

## **HOOK VALLEY FARM, WINCANTON, SOMERSET**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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Prepared for

Solar Power Generation Ltd.

by

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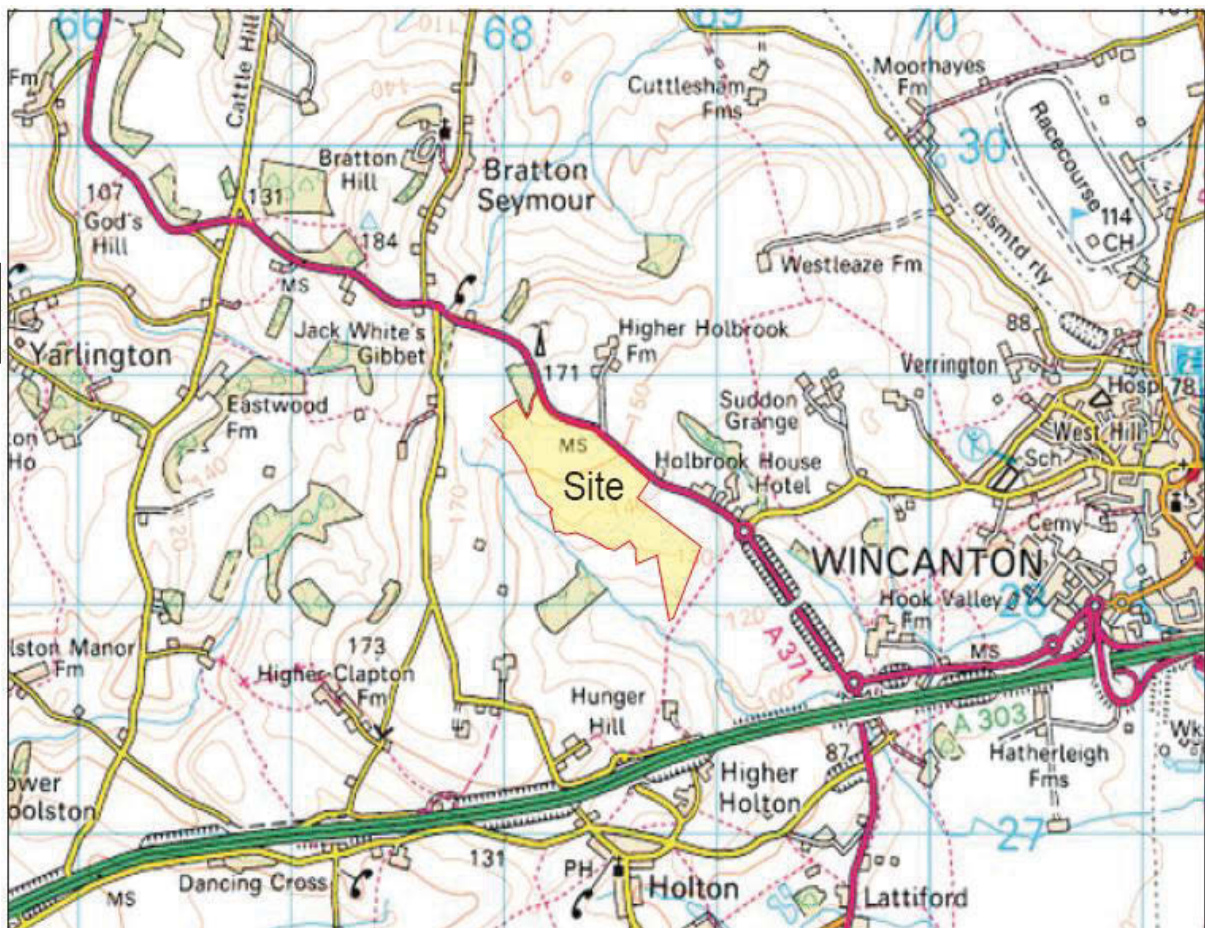
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## Summary

Planning Permission has been granted at appeal (subject to conditions) for the construction of a photovoltaic park with associated PV equipment on land at Hook Valley Farm, Wincanton, Somerset, centred on NGR: ST 685 285. In accordance with the NPPF, a Planning Condition has been attached to the permission to safeguard any archaeological interests.

A previous assessment of the site based on information held in the Somerset Historic Environment Record and a geophysical survey revealed significant archaeological potential for prehistoric and undated remains, including ditches, large quarry pits and smaller discrete features.

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., were commissioned by Solar Power Generation Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site. Ten evaluation trenches investigated the results of the geophysical survey. An 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century open-sided enclosure ditch was confirmed in the southeast corner of the site. Additional features included post-medieval field boundaries and a single undated pit on the northern edge of the site.



**Figure 1:** Location of the proposed development site at scale 1:25,000. The development site is outlined in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Solar Power Generation Ltd. to complete an archaeological evaluation on land at Hook Valley Farm, Wincanton. This work took place to investigate the archaeological potential of the development site as per the planning conditions, and advise and inform any further archaeological mitigation.

A desk-based assessment identified five heritage assets lying within the development site, varying from a prehistoric flint scatter to a post medieval building. A geophysical survey of the central field of the site identified a complex of potential features indicating multiple phases of occupation.

## **2.0 Location and description (Figs. 1 and 2)**

The proposed development site lies approximately 2km to the west of Wincanton and to the immediate south of the A371. It comprises three fields, the central one of which (12ha) was targeted for geophysical survey. The national grid reference for the site is centred at ST 685 285. The ground level falls towards the south-east from a height of approximately 165m to 130m AOD.

The site is bounded to the north by Dean's Bush; to the north-east by the A371 and Holbrook Farm. A drain and Elliscombe Wood lie to the southwest of the site.

## **3.0 Geology and topography**

The underlying solid (bedrock) geology of the site is the Forest Marble Formation, comprising limestone and mudstone - sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 164 to 169 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. Limestone predominates in the mid and central regions of the survey area. No drift geology is recorded for the area of the site (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/>; BGS, 1995).

The site slopes steeply down from the north, giving a south facing slope. Existing ground levels recorded during the evaluation varied between 148.52m at the north end of Trench 9, to 132.04m at the south-west end of Trench 3.

## **4.0 Planning background**

The National Planning Policy Framework of 2012 places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Local planning authorities now need to be assured by those applying for planning permission that any such remains are not under threat. As a result developers are required to produce a definitive method of mitigating the effect of development on the historic environment within the planning process.

In November 2012, a planning application (**12/04445/FUL**), was submitted to South Somerset District Council by Solar Power Generation Ltd, for 'Construction of a 15MW photovoltaic park with associated PV equipment (GR 368421/128520) on land at OS 4250, 0080 and 7700, SW of the A371 in Bratton Seymour Parish at Holbrook, Wincanton, Somerset (<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planningdetails/?id=1204445FUL>). The application was refused on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

In September 2013 an appeal was made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (**APP/R3325/A/13/2193993**). Permission was granted at appeal (subject to



conditions) for the construction of a photovoltaic park with associated PV equipment at Hook Valley Farm, Lawrence Hill, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8AD. The revised scheme reduced the area of the solar panels from c. 31.6ha to c. 23.7ha and the installed capacity from 17MW to 15MW, although the boundary of the planning application remained unchanged.

The Senior Archaeologist for Somerset County Council, acting as advisor to South Somerset District Council, advised that the proposed development site has the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest. In accordance with the NPPF (2012, para. 128), an archaeological evaluation has been requested to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site and the impact of the proposals.

Condition (17) of the permission is to safeguard any archaeological interests:

*17) No development shall take place until the appellant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation including a timetable which has been previously submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority.*

This document reports the results of a scheme of archaeological trial trenching excavated to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site. The agreed strategy included a contingency for a wider excavation of significant features, which is reported on separately.

## **5.0 Archaeological and historical background**

The baseline archaeological evidence for the site was recently compiled in an Archaeological Assessment prepared by Archaeia (Gent & Manning, 2012). This can be summarised as follows:

*The assessment has identified five heritage assets within the proposal Site. These are a prehistoric flint scatter, a parish boundary, other field boundaries, the site of a quarry, and the site of a building.*

*The flint scatter close to the A371 indicates prehistoric activity within this field. The scatter is relatively widespread, the artefacts numerous, and contains tools and burnt flints, both features suggestive of some form of settlement. Features and deposits associated with this activity may survive below the ploughsoil.*

A subsequent geophysical survey of the site was carried out by PCG in February 2013 (see **Fig. 2**). This recorded ditches that appeared to define the northern, eastern and western elements of a regular ditched enclosure. Other linear anomalies in this area were also indicative of ditches, some of which suggested the existence of a small enclosure abutting the western edge of the larger example. A number of pit-like anomalies found in proximity to the larger enclosure possibly indicated former limestone quarries. A ring ditch was also tentatively identified in the mid-northern part of the site. In the northern edge of one field, magnetic variation possibly reflected the presence of natural palaeochannels and soil-filled solution holes or ice cracks. One such zone of variation was found in the area where prehistoric settlement was suspected following the recovery of a surface flint scatter close to the A371, but where no potential archaeological features were identified. The survey also recorded widespread traces of cultivation and a scatter of modern ferrous-rich objects within the plough soil (PCG February 2013).

## **6.0 Methodology (Fig. 3)**

The evaluation comprised of ten trenches, each 20m x 2m or 30m x 2m, positioned to investigate anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. Trenches were positioned using GPS according to an agreed trenching plan, apart from Trench 6 which was moved 5m SE along the length of the trench to ensure a safe distance between the machine and an

overhead power line. The NW side of Trench 7 collapsed soon after machine excavation due to water ingress, and was machined back a further 3m to ensure safety.

All trenches were positioned in the central field of the development site, within the area of the geophysical survey. The site was formerly arable farmland, and at the time of the excavation had a young grass crop in place.

The trenches were excavated by tracked machine fitted with a smooth bladed bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately for backfilling.

Trenches were cleaned by hand, and archaeological features excavated manually. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary of progress was maintained. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:200, and archaeological features drawn in plan and section at 1:20. Drawings were supplemented by a colour photographic record (colour slide and digital), a selection from which is reproduced in Appendix 1. Finds were stored in labelled finds bags prior to their removal to the offices of PCAS for initial processing.

Following fieldwork completion, recovered pottery was submitted to Jane Young, who worked with the Vicky and David Dawson Partnership (Taunton) to identify local forms and fabrics (Appendix 3). A single environmental sample was submitted to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services for processing and analysis (Appendix 4). The flint recovered during the evaluation was sent along with the flint recovered during the subsequent excavation to T Lane of APS for identification (Appendix 5).

The initial machining of the trenches was completed by S. Savage. Subsequent manual excavations were completed by a team of three archaeologists lead by M. Wells. Fieldwork took place between 8<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Weather conditions at the time of the excavation were testing; the ground was already saturated with areas of standing water, and partially flooded trenches. Repeated episodes of heavy rain reduced visibility and led to further waterlogging.

## **7.0 Results**

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

*Trench 1 measured 20m x 2m and was positioned in the western corner of the site on a NE-SW axis. It confirmed the presence of a single ditch identified in the geophysics, which was dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century.*

The earliest horizon encountered in this trench was natural grey clay (102) at a depth of 0.28m below existing ground level.

Into this a single cut feature was identified. Ditch [103] had moderately steep sides and a central flattish base, and cut through the SW end of Trench 1 on a NW-SE axis. It contained a single fill of light brown soft silty clay (104), from which a sherd of pottery identified as a locally made jar of c. 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century. This ditch corresponded with the linear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey.

This feature was covered by c. 0.14m of silty clay subsoil (101), which in turn was covered by topsoil (100). A broken flake of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil in the vicinity of this trench, identified as a Mesolithic – early Neolithic flake fragment.

### **7.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 5)**

*Trench 2 lay on the south-western edge of the development site, on a NW-SE axis. It was positioned to investigate three potential ditches identified on the geophysics. No significant*

*archaeological features were found; this trench revealed bands of natural, cut by a post-medieval drain.*

The natural recorded in Trench 2 was varied. In the majority of the trench, and exposed at the east and west ends, it was a firm orange clay (202). In the centre of the trench, natural was recorded as bands of limestone gravel in an orange-brown matrix (203) which morphed into orange-brown clay (204). A band of grey clay (207) c. 0.60m wide lay towards the centre of the trench. The changes in the drift geology identified here are thought to account for the magnetic anomalies identified in the geophysics.

