ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE FORMER CHURCHFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL, CHURCH VALE, WEST BROMWICH

Darren Miller

With a contribution by Dennis Williams

Illustrations by Steve Rigby

21st December 2007
revised 11th January 2008

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ

Project 3149
Report 1586
SMR ref. CHC 07

Contents

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Part 1: Summary

This report describes the results of evaluation trenching on the site of the former High School near the medieval parish church at Church Vale, West Bromwich (NGR: SP 01165 92690). The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of David Wilson Homes (Mercia), who intend to develop the site. The site lies in an Area of Archaeological Importance, defined on the basis of previous fieldwork and documentary research. Sites and finds in the vicinity suggested a potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval deposits.

Eleven trenches were excavated outside the footprints of the former school buildings. Each trench showed evidence for landscaping associated with the construction of the school in the 1950s. This evidence was supported by information from boreholes and other ground investigations. In summary, it seems that the landscaping involved varying degrees of truncation followed by deposition. Truncation was most severe across the footprints of the buildings, where all pre-modern deposits were removed. Truncation around the buildings was less severe, leaving some deposits *in situ*. The surviving deposits were loamy soils with no ceramic or other inclusions. Only two pre-modern features were found: a post-medieval field ditch and an undated, though probably contemporary, holloway.

Taken together, the results suggest that the site has little archaeological potential. It is possible that remains of Anglo-Saxon or medieval settlement once existed and has been removed, but it is more likely that the site was agricultural land in these periods, as it certainly was by the 16th century.

Part 2: Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former Churchfields High School, Church Vale, West Bromwich (NGR: SP 01165 92690; Fig 1), on behalf of CgMs Consulting. Their client, David Wilson Homes (Mercia), intends to undertake residential redevelopment of the site and has submitted a planning application to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The site lies in an Area of Archaeological Importance, defined on the basis of previous fieldwork and documentary research.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a specification prepared by CgMs Consulting (2007) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WHEAS 2007).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

More specifically the following aims were identified:

- to clarify the presence and character of any Anglo-Saxon, medieval or later post-medieval activity
- to carry out an appropriate programme of environmental sampling for analysis with special attention to waterlogged deposits

1.4 Methods

1.4.1 Documentary research

The fieldwork was informed by a series of historic maps supplied by CgMs, and information was also obtained from Sandwell HBSMR. CgMs also supplied a report on previous ground investigations (Allum 2005). A limited amount of research on these and other sources was undertaken after the fieldwork, in the light of the results.

1.4.2 Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken between the 3rd and 7th December 2007. The site reference number and site code is CHC 07.

Eleven trenches, each approximately 50m by 1.85m were excavated as shown on Figure 2. They amount to nearly 3% of the total evaluation area site area of *c* 39,000m², and a much higher percentage of the area not previously occupied by substantial buildings.

Modern overburden and made ground was removed under archaeological supervision by a 360º tracked excavator, fitted with toothless bucket. Representative profiles were cleaned,

and the few features identified were cleaned and partly excavated. No deposits with any potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis were encountered. Drawn, written and photographic records were made, although due to a faulty camera, not all trenches were recorded photographically on colour transparency film. Once recorded, the trenches were backfilled with the excavated material.

1.4.3 Post-fieldwork analysis

Stratigraphic analysis involved integrating the results of the trenching and previous ground investigations and identifying areas of relative preservation and destruction (Figs 2 and 5; Appendix 1). With regard to the features, it is also involved inferring formation processes from particular attributes.

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context. The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994).

1.5 The methods in retrospect

In general, the methods are thought to have been appropriate to the aims of the project and the nature of the site. With regard to the fieldwork, the trenches were located as specified, and provided an adequate means for establishing the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains. All the trenches were accessible, and most surfaces were clearly visible. With regard to post-fieldwork analysis, comparing the results from the trenches and ground investigations allowed a broader assessment of the site's stratigraphy and the effects of modern landscaping. The level of artefactual analysis was in keeping with the interpretative potential of the material, and enough documentary research was done to place the results in their appropriate local context. The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

2. Topographical, historical, and archaeological background

The site lies in the suburb of Churchfields, about 2km north of West Bromwich town centre (Fig 1). It covers an area of about 3.9 hectares between Church Vale and Dartmouth Golf Course). The geology of the site consists of deep Pleistocene fluvioglacial deposits over Carboniferous Coal Measures (Alum 2005, 11). The soils of the area have been mapped as seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils of the Clifton Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

In historical terms, the site lay near the centre of the manor and parish of West Bromwich (Hodder 1990). The medieval parish church, first documented in the early 12th century, still stands in a regular enclosure to the north, and the main focus of settlement by the late 18th century, lay 1km to the south, at Lyndon (Hodder 1990, 30; Baugh, Greenslade and Johnson 1976, 2-4). There was also a loose agglomeration of farmsteads to the west of the site, and more widely dispersed farmsteads to the north. These settlements formed part of a typical woodland landscape of small open fields and irregular enclosures (Hodder 1990; Dyer 2000). According to research by Hodder and the authors of the Victoria County History, the main open fields of West Bromwich lay to the north of the church, on either side of Walsall Road (Hodder 1990, 32; Baugh, Greenslade and Johnson 1976, 27-28). By 1531, however, a smaller field lay to the south, and apparently extended into the west of the site (Hodder 1990, 31; 1 Baugh, Greenslade and Johnson 1976, 27-28). It contained a parcel called Stye Croft, and was known by the 17th century as Lyndon Field.

The HBSMR records supplied by Sandwell Borough Council relate to sites and find-spots within 500m of the site. They include the site of a Bronze Age burnt mound, 400m to the east

(SMR 4022 - MBL2844) and finds of prehistoric flints, Roman pottery and medieval pottery on Hill House Farm, 500m to the south-east (SMR 4059 – MBL2872, SMR 4763 – MBL2998 and SMR 4036 – MBL 2850). They also include several earthworks, notably the surfaced holloway called Water Lane 400m to the north-west (SMR 4024 – 2845), and traces of ridge and furrow 200m to the north (SMR 4242 – MBL2953). Another unsurfaced holloway, not recorded on the HBSMR, runs across Dartmouth Golf Course, and probably continued along the line of Vale Street (Hodder 1990, 32).

