

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF BLOCKS 2 &3  
ZONE 1  
PRIORS HALL  
CORBY  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
(CPHB06)**

Work Undertaken For  
WARDELL ARMSTRONG  
on behalf of  
BELA DEVELOPMENTS LTD  
October 2006

Report Compiled by  
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A.P.S. Report No.132 /06

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological Evaluation was undertaken of Blocks 2 and 3, Zone 1, Priors Hall, Corby, Northamptonshire, as part of a detailed planning application for mixed-use development of the site. Recent excavations in the southeastern part of Zone 1 have identified probable Iron-age to Romano-British industrial activity in the form of iron working along with settlement.*

*In total forty-six trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. The trenches were excavated over geophysical anomalies and also within 'blank' areas of the site to test the integrity of the former survey.*

*A sparse distribution of archaeological remains were identified. Several undated ditches including probable furrows and a former boundary were identified in the central and northernmost part of Blocks 2 and 3, along with two small pits containing charcoal. Radiocarbon dating of the pit identified in Trench 17 gave a date range of 550AD-660AD.*

*Trenches excavated in the proposed southern access road identified an undated ditch to the north of the Scheduled Roman villa site and a Romano-British ditch to the east of the site.*

*No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the investigation with the results not confirming the earlier geophysical survey.*

## 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 1999a).*

### 2.3 Planning Background

Archaeological Evaluation of Blocks 2 and 3, Zone 1, Priors Hall, Corby, Northamptonshire, was undertaken as part of a planning requirement to determine appropriate archaeological mitigation prior to any development of the site. Previous work at the site has included the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (Wardell Armstrong 2004) along with geophysical survey of the area (GSB 2004).

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong (WA) to undertake the work on behalf of Bela Developments. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by WA and approved by the Built Historical and Natural Environment Team Leader for Northamptonshire who monitored the fieldwork along with Wardell Armstrong's Senior Archaeologist.

Archaeological Evaluation of the site took place between 4<sup>th</sup> July-11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 and 25<sup>th</sup> July-2<sup>nd</sup> August 2006. The work was undertaken in two stages as a result of ecological considerations at the site.

### 2.4 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The proposed development site (Zone 1) is located immediately to the north of

Weldon village, Corby, Northamptonshire and is centred on NGR SP9280 9020 (Figure 1). Bounding the site to the south is the A43, to the west Gretton Road, to the east a former quarry and to the north Willow Brook stream (Figure 2).

Blocks 2 and 3 (Figure 2), which make up the central and southern areas of Zone 1 encompasses an area of approximately 69 hectares of arable land. The southeastern corner of the site has been subject to previous archaeological investigations including Trial Trenching (Hall *in prep.*) and Strip, Map and Sample Excavation under an earlier planning application.

The current investigation area lies between 97m-105mOD, with the central fields forming a relatively level plateau at 105m OD. Both the northern and southernmost fields gradually slope down from this plateau to 97m OD.

Local soils comprise the 411d Hanslope and 712g Ragdale associations, typically brown to dark yellowish brown fine silty clay loam over Jurassic limestone.

## 2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

A full archaeological and historical background of the proposed development area has previously been submitted as part of larger Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Priors Hall planning application (Wardell Armstrong 2004).

Since the completion of the (EIA), Strip, Map and Sample Excavations have been undertaken in the previously archaeological assessed southeastern corner of Zone 1 (Figure 3) (Hall *in prep.*). The excavations identified a number of prehistoric pits/wells along with ring gullies likely to be representative of earlier settlement in the eastern part of the site.

Considerable evidence of industrial activity was identified at the site with the presence of six iron smelting furnaces, which are believed to date between the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Several of the furnaces may be representative of the production of cast iron (G. Macdonnell *per comm.*). The western part of the investigation area was indicative of Romano-British settlement in the form of pits and linear features.

A full report and subsequent publication is to be completed of the above site.

## 3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the significance of any archaeological remains present at the site and inform a mitigation strategy for the proposed development.

In order to achieve this a number of objectives were formulated and set out below:

- to establish the extent of the known features as identified during the geophysical survey within the application area.
- to assess the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological features within the application area.
- to determine the date, nature, extent and level of preservation of these features and any associated remains revealed.

## 4. METHODS

### 4.1 Evaluation (Trial Trenching)

The trial trenching strategy comprised the excavation of a number of trenches targeted on anomalies, both archaeological and naturally derived, identified during geophysical survey (GSB 2004) (Figure 3). Further trenches were excavated across the site to test 'blank areas' i.e. those not subject to detailed geophysical survey.

The trenches were located by GPS to ensure accuracy in relation to the geophysical survey and Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A total of 43 evaluation trenches (50m x 2m) were excavated within Blocks 2 and 3 with a further 3 trenches opened within the proposed southernmost access road (Figure 3). Each trench was allocated a unique identifying number.

All the trenches were excavated, under archaeological supervision, by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the surface of undisturbed archaeological deposits.

Each deposit exposed during the investigations was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

### 4.4 Post-excavation

Following the trial trenching all records were checked to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Artefacts

recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Specialist artefact reports appear as Appendices 3 to 5. Charcoal retrieved from Trenches 17 and 30 was analysed by Wankato Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory in order to further inform dating. The sample taken from Trench 30 was found to be unsuitable for further analysis (Appendix 5). A list of all contexts appears as Appendix 2. For ease of reference contexts have been ordered by Trench number and a brief summary by trench has been included. An equals sign between context numbers indicates that the contexts once formed a single layer or feature. Phasing was based on artefact dating and nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

## 5. FIELDWORK RESULTS

Results of the archaeological investigations undertaken within Blocks 2 and 3, Zone 1, Priors Hall, Corby are summarised below in Trench order. Of the 46 trenches excavated only eight identified any archaeological remains. These trenches are summarised below. Blank trenches have not been described for the purpose of this report. A detailed list of context descriptions appears as Appendix 2. The numbers in brackets are context numbers assigned in the field.

Natural silty clays and clays were identified within the base of all trenches excavated. In the main part this occurred at a depth of 0.25-0.45m beneath the current ground surface although a 0.50m thick layer of subsoil was present in Trenches 15 and 45. A full description of the natural sequence of deposits within the trenches appears as Appendix 2. In addition to the identification of natural silts and clays the upper layers of limestone bedrock were identified in Trench 45 (Figure 12).

A naturally occurring solution hole was recorded in Trench 46 (Figure 12).

### **Blocks 2 and 3**

#### **Trench 15** (Figure 5)

Truncating the natural clays at the southern end of Trench 15 was northeast-southwest aligned ditch [15001]. The undated shallow profiled ditch measuring 1.25m wide x 0.18m deep was filled by mid-brownish grey clays (15002), (15003) and (15004). The ditch was sealed by a 0.55m layer of subsoil, a depth of subsoil not seen elsewhere within this part of the investigation area.

#### **Trench 17** (Figure 6)

Archaeological remains identified at the easternmost end of Trench 17, comprised north-south ditch [17008] and pits [17006] and [17010]. Undated, concave ditch [17008], dimensions 1.50m wide x 0.60m deep, contained mid-brownish grey silty clay (17007). Both of the shallow irregular shaped pits [17006] and [17010] were filled with blackened silt and charcoal. Radiocarbon dating of the fill contained within pit [17010] provided a likely date range of between 550AD-660AD.

#### **Trench 22** (Figure 7)

Cutting northeast-southwest across the centre of Trench 22 was [22004], a shallow asymmetrical profiled undated ditch, 3.20m wide x 0.42m deep. The ditch contained a single fill consisting of mid-olivey brown clayey silt (22003).

#### **Trench 25** (Figure 8)

North-south ditch [22004] was observed in the easternmost end of Trench 25. The 1.05m wide x 0.40m deep, steep sided flat-based ditch contained a single fill of dark greyish brown silty clay. The ditch appears on the same alignment as ditch [17008] recorded in Trench 17 located 88m directly to the south, and is likely to represent the continuation of this ditch. No

dateable material was retrieved from either of the excavated ditch segments.

#### **Trench 30** (Figure 9)

Located at the eastern end of Trench 30 was shallow undated sub-circular pit [30005], 0.45m x 0.45m wide x 0.07m deep. Filling the pit was dark greyish brown sandy silt (30004) with charcoal inclusions which was in turn sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of subsoil (30002). The fill was sampled for radiocarbon dating, however was found to be unsuitable on submission.

#### **Trench 39** (Figure 10)

Irregular profiled northeast-southwest ditch [39004] measuring 1.20m wide x 0.28m cut across the southeastern end of Trench 39. Mid-brown clayey silt (39005) filled the ditch.

#### **Trenches 17, 18, 27 and 44**

Modern in-filled field boundaries and a service trench along with an area of burning were identified within Trenches 17, 18, 27 and 44.

### **Proposed Southern Access Road**

#### **Trench 45** (Figure 11)

Cutting northwest-southeast across the western end of Trench 45 was ditch [45004]. The concave profiled ditch, dimensions 0.80m wide x 0.35m deep contained dark reddish brown clayey silt (45003). Sealing the former was a 0.57m thick layer of subsoil.

#### **Trench 47** (Figure 13)

An isolated southwest-northeast concave ditch [47004] was identified at the northern end of Trench 47. The 0.55m wide by 0.15m deep ditch contained a single fill of mid-greyish brown clayey silt from which disarticulated cattle bone was retrieved along with a sherd of Romano-British pottery.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Trial trench excavations within Blocks 2 and 3, Zone 1, Old Priors Hall, Corby identified several areas of archaeology which can be broadly divided into several phases. These are discussed below.

### Undated Deposits

#### **Blocks 2 and 3**

A small amount of archaeology was identified during Trial Trenching of Blocks 2 and 3. This comprised several undated ditches and small pits located within the central and northern part of the evaluation area. The limited amount of archaeology identified is likely to be reflective of the exposed nature of the plateau on which the site is located and the poorly drained natural silty clays and clays present across the sites which are not conducive to settlement and certain types of agriculture.

A shallow undated northeast-southwest ditch was identified at the southernmost end of Trench 15. The ditch was sealed by a 0.50m thick layer of subsoil/colluvium not seen elsewhere within the Trial Trench excavations. The accumulation of colluvium in this part of the site may be accounted for by the slight incline in slope from southeast-northwest and the accumulation of hillwash.

What is likely to be a single undated ditch cut across the eastern end of both Trenches 17 and 21. The course of the ditch extends over at least 88m north-south and is likely to represent an undated boundary/field division. Aerial photographs of the area depict several parallel aligned north-south linear anomalies of which this ditch may be one.

Two undated furrows were present in the northernmost part of the evaluation area in Trenches 22 and 39. Both are aligned

southwest-northeast and may be suggestive of well preserved ridge and furrow agriculture in this part of the site.

An undated shallow pit was identified at the eastern end of Trench 30. The fill sampled for a radio carbon date, was found to be unsuitable for this method of dating.

#### **Southern Access Road**

Trench 45 located within the proposed southern access road, positioned between the current Strip, Map and Sample Excavation area (COPH06) to the north, where probable Iron Age-Romano-British industrial and settlement activity is present, and the scheduled Roman villa site to the south, contained a single undated ditch. The ditch located at the western end of the trench was sealed by at least 0.50m of subsoil which may be partially accounted for by the construction of the adjacent stone track, the construction of a large drainage ditch to the south and the subsequent deposition of soil associated with the former.

### Early Saxon deposits

#### **Blocks 2 and 3**

Two irregular shaped shallow pits containing charcoal were identified at the eastern end of Trench 17. Radio carbon dating of the fill provided a likely date range of between 550AD-660AD (Appendix 5).

### Romano-British Deposits

#### **Southern Access Road**

A Romano-British ditch was recorded at the northern end of Trench 47 which lies immediately to the east of the Scheduled Roman villa site. Sealing the ditch was a 0.45m thick layer of topsoil containing a substantial amount of Roman Tile and pottery. These finds were not unexpected given the location of the trench adjacent to a villa site.



### **Post-Roman Deposits**

Several sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were retrieved from the topsoil layer across the site representative of earlier agriculture and manuring scatters.

only excavations to and beyond this depth would impact upon any further archaeological remains.

In total only 8 of the trenches contained archaeological deposits and features.

## **7. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES**

Trial Trenching provided a rapid archaeological assessment of the survey area, alongside earlier geophysical survey. The targeted trial trenches allowed effective testing of the geophysical survey results and further analysis. Trial Trenching also allowed rapid appraisal of the archaeological remains.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Helen Martin-Bacon of Wardell Armstrong who commissioned the work on behalf of Bela Developments Ltd. Myk Flitcroft, Built Historic and Natural Environment Team Leader, Northamptonshire County Council provided information and curatorial advice. Rodney Moore of JM Civils provided use of plant and on site accommodation. The project was coordinated by Mark Williams, who edited this report jointly with Tom Lane.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

Evaluation in the form of trial trenching of Blocks 2 and 3, Zone 1, Priors Hall, Corby, Northamptonshire identified a sparse distribution of archaeological deposits and features.

## **10. PERSONNEL**

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams  
Project Officer: Rachael Hall  
Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis  
Excavation Team: Charlotte Burrill, Lavinia Green, Alex Loven, Neil Parker and Mikeala Olavsén  
CAD Illustration: Rachael Hall  
Post-excavation Analyst: Rachael Hall

Several undated ditches including a former boundary and probable furrows were identified in the central and northernmost part of Blocks 2 and 3 along with a shallow undated pit. Radiocarbon dating of the fill contained within one of the two irregular shallow pits identified in Trench 17 suggests a likely date range of between 550AD-660AD for their use.

