

**PHASE 1: FAIRHAM PASTURES, LAND EAST & WEST OF NOTTINGHAM  
ROAD, CLIFTON, RUSHCLIFFE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

Central NGR: SK 54093 33271  
Planning Ref: 14/01417/OUT  
PCAS site code: FCNE20  
PCAS job no.: 2204

Prepared for  
Fairham Pastures Ltd.

by  
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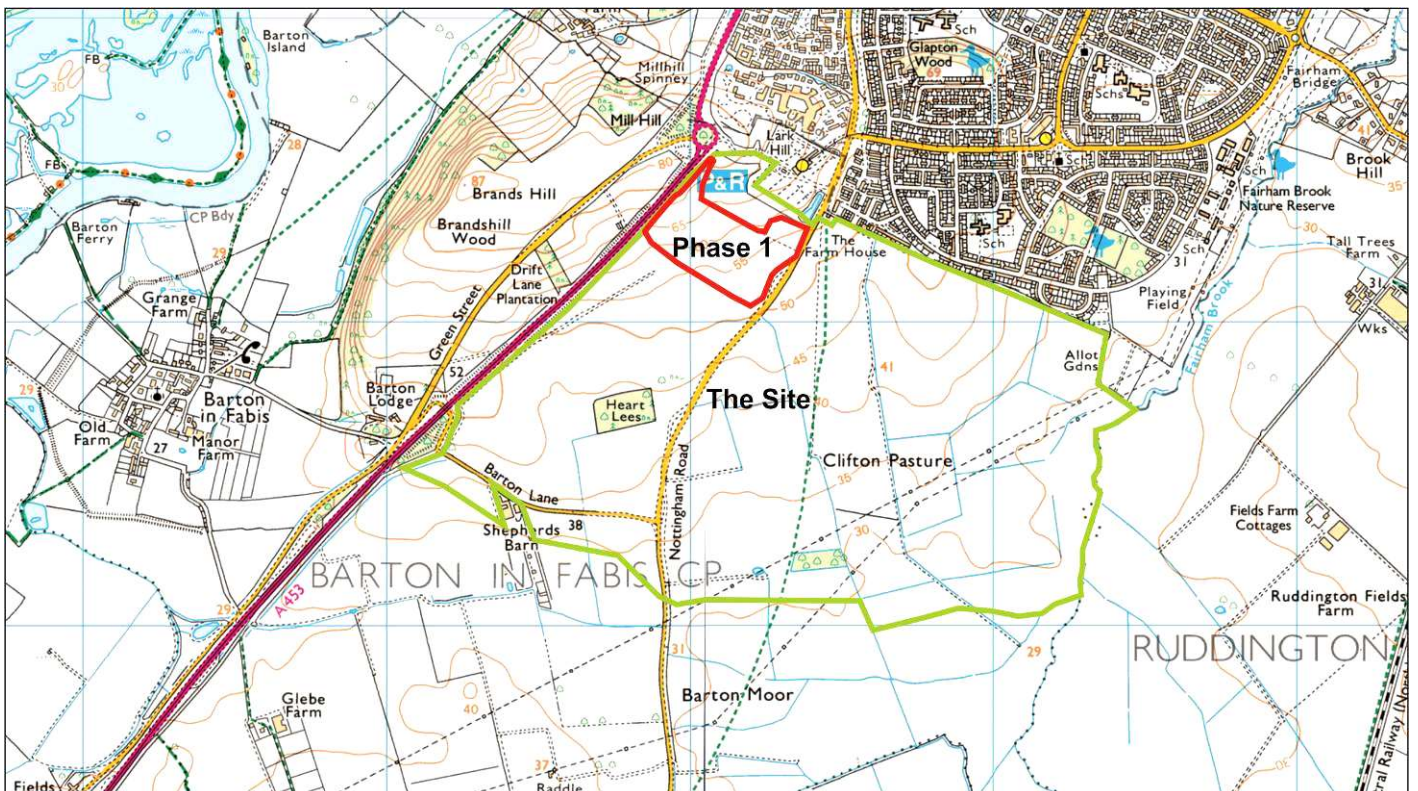
## Summary

PCAS Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Oxalis Planning to conduct a trial trench evaluation in advance of urban development on land to the east and west of Nottingham Road, known as Fairham Pastures. This investigation, Phase 1, covers approximately 31 acres and is situated in the northwest corner of the site.

The proposed development site lies within a cropmark landscape currently interpreted as representation of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, part of the wider landscape surrounding a scheduled villa and enclosed settlement at Glebe Farm, c.2km to the south of the evaluation. Occasional flint artefacts of Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been recovered from within and around the Site, and there was considered some potential for further remains to survive within the site area. It is likely the majority of the site area was utilised as agricultural land from at least the medieval period. Previous archaeological investigations have occurred on the proposed development site, most recently work by AOC Archaeology in 2015 (Fig. 2)

The current evaluation revealed a low level of archaeological features, pertaining to agricultural use and comprised just five small ditches/gullies and two shallow pits. These features were undated apart from one ditch which contained post-medieval brick fragments.

It is concluded Phase 1 has a low archaeological potential, and that further archaeological intervention within this zone is unlikely to yield useful results.



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

## 1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Oxalis Planning Ltd. to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of Phase 1 of the proposed large urban development on land to the east and west of Nottingham Road, Clifton, in the Rushcliffe Borough of Nottinghamshire (approximately 31 acres). The site is known as Fairham Pastures.

The overall development is for 3000 new dwellings, employment zones, schools and park and ride facilities, occupying an area of approximately 253.5ha of what is currently predominately open arable land. Phase 1 (red line Fig. 1) lies on the west side of Nottingham Road, an area that has been cleared of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO's); the land being a former wartime bombing range. Further archaeological investigations will follow as other areas are cleared.

The purpose of evaluation is to ensure that any significant archaeological remains within the development footprint are taken fully into consideration as part of the development process, to ensure their proper recording in the county Historic Environment Record, and to determine whether any further archaeological intervention is required in order to mitigate any potential damage to archaeological remains (by preservation *in situ* or by further investigation and recording).

This document follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2019;
- ClfA Code of Conduct (2014 as revised);
- ClfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2014);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE v1.1, 2009, English Heritage)

## 2.0 Location and Description (Figs. 1-3)

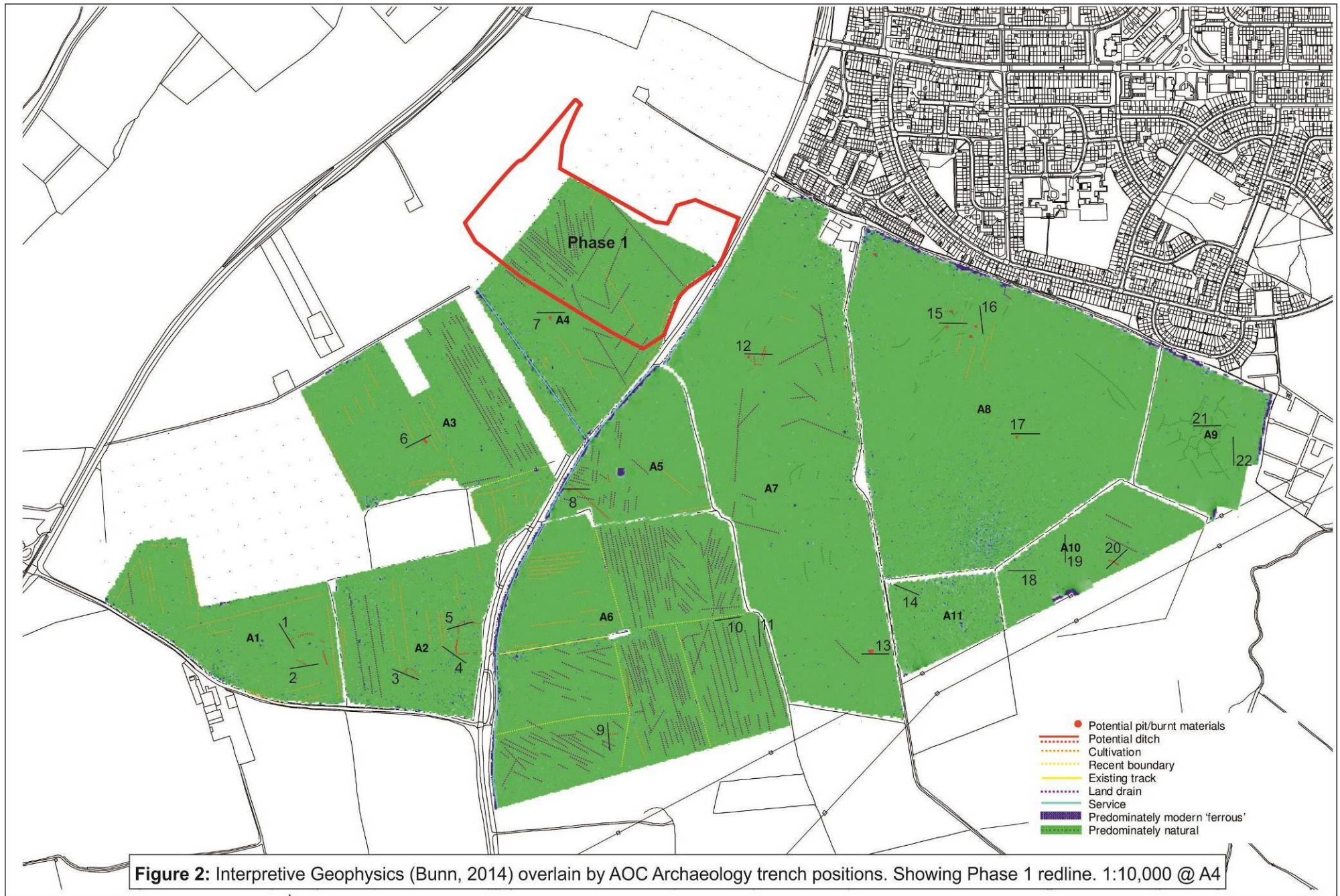
Clifton is a village and small civil parish in the Rushcliffe borough of Nottinghamshire. It lies primarily on the southeast side of the A453, south of the River Trent, on the southwest periphery of Nottingham. Clifton Lane / Nottingham Road is a local road extending south from the village centre towards the neighbouring village of Gotham.

