material which was primarily deposited above ground, before being secondarily deposited within the contexts.

Overall the condition of the assemblage indicates the site has relatively good bone preservation conditions.

Results-species present

Overall domestic mammals dominate the assemblage with only a small number of wild mammal and bird elements present (Table 1). Excluding the ABGs sheep/goat are the most common species recorded from the high and late medieval contexts, with pig being the most common from post-medieval contexts. A small number of cattle and horse elements were also recovered from most periods.

Phase	High Medieval	Late Medieval	Post-Medieval	Early Modern	**Total**
Cattle	8	10	1		**19**
Sheep/Goat	24	30	15		**69**
Pig	209 (204)	11	51 (3)		**271 (207)**
Horse	2	4			**6**
Dog		3 (3)	1		**4 (3)**
Cat	186 (186)	1			**187 (186)**
Fallow deer	1				**1**
Bird	5 (4)	1			**6 (4)**
Other Species	2				**2**
Unidentified	37	35	17	1	**90**
Total	**474 (394)**	**95 (3)**	**85 (3)**	**1**	**655 (400)**

Table 1 Summary of the NISP (number of identified specimens) per species for each period. The number in brackets indicates the number of elements from ABGs.

In total five ABGs were recovered from the site. Three date to the high medieval period and were all recovered from trench 30. A complete pig skeleton was recovered from fill L1138, of pit F1137. The only bones noted as missing were a number of second and third phalanges, however, these are easily missed during excavation. No butchery was noted on the skeleton and it would appear to have been deposited with much of the soft tissue still present. Tooth wear data from the right mandible (the left mandible was fragmented) gives

a Grant (1982) mandible wear stage of 29, which suggests the animal was between 14 and 21 months old when it died (Hambleton 1999, 65). The lower canines indicate that the animal was female. All the elements present are eroded, therefore fusion data is limited and it would not be possible to retrieve metrical data from them.

An almost complete cat ABG was recovered from fill L1142, of Pit F1140. All elements are present except for the skull, mandibles, axis and atlas. The distal aspect of the humerus is fused, but the rest of the elements present have unfused epiphyses, which would suggest the animal was between 15 and 19 weeks old when it died (Smith 1969). No butchery marks are present on the elements to indicate how the head was removed. The presence of the tail and toe bones also suggests the cat was not skinned before deposition. It is possible the cat was killed by wrenching the head off the top of spine, which has been observed on cat remains from Denmark (Luff and Garcia 1995).

The other ABG from this period consist of the right wing from a domestic fowl (chicken) from fill L1128, of Pit F1127. The ABG consists of the complete scapula, humerus, radius and ulna. It is unknown if these elements were recovered in articulation, therefore they may just represent the deposition of bone from the same animal.

The late medieval ABG was also recovered from a feature within Trench 30, fill L1128 of Pit F1127. The ABG consists of three articulating dog metacarpals. The fifth metacarpal has evidence of osteophyte activity and eburnation on the distal epiphysis, which is indicative of osteoarthritis. Again it is unknown if these elements were recovered in articulation, and they therefore may represent the deposition of bones from the same animal in the same context, or the secondary deposition of elements disturbed from a dog burial.

The post-medieval ABG consists of a pigs head (skull and mandibles) recovered from fill L1254, of Linear F1253 in Trench 34. The elements are from a juvenile animal, with a Grant (Grant 1982) mandible wear score of 19, indicating the animal was between 14 to 21 months old (Hambleton 1999, 65).

The presence of such ABG deposits in medieval contexts is not uncommon. Morris (2008, 279) has shown that domestic fowl, pig and dog ABGs are the most common species deposited in such a manner. The deposition of a cat ABG is more unusual as such deposits are more commonly recovered from urban sites and are often seen as either skinning waste or population control (Morris 2008, 337)

A small number of wild animal elements were also recorded during the scan. A fragment of fallow deer antler beam was recovered from L1144, from Ditch F1143. The antler had been cast and would therefore have been collected without the need to kill the animal. The posterior aspect of the beam has been sawn which may indicate some antler working took place on the site. A worked bone pin was also recovered from the site in fill L1142 of Pit F1140. It was probably made out of a cow metapodial using a lathe.

The other wild mammal elements recovered consist of the left mandible and maxilla of a hedgehog. These elements were recovered from fill L1171 of Pit F1170, which is the same pit as the cat ABG was recovered from. Occasional remains of hedgehog are not uncommon on medieval sites. They are often interpreted as the result of pit falls. This therefore may indicate that F1170 was left open before being filled in.

Results-further information

Although the preservation conditions appear to be good, the amount of further information available is relatively limited, due to the small size of the assemblage. The complete nature of the elements from the ABGs means that the majority of further information available is from these deposits (Table 2). Only a small number of mandibles with teeth were present within the assemblage, therefore the majority of the ageing data available will be from long bone fusion. With the exception of the ABGs very few long bones were complete, therefore metrical data is only available from 26 elements, 15 of which are sheep/goat metapodials or phalanges. All of the butchery marks consisted of chop marks and were present on cattle elements.

Phase	Fusion	Tooth wear	Measurements	Butchery
High Medieval	131 (116)	5 (2)	11 (9)	1
Late Medieval	33 (3)	1	21 (3)	2
Post-Medieval	20	3	6	1
Early Modern	0	0	0	0
Total	**184 (119)**	**9 (2)**	**38 (12)**	**4**

Table 2 Summary of further information available from the assemblage. The number in brackets indicates the number of elements from ABGs.

Summary of potential

At present the bone assemblage from St Osyths is small and dominated by ABGs, with limited further information available. It is therefore recommended that no further work is necessary on the current assemblage unless the site is to be published or further work produces a larger faunal assemblage.

The preliminary scan of the assemblage indicates that bone survival on the site is relatively good. Therefore if further archaeological work was to take place on the site an animal bone assemblage will be produced. The only animal bone assemblages from ecclesiastical sites in this region have been from excavations at Waltham Abbey (Huggins 1976) and Barking Abbey (Hamilton-Dyer 2002). Both produced small assemblages and the information from Waltham Abbey is limited. Therefore, as indicated by the amount of remains recovered from Trench 30, further archaeological work close to St Osyth's Abbey has the potential to produce a regionally important animal bone assemblage. Wade also points out that bone assemblages from medieval rural sites in the region are limited and priority should be given to 'good' animal bone deposits from this period. Further work at the St Osyths site has the potential to produce a 'good' bone assemblage.

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Environmental Archaeology
By Dr Rob Scaife

The evaluation undertaken by Archaeological Solutions Ltd. in the grounds of St Osyth Priory was visited on 14th October 2008 in order to ascertain what requirement for environmental sampling and analysis should be undertaken. Test Pits examined were primarily on the dry interfluves within a contemporary agricultural soil resting on Pleistocene river terrace gravels and bedrock. One area included a small topographical depression in proximity to a pond. It was thought that this might contain lacustrine sediments (not the case). Of substantially greater importance is the sequence of waterlogged palaeochannel sediments identified during preliminary survey. This palaeo-feature is part of the contemporary estuary, which is now, sediment filled and is low lying agricultural land. A machine trench was excavated to allow examination of the stratigraphy and sampling of the sediments for palaeoenvironmental studies.

1.) Trench 28

Soils filling a broad topographical depression. Although this is adjacent to the small pond, no sediments of lacustrine origin were observed. The profile was described as follows.

0 cm to 38 cm	Modern topsoil. Dark, humic, homogeneous agricultural plough soil with good crumb structure (10YR 3/2). Contains some reworked Pleistocene gravel. Sharp basal contact with underlying sub-soil.
38 cm to 82 cm	Sandy sub-soil containing Pleistocene pebbles ((10YR 5/3).
82 cm -	Basal Pleistocene river terrace gravels.

This slightly depressed area appears to have filled and levelled with coarser sands. This was probably colluvial/hill wash caused and aided by continued agriculture.

No environmental work is required on this profile. Coring of the pond sediments for pollen analysis might be more productive but such features tend to be problematic in terms of pond cleaning/recutting.

2.) The Palaeochannel

This is a sediment filled tributary channel which is waterlogged throughout but with evidence of a fluctuating water table causing oxidation and gleying of the upper sediments. A total depth of 2.60m was recorded at the deepest point of the channel.

0 cm to 0.60 m	Modern soil. Thick and colluvial with chalk/liming horizon at *ca.* 60cm.
0.60 cm to 0.90m	Grey/brown mottled (gleyed) silt with clay. Increasing clay down profile.
0.69m	Building brick
0.89m to 1.24cm	Wooden post (also other horizontal timbers)
0.80 cm	Glass (17th century).
1.0m	Masonry
1.45m	Wood
1.60m to 1.70m	Marine shells (primarily oyster) with bones.
2.40m to 2.55m	Humic silty clay with monocot remains. Slightly peaty.
2.55 to 2.60m	Grey clay.
2.60m -	Well defined contact with basal brown silty sand (10YR 5/6 to 10YR 5/8).

A more detailed description of the stratigraphy will be obtained from a laboratory examination of the monolith profiles obtained from the machine-dug section.

2.a.) Potential for environmental analysis and palaeohabitat reconstruction

The fine grained nature of these waterlogged sediments, the well preserved wood (natural and archaeological) and the archaeological component clearly indicate that there is good potential for reconstructing the medieval environment. Monolith profiles were obtained from the section and also a bulk sample from a horizon containing marine shells (*in situ* or midden). An interdisciplinary approach to the study should include the following environmental analyses.

Pollen analysis: This will provide a picture of the vegetation and environment of the priory grounds including local agriculture and the developing wetland environment.

Diatom analysis*:* Diatoms will provide data on changes in sea level and the marine incursion of this site which would possibly have had a bearing on transport/communications.

Foraminifera: These will provide a more detailed indication of the changing estuarine habitats and integrate with pollen and diatom studies.

***Plant macrofossils*:** Waterlogged and charred seeds were not observed in the sediments. However, a small number of samples from selected horizons may be analysed to establish presence or absence and if the former, the on-site vegetation.

Marine mollusca: A single horizon which was also associated faunal remains and archaeological material (pottery) is of medieval age. Examination of the shell whether they are *in situ*, beach sorted material or midden/waste would provide information on local habitats and potential for resource exploitation.

The stratigraphy: A more detailed description of the stratigraphy and the sedimentological characteristics will be carried out in the laboratory (Southampton University).

Dating: Artefactual material including pottery was found in the section. This appears to be of medieval and later age indicating that this profile should provide palaeoenvironmental data on the environmental history of the priory. The basal sediment of the channel is of more humic character. Radiocarbon from this will date the initiation of the sediment accretion. This will be of use in relating the site and sediments to changes in the relative sea level.

Pleistocene gravels: On the higher ground of the interfluves, patches of gravels underlying the modern plough soils were identified. These are high-level river terrace gravels of middle Pleistocene (Palaeolithic) age. Although these are not specifically related to archaeology (unless Palaeolithic lithics have been previously) recorded, mapping/production of a contour map of these deposits would be of geological and geomorphological importance/use.

2.b.) Stages of Analysis

Initially, a programme of standard assessment analyses should be carried out on those environmental categories detailed above. This will ascertain what aspects might be taken to full analysis for possible future publication.

Suggested analysts:

Pollen analysis: Dr Rob Scaife. University of Southampton.

Plant macrofossil assessment: Dr Rob Scaife, University of Southampton.

Diatom analysis: Dr Nigel Cameron. University College, London.

Marine Mollusca: Dr Simon Bray. University of Southampton.

Foraminifera: Jan Gillespie. Trust for Maritime Archaeology, National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP1
Wooden posts in Trench 1 looking north-east