All this evidence suggested that remains of several periods might be present on the site. In particular, the proximity of the site to medieval or earlier roads, tracks, buildings, and fields indicated a potential for associated remains. There was, admittedly, no direct evidence to suggest that the site had been settled in the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods, but settlement patterns in woodland areas are known to have changed considerably in the centuries around the Norman Conquest, and many farmsteads were deserted between the 14th and 18th centuries (Dyer 2000). West Bromwich probably followed these trends, and indeed, a ditch filled with 14th/15th century pottery and building materials, found at 144, Vicarage Road, 300m to the east of the site, might well represent a deserted farmstead (SMR 5990 – MBL3060).

3. Results

3.1 Stratigraphy

The trenches and previous ground investigations are shown together on Figures 2 and 5. Summaries of the deposits observed in the trenches and ground investigations are contained in Appendix 1. Fuller descriptions of the deposits observed in each trench are contained in Appendix 2.

3.1.1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits were reached in all trenches, and in all the previous ground investigations. The deposits varied across the site, but were generally yellowish/reddish brown sandy silts with common small gravels. In some areas, the deposits had clearly been truncated by modern landscaping. This was evident from major differences in levels between adjacent trenches and ground investigations (Appendix 1). As shown on Figure 5, truncation was most severe across the footprints of the former school buildings. Some truncation was also observed in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11.

3.1.2 Pre-modern soils and features

Truncated subsoils were observed in parts of Trenches 1 and 5, and across most of Trenches 2, 3, 4, and 8 (Fig 5). In Trench 2, the subsoil was sealed by topsoil at the north-west end of the trench (Plate 7). None of these soils showed any evidence of former cultivation or improvement (e.g. furrows, mixing of soil horizons, or residual pottery deposited with manure).

The only pre-modern features identified were a ditch in Trench 9, and two more unusual features in Trench 11. The ditch in Trench 9 (context 9004) ran across the southern half of the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 2; Plate 24). It had obviously been truncated, and would have been much wider and deeper than the extant 0.85m by 0.40m (Fig 3). The lower fill contained a fragment of tile, and several sherds of 17th century pottery (see below, Section 3.2).

The features in Trench 11 had also been truncated, but had clearly been much shallower in relation to their width. They were separated by 5.5m and had the same north-east to south-west alignment (Figs 2 and 4; Plates 30-32). The eastern feature (context 1105) was the

smaller of the two, being about 5.75m wide by 0.55m deep (Fig 4; Plates 30 and 31). The western feature was more than 11m wide and about 0.40m deep (Fig 4; Plate 32). Both features were filled with inorganic sandy silt with common small gravels but no other inclusions. They are therefore undated, but the fill of the eastern feature was cut by a ceramic land drain of late 19th or early 20th century type, and a sherd of 18th century pottery was recovered from the bottom of the overlying deposit. There is therefore a good case for both features being of post-medieval date. The interpretation of the features is another matter, but they are both too large to have been ditches, and have none of the attributes of former watercourses. They can, however, be plausibly interpreted as holloways, or rather as two elements of the same holloway. Holloways are common features of the rural landscape, and several local examples have been noted above. They are formed by a combination of wheeled traffic and natural erosion, and often braid across open ground, as lengths become too muddy or waterlogged. The size of the features, their profiles, and their parallel alignment are all consistent with this interpretation.

3.1.3 Made ground and modern features

Made ground was observed in all trenches and all but two of the previous ground investigations (Appendix 1). For the most part, the made ground consisted of redeposited topsoil, subsoil, and fluvioglacial deposits, but it also contained varying amounts of imported refuse including brick rubble, roadstone, pottery, and glass (*cf* Plates 3, 22, 29 etc). As observed in the trenches, the made ground varied in depth from 0.35m (Trench 1), to 1.20m (Trench 11), but deeper deposits were observed in the previous ground investigations (Appendix 1). Only the most diagnostic artefacts were recovered and reported on (see below, Section 3.2).

The made ground sealed and was cut in places by modern features (Appendix 2). All of these were services of one kind or another, related to the former school.

3.2 Artefacts, by Dennis Williams

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated areas was a very limited one, and comprised 22 sherds of pottery weighing 3,862g. In addition, three glass bottles and one tile fragment were recovered.

The level of preservation was generally good, with the majority of pottery sherds displaying only moderate abrasion.

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Glass	8	2585
Metal	1	1
Pottery	22	386
Tile	1	27

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

The finds came from contexts in Trenches 5, 9 and 11. There were no diagnostic form sherds among the pottery, which were therefore dated by their fabric types to general periods or production spans. All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2), and *terminus post quem* dates allocated to each context (see Table 3).

Apart from a single undiagnostic tile fragment, the finds from (903), a primary ditch fill in the eastern part of the site, were black-glazed red wares (fabric 78), probably from a single

large dish or bowl. This material, from an unidentified source in the Midlands, mostly dates to the 17th and 18th centuries.

In the far north-east corner of the site, a shallow, irregular layer (1102) contained a single rim sherd of black-glazed, post-medieval buff ware. This probably dates to the 18th century. Layer 1100 also contained modern finds, including glass oil bottles, in quart and pint sizes and identified by 'Esso' trademarks. Modern china finds (fabric 85) all came from made ground (context 501) on the west side of the evaluation area. Broken glass vessels from (501) are also modern.

