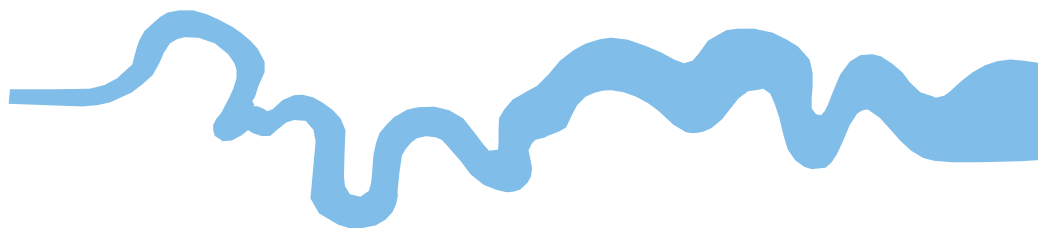


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Land at Mudford,
Yeovil, Somerset**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Nicholas Dawson

Site Code: MYS23/160

(ST 5624 1833)

Land at Mudford, Yeovil, Somerset

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for LVA**

by Nicholas Dawson

TVAS South West

Site Code MYS 23/160

October 2023

Summary

Site name: Land at Mudford, Yeovil, Somerset

Grid reference: ST 5624 1833

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th-10th August 2023

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site supervisor: Nicholas Dawson

Site code: MYS 23/160

Area of site: 20.3ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out mainly as intended with one trench having to be reorientated. The excavated trenches revealed evidence for Late Iron Age to Roman agricultural activity and possibly limited settlement as well as possible Medieval field systems.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at the Somerset Heritage Centre in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 08.10.23
	Steve Preston ✓ 09.10.23

Land at Mudford, Yeovil, Somerset Archaeological Evaluation

by Nicholas Dawson

Report 23/160

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Mudford, Yeovil, Somerset (ST 5624 1833) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Alex Bullcock for LVA, 247 Westbury, Sherbourne Dorset, DT9 3EJ.

Planning permission is to be sought from Somerset Council to develop the land for residential use. A field evaluation by means of machine trenching has been requested to determine the archaeological potential of the site, to inform the planning process and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2023), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Steven Membrey, Senior Historic Environment Offices at South West Heritage Trust, the archaeological adviser to Somerset Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Nicholas Dawson, Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz, Arkadiusz Piszcz, Dominika Golebiowska, Jonny Davey, Ruell Smith, Barry Hennessy, Piotr Wróbel and Mariusz Paszkiwicz between 7th and 10th August 2023 and the site code is MYS 23/160. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Somerset Heritage Centre in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on northern edge of Yeovil, Somerset (Fig. 1) and consist of three fields covering 20.3ha. The current use of site is as arable farm land. It is bounded to the west, north and east by further farm land and to the south by Mudford Road (A359) with residential estates beyond that. The site's elevation falls from about 82m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its southern edge to 45m aOD in the north. An unnamed stream runs along the site's western edge. The underlying geology is mapped as Dyrham Formation – siltstone and sandstone with no superficial geological deposits recorded (BGS 2017).

Archaeological background

The archaeological background has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (CA 2020). In summary there were no known archaeological deposits on the site or in immediately adjacent areas and the site lies at some distance from the historic core of the town. Fieldwork several hundred metres to the east at Lyde Road has, however, revealed a variety of prehistoric sites and finds with early Neolithic arrowheads, and Late Neolithic pottery recovered along with a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery. These deposits were overlain by a Middle-Late Bronze Age field system with further Iron Age and Roman activity (WA 2011). Historic maps show the presence of a small structure towards the centre of the site. The site has been subject to geophysical survey (Substrata 2020) which revealed a number of linear and circular anomalies of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 2).

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 site.

Aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if some or all of the geophysical anomalies are of archaeological origin;
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required ; and
- to report on the findings of the evaluation.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out by Historic England (2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary (Webster 2008).

Twenty trenches were to be opened, all of 25m length and 1.8–2m width. The trenches were to be excavated mechanically under constant archaeological supervision to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon or the natural geology. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of any archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above but without compromising the integrity of any features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining full excavation. A programme of environmental sampling was to take place where well stratified deposits were located. Metal detectors were used to enhance recovery of metal finds.

Results

All but one of the trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 2). Trench 6 was pivoted very slightly to avoid a visible manhole. The trenches ranged from 22.5m to 27m in length and from 0.30m to 0.65m in depth. All were 1.8m wide and all apart from Trenches 6 and 13 revealed features of archaeological interest. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The trenches with potential archaeological features are described below. Topsoil (50) and subsoil (51) were identical in all trenches and so are described only for Trench 1. All investigated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 11; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SE – NW and was 22m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil (50) above 0.13m of mid yellow brown sandy clay subsoil (51) above dark yellow brown sandy clay - natural geology. The trench contained four linear features, all on a NE-SW orientation and all of which were investigated. The first, located at 8.6m from the trench's SE end, was a ditch (1) 0.7m wide and 0.14m deep containing an upper fill (52) of yellowish-brown sandy clay and lower fill (53) of yellow clay with no finds or features. The next ditch (4) at 15.6m was 0.85m wide and 0.1m deep with a fill (56) of mottled grey, white and orange sandy clay. The final two linear features located at 19m consist of a ditch (2) 0.83m wide, 0.23m deep with a fill (54) of mid grey-brown silty clay and a second ditch (3) 0.4m wide, 0.26m deep with a fill (55) of dark grey-brown silty clay. The relationship between the two features is unclear. There were no finds recovered from any of the features, but a single unstratified oyster shell was recovered from the trench 1 spoil heap. Ditch 4 is a close match to a geophysical anomaly and although the others could also broadly align the matches are not close (it is possible that it was features 1 and 2 that correspond to the geophysical anomaly allowing for a small offset in location).

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 11)

Trench 2 was aligned SE – NW and was 23m long and 0.44m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil (50) above 0.18m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Two linear features were identified and investigated, both on a NE-SW orientation. The first at 6m was a gully (5) 0.37m wide and 0.2m deep with a fill (57) of light-yellow grey clay. Gully 5 is cut by a land drain on a NW-SE orientation. The second feature was a ditch (6) at 11.5m with a width of 0.58m and depth of 0.2m. Its fill (58) consisted of a grey-orange sandy clay. No finds were recovered from either feature.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 4 and 11)

Aligned SSE – NNW Trench 3 was 26.5m long and 0.31m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (50) above 0.06m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Six linear features of

archaeological interest were identified in the trench. The first of these features at 8m are a ditch terminus (11) and a ditch (10) on a NW-SE orientations cut by a feature (12), likely plough scaring on a N-S orientation. Ditch 10 was 0.34m wide and 0.16m deep with a fill (62) of light brownish grey sandy clay. Ditch terminus 11 extends from the western edge of the trench for 1m before terminating. Its width was 1m and depth 0.12m, with a fill (63) of light brownish grey sandy clay. The remaining features were all on an ENE-WSW orientation. The first of these at 16m was a ditch (9) 0.96m wide and 0.28m deep with a fill (61) of light yellowish brown sandy clay with a few (unworked) flint fragments. Next, two ditches (7 and 8) begin separately at the western trench edge before merging, their relationship is uncertain. Ditch 7 is 0.4m wide, 0.11m deep and its fill (59) was light orangey brown clay and ditch 8, 1m wide, 0.2m deep with a fill (60) and light orangey brown clay. At the north end of trench ditch 17 was at least 1m wide continuing beyond the north edge of trench and at least 0.29m deep. Its upper fill (68) was a mid-orange, brown clay and the lower fill (69) was a light orange-brown clay. The linear is later cut by a NW-SE orientated land drain (17). All of the identified features correspond broadly with geophysical anomalies.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 4 and 11; Pl. 2)

The trench was aligned SE – NW with a length of 23.5m and depth of 0.4m. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (50) above 0.13m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Two linear features were identified on roughly E-W orientations, both reasonably close matches for geophysical anomalies. The first at 11m was a ditch (19) 1.5m wide which was left unexcavated as clay pipe and blue and white ‘china’ were noted within the top of its fill (71) of grey-brown silty clay. The second feature at 18m was a ditch (13) which was 0.6m wide and 0.21m deep with a fill (65) brownish grey silty clay with no finds. It appeared to cut what appeared to be root action where it exited the trench.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 5 and 11)

Trench 5 was aligned SE – NW and was 24.5m long and 0.65m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil (50) above 0.38m of subsoil (51) above a pale yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. The trench contained a single pit (14) located on and partially out of the western edge of trench. The pit was 0.38m wide and 0.31m deep with a fill (66) of mid brown sandy clay with no finds.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 5 and 11)

Aligned SE – NW Trench 7 was 23.7m long and 0.3m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil (50) above 0.08m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow silty clay - natural geology. Within trench 7 four linear features were identified, three on a parallel NE-SW orientation and one close to east–west. The first ditch (15) at 9.8m from the trench’s SE end was 0.6m wide, 0.1m deep with a fill (67) of mid yellow-brown silty clay. Aligned

east–west at 11.5m, ditch 21 was 0.5m wide, 0.1m deep and filled with) mottled light brown and light orange sandy clay (73). Towards the western edge of the trench ditch 21 cut earlier ditch 22 which has a width of 0.58m, depth of 0.12m and fill (74) of brown and grey silty clay. The last feature sits at 14.5m and is a ditch (18) some 0.45m wide, 0.17m deep with a fill (70) of orange-brown clay. No dating evidence was recovered from the trench 7 features. Ditch 22 may correspond to an geophysical anomaly but the survey had not detected anything on the line of the other features in this trench.

Trench 8 (Figs 2, 5 and 12; Pl. 7)

Trench 8 was aligned W – E and was 24.3m long and 0.52m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (50) above 0.15m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow silty clay - natural geology. The first of two features at 12m from the west end of the trench was a ditch (32) on a NW-SE orientation with a width of 0.63m and depth of 0.21m. Its fill (83) consisted of a light brown sandy clay. The second feature at 14m was a N-S orientated ditch (20), 1.15m wide and 0.6m deep with a fill (72) of light brown to greyish brown sandy clay from which an unidentified animal bone and a copper alloy fragment were recovered. Ditch 32 matches a geophysical anomaly quite closely.

Trench 9 (Figs 2, 5 and 12)

Trench 9 was aligned SW – NE and was 25.5m long and 0.3m deep, with a stratigraphy of 0.15m topsoil (50) over 0.09m subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow silty clay – natural geology. A single N-S ditch (41) was identified at 15m with a width of 0.7m and depth of 0.28m and fill (93) of greyish yellow brown clay silt. Recovered from the fill (93) was a base sherd dating to the Mid-Roman Period (AD 150-250). This ditch corresponds with a large C-shaped anomaly detected by the geophysics and also observed in trench 10.

