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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT  
BASSENHALLY FARM,  
WHITTLESEY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
(WHBH 12)**

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Work Undertaken For  
**Larkfleet Homes Limited**

March 2013

Report Compiled by  
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

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SERVICES**

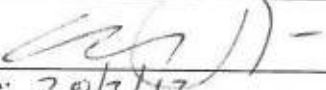





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Archaeological Evaluation  
on land at,  
Bassenhally Farm,  
Whittlesey  
Cambridgeshire  
WHBH 12

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## 1. SUMMARY

*Trial trenching was undertaken prior to residential development on land at Bassenhally Farm, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire as part of a scheme of archaeological evaluation required by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team to provide data to inform decisions on the application.*

*Geophysical survey of the proposed area of development identified a number of linear features which may represent medieval ridge and furrow agriculture and earlier or later field boundaries and enclosures. The survey also identified linear features which are associated with the Fen Causeway, the Roman road which crossed the site.*

*The evaluation revealed a small group of undated unurned cremations. About 100m north of these was a single Bronze Age pit suggesting occupation of this date in the vicinity.*

*No definite evidence for the Fen Causeway was identified but a spread of sandy silt in a broad, shallow hollow, lay on its postulated course. Only a single sherd of Roman pottery was retrieved, residual in one of the late medieval plough furrows which indeed formed an extensive system across the site.*

*There was a group of undated features in the far northwest of the site suggestive of settlement centred in that direction.*

*There were also several post-medieval to early modern field boundaries and an early modern quarry pit.*

*A small quantity of artefacts were retrieved including pottery of Early to Middle Bronze Age, Roman (a single sherd), medieval, post-medieval and early modern date, ceramic building material,*

*animal bone, flint and metal.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

*An archaeological evaluation is defined as a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate (IfA 2008).*

### 2.2 Planning Background

A planning application (F/YR10/0904) was submitted to Fenland District Council for a development comprising approximately 460 dwellings, a nursing home, extra care accommodation, local centre, associated landscaping, open space, water attenuation features and highway works. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a scheme of archaeological work was required to provide information on the potential impact on buried archaeological remains. The first phase of this work was an archaeological evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site. A geophysical survey of the proposed area of development had been undertaken in November 2011. This was to be followed by a programme of trial trenching to characterise the archaeological deposits buried at site.

The trial trenching was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS) between 19<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012 in accordance with a specification

prepared by APS and approved by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Whittlesey lies some 8km east of Peterborough and 40km northwest of Cambridge in the Fenland District of Cambridgeshire (Fig 1). The site lies on the eastern edge of the town, north of Eastrea Road, centred on TL 284 975 comprising a series of large arable fields either side of the former site of Bassenhally Farm (Fig 2).

The site lies towards the eastern end of the Whittlesey 'island', a ridge of gravel rising to 8m AOD in the low-lying northern Cambridgeshire fenland, with the site itself at about 5-6m OD. Local soils are fine loamy gleyic argillic brown earths of the Waterstock Association (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 344) developed on the March Gravels above a solid geology of Oxford Clay.

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The Fenland has long been recognised as an important archaeological landscape, containing superimposed evidence of settlement, ritual and agricultural remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. Whittlesey occupies a former island within the fenland. The area of proposed development lies on the eastern side of the island, close to the narrow belt of fen separating Whittlesey from Eastrea. Occupation areas of prehistoric date have been identified around the western side of the Whittlesey island. Three Palaeolithic axes have been recorded from gravel pits east of the town and further lithic scatters and polished stone axes are known from Eldernell, northeast of Coates (Hall 1987, 56).

Two groups of barrows are known in the

vicinity, one at Eldernell and a second at Suet Hills. Furthermore, other Bronze Age burials are known from the vicinity (*ibid.* 56-7).

At Stonald Field, 1.9km to the west of the site, evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity was uncovered in the form of a small pit with Beaker pottery and flints, and a partially preserved ring ditch with putative associated barrow (CHER 11047). Although no human remains were found, the nature and density of artefacts recovered from the pit suggests they were placed deposits indicating an association with burial. Middle Iron Age domestic occupation was also revealed (Murphy 2008).

The Roman Fen Causeway (CB15033), which crosses the island on an east-west alignment runs through the centre of the site and other cropmarks recorded in the vicinity are also assumed to be Roman in date (Hall 1987, 58). A Late Iron Age and Roman settlement (ECB3708) has been found just south of the investigation site and the Fen Causeway was a focus for settlement and other activities during the Roman periods, with occupation areas and agricultural establishments developed along and near to it. Previous geophysical survey of the site revealed numerous east-west linear anomalies through the centre of the area. These are thought to represent the Fen Causeway Roman road and successive maintenance, or slight realignments, of it. Other mainly linear anomalies, thought to represent probable ditches of field boundaries or other enclosures were identified throughout the area, particularly in the northeastern corner of the site and to the south of the Fen Causeway route (Malone 2011).

Whittlesey is first mentioned in a charter of AD 972. Referred to as *Witlesig*, the name is derived from the Old English *ēg*, meaning island, and the personal name

*Witel* (Ekwall 1989, 515). The early charter is confirmation of a grant of land to Thorney Abbey (Sawyer 1968).

At the time of the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, Whittlesey was held by the Abbey of Ely and the Abbey of Thorney and contained meadow, pasture and arable land (Williams and Martin 1992).

Extant remains of the medieval period include two churches, to serve the Ely and Thorney manors. The earlier, St Andrew's, has elements dating from the 13th century while the other, St Mary's church, which largely dates from the 15th century (Pevsner 2002, 481). South of St Mary's church is a manor house which has 15th century work within (*ibid.* 483).

During the Domesday survey, two powerful religious centres, Thorney abbey and the church of Ely jointly owned the settlement (Williams & Martin 1992). This was a predominantly rural area in the 11th century, with an economy based on agriculture and the extensive Whittlesey Mere which stretched east of the town between Thorney Abbey in the north and Ramsey Abbey in the South. The mere was a rich resource for wildfowl, fish and eels. The abbeys of Ramsey, Thorney and Peterborough all kept boats on the mere in the 11th century, fishing predominantly for eels (Stafford 1985).

Three main areas of open field around Whittlesey still retain their medieval names, one of these is Bassenhally Field, *Bastenhale*, meaning hale or nook where limes once grew (Hall 1987, 59).

At Finkle Lane, 1.6km west of the site, domestic rubbish pits and leather working tanks of medieval and post-medieval date were revealed along with evidence of medieval burgrave plots (Wood 2007).

An evaluation 600m to the west at Sir

Harry Smith Community College revealed evidence of late medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (Bailey and Macaulay 2005).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives were to establish the type of archaeological activity that might be present within the site, to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, their state of preservation, spatial arrangement and the extent to which surrounding archaeological features extended into the application area, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

A particular focus of attention was to be the probable Fen Causeway route; to identify its nature, survival, sequence and associations. To these ends, trenches were particularly targeted on the route and other nearby features identified by the geophysical survey, while providing sample coverage of the entire area.

### 4. METHODS

Fifty-one trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator. these measured 180m (1), 100m (12), 50m (36), 40m (1) and 30m (1) long, with each trench by 2m wide (Fig. 3). A further trench measuring 43m long by 2m wide was excavated on the advice of the county planning archaeologist making a total length of 3293m (6586 square metres).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was also compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the trenches was surveyed using a Thales Global Positioning System (GPS).

Following excavation, the records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

## 5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trenches 2-6, 10, 12, 19, 25-37 and 39, in the slightly lower lying south and northeast parts of the site, rapidly became too waterlogged to excavate (Plate 4). A GPS survey was undertaken of visible features in these trenches, which appeared to be largely probable plough furrows (Fig 3).

### **Trench 1** (Fig 4)

The natural deposit in this trench was mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel patches (103). The natural was cut, towards the south end by a small ovoid pit [108] which was filled with

mid grey brown silty clay (109) topped by mid yellow clayey silt (107). This was cut by WSW-ENE aligned ditch [106] (Fig 8, Sections 1, 2, Plate 3) which was 1.44m wide, 0.4m deep and filled with mid grey brown silty clay (105) which was sealed by mid brown clayey silt (104). A 0.25m thick mid yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil (101) sealed the ditch and was overlain by ploughsoil (101).

This trench soon filled with water (Plate 4) and no further work was undertaken in it.

### **Trench 7** (Fig 4)

This trench was also waterlogged but dried out enough for a short period late in the project for two features to be excavated.

The natural deposit was orangey brown sandy silty gravel (703).

It was cut, at the south end of the trench, by east-west aligned gully [707] (Fig 13, Section 66). This had near vertical sides and a flat base, was 0.58m wide and 0.36m deep and was filled with mid brown sandy clayey silt (606), and matched a positive geophysical linear anomaly.

Closer to the north end of the trench, east-west aligned ditch [705] (Fig 13, Section 65) had fairly steep sides and a flattish base. Measuring 2.54m wide and 0.66m deep, it was filled with mid yellowish brown sandy clayey silt (704). This feature matched the northernmost of a series of geophysical anomalies interpreted as agricultural and may therefore represent a field boundary. Several probable plough furrows, unexcavated due to waterlogging, lay south of, and parallel, to it. These corresponded with geophysical signals of plough furrows. All the features were sealed by 0.25m thick yellow brown sandy silt subsoil (702) which was overlain by a 0.36m depth of ploughsoil (701).

### **Trench 8 (Fig 4)**

The natural deposit in Trench 8 was mid orangey brown silty sand and gravel (803). It was cut by several features.

In the middle part of the trench north-south aligned gully [811] (Fig 8, Sections 8-10, Plate 6) terminated, a 3.3m length being seen. It had rounded sides and base and was 0.53m wide and 0.18m deep and filled with dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt (810) which contained undiagnostic ceramic building material (CBM). Immediately south of it sub-circular post hole [813] (Fig 8, Section 7) was 0.52m by 0.45m and 0.12m deep and filled with mid greyish yellow brown sandy silt (812).

A short distance to the south was a group of three circular cremation pits (Plate 5) with rounded sides and base. Pit [805] (Fig 8, Section 3) was 0.42m in diameter, 0.16m deep and filled with mid greyish brown ashy silt (804). Adjacent pit [807] (Fig 8, Section 3) was 0.37m in diameter, 0.11m deep and filled with mid greyish brown gritty silt (806). Smaller pit [809] (Fig 8, Section 4) was 0.19m deep and filled with mottled yellowish white/brownish grey ashy silt (808). All three pits contained cremated human bone (Appendix 4) while fills (804) and (808) also contained calcined animal bone.

Immediately south of the cremations, steep-sided east-west aligned ditch [815] (Fig 13, Section 69) was 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep and filled with mid reddish brown clayey sandy silt (814).

South of this were two probable linear, possibly drainage ditch termini. NE-SW aligned ditch [817] (Fig 13, Section 70) was flat-bottomed, 0.85m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with mid brown sandy silt (816). Adjacent terminus [819] (Fig 13, Section 71) was 0.85m wide and 0.26m deep and filled with mid brown clayey sandy silt (818).

The features were all sealed by 0.22m thick mid yellowish brown sandy clayey silt (802) which was overlain by 0.36m thick ploughsoil (801) which contained a probable Bronze Age utilized flint flake.

### **Trench 9 (Fig 4)**

The mid yellowish brown clayey silt natural (903) was cut by east-west aligned ditch [904] (Fig 11, Section 41, Plate 7). This was 1m wide and 0.72m deep, had steep convex sides and had several distinct fills. Basal fill (905) was 0.25m thick mid grey clayey silt overlain, in the north side of the feature, by light greyish brown clayey silt (906). Above this was 0.1m thick dark grey clayey silt (907) with frequent charcoal lumps, a probable fire dump. Overlying mid brownish grey clayey silt (908) was 0.2m thick and was topped by 0.15m thick light greyish brown clayey silt (909) which contained a sherd of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The feature, which matched a positive geophysical linear anomaly, was sealed by 0.12m thick mid brownish grey clayey silt subsoil (902) above which was 0.3m thick ploughsoil (901).

### **Trench 11 (Fig 4, Plate 8)**

The natural deposit in this trench was mid orangey brown silt sand and gravel (1103).

It was cut by a number of features. At the north end of the trench, NNE-SSW aligned ditch [1115] (Fig 11, Section 49) had steep, convex sides and a flat base. Measuring at least 8.5m long, 1.1m wide and 0.36m deep, the ditch contained two fills. Light brownish yellow clayey sand (1117) was 0.21m thick and overlain by mid brownish grey silty clay (1116).

Some 12 metres to the south were two east-west aligned parallel ditches. Ditch [1113] (Fig 8, Section 15) was 0.45m wide and 0.23m deep with steep sides and a flat base and was filled with light grey brown sandy silt (1114). Ditch [1112] (Fig 8,

Section 14) had less steep sides and a flat base. It was 1.05m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a land drain sealed by mid brown sandy clay fill (1111). The latter ditch matched a positive linear geophysical anomaly.

Fifteen metres to the south was steep-sided, east-west aligned ditch [1128] which was 0.42m deep and filled with 0.1m thick light yellowish brown sandy clay (1127) overlain by 0.24m thick mid greyish brown sandy clay (1126). The ditch was recut by ditch [1125] which was steeper sided and measured 0.98m wide and 0.65m deep. Light yellowish brown sandy clay (1124) was sealed by dark brownish silty clay (1123), containing fired clay, above which was dark greyish brown clayey sand (1122). A small steep-sided pit immediately to the south [1121] was 0.4m wide, 0.32m deep and filled by mid grey sandy clay (1120). This was cut by further steep-sided ditch recut [1119] (Fig 9, Section 17, Plate 10) which was 0.7m wide and 0.42m deep and filled with mid brownish grey clayey sand (1118).

Towards the south end of the trench were shallow sub-circular pits [1142] and [1144] (Fig 12, Section 60). Pit [1142] was 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep and filled by light greyish brown sandy clay (1141). Adjacent pit [1144], which had an uncertain relationship with [1142], was 1.12m by 0.84m and 0.18m deep. It was filled with light greyish brown sandy clay (1143).

At the south end of the trench was an irregular, probably natural feature [1139] (Fig 12, Section 57) measuring 2.4m wide and at least 0.4m deep. It was filled with light brown sandy clay (1137) which contained a lens of whitish brown sandy clay (1138). The feature was cut by roughly east-west adjacent parallel ditches [1130] and [1134]. Ditch [1130] was 1.1m wide and 0.42m deep with concave sides

and a rounded base. It was filled with mid greyish brown sandy clay (1129). Ditch [1134] was shallow sided and 1.3m wide by 0.22m deep. It was filled with mid grey sandy clay (1133).

Immediately south of these features was small rounded pit [1136] (Fig 12, Section 57) which was 0.65m wide, 0.12m deep and filled with mid to dark brown sandy clay (1135). This pit was cut by shallow feature [1132], probably a plough furrow. This was 2.2m wide and 0.12m deep and filled with mid greyish brown sandy clay (1131).

Overlying the natural just north of the middle of the trench was a 35m wide spread of mid brownish grey sandy silt (1104). The spread was located at the point at which cropmarks in the field to the east indicate that the Fen Causeway should cross the site. Alternatively it could be a headland associated with ridge and furrow cultivation, which was extensive on the site. It was further investigated in Trench 11a. It was cut by several east-west aligned linear features.

At the northern extent of the spread, ditch [1110] (Fig 8, Section 12, Plate 9) was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep with steeper south side than north and a flat base. Basal fill (1109) was 0.21m thick light greyish brown clayey sand and it was sealed by a 0.3m thick top fill of mid brownish grey silty clay (1108) containing animal bone.

Close to its southern extent, (1104) was cut by east-west aligned V-shaped ditch [1107] (Fig 8, Section 11) which was 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with mid yellowish brown sandy silt (1105). The ditch was recut by ditch [1102] which was 0.8m wide and 0.28m deep and filled by light grey brown sandy silt (1106). These features were overlain by up to 0.2m thick mid brownish grey subsoil (1101) which was intermittent

along the trench and was sealed by 0.3m thick ploughsoil (1101).

#### **Trench 11a** (Fig 3, Plate 11)

At the request of the planning archaeologist, a further trench was excavated immediately west of Trench 11 to remove spread (1104) to determine its depth and whether it was masking any features.

The trench was machined down to natural sand and gravel (1152). In the event the spread (1153 in this trench) was observed to be masking no archaeological features (Fig 14, Section 72). It measured 36.5m wide and up to 0.5m thick with a profile gently sloping down from each side to the centre. As mentioned above, it was on the putative line of the Fen Causeway and could represent its low agger at a silty, rather than stony, point in its course. Alternatively, as suggested above, it could have been a headland. This was a strip of uncultivated land left between areas of (medieval or post-medieval) ridge and furrow which was used for turning the plough. These strips provided access and often became lanes or roads.

The spread was cut, very close to each end, rather than contained by, linear features also seen in Trench 11 immediately to the east. Near the north end, ditch [1154], although shallower, was the same as ditch [1110] and was filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (1153).

Towards its south end the spread was cut by ditch [1158], the same as ditch [1107], which was filled by mid yellowish brown sandy silt (1159) and recut by ditch [1156], the same as ditch [1102], filled by light grey brown sandy silt (1157).

Intermittent subsoil (1151), the same as (1101), overlay ditch [1154] and was sealed by up to 0.35m thick ploughsoil (1150).

#### **Trench 13** (Fig 3)

In this trench the sand and gravel natural deposit (1303) was overlain by another natural deposit of 0.5m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt (1302) (Fig 13, Section 76). This was cut by two unexcavated east-west aligned linear features, the width of which suggested they were probably plough furrows. They were sealed by 0.25m thick ploughsoil (1301).

#### **Trench 14** (Fig 4)

The natural deposit in this trench was also sand and gravel (1405) and was cut by several features.

At the south end of the trench, northeast-southwest aligned linear feature [1406] (Fig 8, Section 6) had shallow sides and an uneven base and was 2.8m wide and 0.4m deep. It was filled with mid greyish brown clayey silt (1407) and its slightly irregular character suggests it may have been a palaeochannel or an erosion gully. In this area there is a gentle decline eastwards, with a slight embayment in the northeast, towards which the gully/palaeochannel is aligned.

A short distance to the north was WNW-ESE aligned linear feature [1403] (Fig 8, Section 5). With shallow sides and a rounded base, the feature was 2.4m wide and 0.25m deep and was filled with mid brown clayey silt (1404). This feature may have been a plough furrow.

Further to the north, east-west aligned ditch [1408] (Fig 10, Section 30) had gradually sloping sides and a flattish base. It measured 4.5m wide and 0.7m deep. Basal silting fill (1409) was 0.15m thick light greyish orange silty clay. It was overlain by 0.5m thick mid greyish brown clay sand silt (1410). Above this, in the north side of the ditch, was 0.4m thick mid brown clay sand silt (1411). The ditch was cut by a north-south aligned gully [1412] (Fig 10, Sections 30, 31) which terminated

within the trench. This had steep sides and a rounded base and was 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled by mid grey sandy silt (1413).

These features were sealed by up to 0.28m thick mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil (1402).