Fabric No	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
78	Post-medieval red ware	11	276
85	Modern stone china	10	94
91	Post-medieval buff ware	1	16

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

Context	Material	Material TPQ	Context TPQ
501	Pottery	20th century	20th century
	Glass	20th century	
903	Pottery	17th century	17th century
1100	Glass	20th century	20th century
1102	Pottery	18th century	18th century

Table 3: Terminus post quem dates by context

4. Synthesis

4.1 Anglo-Saxon and medieval agriculture

No evidence was found relating to the site in the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. However, as noted above, there is historical evidence that the west part of the site was cultivated by the early 16th century, and it is reasonable to assume a much longer history of agricultural management. Both locally and regionally, the period from *c*1000 to 1300 was one of new settlement and agrarian expansion (Hodder 1990; Dyer 1998). If the site had not already been cleared of woodland before, it was almost certainly cleared in this period. Thereafter, and throughout the post-medieval period, the greater part of it was probably managed as pasture. As noted above, the main open fields of West Bromwich lay to the north of the site, and these were probably subdivided to enable the three-course rotation first described in 17th century documents (Baugh, Greenslade and Johnson 1976, 27-28). Lyndon Field, which extended into the western part of the site, looks like a late medieval development associated with new crops or crop rotations. This suggestion is supported by the field-name 'Stye Croft', which probably referred to the area of Temple Meadows Road. In the West Midlands, crofts were usually enclosed pastures held in severalty. Moreover, despite the significant amount of truncation across the site, the complete lack of furrows and ceramics from manuring suggest that most of the site was uncultivated.

4.2 Post-medieval agriculture and communications

As noted above, historical evidence, and the lack of evidence for cultivation suggests that most of the site was managed as pasture in the post-medieval period. According to W. Fowler's plan of 1849, the site was then divided into three fields, although this may represent the consolidation of smaller 17th and 18th century fields. One of the mapped boundaries may have been created in the 17th century, however, as it coincides with the ditch in Trench 9 described above. In this period, the holloway found in Trench 11 probably crossed the site, and joined the east-west holloway referred to above near Churchfields Farm. No evidence of the holloway was found in Trench 10, but the area had been truncated more than enough to remove any trace of it.

4.3 Modern development

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 shows essentially the same field pattern, suggesting continuity of land-use from the post-medieval period. Later editions show how the site gained its present boundaries, as a result of encroaching residential developments. The edition of 1938 also shows that the western part of the site had been converted into allotments, probably for the use of the growing population housed in new developments to the north and west. These were minor changes, however, compared to the massive impact of the construction of Churchfields High School in the late 1950s. This development brought a long history of agricultural use to an end, and together with more new housing to the south-west, represented a decisive shift in the character of the area.

5. Research frameworks

The results of the project are largely negative, and do not add much new information to existing research frameworks. However, if the holloway found in Trench 11 is correctly interpreted as such, it adds another element to the interesting pattern of roads and tracks already studied by Hodder (1990, 32) and the authors of the VCH (Baugh, Greenslade and Johnson 1976, 11-12). Also, in a small way, the 17th/18th pottery from the ditch in Trench 9 supports contemporary evidence for enclosure (Baugh, Greenslade and Johnson 1976, 27-28).

6. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, and unless directed otherwise, the Service intends to publish the following summary in a relevant local or regional journals.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting at the former Churchfields High School site, Church Vale, West Bromwich (NGR: SP 01165 92690; HBSMR ref. CHC 07). The site lies in an Area of Archaeological Importance, defined on the basis of previous fieldwork and documentary research. Sites and finds in the vicinity suggested a potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval deposits.

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Taken together, the results suggest that the site has little archaeological potential. It is possible that remains of Anglo-Saxon or medieval settlement once existed and has been removed, but it is more likely that the site was agricultural land in these periods, as it certainly was by the 16th century.

7. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank Cathy Patrick (CgMs Consulting), Charlotte Lewis and Graham Eyre-Morgan (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council) for their kind assistance.

8. Personnel

Fieldwork was undertaken by Darren Miller, Tom Vaughan, Justin Hughes, Tom Rogers and Steve Woodhouse. Post-fieldwork analysis was led by Darren Miller. The artefacts were analysed by Dennis Williams, and the figures were drawn by Steve Rigby. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan.

