

DEVELOPMENT ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES Ltd

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT**

**RICHMOND LODGE,
SHRIPNEY ROAD,
BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX**

[Site Centred at approximately SU 9390 0190]
[Planning Reference: BE/10/10]

PREPARED FOR GLOBE ESTATES SOUTHERN LTD.

By

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of three trial trenches was carried out by Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS) on the 10th of August 2011, and in advance of a new residential development on land at Richmond Lodge, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

The archaeological evaluation identified a single apparently isolated archaeological feature, which comprised a shallow pit; the fill of which yielded an assemblage of late Bronze Age pottery and fragments of fire-cracked flint along with a single worked flint.

The remaining findings consisted of a simple deposit sequence of a topsoil horizon overlying a natural horizon of brick earths over the area of the evaluation site.

1. Introduction

Development Archaeology Services Limited (DAS) was commissioned by Globe Estates [Southern] Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a new residential development that will comprise the construction of ten, two and three-bedroomed houses on land at Richmond Lodge, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, centred at National Grid Reference SU 9390 0190. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on the 10th of August 2011.

This report documents the results of the archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification prepared by DAS. This document was submitted to and approved by Mr. Mark Taylor, Principal Archaeologist of West Sussex County 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 *PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the clients, Mr. Mark Taylor of West Sussex County 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.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723).

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is situated towards the southern end of the village of Shripney and on the eastern frontage of the A29 trunk road leading southwards to Bognor Regis. The development site is also located on the flat and low-lying Sussex Coastal Plain at a height of approximately 2mAOD and at National Grid Reference SU 9390 0190 [Figures 1 and 2].

The development site is situated on deep stoneless silty soils of the Park Gate series overlying aeolian silty drift deposits of brickearth, which are glacial deposits of the early Holocene. The underlying geology of the site comprises London Clays of the Eocene [BGS, 1996; Soil Survey, 1983].

3. Planning Background

An application for planning permission for the proposed erection of ten, two and three-bedroomed houses (Planning reference BE/10/10) has been submitted to and granted consent by Arun Horsham District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, as the proposed development site is situated within a perceived archaeologically sensitive area, an archaeological condition (No. 9) was attached to this planning consent, which stated that:

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The original requirement of Mr. Mark Taylor, the Principal Archaeologist of West Sussex County Council (and the advisor on archaeological matters to the LPA) for the programme of archaeological work for this scheme was for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the groundworks stage of construction works at the site.

However, following consultations between DAS and Mr. Mark Taylor, it was considered that a programme of archaeological trial trenching prior to development taking place at the site would be a more proactive and acceptable alternative.

Consequently, a written scheme of investigation or specification for this archaeological trial trenching was subsequently submitted to and approved by Mr Mark Taylor of West Sussex County Council prior to the commencement of the on-site works.