The site lies to the immediate south of Clifton, directly east of Barton in Fabis and to the north of Gotham. The entire site encompasses c.253.5ha of predominately open arable land, centred on approximate NGR SK 54447 32734 (red line on Fig 1). Phase 1 lies in the northwest corner of the overall site, approximate central NGR SK 54093 33271.

## 3.0 Geology and Topography

The west side of Phase 1 is underlain by Branscombe Mudstone Formation – Mudstone formed in a hot desert environment. The southeast side is dominated by Arden Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed in a river setting, the floodplain of an ancient river. There are Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel forming a small island towards the centre of Phase 1 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).





**Figure 2:** Interpretive Geophysics (Bunn, 2014) overlain by AOC Archaeology trench positions. Showing Phase 1 redline. 1:10,000 @ A4

The overall site comprises a number of large fields, primarily under arable cultivation. The highest part of the site is found at Mill Hill to the south-west of Clifton, on the north-western part of the site, which lies at a level of 80m above the Ordnance Datum (OD). From the peak of the hill the land descends towards the south-east, where lower and flatter ground occurs in the Fairham Brook flood plain, at an elevation of approximately 30m OD.



Plate 1. General shot of site looking north.

Phase 1 comprises part of two fields, and lies on an approximately southeast facing slope, with levels a little below 45mOD in the southeast corner, rising to c.70mOD in the northwest.

#### 4.0 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012 (updated February 2019). This placed the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Paragraphs 189 of the revised guidelines states: Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment, and where necessary, a field evaluation.

Outline planning permission for a large residential development (c.3000 dwellings), employment zones, schools and park and ride facilities, at Fairham, land east and west of Nottingham Road, Clifton was conditionally approved in May 2019 by Rushcliffe Borough Council. The permission included a condition for archaeological evaluation, according to the proposed development phasing, with the results provided by this report to inform any further mitigation to be employed in relation to that phase.

This report details the methodology of the scheme of archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 of the site, undertaken prior to any other groundworks in this area, to investigate the potential for below ground archaeology and inform and assist in the design of any required mitigation strategy. It details both the fieldwork methodology and the post-excavation reporting and archiving procedures and timetable.

#### 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A detailed archaeological and historical background has already been compiled, in the form of a desk-based assessment prepared by WSP Environmental UK in 2008, and by the results of a geophysical survey undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in 2014.

##### *Early Prehistoric Period*

The earliest find recorded in the area of interest is a Palaeolithic flint scraper (NMR 317804), recovered close to the junction of the A453 and the road to Barton within the western edge of the development zone. A number of sites identified on the HER are identified as prehistoric, but no further detail of their date is given. These include an enclosure cropmark to the north-east of Barton Lodge, within the wider site (HER 00446), a cropmark representing a possible henge on the north-western side of Barton-in-Fabis (HER 00436) outside the site, and prehistoric flints recovered from fields to the north-west of Barton-in-Fabis (SMR 00473) also outside the site. Neolithic flints have also been recovered to the south of Clifton on Clifton



Pasture (HER 05885) within the eastern edge of the site, with Neolithic and Bronze Age flints recovered to the south of Barton-in-Fabis (HER 00434a), to the west of Brands Hill (HER 00559), from an area to the south-east of Barton-in-Fabis (HER 00484, NMR 317804) within the western edge of the site and from Brands Hill (SMR 00444b). A bronze sword (NMR 317780) has also been discovered to the north-west of the site.

#### *Late Iron Age/Roman Period*

There is extensive evidence for the survival of potential late Iron Age and/or Roman period remains within the proposed development site. Such activity has likely been identified in the form of cropmarks to the east of Glebe Farm, comprising enclosures, linear features and a ring ditch (HER 0440; 0440a) within the south-western part of the site, with a further two enclosures identified within the site, to south west of the Glebe Farm (HER 00447; HER 317832). Enclosures have been identified to the east of the junction of Barton Land and Nottingham Road (HER 00450) within the eastern half of the site, to the east of the A453 and to the north of Barton Lane on the site's western edge (HER 00445). To the north of Gotham, to the west of Nottingham Road, south of the site, a ring ditch and a possible trackway has been recorded (HER 00452). Further areas of Cropmarks have been identified to the north-west and south-west of Barton-in-Fabis (HER 00435; 00438). There are also the remains of possible late prehistoric cultivation terraces on the north-western side of Brands Hill (HER 00444) to the west of the site. The remains of the Glebe Farm Roman villa are situated within the south-western part of the proposed development site (HER 00441). A 3rd century Roman coin has been found in Clifton, and Roman finds have been discovered to the west of Clifton (HER 00443) and on Brands Hill (HER 00444a).

#### *Medieval Period*

An entry of early-medieval date is recorded on the HER; the top part of a cruciform brooch of possible Anglo-Saxon date, recovered on land to the north of Barton Lodge directly within the western edge of the site area (HER 05508). Settlements had been established in the area by the later Anglo-Saxon period as indicated in the Domesday Book of 1086, which records entries for Barton, Clifton and Gotham. The proposed development site lies mainly within the parish boundary of Barton-in-Fabis, which could have been established by the late Anglo-Saxon period. Medieval remains recorded on the HER include two sites lying within the western edge of the site boundary, south of Barton-in Fabis, areas of ridge and furrow (HER 00439) and the flood defences and banks of possible medieval origins to the south and south-west of Barton-in-Fabis (HER 00476). Other potential medieval sites to the west of the site in and around Barton-in-Fabis include documentary references to a watermill to the north of Barton-in-Fabis (HER 07511), the Church of St. George in Barton-in-Fabis, which has 14th century origins (HER 00534), and fragments of a possible medieval cross within the churchyard (HER 05243). The site of a medieval windmill mound is situated to the north of Gotham, to the south of the site (HER 00448) and medieval finds have also been recovered to the south-east of Clifton (HER 05911) and from an area to the south-west of Ruddington (SMR 00485). Aerial photographic and other archaeological investigations have indicated the presence of ridge and furrow in the areas surrounding Barton-in-Fabis and other settlements, including within the proposed development site area. The majority of the proposed development area lies within the agricultural hinterland of the surrounding villages and would have probably been used as arable (ridge and furrow).

#### *Post-Medieval Period*

Four recorded post-medieval sites lie within the proposed development site; the tramway at Glebe Farm shown on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map (HER 00679), the site of the former Barton Mine shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map to the south of Glebe Farm (HER 00678), and two wells marked on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map (HER 00691; 00700). In general, the OS maps covering the site do not show any significant changes in the landscape of the site, and it is likely the site remained in primarily agricultural use throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.



### *Modern Period*

To note, there is possibly contamination of the site relating to unexploded ordnance (the client is aware). Interestingly the Ruddington Local History Society refer the site in their book about the Royal Ordnance Factory (now Rushcliffe Country Park) "Bombs to Butterflies", gives the details of an interview with an old Ruddington resident:

"Clifton Pastures in the early days was used as a bombing range and battle aircraft and very old that were useless to modern warfare was being used. You could go down there and you could recover the whole bomb if you were lucky, they were smoke bombs in the main. We used to cycle over to Clifton and over the pastures and most of the farmers used to yell at us quite frequently."

### *Previous Investigations*

A previous archaeological assessment of the majority of the site area was undertaken in 1997 and 1998 by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSCA 1997 and 1999), which involved desk-based study, aerial photographic analysis, fieldwalking and some geophysical survey. The results of the surveys were inconclusive but demonstrated that the site had been subject to truncation from ploughing.

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken across the site in 2014 by Pre-Construct Geophysics (2014) (Figure 2). Despite the large target area, the survey identified limited geophysical indicators of potential archaeological remains. The strongest potential feature identified comprised a group of linear anomalies; appearing to define ditches that encompass the western part of a rectilinear enclosure. Other potential ditches were recorded relatively close to known or potential Iron Age and Roman remains. A number of predominately isolated linear and discrete anomalies have been tentatively interpreted as representing ditches and pits respectively. The survey recorded clear evidence of modern and recent occupation, including land drains, as well as for earlier cultivation; principally residual traces of ridge and furrow ploughing.

