

**Clays Farm
North End Road
Yapton
BN18 0DT
Archaeological Evaluation**

Date: April 2025
Client: Thakeham Homes
Project Code: RR0634
OASIS Id: redriver2-533108



**Red River
Archaeology**

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North End Road
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BN18 0DT
Archaeological Evaluation

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Project Code	RR0634
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site Name	Clays Farm North End Road Yapton BN18 0DT
NGR	SU 97758 03915
Site activity	Evaluation
Date and duration	18-20 March 2025
Site Code	RR0634
Summary of results	Red River Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Thakeham Homes to carry out an evaluation in advance of development at Clays Farm, North End Road, Yapton. Thirteen trenches were excavated from 18-20 March 2025. Three field boundary ditches were uncovered, two intersecting and dated to the 13th century, the third undated but parallel to one of the others and with a similar composition of environmental material. Residual Late Saxon pottery and additional 13th century pottery in the subsoil was also found.
Monuments identified (referenced to the Thesaurus of Monument Types)	Boundary ditch
Location of the archive	Currently stored by Red River Archaeology Ltd. at their Cardiff Office, Unit K7, Capital Business Park, The Levels, Cardiff

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Red River Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Thakeham Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in relation to development at Clays Farm, North End Road, Yapton BN18 0DT (centred at NGR SU 97758 03915, Figure 1).

1.1.1. Archaeological evaluation trenching of the site was undertaken by Red River Archaeology Ltd. from 18th to 20th March 2025 according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (Red River Archaeology 2022).

1.2 Site Location & Description

1.2.1 The site covers an area of c. 1.6ha and lies on the north-western edge of Yapton, to the west of North End Lane and the properties fronting it (Figure 1). There are new build properties to the north and south (Pullen Grove).

1.2.2 The site is currently agricultural land which formerly had small buildings on its southern-eastern edge (now removed).

1.2.3 The underlying solid geology across the site is Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk, Culver Chalk and Portsdown Chalk Formations – Chalk This is overlain by Superficial River Terrace Deposits - Sand, silt and clay. (British Geological Survey On-line Viewer accessed 7th September 2022).

1.3 Proposed Development and Planning Background

1.3.1 The site has been granted outline planning consent on appeal for residential development comprising 33 no. units, access, landscaping and associated works (Arun District Council planning ref. Y/62/18/OUT; Planning Inspectorate Appeal Ref: APP/C3810/W/19/3234972). A condition was applied to the consent:

9) The development hereby permitted shall not commence until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.3.1. Following consultation between Red River Archaeology and James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council, archaeological advisor to Arun District Council, an archaeological evaluation for the site is required to understand the likely presence/absence and significance of any archaeological remains within it.

- 1.3.2. A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation (WSI) was prepared by Red River Archaeology (2022) outlining a programme of archaeological trial trenching of the Site. The WSI was subsequently implemented by Red River Archaeology Ltd.
- 1.3.3. The fieldwork followed the Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a, 2023b – which supersedes the 2020 guidance cited in the WSI) and the standards and guidance laid out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (Historic England 2015a).

2. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Works

2.1.1. The aims of the evaluation were to:

- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered
- Establish the nature of the activity on the site
- Identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site
- Provide further information on the archaeology of the site from any archaeological remains encountered
- Use the results to inform any potential need for further archaeological evaluation or mitigation works

2.2 Scope of Works

2.2.1. The scope of the work was to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation which initially comprised 13 trenches, each measuring 30m x 2.0m (Figure 2), which amounts to a 5% sample of the available area within the Site.