Towards the north end of the trench, the subsoil was cut by a large, near vertical sided, flat-bottomed feature [1414] (Fig 14, Section 74) which was machined out over its 13m length within the trench, on the advice of the planning archaeologist. It was 0.8m deep and matched an area of magnetic disturbance recorded by the geophysical survey, probably being a gravel quarry pit. The feature was not entered as, the loose, mainly mid brown gravelly sand, backfill (1415) was prone to collapsing. It contained many sherds of early modern pottery, a selection of which was retrieved. The pit was sealed by 0.4m thick modern ploughsoil (1401).

#### **Trench 15 (Fig 5)**

The natural deposit in this trench was yellow brown sandy clay (1501).

In the southwest corner it was cut by north-south aligned gully [1502] (Fig 10, Section 34). This feature had a steep eastern side and a flat base. It was at least 7.3m long and 1m wide and was 0.24m deep. It was filled with light brown silty sand (1503).

A short distance to the north, east-west aligned ditch [1504] (Fig 10, Section 35) was steep sided and 0.89m wide and at least 0.37m deep. The fill was mid grey brown sandy silt fill (1505).

The features were sealed by 0.12m thick mid grey brown sandy clay subsoil (1507) which was overlain by 0.56m thick modern ploughsoil (1500).

#### **Trench 16 (Fig 5)**

Trench 16 contained a natural deposit of mid orangey brown silty sand and gravel (1601). It was cut by several features.

Near the west end of the trench shallow ovoid pit [1610] (Fig 10, Section 29) measured 0.77m by 0.59m and 0.1m deep. It was filled with mid reddish brown sandy silt (1611) with occasional charcoal and fired clay.

Immediately to the east, north-south aligned linear feature [1605] (Fig 9, Section 27) had gradually sloping sides and a flat base. Measuring 4.62m wide and 0.33m deep it was filled with light grey brown sandy silt (1606). Fifteen metres to the east, parallel linear feature [1602] (Fig 9, Section 26) had a similar profile and was 4.8m wide and 0.38m deep. The fill mainly consisted of light grey brown sandy silt (1604), which contained a sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery, overlain by 0.09m thick mid brown sandy silt (1603) and contained fired clay. These features were most probably plough furrows.

At the east of the trench was a further parallel linear feature [1607] (Fig 10, Section 28, Plate 12). Fairly steep and straight sided with a narrow flat base, this probable boundary ditch, of the field containing the furrows, was 1.9m wide and 0.67m deep. Basal silting fill (1609) was 0.22m thick grey brown silty sand. It was sealed by a 0.43m thick top fill of light grey brown sandy clay (1608).

All the features were sealed by the 0.32m thick modern topsoil (1600).

#### **Trench 17 (Fig 5)**

The natural deposit in this trench was also sand and gravel (1703). It was cut by three features.

At the south end of the trench, NNE-SSW aligned shallow-sided linear feature [1706]



(Fig 9, Section 19) was 1.65m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled by 0.06m thick dark brownish grey sandy clay (1705) overlain by light yellowish brown sandy clay (1704). Twelve metres to the north, similarly shallow-sided, parallel linear feature [1708] (Fig 9, Sections 20, 21) was 5.3m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled by light yellowish brown sandy clay (1707). A few metres to the north, sub-circular post hole [1711] (Fig 9, Section 22) had steep sides and a rounded base and was 0.26m by 0.23m and 0.12m deep. Dark brownish grey sandy clay lower fill (1710) was overlain by very dark brownish grey sandy clay (1709).

The features were sealed by 0.14m thick mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil (1702). This was overlain by 0.26m thick modern ploughsoil (1701).

#### **Trench 18** (Fig 5)

The orangey brown gravel natural deposit (1811) was cut by three parallel NNE-SSW aligned linear features. Northernmost feature [1802] (Fig 11, Section 43) was concave sided and measured 1.75m wide and 0.26m deep. Lower mid yellowish brown clayey silt fill (1804) was overlain by 0.12m thick dark brown silt (1803).

A short distance to the south, feature [1805] (Fig 11, Section 44) was probably a field boundary ditch, having fairly steep convex sides and a flat base and measuring 2.4m wide and 0.5m deep. It was filled by 0.4m thick mid grey silt (1807) topped by mid yellowish brown clayey silt (1806) containing a single animal bone.

A similar distance to the south, linear feature [1809] (Fig 12, Section 63) was shallow-sided and measured 5.8m wide and 0.4m deep. It was filled with mid grey clayey silt (1810) and was most probably a further plough furrow. It was sealed by 0.1m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil

(1808) above which was up to 0.32m thick modern ploughsoil (1801).

#### **Trench 20** (Fig 5)

Gravelly sand (2003) formed the natural deposit in this trench and was cut by several features.

At the west end of the trench was NNE-SSW aligned ditch [2015] (Fig 9, Section 23) which had steep sides and a rounded base. Measuring 2.76m wide and 0.64m deep it was filled with 0.32m thick mid brownish grey silty sand (2014) overlain by mid greyish yellow brown sandy silt (2013).

Just over 20m east of this was parallel linear feature [2010]. With very gradually sloping sides, this feature was 1.4m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled by mid greyish yellow brown sandy silt (2009) and cut, on its east side, by slightly curving similar feature [2012] (Fig 9, Section 18). This was filled by mid greyish yellow brown sandy silt (2011).

Immediately to the south was irregular ovoid pit [2005] (Fig 8, Section 13, Plate 13). This was filled by mid greyish yellow brown sandy silt (2006) overlain by purple/grey brown sandy silt (2004) with occasional ash and charcoal which contained pottery from four Bronze Age vessels.

Towards the east end of the trench, NNE-SSW aligned probable furrow [2008] (Fig 8, Section 16) was 2.7m wide and 0.45m deep and filled with light yellowish brown sandy silt (2007). This feature was roughly in line with probable furrow [1602] in Trench 16 and was sealed by up to 0.22m thick yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil (2002). This was overlain by 0.38m thick modern ploughsoil (2001).

#### **Trench 21** (Fig 6)

The orangey brown gravel (2103) in the

base of this trench was overlain by 0.15m thick mid yellow brown clayey silt (2102).

The subsoil was cut by a single linear feature towards the southeast end of the trench. North-south aligned ditch [2105] (Fig 9, Sections 24, 25) had moderately steep sides and was 3m wide and 0.52m deep. It was filled by 0.34m thick light yellowish brown sandy clay silt (2106) overlain by 0.26m thick greyish yellow brown sandy silt (2104) which contained a sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM. The feature was sealed by 0.38m thick modern ploughsoil (2101).

#### **Trench 22** (Fig 6)

The natural deposit in this trench was light yellowish brown sandy gravel (2203). It was cut by a single feature midway along the trench.

East-west aligned ditch [2205] (Fig 10, Section 32) had steep sides and a flattish base and measured 1.42m wide and 0.24m deep. It was filled with light brown sandy clay (2204). The ditch was sealed by 0.1m thick mid brown sandy clay subsoil (2202). This was overlain by 0.32m thick modern ploughsoil (2201).

#### **Trench 23** (Fig 6)

Sand and gravel (2303) comprised the natural deposit in Trench 23. It was overlain by 0.1m thick mid yellow brown clayey silt subsoil (2302)

Close to the southern end of the trench, the subsoil was cut by east-west aligned linear feature [2308] (Fig 10, Section 33). With gradually sloping sides and a rounded base, this feature was probably a plough furrow. It was 3.3m wide and 0.4m deep and filled with yellowish brown clayey silt (2307). The feature was sealed by 0.22m thick mid brown former ploughsoil (2301).

Immediately south of the furrow, the former ploughsoil was cut by an east-west

aligned gully [2306] with near vertical sides and a flat base. It was 0.5m wide and up to 0.7m deep and filled with mid grey brown sandy silt (2305) which contained 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A probable modern drain, it was sealed by 0.3m thick topsoil mixed with rubble (2304) from the nearby former farm buildings.

#### **Trench 24** (Fig 6)

The mid orangey brown natural gravel (2407) in this trench was cut by two features.

Sub-oval pit [2403] (Fig 12, Section 64) was 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a flattish base. It was filled by mid greyish brown clayey silt (2404). Adjacent irregular shaped feature [2405] (Fig 13, Section 75) had uneven, undercutting sides and was 3m wide and up to 0.5m deep. It was filled by mid greyish brown clayey silt (2406). Together, these two closely spaced undated features have the appearance of a typical tree-throw.

The features were sealed by 0.3m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil (2402). This was an unusually thick subsoil for the site and possibly represents another headland. Above this was a 0.32m thickness of modern ploughsoil (2401).

#### **Trench 38** (Fig 3)

The natural deposit in this trench was orangey brown gravel (3805).

The southern part of the trench was permanently flooded during the evaluation but one linear feature was recorded in section. East-west aligned ditch [3803] (Fig 13, Section 73) was steep sided with a flattish base. It was 1.8m wide and 0.45m deep and filled with mid greyish brown clayey silt (3804). It was sealed by 0.35m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil (3802) which was overlain by 0.3m thick modern ploughsoil (3801).

**Trench 40** (Fig 6)

The clayey sand and gravel natural (4003) was cut by two parallel, north-south aligned linear features, probably plough furrows.

Furrow [4005] (Fig 10, Section 37) had gradually sloping sides and was 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled by light to mid yellow brown gravelly clayey silt (4004) which contained mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery. To the southwest, furrow [4007] (Fig 10, Section 38, Plate 14) also had gradually sloping sides and was 2.5m wide and 0.24m deep. It was filled with 0.22m thick mid brownish yellow sandy silt (4006) which contained 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This was sealed by 0.2m thick mid yellowish brown sandy clay silt (4002) above which was 0.4m thick modern ploughsoil (4001).

**Trench 41** (Fig 6)

There were several features cutting the natural gravelly sand (4103) towards the southern end of this trench.

Small ovoid pit [4113] (Fig 11, Section 40) had gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.68m by 0.39m and was 0.16m deep and filled with yellowish brown sandy clay. North of this was a similar feature, sub-circular pit [4107], which also had gradually sloping sides and flat base and was filled by greyish brown sandy clay (4106). These two features may have been natural anomalies.

The latter feature was cut by NNW-SSE aligned V-shaped ditch [4105] (Fig 10, Section 36). This was 0.92m wide and 0.39m deep and filled with brownish grey sandy clay (4104).

Immediately to the north, circular post hole [4111] (Fig 11, Section 39) was 0.22m in diameter and 0.17m deep and filled with mid grey sandy clay (4110). It was cut by circular post hole [4109] (Fig

11, Section 39) which was 0.22m in diameter and 0.27m deep and filled with mid grey sandy clay (4108).

**Trench 42** (Fig 6)

The natural deposit in Trench 42 was yellow brown clayey silt and sandy gravel (4203). It was cut by three parallel north-south aligned probable plough furrows.

Near the east end of the trench, furrow [4206] (Fig 11, Section 45) had gradually sloping sides and an uneven base and was 3.8m wide and up to 0.56m deep. Lower fill (4205) was mid brownish yellow clayey sand overlain by 0.5m thick mid yellow brown clayey silt (4204) which contained a sherd of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This feature was roughly in line with [4005] in Trench 40.

To the west, furrow [4208] (Fig 11, Section 48) had gradually sloping sides and an uneven base and was 2.54m wide and up to 0.5m deep. It was filled with yellow brown clayey sandy silt (4207). It was aligned with [4007] in Trench 40.

A further probable furrow in the west end of the trench was not excavated. The furrows were sealed by 0.32m thick brown sandy silt subsoil (4202) which was overlain by 0.22m thick modern ploughsoil (4201).

**Trench 43** (Fig 6, Plate 15)

The gravelly sand natural (4303) was cut by north-south aligned probable furrow [4305]. This had gradually sloping sides and was 1.96m wide and 0.14m deep, being filled with light yellowish brown sandy silt (4304). It was roughly in line with the unexcavated probable furrow in Trench 42. This was sealed by 0.22m thick yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil (4302) which was overlain by 0.3m thick modern ploughsoil (4301).

**Trench 44** (Fig 6)

In this trench the natural deposit was yellowish brown gravelly sand (4402). It was cut by NNW-SSE aligned V-shaped probable field boundary ditch [4403] which was 1.85m wide by 0.68m deep. Basal fill (4406) was 0.18m thick yellowish brown silty sand and was overlain by a 0.1m thick band of light brownish grey silty sand (4405). Top fill (4404) was 0.34m thick light greyish brown sandy silt.

This was sealed by 0.22m thick yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil (4401) which was overlain by 0.3m thick modern ploughsoil (4400).

**Trench 45** (Fig 7)

There were four roughly north-south aligned probable plough furrows cutting the natural brownish yellow sand and gravel (4502) in this trench, one of which was excavated.

Furrow [4503] (Fig 12, Section 61) had gradually sloping sides and was 1.95m wide and 0.24m deep. It was filled with light grey brown silty sand (4504). This was sealed by 0.2m mid brownish grey sandy silt subsoil (4501) which was overlain by 0.22 thick modern ploughsoil (4500).

**Trench 46** (Fig 7)

Natural deposits of light brown gravelly sand (4605) were cut by a single NNE-SSW aligned probable furrow [4603] (Fig 12, Section 56). This had gradually sloping sides and was 1.05m wide and 0.17m thick. It was filled with mid greyish brown sandy silt (4604).

The feature was sealed by 0.33m thick yellowish brown silty sand subsoil (4602) which was overlain by 0.3m thick modern ploughsoil (4601).

**Trench 47** (Fig 3)

No archaeological features were observed cutting the gravelly sand natural (4703) in this trench. It was overlain by 0.33m thick yellowish brown silty sand subsoil (4702) above which was 0.3m thick modern ploughsoil (4701).

**Trench 48** (Fig 3)

Similarly, no archaeological features cut the sand and gravel natural (4803) in Trench 48. It was overlain by 0.18m thick mid greyish brown sandy clay subsoil (4802) above which was 0.3m thick modern ploughsoil (4801).

**Trench 49** (Fig 7)

The natural deposit in this trench was yellowish grey clayey sand and gravel natural (4903).

There were four north-south aligned linear features in this trench. Near the south end, gully [4905] (Fig 13, Section 67) was 0.62m wide and 0.07m deep with a flat base. It was filled by light greyish brown sandy clay (4904). North of this, probable furrow [4907] (Fig 13, Section 68) was 1m wide and 0.17m deep with gradually sloping sides and was filled with light brownish grey sandy silt (4906). The two features towards the northeast end of the trench were probably also furrows and were not excavated.

The features were overlain by 0.18m thick mid greyish brown sandy clay subsoil (4902) above which was 0.3m thick modern ploughsoil (4901).

**Trench 50**

The natural deposit of light brownish yellow sandy silt (5003) was cut by several archaeological features.

Towards the west end of the trench, NW-SE aligned shallow gully terminus [5019] (Fig 12, Section 59) was at least 2m long, 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled

with dark brown clayey silt (5020) overlain by dark grey clayey silt (5021).

Immediately to the east, a patch of light brownish orange sand clay silt (5022) was cut by NNW-SSE aligned shallow gully [5017] (Fig 12, Section 58). Measuring 0.6m wide and 0.08m deep, it was filled by yellowish grey clayey silt (5018).

Further east in the trench were three probable post holes. Circular post hole [5006] (Fig 11, Section 47) had concave sides and was 0.25m in diameter and 0.08m deep. It was filled with mid brownish yellow gravelly sand (5007). Adjacent post hole [5013] (Fig 11, Section 52) was sub-rectangular with steep sides and a flat base. Measuring 0.35m by 0.3m and 0.15m deep, it was filled with mid greyish yellow clayey silt (5014). Nearby post hole [5011] (Fig 11, Section 51, Plate 16) was larger, measuring 0.6m by 0.4m and 0.15m deep. It had concave sides and a flat base and was filled with mid brownish grey clayey silt (5012). Just to the east was a northeast-southwest aligned gully [5015] (Fig 11, Section 53) with concave sides and rounded base. This was at least 1.35m long, 0.3m wide and 0.14m deep and filled with greyish yellow silty clay (5016).

Post holes [5011 and [5013] and gully [5015] were all cut by east-west aligned linear feature [5009] (Fig 11, Sections 51, 52, 53, Plate 16). This feature, probably a field boundary or furrow, was 1.4m wide and 0.15m deep with irregular sides and was filled with mid greyish brown clayey silt (5010).

East of this, north-south aligned gully [5004] (Fig 11, Section 46) had moderately steep sides and was 0.6m wide and 0.27m deep and was filled with mid grey clayey silt (5005).

The features were sealed by 0.24m thick yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil (5002)

which was overlain by 0.35m thick modern ploughsoil (5001).

### Trench 51

The natural deposit in the northernmost trench was brownish orange sand and gravel (5103).

Towards the south end it was cut by east-west aligned ditch [5104] (Fig 12, Section 62). This had moderately steep sides and a rounded base and was 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. It was filled by light yellowish brown silty sand (5105) which contained redeposited natural, topped by 0.15m thick mid greyish brown clay sand silt (5108). This was cut by shallow east-west aligned furrow [5106] which was 2.1m wide and 0.1m deep and filled with mid brown clayey silt (5107). A few metres to the north was a parallel further unexcavated probable furrow.

The features were sealed by 0.26m thick mid grey brownish clayey silt subsoil (5102) which was overlain by 0.35m thick modern ploughsoil (5101).

## 6. DISCUSSION

The site is on the eastern edge of the elongated fenland island on which Whittlesey stands. From the later prehistoric period fenland developed in the gap between the Whittlesey ridge and the smaller island, on which the settlements of Eastrea and Coates stand, a short distance to the east. This area, including the lower ground between the two islands, was crossed by the Fen Causeway in the Roman period. The natural deposits on the site were largely sand and gravel 'island' material with more clayey deposits in the northwest and southeast corners.

There was a group of three small pits containing unurned cremated human bone in Trench 8. However, the cremations were

undated and some of the bone from two of them was identified as animal bone.

An isolated pit in Trench 20 contained pottery from four vessels of Bronze Age date suggesting domestic occupation in the vicinity.

There was a small group of undated gullies and post holes in the northwest corner (Trench 50) of the site. This may represent the edge of settlement centred northwest of the site.

Possible evidence of the Fen Causeway was seen only in Trenches 11 and 11a where there was a broad spread of sandy silt (1104)/(1153) in a slight hollow with undated ditches close to each side at a point that matched the locations indicated by both the geophysical (Malone 2011) and aerial photographic (Palmer 2012) surveys for the edges of the causeway.

In trenches to the west of Trench 11 no evidence of the Fen Causeway was observed on machining. These were among the trenches that rapidly became waterlogged. In Trench 14, to the east, the evidence may have been removed by the early modern quarry.

It is possible that the Fen Causeway had been dismantled to recover gravel and because the bank would have been inconvenient for agriculture (Hall 1987, 57). A photograph of the cambered gravel Fen Causeway being removed in the fen between Whittlesey and March in 1905 is included in an article by Potter (1981, Plate VIIIA).

Alternatively, perhaps the natural gravel of the island was felt to be a sufficient surface for the road, unlike in the adjacent fen, and the slight hollow recorded in Trench 11a, filled with sandy silt, represents its worn course.

*Bassenhally* was one of the three main fields of the town's medieval open field system (Hall 1987, 59) and another possibility is that the spread represents a headland, part of the probable late medieval ridge and furrow pattern of cultivation.