## **11. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Trenches excavated in the proposed southern access road identified an undated ditch to the north of the scheduled villa site and a Romano-British ditch to the east of the site.

IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Bases Assessments*

GSB, 2004, *Geophysical Assessment at Priors Hall, Corby, Northamptonshire*

Up to 0.82m of overburden sealed the archaeological remains identified in Trench 45 located in the east-west section of the southern access road, and as such

Hall, R.V. in prep, *Archaeological Evaluation at Priors Hall, Corby, Northamptonshire-An Interim Report*

Wardell Armstrong, 2004, *Priors Hall Environmental Impact Statement*

Wardell Armstrong, 2006, *Priors Hall, Coby, Northamptonshire Written Scheme of Investigations for an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching*

## **12. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

HER Historic Environment Record

OD Ordnance Datum

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

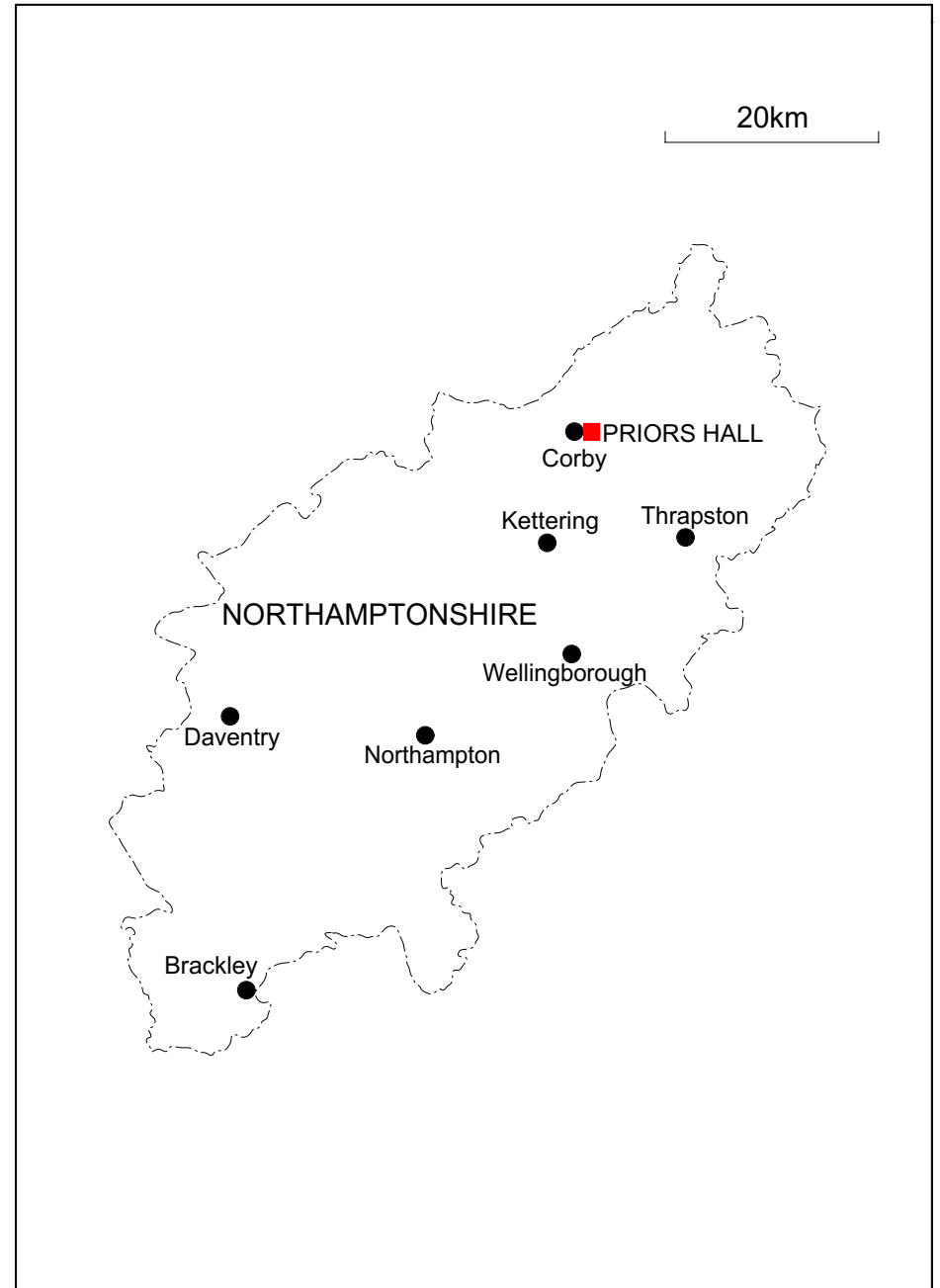
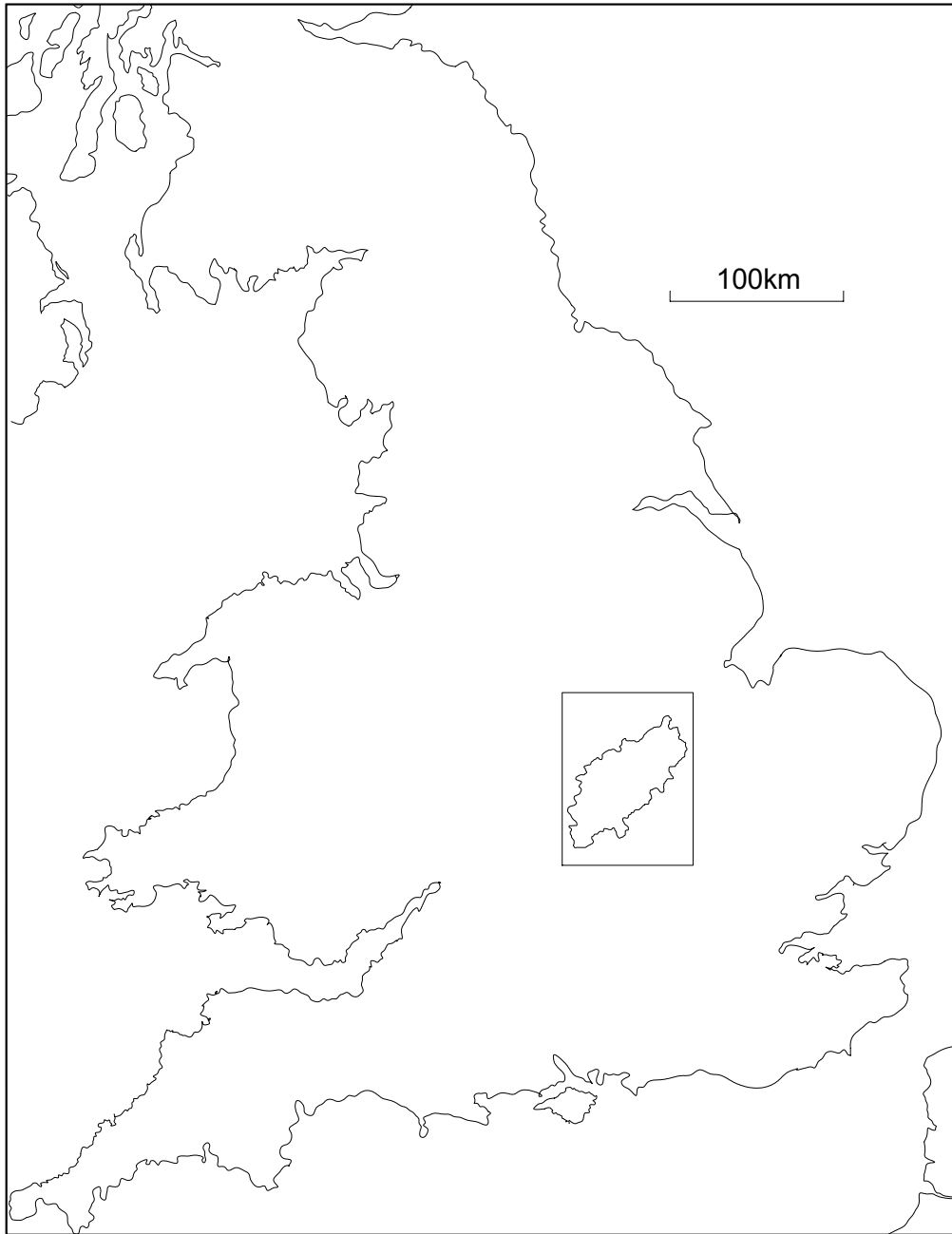
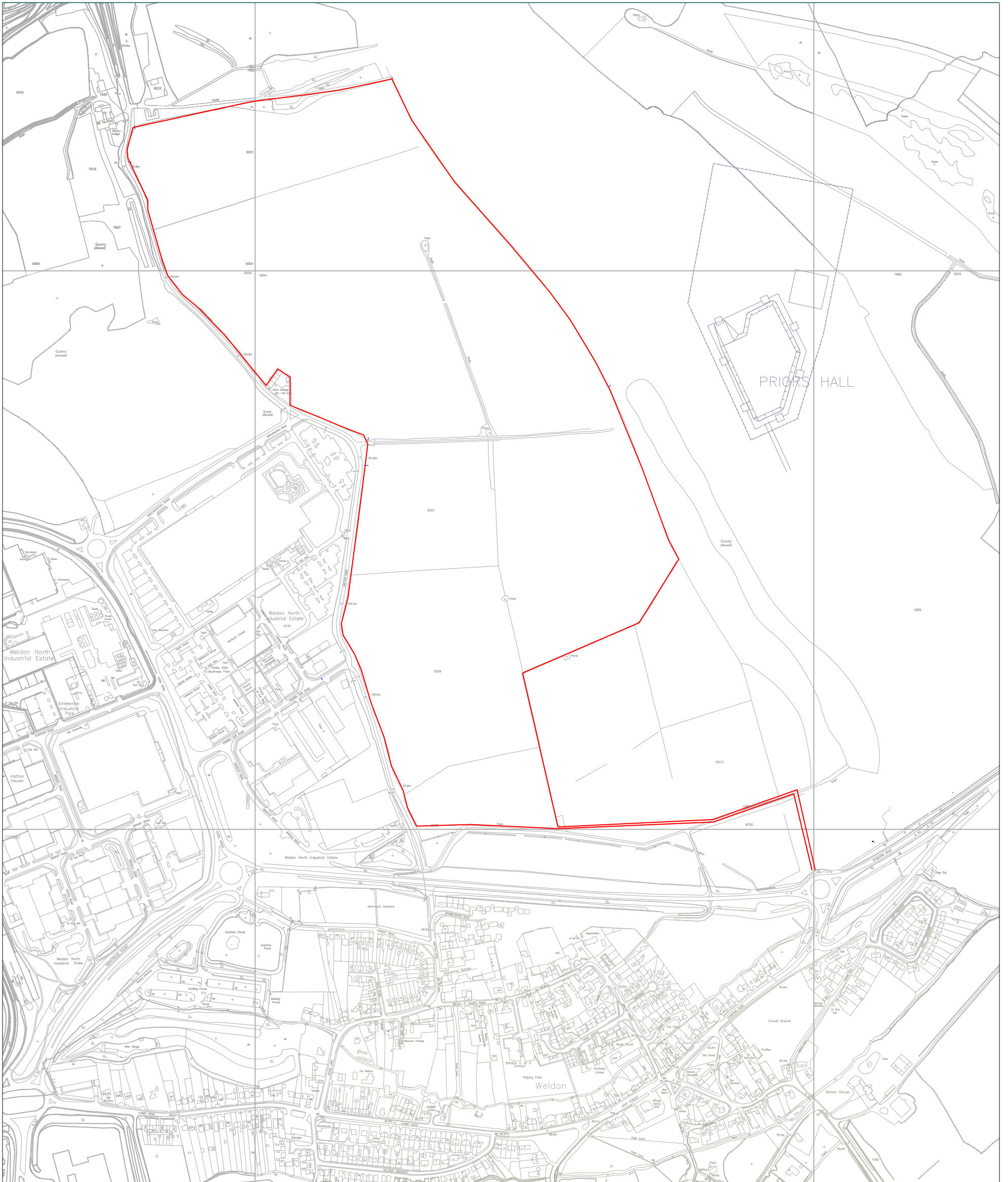


Figure 1 General location map



 Area of Archaeological Evaluation




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Scale: NTS	Drawn by: RVH	Report No: 132/06

