
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND TO THE EAST OF
HIGH ROAD,
SHILLINGTON,
BEDFORDSHIRE
(SHHR 15)**

Work Undertaken For
Optimis Consulting

August 2015

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) ACIfA

Planning Application No: CB/15/02102/FULL
National Grid Reference: TL 1258 9857
Luton Culture Entry No: LTNMG 1154
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-220685

APS Report No. **74/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.1	Definition of an Evaluation	1
2.2	Planning Background	1
2.3	Topography and Geology	1
2.4	Archaeological Setting	2
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	3
5.	RESULTS	3
6.	DISCUSSION	5
7.	CONCLUSIONS	6
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
9.	PERSONNEL	6
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	7

Appendices

1	Context Descriptions
2	The Finds <i>by Alex Beeby, Denise Buckley, Paul Cope-Faulkner and Gary Taylor</i>
3	Glossary
4	The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Trench location plan
- Figure 4 Plans: Trenches 3 and 4
- Figure 5 Plans: Trenches 5 and 6
- Figure 6 Sections 1-3 and 6-9
- Figure 7 Sections 10, 12 and 13
- Figure 8 Results of the earthwork survey
- Figure 9 Summary plan of archaeological features

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 1 after excavation
- Plate 2 Trench 1: Representative section showing sequence of deposits
- Plate 3 Trench 2: Representative section showing sequence of deposits
- Plate 4 Trench 3 after excavation
- Plate 5 Trench 3: Section 8 through ditch (306)
- Plate 6 Trench 4 after excavation
- Plate 7 Trench 4: Section 6 showing ditch (406)
- Plate 8 Trench 5 after excavation
- Plate 9 Trench 5: Section 10 with ditches (504) and (506)
- Plate 10 Trench 6
- Plate 11 Trench 6 with ditches (606) and (608). Note also slight ridge and furrow

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land lying to the east of High Road, Shillington, Bedfordshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.

The site lies close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village which is best represented by the 14th century parish church of All Saints. Pottery dating to the Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) has been recovered from Shillington and may suggest the possibility of a settlement to the southwest of the site. There is also a scatter of Romano-British (AD 42-410) finds from the village and a supposed Roman road was revealed at a depth of 1m close to the site. An evaluation undertaken to the immediate southwest of the site revealed medieval ditches, perhaps an agricultural enclosure.

The evaluation identified a sequence of natural, undated, medieval and recent deposits. A ditch recorded parallel to the southern boundary of the site remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material. A north-south aligned double ditched boundary was evident in the western part of the site and was dated to the 12th – 14th century. These ditches were sealed by subsoil and topsoil.

In addition to the evaluation trenches, ridge and furrow visible at the site was recorded. This recorded five ridges of the medieval field system. This overlay the ditches, although the double ditched boundary was parallel to the earthworks.

The earliest find from the evaluation was a 4th century Roman coin. Medieval and later pottery was also encountered along with a fragment of iron smelting slag and a quantity of animal bone.

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’ (CIFA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Optimis Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development on land to the rear of High Road, Shillington, Bedfordshire. The evaluation was undertaken between the 3rd and 6th August 2015 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Central Bedfordshire Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Shillington is located 9km southeast of Ampthill and 17km southeast of Bedford in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 350m east of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of All Saints at National Grid Reference TL 1273 3399 (Fig. 2). Situated on the east side of High Road, the site lies at a height of c. 52m OD on land that slopes down to the south towards the valley of a minor tributary of the River Hiz. The site encompasses some 0.74 hectares.

Local soils are of the Evesham 3 Association, typically calcareous pelosols (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 189). These soils are developed on clays of the Cretaceous Gault Formation (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Shillington is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the present day. During a test-pitting exercise, a small but significant number of Bronze Age pottery sherds were found to the southwest of the site (Lewis and Pryor 2013, 61).

A possible Roman road was revealed at a depth of 1m in front of 52 High Road (HER 10472), though this may in fact be medieval. Dispersed finds of the Romano-British period are known from the village but may relate to manuring scatters and perhaps associated with a villa recorded to the northeast of the site.

Shillington is first mentioned in a charter purportedly dating to 1062. Referred to as *Scytlingedune*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the village, settlement (*tūn*) belonging to the people of *Scytila* or *Scyttel*’ (Ekwall 1989, 417).

The charter of 1062 confirms the gifts of lands given to Ramsey Abbey but is generally believed to be a later forgery, perhaps used to cement Ramsey’s ownership of the manor (Sawyer 1968, S1030). Late Saxon pottery has been recorded from the village.

However, at the time of the Domesday Survey (*c.* 1086), Shillington is recorded as being held by Ramsey Abbey. The manor contained extensive arable land, meadow and woodland as well as a broken water-mill (Williams and Martin 1992, 566).

Extant remains of the medieval period comprise the church of All Saints which

dates from the 14th century with a possible 13th century crypt beneath the chancel (Pevsner 2002, 143). There are four moated enclosures within Shillington, probably representing the sites of manorial homesteads. Three are located around Apsley End to the south and one to the north named as Church Panel. These are all Scheduled Monuments.

Archaeological investigations undertaken immediately southwest of the site in 2011 revealed medieval ditches and a water channel, possibly forming an agricultural enclosure. Sealing this was an alluvial deposit suggesting that the watercourse to the south had flooded during the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Post-medieval ditches were also encountered (Peachey 2012, 4).

3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the Central Bedfordshire Archaeologist to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives were to;

- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation

of the archaeological features present on the site.

- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Six trenches, five measuring 30m by 1.8m and one 25m long (shortened due to restricted space) were excavated to the surface of the underlying natural geology. The trenches were located to provide sample coverage of the proposed development area (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. 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 detailed description of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed using a survey grade Global Positioning System (GPS) and was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. In addition, ridge and furrow evident at the site was surveyed by recording the base of furrows and a profile across the earthworks.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

For ease, 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.

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a layer of grey sandy clay with chalk fragments (104). This was in turn sealed by a greenish brown sandy clay (103).

Sealing all deposits within this trench was a 0.29m thick subsoil, comprising grey silty clay (102) over which was the current topsoil of brownish grey silty clay (101) that was 0.26m thick (Fig. 7, Section 12; Plate 2). A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 2

Grey sandy clay with gravel and chalk (204) overlain by greenish brown sandy clay (203) were identified as the natural layers within this trench.

Sealing the natural deposits was a subsoil of grey silty clay with gravel and cobbles (202). This was in turn sealed by a brownish

grey silty clay topsoil (201) that was also 0.26m thick (Fig. 7, Section 13; Plate 3).

Unstratified finds from this trench (205) include medieval pottery and iron smelting slag. These are likely to have originated from the topsoil or subsoil layers.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Plate 4)

Natural layers were recorded as a grey sandy clay (304) overlain by mixed yellowish brown and greenish brown silty clay (303).