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Figures

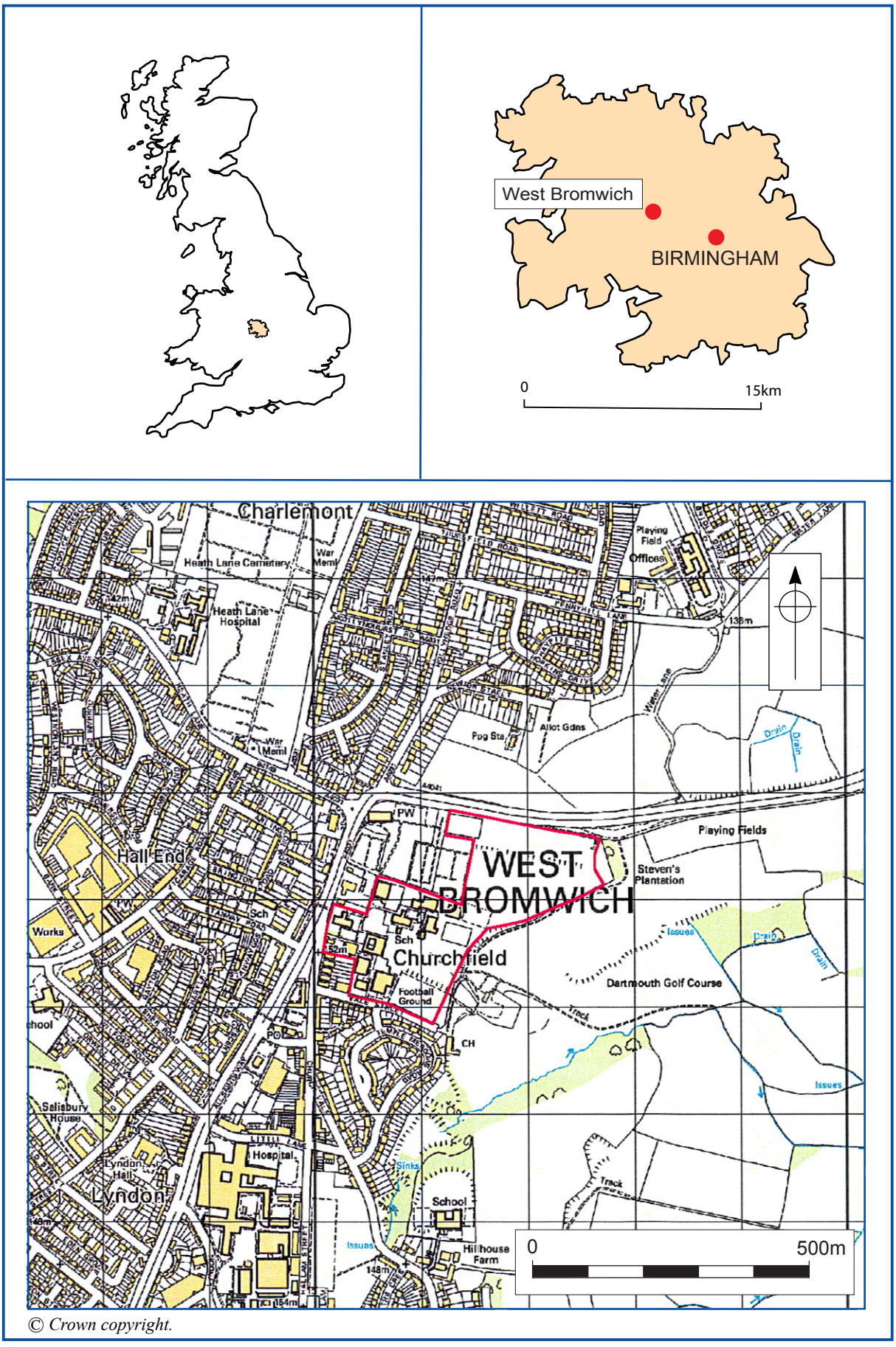

Figure 1: Location of site

Figure 2: Location of trenches, ground investigations and features

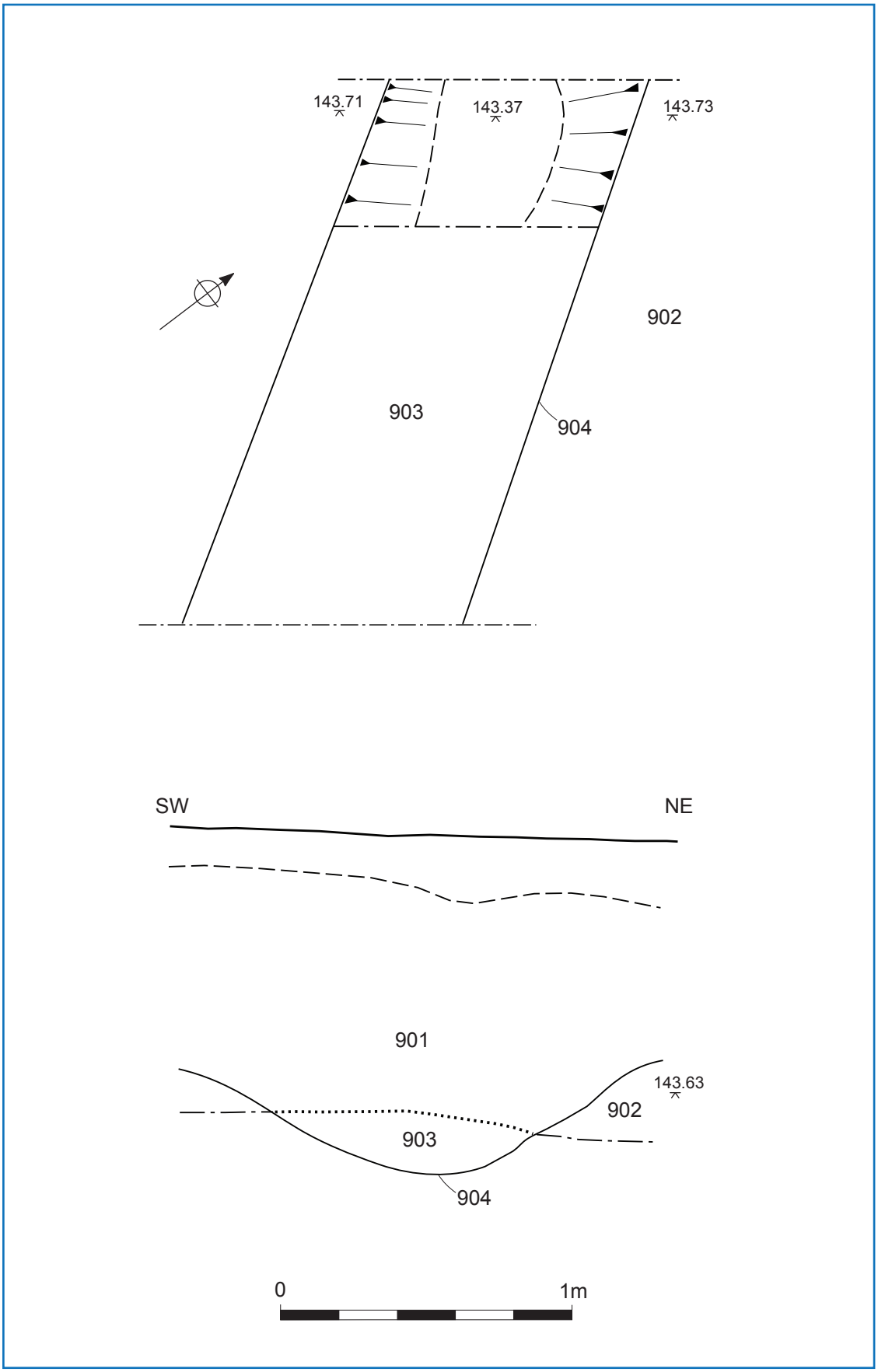

Figure 3: Plan and section of ditch 904 in Trench 9

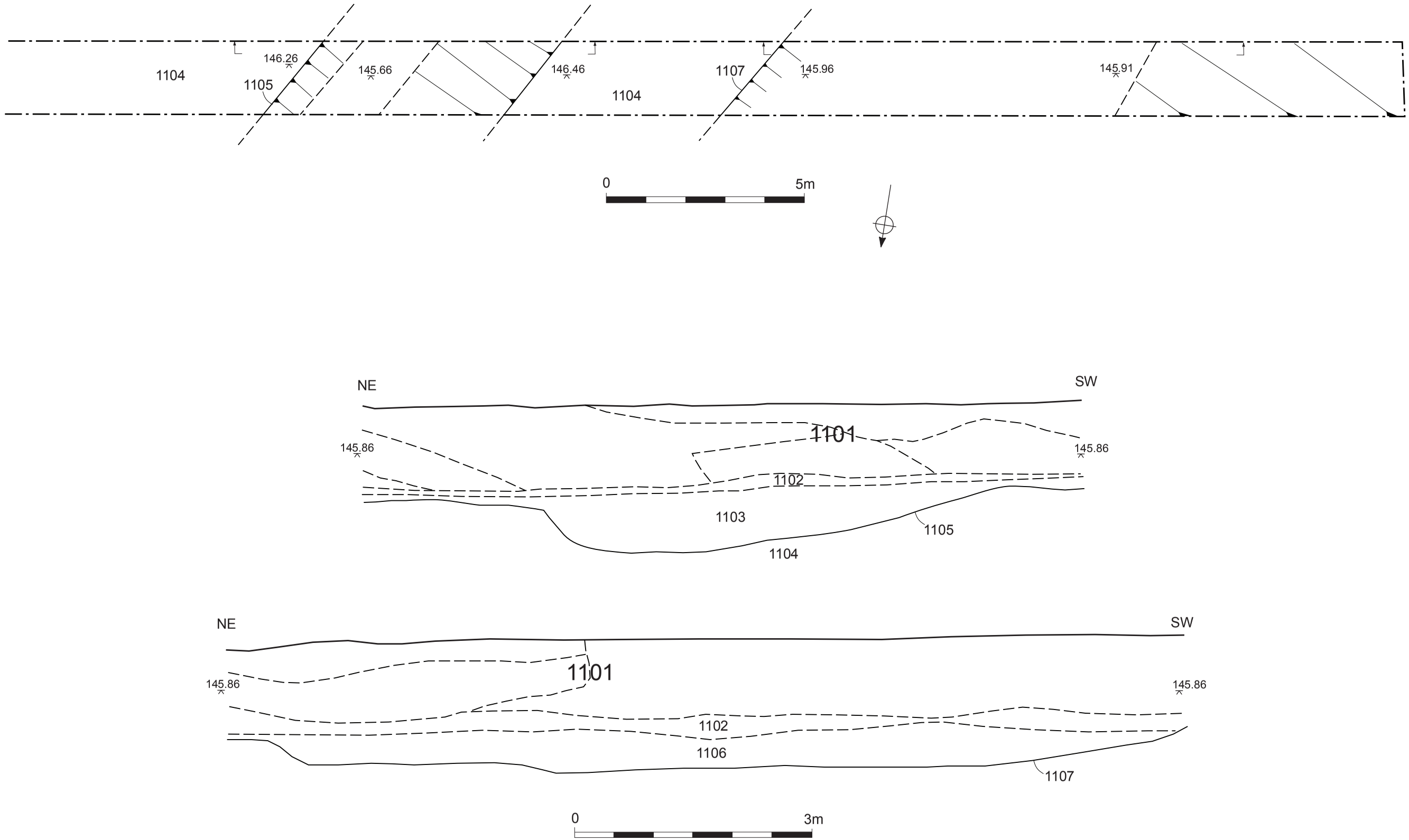

Figure 4: Plan and section of features 1105 & 1107 in Trench 11

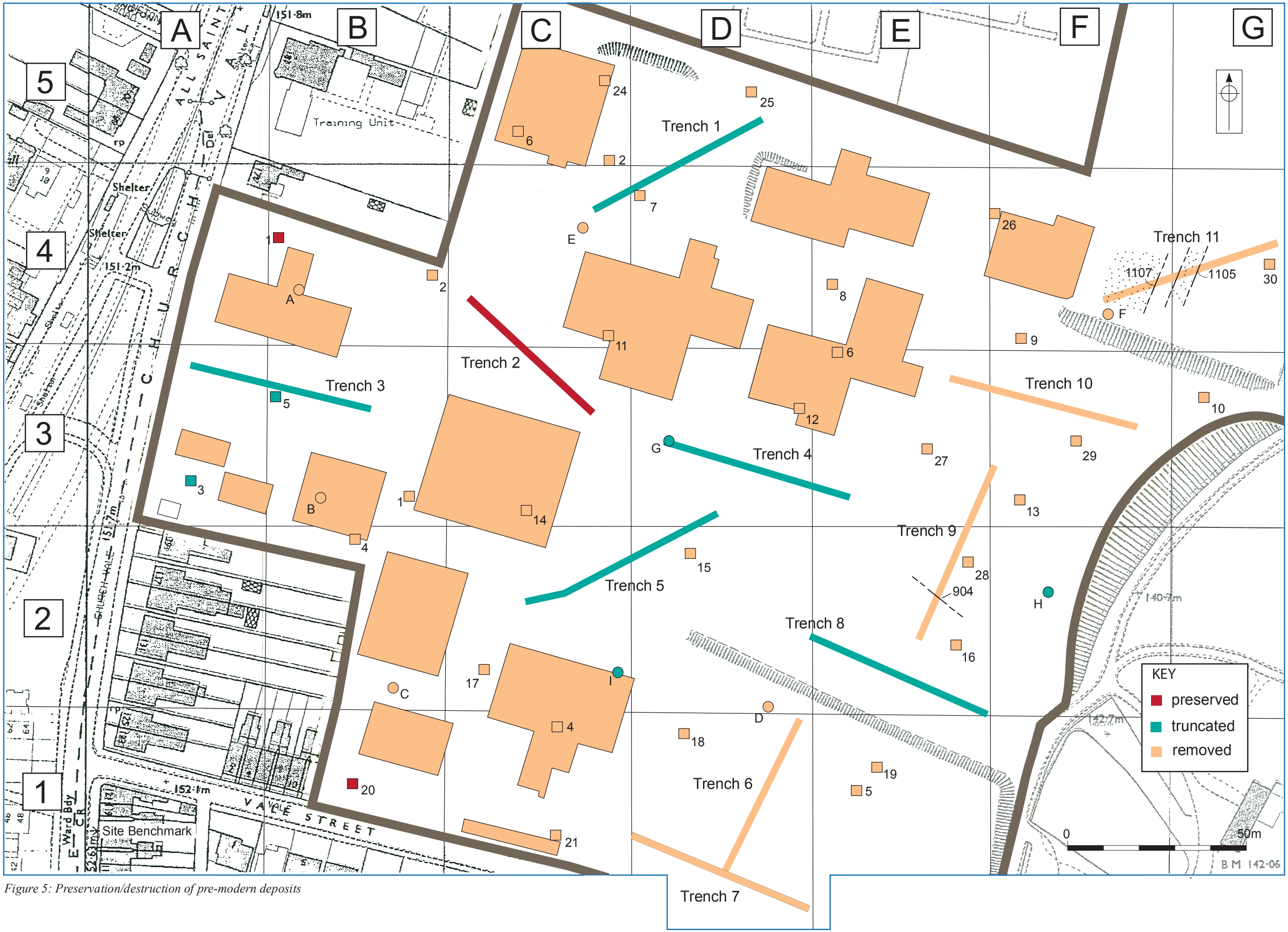

Figure 5: Preservation/destruction of pre-modern deposits

Plates

Plate 1: Trench 1 - general shot facing south-west

Plate 2: Trench 1 – general shot facing north-east

Plate 3: Trench 1 – brick rubble facing north-west

Plate 4: Trench 1 – sample section at south-west end

Plate 5: Trench 2 – general shot facing north-west

Plate 6: Trench 2 – general shot facing south-east