Figure 2 Location of Investigation Site

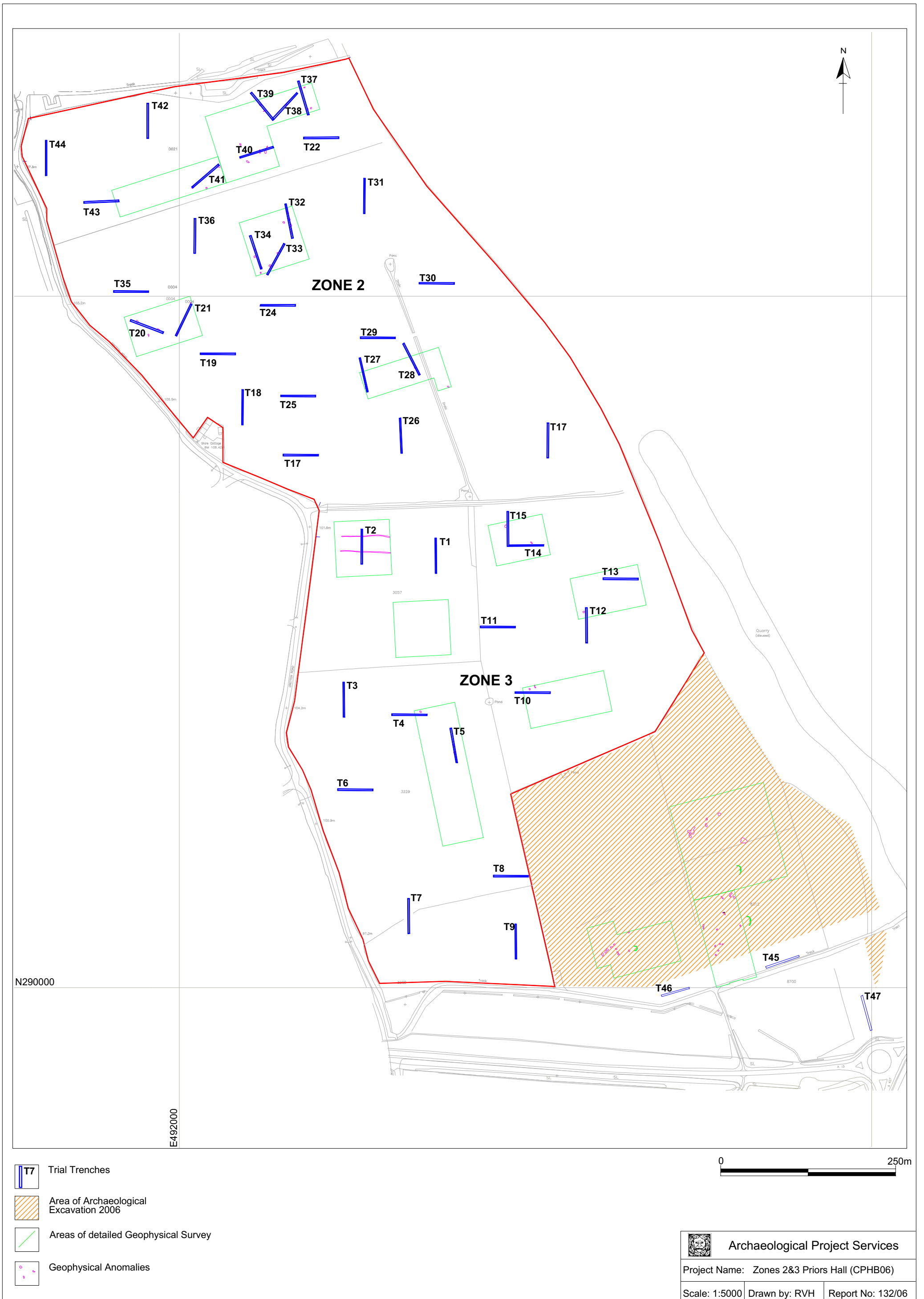


Figure 3 Plan Showing Location of Trial Trenches in Zones 2 & 3 with the results of the Geophysical Survey

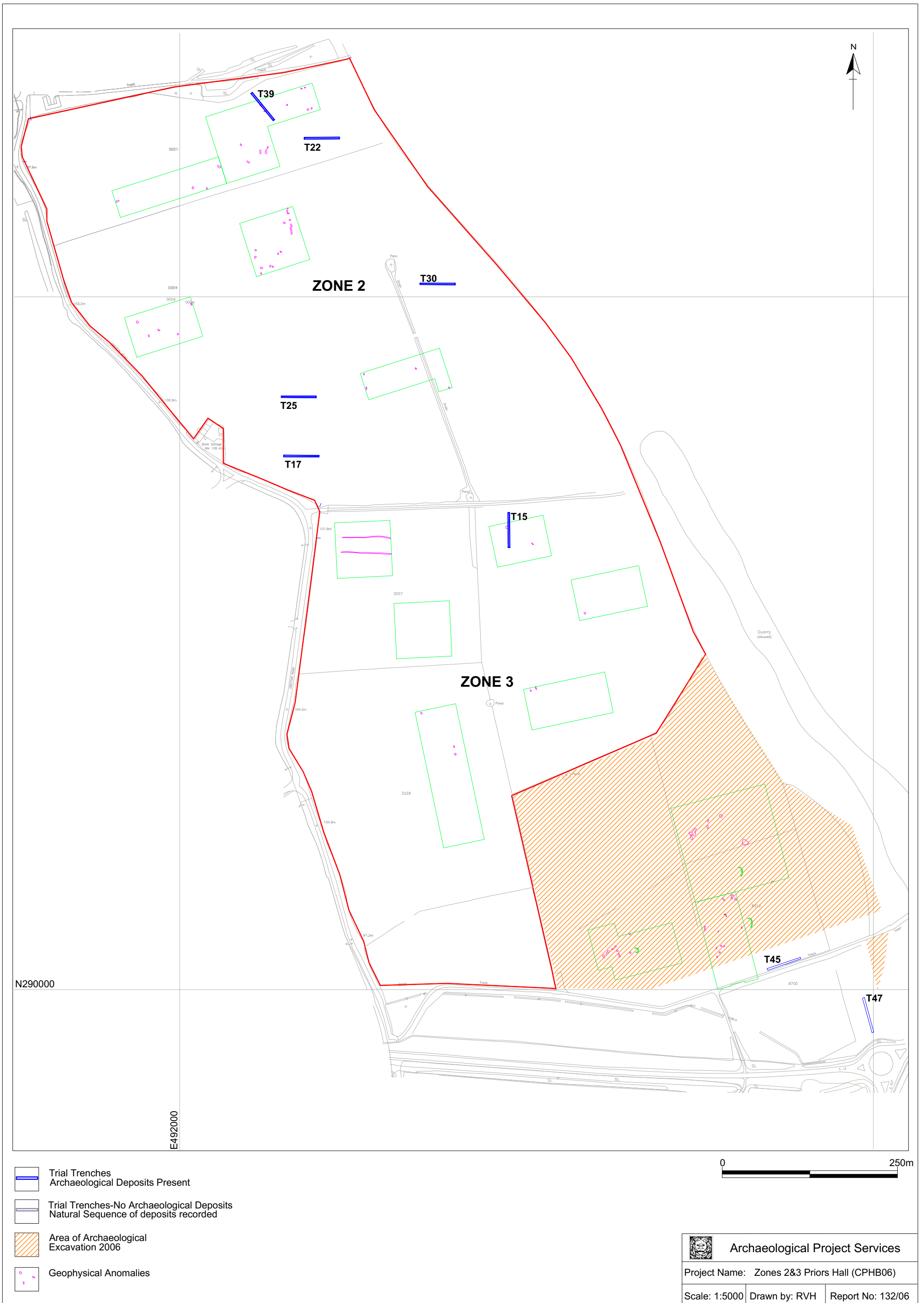


Figure 4 Location of Trenches with Archaeological Remains

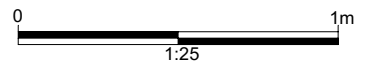
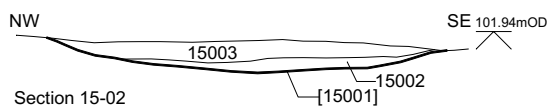
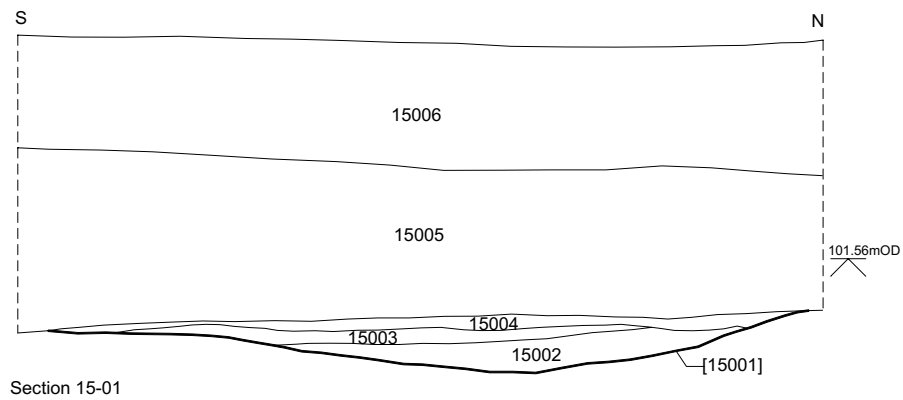
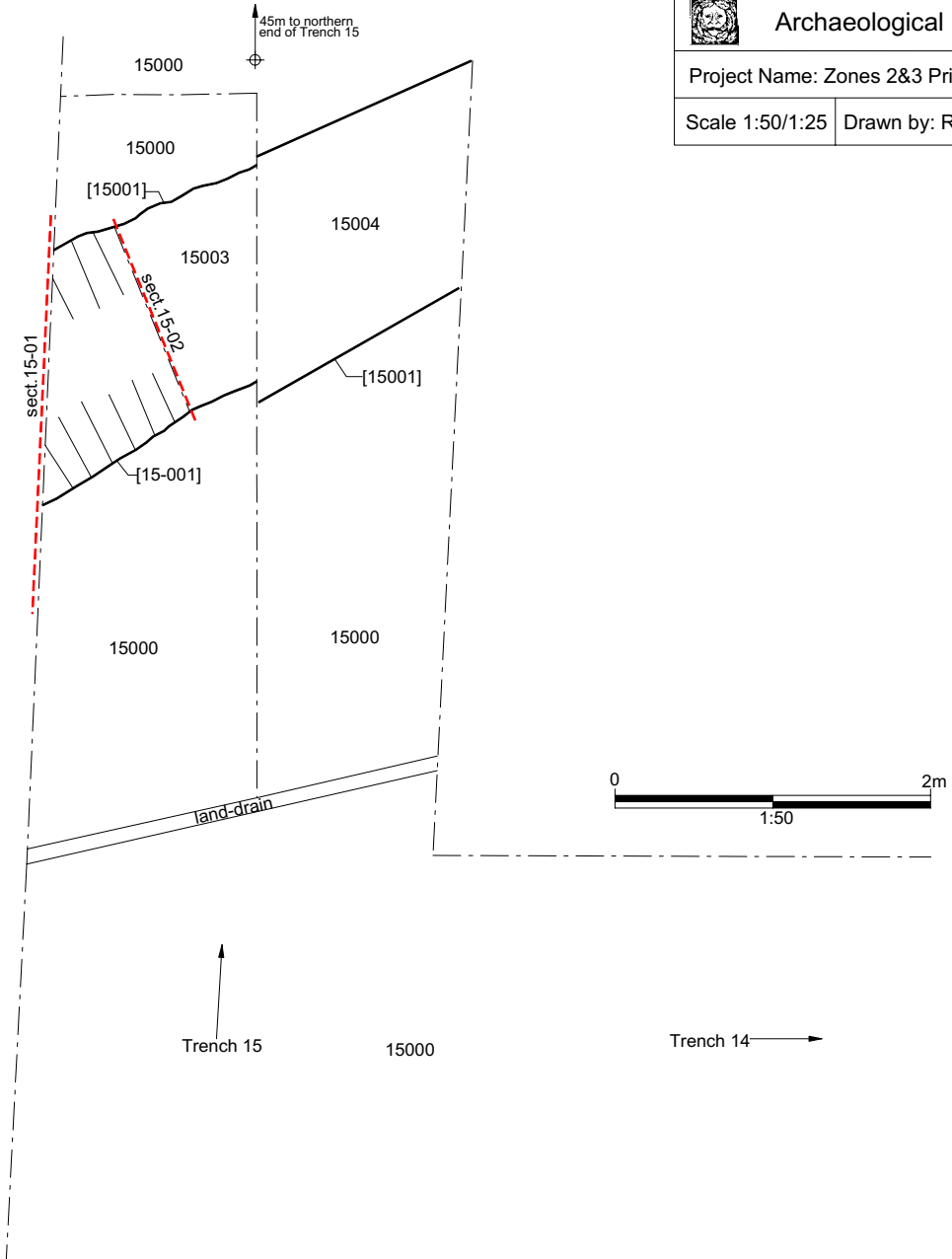