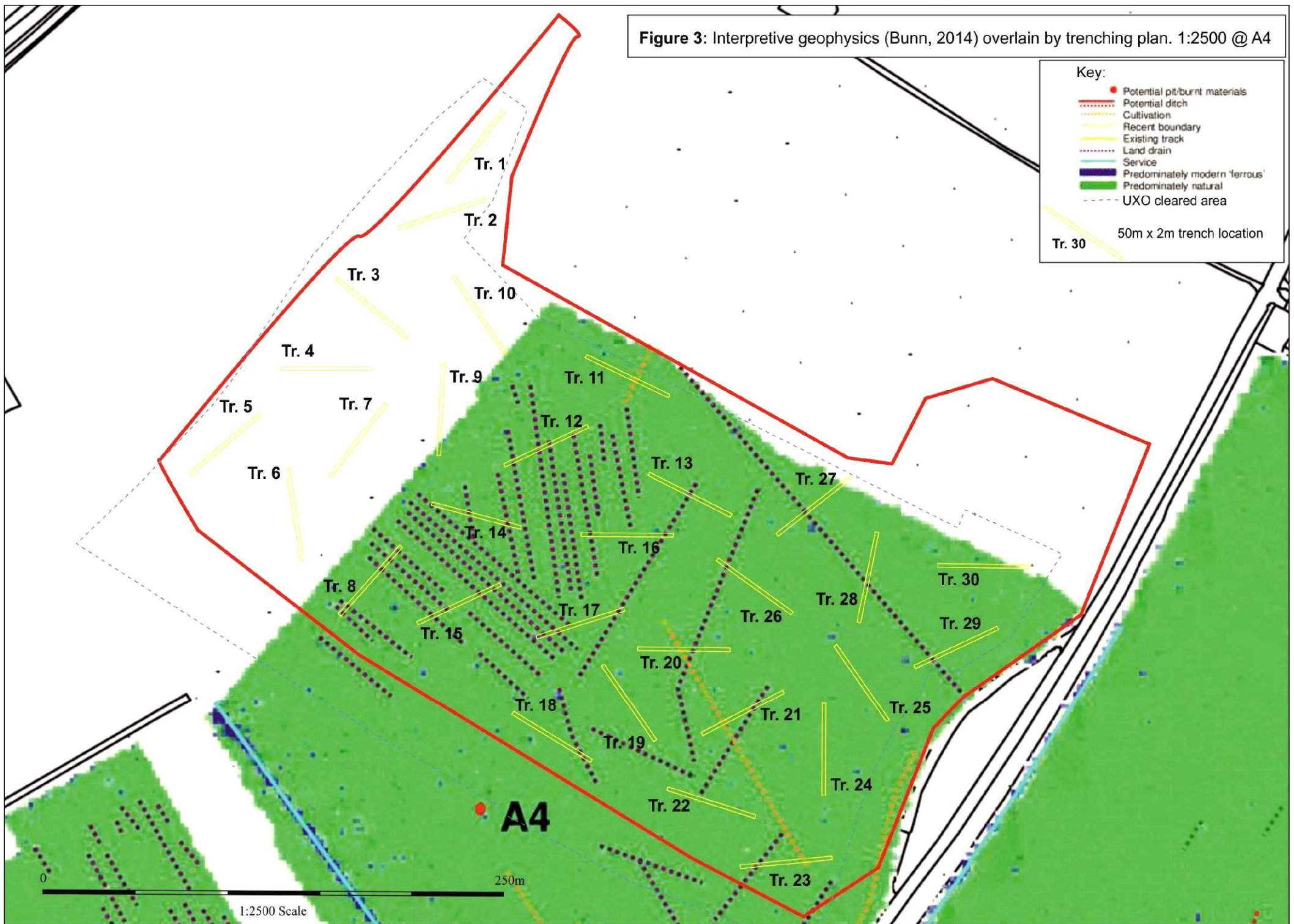
In 2015, AOC Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of 22 trenches over the proposed development site. They encountered limited archaeology, only two undated ditches and plough-truncated furrows. Finds consisted of a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and bone fragments. Trench 7 which was closest to Phase 1 revealed heavily truncated ridge and furrow but no other archaeological features (Topsoil 0.35m deep; subsoil 0.10m deep).

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

Trenches (50m x 2m) were positioned according to an approved trenching plan, allowing for minor adjustment due to the presence of unforeseen obstacles such as services. Final trench positions were tied to the OS National Grid using full RTK GPS co-ordinates, accurate to 0.03m.

Trenches were opened under archaeological supervision to the first archaeologically significant horizon, the maximum safe working depth, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. A toothless bucket was used for machine excavation.

Figure 3: Interpretive geophysics (Bunn, 2014) overlain by trenching plan. 1:2500 @ A4



Where identified, archaeological features were examined with a view to determining their date, character and survival condition. They were recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:200 & 1:20), incorporating Ordnance Survey datum heights. As a minimum, 50% of discrete features and 10% of linear features were excavated where the whole of the feature was exposed, with a minimum sample of a 1m wide slot in a short exposed length of linear feature; partially exposed features were excavated as practicable, up to the whole of the exposed portion.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made on standard PCAS context recording forms. These were supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. The archaeologist paid due attention to the landscape aspect of any exposed remains – both the cultural and the natural landscape.

Photographs incorporated an identification board, north arrow and vertical/horizontal scales as appropriate. The photographic record includes:

- general location views depicting the area of works;
- individual features in plan and/or section;
- groups of features, where relationships are important.

## 7.0 Results (Figs. 4-10)

### 7.1 Negative Trenches

#### Summary

*Of the thirty trenches excavated, the majority (24 in number) were deemed negative (Trenches 1-2, 4-8, 11-20, 22, 24-25 & 27-30). These trenches exposed a basic stratigraphy of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural substrate to a depth of between 0.4m to 0.6m, and occasionally containing the remnants of ridge and furrow where machining had not removed this. The only variance to this pattern was within Trench 1 (below).*

#### Trench 1 (Figs 4a & 4b)

*Summary: Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of nearly 1m due in part to the similarity of the subsoil and underlying natural.*

The earliest deposit encountered was dark grey-brown, sandy silt (103) with frequent manganese staining and incorporating pockets of gravels and water worn cobbles 0.38m+ thick. This material was overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of light grey-brown sandy silt (102) with reddish mineral staining throughout and very similar to the subsoil encountered above; a pale brown, sandy silt (101) with occasional red mineral flecking, approximately 0.2m thick and subsequently covered by dark brown-grey, sandy clay topsoil (100) (plates 2 and 3).



**Plate 2.** Trench 1 looking northeast up the slope.





Plate 3. Trench 1 representative section looking northwest.

### Trench 27 (Figs. 10a-10c)

#### Summary

*Trench 27 is included here as this was the only trench to have the surviving ridge and furrow extensively excavated, with two of the three furrows exposed being recorded.*

The natural substrate comprised stiff mid-red-brown clay silt (2702) which was covered by a 0.25m layer of light brown sandy silt subsoil (2701). This material was evident within the three furrows exposed, of which two were excavated and recorded. The largest [2703] at the western extent of the trench measured 2.0m in width and was 0.5m deep. Furrow [2704] was smaller and shallower, at 1m wide and 0.24m deep, presumably due to the fact it was recorded at the eastern end of Trench 27 where the gradient was steeper and the majority of the furrow, like most on the site, had been machined out (plates 4-6).

Sealing all of the above was a sandy clay topsoil (2700).



Plate 4. Trench 27 looking northeast up the slope.



Plate 5. Furrow [2703] looking obliquely north.



Plate 6. Remnants of Furrow [2704] looking north-northwest.



