

Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Lord Wemyss**

by Heather Hopkins
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code NBC 09/85

October 2009

Summary

Site name: Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire

Grid reference: SP 1285 3105

Site activity: Field Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 20th–21st October 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: NBC09/85

Area of site: *c.* 1.5ha

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston✓ 27.10.09

Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Heather Hopkins and Steve Ford

Report 09/85

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at on land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire, SP 1285 3105 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lucy Binnie of Land and Mineral Management Ltd, Suite 1, 82c Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1WD on behalf of Lord Wemyss of Stanway House, Stanway, Cheltenham, GL54 5PQ.

An application for planning permission to extract walling stone and slate is to be made for land to the east of Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire. Small-scale mineral extraction has already been undertaken to the immediate north of the site and the application seeks to extend this on to the site. The results of archaeological field evaluation were required to accompany submission of the application. Two phases of evaluation took place: initial geophysical survey followed by trial trenching which is reported below.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. Both phases of field investigation were carried out to specifications approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Paulina Pankiewicz on 20th–21st October 2009 and the site code is NBC 09/85. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Cheltenham Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is in a rural location in the Cotswolds, to the north-east of Winchcombe and the north west of Stow-on-the-Wold. At present the site is open pasture. In the vicinity are a number of small disused quarries (Fig. 2). The underlying natural geology is mainly Jurassic Chipping Norton Limestone (flaggy to massive oolitic and sandy limestones) with some Jurassic Inferior Oolite (limestones) to the south. The geology observed in the trenches was of limestone with red-brown clay patches. The site is at an elevation of approximately 235m above Ordnance Datum and slopes downwards to the south-east.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the area in general was highlighted through a desk-based assessment undertaken for a parcel of adjacent land to the west of the site (APS 2008). This reported few sites or finds recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record for the environs of the site, and none particularly close by. A round barrow is located over 1km to the south-west and cropmarks including a circular enclosure are located to the north-west visible on aerial photographs. An Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead and Roman pottery were found to the south west and a stone macehead (Mesolithic/Neolithic) to the north west.

Geophysical survey of the proposal site was carried out as a first stage of evaluation and revealed a few anomalies that might be of archaeological interest (Haddrell 2009).

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.

The specific research aims of this 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 any burial or occupation deposits of Bronze Age date are present and which may be contemporary with the nearby round barrow;
- to determine if any deposits of prehistoric date, in particular Iron Age deposits are present;
- and
- to determine if geophysical anomalies are of archaeological interest.

It was proposed to dig 15 trenches, 20m long and 2m wide (c. 4% of the site area). A number of these trenches were positioned to target various anomalies highlighted during the recent geophysical survey, while the remainder were to be dug in a stratified random pattern (Fig. 3). A contingency for a further 20m of trenching was provided for, should this be required to clarify the initial results.

Topsoil and other overburden were removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present or where the archaeological potential is uncertain, the stripped areas were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief. The spoil heaps were to be searched for finds including by use of a metal detector.

Results

Fifteen trenches were dug as intended. They ranged from 19m to 26.4m in length and in depth from 0.27m to 0.35m. All trenches were 2m wide. A full list of trenches giving details of dimensions and stratigraphy forms Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned north - south and was 19.0m in length and 0.3m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.3m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with red-brown clay patches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned south east - north west and was 23.1m in length and 0.3m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.29m deep directly above the natural geology was limestone with red-brown clay patches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned west - east and was 21.9m in length and 0.32m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.3m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with coombe rock and red-brown clay patches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned south west - north east and was 22.3m in length and 0.3m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.3m deep directly above the natural geology was limestone with red-brown clay patches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 5 (Plate 1)

