

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Pynesfield, Denham,
Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Joanna Pine

Site Code: PDH11/112

(TQ 0330 9040)

Pynesfield, Denham, Hertfordshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Harleyford Aggregates Limited**

by David Platt and Jo Pine
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code PDH11/112

April 2012

Summary

Site name: Pynesfield, Denham, Hertfordshire

Grid reference: TQ 0330 9040

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th – 23rd April

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: PDH 11/112

Area of site: c. 9ha

Summary of results: A number of linear features comprising gullies and ditches were recorded along with a single small pit of post medieval or modern date. Most of the linear features were undated. Two were clearly of modern date, and one is probably of medieval date. A second ditch cut a spread containing medieval and is of medieval or later date. A ditch and a gully contained one sherd each of Late Bronze Age pottery and very tentatively might date from this period. Overall a low volume of certain or possible archaeological features were revealed. On the basis of these results the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low to moderate.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Three Rivers Museum in due course.

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 30.04.09 Steve Preston ✓ 30.04.09 |
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Pynesfield, Denham, Hertfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Jo Pine

Report 11/112b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Pynesfield, Tilehouse Lane, Denham, Hertfordshire (TQ 0330 9040 (Fig. 1)). The work was commissioned by Mr Douglas Symes of D. K. Symes Associates, Appletree Farmhouse, 39 Main Road, Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 2ND, on behalf of Harleyford Aggregates Ltd, Harleyford, Henley Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 2DX.

Permission is to be sought from Hertfordshire County Council to extract minerals from the site. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which would be destroyed by extraction, a field evaluation is required as set out in *Planning for the Historic Environment*, (PPS 5, 2010) and Hertfordshire County Council mineral policies, in order to draw up a scheme to mitigate the impact of extraction on archaeology if necessary. The evaluation was conducted according to a written scheme of investigation submitted to Mr Andy Instone of the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, and monitored by him.

The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt, Aidan Colyer, Steve Crabb and James Earley between the 16th and 23rd April 2012 and the site code is PDH 11/112. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Three Rivers Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in Pynesfield; around 4km south of Rickmansworth and 4.5km west of Northwood on a c.9ha parcel of land on the western edge of the River Colne floodplain. It is bordered to the east by the A412 North Orbital Road and to the north and west by Tilehouse Lane and centred on NGR TQ 0330 9040 (Fig. 1). The county boundary with Buckinghamshire forms the southern limit of the site. The area of the site itself slopes gently upwards from south to north with the land beyond the western boundary rising up dramatically to the west. The majority of the site is located on Shepperton gravel with Seaford and Newhaven chalk formations underlying its western edge (BGS 2005), this was observed in the trenches as a mixture of reddish brown gravels and yellowish grey clay. It is approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum and is currently being used for an arable crop.

Archaeological background

The background archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment for the project (Dawson 2011). In summary, the Colne Valley is considered to be archaeologically rich for many periods. Excavations in the lower Colne Valley have found Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint tools and hunting evidence, both *in situ* and as unstratified surface finds (Holgate 1995, Jenkins 2005, Lacaille 1963, Lewis *et al* 1992, Silva and Farr 2010, Wymer 1968). Subsequent periods are also well represented in the valley, especially where mineral extraction has been archaeologically monitored (Coleman *et al.* 2004, Ford and Pine 2003, Ford 2006, WA 2006). Where the river has cut through earlier gravel deposits, such as at Denham to the south of the proposal site, this has led to the exposure of rich in-situ Palaeolithic deposits, (Wymer 1999). This erosion by the river has led to the inclusion of Palaeolithic tools within the Colne gravels with numerous finds recovered from the gravel pit workings in the Rickmansworth area, (Wymer 1968, 246; 1999, 90).

Immediately to the west of the project area an archaeological evaluation recorded prehistoric struck flints and Iron Age and Roman features along with the remains of post-medieval structures (Doyle and Hallybone 2006).

A geophysical survey immediately prior to the evaluation did not identify any anomalies that can be confidently attributed as being of archaeological origin (Smalley 2012).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in-situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present,
- to determine if there are any Iron Age deposits on site;
- to determine if there are any Roman deposits on site; and
- to provide sufficient information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be produced if necessary.

Seventy-eight trenches were proposed to be dug; each 20m long and 1.8–2.2m wide. They were to be excavated by a 360⁰-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. This took place under constant archaeological supervision. All potential archaeological features were cleaned and excavated using hand tools. Spoil heaps were monitored for finds; including use of a metal detector.

Results

A total of 81 trenches were eventually dug (Fig. 3); all were 2.1m wide. The majority of these were dug as intended except trench 29 which was only 10m long and was used to confirm the location of the canal; an extra three trenches were added to compensate the loss of trench area and to target an area of potential archaeology; after consultation with the monitor. The trenches ranged in length from 18.00m to 26.20m and in depth from 0.30m to 0.99m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths; breadths; depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. A list of excavated features forms Appendix 2. Three basic variations of stratigraphy were observed; trenches exhibiting these are described in groups below; and only those trenches with certain or probable archaeological features are described in detail.

Trenches with no archaeological deposits

In Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 20, 24, 30, 35–7, 39, 49, 52, 54, 57–9, 63, 65–67, 70–5 [PI. 2] and 77–8, the stratigraphy consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silty topsoil overlying a mid brown clayey silt subsoil overlying the natural geology, which consisted of a mid-light brown sandy clay.

Trenches 5, 8, 11, 16, 22, 28, 31–2, 34, 38, 40, 43, 45-48, 50–1, 53, 56, 60–2, 64 [PI. 1], 68–70, and 79–81, the stratigraphy consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silty topsoil overlying a mid brown clayey silt subsoil which in turn sealed the natural geology, a mid-light brown sandy clay with gravel patches.

Trenches 4, 10, 23, 26, 33, 41–2 and 55 the stratigraphy consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silty topsoil overlying a mid brown clayey silt subsoil which in turn sealed the natural geology, which in these trenches was a mid brownish grey silty gravel.

In Trench 1 the geology varied with top- and sub-soil overlying gravel with soliflucted? head consisting of chalk.

Trenches with archaeological deposits

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 6)

This trench was aligned SW–NE and was 20.40m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil onto 0.32m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. A ditch (4) and a gully (5) were recorded crossing the trench on an approximate NW-SE alignment. Ditch 4 was 1.6m wide and 0.21m deep with a single fill (55) of mid yellowish brown silty sand. Gully 5 was 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep and filled with a single fill (56), which was again mid yellowish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from either feature.

Trench 12 (Figs 3 and 6)

Trench 12 was aligned N-S and was 24.20m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying the natural geology which was a mid brown sandy clay. A ditch (1) was recorded crossing the trench on a NW-SE alignment. It was 0.70m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with a single fill (52). This was a mid greyish brown silty sand and a piece of possible late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from it.

Trench 14 (Figs 3 and 8)

Trench 14 was aligned WNW–ESE and was 22.30m long and 0.69m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology, a mid brown sandy clay. Ditch 6 crossed the trench on N-S axis alignment. It was 2.9m wide and 0.75m deep and filled with two fills (68) and (69). This ditch cut a spread (66) and (67) which was approximately 5.0m wide. The ditch (6) contained two fills, the upper fill (68) was a mid greyish brown sandy clay and the lower fill (69) was a dark grey sandy clay. No finds were recovered from the ditch but a piece of pottery of Denham-type Ware, dating from the 12th – 14th century was recovered from the spread (66) which it truncated.

Trench 17 (Figs 3 and 6)

Trench 17 was aligned SE–NW and was 20.20m long and 0.61m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a mid brownish grey silty gravel. A ditch (3) was recorded crossing the trench on an ENE–WSW alignment. It was 1.8m wide and 0.20m deep with a single fill (54). This was a mid grey brown sandy silt, no finds were recovered from it.

Trench 18 (Figs 3 and 6)

Trench 18 was aligned SSE-NNW and was 20.40m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.21m subsoil overlying the natural geology of mid brown sandy clay with gravel patches. Ditch 2 was aligned across the trench on a E-W axis. It was 2.8m wide and 0.30m deep and filled with mid grey brown sandy silt (53). No finds were recovered.