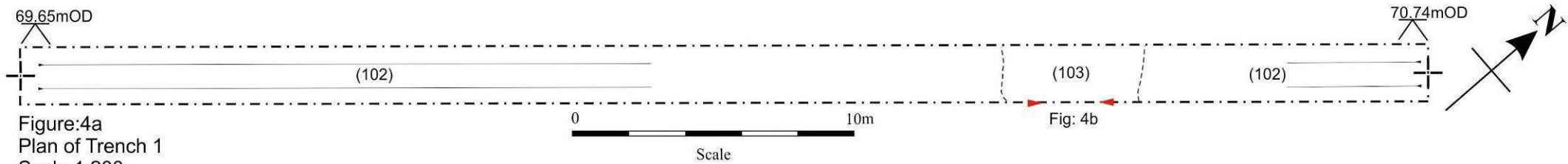


Figure:4a  
Plan of Trench 1  
Scale 1:200

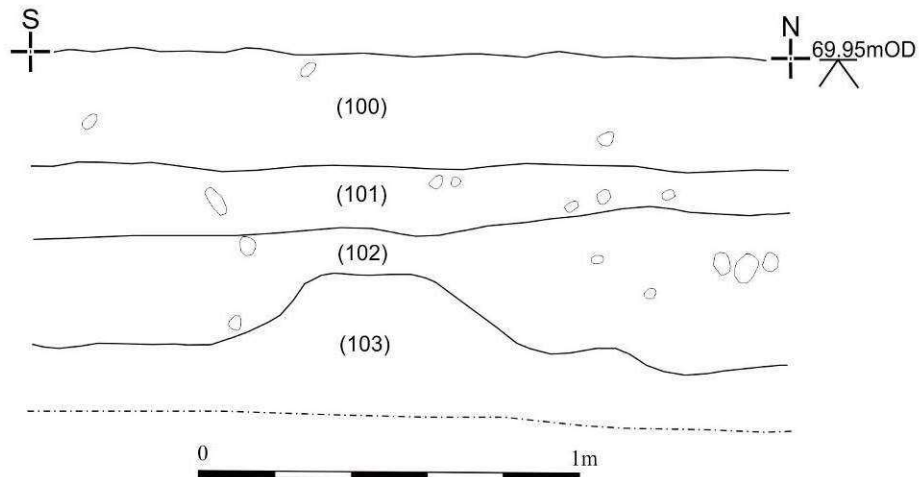


Figure:4b  
East Facing Representative section of Trench 1  
Scale 1:20

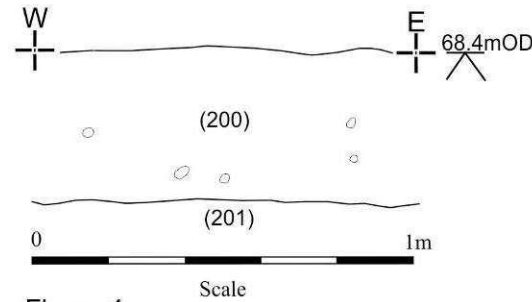


Figure:4c  
South Facing representative section of Trench 2  
Scale 1:20

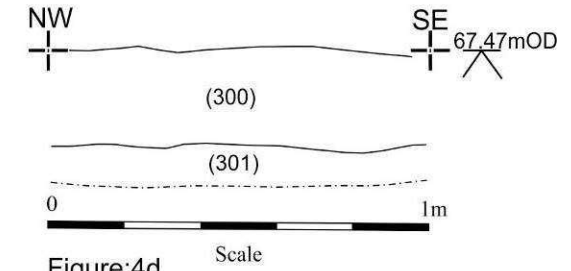


Figure:4d  
SW Facing representative section of Trench 3  
Scale 1:20

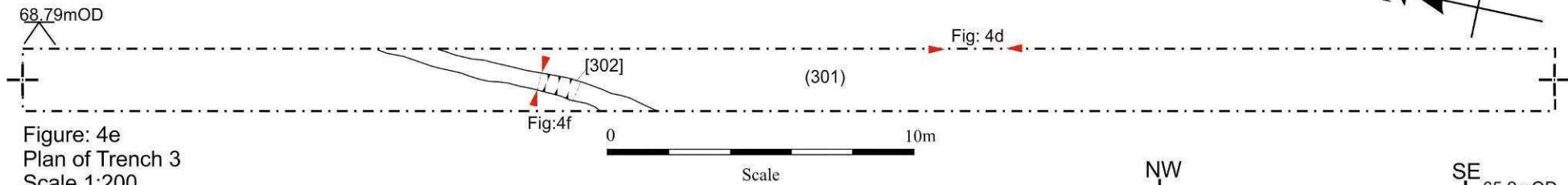


Figure: 4e  
Plan of Trench 3  
Scale 1:200

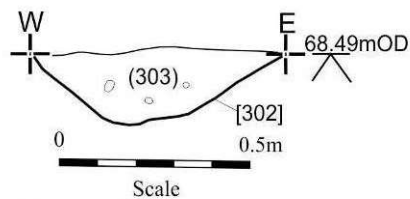


Figure: 4f  
South Facing section of Gully [302]  
Scale 1:20

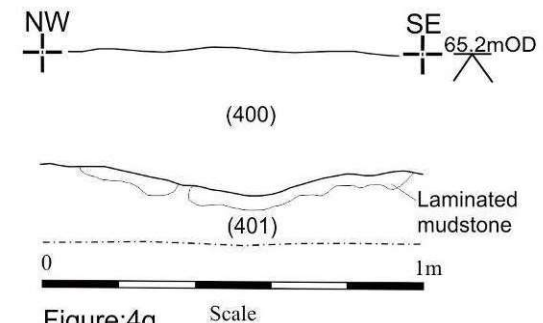


Figure:4g  
SW Facing representative section of Trench 4  
Scale 1:20

Figures: 4a-4g  
Trenches 1-4 Plans & Sections  
Scale 1:200 & 1:20

## 7.2 Positive Trenches

### Summary

Of the thirty trenches excavated, only six contained archaeology, with this almost certainly being related to agricultural activities: five small ditches/gullies and two small pits, possibly tree throws. All were undated apart from ditch [903], which contained post-medieval brick fragments. Three of the trenches (3, 9 and 10) lay within an area devoid of any geophysical investigation.

### Trench 3 (Figs. 4d-4f)

#### Summary

Trench 3 contained a single small ditch or gully aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered apart from a small assemblage of 'modern' looking animal bone.

Running obliquely along the northern end of the trench was a north-south aligned small ditch or gully [302], 0.66m wide and 0.18m deep, exhibiting shallow sides descending to a concave base and filled by a deposit of dark grey-brown clay silt (303). From this, a small assemblage of animal bone was recovered but not retained.

This ditch was sealed by 0.24m of topsoil (300).



Plate 7. Trench 3 looking southeast.

Plate 8. Gully [302] looking north.

### Trench 9 (Figs. 5e-5g)

#### Summary

Trench 9 exposed a southwest to northeast aligned ditch, cutting a small possible pit, with an associated shallow gully running parallel to the ditch.

Potentially the earliest of three features was a small possible pit or tree throw [905] which exhibited shallow sides, descending to a slightly concave base. Cutting this pit was a northeast by southwest aligned small ditch [903], 1m wide with moderately steep sides falling away to a concave base; 0.45m deep and filled with a plastic, dark brown-grey, fine sandy clay (902) which yielded a small assemblage of post-medieval brick fragments.



Plate 9. Trench 9 looking north.



Running parallel with ditch [903] was a remnant shallow gully [907] with a broad, slightly concave profile, 0.07m in depth. This was filled by a mid, grey-brown, fine sandy clay (906).

These features were covered by 0.7m of topsoil (900).



Plate 10. Gully [907] looking northeast.



Plate 11. Ditch [903] looking east, cutting small Pit [905] to the south.

## Trench 10 (Figs 6a-6b)

### Summary

*Trench 10 exposed a single ditch; possibly a continuation of ditch [903].*

An east-west aligned ditch [1002] was exposed, situated towards the northern end of the trench, 0.98m wide and 0.46m deep with steep sides descending to a concave base. Three deposits were exposed within this feature, (1005) being the earliest and interpreted as a slumped deposit of redeposited natural on the ditches northern edge. This was covered by 0.32m of mid orange-brown clay silt (1004) and sealed by 0.12m of dark brown-grey clay silt with rooting being evident throughout. The adjacent east facing half of the excavation was heavily disturbed by a small, extant tree bole, possibly part of a former hedge or field boundary.



Plate 12. Trench 10 looking north.



Plate 13. Ditch [1002] looking east.

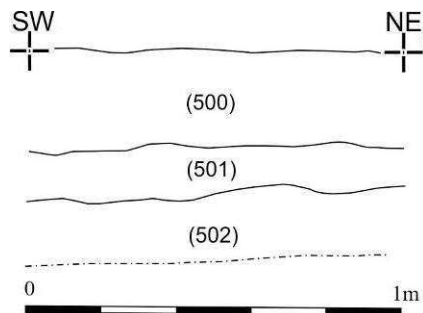


Figure:5a  
SE Facing representative section  
of Trench 5  
Scale 1:20

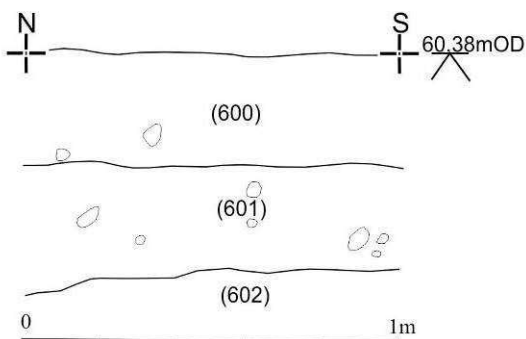


Figure:5b  
West Facing representative section  
of Trench 6  
Scale 1:20

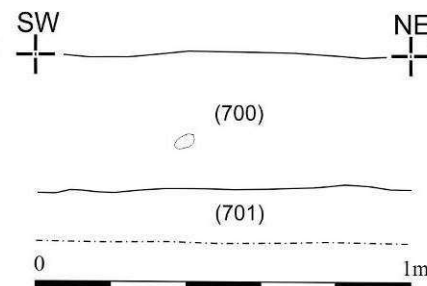


Figure:5c  
SE Facing representative section  
of Trench 7  
Scale 1:20

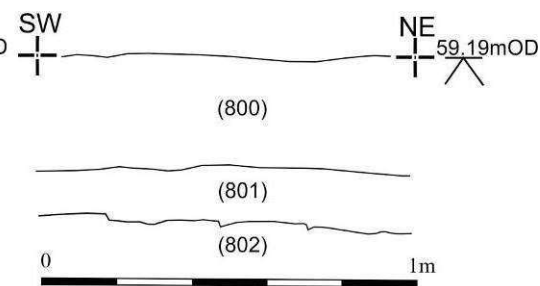


Figure:5d  
SE Facing representative section  
of Trench 8  
Scale 1:20

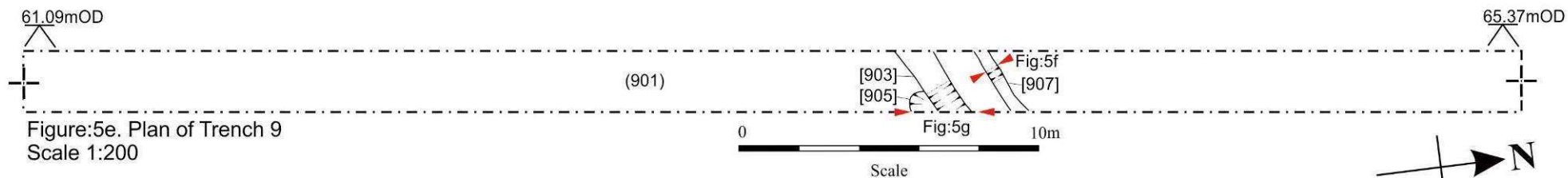
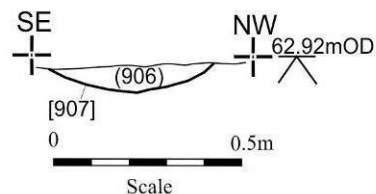