A narrow stone filled feature [203]/(204) was identified at the east end of the trench cut through natural (202). It was c. 6m in length, and extended from the east end of the trench on a c. N-S alignment. Excavations suggested that this was a drain, formed where the bedded limestone beneath had been cut and dragged upwards through the drift geology.

The trench was covered by 0.18m of subsoil (201), from which post-medieval pottery was recovered, and 0.19m of topsoil (200).

### **7.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 6)**

*Trench 3 lay in the south-east corner of the development site, measuring 20m x 2m and lying on a NE-SW axis. It revealed a ditch identified on the geophysics, and a two small pits. Pottery dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from the ditch; however both the pits remained undated.*

Exposed natural was recorded as weathered stone (309) at the north-east end of this trench, changing to grey clay extending c. 7m at the south-west end.

Three cut features were identified. A ditch [303] lying on a c. NW-SE axis lay in the approximate centre of the trench. It had moderately sloped, slightly irregular sides, and a flattish central base that varied in width. A single fill of brown silty clay (304) contained three sherds of pottery, identified as three locally made vessels dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. This ditch corresponded with the northern edge of a three sided enclosure identified by geophysics.

On the north side of the ditch was a partially exposed pit [307]. This feature was irregular in plan but when excavated had smooth sides and a wide flat base. It contained brown silty clay (308), from which no finds were recovered.

A second pit lay at the south-west end of the trench. This was smaller and approximately circular [305], and contained a brown silty clay (306) similar to the fills of ditch [303] and pit [307], however several moderately large fragments of limestone lay in the base of this feature, indicating a possible post-pad. This feature was again undated.

The trench was covered by 0.20m of subsoil (301), from which a narrow Mesolithic flint blade was recovered and 0.22m of topsoil (300).

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

*Trench 4 also lay in the south-east corner of the development site, on a NE-SW axis and measuring 20m x 2m. It was positioned over the eastern arm of the three sided enclosure also investigated in Trench 3, and additional magnetic anomalies indicating further ditch and pit features. A single ditch dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century was revealed in the centre of this trench.*

Natural in the majority of the trench was recorded as grey clay (402), banded with orange brown clay (405).



A single ditch [403] lay in the centre of Trench 4. This feature was on a northwest-southeast axis, and had moderately sloped sides and a wide flattish base. A sherd of pottery dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from (404), the single fill. It is unclear which geophysical anomaly this ditch relates to, however its position in the trench would indicate it was part of the short linear anomaly on a northwest-southeast alignment rather than part of the potential enclosure.

The trench was sealed by a thin layer of subsoil (401) and c. 0.20m of topsoil (400).

### **7.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 8)**

*Trench 5 lay close to the centre of the site, measuring 30m x 2m on a NE-SW axis. It lay over a linear feature confirmed as a probable field boundary ditch, and a large irregular feature identified as a former quarry pit.*

Natural clays (502) and (507) were encountered at a depth of 0.40m below existing ground level at the northeast end of the trench. These clays were shallow, and in patches the underlying limestone bedrock (508) was apparent.

A single ditch on a northwest-southeast alignment was cut into the clay at this end of the trench. This feature had irregular sides in plan; in section the sides were steeply cut and the base flat. A post-medieval ceramic land drain had been laid along the western side of this ditch, which was identified as a former field boundary. The ditch is identified on the geophysics as extending across the site on the line of a former field boundary as identified on early 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping.

The northwest of the trench was completely occupied by a single large pit [505] which corresponded with an irregular anomaly on the geophysics. This pit was identified as a former quarry pit, and although it was partially excavated the base of this feature was not established. The pit had been backfilled with limestone fragments in a loose silty clay matrix (506), redeposited natural material probably recovered from the surrounding area.

The trench was covered with subsoil (501) and topsoil (500).

### **7.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 9)**

*Trench 6 lay on the north-west side of the site. It lay on a c. N-S axis and measured 20m x 2m. A targeted large anomaly was identified as a change in natural, and part of the minor boundary ditch identified in Trench 5 was encountered.*

Trench 6 was positioned across the west end of the ditch also investigated in Trench 5, and two large irregular features. The trench was moved 5m to the south along its length to allow a suitable distance between the excavator and the overhead cables, therefore the potential feature at the north end of the trench was not encountered.

The natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.40m below existing ground level. At the north end of the trench natural was a weathered stone in an orange-brown clay matrix (605); at the south end the underlying limestone bedrock (602) was exposed. The exposed bedrock concords with the large geophysical anomaly at the south end of the trench.

A ditch [603] cut on a c. northwest-southeast alignment was exposed; the same ditch as encountered in Trench 5. The profile at this point was again irregular, with a post-medieval ceramic drain running along the western edge. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

The archaeology was sealed by 0.20m of subsoil, which was covered in turn by 0.20m of topsoil.

### **7.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 10)**

*Trench 7 lay on the southeast edge of the site. It measured 30m x 2m, and lay on a NNE-SSW axis. It was positioned to investigate four potential linear anomalies. Two parallel ditches were exposed, one consistent with the geophysics. Both features were undated.*

Trench 7 was positioned over a complex of geophysical linear anomalies which lay on NE-SW or NW-SE alignments.

The trench was excavated to a depth of c. 0.65m, at which level the natural geology was exposed. Weathered limestone (702) was covered by bands of natural grey clay (707) and patches of orangey brown clay (708).

Two ditches, both on northeast-southwest alignments were exposed in this trench. They both lay in the southern half of the trench. Ditch [703] was narrow, with steep sides and a flat base, in a position consistent with the southern most of the NE-SW aligned linear anomalies identified on the geophysics. Ditch [705] lay c. 7m to the south and parallel to [703], however this ditch was wider, and in profile had much more irregular and gently sloped sides. Both ditches contained a single fill of reddish silty clay, and were undated.

The trench was covered by c. 0.44m of subsoil (701) and c. 0.25m of topsoil (700).

### **7.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 11)**

*Trench 8 measured 30m x 2m, and lay on a N-S axis on the northeast side of the site. A possible ring ditch and an undefined geophysical anomaly were investigated with this trench. The only cut feature identified in this trench was a partially exposed undated small pit.*

Trench 8 was excavated to investigate a potential ring ditch identified on the geophysical survey at the south end of the trench and a large possible pit towards the north end.

Natural geology was encountered at a depth of c. 0.70m below existing ground level. it consisted of bands of natural clays lying on a c. ENE-WSW alignment. At the south end of the trench, the natural was firm grey clay (802), which morphed into orange brown clay (806), through which weathered stone (805) was exposed. Greyish yellow clay (807) formed a wide band in the centre of the trench, and the grey and orange clays of (802 and (806) were again observed at the north end of the trench.

A partially exposed circular pit [803] was exposed on the west side of Trench 8. This pit had almost vertical sides and a wide flat base, and contained dark brown silty clay (804). This horizon contained small amounts of charcoal, and was sampled for potential environmental data. After processing, this sample was found to contain only small amounts of charcoal flecks, and a single cereal grain, all thought to be the result of windblown debris, and unsuitable for further identification or analysis.

The trench was sealed by a layer of subsoil (801) and 0.26m of topsoil (800).

### **7.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 12)**

*Trench 9 was the northern most of the trenches, measuring 20m x 2m and lying on a c. N-S axis. It lay in an area of geophysical anomalies indicating potential natural variations. This trench was void of archaeological features.*

The earliest horizon identified in Trench 9 was natural geology. At either end of the trench natural weathered stone (902) was encountered; towards the centre bands of blue grey clay (904) and orangey clay (903) were recorded.

The natural geology was covered by 0.07m of subsoil (901) and 0.15m of topsoil (900).

### **7.10 Trench 10 (Fig. 13)**

*Trench 10 lay in the eastern corner of the development site on a NE-SW axis. The trench measured 20m x 2m, and lay across a geophysical anomaly identified as a wide, undated ditch.*

Natural grey clay (1002) with patches of orangey brown clay (1005) was revealed at an average depth of c. 0.30m below existing ground level.

Into this, a single ditch on a northwest-southeast alignment cut through the centre of this trench. Ditch [1003] was wide and shallow, and contained brown silty clay fill (1004). The feature was undated.

Trench 10 was sealed by c. 0.12m of subsoil (1001) and 0.20m of topsoil (1000).

## **8.0 Discussion and conclusion**

The evaluation investigated the archaeological potential as indicated by geophysical survey results. Some of the magnetic anomalies revealed by geophysics were demonstrated to be nothing more than natural geological inconsistencies; three potential ditches targeted by Trench 2, for example, were found to be geological anomalies. Trench 9 was also confirmed as devoid of any archaeological remains.

Trench 7 targeted four potential linear features. Two ditches were revealed, one correlating with a magnetic anomaly. The remaining anomalies are all thought to reflect natural sub-surface variations; they lie in an area of irregular magnetic readings.

Dating evidence recovered during the evaluation was limited. A targeted and confirmed ditch in Trench 1 contained 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery, indicating it was contemporary with the open sided rectangular enclosure in the southeast corner of the plot investigated by Trenches 3 and 4. Both the sections dug through this enclosure ditch yielded 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The pits revealed in Trench 3 were also undated, and may be associated and therefore contemporary with the enclosure, however two worked flints were recovered from this area; one from the topsoil of Trench 1 and the second from Trench 3 subsoil. These flints may be residual but evidence some form of early prehistoric activity in the area.

Trenches 5 and 6 targeted large irregular anomalies and a linear feature. A large quarry pit was identified in the north end of Trench 5. The magnetic anomaly suggested this feature extended round to the southern half of the trench, however only natural clays were encountered here. The magnetic reading may be the result of a blurring of the division between a change in geology and the backfilled quarry pit. The quarry pit was undated. The potential quarry pit in Trench 6 was revealed in fact to be an outcrop of limestone. The linear anomaly was identified in both trenches. No pottery was recovered from either trench, however a post-medieval ceramic field drain had been laid along the side of this ditch, suggesting a post-medieval date, and the approximate line of the ditch can be seen on early 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping as a field boundary. It is postulated that the smaller pit-like anomalies in this area as recorded on the geophysics are smaller quarry pits, potentially contemporary with that seen in Trench 5.

Trench 10 was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly initially interpreted as a natural response, however during the evaluation it was confirmed as a cut feature. This shallow ditch was undated, however it appears to extend almost completely across the site, and is interpreted as another former field boundary.

The single pit identified on site was located in Trench 8. The trench had been positioned to investigate an anomaly tentatively identified as a ring ditch, and an irregular feature indicating a possible pit. Although both these potential features were revealed to be natural

variations, a partially exposed pit [803] was identified on the west side of this trench. The significance of this pit was unknown, and the potential for further features in this area was recognised. After consultation with the Historic Environment Officer for Somerset County Council the pit was targeted as the focus for further excavation.

The agreed mitigation strategy for this development included a contingency which allowed for further excavation of features of interest as identified in the evaluation. After consultation with the client and the Historic Environment Officer for Somerset County Council, the areas identified for further excavation included a 10m<sup>2</sup> area, concentrated on the pit in Trench 8, to further investigate this feature and the potential of the surrounding area, and a wider excavation of the enclosure in the southeast corner, to expose and record both the enclosure and any internal features. The results of this wider excavation are reported separately.

## **9.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

An intrusive evaluation was the appropriate method for gathering further information about the site, as a follow-up to a non-intrusive geophysical survey to investigate the anomalies identified. The geological variation across the site accounted for a number of the geophysical anomalies, and evidence of the former field system was also found. The open-sided enclosure in the southeast corner of the site was confirmed and the pit in Trench 8 indicates the potential for further features in this area; these areas are selected for further investigation. The body of data produced in this evaluation is sufficient to inform the planning process and advise any further archaeological mitigation.

## **10.0 Project archive**

The site recording, currently in the custody of PCAS, will be deposited with a printed copy of this report at Somerset Museums. It may be consulted there by citing the global accession number TTNCM 134/2013.

## **11.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Solar Power Generation Ltd. for this commission and for their co-operation during the groundworks.