Trench 21 (Figs 3 and 6)

This trench was aligned SE-NW and was 24.30m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.19m subsoil overlying a mid brown sandy clay (natural geology). A ditch (7) was recorded crossing the trench on an approximate NE-SW alignment. This feature was 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep and filled with a single fill (57) of mid brown grey sandy silt, but no finds were recovered.

Trench 25 (Figs 3 and 6)

Trench 25 was aligned SW-NE and was 23.20m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.08m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a mid brown sandy clayey silt. A ditch terminus (9) and a ditch (8) were recorded, both crossing the trench on a broadly E-W alignment. The terminus (9) was 1.0m wide and 0.25m deep and filled with a single fill (59) a dark brownish grey sandy silt. Ditch 8 was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep and had a single fill (58), a dark brownish grey sandy silt and from which animal bone was recovered.

Trench 27 (Figs 4 and 7)

Trench 27 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 22.0m long and 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying the natural, mid brown sandy clay geology. Three ditches (16, 17 and 18) were recorded crossing the trench on approximate N-S alignments. Ditches 17 and 18 contained plastic and were therefore clearly modern. Ditch 16 was 1.4m wide and 0.36m deep and filled with a single fill (70). This was a mid yellowish brown silty clay, no finds were recovered from this deposit, a flint flake came from the topsoil.

Trench 46 (Figs 4 and 7)

Trench 46 was aligned WNW-ESE was 20.0m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a mid-light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. A small pit (19) was recorded. It was 0.70m in diameter and 0.10m deep and filled with a single fill (71) of mid grey brown silty clay. A piece of post-medieval ceramic building material was recovered from it, this was not retained.

Trench 50 (Figs 4 and 7)

Trench 50 was aligned SW–NE was 19.0m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.21m subsoil overlying the natural mid brownish grey sandy clay geology. A ditch (10) was recorded on an E-W axis from 2m to 7m from the south-west end of the trench. It was 0.95m wide and 0.30m deep and filled with a single fill (60), a mid grey brown clayey silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 57 (Figs 4 and 7)

Trench 57 was on a SE-NW alignment was 20.50m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of 0.34m of topsoil overlying 0.16m subsoil overlying mid brown sandy clay, the natural geology. A ditch (12) was recorded crossing the trench aligned N–S. It was 0.90m wide and 0.22m deep filled with a single fill (62). This was a mid brownish grey silty clay and a piece of animal bone was recovered from it.

Trench 58 ((Figs 4 and 7)

Trench 58 was aligned SW-NE was 24.0m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil onto 0.11m of subsoil overlying the natural geology, a mid brown sandy clay. A ditch (25) was recorded crossing the trench on an approximate SE-NW axis. It was 1.8m wide and 0.52m deep and had two fills (81 and 82). The upper fill (81) was a pale brownish grey sandy clay and the lower fill (82) was a pale grey sandy clay. No finds were recovered from either deposit.

Trench 60 (Figs 5 and 7)

Trench 60 was aligned SSW–NNE was 20.0m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil overlying .21m subsoil which sealed the natural geology, a light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. A probable ditch terminus (22) was recorded aligned N–S. It was observed for *c.*5m, was 1.0m wide and 0.2m deep with a single fill (75). This was a mid brownish grey sandy clay and a single flint flake was recovered from the soil sample taken from it.

Trench 61 (Figs 5 and 7)

Trench 61 was aligned SW–NE was 21.50m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. A ditch (24) was recorded aligned N-S. It was 3.0m wide and 0.5m deep and filled with at least three fills (78), (79) and (80). The upper fill (78) was a mid grey brown sandy clay silt and three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from it.

The middle fill (79) was a reddish brown silty clay and a horseshoe and animal bone were recovered from it. The lower fill (80) was a dark grey silty sandy clay and animal bone was recovered from it. The lower fills were not fully bottomed.

Trench 62 (Figs 5 and 7, Pl. 3)

Trench 62 was aligned N-S was 21.0m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.39m of topsoil onto 0.18m of subsoil overlying the natural geology, a light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. Two gullies (13 and 15) and a ditch (14) were recorded, all on E-W alignments. The ditch (14) was 1.2m wide and 0.38m deep and was filled with a single fill (64) a mid grey brown sandy clay from which no finds were recovered. Gully 13 was 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep and was filled with a single fill (63). This was a mid yellowish brown clayey sand. Gully 15 was 0.4m wide and 0.13m deep and contained a single fill (65), a pale greyish brown sandy silt. A piece of pottery of likely late Bronze Age date was recovered from this deposit.

Trench 69 (Figs 5 and 7)

Trench 69 was aligned SW-NE was 19.10m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of 0.36m of topsoil and 0.09m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. Ditch 23 crossed the trench on a NW-SE alignment. It was 1.5m wide and 0.37m deep and contained two fills (76 and 77). The upper fill (76) was a mid brownish grey sandy silty clay and the lower fill (77) was a pale grey sandy clay. No finds were recovered from either fill.

Trench 78 (Figs 5 and 7, Pl. 4)

Trench 78 was aligned SE-NW was 22.0m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. Between 11m and 14m from the south-east end, a ditch terminus (20) and a ditch (21) were recorded crossing the trench on an approximate N-S alignment. The terminus (20) was 0.6m wide and 0.24m deep, with a single fill (72) of pale grey clayey sand. Ditch 21 was 1.0m wide and 0.40m deep and contained two fills. The upper fill (73) was a reddish brown clayey sand and the lower fill (74) was a pale grey clayey sand. No finds were recovered from either deposit.

Trench 81 (Figs 5 and 6)

Trench 81 was aligned SW-NE was 21.0m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a light brown sandy clay with gravel patches. A gully (11) was

recorded on a N-S axis. It was 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep filled with a single fill (61), a mid brownish grey silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 9 sherds with a total weight of 107g (Appendix 3). It comprised a mixture of prehistoric and earlier medieval wares, as follows:

LBA: Flint-tempered. Moderate to dense angular burnt white flint up to 2mm. Late Bronze Age? (*cf* Partridge 1989, 160). 3 sherds, 19g.

DT: Denham-type Ware, 12th–14th century (Farley and Leach 1988). 1 sherd, 32g.

HG: Hertfordshire Greyware, mid 12th–14th century (Turner-Rugg 1993). 5 sherds, 56g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The sherds were generally in good condition, and appear to be reliably stratified. They are typical finds from sites in the region. The entire assemblage comprised plain bodysherds, other than a small rimsherd from an HG jar from context 57.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from five contexts within the evaluated area. A total of 19 pieces of bone were present for analysis, weighing 536g (Appendix 4). The overall preservation of the remains was good, with a minimal degree of fragmentation and excellent surface preservation.

Initially the bone was sorted into categories based on animal size. Horse and cow are represented by the large-size category, the medium-size category represents sheep/goat and pigs. Where possible, each fragment was subsequently given a more specific identification to species.

The minimum number of animals present was determined to be two: one large (cow) and one medium-sized (sheep/goat) animal. The cow was represented by a left distal half of a humerus in context 58, and the right distal humerus condyles in context 71. The sheep/goat was suggested by the presence of a portion of left mandible and in situ teeth in context 57.

Evidence of butchery practices were observed on the medial surface of the cattle left humerus shaft. A minimum of three transverse chop marks severed the upper portion of shaft. No further information could be retrieved from these undated remains.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A small collection of 3 struck flints were recovered during the course of the evaluation. A flake was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 27 with typical edge damage consistent with recovery from a ploughsoil environment. A second flake was recovered from gully 13 (63) in Trench 62. This was cortical and fresh and might be an accidental by-product of ditch digging in medieval times. A third flake was recovered from a soil sample taken from ditch terminus 22 (75) in Trench 60

The flints from the topsoil and ditch 22 are not chronologically diagnostic and could be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Metalwork by Steven Crabb

Two pieces of metalwork were recovered from ditch 24. They are both fragments of summer horseshoes as shown by a flat 'sole'.

