

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

OF

THE OLD RYDON LANE SITE,

SOUTH EXETER, DEVON

SX 9580 9040

ADDENDUM

On behalf of

The Pratt Group

December 2007

REPORT FOR The Pratt Group
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CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	3
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	3
3 STRATEGY	3
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
4 RESULTS	4
4.1 Excavation Results	4
4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results	13
5 FINDS	13
5.1 Pottery	13
5.2 Flint	16
5.3 Environmental Remains	17
6 DISCUSSION	18
6.1 Evaluation Results	18
6.2 Other Features	20
6.3 Geophysics Results	20
7 CONCLUSION	21
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	21
APPENDIX Archaeological Context Inventory	23

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location	2
Figure 2	Plan of the Evaluation Area	6
Figure 3	Plans and Sections of Trenches 12, 13, 14 & 15	7
Figure 4	Plans and Sections of Trenches 24, 26, 27, 30 & 31	9
Figure 5	Plans and Sections of Trenches 33, 35, 37 & 38	11
Figure 6	Plans and Sections of Trenches 39, 40, 41 & 45	12
Figure 7	Features in Trenches 47, 50 and 71	19

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services concluded an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site, from 12th –24th November 2007. Previous work had been conducted in the vicinity from 19th July until 28th August 2007. Thirty-five trenches, totalling approximately 1050 metres in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology. This was part of an overall 3.295% coverage of the area.

Several linear ditches were located, not all of which had previously been predicted by a geophysical survey. Finds were scarce, but it is likely that these ditches represent pre 1813 field boundaries. Other ephemeral features such as isolated pits and postholes may well be prehistoric as a Neolithic flint scatter was recorded from the topsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The proposed development is situated north and south of Old Rydon Lane and is centred on National Grid Reference SX 9580 9040.

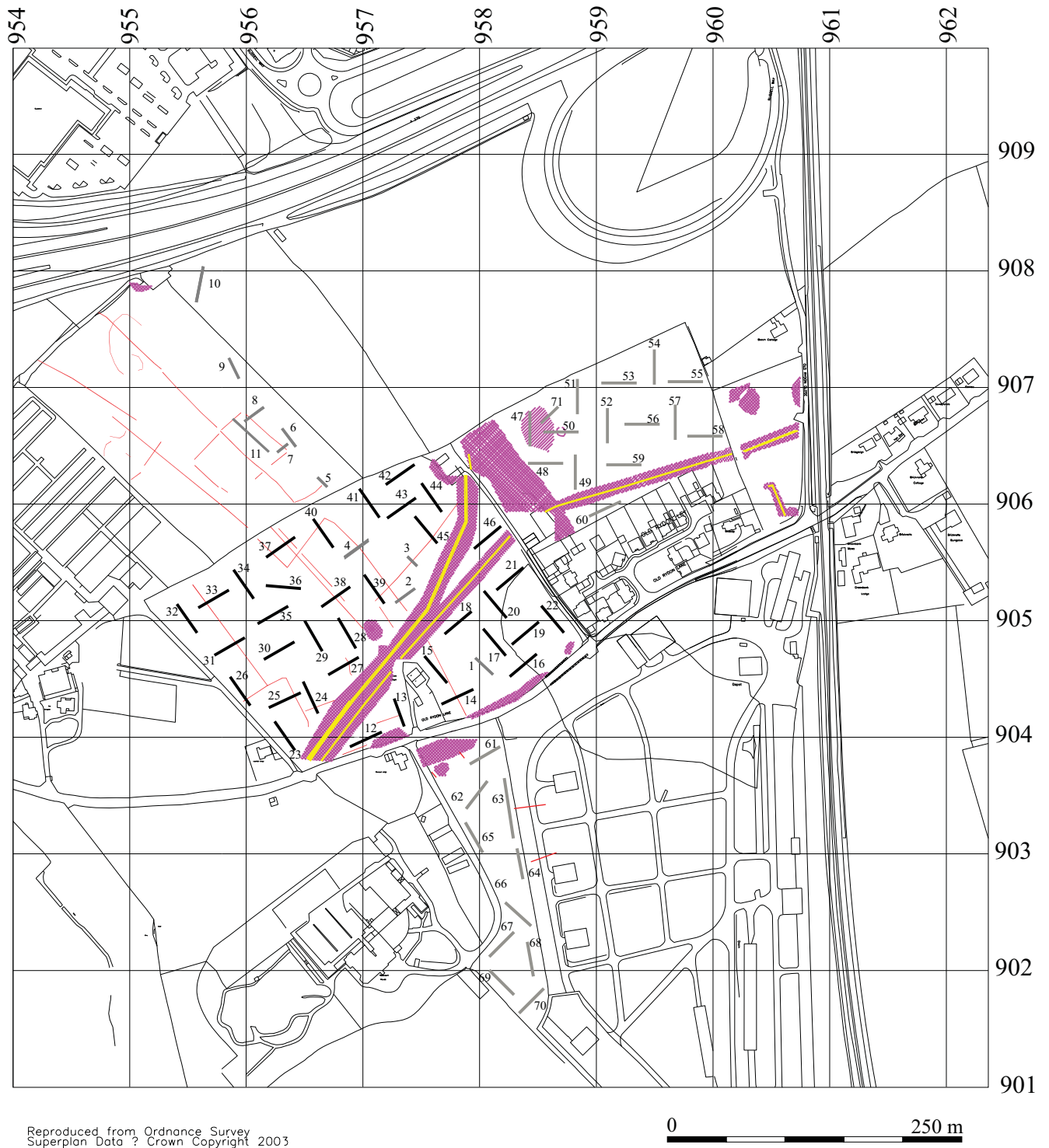
The area north of Old Rydon Lane, known as the ORLN site extends over 8.74 hectares (21.61 acres) and occupies two fields defined by fences and hedges to the north of Old Rydon Lane in the parish of Heavitree. The two fields are divided by a farm track set at right angles to Old Rydon Lane.

North of Old Rydon Lane the boundaries of the most south-westerly field follow Old Rydon Lane to the south-east, the access road to the nursery to the south-west, the edge of fields to the north-west where the employment land is allocated and the farm track to the north-east. The property boundaries of Wynard's Cottage extend from Old Rydon Lane into the southern-central part of the field. At the time of the site visit the field was under maize stubble.

Most of the ORLN site lies on the Heavitree Breccia with Dawlish Sandstone on its southern edge alongside Old Rydon Lane (Sheet 325, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)).

1.2 Planning Background

It is the intention to redevelop the land north and south of Old Rydon Lane for residential use. Due to the potential presence of remains of archaeological interest in the proposal area, Exeter City Council has advised that an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the proposal site should be undertaken. This is in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan Policies.









-  Pipe or Cable
-  Positive Linear Anomaly
-  Trenches
-  Magnetic Disturbance of Unknown Origin
-  Magnetic Disturbance of Known Origin
-  Previous Trenches

Figure 1. Site and Trench Location (showing geophysics results)

1.3 Archaeological Background

This report is an addendum to work previously carried out in the summer of 2007, as such the main description of the archaeological background can be found in that report. It should be noted that a desk-based assessment of the site has been carried out (JMHS 2006a) along with a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006) two evaluations (JMHS 2006b & 2007) and a further evaluation in the vicinity (Steinmetzer 2007).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

In particular

- To date the apparent field system
- To confirm the results of the geophysical survey in that there appears to be no settlement activity within the fields other than perhaps towards the south-east corner of the western modern field

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In response to Exeter City Council's request a scheme of investigation was designed by JMHS and agreed with Exeter City Council and the applicant. The work was carried out by JMHS and was to involve the excavation of trial trenches across the site (Fig. 1).