The ridge and furrow was identified in many trenches, as predicted by the geophysical survey for the southern part of the site. However, it also occurred across the northern part of the site where a late medieval date was obtained for adjacent parallel furrows in Trenches 40 and 42. The occasional probable field boundary ditch was also identified, generally parallel to the furrows, with those in Trenches 9, 16, 21 and 23 dated to the post-medieval/early modern period.

An early modern hand-dug quarry was machine excavated on the eastern edge of the site (Trench 14). This matched magnetic disturbance on the geophysical survey and also the aerial photographic interpretation.

The scarcity of finds from the site suggests that it did not contain a settlement focus but would nevertheless have been the exit point off the island towards Eastrea.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Bassenhally Farm, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire as the area was archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the route of the Roman Fen Causeway.

The evaluation revealed a small group of undated unurned cremations located just southeast of the centre of the site. About 100m north of these was a single Bronze Age pit suggesting occupation of this date in the vicinity.

No definite evidence for the Fen Causeway was identified but a spread of sandy silt in a broad, shallow hollow, lay on its postulated course. Only a single sherd of Roman pottery was retrieved, residual in one of the late medieval plough furrows which formed an extensive system across the site.

There was a group of undated features in the far northwest of the site suggesting settlement centred in that direction.

There were also several post-medieval to early modern field boundaries and a quarry pit of the latter date.

Artefacts retrieved included pottery of Early to Middle Bronze Age, Roman (a single sherd), medieval, post-medieval and early modern date, CBM, animal bone and metal. However, the scarcity of artefacts suggests that the investigation area did not include a focus of domestic activity.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## 9. PERSONNEL

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 Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey  
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## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS	Archaeological Project Services
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
OD	Ordnance Datum





Figure 1 General location map

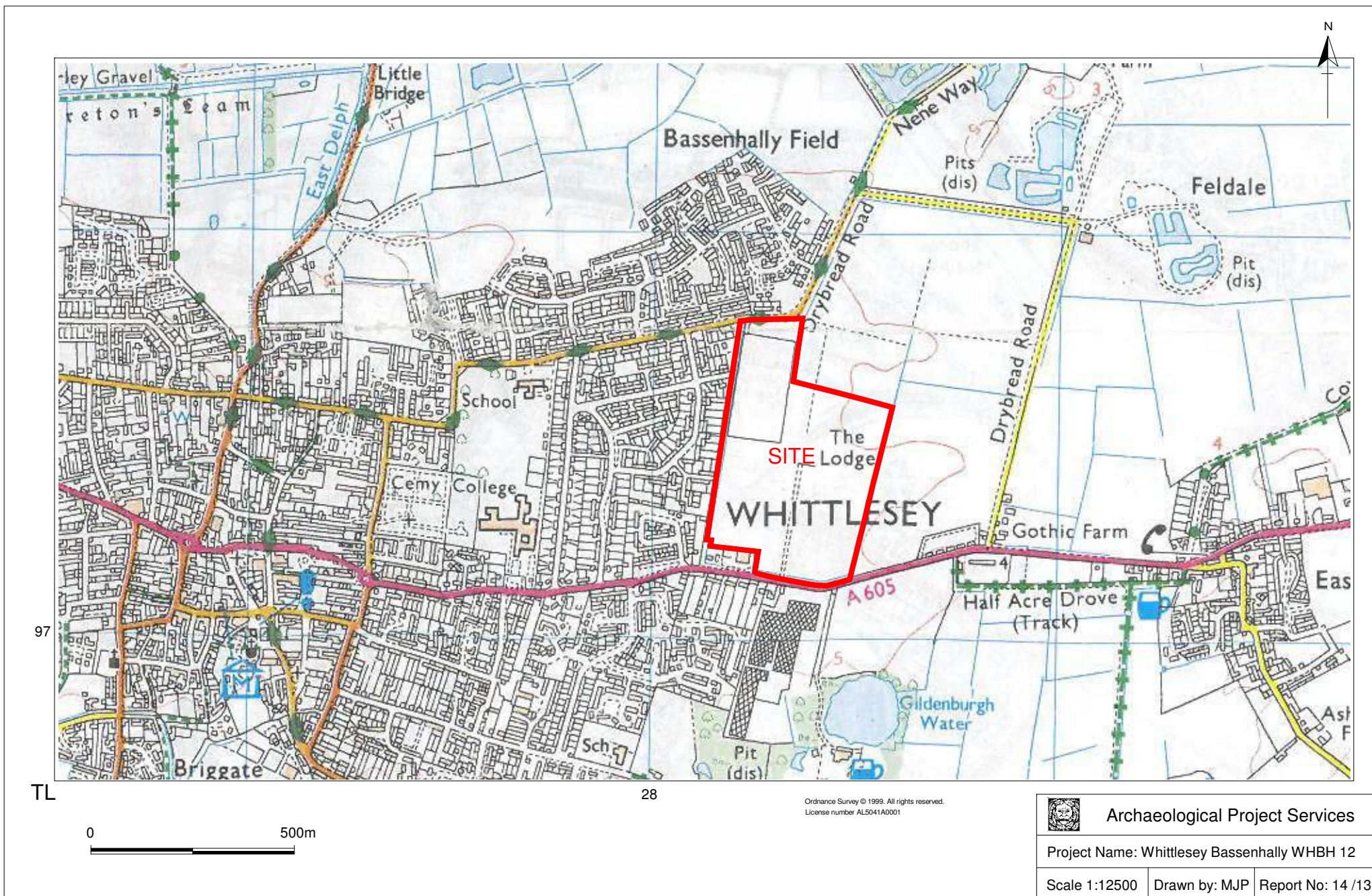


Figure 2. Site Location Plan



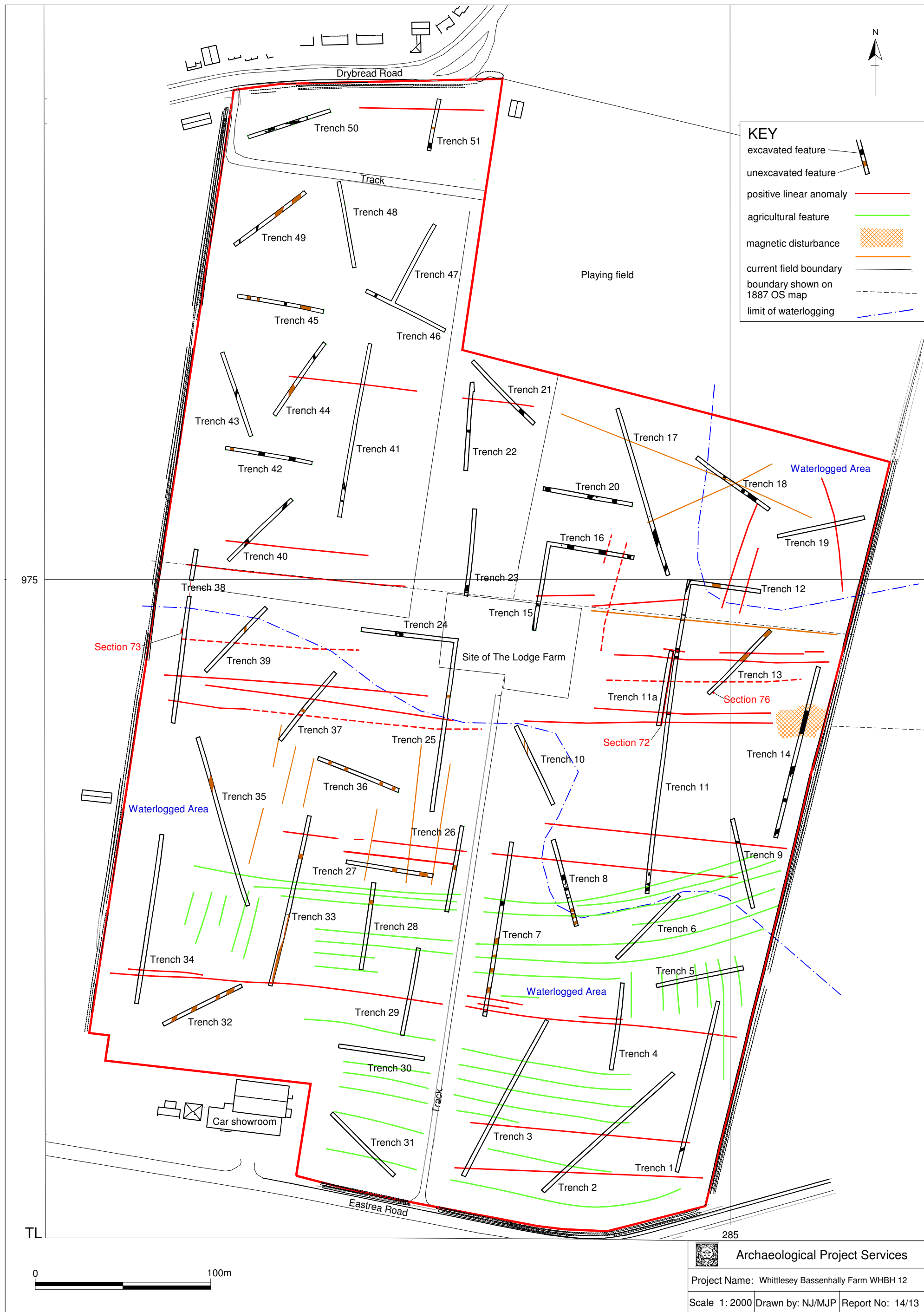


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan.