Figure 5- Trench 15 Plan and Section

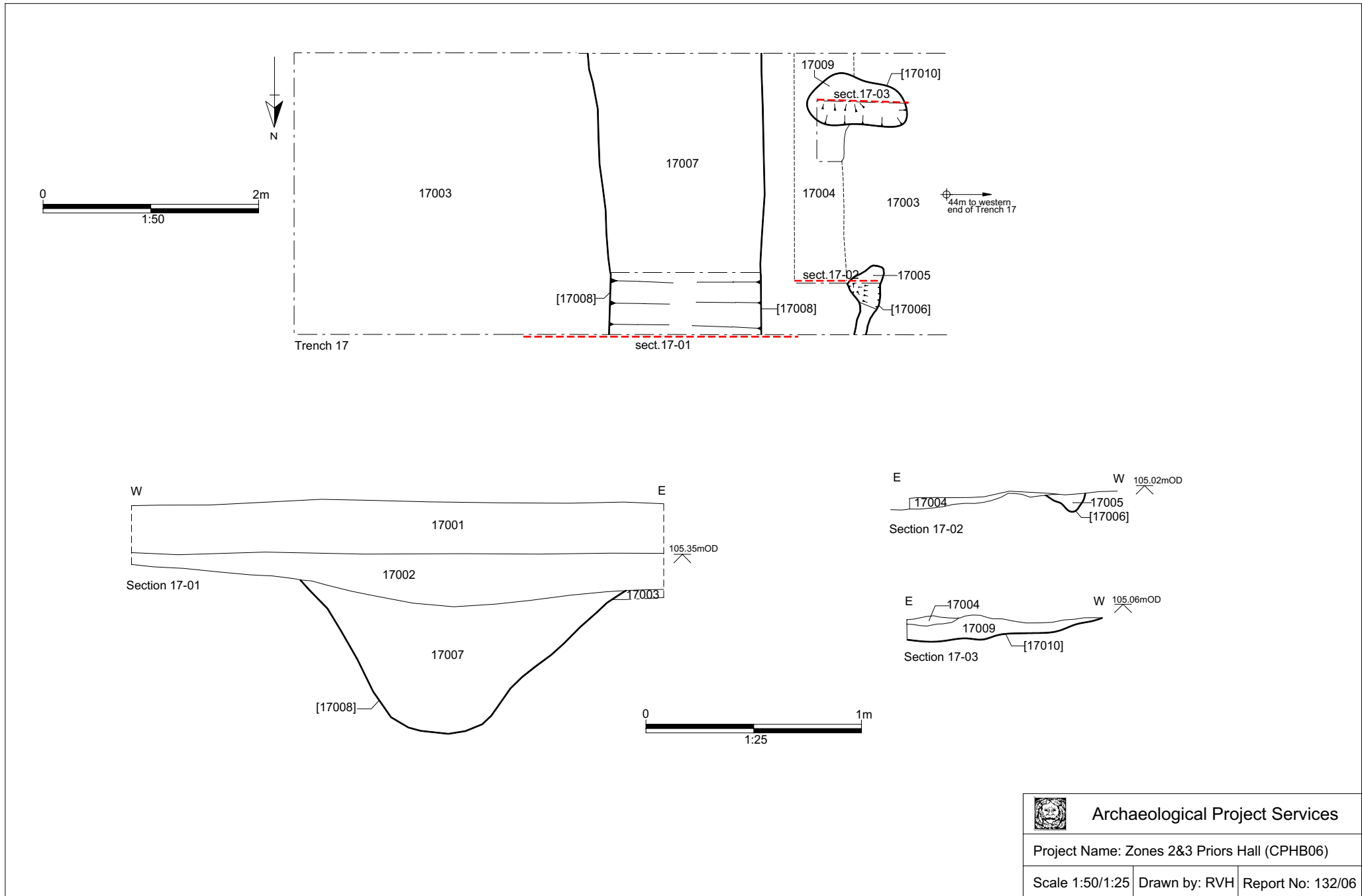

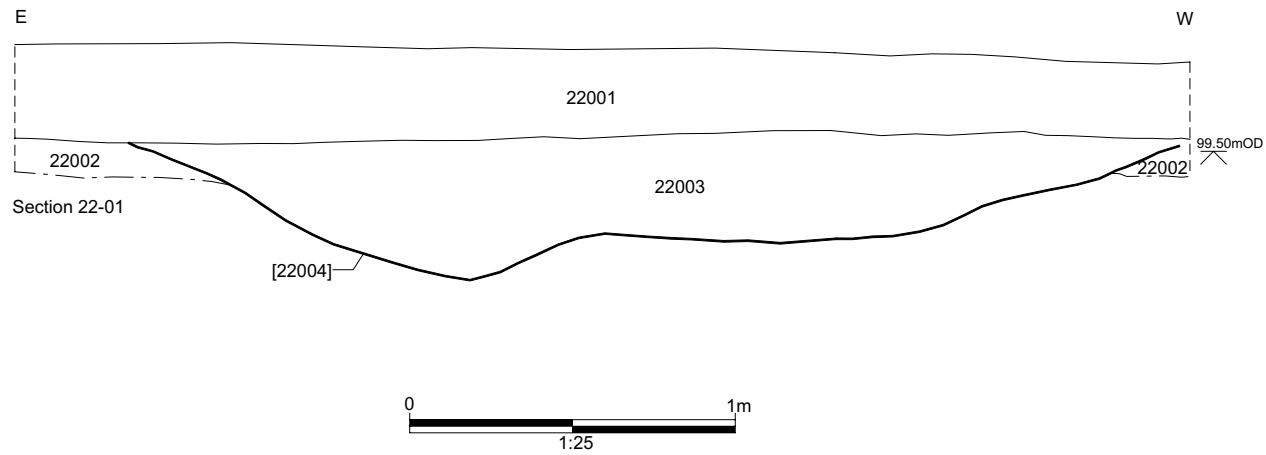
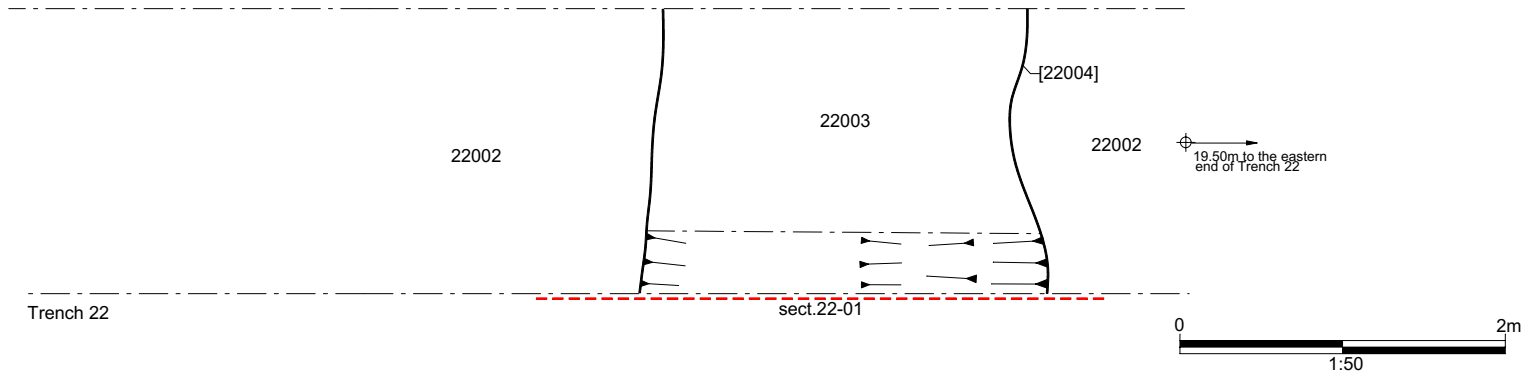


Figure 6- Trench 17 Plan and Sections

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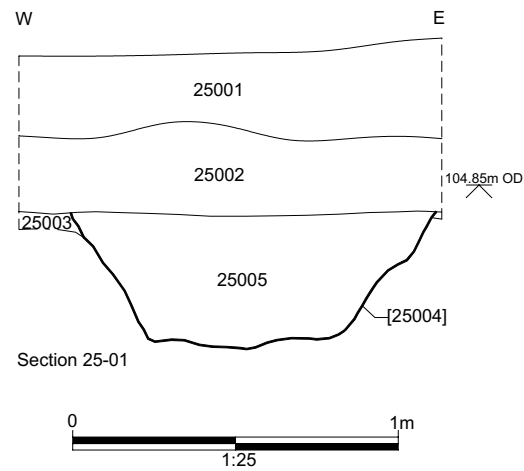
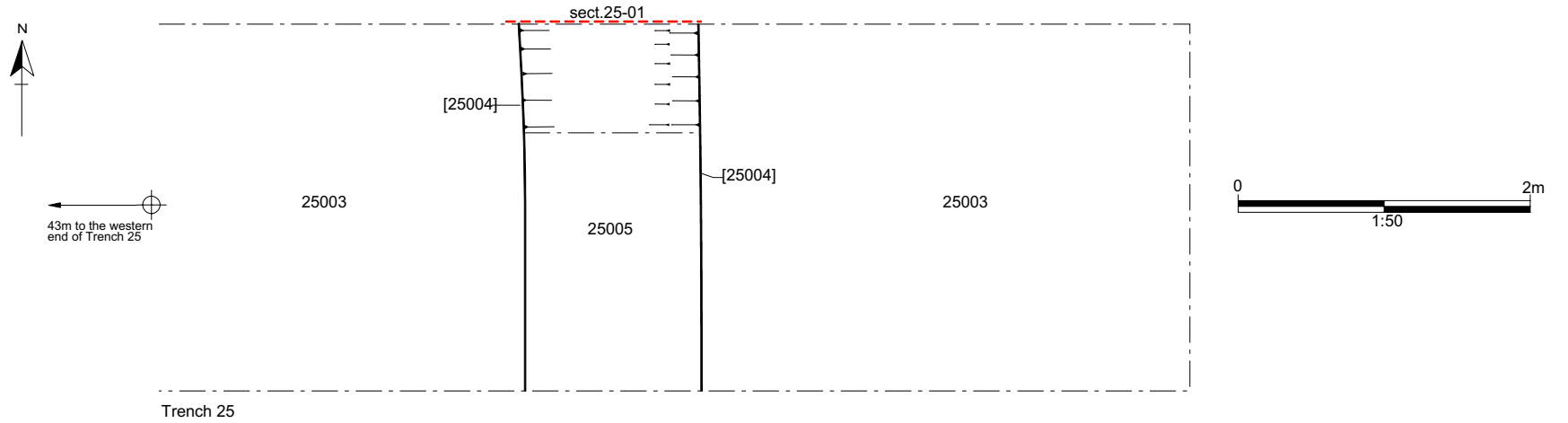
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Project Name: Zones 2&3 Priors Hall (CPHB06)		
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Figure 7- Trench 22 Plan and Section




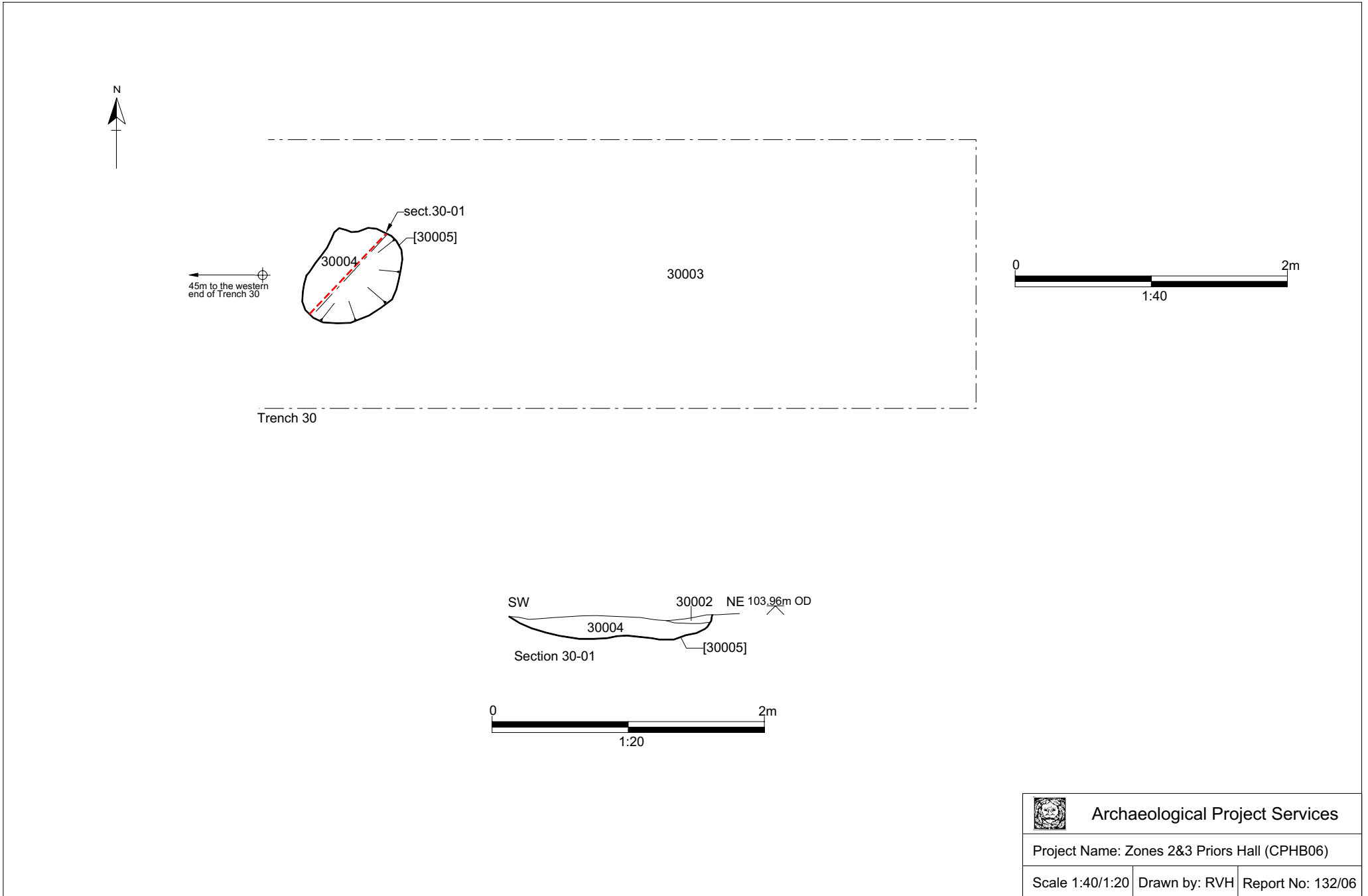
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Figure 8- Trench 25 Plan and Section