Environmental samples by Jo Pine

Twelve soil sample flots were rapidly assessed for their environmental potential, examination was made by hand lens at x10 magnification. None of the samples contained any charred cereal remains. Samples [9] from ditch 6 (fill 69), [10] from 16 (fill 70), [4] from ditch 4 (55), [1] and from ditch 1 (52) [12] 38 (96) contained charred weed seeds but at low concentrations. Charcoal with the potential for species identification was found in sample [8] (67) a likely medieval spread and [9] ditch 6 (69) which truncated the spread.

Conclusion

The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological deposits of likely medieval date, along with a low density of prehistoric activity (Fig. 9). None of the dating, however is secure, being based on tiny amounts of pottery. Possible late Bronze Age features comprised a ditch (1) in Trench 12 in the north of the site which contained a single sherd of possible late Bronze pottery and a gully (15) in Trench 62 at the south of the site which also contained a sherd of pottery of likely late Bronze Age date. Three struck flints were also recovered, one from gully 13 in the same Trench (62) as gully 15. There are a small number of undated features which might also be of prehistoric date such as ditches/gullies in trenches 3, 21, 25, 50, 57, 58 and 81 but there is no evidence to suggest they are not later.

Medieval activity was represented by substantial lengths of ditch (Fig. 9). In trenches 14, 17 and 18 an east-west ditch was recorded likely representing a single ditch that was over 125m in length. It was dated by the fact it cut a spread in Trench 14 which contained a sherd of early medieval pottery (12th – 14th century), it can thus be this date or later.

Another stretch of medieval ditch was recorded in the south-eastern part of the site on a north-south axis. A linear was seen in trenches 60, 61, 69 and is likely the same feature making the ditch at least 150m long. It was dated by three sherds of medieval pottery and also contained two horse shoes.

On the basis of these results the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low to moderate.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south, west, south-west or south-east end

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | 23.20 | 2.10 | 0.96 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.74m subsoil; 0.74-0.96m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. Test pit at SE end to a depth of 2.30m revealing gravel. |
| 2 | 21.30 | 2.10 | 0.74 | 0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.62m subsoil; 0.62-0.74m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 3 | 20.40 | 2.10 | 0.72 | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.68m subsoil; 0.68-0.72m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Linears 4 and 5 |
| 4 | 25.20 | 2.10 | 0.50 | 0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.41m subsoil; 0.41-0.50m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. |
| 5 | 25.20 | 2.10 | 0.55 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.50m subsoil; 0.50-0.55m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 6 | 21.60 | 2.10 | 0.99 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.83m subsoil; 0.83-0.99m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 7 | 23.50 | 2.10 | 0.74 | 0–0.37m topsoil; 0.37-0.68m subsoil; 0.68-0.74m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 8 | 21.40 | 2.10 | 0.59 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.48m subsoil; 0.48-0.59m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 9 | 19.70 | 2.10 | 0.82 | 0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.77m subsoil; 0.77-0.82m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 10 | 24.60 | 2.10 | 0.48 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.41m subsoil; 0.41-0.48m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. |
| 11 | 23.10 | 2.10 | 0.51 | 0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.43m subsoil; 0.43-0.51m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 12 | 24.20 | 2.10 | 0.43 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.39m subsoil; 0.39-0.43m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. Gully 1 |
| 13 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.78 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.64m subsoil; 0.64-0.78m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 14 | 22.30 | 2.10 | 0.69 | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.61m subsoil; 0.61-0.69m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. Ditch 6 and spread 66/67 |
| 15 | 21.10 | 2.10 | 0.62 | 0–0.37m topsoil; 0.37-0.56m subsoil; 0.56-0.62m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 16 | 21.60 | 2.10 | 0.65 | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.59m subsoil; 0.59-0.65m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 17 | 20.20 | 2.10 | 0.61 | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.53m subsoil; 0.53-0.61m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. Ditch 3 |
| 18 | 20.40 | 2.10 | 0.48 | 0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.46m subsoil; 0.46-0.48m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 19 | 24.50 | 2.10 | 0.43 | 0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.39m subsoil; 0.39-0.43m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. Ditch 2 |
| 20 | 26.20 | 2.10 | 0.45 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.41m subsoil; 0.41-0.45m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 21 | 24.30 | 2.10 | 0.62 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.62m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. Ditch 7 |
| 22 | 23.50 | 2.10 | 0.51 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.46m subsoil; 0.46-0.51m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 23 | 22.70 | 2.10 | 0.63 | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.54m subsoil; 0.54-0.63m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. |
| 24 | 20.80 | 2.10 | 0.73 | 0–0.37m topsoil; 0.37-0.69m subsoil; 0.69-0.73m+; mid brownish grey sandy clay natural geology. |
| 25 | 23.20 | 2.10 | 0.43 | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ natural geology; Linear features 8 and 9. |
| 26 | 22.90 | 2.10 | 0.53 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.47m subsoil; 0.47-0.53m+; ? natural geology. |
| 27 | 22.00 | 2.10 | 0.51 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.43m subsoil; 0.43-0.51m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Linears 16; 17 and 18. |
| 28 | 20.10 | 2.10 | 0.56 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.52m subsoil; 0.52-0.56m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches |
| 29 | 10.00 | 2.10 | 0.30 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ canal; trench abandoned due to canal. |
| 30 | 20.90 | 2.10 | 0.56 | 0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.56m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 31 | 20.10 | 2.10 | 0.72 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.64m subsoil; 0.64-0.72m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel and chalk patches. |
| 32 | 19.30 | 2.10 | 0.56 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.43m subsoil; 0.43-0.56m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel and chalk patches. |
| 33 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.49 | 0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.43m subsoil; 0.43-0.49m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. |
| 34 | 20.20 | 2.10 | 0.47 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.41m subsoil; 0.41-0.47m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 35 | 20.50 | 2.10 | 0.46 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.44m subsoil; 0.44-0.46m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 36 | 20.60 | 2.10 | 0.56 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.49m subsoil; 0.49-0.56m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 37 | 20.10 | 2.10 | 0.71 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.66m subsoil; 0.66-0.71m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 38 | 21.00 | 2.10 | 0.48 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.42m subsoil; 0.42-0.48m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 39 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.42 | 0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.37m subsoil; 0.37-0.42m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 40 | 21.00 | 2.10 | 0.54 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.54m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 41 | 19.80 | 2.10 | 0.44 | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.42m subsoil; 0.42-0.44m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. |
| 42 | 20.80 | 2.10 | 0.46 | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.40m subsoil; 0.40-0.46m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. |
| 43 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.40 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.37m subsoil; 0.37-0.40m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 44 | 20.30 | 2.10 | 0.38 | 0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.38m+ mid grey silty clay natural geology with chalk patches. |
| 45 | 20.10 | 2.10 | 0.39 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.39m subsoil; 0.39m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 46 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.52 | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.45m subsoil; 0.45-0.52m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Posthole 19 |
| 47 | 22.00 | 2.10 | 0.64 | 0–0.34m topsoil; 0.34-0.52m subsoil; 0.52-0.64m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 48 | 22.60 | 2.10 | 0.39 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.37m subsoil; 0.37-0.39m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 49 | 22.10 | 2.10 | 0.49 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.44m subsoil; 0.44-0.49m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 50 | 19.00 | 2.10 | 0.53 | 0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.48m subsoil; 0.48-0.3953m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Linear 10. |
| 51 | 21.00 | 2.10 | 0.50 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.45m subsoil; 0.45-0.50m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 52 | 18.30 | 2.10 | 0.61 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.58m subsoil; 0.58-0.61m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 53 | 21.30 | 2.10 | 0.49 | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.45m subsoil; 0.45-0.49m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 54 | 21.90 | 2.10 | 0.41 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 55 | 18.00 | 2.10 | 0.73 | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.73m+; mid brownish grey silty gravel natural geology. |
| 56 | 18.50 | 2.10 | 0.61 | 0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.56m subsoil; 0.56-0.61m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 57 | 20.50 | 2.10 | 0.56 | 0–0.34m topsoil; 0.34-0.50m subsoil; 0.50-0.56m+; mid brownish grey sandy clay natural geology. Linear 12. |
| 58 | 24.00 | 2.10 | 0.39 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.39m subsoil; 0.39m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 59 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.45 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.39m subsoil; 0.39-0.45m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 60 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.56 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.54m subsoil; 0.54-0.56m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Ditch terminal 22 |
| 61 | 21.50 | 2.10 | 0.49 | 0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.43m subsoil; 0.43-0.49m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Ditch 24. |
| 62 | 21.00 | 2.10 | 0.64 | 0–0.39m topsoil; 0.39-0.57m subsoil; 0.57-0.64m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Linears 13; 14;15. [Pl. 3] |
| 63 | 19.80 | 2.10 | 0.42 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.37m subsoil; 0.37-0.42m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 64 | 19.90 | 2.10 | 0.46 | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.43m subsoil; 0.43-0.46m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. [Pl. 1] |
| 65 | 22.00 | 2.10 | 0.47 | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.42m subsoil; 0.42-0.47m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 66 | 20.10 | 2.10 | 0.41 | 0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.35m subsoil; 0.35-0.41m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 67 | 20.40 | 2.10 | 0.52 | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.44m subsoil; 0.44-0.52m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 68 | 20.20 | 2.10 | 0.49 | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.47m subsoil; 0.47-0.49m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Features 1m; 3m and 8m. |
| 69 | 19.10 | 2.10 | 0.49 | 0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.45m subsoil; 0.45-0.49m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Ditch 23. |
| 70 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.43 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.39m subsoil; 0.39-0.43m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 71 | 21.20 | 2.10 | 0.48 | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.46m subsoil; 0.46-0.48m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 72 | 19.50 | 2.10 | 0.53 | 0–0.34m topsoil; 0.34-0.48m subsoil; 0.48-0.53m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 73 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.47 | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. [PI. 2] |
| 74 | 21.60 | 2.10 | 0.55 | 0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.55m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 75 | 20.40 | 2.10 | 0.56 | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.56m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 76 | 19.40 | 2.10 | 0.43 | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.39m subsoil; 0.39-0.43m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 77 | 21.10 | 2.10 | 0.45 | 0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.42m subsoil; 0.42-0.45m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. |
| 78 | 22.00 | 2.10 | 0.55 | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.55m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology. Linears 20-21. [PI. 4] |
| 79 | 21.90 | 2.10 | 0.43 | 0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.38m subsoil; 0.38-0.43m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Features at 4m and 12m. |
| 80 | 20.00 | 2.10 | 0.41 | 0–0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.38m subsoil; 0.38-0.41m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. |
| 81 | 21.00 | 2.10 | 0.57 | 0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.48m subsoil; 0.48-0.57m+; mid to light brown sandy clay natural geology; with gravel patches. Gully 81. |

