

DEVELOPMENT ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES Ltd

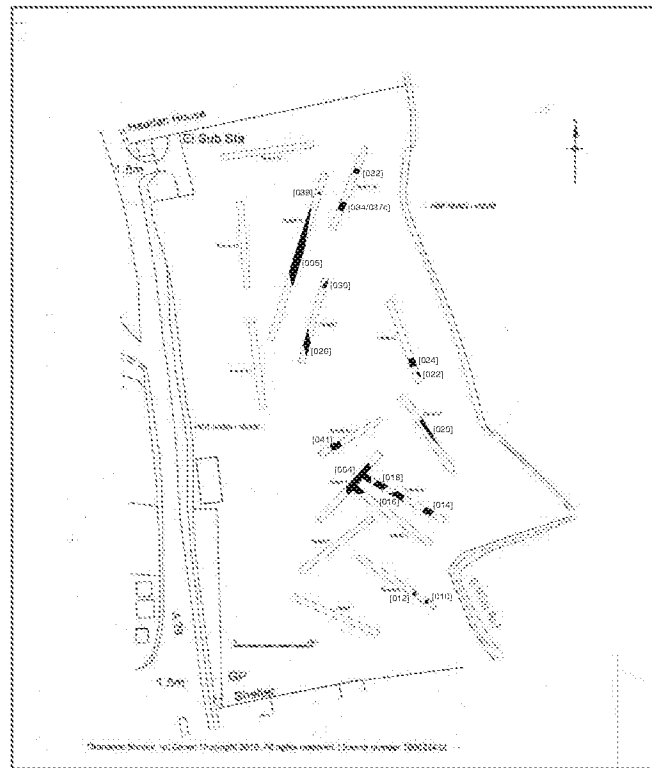
REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF A PRE-DETERMINATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND TO THE EAST OF SHIPNEY ROAD, BERSTED, WEST SUSSEX

VERSION 2

[DAS Code SHRP/19]

[Site Centred at approximately
National Grid Reference SU 93885 02323]

PREPARED FOR HANBURY PROPERTIES LTD.



By

Neville Hall BA & C. A. Pine MA BSc.

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Summary

A pre-determination archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of fifteen trial trenches was carried out by Development Archaeology Services Ltd [DAS] on and between the 14th to 21st June 2019 in advance of a proposed new residential development on land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted, West Sussex.

The archaeological trial trenching firmly established the nature of the archaeological activity and the sequence of deposits at the site, while at the same time providing a sufficient sampling of the area of the proposed development site to confirm the date form and function of archaeology present within the site area.

At the north-eastern end of Trench 11, the cut of a deep, 'bucket-shaped' pit was identified. This was the earliest archaeological feature discovered on this site as the fill of this pot produced six sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery typical of Early Bronze Age collared cinerary urns. The pit cut identified in Trench 11 is interpreted as being a possible, though isolated, cremation burial pit. However, no calcined human bone was recovered from the pit fill, so this interpretation is conjectural.

The main landscape feature that was identified by this evaluation compromised a Romano-British field system, which consisted of a series of enclosure ditches, which are interpreted as providing a dual function of boundaries and possibly more importantly of drainage. Assemblages from this field system, appeared to fairly tightly dated to the mid to late C3rd to C4th.

A main component part of this Romano-British field system was a north-south aligned ditch, which was identified within Trenches 11, 9 and 15 [from north-south respectively]. The continuation to the south of this ditch within Trench 15 revealed a similar profile, which was similarly deep and substantial, again with no evidence of recuts here also.

Pottery recovered from the site suggest the excavation / investigation has recorded 'background' Romano British occupation within close, [c. 1km] from the site / study area. Assemblages from the site are predominantly dated to the mid to late C3rd to C4th.

Assessment of charred plant remains from bronze age pit and possible, though undated, pre-historic features produced limited results though an oak dominated landscape is suggested.

Assessment of faunal remains include pig and cattle and may be considered typical of remains commensurate with the presence of a proximal Romano British farmstead.

All results suggest the Consideration of the results of the investigation and review of localised landscape and topography, within a c. 1km radius of the site centre, suggests that there is a higher potential for significant archaeology to be present to the north east of the study site.

It is suggested that the results of the evaluation, including uptake of contingency trenching, has adequately recorded the date form and function of archaeology present within the site area.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Development Archaeology Services Limited [DAS] was commissioned by Hanbury Properties Ltd. to undertake a pre-determination archaeological field evaluation prior to a proposed new residential development on land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted, West Sussex, centred at National Grid Reference SU 93885 02323. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the proposed development site on and between the 14th to 21st June 2019
- 1.2 This report documents the results of this pre-determination archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation [WSI] prepared by DAS. This document was submitted to and approved by Mr. James Kenny, Archaeological Officer of Chichester District Council [in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority [LPA]], prior to the commencement of the on-site works. This is in accordance with the principles established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* [Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010], and *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* [CHIfA, 2014].
- 1.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the clients, Mr. James Kenny of Chichester District Council, the Planning Department of Arun District Council, the West Sussex County Sites and Monuments Record [SMR], and the Littlehampton Museum, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is situated on land off and to the east of Shripney Road and on the eastern outskirts of the village of Shripney at a height of approximately +4mAOD and at National Grid Reference SU 93885 02323 [**Figures 1 and 2**]. The modern A29 trunk road forms the western boundary of the site, whilst to the north and south are modern residential developments along with an open field lying to the east. The modern settlement of Shripney is located within the modern civil parish of Bersted, administrative district of Arun, county of West Sussex.
- 2.2 The proposed development site is situated within the Lower Sussex Coastal Plan. The site is currently under grass/rough pasture. The proposed development site lies on deep

stoneless silty soils of the Park Gate Series, which in turn overlies aeolian silty drift deposits of brickearth [Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 1996].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 It is understood that an application for planning consent for a proposed new residential development on this site is to be made to Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority. In advance of this forthcoming planning application, the prospective applicants requested that Development Archaeology Services Ltd [DAS] compile and submit a Written Scheme of Investigation [WSI] to detail an appropriate strategy for mitigating the potential impact that this proposed new residential development may have on any significant and surviving archaeological potential that may be present within the area of this application site [Figure 3].
- 3.2 Following consultations between DAS Ltd. and Mr James Kenny, Archaeological Officer of Chichester District Council, [and advisor on archaeological planning matters to Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority], it was agreed that the required programme of archaeological work applicable to this application site would be the implementation of a programme of archaeological assessment of the proposed development site through trial trenching, and that this programme of archaeological works should take place prior to the submission of a planning application to develop the site. The proposed archaeological evaluation programme would comprise a sample of c.5% by area of the proposed development site, with provision, subject to the results of this initial trial trenching, for an additional phase of archaeological investigation, to take place either pre-construction or during the construction phase of development at the site, subject in turn to advice from Mr. James Kenny.
- 3.3 Consequently, a Written Scheme of Investigation for the Phase 1 archaeological evaluation of the site through trial trenching was submitted to and approved by Mr. James Kenny on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, prior to any archaeological works commencing on this site.

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Figure 2: Site location from an aerial photograph [2013] site.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Mesolithic settlement activity and finds have been identified within the vicinity of this assessment site. This has comprised finds to the west and further finds indicating a possible contemporary occupation site to the south-west.
- 4.2 Evidence for Bronze Age activity have been made to the north, south-west and to the east of this assessment site, very largely as the result of previous archaeological investigations, which have taken place prior to development.
- 4.3 Iron Age finds have been made to the west and north of this assessment site. Previous archaeological investigations prior to development which have taken place to the south of this assessment site, have also identified evidence of Iron Age settlement activity and finds.
- 4.4 Romano-British finds have been made to the immediate north and settlement activity and other finds made to the south, south-west and to the east of this assessment site, again as the result of other previous archaeological investigations, which have taken place prior to development being undertaken.
- 4.5 There are no known archaeological activity and finds from the Anglo-Saxon period within the vicinity of this assessment site.
- 4.6 The assessment site is located to the east of the medieval settlement of Shripney, which was focussed around Shripney Manor, the manorial site and its associated deer park. Finds from this period have been made to the immediate north and also to the south-west of this settlement site. However, this assessment site is located away from the focus of medieval settlement activity and fewer finds from this period have been made in the locale.
- 4.7 The assessment site is situated to the south and east of the post-medieval settlement of Shripney

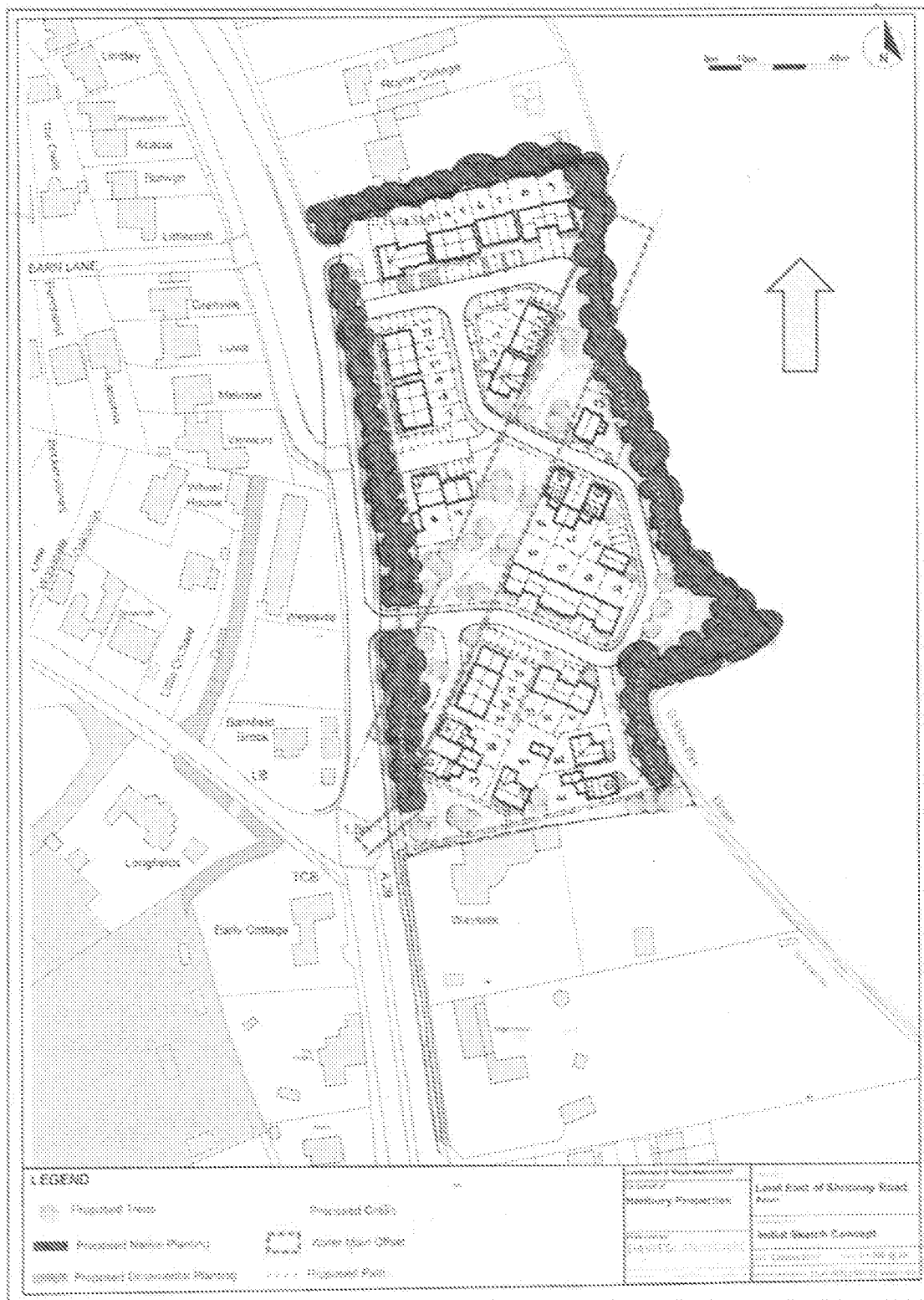


Figure 3: Proposed indicative layout of the development site at an original scale of 1:1,000 at A3, [not to scale], [extract from Architects plan]

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on and between the 14th to 23rd June 2019 by Christopher Pine and Neville Hall of Development Archaeology Services Ltd [DAS]. This involved the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of fifteen archaeological trial trenches [designated as **Trenches 1-15**] [**Figures 7-8**]. All of these trial trenches were excavated by a c.11-ton tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket. All excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 The approved DAS Written Scheme of Investigation for this archaeological evaluation had originally provided for the excavation under archaeological supervision of c.400 linear metres by length of trenching with a width of 2.0m giving a total survey area of c.800m² of trenching. This would equate to sixteen, 25.0m by 2.0m trial trenches and to approximately c.5% sample by area of a site, whose total area was estimated at c15,000m² [**Figure 4**]. There was also a contingency for an 150m² of additional trenching to elucidate initial findings [if required].
- 5.3 As a result of features and finds recorded during the preliminary trenching phase [Trenches 1-11] DAS requested that J. Kenny visit the site to comment and advise on modifications to the initially proposed trench layout and advise as to preferred locations for additional, contingency trenching. James Kenny [CDC and advisor to ADC] visited the site on 18th June. Final trenching layout followed advice for additional trenching / investigation as requested by J. Kenny.
- 5.4 In the final event, a total of 944m² [including contingency uptake] was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision, which was in excess of the agreed original site sample. **Trenches 1-10 and 12-14** were each excavated to a length of 30.0m and to a width of 2.0m. **Trench 11** was excavated to a length of 60.0m and to a width of 2.0m. **Trench 15** was excavated to a length of 22.0m and to a width of 2.0m [**Figure 5**].
- 5.5 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording and the deposit sequences and archaeological features observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Plans were compiled on site of each individual trench at a scale of 1:100. These trench plans are reproduced at this same scale on **Figures 7-8** in this report. A total of twenty sections of the identified archaeological features and of the observed site deposit sequence [designated as **Sections 1-20**] were also compiled on site

at a scale of 1:20. These are similarly reproduced at this same scale on **Figures 9-13**. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-61, Appendix 1**. A list of the contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

- 5.6 Detailed sample collection was undertaken from all key features. A sample list is presented at **Table 1**. Samples were processed outside using a 'Siraf' style flotation tank (Williams 1973), with meshes of 500 microns for retention of the residue and the 'flot' collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve. Residues were subject to additional bucket flotation in order to obtain maximum possible retrieval of environmental evidence. Faunal, plant and pot sample finds and residues [where appropriate] were submitted for specialist assessment. Results of specialist assessment are presented at Appendices 3-5.
- 5.8 All phases of field work and post field work was guided by the previously submitted and approved DAS Written Scheme of Investigation for this archaeological investigation.



Refer to **Figure 5** for actual trench locations showing line of high -pressure water main that resulted in modification to proposed initial trench layout.

6. Results [Figures 5-13, Appendix 1, Plates 1-61]

6.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 **Trench 1** was positioned at the southern end of the survey area and was orientated from north west-south east. **Trench 1** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.90m-1.10m below ground levels [**Plates 1-2**].

6.1.2 The mechanical excavation of this trench extended through a modern topsoil horizon [**001**], an undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon [**002**] and into the upper levels of an underlying natural horizon of brickearths [**003**].

6.1.3 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 **Trench 2** was situated to the north of **Trench 1** and was aligned from north east-south west. **Trench 2** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.80m-0.90m below ground levels [**Plates 3-4**].

6.2.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trench, was also recorded within this trench.

6.2.3 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.3 Trench 3

6.3.1 **Trench 3** was located to the south-east of **Trench 1** and to the north-east of **Trench 2**. **Trench 3** was orientated from north west-south east and was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.90m-1.0m below ground levels [**Plates 5-6**].

6.3.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench. This deposit sequence was recorded here within **Representative Section 15 [Plate 7]**.

- 6.3.3 Towards the south-eastern end of the trench, was the cut of a small undated ovular shaped pit [010] with fill [011]. The hand excavation of this feature revealed a shallow and a truncated profile, which was recorded within **Section 1 [Plates 8-9]**. The fill [011] did not yield any dateable finds. The fill of this shallow pit produced 18 [479gms total weight] of burnt flint with the fill containing charcoal fragments Where identification was possible Oak [*Quercus*] is the dominant represented wood [See Appendix 4]. This feature is tentatively assigned a pre-historic date.
- 6.3.4 Situated to the immediate north-west of the pit cut [010] was the cut of a second, though smaller undated ovular shaped pit [012] with fill [013]. This feature is tentatively assigned a pre-historic date. This pit had a slightly irregular profile, which was recorded within **Section 2 [Plate 10]**. The fill [013] did not produce any dateable finds. The fill of this shallow pit produced 2 [32gms total weight] of burnt flint with the fill containing charcoal fragments [See Appendix 4].

6.4 Trench 4

- 6.4.1 **Trench 4** was positioned to the immediate north-east of **Trench 2** and was aligned from north west-south east. The north western end of **Trench 4** was also contiguous with the adjoining **Trench 6**. **Trench 4** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.90m-1.10m below ground levels [**Plates 11-12**].
- 6.4.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench.
- 6.4.3 A large amorphous and irregular feature comprising the cut [004] with fill [005], a spread of occupation activity was identified at the north western end of this trench. This spread lies within a lower lying area of the site and is interpreted as a 'natural sump' or depression, or a possible small pond area, into which field boundary/drainage ditches associated with a Romano-British field system on this site drained into [**Plates 13-15**]. This feature was observed to continue into the contiguous **Trench 6** and also into the nearby **Trench 5** to the immediate north-east. The fill [005].

6.5.1 Trench 5

- 6.5.1 **Trench 5** was situated to the immediate north-east and was parallel to **Trench 4**, to the south-west. The north western end of **Trench 5** was also contiguous with the adjoining

Trench 6. **Trench 5** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 1.0m-1.10m below ground levels [**Plates 16-17**].

- 6.5.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench.
- 6.5.3 Situated towards the south-eastern end of **Trench 5** was the first in a sequence of three undated ditches, all of which were on an identical north east-south west alignment. This linear ditch cut [**014**] with fill [**015**] exhibited a deep and a substantial profile with no signs of later truncation. The profile of this ditch was recorded within **Section 3** [**Plate 18**].
- 6.5.4 Located to the immediate north-west of the linear ditch cut [**015**], was the second of these three undated linear ditches, that were on the same parallel orientation. This comprised the linear ditch cut [**016**] with fill [**017**]. The profile of this second ditch appeared to be less substantial than the nearby ditch cut [**015**], and so may possibly have also undergone some degree of later truncation. The profile of this ditch was recorded within **Section 4** [**Plate 19**]. The fill [**017**] did not produce any finds.
- 6.5.5 Situated in turn to immediate north-west of the linear ditch cut [**016**] was the third of these three undated linear ditches, that were on the same parallel north east-south west orientation. This comprised the linear ditch cut [**018**] with fill [**019**]. This third ditch also featured a relatively shallower and a possibly truncated profile, which was recorded within **Section 5** [**Plate 20**]. The fill [**019**] did not produce any finds.
- 6.5.6 To the immediate north-west of the linear ditch cut [**018**] was a further portion of the 'natural sump' or depression, or a possible small pond area [**004**] with fill [**005**], into which field boundary/drainage ditches associated with a Romano-British field system on this site system drained into. This large, irregular and amorphous feature was also identified within the contiguous **Trench 6** and within the nearby **Trench 4** [**Plate 21**].