Plate 7: Trench 2 – sample section at north-west end

Plate 8: Trench 3 – general shot facing west

Plate 9: Trench 3 – sample section at west end

Plate 10: Trench 3 – sample section near centre of trench

Plate 11: Trench 4 – general shot facing west

Plate 12: Trench 4 – general shot facing east

Plate 13: Trench 5 – general shot facing north-east

Plate 14: Trench 5 – general shot facing south-east

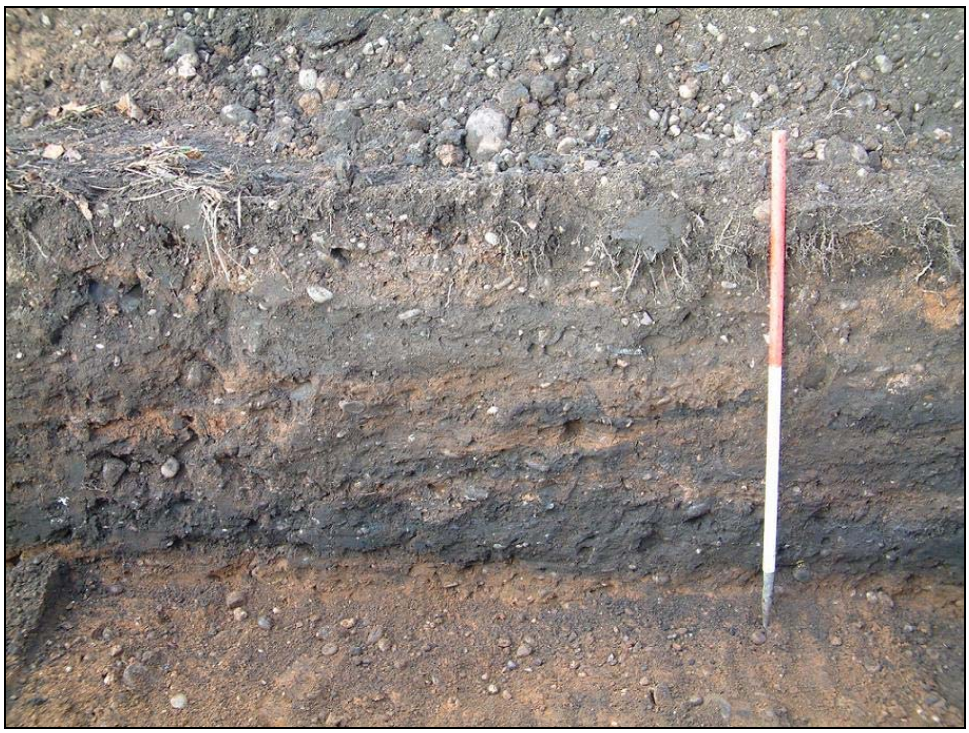

Plate 15: Trench 5 – sample section near centre of trench

Plate 16: Trench 6 – general shot facing south-west

Plate 17: Trench 6 – sample section at north-east end

Plate 18: Trench 7 – general shot facing south-east

Plate 19: Trench 8 – general shot facing south-east

Plate 20: Trench 9 - general shot facing north-east

Plate 21: Trench 9 – general shot fading south-west

Plate 22: Trench 9 – sample section at north-east end

Plate 23: Trench 9 – sample section at south-west end

Plate 24: Trench 9: ditch 904, facing south-east

Plate 25 Trench 10 - general shot facing north-west

Plate 26: Trench 10 – general shot facing south-east

Plate 27: Trench 10 – general shot of south-east end

Plate 28: Trench 11 – general shot facing north-east

Plate 29: Trench 11 - glass dump near north-east end of trench

Plate 30: Trench 11 – north-east facing section of features 1105

Plate 31: Trench 11 – general shot of feature 1105, facing east

Plate 32: Trench 11 – general shot of feature 1107, facing south-west

Appendix 1: Summary of deposits observed in trenches and ground investigations (alpha-numerical co-ordinates relate to Figure 5)