DP2
Timber Structure F1193 in Trench 1 looking west

DP3
Tile Kiln M1077 in Trench 14 looking south-west

DP4
Detail of Wall M1077, south-east chamber, looking south-west

DP5
Pits F1231, F1233, and F1235 in Trench 18, looking west

DP6
Trench 18 general view, looking west

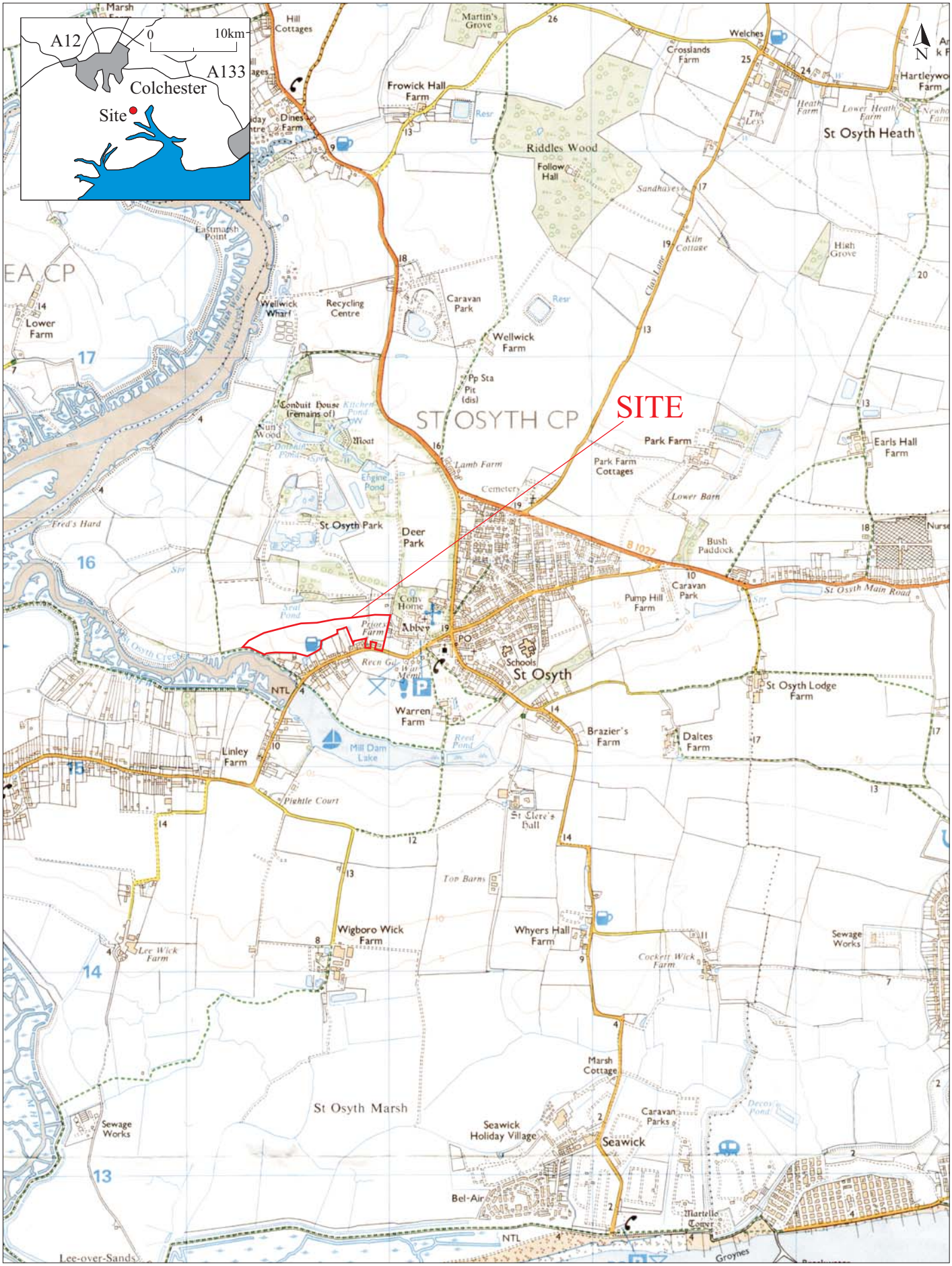

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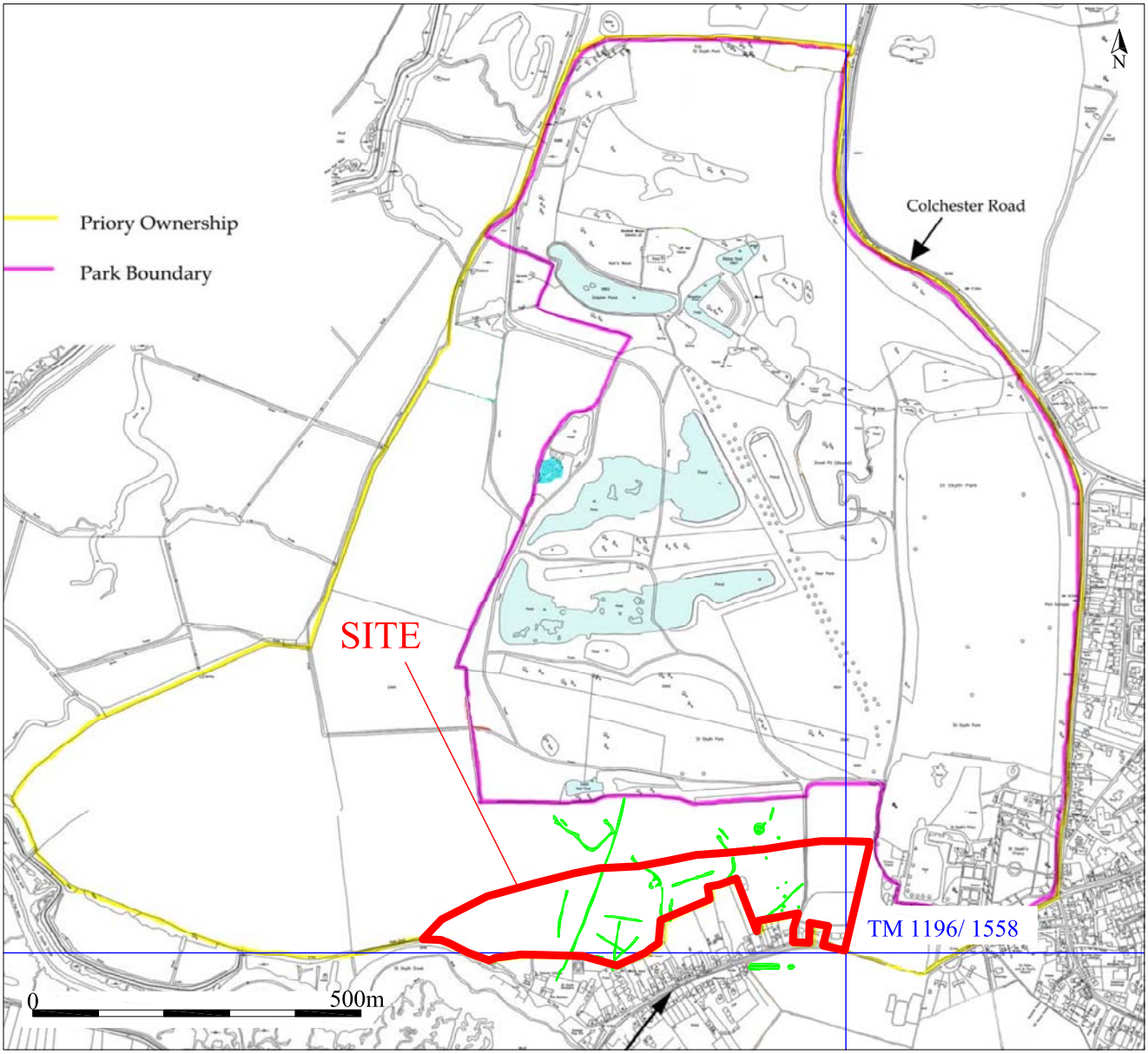
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4



Cropmarks

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:10000 at A4

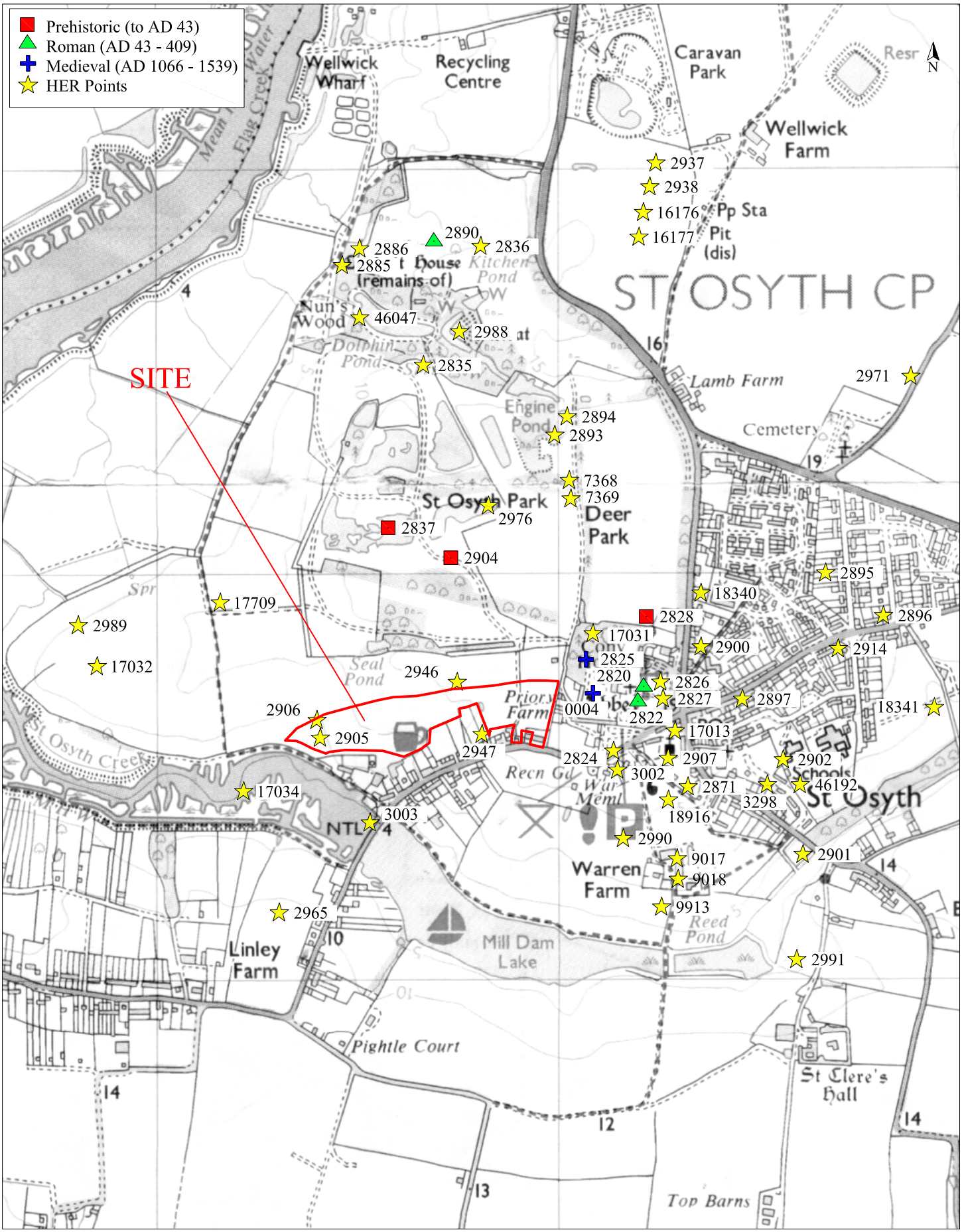

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Fig. 3 HER Data

Scale 1:12,500 at A4

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Fig. 4 Plan of the Parish of Chich St Osyth in the County of Essex, the Estate of Fredrick Nassau Esq. 1814

Scale 1:10000 at A4

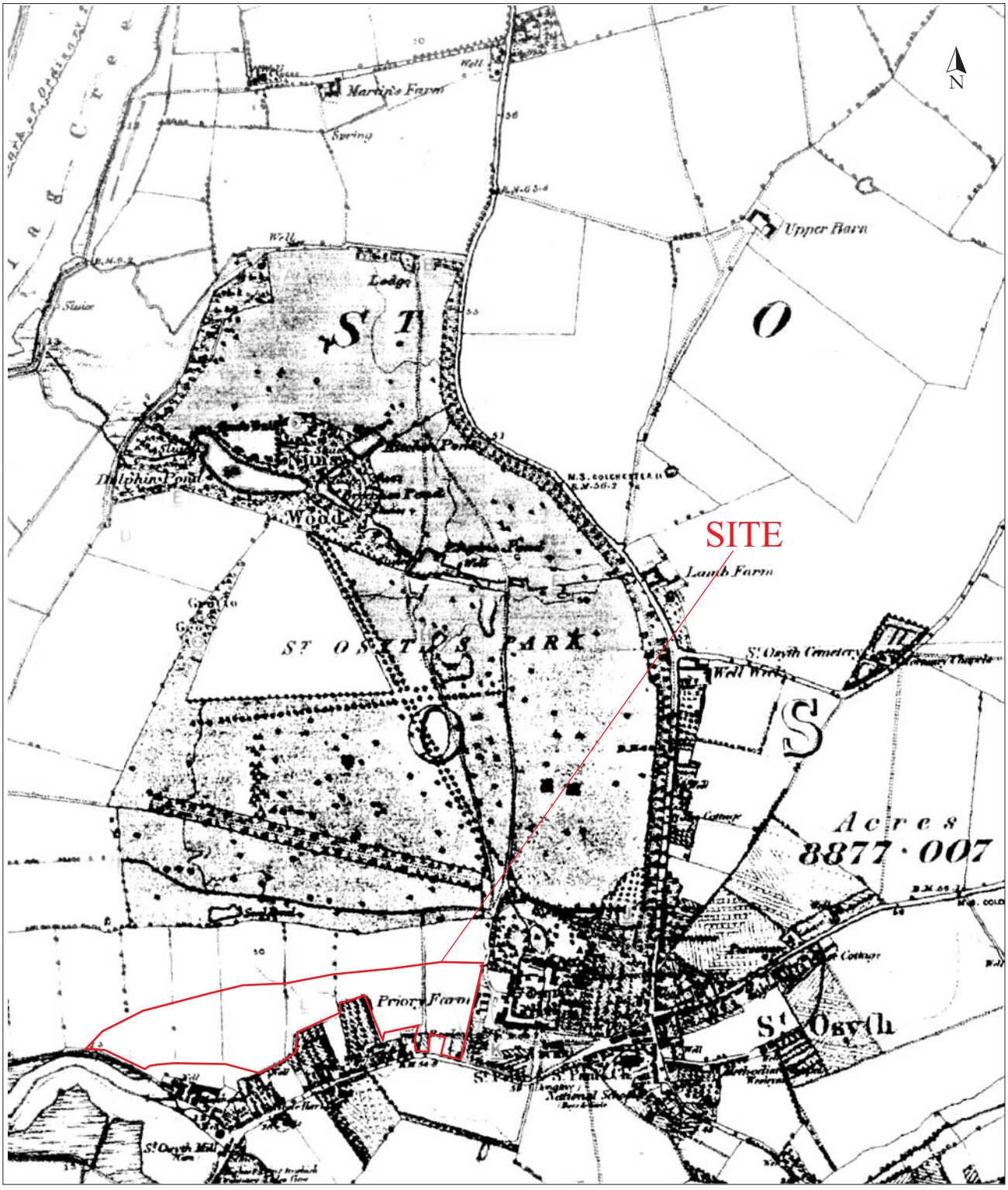

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Fig. 5 1st edition OS map 1876

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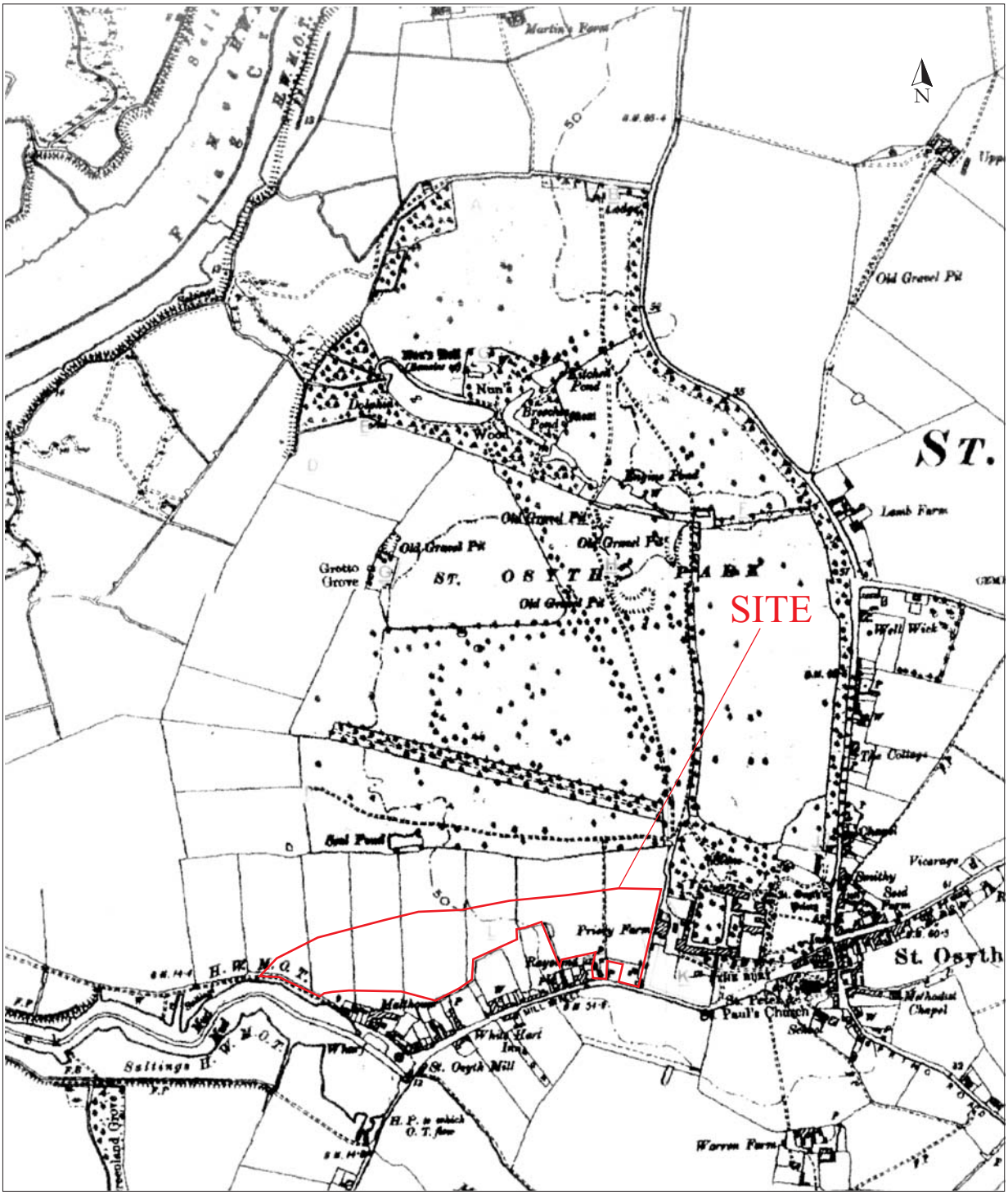