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Figure 9- Trench 30 Plan and Section

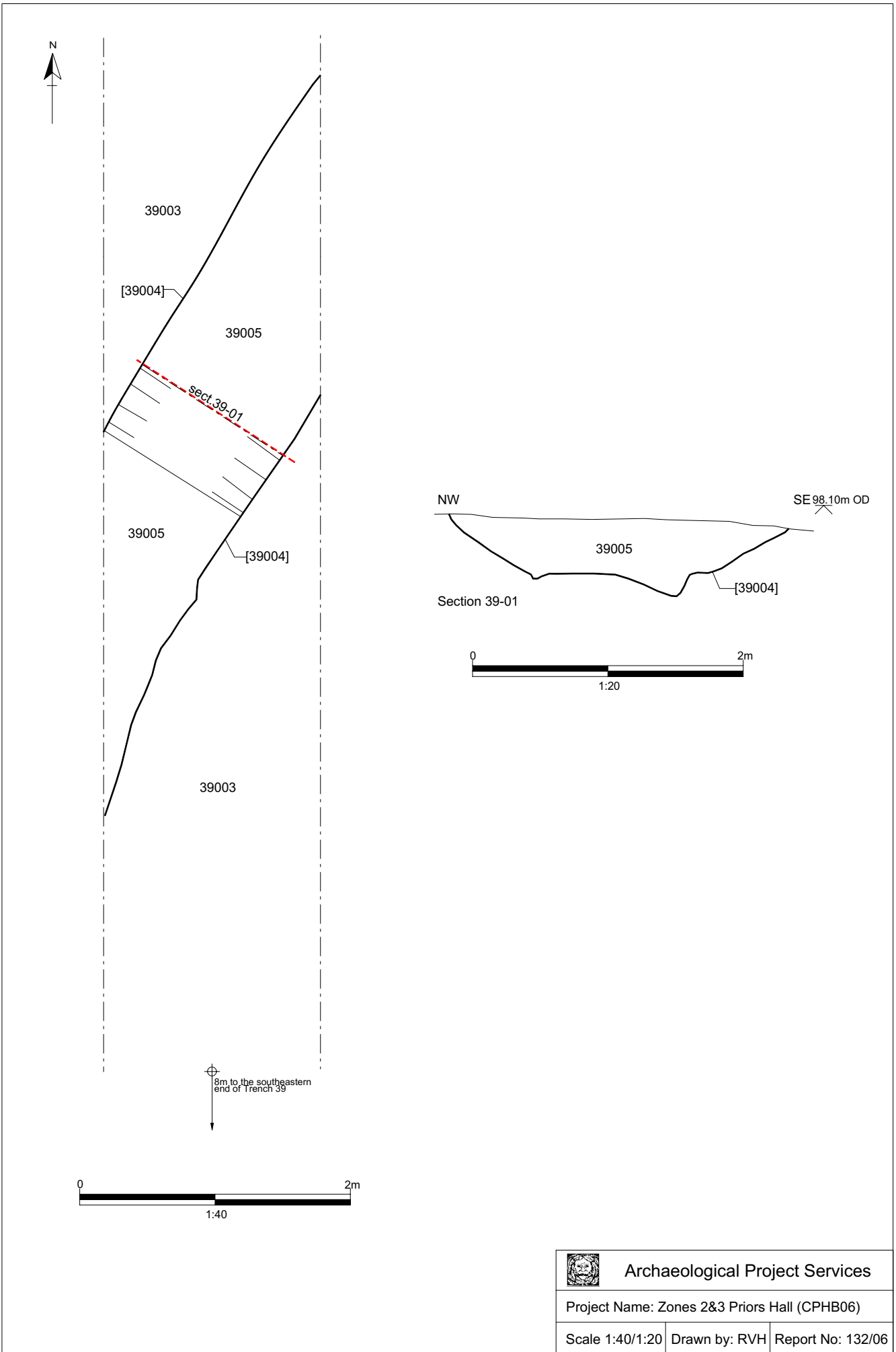
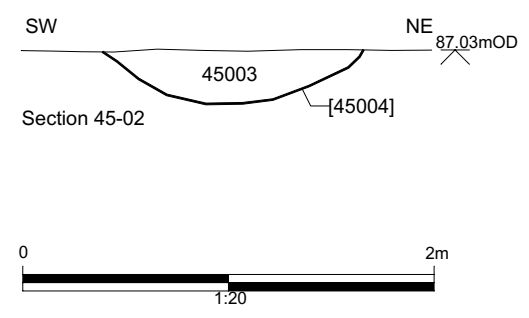
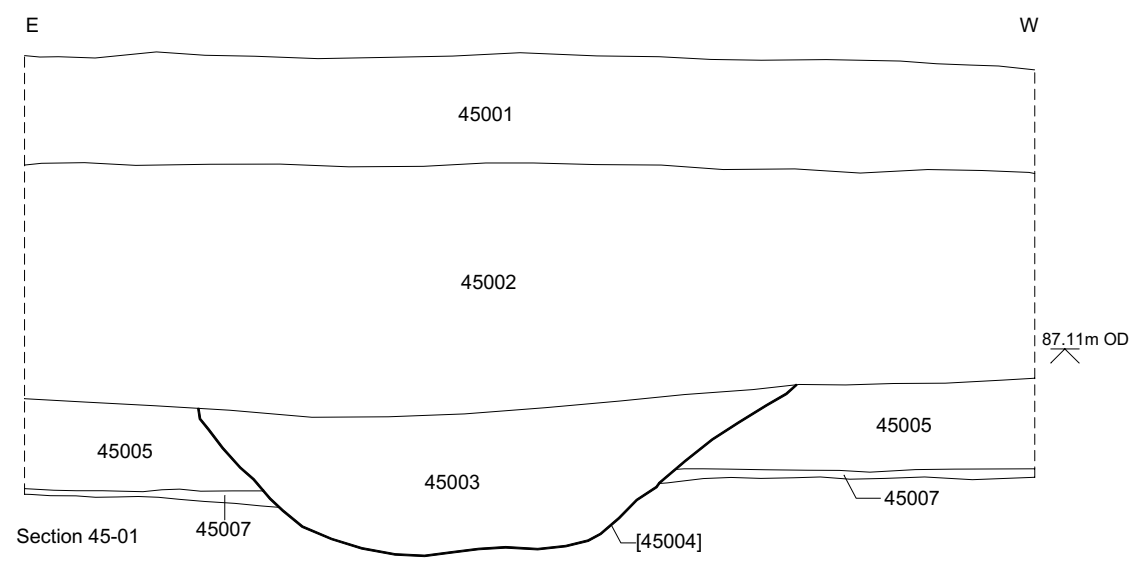
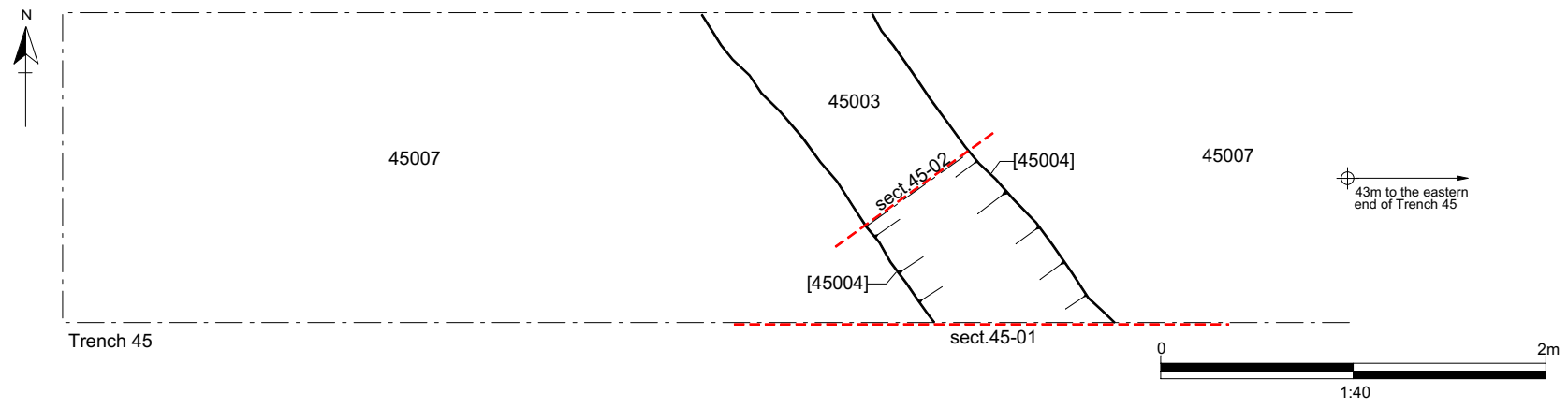


Figure 10- Trench 39 Plan and Section




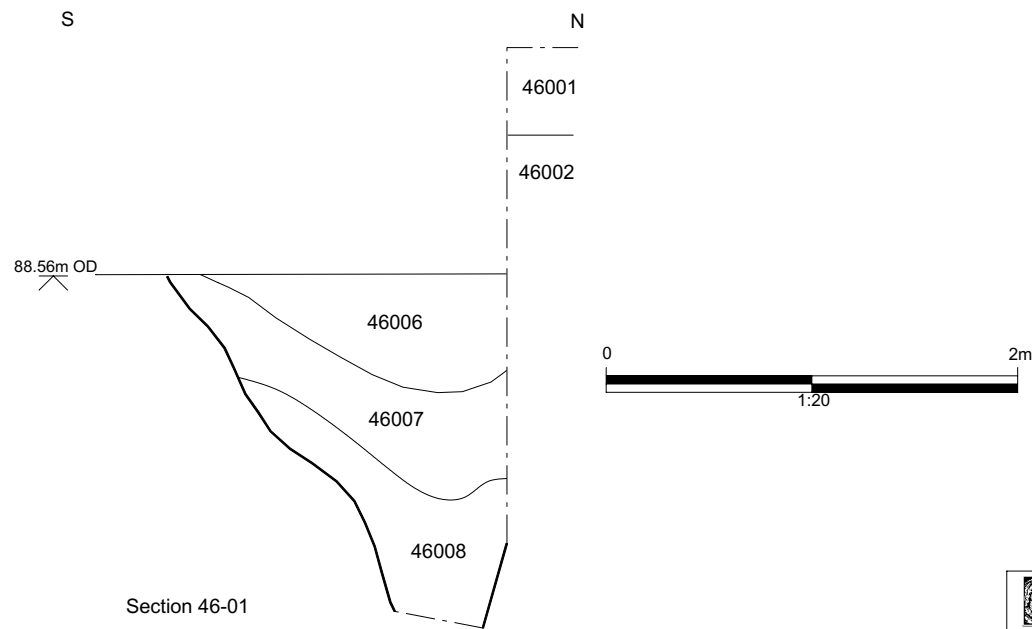
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Figure 11- Trench 45 Plan and Sections




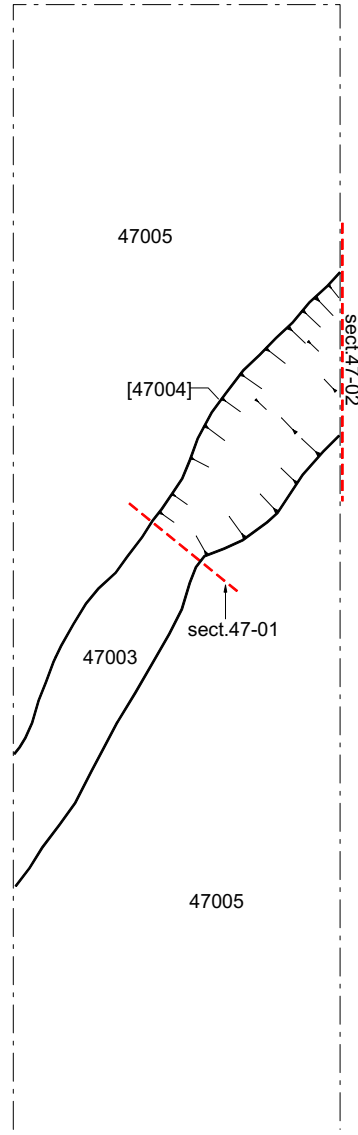
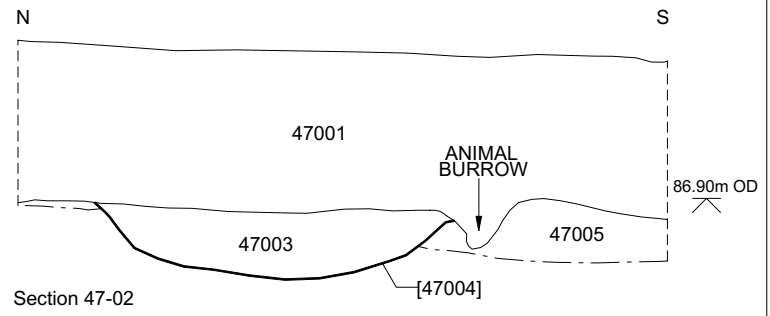
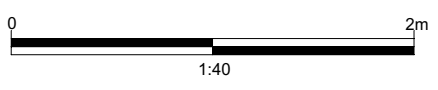
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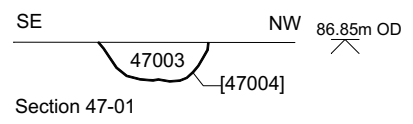
Figure 12- Trench 46 Plan and Section



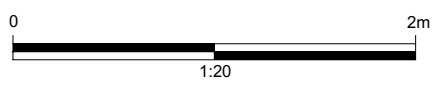
Trench 47



Section 47-02



Section 47-01




 Archaeological Project Services		
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Figure 13- Trench 47 Plan and Sections



Plate 1 General view of northernmost field within current evaluation area, looking northwest



Plate 2 General view of central fields within current evaluation area-Corus in the background, looking southeast





Plate 3 Trench  
15, undated  
ditch/furrow  
[15001] sealed  
by subsoil layer,  
looking west



Plate 4 Trench 17,  
undated ditch  
[17008], looking  
north



Plate 5 Trench  
17, charcoal  
filled pit  
[17010],  
looking south





Plate 6 Trench 39, undated ditch/furrow [39004], looking northeast



Plate 7 Trench 47, plan view, looking south



Plate 8 Trench 47, Romano-British Ditch [47004]

## APPENDIX 1

### Written Scheme of Investigations for an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching within Zones 2 and 3 Priors Hall, Corby, Northamptonshire

*By Wardell Armstrong*

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This document sets out the methodology to which a programme of trial trenching will be undertaken in Blocks 2 and 3 of Zone 1 at Priors Hall (NL08092/01), Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire as part of a detailed planning application for the mixed use development of the site.