Trench 10 (Figs 2, 6 and 12; Pls 3, 8 and 9)

The trench was aligned SW – NE with a length of 26m and depth of 0.32m. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.1m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Five features of archaeological interest were identified. At the south-west end of the trench, ditch (111) 0.5m wide, with a fill (165) of light brown silty clay was left unexcavated. At 8.5m along the north trench edge, also unexcavated, is a possible ditch terminus or pit (110) at least 0.7m wide with a light brown silt clay fill (164). At 10m and entering the trench from the southern edge is curving gully terminus 47 with a width of 0.4m, depth of 0.24m and fill (99) of mid brown sandy clay containing a single Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery sherd. The gully appears to match a penannular ring-shaped geophysical anomaly although that was interpreted as continuous. At 13.5m ditch 48 has a width of 0.96m, depth of 0.42m and a fill (150) of mid orangey brown sandy clay. It is likely to match the large C-shaped anomaly also recorded in trench 9. Lastly gully 23 was found at 20m with a width of

0.36m, depth of 0.19m and fill (75) of mid orangey brown sandy clay containing 2 sherds of Late Iron Age-Early Roma pottery; it also appears a good match for the penannular geophysical anomaly (i.e., the same feature as 47).

Trench 11 (Figs 2, 6 and 12; Pl. 10)

Aligned N – S, trench 11 was 27m long and 0.6m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil (50) above 0.23m of subsoil (51) followed at the northern end reddish brown clay and mudstone and at the southern end a pale brown silty clay - natural geology. Covering the first 9.5m of the trench from the south end was a hill wash or occupation deposit (154) consisting of a mottled brown, grey brown and light-yellow silty clay. A 3m long, 0.5m wide slot was excavated through the south end of this deposit, from which 23 sherds of Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery were recovered along with nine struck flints. No feature was observed that would correspond with the geophysical anomaly crossing this trench.

Trench 12 (Figs 2, 7 and 12; Pl. 11)

Trench 12 was aligned SSE – NNW and was 24.6m long and 0.4m deep, with a stratigraphy of 0.25m topsoil (50) above 0.05m (51) subsoil above mixed red brown clay and mudstone – natural geology. A single large pit was identified at 1.5m on the east edge of trench, with a width of 1.44m and depth of 0.39m and a very irregular profile. The upper fill (152) was a mid-brown silty clay and the lower fill (153) was a mottled mid-brown and pale brown silty clay. A post-medieval ceramic land drain (112) orientated NW – SE cut the pit's western edge. No dating evidence was recovered from the pit. Neither the pit nor the land drain is a match for either of the two geophysical anomalies crossing this trench.

Trench 14 (Figs 2, 7 and 12; Pl. 12)

Trench 14 was aligned SE – NW and was 25.6m long and 0.3m deep. Topsoil 0.25m deep directly overlay the natural geology which was a mixed red brown clay and mudstone at the southern end of the trench and pale-yellow brown silty clay at the northern end. Three features of archaeological interest were identified with two on a parallel E-W orientation. The first a ditch (101) was 0.48m wide and 0.2m deep and a fill (155) of light brown silty clay and traces of charcoal. Next at 6.5m a ditch terminus or pit (102) entering the trench from the western section, aligned NE–SW if it was a ditch. Its width was 2.03m and depth 0.73m with a fill (156) of grey, brown silty clay from which two flint flakes were recovered. Adjacent to this at 7.3m a shallow ditch (103) 0.45m wide, 0.09m deep, with a fill (157) of light grey brown silty clay. The ditches broadly correspond with geophysical anomalies in this area but may be slightly offset to the north.

Trench 15 (Figs 2, 7 and 13)

This trench was positioned across multiple geophysical anomalies, aligned S – N with a length of 25m and depth of 0.45m. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil (50) above 0.13m of subsoil (51) above a brownish-yellow silty clay and mudstone - natural geology. A shallow, sinuous gully (104) originating at the trench's southern end extended for 8.9m before exiting the trench into the western section. Its width was 0.43m, depth 0.1m and its fill (158) was a dark yellowish brown clay silt. It could match either of two geophysical anomalies. Next at 15m is an curing, broadly E-W ditch (105) with a width of 0.9m, depth of 0.2m and fill (159) of mid brown silty clay both with no finds. It appears in the location of a geophysical anomaly but is not a very close match. Finally at the north end of the trench an E-W ditch (113) was left unexcavated due to post-medieval ceramic, glass and clay pipe identified at the top of fill (167), a mid yellowish brown clay silt.

Trench 16 (Figs 2, 8 and 13; Pl. 4)

Aligned SE – NW trench 16 was 25.6m long and 0.32m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil (50) above 0.08m of subsoil (51) above a brownish-yellow silty clay and mudstone – natural. The trench contained four features all containing later post-medieval to early modern finds within the top of their fills, as such all were left unexcavated. These features include a NE-SW ditch (109) at 4.2m, two large intercutting pits (106 & 107) covering from 9.2m to 17.4m and a second NE-SW ditch (108) at 17m. Any of these features might correlate with the geophysical anomalies in this area.

Trench 17 (Figs 2, 9 and 13)

Aligned close to S–N, trench 17 was 23.8m long and 0.4m deep, with a stratigraphy of 0.3m of topsoil (50) above 0.06m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow silty clay – natural geology. A total of eight features of archaeological interest were identified, none of which was in the location of a geophysical anomaly, and four of which were investigated. The first is an E-W ditch (24) at 1m from the south end of the trench, with a width of 0.55m, depth of 0.14m and fill (76) of grey brown silty clay containing a single sherd of Medieval pottery. This ditch (24) cuts a N-S slightly curving ditch (25) with a width of 0.5m, depth of 0.21m and fill (77) of brown silty clay that revealed a flint flake. Ditch 25 is then further cut at its northern end but ditch 26 which was aligned E-W and was not excavated. Its width was 0.46m and its fill (78) was a grey brown silty clay. Next at 6.5m a possible pit (27) located partially below the western section was left unexcavated, with a diameter at least 0.5m and fill (79) of grey brown silty clay. Adjacent to this is a ditch terminus (28) entering from the western edge of trench with a width of 0.56m and depth of 0.15m. Its fill (80) was grey brown silty clay that produced a single Medieval pottery sherd. At 8.2m on the eastern edge of trench a corresponding ditch terminus (29) was located but not excavated, with a width of 0.34m and fill (84) of grey brown silty clay. Next on a SW-NE orientation

was a ditch (30) at 11.5m, 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep. Its fill (81) was a mid brown silty clay that contained two sherds of pottery dating to the mid-Roman period. Finally at 18.5m an E-W ditch (31) with a width of 1m was left unexcavated. From the top of its fill (82), a grey brown silty clay were recovered 8 sherds of Medieval ceramic.

Trench 18 (Figs 2, 9 and 13; Pl. 6)

Trench 18 was aligned SSE – NNW and was 26.6m long and 0.46m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil (50) above 0.1m of subsoil (51) above a brownish-yellow silty clay and mudstone – natural. The first of the eight features identified in trench 18 is a SW-NE orientated ditch (34) 0.43m wide, 0.19m deep and filled with a grey brown clay (86). Adjacent to this and with an unclear relationship is an unexcavated possible gully terminus or root (33), 0.4m wide and with a fill (85) of grey brown clay. Also unexcavated and located to the west edge of trench at 16.7m is gully terminus 35. With a length of 1.1m and width of 0.42m its fill (87) consisted of a dark grey brown silty sand and from its surface was recovered a single Medieval pottery sherd. Next at 19.5m an E-W ditch (36) 0.39m wide with a brownish grey silty clay fill (88) and attached to the north side a possible pit or perhaps a pit cluster (37) some 1.2m in diameter with a fill (89) of the same brownish grey silty clay as (88). Beyond this at 24.3m a ditch (39) 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep with a fill (91) of grey brown silty clay. At 25.5m on a SW-NE orientation is a possible gully 0.3m wide only visible as a trace of fill (90), a grey brown silty clay with charcoal and abraded pottery flecks. This feature was not excavated (if it was real at all it probably cut from topsoil depth). Also unexcavated was the next feature (40). Located at the north end of trench and continuing into the north, west and east section cut 40 is likely a linear feature with a fill (92) of dark grey brown silty clay. Features at the north end of the trench may match a geophysical anomaly but it was unclear which did so, while there was no feature corresponding with an anomaly at the southern end of the trench.

Trench 19 (Figs 2, 10 and 13)

Aligned S – N trench 19 was 22.3m long and 0.36m deep. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil (50) above 0.08m of subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow silty clay – natural geology. Three E-W ditches were identified. The first (42) at 10.5m cut through the subsoil (51) and was 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep with a fill (94) of mid yellowish brown clay silt. The second ditch (43) located at 12.5m was not excavated but had width of 0.7m and fill (95) of mid yellowish brown clay silt. The third ditch (44) was located at 17.3m was 0.2m wide and 0.8m deep, with a fill (96) of mid brown silty clay. Ditch 43 matches a geophysical anomaly but the survey had detected nothing at the locations of ditches 42 and 44.

Trench 20 (Figs 2, 10 and 13; Pl. 7)

Trench 20 was aligned SW – NE and was 26.7m long and 0.4m deep. Observed stratigraphy was of 0.23m topsoil (50) followed by 0.11m subsoil (51) above a mid-yellow silty clay – natural geology. The features identified included two ditches with one cutting the second at 18.5m. The earlier ditch (46) was orientated N-S and 0.63m wide, 0.24m deep with a fill (98) of mid grey, brown silty clay. The second ditch (45) cuts the first on an E-S orientation with a width of 0.7m and depth of 0.31m and fill (97) of grey, brown silty clay. No finds were found. Both ditches are a good match for geophysical anomalies.

Finds

Pottery by Rachel Hall

A total of 76 sherds, weighing 460g, were recovered from eleven contexts from across the site (Appendix 3). The pottery ranges in date from the Late Iron Age through to the Medieval period (12th-15th century), based on form and fabric. The average sherd size is 6g and generally the assemblage is in an abraded condition.

The assemblage was counted, weighed (in grams) and data entered onto an Excel spreadsheet. The pottery fabrics were assessed by eye and where appropriate a hand lens with 40x magnification was used. The sherds were recorded by context for each different fabric using the dominant inclusion. All diagnostic sherds were recorded, such as rim, base and decorated sherds. Any internal and external residues were also recorded, the general condition and finally date of each sherd was recorded.