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was to be achieved through the excavation of fifty-nine 30.0m long trenches, numbered 12 to 70. These numbers were continuous with those

from the earlier evaluation (JMHS 2006b). This equates to 3.295% of the total area. Contingency was given for further trenches.

Trenches 47 to 70 were excavated during July and August 2007. Due to the presence of a crop on part of the ORLN site trenches 12 to 46 could not be excavated at this date. These were excavated in October 2007.

All trenches were 1.6 m wide and were excavated by a 360° tracked 6 ton excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand prior to limited hand excavation of any identified archaeological deposits.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

Mr Andrew Pye of Exeter City Council monitored the work.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)

The lowest deposit in the area was the natural red-brown sand with gravels. In each trench this was recorded as deposit (03), so for example in Trench 42 this would be (42/03). Above this was a layer of light orange-brown sandy loam that varied in thickness from 0.1m to 0.3m. As with the natural, this layer was recorded as (02) in all trenches. Overlying this layer was a dark brown loam topsoil (01), which was up to 0.45m thick.

Fourteen trenches were positioned to sample feature identified by the geophysical survey and seventeen trenches recorded archaeological features:

Trench 12 (Figure 3)

A shallow linear ditch [12/06] was cut into (12/03). This was 1.3m wide and 0.2m deep. It had sides of roughly 45° with a flat base slightly deeper on the western side. It was aligned NE-SW and was filled with a soft mid brown clayey-sand (12/07) that was flecked with charcoal. The profile suggests a recut of this ditch although this was not distinguishable in the fill of it.

Next to this ditch, on its eastern side, was a pit or terminal of a parallel ditch [12/08]. This was also cut into the natural (12/03). It was 0.35m wide and 0.1m deep with a U-shaped profile and filled with a soft mid brown clayey-sand (12/09).

Both of these features were sealed by deposit (12/02).

A small gully [12/04] was cut through (12/02), measuring 0.19m wide and 0.08m deep. It was aligned roughly NE-SW and had vertical sides, a flat base and a squared terminal end. It was filled with a soft mid brown clayey-sand (12/05) that contained a sherd of 19th century pottery and a sherd of modern glass.

None of the features recorded in this trench were identified by the previous geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006). Indeed this survey predicted an NW-SE aligned linear feature in this area. No evidence for this was present.

Trench 13 (Figure 3)

The terminal of a linear ditch aligned WSW-ENE identified by the geophysical survey was located within this trench. It was cut [13/05] into the natural (13/03). This was 0.6m wide and 0.18m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled a brown sandy loam (13/04) flecked with charcoal and sealed by deposit (13/02).

Trench 14 (Figure 3)

Two ditches were recorded in this trench, both aligned NW-SE. One was predicted by the geophysical survey, the other was not (Stratascan 2006).

The first ditch [14/06] that was recorded by the geophysics, was 1m wide and 0.3m deep. It had steep 60° sides with a flat base. It was filled with a brown sandy loam (14/07) flecked with charcoal and up to 0.2m thick.

The second ditch [14/04] was to the west of the first and appeared to be parallel. It was 1.4m wide and 0.69m deep with a flattened U-shaped profile. The lowest fill was a soft grey sand (14/08) that was 0.1m thick. Above this was an orange-brown clayey-sand (14/05) that was flecked with charcoal.

Both ditches were sealed by deposit (14/02).

Trench 15 (Figure 3)

Within this trench was an isolated posthole [15/04]. This was circular in plan, 0.33m in diameter and 0.2m deep with near vertical sides. It was filled with a yellow-orange sand flecked with charcoal (15/05), and sealed by deposit (15/02).

Trench 24 (Figure 4)

A linear SWW-NEE aligned ditch was predicted in this area by the geophysical survey. This ditch [24/07] was relatively modern, it was cut into (24/02) and disturbance from it excavations could be seen with (24/01). It was 1m wide and 0.7m deep with a distorted U-shaped profile that widened towards the top. It was filled with a light brown sandy loam (24/06).



Figure 2. Plan of the Area

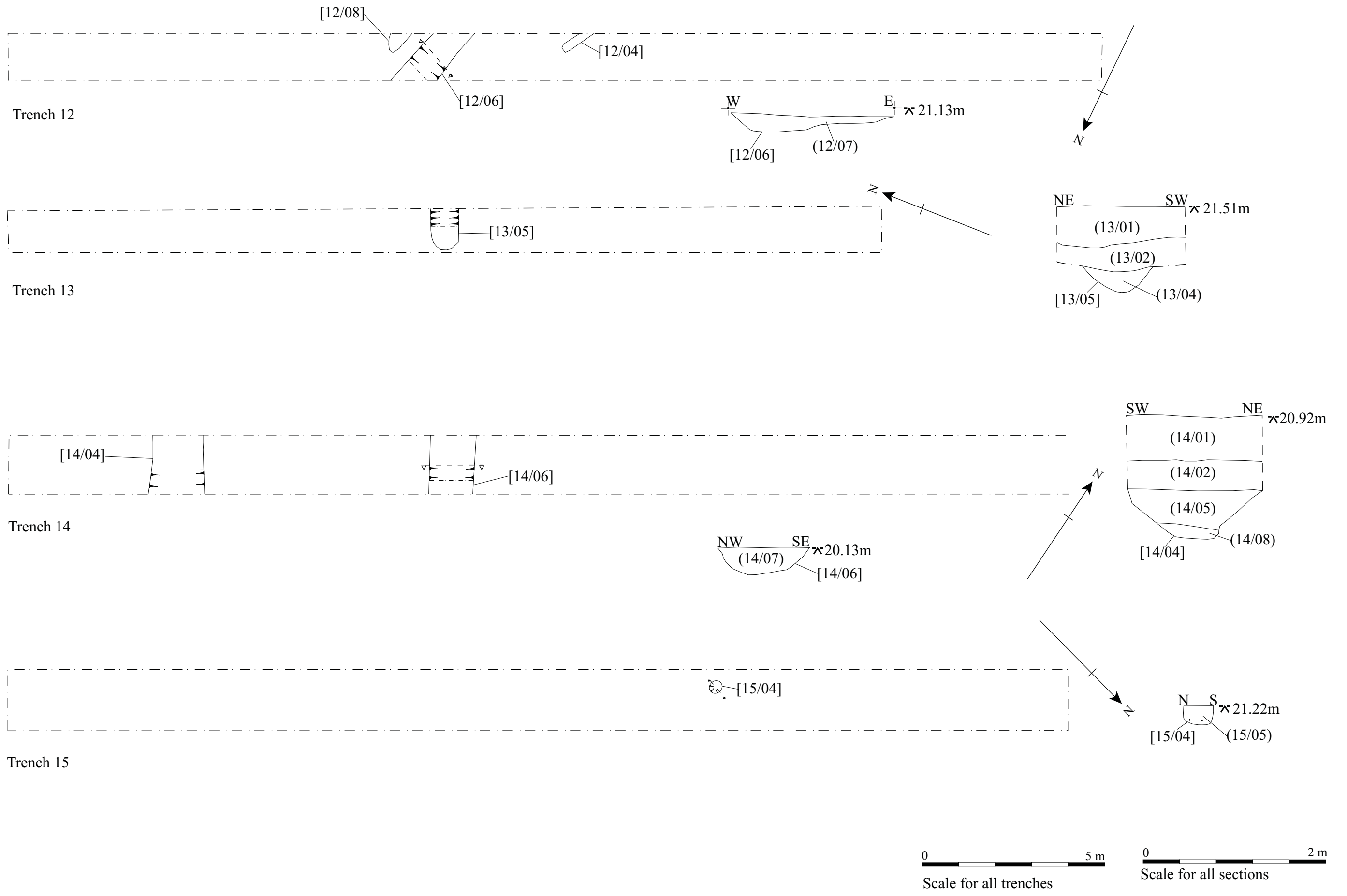


Figure 3. Plans and Sections of Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 15