6.6 Trench 6

- 6.6.1 **Trench 6** was orientated from north-east-south west and was contiguous with **Trenches 4 and 5** to the south-east. **Trench 6** was also located to the north of **Trench 2** and was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.70m-1.0m below ground levels [**Plates 22-23** and see also **Plate 61**].

6.6.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench.

6.6.3 Occupying the central area of **Trench 6** was a further portion of the 'natural sump' or depression, or a possible small pond area [004] with fill [005], into which field boundary/drainage ditches associated with a Romano-British field system on this site system drained into [See Plate 61]. This large, irregular and amorphous feature was also identified within **Trenches 4 and 5 [Plate 24]**.

6.7 Trench 7

6.7.1 **Trench 7** was positioned to the north-east of **Trenches 5 and 6** and was aligned from approximately north-south. **Trench 7** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.90m-1.10m below ground levels [**Plates 25 and 27-28**].

6.7.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench. This deposit sequence was recorded here within **Representative Section 16 [Plate 26]**.

6.7.3 Extending along the central portion of **Trench 7**, and leading off to the east beyond the eastern limits of excavation of this trench, was the cut of a north-south orientated linear gully [020] with fill [021]. This feature had a very shallow and truncated profile, with a terminal and rounded butt end to the north. The truncated profile of this ditch was recorded within **Section 6 [Plate 29]**. The fill [021] yielded finds of twelve sherds of Romano-British pottery. In addition, the feature contained 12 fragments [850gms total weight] of burnt flint.

6.8 Trench 8

6.8.1 **Trench 8** was also orientated from approximately north-south and was situated to the north of **Trench 7**. **Trench 8** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.90m-1.0m below ground levels [**Plates 30 and 34**].

6.8.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench. This deposit sequence was recorded here within **Representative Section 17 [Plate 33]**.

- 6.8.3 The cut of a shallow and heavily truncated undated linear gully [022] with fill [023] on a north east-south west alignment was identified towards the southern end of **Trench 8**. This feature had a rounded terminal butt end to the north-east and continued beyond the western limit of excavation of this trench. The shallow and truncated profile of this gully cut was recorded within **Section 7 [Plate 32]**. This feature produced no dateable finds though did contain 1 flint flake [un-diagnostic] and 8 fragments of abraded / rounded clay daub.
- 6.8.4 Situated to the north of the linear gully cut was the cut of a further linear ditch [024] with fill [025]. This ditch cut was on an east-west alignment and also exhibited a fairly shallow and truncated profile, which was recorded within **Section 8 [Plate 31]**. The fill [025] produced finds of four sherds of Roman pottery, one coin of late 3rd century date and fifteen fused iron hob nails along with one cow tooth [see Appendix 3 and 5]

6.9 Trench 9

- 6.9.1 **Trench 9** was similarly orientated from approximately north-south and was situated to the west of **Trench 8**. **Trench 9** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.80m-1.0m below ground levels [**Plates 35 and 39**].
- 6.9.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench.
- 6.9.3 The cut of a linear ditch [026] with fills [027], [028] and [029], which was on a north west-south east orientation was identified towards the southern end of this trench. This ditch was fairly deep and substantial, the profile of which was recorded within **Section 9 [Plates 36 and 37]**. The fills [027], [028] and [029] produced a total of 12 sherds of Roman pottery [See Appendix 3].
- 6.9.4 Situated at the northern end of **Trench 9** was the cut of a very shallow and truncated linear gully [030] with fill [031]. This was aligned from south west-north east and had a rounded terminal butt end to the south-west. The ditch profile was recorded within **Section 10 [Plate 38]**. The fill [031] produced finds of three sherds of Roman pottery and 32 fragments of animal bone [cow]. In addition, 3 fragments [32gms total weight] of burnt flint were recovered from processed samples from this context.

6.10 Trench 10

- 6.10.1 **Trench 10** was orientated from north east-south west and was situated to the north of **Trenches 8 and 9**. **Trench 10** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.60m-0.90m below ground levels [**Plates 40 and 44**].
- 6.10.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench. This deposit sequence was recorded here within **Representative Section 18 [Plate 41]**.
- 6.10.3 Located towards the northern end of **Trench 10** was the cut of a Roman linear ditch [**032**] with fill [**033**]. This ditch cut was aligned from east-west and exhibited a shallow and a truncated profile. The profile of this ditch cut was recorded within **Section 11 [Plate 43]**. The fill [**033**] yielded one sherd of Roman pottery [See Appendix 3] and 24 fragments of animal bone [cow] [See Appendix 5]
- 6.10.4 Situated to the south of the linear ditch cut [**032**] and towards the southern end of **Trench 10** was the cut of a second Roman linear ditch [**034**] with residual fill [**035**]. This ditch was on the same east-west alignment as the ditch cut [**032**] to the north. Much of the original profile of the ditch cut [**034**] had been removed by a later recut of this ditch [**037c**], which was the same identical orientation. The profile of the ditch cut [**034**] and of the later recut [**037c**] with its fills [**038**], [**037**] and [**036**] were recorded within **Section 12 [Plate 42]**. The fill [**035**] produced one sherd of Roman pottery. The fill [**036**] yielded finds of five sherds of Roman pottery [See Appendix 3] and five fragments of animal bone [cow] [see Appendix 5].

6.11 Trench 11

- 6.11.1 **Trench 11** was aligned from north east-south west and was positioned to the west of **Trenches 9 and 10**. **Trench 11** was excavated to a length of 60.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.80m-0.90m below ground levels [**Plates 45 and 49**].
- 6.11.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench.
- 6.11.3 The cut of a small circular shaped pit [**039**] with fill [**040**] was identified towards the north-eastern end of this trench. This feature was fully hand excavated with the profile being

recorded within **Profile 13 [Plate 46]**. The fill **[040]** produced finds of six sherds of pottery from an Early Bronze Age cinerary urn [See Appendix 3]. In addition to and 44x fragments of burnt flint [1411gms total weight] examination of charcoal from the fill suggests the main wood present is identified as? oak – cf. *Quercus*. Although the form of this feature and finds suggests the presence of a cinerary urn there was no bone material recovered from recovered, processed samples.

- 6.11.4 Extending along part of the length of **Trench 11** and orientated from approximately north-south was the cut of a linear ditch **[006]** with fill **[007]**. This ditch cut continued to the south as the Roman linear ditch cut **[041]** within **Trench 15**, **[Plates 47-48]**.

6.12 Trench 12

- 6.12.1 **Trench 12** was situated at the northern end of the survey area and was orientated from approximately east-west. **Trench 12** was located to the north-west of **Trenches 10 and 11** and was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.80m-0.90m below ground levels **[Plates 50 and 52]**.

- 6.12.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench. This deposit sequence was recorded here within **Representative Section 19 [Plate 51]**.

- 6.12.3 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.13 Trench 13

- 6.13.1 **Trench 13** was orientated from north-south and was situated to the south of **Trench 12** and to the west of **Trench 11**. **Trench 13** was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.60m-0.90m below ground levels **[Plates 53-54]**.

- 6.13.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench. No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.14 Trench 14

6.14.1 **Trench 14** was positioned to the south of **Trench 13** and to the west of **Trenches 9 and 11**. **Trench 14** was aligned from north-south and was excavated to a length of 30.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 0.60m-0.80m below ground levels [**Plates 55 and 57**].

6.14.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench. This deposit sequence was recorded here within **Representative Section 20 [Plate 56]**.

6.14.3 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.15 Trench 15

6.15.1 **Trench 15** was aligned from north east-south west and was situated to the west of **Trench 7**, to the north of **Trench 6** and to the south of **Trench 9**. **Trench 15** was excavated to a length of 22.0m, to a width of 2.0m and to depths of between 1.0m-1.10m below ground levels [**Plates 58 and 60**].

6.15.2 The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches, was also recorded within this trench.

6.15.3 The cut of a deep and substantial Roman linear ditch, which was aligned from approximately north-south [**041**] with fills [**042**], [**043**] and [**044**], and which continued to the north as linear ditch cut [**006**] within **Trench 11**, was recorded within this trench within **Section 14 [Plate 59]**. The fill [**043**] produced finds of fourteen sherds of Roman pottery and one animal bone fragment [pig]. The fill [**044**] yielded a further four sherds of Roman pottery. [See appendix 3 and 5].

6.15.4 In addition to C3rd C4th pot, two flint flakes [undiagnostic] and four fragments of burnt flint were recovered from this feature.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The archaeological trial trenching firmly established the nature of the archaeological activity and the sequence of deposits at the site, while at the same time providing a sufficient sampling of the area of the proposed development site to confirm this sequence and the extent of the archaeological activity present.
- 7.2 At the north-eastern end of Trench 11, the cut of a deep, 'bucket-shaped' pit was identified. This was the earliest archaeological feature discovered on this site as the fill of this pit produced six sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery. The pottery report [Appendix 3] concluded that although these were not diagnostic, they were typical of Early Bronze Age collared cinerary urns, from the nature of their fabric. So, the pit cut identified in Trench 11 is interpreted as being a possible, though isolated cremation burial pit. However, although significant quantities of burnt flint were recovered from this feature no calcined human bone was recovered from the pit fill, so this interpretation is conjectural. This find is consistent with other finds made from this period as the result of previous archaeological investigations that have been made in the vicinity of this assessment site.
- 7.3 The main landscape feature that was identified by this investigation comprised a Romano-British field / drainage system, which in turn consisted of a series of possible enclosure ditches, which may have provided a dual function of boundaries and more importantly of drainage. The pottery report for this evaluation [Appendix 3] concluded that most of the pottery finds assemblages from this field system, appeared to fairly tightly dated to the period c.AD270-AD300, or of late third century AD origin. The finding of this Romano-British field system is consistent with other such findings from this period, which have been made in the vicinity of this site as the result of previous archaeological investigations which have been made in this area.
- 7.4 A main component part of this Romano-British field system was a north-south aligned ditch, which was identified within Trenches 11, 9 and 15 (from north-south respectively). This ditch was excavated and sectioned within Trenches 9 and 15. The three fills of the ditch recorded within Trench 9 produced finds of sixteen sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c.AD180-AD400. The ditch here exhibited a deep and substantial profile with no evidence of recuts. The continuation to the south of this ditch within Trench 15 revealed a similar profile, which was similarly deep and substantial, again with no evidence of recuts here also. The three fills of this second ditch section yielded finds of a further fourteen sherds of pottery of between c.AD180-AD300, or second-third centuries AD. The northern

component part of this ditch within Trench 9 remained unexcavated as two substantial sections of this ditch had already been excavated to the south. This ditch appeared to terminate to the south to a relatively low-lying area of the site, which presumably acted here as a natural low-lying sump or depression or small pond area, into which this ditch and others in this field system (which will be discussed later, possibly drained into). This low lying sump or depression was identified and recorded within Trench 6 and also within the north-western ends of the contiguous Trenches 4 and 5. Although no datable pottery finds were recovered from the fill of this low lying sump or depression, it is concluded that this was an integral and perhaps significant component part of this Romano-British field / drainage management system. The close proximity of the existing and still visible rife cut delineating the eastern site boundary, considered in association with the gentle west to east fall of the site, suggest the undated ditches running eastwards from the sump / pond area may have naturally drained into the present rife line. [See Figure 7].

- 7.5 Towards the southern end of Trench 8, the cut of an east-west aligned linear ditch was recorded within a hand excavated section. The profile of this ditch was relatively shallow and thus may have been truncated to a certain extent by later ploughing activity. The uniform fill of this ditch produced finds of four sherds of pottery with a date range of cAD270-AD300; a coin of c.AD274-AD286 and fifteen fused iron hobnails also of Roman date. It is considered that this east-west aligned linear ditch was contemporaneous with and was thus a component part of the Romano-British field / drainage system identified on this site. It is also considered that this east-west orientated ditch would have met the north-south aligned ditch identified in Trenches 11, 9 and 15, to the west.
- 7.6 Towards the north-eastern end of Trench 10, an east-west orientated linear ditch cut was recorded and excavated in section. This ditch exhibited a relatively shallow and truncated profile, which had probably been the product of later ploughing activity. The fill of this feature yielded one sherd of pottery dated to c.AD200-AD400. This ditch cut is considered to be contemporaneous with and was thus a component part of the Romano-British field system identified on this site. It is also considered that this east-west orientated ditch would have extended to the north-south aligned ditch identified in Trenches 11, 9 and 15, to the west.
- 7.7 Situated to the south of this ditch cut and also within Trench 10, was the cut of a further east-west aligned linear ditch. This ditch was hand excavated in section, with the profile of this ditch exhibiting evidence of a later recut. The profile of this ditch was deep and substantial and similar in form to the two sections of the north-south aligned ditch of the

field system that were recorded to the south within Trenches 9 and 15. It is clear also that this east-west orientated ditch would have ran into the northern section of this north-south aligned ditch, which was identified within the nearby Trench 9, and was thus a component part of this field system. The fill of the earlier ditch (pre later recut) produced finds of five sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c.AD250-AD370, and so these two ditches are thus considered to be contemporaneous.

- 7.8 Within Trench 5, the cuts of three further linear and undated ditches that were on the same and parallel north east-south west alignment were identified and were all excavated in section. Towards the south-eastern end of Trench 5, the first of these ditches exhibited a deep and a substantial profile, which was similar in form to that of the north-south aligned ditch recorded to the north within Trenches 9, 11 and 15. Although this ditch is undated with its fill yielding no datable finds, it is considered that by its similar form and profile, that this ditch is contemporaneous with the north-south aligned ditch and thus a further component part of the Romano-British field / drainage management system identified on this site.
- 7.9 The remaining two undated linear ditch cuts that were also recorded within Trench 5, by contrast exhibited shallower and probably truncated profiles, the probable product of later ploughing activity. These two ditches were also similarly undated with their respective fills producing no datable finds. Despite this, and given the obvious preponderance of the Romano-British field system within this assessment site, it is considered that these two undated ditches were probably similarly contemporaneous with the remainder of this field system and were probably also further component parts of it.
- 7.10 Within Trench 7, the cut of a north west-south aligned linear gully with a rounded terminal butt end to the north-west was identified. This gully had a very shallow and a heavily truncated profile, which appears to have been truncated perhaps by later ploughing activity. The fill of this shallow gully produced finds of twelve sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c180AD-AD350, and so may have been associated with the Romano-British field system identified on this assessment site. This very shallow gully probably did not have a drainage function, but perhaps served as a probable fence line delineating a property boundary.
- 7.11 To the north and at the north-eastern end of Trench 9, a second gully was identified. This similarly had a rounded terminal butt end to the south-west and also exhibited a similar very shallow and a heavily truncated profile, probably as the result of similar later ploughing

activity. The fill of this shallow gully produced finds of three sherds of Romano-British pottery with a date range of c.180AD-AD300. Both features are thus broadly contemporaneous. It is considered that this latter feature performed a similar property delineating function, comprising a probable fence line, by the similarity of its form and profile, and so did not have a drainage function. These possible fence lines probably delineated secondary boundaries within the overall Roman-British field system with its primary drainage function.

- 7.12 At the southern end of Trench 8, the cut of a third linear gully with a rounded terminal butt end to the north-west was recorded. The profile of this gully exhibited a similar shallow and heavily truncated profile as the other two gullies, and although its fill did not yield any datable finds, it is considered that this feature will also be probably contemporaneous with the gullies located within Trenches 7 and 9, with a similar interpretation, function and purpose.
- 7.13 At the southern end of the survey area and within Trench 3, the cuts of two and relatively isolated and undated pits were identified. Both features exhibited relatively shallow and truncated profiles. The fills of either feature did not produce any datable finds. Both features appeared to have been truncated perhaps by later ploughing activity. These features are tentatively assigned a pre-historic [Bronze Age / Iron Age date].

Table 1: Shripney sample list [Refer to Appendix 2 for context descriptions and Appendices 3,4 & 5 for specialist reports.

Trench	Section		Contexts [Fill]	Bulk c. 50 ltrs	Summary	Comments [pre specialist assessment]
Trench 1						Negative
Trench 2						Negative
Trench 3	1 [west facing section]		010-cut [011]	1	Shallow circular pit Charcoal [see Carrot report Appendix 4]	Burnt flint X18=479gms
Trench 3	2 [west facing section]		012-cut [013]	2	Ovoid pit [poss shallow post hole] Charcoal [see Carrot report Appendix 4]	Burnt flint X 2 =32gms
Trench 4					Sump area excavation	Sump area linked to T4, T5 & T6. Terminal "receptor area";
Trench 5	3 [south south west facing section]		014-cut [015]	Bulks 3B-Upper fill 3A-Basal fill	No dating	Easterly 'drainage cut/channel from sump area seen in plan in Trenches 4,5 and 6 sump area X 3 fragments of burnt flint [38gms total]
Trench 5	4		016-cut [017]	Bulks 4B-Upper fill 4A-Basal fill	No dating	Central 'drainage cut / channel seen in plan in Trenches 4,5 and 6 sump area [Negative for finds]
Trench 5	5		018-cut [019]	Bulks 5B-Upper fill 5A-Basal fill	No dating	Western 'drainage cut/ channel seen in plan Trenches 4,5 and 6. X 1 fragments of burnt flint [18gms total]
Trench 6	Photo record only SECTION Plate 61					See Plate 61 [C3rdC4t] Fill as Trench 4
Trench 7	6 [north facing section]		20-cut [21]	Bulk 6 X2	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3]	Burnt flint X 12 frags = 850gms total weight
Trench 8	7 [north facing section]		22-cut [23]	Bulk 7		1X flint flake 7gms. X8 Abraded daub fragments total weight 3gms
Trench 8	8 [west facing section]		24- cut [25]	Bulk 8	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3] Bone [see Richardson Appendix 5]	Coin [Roman]? Hobnail accretion
Trench 9	9		026-cut [027] [028] [029]	Bulk 9 C upper fill Bulk 9 B mid fill Bulk 9 A basal fill	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3]	
Trench 9	10 [south facing section]		030 [031]	Bulk 10	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3] Bone [see Appendix 5t]	Burnt flint X 3 pieces total weight 32gms
Trench 10	11 [west facing section]		032-cut [033]	Bulk 11	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3]. Bone [see Richardson Appendix 5]	Burnt flint X 28 pieces total weight 348gms. Flint debitage X 6 frags 58gms total weight
Trench 10	12 [east facing section]			Bulk 12 Bulk 13 Bulk 15	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3]	B12 Upper fill of central cut [X 2 flint spalls/debitage 8gms total weight] Burnt flint 20 fragments 284gms total weight. B13 Mid fill of central cut [burnt flint single fragment 8gms total weight.