Late Iron Age-Early Roman (100BC – AD150)

A total of 26 sherds, weighing 97g, were recovered from three contexts, with an average sherd weight of 3.7g. Just two fabric types were identified, sand and grog-tempered wares, which are coarsewares fabrics that were probably locally made. The sherds are largely oxidized in firing with reduced cores, evidence of sandwich firing. The assemblage is plain with a small amount of sherds having burnished or smoothed surfaces.

A moderate number of oxidized, grog-tempered sherds with detrital flint inclusions were recovered from hillwash layer 154, with evidence of internal residues. A single, plain, jar rim and abraded base sherd were recovered with abraded body sherds, with smoothed surfaces. Two abraded, sandy-tempered body sherds were recovered from gully 23 and gully terminus 47 with burnished surfaces. These sherds are coarseware jars with smoothed surfaces and have parallels from the Late Iron Age (Laing 2014). Based on both form and fabric the assemblage can be dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period and comprise locally produced domestic wares (Laing 2014, 45).

Mid-Roman (AD 150-250)

A small amount of Black Burnished Ware was recovered (Tomber and Dore 1998). A 'dog dish' rim was recovered from ditch 30 along with a greyware base sherd, although here alongside medieval wares. A second Black Burnished Ware base sherd was also recovered from ditch 41. Parallels for these vessels can be found from assemblages at Ilchester (Leach 1983) dating to the 2nd century. They were used for cooking or storage and these sherds suggest a low-status, domestic settlement.

Medieval (12th - 15th Century)

A total of 47 sherds, weighing 338 g were recovered from seven contexts with a concentration in ditch 30. Three fabrics have been identified including sand, sand & calcareous (with sub-rounded voids suggesting leached chalk inclusions) and a coarse sand & flint-tempered fabric. All of the sherds are oxidized with reduced cores. The group comprises largely abraded, plain body sherds. A small number of diagnostic jar rims were recovered from ditch 30, in a sand-temper, ditch 31 in a sand & calcareous fabric and ditch 36 in a coarse sand & flint-tempered fabric. These jars have sooting around the curved bases or around the rim that suggest their use as domestic cooking vessels. They can be dated to the 12th-15th century and also have parallels locally at Ilchester (Leach 1983).

Fired clay by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Three pieces of burnt clay were recovered from gully 23 (75) in trench 10. The total weight of all pieces is 77g. The largest piece (68g) has a flat base which may suggest it was used as a lining of a feature. The remaining two are small crumbs likely broken off from the larger one. All fragments are mostly dark.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A small collection of 14 struck flints was recovered from the evaluation. The totals are summarized in Table 1 and detailed in Appendix 4. The material was recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts as well as cut features. A few of the pieces are very lightly patinated whitish blue but the collection on the whole is in good condition. The exception is one slightly weathered flake (from layer 154) is well patinated bluish white and is probably from an earlier period than the other flintwork in the same layer.

None of the pieces are blades *sensu stricto* but a flake from a post-medieval ditch retained bladescars on its dorsal surface and the one core recovered appears to be to produce blades (narrow flakes), if somewhat poorly executed. These two pieces seem to indicate a small Mesolithic component of the collection. The one flake

which was well patinated bluish white, might also be of mesolithic date. Other than these few these pieces, the collection is not closely datable and only a broad neolithic/Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Table 1: Summary of flint assemblage

<i>Type</i>	<i>Total</i>
Flakes	11
Spalls	1
Core fragments	1
Blade core	1

Metal by Jonathan Davey

A single copper alloy object of indeterminate date and function was recovered from ditch 20 (72). It is composed of thin copper alloy, coiled and 7mm wide, 2mm depth, weighing <1g.

Environmental sampling by Jo Pine

A total of seven bulk soil samples were processed from the deposits encountered during the evaluation. The samples were floated and wet sieved using a 0.25mm sieve and air dried and the flots were retained to be examined under a hand lens and microscope and magnifications between x8 and x60. Flecks of charcoal were present in samples 1 (66), 2 (72), 5 (93), and 6 (153) however this material was of size and structure that does not allow species identification. Samples 3 (75) and 7 (154) contained charcoal available for future analysis for species identification if required. Samples 2 (72) and 5 (93) have indeterminate seeds.

Oyster Shell by Agata Socha- Paszkiewicz

One oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*) was recovered from subsoil (51) of Trench 1. The shell weighs 13g and was quite abraded but could be identified as a right valve.

Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully investigated the site mostly as intended, with only a minor alteration to the position of trench 6. Of the twenty trenches opened, only two were empty (Trenches 6 and 13), with the remaining eighteen containing features of archaeological interest, for the most part confirming the results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Those features identified in trenches 1 to 8 in the south of the site were entirely made up of linear features, likely agricultural related but their date is unknown, except for ditch 19 in trench 4

which produced clay pipe as well as blue and white china. The ditch matches a field boundary shown on the 1901 six-inch OS map that was no longer visible by the 1927 revision of the map.

In trenches 9 to 12 were several features (41, 23, 47 and 11) producing diagnostic pottery from the Late Iron Age-Early Roman or the Mid-Roman periods. These match particularly well with the ring ditches identified by geophysical survey. Together with the possible occupation layer (154) this suggests some form of settlement activity of this period. The number of flint fragments found across the site hints at possible earlier activity in the area. In trenches 15 and 16 the amount of Post-Medieval/Early Modern features are possible likely related to a group of structures some 90m to the south-east that are present on the 1885 25-inch Ordnance Survey map. The map also shows the presence of a trackway some 20m west of where the pits are located. For the area covered by trenches 17 to 20 many ditches were identified along with the occasional possible pit. Five of these (30, 31, 36 and 39) produced Medieval (12th – 15th century) ceramics.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	22.5	1.8	0.36	0-0.23m Topsoil; 0.23-0.36m Subsoil; 0.36m+ Dark yellow brown sandy clay -natural geology. Ditches [1], [2], [4] and gully [3] [PI. 1]
2	23.0	1.8	0.44	0-0.22m Topsoil; 0.22-0.4m Subsoil; 0.4m+ Mid yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Ditch [5], gully [6]
3	26.5	1.8	0.31	0-0.25m Topsoil; 0.25-0.31m Subsoil; 0.31m+ Mid yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [7], [8], [9], [16], gullies [10], [11] and plough marks [12]
4	23.5	1.8	0.4	0-0.25m Topsoil; 0.25-0.38m Subsoil; 0.38m+ Mid yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [13] and [16] [PI. 2]
5	24.5	1.8	0.65	0-0.27m Topsoil; 0.27-0.65m Subsoil; 0.65m+ Pale yellow grey silty clay - natural geology. Ditch [14]
6	25.3	1.8	0.4	0-0.25m Topsoil; 0.25-0.3m Subsoil; 0.3m+ Pale yellow/grey silty clay - natural deposit.
7	23.7	1.8	0.3	0 0.20m Topsoil; 0.20-0.28m Subsoil; 0.28m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [15], [18], [21] and [22]
8	23.3	1.8	0.52	0-0.25m Topsoil; 0.25-0.4m Subsoil; 0.4m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [20] and [32] [PI. 7]
9	25.5	1.8	0.3	0-0.15m Topsoil; 0.15-0.24m Subsoil; 0.24m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Ditch [41]
10	26.0	1.8	0.32	0-0.20m Topsoil; 0.20-0.30m Subsoil; 0.30m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Gully [23], gully terminus [47], ditches [48] and [111] and pit/ditch terminus [110] [PIs 3, 8 and 9]
11	27.0	1.8	0.6	0-0.30m Topsoil; 0.30-0.53m Subsoil; 0.53m+ Pale brown silty clay at south half and red brown clay and mudstone at northern half - natural geology. Occupation layer (154) [PI. 10]
12	24.6	1.8	0.4	0-0.25m Topsoil; 0.25-0.30m Subsoil; 0.30m+ Mixed red brown clay and mudstone - natural geology. Pit [49] and land drain [112] [PI. 11]
13	24.0	1.8	0.45	0-0.25m Topsoil; 0.25-0.38m Subsoil; 0.38m+ Red brown clay - natural geology.
14	25.6	1.8	0.3	0-0.25m Topsoil; 0.25m+ Red brown clay and mudstone southern half and pale yellow brown silty clay at northern end - natural geology. Ditches [101] and [103] and pit/ditch terminus [102] [PI. 12]
15	25.0	1.8	0.45	0-0.27m Topsoil; 0.27-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ Brownish yellow silty clay and mudstone clay - natural geology. Gully [104] and ditches [105] [113]
16	25.6	1.8	0.32	0-0.2m Topsoil; 0.2-0.28m Subsoil; 0.28m+ Brownish yellow silty clay and mudstone clay - natural geology. Pits [106] and [107] and ditches [108] and [109] [PI. 4]
17	23.8	1.8	0.4	0-0.30m Topsoil; 0.30-0.36m Subsoil; 0.36m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [24], [25], [26], [27], [30], [31] and ditch terminus' [28] and [29] [PI. 5]
18	26.6	1.8	0.46	0-0.28m Topsoil; 0.28-0.38m Subsoil; 0.38m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [33], [35], [36], [39], ditch terminus [34], root/pit [37] and gully [38] [PI. 6]
19	22.3	1.8	0.36	0-0.24m Topsoil; 0.24-0.32m Subsoil; 0.32m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [42], [43] and gully [44] [PI. 6]
20	26.7	1.8	0.4	0-0.23m Topsoil; 0.23-0.34m Subsoil; 0.34m+ Mid yellow silty clay - natural geology. Ditches [45] and [46] [PI. 7]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