Cutting natural towards the southeast end of the trench was ditch (306). This was aligned approximately east to west and measured 0.75m wide and 0.33m deep (Fig. 6, Sections 8 and 9; Plate 5). The single fill comprised brown silty clay (305).

The subsoil, comprising a 0.21m thick layer of brownish grey silty clay (302), overlay the ditch and was in turn sealed by the topsoil of brownish grey silty clay (301). This was partially sealed by a recent dump of building rubble (307) of up to 0.4m thick.

A sherd of 12th – 14th century pottery was recovered as an unstratified item from this trench.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4; Plate 6)

Deposits of natural grey sandy clay (404) overlain by yellowish brown sandy clay (403) were again encountered in this trench.

Cutting the natural was a northeast to southwest aligned ditch (406) which may be a continuation of the ditch recorded in Trench 3. This was 0.85m wide and 0.51m deep (Fig. 6, Sections 6 and 7; Plate 7) containing a fill of yellowish brown silty clay (405).

Overlying ditch (406) was a grey silty clay (402) subsoil was recorded beneath a 0.25m thick topsoil of brownish grey silty clay (401). A recent dumped deposit of building

debris was also recorded (407).

A small quantity of unstratified animal bone was recovered from this trench.

Trench 5 (Fig. 5; Plate 8)

The natural exposed at the base of this trench consisted of grey/white silty clay and chalk (503). Overlying this was yellowish brown silty clay (502) that was 0.3m thick.

Two ditches were revealed within this trench. The first ditch (504) was 0.85m wide by 0.51m deep (Fig. 7, Section 10; Plate 9) and was aligned northwest-southeast. Yellowish brown silty clay (505) constituted the single fill of this feature which produced medieval pottery.

The second ditch (506), immediately to the east, was also aligned northwest to southeast and was 1.15m wide and 0.79m deep. This was also filled with yellowish brown silty clay (507). The relationship between these two ditches was unclear.

Subsoil sealed these ditches and comprised greyish brown silty clay (501) that measured up to 0.42m thick. Topsoil was a 0.3m thick layer of greyish brown silty clay (500).

Trench 6 (Fig. 5; Plate 10)

Natural within this trench comprised grey sandy clay with gravel and chalk fragments (604), the upper part of which was weathered (603).

Cutting the natural was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch (606). This measured 0.65m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 6, Sections 1 and 2). A single fill of greyish brown silty clay (605) was identified.

Parallel to this ditch, some 0.65m to the east, was a ditch terminal (610) that was 0.9m long, 0.72m wide and over 0.27m deep (Fig. 6, Sections 1 and 3). A single fill of mixed greyish brown and brownish grey

sandy clay (609) was recorded. This had been recut as ditch (608). This was 1.12m wide and 0.52m deep and contained a single fill of greyish brown silty clay (607).

Both ditches appear to be a continuation of the two ditches encountered in Trench 5.

Sealing all features within this trench was a layer of grey silty clay (602). Identified as the subsoil, this measured 0.27m thick. This was in turn overlain by topsoil (601) comprising a 0.3m thick layer of greyish brown silty clay.

A Roman coin of Magnetius (AD 351-353) was recovered as an unstratified object from this trench.

Land drains were recorded in all trenches apart from Trench 1.

Earthwork Survey (Fig. 8)

Ridge and furrow was recorded at the site and comprised the parts of five selions or strips that were aligned broadly northwest to southeast. The strips were in the region of 8.5m wide and are typical of medieval ridge and furrow widths. The ridges were between 0.15m and 0.2m high from the base of the furrows. (Plate 11).

The strips stopped approximately 31m short of the southern boundary where there is a spread of dumped building debris obscuring the earthworks. The western extent of ridge and furrow is complicated by extant buildings and their gardens along High Road and the same may apply to the northern part of the site.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise clays and silty clays representing the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology of the Gault Formation, although may also include a thin drift cover.

Trenches 1 and 2 revealed no archaeological features.

The ditches encountered in two trenches (Trenches 3 and 4) located towards the south of the site remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material. The ditch is broadly parallel with the southern boundary of the site which is marked by a minor watercourse. It is possible that this ditch served a drainage function. No relation with the ridge and furrow could be ascertained due to recent dumping in this area, but the ditches may conceivably be earlier in date.

The two northwest-southeast parallel ditches recorded in Trenches 5 and 6 are likely to be contemporary, with one producing pottery of 12th to 14th century date. This may indicate they are slightly older than the overlying ridge and furrow, although they share a similar alignment. It is possible that they are later insertions, dictated by the ridge and furrow alignment, and mark the rear boundary to enclosures fronting High Road to the west. Subsequently, agricultural activities may have masked this relationship. The arrangement of parallel ditches may imply a hedgerow between the two.

Overall, the features have no clear relationship to those recorded during previous evaluation of land to the southwest (Fig. 9), which may relate more to their position fronting High Road. Furthermore, alluvial flood deposits were also not encountered in this present evaluation.

Subsoil was encountered in all trenches and indicates that the site has been under a prolonged agricultural regime in the past. This is also evidenced by the remnant ridge and furrow recorded as earthworks at the site.

The earliest find retrieved from the investigation was an unstratified coin of 4th century date which contributes to a growing

corpus of Romano-British material recovered from around the village. Other finds include medieval and post-medieval pottery, animal bone and a fragment of iron smelting slag, the latter probably imported to the site. There is a general paucity of artefactual material which would suggest that the site was not in close proximity to settlement and the finds deriving from manuring scatters.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the east of High Road, Shillington, as the site lay close to the core of the medieval village and in an area where Bronze Age and Romano-British artefacts have been recorded.

However, no features were revealed relating to the Bronze Age or the Romano-British period. Instead, one undated ditch and a double ditched boundary of medieval or later date were identified. In addition, remnants of ridge and furrow of the medieval field system were also subjected to an earthwork survey, which shared the alignment of the double ditched boundary.

Finds retrieved from this investigation comprise a Roman coin, medieval and post-medieval pottery, smelting slag and a small quantity of animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Claudia Dietz of Optimis Consulting for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by the author and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Denise Drury. Elizabeth Bates allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Site Staff: Chris Moulis, Andy Pascoe
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Archiving: Sarah Pritchard
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Chris Moulis, Andy Pascoe
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1995 *Hitchin; solid and drift geology*, 1:50,000 map sheet **221**

CIfA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

Ekwall, E, 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)

English Heritage, 2002 *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practise of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. **13**

Lewis, C and Pryor, A, 2013 *Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Shillington, Bedfordshire, 2013*, unpublished University of Cambridge report

Peachey, M, 2012 *Archaeological Evaluation on land at 59 High Road, Shillington, Bedfordshire (SHHR 11)*, unpublished APS report **8/12**

Pevsner, N, 2002 *Bedfordshire, Huntingdon and Peterborough*, The Buildings of England

Sawyer, PH, 1968 *Anglo-Saxon Charters: an Annotated List and Bibliography*, Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks **VIII**