2.2.2. The overall objectives were:

1. To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible
 2. To attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site
 3. To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples
 4. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present
 5. To define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required; and
 6. To establish the significance of the archaeology encountered on site. The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality.
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2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with current best practice and the CIfA's *Standard and universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA, 2023a, 2023b). All invasive ground-breaking works were monitored by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist.
- 2.3.2 All trial trenching was undertaken by a ZX130LCN or ZX135US excavator fitted with toothless grading buckets under the supervision and control of qualified site archaeologists to the top of the undisturbed natural strata or archaeological deposits, whichever was highest in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 2.3.3 Topsoil, subsoil and non-significant overburden deposits was kept separate during trench excavation and stored in separate spoil heaps. When archaeological deposits were exposed, machine excavation was stopped to allow the site archaeologists to investigate the exposed deposit.
- 2.3.4 Where appropriate, the base of each trench and the upper surface of any archaeological remains surviving within them was hand cleaned and surveyed to produce a plan of the arrangement of archaeological features within the trenches across the Site.
- 2.3.5 All information identified in the course of the Site works was recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record created to identify and illustrate individual features. It should be noted that, where possible, data was collected and stored digitally and also in a format suitable for long term storage by the Archaeological Data Service (Richards *et al*, 2000). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.3.6 All potential archaeological deposits encountered were planned and recorded. The work included, as a minimum, the recording of individual contexts on appropriate proformas; plan and section drawings of appropriate single contexts and features (at 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as deemed commensurate with the subject); photographs and other appropriate drawn and written records.
- 2.3.7 Site photography was by high resolution (12 megapixel or greater) colour digital photography. Photography included general site shots, shots of each trench, and shots of individual features. All photographs were recorded on a photographic register detailing as a minimum the subject, location and direction of each shot.
- 2.3.8 Monitoring visits were conducted by the Planning Archaeologist on 19th March 2025.
- 2.3.9 Fully recorded and 'signed off' trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated. They were left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.
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Reporting and Archiving

- 2.3.10 The preparation of the report follows the standard and guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020a). Details of style and format were determined by Red River Archaeology Ltd.
- 2.3.11 The results of the archaeological work form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, prepared in accordance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020b), *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (UKIC, 1990), *Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections* (Society for Museum Archaeology, 2020) and *Archaeological Archives: a best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown, 2007), as well as current Historic England guidelines (HE 2015b). It has been compiled in line with ADS digital records.
- 2.3.12 The archive from the archaeological works will be deposited with the artefacts (subject to the agreement of the legal landowner) with under with Littlehampton Museum Service when available.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE BASELINE

- 3.1.1 The following background is taken from the WSI (Red River 2022);
- 3.1.2 There have been three recent archaeological investigations in recent years close to the site. In 2020 Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land immediately north of this site ahead of a proposed residential development (PCA 2020a). Nine 30m x 2m trenches were excavated which revealed some evidence of archaeological activity in the form of ditches, possibly representing enclosures or field boundaries of later prehistoric and/or early medieval date. It was concluded that the features identified in the evaluation represented peripheral or marginal activity associated with land management over a period extending from the later prehistoric to the medieval period and the features did not indicate a point of settlement or activity within the site or a readily identifiable monument or site type.
- 3.1.3 In 2020 another evaluation as carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land north of Yapton School (PCA2020b), immediately to the south of this site. Twenty-one 50m x 1.8m and three 25m x 1.8m trenches were excavated. A low number of widely dispersed features of late prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date were identified. The southern part of the site appeared to have been subject to considerable post-medieval or modern disturbance.
- 3.1.4 In 2020 and 2021, following earlier evaluation trenching, archaeological excavation was carried out on land east of North End Road, directly opposite the current site (PCA 2021). The investigations revealed archaeological resources that show multiple phases of activity within the excavated areas. The earliest activity dated to the prehistoric period, comprising a series of ditches and some dispersed pits, uncovered in the northeast part of the site. In the western part of the site features dating to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods were uncovered. The Saxon activity was represented by a few linear features and dispersed pits. The medieval activity dominated the western part of the Site. The activity uncovered from this period comprises a series of ditches, interpreted as plot boundaries along the northwest edge of the site, with field boundaries behind. A number of pits dating to the medieval period were uncovered, including two cess pits and a flint-lined well. The post-medieval phase of activity comprises a few dispersed pits and some large ditches, observed running across the western part of the site, believed to be field boundaries.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Evaluation Trenches