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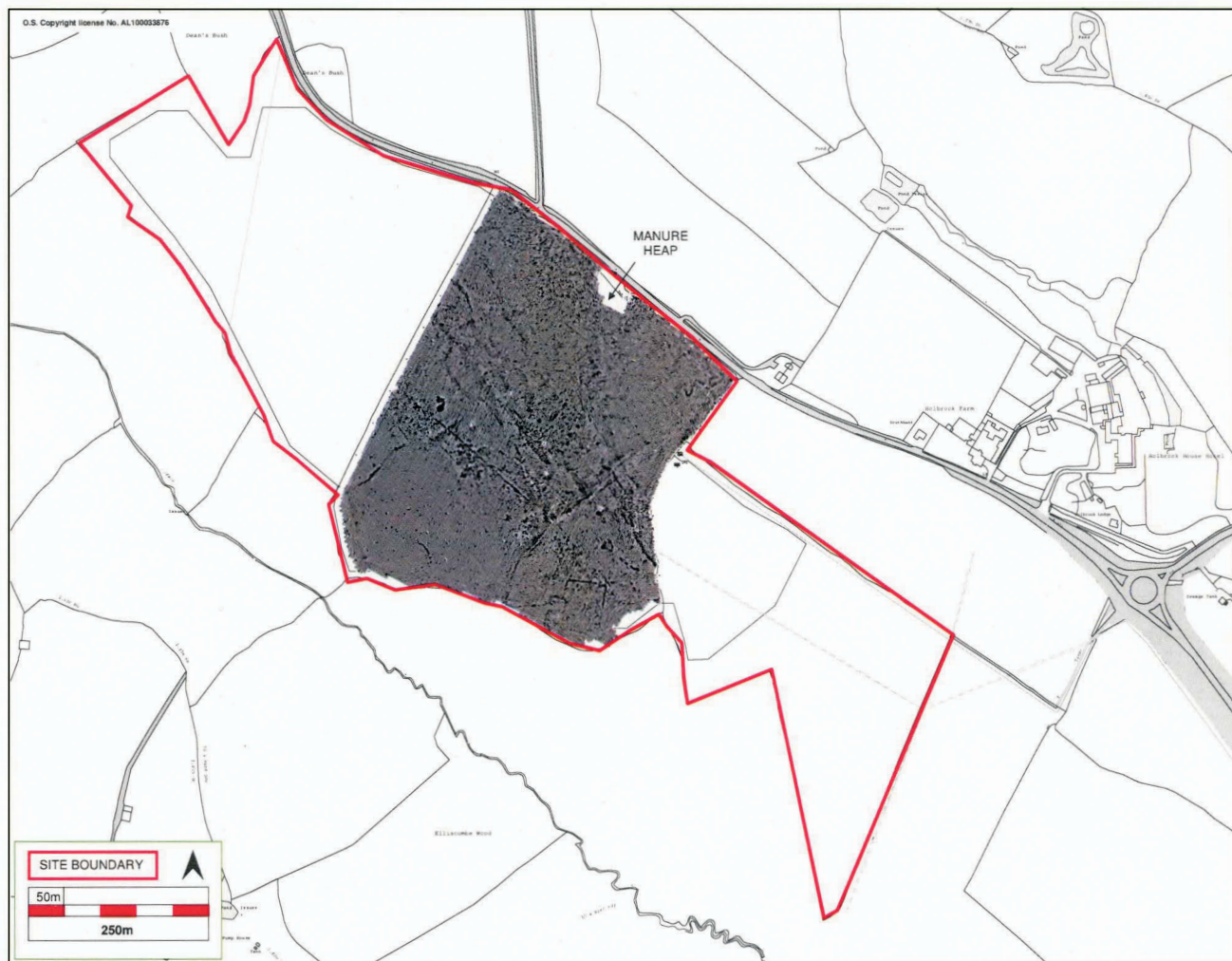


Fig. 2. Detailed site location and geophysical survey. From PCG (2013, fig. 2). ©Crown Copyright All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278. Not to scale.



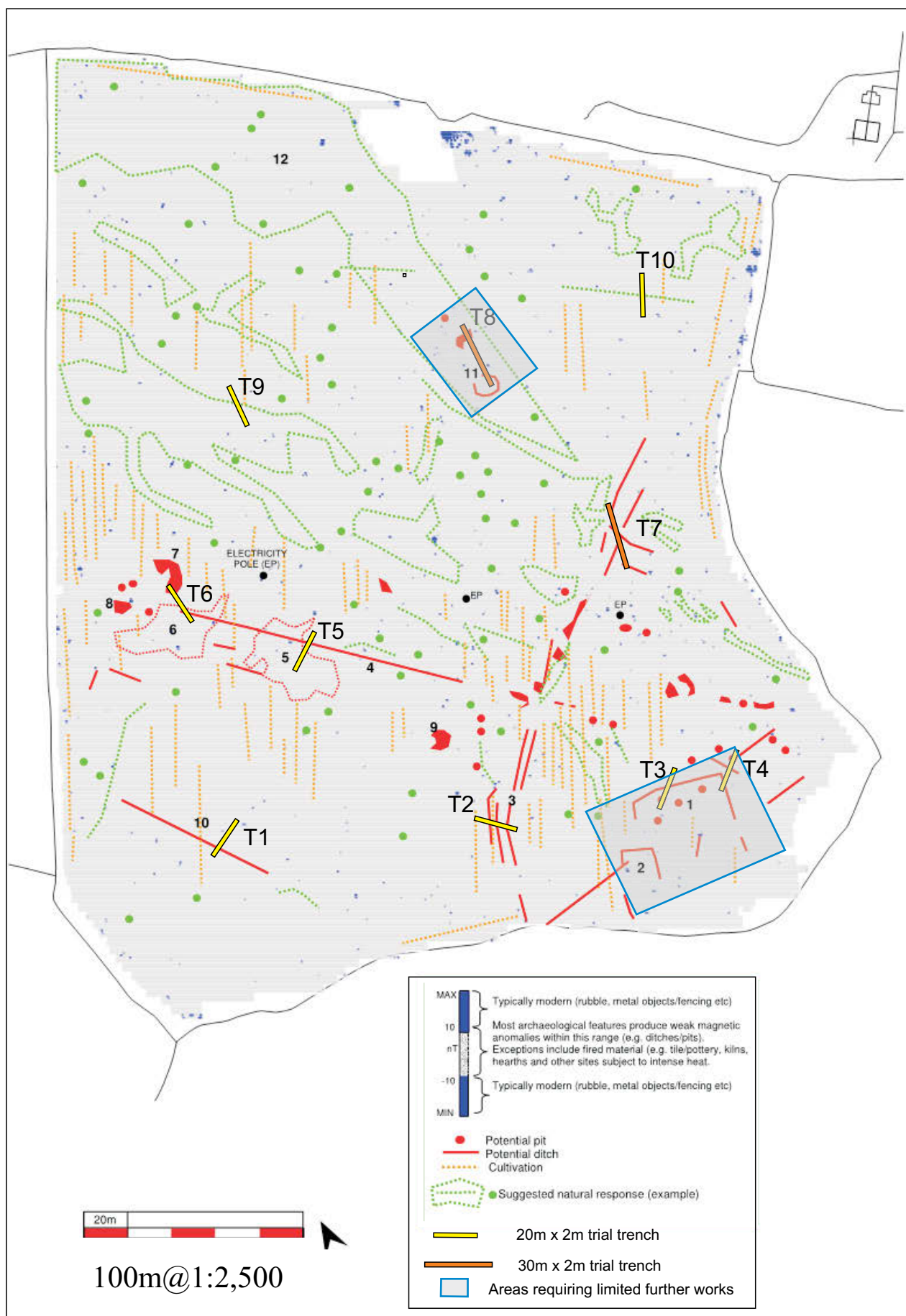
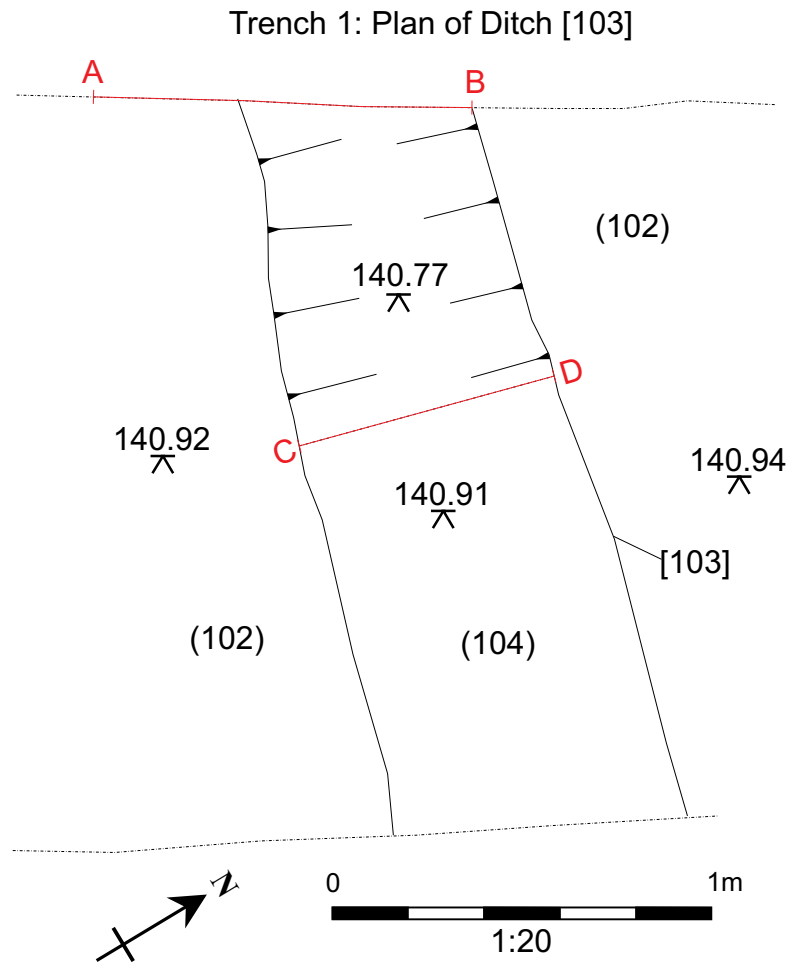
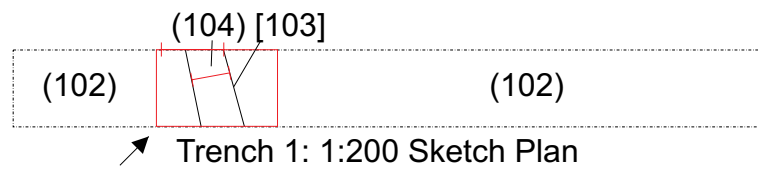
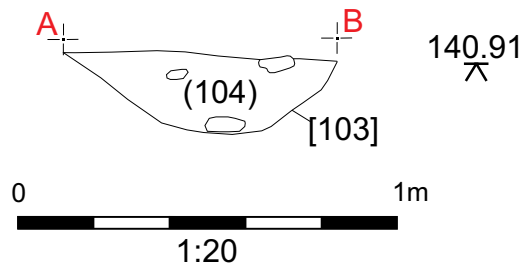


Fig. 3. Trench location plan based on the geophysics interpretative image. After PCG (2013, fig. 6). Scale 1:2,500



Trench 1: North West Section Through Ditch [103]