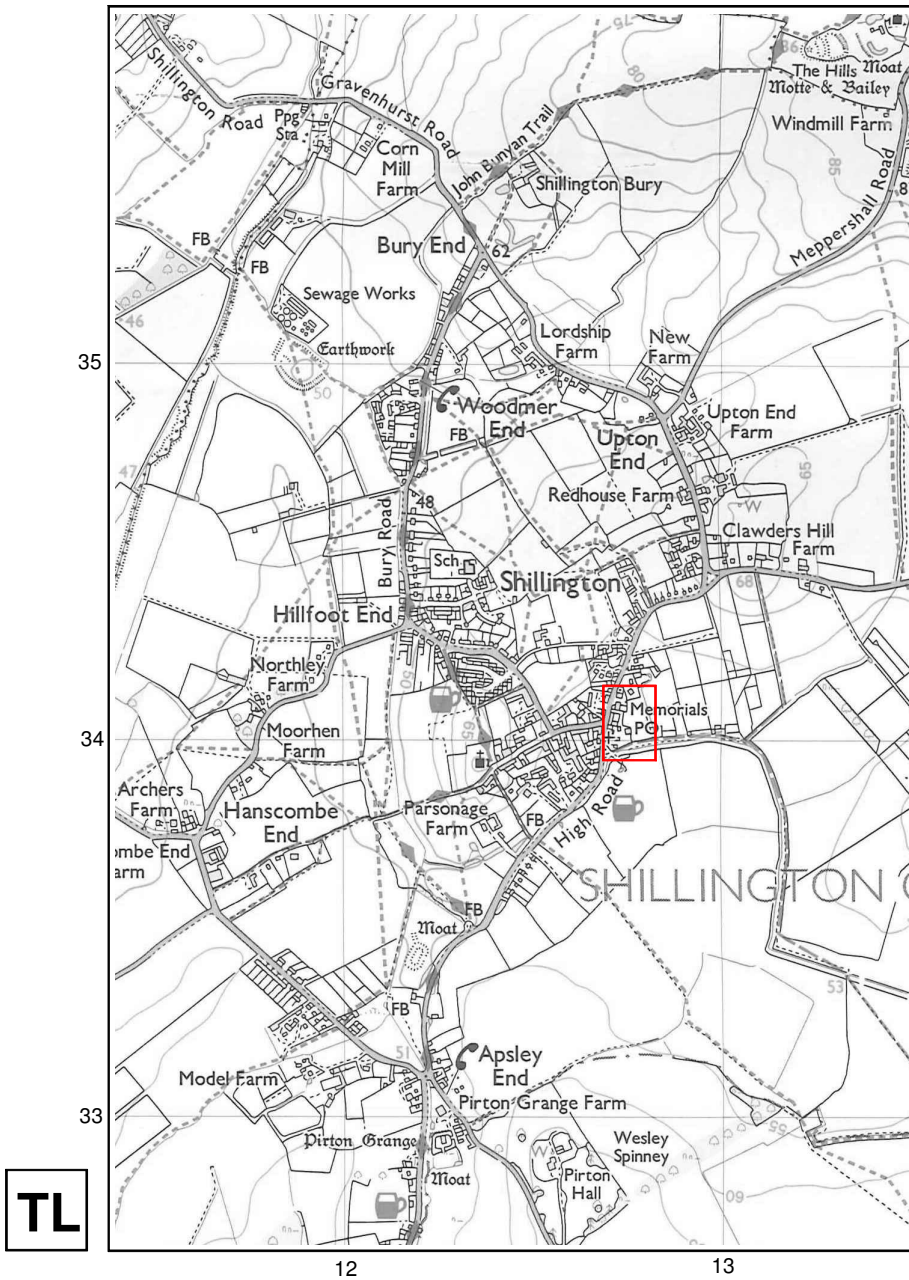
Williams, A and Martin, GH, 1992 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeology
HER	Historic Environment Record
OS	Ordnance Survey



Figure 1 - General location map



© Ordnance Survey 2010. All Rights Reserved.
Licence No. 100020146



Area detailed in Figure 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: High Road, Shillington SHHR15