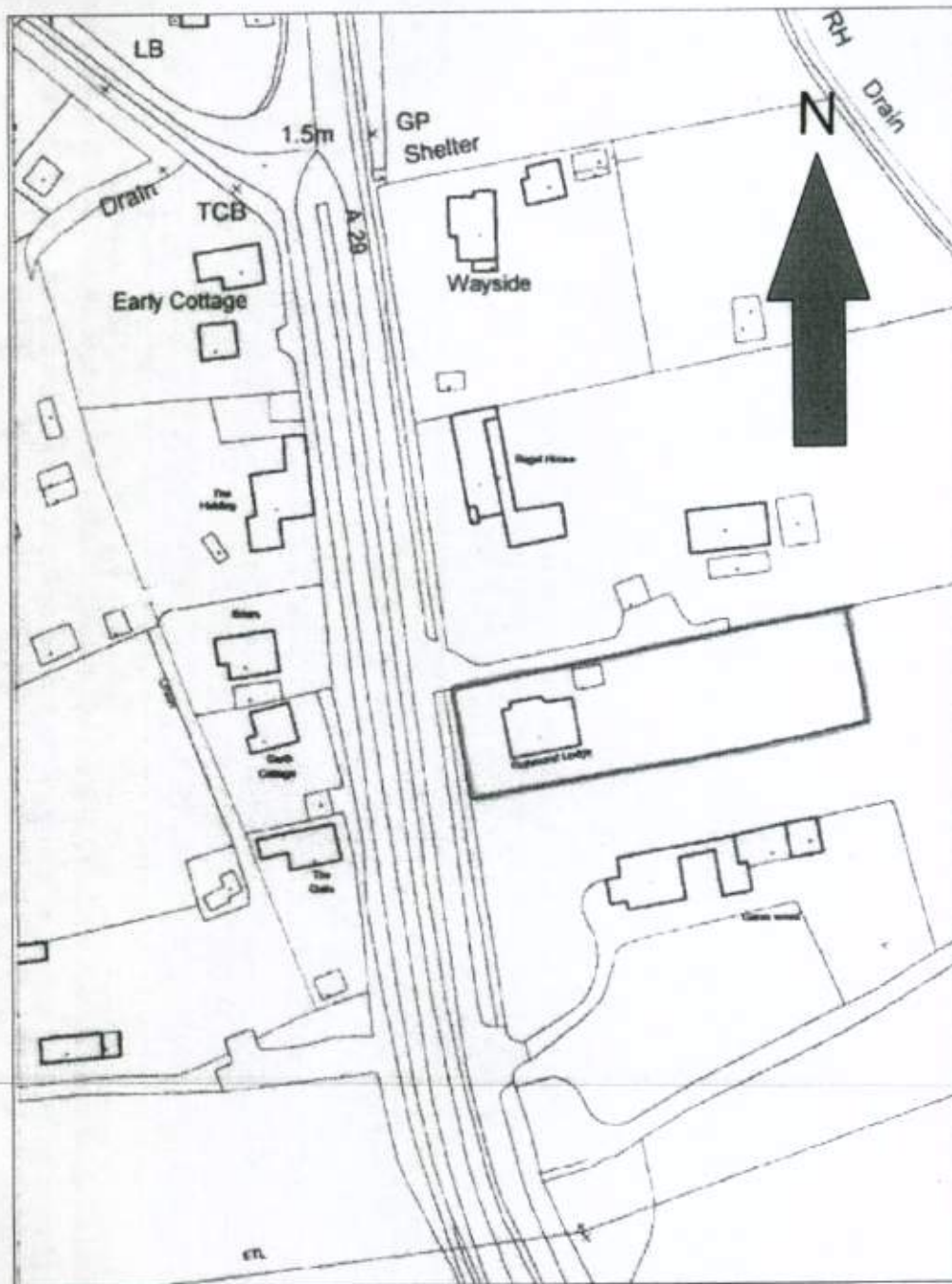


Figure 2: Site location at a scale of 1:1,250. The site boundaries are shown in red.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

Consultations with the West Sussex County Council Principal Archaeologist have established that although there are no previously known archaeological findings within the area of the development site itself, both prehistoric and Romano-British finds have been made in the Shripney area.

5. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on the 10th of August 2011 by Christopher Pine and Neville Hall and Rob Morris of Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS). This involved the excavation of three trial trenches according to the Brief and Specification for this project previously compiled by DAS [designated as **Trenches 1-3**] [Figure 3]. All of these trial trenches were excavated by a c.14-ton tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 2.10m wide toothless ditching bucket under continual archaeological supervision.

The approved DAS Brief and Specification for the archaeological trial trenching originally provided for the excavation under archaeological supervision of three, 20.0m by 1.60m trial trenches with a contingency for an additional 30m² of trenching should additional investigations be required. The excavation of the three trial trenches together was to comprise a total of 96m² or approximately 5% by area of the site.

In the final event, three trial trenches of varying lengths and an average width of 2.10m were excavated [Figure 3]. **Trench 1** measured 15.0m, **Trench 2** – 16.0m and **Trench 3** - 21.70m respectively. This comprised a total of 110.67m² by area of trenching, which in turn represented approximately 6% by area of the site.

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Plans were compiled on site of each individual trench at a scale of 1:50. These trench plans are reproduced at a scale of 1:100 as **Figure 4** in this report. Three representative sections [designated as **Representative Sections 1-3**] were compiled in each trench of the deposit sequence encountered in each trench at a scale of 1:20. These are similarly reproduced at that same scale on **Figure 4**. A further section of the single archaeological feature identified in **Trench 3** [designated as **Section 4**] was also compiled on site at the scale of 1:10 and is similarly reproduced at this scale on **Figure 4**. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-12, Appendix 1**. A list of the contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

6. Results [Figures 3-4, Appendix 1, Plates 1-12]

Prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation, the site to the rear of Richmond Lodge, which had comprised the garden to this property, had been cleared [Plate 1].