Also recorded in this trench was a small circular pit [24/05]. It was cut in to the natural (24/03), 0.3m in diameter and 0.13m deep with steep sides. It was filled with a red-brown sandy loam (24/04), and sealed by deposit (24/02).

Trench 25 (Figure 4)

The geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006) predicted a linear feature aligned NW-SE in this area. No evidence for this was discovered.

Trench 26 (Figure 4)

This trench contained a SW-NE aligned ditch [26/05]. It was 0.64m wide, 0.23m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a brown clayey-sand (26/04) that contained the odd stone and charcoal fleck. It was cut in to the natural (26/03) and sealed by deposit (26/02). The presence of this ditch was predicted by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006).

Trench 27 (Figure 4)

This trench also targeted a linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006). This proved to be a ditch [27/04] cut into the natural (27/03). It was 0.95m wide, 0.45m deep with a V-shaped profile. It was filled with a red-brown clayey-sand (27/05) and sealed by deposit (27/02).

Trench 30 (Figure 4)

A ditch [30/04] was recorded within this trench. It was not predicted by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006). The ditch was aligned NW-SE, was 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep with sides of roughly 60° and a flat base cut into the natural (30/03). The fill was a dark brown clayey-sand (30/05) flecked with charcoal. It was sealed by deposit (30/02).

Trench 31 (Figure 4)

A linear SE-NW aligned ditch was predicted in this area by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006). It proved to be cut [31/05] into the natural (31/03), was 0.88m wide and 0.26m deep with sides of roughly 60° and a flat base. The fill was a red-brown clayey-sand (31/04) flecked with charcoal. It was sealed by deposit (31/02).

Trench 33 (Figure 5)

This trench also targeted a linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006). This proved to be a ditch [33/06] cut into the natural (33/03). It was 1.16m wide, 0.45m deep with a flattened V-shaped profile. It was filled with a dark brown clayey-sand (33/07) and sealed by deposit (33/02). To the west of this ditch was a spread of grey-orange clayey-sand and stones (33/08) up to 0.05m thick and 4m wide also sealed by deposit (33/02). It possibly represents the remains of an associated bank. The ditch continued southwards into Trench 31 [31/05].

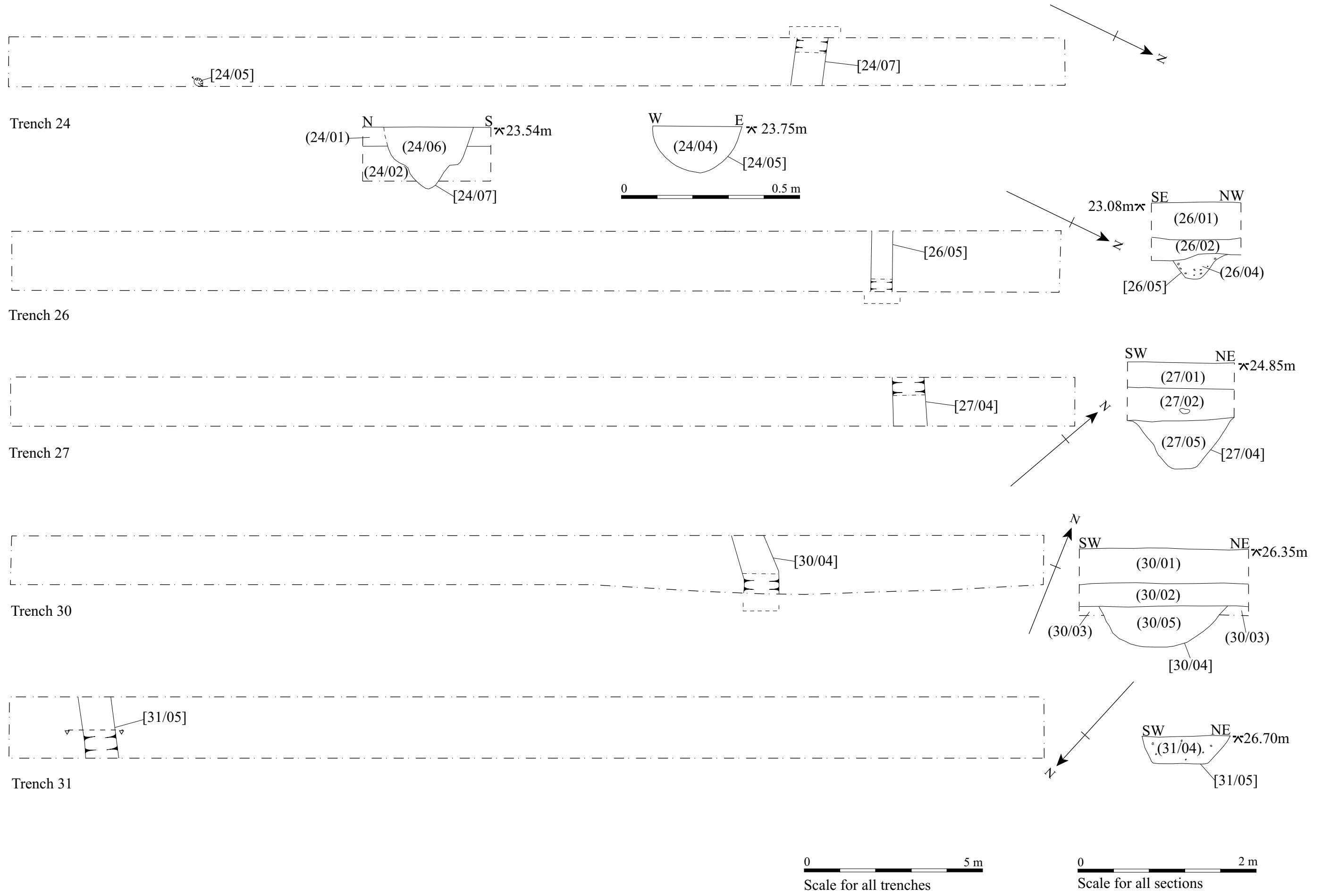


Figure 4 Plans and Sections of Trenches 26, 27, 30 and 31

A pit [33/04] was also present within the trench, cut into the natural (33/03). It was oval, 0.7m by 0.45m in plan and 0.06m deep with a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey-black clayey-sand (33/05) with charcoal and some small stones.

Trench 35 (Figure 5)

A ditch terminal [35/04] was recorded within this trench. It was not predicted by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006).