Scale 1:20000 | Drawn by: PCF | Report No: 74/15

Figure 2 - Site location plan

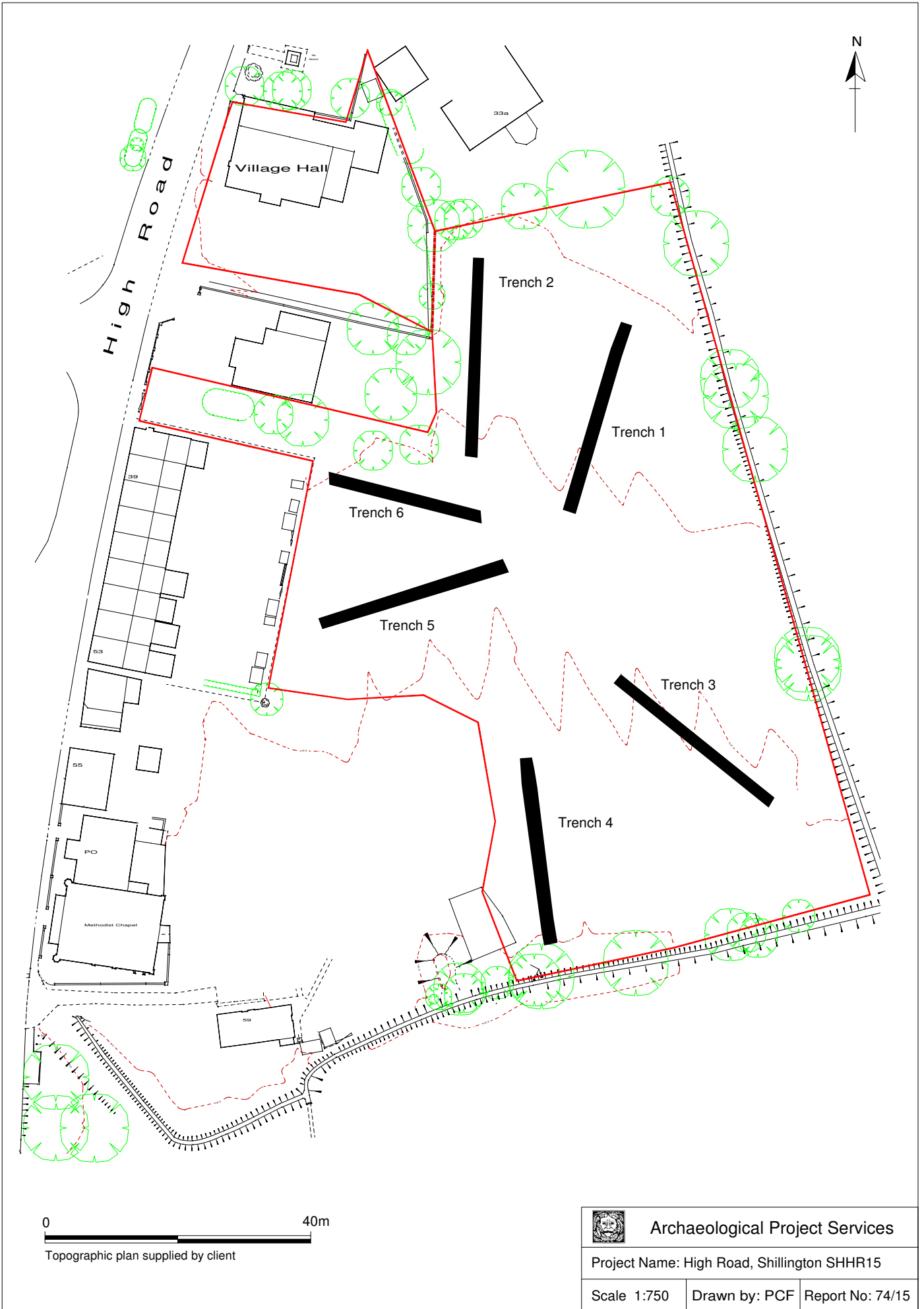


Figure 3 - Trench location plan

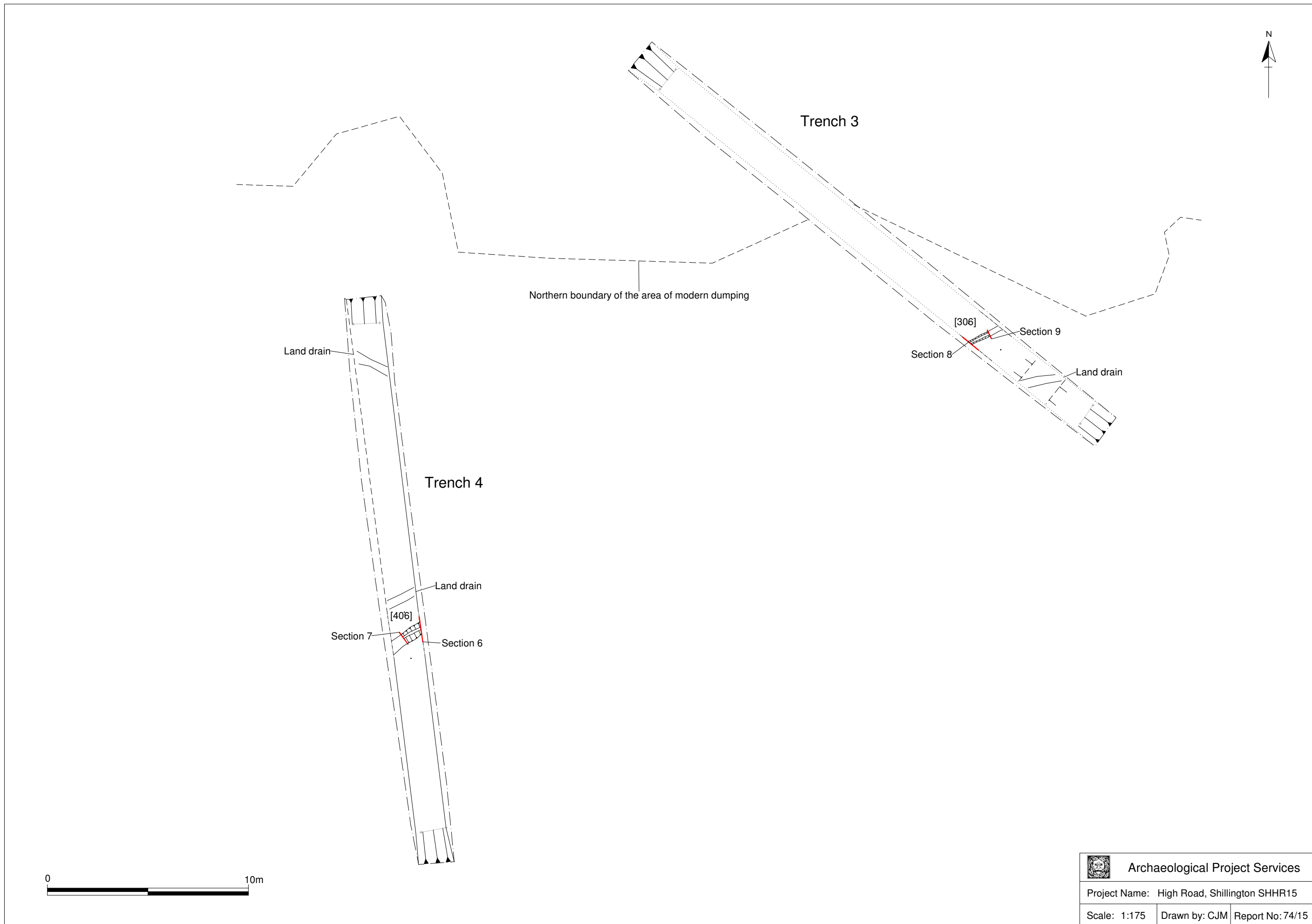



Figure 4 - Plans: Trenches 3 and 4

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: High Road, Shillington SHHR15		
Scale: 1:175	Drawn by: CJM	Report No: 74/15