Figure:5e. Plan of Trench 9  
Scale 1:200



Drawing: 5f  
NE Facing section of  
shallow Gully [907].  
Scale 1:20



Drawing: 5g  
West Facing section of Ditch [903] cutting small Pit [905]  
in Trench 9  
Scale 1:20

Figure: 5a-5g  
Trenches 5-9 Plans & Sections  
Scale 1:200 & 1:20



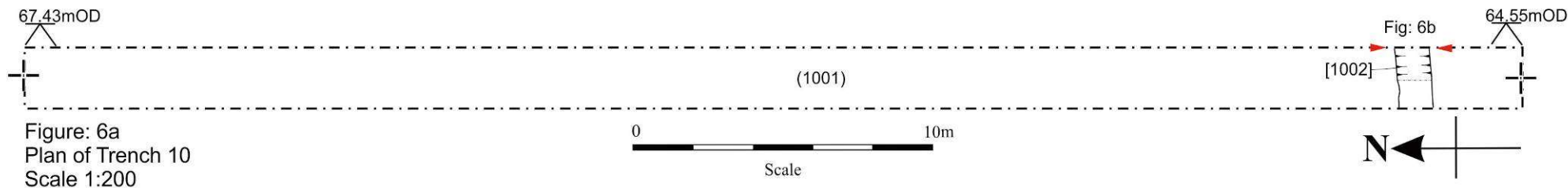


Figure: 6a  
Plan of Trench 10  
Scale 1:200

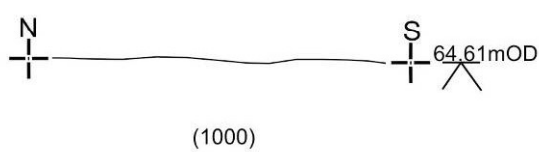


Figure:6b  
West Facing section of Ditch [1002]  
Scale 1:20

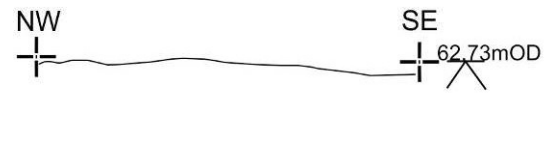


Figure:6c  
SW Facing Representative section  
of Trench 11  
Scale 1:20

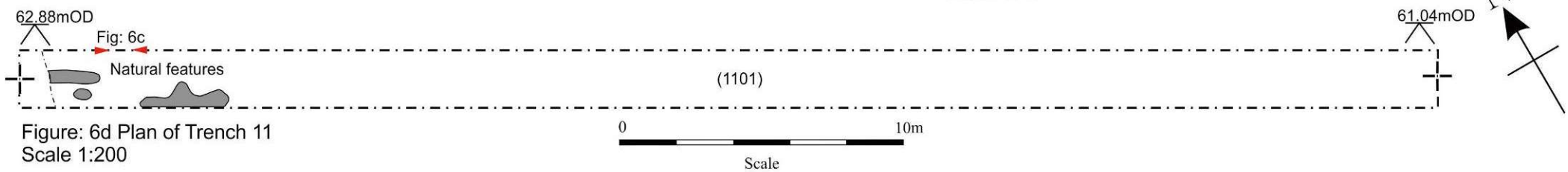


Figure: 6d Plan of Trench 11  
Scale 1:200

Figure: 6a-6d  
Trenches 10-11 Plans & Sections  
Scale 1:200 & 1:20

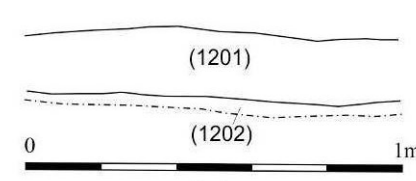
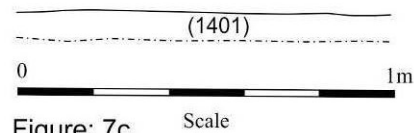
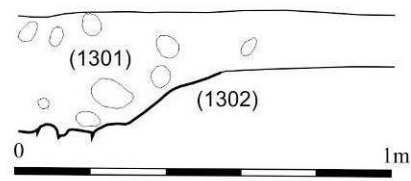
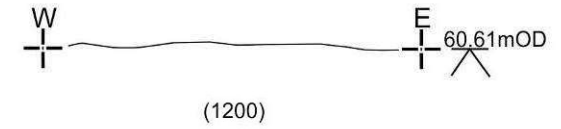
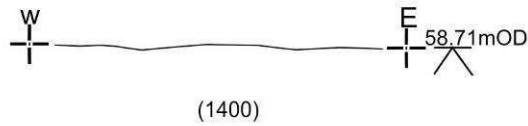
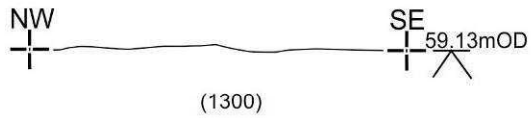
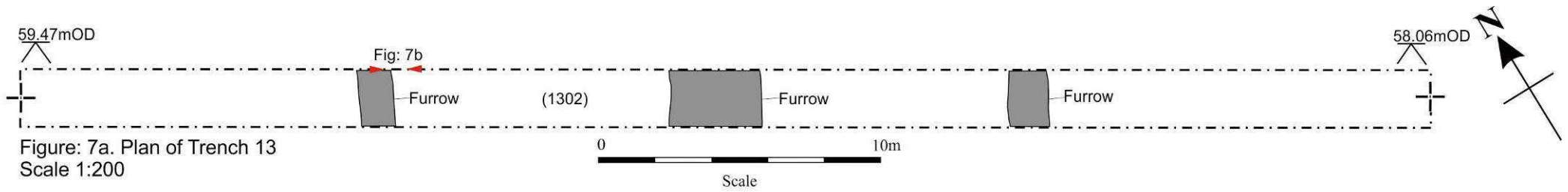


Figure: 7b  
SW Facing representative section  
of Trench 13, partially incorporating Furrow  
Scale 1:20

Figure: 7c  
South Facing representative section  
of Trench 14  
Scale 1:20

Figure: 7d  
South Facing representative section  
of Trench 12  
Scale 1:20

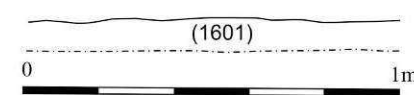
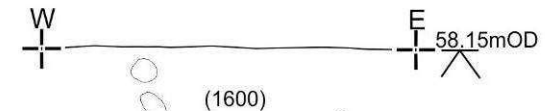
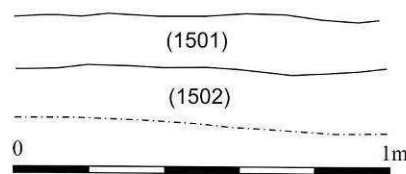
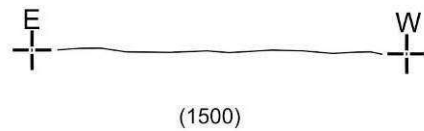
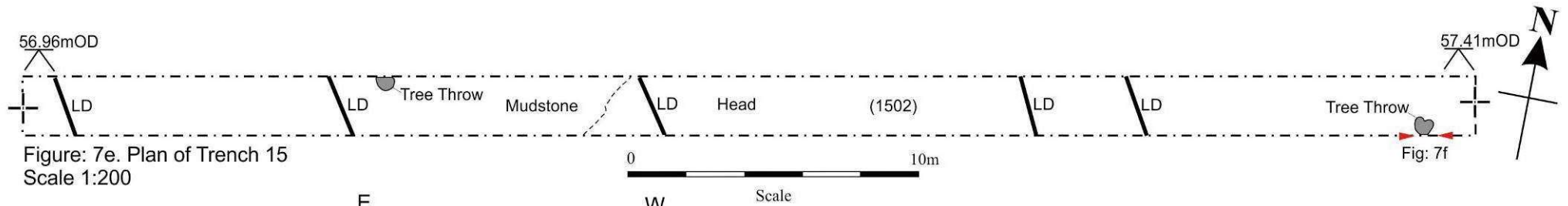