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Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map 1897

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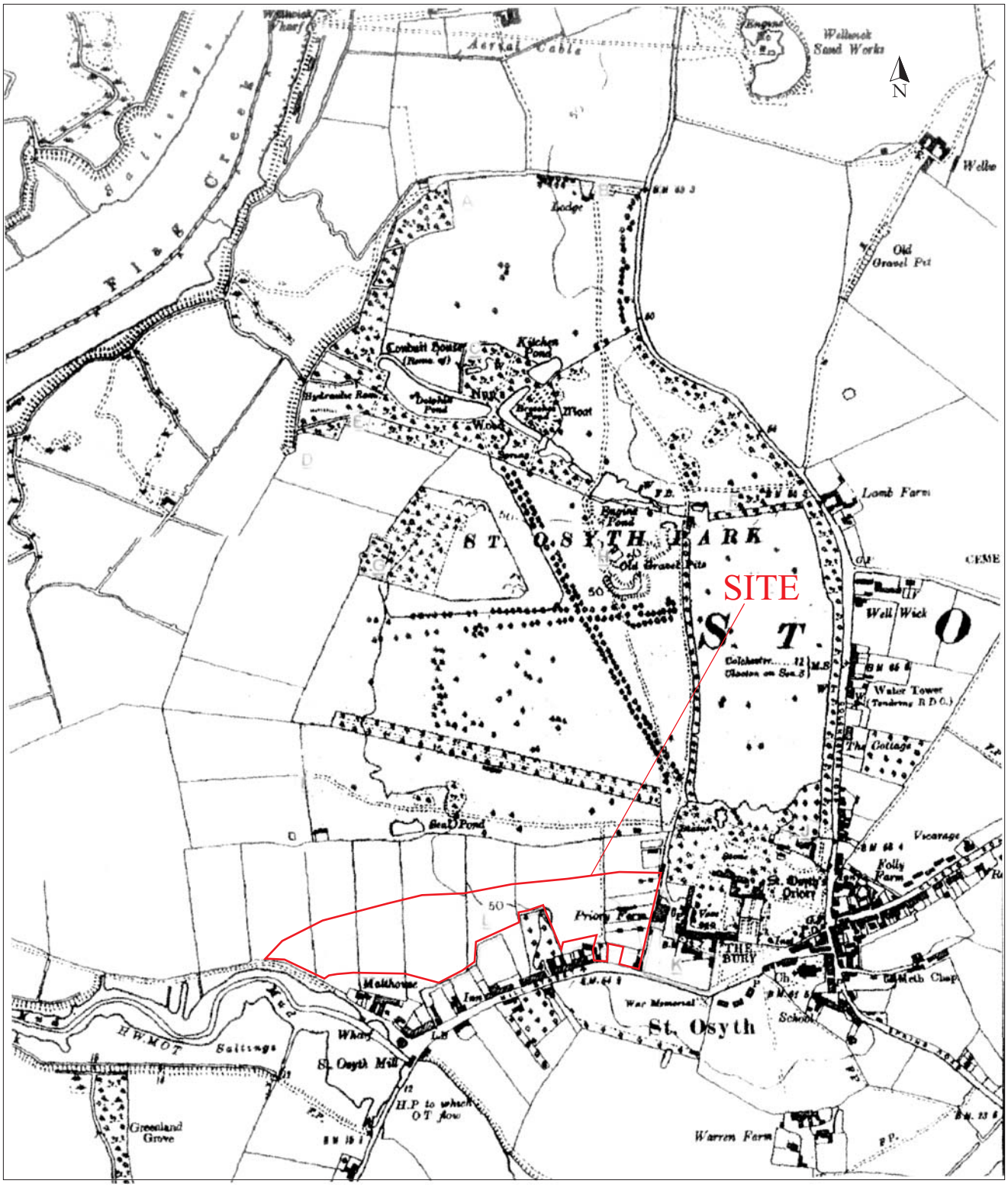

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Fig. 7 3rd edition OS map 1915-24

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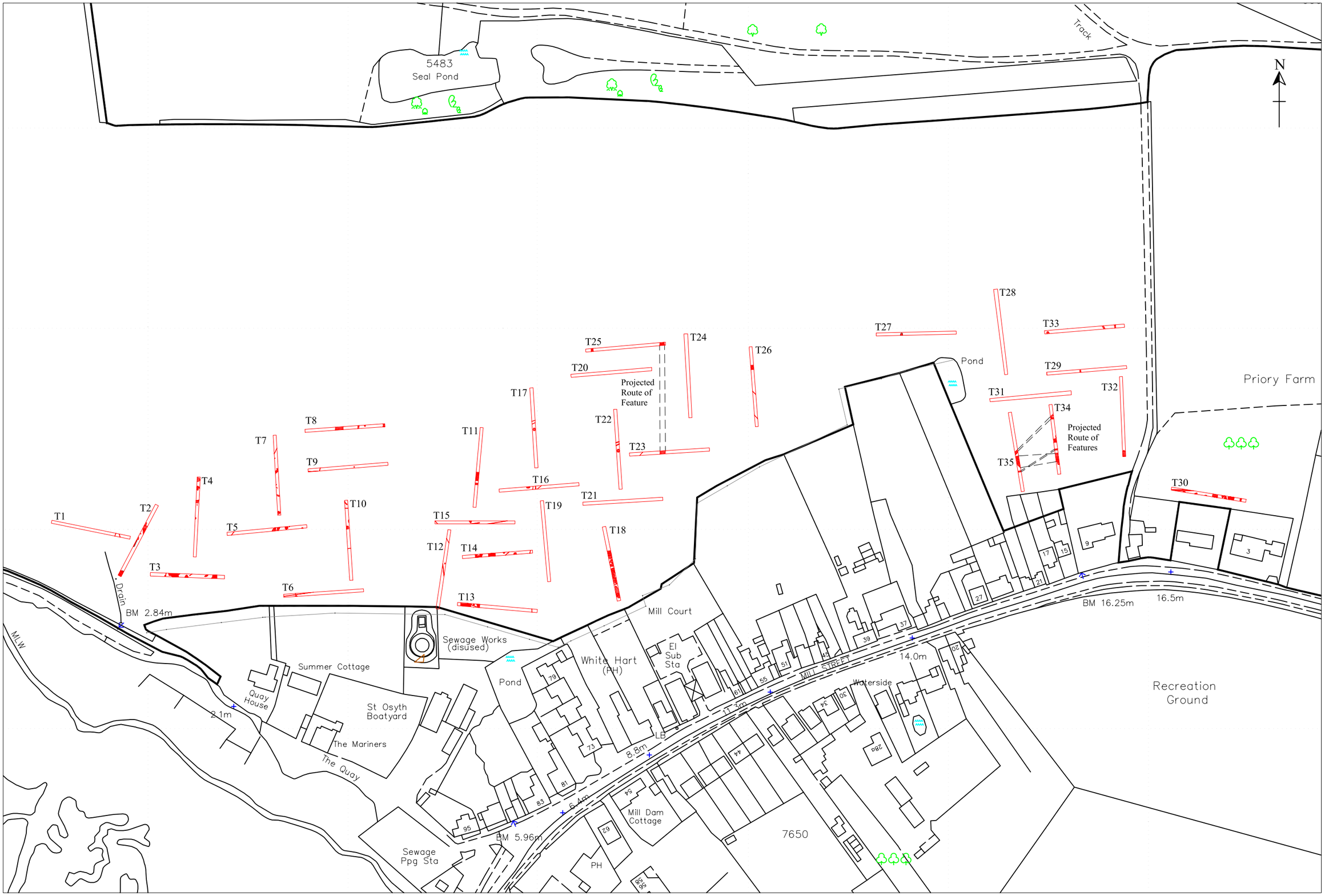

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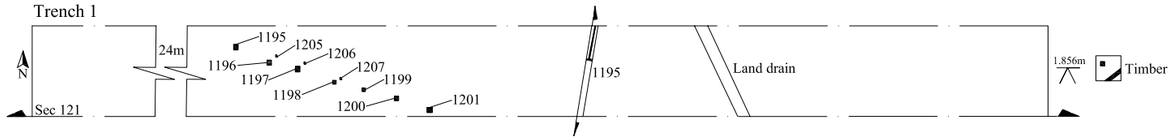
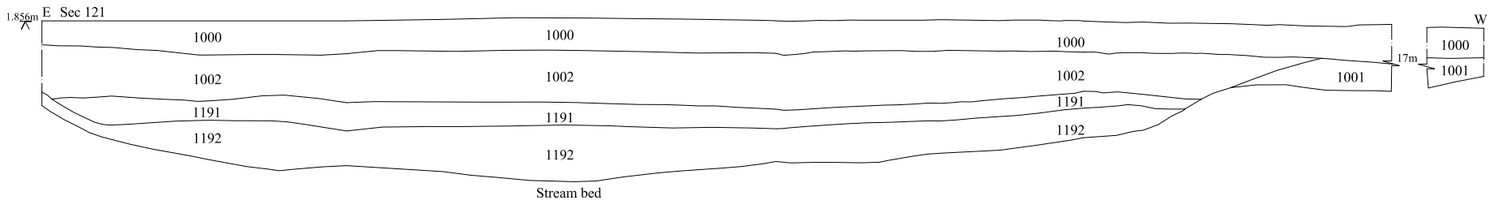
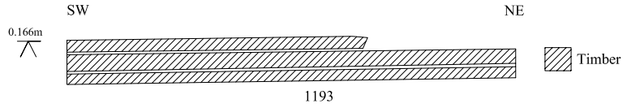
Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:1750 at A3

Trench 1







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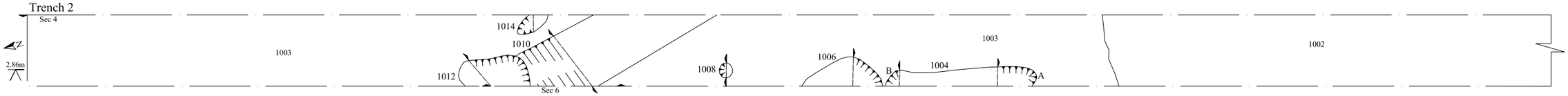

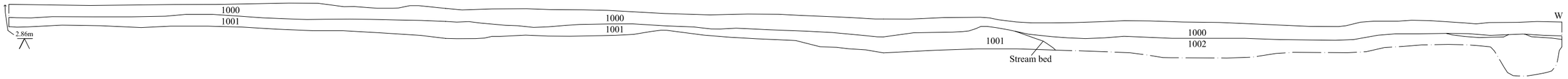

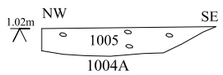

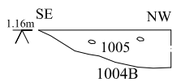

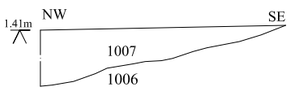

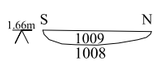

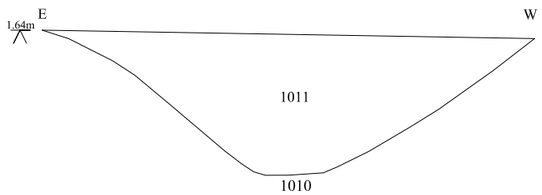

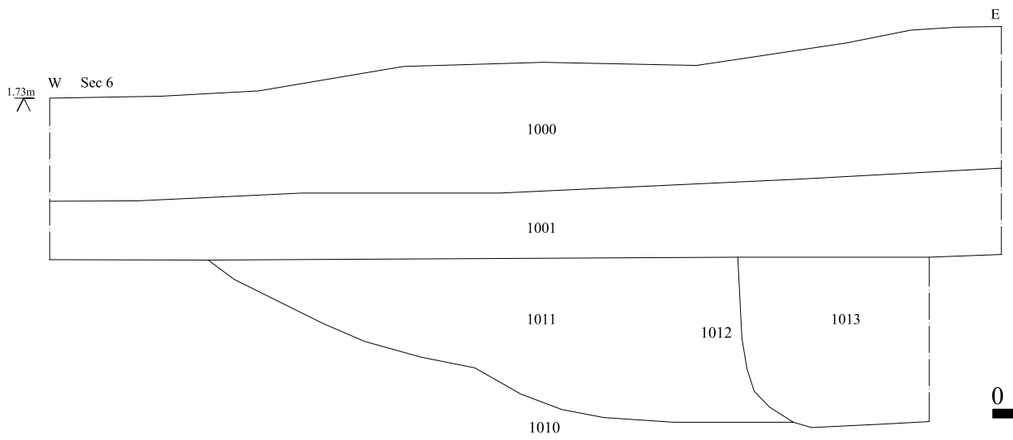

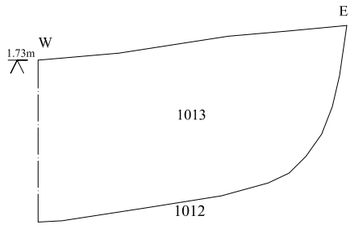

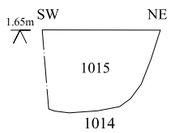

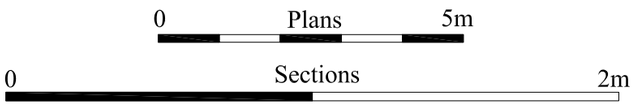

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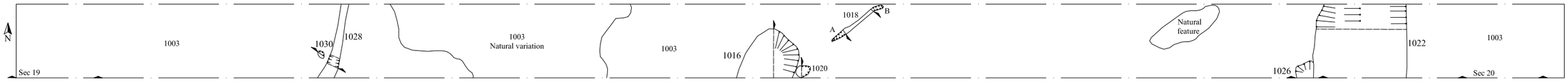
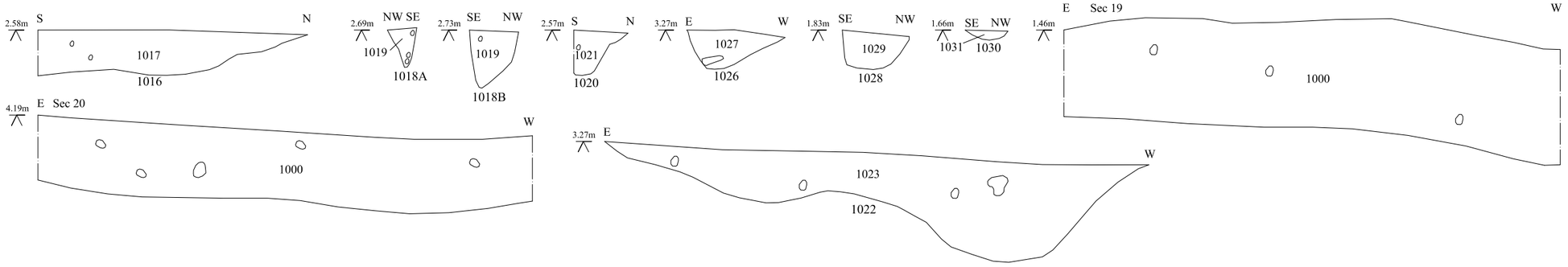
Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections