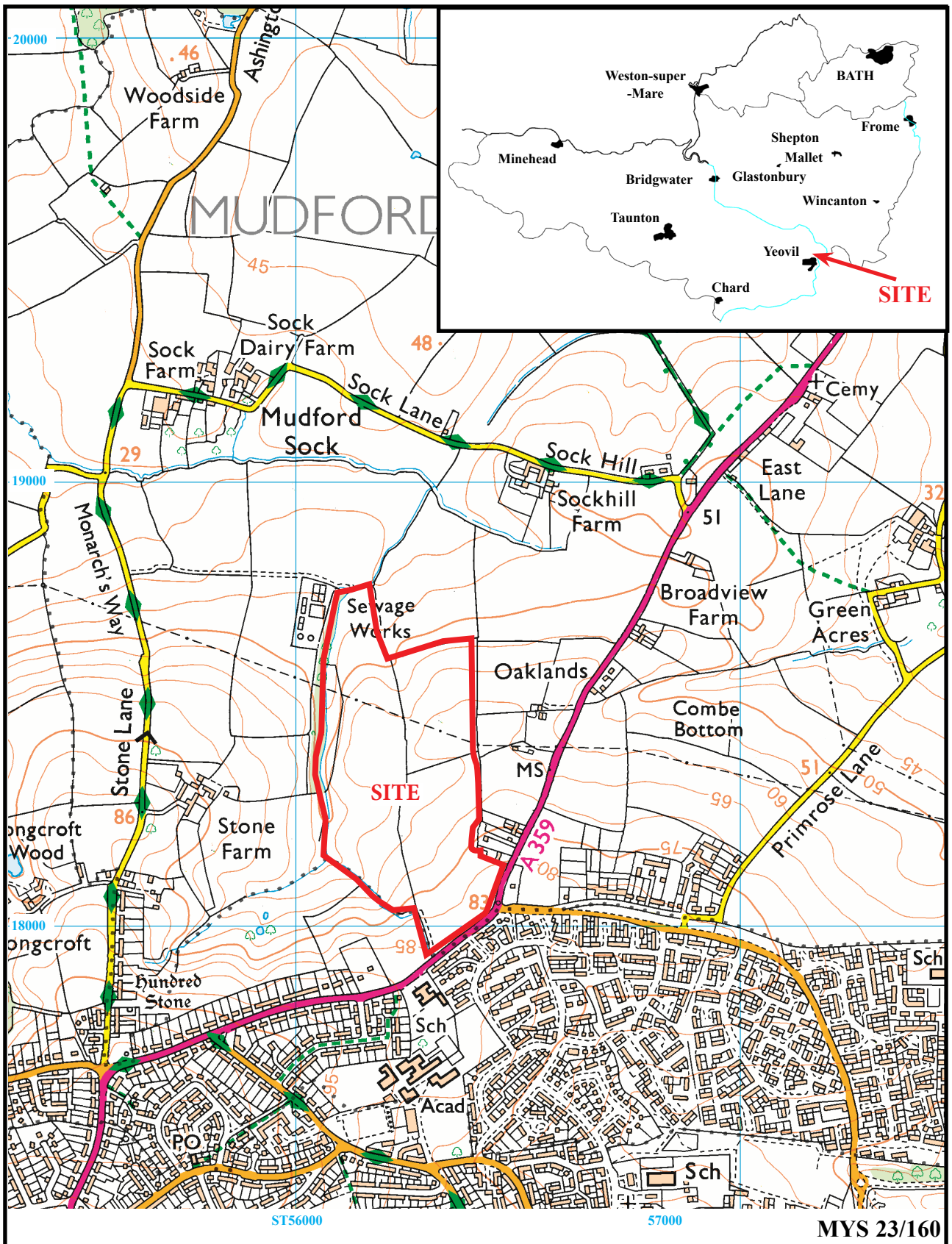
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
All		50	Topsoil		
All		51	Subsoil		
11		154	Occupation layer/hill wash	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Ceramic
1	1	52, 53	Ditch		
1	2	54	Ditch		
1	3	55	Gully		
1	4	56	Ditch		
2	5	57	Ditch		
2	6	58	Gully		
3	7	59	Ditch		
3	8	60	Ditch		
3	9	61	Ditch		
3	10	62	Gully		
3	11	63	Gully		
3	12	64	Plough marks	Modern	
4	13	65	Ditch		
5	14	66	Ditch		
7	15	67	Ditch		
3	16	68, 69	Ditch		
7	18	70	Ditch		
4	19	71	Ditch	Post-medieval/modern	Ceramic
8	20	72	Ditch		
7	21	73	Ditch		
7	22	74	Ditch		
10	23	75	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Ceramic
17	24	76	Ditch	Medieval 12-15th century	Ceramic
17	25	77	Ditch		
17	26	78	Ditch		
17	27	79	Ditch		
17	28	80	Ditch terminus		
17	29	84	Ditch terminus		
17	30	81	Ditch	Medieval 12-15th century	Ceramic
17	31	82	Ditch	Medieval 12-15th century	Ceramic
8	32	83	Ditch		
18	33	85	Ditch		
18	34	86	Ditch terminus		
18	35	87	Ditch		
18	36	88	Ditch	Medieval 12-15th century	Ceramic
18	37	89	Root/pit		
18	38	90	Gully		
18	39	91	Ditch	Medieval 12-15th century	Ceramic
18	40	92	Ditch		
9	41	93	Ditch	Mid-Roman AD150-250	Ceramic
19	42	94	Ditch		
19	43	95	Ditch		
19	44	96	Gully		
20	45	97	Ditch		
20	46	98	Ditch		
10	47	99	Gully terminus	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Ceramic
10	48	150	Ditch		
12	49	152, 153	Pit		
14	101	155	Ditch		
14	102	156	Pit/ditch terminus		
14	103	157	Ditch		
15	104	158	Gully		
15	105	159	Ditch		
16	106	160	Pit	Post-medieval/modern	Ceramic
16	107	161	Pit	Post-medieval/modern	Ceramic
16	108	162	Ditch	Post-medieval/modern	Ceramic
16	109	163	Ditch		
10	110	164	Pit/Ditch terminus		
10	111	165	Ditch		
12	112	166	Land drain	Post-medieval/modern	Form
15	113	167	Ditch	Post-medieval/modern	Ceramic
3	114	168	Land drain		

APPENDIX 3: Summary of Pottery by Context.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
10	75	pottery	sandy	LIA/RB	2	23
10	99	pottery	sandy	LIA/RB	1	2
11	154	pottery	grog-tempered	LIA/RB	23	72
17	76	pottery	sand-tempered	Med	1	2
17	80	pottery	sand and Flint	Med	1	11
17	81	pottery	sand-tempered	Med	34	255
17	81	pottery	BBW	RB	1	13
17	81	pottery	greyware	RB	1	5
17	82	pottery	sand/calcareous/flint	Med	8	37
18	88	pottery	sand and flint	Med	1	30
18	90	pottery	sand-tempered	Med	1	1
9	93	pottery	BBW	RB	1	7
-	181	pottery	sand-tempered	Med	1	2
TOTAL					76	460

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of struck flints

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>	<i>Blade core</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Other</i>
14	102	156	1	1			
15	Post- medieval ditch			1(p)			
17	25	77	1				
11		154	4	2(1p)	1	1	Core fragment
3	9	67		1(p)			

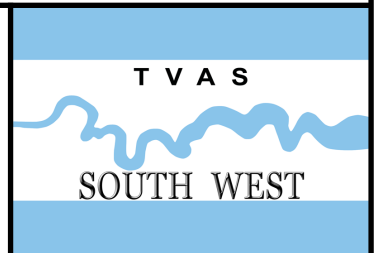


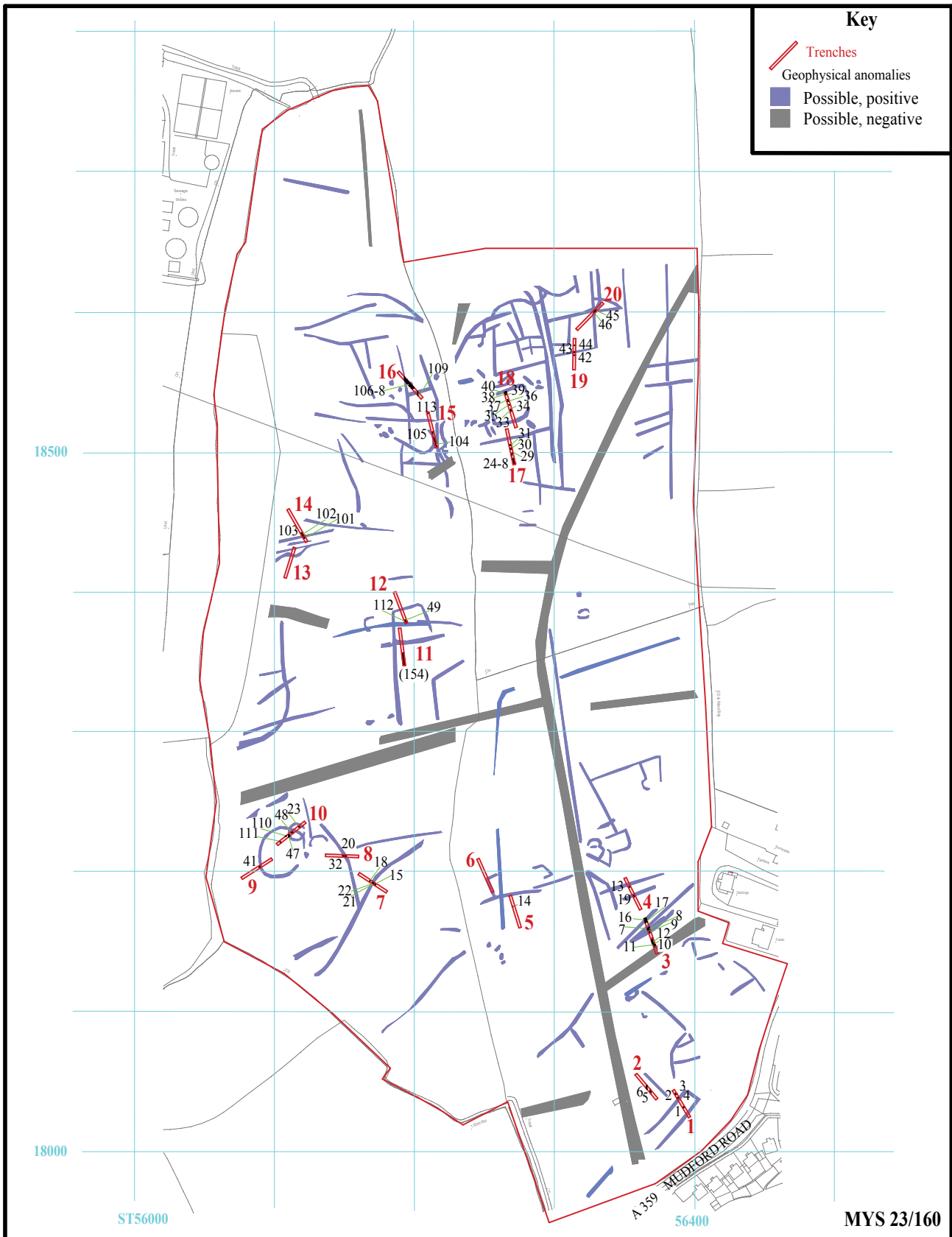
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Figure 1. Location of site within Yeovil and Somerset.