The ditch was aligned NW-SE, was 0.77m wide and 0.3m deep with sides of roughly 60° and a rounded base cut into the natural (30/03). The fill was a red-brown clayey-sand (35/05) flecked with charcoal. It would appear that this ditch was widening and deepening the further south it went. It was sealed by deposit (35/02). This continued further south-east as [30/04].

Trench 37 (Figure 5)

The geophysical survey predicted three ditches in this area (Stratascan 2006). These were recorded in this trench all aligned NW-SE.

The first [37/04] was 1.5m wide and 0.37m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown clayey-sand (37/05) that was flecked with charcoal. The second [37/06] was 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep with steep near vertical sides and a concave base. This was filled with a dark brown clayey-sand (37/07) that was flecked with charcoal. The third [37/08] was 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep with sides of roughly 45° and a flat base. This was filled with a layer of flat stone in a grey sandy matrix (37/10) that was up to 0.05m thick. Above this was a deposit of red-brown clayey-sand (37/09) flecked with charcoal and up to 0.18m thick. All three ditches were sealed by deposit (37/02).

Trench 38 (Figure 5)

This trench recorded a single shallow ditch [38/04]. It was 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep with a flattened concave profile. This was aligned NW-SE and filled with a loose brown-orange clayey-sand (38/05). It was sealed by deposit (38/02).

According to the geophysical survey this ditch appears to be a continuation of one [37/06] located in Trench 37 (Stratascan 2006). A second predicted ditch was not located.

Trench 39 (Figure 6)

This trench targeted a linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006). This was ditch [39/06] cut into the natural (39/03). It was 1.2m wide, 0.64m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled at its lowest level with 0.4m of brown clayey-sand (39/05) and above this was 0.26m of yellow-brown sandy loam (39/04). It was sealed by deposit (39/02).