- 4.1.1 Thirteen untargeted trenches were excavated across the site between 18-20 March 2025 (Figure 2). Trench 1 was moved slightly to avoid visible geo-tech pits, with the remainder of the trenches located as planned (Figure 2). Conditions were dry with low sun. Three ditches, a modern linear feature and a sub-ovular pit were uncovered.
- 4.1.2 The stratigraphy was similar across the field, with diffuse interfaces between topsoil, subsoil and natural (Figure 5 – representative section of Trench 9).
- 4.1.3 The topsoil was a loose mid brown clayey silt with occasional flint nodules and flint fragments, and contained modern finds such as plastics. It was consistently 0.30m thick across the entire field.
- 4.1.4 The topsoil overlay a loose mid yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil, with rare small flint fragments, pebbles, and rare potsherds. Pottery in Trenches 2 (0202) and 3 (0302) was Medieval in date, and in Trench 9 (902) was late Saxon. It was a fairly consistent depth across the field, ranging from 0.25-0.30m.
- 4.1.5 The subsoil overlay a firm mid yellowish orange clayey silt, with rare small flint fragments and pebbles (Plate 1 – representative overview of Trench 1).

Trench 6

- 4.1.6 A small northwest to southeast oriented ditch [0604] cut a larger northeast-southwest oriented ditch [0606] in Trench 6 (Figure 3, Plates 4-6). The ditch [0604] was 0.75m wide, 0.27m deep and continued beyond the limits of the trench. It had concave sides and a gently concave base. In the section across the ditch [0604] two fills were recorded. The lower fill (0605) consisted of loose mid yellowish brown clayey silt with black 'patches' and rare stones. The upper fill (0608) was intermittent in the ditch, consisting of a loose mixed dark blackish brown and mid yellow brown clayey silt with infrequent small stones.
- 4.1.7 The larger ditch [0606] was approximately 1.5m wide and continued beyond the limits of the trench. A relationship slot between the two ditches in Trench 6 showed that the northwestern side of the larger ditch [0606] was very steep and it was over 0.40m deep (the base was not reached). It had a main fill (0607), over 0.25m deep, consisting of loose, dark blackish brown clayey silt with rare stones. It also had an upper fill consisting of loose mid yellowish brown clayey silt with black 'patches' and rare stones. This was indistinguishable from the lower fill (0605) of [0604], and was therefore not given a separate context number. Medieval pottery of the same types was collected from (0605) in both ditches, as well as from its sample <2>.

Trench 7

- 4.1.8 A northeast-southwest oriented ditch in Trench 7 [0704] (Figure 4, Plate 7) aligned well with ditch [0606]. It was slightly wider at 2m, was 1.1m deep and continued outside the trench in both directions. It had steep sides and flat base. It had two fills. The lower fill (0707) was 0.60m thick and consisted of a loose dark blackish brown clayey silt with rare small and medium stones. The upper fill (0708) was 0.50m thick loose mid brownish yellow clayey silt with infrequent small and medium stones. Neither contained any finds.
- 4.1.9 There was also a second northeast-southwest oriented ditch in Trench 7 [0705] (Figure 4, Plate 2) running parallel approximately 2.3m to the east of [0704]. It was 0.90m wide, 0.37m deep and continued beyond the limit of the trench in both directions. It had concave sides and a gently concave base with a single fill (0706) consisting of loose dark blackish brown clayey silt with very rare small stones.

Trench 13

- 4.1.10 Trench 13 was crossed by a 0.60m wide northeast-southwest oriented Modern linear feature (Figure 5) identified as Modern by the field director.
- 4.1.11 There was also a second feature [1304] near the eastern end of the trench, appearing as a rounded terminus or irregular sub-circle, continuing outside the limit of the trench to the south (Figure 5, Plate 3). It was 0.2m wide and over 0.5m long. The cut had concave sides and a concave but irregular base. It contained a single fill (1305) consisting of a loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with common small fragments of mineral coal and occasional small to medium stones and there were fine roots throughout and nearby.