Trench 1: South East Facing Representative Section

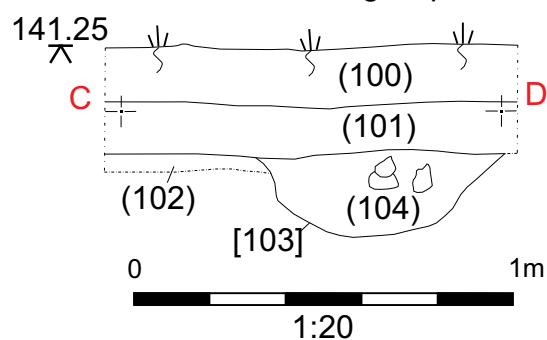
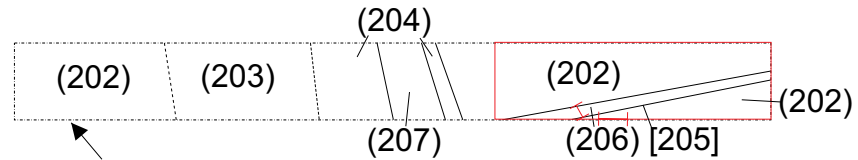
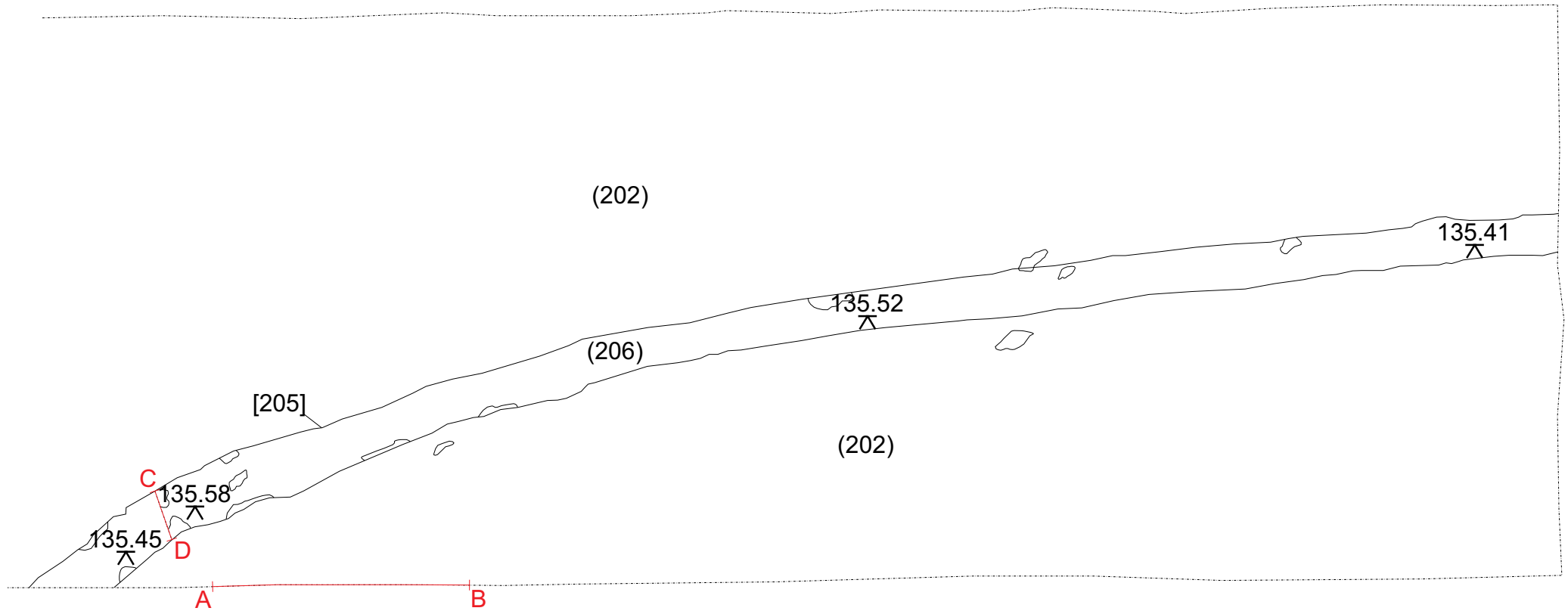


Figure 4: Trench 1 plan and sections

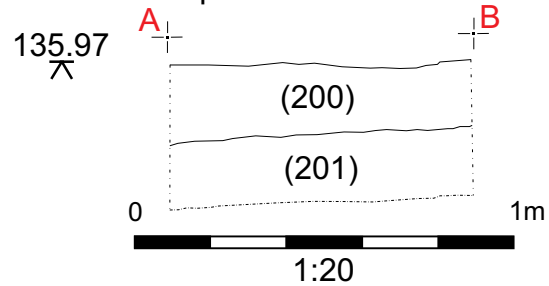
Trench 2: 1:200 Sketch Plan



Trench 2: Plan of Drain [205]



Trench 2: North East Facing Representative Section



Trench 2: West Facing Section Through Ditch [205]

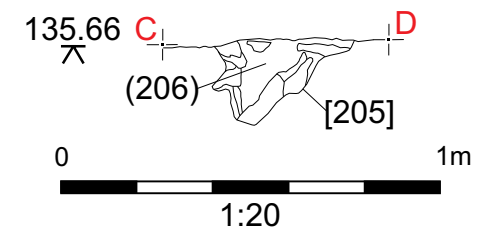


Figure 5: Trench 2 plan and sections

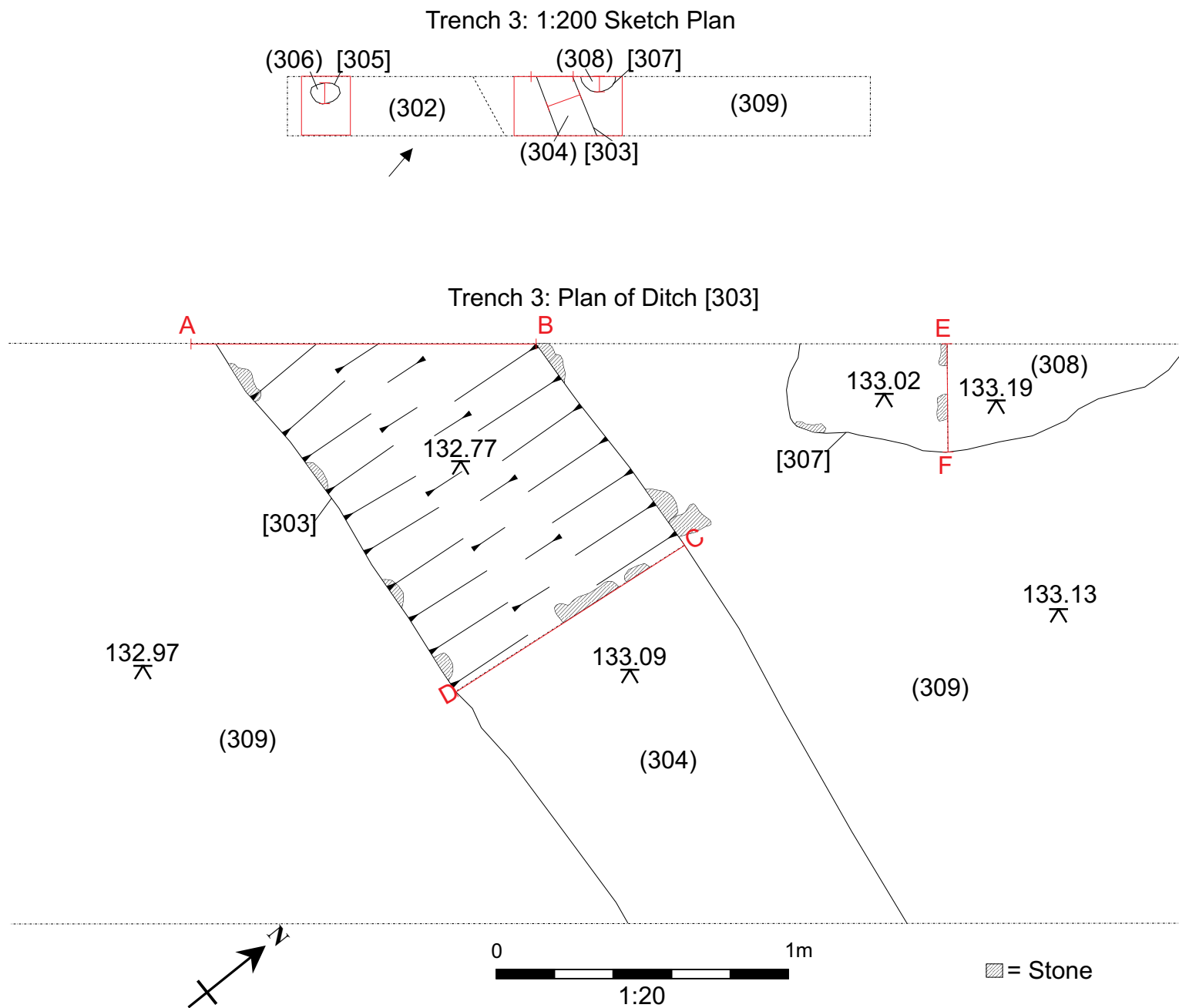
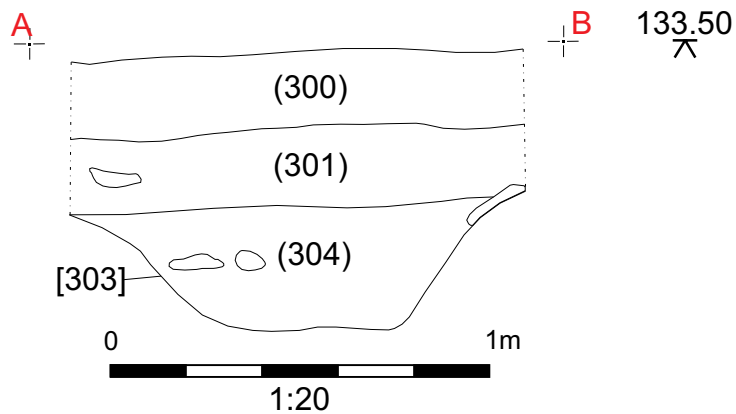
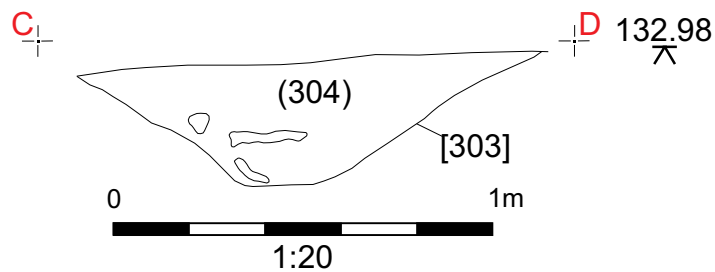


Figure 6: Trench 3 plans and sections

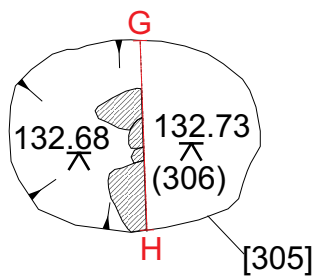
Trench 3: South East Facing Through Ditch [303]



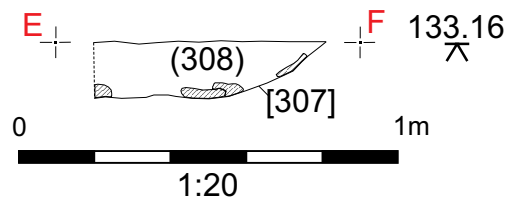
Trench 3: West Facing Section Through Ditch [303]



Trench 3: Plan of Pit [305]



Trench 3: South Facing Section Through Pit [307]



132.74

132.68

Trench 3: South West Facing Section Through Pit [305]

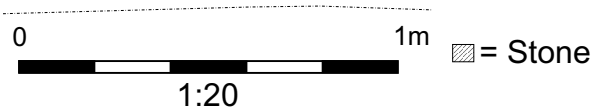
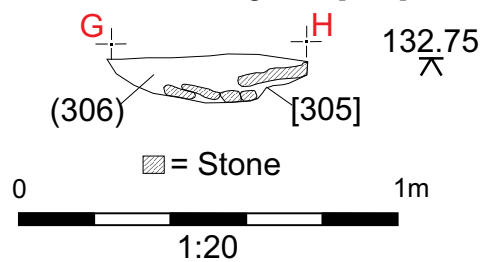
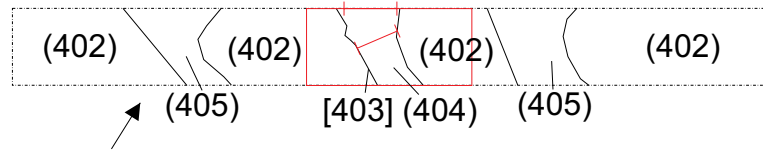