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned at the eastern end of the former garden of Richmond Lodge and was orientated from north east-south west [Plates 2-3]. **Trench 1** was excavated to a length of 15.0m a width of 2.10m and to depths of between 0.40m-0.50m below ground levels. The removal of a topsoil horizon (001) revealed an underlying natural horizon (002) of brickearth. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 1** [Plate 4.]. Occasional small fragments of fire-cracked flint were observed within the brickearth horizon (002), but were not retained.

6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was situated to the immediate south-west of **Trench 1** and was orientated from south east-north west [Plates 5-6]. This trench was excavated to a length of 16.0m, a width of 2.10m, and to depths of between 0.38m-0.52m below ground levels. The same deposit sequence identified in the first trench was also recorded within this trench within **Representative Section 2** [Plate 7]. Occasional small fragments of fire-cracked flint were similarly observed within the brickearth horizon (002), but were not retained.

6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated from north east-south west and was excavated to a length of 21.70m, a width of 2.10m and to depths of between 0.36m and 0.42m below ground levels [Plates 8 and 10]. **Trench 3** was situated to the immediate north-west of **Trench 2** and at the western end of the evaluation area. The same aforementioned deposit sequence of a topsoil horizon (001) overlying a natural horizon (002) was also recorded in this trench within **Representative Section 3**.

The cut of a pit [003] with fill (004) was also identified within **Trench 3** [Plates 9 and 11-12]. This feature was cut into the natural brickearth horizon (002) and the fill (004) was sealed by the topsoil horizon (001).

The fill (004) was sampled [100%] and processed [wet sieved] to recover any artefacts contained therein. The fill yielded quantities of late Bronze Age pottery and of fire-cracked flint as well as one worked flint. [See summary note below by L. Barber] The full profile of this feature and its fill was recorded within **Section 4** and a bulk sample was taken from this fill following its full excavation by hand.

The Finds by Luke Barber:

An assemblage of material was recovered from pit [4]. Of the 25 sherds of pottery the largest six (155g) were examined in order to ascertain a likely deposition date for the pit fill.

The six sherds are all potentially from the same vessel but unfortunately all consist of featureless body sherds. However, the sherds are quite large and unabraded suggesting they have not been reworked.

The fabric is tempered with moderate medium/coarse calcined flint (to 3mm) with the interior vessel surface being reduced and the exterior surface oxidised a dull orange.

The pottery is in keeping with a Mid to Late Bronze Age date, though it is considered more likely to be from the second half of this range.

The fill also produced a fine fresh struck flint flake from a carefully prepared core.