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Deposit</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating Evidence</i> |
|---------------|------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| all | | 50 | Topsoil | | |
| all | | 51 | Subsoil | | |
| 12 | 1 | 52 | Ditch | LBA or later | Pottery |
| 18 | 2 | 53 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 17 | 3 | 54 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 3 | 4 | 55 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 3 | 5 | 56 | Gully | Undated | |
| 21 | 7 | 57 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 25 | 8 | 58 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 25 | 9 | 59 | Ditch terminus | Undated | |
| 50 | 10 | 60 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 81 | 11 | 61 | Gully | Undated | |
| 57 | 12 | 62 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 62 | 13 | 63 | Gully | Undated | |
| 62 | 14 | 64 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 62 | 15 | 65 | Gully | LBA or later | Pottery |
| 14 | - | 66 | Spread | Medieval | Pottery |
| 14 | - | 67 | Spread | Medieval | Same as 66 |
| 14 | 6 | 68; 69 | Ditch | Medieval or later | Stratigraphy |
| 27 | 16 | 70 | Ditch | modern | ? |
| 46 | 19 | 71 | Pit | Undated | |
| 78 | 20 | 72 | Ditch terminus | Undated | |
| 78 | 21 | 73; 74 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 60 | 22 | 75 | Ditch terminus | Undated | |
| 69 | 23 | 76; 77 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 61 | 24 | 78; 79; 80 | Ditch | Medieval | Pottery |
| 58 | 25 | 81; 82 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 27 | 17 | 82 | Ditch | modern | Plastic |
| 27 | 18 | 83 | Ditch | modern | Plastic |

APPENDIX 3: *Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.*

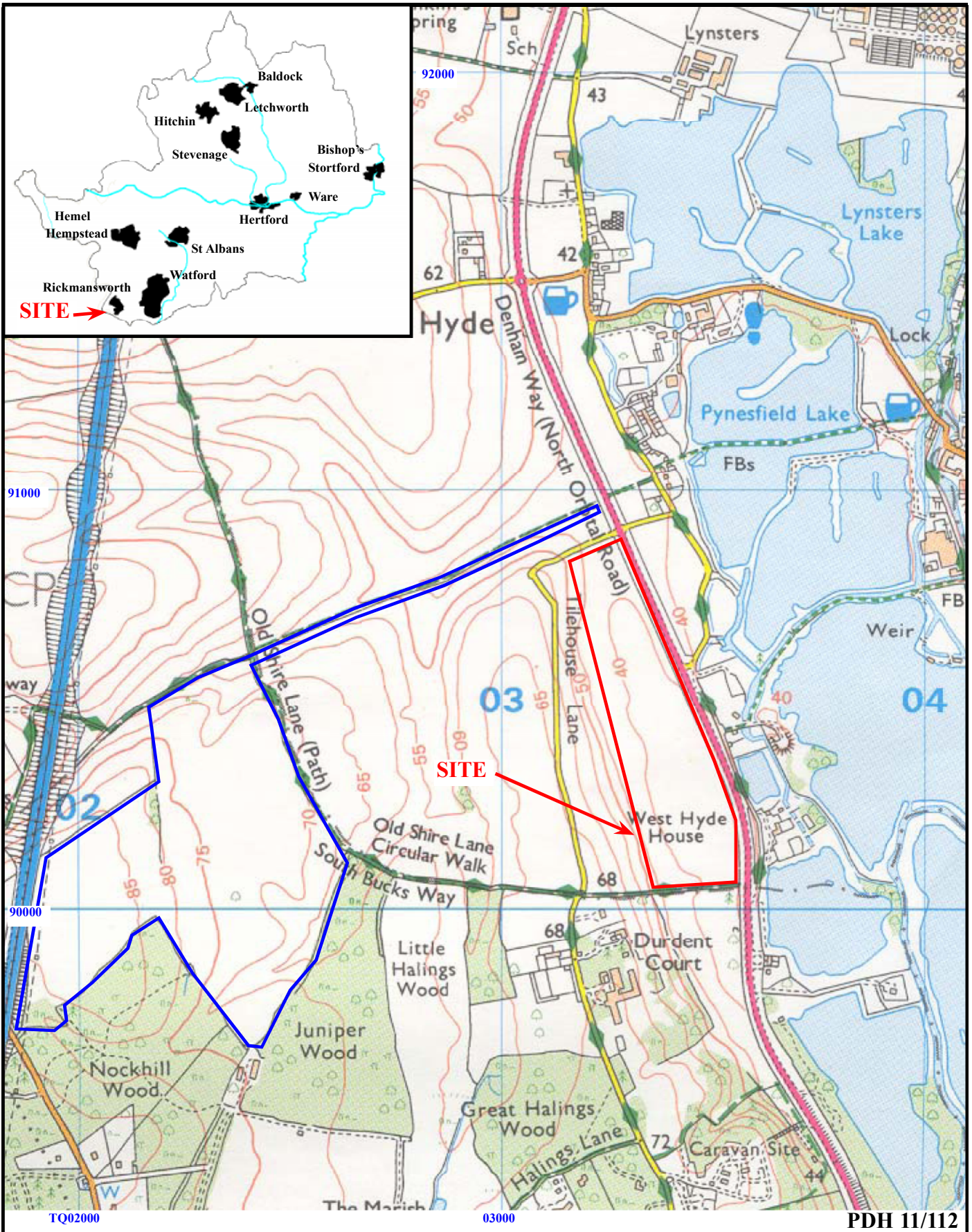
| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Deposit</i> | <i>LBA</i> | | <i>DT</i> | | <i>HG</i> | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt</i> |
| 12 | 1 | 52 | 2 | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| 18 | 2 | 57 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 17 |
| 62 | 15 | 65 | 1 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| 61 | 24 | 78 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 39 |
| 14 | | 66 | - | - | 1 | 32 | - | - |
| | | Total | 3 | 19 | 1 | 32 | 5 | 56 |