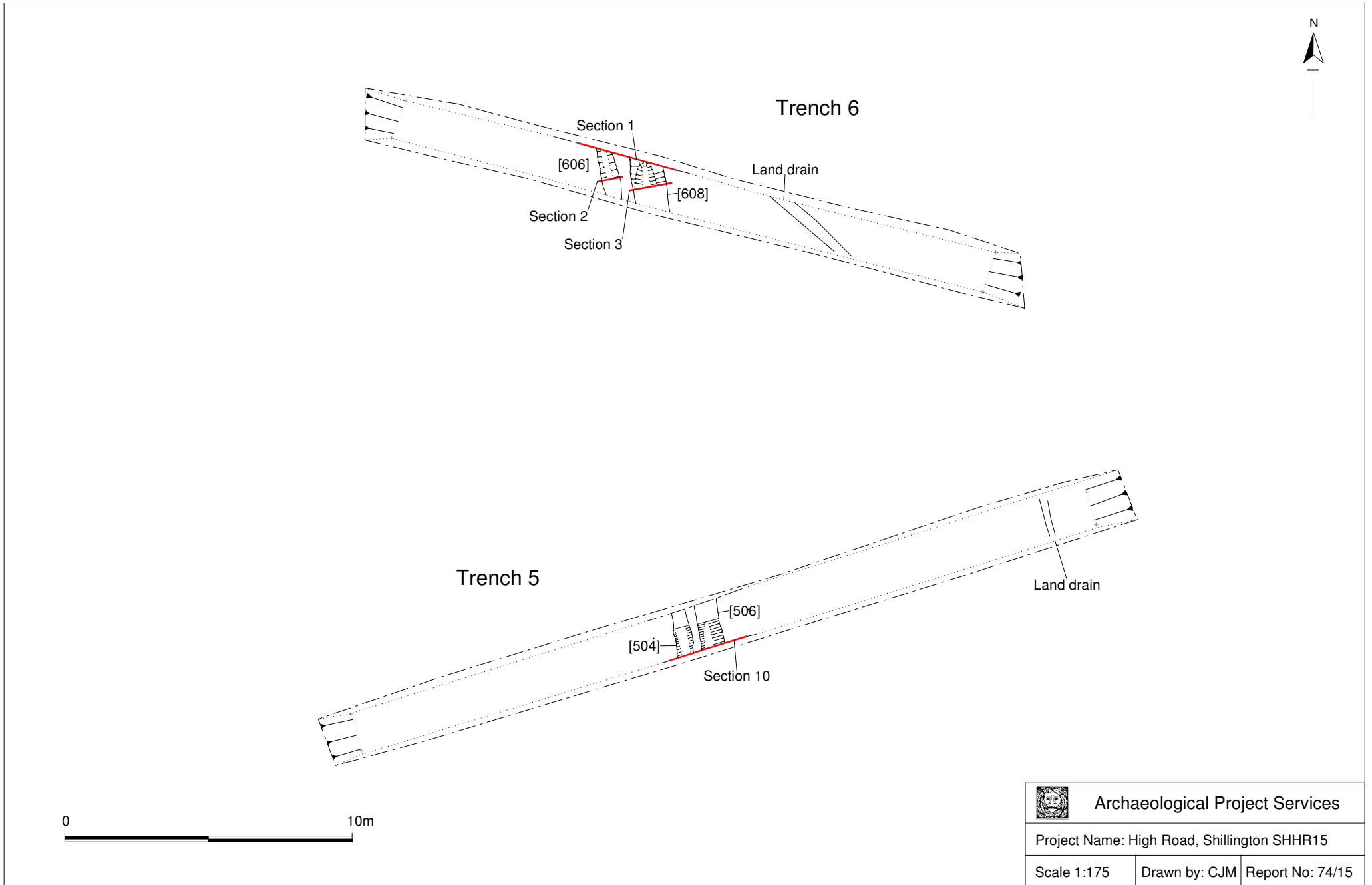



Figure 5 - Plans:Trenches 5 and 6

	Archaeological Project Services
Project Name: High Road, Shillington SHHR15	
Scale 1:175	Drawn by: CJM Report No: 74/15

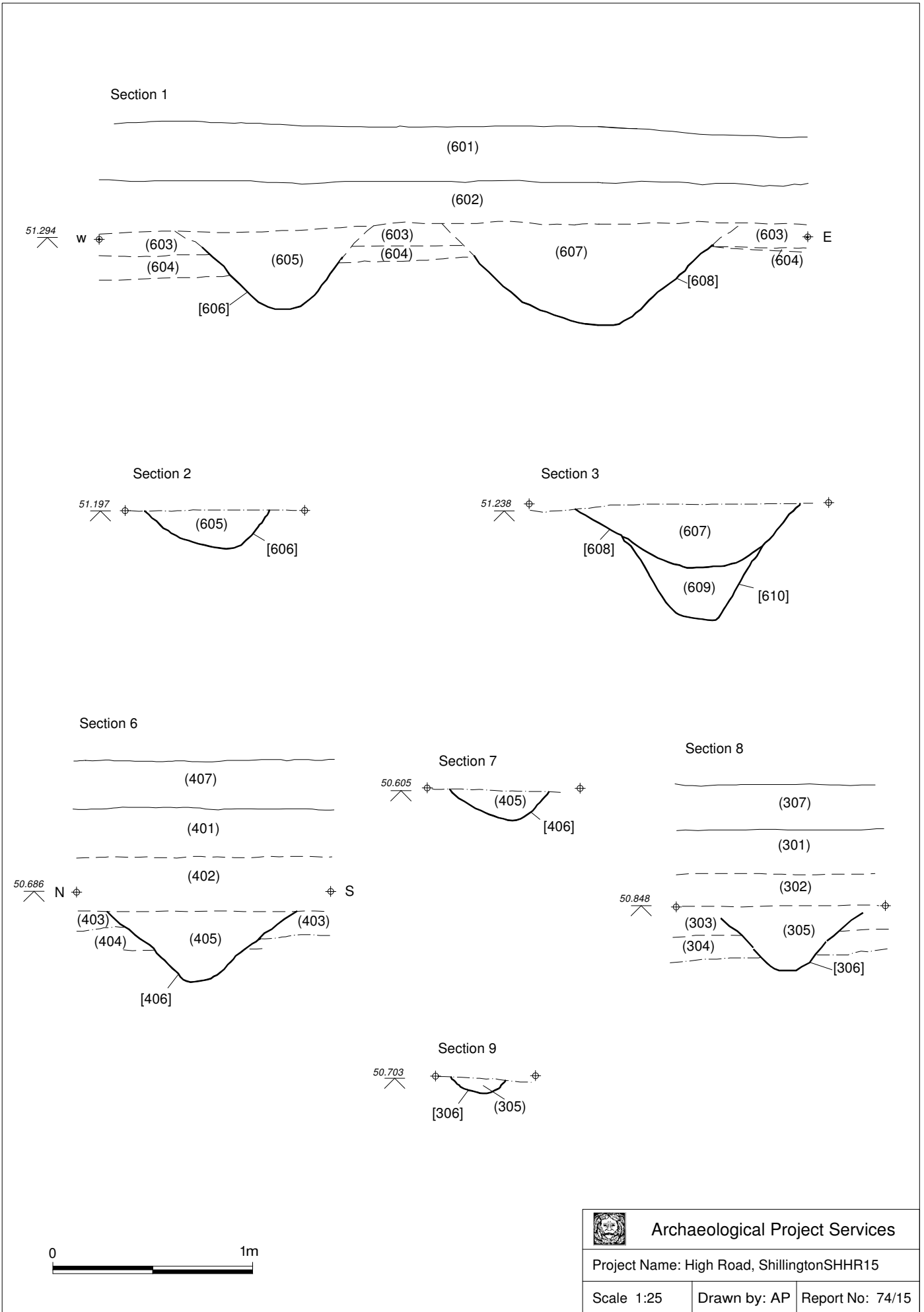
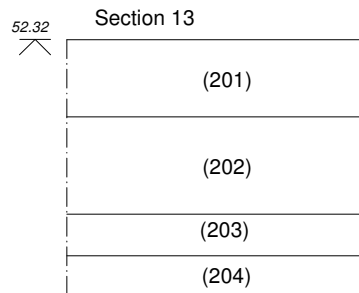
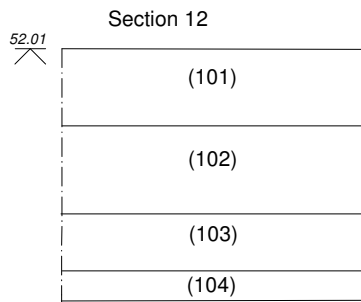
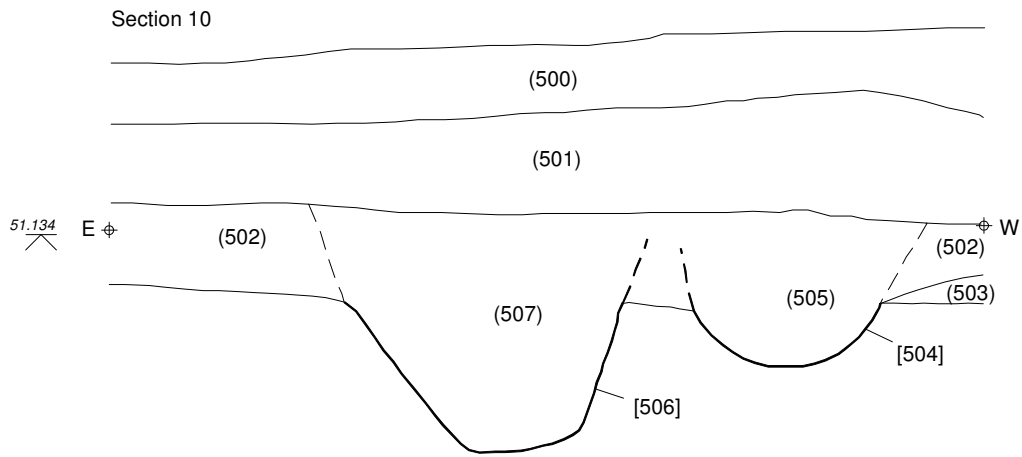