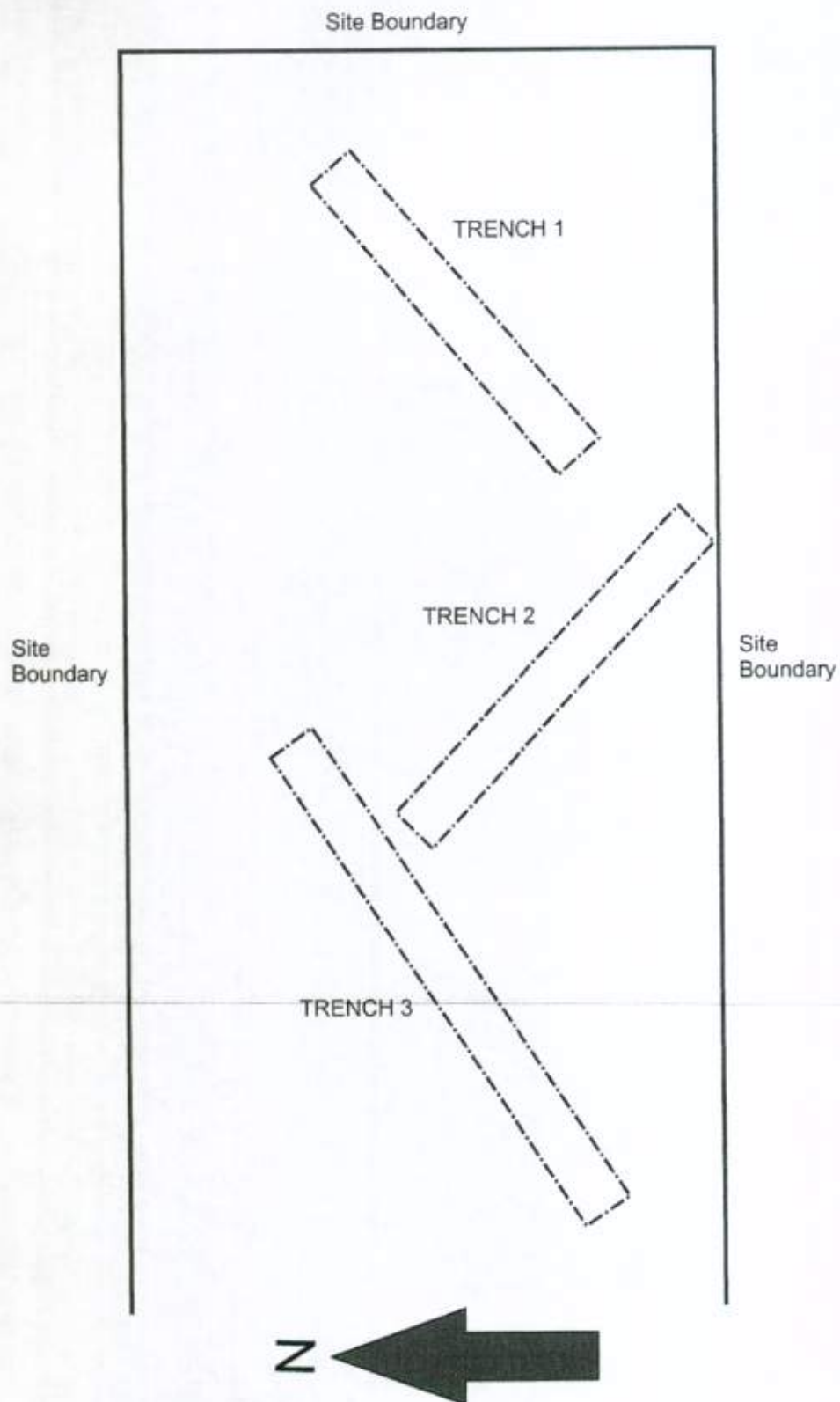
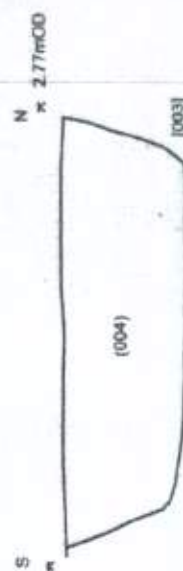
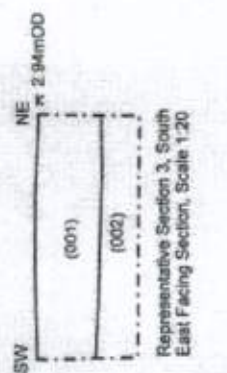