Trench 5 was aligned south east - north west and was 23.8m in length and 0.28m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.28m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned south east - north west and was 23.5m in length and 0.35m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.33m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with some red-brown clay patches.. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned south east - north west and was 21.3m in length and 0.3m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.28m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with some red-brown clay patches.. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned south east - north west and was 19.1m in length and 0.35m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.22m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with some red-brown clay patches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was aligned north - south and was 23.4m in length and between 0.28m and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.28m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with some red-brown clay patches.. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned west - east and was 22.3m in length and between 0.28m (west) and 0.31m deep (east). The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.28m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with some red-brown clay patches. This trench was aligned across a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey but no deposits could be identified with this anomaly. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned west - east and was 21.0m in length and 0.27m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.27m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone. This trench was aligned across a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey but no deposits could be identified with this anomaly. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 12 (Plate 2)

Trench 12 was aligned west - east and was 22.6m in length and 0.29m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.29m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone. This trench was aligned across a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey but no deposits could be identified with this anomaly. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was aligned south east - north west and was 20.4m in length and 0.3m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.3m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone with some red-brown clay patches.. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was aligned west - east and was 26.4m in length and 0.28m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.28m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone. This trench was aligned across a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey but no deposits could be identified with this anomaly. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was aligned west - east and was 23.7m in length and 0.3m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised turf and topsoil 0.3m deep directly above the natural geology which was limestone. This trench was aligned across a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey but no deposits could be identified with this anomaly. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were discovered.

Conclusion

None of the trenches revealed any finds or deposits of archaeological interest. The trenches located to examine several geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological interest failed to find locate any origin for the anomalies and which presumably reflect superficial activity of modern agricultural origin or deeper lying geological features. On the basis of these results the site does not have any archaeological potential.