Figure 6 - Sections 1-3 and 6-9



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: High Road, Shillington SHHR15

Scale 1:25

Drawn by: AP

Report No: 74/15

Figure 7 - Sections 10, 12 and 13

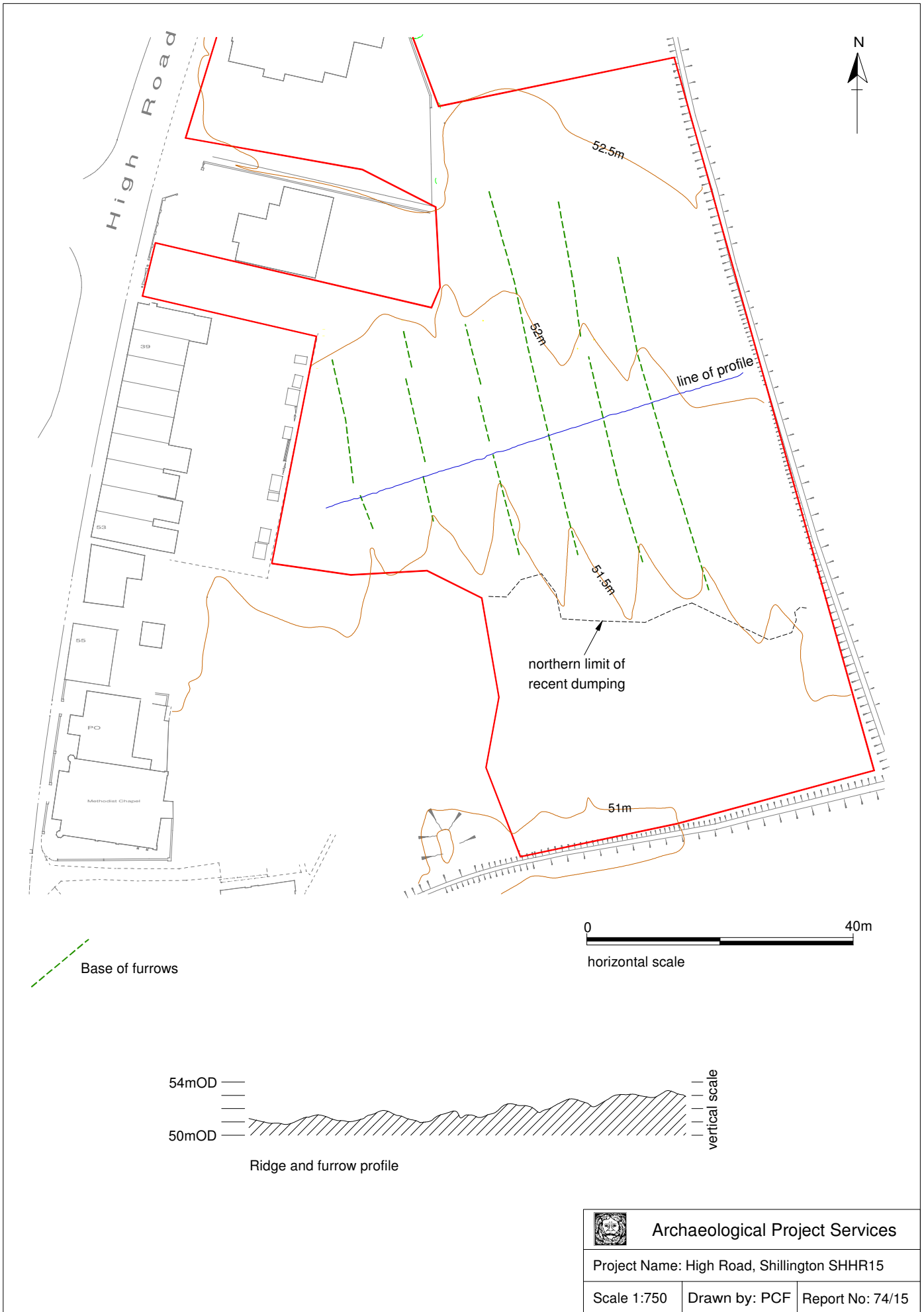
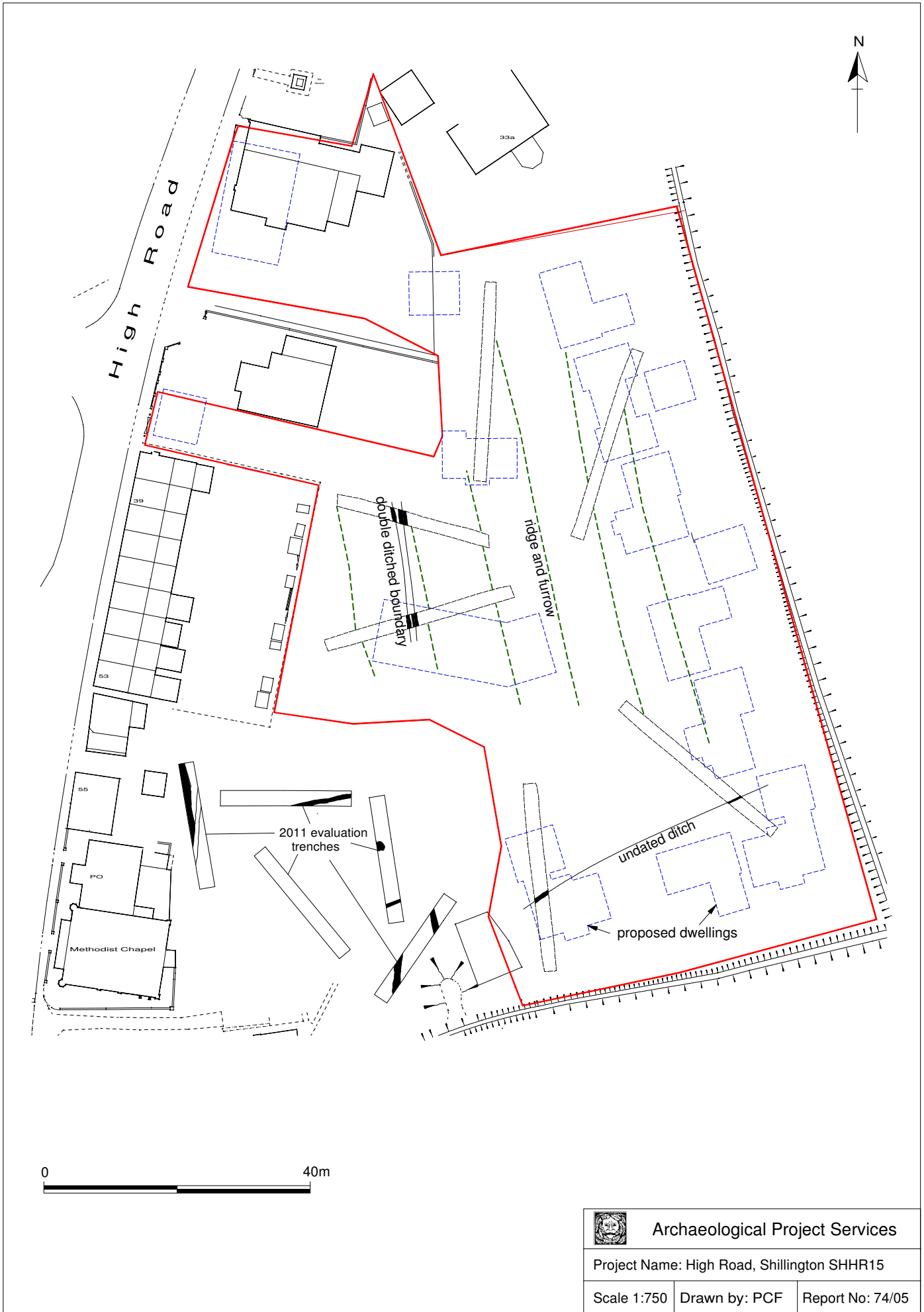