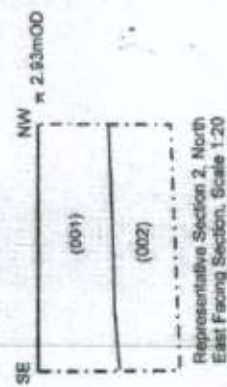
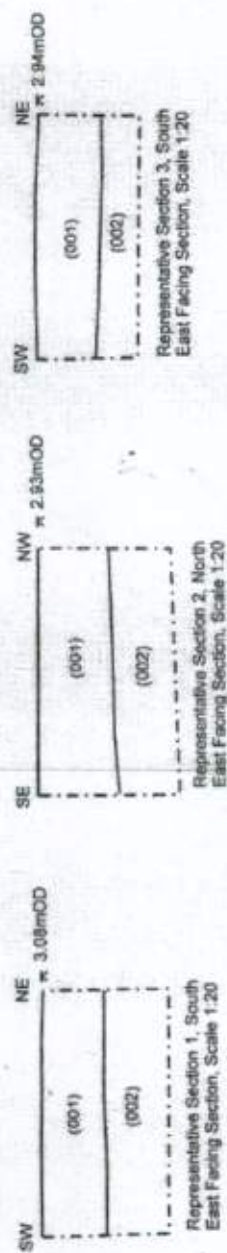
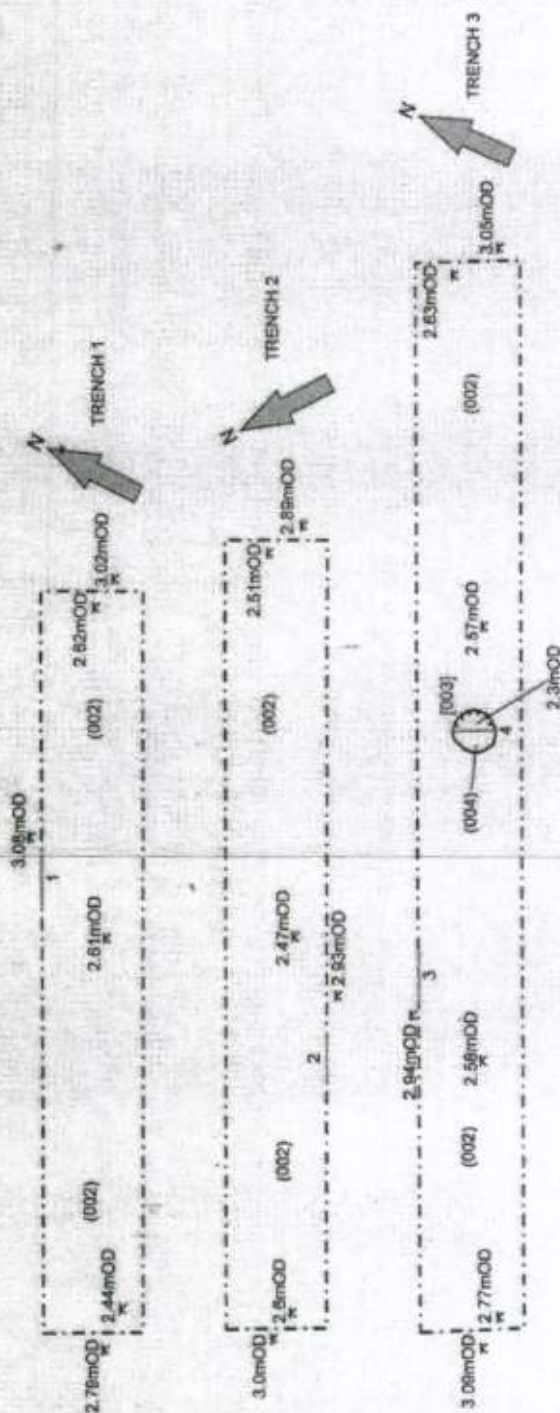