Figure: 7a-7g  
Trenches 12-16 Plans & Sections  
Scale 1:200 & 1:20

Figure: 7f  
North Facing representative section  
of Trench 15  
Scale 1:20

Figure: 7g  
South Facing representative section  
of Trench 16  
Scale 1:20

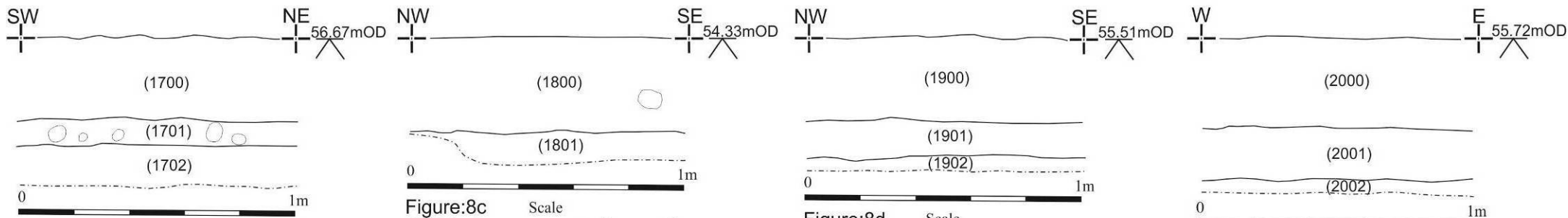
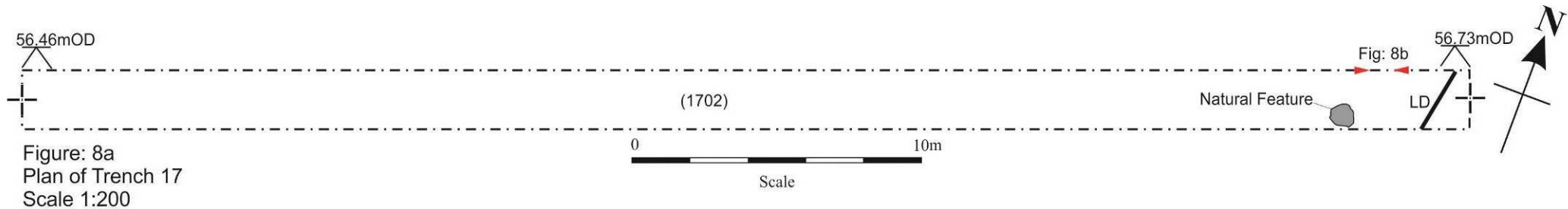


Figure:8b  
SE Facing representative section  
of Trench 17  
Scale 1:20

Figure:8c  
SW Facing representative section  
of Trench 18  
Scale 1:20

Figure:8d  
SW Facing representative section  
of Trench 19  
Scale 1:20

Figure:8e  
South Facing representative section  
of Trench 20  
Scale 1:20

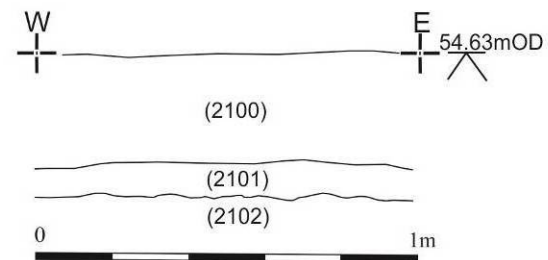
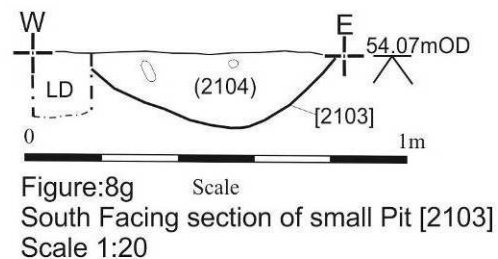
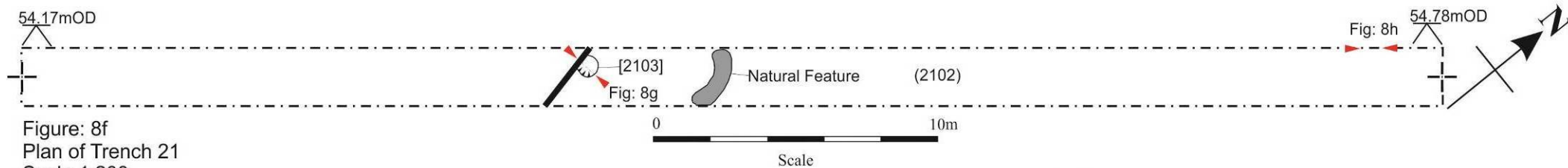


Figure: 8h  
South Facing representative section  
of Trench 21  
Scale 1:20

Figure: 8a-8h  
Trenches 17-21 Plans & Sections  
Scale 1:200 & 1:20



### Trench 21 (Figs. 8f-8h)

#### Summary

*Trench 21 exposed a single, undated small pit, truncated by a land drain.*

Towards the southwest half of the trench, a small oval pit or possibly a tree throw (vegetation mark) was exposed, partially truncated by a land drain. 'Pit' [2103] was 0.66m wide with shallow sides falling away to a concave base 0.2m deep. A single fill of dark grey-brown, friable sandy silt (2104) with occasional stones was within.



Plate 14. Trench 21 looking northeast.



Plate 15. Small pit or vegetation mark [2103] looking northeast.



Plate 16. Representative section of Trench 21 looking northwest.

### Trench 23 (Figs. 9a-9c)

#### Summary

*Trench 23 exposed a north-south aligned ditch with an adjacent parallel furrow. These features form part of a potential boundary indicated on the geophysical overlay in figure 3.*

Subsoil in this area filled a north-south aligned furrow [2305] remnant or other agricultural feature to a width of 0.6m and a depth of 0.24m. Parallel with this was a 0.9m wide, shallow ditch [2303], filled with a dark grey-brown clay silt (2304) to a depth of 0.24m.

Features were sealed by 0.3m of topsoil (2300).



Plate 17. Trench 23 looking west.





Plate 18. Ditch [2303] looking northwest.



Plate 19. Furrow remnant / agricultural feature [2305] looking northwest.

### Trench 26 (Figs. 9h-9i)

#### Summary

*Trench 26 exposed a single 'modern' ditch which follows the north-south alignment of an agricultural linear feature displayed on the geophysical overlay plan, figure 3. A small circular feature at the northwest end of the trench proved to be no more than natural rooting.*

Both the subsoil and natural substrate were cut by a ditch of presumably modern origin [2603], approximately 0.7m wide and 0.42m deep, containing a light, red-brown friable, sandy silt (2604). This feature was sealed by 0.3m of topsoil (2600).



Plate 20. Trench 26 looking northwest.



Plate 21. Modern Ditch [2603] looking northeast.