				Bulk 14 [perimeter fill]	Bone [see Richardson Appendix 5]	B15 Basal fill of central cut [negative] B14 Perimeter fill [X 3 flint spalls/debitage 14gms total weight] X 6 burnt flint fragments [78gms total weight]
Trench 11	13		039-cut [040]	Bulk 16 X 3 x 50 ltr samples [100% recovery]	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3] Charcoal [see Carrot report Appendix 4]	Burnt flint X 44 fragments 1411 gms total weight
Trench 12						Negative
Trench 13						Negative
Trench 14						Negative
Trench 15	14		041-cut [044] [043] [042]	B17 C B17 B B17 A	Pot [M. Lynne report Appendix 3]]	[044] upper fill [043] Mid fill [042] Basal fill 17A 1 flint flake /debitage 4gms total weight. 17B Pot 17C X 4 burnt flint fragments 156 gms total weight. X 1 flint flake 7gms.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The archaeological trial trenching firmly established the nature of the archaeological activity and the sequence of deposits at the site, while at the same time providing a sufficient sampling of the area of the proposed development site to confirm this sequence and the extent of the archaeological activity present.
- 7.2 At the north-eastern end of Trench 11, the cut of a deep, 'bucket-shaped' pit was identified. This was the earliest archaeological feature discovered on this site as the fill of this pit produced six sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery. The pottery report [Appendix 3] concluded that although these were not diagnostic, they were typical of Early Bronze Age collared cinerary urns, from the nature of their fabric. So, the pit cut identified in Trench 11 is interpreted as being a possible, though isolated cremation burial pit. However, no calcined human bone was recovered from the pit fill, so this interpretation is conjectural. This find is consistent with other finds made from this period as the result of previous archaeological investigations that have been made in the vicinity of this assessment site.
- 7.3 Undoubtedly, the main landscape feature that was identified by this evaluation compromised a Romano-British field system, which in turn consisted of a series of 'enclosure ditches', which provided a dual function of probable boundaries and more importantly of drainage. The pottery report for this evaluation [Appendix 3] concluded that most of the pottery finds assemblages from this field system, appeared to fairly tightly dated to the period c.AD270-AD300, or of late third century AD origin. The finding of this Romano-British field system is consistent with other such findings from this period, which have been made in the vicinity of this site as the result of previous archaeological investigations which have been made in this area.
- 7.4 A main component part of this Romano-British field system was a north-south aligned ditch, which was identified within Trenches 11, 9 and 15 [from north-south respectively]. This ditch was excavated and sectioned within Trenches 9 and 15. The three fills of the ditch recorded within Trench 9 produced finds of sixteen sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c.AD180-AD400. The ditch here exhibited a deep and substantial profile with no evidence of recuts. The continuation to the south of this ditch within Trench 15 revealed a similar profile, which was similarly deep and substantial, again with no evidence of recuts here also. The three fills of this second ditch section yielded finds of a further fourteen sherds of pottery of between c.AD180-AD300, or second-third centuries AD. The northern

component part of this ditch within Trench 9 remained unexcavated as two substantial sections to the south had confirmed date, form and function. This ditch appeared to terminate to the south to a low-lying area of the site, which presumably acted here as a natural low-lying sump or depression or small pond area, into which this ditch and others in this field system (which will be discussed later, possibly drained into). This low lying sump or depression was identified and recorded within Trench 6 and also within the north-western ends of the contiguous Trenches 4 and 5. Although no datable pottery finds were recovered from the fill of this low lying sump or depression, it is concluded that this was an integral and perhaps significant component part of this Romano-British field system.

- 7.5 Towards the southern end of Trench 8, the cut of an east-west aligned linear ditch was recorded within a hand excavated section. The profile of this ditch was relatively shallow and thus may have been truncated to a certain extent by later ploughing activity. The uniform fill of this ditch produced finds of four sherds of pottery with a date range of cAD270-AD300; a coin of c.AD274-AD286 and fifteen fused iron hobnails also of Roman date. It is considered that this east-west aligned linear ditch was contemporaneous with and was thus a component part of the Romano-British field system identified on this site. It is also considered that this east-west orientated ditch would have met the north-south aligned ditch identified in Trenches 11, 9 and 15, to the west
- 7.6 Towards the north-eastern end of Trench 10, an east-west orientated linear ditch cut was recorded and excavated in section. This ditch exhibited a relatively shallow and truncated profile, which had probably been the product of later ploughing activity. The fill of this feature yielded one sherd of pottery dated to c.AD200-AD400. This ditch cut is considered to be contemporaneous with and was thus a component part of the Romano-British field system identified on this site. It is also considered that this east-west orientated ditch would have extended to the north-south aligned ditch identified in Trenches 11, 9 and 15, to the west.
- 7.7 Situated to the south of this ditch cut and also within Trench 10, was the cut of a further east-west aligned linear ditch. This ditch was hand excavated in section, with the profile of this ditch exhibiting evidence of a later recut. The profile of this ditch was deep and substantial and similar in form to the two sections of the north-south aligned ditch of the field system that were recorded to the south within Trenches 9 and 15. It is clear also that this east-west orientated ditch would have ran into the northern section of this north-south aligned ditch, which was identified within the nearby Trench 9, and was thus a component part of this field system. The fill of the earlier ditch (pre later recut) produced finds of five

sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c.AD250-AD370, and so these two ditches are thus considered to be broadly contemporaneous.

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- 7.10 Within Trench 7, the cut of a north west-south aligned linear gully with a rounded terminal butt end to the north-west was identified. This gully had a very shallow and a heavily truncated profile, which appears to have been truncated perhaps by later ploughing activity. The fill of this shallow gully produced finds of twelve sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c180AD-AD350, and so may have been associated with the Romano-British field system identified on this assessment site. This very shallow gully probably did not have a drainage function, but perhaps served as a probable fence line delineating a property boundary.
- 7.11 To the north and at the north-eastern end of Trench 9, a second gully was identified. This similarly had a rounded terminal butt end to the south-west and also exhibited a similar very shallow and a heavily truncated profile, probably as the result of similar later ploughing activity. The fill of this shallow gully produced finds of three sherds of Romano-British pottery with a date range of c.180AD-AD300. Both features are thus broadly contemporaneous. It is considered that this latter feature performed a similar property delineating function, comprising a probable fence line, by the similarity of its form and profile, and so did not

have a drainage function. These possible fence lines probably delineated secondary boundaries within the overall Roman-British field system with its primary drainage function.

- 7.12 At the southern end of Trench 8, the cut of a third linear gully with a rounded terminal butt end to the north-west was recorded. The profile of this gully exhibited a similar shallow and heavily truncated profile as the other two gullies, and although its fill did not yield any datable finds, it is considered that this feature will also be probably contemporaneous with the gullies located within Trenches 7 and 9, with a similar interpretation, function and purpose.
- 7.13 At the southern end of the survey area and within Trench 3, the cuts of two and relatively isolated and undated pits were identified. Both features exhibited relatively shallow and truncated profiles. The fills of either feature did not produce any datable finds. Both features appeared to have been truncated perhaps by later ploughing activity.
- 7.14 The archaeological field assessment of this site identified a site deposit sequence which consisted of a modern topsoil horizon, an undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon and an underlying natural horizon of brickearths. This site deposit sequence was recorded within a total of six representative sections, which were widely distributed across the assessment site. Although no datable finds were recovered from the undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon, this horizon may be stratigraphically of medieval-post medieval origin since it sealed all of the identified Romano-British features that were identified on this assessment site. This suggests in turn that the later ploughing activity, which truncated the majority of the Roman archaeological features here, probably occurred during the medieval period.
- 7.15 Assessment of charred plant remains from bronze age pit and possible though undated pre-historic features produced limited results though an oak dominated landscape is suggested. [See Appendix 4]
- 7.16 Assessment of faunal remains include pig and cattle and may be considered typical of remains commensurate with the presence of a proximal Romano British farmstead. [see Appendix 5]
- 7.17 All results suggest the Consideration of the results of the investigation and review of localised landscape and topography, within a c. 1km radius of the site centre, suggests that

there is a higher potential for significant archaeology to be present to the north east of the study site.

- 7.18 It is suggested that the results of the evaluation, including uptake of contingency trenching, has adequately recorded the date form and function of archaeology present within the site area.

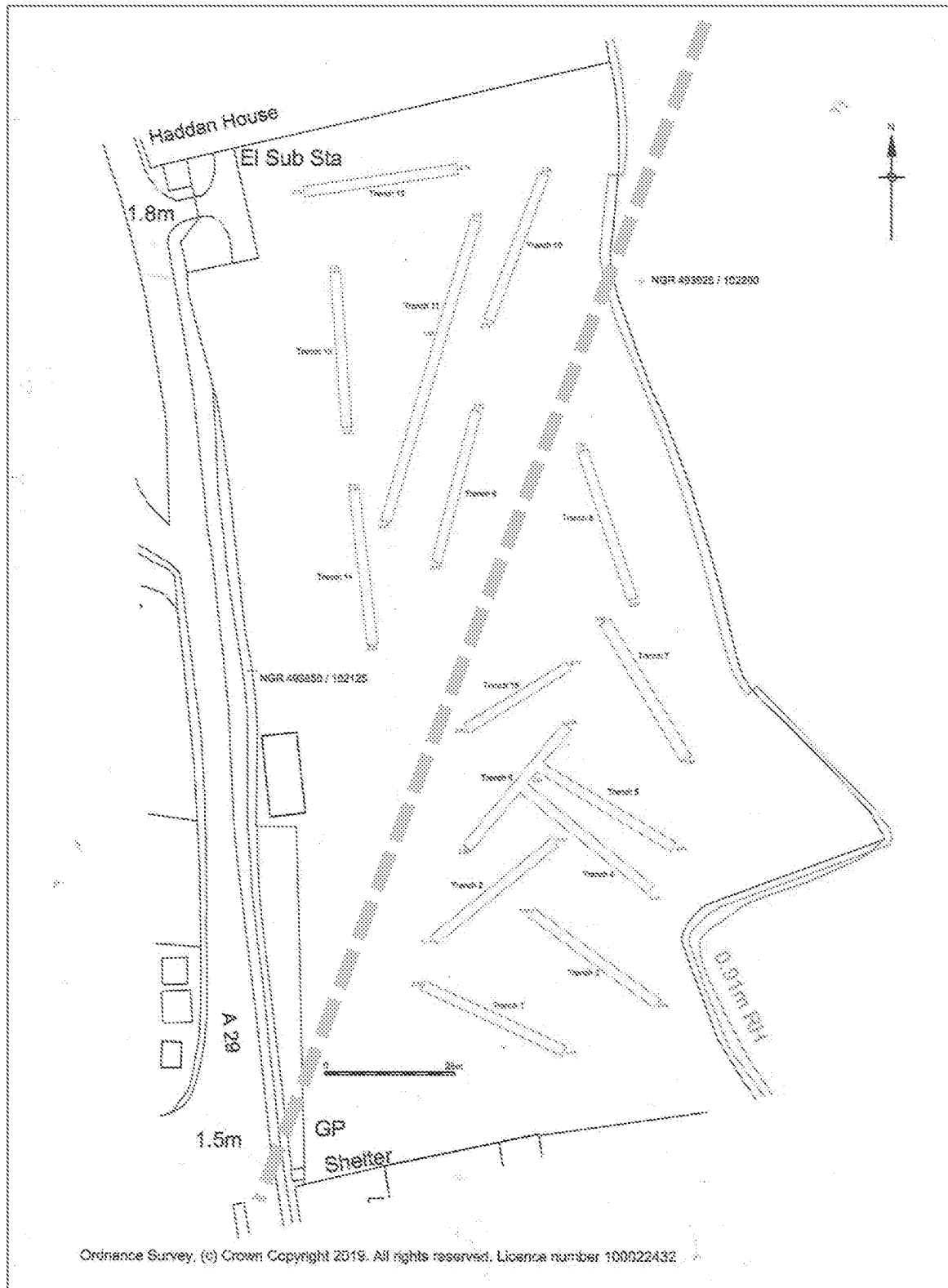


Figure 5: Plan showing the final layout of the archaeological trial trenches at a scale of 1:1,000.

Approximate line of main service [water main] left unexcavated.



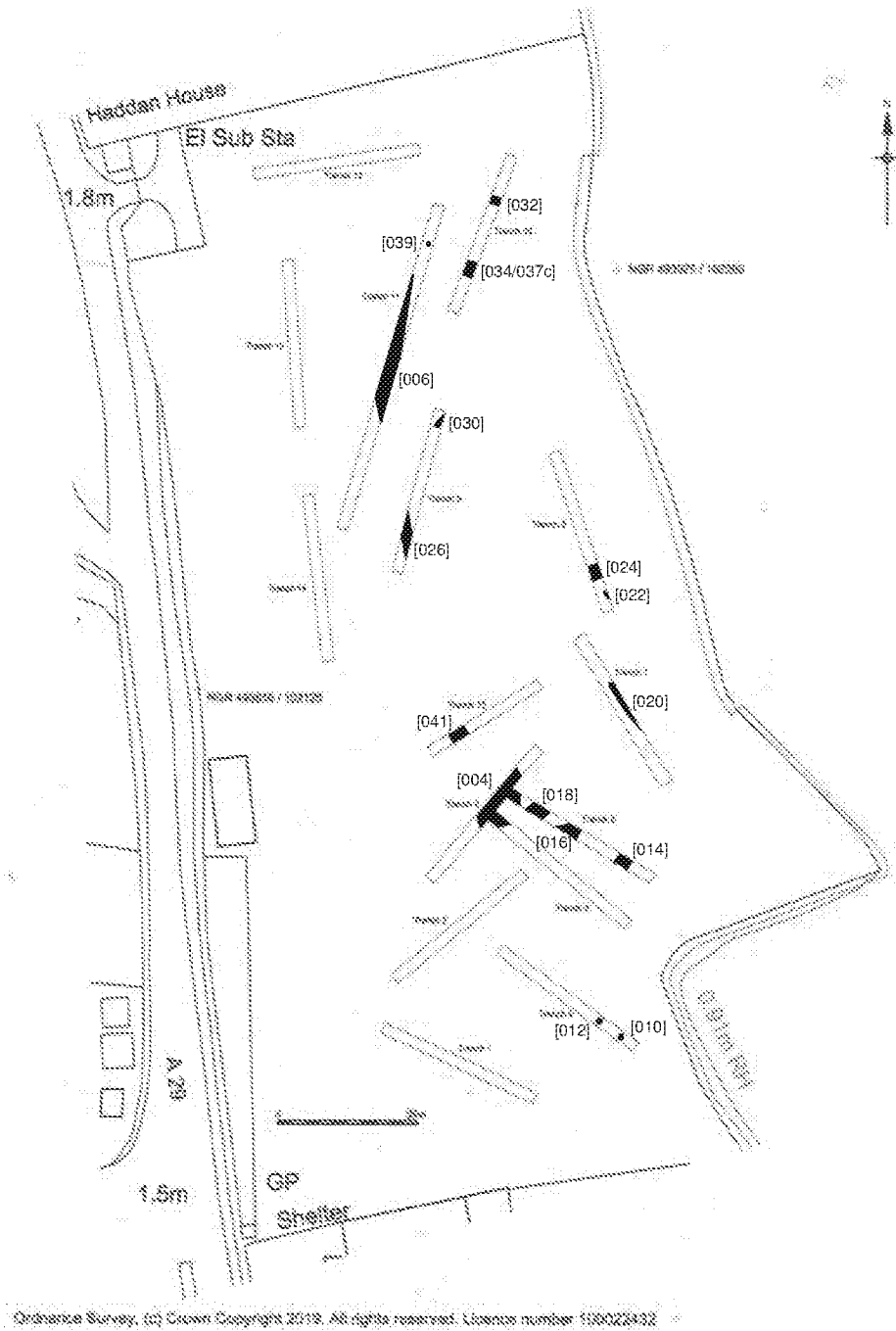


Figure 6: Plan showing the layout of the identified archaeological features at a scale of 1:1,000.

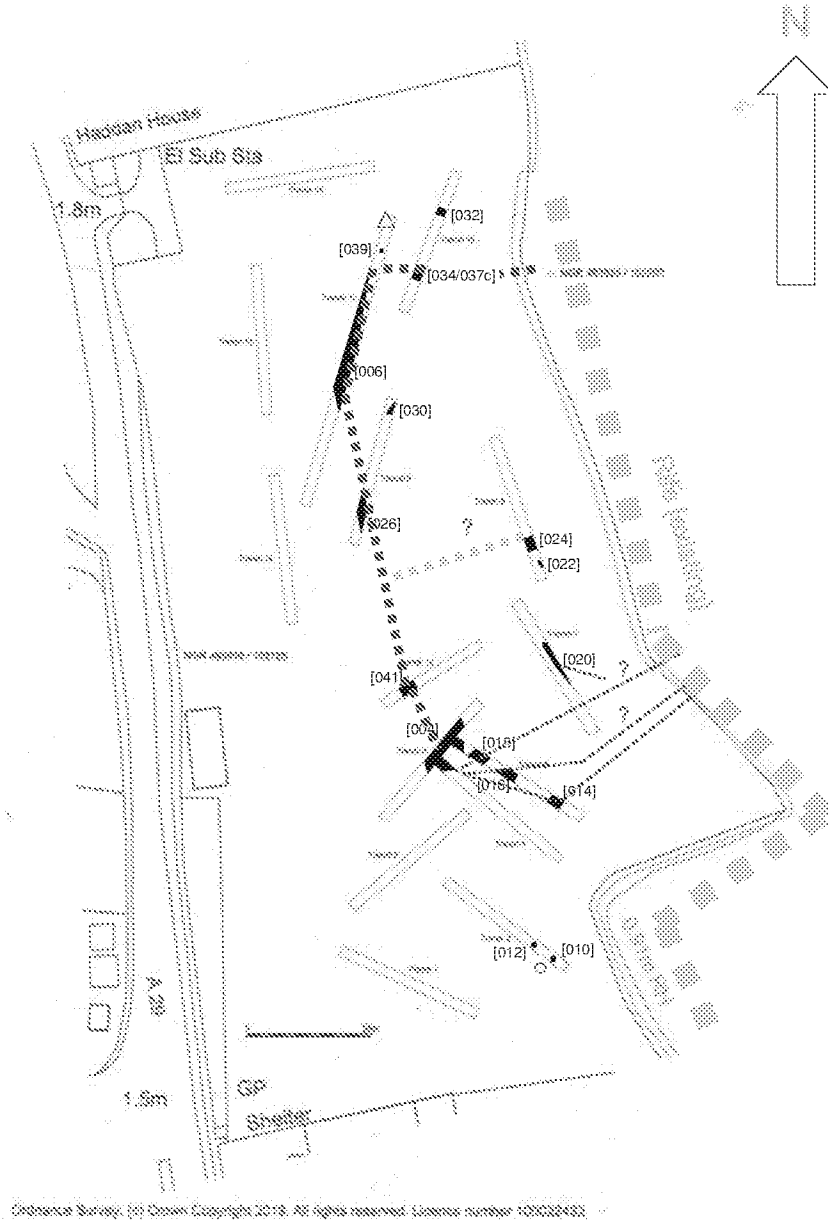


Figure 7: Plan showing the layout of the identified archaeological features at a scale of 1:1,000.