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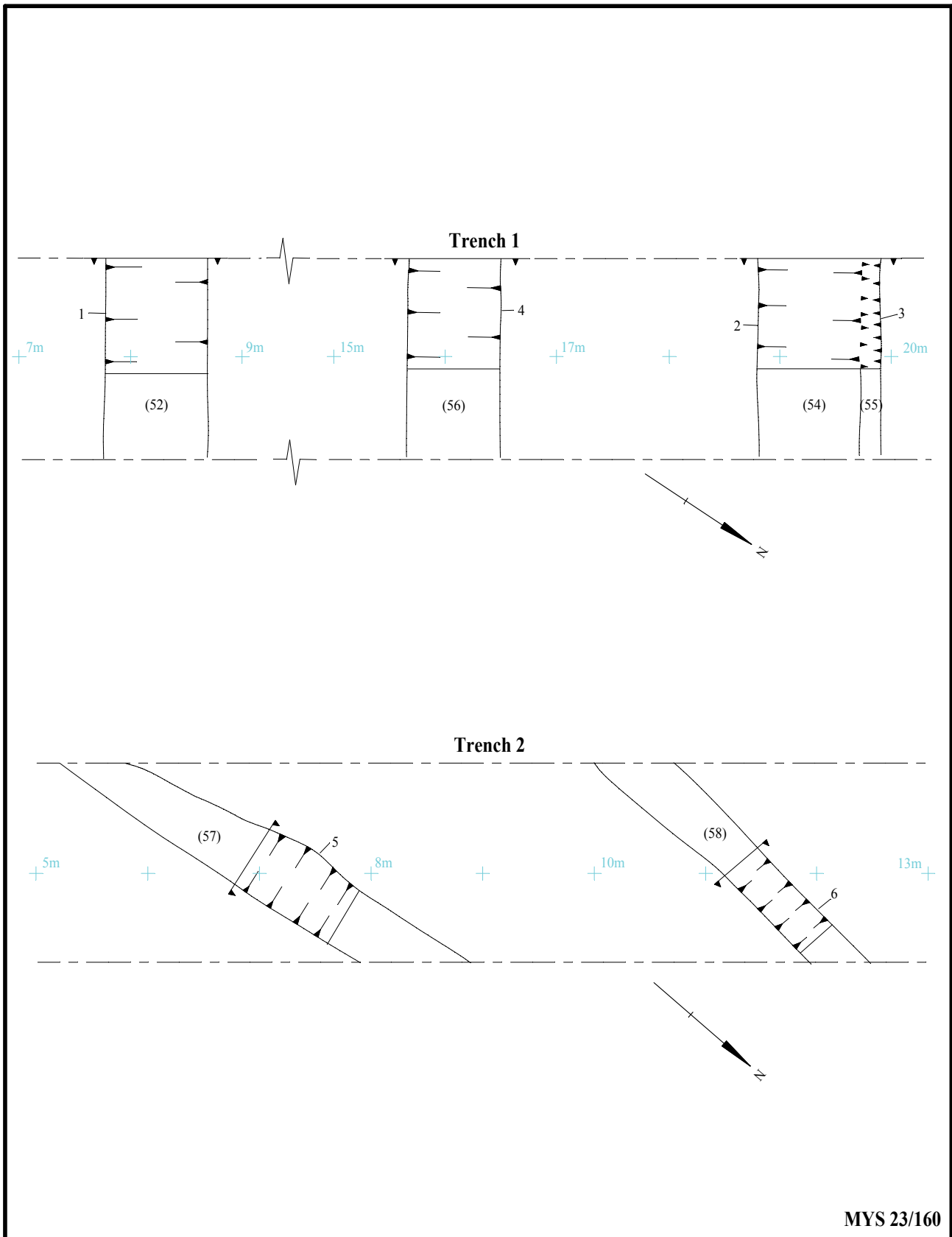
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Figure 2. Site plan showing trenches and features overlying gradiometer results.

0 100m

T V A S

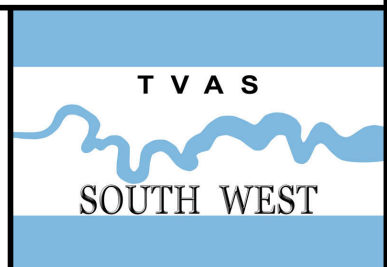
SOUTH WEST



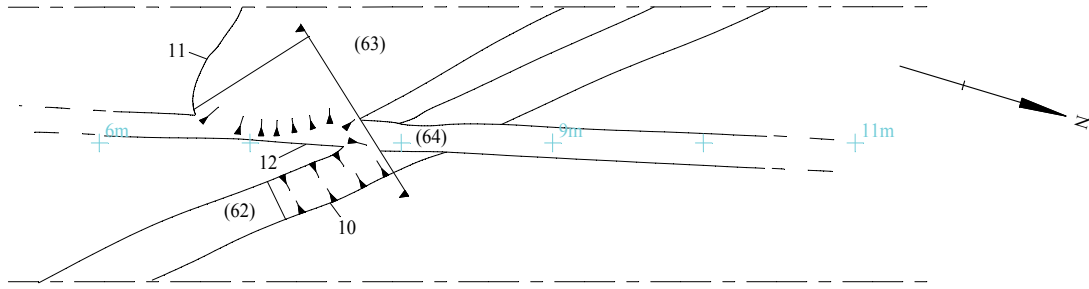
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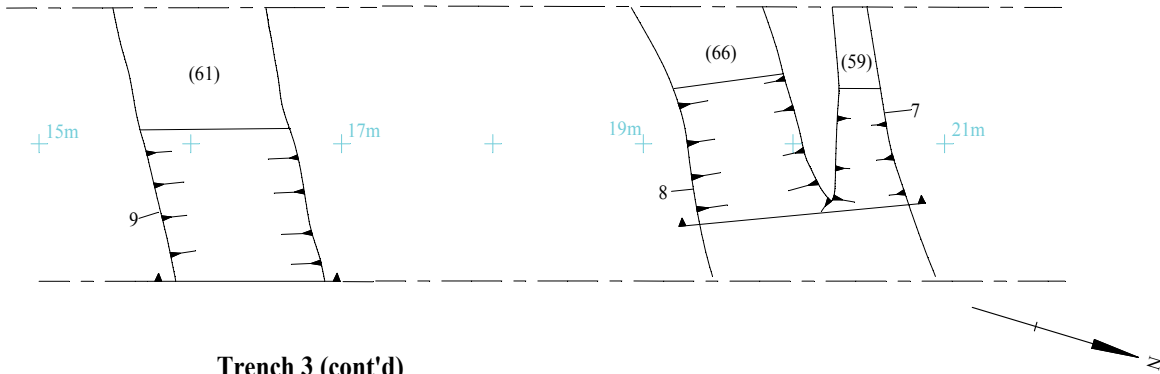
Figure 3. Detail of trenches.



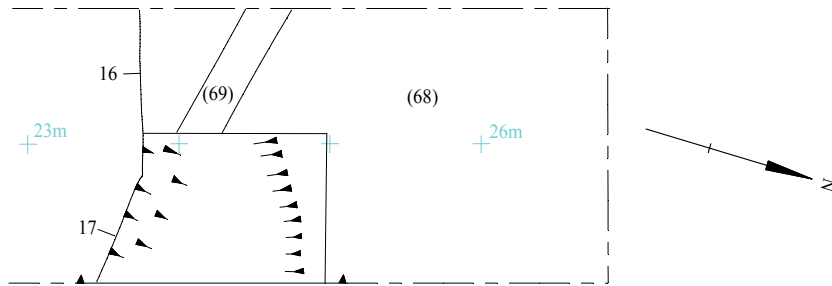
Trench 3



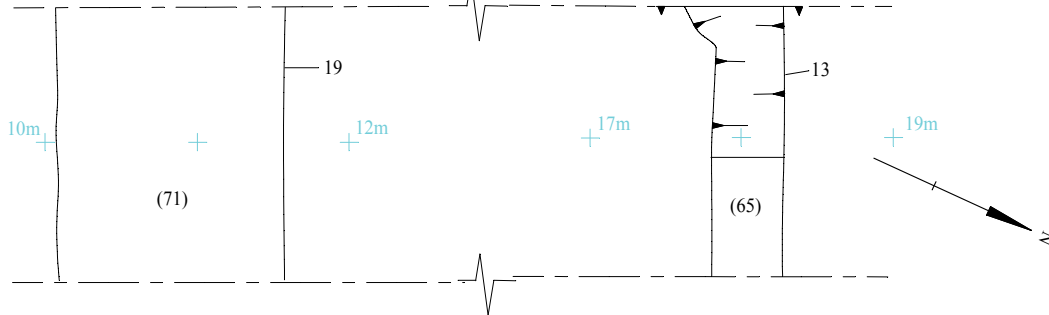
Trench 3 (cont'd)



Trench 3 (cont'd)



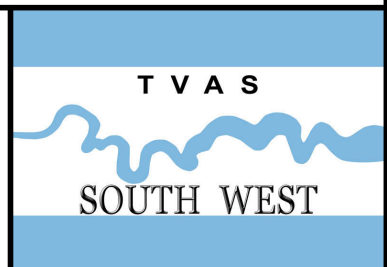
Trench 4

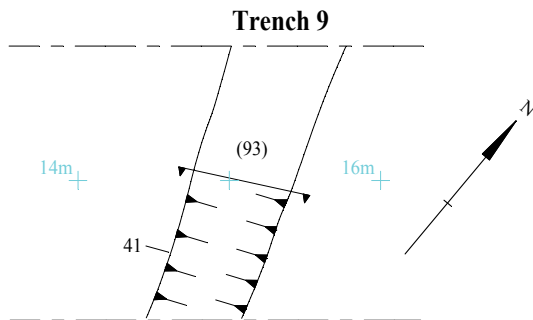
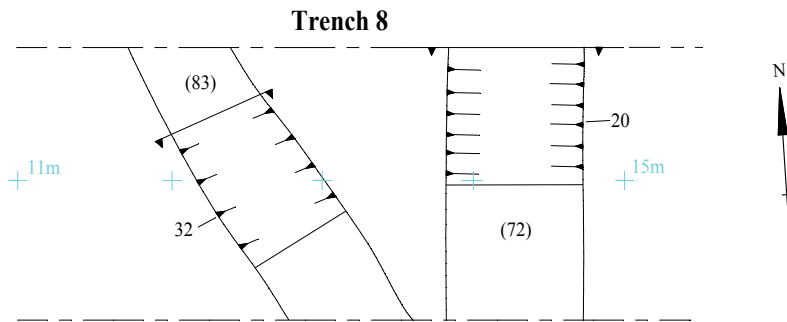
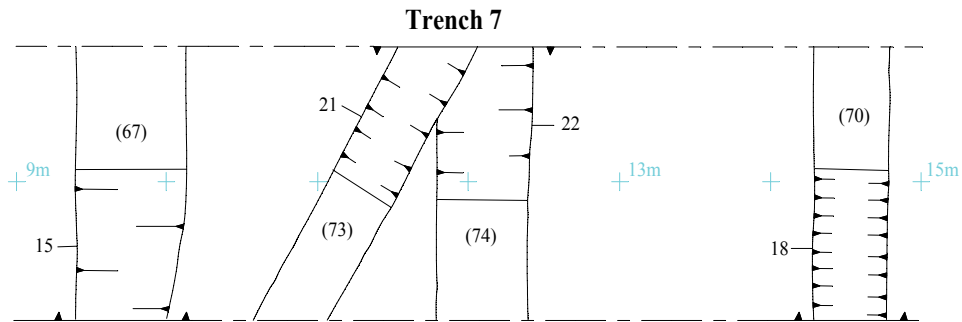
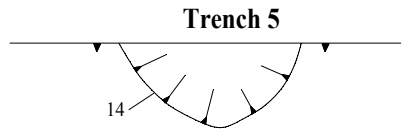


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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.