APPENDIX 4: Inventory of animal bone

| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Deposit</i> | <i>No.</i> | <i>Wt (g)</i> | <i>Cattle</i> | <i>Sheep/goat</i> | <i>Large</i> | <i>Medium</i> |
|------------|----------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 7 | 57 | 8 | 28 | - | 8 | - | - |
| 8 | 58 | 2 | 406 | 2 | | - | - |
| 12 | 62 | 3 | 42 | - | | 3 | - |
| 24 | 79 | 2 | 46 | 2 | | - | - |
| 24 | 80 | 4 | 14 | - | | - | 4 |
| | Total | 19 | 536 | | | | |

APPENDIX 5: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

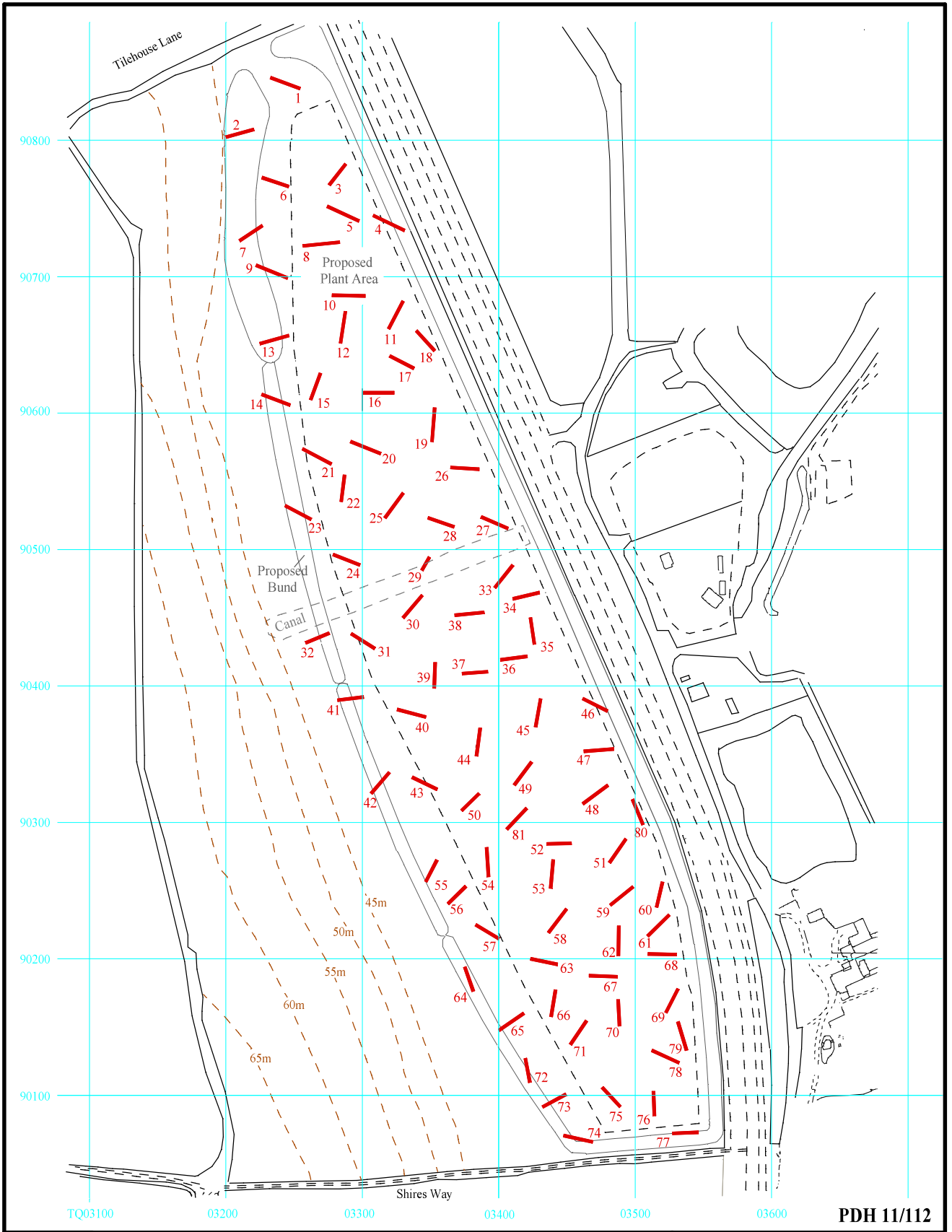
| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Site name and address: Pynesfield, Denham, Hertfordshire | | |
| County: Hertfordshire | District: Three Rivers | |
| Village/Town: Denham | Parish: West Hyde | |
| Planning application reference: | | |
| Client name; address; and tel. no.: Harleyford Aggregates Ltd; Harleyford; Henley Road; Marlow; Buckinghamshire; SL7 2DX | | |
| Nature of application: Mineral extraction | | |
| Present land use: arable | | |
| Size of application area: 9ha | Size of area investigated: 9 ha | |
| NGR (to 8 figures): TQ 0330 9040 | | |
| Site code (if applicable): PDH 11/112 | | |
| Site director/Organization: David Platt; Thames Valley Archaeological Services | | |
| Type of work: Evaluation | | |
| Date of work: | Start: 16/04/2012 | Finish: 23/04/2012 |
| Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services; Reading and will be deposited at Three Rivers Museum in due course. | | |
| Related HER Nos: | Periods represented: Late Bronze Age Medieval | |
| Relevant previous summaries/reports: Dawson, T, 2011, 'Pynesfield, Denham, Hertfordshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 10/117, Reading | | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: Of eighty-two trenches; only 18 contained possible archaeological features. A number of linear features comprising gullies and ditches were recorded along with single small pit of post medieval or modern date. Most of the linear features were undated. Two were clearly of modern date, and one is probably of medieval date. A second ditch cut a spread containing medieval and is of medieval or later date. A ditch and a gully contained one sherd each of Late Bronze Age pottery and very tentatively might date from this period. Overall a low volume of certain or possible archaeological features were revealed. | | |
| Author of summary: David Platt | Date of summary: 30/04/2012 | |