- [010] [012] undated. Possible pre-historic
- △ [039] BA pit
- Roman [C3rd C4th predominantly linear drainage / boundary lines]
- ? Drainage channels [C3rdC4th]
- Existing drainage rife [natural topographic 'managed' feature.

8. Acknowledgements

- 8.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Hanbury Properties Ltd. for commissioning this work.
- 8.2 Thanks are also extended to J. Kenny [Chichester District Council's Archaeology Officer, as advisor to Arun District Council, for his advice throughout all stages of the investigation

9. Bibliography Main Report [refer to specialist reports for specialist specific bibliographies]

British Geological Survey, [BGS], [1996], *Chichester & Bognor, Solid & Drift Geology, Sheet 317/322, 1:50,000* Series.

Ordnance Survey, [2016], 1:25,000 scale map, *Arundel & Pulborough, Worthing & Bognor Regis*, Explorer Sheet No. 121.

Pine, C., [2019], *Written Scheme of Investigation [WSI] for an Archaeological Evaluation [Phase 1] at land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted, West Sussex*. Development Archaeology Services Ltd.

Soil Survey of England & Wales, [1983], *Soils of South East England*, Sheet 6, 1:250,000 scale.

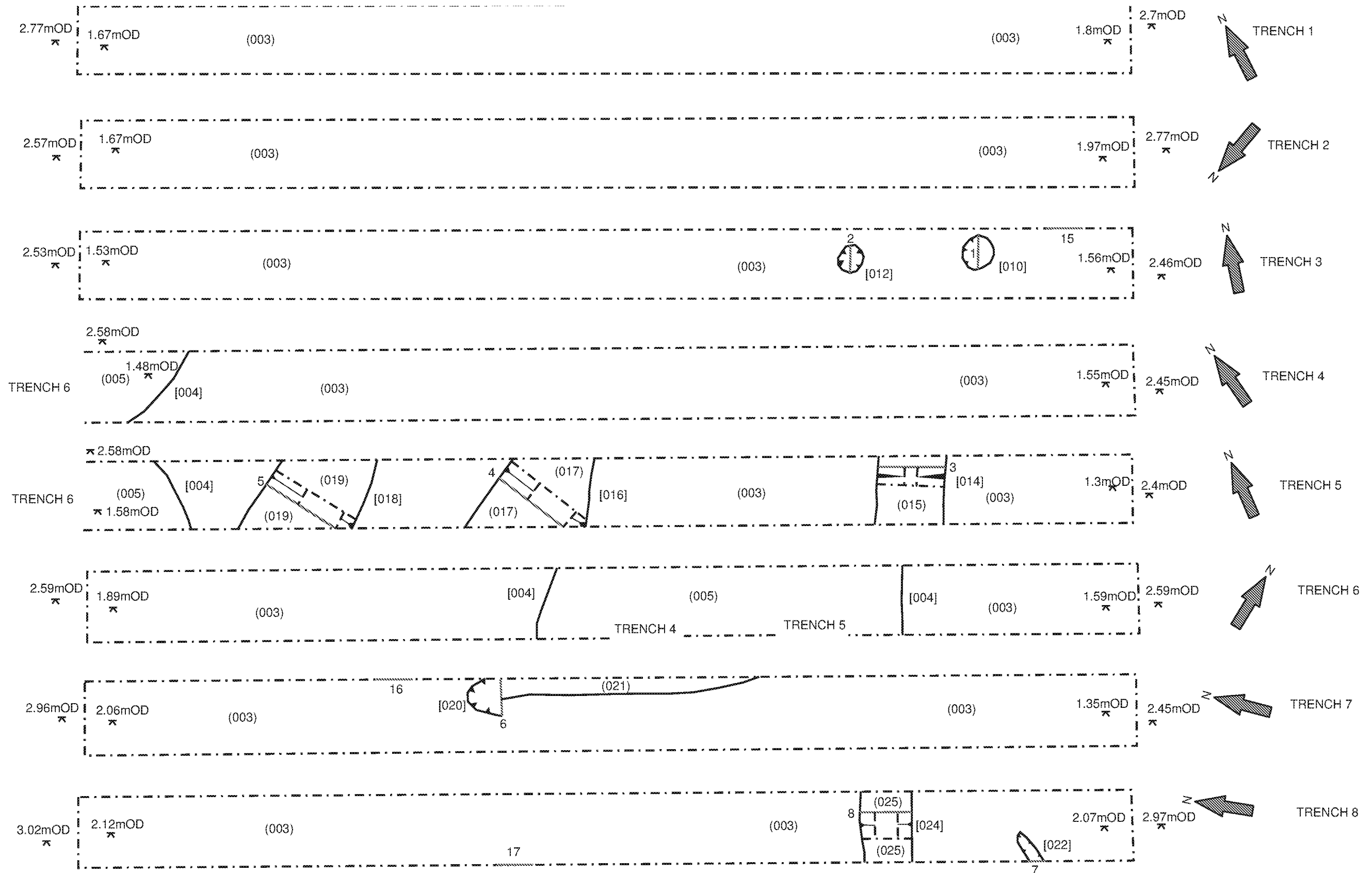


Figure 7: Trenches 1-8 at a scale of 1100

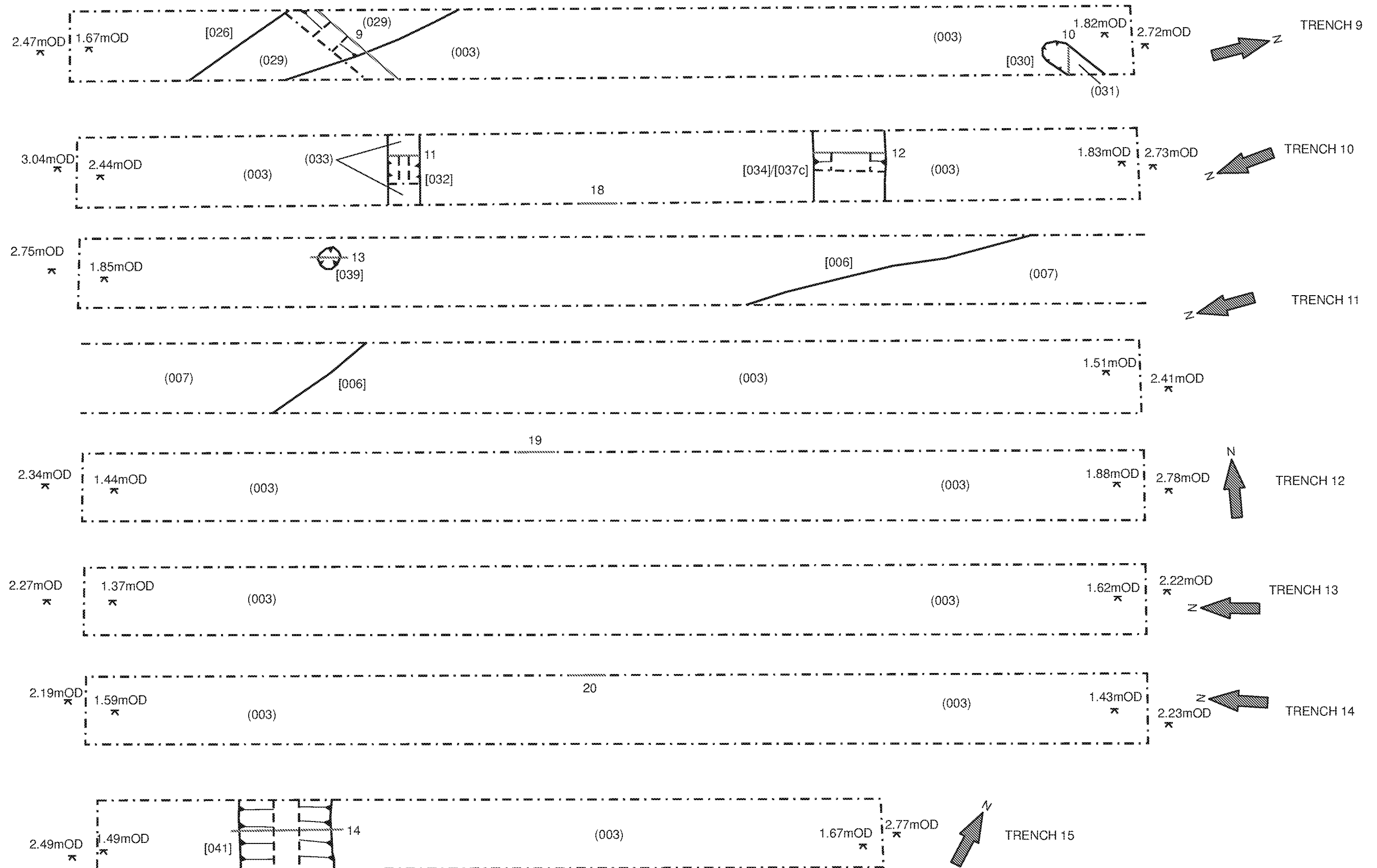


Figure 8: Trenches 9-15 at a scale of 1:100

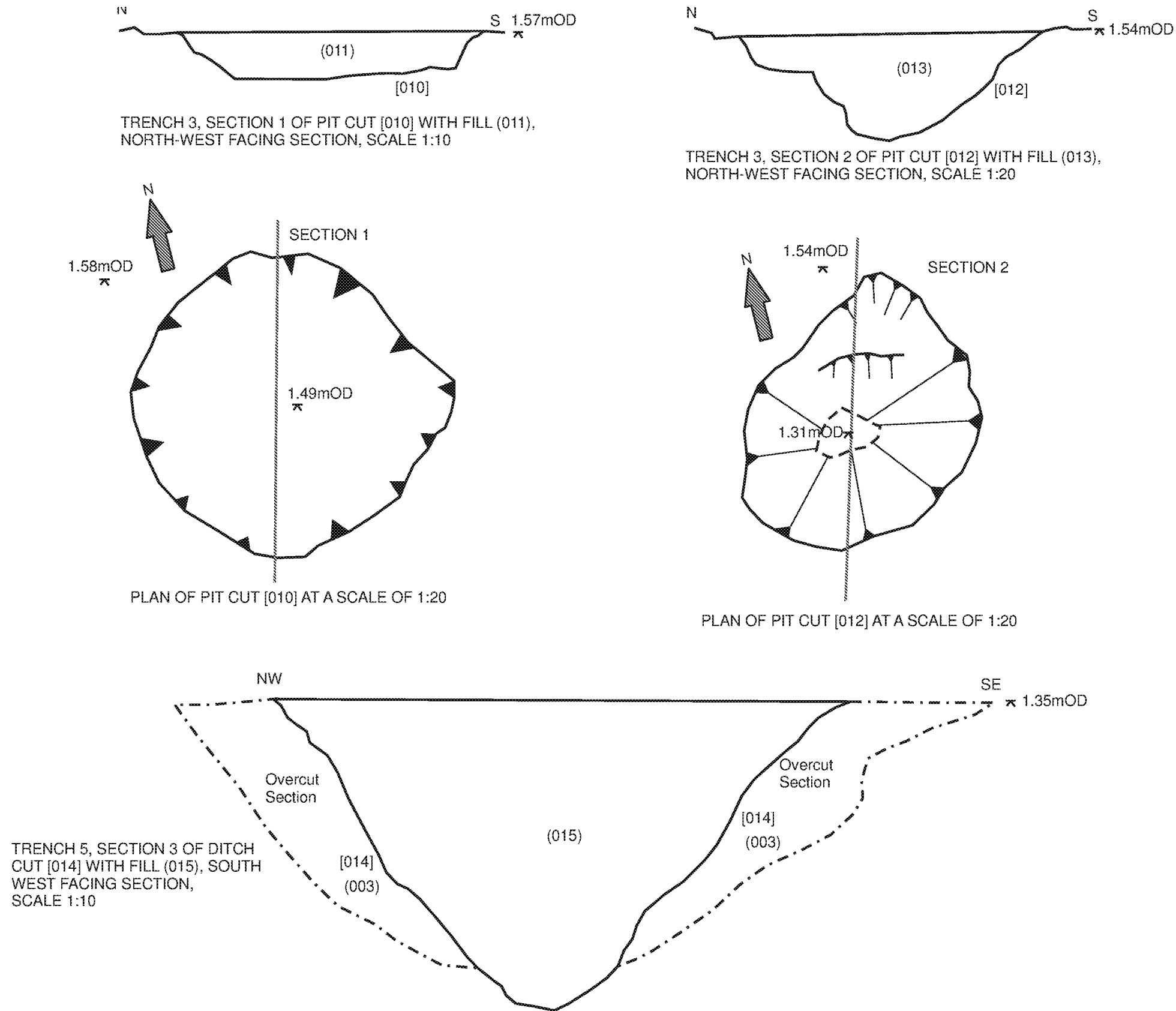


Figure 9: Sections 1-3 at a scale of 1:10

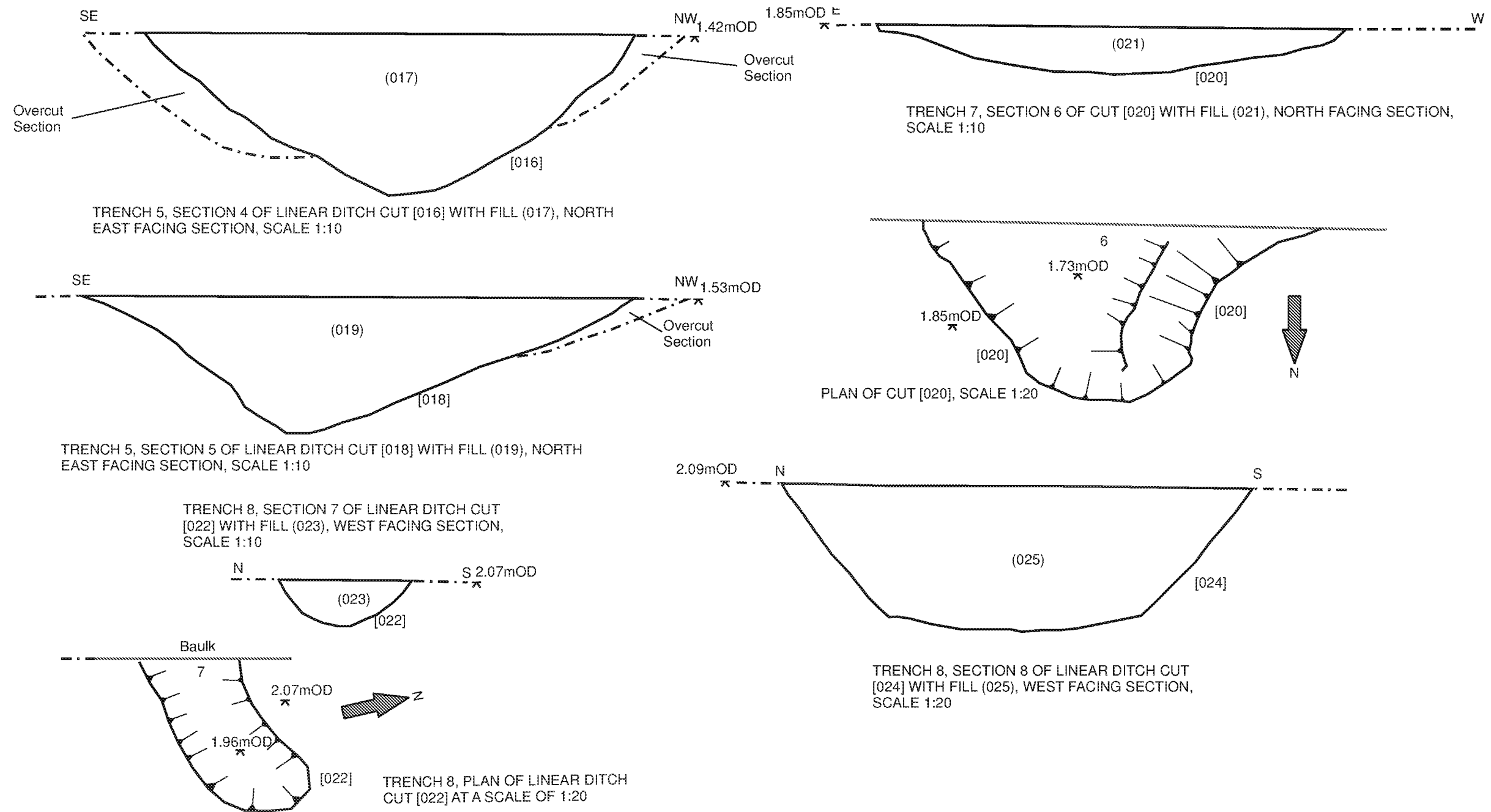
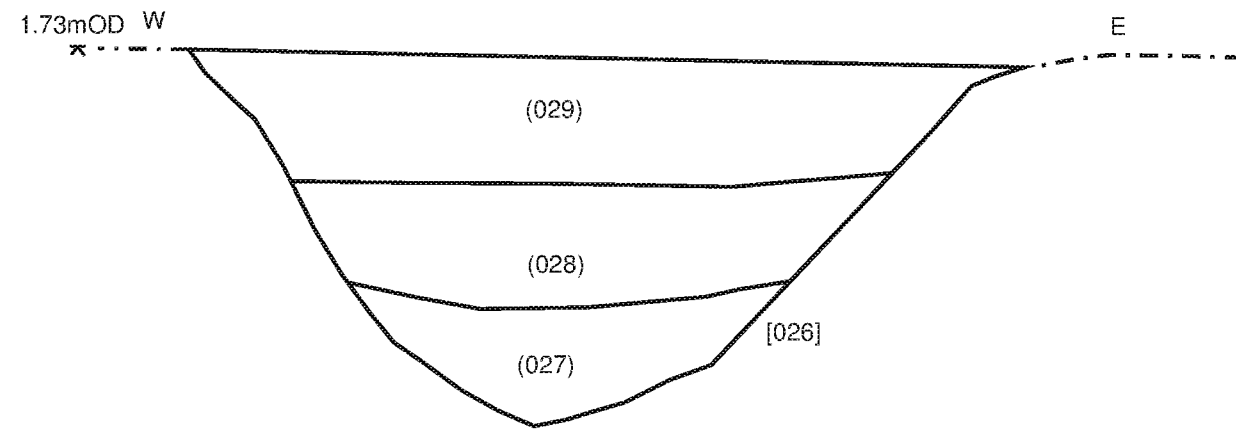
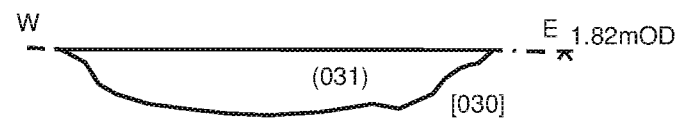