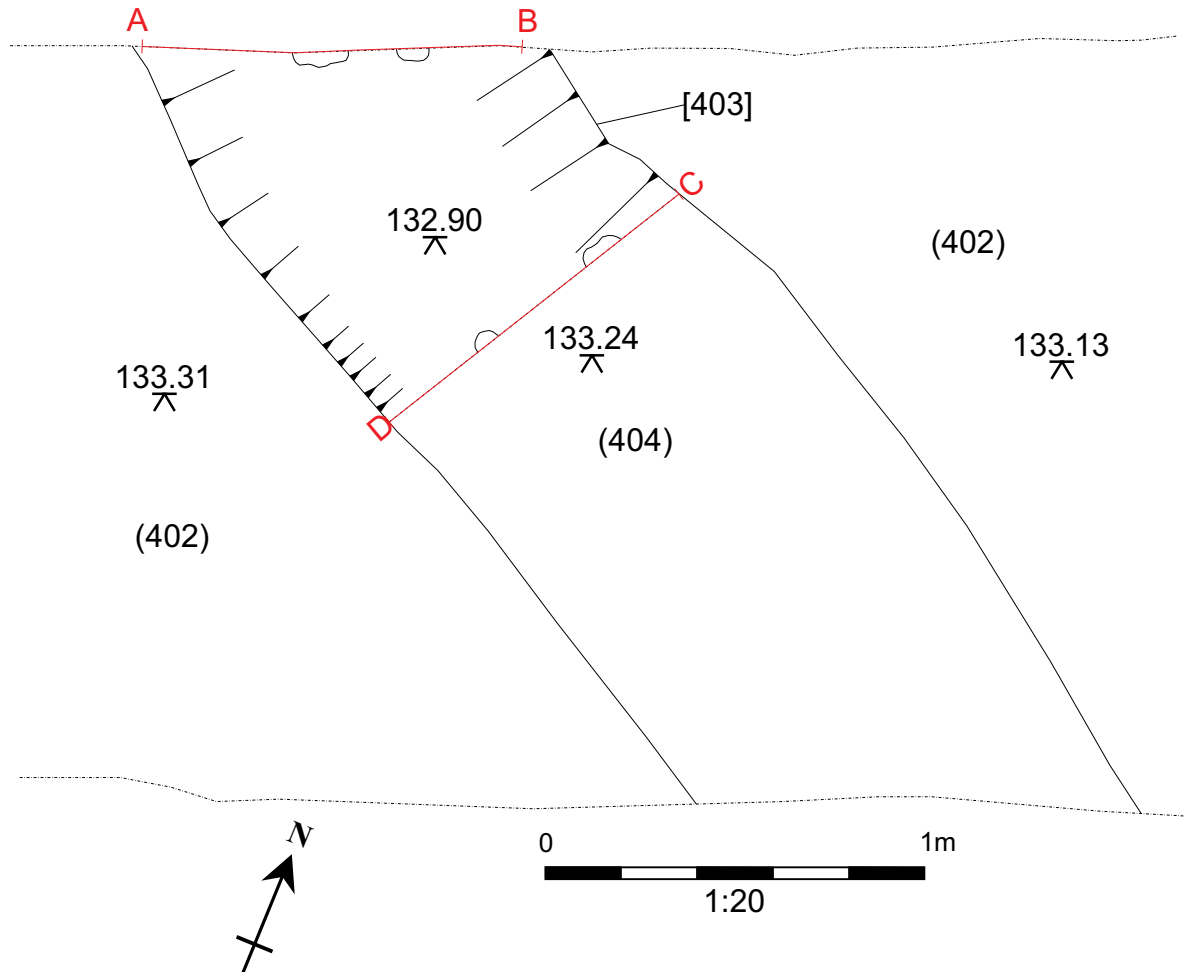
Figure 6 (cont.): Trench 3 plans and sections



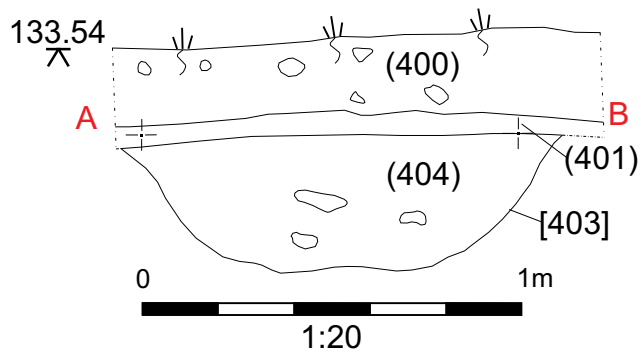
Trench 4: 1:200 Sketch Plan



Trench 4: Plan of Ditch [403]



Trench 4: South Facing Representative Section



Trench 4: North West Facing Section Through Ditch [403]

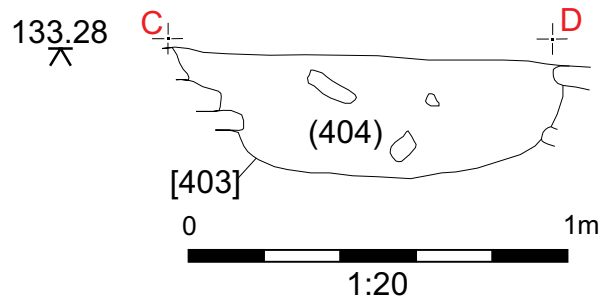


Figure 7: Trench 4 plans and sections

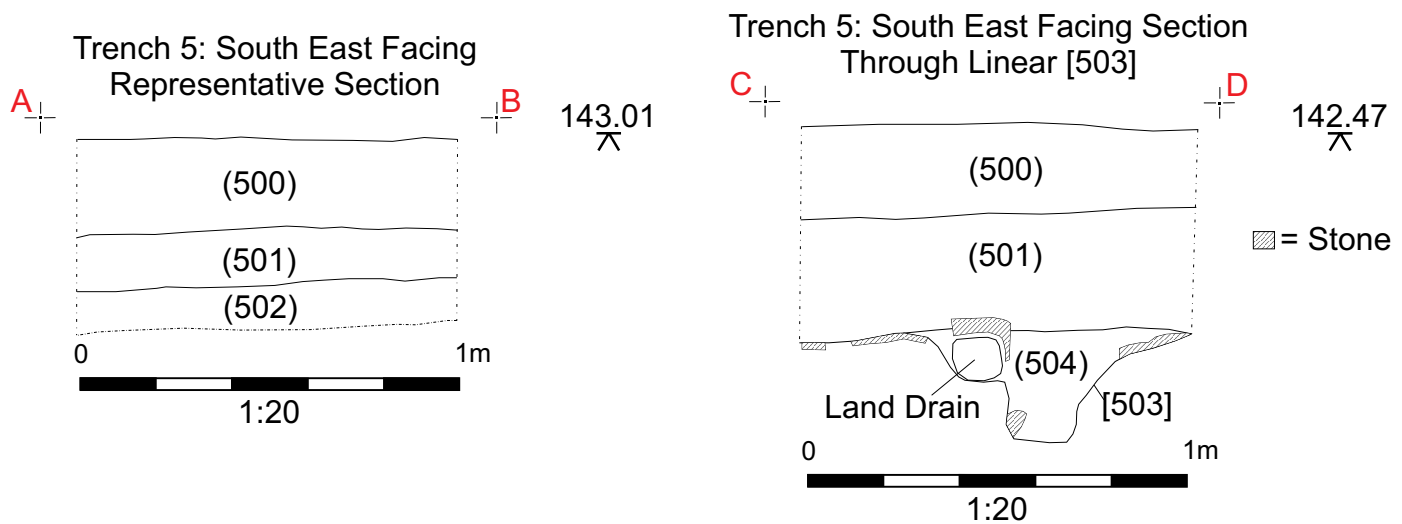
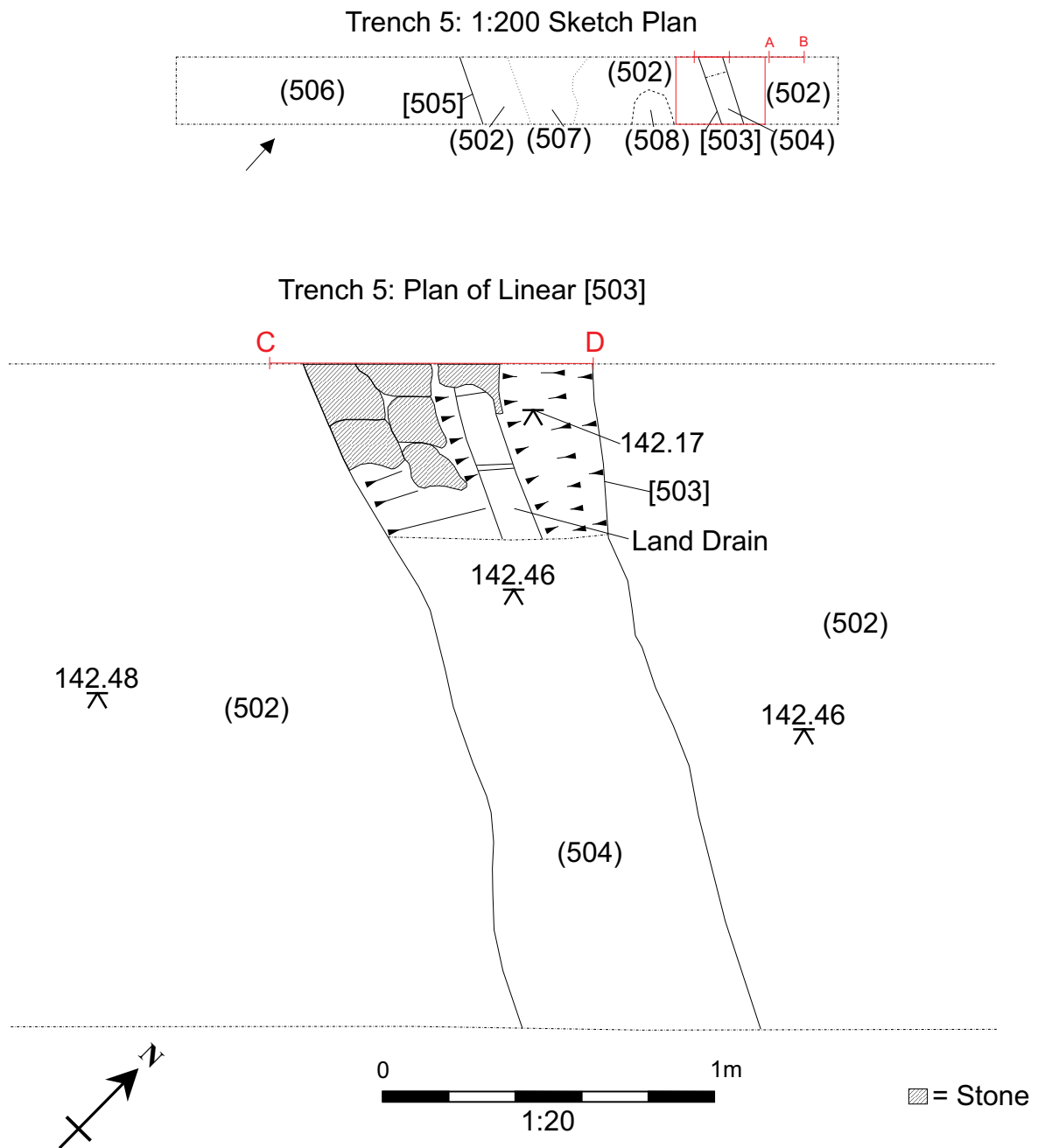
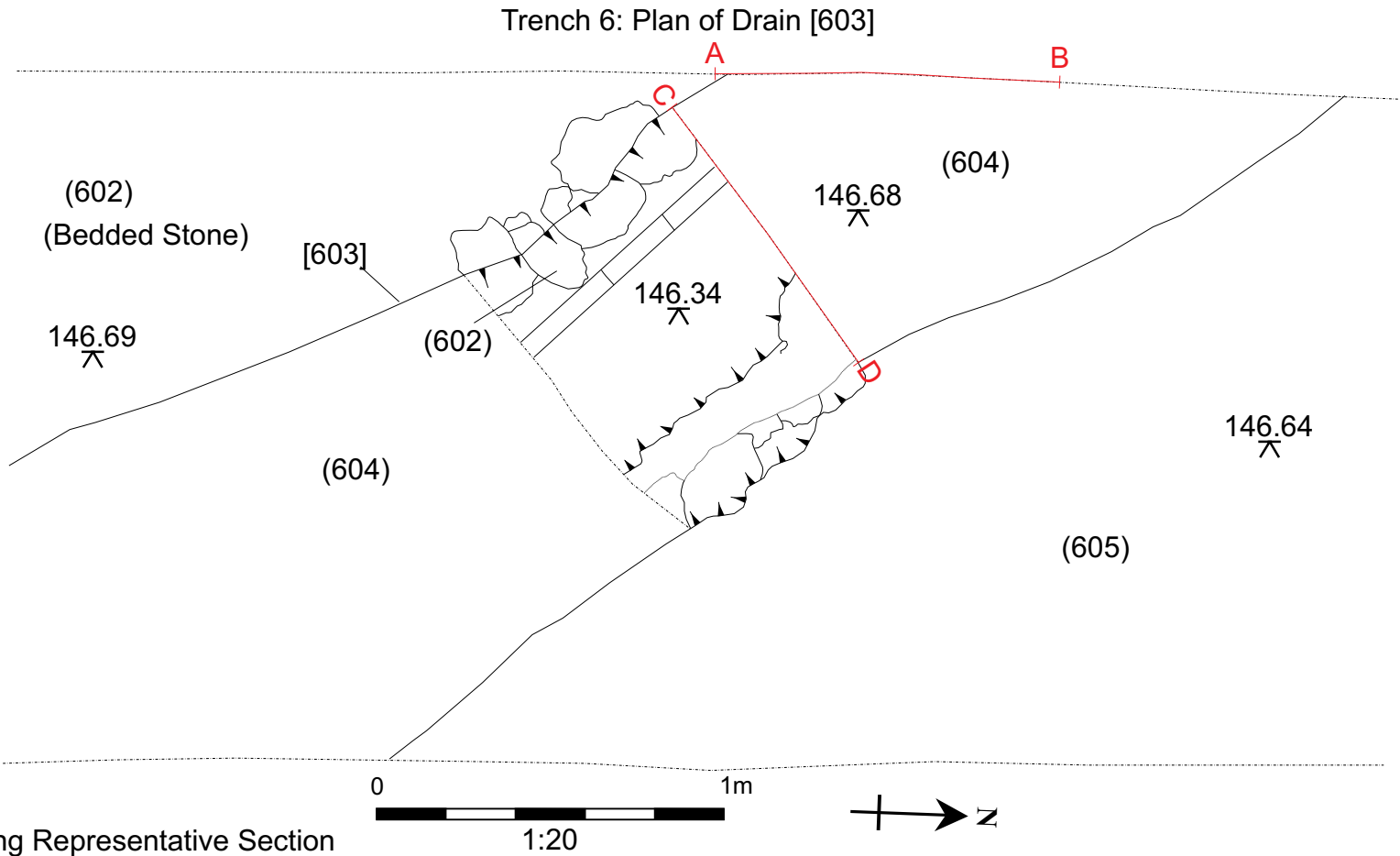
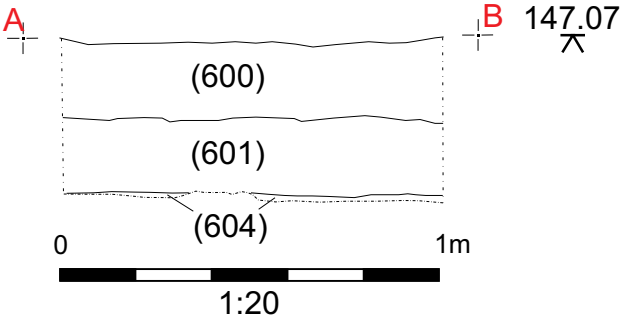