**Pynesfield, Denham, Hertfordshire, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Pynesfield and Hertfordshire.

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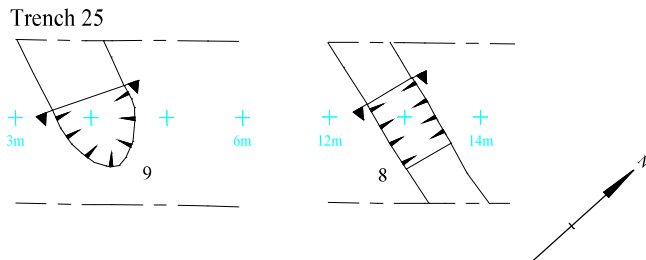
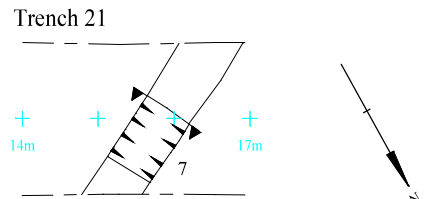
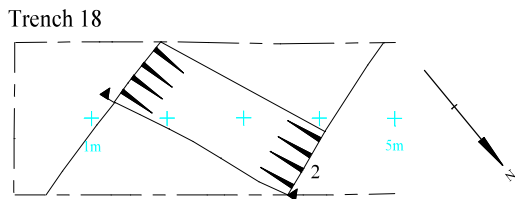
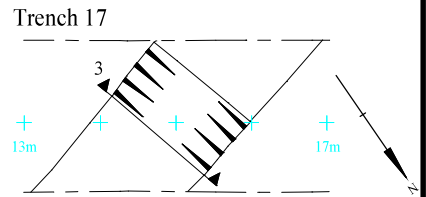
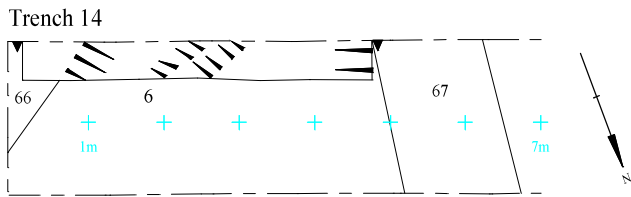
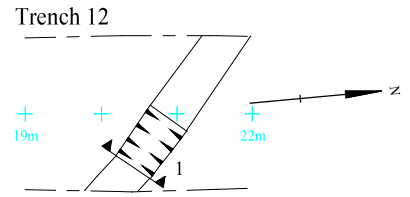
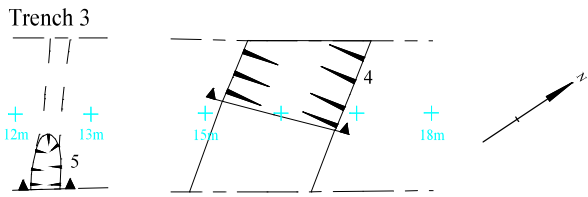
PDH 11/112



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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of trenches.





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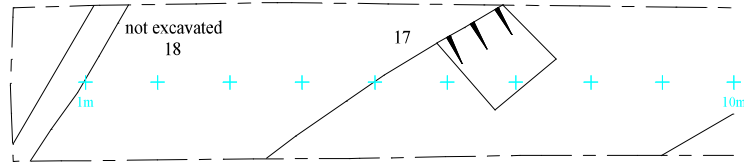
**Pynesfield, Denham, Hertfordshire, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Trench Plans

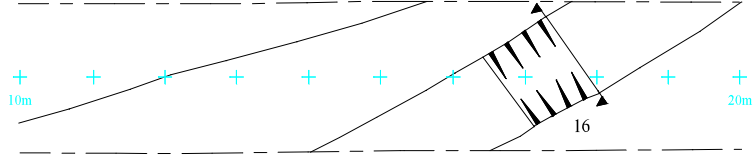


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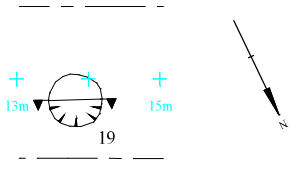
Trench 27



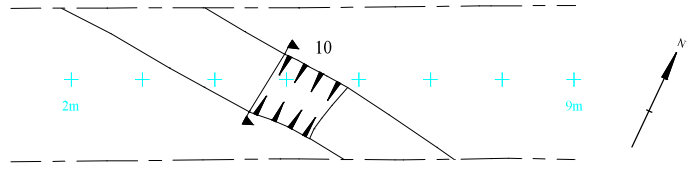
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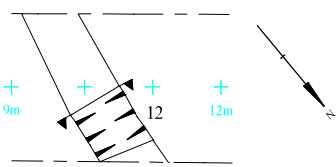
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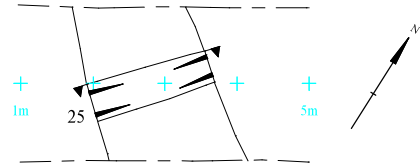
Trench 50



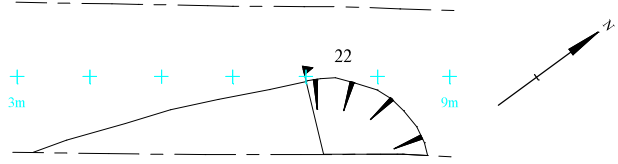
Trench 57



Trench 58



Trench 60



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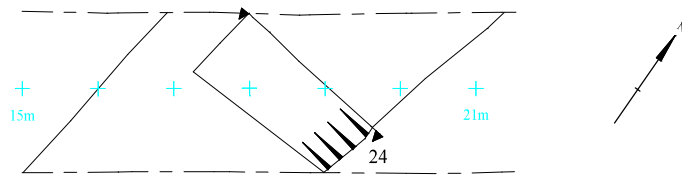
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Trench plans

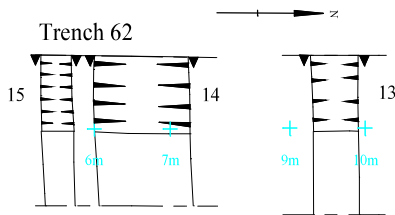


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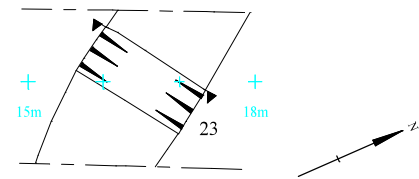
Trench 61



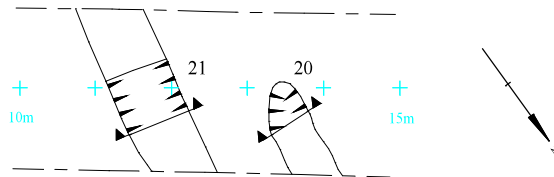
Trench 62



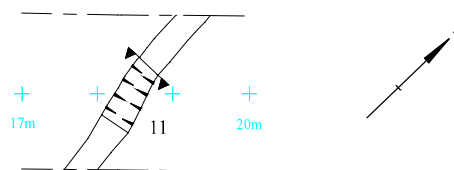
Trench 69



Trench 78



Trench 81



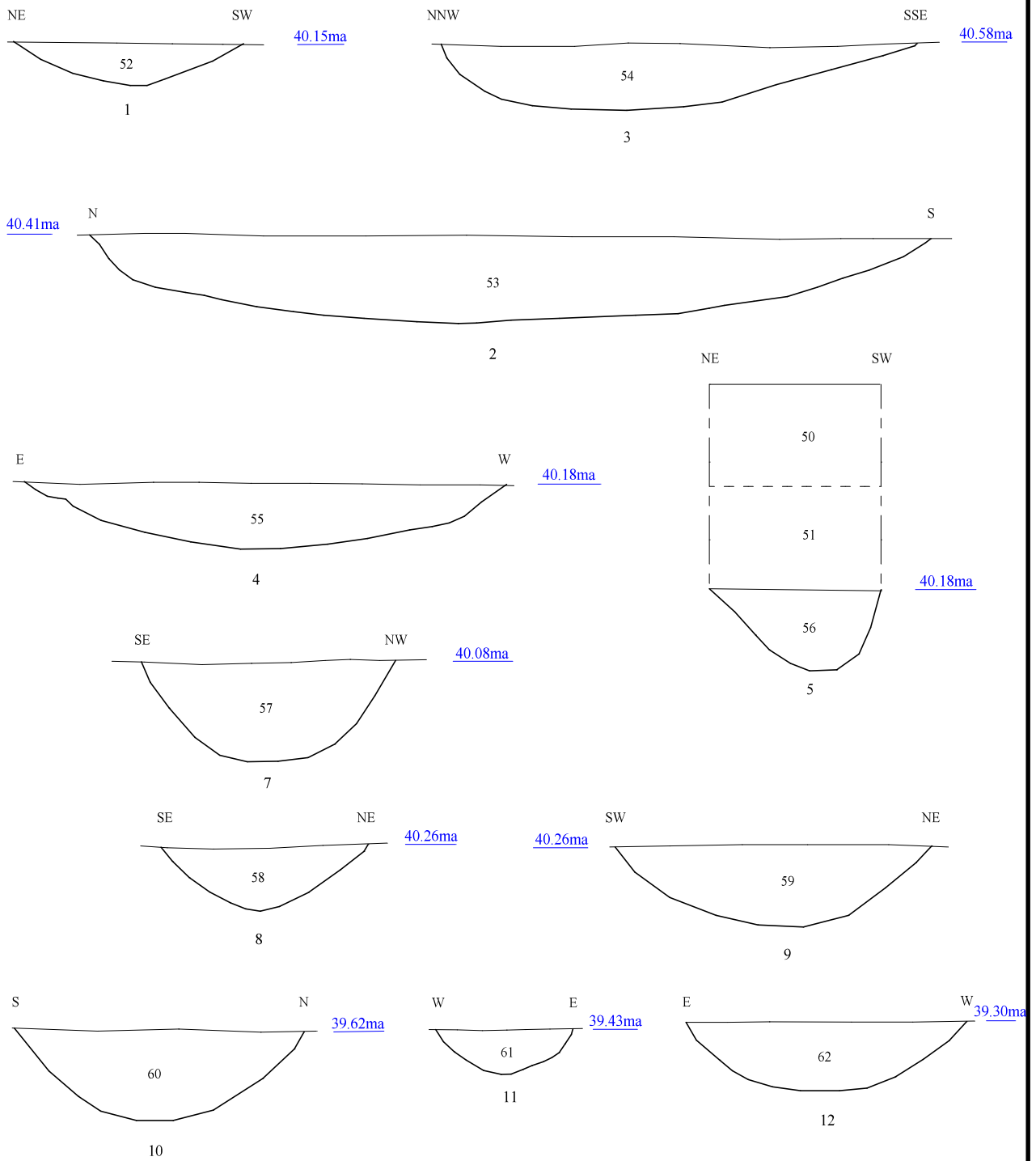
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Figure 5. Trench Plans