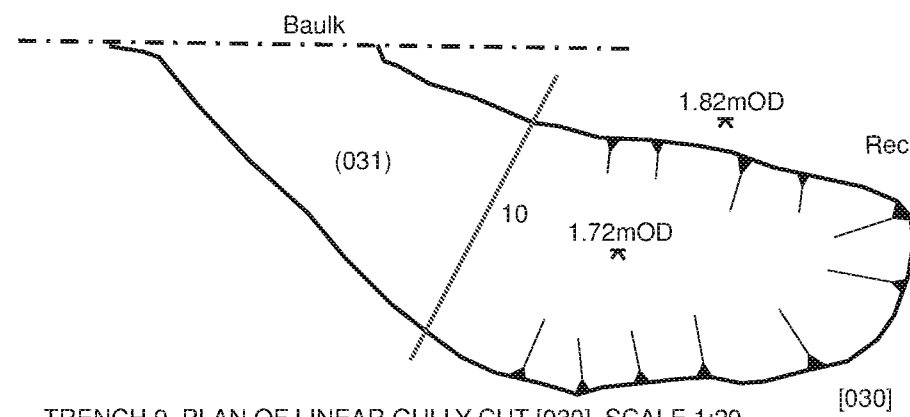
Figure 10: Sections 4-8 at a scale of 1:10



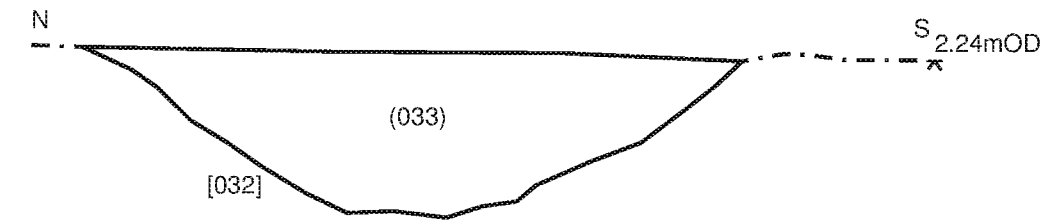
TRENCH 9, SECTION 9 OF LINEAR DITCH CUT [026] WITH FILLS (027), (028) AND (029)
SOUTH FACING SECTION, SCALE 1:10



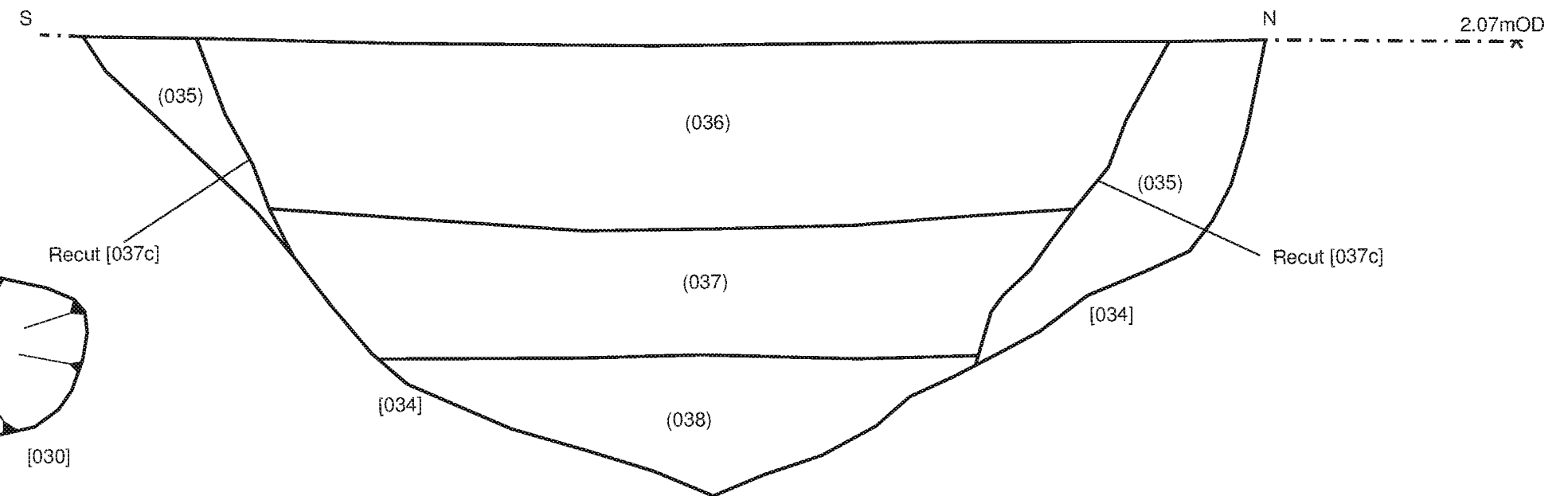
TRENCH 9, SECTION 10 OF LINEAR GULLY CUT
[030] WITH FILL (031), SOUTH FACING SECTION,
SCALE 1:10



TRENCH 9, PLAN OF LINEAR GULLY CUT [030], SCALE 1:20



TRENCH 10, SECTION 11 OF LINEAR DITCH CUT [032] WITH FILL (033), WEST
FACING SECTION, SCALE 1:10



TRENCH 10, SECTION 12 OF LINEAR DITCH CUT [034] WITH FILL [035] & RECUR [037C] WITH FILLS (036), (037), AND (038),
EAST FACING SECTION, SCALE 1:10

Figure 11: Sections 9-12 at a scale of 1:10

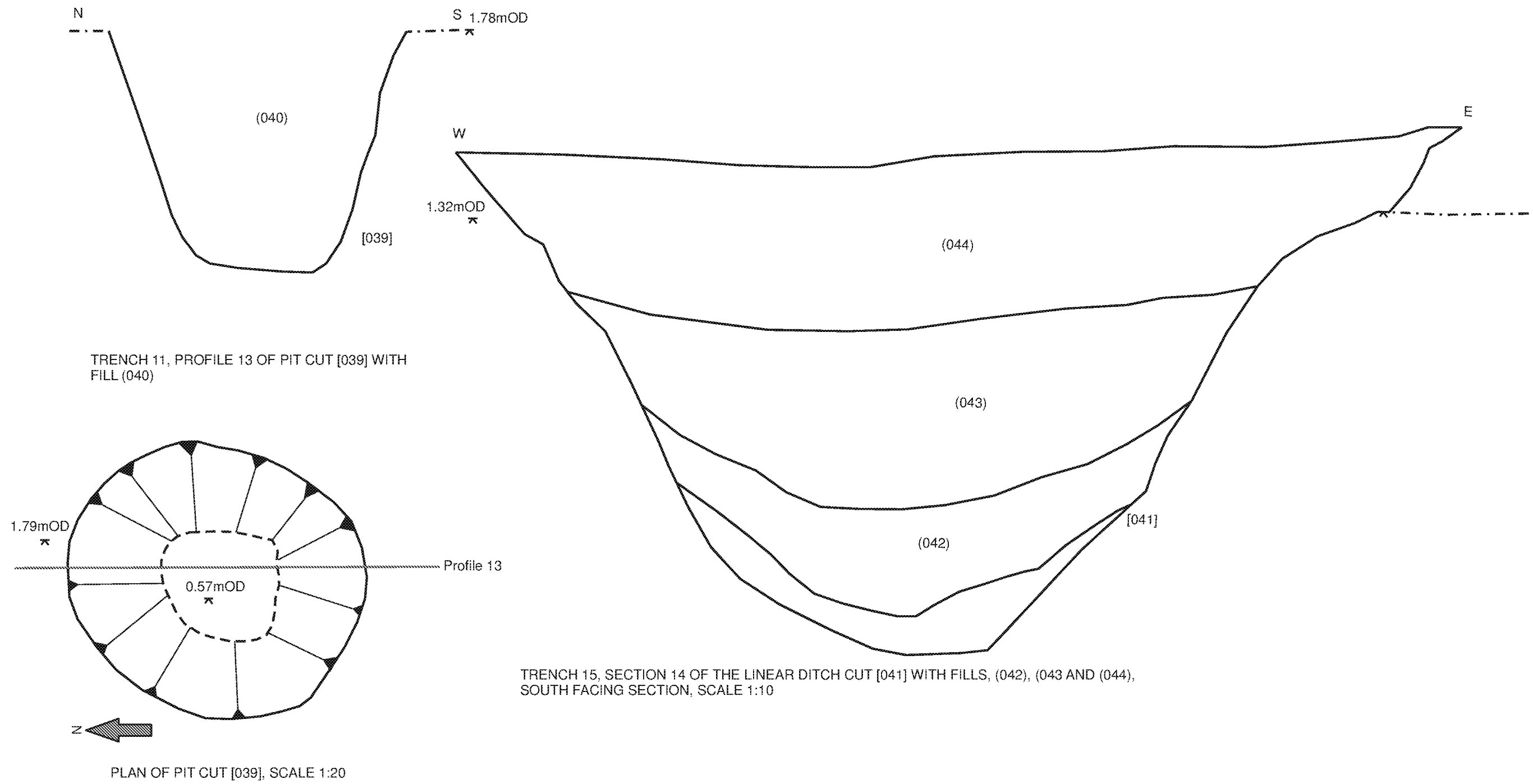
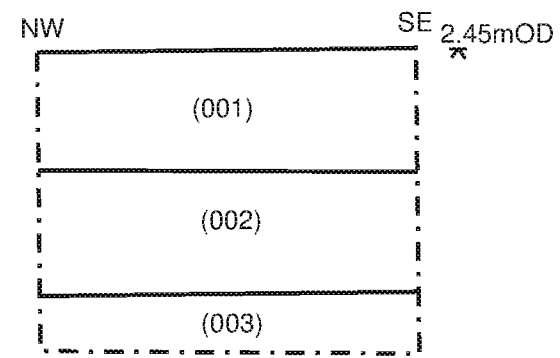
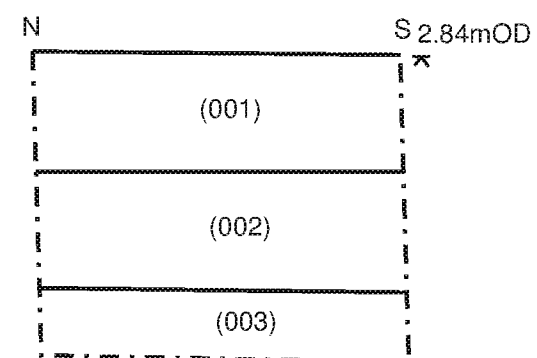


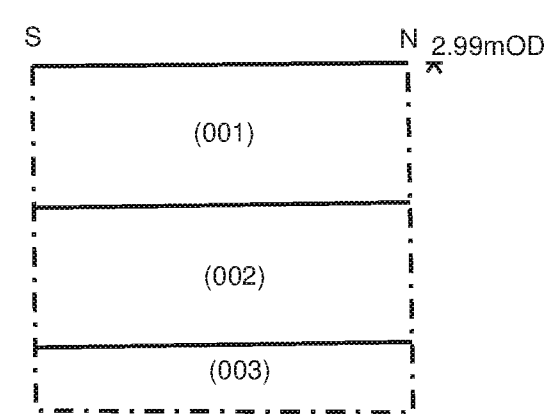
Figure 12: Sections 13-14 at scales of 1:20 & 1:10



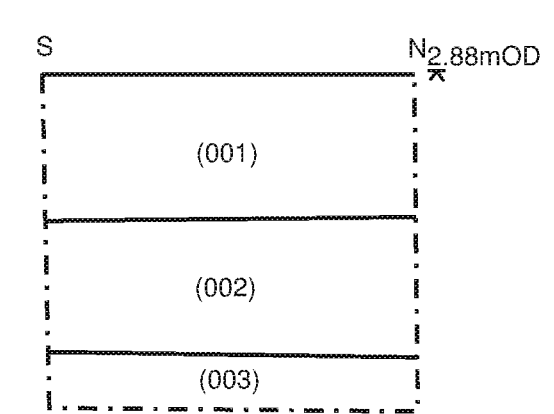
Trench 3, Representative Section 15,
South West Facing Section, scale 1:20



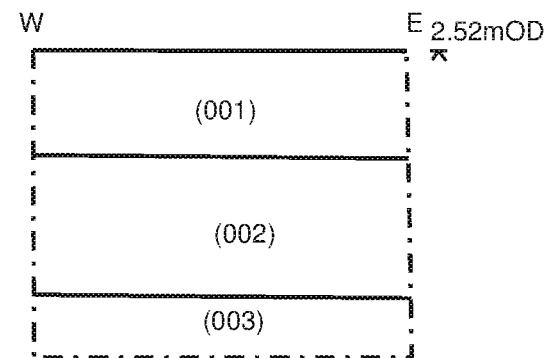
Trench 7, Representative Section 16,
West Facing Section, scale 1:20



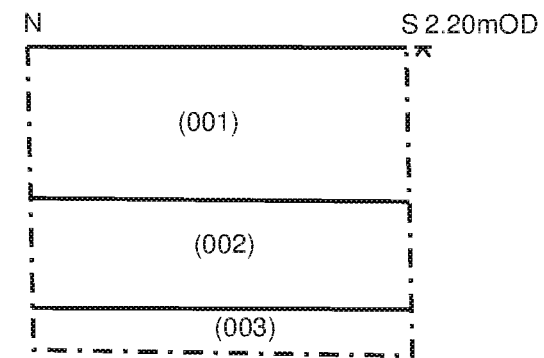
Trench 8, Representative Section 17,
East Facing Section, scale 1:20



Trench 10, Representative Section 18,
East Facing Section, scale 1:20



Trench 12, Representative Section 19,
South Facing Section, scale 1:20



Trench 14, Representative Section 20,
West Facing Section, scale 1:20

Figure 13: Representative Sections 15-20
at a scale of 1:20

Appendix 1: Plates 1-60

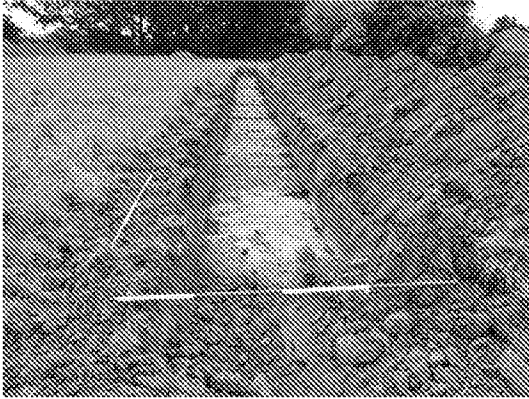


Plate 1: Trench 1, from the north-west

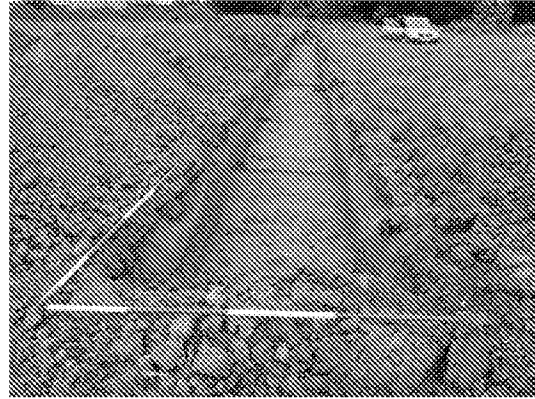


Plate 4: Trench 2, from the north-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, from the south-east

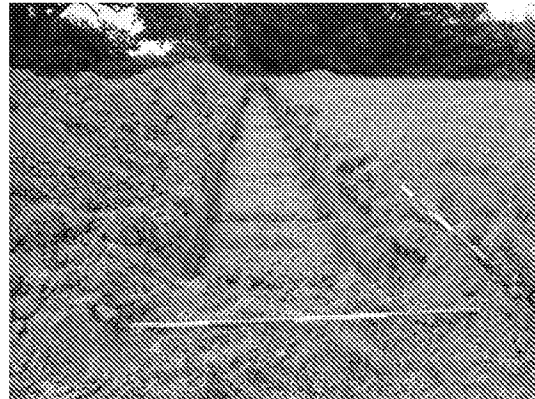


Plate 5: Trench 3, from the north-west



Plate 3: Trench 2, from the south-west



Plate 6: Trench 3, from the south-east

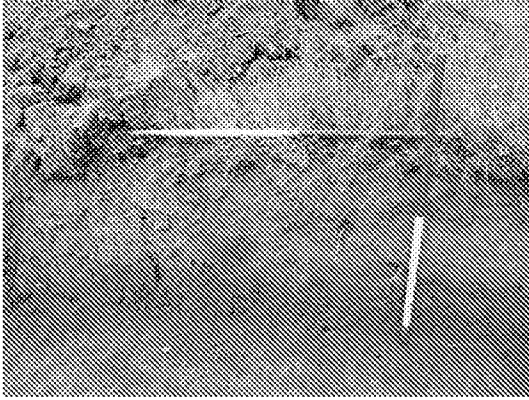


Plate 7: Trench 3, Representative Section 15,
from the south-west

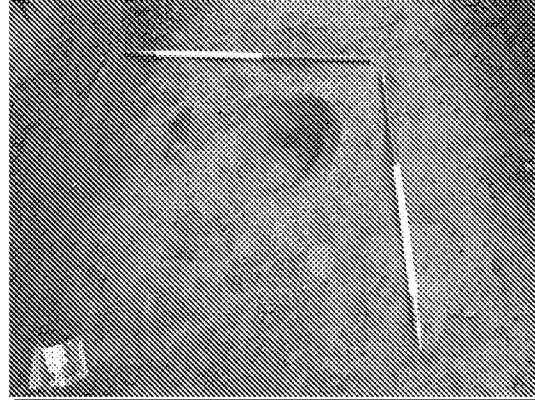


Plate 10: Trench 3, view of pit cut [012] [Section 2],
from the north-west

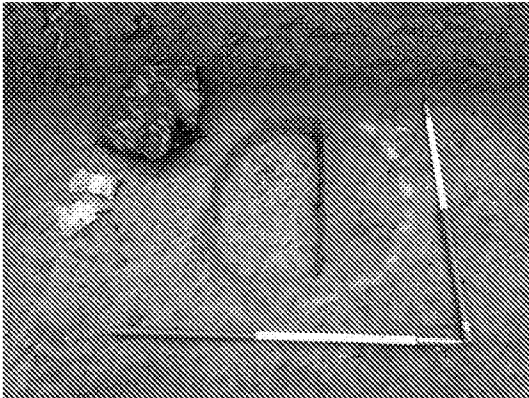


Plate 8: Trench 3, Section 1 of pit cut [010] with fill [011],
from the south-west