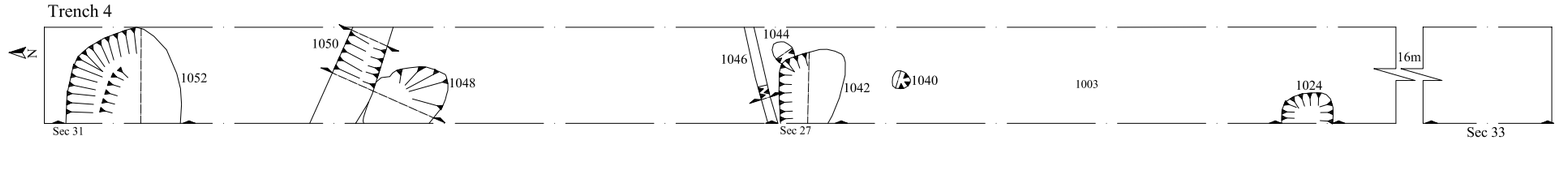
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

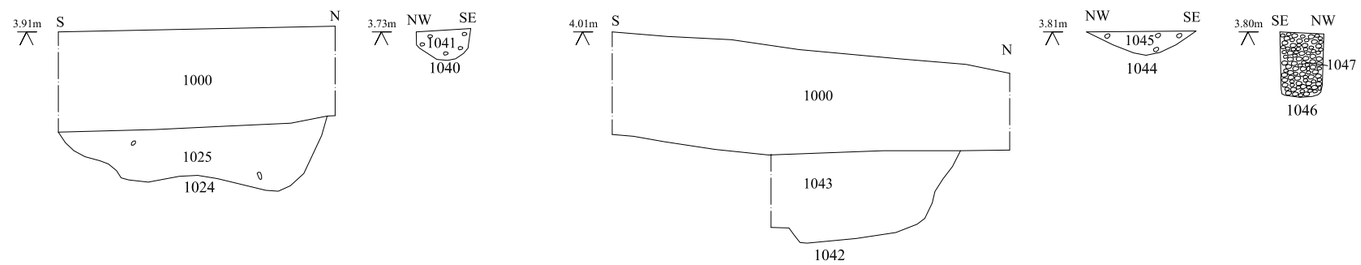
Trench 3





Trench 4





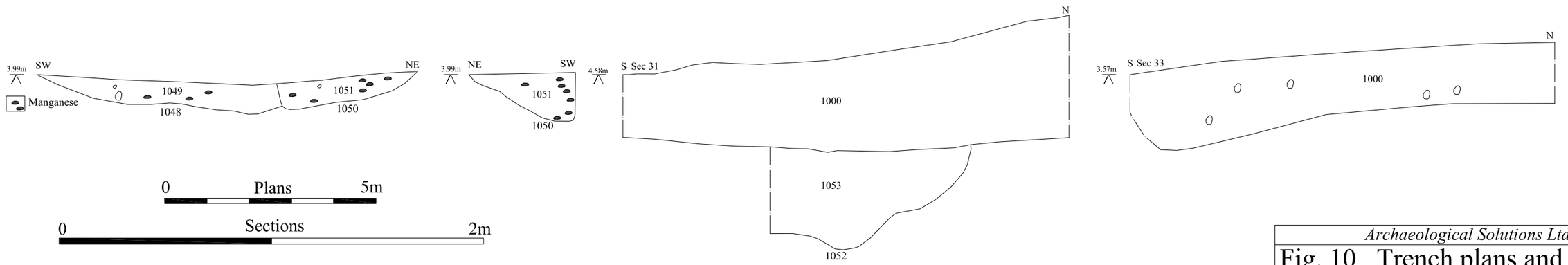


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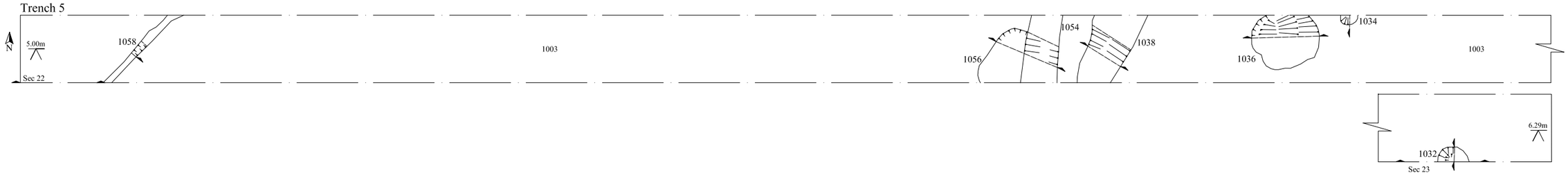
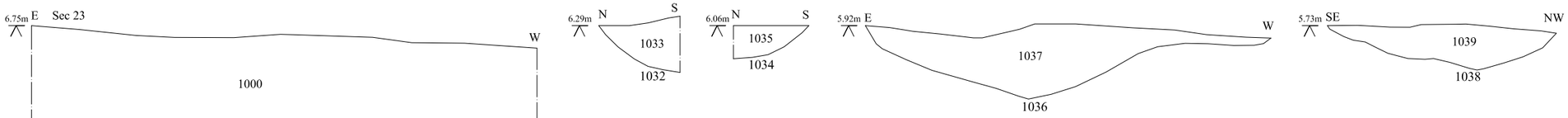
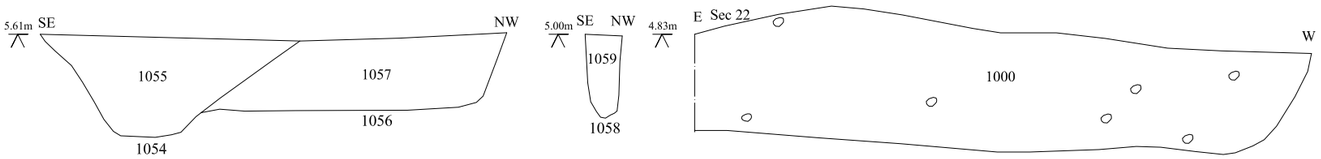
Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Trench 5



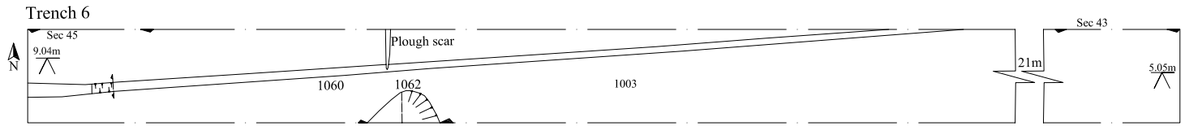


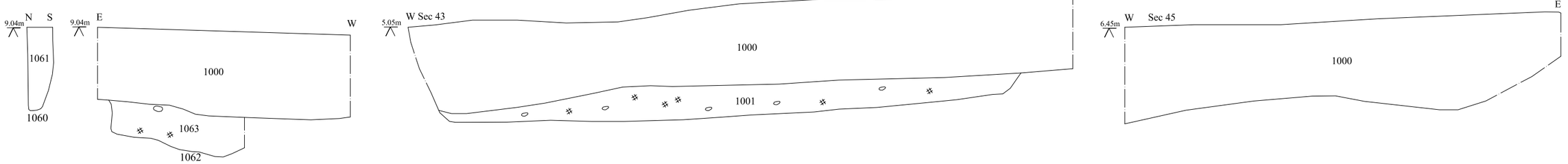


0 Plans 5m

0 Sections 2m

Trench 6





Trench 7

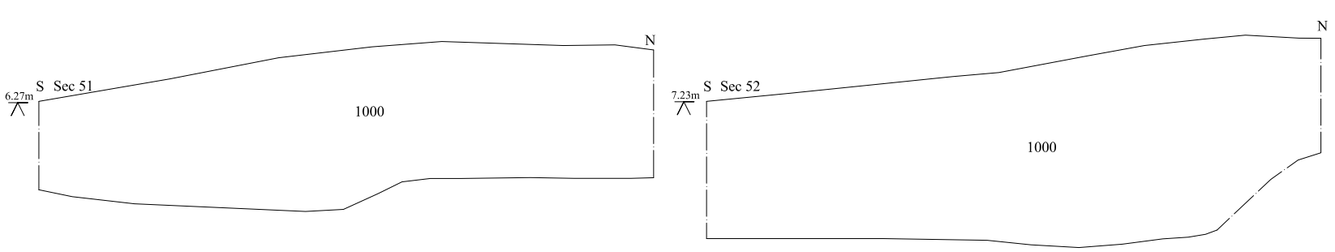


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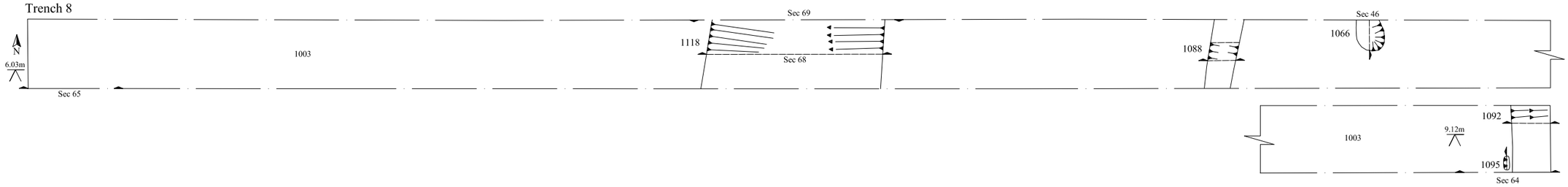
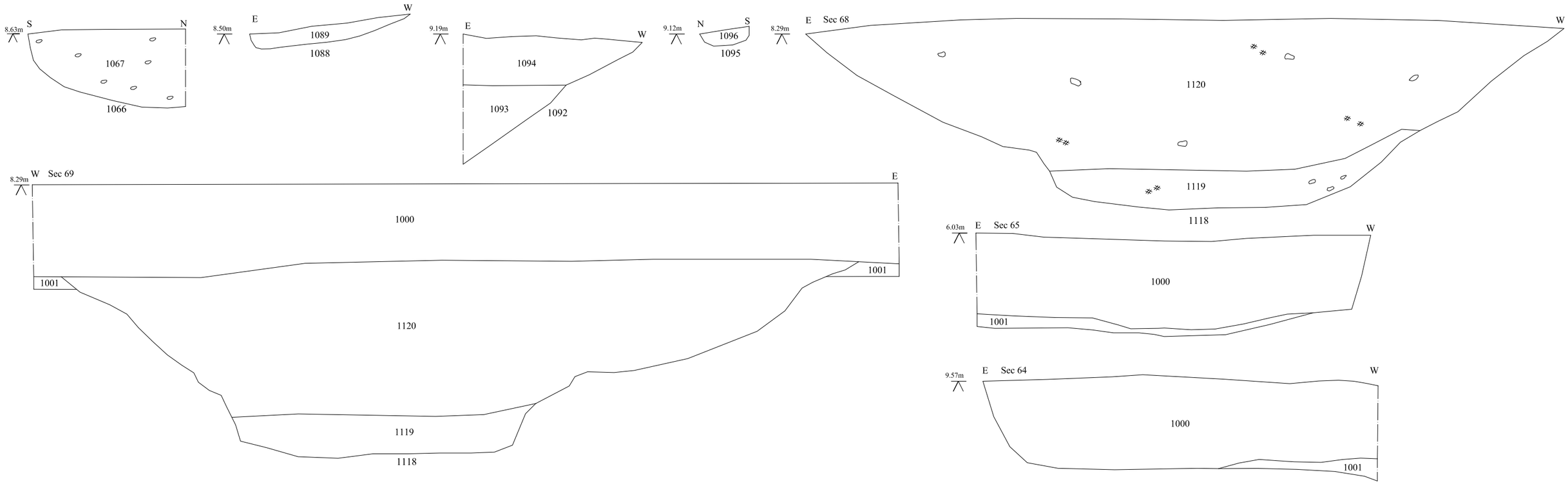
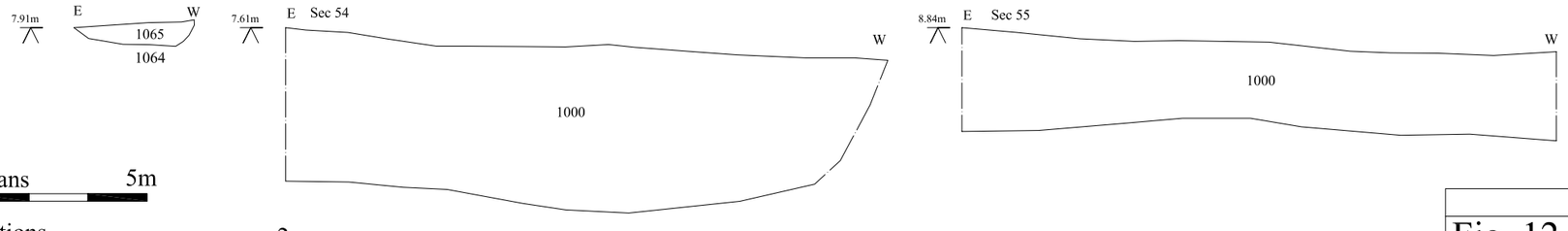
Fig. 11 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Trench 8







0 Plans 5m

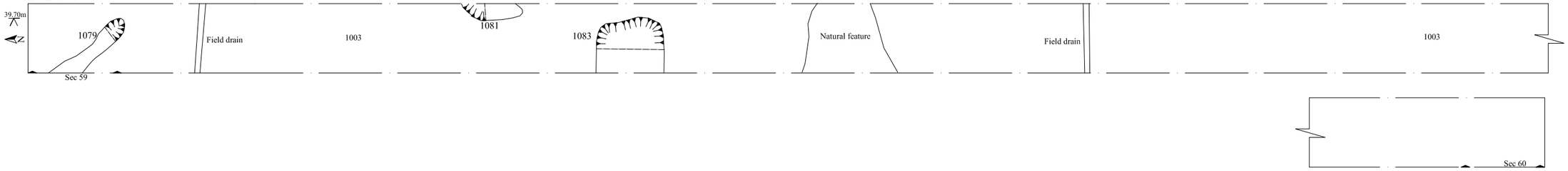
0 Sections 2m

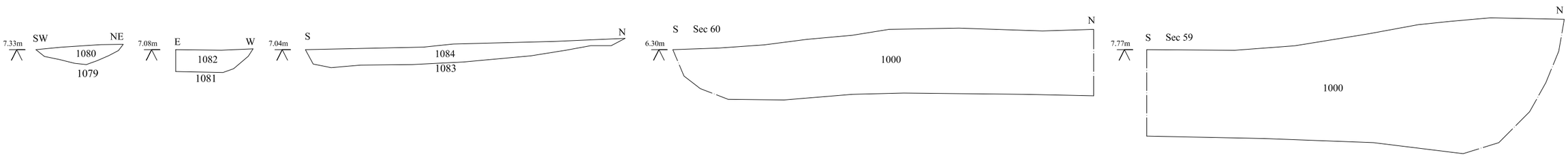
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 12 Trench plans and sections