Grid square	Intervention	Ground level (in meters AOD)	Depth of made ground (m)	Depth of soils (m)	Level of natural (in metres AOD)	Summary
A3	Trench 3 west	151.52	0.39	0.07	151.06	Made ground & surfaces over truncated soils/natural
	Trial pit 3	151.52	0.50		151.02	
B1	Trial pit 20	151.20		0.40	150.20	Undisturbed soils?
B2	Borehole C	151.18	0.50		150.68	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 4	151.03	0.20		150.83	
B3	Trench 3 (east)	151.68	0.44	0.08	151.16	Made ground over truncated soils
B3	Trial pit 5	151.51	0.50		151.01	Made ground over truncated soils/natural
	Borehole B	150.67	4.70		145.97	Made ground over truncated natural
	Soakaway 1	150.86	0.80		149.88	
B4	Trial pit 1	151.52		0.30	151.22	Undisturbed soils?
	Trial pit 2	150.77	0.90		149.87	Made ground over truncated natural
	Borehole A	150.93	1.00		149.93	
C1	Trial pit 21	150.43	0.40		150.03	Made ground over truncated natural
	Soakaway 4	150.25	0.35		149.90	
C2	Trench 5 (south-west)	151.78	0.66	0.19	150.93	Made ground over truncated soils
	Borehole I	150.00	1.00	0.30	148.70	
	Trial pit 17	148.18	0.20		147.98	Made ground over truncated natural
C3	Trench 2 (centre)	150.48	0.40	0.24	149.84	Made ground over truncated soils
	Trial pit 14	150.07	0.10		149.97	Made ground over truncated natural
C4	Trench 2 (north-west)	150.89	0.90	0.24	149.75	Made ground over truncated soils

Grid square	Intervention	Ground level (in meters AOD)	Depth of made ground (m)	Depth of soils (m)	Level of natural (in metres AOD)	Summary
	Trench 1 (south-west)	149.58	0.45	0.17	148.96	
	Trial pit 11	144.43	0.70		143.73	Made ground over truncated natural
	Borehole E	149.30	1.10		148.20	
C5	Trial pit 6	150.83	1.00		150.33	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 24	150.51	0.40		150.11	
	Soakaway 2	149.66	0.50		149.16	
D1	Trench 6	149.48	1.40		148.08	Made ground over truncated natural & ditch
	Trench 7	152.15	0.40		151.75	Made ground over truncated natural & pit
	Trial pit 18	149.14	0.40		148.74	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 22	149.21	0.50			
D2	Trench 5 (north-east)	149.44	0.50		148.94	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 15	148.49	0.60		147.89	
	Borehole D	148.50	1.70		146.80	
D3	Trench 4 (west)	148.17	0.90	0.30	146.97	Made ground over truncated soils
	Borehole G	148.00	1.00	0.40	146.60	
	Trial pit 12	145.25	0.50		144.75	Made ground over truncated natural
D4	Trench 1 (south-west)	149.58	0.45	0.17	148.96	Made ground over truncated soils
	Trial pit 7	148.44	1.00		147.88	Made ground over truncated natural
D5	Trench 1 (north-east)	147.71	0.35		147.36	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 25	150.11	0.50		149.81	

Grid square	Intervention	Ground level (in meters AOD)	Depth of made ground (m)	Depth of soils (m)	Level of natural (in metres AOD)	Summary
E1	Trial pit 19	148.00	1.70		146.30	Made ground over truncated natural
	Soakaway 5	148.00	1.10		146.90	
E2	Trench 8 (centre)	145.47	0.51	0.09	144.87	Made ground over truncated soils
	Trench 9 (south)	145.26	0.98	0.15	144.13	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 16	144.86	1.10		143.76	
	Trial pit 28	144.21	1.60		142.61	
E3	Trench 9 (north)	144.56	0.98	0.15	143.43	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trench 10 (west)	144.85	1.42	0.22	143.21	
	Trial pit 27	144.43	1.60		142.83	
	Soakaway 6	144.35	0.20		144.35	
E4	Trial pit 8	146.05	0.50		145.55	Made ground over truncated natural
F2	Borehole H	143.79	2.30	0.20	141.29	Made ground over soils
F3	Trench 10 (centre)	144.61	1.20	0.22	143.19	Made ground over truncated natural
	Soakaway 3	*c*144.61	1.40		143.21	Made ground over soils?
	Trial pit 29	144.13	2.20		141.93	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 13	144.20	2.20		142.00	
F4	Trench 11 (west)	146.64	1.20		145.44	Made ground over truncated natural & two post-medieval features
	Borehole F	146.39	1.70		144.69	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 9	144.66	0.60		144.06	
	Trial pit 26	147.34	0.60		146.74	

Grid square	Intervention	Ground level (in meters AOD)	Depth of made ground (m)	Depth of soils (m)	Level of natural (in metres AOD)	Summary
G3	Trial pit 10	144.16	1.10		143.06	Made ground over truncated natural
G4	Trench 11 (east)	145.28	1.15		144.13	Made ground over truncated natural
	Trial pit 30	*c*145.28	1.60		143.68	

Appendix 2: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: C4, D4, and D5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.0m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.71m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Profile at north end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
1000	Firm mid brown sandy silt with common small gravels	Redeposited topsoil	0-0.45m
1002	Firm dark greyish brown silt common brick fragments and small gravels,	Made ground	0.45-0.55m
1003	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt with few small gravels	Subsoil	0.55-0.71m
1004	Compact light brownish yellow silty sand	Fluvioglacial deposit	0.71m+

Modern features: two concrete-encased services and one metal pipe, all aligned north-west to south-east

Trench 2

Site area: C3 and C4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 1.85m Depth: 1.14m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Profile at north west end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
2000	Friable mid greyish brown silt loam with common small gravels	Redeposited topsoil	0-0.72m
2001	As 2000, but slightly firmer and darker	Redeposited topsoil	0.72-0.90m
2003	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt with few small gravels	Buried topsoil	0.90-1.00m
2004	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt with common small gravels	Subsoil	1.00-1.14m

Modern features:

One metal pipe in shallow trench and three deeper service trenches, all aligned north-east to south-west.