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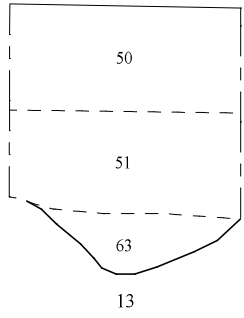
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Figure 6. Section Drawings



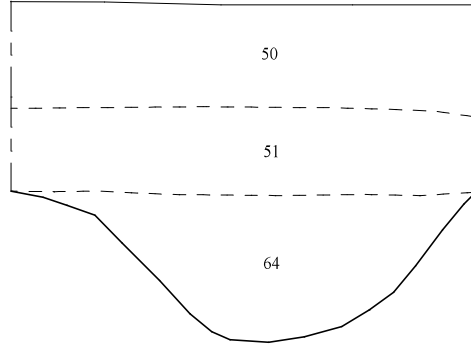
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SW NE



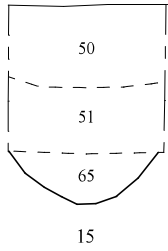
[39.20ma](#)

SW NE



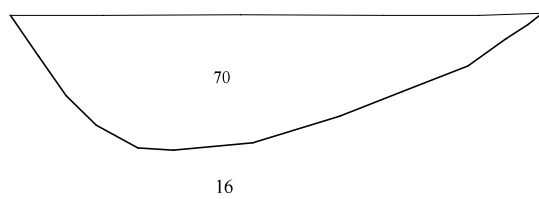
[39.20ma](#)

SW NE



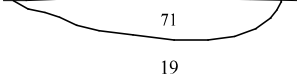
[39.20ma](#)

SW NE



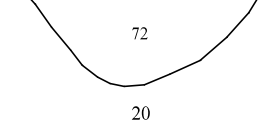
[39.85ma](#)

S N



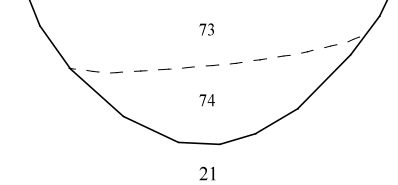
[39.66ma](#)

NW SE



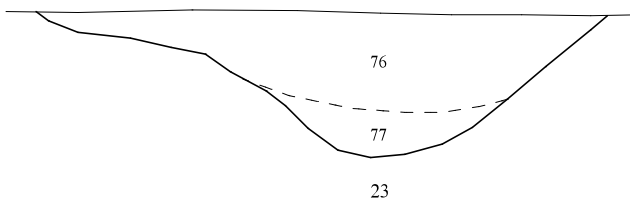
[39.13ma](#)

NW SE



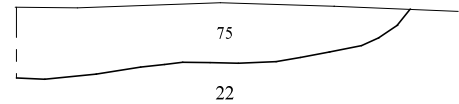
[39.13ma](#)

W E



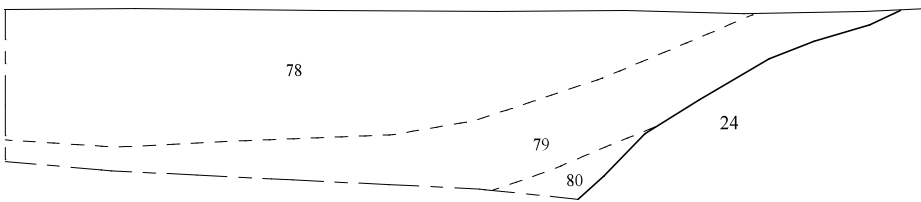
[38.94ma](#)

E W



[39.41ma](#)

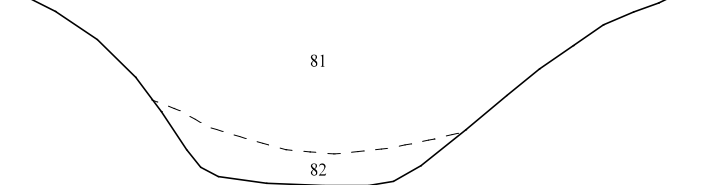
N S



[38.98ma](#)

[39.28ma](#)