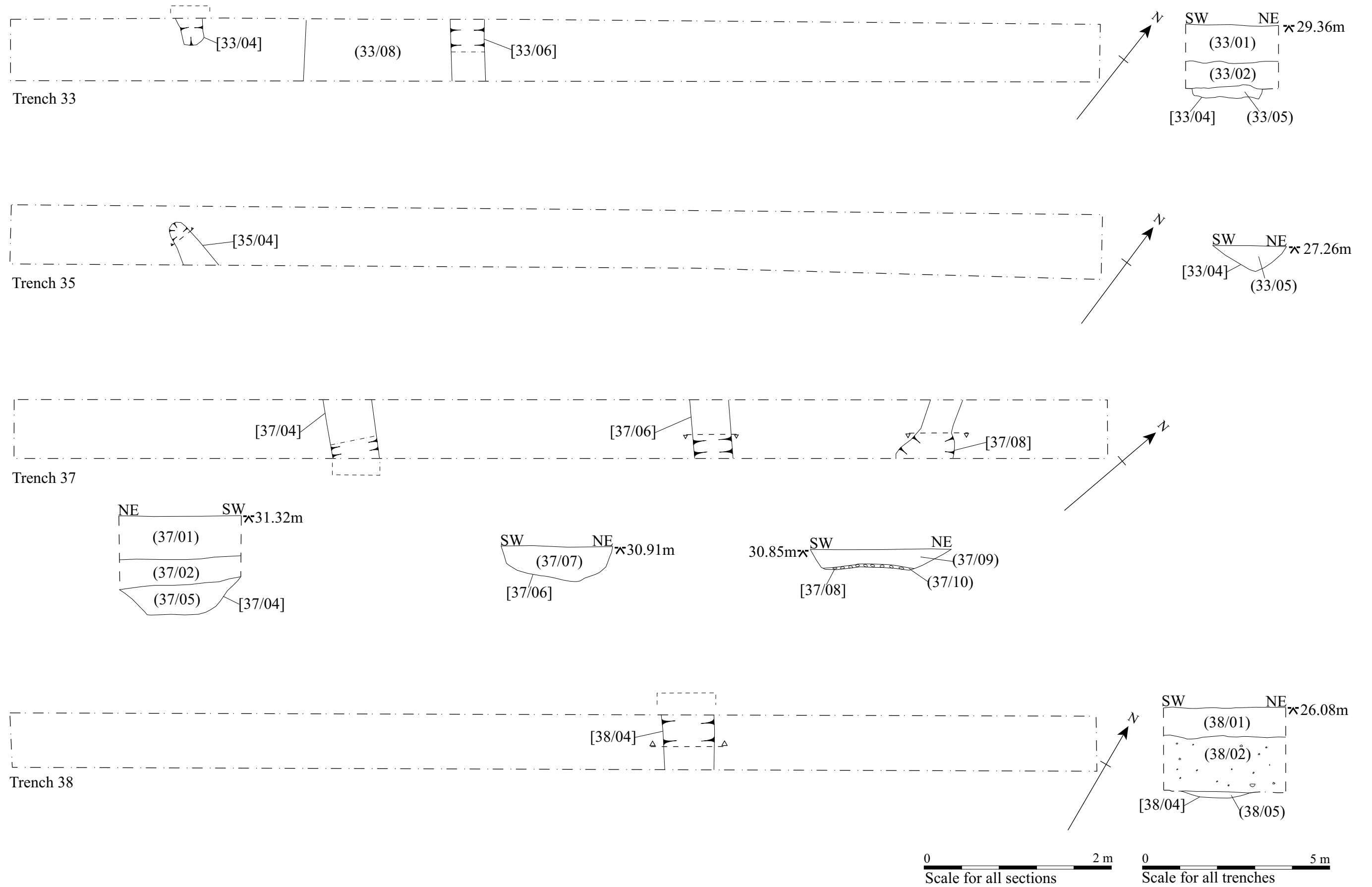


Figure 5. Plans and Sections of Trenches 33, 35, 37 and 38

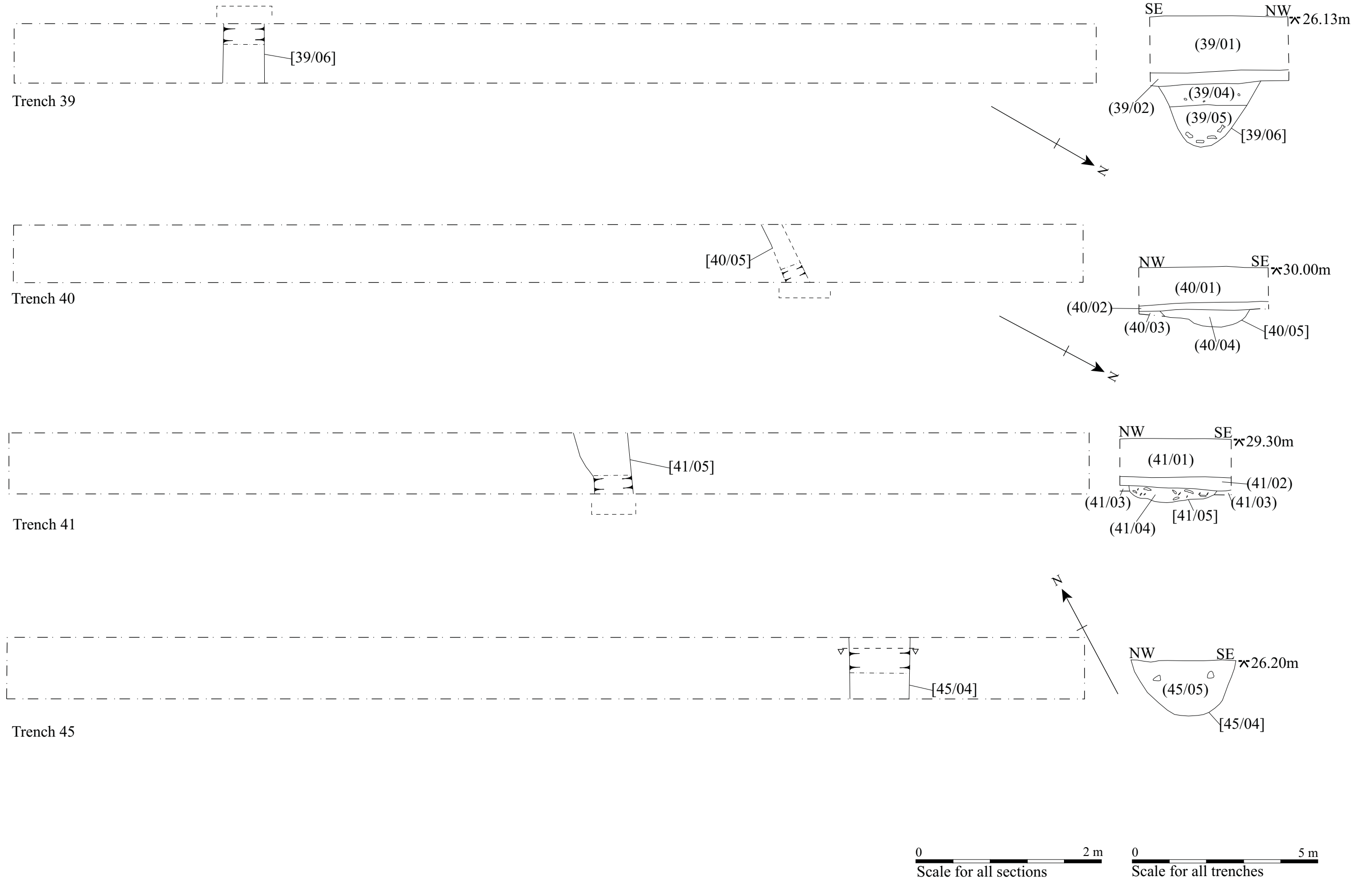


Figure 6. Plans and Sections of Trenches 39, 40, 41 and Trench 45

Trench 40 (Figure 6)

A linear ditch aligned SW-NE identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006) was located within this trench. It was cut [40/05] into the natural (40/03). This was 0.7m wide and 0.22m deep with an uneven base. It was filled an orange-grey clayey-sand (40/04) with charcoal flecks and sealed by deposit (40/02).

Trench 41 (Figure 6)

This trench showed the shallow remains of a ditch [41/05], possibly a continuation of that seen within Trench 40. It was aligned SW-NE, was 1.36m wide and 0.12m deep with an uneven base. It was filled with an orange-grey clayey-sand (41/04) with charcoal flecks.

Trench 45 (Figure 6)

This trench also targeted a linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006). This proved to be a ditch [45/04] cut into the natural (45/03). It was 1.15m wide, 0.58m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a orange-brown clayey-sand (45/05) and patches of re-deposited natural. It was sealed by deposit (45/02).

The geophysical survey predicted that this was a continuation of the ditch seen within Trench 39.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The excavation of the trenches took place during periods of dry weather, apart from one or two days of heavy rain.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery *(by Paul Blinkhorn)*

The pottery assemblage comprised 69 sherds with a total weight of 625g. It was all post-medieval, apart from three late medieval sherds. The range of pottery types present indicate that there was more or less unbroken activity at the site from the late medieval period to the present day, although much of the medieval and early post-medieval material was within the topsoil.

The following fabrics were noted:

MIC: *Micaceous coarsewares*. From a variety of local sources, particularly St. Germans. 15th – 17th century. 1 sherd, 30g.

RHEN: *German Stonewares*. AD1480+. A range of hard, grey, salt-glazed fabrics produced at numerous sites in the Rhineland and beyond (cf Gaimster 1997). 1 sherd, 25g.

DON: *Donyatt Wares*. Wide range of medieval and post-medieval earthenwares with varying quantities of flint, quartz, limestone and iron ore. 13th – 18th century. 8 sherds, 80g.

CIST: *Cistercian Ware*: c. AD1470-1550. Hard, smooth fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner. Few visible inclusions, except for occasional quartz grains. Range of vessel forms somewhat specialized, and usually very thin-walled (c. 2mm). Rare white slip decoration. 1 sherd, 4g.

NDGT: *North Devon Gravel-tempered wares*. Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 2mm. 16th – 19th century (McCarthy And Brooks 1988, 467). 1 sherd, 6g.

GRE: *Red Earthenwares*: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 16 sherds, 102g.

MET: *Slipped Red Earthenwares*: As red earthenware, although decorated with geometric designs in a cream-coloured slip. 17th – 18th century. 2 sherds, 23g.

WEST: *Westerwald/Cologne stoneware* German import (Gaimster 1997). Hard, dense white fabric, usually decorated with cobalt blue slip. Later examples can have manganese purple slip. The ware was first produced c.1600 and is still in production today. 7 sherds, 38g.

PORC: *Porcelain*: Hard white pottery with blue or polychrome decoration, imported in quantity from China from around 1650. British wares from around 1745 onwards. 1 sherd, 7g.

SLIP: *Staffordshire-type Trailed Slipware*. AD1650-1750. Fine cream fabric with white slip and pale yellow lead glaze, commonest decoration is feathered dark brown trailed slip. Chiefly press-moulded flat wares, although small bowls and mugs etc are known. 1 sherd, 8g.

ES: *English Stoneware*: White/grey stoneware with a white salt glaze. Made at numerous centres, such as Staffordshire, London and Nottingham, from the later 17th century onwards, in a wide range of utilitarian forms (Crossley 1990). 1 sherd, 33g.

SWSG: *Staffordshire Salt-Glazed Stoneware*, AD1720-1780 Hard, white fabric with a distinctive white 'orange peel' textured glaze. Range of fine tablewares such as mugs, tea bowls and plates. 1 sherd, 2g.

PRL: *Pearlware*. Early white earthenware with a blue-tinged glazed. 1770+. 1 sherd, 4g.

MISC: *Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares*. Mass-produced white earthenwares, flowerpots, etc. 27 sherds, 263g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

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

Tr	Cntxt	MIC		RHEN		DON		CIST		NDGT		GRE		MET		WEST		PORC		SLIP		ESTON		SWSG		PRL		19th		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
	U/S					1	1					2	23															2	11	U/S
12	1							1	4							1	3											2	8	19thC
12	2					1	8																							17thC
12	5																										1	15	19thC	
13	1											2	7														5	21	19thC	
16	U/S											2	5														1	1	U/S	
17	U/S											1	3																	17thC
18	1											2	12			2	14													17thC
21	1					1	2																				2	4	19thC	
24	1																										3	2	19thC	
33	1					1	9																				2	123	19thC	
34	U/S					1	10									1	8													U/S
38	U/S																										1	19	U/S	
39	1											4	14	1	4												1	2	19thC	
41	1					1	5					1	12																	17thC
46	1															1	2							1	2					E18thC
47	1	1	30			1	2																							17thC
48	1			1	25					1	6																1	12	19thC	
50	1											1	1																	M16thC
54	1																										1	4	19thC	
57	1															1	1										2	3	19thC	
58	1																										1	4	19thC	
59	1																										1	29	19thC	
68	1															1	10													17thC
69	1																		1	8	1	33					1	5	19thC	
70	1																	1	7							1	4		L18thC	
71	1					1	43					1	25	1	19															17thC
	Total	1	30	1	25	8	80	1	4	1	6	16	102	2	23	7	38	1	7	1	8	1	33	1	2	1	4	27	263	

5.2 Flint (By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark)

Introduction

A total of 26 flints were recovered from the evaluation (Table 2). Worked flint was recovered from ten evaluation trenches, with a maximum of five flints recovered from a single trench (Trench 33). The vast majority of the flint was recovered from topsoil (context 1). The flint assemblage includes two blade cores dating from the Mesolithic or early Neolithic. The flake debitage and three scrapers, are probably contemporary with the cores, but their technological attributes allow only a broad Mesolithic or Neolithic date to be proposed.