Figure 8 - Results of the earthwork survey




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: High Road, Shillington SHHR15		
Scale 1:750	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 74/05

Figure 9 - Summary plan of archaeological features



Plate 1 – Trench 1 after excavation, looking northeast



Plate 2 – Trench 1:
Representative section showing sequence of deposits, looking northwest



Plate 3 – Trench 2:
Representative section, looking west



Plate 4 – Trench 3 after excavation, looking northwest



Plate 5 – Trench 3: Section 8 through ditch (306), looking southwest



Plate 6 – Trench 4 after excavation, looking south



Plate 7 – Trench 4: Section 6 showing ditch (406), looking east



Plate 8 – Trench 5 after excavation, looking northeast



Plate 9 – Trench 5: Section 10 with ditches (504) and (506), looking southeast



Plate 10 – Trench 6, looking west



Plate 11 – Trench 6 with ditches (606) and (608). Note also slight ridge and furrow.
Looking southeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1			
101	Very dark brownish grey, humic silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones	Topsoil	Modern
102	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional small sub-rounded cobbles	Subsoil	
103	Firm/stiff mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional sub-rounded cobbles	Natural deposit	-
104	Firm/stiff light grey sandy clay with moderate chalk fragments	Natural deposit	-
Trench 2			
201	Firm very dark brownish grey humic silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles	Topsoil	Modern
202	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional small sub-rounded cobbles	Subsoil	
203	Firm/ stiff mid yellowish olive –brown sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional sub-rounded cobbles	Natural deposit	-
204	Firm/stiff light grey sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles. Moderate chalk fragments	Natural deposit	-
205	Unstratified finds retrieval		
Trench 3			
301	Firm very dark brownish grey- dark bluish grey discoloration. Silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles. 0.24m thick.	Topsoil. Partly buried beneath modern dumping	Modern
302	Firm mid dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles. 0.21m thick.	Subsoil	
303	Firm/ stiff mid yellowish brown / olive brown with small sub-rounded stones and pebbles occasional small cobbles. 0.12m thick.	Natural deposit	-
304	Firm/ stiff light grey sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and chalk fragments. 0.20m thick.	Natural deposit.	-
305	Firm mid brown silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles	Fill of ditch [306]	
306	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.75m wide by 0.33m deep. Steep sides and rounded base	Small ditch. Relates to [406]	
307	Compact light brown with modern building rubble. Deposit 0.4m thick.	Dumped deposit	Modern
308	Unstratified finds retrieval		
Trench 4			
401	Firm very dark brownish grey with dark bluish grey discoloration humic silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles. 0.25m thick.	Topsoil, under dump (407)	Modern
402	Firm mid-dark grey with bluish discoloration silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional small sub-rounded cobbles. 0.28m thick.	Subsoil under dump (407)	
403	Firm/stiff mid yellowish brown with bluish discoloration, sandy clay with frequent small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, moderate small sub-rounded cobbles. 0.12m thick.	Natural deposit	-

404	Firm/ stiff light grey sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, moderate small chalk fragments. 0.2m thick.	Natural deposit	-
405	Firm mid brownish grey with some bluish discolouration, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones and pebbles	Fill of ditch [406]	
406	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 1.05m wide by 0.35m deep. Steep sides and rounded base	Ditch. Relates to [306]	
407	Compact light brown –white with modern building rubble and debris. 0.4m thick.	Dumped deposit	Modern
408	Unstratified finds retrieval		
Trench 5			
500	Friable dark grey brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks, rare small rounded stones. 0.3m thick.	Topsoil	Modern
501	Firm mid grey brown silty clay with rare small rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks rare daub flecks. 0.3-0.42m thick.	Subsoil	
502	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay with rare small rounded stones, rare manganese flecks. 0.3m thick.	Natural deposit	-
503	Hard mid grey white with patches of mid yellow white, silty clay /chalk. Layer 0.08 thick where excavated.	Natural deposit	-
504	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 0.85m wide by 0.51m deep. Steep sides and rounded base	Ditch	
505	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with rare small rounded stones and rare flecks of chalk	Fill to [504]. Silting to ditch	12 th – 14 th century
506	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 1.15m wide by 0.79m deep. Steep sides and flat base	Ditch, boundary / enclosure.	
507	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare small rounded stones	Fill to [506]. Silting events.	
Trench 6			
601	Firm dark grey brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and small sub-rounded stones. 0.3m thick.	Topsoil	Modern
602	Firm mid –dark grey silty clay with moderate pebbles and small sub-rounded stones. 0.27m thick.	Subsoil	
603	Firm/stiff mid – light yellowish brown/yellowish-green sandy clay with moderate sub-rounded stones and pebbles and occasional rounded and sub-rounded cobbles.	Natural deposit	-
604	Firm/ stiff light grey sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and pebbles, moderate chalk fragments. 0.4m thick.	Natural deposit	-
605	Firm/ stiff mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles with occasional small sub-rounded cobbles.	Fill of ditch [606]	
606	Linear feature, aligned northwest to southeast , 0.65m wide by 0.4m deep. Steep sides and rounded base	Ditch	
607	Firm/ stiff mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional small sub-rounded cobbles, occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of ditch [608].	
608	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 1.12m wide by 0.52m deep. Steep sides and rounded base	Ditch	
609	Firm/stiff mid–light greyish brown and light brownish grey mix. Sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and pebbles, occasional charcoal	Fill of ditch [610]	
610	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >0.9m long by 0.72m wide by 0.27m deep. Steep sides and rounded base	Ditch. Probable terminus	
611	Unstratified finds retrieval		