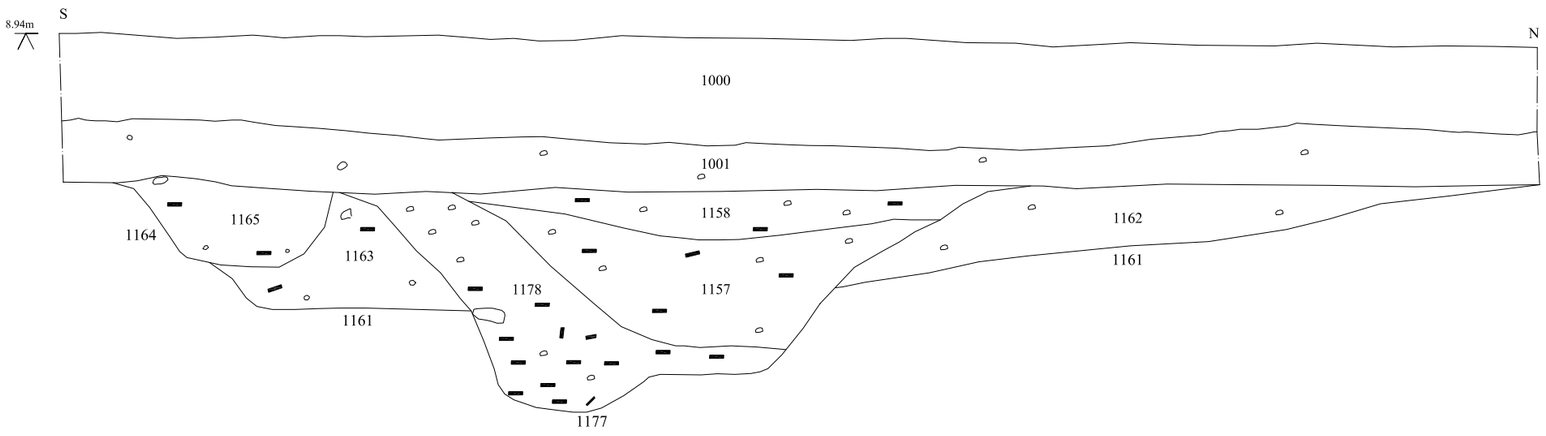
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

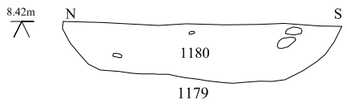
Trench 10

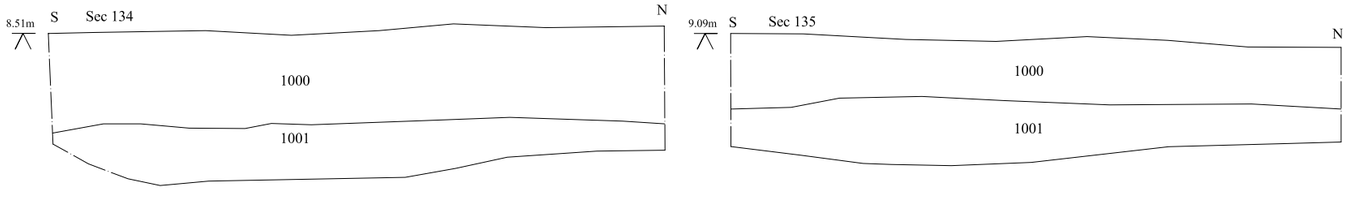




Trench 11







0 Plans 5m

0 Sections 2m

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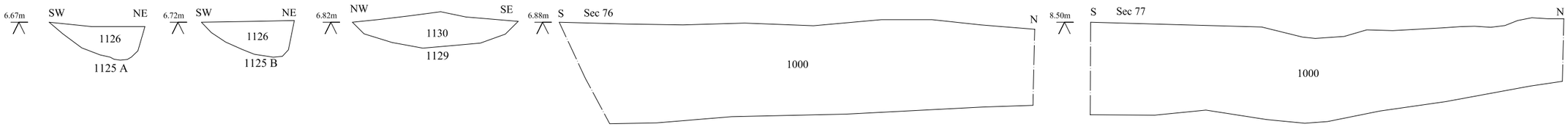
Fig. 13 Trench plans and sections

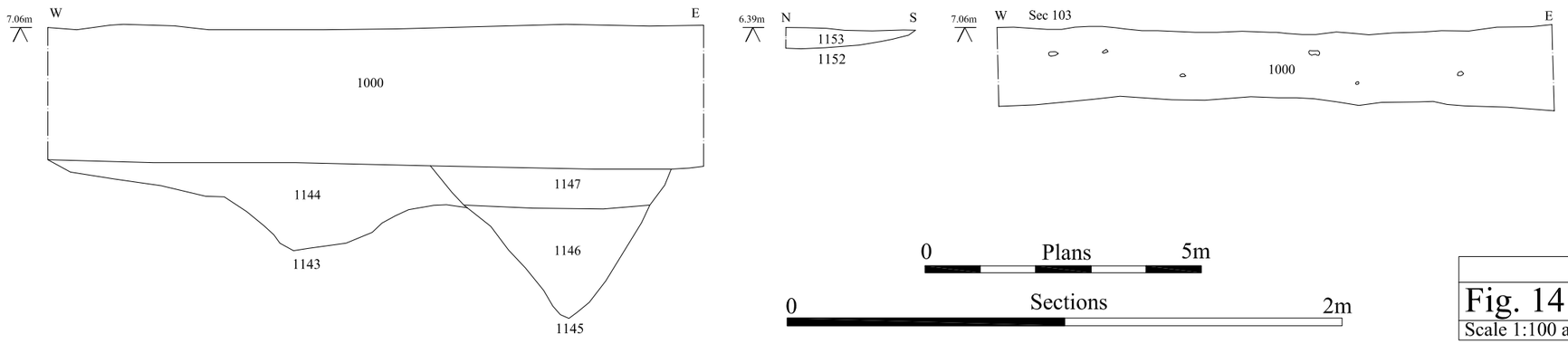
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Trench 12



Trench 13

Phase 2



0 Plans 5m

0 Sections 2m

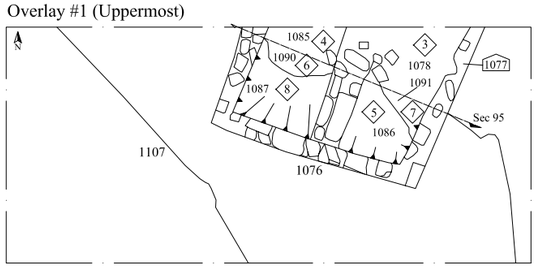
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 14 Trench plans and sections

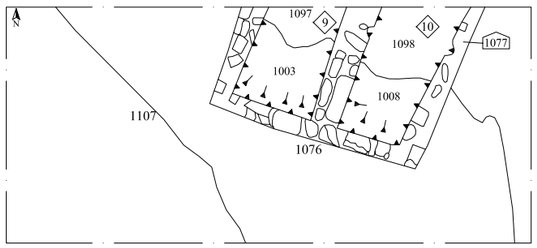
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Trench 14

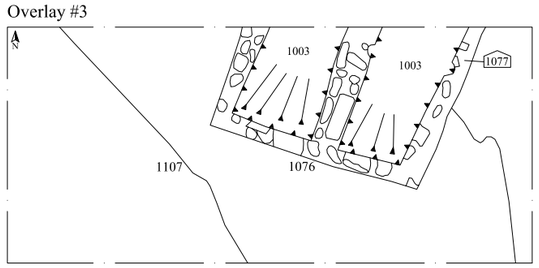
Overlay #1 (Uppermost)



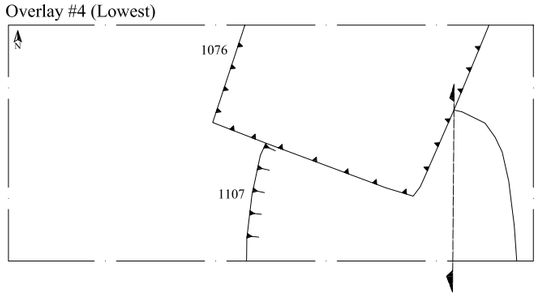
Overlay #2



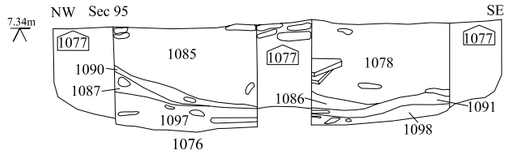
Overlay #3

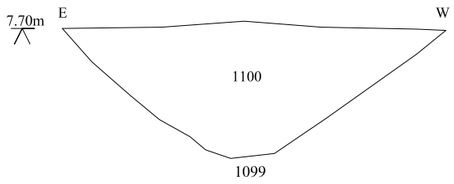


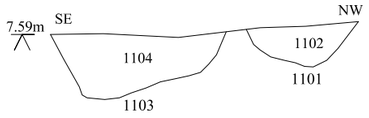
Overlay #4 (Lowest)

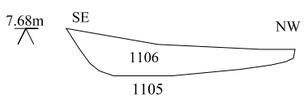


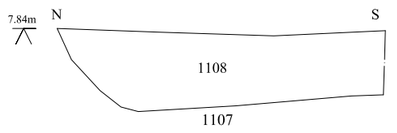
0 Overlays 1:40 3m

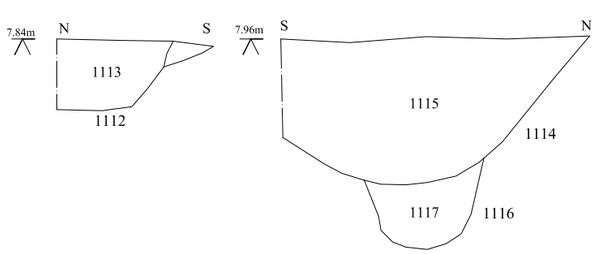


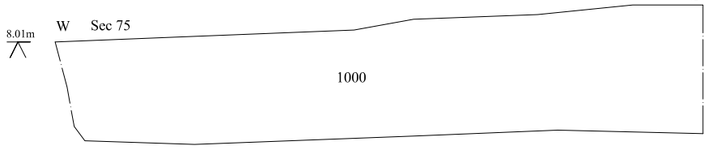


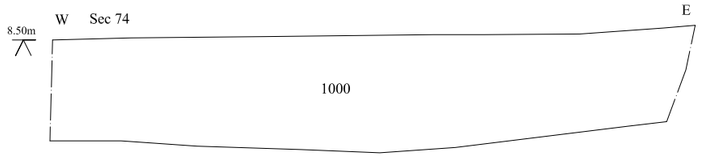








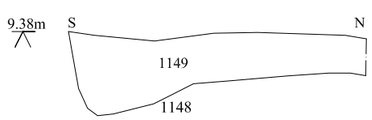


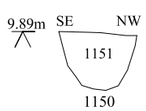


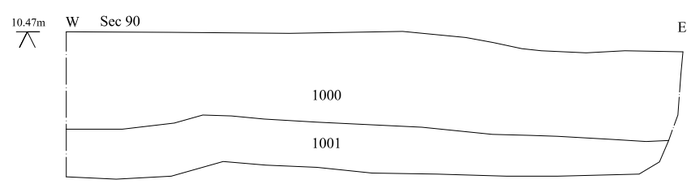
0 Plans 5m

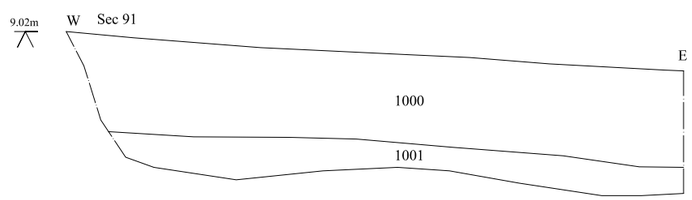
0 Sections 2m

Trench 15

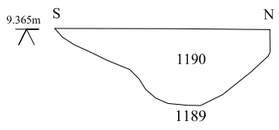








Trench 16



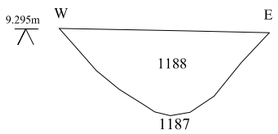


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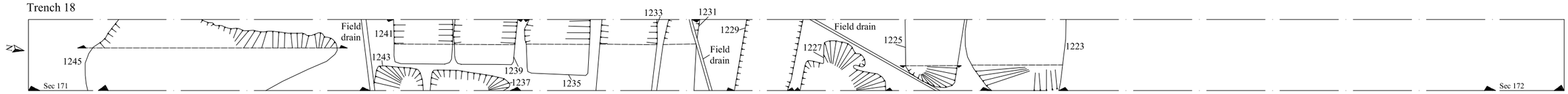
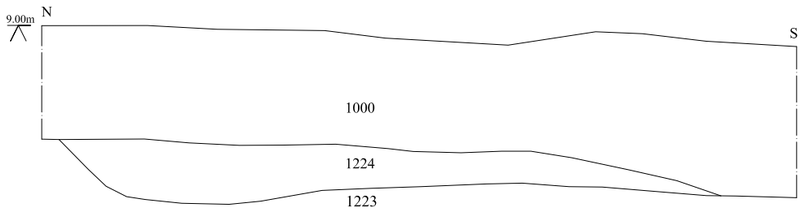
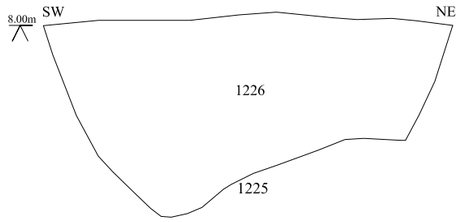
Fig. 15 Trench plans and sections