Figure 8: Trench 5 plans and sections

Figure 9: Trench 6 plans and sections

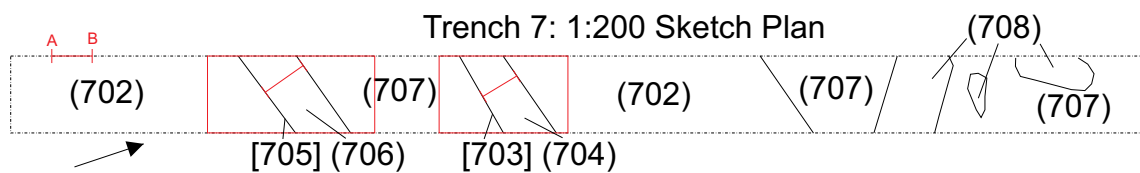


Trench 6: West Facing Representative Section

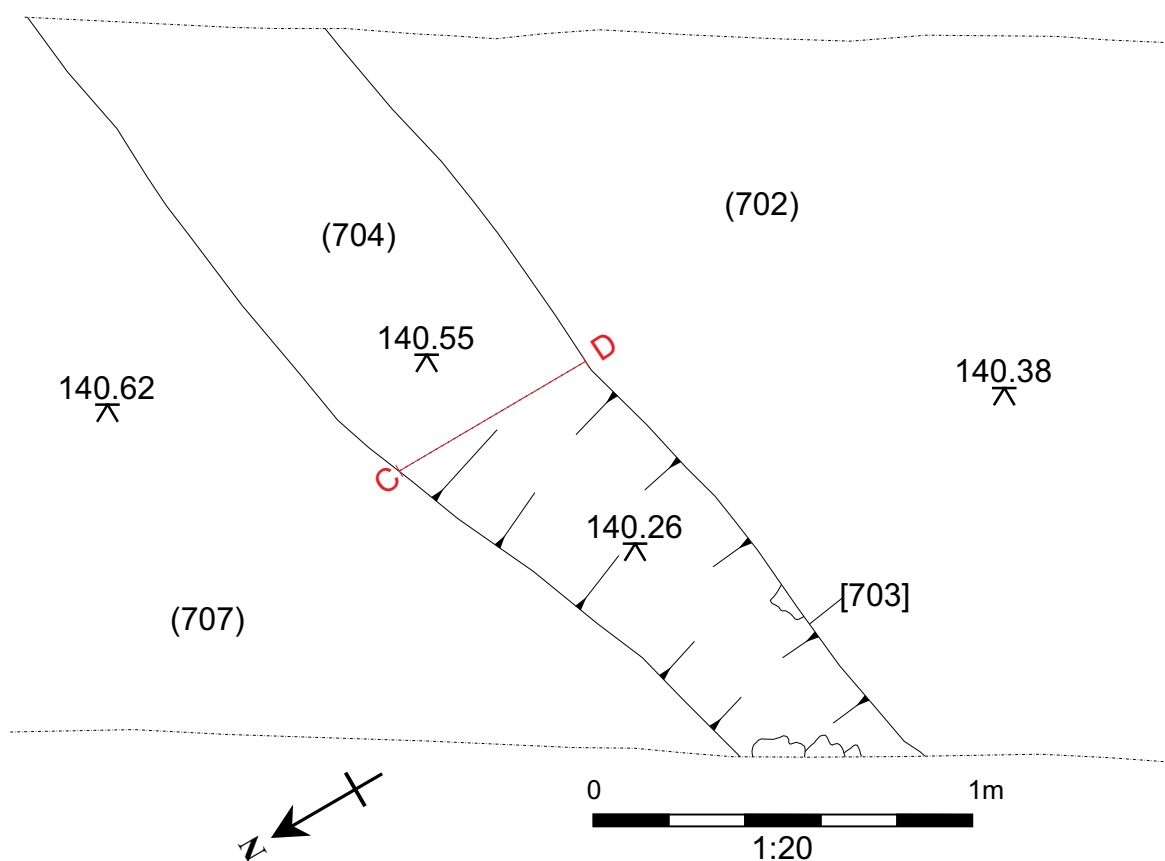


Trench 6: South East Facing Section Through Drainage Ditch [603]

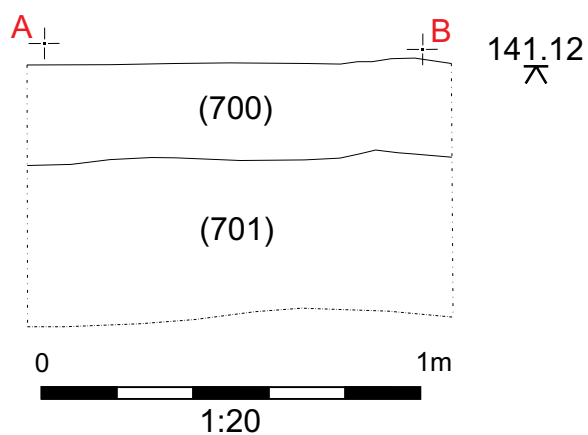




Trench 7: Plan of Ditch [703]



Trench 7: East Facing Representative Section



Trench 7: South West Facing Section Through Ditch [703]

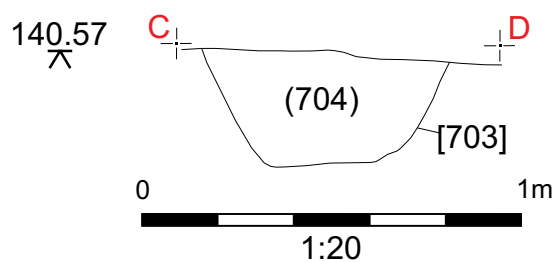
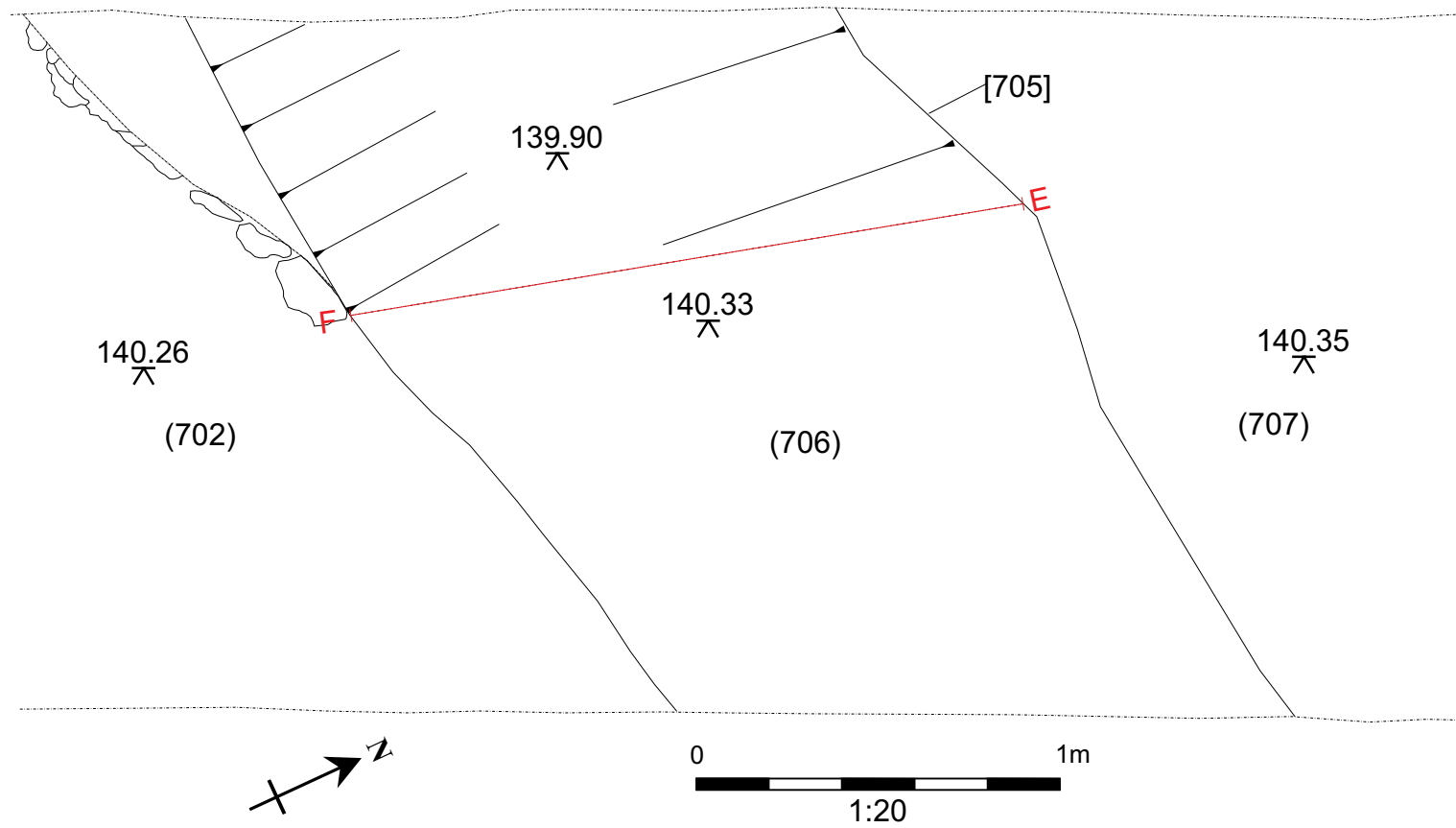


Figure 10: Trench 7 plans and sections

Trench 7: Plan of Ditch [705]



Trench 7: South West Facing Section Through Ditch [705]