Figure 4. Plans of Trenches 1, 7-9, 11, 14

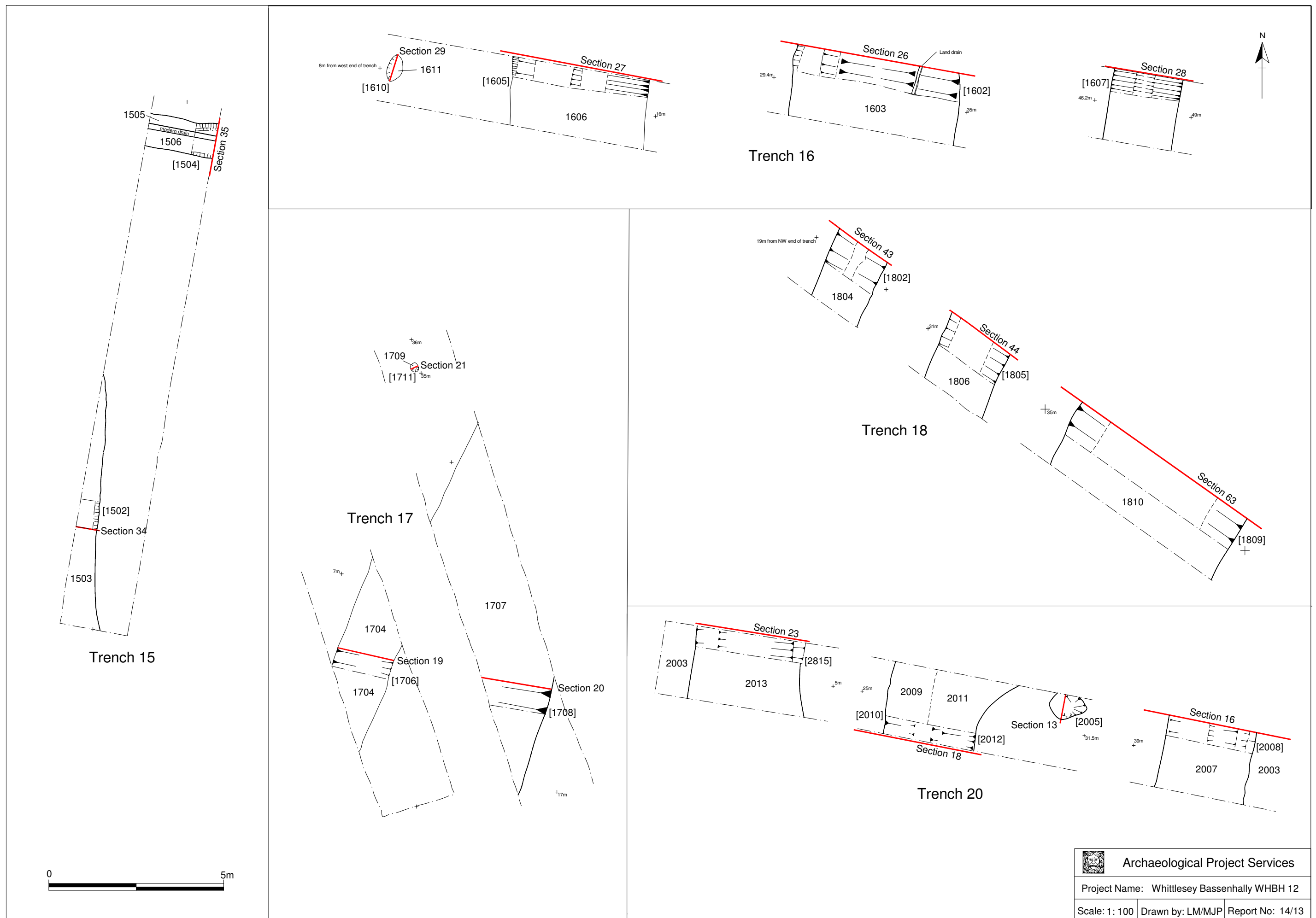


Figure 5. Plans of Trenches 15-18, 20

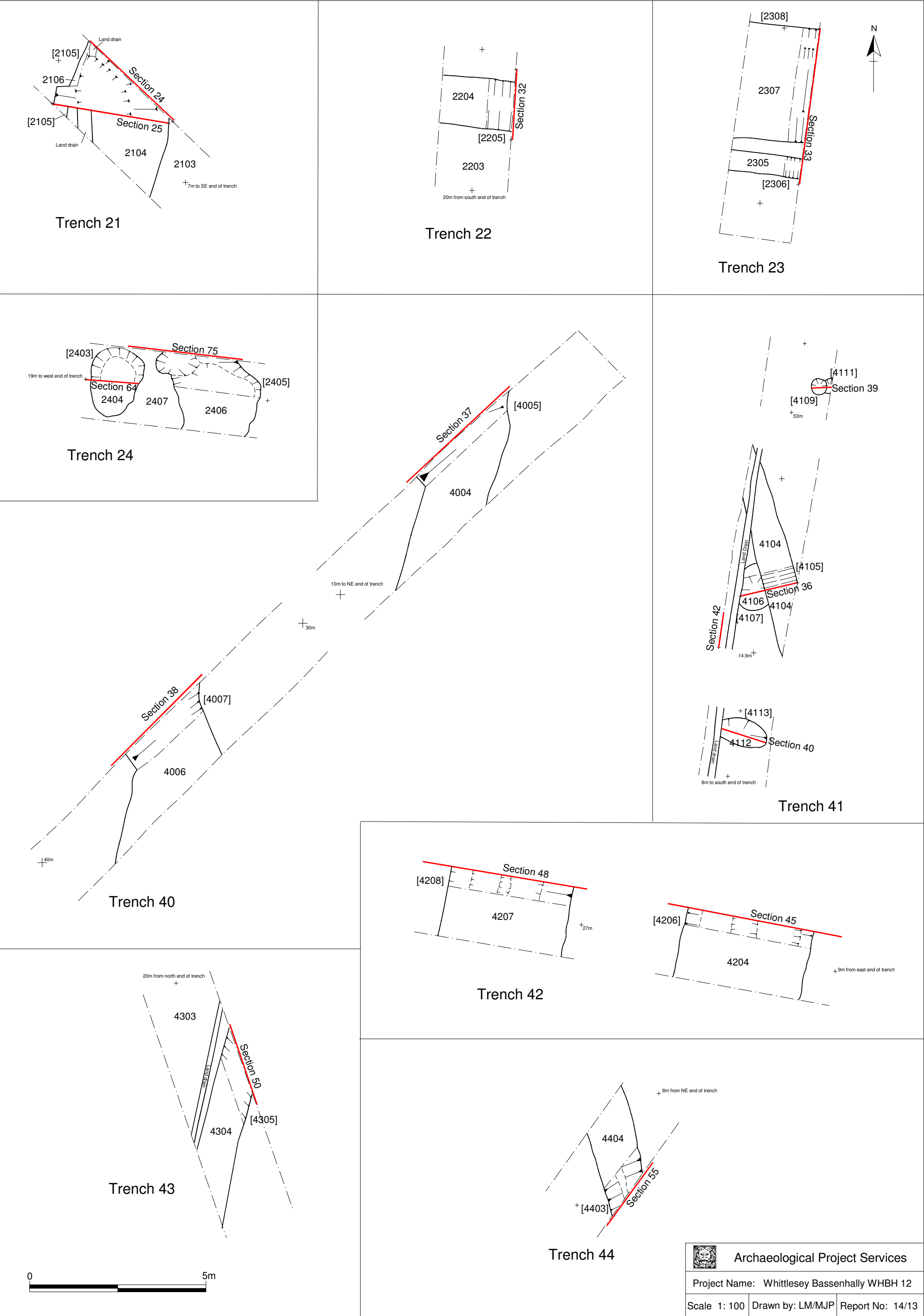


Figure 6. Plans of Trenches 21- 24, 40-44

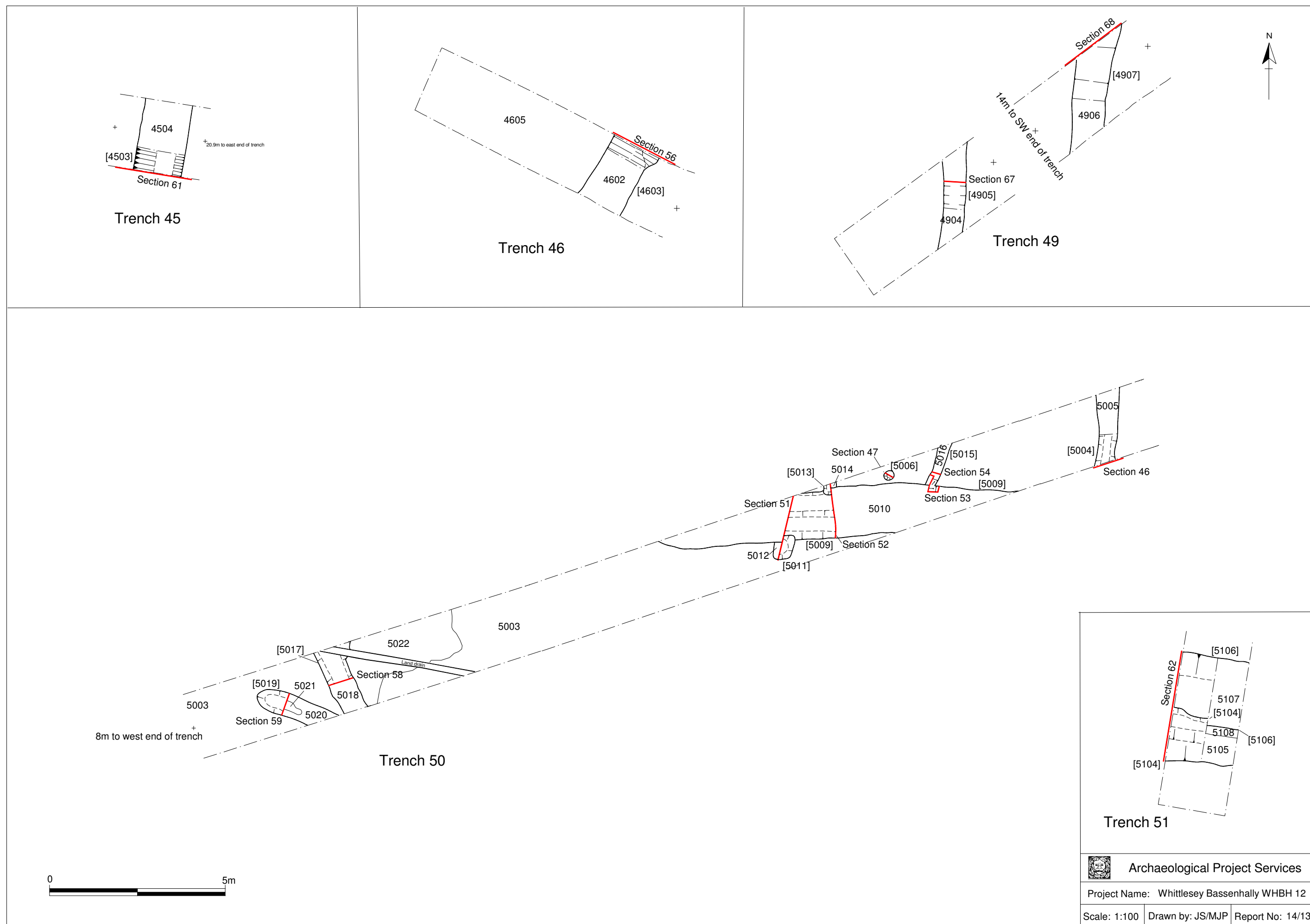


Figure 7. Plans of Trenches 45-46, 49-51

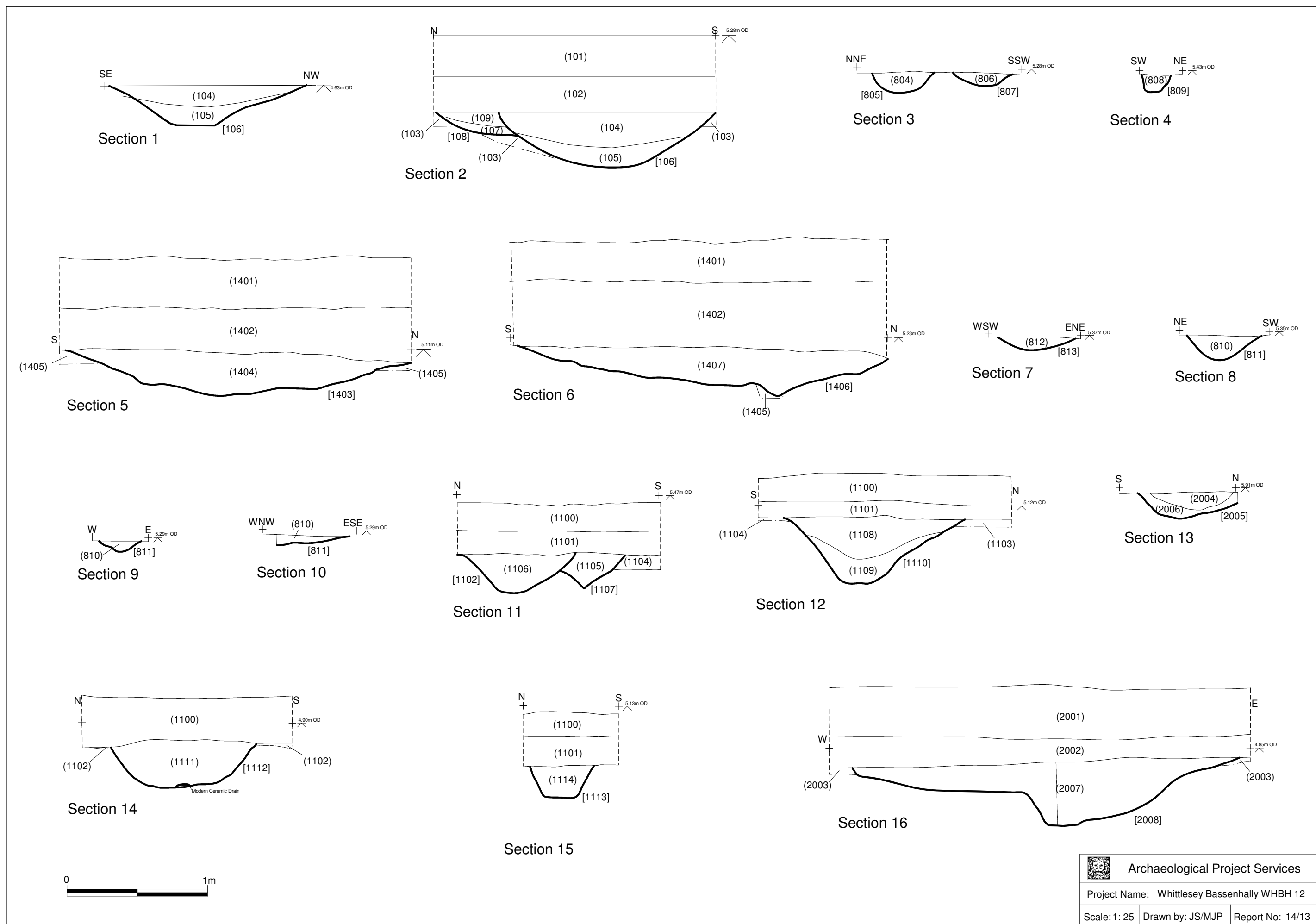


Figure 8. Sections 1-16



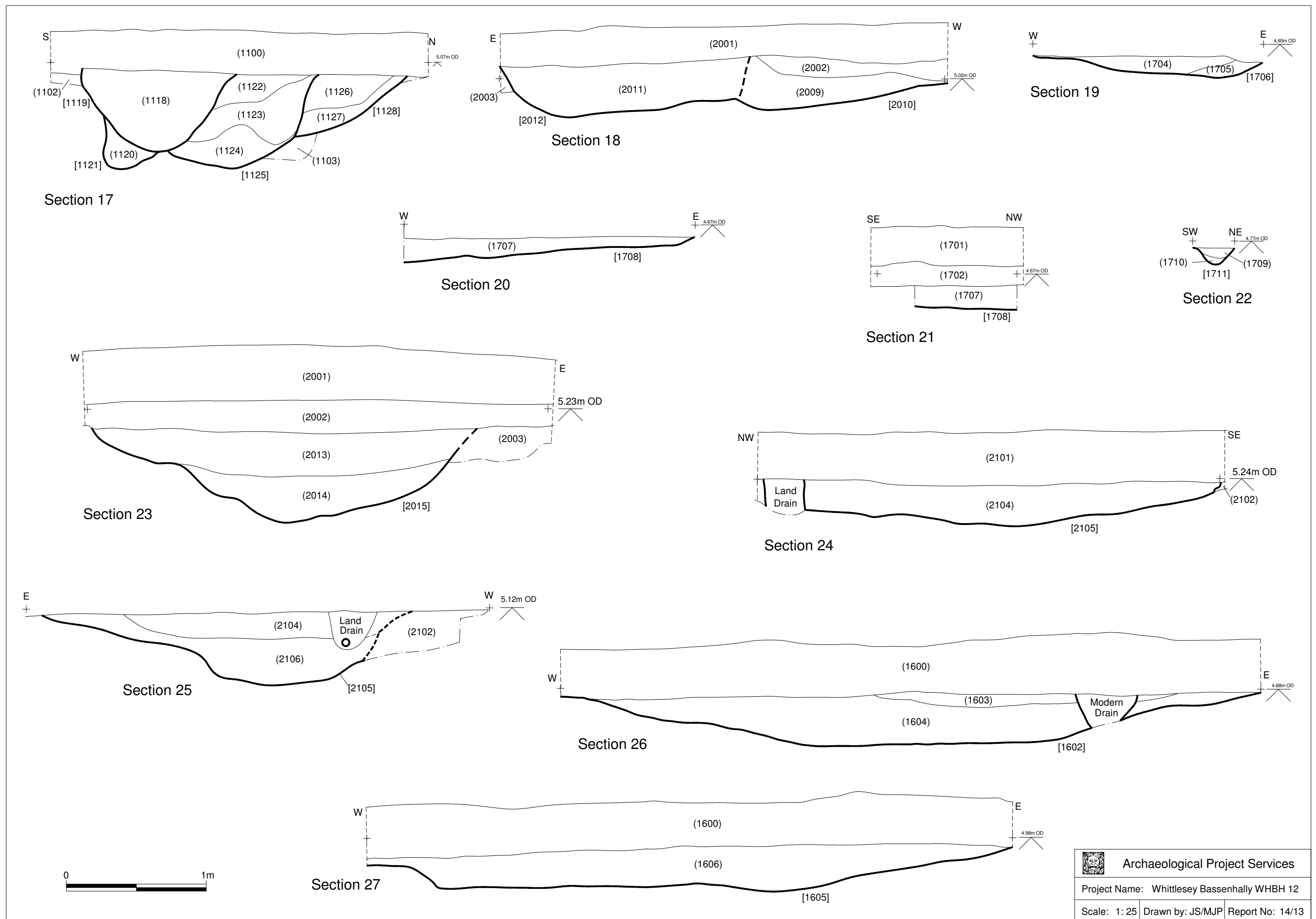


Figure 9. Sections 17-27

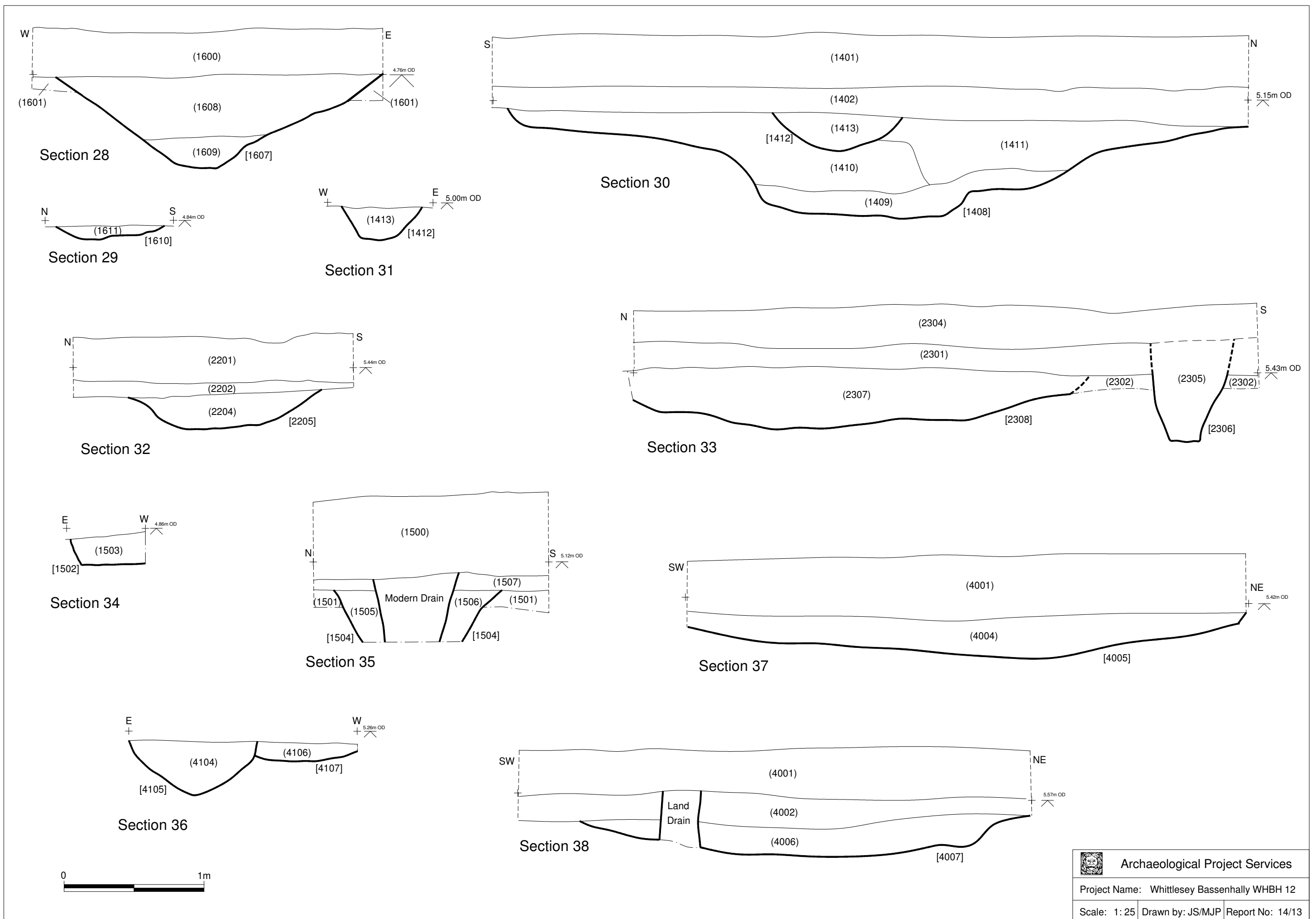
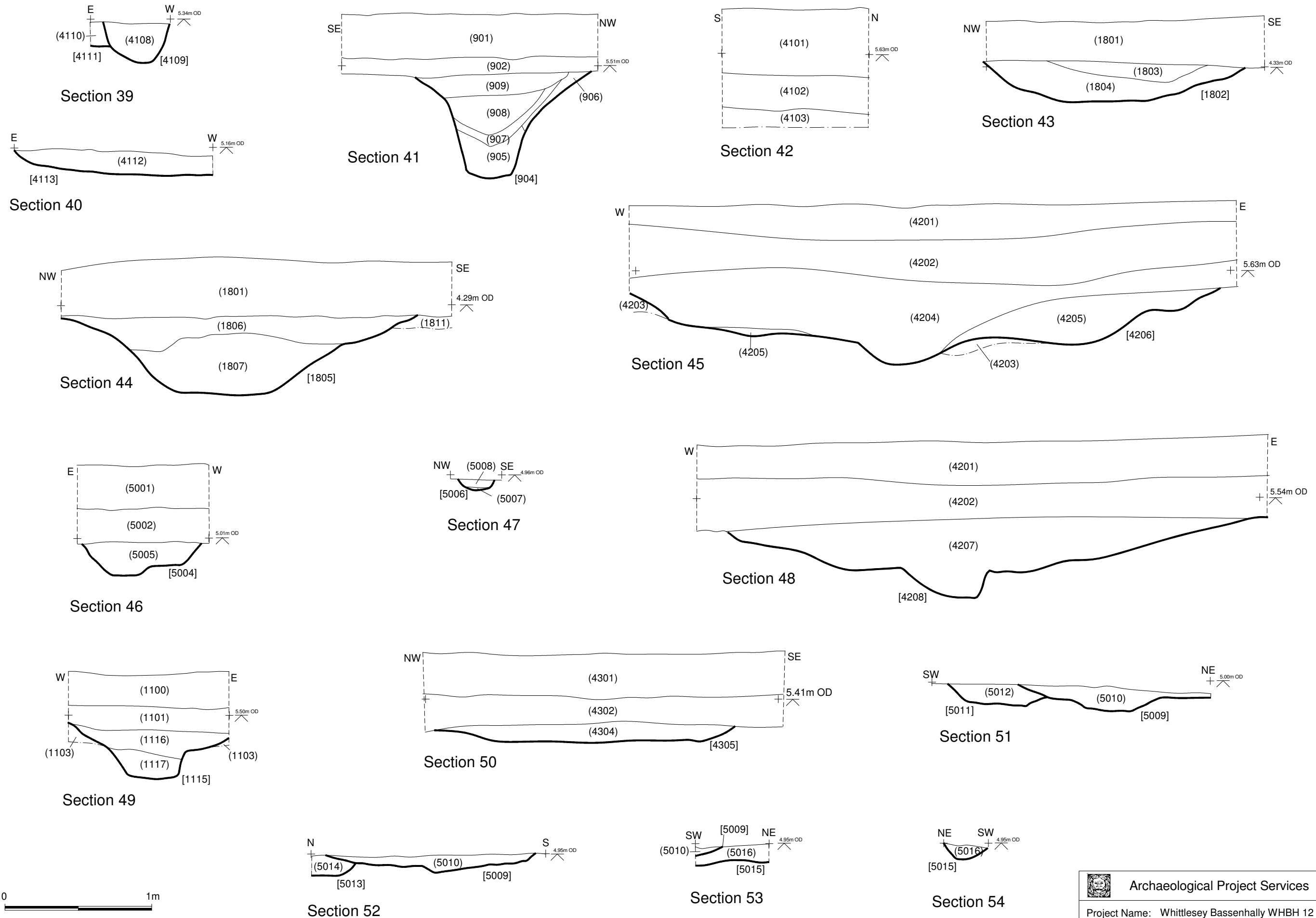


Figure 10. Sections 28-38




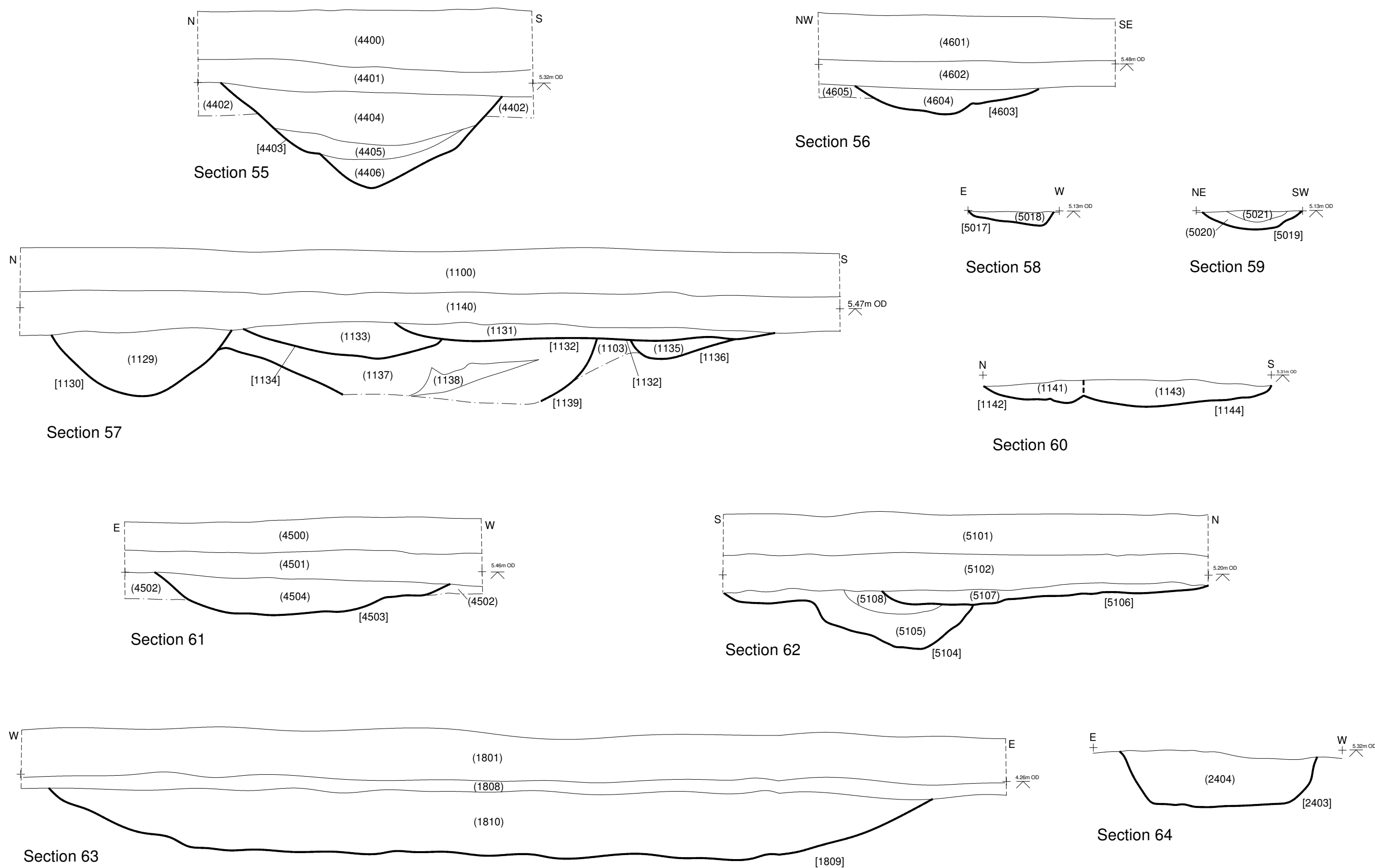
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Figure 11. Sections 39-54