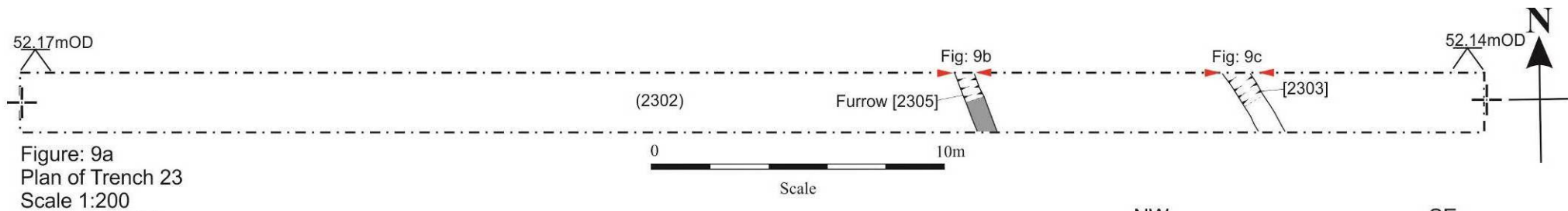


Figure: 9a  
Plan of Trench 23  
Scale 1:200

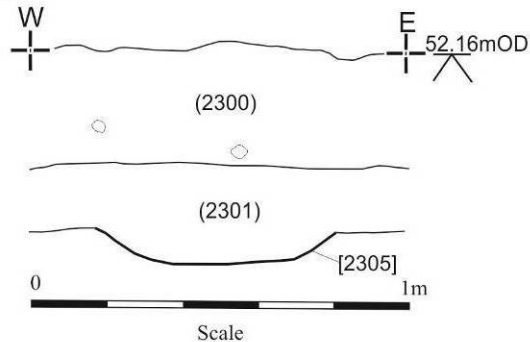


Figure:9b  
South Facing section of Furrow  
remnant [2305]  
Scale 1:20

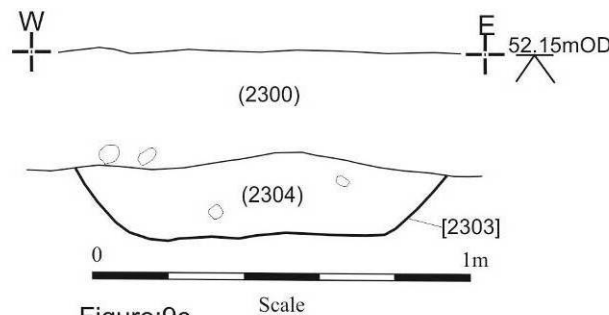


Figure:9c  
South Facing section of Ditch [2303]  
Scale 1:20

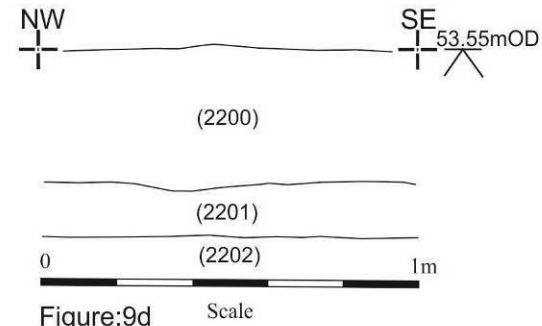


Figure:9d  
SW Facing representative section  
of Trench 22  
Scale 1:20

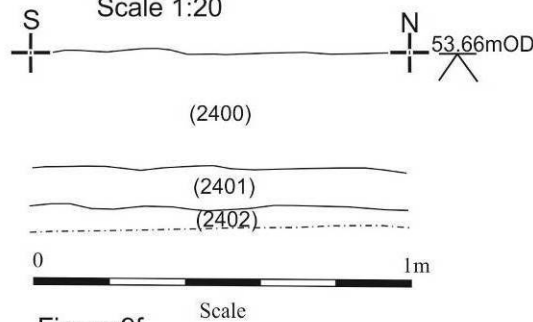


Figure:9f  
East Facing Representative section  
of Trench 24  
Scale 1:20

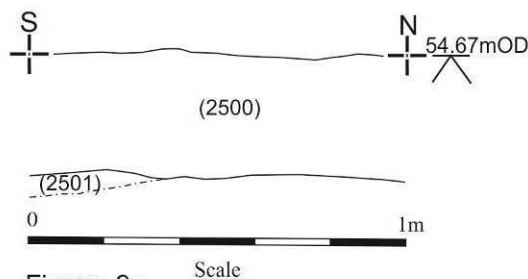


Figure: 9g  
East Facing Representative Section  
of Trench 25  
Scale 1:20

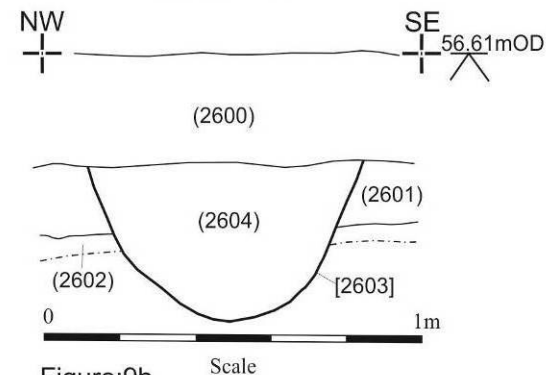


Figure:9h  
SW Facing section of Ditch [2603]  
Scale 1:20

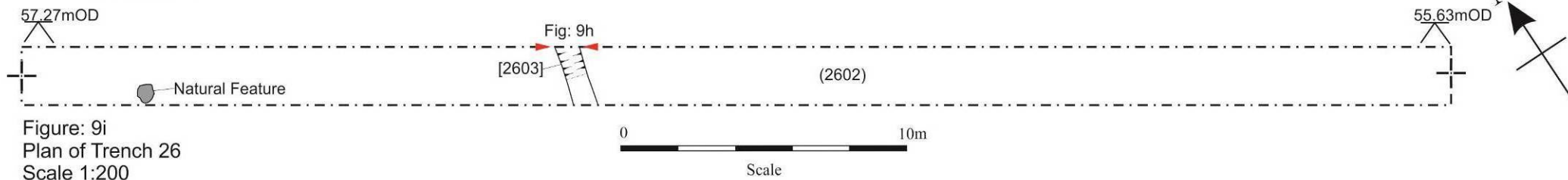


Figure: 9i  
Plan of Trench 26  
Scale 1:200

Figures: 9a-9i  
Trenches 22-26 Plans & Sections  
Scale 1:200 & 1:20

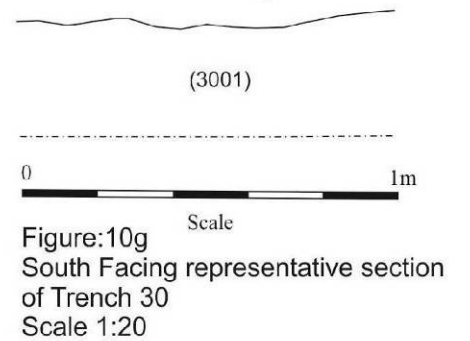
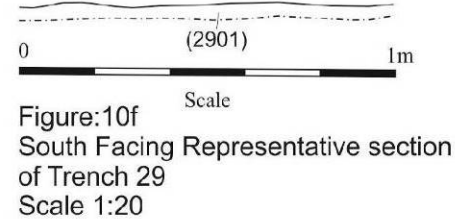
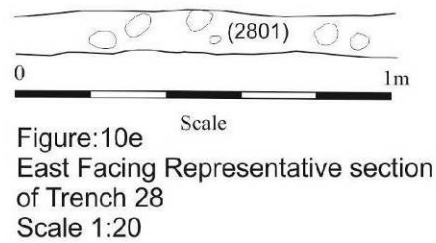
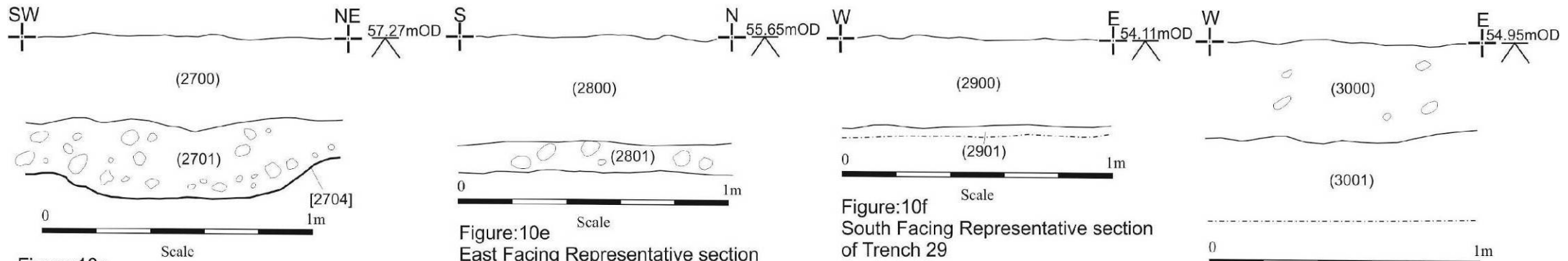
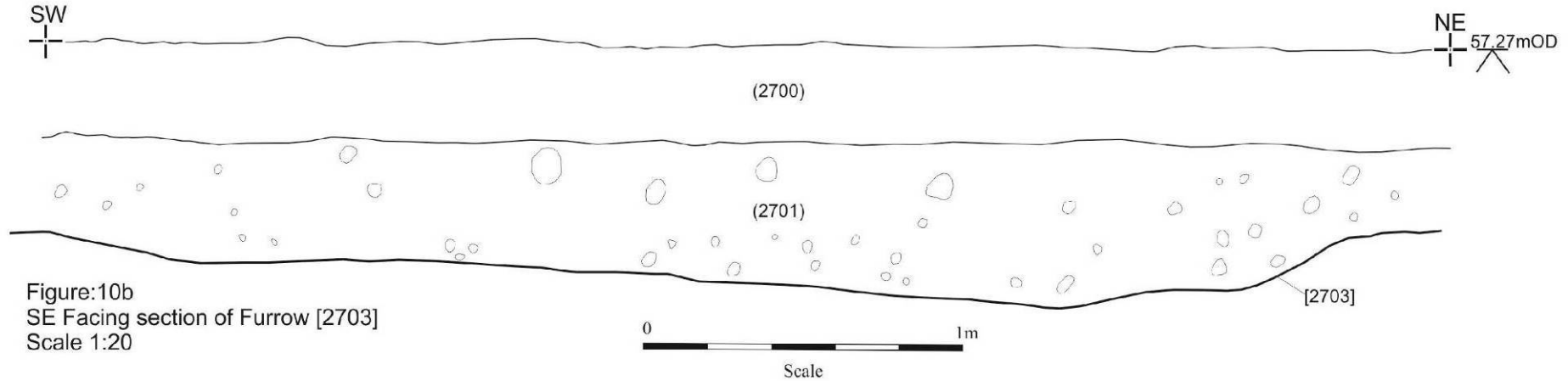
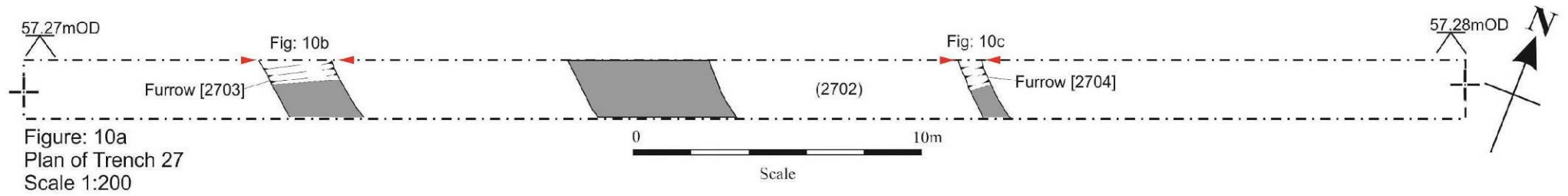


Figure: 10a-10g  
Trenches 27-30 Plans & Sections  
Scale 1:200 & 1:20





**Plate 22.** Panorama shot of the site with Trench 2 in the foreground, looking west-southwest.



**Plate 23.** Panorama shot of the site looking southwest, with Trench 10 in foreground.



**Plate 24.** Panorama shot of site looking south-southwest.



**Plate 25.** Panorama shot of site looking due south.

## 8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The linear features exposed in Trenches 23 and 26 correlate with geophysical anomalies and clearly relate to agricultural usage of the land. This is clearly evident in Trench 23 where a parallel, northwest to southeast ditch and furrow follow the alignment of a recent field boundary. Likewise, a linear feature investigated in Trench 26 correlates with an interpreted land drain, which after excavation revealed itself to be a modern field boundary ditch.