4.2 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

- 4.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 40 sherds with a total weight of 378g. It was all late Anglo-Saxon or medieval, with the stratified pottery all occurring in features of 13th – 14th century date.
- BIN:** Binstead-type Sandy Ware, 13th – 14th century. 2 sherds, 16g.
CW: Chalky Ware, 11th – 13th century. 5 sherds, 78g.
LSF: Late Saxon Flinty Ware, 9th – 11th century. 1 sherd, 2g.
SW: Sandy Wares, 13th – 14th century. 31 sherds, 282g.
- 4.2.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1 below. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region (eg. Gardiner 1997; Jervis 2009; Mephram 2008).
- 4.2.3 The Sandy Wares were either fully reduced or oxidized with reduced surfaces. The Binstead types were paler, and fully oxidized. The entire assemblage comprised unglazed bodysherds apart from two jar rimsherds, one in SW from context 605 N/S and the other in CW in context

605 E/W. Overall, the assemblage is in reasonably good condition and appears reliably stratified.

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

	LSF		CW		SW		BIN		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
(202) subsoil							1	7	13thC
(302) subsoil							1	9	U/S
(605) [604] ditch			3	58	8	159			13thC
(605) [606] ditch			1	17	5	59			13thC
(605) Sample 2			1	3	18	64			13thC
(902) subsoil	1	2							U/S
Total	1	2	5	78	31	282	2	16	

4.3 Charred Plant Macrofossils And Other Remains By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

4.3.1 The evaluation revealed a limited number of features including ditches (within Trenches 6 and 7), few of which were dated at the time of excavation. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the ditch fills and three were submitted for assessment. A detailed table of results is available in Appendix III.

4.3.2 The samples were bulk floated by RA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix III. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and fungal sclerotia were also noted, but are not included.

Results

4.3.3 Cereals, chaff and seeds of common segetal weeds/grassland herbs are present within all three assemblages. Preservation is very variable; the chaff is mostly well-preserved, but some elements are highly fragmented and abraded, possibly suggesting that they had either been exposed to the elements for an extended period of time (for example, on a midden) or had suffered post-depositional mechanical damage possibly caused by the disturbance of the deposits. Seeds are generally scarce, but most are reasonably well-preserved. In contrast, the majority of the cereals are severely puffed and distorted (probably as a result of exposure to very high temperatures during combustion), with some almost appearing to be melted and/or fringed with tarry droplets. The charcoal/charred wood is all very highly comminuted, with fragments >2mm in size being very scarce.

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- 4.3.4 Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are all present at a low density, but the majority of the cereals are too poorly preserved for close identification. It is noted that a number of the wheat grains within the assemblage from sample 3 have a very distinct concave profile (some with the appearance of being collapsed), which strongly suggests that they had germinated prior to charring. Chaff, including oat awn fragments, wheat glume bases, spikelet bases, rachis internodes and spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases, is particularly common within the assemblages from samples 1 and 3. Both of the latter also include detached cereal embryos and sprouts from germinated grains, and silica skeletons of cereal awn. This material usually forms when the chaff is burnt at very high temperatures within well-oxygenated fires, which burn away the carbon, leaving only a skeleton of silica.
- 4.3.5 As mentioned above, seeds are scarce. However, those recovered are all from common field weeds or grassland herbs including brome (*Bromus* sp.), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), small grasses (*Poaceae*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). A single rush (*Juncus* sp.) fruit is present within the assemblage from sample 2. Comminuted charcoal is present throughout, but other plant macrofossils are all but absent.
- 4.3.6 The black porous and tarry remains are almost certainly derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains, possibly including cereal grains. Natural ferrous material is noted within sample 3, and samples 2 and 3 both contain very small pieces of coal. It is thought most likely that the latter is derived from either night soil, or from the use of steam implements on the land during the early modern era.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