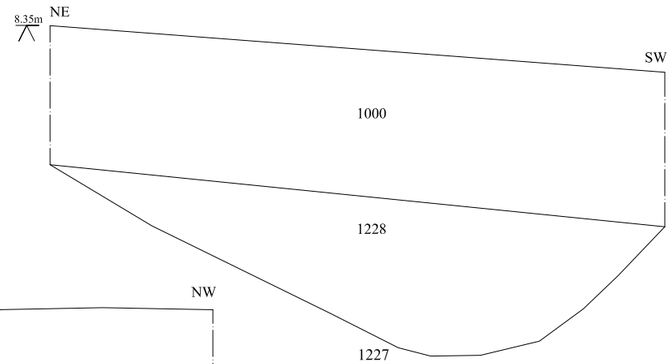
Scale 1:100, 1:40 and 1:20 at A3

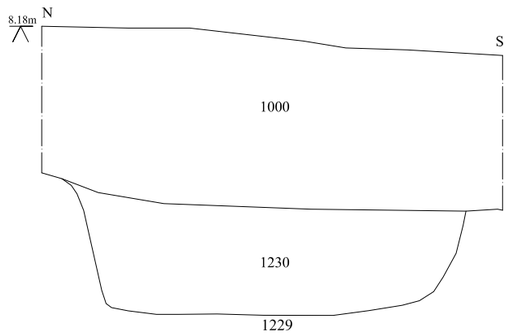
Trench 18

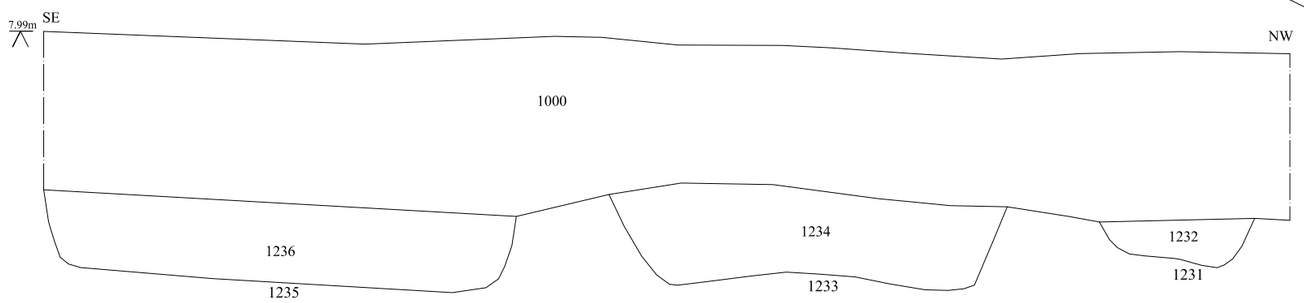


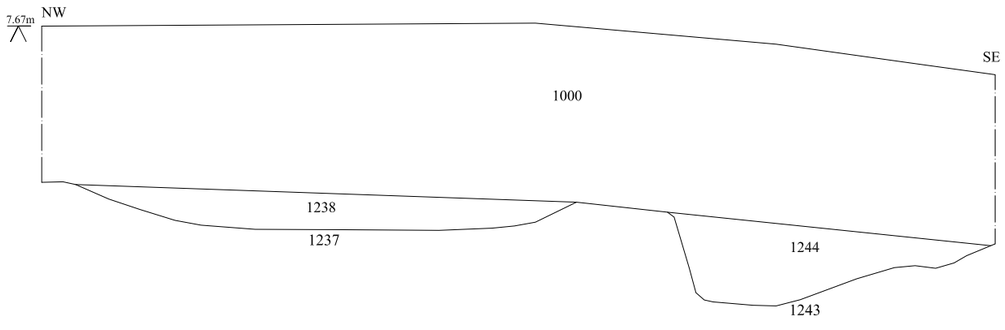


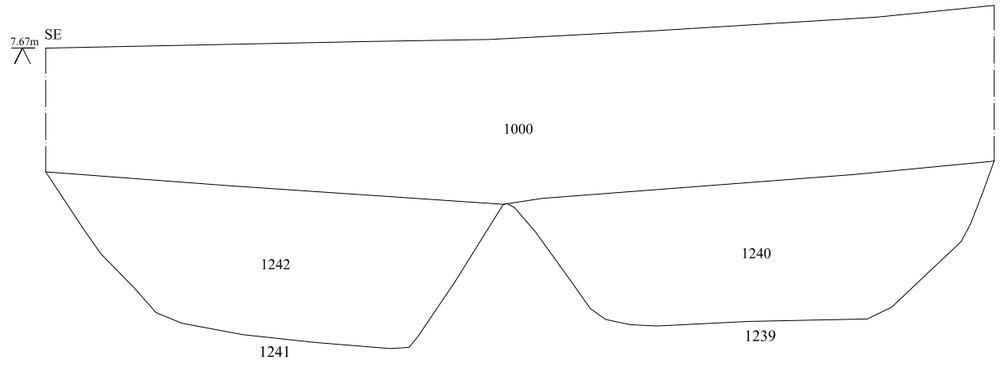


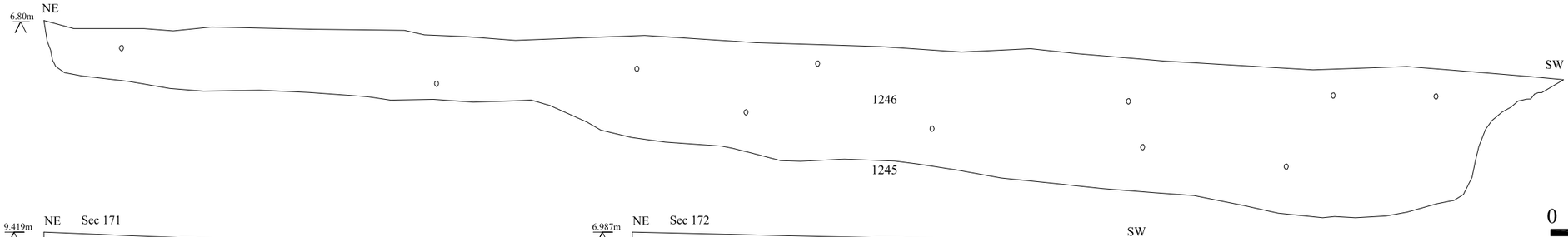


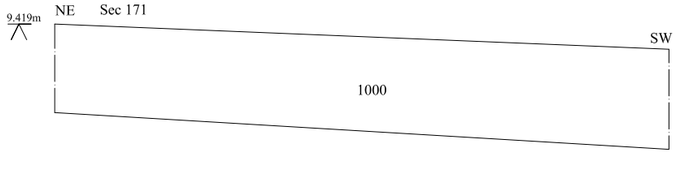


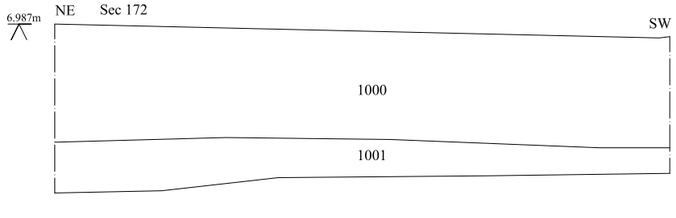












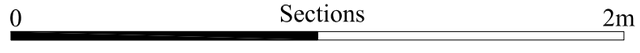


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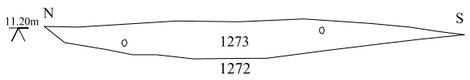
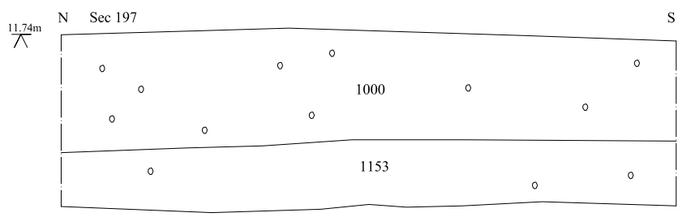
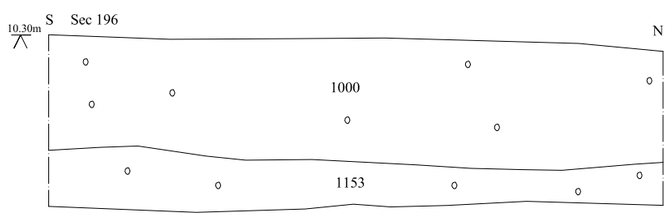
Fig. 16 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

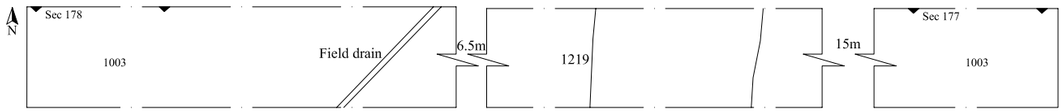
Trench 22



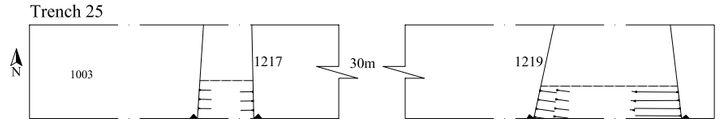


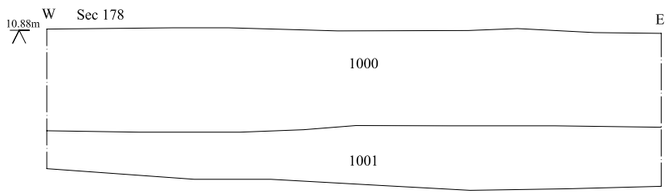


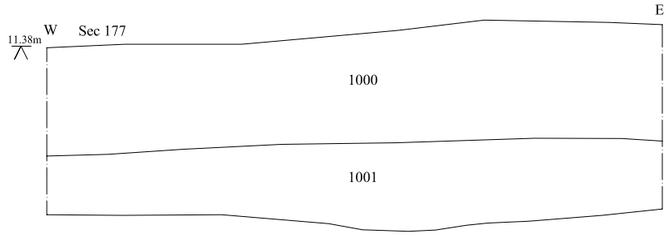
Trench 23

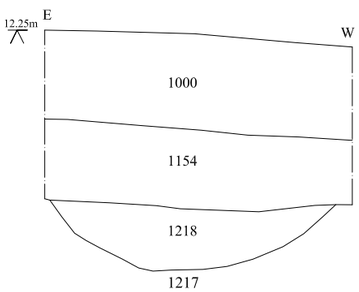


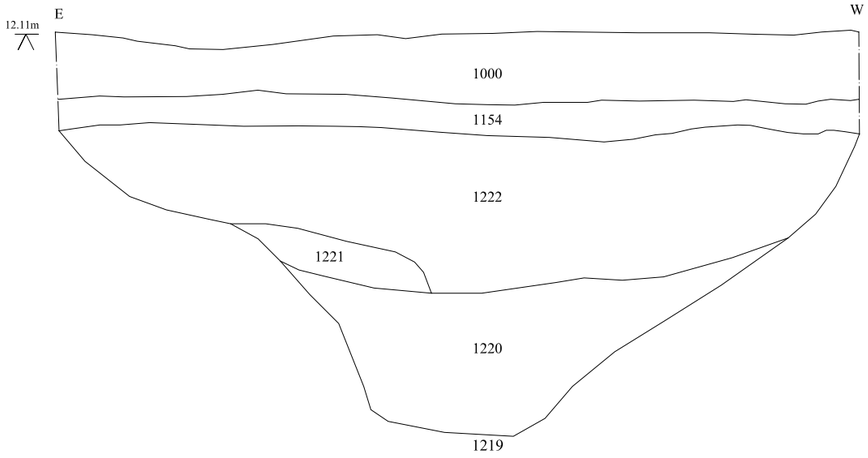
Trench 25



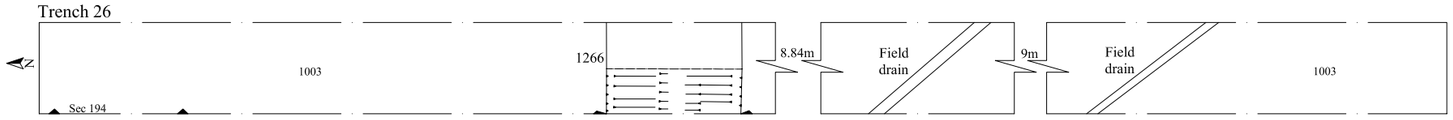


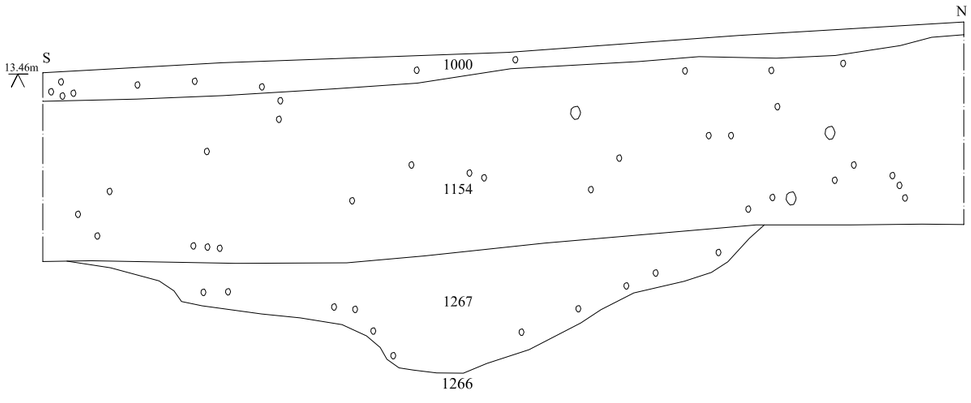


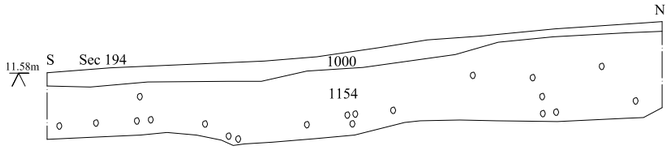




Trench 26







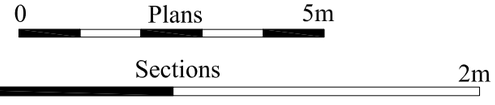


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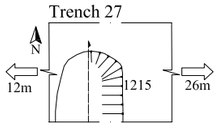
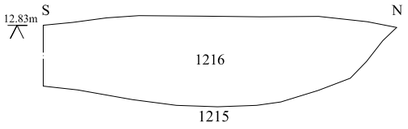
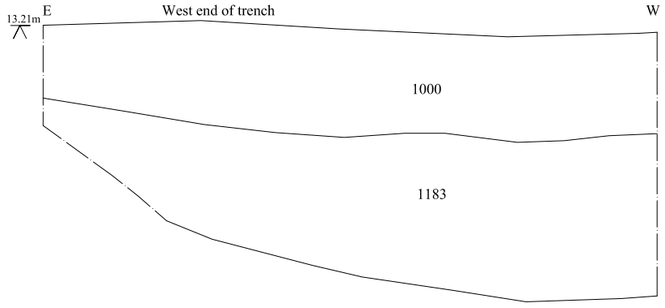
Fig. 17 Trench plans and sections

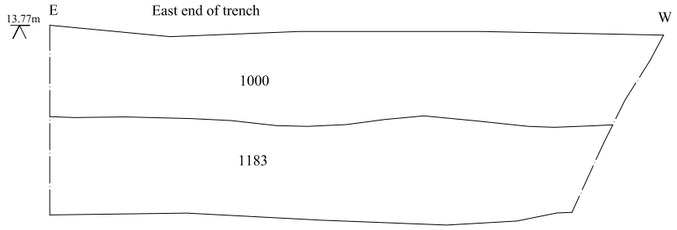
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Trench 27