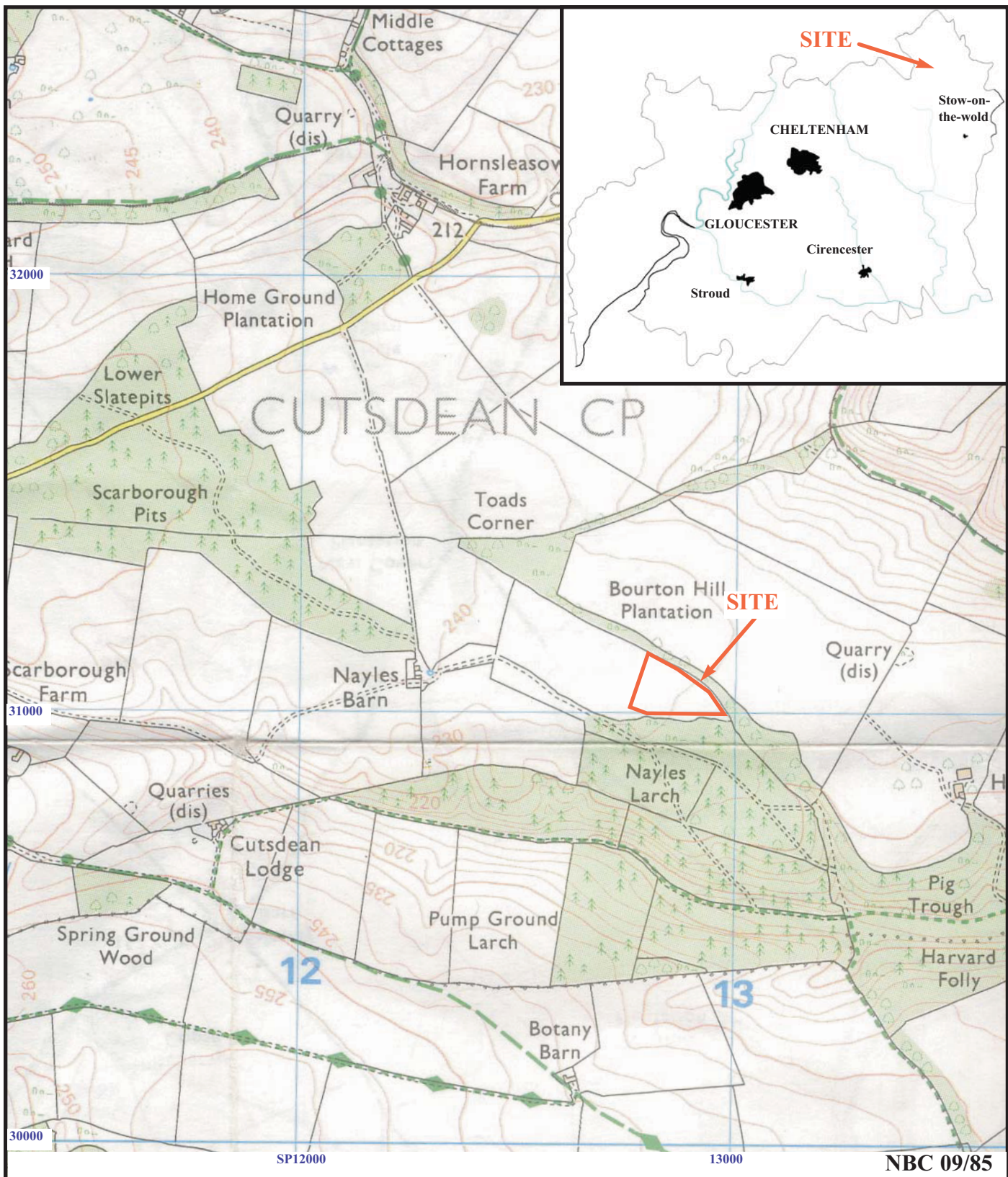
References

- APS 2008, 'Scarborough Pits, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire, a desk-based assessment', Archaeology and Planning Services rep APS132-08, Cirencester
BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 217, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	19.0	2.0	0.3	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches)
2	23.1	2.0	0.3	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches)
3	21.9	2.0	0.32	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology (limestone with coombe rock and red-brown clay patches).
4	22.3	2.0	0.3	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches),.
5	23.8	2.0	0.28	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ natural geology (limestone). [Plate 1]
6	23.5	2.0	0.35	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches).
7	21.3	2.0	0.3	0- 0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches).
8	19.1	2.0	0.35	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches).
9	23.4	2.0	0.28	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches).
10	22.3	2.0	0.31	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches).
11	21.0	2.0	0.27	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ natural geology (limestone).
12	22.6	2.0	0.29	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches). [Plate 2]
13	20.4	2.0	0.3	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology (limestone with red-brown clay patches).
14	26.4	2.0	0.28	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ natural geology (limestone).
15	23.7	2.0	0.3	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology (limestone).



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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Nayles Barn and Gloucestershire.