- 4.3.7 In summary, although all three assemblages are broadly similar in composition, it is suggested that the remains may come from different sources. Sample 1 is largely composed of chaff (primarily wheat), but also contains a very high density of small grass fruits. Such material is, perhaps, consistent with either charred animal fodder or chaff and dried herbage collected for use as tinder or kindling within a domestic or light 'industrial' setting. The material from sample 2 is, perhaps, more likely to be storage waste, where detritus from a store has been cleaned out and burnt prior to the insertion of a new year's harvest. The assemblage from sample 3 appears to be primarily derived from cereal drying waste, where either grain harvested during inclement weather conditions, or grain which had sprouted as a result of inadequate storage conditions, was being dried prior to possible use or further storage. Accidental charring during cereal drying appears to have been very common, especially if the process was not adequately supervised. Such a high density of cereal sprouts as is seen in sample 3 can also be a sign of deliberate germination prior to brewing, but in this instance, it is thought unlikely as the overall size of the assemblage is quite small (circa 0.1 litres in volume).
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- 4.3.8 It is not impossible for all of the above mentioned circumstances to occur together, but for this to happen, it does rather presuppose that the area was engaged in agricultural, pastoral or probably both practises, and that there was sufficient refuse for it to be dumped in any available feature which happened to be open at the time. It is currently unclear whether there is any other evidence to support this hypothesis, but it is thought most likely that this refuse dates from the later prehistoric (Late Iron Age) to Roman period, largely because the widespread production of spelt had almost certainly ceased across much of lowland Britain by the end of the Roman period. It is supposed that much of the grain within the samples was probably being grown on the local acid loam soils of the Yapton area which, although of low fertility, could have grown some crops while also being used as pasture.
- 4.3.9 If further excavations are planned within the immediate area, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all features which are both well-sealed and dated. Data from these samples could provide valuable information about both local settlement and land use, particularly during the later prehistoric and Roman periods, with the latter being particularly important as it appears to be under-represented within the local archaeological records.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Evaluation Results

- 5.1.1 The large ditch crossing Trenches 6 [0606] and 7 [0704] was most likely a field boundary. The lower fill (0607) of [0606] and the lower fill (0707) of [0704] both appeared to be natural sedimentation. The upper fill (0708) of [0704] might be redeposited bank material. Based on the orientation the large ditch would be expected to also cross Trench 8, however rooting was very evident at the southwestern end of Trench 08, potentially masking any continuation.
- 5.1.2 The lower fill of the smaller ditch [0604] and the upper fill of the larger ditch [0606] in Trench 6 were indistinguishable in plan and section, and both contained sherds of 13th century Chalky Ware and Sandy Ware. One interpretation is that this deposit (0605) represents a contemporary backfilling of the two features occurred in the Trench 6 area. The intermittent upper fill (0608) of [0604] was mostly likely episodic is backfill/dumping. The subsoil finds from Trenches 2 (0202) and 3 (0302), were similarly dated 13th century Binstead-type Sandy Ware. This ties these features in with those found by Pre-Construct Archaeology in a pit and the subsoil to the immediate south of the site (PCA 2020b), which also contained sandy wares and Binstead-type ware (among others), and a pit and ditch to the immediate north of the site (PCA 2020a), which contained a majority of sandy wares (among others). Similarly, Medieval wares dominated the pottery assemblage from excavations to the east of site (PCA 2021).
- 5.1.3 The smaller ditch parallel to [0704] found in Trench 7 [0705] is likely also a field boundary, possibly an indicator of a drifting boundary, two ditches on either side of a bank, or perhaps incidental. The lack of pottery in it might suggest that it is some way away from contemporary settlement activity.
- 5.1.4 Although the subsoil finds from Trench 9 (0902) weren't associated with any particular feature, their dating as 9th – 11th century Late Saxon Flint Ware ties in activity in this area with a single residual sherd of mid to late Saxon pottery found in a pit to the south of the site (PCA 2020b) and in sparse pits uncovered by evaluation to the east of the site (PCA 2021) containing Saxon pottery.
- 5.1.5 The Medieval pottery assemblage at the site excavated to the east originated from plot boundaries and field boundaries, and the conclusion of that report (PCA 2021) that the western part of their site was an area of lower status domestic activity, with a more agricultural area further east on that site, suggests Clays Farm was a more agricultural area.
- 5.1.6 Analysis of the environmental samples from the large ditch where it crossed Trench 7 (0707) [0704], the backfill deposit (0605) of ditch [0604] and the larger ditch where it crossed Trench 6