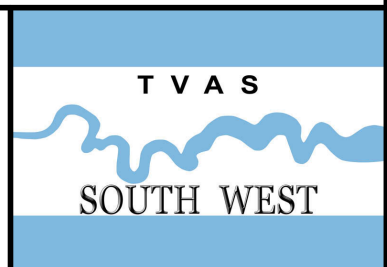




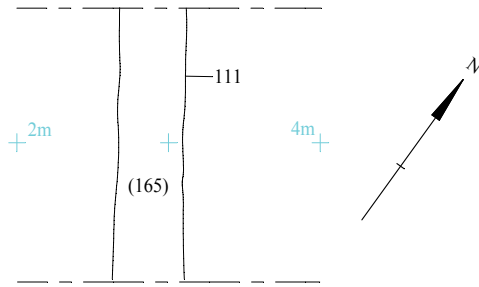
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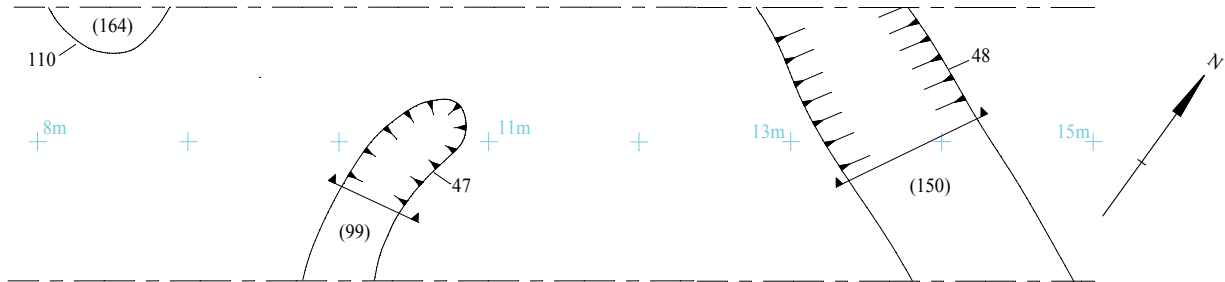
Figure 5. Detail of trenches.



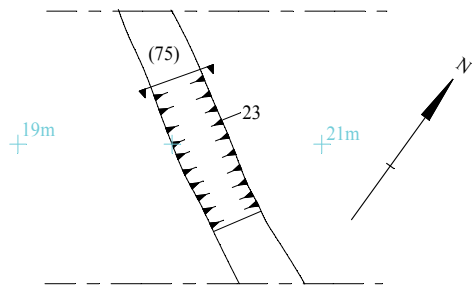
Trench 10



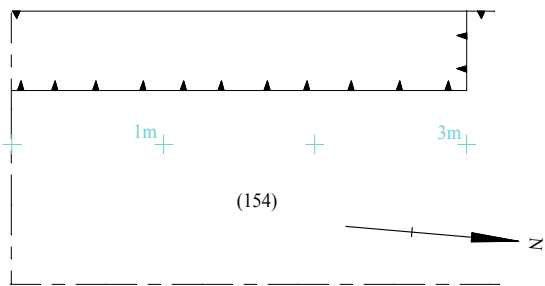
Trench 10 (cont'd)



Trench 10 (cont'd)



Trench 11



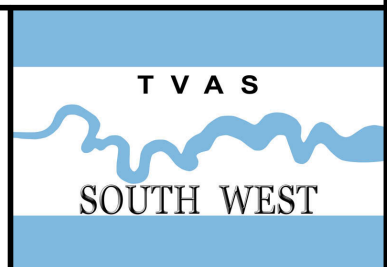
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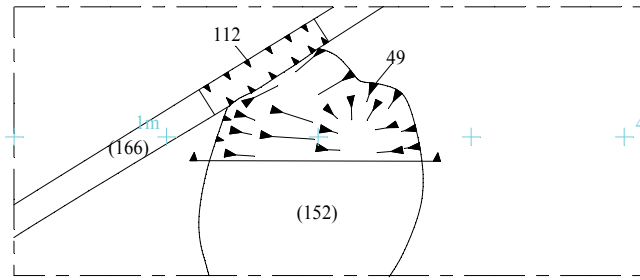
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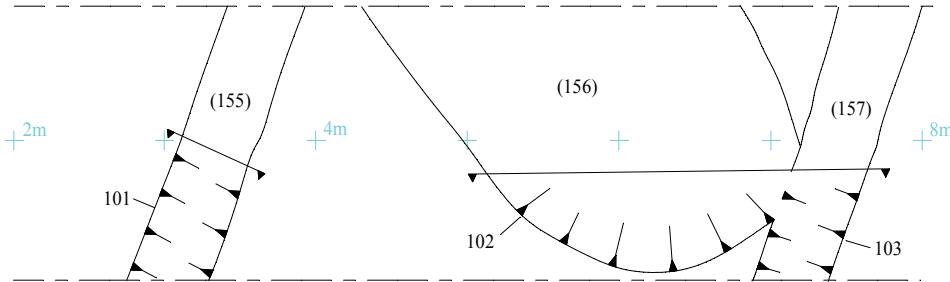
Figure 6. Detail of trenches.



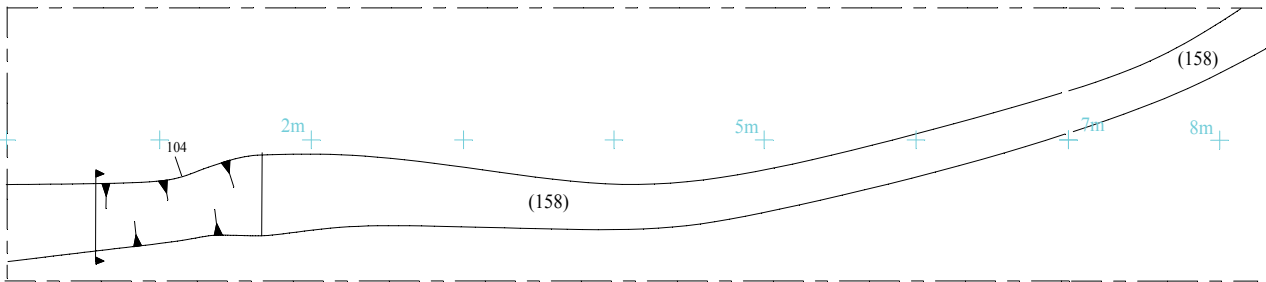
Trench 12



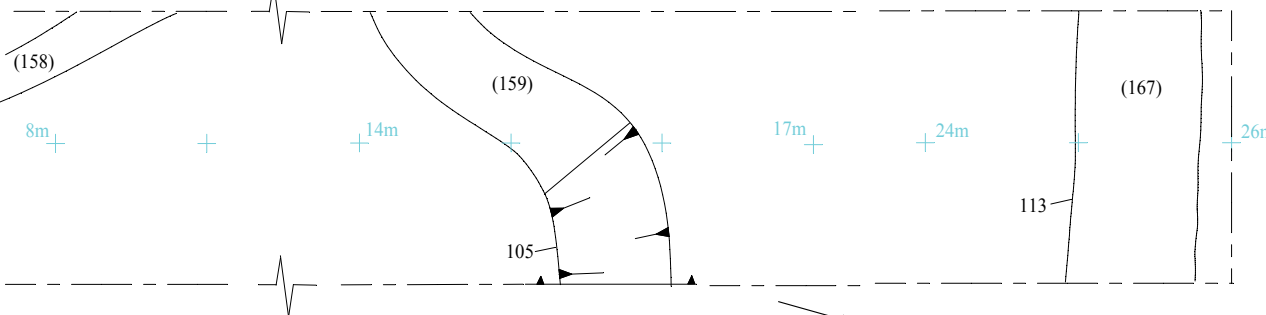
Trench 14



Trench 15



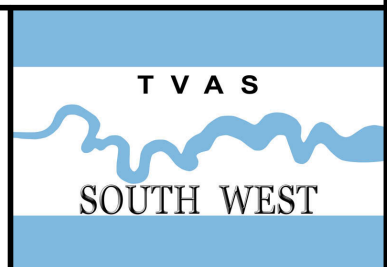
Trench 15



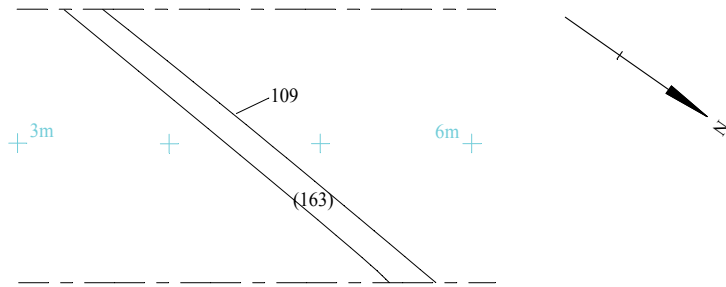
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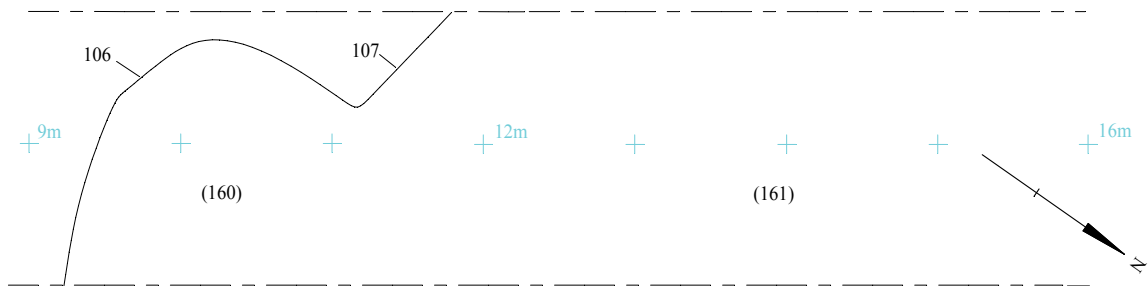
Figure 7. Detail of trenches.