1.2 The Prior's Hall site as a whole has been subject to a programme of non-invasive archaeological investigations, comprising desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. The mineral extraction site in the south-eastern part of Zone 1 has already been the subject of an archaeological evaluation and is currently undergoing a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample. The proposed archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in Blocks 2 and 3 of Zone 1 of the Prior's Hall site is intended to augment existing archaeological information. In addition, it seeks to determine the date, extent, density, distribution and importance of the archaeological features at the site, in order that an appropriate level of archaeological mitigation recording can be implemented.

1.3 This document comprises a detailed specification for the evaluation and is intended to provide the basis for a measurable standard. The specification has been developed in consultation with Northamptonshire County Council who act as archaeological advisors to Corby Borough Council. The specification also adheres to the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Institute of Field Archaeologists: Reading (IFA revised 1998).
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute of Field Archaeologists: Reading (IFA revised 1999).
- *Management of Archaeological Projects (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, English Heritage (1992).

#### 2.0 Background

##### 2.1 Site Description

2.1.1 Zone 1 is located to the north of Weldon village, Corby Northamptonshire and is centred on NGR SP 9280 9020. The main boundaries are formed by the A43 in the south, Gretton Road to the west, a large area of quarried land in the east and by the northern stream of the Willow Brook in the north. Blocks 2 and 3, which make up the central and southern areas of Zone 1 comprise agricultural land of approximately 69 hectares (see Figure NL08092/01).

2.1.2 Regional geology comprises Jurassic limestone. Soils of the area consist of 411d Hanslope and 712g Ragdale associations, typically comprising brown to dark yellowish brown fine silty clay loam between 0.10 and 0.35m in depth.

## **2.2 Planning Background**

- 2.2.1 Bela Partnerships Ltd (hereafter referred to as the Client) propose to develop Blocks 2 and 3 of Zone 1 for mixed-use development. The archaeological work is required as part of a detailed planning application.
- 2.2.2 An Environmental Statement relating to an outline planning application for mixed use and residential development was produced in 2004 and contained a detailed archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the whole Prior's Hall site, including Zone 1. The assessment was supplemented by geophysical scanning and detailed magnetometer survey.
- 2.2.3 The proposed evaluation is in line with government guidance on archaeology and development, as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, 1990).

## **2.3 Archaeological Background**

- 2.3.1 The geophysical survey pinpointed areas of potential archaeological impact within the site. An evaluation was undertaken in the extraction area in the southeastern part of Zone 1 and revealed evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British iron-production. This area is currently the subject of a programme of strip, map and sample. An evaluation is now required in Blocks 2 and 3 of Zone 1 ahead of development in order to obtain more detailed information about remains located by the geophysical survey. Accordingly, an outline strategy for trial trenching, followed by a programme of strip, map and sample, has been devised and agreed with Northamptonshire County Council.
- 2.3.2

## **3.0 Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 The overall aim of the evaluation is to determine the presence and significance of any archaeological remains present at the site and to inform upon the potential impacts of the proposed development on those remains. The results of the evaluation will allow the formulation of a strategy to provide further archaeological recording to mitigate the impact of the development on the identified archaeological resource.
- 3.2 This will be achieved through the following specific objectives:
- establishing the extent of the known features identified during the geophysical survey within the application area;
  - assessing the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological features within the application area
  - determining the date, nature, extent, level of preservation and significance of these features and any associated remains revealed;
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the evaluation will reveal a variety of archaeological remains, dating from the prehistoric period onwards. The evaluation in the extraction area of Prior's Hall uncovered evidence of Iron Age and Roman mineral exploitation and iron production. Therefore, the evaluation has the potential to make a valuable contribution to a growing corpus of information about the archaeology and history of the locality and region alike.

## **4.0 Method Statement**

#### 4.1 **Strategy**

- 4.1.1 In accordance with discussions held between Wardell Armstrong and Northamptonshire County Council, the following document details the requirements for a scheme of evaluation by trial trenching in order to satisfy the stated objectives of the project as set out under Section 3.0.
- 4.1.2 It is proposed that 45 trenches will be excavated in locations identified on Figure NL0NL08092/01. The trenches have been configured to investigate anomalies identified during the geophysical investigation and also to test areas where no geophysical response was recorded.
- 4.1.3 All trenches will measure 50m x 2m and will be excavated to the surface of naturally occurring sub-soils or to the upper limits of significant archaeological deposits. It is not anticipated that deep deposits will be encountered on site, however no trench will be excavated to depths in excess of 1.2m without appropriate shoring and Health and Safety requirements having been considered.
- 4.1.2 In addition, a contingency of an extra 1500m<sup>2</sup> should be allowed for. This contingency may be required to extend trenches where features require further investigation or may be required to intercept linear features. The excavation of the contingency trenches would only be implemented following a direct request by the Northamptonshire County Council and through consultation with the Client and Wardell Armstrong.

#### 4.2 **Trial Trenching: General Excavation Methodology**

- 4.2.1 All trenches will be excavated using a mechanical excavator under the close supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. The mechanical excavator will be fitted with a toothless ditching blade and will remove topsoil and overburden in spits of 50mm, progressing along the trench. Successive spits will be removed until the first archaeological horizon is encountered; the mechanical excavator will not be used to excavate arbitrary trenches down to natural subsoil without regard for archaeological stratification.
- 4.2.2 The mechanical excavator will mound all spoil neatly beside each trench, allowing a minimum of 1m between the base of the mound and the trench edge. If required topsoil and subsoil deposits will be separated to assist reinstatement.
- 4.2.3 All subsequent excavation following the exposure of archaeological deposits will be by hand by a field team of experienced archaeologists. The field team will carry out all excavation, cleaning, recording and sampling of surfaces and archaeological features within the trial trenches using appropriate hand tools. Investigations within trial trenches will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation.
- 4.2.4 All features will be excavated and recorded (in plan and section) with sampling as appropriate. A minimum of 50% of identified archaeological features will be excavated - complete features, such as pits and postholes, will be excavated by half-section and linear features, such as ditches and gullies, will be sectioned appropriately (sampling no less than 25% of the feature). Particular attention will be paid to the intersections of linear features.
- 4.2.5 The contracting archaeologist will ensure that access to the investigations is granted at all times to representatives of Wardell Armstrong, the Clients and Northampton County Council, They may

wish to be satisfied that the archaeological works are being conducted in accordance with the agreements made and to the proper professional standards.

### 4.3 **Site Recording**

4.3.1 A unique event number for the work should be obtained from Northamptonshire County Council prior to fieldwork commencing. An accession number for the site archive should then be agreed receiving repository.

4.3.2 During the trial trenching *pro-forma* recording sheets will be used to compile a full and proper record of fieldwork undertaken. Detailed written records will be made of all archaeological features and deposits encountered, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements. Written records should be fully cross-referenced to all graphic and photographic records made.

4.3.3 Drawings will be on polyester-based drawing film, at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All plans and sections will be drawn in relation to survey points within the trenches, which will be located using appropriate surveying equipment.

4.3.4 The height of all principal strata and features will be calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the values will be indicated on the appropriate plans and section drawings.

4.3.5 For every trench a 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagram will be compiled to record stratigraphic relationships. At least one long section will be drawn on completion of each evaluation trench and the stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded, even when no archaeological deposits are identified.

4.3.6 An adequate photographic record of the evaluation will be completed. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating the principal features and finds discovered in detail and in general context. Photographs of features and finds will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological works undertaken.

### 4.4 **Artefacts and Palaeoenvironmental Remains**

4.4.1 All artefacts encountered at the site will be treated in a professional manner and will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, marked, conserved, bagged, packaged, boxed and stored as appropriate and in accordance with recognised guidelines. Before commencing the trial trenching, the archaeological contractor will confirm in writing to Northamptonshire County Council or to the Regional Scientific Advisor for English Heritage that arrangements are in hand to cover all necessary specialist processing, analysis and storage of artefacts and palaeoenvironmental samples.

4.4.2 Any human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. When removal of human remains is essential this may only take place under the appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds Act (Amendment) (1981). In the event of the discovery of human remains, the Clients, Wardell Armstrong, the local coroner and Northamptonshire County Council will be informed immediately.

- 4.4.3 Any finds defined as Treasure, according to the Treasure Act (1997), will be located and then removed to a safe place, where they will be temporarily stored according to appropriate archaeological conservation guidelines. The local coroner will be informed in writing within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.4.4 Assessment and analysis of each category of artefactual material will be undertaken by specialist archaeologists and/or conservators as appropriate to the finds recovered, as soon as possible following the completion of the fieldwork. This will include analysis of any metal objects by x-raying. Consideration will also be given to the suitability of artefacts for scientific dating and a contingency figure should be included for this eventuality. The findings, including a statement of potential for all categories of artefacts, in the event of further archaeological work at the site, will be included in the report on the evaluation.
- 4.4.5 The strategy for bulk sampling of archaeological deposits for palaeo-environmental remains will be discussed with a specialist environmental archaeologist while the trial trenches are open. A bulk sample will comprise 20-40 litres of soil from substantial features, or 100% of features with less sizeable deposits. Any bulk soil samples collected for environmental remains during the evaluation will be processed by suitably qualified personnel and analysed by specialists. A formal assessment of the site's environmental potential will be carried out and the results will be included in the report on the evaluation.
- 4.4.6 All well-sealed and datable contexts within features such as pits, ditches and postholes will be considered for bulk sampling, although sampling will be necessarily selective due to the potential costs involved and the possibility of future, more extensive excavation. It is therefore proposed that at this stage sub-samples will be taken for analysis from bulk samples. Contingencies for specialist analysis and dating would only be implemented under the guidance of Northamptonshire County Council or English Heritage and through consultation with the Client and Wardell Armstrong.
- 4.4.7 Existing sampling strategies, which have been set up to deal with evidence of metalworking and metal production in the extraction area (Block 1), will be applied if such deposits are encountered during the evaluation of Blocks 2 and 3 in Zone.
- 4.5 **Reporting, Publication and Dissemination**
- 4.5.1 An illustrated report on the evaluation, including an assimilation of earlier work in the area, will be compiled by the supervising archaeologist upon completion of the fieldwork.
- 4.5.2 The report will be bound with each page and paragraph numbered. The first page of the report shall contain, in tabulated form, the following information about the site: town, parish, address, grid reference, land use, planning application number, client, date evaluation work commenced and date evaluation work completed.
- 4.5.3 The report will set out the background to the project and will contain an assessment of the nature, date and significance of the stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental evidence. The results of the evaluation will be placed in a local and regional context. The text shall be readable and take into account that the document will be read by non-archaeologists, i.e. the Clients and



members of the public. Technical terms shall only be used where necessary and 'jargon' will be avoided.

4.5.4 The main features and significant finds encountered during the evaluation will be presented in tabulated form, including the following information: description, period, context, site reference, trench number, and location (given as 5 figure easting and 5 figure northing). The positions of these features and finds will also be indicated on site plans.

4.5.5 The textual report will be complemented by illustrative material, which will include:

- a site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO);
- a trench location plan at 1:100 or 1:200, showing: the location of the evaluation trenches; the Ordnance Survey Grid; site survey stations; survey points within trenches; the location of the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark used during the fieldwork and the site Temporary Bench Mark.
- a plan showing the extent of identified archaeology;
- plans and sections of features recorded; and
- photographs of the principal finds and features.