Table 2: The flint assemblage by evaluation trench and context.

CATEGORY TYPE	Trench/context														Grand Total
	16	20	21		25	33			39	40	43	45	46	U/S	
Flake	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	15
Blade									1						1
Blade-like	1	1													2
Irregular waste													1		1
Rejuvenation flake core face/edge						1									1
Single platform blade core			1												1
Bipolar (opposed platform) blade core													1		1
Tested nodule/bashed lump					1										1
Side scraper									1					1	2
End and side scraper														1	1
Grand Total	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	26

Methodology

The artefacts were catalogued according to broad artefact/debitage type and dating was attempted where possible. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-49; Bradley 1999b, 211-227; Butler 2005). Additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and the state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database and data manipulated in Microsoft Excel.

Raw material and condition

The flint varied in colour from mid brown to mid grey and the end and side scraper was manufactured from a greyish white flint. The cortex, where present, was generally abraded and measured 2-3 mm thick. The flint derives from a secondary gravel source, rather than directly from the chalk or a chalk region.

The flint assemblage included several pieces with slight to moderate edge-damage. The condition of the flint assemblage is typical of material recovered from topsoil. The flint was free from surface cortication; a single flint exhibited orange iron-staining.

Storage and curation

The majority of the struck flints are bagged individually; the burnt unworked flint is bagged by context. The flintwork is adequately boxed and bagged for long-term storage and curation.

The assemblage

The flint assemblage is dominated by flakes, with a single blade and two blade-like flakes. The majority of these flakes result from a careful reduction strategy. The platform-edge of the core was frequently abraded and flakes were most commonly detached using a soft hammer percussor, such as antler. The presence of a core-edge rejuvenation flake further indicates flaking angles were carefully maintained on the cores. The flakes are not of particularly narrow proportion and only few flakes exhibit the scars of blade removals on their dorsal surfaces. Two of the flakes exhibit entirely cortical dorsal surfaces, indicating unprepared nodules may have been imported and knapped at this location.

The two cores were both orientated to the production of small blades. The single platform blade core produced numerous small bladelets from large flakes, with the final removals measuring only 25 mm in length. The opposed platform blade core was regularly worked and was abandoned at 20g when both platforms were exhausted. The final blade removals measured 40mm, but the last removals from the core were a series of small flakes. These cores are the product of a blade orientated industry of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date.

The retouched assemblage comprises two side scrapers and a disc-shaped end and side scraper. The latter is particularly well worked and exhibits regular abrupt retouch. These tools are not chronologically diagnostic, but the regular working is most indicative of a Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

Conclusions

The flint assemblage recovered from the evaluation broadly dates from the Mesolithic and/or Neolithic, but a Mesolithic to early Neolithic date is most appropriate for the blade cores. The flint forms a low-density flint scatter in the topsoil across the evaluation area. This scatter may reflect sporadic activity in Mesolithic and/or Neolithic, but the limited size of the assemblage does not allow the detailed characterisation of activities.

Potential and recommendations

The assemblage is of limited size and requires no further analysis, as additional recording would not refine the date of the assemblage. The flint, however, indicates the presence of a scatter in the topsoil. The evidence of activity in the Mesolithic/Neolithic may be entirely confined to the topsoil, but it is possible archaeological features of these periods may also be present in the study area, although none were located by the evaluation.

5.3 Environmental Remains

A bulk soil sample was taken from pit [33/04]. JMHS staff using standard flotation methods processed the sample. The resulting flot was recovered on a stack of sieves with a minimum mesh size of 300 microns.

Sample	Context	Sample Size	Charcoal	Charred Plant Remains
1	33/05	10L	+ occasional small fragments	nil

Dr. Mark Robinson of Oxford University Environmental Archaeological Unit will carry out further analysis.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Evaluation Results (Figure 2)

The ditch [37/06] appears to correspond with the field shown on the 1813 East Wonford Tithe Map. Ditches [37/08] and [38/04] may also form part of this boundary, either as a double ditch or as part of a different phase. The profiles of all three ditches are similar possibly indicating that they are contemporary.

Ditch [38/04] was heavily truncated making it difficult to predict its original profile and therefore identify it as the same feature as one located in Trench 37. This identification is also hindered by the uncertainty of the geophysics results, and a possible 5m discrepancy (see 6.3 below).

Ditch [40/05] is likely to be the remnant of an earlier field system. Re-examining the geophysical survey results it would appear that this ditch extends further east and west than initially predicted. A similar feature was also recorded to the east in Trench 41 as [41/05].

Indeed ditch [37/04] may also form part of this earlier system as it appears to terminate at right angles to ditch [40/05]. The profiles appear to be slightly different, but not by much. It should be noted that ditches [40/05] and [41/05] were more truncated, this is probably due to their alignment and the direction of later ploughing.

The apparent linear ditch sampled by Trenches 31 and 33 would appear to have been re-cut at some point along part of its length. In Trench 31 it was flat based while Trench 33 recorded it as rounded almost V-shaped and wider. Although this ditch produced a single Neolithic flake, this is possible that it is residual. Although it should be noted that a flint was also present within the topsoil and subsoil of Trench 33, which could have originated from the ditch. Pit [33/04] may also be associated with activity of this date.

The ditch and terminal recorded within trenches 30 and 35 appear to be the same feature, although this can only be confirmed by excavation.

Other ditches with a more U-shaped profile are also likely to be of an earlier date than 1813. The dimensions of all ditches recorded are comparable to post-medieval boundaries in the region (Sage & Allen 2004).

Certain features were of a relatively modern origin notable those recorded in trenches 12 and 24. Their proximity to the pipeline or cable may indicate that these are associated with its laying.