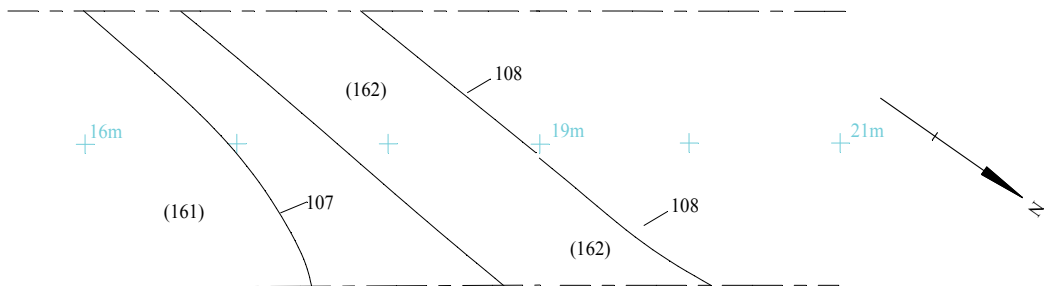
Trench 16



Trench 16 (cont'd)



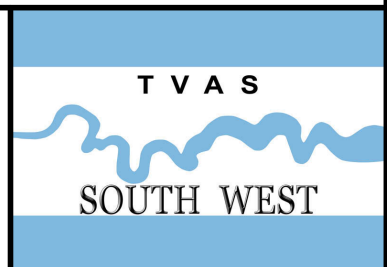
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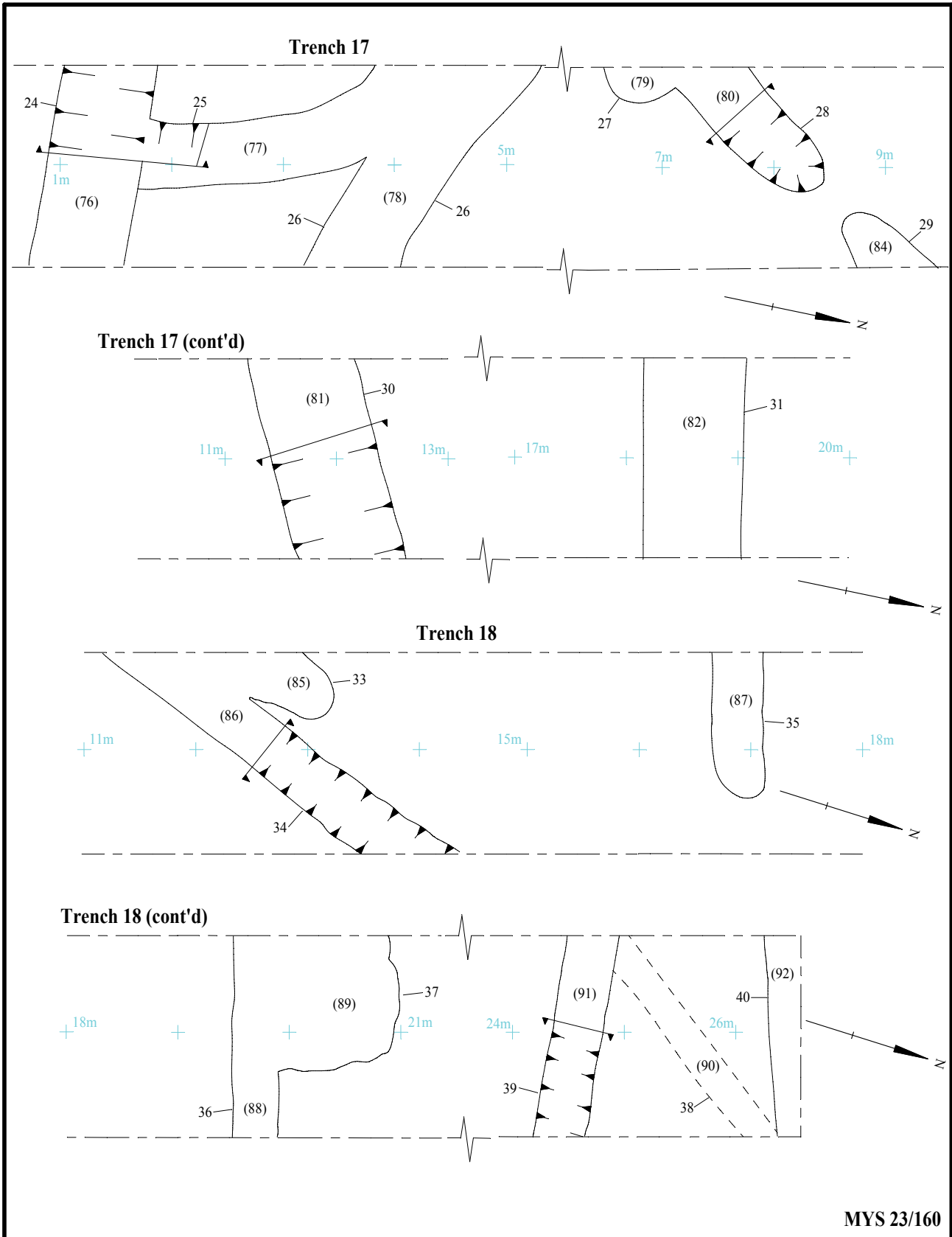


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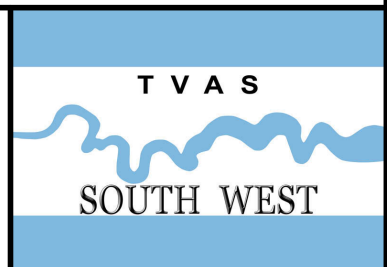
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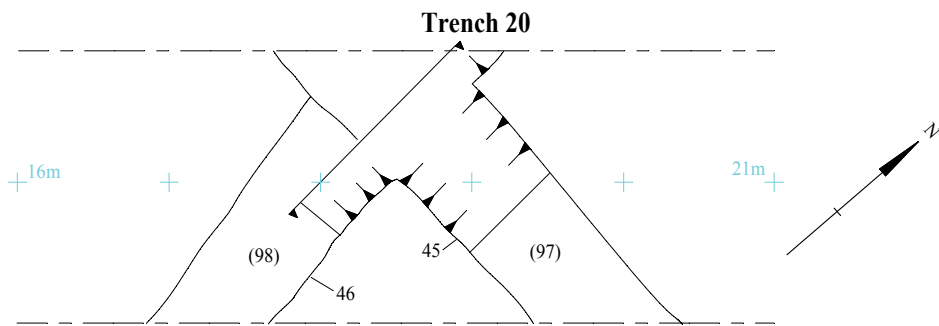
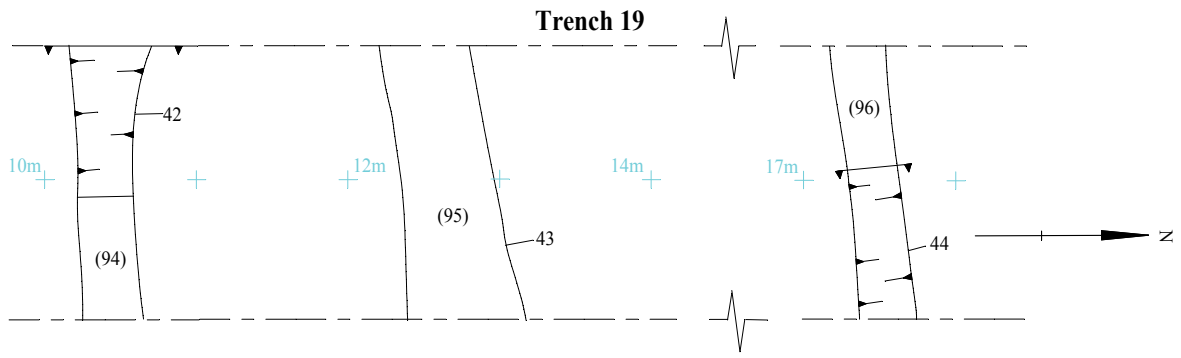




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Figure 9. Detail of trenches.