[0606], and the ditch in Trench 7 (0706) [0705], were all broadly similar in composition but were indicative of different activities;

- either charred animal fodder or chaff and dried herbage collected for use as tinder or kindling within a domestic or light 'industrial' setting
- storage waste, where detritus from a store has been cleaned out and burnt prior to the insertion of a new year's harvest
- cereal drying waste, where either grain harvested during inclement weather conditions, or grain which had sprouted as a result of inadequate storage conditions, was being dried prior to possible use or further storage.

5.1.7 Curiously, the environmental archaeologist suggested a later prehistoric (Late Iron Age) to Roman period date for the ditches due to the presence of spelt, which had largely ceased by the end of the Roman period. This contrast with the pottery dates may be evidence of local continuation of spelt cultivation in this area, or of redeposited or residual evidence from earlier activity (Iron Age pottery has been found at nearby sites (PCA 2020a, PCA 2020b, PCA 2021) as well as a couple of fragments of residual Roman ceramic building material (PCA 2021)) which has ended up in later ditches.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 Known Heritage Resource

- 6.1.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development site, though nearby evaluations and excavation indicate multi-period activity in the wider area from Bronze Age to Post Medieval.
- 6.1.2 This evaluation found three field boundary ditches: two dated to the 13th century, the third undated but parallel to one of the others and with a similar composition of environmental material.
- 6.1.3 Residual Late Saxon pottery and additional 13th century pottery was also found.

6.2 Potential Archaeological Resource and Significance

- 6.2.1 The results of this evaluation suggest lower status Medieval agricultural activity, in keeping with that found in previous investigations of nearby sites (PCA 2020a, PCA 2020b, PCA 2021 – eastern area). Although there remains a potential for further archaeological features outside of the evaluation trenches, it is unlikely that any more intense or domestic activity has taken place on this site and therefore no further mitigation of the impact of this development is recommended.
- 6.2.2 The results of the evaluation contribute to our understanding of local land use, and this report may be able to contribute to future synthesis addressing The South West England Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) *Research Aim 42: Improve our understanding of Medieval farming.*

7. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I**ARCHIVE STATEMENT**

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Trenching and field recording sheets	13 trench sheets 11 context sheets 1 annotated site plan 2 drawing sheets (Permatrace)
GPS Plans	Digital data
Digital Photographs	33 JPG files
Registers (Finds, drawings, photographs, soil samples)	1 drawing register 1 drawing sheet register 1 soil sample register
Finds Assemblage	1 box

The archive is currently stored by Red River Archaeology Ltd. at their Cardiff Office, Unit K7, Capital Business Park, The Levels, Cardiff, and will subsequently be deposited Littlehampton Museum when available.

APPENDIX II CONTEXT TABLE

Trench	Context no.	Type	Depth (m.)	Description	Notes
1	0101	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0102	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0103	Deposit	-		Natural
2	0201	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0202	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0203	Deposit	-		Natural
3	0301	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0302	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0303	Deposit	-		Natural
4	0401	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0402	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0403	Deposit	-		Natural
5	0501	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0502	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0503	Deposit	-		Natural
6	0601	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil