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). To allow inclusion within ceramic database held by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, the pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the post-Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). An equivalent code from the type series for Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes, is also included in Table 1 below. A total of five sherds from four vessels, weighing 65 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. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Early Medieval to the Post Medieval period.

Condition

The pottery is in a fragmentary condition and two pieces are classed as abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Beds/MK Code	Name	Form	Dec	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	101	STSL	PM2	Staffordshire Slipware	Hollow	Brown trailed on cream	BS	Drinking vessel?	M17th-18th	1	1	5
2	205	EMSH	MC1	Early Medieval Shelly Coarseware	?		BS	Abraded	12th-14th	1	1	1
3	308	EMW	MS3	Early Medieval Sandy Coarseware	?		BS	Abraded; sandy fab; ?ID; Could be earlier	12th-14th	1	1	5
5	505	EMSH	MC1	Early Medieval Shelly Coarseware	Jug	Thumb pressed along edges	Handles		12th-14th	2	1	54
Total										5	4	65

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from four of the excavated trenches, including numbers 1, 2 3 and 5. All of the pottery is unstratified, with the exception of two pieces from fill (505) in ditch [504], within Trench 5.

Range

As well as a single sherd of post-medieval date, this small assemblage includes three fragments of Early Medieval Shelly Coarseware (MC1) and a fragment of Early Medieval Sandy ware (MS3). These are common domestic ceramic types of the 12th to 14th centuries, in this area.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. It is in a stable condition and should pose no problems for long term storage.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 12 (209g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts. An additional mollusc shell,

weighing 2g, was also retrieved.

Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Provenance

The animal bone was all retrieved as unstratified material. The shell derived from the fill (507) of a ditch (506).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
408	cattle	humerus	R	1	44	juvenile
	cattle	scapula	R	1	16	juvenile
	cattle	radius	R	1	37	juvenile
	large mammal	vertebra	-	6	16	juvenile
	sheep/goat	mandible	B	1	95	
	bird	unident	-	2	1	
507	banded snail	shell		1	2	complete

Summary

As a small assemblage, falling below the minimum count of *c.* 300 required for meaningful analysis, there is little potential in further examination. Two of the principal domesticates are recorded, cattle and sheep/goat. The cattle represents a juvenile calf and given that the right forelimb is near complete, may indicate a whole beast was buried. The vertebra is unfused and is likely to have derived from the same animal. The sheep/goat mandible is from a young adult. The snail shell is a natural inhabitant of the area.

The bone is archive stable and should be retained as part of the site archive. The bone may warrant re-examination if further work is envisaged at the site.

ROMAN COIN

By Alex Beeby

Introduction and Methodology

There is a single coin. The piece was catalogued to archive level in accordance with the guidelines set out by Brickstock (2004). A catalogue reference code from *Late Roman Bronze Coinage, 1960 (LRBC)* is shown in Table 3 below. The coin is heavily corroded and shows signs of wear.

Provenance

The coin was recovered from the spoil from Trench 6 and is unstratified. It has been assigned the context number (611) and small find number 1.

Table 3, the Roman coin archive

SF No.	Cxt	Ruler	Denom	Cat	Diam (mm)	W(g)	Axis	Wear (OB/R)	Obv	Rev	Mint	Date of Issue	Reece Period	Comment
1	611	Magnētius	AE2	LRBCII 56	25	5.3	12	WW	D[N M]AG[N EN TIVS PF AVG]	[SALVS DD NN AVG E]T CAES	Trev eri; /TRP	351-353	18	Heavily corroded on one side/edge

Results

There is a single coin dated to the reign of Magnentius. The item was issued between AD351-353. The piece shows some evidence of wear, so may have been in circulation for some time after minting although, officially, coinage of Magnentius was demonetised after his death, probably in 354 (Esmonde-Cleary, 1989, 74). The find of this piece indicates some sort of activity in the area in the mid to late 4th century.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The coin should be retained as part of the site archive. The item is in a poor condition and will need careful handling and packaging to prevent further degradation.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

Introduction

Two items weighing 186g were recovered.

Condition

Both items are in good condition.

Results

Table 4, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
205	Slag	iron smelting slag	1	185	medieval-early post-medieval
507	Stone	probably burnt stone	1	<1	

Provenance

The finds were recovered as unstratified material (205) and from the fill of a boundary/enclosure ditch (507).

Range

A single lump of iron slag was recovered. This is from iron smelting, which typically generates large amounts of such residue. As an isolated piece it may, therefore, be imported to the site rather than indicating smelting at the site or nearby. On morphological grounds this piece of industrial residue may be medieval or early post-medieval in date.

A small piece of stone, apparently subjected to heat, was also recovered.

Potential

The other finds are of low-moderate potential. The slag may indicate iron smelting somewhere in the vicinity but as an isolated piece is more likely to have been imported to the area, perhaps in hard core. The burnt stone is of limited potential and can be discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
101	M17th-18th	
205	12th-14th	Also includes ?medieval-?early post-medieval slag
308	12th-14th	
505	12th-14th	
507		

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench

W (g) Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

Brickstock, RJ, 2004 *The Production, Analysis and Standardisation of Romano-British Coin Reports*. English Heritage

Esmonde-Cleary, AS, 1989 *The Ending of Roman Britain*. Batsford (London)

Hill, PV, Carson, RAG and Kent, JPC, 1960 *Late Roman Bronze Coinage, AD 324-498. parts I and II*. (London)

Hillson, S, 2003 *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification* (London)

Lyman, RL, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)

Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists* (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)

Slowikowski, AM, Nenck, B and Pearce, J, 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J, Vince, AG and Nailor, V, 2005 *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	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].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Manuring Scatter	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	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.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