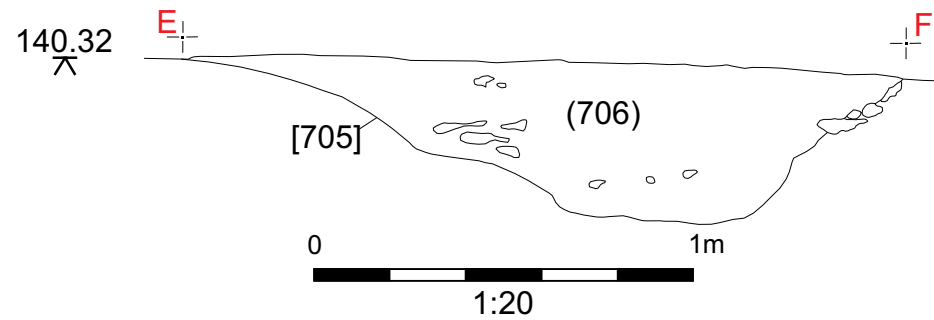
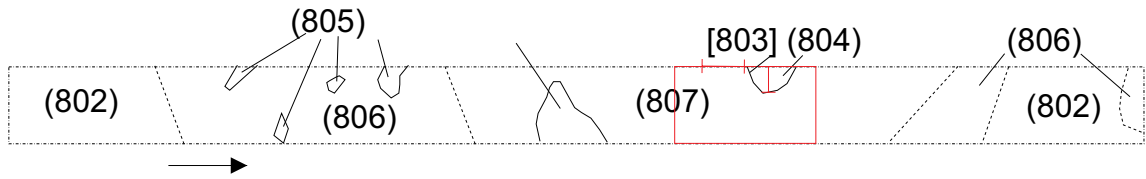


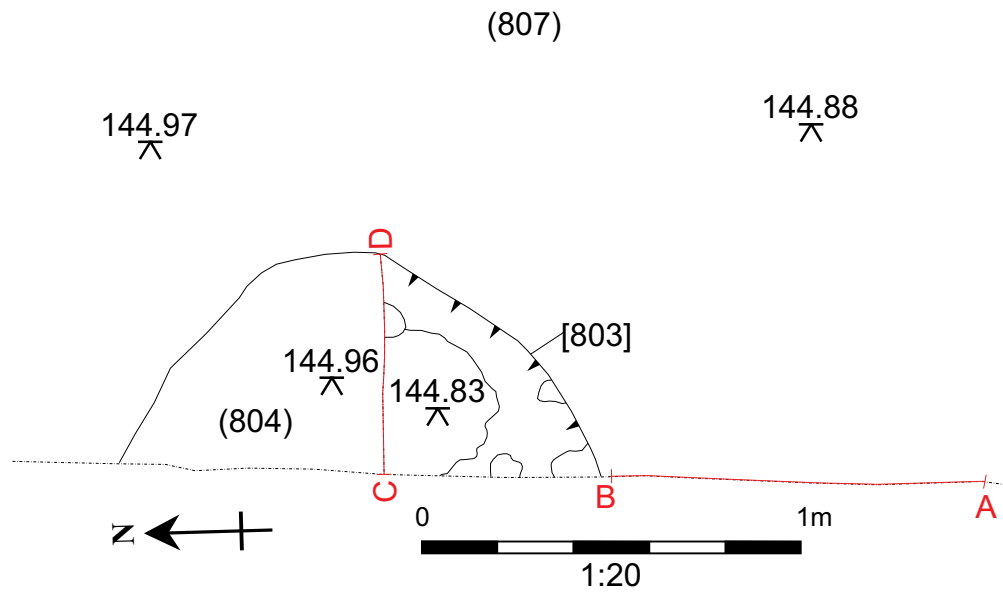
Figure 10 (cont.): Trench 7 plans and sections



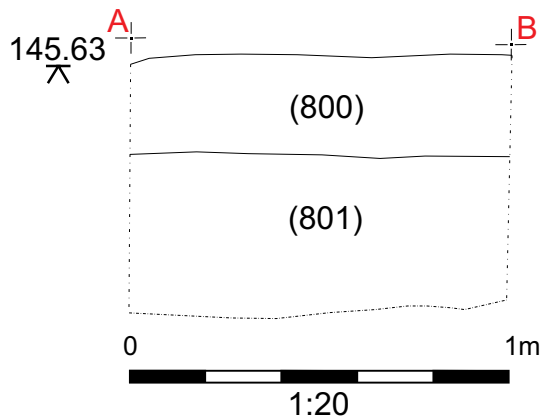
Trench 8: 1:200 Sketch Plan



Trench 8: Plan of Pit [803]



Trench 8: East Facing Representative Section



Trench 8: South Facing Section Through Pit [803]

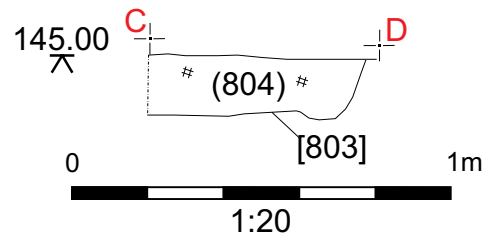
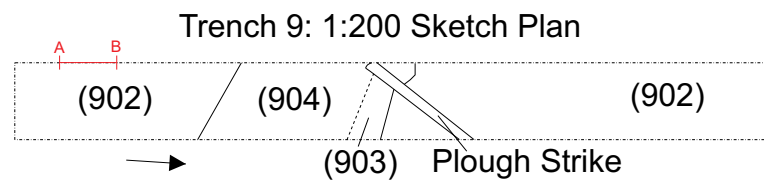


Figure 11: Trench 8 plans and sections



Trench 9: East Facing Representative Section

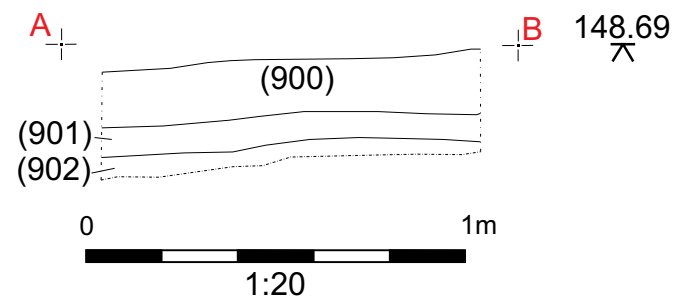
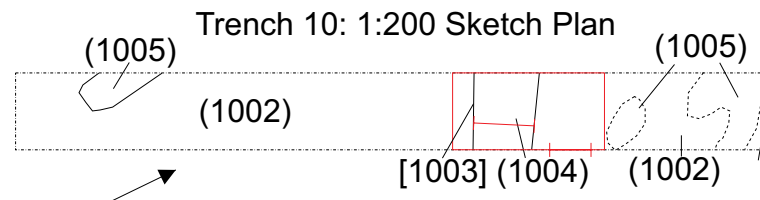
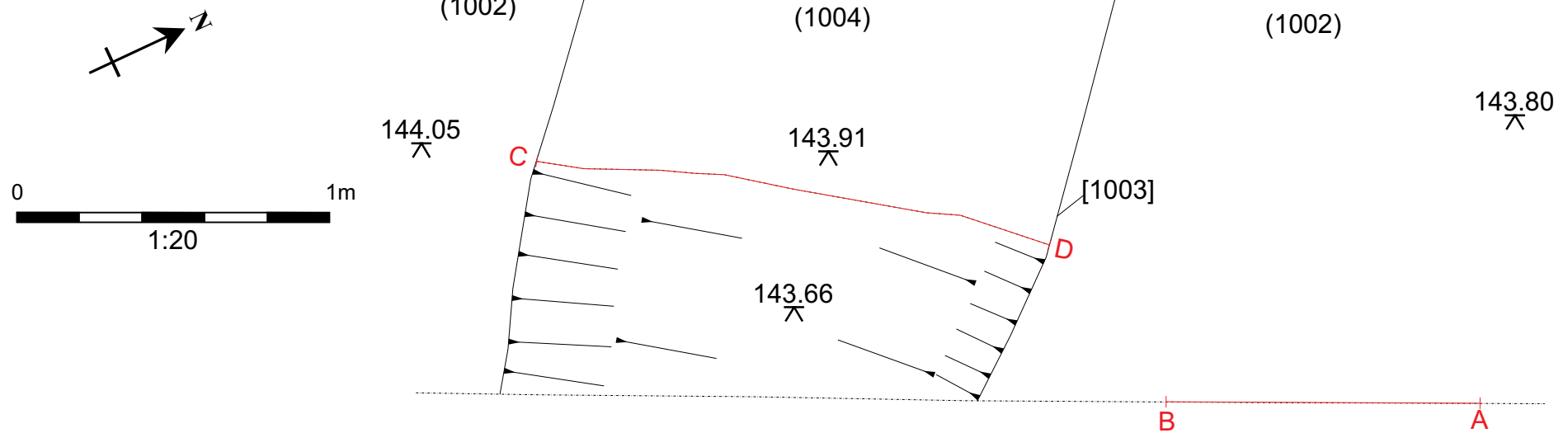


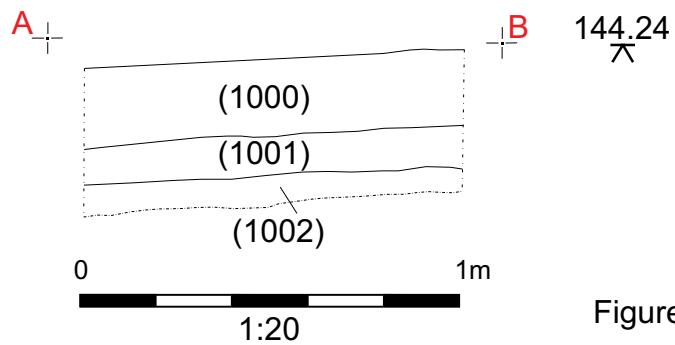
Figure 12: Trench 9 plan and section



Trench 10: Plan of Ditch [1003]



Trench 10: South East Facing Representative Section



Trench 10: North West Facing Section Through Ditch [1003]

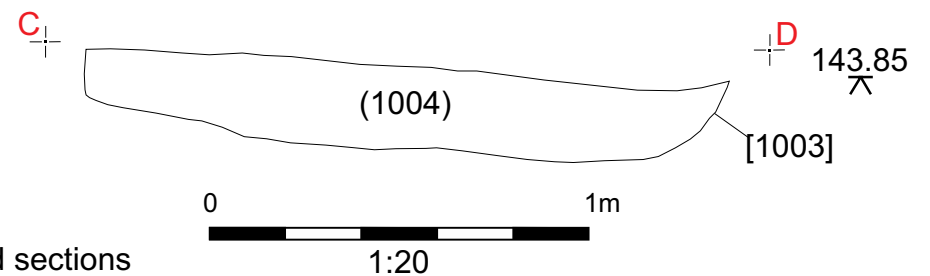


Figure 13: Trench 10 plans and sections

## Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: General site shot looking south.



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking southwest.



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking northwest, showing Drain [205] in foreground.



Plate 4: Trench 3 looking northeast.





Plate 5: 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century ditch [303]. Fig. 6 C-D.



Plate 6: Pit [305]. Fig. 6 G-H.



Plate 7: Pit [307]. Fig. 6 E-F.



Plate 9: 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century ditch [403]. Fig 7 A-B.



Plate 8: Trench 4 looking southwest.



Plate 10: Trench 5 looking southwest.



Plate 11: Ditch [503]. Figure 8 C-D.



Plate 12: Trench 6 looking north northeast.



Plate 13: Ditch [603]. Fig. 9 C-D.





Plate 14: Trench 7 looking north.



Plate 17: Trench 8 looking south.



Plate 15: Ditch [703]. Fig. 10 C-D.



Plate 16: Ditch [705]. Fig. 10 E-F.



Plate 18: Pit [803]. Fig. 11 C-D.





Plate 19: Trench 9 looking north.



Plate 20: Trench 10 looking southwest.



Plate 21: Ditch [1003]. Fig. 13 C-D.