Trench 3

Site area: A3 and B3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.92m

Orientation: East-west

Profile at west end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
3000	Tarmac	Surface	0-0.10m
3001	Coarse roadstone in pink sandy matrix	Made ground	0.10-0.24
3002	Finder roadstone in grey sandy matrix	Made ground	0.24-0.39m
3003	Firm dark brown silt loam with darker hydrocarbon stains and mottles.	Made ground	0.39-0.47m
3004	Light yellowish brown silty sand with common small gravels	Subsoil?	0.47-0.78m
3005	Compact light brownish yellow silty sand	Fluvioglacial deposit	0.78-0.92m+

Modern feature: metal pipe in shallow trench aligned north-west to south-east

Trench 4

Site area: D3 and E3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48.00m Width: 1.85m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: East-west

Profile at west end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
4000	Firm mid brown sandy silt with common small gravels and hydrocarbon stains. Discrete dump of brick fragments *c*0.30m bgs.	Made ground	0-0.90m
4001	Friable light yellowish brown sandy silt with few small gravels	Subsoil	0.90-1.00m
4002	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with common small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	1.00-1.20m+

Modern features: Two metal pipes in shallow trenches, both aligned approximately north-south

Trench 5

Site area: C2 and D2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 1.85m Depth: 1.58m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Profile at centre :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
5000	Firm mid brown sandy silt with common small gravels, and fragments of bricks and glass	Made ground	0-0.66m
5001	Firm dark grey silt loam with common small gravels and charcoal fragments	Made ground	0.66-0.85m
5002	Friable light yellowish brown sandy silt with common small gravels	Subsoil?	0.85-0.95m
5003	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with common small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	0.95-1.58m+

Modern features: two service trenches (one aligned north-south, the other north-west to south-east); and one concrete-encased service (aligned north-west to south-east).

Trench 6

Site area: C1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.0m Width: 1.85m Depth: 1.40m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Profile at north-east end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
6001	Firm mid brown sandy silt with common small gravels and varying proportions of clinker and ash	Made ground	0-0.12m
6002	Firm mid brown sandy silt with common small gravels and hydrocarbon stains.	Made ground	0.12-1.40m
6003	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with common small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	1.40m+

Modern features: pit filled with redeposited topsoil, and service trench aligned approximately east-west

Trench 7

Site area: D1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54.00m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Profile at north-west end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
7000	Stone chippings in light reddish brown sandy matrix	Surface	0-0.18m
7001	Roadstone in dark greyish brown sandy matrix	Made ground	0.18-0.40m
7002	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with common small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	0.40m+

Modern features: dump of cobbles and pebbles, pit filled with redeposited natural clay, and service trench aligned north-east to south-west

Trench 8

Site area: E2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.80m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.84m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Profile at centre:

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
8000	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam with common small gravels and varying frequencies of charcoal, ceramic, and glass inclusions	Made ground	0-0.51m
8001	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels and common charcoal fragments	Subsoil	0.51-0.60m
8002	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with common small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	0.60-0.84m+

Trench 9

Site area: E2 and E3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.0m Width: 1.85m Depth: 2.20m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Profile at south-west end:

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
9000	Firm dark greyish brown sandy loam with common small gravels.	Redeposited topsoil	0-0.88m
9001	Firm mid greyish brown sandy loam with common small gravels and few charcoal fragments	Made ground	0.88-0.98m
9002	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt with few small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	0.98-0.1.03m

Archaeological feature:

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
9003	Loose light brown sandy silt with common small gravels and charcoal fragments, and few bone fragments.	Secondary fill of 9004	0.82-1.20m
9004	Linear, parallel-side feature aligned north-west to south-east, with gradual break of slope at top, concave sides, gradual break of slope at base and rounded base. Approximately 0.85m wide and 0.36m deep.	Truncated base of field ditch	0.82-1.20m

Trench 10

Site area: E3 and F3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.00m Width: 1.85m Depth: 1.52m

Orientation: East-west

Profile at east end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
1000	Mixed deposit, predominantly dark grey greyish brown silt loam and mid brownish red silty clay, with common brick, glass, and other inclusions.	Made ground	0-1.20m
1001	Firm dark greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels	Made ground	1.20-1.42m
1002	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt with few small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	1.43-1.52m+

Modern feature: narrow service trench for pipe or cable on north-south alignment

Trench 11

Site area: F4 and G4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 58.00m Width: 1.85m Depth: 1.85m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Profile at east end :

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
1100	Mixed deposit, predominantly dark greyish brown silt loam. Other components include redeposited natural sands and clays, reddish and yellowish brown roadstone, dumps of brick rubble and glass bottles.	Made ground	0-1.15m
1104	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with abundant small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	1.15m+

Profile at centre, through feature 1105

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
1101	Mixed deposit, predominantly mid brownish red silty clay with common small gravels.	Made ground	0-1.00m
1102	Dark greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels. Heavily stained by hydrocarbons.	Made ground	1.00m-1.10m
1103	Firm light greyish brown sandy silt with common small gravels. No organic or other inclusions.	Fill of 1105	1.10-1.85m
1105	Linear, parallel-sided feature, aligned approximately north-east to south-west. East side breaks quite sharply at top, and slopes quite steeply to a gradual break of slope at base. West side has a more gentle slope, and breaks more gradually at top and base.	Holloway?	1.10-1.85m
1104	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with few small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	1.10-1.85m+

Profile at near west end, through feature 1107

Context	Description	Classification	Depth below ground surface
1101	Mixed deposit, predominantly mid brownish red silty clay with common small gravels.	Made ground	0-0.90m
1102	Dark greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels. Heavily stained by hydrocarbons.	Made ground	0.90m-1.15m
1106	Firm light greyish brown sandy silt with common small gravels. No organic or other inclusions.	Fill of 1107	1.15-1.60m
1107	East side of linear, parallel-sided feature, aligned approximately north-east to south-west. East side is concave with gradual breaks of slope at top and base. Base is generally flat, but rises slightly towards west end of trench.	Holloway?	1.15-1.60m
1104	Compact light yellowish brown silty sand with few small gravels	Fluvioglacial deposit	1.15-1.60m+

Appendix 3: The archive

The archive consists of:

4	Fieldwork progress records AS2
2	Photographic records AS3
1	Context number catalogue AS5
1	Levels record sheet AS19
3	Site drawing sheets AS 34
2	Abbreviated context records AS40
11	Trench Record Sheets AS41
1	Colour transparency photographic film
2	Black and white photographic films
1	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

The archive will be deposited with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.