Figure 3: Final site layout of Trenches 1-3 at a scale of 1:250

Scale at A3 original



Section 4 of Pit Out (003) with Fill (004), North East Facing Section, Scale 1:10

Figure 4: Trenches 1-3 at a scale of 1:100. Sections 1-3 at a scale of 1:20 & Section 4 at a scale of 1:10

7. Discussion and Conclusions

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.

The archaeological evaluation identified a single archaeological feature, which comprised the cut of a pit; the fill of which yielded an assemblage of late Bronze Age pottery and fragments of fire-cracked flint along with a single worked flint. This single recorded feature suggests low level of late Bronze age activity and possible occupation in the general site area. The incidence of recorded archaeological features may be considered as relatively low.

The remaining findings consisted of a simple deposit sequence of a topsoil horizon overlying a natural horizon of brickearths over the whole area of the evaluation site.

8. Acknowledgements

Thanks are gratefully extended to Tony Harrison of Globe Estates Southern Ltd for commissioning this work.

9. Bibliography

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

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

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Pre-excitation, from the east



Plate 2: Trench 1, from the north-east



Plate 3: Trench 1, from the south-west

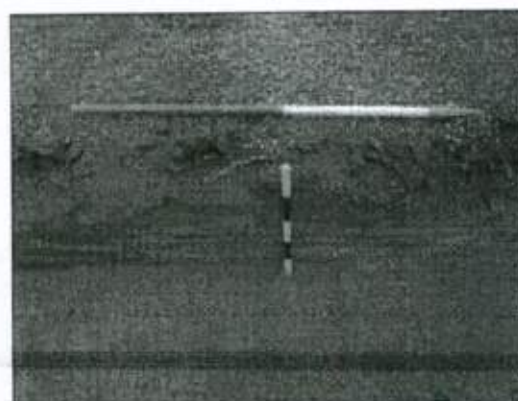


Plate 4: Representative Section 1, from the south-east



Plate 5: Trench 2, from the south-east



Plate 6: Trench 2, from the north-west

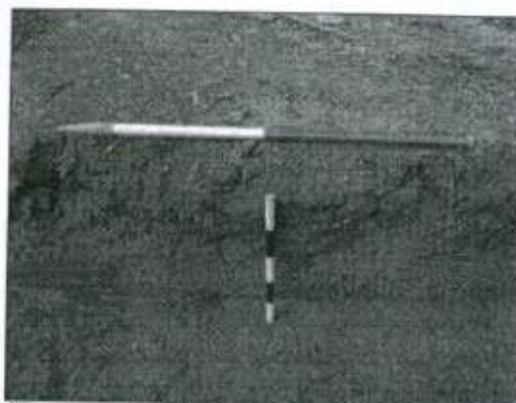


Plate 7: Representative Section 2, from the north-east



Plate 8: Trench 3, from the north-east



Plate 9: Pit cut [003], pre-excitation,
from the north-east



Plate 10: Trench 3, from the south-west

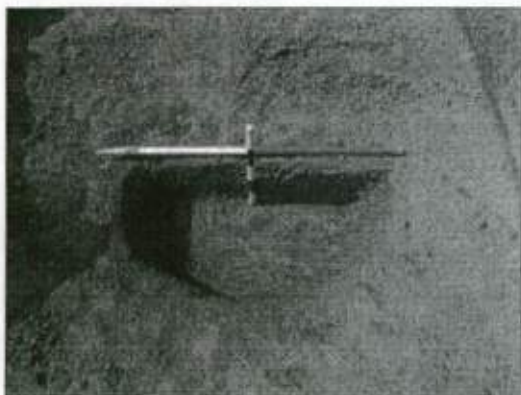


Plate 11: Pit cut [003], half-sectioned, from the north-east

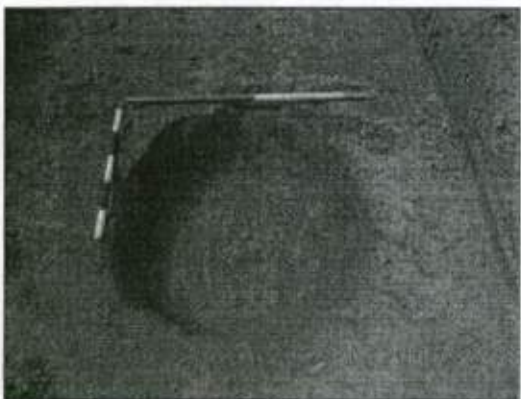


Plate 12: Pit cut [003], fully excavated, from the north-east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Topsoil horizon. Soft & friable, dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones, small fragments of charcoal & small fragments of brick/tile. Above (002). Recorded in **Representative Sections 1-3**. Depth – 0.33m.
- 002** Natural subsoil horizon of brickearths. Soft, mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional small fragments of fire-cracked flint, small angular stones, small flint fragments & small fragments of burnt clay. Below (001) and [003]. Recorded in **Representative Sections 1-3**. Depth - >0.16m.
- 003** Cut of a pit. Circular shaped, sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping convex sides with rounded break of slope at base and flattish base. Fully excavated and recorded in **Section 4**. Diameter – 0.88m, depth – 0.26m.

- 004** Fill of the pit cut **[003]**. Soft and friable, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small angular stones. The fill yielded large quantities of late Bronze Age pottery, of fire cracked flint and one worked flint. Below **(001)**. Fully excavated and recorded in **Section 4**. Bulk sample taken. Depth – 0.26m.

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