Plate 11: Trench 4, from the south-east

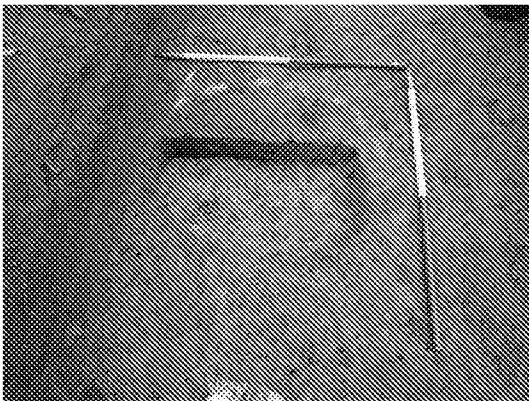


Plate 9: Trench 3, Section 1 of pit cut [010] with fill [011],
from the north-west



Plate 12: Trench 4, from the north-west

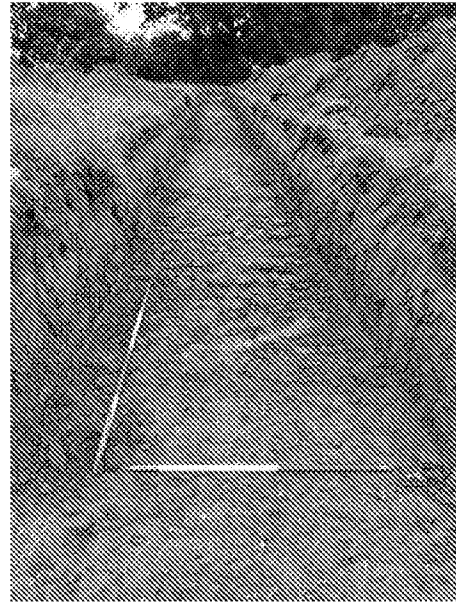


Plate 14: Trench 4, view of the pond area/sump cut [004] with fill [005], from the north-east

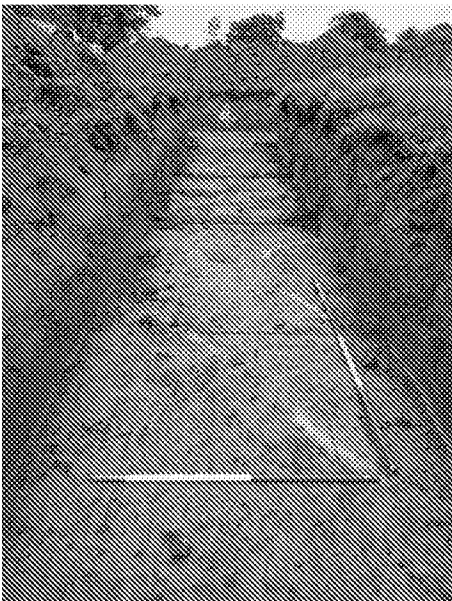


Plate 13: Trench 4, view of the pond area/sump cut [004] with fill [005], from the south-east

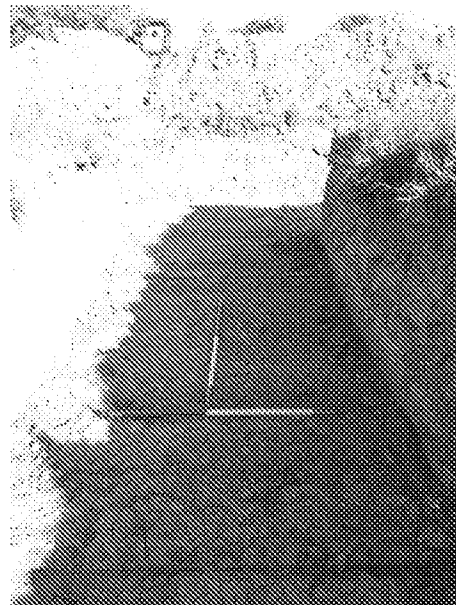


Plate 15: Trench 4, view of the pond area/sump cut [004] with fill [005], from the south-east



Plate 16: Trench 5, from the north-west



Plate 18: Trench 5, Section 3 of the linear ditch cut [014] with fill [015], from the north-west

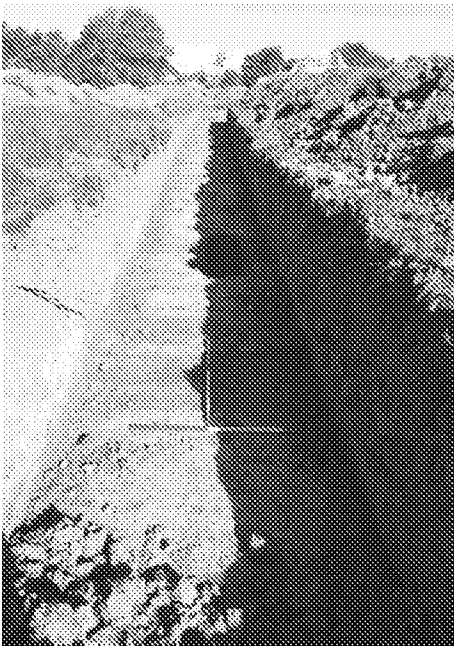


Plate 17: Trench 5, from the south-east



Plate 19: Trench 5, Section 4 of the linear ditch cut [016] with fill [017], from the north-west



Plate 20: Trench 5, Section 5 of the linear ditch cut [018] with fill [019], from the north-west



Plate 22: Trench 6, from the north-east

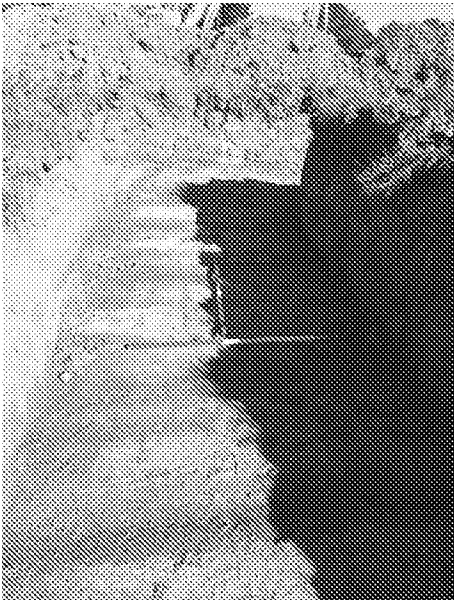


Plate 21: Trench 5, view of the pond area/sump cut [004] with fill [005], from the south-east

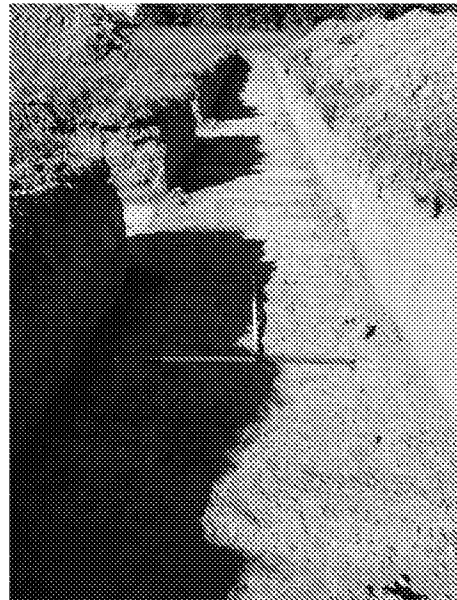


Plate 23: Trench 6, from the south-west

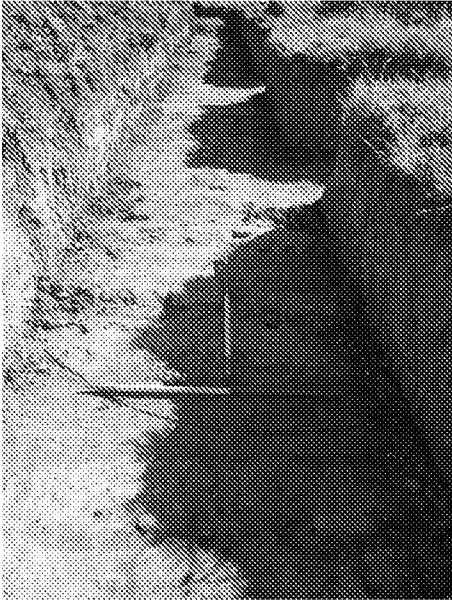


Plate 24: Trench 6, view of the pond area/sump cut [004] with fill [005], from the north-east

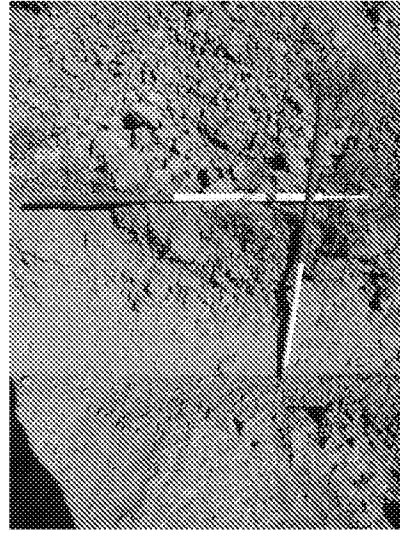


Plate 26: Trench 7, Representative Section 16, from the west



Plate 25: Trench 7, from the north

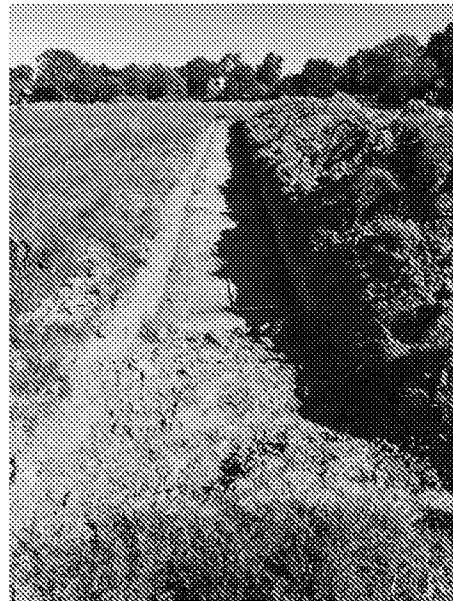


Plate 27: Trench 7, from the south



Plate 28: Trench 7, from the north

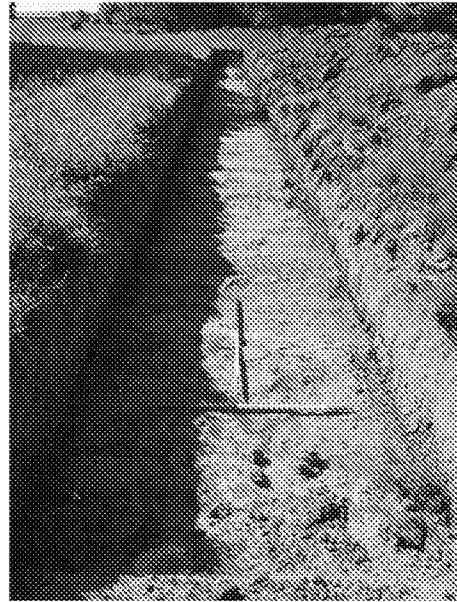


Plate 30: Trench 8, from the north



Plate 29: Trench 7, Section 6 of the linear ditch cut [020] with fill [021], from the north



Plate 31: Trench 8, Section 8 of the linear gully cut [024] with fill [025], from the north-west

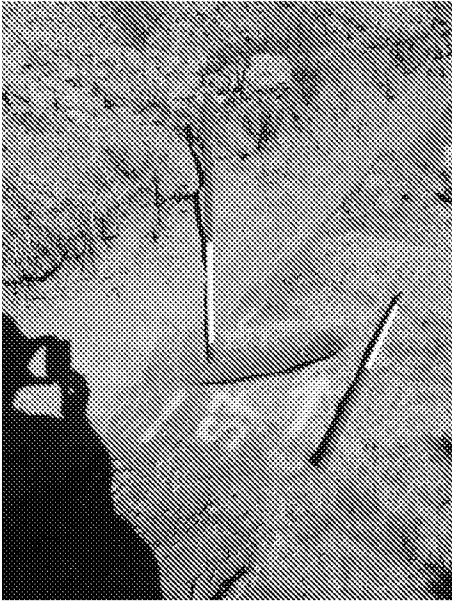


Plate 32: Trench 8, Section 7 of the linear gully cut [022] with fill [023], from the south

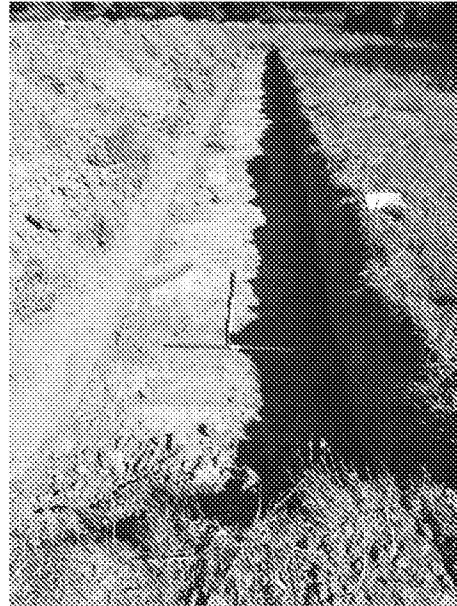


Plate 34: Trench 8, from the south

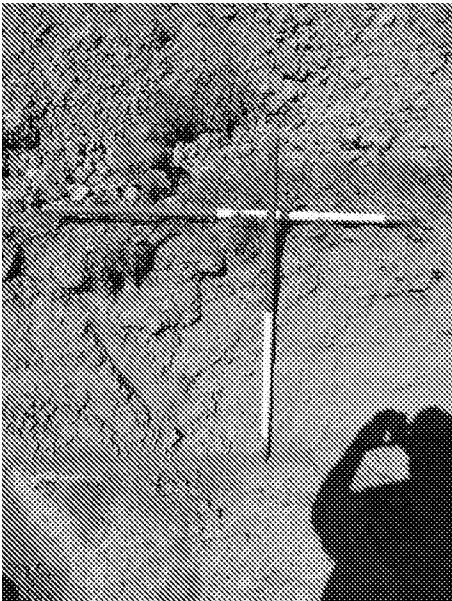


Plate 33: Trench 8, Representative Section 17, from the east



Plate 35: Trench 9, from the south



Plate 36: Trench 9, Section 9 of the linear ditch cut [026] with fills [027], [028] and [029], from the south



Plate 37: Trench 9, Section 9 of the linear ditch cut [026] with fills [027], [028] and [029], from the south

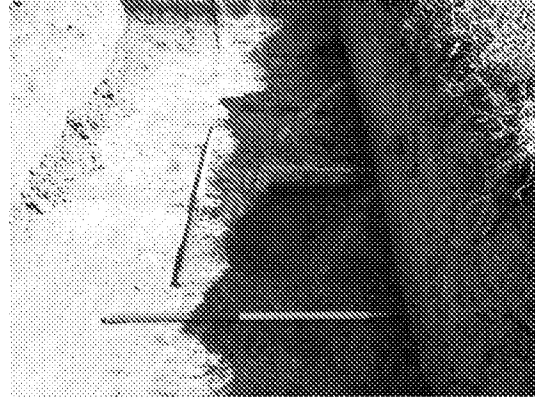


Plate 38: Trench 9, Section 10 of the gully cut [030] with fill [031], from the south

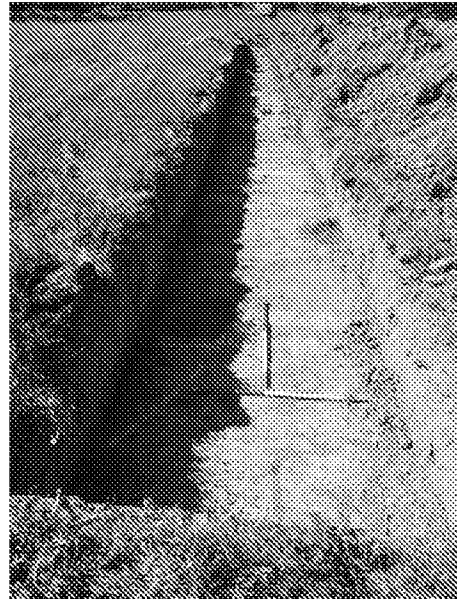


Plate 39: Trench 9, from the north



Plate 40: Trench 10, from the south-west



Plate 42: Trench 10, Section 12 of the linear ditch cut [034] with fill [035] and of the later recut [037c] with fills [036], [037] and [038], from the north-west

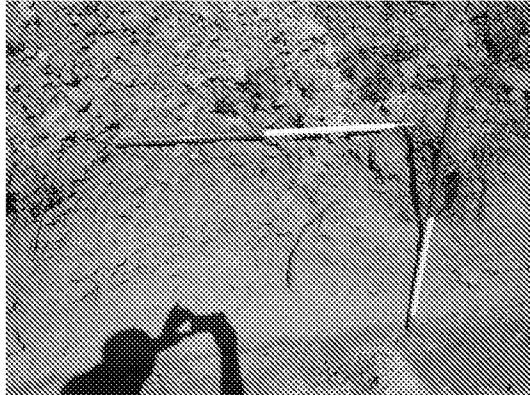


Plate 41: Trench 10, Representative Section 18, from the east

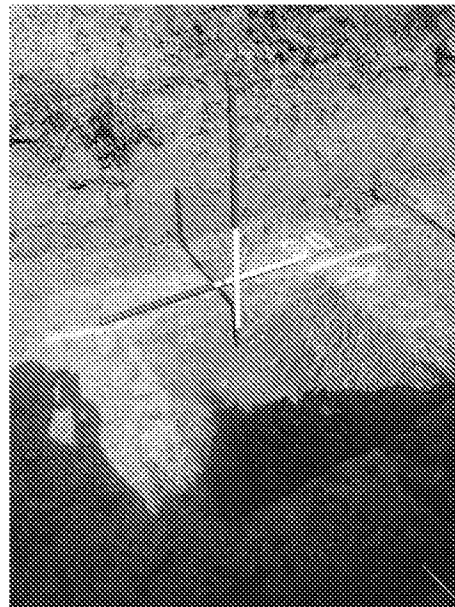


Plate 43: Trench 10, Section 11 of the linear ditch cut [032] with fill [033], from the west