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
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Figure 12. Sections 55-64

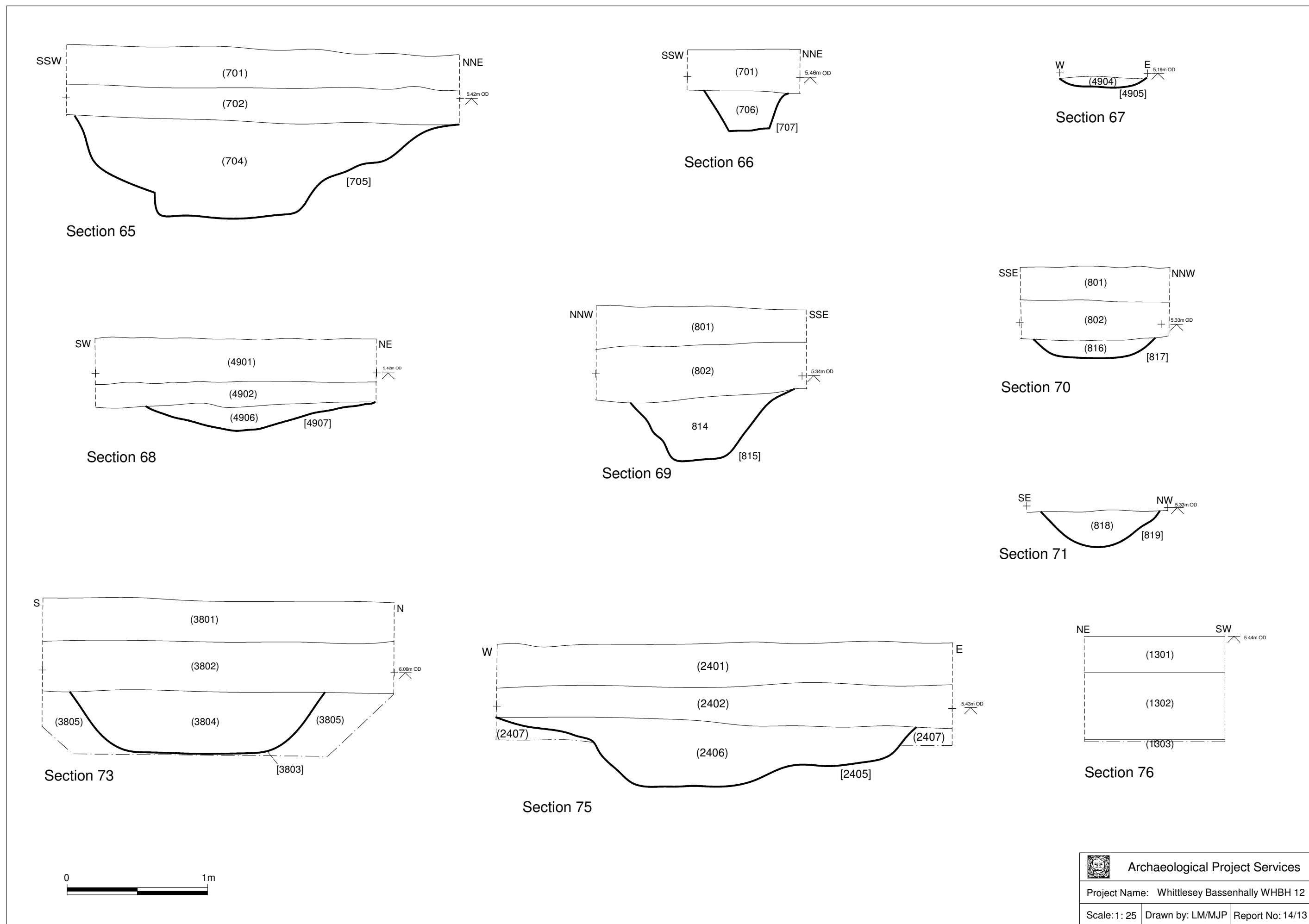


Figure 13. Sections 65-71, 73, 75-76

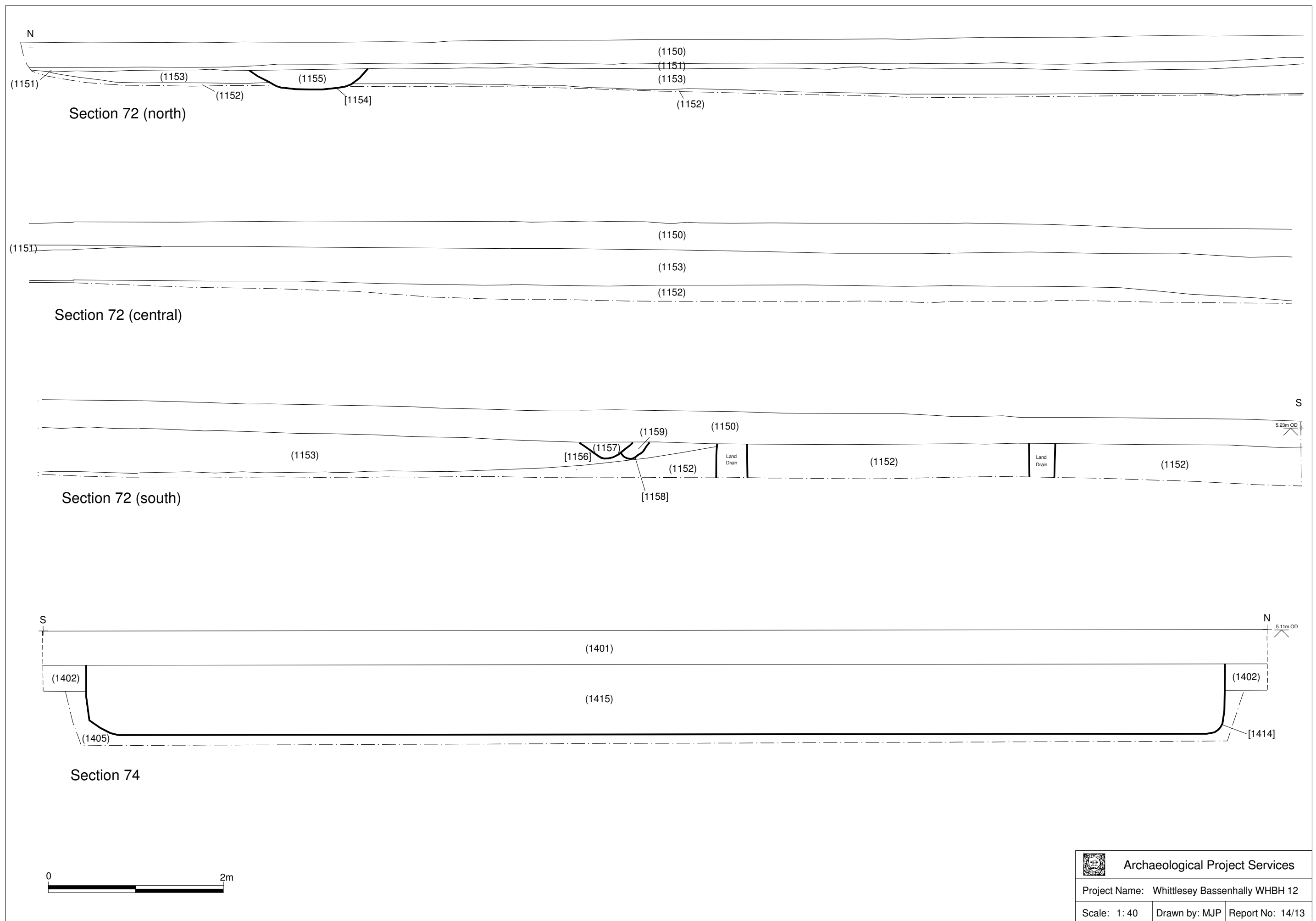


Figure 14. Sections 72, 74



Plate 1. West side of site looking north prior to machining



Plate 2. East side of site looking north prior to machining





Plate 3. Trench 1, Pit [108] and Ditch [106], Section 2, looking east



Plate 4. Flooded Trenches 1 and 5 looking southwest, representing the waterlogged southern part of the site





Plate 5. Trench 8, Cremations [809], [807], [805], pre-excavation



Plate 6. Trench 8, Gully [811], Section 9, looking north



Plate 7. Trench 9, Ditch [904], Section 41, looking southwest



Plate 8. Pre-excavation view  
of long Trench 11 looking  
north





Plate 9. Trench 11, Ditch [1110], Section 12, looking west



Plate 10. Trench 11, Linear features [1119], [1125], [1128], Pit [1121], Section 17, looking west



Plate 11. Trench 11a, Section 72, looking SSE



Plate 12. Trench 16, Ditch [1607], Section 28, looking north





Plate 13. Trench 20, Pit [2005], Section 13, looking west



Plate 14. Trench 40, Furrow [4007], Section 38, looking northwest





Plate 15. Machining Trench 43 looking northwest



Plate 16. Trench 50, Post hole [5011], Ditch [5009], Section 51, looking SSE

**Appendix 1: LAND AT BASSENHALLY FARM, EASTREA ROAD, WHITTLESEY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**PREPARED FOR LARKFLEET HOMES LTD**

**BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**

**Institute for Archaeologists' Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21**

**NOVEMBER 2012**

**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on land at Bassenhally Farm, Eastrea Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire.*
- 1.2 *The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team has advised that archaeological investigations are required to provide data to inform the decisions on the application. As part of a scheme of archaeological evaluation a programme of trial trenching is required.*
- 1.3 *Geophysical survey of the proposed area of development has identified a number of linear features which may represent medieval ridge and furrow agriculture and earlier or later field boundaries and enclosures. The survey also identified linear features which are associated with the Fen Causeway, the Roman road which crosses the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation for evaluation of land at Bassenhally Farm, Eastrea Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire.
  - 2.1.1 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.1.2 Overview
  - 2.1.3 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.1.4 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.1.5 List of specialists
  - 2.1.6 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

**3 SITE LOCATION**

- 3.1 Whittlesey lies some 8km east of Peterborough and 40km northwest of Cambridge in the Fenland District of Cambridgeshire. The site lies on the eastern edge of the town, north of Eastrea Road, centred on TL 284 975 comprising a series of large arable fields either side of the former site of Bassenhally Farm.

**4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A planning application (F/YR10/0904/) was submitted to Fenland District Council for development comprising approximately 460 dwellings, a nursing home, extra care accommodation, local centre, associated landscaping, open space, water attenuation features and highway works. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a scheme of archaeological work is required to provide information on the potential impact on buried archaeological remains of proposed residential development at the site. The first phase of this work will be an archaeological evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site. A geophysical survey of the proposed area of development was undertaken in November of 2011. This will be followed by a programme of trial trenching to

characterise the archaeological deposits buried at site.

## **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The site lies towards the eastern end of the Whittlesey 'island', a ridge of gravel rising to 8m AOD in the low-lying northern Cambridgeshire fenland, with the site itself at about 4m OD. Local soils are fine loamy gleyic argillic brown earths of the Waterstock Association (Hodge et al. 1984, 344) developed on the March Gravels above a solid geology of Oxford Clay.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 The Fenland has long been recognised as an important archaeological landscape, containing superimposed evidence of settlement, ritual and agricultural remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. Whittlesey occupies a former island within the fenland. The area of proposed development lies on the eastern side of the island, close to the narrow belt of fen separating Whittlesey from Eastrea. Occupation areas of prehistoric date have been identified around the western side of the Whittlesey island, and funerary remains have been recorded to the east.
- 6.2 Excavations and evaluations undertaken on and around the island have recovered abundant evidence of activity from the prehistoric periods onwards. The Roman Fen Causeway (CB15033), which crosses the island on an east-west alignment runs through the centre of the site; other cropmarks recorded in the vicinity are also assumed to be Roman in date (Hall 1987, 58). A Roman settlement has been found just south of the investigation site and the Fen Causeway was a focus for settlement and other activities during the Roman periods, with occupation areas and agricultural establishments developed along and near to it. Previous geophysical survey of the site revealed numerous east-west linear anomalies through the centre of the area. These are thought to represent the Fen Causeway Roman road and successive maintenance, or slight realignments, of it. Other mainly linear anomalies, thought to represent probable ditches of field boundaries or other enclosures were identified throughout the area, particularly in the northeastern corner of the site and to the south of the Fen Causeway route (Malone 2011).
- 6.3 Three main areas of open field around Whittlesey still retain their medieval names, one of these is Bassenhally Field, Bastenhale, meaning hale or nook where limes once grew (Hall 1987, 59).

## **7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
  - 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
- 7.3 A particular focus of attention will be on the probable Fen Causeway route, to identify its nature, survival, sequence and associations. To these ends, trenches are particularly targeted on the route and other nearby features identified by the geophysical survey, while providing sample coverage of the entire area.

## **8 TRIAL TRENCHING**

- 8.1 Reasoning for this technique



- 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 8.1.2 The trial trenching will comprise the excavation of a 5% sample of the 19.9 hectare proposed area of development as shown on the figure at the back of this document.
- 8.1.3 In the area of the Fen Causeway a series of overlapping trenches will be positioned to test the full width of the route, its sequence through time, and its associations, having particular consideration for Roman roadside settlement and ceremonial activity.

## 8.2 General Considerations

- 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 8.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IfA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 8.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. All archaeological features exposed will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Office. The investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 8.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

## 8.3 Methodology

- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 8.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.

- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important.
  - the site on completion of field work
- 8.4 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Ministry of Justice Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 8.5 The trenches, all exposed surfaces, excavation horizons, and spoil, will be regularly and repeatedly metal-detected to ensure optimum recovery of artefacts. Any identified artefacts will be excavated from its parent context in normal stratigraphic sequence.
- 8.6 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 8.7 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 8.8 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

## **9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 During the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. If necessary the specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

## **10 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT**

### **10.1 Stage 1**

- 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### **10.2 Stage 2**

- 10.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### **10.3 Stage 3**

- 10.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - A description of the archaeological setting of the site.

- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

## **11 ARCHIVE**

- 11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited within an approved County store as soon as possible after completion of the post-excavation and analysis.
- 11.2 If required, the archive will be microfilmed. The silver master will be transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.
- 11.3 Prior to the project commencing, the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Office will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive. An event number for this project will be obtained from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.
- 11.4 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

## **12 REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 12.1 An unbound draft copy of the report will be supplied initially to the County Archaeological Office for comment. Copies of the final report will be sent to: the client; the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office (2 copies); and the Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record.

## **13 PUBLICATION**

- 13.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the appropriate local journal. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.
- 13.2 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

## **14 CURATORIAL MONITORING**

- 14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office. As much notice as possible will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

## **15 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS**

- 15.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

## **16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Air Photograph plotting	Roger Palmer, independent specialist
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: David Knight Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust or Sarah Percival, independent specialist. Small assemblages may be reported on by Dale Trimble, Project Manager for APS or by Alex Beeby the in-house pottery specialist at APS. All work by the latter will be mentored by the named specialists.
Roman:	Alex Beeby, APS Roman pottery analyst.
Anglo-Saxon:	Dr Anne Irving, independent pottery specialist.
Medieval and later:	Alex Beeby, APS specialist assisted by independent ceramicist Dr Anne Irving.
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	M Holmes, independent specialist/ P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	Val Fryer, independent specialist
Soil Micromorphology	Dr Charly French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Pat Wiltshire, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

## **17 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 17.1 The Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services, Tom Lane, MIfA, will have overall responsibility and control of all aspects of the work.
- 17.2 Site work will be undertaken by a Project Officer with experience of archaeological excavations of this type, assisted by 3 experienced archaeological technicians. The archaeological works are programmed to take five weeks.
- 17.3 Post-excavation report production is expected to take up to five weeks post-excavation analysis will

be undertaken by the Project Officer, or post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

#### 17.4 Contingency

17.4.1 Contingencies for the analysis of bulk environmental samples and special finds requiring conservation are specified in the project budget.

17.4.2 The activation of any contingency requirement will be by agreement with the client and in consultation with the County Archaeology Office.

### 18 INSURANCES

18.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

### 19 COPYRIGHT

19.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

19.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.