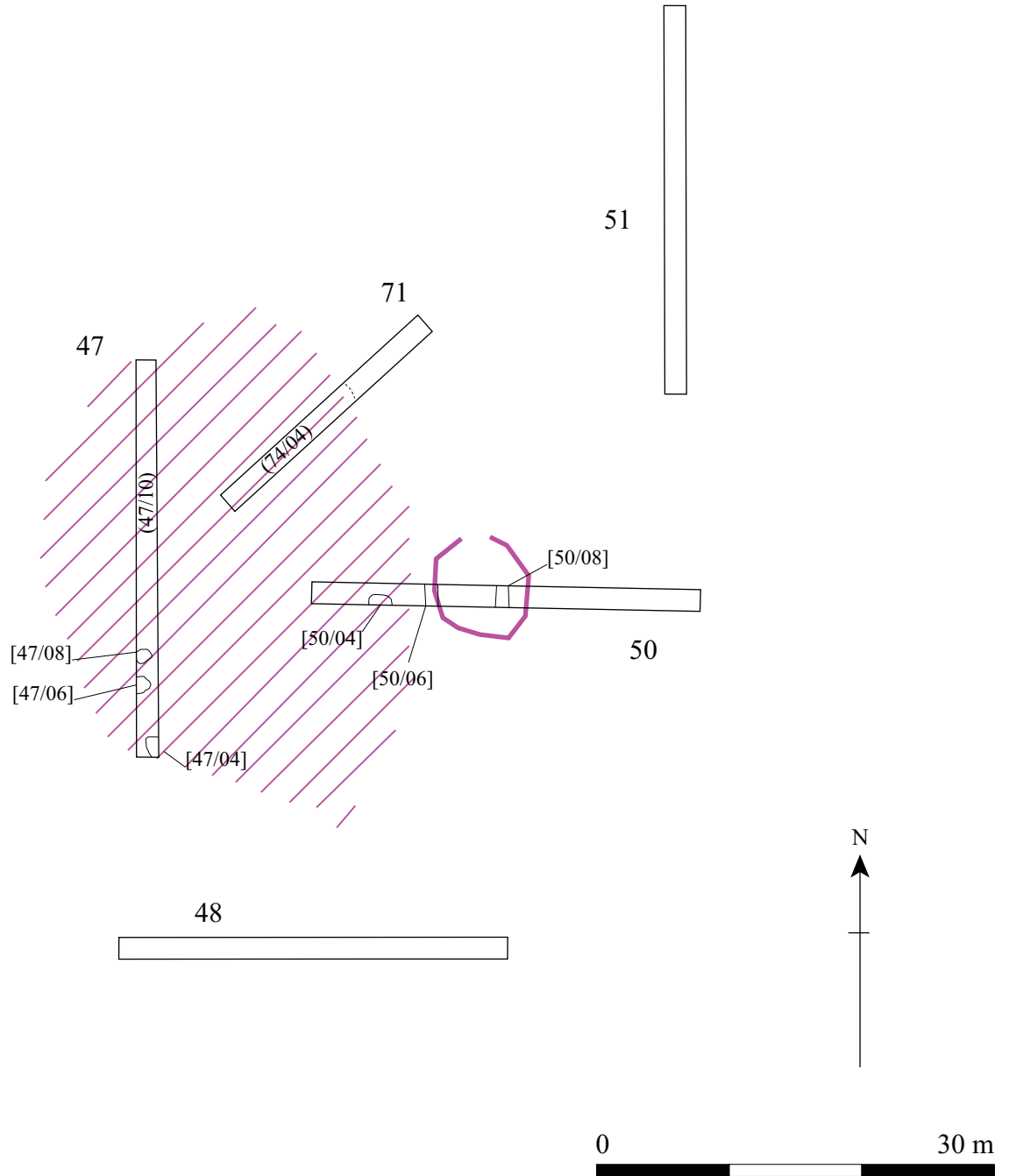


Figure 7. Features in Trenches 47, 50 and 71

6.2 Other Features

Further analysis of the pits [47/04], [47/06], [47/08], [50/06] and [58/06] containing burnt material located during the summer in the field to the east may be required. Dating these pits may prove difficult and the charcoal from them is very fine and may be unsuitable for radiocarbon dating.

An alternative method to consider would be thermoluminescence (TL). Sampling for TL dating would have to take during any future excavation by a specialist, as readings of the natural soils and surrounding material also have to be taken. This would have to be budgeted into any programme of works.

6.3 Geophysics Results

Only one trench that targeted a geophysical anomaly failed to produce archaeological remains (Trench 25). There was no evidence for the predicted linear ditch despite several episodes of hand cleaning and weathering for over a week. This positive linear anomaly showed very strongly on the survey printouts (+3nT); equally as strong or in some cases stronger than located features.

All other trenches located the predicted archaeological features, however, two trenches produced additional features (Trenches 14 and 33). One was a small pit, the other a ditch (Trench 14). No evidence for this ditch could be seen on the geophysical survey results.

Five of the trenches that did not target geophysical anomalies located archaeological features (Trenches 12, 15, 30, 35 and 41). Trench 12 recorded a ditch and a modern slot. This trench was located between two areas of high magnetic interference, and this may have affected the geophysics results. Trench 15 located a posthole; such a small feature could not be expected to be located by a geophysical survey. Trenches 30 and 35 located two ditches. It is possible that these were picked up by the geophysics, but faintly (c. +1nT) not recognised. The feature within Trench 41 was very shallow and not picked up by the geophysics at all.

The results of the 2006 evaluation were also very similar. All the features predicted were located. However, the on-site archaeologist failed to identify the ditch predicted in Trench 4, and mistakenly identified it as [4/05]. This ditch is demonstrably a different one that was not recorded by the geophysics. The field drawings from this evaluation did record the predicted ditch, but it was not excavated or recorded by written record. This evaluation also located some smaller discrete features such as small pits (JMHS 2006b).

Mixed results were experienced during the evaluation in the summer of 2007. The circular feature thought to be a ring ditch was located, the unknown magnetic anomaly was recorded, however the predicted linear feature was not present and several pits were also not predicted (JMHS 2007). Notably this survey failed to pick up the pits in the eastern portion of the field [58/04] and [58/06], even though one pit contain large quantities of burnt stone.

In general the geophysics of the area was very accurate at least at recording larger features. Although smaller ones appear to be easily missed, this may be due to the resolution of the survey equipment, but is more likely due to soil conditions. It must be noted that to the west of the site the correlation of geophysical results and excavation results do not precisely match. There appears to be a 5m shift to the west of the data. This displacement of data is difficult to explain, it may be due to compounded errors with the geophysical grid layout or a data collection/processing error.

It would appear that this data error was responsible for the failure to locate the feature predicted in Trench 25. The resultant displacement would have placed the feature beyond the end of the trench.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The geophysical results were for the most part accurate, however there is the potential for smaller, shallower more ephemeral features to have been missed.

The flint scatter recorded in the topsoil is not surprising considering the proximity of the Neolithic post alignment and possibly associated hut circles (Steinmetzer 2007). Bronze Age activity recorded to the south does not appear to have extended into this area. There would appear to be little or no activity in the area until the later medieval period. The pottery sherds found from this date onwards probably indicate broad periods of manuring on the fields.

These fields would appear to be represented by the majority of the ditches located, and all predate or are present on the 1813 Tithe Map. The only dating evidence from any of the ditches is a single Neolithic flint flake. There is a sherd of 17th pottery from the subsoil, perhaps representing agricultural activity during this period. It is a possibility that these ditches are of prehistoric date.