S N

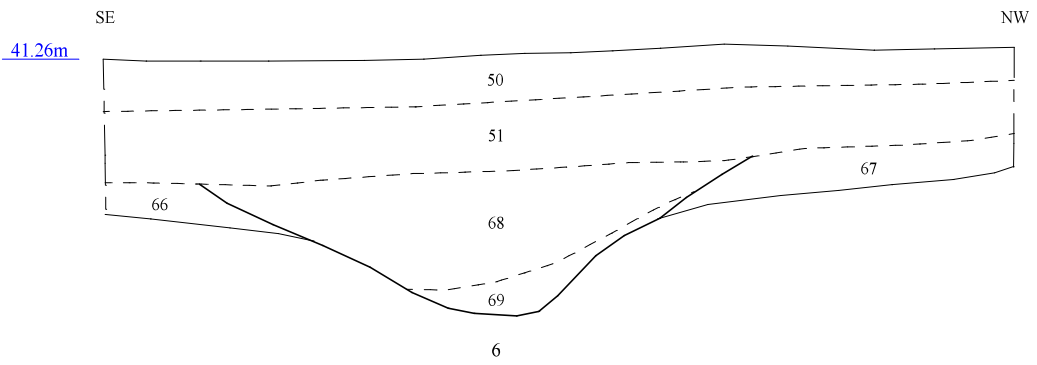


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Figure 7 Section Drawings





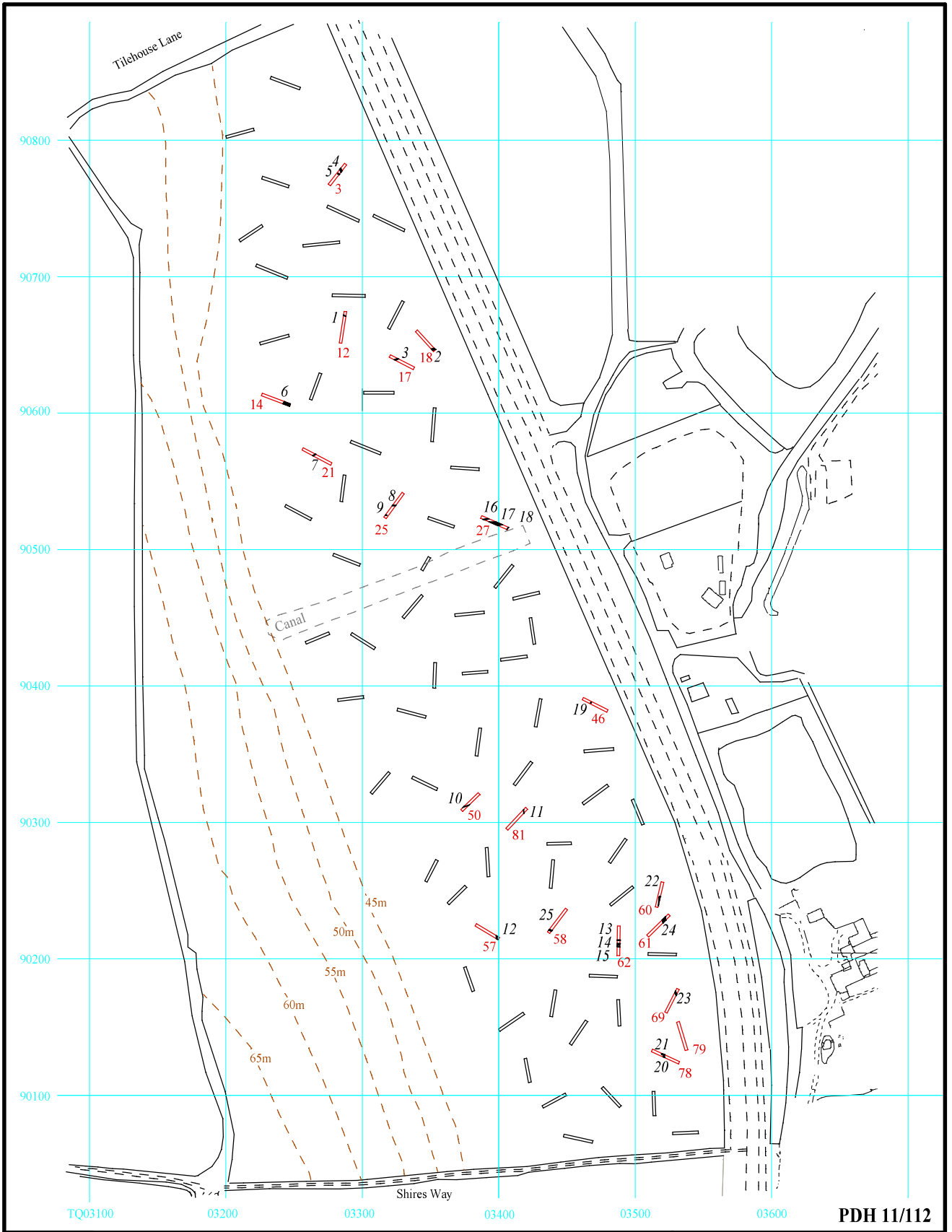
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Figure 8. Section Drawing



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Figure 9. Location of features in the trenches.



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Plate 1. Trench 64, looking north, Scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 73, looking northeast, Scales: 1m and 2m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 62, gully 15, looking northwest, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 78, ditch 21, looking north, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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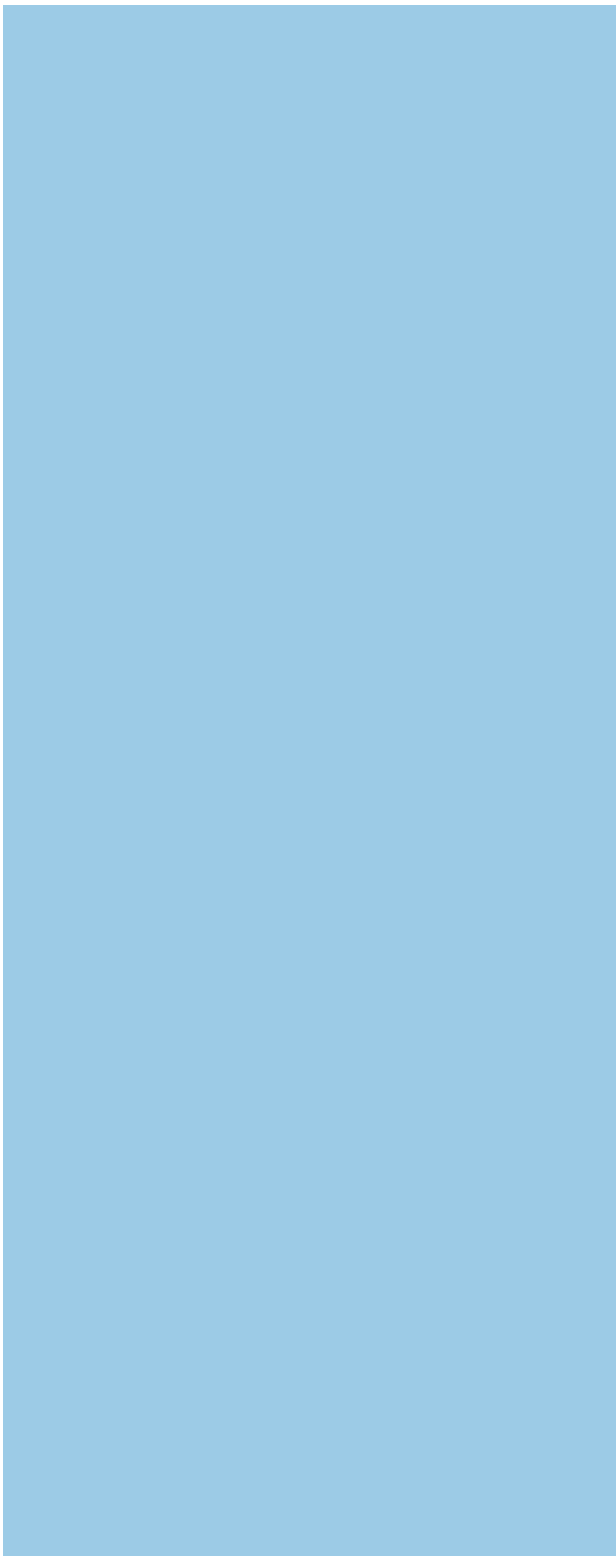
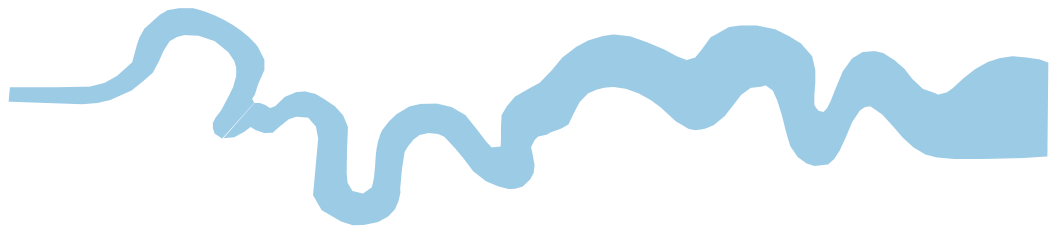
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Plates 3 and 4.

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TIME CHART

| | Calendar Years |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Modern _____ | AD 1901 |
| Victorian _____ | AD 1837 |
| Post Medieval _____ | AD 1500 |
| Medieval _____ | AD 1066 |
| Saxon _____ | AD 410 |
| Roman _____ | AD 43 |
| Iron Age _____ | BC/AD 750 BC |
| Bronze Age: Late _____ | 1300 BC |
| Bronze Age: Middle _____ | 1700 BC |
| Bronze Age: Early _____ | 2100 BC |
| Neolithic: Late | 3300 BC |
| Neolithic: Early | 4300 BC |
| Mesolithic: Late | 6000 BC |
| Mesolithic: Early | 10000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Upper | 30000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Middle | 70000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Lower | 2,000,000 BC |





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