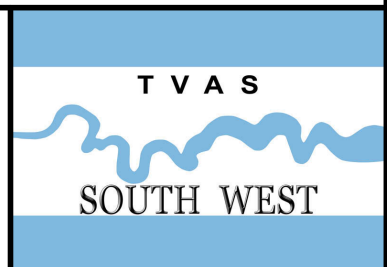


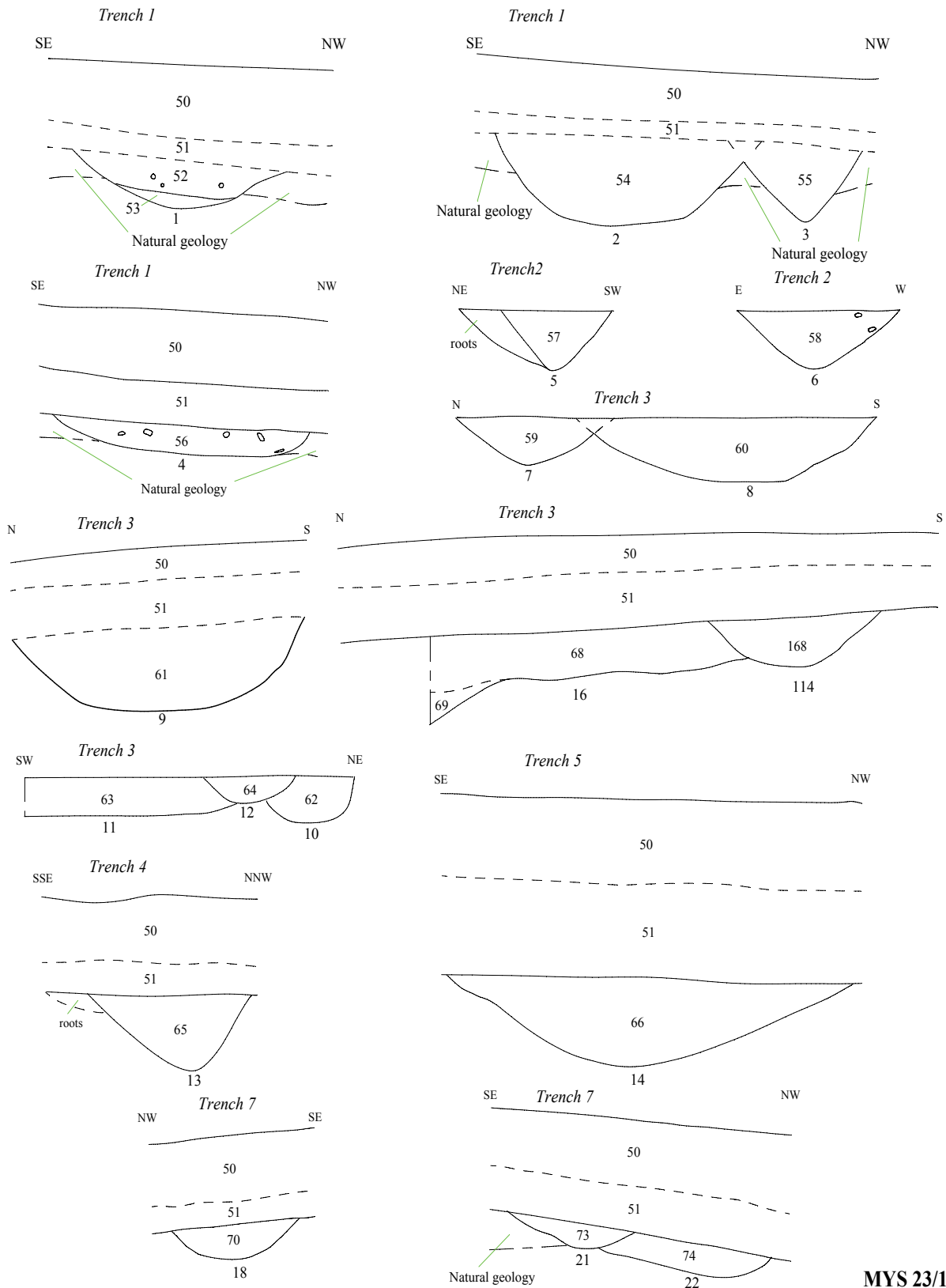


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Figure 10. Detail of trenches.



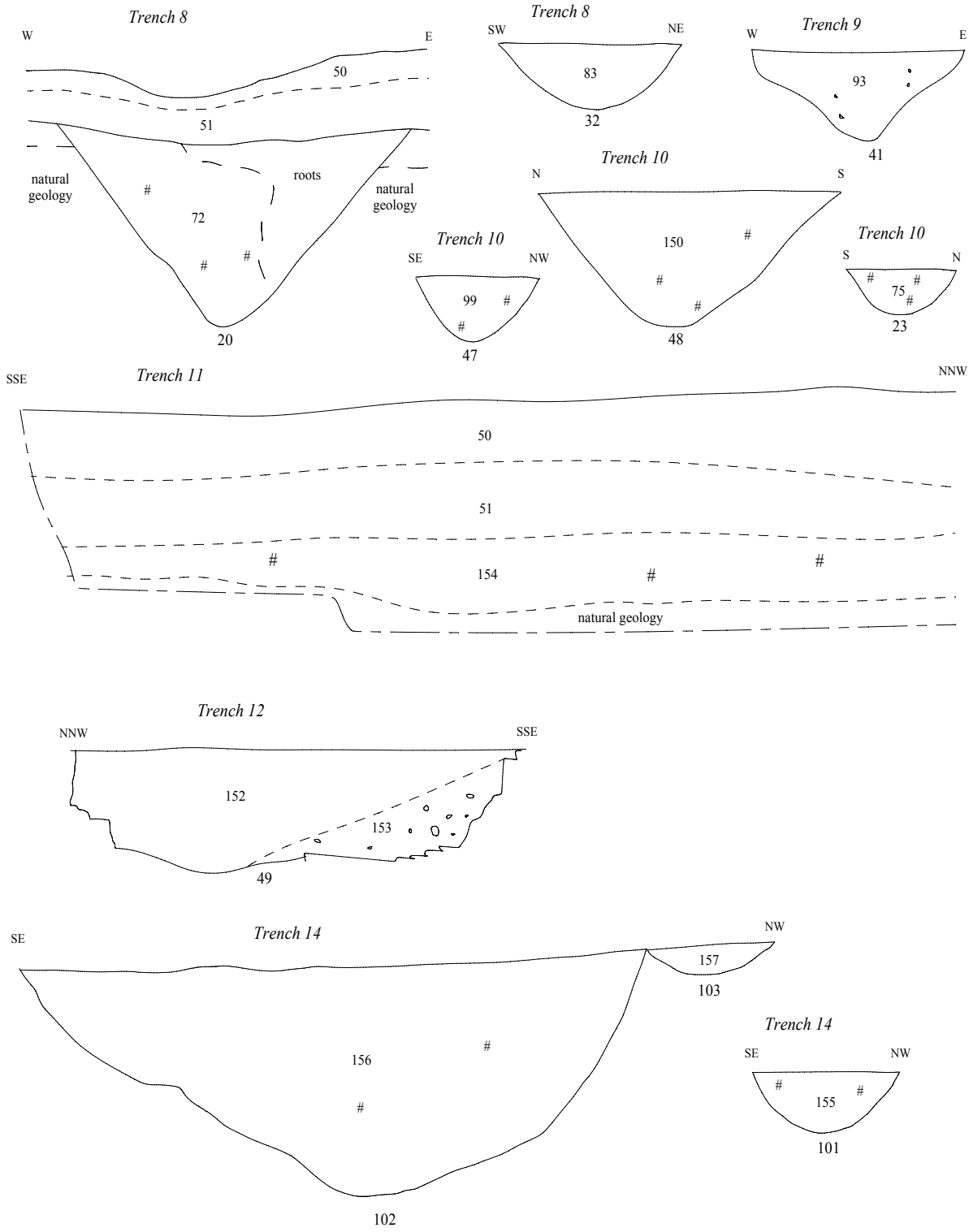


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Figure 11. Sections.



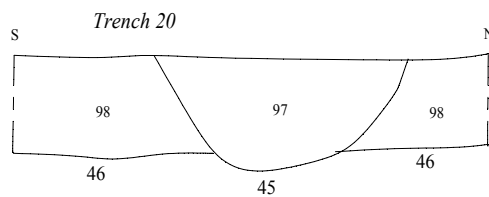
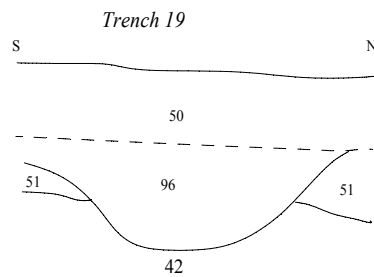
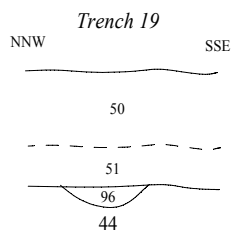
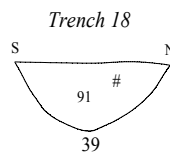
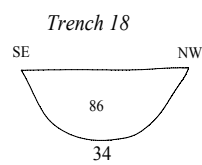
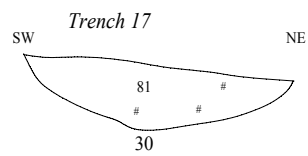
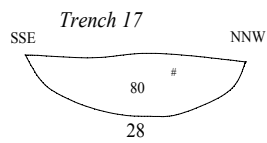
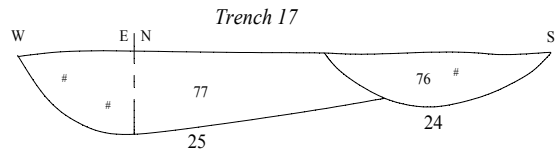
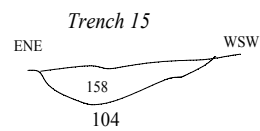
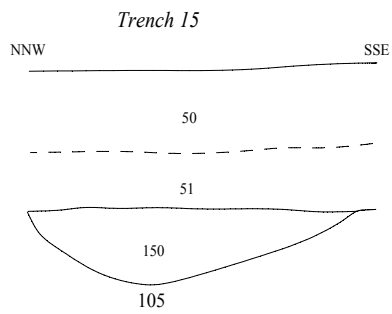


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Figure 12. Sections.





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Figure 13. Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-west,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking north-west,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 10, looking north-east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 16, looking north-west,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 5. Trench 17, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Trench 18, looking north-west,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 to 6.**





Plate 7. Ditch 20 in Trench 8, looking north,
Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 8. Gully 23 in Trench 10, looking west,
Scales: 0.2m and 0.1m.



Plate 9. Trench 10, gully terminus 47, looking south-east,
Scales: 0.5m and 0.2m.



Plate 10. Deposit 154 in Trench 11, looking west, Scales:
2m and 1m.



Plate 11. Trench 12, Pit 49, looking north-east,
Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 12. Ditch 103 and ditch terminus 102 in Trench 14,
looking south-west, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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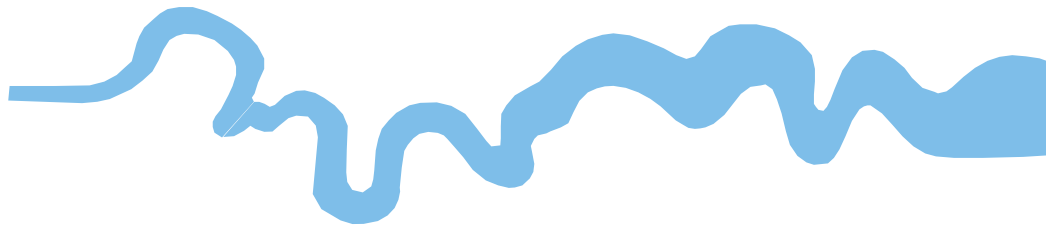
**Land at Mudford, Yeovil,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7 to 12.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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