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APPENDIX – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 12			0.47	1.5	30		
12/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.25	1.6	30	Pot	C19th
12/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.22	1.6	30	Pot	C17th
12/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
12/04	Cut	Linear Ditch	0.08	0.19	0.9+		
12/05	Fill	Orange-brown clayey sand	0.08	0.19	0.9+	Pot	C19th
12/06	Cut	Linear cut	0.19	0.5	1.3+		
12/07	Fill	Orange-brown clayey sand	0.19	0.5	1.3+		
12/08	Cut	Linear Ditch	0.1	0.35	0.9+		
12/09	Fill	Orange-brown clayey sand	0.1	0.35	0.9+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 13			0.72	1.6	30		
13/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.4	1.6	30	Pot	C19th
13/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.32	1.6	30		
13/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
13/04	Fill	Orange-brown clayey sand	0.18	0.6	1.6+		
13/05	Cut	Linear Ditch	0.18	0.6	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 14			0.5	1.6	30		
14/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.3	1.6	30		
14/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.2	1.6	30		

14/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
14/04	Cut	Linear Ditch	0.69	1.4	1.6+		
14/05	Fill	Orange-brown clayey sand	0.69	1.4	1.6+		
14/06	Cut	Linear Ditch	0.3	1	1.6+		
14/07	Fill	Brown clayey sand	0.15	1	1.6+		
14/08	Fill	Grey clayey sand	0.15	1	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 15			0.65	1.6	30		
15/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.45	1.6	30		
15/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.2	1.6	30		
15/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
15/04	Cut	Posthole	0.2	0.33	0.33		
15/05	Fill	Orange-brown clayey sand	0.2	0.33	0.33		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 16			0.5	1.6	30		
16/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.25	1.6	30	Flint	
16/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.25	1.6	30		
16/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 17			0.5	1.6	30		
17/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.25	1.6	30		
17/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.25	1.6	30		

17/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 18			0.5	1.6	30		
18/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.25	1.6	30	Pot	C19th
18/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.25	1.6	30		
18/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 19			0.45	1.6	30		
19/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.15	1.6	30		
19/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.3	1.6	30		
19/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 20			0.4	1.6	30		
20/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.2	1.6	30	Flint	
20/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.2	1.6	30		
20/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 21			0.35	1.6	30		
21/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.15	1.6	30	Pot, Flint	C19th
21/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.2	1.6	30	Flint	

21/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 22			0.53	1.6	30		
22/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.3	1.6	30		
22/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.23	1.6	30		
22/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 23			0.45	1.6	30		
23/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.3	1.6	30		
23/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.15	1.6	30		
23/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 24			0.76	1.6	30		
24/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.46	1.6	30	Pot	C20th
24/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.3	1.6	30		
24/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
24/04	Fill	Brown-red sandy clay	0.15	0.3	0.25		
24/05	Cut	Pit	0.15	0.3	0.25		
24/06	Fill	Light brown sandy clay	0.7	1	1.6+		
24/07	Cut	Linear cut	0.7	1	1.6+		Modern
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 25			0.71	1.6	30		

25/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.35	1.6	30	Flint	
25/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.36	1.6	30		
25/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 26			0.66	1.6	30		
26/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.36	1.6	30		
26/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.3	1.6	30		
26/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
26/04	Fill	Brown-red sandy clay	0.23	0.76	1.6+		
26/05	Cut	Linear ditch	0.23	0.76	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 27			0.6	1.6	30		
27/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.4	1.6	30		
27/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.2	1.6	30		
27/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
27/04	Cut	Linear ditch	0.45	0.95	1.6+		
27/05	Fill	Brown-red sandy clay	0.45	0.95	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 28			0.7	1.6	30		
28/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.38	1.6	30		
28/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.32	1.6	30		

28/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 29			0.64	1.6	30		
29/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.36	1.6	30		
29/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.28	1.6	30		
29/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 30			0.59	1.6	30		
30/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.29	1.6	30		
30/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.3	1.6	30		
30/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
30/04	Cut	Linear ditch	0.3	1.3	1.6+		
30/05	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	0.3	1.3	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 31			0.68	1.6	30		
31/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.38	1.6	30		
31/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.3	1.6	30		
31/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
31/04	Fill	Brown-red sandy clay	0.28	0.88	1.6+		
31/05	Cut	Linear ditch	0.28	0.88	1.6+		
Trench 32			0.64-	1.6	30		
32/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.4	1.6	30		

32/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.24	1.6	30		
32/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 33			0.52	1.6	30		
33/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.35	1.6	30	Pot, Flint	C19th
33/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.17	1.6	30	Flint	
33/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
33/04	Cut	Pit	0.06	0.45	0.7		
33/05	Fill	Black sandy clay	0.06	0.45	0.7		
33/06	Cut	Linear ditch	0.45	1.16	1.6+		
33/07	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	0.45	1.16	1.6+	Flint	
33/08	Layer	Stone in orange clay matrix	0.05	4	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 34			0.66	1.6	30		
34/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.44	1.6	30		
34/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.22	1.6	30		
34/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 35			0.64	1.6	30		
35/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.4	1.6	30		
35/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.24	1.6	30		

35/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
35/04	Cut	Linear ditch	0.3	0.77	1.6+		
35/05	Fill	Brown-red sandy clay	0.3	0.77	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 36			0.7	1.6	30		
36/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.4	1.6	30		
36/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.3	1.6	30		
36/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 37			0.44	1.6	30		
37/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.3	1.6	30		
37/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.14	1.6	30		
37/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
37/04	Cut	Linear ditch	0.37	1.5	1.6+		
37/05	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	0.37	1.5	1.6+		
37/06	Cut	Linear ditch	0.4	1.2	1.6+		
37/07	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	0.4	1.2	1.6+		
37/08	Cut	Linear ditch	0.2	1.5	1.6+		
37/09	Fill	Brown-red sandy clay	0.2	1.5	1.6+		
37/10	Layer	Stones	0.05	1.2	0.5+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 38			0.5	1.6	30		
38/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.4	1.6	30		
38/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.1	1.6	30		

38/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
38/04	Cut	Linear ditch	0.1	0.8	1.6+		
39/05	Fill	Brown-red sandy clay	0.1	0.8	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 39			0.64	1.6	30		
39/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.44	1.6	30	Pot, Flint	C19th
39/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.2	1.6	30		
39/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
39/04	Fill	Yellow-brown sandy clay	0.26	1.2	1.6+		
39/05	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	0.4	1.2	1.6+		
39/06	Cut	Linear ditch	0.66	1.2	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 40			0.7	1.6	30		
40/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.5	1.6	30	Flint	
40/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.2	1.6	30		
40/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
40/04	Fill	Grey-yellow sandy clay	0.22	0.7	1.6+		
40/05	Cut	Linear ditch	0.22	0.7	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 41			0.62	1.6	30		
41/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.38	1.6	30		
41/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.24	1.6	30		

41/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
41/04	Fill	Grey-yellow sandy clay	0.12	0.7	1.6+		
41/05	Cut	Linear ditch	0.22	0.7	1.6+		
Trench 42			0.48	1.6	30		
42/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.3	1.6	30		
42/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.18	1.6	30		
42/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 43			0.6	1.6	30		
43/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.36	1.6	30	Flint	
43/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.24	1.6	30		
43/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 44			0.68	1.6	30		
44/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.38	1.6	30		
44/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.3	1.6	30		
44/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 45			0.65	1.6	30		
45/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.4	1.6	30	Flint	
45/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.25	1.6	30		

45/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		
45/04	Cut	Linear ditch	0.58	1.15	1.6+		
45/05	Fill	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.58	1.15	1.6+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 46			0.35	1.6	30		
46/01	Layer	Top soil, brown sandy loam.	0.2	1.6	30	Pot, Flint	C18th
46/02	Layer	Subsoil, light brown, clay sand	0.15	1.6	30		
46/03	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	N/A	1.6	30		