Site plans will be accurate and where only part of the site is shown, will refer to adjoining features or areas to allow the site to be accurately located.

4.5.6 A single paragraph summary of the evaluation will be submitted to an appropriate journal and to the regional CBA group. In the event of further fieldwork, such as open area excavation, being undertaken at the site the evaluation results should be included as part of a more substantial report, for example as part of an academic paper on the full mitigation works, which would require publication in an appropriate monograph or journal.

#### 4.6 **Archiving**

4.6.1 The minimum acceptable standard for archives generated by archaeological projects has been defined by English Heritage in their publication *MAP2*.

4.6.2 The archive will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive records of such materials) and all written, drawn, and photographic records relating directly to the investigations. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site stratigraphic matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and palaeoenvironmental data.

4.6.3 Three hard copies of the report will be supplied to Northamptonshire County Council within six months of completion of fieldwork. The text of the report will also be provided in both pdf and rich text format and any CAD drawings as AutoCAD files. Hard copies of the report will also be supplied to Wardell Armstrong for forwarding to the Clients.

4.6.4 In the event that post-excavation work delays completion of the report, an interim note on the excavation will be provided to Wardell Armstrong and Northamptonshire County Council, together with a revised timetable for post-excavation works, the finalising of the report and publication of



the results. The interim note will contain accurate site plans as detailed under paragraph 4.5.5, showing excavated areas and principal features revealed, as well as any significant sections through features and photographs of principal finds and features.

- 4.6.4 A copy of the documentary and photographic archive for the project will be deposited with the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record. The complete archive will be deposited with the agreed repository, who act as curators on behalf of Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6.5 Unless overridden by National Law, any artefacts and palaeo-environmental samples recovered from the site will belong to the landowner who is urged to donate these to an appropriate museum. The archaeological contractor will arrange for appropriate deposition of this material at the commencement of the project.
- 4.6.6 Alternative arrangements for the curation of all or part of the site archive will require prior written approval from the District Archaeological Officer. For example, if the artefacts are not to be donated to the appropriate museum, arrangements will be made for a comprehensive record to be compiled of all relevant materials (including detailed drawings, photographs and descriptions of individual finds), which can instead constitute that part of the archaeological archive.

## **5.0 Staffing**

- 5.1 All personnel undertaking field and post-excavation work will be professional archaeologists competent in the tasks they are required to perform. The project should be directly managed by a full Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing, if not a member.
- 5.2 The standards and *Code of Conduct* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists must be adhered to at all times.

## **6.0 Health and Safety**

- 6.1 It will be necessary for the archaeological contractor to conduct a Risk Assessment prior to commencement of the fieldwork.
- 6.2 During the fieldwork appropriate safety clothing should be worn and all relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be acknowledged.
- 6.3 The Clients will provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before the evaluation can commence.

## **Bibliography**

Colin Buchanan and Partners (2004) *Priors Hall Environmental Statement*

English Heritage, 1992. *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1998. *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.*



**Wardell Armstrong**  
Engineering & Environmental Solutions

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

<b>Trench: 1</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N:492368.384/290653.761 S:492368.648/ 2900603.537</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1001	Layer	Friable, yellowish greyish brown silty clay; incl freq sm flint frags and stones	0.20	Topsoil
1002	Layer	Friable, light yellowish brown silty clay; incl occ sm stones and flint	0.19	Subsoil
1003	Layer	Firm, yellowish brown sandy clay (some root disturbance)	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench: 2</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N: 492262.499/290666.705 S:492262.499/290616.481</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
2001	Layer	Firm, dark reddish brown clayey silt; incl freq sm stones	0.25	Topsoil
2002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown silty clay	0.25	Subsoil
2003	Layer	Firm, mixed orangey brown and mid-grey clay with bands of sandy clay, incl freq chalk frags	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench: 3</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N:492236.610/290447.428 S:492236.610/290397.463</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
3000	Finds	Finds from machining	-	Finds
3001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown clayey silt	0.27	Topsoil
3002	Layer	Firm, mid-light reddish brown clayey silt	0.20	Subsoil
3003	Layer	Firm, mid-reddish brown with gery mottles silty clay; incl freq flint frags	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench: 4</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W:492236.610/290447.428 E:492356.216/290400.57</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
4001	Layer	Friable, yellowish greyish brown silty clay; incl occ pebbles	0.20	Topsoil
4002	Layer	Firm, yellowish brown sandy clay; incl occ stones	0.14	Subsoil
4003	Layer	Firm, mid-brown clay and sand	-	Natural Layer

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### Trench Summary

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<b>Trench: 5</b>		<b>Grid Co-ords: N:492390.907/290381.41 S:492398.673/290331.706</b>		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
5001	Layer	Friable, yellowish greyish brown silty clay; incl occ sm stones	0.19	Topsoil
5002	Layer	Firm, yellowish brown clay with blue clay lenses; incl freq chalk frags	0.20	Subsoil
5003	Layer	Firm, yellowish brown clay; incl flint and stones	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench: 6</b>		<b>Grid Co-ords: W:492227.808/290293.390 E:492278.29/290292.614</b>		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Ridge and furrow observed in the western part of the trench; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
6001	Layer	Firm, light brownish grey clayey silt; incl occ pebbles	0.20	Topsoil
6002	Layer	Firm, orangey brown clayey silt	0.11	Subsoil
6003	Layer	Firm, orangey brown clayey silt; incl freq chalk frags	-	Natural Layer
6004	Natural	Tree Throw	-	Tree Throw
6005	Finds	Unstratified Finds retrieved during machining	-	Finds

<b>Trench: 7</b>		<b>Grid Co-ords: N:492329.960/290136.779 S:492330.263/290086.845</b>		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
7001	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown clays and silts; incl occ stones	0.17	Topsoil
7002	Layer	Firm, orangey brown clayey silt; incl occ pebbles	0.15	Subsoil
7003	Layer	Firm, orangey brown with bluish grey lenese clay; incl freq ironstone and chalk	-	Natural Layer
7004	Natural	Tree Throw	-	Tree Throw
7005	Finds	Unstratified finds retrieved during machining	-	Finds

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

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<b>Trench: 8</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W:492467.98/290169.732 E:492517.980/290168.947</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
8001	Layer	Friable, greyish mid-brown silty clay; incl moderate stones	0.30	Topsoil
8002	Layer	Firm, orangey brown silty sandy clay; incl freq sm stones	0.16	Subsoil
8003	Layer	Firm, bluish grey brown sandy clay; incl freq flint frags and stones	-	Natural

<b>Trench: 9</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N:462483.425/290100.097 S:492483.425/290050.358</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
9001	Layer	Firm, dark greyish brown clayey silt; incl moderate sm stones	0.20	Topsoil
9002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown silty clay; incl mod stones	0.15	Subsoil
9003	Layer	Firm, mid-grey clay with lenses of imd-orangey brown sandy clay; incl freq stones and chalk frags	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench: 10</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W:4924825.303/290432.553 E:492533.059/290431.438</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
10001	Layer	Firm, dark brown clayey silt; incl sm stones	0.30	Topsoil
10002	Layer	Firm, orangey brown silty clay; incl sm stones	0.20	Subsoil
10003	Layer	Firm, mid-grey clay	-	Natural Layer
10004	Layer	Unstratified finds from machining	-	Finds

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Trench: 11		Grid Co-ords: W:492432.662/290526.258 E:492482.582/290526.536		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
11001	Layer	Firm, dark brown clayey silt; incl moderate sm stones	0.18	Topsoil
11002	Layer	Firm, orangey brown silty clay	0.12	Subsoil
11003	Layer	Firm, mid-orangey brown clay and chalk frags	0.15	Natural Layer
11004	Layer	Firm, mid grey clay; incl freq chalk frags	-	Natural Layer
11005	Finds	Unstratified finds from machining	-	Finds

Trench: 12		Grid Co-ords: N:492585.210/290553.867 S:492586.047/292586.047		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
12001	Layer	Firm, yellowish greyish brown silty clay; incl occ stones	0.20	Topsoil
12002	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown sandy clay	0.20	Subsoil
12003	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown sandy clay	-	Natural Layer

Trench: 13		Grid Co-ords: W492608.636/290596.536 E492659.114/290595.699		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
13001	Layer	Friable, yellowish brown silty clay; incl occ stones	0.27	Topsoil
13002	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown sandy clay	0.20	Subsoil
13003	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown with greyish brown lenses sandy clay	-	Natural

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### Trench Summary

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<b>Trench:</b> 14	<b>Grid Co-ords:</b> W:492472.542/290643.109 E492523.577/492523.577			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
14001	Layer	Friable, greyish brown silty clay; occ flint and stones	0.24	Topsoil
14002	Layer	Friable, yellowish brown silty clay; incl occ flint and stones	0.23	Subsoil
14003	Layer	Firm, yellowish brown clay; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench:</b> 15	<b>Grid Co-ords:</b> N492471.705/290691.914 S492472.542/290643.109			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Shallow NE/SW ditch; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
15000	Layer	Firm, mid-brownish grey clay; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer
15001	Cut	NE/SW linear, shallow profile with slightly concave base; dimensions 1.25m wide	0.18	Shallow ditch
15002	Fill	Firm, mid-brownish grey clay; incl occ chalk frags	0.10	Fill in [15001]
15003	Fill	Firm, mid-grey clay and flint	0.07	Fill in [15001]
15004	Layer	Firm, bluish grey clay	0.05	Subsoil Layer
15005	Layer	Firm, mid-greyish yellowish brown silty clay	0.55	Subsoil Layer
15006	Layer	Friable, greyish brown clayey silt	0.40	Topsoil

<b>Trench:</b> 16	<b>Grid Co-ords:</b> N492529.992/290818.805 S492529.434/290768.885			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits and tree throw recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
16001	Layer	Friable, light greyish brown clayey silt	0.20	Topsoil
16002	Layer	Firm, mid-reddish brown clayey silt	0.15	Subsoil
16003	Layer	Firm, mid-brownish red silty clays; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer
16004	Cut	Tree Disturbance	-	Tree Throw
16005	Fill	Firm, mid-grey and dark grey clay	-	Fill in [16004]

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

<b>Trench: 17</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W492149.883/290773.108 E492200.366/290772.849</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Undated ditch and shallow pits identified at the eastern end of the trench, modern ditch at western end of trench; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
17001	Layer	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay	0.25	Topsoil
17002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown silty clay	0.20	Subsoil
17003	Layer	Firm, mid-brown and mid-grey clay; incl chalk frags	-	Natural Layer
17004	Layer	Firm, mid-brown silty clay; incl freq pebbles	0.05	Subsoil=17002
17005	Fill	Firm, mid-dark grey clayey silt; incl freq charcoal	0.11	Fill in [17006]
17006	Cut	Irregular in plan and profile; dimensions 0.55m x 0.30m wide	0.11	Pit
17007	Fill	Firm, mid-brownish grey silty clay; incl occ charcoal flecks	0.60	Fill in [17008]
17008	Cut	N/S linear, steep sided with concave base; dimensions 1.50m wide x 2.50m+ long	0.60	Ditch/Undated
17009	Fill	Soft, black clayey silt and charcoal	0.10	Fill in [17010]
17010	Cut	Oval, shallow profiled with uneven base; dimensions 0.90m x 0.60m wide	0.10	Pit
17011	Layer	Firm, mid-grey clay; incl freq chalk frags and modern debris	-	Fill of [17012]
17012	Cut	NW/SE linear-modern unexcavated ditch	-	Modern Ditch
<b>Trench: 18</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N:492091.375/290867.343 S:492091.375/290867.343</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Modern infilled ditch and burning (modern debris in association) identified in the southern half of the trench-recorded only in plan; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
18001	Layer	Friable, dark brownish grey silt	0.25	Topsoil
18002	Layer	Firm, mid-brownish red silty clay	-	Natural Layer
<b>Trench: 19</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W492031.054/290918.084 E492081.537/290917.56</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
19-001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown silty sand; incl sm pebbles	0.18	Topsoil
19-002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown orange clayey silt; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer



## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

<b>Trench 20</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: NW491930.997/290965.794 SE491978.257/290948.439</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
20001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown sandy silt	0.20	Topsoil
20002	Layer	Firm, light brownish grey silty clay	-	Layer

<b>Trench 21</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: NE492018.62/290989.01 SW491996.104/290943.973</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
21001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt; incl sm stones	0.28	Topsoil
21002	Layer	Firm, soft mid-yellowish brown silty clay; incl flint frags and stones	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 22</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W492179.137/291227.454 E492229.361/291227.713</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Undated ditch identified cutting across centre of the trench; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
22001	Layer	Firm, dark greyish brown clayey silt; incl freq flint frags and stones	0.22	Topsoil
22002	Layer	Firm, light orangey brown silty clay	-	Natural Layer
22003	Fill	Firm, mid-olivey brown clayey silt	0.42	Fill in [22004]
22004	Cut	SSW/NNE linear, gradual sided, stepped base with concave profile along eastern side; dimensions 3.20m wide	0.42	Ditch/undated

**NB:** Trench no. 23 not used

<b>Trench 24</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W492117.263/29087.984 E492167.746/290987.984</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
24001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt; incl sm stones	0.20	Topsoil

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

24002	Layer	Firm, mid-yellowish brown clayey silt; incl freq flint frags and stones	-	Natural Layer
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<b>Trench 25</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W492146.51/290858.023 E492196.224/290858.023</b>			
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**Trench Summary:** Undated ditch identified at the eastern end of the trench; natural sequence of deposits recorded

Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
25000	Finds	Unstratified Finds from machining	-	Finds
25001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown sandy silt; incl sm stones	0.26	Topsoil
25002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown sandy silt	0.07	Subsoil
25003	Layer	Firm, greyish brown with orange lenses clayey silt; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer
25004	Cut	N/S linear, gradual sided with flattish base; dimensions 1.05m wide	0.40	Ditch Undated
25006	Fill	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay	0.40	Fill in [25004]

<b>Trench 26</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N492317.124/290825.9211 S492319.195/290775.697</b>			
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**Trench Summary:** No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded

Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
26001	Layer	Firm, greyish brown clayey silt	0.20	Topsoil
26002	Layer	Compact, orangey brown clayey silt	0.20	Subsoil
26003	Layer	Firm, mid-grey with orange lenses clay; incl flint frags and stones	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 27</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: NW492259.392/290911.871 SE492270.783/290863.718</b>			
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**Trench Summary:** No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits and modern ditch recorded

Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
27001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt; incl occ sm stones	0.20	Topsoil
27002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown with orange mottling silty clay	0.16	Subsoil
27003	Layer	Firm, mid-yellowish brown with orange mottling silty clay; incl flint frags and stones	-	Natural Layer
27004	Cut	SW/NE linear, concave sided with rounded base; dimensions 1m wide x 40m+ long	0.60	Modern infilled boundary
27005	Fill	Plastic, mid-yellowish brown silty clay	0.60	Fill in [27004]

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

Trench 28		Grid Co-ords: NW492322.043/290932.841 SE492345.343/290887.795		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
28001	Layer	Friable, mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.26	Topsoil
28002	Layer	Firm, mid-yellowish brown with orange mottling silty clay	-	Natural Layer

Trench 29		Grid Co-ords: W492260.946/290941.384 E492310.393/290941.384		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
29001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.22	Topsoil
29002	Layer	Firm, mid-yellowish brown with bluish-grey mottling silty clay; incl flint and chalk frags	-	Natural Layer

Trench 30		Grid Co-ords: W492344.566/291019.309 E492395.049/291019.309		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Shallow pit identified-evidence of burning; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
30001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown sandy silt; incl freq stones	0.16	Topsoil
30002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown sandy silt	0.10	Subsoil
30003	Layer	Soft, light grey with orangey brown mottles silty clay	-	Natural Layer
30004	Fill	Soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt; incl freq charcoal	0.07	Fill of [30005]
30005	Cut	Oval, shallow profiled with uneven base; dimensions 0.75m x 0.45m wide	0.07	Pit

Trench 31		Grid Co-ords: N492266.641/291169.722 S492266.382/29119.24		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
31001	Layer	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy silt	0.30	Topsoil
31002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown sandy silt	0.10	Subsoil
31003	Layer	Firm, light grey with orangey brown mottling silty clay; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

<b>Trench 32</b>		<b>Grid Co-ords: N492153.508/291133.219 S492163.863/291084.549</b>		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
32001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.20	Topsoil
32002	Layer	Friable, mid-brown clayey silt; incl occ chalk flecks	0.16	Subsoil
32003	Layer	Firm, mid-yellowish brown silty clay; incl freq chalk frags	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 33</b>		<b>Grid Co-ords: NE492151.436/291076.264 NW492127.360/291031.995</b>		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
33001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown silty sand	0.16	Topsoil
33002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown silty sand	0.08	Subsoil
33003	Layer	Firm, light brownish grey clayey silt; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 34</b>		<b>Grid Co-ords: NW492102.248/291087.655 SE492118.817/291040.279</b>		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
34001	Layer	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy silt	0.18	Topsoil
34002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown sandy silt	0.12	Subsoil
34003	Layer	Firm, greyish brown silty clay; incl flint frags	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 35</b>		<b>Grid Co-ords: W491906.967/291007.447 E491957.168/291007.714</b>		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thck (m)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
35001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown sandy silts	0.28	Topsoil
35002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown silty clay	-	Natural Layer

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

Trench 36		Grid Co-ords: N492023.546/291111.732 S492023.287/291062.284		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
36001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.26	Topsoil
36002	Layer	Plastic, mid-yellowish brown silty clay	-	Natural Layer

Trench 37		Grid Co-ords: NW492171.889/291313.664 SE492186.127/291265.252		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
37001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.20	Topsoil
37002	Layer	Firm, mid brown clayey silt	0.06	Subsoil
37003	Layer	Plastic, mid-yellowish brown with orange mottling silty clay; incl flint frags and stones	-	Natural Layer

Trench 38		Grid Co-ords: NE492170.076/291291.917 SW492135.127/291254.378		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
38001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.29	Topsoil
38002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown clayey silt	0.18	Subsoil
38003	Layer	Firm, mid-yellowish brown with orangey mottles silty clay; incl flint frags and ironstone	-	Natural Layer

Trench 39		Grid Co-ords: NW492104.319/291292.95 SE492135.12/291254.378		
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Undated ditch identified in southern end of trench; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
39001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.24	Topsoil
39002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown clayey silt	0.19	Subsoil
39003	Layer	Compact, mid-yellowish brown with orange mottles silty clay	-	Natural Layer
39004	Cut	NE/SW linear, concave sided with flattish base; dimensions 1.2m wide	0.28	Ditch-Undated

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

39005	Fill	Firm, mid-brown clayey silt	0.28	Fill in [39004]
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<b>Trench 40</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W492087.750/291199.494 E492135.644/291214.76</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Subsoiler striations throughout trench and three disturbance. No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
40001	Layer	Friable, mid-greyish brown silt	0.34	Topsoil
40002	Layer	Compact, mid-greyish orange silty clay and gravel	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 41</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: NE492057.461/291189.657 SW492019.404/291156.778</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
41001	Layer	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy silts	0.23	Topsoil
41002	Layer	Firm, light greyish brown sandy silt	0.11	Subsoil
41003	Layer	Soft, light brownish grey silty clay	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 42</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N491956.095/291277.920 S 491956.095/291226.922</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
42001	Layer	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay; incl freq sm stones	0.26	Topsoil
42002	Layer	Firm, light orangey brown silty clay	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 43</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: W491864.514/291135.875 E491914.17/291138.278</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
43001	Layer	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy silt	0.24	Topsoil
43002	Layer	Soft, light greyish brown clayey sandy silt	-	Natural Layer

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

<b>Trench 44</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords: N491810.045/291224.252 S491810.312/291173.522</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> No archaeological features or deposits identified; natural sequence of deposits recorded; modern service trench in southernmost most end of trench				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
44001	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown silt	0.35	Topsoil
44002	Layer	Compact, mid-brownish red clay; incl freq gravel	-	Natural Layer

### TRENCHES 45-47 LOCATED IN SOUTHERN ACCESS ROAD

<b>Trench 45</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords:</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Undated ditch identified at the westernmost end of the trench; natural sequence of deposits recorded including considerable depth of subsoil				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
45001	Layer	Firm, dark brownish grey clayey silt	0.25	Topsoil
45002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown clayey silt; incl freq limestone frags, occ charcoal flecks	0.57	Subsoil
45003	Fill	Firm, dark reddish brown clayey silt	0.35	Fill in [45004]
45004	Cut	NW/SE linear, shallow sided with concave base; dimensions 0.80m wide	0.35	Ditch-Undated
45005	Layer	Firm, mid-dark reddish brown sandy clayey silt; incl mod pebbles	0.20	Natural Layer=45006
45006	Layer	Firm, mid-dark reddish brown sandy clayey silt; incl mod pebbles	0.20	Natural Layer=45005
45007	Layer	Weather limestone	-	Natural Layer

<b>Trench 46</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords:</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Pit identified at the easternmost end of the trench-sequence of filling is suggestive of natural derivation; natural sequence of deposits recorded				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
46001	Layer	Firm, dark brownish grey clayey silt	0.25	Topsoil
46002	Layer	Firm, mid-brown silyt clay; incl mod pebbles	0.10	Subsoil
46003	Layer	Firm, mid-brownish grey with lenses of light reddish brown	-	Natural Layer
46004	Finds	Finds from machining	-	Finds
46005	Cut	Irregular in plan with steep sides; dimensions 3.70m x 1.20m+ wide	1.20+	Indeterminate Cut-Natural

## Appendix 2

### Trench Summary

Blocks 2 & 3 Prior's Hal, Corby, Northamptonshire (CPHB06)

46006	Fill	Firm, light greyish brown clayey silt	0.30	Fill in [46005]
46007	Fill	Firm, mid-brownish grey clayey silt	0.26	Fill in [46005]
46008	Fill	Firm, light greyish brown clayey silt	0.29+	Fill in [46005]

<b>Trench 47</b>	<b>Grid Co-ords:</b>			
<b>Trench Summary:</b> Shallow ditch identified at northern end of trench, topsoil containing Romano-British pottery and tile; natural sequence of deposits recorded; modern service trench in southernmost most end of trench				
Context No	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
47001	Layer	Soft, dark brownish grey clayey sandy silt	0.45	Topsoil
47002	Fill	Dump of disarticulated cattle bones	-	Fill in [47004]
47003	Fill	Firm, mid-greyish brown clayey silt; incl occ charcoal flecks	0.15	Fill in [47004]
47004	Cut	SW/NE linear, steep sided with concave base; dimensions 0.55m wide x 2.50m+ long	0.15	Ditch
47005	Layer	Firm, light brown clay	-	Natural Layer

#### Abbreviations:

incl	inclusions	occ	occasionally occurring
frags	fragment	mod	moderately occurring
		freq	frequently occurring



**Appendix 3**  
**Pottery from Corby Priors Hall (CPHB06)**  
*By Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 11 sherds with a total weight of 57g. The majority of the assemblage was medieval or later, although 3 sherds (13g) of Romano-British material were also noted, along with a single sherd (12g) of early/middle Saxon hand-built pottery.

The late Saxon and medieval pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

- F207: ?South Lincolnshire Oolitic ware, AD975-1300. 1 sherd, 3g.  
 F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware\*, AD1200-1500. 3 sherds, 11g.  
 F401: Late medieval oxidized ware, mid 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 4g.  
 F403: Midland Purple ware, AD1450-1600. 1 sherd, 10g.  
 F426: Iron-glazed earthenware, late 17<sup>th</sup> century +. 1 sherd, 4g.

The fabric of the early/middle Saxon sherd comprised moderate to dense sandstone fragments up to 2mm, with many 'free' clear quartz grains. It is undecorated, and hence cannot be dated other than to within the broad early to middle Anglo-Saxon period *ie* AD450 – 850.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of post-Roman fabrics is typical of this area of the county, and is made up entirely of local wares. All the sherds were in fairly good condition, except for the fragment of F207, which is very abraded and could easily be residual.

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Context	RB		E/MS		F207		F320		F403		F401		F426		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7005	1	4					2	4							13thC
10004							1	7	1	10			1	4	18thC
11005											1	4			M15thC
25000					1	3									11thC?
47001	1	8	1	12											E/MS
47003	1	1													RB?
Total	3	13	1	12	1	3	3	11	1	10	1	4	1	4	

## Appendix 4 THE FINDS

*By Jen Kitch and Gary Taylor*

A small quantity of artefacts including brick/tile, industrial residues, and flint were recovered during the archaeological investigations. Faunal remains were also recovered and are summarised below.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises 22 stratified fragments of bone weighing 714g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

### Provenance

The material was recovered during trial trenching of Zones 2 and 3 at Priors Hall, Corby, Northamptonshire.

*Table 1: Metallic Artefacts*

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
3000	Iron	Ring, 65mm ext diameter, machinery part	1	68	Post-medieval
06005	Iron	Rectangular section bar, bent/curved, machinery part?	1	31	Post-medieval?
10004	Iron	Nail, hooked end	1	9	
46004	Copper alloy	Edge binding strip	1	4	

*Table 2: Other Artefacts*

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
06005	Broken waste Flake. 19mm x 17mm.	1	1	
11005	Heavily patinated waste flake. 38mm x 18mm	1	2	
15007	Natural unworked flake	1	3	
46006	Waste Flake. 18mm x 14mm	1	2	
	Waste Flake. 27mm x 18mm	1	1	

These few waste flakes represent no more than a intermittent presence in the area during the prehistoric period.

*Table 3: The Faunal Remains*

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
10004	Cattle	Tooth	1	1	Molar fragment
47002	Large Mammal Size	Thoracic Vertebra	8	627	Fragmentary, probably articulated
	Large Mammal Size	Rib	7	78	
47003	Medium Mammal Size	Atlas	1	1	Fragment, burnt grey/white
	Large Mammal Size	Vertebra	5	7	Fragments

### Condition

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

### Potential

The assemblage offers little further potential for analysis.

## Appendix 6

### GLOSSARY

<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, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<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>Layer</b>	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity

## Appendix 7

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

11	Daily record sheets
46	Trench Machine Record Sheets
46	Trench Record Sheets
57	Context records
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheets
26	Drawing sheets
7	Photographic record sheets
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds 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:

Pending

Should Northamptonshire obtain an accredited museums store within 5 years of the project conclusion, it is expected that the project archive will be transferred to Northampton Museum.

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Northampton Museum.

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CPHB06

Archive No: Pending

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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