Plate 44: Trench 10, from the north-east



Plate 46: Trench 11, Profile 13 of the pit cut [039] with fill [040], from the south-west



Plate 45: Trench 11, from the north-east

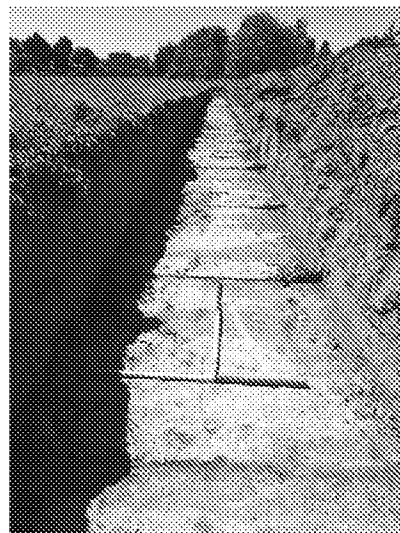


Plate 47: Trench 11, linear ditch cut [006] with fill [007], from the north



Plate 48: Trench 11, linear ditch cut [006] with fill [007], from the south

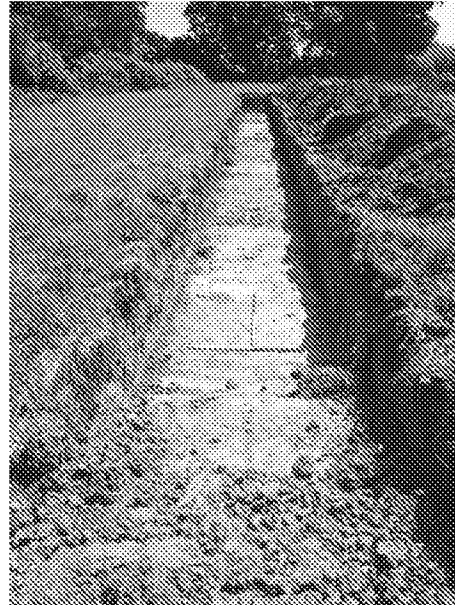


Plate 50: Trench 12, from the west



Plate 49: Trench 11, from the south-west

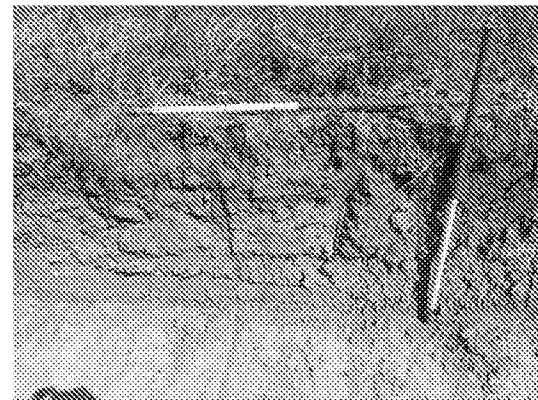


Plate 51: Trench 12, Representative Section 19, from the south

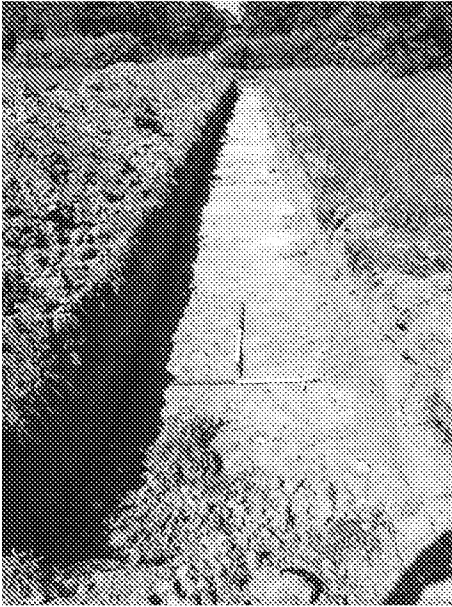


Plate 52: Trench 12, from the east



Plate 54: Trench 13, from the north

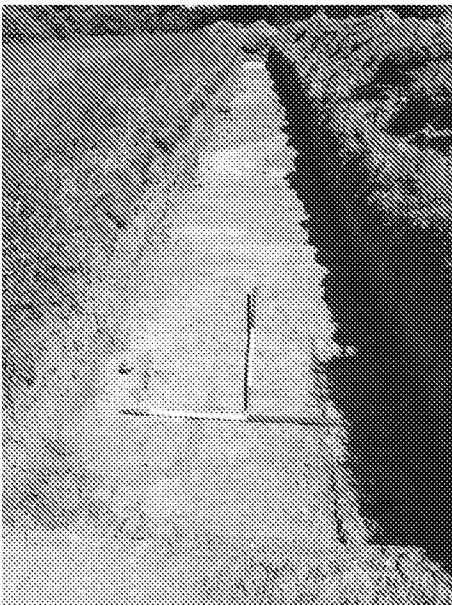


Plate 53: Trench 13, from the south

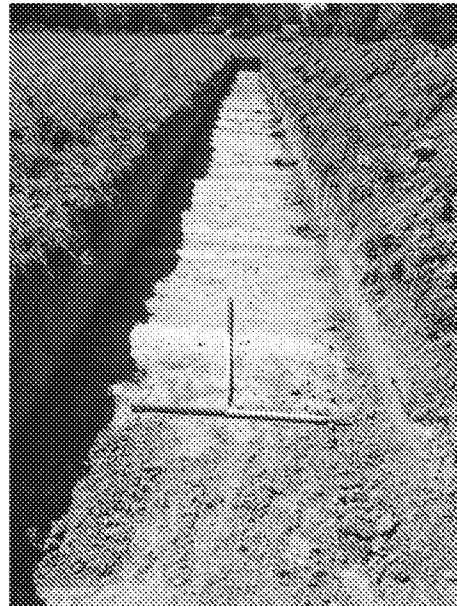


Plate 55: Trench 14, from the south



Plate 56: Trench 14, Representative Section 20, from the west



Plate 58: Trench 15, from the south-west



Plate 57: Trench 14, from the north

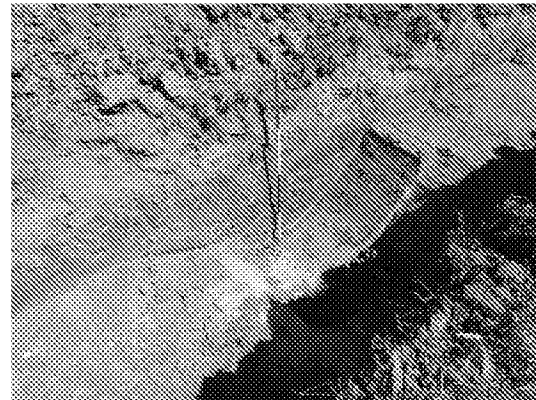


Plate 59: Trench 15, Section 14 of the linear ditch cut [041] with fills [042], [043] and [044], from the south-west

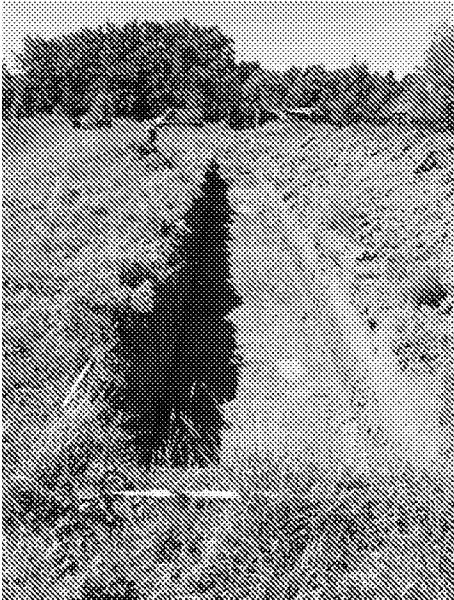


Plate 60: Trench 15, from the north-east



Plate 61: Excavation of 'drainage / sump' area present within Trenches 4,5 & 6].

Shows mid/light grey silt fill lying between +1.59 to 0.59m OD.

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

Note: Contexts **008-009** not used.

Trench 1

- 001** Topsoil horizon. Soft, mid orange brown silt with moderate small angular stones and flint fragments. Above **[002]**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 15-20**. Depth - 0.40m.
- 002** Undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[001]** and above **[003]**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 15-20**. Depth - 0.36m.
- 003** Natural horizon of brickearths. Soft, light orange brown silt with light buff silt spreads. Below **[002]**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 15-20**. Depth - >0.16m.

Trench 2

- 001** As **Trench 1**.
- 002** As **Trench 1**
- 003** As **Trench 1**

Trench 3

- 001** As **Trench 1**.
- 002** As **Trench 1**
- 003** As **Trench 1**
- 010** Cut of a small undated ovular shaped pit. Shallow and truncated profile. Moderate break of slope at top, moderately sloping sides, moderate break of slope at base and flattish base. Cut into **[003]**. Profile recorded within **Section 1**. Length - 1.40m, width - 0.97m, depth - 0.11m.
- 011** Fill of the pit cut **[010]**. Soft, light orange brown silt with small fragments of charcoal 5%. Below **[002]**. The fill **[011]** did not produce any finds. Depth - 0.11m.
- 012** Cut of a small undated ovular shaped pit. Shallow and truncated profile. Moderate break of slope at top, moderately sloping and slightly irregular sides, rounded break of slope at base with rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Profile recorded within **Section 2**. Length - 1.24m, width - 1.04m, depth - 0.36m.

- 013** Fill of the pit cut **[012]**. Soft, light orange brown silt with frequent small charcoal fragments and flecking. The fill **[013]** did not yield any finds. Below **[002]**. Depth - 0.36m.

Trench 4

- 001** As **Trench 1**
- 002** As **Trench 1**
- 003** As **Trench 1**
- 004** Cut of a large feature comprising a spread of occupation activity that was identified at the north-western end of this trench. This spread lies within a lower lying area of the site and is interpreted as a 'natural sump' or depression, or a possible small pond area, into which field boundary/drainage ditches associated with a Romano-British field system identified on this site drained into. Cut into **[003]**. Length - >11.80m, width - >5.90m, depth c. 1.00m [See Plate 61]
- 005** Fill of the possible small pond area or 'sump/depression'. Soft, light grey brown silt with frequent small chalk fragments and small charcoal fragments and flecking. Below **[002]**. Refer to Trench 5 [Plate 61].

Trench 5

- 001** As **Trench 1**.
- 002** As **Trench 1**.
- 003** As **Trench 1**.
- 004** As **Trench 4**.
- 005** As **Trench 4**.
- 014** Cut of a deep and substantial undated linear ditch. Orientated from north east-south west. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides with rounded break of slope at base and rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 3**. Length - >2.0m, width - 1.97m, depth - 0.65m.
- 015** Fill of the linear ditch cut **[014]**. Soft mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. This fill did not yield any finds. Below **[002]**. Recorded within **Section 3**. Depth - 0.65m.

- 016** Cut of an undated linear ditch on a north-east-south west alignment and parallel to ditch cut **[014]** to the south-east. Slightly truncated profile. Sharp break of slope at top. Moderately sloping and convex sides with rounded break of slope at base and rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 4**. Length - >2.30m, width - 2.68m, depth - 0.42m.
- 017** Fill of the linear ditch cut **[016]**. Soft mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. This fill did not yield any finds. Below **[002]**. Recorded within **Section 4**. Depth - 0.42m.
- 018** Cut of an undated linear ditch on a north-east-south west alignment and parallel to ditch cuts **[014]** and **[016]** to the south-east. Truncated profile. Moderate break of slope at top, moderately sloping sides with rounded break of slope at base and rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 5**. Length - >3.40m, width - 2.68m, depth - 0.37m.
- 019** Fill of the linear ditch cut **[018]**. Soft mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. This fill did not yield any finds. Below **[002]**. Recorded within **Section 5**. Depth - 0.37m.

Trench 6

- 001** As **Trench 1**
- 002** As **Trench 1**
- 003** As **Trench 1**
- 004** As **Trench 4**
- 005** As **Trench 4**

Trench 7

- 001** As **Trench 1**.
- 002** As **Trench 1**.
- 003** As **Trench 1**.
- 020** Cut of a Romano-British linear gully that was orientated from north-south with a rounded terminal butt end to the north. Very shallow and truncated profile. Negligible break of slope at top with negligible and irregular sides, negligible break of slope at base with wide, flattish base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 6**. Length - >6.27m, width - 0.88m, depth - 0.08m.

- 021** Fill of the linear gully cut **[020]**. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]**. This fill produced finds of 12 sherds of Roman pottery. Recorded within **Section 6**. Depth - 0.08m.

Trench 8

- 001** As **Trench 1**
- 002** As **Trench 1**
- 003** As **Trench 1**
- 022** Cut of an undated linear gully, with a very shallow and truncated profile. Orientated from north east-south west with a rounded terminal butt end to the north-east. Continued beyond the western limit of excavation of the trench. Moderate break of slope at top with rounded convex sides, rounded break of slope at base with rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 7**. Length ->0.82m, width - 0.43m, depth - 0.12m.
- 023** Fill of the linear gully **[022]**. Soft mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]**. This fill did not produce any finds. Recorded within **Section 7**. Depth - 0.12m.
- 024** Cut of a Roman linear ditch orientated from east-west. Probable shallow and truncated profile. Moderate break of slope at top with 45° regular sloping sides, rounded break of slope at base with flattish and slightly rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 8**. Length >2.0m, width - 1.42m, depth - 0.37m.
- 025** Fill of the linear ditch cut **[024]**. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]**. This fill produced finds of four sherds of Roman pottery, one coin of late 3rd century AD date and fifteen fused iron hob nails along with one cow tooth. Recorded within **Section 8**. Depth - 0.37m.

Trench 9

- 001** As **Trench 1**
- 002** As **Trench 1**
- 003** As **Trench 1**

- 026** Cut of a Roman linear ditch orientated from north east-south west. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping and regular sides with rounded break of slope at base with rounded base. Cut into [003]. Recorded within **Section 9**. Length - >7.91m, width - 2.04m, depth - 0.54m.
- 027** Upper fill of the linear ditch cut [026]. Soft, dark orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [002] and above [028]. This fill yielded one sherd of Roman pottery. Recorded within **Section 9**. Depth - 0.18m
- 028** Secondary fill of the linear ditch cut [026]. Soft, mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [028] and above [029]. This fill yielded four sherds of Roman pottery. Recorded within **Section 9**. Depth - 0.17m.
- 029** Tertiary or basal fill of the linear ditch cut [026]. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [028]. seven sherds of Roman pottery. Recorded within **Section 9**. Depth - 0.0.16m.
- 030** Cut of a Roman linear gully with a rounded terminal butt end to the south-west. Very shallow and truncated profile. Orientated from south west-north east. Negligible break of slope at top with negligible sides, rounded break of slope at base with wide and flattish base. Cut into [003]. Recorded within **Section 10**. Length - >1.38m, width - 0.70m, depth - 0.09m.
- 031** Fill of the linear gully cut [030]. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [002]. The fill produced finds of three sherds of Roman pottery and 32 fragments of animal bone [cow]. Recorded within **Section 10**. Depth - 0.09m.

Trench 10

- 001** As Trench 1
- 002** As Trench 1
- 003** As Trench 1

- 032** Cut of a Roman linear gully that was orientated from east-west. Very shallow and truncated profile. Moderate break of slope at top, rounded sides, rounded break of slope at base with rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 11**. Length - >2.0m, width - 0.98m, depth - 0.25m.
- 033** Fill of the linear ditch cut **[032]**. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]**. The fill **[033]** yielded one sherd of Roman pottery and 24 fragments of animal bone [cow]. Recorded within **Section 11**. Depth - 0.25m.
- 034** Cut of a Roman linear ditch that was orientated from east-west. Truncated by the recut **[037c]**. Sharp break of slope at top with steeply sloping sides. Much of original profile removed by the later recut. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 12**. Length - >2.0m, width - 1.95m.
- 035** Fill of the linear ditch cut **[034]**. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]**. The fill produced one sherd of Roman pottery. Recorded within **Section 12**.
- 036** Upper fill of the linear ditch recut **[037c]**. Soft, dark orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]** and above **[037]**. The fill yielded finds of five sherds of Roman pottery and five fragments of animal bone [cow]. Recorded within **Section 12**. Depth - 0.31m.
- 037** Secondary fill of the linear ditch recut **[037c]**. Soft, mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[036]** and above **[038]**. This fill did not produce any finds. Recorded within **Section 12**. Depth - 0.23m.
- 037c** Later recut of the linear ditch cut **[034]** on the same east-west alignment, which has truncated the earlier ditch remnant. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides with rounded break of slope at base and rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Section 12**. Length - >2.0m, width - 1.68m, depth - 0.79m.
- 038** Basal tertiary fill of the linear ditch recut **[037c]**. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[037]**. This fill did not produce any finds. Recorded within **Section 12**. Depth - 0.27m.

Trench 11

001 As **Trench 1**

002 As **Trench 1**

003 As **Trench 1**

006 Cut of a linear ditch that was orientated from approximately north-south. Continued to the south as linear ditch cut **[041]** recorded within **Trench 15**, so this ditch here remained unexcavated. Length - >14.0m, width - >2.0m, depth - not determined as was not excavated.

007 Fill of the linear ditch cut **[006]**. Soft, mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]**. Not excavated, so depth not determined.

039 Cut of a small pit. Circular shaped. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides with rounded break of slope at base and flattish, slightly rounded base. Cut into **[003]**. Recorded within **Profile 13**. Diameter - 1.51m, depth - 1.22m.

040 Fill of the small pit cut **[039]**. Soft, mid orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below **[002]**. The fill produced finds of six sherds of pottery from an Early Bronze Age cinerary urn. Recorded within **Profile 13**. Depth - 1.22m

Trench 12

001 As **Trench 1**

002 As **Trench 1**

003 As **Trench 1**

Trench 13

001 As **Trench 1**

002 As **Trench 1**

003 As **Trench 1**

Trench 14

001 As **Trench 1**

002 As **Trench 1**

003 As **Trench 1**

Trench 15

001 As **Trench 1**

002 As **Trench 1**

003 As **Trench 1**

041 Cut of a deep and substantial, Roman linear ditch, which was aligned from approximately north-south and which continued to the north as linear ditch cut [006] within **Trench 11**. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides with rounded break of slope at base and rounded base. Cut into [003]. Recorded within **Section 14**. Length - >2.0m, width - 2.45m, depth - 1.16m.

042 Basal tertiary fill of the linear ditch cut [041]. Soft, blue grey gleyed clayey silt with no inclusions. Below [043]. Recorded within **Section 14**. Depth - 0.26m.