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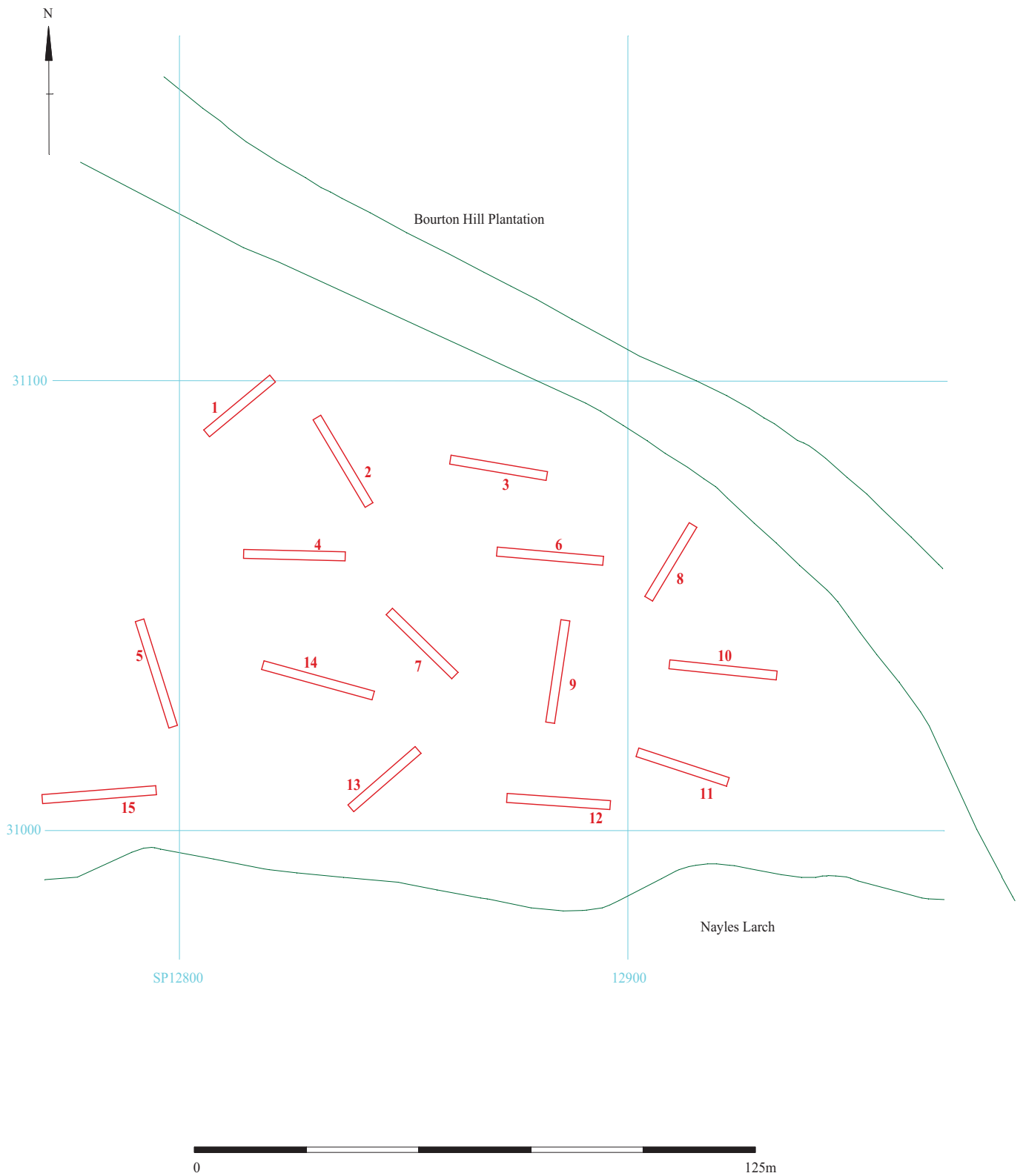


Figure 2. Location of trenches.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches in relation to geophysical anomalies.

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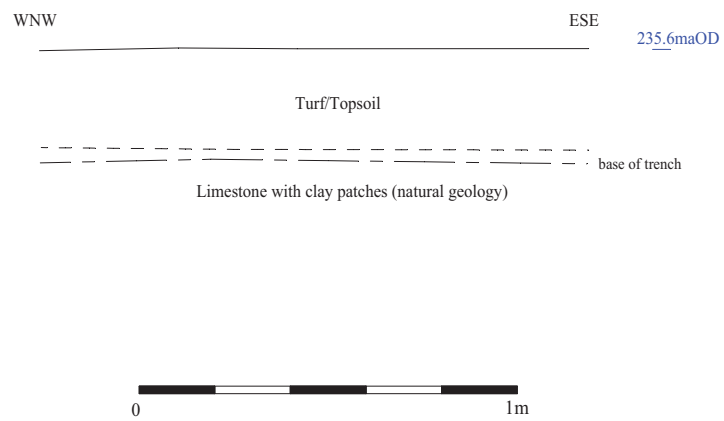


Figure 4. Representative section from Trench 3.



Plate 1. Trench 5, looking north,
horizontal scales: 1m and 2m, vertical scale, 0.3m



Plate 2. Trench 12 looking west, horizontal scales: 1m and 2m,
vertical scale, 0.3m