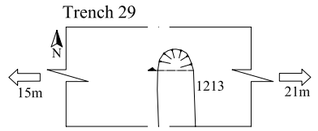


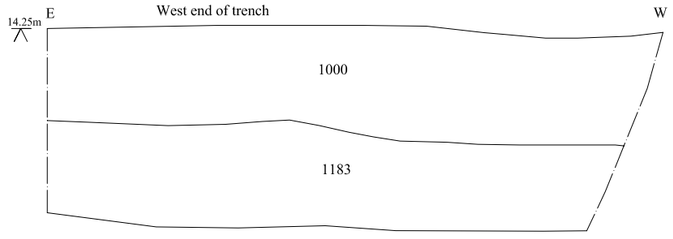


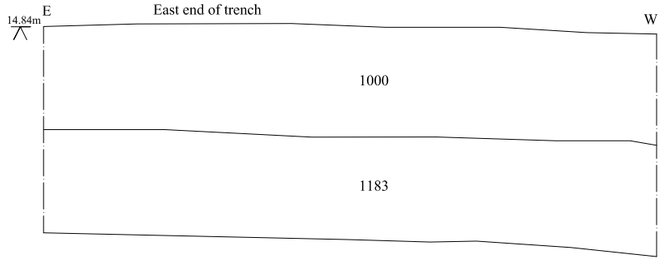


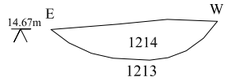


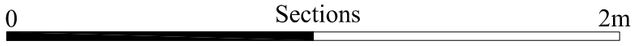
Trench 29



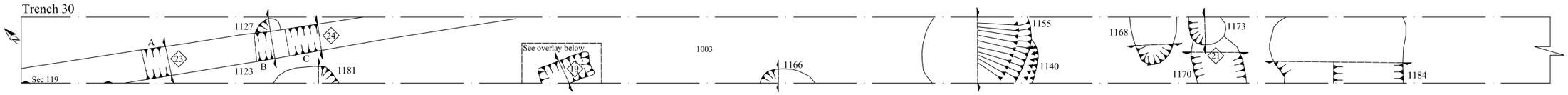


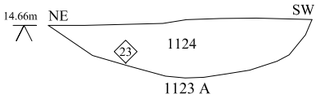


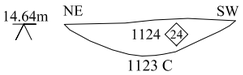


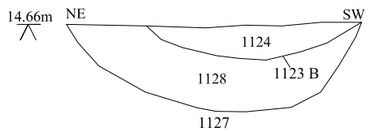


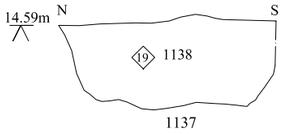
Trench 30

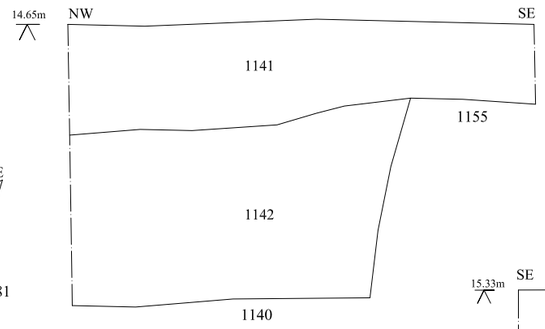


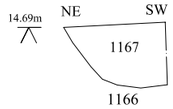


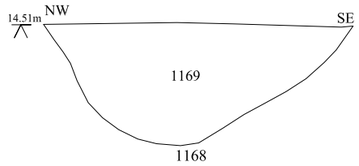


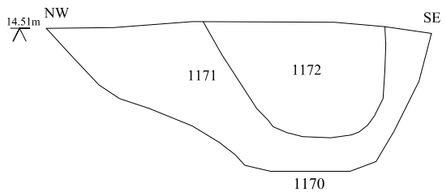


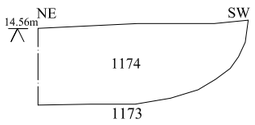


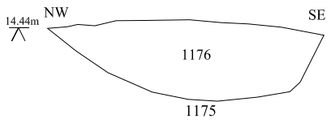


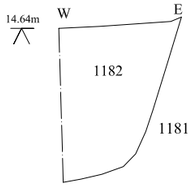


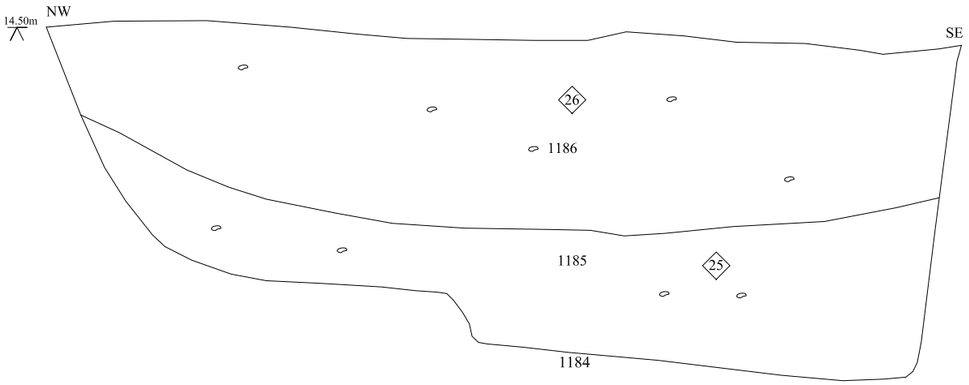


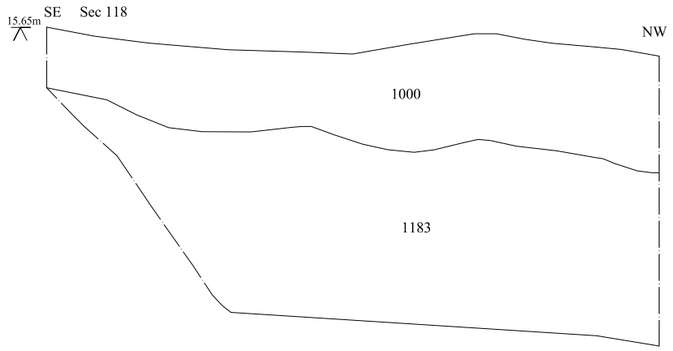












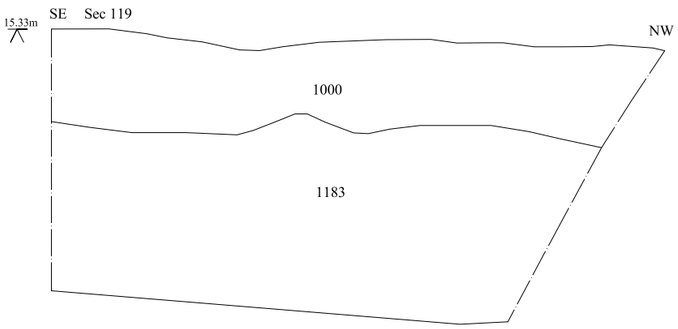


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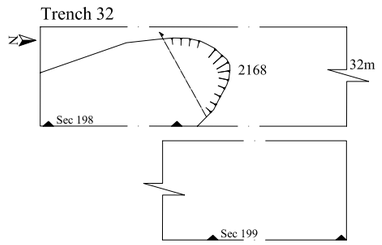
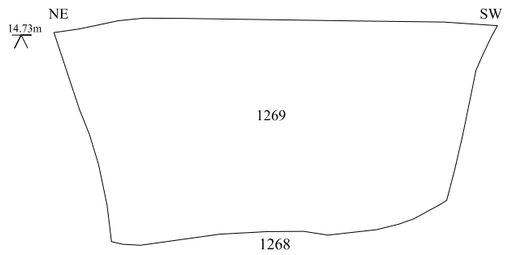
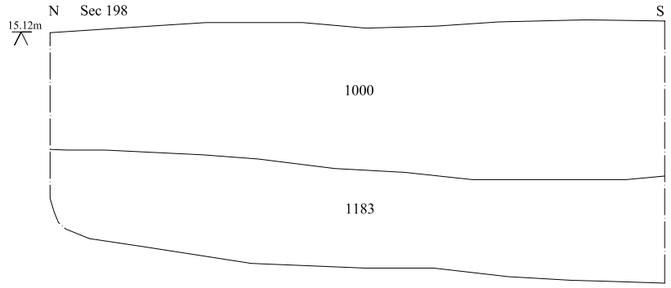
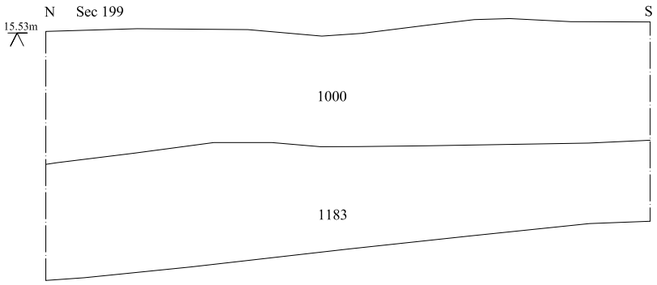
Fig. 18 Trench plans and sections

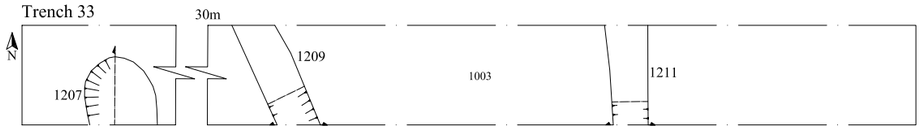
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