19.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

### 20 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
101	1	Soft mid greyish brown sandy clay with rare small pebbles, 0.3m thick	Plough soil	Modern
102	1	Friable mid yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Subsoil	
103	1	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional orangey brown sandy gravel patches	Natural	
104	1	Friable mid brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded pebbles and rare cobbles, 0.4m thick	Main fill of [106]	
105	1	Friable mid grey brown silty clay, 0.15m thick	Primary silting fill of [106]	
106	1	E-W aligned linear cut with concave sides and rounded base, at least 2m long, 1.44m wide, 0.4m deep	Cut of drainage or boundary ditch	
107	1	Soft mid yellow clayey silt with occasional sandy patches and rare small pebbles, 0.14m thick	Fill of [108]	
108	1	Ovoid cut with concave sides and rounded base, 0.8m by 0.52m, 0.14m deep	Cut of pit or tree throw	
109	1	Friable mid grey brown silty clay, 0.1m thick	Primary fill of [108]	
701	7	Soft dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, 0.36m thick	Plough soil	Modern
702	7	Friable yellow brown sandy silt, 0.25m thick	Subsoil	
703	7	Firm orangey brown sandy silty gravel	Natural	
704	7	Friable mid yellowish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small pebbles, 0.66m thick	Fill of [705]	
705	7	E-W aligned linear cut with fairly steep concave sides and rounded base, at least 2m long, 2.54m wide, 0.66m deep	Cut of boundary ditch	
706	7	Friable mid brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small pebbles, mainly towards base, 0.36m thick	Fill of [707]	
707	7	E-W aligned linear cut with near vertical sides and flat base, at least 2m long, 0.58m wide, 0.36m deep	Cut of drainage gully	
801	8	Soft dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, 0.36m thick	Plough soil	Modern
802	8	Friable mid yellowish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.22m thick	Subsoil	
803	8	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand and gravel	Natural	
804	8	Soft mid greyish brown ashy silt with occasional burnt bone, 0.16m thick	Fill of [805]	

805	8	Circular cut with concave sides and rounded base, 0.42m diameter, 0.16m deep, in group with [807] and [809]	Cut of cremation pit?	
806	8	Soft mid greyish brown gritty silt, with moderate burnt bone, 0.11m thick	Fill of [807]	
807	8	Circular cut with steep sides and rounded base, 0.37m diameter, 0.11m deep	Cut of cremation pit?	
808	8	Friable mottled yellowish white/brownish grey ashy silt with moderate burnt bone, 0.12m thick	Fill of [809]	
809	8	Sub-circular cut with steep sides and flat base, 0.23m by 0.19m, 0.13m deep	Cut of cremation pit?	
810	8	Soft dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks, 0.18m thick	Silting fill of [811]	
811	8	N-S aligned linear cut with gradually sloping sides and narrow rounded base, at least 3.3m long, 0.53m wide, 0.18m deep	Cut of drainage gully terminus	
812	8	Soft mid greyish yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded and sub-rounded pebbles, 0.1m thick	Fill of [813]	
813	8	Sub-circular cut with gradually sloping sides and rounded base, 0.52m by 0.45m, 0.12m deep, located at end of [811]	Cut of post-hole	
814	8	Friable mid reddish brown clayey sandy silt with occasional rounded to sub-rounded pebbles, 0.45m thick	Silting fill of [815]	
815	8	E-W aligned linear cut with near vertical sides and flat base, at least 2m long, 1.1m wide, 0.45m deep	Cut of drainage ditch	
816	8	Soft mid brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, 0.13m thick	Silting fill of [817]	
817	8	NE-SW aligned linear cut with gradual sloping sides and rounded base, at least 0.92m long, 0.85m wide, 0.13m deep	Cut of drainage ditch terminus	
818	8	Friable mid brown slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, 0.26m thick	Fill of [819]	
819	8	ENE-WSW aligned linear cut with gradual sloping sides and rounded base, at least 1.43m long, 0.85m wide, 0.26m deep	Cut of drainage ditch terminus	
901	9	Soft dark grey clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebbles, 0.3m thick	Plough soil	Modern
902	9	Soft mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebbles, 0.12m thick	Subsoil	
903	9	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebbles	Natural	

904	9	E-W aligned linear cut with steep convex sides and rounded base, at least 2m long, 1m wide, 0.72m deep	Cut of boundary ditch	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
905	9	Soft mid grey clayey silt with frequent gravel, 0.25m thick	Basal fill of [904]	
906	9	Soft light greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebbles, 0.13m thick	Fill of [904]	
907	9	Soft dark grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal lumps, 0.1m thick	Fire dump fill of [904]	
908	9	Soft mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebbles, 0.2m thick	Fill of [904]	
909	9	Firm light greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebbles, 0.15m thick	Top, backfill of [904]	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
1100	11	Soft dark greyish brown clayey silt with common small angular and sub-angular pebbles, 0.3m thick	Plough soil	Modern
1101	11	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular and rounded pebbles, up to 0.2m thick	Subsoil	
1102	11	E-W aligned linear cut with moderately sloping sides and flat base, at least 2m long, 0.8m wide, 0.28m deep	Recut of ditch [1107]	
1103	11	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand and gravel	Natural	
1104	11	Friable light brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, 0.12m thick	Probably Fen Causeway agger or headland (see Tr 11a)	
1105	11	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, 0.15m thick	Fill of [1107]	
1106	11	Firm light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, 0.28m thick	Fill of [1102]	
1107	11	E-W aligned V-shaped linear cut, at least 2m wide, 0.35m wide, 0.15m deep	Cut of drainage gully	
1108	11	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal frags and gravel, 0.3m thick	Top fill of [1110]	
1109	11	Firm light greyish brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal frags and gravel, 0.21m thick	Silting fill of [1110]	
1110	11	E-W aligned linear cut with steeper S side than N flat base, at least 2m long, 1.3m wide, 0.5m deep	Cut of ditch	
1111	11	Loose mid brown sandy clay with occasional gravel, 0.35m thick	Fill of [1112]	
1112	11	E-W aligned linear cut with steep sides and flat base, at least 2m long, 1.05m wide, 0.35m deep	Cut of boundary ditch, contains land drain	



1113	11	E-W aligned linear cut with steep sides and flat base, at least 2m long, 0.45m wide, 0.23m deep, similar to [1107]	Cut of drainage gully	
1114	11	Firm light grey brown sandy silt with frequent small stones, 0.23m thick	Silting fill of [1113]	
1115	11	NNE-SSW aligned linear cut with steep convex sides and a flat base, at least 8.5m long, 1.10m wide and 0.36m deep.	Cut of enclosure ditch	
1116	11	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent sand and moderate gravel inclusions, 0.20m thick	Silting fill in ditch [1115]	
1117	11	Loose light brownish yellow clayey sand with moderate silt and frequent gravel inclusions, 0.21m thick	Side slip in ditch [1115]	
1118	11	Loose mid brownish grey clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks and angular gravel, at least 0.42m thick	Backfill in ditch [1119]	
1119	11	E-W aligned linear cut with steep sides, 0.70m wide and at least 0.42m deep	Re-cut of ditch [1125]	
1120	11	Firm mid grey sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions, 0.32m thick	Fill of pit [1121]	
1121	11	Circular cut, with vertical sides and a concaved base, at least 0.40m long, 0.40m wide and at least 0.32m deep	Cut of a small pit or possibly a burrow	
1122	11	Loose dark greyish brown clayey sand with occasional gravel inclusions, 0.20m thick	Silting fill in ditch [1125]	
1123	11	Firm dark brownish black silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and moderate gravel inclusions, 0.32m thick	Backfill in ditch [1125]	
1124	11	Firm light yellowish brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions, 0.30m thick	Re-deposited natural fill in ditch [1125]	
1125	11	Cut of E-W aligned linear, with steep sides, 0.98m wide and 0.85m deep	Recut of [1128]	
1126	11	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional gravel inclusions, 0.24m deep	Silting fill in ditch [1128]	
1127	11	Firm light yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional angular gravel inclusions, 0.10m thick	Side slump in ditch [1128]	
1128	11	Cut of E-W aligned linear with steep sides, at least 0.85m wide and at least 0.38m deep	Cut of a possibly drainage ditch for the Fen Causeway	
1129	11	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent angular gravel inclusions, 0.42m thick	Silting fill ditch [1130]	
1130	11	Cut of E-W aligned linear with concave sides and a rounded base, 1.1m wide, 0.42m deep	Possibly a land division or drainage ditch	

1131	11	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional rounded gravel inclusions, 0.12m thick	Fill of linear [1132]	
1132	11	Cut of E-W aligned linear with shallow sides and a flat base, 2.2m wide, 0.12m deep	Cut of a possible furrow	
1133	11	Firm mid grey sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions, 0.22m thick	Silting fill of linear [1134]	
1134	11	Cut of E-W aligned linear with shallow sides and a flat base, 1.3m wide, 0.22m deep	Cut of a possible furrow	
1135	11	Firm mid to dark brown sandy clay, 0.12m thick	Silting fill in pit [1136]	
1136	11	Cut of a pit with steep sides and a rounded base, 0.65m wide, 0.12m deep	Cut of a small pit	
1137	11	Firm light brown sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions, 0.4m thick	Backfill in feature [1139]	
1138	11	Hard light whitish brown sandy clay within (1137), 0.15m thick	Mineralized lens within deposit (1137)	
1139	11	Cut of feature with indeterminate form and edges, 2.4m wide, at least 0.4m deep	Cut of uncharacterized feature	
1140	11	Firm dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions, 0.20m thick	Subsoil layer, possibly deliberately deposited	
1141	11	Firm light greyish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal fragments and occasional angular gravel inclusions, 0.15m thick	Fill in pit [1142]	
1142	11	Cut of rounded pit with shallow sides and a concave base, 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep	Cut of a pit	
1143	11	Firm light greyish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal fragments and occasional angular gravel inclusions, 0.18m thick	Fill in pit [1144]	
1144	11	Cut of a sub-rounded pit with shallow, irregular sides and concave base, 1.12m long, 0.84m wide and 0.18m deep	Cut of a pit	
1150	11	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular pebble inclusions	Plough soil	Modern
1151	11	Soft mid brown grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	Subsoil	
1152	11	Compact light brownish yellow clayey sand with frequent gravel inclusions	Natural	
1153	11	Firm mid brown sandy silt with frequent sub angular pebble inclusions, same as (1104), 36.5m wide, up to 0.5m thick	Probably Fen Causeway agger or headland	
1154	11	Linear cut aligned E-W, same as [1110]	Cut of ditch	
1155	11	Same as (1108)	Fill in ditch [1110]	
1156	11	Linear cut aligned E-W, same as [1102]	Cut of ditch	

1157	11	Same as (1106)	Fill in ditch [1156]	
1158	11	Linear cut aligned E-W, same as [1107]	Cut of ditch	
1159	11	Same as (1105)	Fill in ditch [1158]	
1301	13	Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional sub angular pebble inclusions, 0.25m thick	Plough soil	Modern
1302	13	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.50m thick	Natural	
1303	13	Loose mid brownish orange mixture of 50% sand and 50% sub-angular pebbles	Natural	
1401	14	Soft dark grey clayey silt with moderate sub angular pebbles, 0.40m thick	Plough soil	Modern
1402	14	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions, up to 0.28m thick	Subsoil	
1403	14	Cut of an WNW-ESE aligned linear with shallow sides and a rounded base, at least 2m long, 2.40m wide and 0.20m deep	Cut of a possible furrow	
1404	14	Soft mid brown clayey silt with frequent sand and sub-angular gravel inclusions, 0.25m thick	Fill in linear [1403]	
1405	14	Soft light yellowish brown mixture of 50% clayey sand and 50% sub-angular gravel	Natural	
1406	14	Cut of SW-NE aligned linear with shallow sides and base, at least 2.10m long, 2.80m wide and 0.40m deep	Possibly the cut of a palaeochannel	
1407	14	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional rounded pebble inclusions, 0.40m thick	Fill in palaeochannel [1406]	
1408	14	Cut of an E-W aligned linear, with gradually sloping convex sides and a flat base, at least 2m long, 4.50m wide and 0.7m deep	Cut of a boundary ditch	
1409	14	Soft light greyish orange silty clay with frequent patches of sand inclusions and occasional grey clay laminations, 0.15m thick	An alluvial deposit in ditch [1408]	
1410	14	Soft mid greyish brown clay sand silt with frequent angular pebbles, 0.15m thick	Possible deliberate back fill in ditch [1408]	
1411	14	Soft mid brown clay sand silt with frequent sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.40m thick	Fill in ditch [1408]	
1412	14	Cut of a linear terminus aligned N-S, with steep straight sides and a rounded base, at least 3.20m long, 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep	Cut of ditch	
1413	14	Soft mid grey sandy silt with moderate sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.25m thick	Fill of ditch [1412]	
1414	14	Cut of a N-S aligned linear with near vertical sides and a flat base, 13m long, at least 2m wide and 0.80m deep	Cut of quarry pit for gravel extraction	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C

1415	14	A loose mid brown gravelly sand observed in quarry pit [1415], but not examined due to collapsing trench, 0.80m thick	Fill in quarry pit [1414]	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C
1500	15	Friable dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and moderate gravel inclusions, 0.56m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
1501	15	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with freq sub-rounded pebble inclusions	Natural	
1502	15	Cut of a linear with almost vertical sides and flat base, at least 7.3m long and 1m wide, 0.24m deep	Cut of gully	
1503	15	Compact light brown silty sand with frequent charcoal inclusions, 0.24m thick	Fill in gully [1502]	
1504	15	Cut of an E-W aligned linear, with steep sides, 0.89m wide and at least 0.37m deep	Cut of possible boundary ditch	
1505	15	Soft mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal and moderate gravel inclusions	Fill of ditch [1504]	
1506	15	Soft mid grey sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions	Fill in ditch [1504]	
1507	15	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay with moderate sub-rounded pebble inclusions	Subsoil	
1600	16	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions	Ploughsoil	Modern
1601	16	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand and gravel	Natural	
1602	16	Cut of N-S aligned linear with shallow sides and a flat base, 4.80m wide and 0.38m deep	Cut of possible furrow	16 <sup>th</sup> – mid 17 <sup>th</sup> C
1603	16	Firm mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and frequent gravel inclusions, 0.09m thick	Fill in furrow [1602]	
1604	16	Firm light grey brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions, 0.45m thick	Fill in furrow [1602]	16 <sup>th</sup> – mid 17 <sup>th</sup> C
1605	16	Cut of N-S aligned linear with straight shallow sides and a flat base, at least 0.70m long, 4.62m wide and 0.33m deep.	Cut of possible furrow	
1606	16	Firm light grey brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions	Fill of furrow [1605]	
1607	16	Cut of N-S aligned linear with straight, shallow sides and a flat base, at least 0.70m long, 1.90m wide and 0.67m deep	Cut of a boundary ditch	
1608	16	Firm light grey brown sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles, 0.43m thick	Fill of ditch [1607]	
1609	16	Soft light grey brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions, 0.22m thick	Silting fill in ditch [1607]	

1610	16	Cut of ovoid pit with shallow edges and an uneven base, 0.77m long, 0.59m wide and 0.10m deep	Cut of possible fire pit	
1611	16	Firm mid red brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and occasional gravel inclusions	Heat altered natural within fire pit [1610]	
1701	17	Firm dark grey sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions	Ploughsoil	Modern
1702	17	Soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions	Subsoil	
1703	17	Loose light brownish yellow sand and gravel	Natural	
1704	17	Soft light yellowish brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions, 0.13m thick	Fill of plough furrow [1706]	
1705	17	Firm dark brownish grey sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions, 0.06m thick	Basal fill of [1706]	
1706	17	Cut of a NNE-SSW aligned linear, with shallow sides and a flattish base sloping to the SW, 1.65m wide and 0.15m deep	Cut of probable plough furrow	
1707	17	Firm light yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions, 0.18m thick	Fill of plough furrow [1707]	
1708	17	Cut of N-S aligned linear with shallow sides and a flat base, 5.3m wide and 0.18m deep	Cut of plough furrow	
1709	17	Firm very dark brownish grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions, 0.07m thick	Fill of posthole [1711]	
1710	17	Loose dark brownish grey sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions, 0.05m thick	Fill of posthole [1711]	
1711	17	Cut of a circular posthole with steep straight sides and a concave base, 0.26m long, 0.23m wide and 0.12m deep	Cut of posthole probably from a modern fence line	
1801	18	Friable, dark greyish brown, clayey silt, up to 0.32m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
1802	18	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 1.75m wide x 0.26m deep, concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a rounded base, NNE-SSW aligned	Cut of probable furrow or shallow ditch	
1803	18	Soft, dark brown silt, occasional small rounded pebbles, 0.12m thick	Upper fill of [1802]	
1804	18	Friable, mid yellowish brown, clayey silt, common small gravel, 0.18m thick	Primary fill of [1802]	
1805	18	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 2.4m wide x 0.5m deep, slightly convex sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base, NNE-SSW aligned	Cut of ditch – probable field boundary	
1806	18	Friable, mid yellowish brown, clayey silt, occasional gravel, 0.2m thick	Upper fill of [1805]	
1807	18	Soft, mid grey silt, common small to medium rounded and sub-angular gravel, 0.4m thick	Primary fill of [1805]	

1808	18	Soft, mid brown , clayey silt with occasional gravel, 0.1m thick	Subsoil	
1809	18	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 5.8m wide x 0.4m deep, gradual/concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a flat base, NNE-SSW aligned	Cut of furrow	
1810	18	Soft, mid grey clayey silt, frequent gravel, 0.4m thick	Fill of [1809]	
1811	18	Loose orangey brown gravel	Natural	
2001	20	Soft to moderate, mid greyish yellowy brown, sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
2002	20	Soft to moderate, light to mid yellowish brown, sandy silt with moderate small pebbles	Subsoil	
2003	20	Moderate, light to mid yellow brown, gravelly sand	Natural	
2004	20	Soft, mid to dark purpley grey brown sandy silt, occasional ash and charcoal, rare heated stones, moderate fired clay or heavily degraded pot, 0.13m thick	Fill of [2005]	Early to Middle Bronze Age
2005	20	Oval/sub-rounded cut, 1m x 0.7m wide x 0.18m deep, irregular sides with an irregular undulating base	Cut of pit	Early to Middle Bronze Age
2006	20	Soft to moderate, mid greyish yellow brown, sandy silt, slight ash and rare charcoal flecks, 0.1m thick	Possible fill of [2005], or leaching horizon	
2007	20	Moderate to firm, light yellowish brown, gravelly sandy silt, 0.45m thick	Fill of [2008]	
2008	20	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 2.7m x 0.45m deep, gradual to steep sides, sloping base, roughly NNE-SSW aligned	Possible boundary or drainage ditch	
2009	20	Moderate, mid greyish yellow brown, silty gravel and sand, 0.25m thick	Fill of [2012]	
2010	20	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 1.4m x 0.25m deep, gently sloping sides with an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base, roughly NNE-SSW aligned	Probable furrow	
2011	20	Moderate, mid greyish yellow brown, sandy silt, moderate gravel, 0.36m thick	Fill of [2012]	
2012	20	Linear cut, at least 2m x 1.8m x 0.36m, moderate E side, gradual W side, with a gradual break of slope to a concave base, NNE-SSW aligned	Probable furrow	
2013	20	Moderate, mid greyish/yellowish brown, sandy silt, moderate gravel, 0.3m thick	Fill of [2015]	
2014	20	Moderate, mid brownish grey, gravelly silty sand, 0.32m thick	Natural silting in [2015]	

2015	20	Linear cut, 2.76m wide x at least 2m long x 0.64m deep, steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base, NNE-SSW aligned	Boundary/drainage ditch	
2101	21	Dark brown, sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.38m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
2102	21	Mid yellow brown, clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Subsoil	
2103	21	Orangey brown gravel	Natural	
2104	21	Moderate, light to mid, greyish yellow brown, clayey sandy silt, moderate small stones, 0.26m thick	Silting in [2105]	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> C
2105	21	Linear cut, at least 2.6m long x at least 3m wide x 0.52m, moderate sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base, N-S aligned, cut by a modern land drain	Deep furrow or ditch	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> C
2106	21	Moderate, light yellowish brown, sandy clay/silt, 0.34m thick	Re-deposited natural within [2105]	
2201	22	Firm, dark brown, silty clay, moderate gravel, 0.32m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
2202	22	Firm, mid brown, sandy clay, occasional gravel, 0.1m thick	Subsoil	
2203	22	Loose, sandy gravel, light yellowish brown	Natural	
2204	22	Firm, light brown, sandy clay, occasional gravel, 0.24m	Silted fill of [2205]	
2205	22	Linear cut, 1.42m wide x 0.24m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a flattish base, E-W aligned	Cut of linear feature – probable boundary or drainage ditch	
2301	23	Mid brown, sandy silt, 0.22m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
2302	23	Light – mid yellow brown clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil	
2303	23	Silty sand and gravels, light to mid yellow brown	Natural	
2304	23	Ploughsoil mixed with blackish clay silt and tarmac	Made ground/levelling of former building?	
2305	23	Soft to moderately crumbly, mid grey brown, sandy silt, frequent gravel and moderate clay, up to 0.7m thick	Fill of [2306]	18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> C
2306	23	Linear cut, at least 2m in length x 0.5m wide x up to 0.7m deep, steep/near vertical sides with a flat base, E-W aligned	Gully	18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> C
2307	23	Moderate, light to mid yellowish brown, clayey silt, frequent sand and gravel, 0.4m thick	Silting of [2308]	
2308	23	Linear cut, 3.3m wide x 2m in length x 0.4m deep, gradually sloping sides and a concave base, E-W aligned	Possible furrow	
2401	24	Friable, dark greyish brown, clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern

2402	24	Friable, mid brown, clayey silt with occasional gravel, 0.3m thick	Subsoil	
2403	24	Sub-oval cut with rounded corners, 1.3m x 0.4m deep, steep sides with a sharp break of slope to a flattish base	Cut of pit or possible part of a tree throw	
2404	24	Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey silt, common pebbles, 0.4m thick	Fill of [2403]	
2405	24	Irregular cut with rounded corners, more than 2m in length x 3m wide x up to 0.5m deep, irregular and concave to undercutting sides with a sharp break of slope to an uneven base	Probable tree throw	
2406	24	Friable, mid greyish brown, clayey silt, 0.5m thick	Fill of [2405]	
2407	24	Loose mid orangey brown gravel	Natural	
3801	38	Friable, dark greyish brown, clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
3802	38	Friable, mid brown clayey silt with occasional gravel, small angular and rounded stones, 0.35m thick	Subsoil?	
3803	38	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 1.8m wide x 0.45m deep, steep sides with a moderate break of slope to a flattish base, E-W aligned	Cut of ditch	
3804	38	Friable, mid greyish brown, clayey silt, 0.45m thick	Fill of [3803]	
3805	38	Loose orangey brown gravel	Natural	
4001	40	Moderately crumbly, mid to dark brown sandy silt, occasional pebbles, 0.4m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4002	40	Moderate, mid yellowish brown, sandy/clay silt, occasional pebbles, 0.2 thick	Subsoil	
4003	40	Mid brownish yellow, clayey sand and sandy gravels	Natural	
4004	40	Friable, light to mid yellow brown, gravelly clayey silt, frequent sand, 0.3m max	Fill of [4005]	Mid 15 <sup>th</sup> – mid 17 <sup>th</sup> C
4005	40	Linear cut, at least 2m in length x 1.8m width x 0.3m deep, gradually sloping sides with a broad concave base, N-S aligned	Possible furrow	Mid 15 <sup>th</sup> – mid 17 <sup>th</sup> C
4006	40	Friable, mid brownish yellow, sandy silt, occasional pebbles, 0.22m thick	Fill in [4007]	13 <sup>th</sup> – mid 16 <sup>th</sup> C
4007	40	Linear cut, at least 2m in length x 2.5m wide x 0.24m deep, gradual sloping sides with a gently concave broad base, N-S aligned, cut by land drain	Furrow	13 <sup>th</sup> – mid 16 <sup>th</sup> C
4101	41	Firm, dark brown, silty clay, moderate gravel	Ploughsoil	Modern
4102	41	Firm, mid brown, sandy clay, occasional gravel,	Subsoil	
4103	41	Loose, clayey gravelly sand, light yellowish brown	Natural	



4104	41	Firm, light brownish grey, sandy clay, occasional gravel, 0.39m thick	Fill of [4105]	
4105	41	Linear cut, 0.92m wide x 0.39m deep, steep concave sides with a 'V'-shaped base, NNW-SSE aligned	Cut of linear – possible field boundary	
4106	41	Firm, light greyish brown, sandy clay, occasional charcoal	Fill of pit [4107]	
4107	41	Sub-circular cut, 0.6m x 0.45m x 0.13m deep, shallow sides with a flat base, cut by 4105	Cut of possible pit – may be a natural anomaly	
4108	41	Firm, mid grey, sandy clay, occasional charcoal and gravel, 0.27m thick	Fill of post hole [4109]	
4109	41	Circular feature, 0.22m diameter x 0.27m deep, steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a generally concave base	Cut of probable post-hole	
4110	41	Firm, mid grey sandy clay, occasional gravel, 0.17m thick	Silted fill of possible posthole [4111]	
4111	41	Circular cut, 0.22m diameter x 0.17m deep, step sides with a concave base, cut by 4109	Cut of possible posthole	
4112	41	Firm, light yellowish brown, sandy clay, occasional gravel, 0.16m thick	Fill of [4113]	
4113	41	Ovoid cut with rounded corners, 0.68m x 0.39m x 0.16m deep, shallow regular sides with a gradual break of slope to a base that slopes to the SE, SE-NW aligned feature, cut by modern field drain	Cut of possible pit – may be natural anomaly	
4201	42	Mid brown sandy silt, 0.22m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4202	42	Light to mid brown sandy silt, slightly clayey, 0.32m thick	Subsoil	
4203	42	Light to mid yellow brown clayey silt and sandy gravel	Natural	
4204	42	Friable, mid yellow brown, clayey silt, moderate pebbles, 0.5m thick	Fill of [4206]	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> –mid 15 <sup>th</sup> C
4205	42	Soft to friable, mid brownish yellow, clayey sand, rare pebbles, 0.34m thick	Silting in feature [4206]	
4206	42	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 3.8m wide x 0.56m deep, gradually sloping sides with an uneven base, N-S aligned	Possible furrow	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> –mid 15 <sup>th</sup> C
4207	42	Friable, light to mid yellow brown, clayey sandy silt, occasional pebbles, up to 0.52m thick	Fill of [4208]	
4208	42	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 2.54m x 0.5m deep, gradual/shallow sides with concave base, N-S aligned	Possible furrow	
4301	43	Friable, mid to dark brown sandy silt, rare pebbles, 0.3m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern

4302	43	Mid brown/yellowish brown, clayey silt, occasional pebbles, 0.22m thick	Subsoil	
4303	43	Light to mid brownish yellow, gravelly sand, slightly clayey silt	Natural	
4304	43	Soft to moderate, light yellowish brown, sandy silt, rare pebbles, 0.14m thick	Fill of [4305]	
4305	43	Linear cut, at least 2m long x 1.96m wide x 0.14m deep, gradually sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a gently undulating base, NNE – SSW aligned	Shallow ditch – probably furrow	
4400	44	Friable, mid to dark brown sandy silt, rare pebbles, 0.38m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4401	44	Mid brown/yellowish brown, clayey silt, occasional pebbles, up to 0.2m thick	Subsoil	
4402	44	Light to mid brownish yellow, gravelly sand, slightly clayey silt	Natural	
4403	44	Linear cut, 1.85m wide x 0.68m deep, V-shaped, NNW-SSE aligned	Probable boundary ditch	
4404	44	Friable, light greyish brown, sandy silt, moderate gravel, occasional small pebbles, 0.34m thick	Build up of slumping/silting deposits in [4403]	
4405	44	Soft, light brownish grey, silty sand, occasional gravel, 0.1m thick	Probably a natural silting deposit in ditch [4403]	
4406	44	Firm, mid yellowish brown, silty sand, frequent gravel, occasional pebbles, moderate clay lenses, 0.18m thick	Initial silting in [4403]	
4500	45	Friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt, frequent gravel, moderate pebbles, 0.22m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4501	45	Friable, mid brownish grey, sandy silt, frequent gravel, 0.2m thick	Subsoil	
4502	45	Compact, light brownish yellow, silt, sand and gravel,	Natural	
4503	45	Linear cut, 1.95m wide x 0.24m deep, stepped sides, concave base, N-S aligned	Furrow	
4504	45	Friable, light grey brown, silty sand, frequent gravel and pebbles,	Fill of [4503]	
4601	46	Friable, greyish brown, sandy silt, frequent gravel of varying sizes, 0.3m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4602	46	Friable, yellowish brown, silty sand, frequent gravel, up to 0.33m thick	Subsoil	
4603	46	Linear cut, 1.05m wide x 0.17m deep, gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base, NE-SW aligned	Relatively shallow furrow	

4604	46	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt with rare small pebbles, 0.17m thick	Fill of [4603]	
4605	46	Firm, light brown, silty sand, frequent gravel	Natural	
4701	47	Friable, greyish brown, sandy silt, frequent gravel of varying sizes, 0.3m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4702	47	Friable, yellowish brown, silty sand, frequent gravel, up to 0.33m thick	Subsoil	
4703	47	Firm, light brown, silty sand, frequent gravel	Natural	
4801	48	Firm, dark brown, silty sandy clay, 0.3m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4802	48	Firm, mid greyish brown, sandy clay, occasional gravel, 0.18m thick	Subsoil	
4803	48	Loose light yellowish grey clayey sand, frequent gravel	Natural	
4901	49	Friable, dark brown, silty sandy clay, 0.3m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
4902	49	Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy clay, occasional gravel, 0.18m thick	Subsoil	
4903	49	Loose light yellowish grey clayey sand, frequent gravel	Natural	
4904	49	Soft, light greyish brown sandy clay, moderate gravel, 0.17m thick	Fill of [4905]	
4905	49	Linear cut, 0.62m wide x 0.17m deep, steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a wide flat base, N-S aligned	Cut of small linear gully	
4906	49	Firm, light brownish grey, sandy silt, occasional gravel, 0.17m thick	Fill of furrow [4907]	
4907	49	Linear cut, 1m wide x 0.17m deep, shallow sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base, N-S aligned	Cut of furrow, 2 other similar features in vicinity	
5001	50	Firm, dark grey, clayey silt, occasional sub-angular flints, 0.35m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
5002	50	Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional sub-angular flint pebbles, 0.24m thick	Subsoil	
5003	50	Loose, light brownish yellow, sandy silt	Natural	
5004	50	Linear cut, at least 2m in length x 0.6m x 0.27m deep, moderately steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a flat base, NE-SW aligned	Cut of gully	
5005	50	Soft, mid grey, clayey silt, occasional sub-angular pebble, 0.27m thick	Fill of gully [5004]	
5006	50	Circular cut, 0.25m diameter x 0.08m deep, concave edges and base	Possible post hole	
5007	50	Compact, mid brownish yellow, sand and sub-angular gravel, 0.08m thick	Fill in post hole [5006]	

5008	50	Soft, mid grey with black mottles, clayey silt, frequent charcoal flecks, 0.05m thick	Fill of [5006]	
5009	50	Linear cut, at least 9m in length x 1.4m wide x 0.15m deep, irregular shallow sides with a gradual break of slope to an irregular base, E-W aligned	Possible field boundary	
5010	50	Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional sub-angular pebble, 0.15m thick	Fill of ditch [5009]	
5011	50	Oval cut, rounded corners, 0.6m x 0.4m x 0.15m deep, concave sides and a flat base, NE-SW aligned, cut by 5009	Post hole	
5012	50	Soft, mid brownish grey, clayey silt, occasional sub-angular pebble, 0.16m thick	Fill of post hole [5011]	
5013	50	Rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.3m x 0.35m x 0.15m deep, 70 degree sides with a gradual break of slope to a flat base, N-S aligned, cut by 5009	Post hole, possibly part of a fence line with [5011]	
5014	50	Soft, mid greyish yellow, clayey silt, occasional lenses of white clay, 0.16m thick	Re-deposited natural in [5013]	
5015	50	Linear cut, 1.35m x 0.3m wide x 0.14m deep, concave sides with a rounded base, NE-SW aligned, cut by 5009	Cut of gully	
5016	50	Soft, mid greyish yellow silty clay, occasional sub-angular pebble, 0.14m thick	Fill of [5015]	
5017	50	Linear cut, 2m x 0.6m wide x 0.08m deep, concave sides with a concave base, NNW-SSE aligned	Cut of gully	
5018	50	Soft, mid yellowish grey, clayey silt, occasional sub-angular pebbles, 0.08m thick	Fill of [5017]	
5019	50	Cut of a NW-SE aligned linear terminal, with shallow concave side and a flat base, at least 2m long, 0.70m wide and 0.12m deep	Cut of gully	
5020	50	Soft, dark brown, clayey silt with frequent sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.10m thick	Fill of [5019]	
5021	50	Soft, dark grey, clayey silt with black mottles, 0.07m thick	Fill of [5019]	
5022	50	Soft, light brownish orange, sand clay silt with moderate sub-angular pebbles	Layer of alluvium in a natural hollow	
5101	51	Soft, dark brownish grey, clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.35m thick	Ploughsoil	Modern
5102	51	Soft, mid brownish grey, clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.26m thick	Subsoil	
5103	51	Loose, mid brownish orange mixture of 70% sub-angular pebbles and 30% sand	Natural	
5104	51	Cut of an E-W aligned linear with shallow concave sides and a concave base, at least 2m long, 1.40m wide and 0.40m deep	Cut of a field boundary	

5105	51	Loose, light yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	Eroded natural in ditch [5104]	
5106	51	Cut of an E-W aligned linear with shallow concave sides and a flat base, at least 2m long, 2.10m wide and 0.1m deep	Furrow	
5107	51	Soft, mid brown, clayey silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.1m thick	Fill of furrow [5106]	
5108	51	Soft, mid greyish brown, clay sand silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions, 0.15m thick	Silting fill in ditch [5104]	

## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

#### PREHISTORIC POTTERY

*By Alex Beeby with Dale Trimble*

##### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the P.C.R.G. (1997). A total of 31 sherds from four vessels, weighing 40 grams was recovered from the site.

##### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below.

##### Condition

The pottery is fragmentary and abraded. Sherds from one vessel may have an internal carbonised deposit, probably evidence of use over a hearth or fire.

##### Results

*Table 1, Prehistoric Pottery Archive*

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Class/ Form	Neck /Rim	NoS	NoV	W	Dec	Dec Position	Cond	Comments	Date	Part
20	2004	GRCC	OX/R	V		20	1	21	LIN; twisted cord	BDY	ABR; SI?	Fragmentary; low fired	EMBA	RIM; BAN; BDY S
20	2004	GRSM	OX/R	BA BKR?		6	1	3				Fragmentary	EMBA	BDY S
20	2004	GRMC	R	V	UP/F D	2	1	5					PREHIS T	RIM S
20	2004	GRSC/ QUSM	R	V		3	1	14			ABR; B	rare subangular Q and rounded Ca;	PREHIS T	BAN ?; BDY S

##### Provenance

The prehistoric pottery was recovered from fill (2004), within Pit [2005] in Trench 20.

##### Range

There are fragments from at least four vessels, all of which are in relatively low fired and moderately friable grog tempered fabrics. Two vessels are oxidised with reduced cores and internal surfaces, whilst the remaining examples are entirely reduced. The grog varies widely in modal size and quantity; all but one has the grog set into a fine silty background, whereas one item also has sparse subangular quartz present.

A single vessel in a sparse medium grog tempered fabric (GRSM) has very thin body walls measuring between 4 and 5mm; this small and fine item may be a Bronze Age beaker type. A second vessel in a common coarse tempered ware (GRCC) has multiple fine linear twisted cord decoration, another feature characteristic of Bronze Age ceramics in this region. The walls of this item are much thicker, and the finish is considerably cruder, than those of the aforementioned possible beaker. This item is still relatively small though and is unlikely to be a larger vessel such as a Bronze Age collared urn; a beaker or food vessel is more likely here.

The other items in moderate coarse grog tempered (GRMC) and sparse coarse grog/sparse medium quartz (GRSC/QUSC) tempered fabrics are largely undiagnostic.

### Potential

The pottery is archaeologically significant and should be retained as part of the site archive. It would also warrant further examination in the light of any further work on the site. The material is fragile and will need to be carefully packed to avoid further degradation.

The feature may be an isolated pit but the occurrence of multiple vessels is suggestive of domestic activity perhaps within the context of a larger settlement. Further work in the area of Trench 20 would provide a reasonable opportunity for further features of a similar date to be recorded.

### Summary

A single feature [2005], a pit within Trench 20, yielded material from a number of vessels most likely to be of Bronze Age date. These pieces may be indicative of domestic occupation in the area.

## ROMAN POTTERY

*By Alex Beeby*

### Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004). A single sherd from one vessel, weighing 12 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out, viewed and then weighed. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 2 below.

### Condition

The sherd is abraded and relatively small.

### Results

*Table 2, Roman Pottery Archive*

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Cname	Form	Form Name	Vessel	Alter	NoS	W (g)	Comments
42	4204	CR	Creamware	CLSD	Closed	1	ABR	1	12	BS
42	4204	ZDATE								ROMAN

### Provenance

The pottery was recovered from fill (4204) within possible furrow [4206] in Trench 42.

### Range

There is a single piece of Roman pottery in a cream fabric. This sherd is Roman in date, although it is not possible to be more specific. The item is most probably residual and/or redeposited.

### Potential

There is no potential for further work. The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

### Summary

A single sherd of pottery was recovered from a furrow in Trench 42. The piece is residual or redeposited.

## POST ROMAN POTTERY

*By Lavinia Green and Alex Beeby*

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). A total of 23 sherds from 20 vessels, weighing 295 grams were recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. A summary list of the pottery types is included in Table 3 below and a full archive can be found in Archive Catalogue 1 at the end of this report. The pottery ranges in date from the Medieval to the Early Modern period.

### Condition

The pottery is in a very fragmentary condition although it is not overly abraded, with only two sherds classed as such. The average sherd weight is low at 12 grams. One piece from Trench 9, (909) is very burnt this maybe due to post depositional burning or damage during cooking. One fragment from Trench 40, (4006), has melted internal green glaze, which may have happened in the kiln.

### Results

*Table 3, Post Roman Pottery Archive*

Period	Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Medieval	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	1	1	22
	GRIMT	Grimston-type ware	1200	1550	1	1	34
Late Medieval to Post Medieval	GRIL	Late Grimston ware	1350	1550	1	1	1
	BONC	Bourne/Colne Type ware	1450	1650	1	1	8
	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	1	1	39
	BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	2	2	26
	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1670	1800	1	1	10
Early Modern	PORC	Porcelain	1700	1900	2	2	17
	LERTH	Late Earthenwares	1750	1900	1	1	20
	CREA	Creamware	1770	1830	1	1	1
	PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900	9	6	91
	WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	2	2	26
Total					23	20	295

### Provenance

Trenches yielding pottery are listed below.

#### *Trench 9*

Material came from backfill deposit (909) within boundary ditch [904] within this trench.

#### *Trench 14*

Fill deposit (1415) within quarry pit [1414] produced the largest quantity of pottery recovered from any feature.

#### *Trench 16*

A single sherd of pottery was retrieved from fill (1604), within possible furrow [1602].

#### *Trench 21*

Pottery was recovered from a single deposit here, (2104) silting in deep furrow or ditch [2105].

#### *Trench 23*

Fill deposit (2305), of gully [2306], produced two sherds of pottery.



#### *Trench 40*

Pottery came from deposit (4004), fill of possible furrow [4005] and (4006) in furrow [4007].