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Tr	Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Finds/Dating
1	100	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt with moderate inclusions of limestone fragments	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
1	101	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay with moderate inclusions of limestone	Subsoil	<b>18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery</b>
1	102	Layer	Light grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
1	103	Cut	Steep sided, flat based south-west - north-east running linear	Field Boundary	<b>Early medieval</b>
1	104	Fill	Light brown soft clay (slight silt component) with occasional limestone inclusions	Natural Silting	<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery</b>
1	105	None	Field walking finds		<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery</b>
2	200	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
2	201	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil	<b>18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery</b>
2	202	Layer	Grey clay and weathered stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
2	203	Layer	Orange brown gravel	Natural	<b>None</b>
2	204	Layer	Orange brown	Natural	<b>None</b>
2	205	Cut	Vertically sided north-west - south-east linear with a flat base, lined in places with limestone plaquets Orange brown clay	Drain	<b>N/A/medieval-post medieval</b>
2	206	Fill	Limestone blocks? - no matrix described	Fill of [205]	<b>N/A</b>
2	207	Layer	Grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
3	300	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt with limestone inclusions	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
3	301	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay with limestone inclusions	Subsoil	<b>18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery</b>
3	302	Layer	Grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
3	303	Cut	East-west running steep sided linear with a flat base	Enclosure Ditch	<b>Early medieval</b>
3	304	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	Natural Silting	<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery</b>
3	305	Cut	Regular shallow pit with indistinct sides	Possible post hole/post pad	<b>N/A</b>
3	306	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	Natural Silting	<b>None</b>
3	307	Cut	Irregular sub-rounded pit with shallow sloping sides	Small Pit or Post Hole	<b>N/A</b>
3	308	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	Natural Silting	<b>None</b>
3	309	Layer	Weathered stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
4	400	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
4	401	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil	<b>None</b>
4	402	Layer	Weathered stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
4	403	Cut	Steep sided east-west running linear	Enclosure/ Field Boundary Ditch	<b>Early medieval</b>
4	404	Fill	Mid-orangey brown firm silty clay	Natural Silting	<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery</b>
4	405	Layer	Orange brown clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
5	500	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
5	501	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil	<b>None</b>
5	502	Layer	Grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
5	503	Cut	Steep sided north-west - south-east running linear with a flat base	Ditch/Field Boundary (Same as 603)	<b>N/A/post medieval - modern</b>
5	504	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	Backfill	<b>Field Drain/Modern</b>

5	505	Cut	Sub-rounded pit	Quarry Pit	<b>Unexcavated</b>
5	506	Fill	Mid-orangey brown loose silty clay with +50% angular limestone fragments	Abandoned Quarry Pit	<b>Unexcavated</b>
5	507	Layer	Orange brown clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
5	508	Layer	Bedded stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
6	600	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
6	601	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil	<b>None</b>
6	602	Layer	Bedded stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
6	603	Cut	Steep sided north-west - south-east running linear with a flat base	Ditch/Field Boundary (Same as 503)	<b>N/A/post medieval-modern</b>
6	604	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	Backfill	<b>Field Drain/Modern</b>
6	605	Layer	Weathered stone and orange brown clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
7	700	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
7	701	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil - thicker and differently formed to other site subsoil- probably colluvial	<b>None</b>
7	702	Layer	Weathered stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
7	703	Cut	Steep sided east-west running linear	Ditch	<b>N/A</b>
7	704	Fill	Mid-brown-red friable silty clay		<b>None</b>
7	705	Cut	East - west running linear with graded sides	Ditch	<b>N/A</b>
7	706	Fill	Mid-brown-red friable silty clay		<b>None</b>
7	707	Layer	Grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
7	708	Layer	Orange brown clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
8	800	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
8	801	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil - thicker and differently formed to other site subsoil- probably colluvial	<b>None</b>
8	802	Layer	Grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
8	803	Cut	Sub-rounded pit with steep sides	Shallow Pit	<b>N/A</b>
8	804	Fill	Dark brown firm silty clay with occasional charcoal fragments	Backfill	<b>None</b>
8	805	Layer	Weathered stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
8	806	Layer	Orange brown clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
8	807	Layer	Grey yellow clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
9	900	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
9	901	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil	<b>None</b>
9	902	Layer	Weathered stone	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
9	903	Layer	Blue grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
9	904	Layer	Orange brown clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
10	1000	Layer	Mid brown firm to soft clayey silt	Topsoil	<b>None/Modern</b>
10	1001	Layer	Mid brown firm silty clay	Subsoil	<b>None</b>
10	1002	Layer	Grey clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>
10	1003	Cut	North-west - south-east running linear with steep regular sides and a flat base	Boundary Ditch	<b>N/A</b>
10	1004	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	Natural Silting	<b>None</b>
10	1005	Layer	Orange brown clay	Natural	<b>N/A</b>

### Appendix 3: The Pottery Report

To: Jane Young, Preconstruct Archaeology, 13 Church Road, Stow, Lincolnshire, LN1 2DE  
From: David Dawson, Vicky & David Dawson Partnership, 44 Manor Orchard, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4SN  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### **Hook Valley Farm, Wincanton, Somerset HVFE13 TTNCM 134/2013**

#### **The Pottery**

The pottery consists of fourteen body sherds, with one exception too small to be able to ascribe the precise form of each parent vessel, but whose characteristic fabric types reflect the period from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the twentieth. The collection is typical of detritus from domestic occupation over that period in this part of Somerset.

Context (101) Hard-fired buff oxidised laminar matrix with iron rich inclusions showing as reddish black speckles in the plain internal lead glaze which fires yellow-brown in colour. The form is probably a bowl or small panchen. Typical of the products of the potteries at Verwood dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Draper 2002).

Context (101) Moderately fired buff oxidised matrix of poorly mixed clays with a few iron-rich inclusions. A fragment of tile that has been rolled out on a sanded bed. Likely to be a local hand-made product but impossible to pin down to a specific date within the post-medieval period.

Context (104) Hard-fired reduced matrix with about 10% mixed angular inclusions of quartz, chert, calcite and possible microfossils possibly derivative of the local Upper Greensands. Hand-made. Probably a jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Context (105) Four medieval sherds of different fabric types.

- a) Rim sherd of hard-fired dark brown reduced and partially reoxidised sandy matrix packed with fine quartz inclusions. Hand-made. The everted rim is typical of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century jar forms.
- b) Hard-fired reduced dark grey and reoxidised light to reddish buff laminar fabric whose main inclusions have been either entirely burnt out or more likely leached out leaving a corky appearance with few iron-rich fragments. Hand-made. Probably a jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- c) Soft-fired reoxidised buff matrix abraded to leave the mixed quartz and calcareous inclusions projecting from the surface. Hand-made. Probably a jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- d) Hard-fired reduced dark grey matrix with reoxidised orange buff outer surface, and inclusions similar to the sherd from context (104). Hand-made. Probably a jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Context (201) Two post-medieval sherds of two different fabrics.

- a) Soft-fired reduced grey core and reoxidised orange red laminar matrix with occasional iron-rich inclusions and specks of lime. The outer surface has been almost entirely lost through abrasion. Internal plain lead glaze brown with black iron speckles. Wheel-thrown bowl, probably South Somerset made but could also be from Holnest in North Dorset whose wares have yet to be characterised. 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

b) Hard-fired buff oxidised laminar matrix with iron rich inclusions showing as reddish black speckles in the plain internal lead glaze which fires yellow-brown in colour. The form is probably a bowl or small pancheon. Typical of the products of the potteries at Verwood dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Draper 2002).

Context (301) Hard-fired buff oxidised laminar matrix with iron rich inclusions showing as reddish black speckles in the plain internal lead glaze which fires yellow-brown in colour. The wheel thrown form is probably a pancheon. Typical of the products of the potteries at Verwood dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Draper 2002).

Context (304) Three medieval sherds of different fabric types.

a) Hard-fired reduced dark grey reoxidised reddish buff on base sandy matrix with mixed angular inclusions similar to sherd (d) from context (105). Hand-made. Probably an incised-decorated jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

b) Soft-fired reoxidised buff matrix abraded to leave the mixed quartz and calcareous inclusions projecting from the surface similar to sherd (c) from context (105). Hand-made. Probably a jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

c) Hard-fired mostly reoxidised buff but with external reduced light brown laminar matrix packed with fine angular quartz inclusions and other particles. Hand-made probably locally from the white firing clays. Probably a jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Context (404) Hard-fired reoxidised red brown heavily reduced black internal surface whose matrix and inclusions are similar to the sherd from context (104) possibly derivative of the local Upper Greensands. Hand-made. Probably a jar form, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

## Conclusion

Future comparison with the medieval fabric types from the Wincanton by-pass would be desirable (Ellison & Pearson 212-216). For a discussion of Upper Greensand derived wares from the Blackdowns see Allan et al 2011.

## Bibliography

Allan, J, Hughes, M J & Taylor, R T, 2011, 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in Somerset: some recent research', *Proc Somerset Archaeol Natur Hist Soc* 154, 165-84.

Draper, J, with Copland-Griffiths, P, 2002, *Dorset Country Pottery: the kilns of the Verwood district*, Ramsbury: the Crowood Press.

Ellison, A, and Pearson, T, 1981, *The Wincanton Bypass: a study in the archaeological recording of road works*, Bristol: Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset, occasional paper 8.



## **Appendix 4: Assessment for charred plant remains from an environmental sample, Hook Valley Farm, Somerset, HVFE13.**

*Anita Radini (ULAS, February 2014)*

### **Introduction**

Excavations were carried out Hook Valley Farm, Wincanton, Somerset, by PCA Ltd. During the excavation, a forty litre sample was taken from a pit with the potential to contain charred plant remains, analysis of which may indicate the purpose of the pit and/or activities on the site associated with agriculture or occupation.

### **Methodology**

Thirty litres of the sample from (804) were processed for this assessment. The sediments contained a lot of clay and fine silt and needed soaking in water before they could be wet-sieved. The soil from the sample was wet-sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and air dried. The residues were also air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted for all finds which are included in the relevant sections of this report. The flots were sorted for plant remains using a x10-40 stereo microscope and the remains were removed to glass specimen tubes.

### **Results**

The sample contained only very few charcoal flecks, which could be the result of windblown charcoal, and an abraded cereal grain (Triticeae), which too could be intrusive or residual.

### **Conclusion**

The sample was found to have no potential for archaeobotanical analysis and this assessment is therefore negative and no further work is required. It is possible that the pit was cleaned regularly. Despite this negative assessment, soil conditions can vary, and an appropriate sampling strategy is advisable if any future work takes place on the site.

## Appendix 5: Flint

By Tom Lane

### Introduction

Worked flints were submitted for a report. These appear to come from Trial trenching and Excavation.

### Condition

All the flints were moderately to heavily patinated and had suffered various forms of abrasion. No special conservation is required for the items.

### Results

Cxt No	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
105	Broken Flake. Heavily patinated. Blade scar on dorsal surface. 38 x 24 x 5mm. From Fieldwalking	1	3	Meso/E. Neo
301	Narrow Blade. Heavily patinated. Possible minor secondary working or more likely edge damage on one side. 34 x 14 x 2mm. From subsoil.	1	<1	Mesolithic
3006	Frost fractured piece but with single blade removal. Heavily patinated. 46 x 38 x 8mm	1	16	Mesolithic?
3008	Narrow bladelet with notch removed on side near proximal end probably in micro-burin manufacture. Heavily patinated. 38 x 9 x 5mm	1	<1	Mesolithic
3050	Flake. Broken, probably in blade manufacture. Moderately patinated. Cortex remaining at distal end. 36 x 22 x 5mm	1	1	?Mesolithic
3101	Flake from spread. Moderately patinated. 35 x 26 x 2mm	1	3	?Mesolithic/Early Neolithic
3108	Core fragment. Blade removal. Heavily patinated. 30 x 30 x 18	1	26	Mesolithic
U/S	Possible hammerstone fragment? Irregular shape and abraded. 42 x 30 x 27	1	42	?Mesolithic
U/S	Side and end scraper. Later secondary working on one side. Heavily patinated 27 x 15 x 4mm	1	2	Mesolithic

### Provenance

Some of the items are recorded as unstratified or from fieldwalking, topsoil and subsoil. Items 3006 and 3008 are from environmental samples retrieved from a posthole and pit respectively, while 3050 came from a posthole fill and 3108 from the fill of a linear.

### Range

Most of the items date from the Mesolithic period and range from waste flakes to tools and the preparation of tools. Clearly flintworking has been undertaken on the site during the Mesolithic period. Apart from two items which could extend into the early Neolithic all the material is of a single broad period, although may relate to repeated visits to the same site.

### Potential

The collection would appear to indicate the site of Mesolithic flintworking, and therefore most probably some form of settlement. Given that the age of the material is Mesolithic and the period is known for the paucity of related earthfast features it should be borne in mind that the vast majority of the Mesolithic data from this site is likely to reside in the topsoil.



**Summary**

A collection of Mesolithic flints was made during investigations on the site. Through the presence of debitage and a scraper the collection indicates the manufacture of flint tools on the site during the Mesolithic.

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## Land at Hook Valley Farm, Wincanton, Somerset - Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

OASIS ID - preconst3-174062

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