043 Secondary fill of the linear ditch cut [041]. Soft, dark orange brown silt with frequent small chalk fragments and flecking. Above [042] and below [044]. This fill produced finds of fourteen sherds of Roman pottery and one animal bone fragment [pig]. Recorded within **Section 14**. Depth - 0.45m.

044 Upper fill of the linear ditch cut [041]. Soft, mid grey brown silt with no inclusions. Above [042]. This fill yielded finds of four sherds of Roman pottery. Recorded within **Section 14**. Depth - 0.43m.

Appendix 3

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POTTERY FROM SHRIPNEY NEAR BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX

[DAS Code SHRP/19]

By Malcolm Lyne

1.Introduction

The site yielded 60 sherds (2102 g.) of pottery from 12 contexts. All of the sherds are Late Roman with the exception of six fragments of an Early Bronze Age cinerary urn from the pit in Trench 11. Most of the Roman pottery assemblages appear to be fairly tightly dated to the period c.AD.270-300 although they are somewhat small

2.Methodology

All of the pottery assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. These fabrics were identified using a x8 magnification lens with built-in metric graticule in order to determine the natures, sizes, frequencies and forms of added inclusions and those naturally present in the prepared potting clay. The fabric codings are taken from those used for the pottery from the North Bersted Warrior burial site (Lyne 2014) with omissions and additions.

None of the pottery assemblages are large enough for further quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) based on rim sherds (Orton 1975).

3.The Assemblages

3.1. Early Bronze Age

The bucket-shaped pit in Trench 11 yielded six fresh sherds from an urn with coarse calcined-flint and grog filler. There are no diagnostic sherds but the combination of grog and calcined-flint filler is more characteristic of Early Bronze Age collared urns in Sussex than Middle Bronze Age ones: the latter tend to have calcined-flint filler without grog.

3.2. Late Roman.

There is no Early Roman pottery but Late Roman material came from a series of ditches and gullies sectioned by Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10 and 15.

Ditch 026 sectioned by Trench 9 had three successive fills. The lowest [027] produced a single fragment from a BB1 beaded-and-flanged bowl of Bestwall type 6/4 (Lyne 2012, c.240-290/300) and the middle fill [028] had three sherds from self-slipped Alice Holt/Farnham greyware closed forms, including a Class 1A liquid storage-jar with a combed lattice band (c.200-300), as well as a fragment from a BB1 open form. The seven sherds from the upper fill of the ditch include a fragment from an Oxfordshire Red-Colour-coat beaker (c.240-400), two Rowlands Castle greyware jar fragments, an Alice Holt/Farnham greyware? flagon fragment with black slipped band (c.AD.270-400+) and a BB1 cooking-pot sherd. This sequence indicates that the ditch was dug after 240 and probably after 270, with the presence of pre-300 Rowlands cooking-pot fragments and self-slipped Alice Holt/Farnham greyware indicating that it didn't continue to receive rubbish much after c.300.

The same ditch where sectioned by Trench 15 yielded 14 similarly-dated sherds from its middle fill, comprising 10 fresh pieces from a Rowlands Castle greyware cooking-pot (c.180-300), a finger-impressed fragment from a beehive in the same fabric (c.180-300), a basal sherd from a BB1 open form of probable late-3rd c. date and two fresh fragments from a hook-rim jar in Alice Holt/Farnham greyware (c.200-300).

Elsewhere, the fill of the east-west ditch sectioned by Trench 8 [025] produced a fresh fragment from a Rowlands Castle beehive (c.180-300), an obtuse-latticed BB1 cooking-pot fragment (c.200-400+) and two fresh sherds from an Alice Holt/Farnham greyware open form with internal black slip (c.AD.270-400). These sherds were accompanied by at least 15 fused boot-studs and a barbarous radiate (274-286). The presence of the latter suggests that this ditch is of similar date to that sectioned by Trenches 9 and 15.

The fill of the southern terminus of the ditch sectioned by Trench 7 [021] produced seven fresh sherds from Rowlands Castle greyware cooking-pots (c.180-300), the base of a beaker in sand free orange fabric with matte black colour-coat of unknown origin, a miscellaneous greyware sherd and three fresh fragments from a late Dr 31 dish copy in grey fine-sanded fabric fired red with sparse <2.00 mm. ferrous inclusions. Vessels copying Samian forms in the latter fabric have been found elsewhere in Sussex, Kent and Hampshire, such as the Findon ritual shaft near Worthing (c.300-310), Barcombe Roman villa (c.280-300/10) and Neatham in Hampshire; where it may be the same as Millet's Local Red Fine Ware (1986, c.250-350). All this suggests that the Trench 7 ditch is similar in date to those mentioned above.

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APPENDIX 1.

Fabrics

Bronze Age

BA1.Lumpy handmade black/brown fabric with profuse <5.00 mm. ill-sorted grog and calcined-flint filler.

Coarse Roman

C3D.Rowlands Castle greyware.

C8.BB1

C10B.Alice Holt/Farnham greyware

C13.Handmade black fabric with profuse <0.10 mm. quartz-sand and grog filler and sparse black ferrous inclusions.

C17.Miscellaneous greywares.

Fine Roman

F15B.New Forest cream with red colour-coat

F16.Oxfordshire Red Colour-coat

F20.Very-fine-sanded grey with profuse <0.10 multi-coloured quartz-sand filler and sparse <2.00 mm. red ferrous inclusions, fired rough dull red.

F21.Sandfree orange fabric with matte black colour-coat.

APPENDIX 2

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm	Comments
Trench 7 [021]	C3D	Ev rim jar	c.180-300	7	154	Fresh
	C17			1	8	
	F20	Dr 31 copy	c.270-350	3	502	fresh 1 pot
	F21	beaker base	c.270-350	1	127	fresh
			c.270-300	12	791G	
Trench 8 [025]	C3D	Beehive	c.180-300	1	89	Fresh
	C8	obt-latticed c'pot	c.240-370	1	9	fresh
	C10B	Open form	c.270-400+	2	36	fresh
	Fused hobnails coin		Roman c.274-286	15 1		
			c.270-300	4	134g	
[027]	C8	6/4 beaded+fl bowl	c.240-300	1	56G	Fresh
[028]	C8	Open form base	c.240-400+	1	12	Abraded
	C10B	CI 1A store-jar etc	c.200-300	3	24	fresh
			c.240-300	4	36G	
[029]	C3D	Jar	c.180-300	2	18	Fresh
	C8	cooking-pot		1	11	fresh
	C10B	? Flagon	c.270-400	1	6	fresh
	C17			2	56	
	F16	beaker	c.270-400	1	6	sl abraded
			c.270-300/400	7	97G	
Trench 9. [031]	C3D	Ev rim jar	c.180-300	3	19G	Fresh 1 pot
Trench 10.[033]	C10B		c.200-400+	1	8G	SI abraded
Trench 10 [035]	F15B	? Beaker	c.270-400+	1	3G	SI abraded
Trench 10 [036]	C3D	Storage jar	c.180-300	1		Abraded
		jars		2	68	fresh
	C13	6A21 dish	c.250-370	2	101	fresh
			c.250-300/370	5	169G	
Trench 11 [40]	BA1	Urn	c.2200-1500BC	6	123G	Fresh
Trench 15 [43]	C3D	Beehive	c.180-300			Fresh
		jars	c.180-300	11	445	fresh
	C8	open form		1	24	fresh
	C10B	CI 3C jar	c.200-300	2	48	fresh
			c.240-300	14	517G	
Trench 15 [44]	C3D	Beehive	c.180-300	1		Fresh
		jars	c.180-300	3	149g	fresh
			c.180-300	4	149g	

Appendix 4:

Assessment of charcoal from three bulk sediment samples recovered during archaeological works at land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted, Arun, West Sussex

[DAS Code SHRP/19]

by

John Carrott [Palaeoecology Research Services]

Summary

Small 'flots', consisting largely of small quantities of charcoal, recovered from three bulk sediment samples from pits encountered during archaeological works at land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted, Arun, West Sussex, were submitted for species identification (if possible) and a determination of their bioarchaeological potential. Fifteen trial trenches were excavated and encountered 3rd/4th century boundary/irrigation ditches which appeared to indicate the perimeter of a Romano-British managed landscape on the periphery of the main area of activity located to the north and east. There were also a few isolated pit features (all of the 'flots' were from samples of these) which may be of earlier, prehistoric, date – one at least of these, circular pit [039], contained Bronze Age pot including what was thought to be a cinerary urn (although no bone was recovered).

The quantities of charcoal recovered from each deposit were very small and represented no more than a 'background' level of material, presumably fuel waste. The greatest 'concentration' was from the fill of circular pit [010] which gave just 22.2 g of 'flot' – mostly charcoal but including a few small stones – from a sample of 40 litres of sediment.

All of the charcoal was rectilinear, fragment size was uniformly small (the largest individual fragment being no more than 30 mm), and preservation was poor with most of the fragments being fragile and crumbly. Some fragments also exhibited a vitrified appearance and distorted cell structure.

The only definitive species level identifications were of oak, a common indigenous British tree, from two of the pit fills (including pit [039]), with ?oak also noted from all three. A small number of additional fragments could only be partially identified as 'ring-porous species' and there was a single fragment of a '?diffuse-porous species. Of the total of 57 fragments examined, 39 remained wholly indeterminate – ten owing to distortion of the cell structures by vitrification and 29 as a result of the fragile nature of the remains.

Although sufficient charcoal was recovered from each of the deposits for radiocarbon dating (via AMS) to be attempted, none of the material was considered suitable for submission for this purpose.

KEYWORDS: LAND EAST OF SHRIPNEY ROAD; BERSTED; ARUN; WEST SUSSEX; ASSESSMENT; BRONZE AGE; PREHISTORIC; UNDATED; CHARCOAL

Contact address for author:

Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd
Unit 4 National Industrial Estate
Bontoft Avenue
Kingston upon Hull
HU5 4HF

Prepared for:

Development Archaeology Services Ltd
Little Thornfield
West Wittering
Chichester
PO20 8AA

19 July 2019

Introduction

Archaeological works were undertaken by Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS) at land east of Shripney Road, Bersted, Arun, West Sussex (centred on NGR SU 93885 02123), in advance of development of the site.

Fifteen trial trenches were excavated and encountered 3rd/4th century boundary/irrigation ditches which appeared to indicate the perimeter of a Romano-British managed landscape on the periphery of the main area of activity located to the north and east. There were also a few isolated pit features which may be of earlier, prehistoric, date – one at least of these, circular pit [039], contained Bronze Age pot including what was thought to be a cinerary urn (although no bone was recovered).

Small quantities of charcoal recovered from three bulk sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992), collected from the fills of three pits (including pit [039]), were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited, Kingston upon Hull (PRS), for species identification (if possible) and a determination of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The samples were processed by DAS following their standard methodology. Samples were processed outside using a 'Siraf' style flotation tank (Williams 1973), with meshes of 500 microns for retention of the residue and the 'flot' collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve. Residues were subject to additional bucket flotation in order to obtain maximum possible retrieval of environmental evidence.

Only the 'flot' fractions, which consisted almost entirely of charcoal, were submitted for assessment.

Charcoal identifications were attempted for larger fragments, all of which were over 4 mm in at least one dimension. Pieces were broken to give clean cross-sectional surfaces and the anatomical structures were examined using a low-power binocular microscope (x7 to x45) and higher magnification where necessary (x100 and x150). Identifications were made by comparison with modern reference material where possible, and with reference to published works (principally Hather 2000 and Schoch *et al.* 2004).

During recording, consideration was given to the identification of suitable remains (if present) for possible submission for radiocarbon dating by standard radiometric technique or accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS).

Results

The results of the examination of the submitted remains are presented below in context number order by Trench. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers and additional information provided by the excavator regarding the sediments is shown as "Excavator's description".

The results are also summarised in **Table 1**.

TRENCH 3

Context 011 [fill of shallow, 10cm deep, circular pit [010]; no pottery or other dating evidence but contained 18x fragments of burnt flint]

Sample B1 (40 litres sieved to 500 microns with 300 micron 'flot' sieve; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Excavator's description: Mid to dark reddish-brown silt fill. Charcoal fragments.

The submitted 'flot' (dry weight 22.2 g) was predominantly charcoal (to 30 mm; ~200 fragments over 2 mm), together with occasional small stones (to 5 mm). All of the charcoal was rectilinear fragments (i.e. there was no roundwood present for which the number of years of wood growth represented could be determined) which were fragile, crumbly and mostly rather thin slivers (with at least one dimension less than 3 mm), and species identification was attempted for 30 pieces. Twenty of the fragments could not be identified – seven crumbled, eight partially crumbled leaving too little cross-sectional surface for determination and five were vitrified with heavily distorted cell structures. Of the other ten fragments, four were oak (*Quercus*) and four more were perhaps also of this species (identified as ?oak – cf. *Quercus*), whilst the two remaining fragments were only partially (and tentatively) identified as one each of a ?diffuse-porous and a ?ring-porous species.

Context 013 [fill of shallow, 20cm deep, ovoid pit; no dating evidence or finds]

Sample B2 (50 litres sieved to 500 microns with 300 micron 'flot' sieve; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Excavator's description: Mid to dark reddish-brown silt fill. Charcoal fragments.

The submitted 'flot' (dry weight 3.3 g) was almost all charcoal (to 15 mm; ~40 fragments over 2 mm), with just a trace of sand. All of the charcoal was rectilinear fragments which were fragile, crumbly and mostly rather thin slivers (with at least one dimension less than 3 mm), and species identification was attempted for 12 pieces. Nine of the fragments could not be identified – four crumbled and five were vitrified with heavily distorted cell structures. Of the other three fragments, one was ?oak and the two others were only partially (and tentatively) identified as ?ring-porous – all three of these fragments were also somewhat vitrified.

TRENCH 11

Context 040 [fill of 65cm deep circular pit [039]; contained Bronze Age pot – 1x cinerary urn and 6x fragments – and 44x fragments of burnt flint]

Sample B16b (100 litres sieved to 500 microns with 300 micron 'flot' sieve; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Excavator's description: Mid to dark grey silt fill. Charcoal fragments.

The submitted 'flot' (dry weight 2.1 g) was almost all charcoal (to 11 mm; ~50 fragments over 2 mm), with a little sand and a few small stones (to 6 mm). All of the charcoal was rectilinear fragments which were fragile, crumbly and predominantly very thin slivers (with at least one dimension less than 1 mm), and species identification was attempted for 15 pieces. Ten of the fragments could not be identified – five crumbled and five partially crumbled leaving too little cross-sectional surface for determination. Of the other five fragments, one was oak (*Quercus*) and the remaining four were perhaps also of this species (identified as ?oak – cf. *Quercus*). No vitrification was recorded for the charcoal fragments examined from this sample.

Discussion and statement of potential

Although present in all three of the deposits, the quantities of charcoal recovered from each were very small representing no more than a 'background' level of material, presumably fuel waste. The greatest 'concentration' was from Context 011 (fill of shallow, 10cm deep, undated circular pit [010]) which gave just 22.2 g of 'flot' – mostly charcoal but including a few small stones – from a sample of 40 litres of sediment.

All of the charcoal was rectilinear, fragment size was uniformly small (the largest individual fragment being no more than 30 mm – from Context 011) and preservation was poor with all of the fragments being fragile and crumbly. Occasional fragments also exhibited a vitrified appearance (from Contexts 011 and 013 – fill of undated shallow, 20cm deep, ovoid pit) which, in the past, has been taken to indicate high temperature burning but for which experimental work by McParland *et al.* (2010) suggests a more moderate formation temperature of 310-530 degrees Centigrade.

The only definitive species level identifications were of oak, a common indigenous British tree, from Context 011 (four fragments) and Context 040 (one fragment – fill of 65cm deep Bronze Age circular pit [039]), with ?oak also noted from both of these deposits (four fragments from each) and also from Context 013 (a single vitrified fragment). Other identifications could only be made to the level of 'ring-porous species' (from Contexts 011 and 013, one and two fragments, respectively, with the latter being vitrified) and a single fragment of a '?diffuse-porous species from Context 011 (Sample 1). Of the total of 57 fragments examined, 39 remained wholly indeterminate – ten owing to distortion of the cell structures by vitrification and 29 as a result of the fragile nature of the remains.

The quantities of charcoal were very small but sufficient for radiocarbon dating (via AMS) to be attempted. This material cannot be recommended for the purpose, however. All of the fragments were of an indeterminate number of years of wood growth and few were identified to species; consequently, the associated 'old wood' problems resulting from the carbon content of the wood being fixed at the time of its growth (compounded by the possibility of a primary use within long-lived structures for species such as oak which was the only species positively identified as present) could result in the return of a radiocarbon date significantly earlier (but by an unknown amount) than the charring event. Furthermore, there is the possibility that such small amounts of material may have been disturbed from their original point of deposition by, for example, bioturbation, which would also cast considerable doubt on the validity of extending any dates returned to the deposits as a whole.

Recommendations

No further study of the charcoal from the sediment samples is warranted.

Retention and disposal

The small quantities of charcoal recovered from the sediment samples are of no additional interpretative value and may be discarded.

Archive

All of the material reported herein is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 4, National Industrial Estate, Bontoft Avenue, Kingston upon Hull), pending return to the archaeological contractor (or permission to discard), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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Appendix 5:**Assessment note of bone recovered from land to the east of Shripney Road Bersted, Arun, West Sussex. J. Richardson [York Archaeological Trust]****[DAS Code SHRP/19]**

A small collection of animal bone fragments from five contexts has been tabulated below. Cattle and pig have been identified, with the remainder most likely cattle. The assemblage is too small to warrant further study but it should be retained as part of the site archive.

Table 1. Animal bone fragments by context.

Bulk No.	Context	Context description / date.	Description
B8	025	Fill of the linear ditch cut [024]. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [002]. This fill produced finds of four sherds of Roman pottery, one coin of late 3rd century AD date and fifteen fused iron hob nails	X1 Cattle mandibular tooth
B10	031	Fill of the linear gully cut [030]. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [002]. The fill produced finds of three sherds of Roman pottery	Cattle-size long bone (c. 24 fragments) Cattle-size rib (c. 8 fragments)
B11	033	Fill of the linear ditch cut [032]. Soft, light orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [002]. The fill [033] yielded one sherd of Roman pottery	Cattle horncore (24 fragments)
B12	036	Upper fill of the linear ditch recut [037c]. Soft, dark orange brown silt with no inclusions. Below [002] and above [037]. The fill yielded finds of five sherds of Roman pottery	Cattle femur (4 fragments) Cattle-size long bone fragment
B17b	043	Secondary fill of the linear ditch cut [041]. Soft, dark orange brown silt with frequent small chalk fragments and flecking. Above [042] and below [044]. This fill produced finds of fourteen sherds of Roman pottery	Pig fibula fragment

The recovered assemblage may be considered typical of remains commensurate with the presence of a proximal Romano British farmstead.

The recovered assemblage is considered too small for further detailed [metrical or other] analysis.