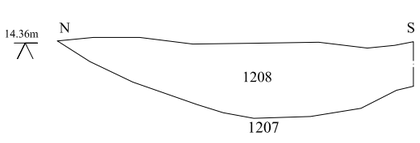


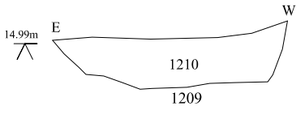


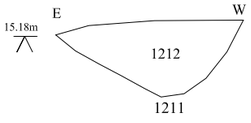


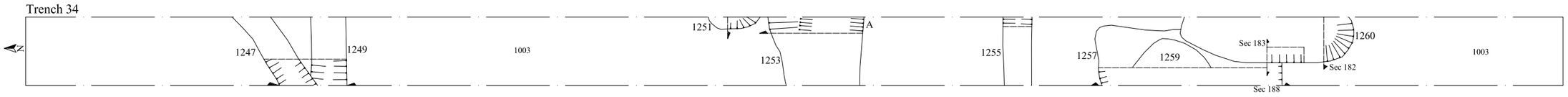


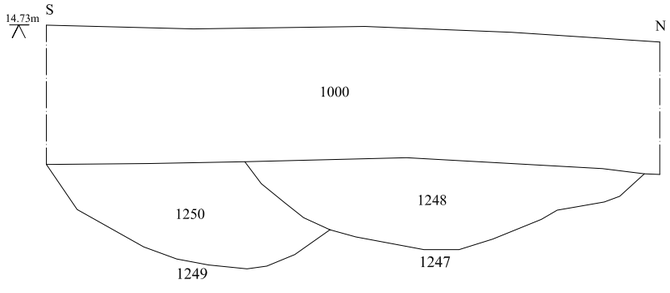


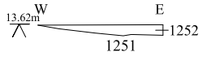


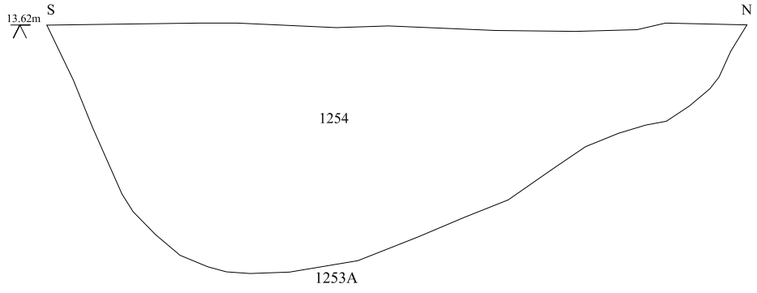


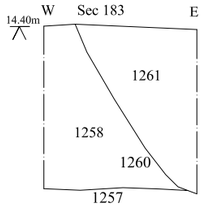


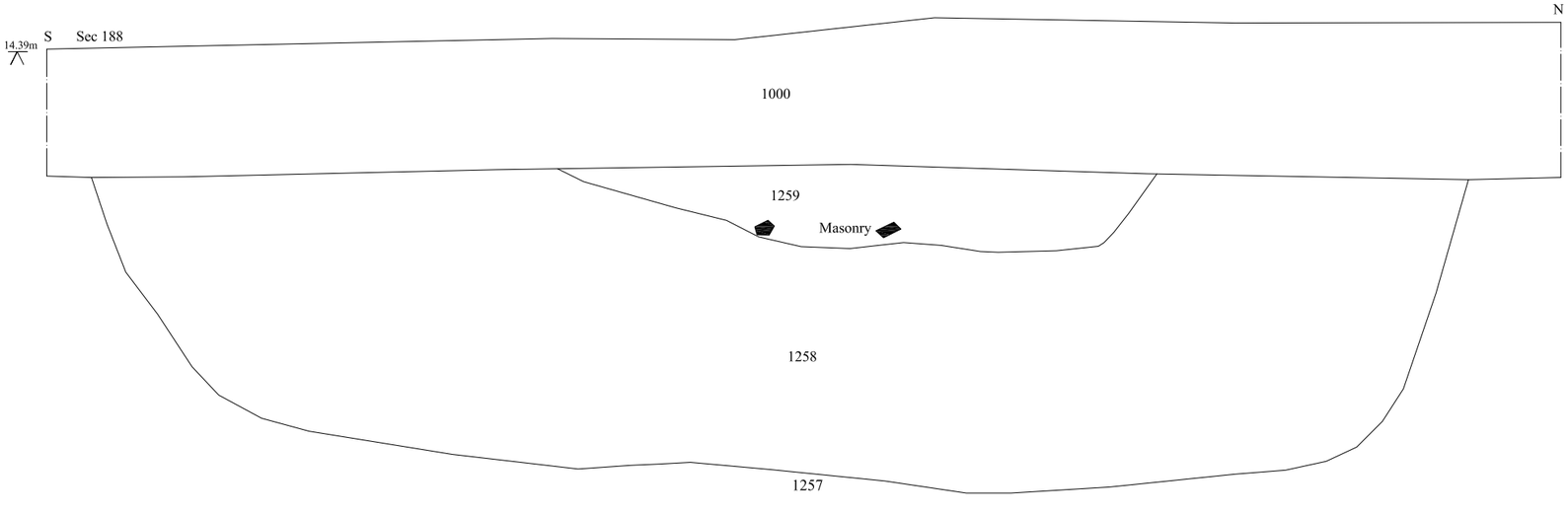


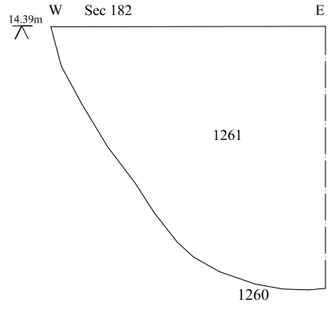












0 Plans 5m

0 Sections 2m

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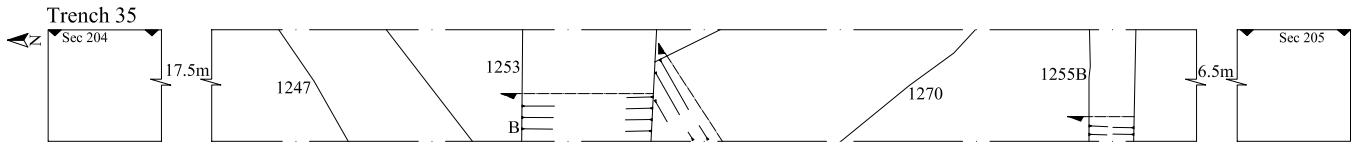
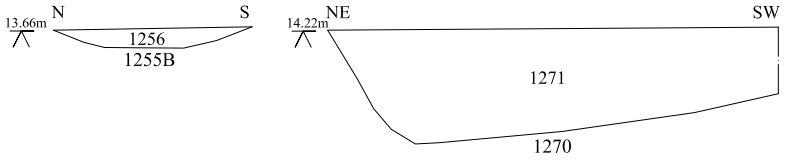
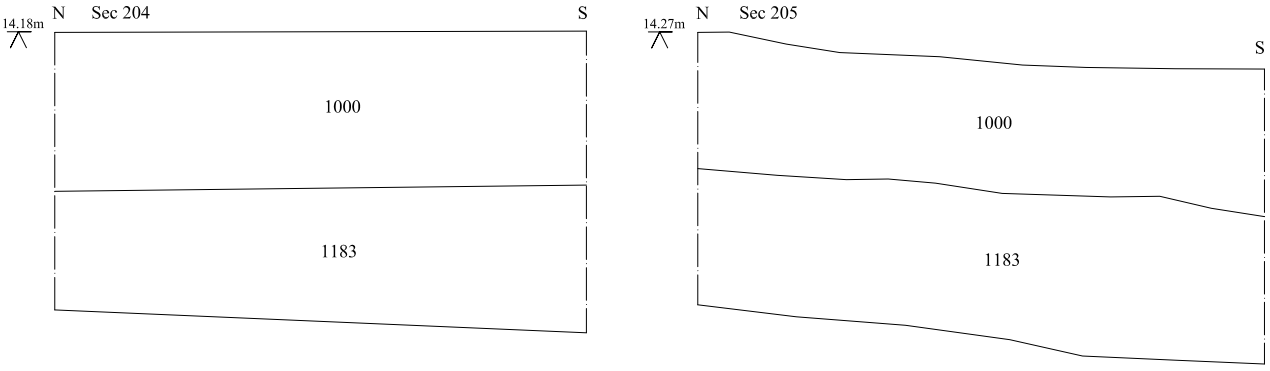
Fig. 19 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3







0 Plans 5m

0 Sections 2m

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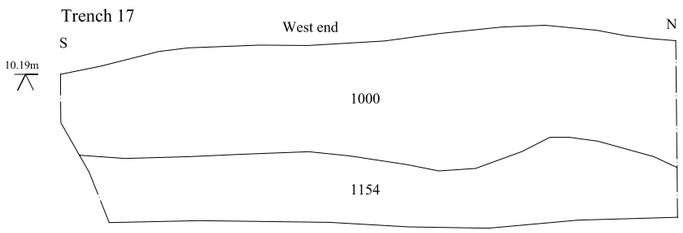
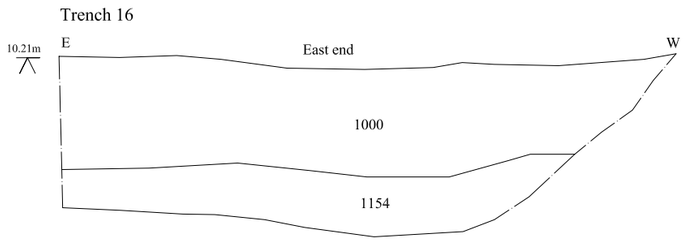
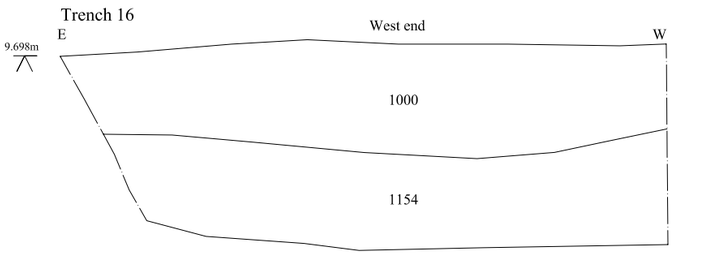
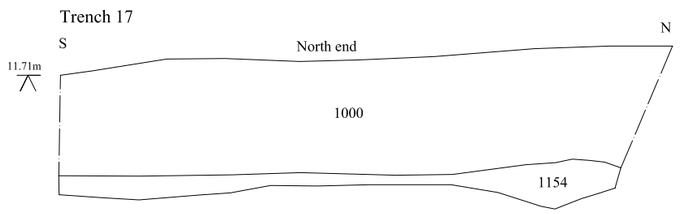
Fig. 20 Trench plans and sections

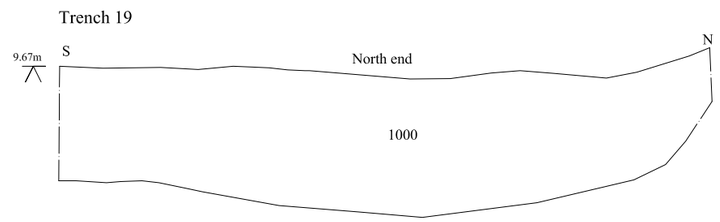
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

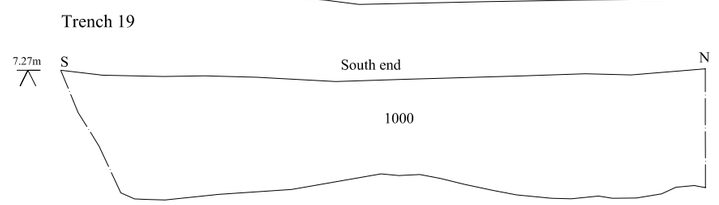


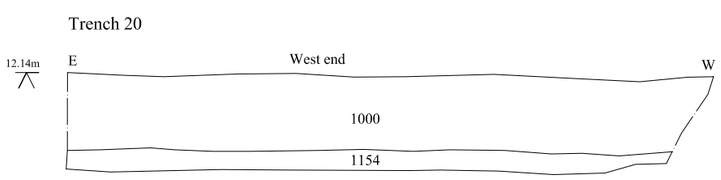


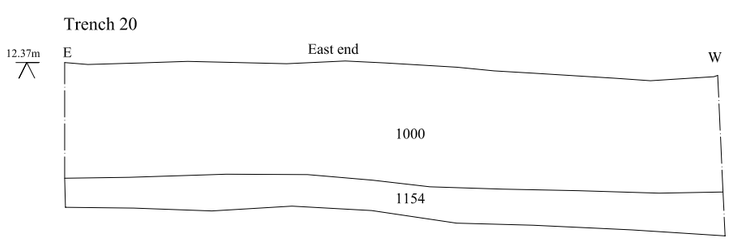


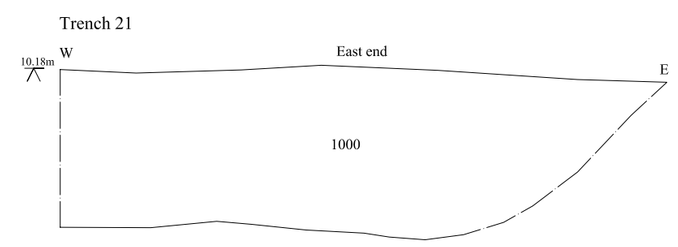


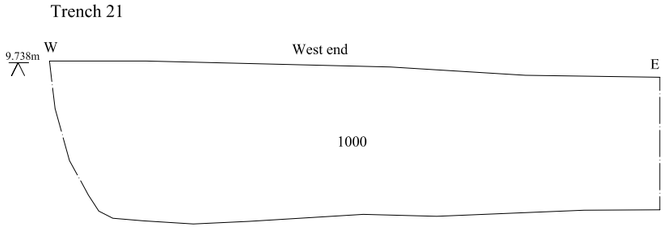


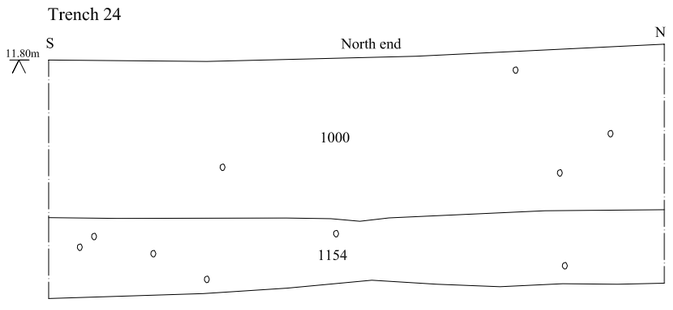


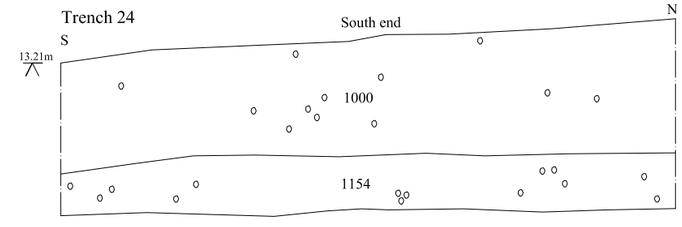


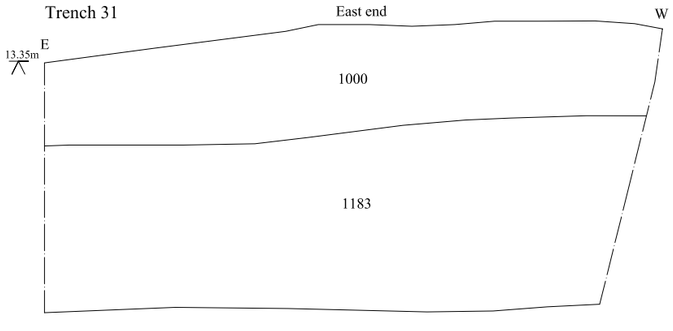


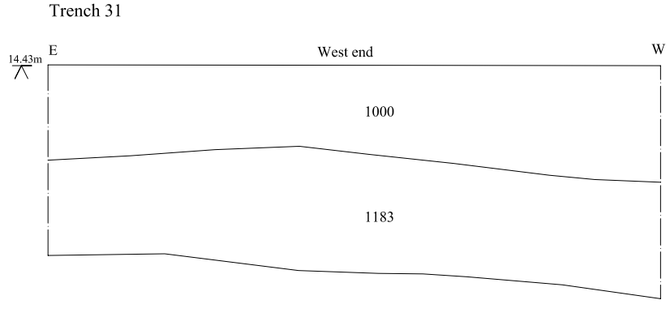


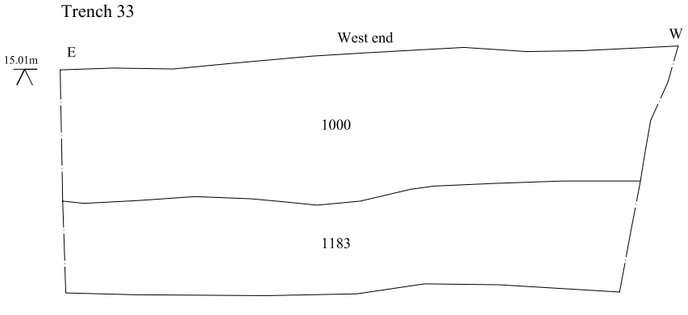












0 Sections 2m

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Fig. 21 Sample sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

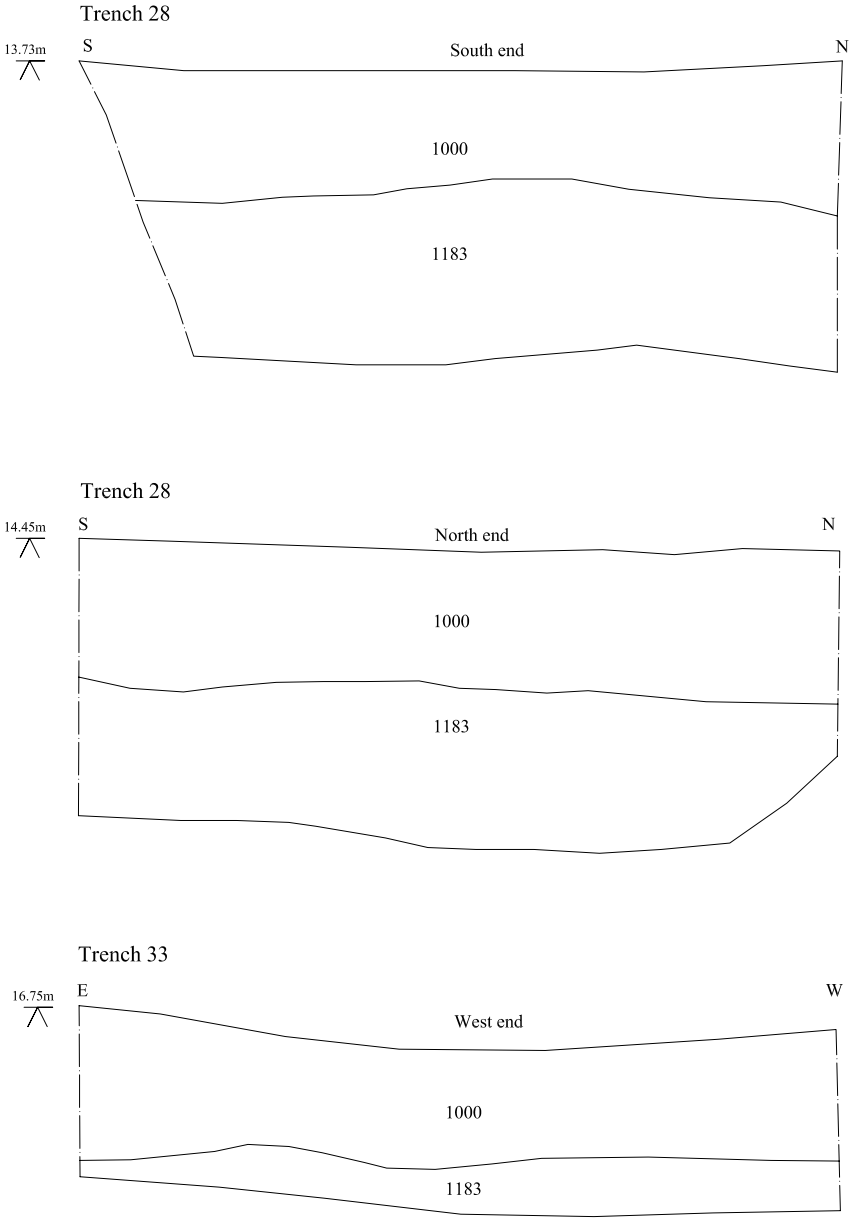

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Fig. 22 Sample sections

Scale 1:20 at A4