Three trenches that exposed further minimal levels of archaeology lay outside the limits of the geophysical investigation, these being Trenches 3, 9 and 10. Trench 9 exposed the remnants of a shallow northeast to southwest gully and a parallel field or hedge boundary containing brick fragments of post-medieval origin. If projected northeast, this boundary appears to be a continuation of one revealed in Trench 10 which contained a tree bole and frequent rooting. The small northwest to southeast aligned gully in Trench 3 may be associated with those features in Trench 10, perhaps forming another perpendicular boundary at its southeast extrapolation.

Overall, the evaluation within Phase 1 clearly indicates a low level of archaeological activity associated with post-medieval and modern agricultural field systems; to include the survival of ridge and furrow and associated field boundaries and drainage systems.

It is concluded that further archaeological intervention within this zone is unlikely to yield useful results.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Fairham Pastures Ltd for this commission.

## **10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering information about the site's archaeological potential, indicating specifically the low level of archaeology surviving within the Phase 1 footprint and its post-medieval to modern provenance pertaining to agricultural usage. The body of data produced by this evaluation will be able to inform the planning and development process.

## **11.0 References**

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**Appendix 1: Context Summary**

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
100	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
101	Layer	Subsoil: Pale brown sandy silt, occasional red mineral flecks.	0.2m thick
102	Layer	Natural: Light grey-brown sandy silt, frequent red mineral staining throughout.	0.4m thick
103	Layer	Natural: Dark grey-brown sandy silt with frequent manganese staining, incorporating pockets of gravels and water worn cobbles.	0.18m to 0.38m+

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
200	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.4m thick
201	Layer	Natural: Mid red, brown-grey clay silt with frequent gravel patches.	

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
300	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.24m thick
301	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt	0.1m+ thick
302	Cut	N-S Aligned small gully. Shallow sides, descending to a concave base.	0.66m wide 0.18m deep
303	Fill	Fill of Gully [302]. Dark grey-brown clay silt, containing small assemblage of animal bone (not retained)	0.18m thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
400	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.38m thick
401	Layer	Natural: Laminated mudstone and mid orange brown silts.	0.19m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
500	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.24m thick
501	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.14m thick
502	Layer	Natural: Red-brown clay silt.	0.2m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
600	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
601	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.32m thick
602	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
700	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.34m thick
701	Layer	Natural: Laminated mudstone.	0.14m thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
800	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
801	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.14m thick
802	Layer	Natural: Laminated mudstone.	

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
900	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.7m thick
901	Layer	Natural: Compact, light red-brown sandy clay with light grey flecking.	0.15m+ thick
902	Fill	Fill of Ditch [903]. Plastic dark brown-grey, fine sandy clay.	0.45m thick
903	Cut	NE-SW aligned Ditch. Moderately steep sides descending to a concave base. Cuts small Pit [905].	1m wide 0.45m deep
904	Fill	Mid brown, plastic, fine sandy clay. Fill of Pit [905].	0.2m thick
905	Cut	Remnant of small Pit cut by Ditch [903]. Shallow sides descending to a slightly concave base.	0.54m+ wide 0.2m deep
906	Fill	Mid grey-brown, friable fine sandy clay. Fill of Gully [907].	0.07m thick
907	Cut	Very shallow Gully, aligned NE-SW, with broad, slightly concave profile. Runs parallel to Ditch [903] on Northern side.	0.45m wide 0.07m deep



CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1000	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.4m thick
1001	Layer	Natural: Orange clay silt.	0.14m+ thick
1002	Cut	E-W aligned Ditch. Steep sides, descending to a concave base with tree bole present in adjacent section face. Former hedge boundary?	0.98m wide 0.46m deep
1003	Fill	Upper fill of Ditch [1002]. Dark brown-grey clay silt with rooting.	0.12m thick
1004	Fill	Main fill of Ditch [1002]. Mid orange brown clay silt.	0.32m thick
1005	Fill	Slumping on N edge of Ditch [1002]. Light orange sandy silt, redeposited natural.	0.24m thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1100	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.7m thick
1101	Layer	Natural: Compact, light red-brown clay silt and veins of dark grey coarse sand.	0.2m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1200	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.36m thick
1201	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.2m thick
1202	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.04m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1300	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.34m thick
1301	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.16m thick
1302	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1400	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.34m thick
1401	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.06m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1500	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.32m thick
1501	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.14m thick
1502	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.14m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1600	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
1601	Layer	Natural: Mid yellow-brown clay silt.	0.08m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1700	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
1701	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt with frequent stones.	0.1m thick
1702	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.14m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1800	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.34m thick
1801	Layer	Natural: Mid grey-yellow laminated mudstone.	0.12m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
1900	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
1901	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.12m thick
1902	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.04m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2000	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.32m thick
2001	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.2m thick
2002	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.04m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2100	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.28m thick
2101	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.1m thick
2102	Layer	Natural: Dark red-brown, grey silty gravels.	
2103	Cut	Small shallow Pit, truncated by adjacent land drain. Shallow sides, descending to a concave base.	0.66m wide 0.2m deep
2104	Fill	Fill of [2103]. Dark grey brown, friable sandy silt with occasional stones.	0.2m thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2200	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.4m thick
2201	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.14m thick
2202	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt with gravel patches.	

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2300	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
2301	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.19m thick
2302	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	
2303	Cut	N-S aligned Ditch. Moderately steep sides descending to a flat base.	0.9m wide 0.2m deep
2304	Fill	Fill of [2303]. Dark grey-brown clay silt.	0.2m thick
2305	Cut	Furrow remnant filled by subsoil (2301). Shallow sides descending to flat base.	0.6m wide 0.24m deep

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2400	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
2401	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.1m thick
2402	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.06m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2500	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.32m thick
2501	Layer	Natural: Laminated mudstone	0.05m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2600	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
2601	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt.	0.16m thick
2602	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.04m+ thick
2603	Cut	N-S aligned Ditch. Steep sides descending to a concave base. Cut through Subsoil layer (2601).	0.7m wide 0.42m deep
2604	Fill	Fill of Ditch [2603]. Light, red-brown, friable sandy silt.	0.42m thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2700	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.3m thick
2701	Layer	Subsoil: Light-mid brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions.	0.25m thick
2702	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	
2703	Cut	NW-SE aligned Furrow containing Subsoil (2701).	0.4m wide 0.5m deep
2704	Cut	NW-SE aligned Furrow containing Subsoil (2701).	1m wide 0.24m deep

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2800	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.4m thick
2801	Layer	Subsoil: Light brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions.	0.1m thick
2802	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
2900	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.32m thick
2901	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.04m+ thick

CTX	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
3000	Layer	Topsoil: Compact, dark brown-grey sandy clay.	0.36m thick
3001	Layer	Natural: Mid red-brown clay silt.	0.3m+ thick



## Appendix 2: OASIS Summary

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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### Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst3-386817**

#### Project details

Project name	Phase 1 at Fairham Pastures, land east and west of Nottingham Road, Clifton, Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire, Archaeological
Short description of the project	PCAS Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Oxalis Planning Ltd to conduct a thirty trench evaluation in advance of a large urban development on land to the east and west of Nottingham Road known as Fairham Pastures. This investigation, Phase 1, covers approximately 31 acres and is situated in the northwest corner of the site. The proposed development site lies within a cropmark landscape currently interpreted as representation of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, part of the wider landscape surrounding the scheduled villa and enclosed settlement at Glebe Farm, c.2km south of this evaluation. Occasional flints dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age have also been recovered from within and around the Site, and there was considered some potential for further remains to survive within the site area. It is likely that the majority of the site area was utilised as agricultural land from at least the medieval period. Previous archaeological investigations have previously occurred on the proposed development site, most recently by AOC Archaeology in 2015 (Fig. 2) During the course of the evaluation, a low level of archaeological features was revealed, pertaining to agricultural use and comprised 5 small ditches/gullies and 2 small, shallow pits. These features were undated apart from ditch [903] which contained post medieval brick fragments.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2020 End: 19-02-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	14/01417/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	FCNE20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Significant Finds	HORSE SHOE Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Metal Detectors","Targeted Trenches","Visual Inspection"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF  
Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England  
Site location NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RUSHCLIFFE BARTON IN FABIS Phase 1 at Fairham Pastures, Land East and West of Nottingham Road, Clifton, Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire  
Study area 12.54 Hectares  
Site coordinates SK 54093 33271 52.893841294012 -1.195855758936 52 53 37 N 001 11 45 W Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 0.3m Max: 0.7m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation PCAS Archaeology Ltd.  
Project brief originator PCAS Archaeology Ltd.  
Project design originator PCAS Archaeology Ltd.  
Project director/manager Will Munford  
Project supervisor S A Savage  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Not yet known  
Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
Physical Archive notes Rushcliffe does not currently have a receiving archive for archaeological projects.  
Digital Archive recipient Not yet known  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography"  
Paper Archive recipient Not yet known  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Phase 1 at Fairham Pastures, land east and west of Nottingham Road, Clifton, Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire, Archaeological Evaluation  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Sleep.J  
Other bibliographic PCAS report no. 2204

details

Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	PCAS Archaeology Ltd
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Entered by	Julian Sleaf (julian.sleaf@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	28 February 2020

## OASIS:

Please e-mail **Historic England** for OASIS help and advice

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