#### *Trench 42*

Pottery was recovered from fill (4204) a possible furrow [4206].

### **Range**

The majority of material found during the evaluation dates to the Early Modern period, between the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, although two vessels date to the medieval period between the mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, and a few other pieces also date to the post-medieval era. A variety of domestic forms have been recorded, these include; jugs, bowls, plates. For the full list of forms see Archive Catalogue 1.

#### *Medieval to Post Medieval*

##### *Trench 9*

One piece of Late Grimston ware (GRIL) was retrieved from context (909), a backfill deposit within boundary ditch [904]; this dates to between the mid 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This sherd is residual here with early modern pottery also recovered.

##### *Trench 16*

A single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE), dating to between the 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, was retrieved from context (1604), fill of furrow [1602].

##### *Trench 21*

A piece of Staffordshire/Bristol Mottled glaze ware (STMO), recovered from context (2104), fill of a deep furrow or ditch [2105], dates to between the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

##### *Trench 40*

This trench produced one sherd of Bourne/Colne Type ware (BONC) that dates to between the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> centuries; this piece came from context (4004), possible furrow [4005]. Also a single piece of Grimston-type ware, (GRIMT), came from context (4006) within furrow [4007]. These wares were commonly found in this area of Cambridgeshire.

##### *Trench 42*

One sherd of a Medieval Local Fabric (MEDLOC) came from context (4204), fill of a furrow [4206]. The sherd is oxidised, has abundant quartz moderately well sorted, well rounded to sub-rounded up to 0.5mm, rare angular flint up to 2mm, sparse rounded iron, leaching voids probably calcareous.

#### *Early Modern*

A high proportion of the material found during the evaluation dates to the Early Modern period, between the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

##### *Trench 9*

Boundary ditch [904] produced a single sherd of Creamware (CREA) dating to between the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

##### *Trench 14*

A wide variety of Early Modern material came from context (1415), deposit fill of quarry pit [1414]. Pieces include Black-glazed ware (BL) and Creamware (CREA).

##### *Trench 23*

Two pieces of pottery dating to between the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries came from context (2305), within gully [2306]. These pieces included Porcelain (PORC) and Black-glazed ware (BL).

### Potential

All of the material should be retained as part of the site archive; it is stable and should pose no problem for long term storage. There are no pieces worthy of illustration.

### Summary

The majority of the material recovered during the evaluation dates to the Early Modern period, with the bulk of this material coming from Trench 14, on the south east side of the site.

Pottery dating to the medieval and post-medieval eras came from a range of furrows across the site, with a single residual sherd dating from the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries also recovered from boundary ditch [909] in Trench 9.

## CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

*By Lavinia Green and Alex Beeby*

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of 11 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 99 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. A summary table is included below (Table 4) with an archive list shown in Archive Catalogue 2 at the end of this report.

### Condition

The ceramic building material collected is mainly abraded and fragmentary. Some of the pieces are leached and one is partially vitrified.

### Results

*Table 4, Ceramic Building Material Archive*

Cname	Full name	NoF	W(g)
BRK	Brick	1	27
CBM	Ceramic building material	8	17
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	27
RTMISC	Roman or Post-Roman Tile	1	28
Total		11	99

### Provenance

Six trenches yielded ceramic building material and these are listed below.

#### *Trench 8*

This trench yielded one brick fragment from context (810), a silting fill within gully [811].

#### *Trench 9*

A single ceramic building material fragment came from context (909), within boundary ditch [904].

#### *Trench 16*

A total of three fragments were retrieved from context (1604), the fill of a furrow [1602].

#### *Trench 21*

One fragment of possible Roman or Post Roman tile was recovered from context (2104), a deep furrow or ditch [2105].

#### *Trench 23*

A single fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from context (2305), the fill of a gully [2306].

#### *Trench 40*

Three fragments and one peg, nib or ridge tile came from deposit fill (4006), within furrow [4007].

#### **Range**

The majority of ceramic building material collected comprises fragmentary pieces including small flakes. The material is largely undiagnostic of date due to its poor condition. Two distinguishable fragments date to between the 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, this includes a possible ridge tile from context (2104), within Trench 21 and a probable peg, nib or ridge tile from context (4006), in Trench 40.

#### **Potential**

There is no potential for further work, the material should be kept as part of the site archive and should pose no problem for long term storage.

#### **Summary**

The majority of the ceramic building material retained during the evaluation is abraded and includes small fragmentary pieces. Two pieces of tile could be of medieval date. The rest of the material is undiagnostic.

#### **FIRED CLAY**

*By Lavinia Green and Alex Beeby*

#### **Introduction**

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001).

#### **Methodology**

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This information was then added to an Access database. An Archive table of the fired clay is shown below (Table 5).

#### **Condition**

All of the material examined is formless, abraded and soft. Only two pieces have possible surfaces and one fragment has poorly mixed clay. These pieces lack form or diagnostic features, therefore it is difficult to suggest their use.

#### **Results**

*Table 5, Fired Clay Archive*

Tr	Cxt	Classification	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Comment
11	1123	Fired Clay	Oxid; fine; fe	1	8	Abraded, surfaceless, poorly mixed streaky clay
16	1603	Fired Clay	Oxid; fine	7	16	Single curved surface, very abraded, soft
16	1611	Fired Clay	Oxid; medium-coarse sandy; fe; limestone?	16	149	Abraded, soft, 1 possible surface.

#### **Provenance**

Two trenches yielded fired clay material these are listed below.

#### *Trench 11*

A single fragment of fired clay came from context (1123), a backfill in ditch [1125].

#### *Trench 16*

Trench 16 produced the majority of the fired clay, this came from deposit (1603), within furrow [1602] and deposit (1611) from heat altered natural within fire pit [1610].

### Range

The vast majority of material cannot be classified. All of the material looked at has similar oxidised fabrics. Only two pieces have possible surfaces, all of the other pieces recorded are formless. There is limited evidence to date any of the pieces with any certainty.

### Potential

There is limited potential for further work. All of the material should be kept as part of the site archive and should pose no problem for long term storage.

### Summary

All of the material retained is fragmentary, abraded and formless. Only two pieces have possible surfaces, which could suggest domestic use but this is uncertain.

## FAUNAL REMAINS

*By Paul Cope-Faulkner*

### Introduction

A total of 32 (320g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

### Provenance

The bone was retrieved from the fills of pits (804 and 808), ditch fills (909, 1108, 1806 and 2014) and the fills of two furrows (4205 and 4304).

### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was moderate to poor, averaging at grades 3-5 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

### Results

*Table 6, Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
804	medium mammal	unidentified	-	7	3	all calcined
808	medium mammal	long bone	-	7	41	all calcined
	unknown	skull	-	1	5	
	unknown	unidentified	-	7	4	
909	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	1	
1108	cattle	humerus	L	1	123	
1806	cattle	radius/ulna	L	1	90	fused
2014	large mammal	mandible	-	1	17	very chalky
4205	large mammal	rib	-	1	5	
	unknown	unidentified	-	2	1	
4304	large mammal	pelvis	-	3	30	all join

### Summary

The bone is largely too fragmented to identify species, although cattle was recognised amongst the assemblage. Large mammal (cattle, horse, red deer) are the more numerous with medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig) also present in smaller numbers. A number of fragments are calcined which suggested to the excavators that they may derive from a cremation. No clear human material was collected by hand although some was recovered from environmental samples (see Appendix 4). All the burnt bones derived from pits situated in Trench 8.

As a small assemblage, the bone does not warrant further examination. However, if further work is undertaken at the site, the assemblage may warrant re-examination in the light of any new discoveries. The bone should be retained as part of the site archive and is stable for that purpose.

## WORKED FLINT

*By Tom Lane*

### Introduction

Two worked flints were collected during work at the site, one, a fabricator, collected from the field surface during geophysical survey and one from the plough soil during trenching.

### Condition

Both items are moderately abraded. Neither would require any conservation measures.

### Results

*Table 7, Worked Flint Archive*

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
801	Natural unworked flake (Discarded)	1		
801	Utilized flake. Rough secondary working on two edges. 30 x 18 x 6mm	1	2	Prob Bronze Age
WHBH11				
Collected during geophysics, just south of site of Trench 28	Broken bifacially worked fabricator. Broadly triangular cross section. 36 x 15 x 8mm	1	3	Later Neolithic/EBA

### Provenance

Both items are unstratified and from the plough soil

### Range

The items are a utilized flake and a fabricator.

### Potential

The items have little potential for enabling further understanding of the prehistory of the area but indicate a low-level prehistoric presence.

### Summary

Two worked flints were collected during evaluation of the field.

## OTHER FINDS

*By Gary Taylor*

### Introduction

Eighteen other finds weighing a total of 412g were recovered, mostly by metal detecting.

### Condition

The other finds are in moderate-good condition, though many of the metal finds exhibit corrosion.

### Results

*Table 8, Other Materials*

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
810	Iron	Nail	1	4	
TR.11	Iron	probable vessel fragment, canted sheet, machinery part?	1	158	
TR.14	Iron	possible machinery part, rivet/pivoting hole at one end, post-medieval	1	48	late 19 <sup>th</sup> .

	Iron	Nail	1	5	20 <sup>th</sup> century
	Lead	sub-circular/irregular disk, grooved/scored with straight lines	1	33	
	Lead	Rivet/stud, octagonal head	1	17	
	Lead?	Thin sheet	1	1	
	Copper Alloy	disk, possible coin but nothing legible; about right size for a late 3 <sup>rd</sup> century Roman bronze coin	1	4	
	Copper Alloy	Sheet, folded into cone	1	7	
	Copper Alloy	Button, late post-medieval	1	7	
	Copper Alloy	Buckle fragment, pin missing, post-medieval	1	6	
	Copper Alloy	button fragment, post-medieval	1	4	
	Copper Alloy	Twisted pipe/service cable, late 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	22	
	copper alloy	Vessel fragment	1	12	
1415	Fire residue	cinder	1	5	
2104	Coal	coal	1	2	
TR.25	Iron	Large pin with eye, perhaps part of lock / fastener /clasp	1	45	
	copper alloy	amorphous planar melt, leaded	1	32	

### Provenance

The other finds were recovered from the fill of a gully (810), a quarry pit fill (1415), the fill of a furrow or ditch (2104), and as unstratified metal detected objects from the spoil heaps of Trenches 11, 14 and 25.

### Range

Metal items dominate the small assemblage and were recovered by metal detecting. Amongst these are nails, studs, machinery parts, buttons and cabling. There are also a fragment of a copper alloy vessel and a piece of copper alloy melt. These may represent salvaging and re-melting of copper alloy scrap at the site during the later medieval or post-medieval period.

### Potential

The other finds are of limited potential.

### SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 9 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 9, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
909	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup>	
1415	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	
1604	16 <sup>th</sup> – mid 17 <sup>th</sup>	1 sherd of pot
2004	Early to Middle Bronze Age	Multiple vessels
2104	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	1 sherd of pot
2305	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	
4004	Mid 15 <sup>th</sup> – mid 17 <sup>th</sup>	
4006	13 <sup>th</sup> – mid 16 <sup>th</sup>	
4204	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> – mid 15 <sup>th</sup>	

### ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds

NoV                Number of vessels  
 PCRG            Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group  
 TR                Trench  
 UHJ               Upper Handle Join  
 W (g)            Weight (grams)

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## ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

### Archive Catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Dec	Part	Comment	Date
9	909	CREA		?	1	1	1		BASE?		L18th-E19th
9	909	GRIL		?	1	1	1		BS	Very burnt, ID?	
14	1415	BL		Bowl	1	1	21		BS		
14	1415	LERTH		Garden pot	1	1	20		BS		
14	1415	PEARL		Plate	2	1	12	Floral blue transfer print	RIM;RIM BS		
14	1415	PEARL		Meat Dish	2	1	28	Willow pattern	RIM;RIM BS	Join	L18th-20th
14	1415	PEARL		Hollow	2	1	19		BS		
14	1415	PEARL		Tea cup	1	1	3	Floral green transfer print	HANDLE		
14	1415	PEARL		Flat	1	1	6	Geometric blue transfer print	RIM		
14	1415	PEARL		Plate	1	1	23	Floral blue transfer print	BASE		
14	1415	PORC		Saucer	1	1	6		RIM		18th-20th
14	1415	WHITE		SSJ	1	1	18		RIM		
14	1415	WHITE		Hollow	1	1	8		RIM		M19th-20th
16	1604	GRE		Bowl	1	1	39		RIM	Complex rim; abraded	16th-M17th
21	2104	STMO		Jug or Cup	1	1	10		BS with UHJ		L17th-19th
23	2305	BL		?	1	1	5		BS		
23	2305	PORC		Flat	1	1	11		BASE		18th-20th
40	4004	BONC		Jug	1	1	8		RIM	Inturned rim; abraded	M15th-M17th

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Dec	Part	Comment	Date
40	4006	GRIMT		Jug	1	1	34		BASE	Internal glaze; melted glaze	13th-M16th
42	4204	MEDL OC	Oxid, abundant quartz moderately well sorted, well rounded to sub-rounded up to 0.5mm, rare angular flint up to 2mm, sparse rounded iron, leaching voids probably calcareous	Jug/Jar	1	1	22		BS		M12th-M15th

*Archive Catalogue 2, Ceramic Building Material*

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
8	810	BRK	Oxid; fine; calcareous; fe	1	27	Single struck surface, leached	Undated
9	909	CBM	Oxid; fine	1	1	Surfaceless, abraded flake	Undated
16	1604	CBM	Oxid; fine; calcareous	2	1	Abraded flakes	Post Roman
16	1604	CBM	Oxid; fine; calcareous; fe	1	4	Single surface, abraded	Undated
21	2104	RTMISC	Oxid; medium-coarse sandy; very calcareous	1	28	Ridge tile or field drain, extremely leached	16th-19th
23	2305	CBM	OX/R/OX; fine; calcareous, fe	1	7	Partly vitrified	Roman or Post Roman
40	4006	CBM	Oxid; fine; calcareous	3	4	Abraded flakes, 1 sooted	Undated
40	4006	PNR	Oxid; coarse sandy; fe, gault	1	27	Very abraded, PNR?	M12th-19th



## Appendix 4. Environmental Archaeology Assessment

### Introduction

An evaluation excavation conducted by Archaeological Project Services at Whittlesey, close to the route of the Fen Causeway uncovered three undated features thought on site to be cremation burials. Three samples were collected for assessment from these features (Table 1). The samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

**Table 1:** Whittlesey. Samples taken for environmental analysis

sample no.	context no.	sample volume (l)	sample weight kg.	feature	Provisional date
1	804	15	24	Possible cremation fill	Undated
2	806	9	16	Possible cremation fill	Undated
3	808	3	6	Possible cremation fill	Undated

### Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and flot were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammer scale and prill none of which were found. The residues were retained for the cremation specialist to check. The flot of each sample was studied using x30 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2-3.

### Results

The samples washed down to a residue of small and medium flint, with abundant iron concreted earth, and frequent small ironstone. Archaeological finds were very limited (Table 2). Apart from a little firecracked/ burnt flint in 806 the only finds are cremated human bone which occurs in all the samples and confirms the on site interpretation of the features as cremations. A fairly large magnetic component reflects the probability that the deposits include mineral material that has been heated.

The environmental evidence is extremely poor. The samples include small cominuted charcoal fragments with only context 804 producing any significant amount, although one or two small fragments of herbaceous stem are present among the charcoal. Just a few charred seeds and a tuber are present in 804 (Table 3). A few shells of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* occur in all the samples but along with the uncharred seeds are clearly intrusive.

**Table 2:** Whittlesey. Finds from the processed samples

sample no.	context	sample vol. l.	residue volume (ml)	pot no/ wt g.	fire-cracked stone wt. g.	fired earth wt. g.	flint no/wt. g.	magnetic wt. g.	bone wt. g.	
1	804	15	2600					16.2	42	
2	806	9	2000		3g			11.8	300	
3	808	3	1200					26.2	732	

**Table 3:** Whittlesey. Environmental finds from the processed samples

sample no.	cont. no.	sample vol. (l)	flot vol. (ml)	char-coal *	charred grain *	chaff *	charred seed *	un-charred seed *	comment
1	804	15	24	1/5			1	1	Fruit nutshell, <i>Veronica</i> sp., legume, tuber; cremated human bone; frog/toad; snail – <i>Cecilioides acicula</i>
2	804	9	2	1/4					Cremated human bone; snail – <i>C. acicula</i>
3	808	3	2	1/3				1	Cremated human bone; snail – <i>C. acicula</i>

\*frequency 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250

There is cremated human bone in all three samples. The assemblage from context 808 is quite large and concentrated, while context 804 produced the least. Cranial fragments, teeth, vertebra, long bone fragments, etc are present.

### ***Discussion and recommendations***

The samples have yielded only limited environmental evidence that affords very limited interpretation although the results confirm the contexts as cremations. The human bone should be submitted to a cremation specialist for study and could also be submitted for radiocarbon dating to date the time of the cremations.

There is little to no value in doing further analysis on these environmental assemblages other than the human bone, but if further archaeological investigation is undertaken on the site then these samples have shown that charred plant remains, charcoal and burnt bone occur in the deposits in identifiable condition. Sample sizes of 30-40 litres should be collected where possible if useful results are to be obtained. Larger samples of charcoal from further cremations would allow analysis of the fuels used for the pyres.

### ***Acknowledgments***

Leslie Bode studied the flots and assessed the botanical remains, while Trude Maynard and Angela Bain undertook the sample processing and sorting.

### ***Bibliography***

Williams, D.1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202

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Environmental Archaeology Consultancy  
14<sup>th</sup> February 2013

## Appendix 5

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2500 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
<b>Headland</b>	Strip of uncultivated land left between areas of ridge and furrow which was used for turning the plough. These strips provided access and often became lanes or roads.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Mesolithic</b>	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2500 BC.

<b>Old English</b>	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
<b>Palaeochannel</b>	The remains of an ancient water course.
<b>Palaeolithic</b>	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
<b>Post hole</b>	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
<b>Till</b>	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
<b>Tree Throw</b>	The scar in the earth left by the uprooting of a tree.

## Appendix 6

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

12	Context register sheets
221	Context record sheets
43	Trench record sheets
5	Photographic record sheets
25	Daily record sheets
2	Plan register sheets
3	Section register sheets
1	Sample record sheet
3	Environmental sample sheets
73	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Cambridgeshire County Council  
Castle Court  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AP

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	WHBH 12
Cambridgeshire C.C. HER Event No:	ECB 3896
OASIS Record No:	archaeo11-142461

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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**OASIS ID: archaeol1-142461**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Bassenhally Farm, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Following a geophysical survey, an archaeological evaluation comprising 52 trenches totalling 3.3km discovered prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains. There was a group of cremations in one of the trenches. A 35m wide spread of silty material in one of the trenches on the line of the Fen Causeway could have been its low agger. There was also a group of undated features in the northwest corner of the site.
Project dates	Start: 19-11-2012 End: 21-12-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WHBH12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	F/YR10/0904 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3896 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	FURROW Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	CAUSEWAY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WHITTLESEY Land at Bassenhally Farm
Study area	6500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 284 975 52 0 52 33 35 N 000 06 20 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.00m Max: 6.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Mark Peachey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Larkfleet Homes Limited

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Bassenhally Farm, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire
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