	0602	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0603	Deposit	-		Natural
	0604	Cut	0.27	NW-SE linear with moderate break of slope (top), slightly concave moderately sloping sides, imperceptible break of slope (base), slightly concave flattish base. Filled by (0605). 0.75m wide and over 2m long.	Cut of small ditch
	0605	Fill	0.15	Loose mid yellowish brown clayey silt with black 'patches', rare stone and pottery. Fill of [0604] and upper fill of [0606]. 0.08m wide and over 2m long.	Main fill of small ditch [0604]
	0606	Cut	>0.40	NE-SW linear with sharp break of slope (top), steeply sloping, smooth sides. Base not reached. Filled by (0605) and (0607). Over 1.2m wide and over 2m long.	Cut of large ditch, same as [0704]
	0607	Fill	>0.25	Loose, dark blackish brown clayey silt with rare stones. Lower fill of [0606]. Over 1.2m wide and over 2m long.	Natural sedimentation of large ditch [0606].
	0608	Fill	0.08	Loose mixed dark blackish brown and mid yellow brown clayey silt with infrequent small stones and pottery. Upper fill of [0604], not present in fully exposed length. 0.45m wide and over 2m long.	Probable backfill/waste in ditch [0604]
7	0701	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0702	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0703	Deposit	-		Natural
	0704	Cut	1.1	NW-SE linear with sharp break of slope (top), steeply sloping, straight sides, a gentle break of slope (base) and rounded 'V' shaped base. Filled by (0707) and (0708). 2m wide and over 2m long.	Probable field boundary/land division. Same large ditch as [0606]
	0705	Cut	0.37	NE-SW linear with sharp break of slope (top), steeply sloping, slightly concave sides, a moderately sharp break of slope (base) and a gently rounded base. Filled by (0706). 0.90m wide and over 2m long.	Cut of small field boundary ditch
	0706	Fill	0.37	Loose dark blackish brown clayey silt with very rare small stones. Fill of [0706]. 0.90m wide and over 2m long.	Single fill of [0705]
	0707	Fill	0.60	Loose dark blackish brown clayey silt with rare small and medium stones. Fill of [0704]. 0.20m wide and over 2m long.	Main (lower) sedimentation fill of [0704]
	0708	Fill	0.50	Loose mid brownish yellow clayey silt with infrequent small and medium stones. Fill of [0704]. 1.9m wide and over 2m long.	Upper backfill of [0704], possible bank material
8	0801	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0802	Deposit	0.25	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil

	0803	Deposit	-		Natural
9	0901	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	0902	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	0903	Deposit	>0.3	Mid yellowish orange clayey silt	Natural
10	1001	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	1002	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	1003	Deposit	-		Natural
11	1101	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	1102	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	1103	Deposit	-		Natural
12	1201	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	1202	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	1203	Deposit	-		Natural
13	1301	Deposit	0.3	Mid brown clay/silt	Topsoil
	1302	Deposit	0.3	Mid yellow brown clay/silt	Subsoil
	1303	Deposit	-		Natural
	1304	Cut	0.1	Sub ovular. Sharp break of slope (top), moderately sloping, concave sides, gradual break of slope (base) with irregular, rounded base. Filled by (1305). 0.2m wide and 0.5m long.	Natural/Post Medieval feature, Modern, probable root bowl.
	1305	Fill	0.1	Loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with common small fragments of mineral coal and occasional small to medium stones. Fill of [1304]. 0.2m wide and 0.5m long.	Fill of Natural/Post Medieval feature

APPENDIX III

ENVIRONMENTAL TABLE

x = 1 – 10 specimens *xx* = 11 – 50 specimens *xxx* = 51 – 100 specimens *xxxx* = 100+ specimens

fg = fragment

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	0706	0605	0707
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Cereals			
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	x	x	
(awn frags.)	xx	x	xxx
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	
(rachis node)		x	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x	x
(glume bases)	xxxx	x	xxxx
(spikelet bases)	x	x	xxx
(rachis internodes)	x		xxxx
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	xxxx	x	xxxx
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	xxx	x xxxfg
(detached sprout frags.)	xx		xxxx
(detached embryos)		x	x
(silica skeletons cereal awn)	xx		xxxx
Dry land herbs			
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	x		x
Small Fabaceae indet.		x	
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	x		
Small Poaceae indet.	xxxx		x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x	x	
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (OL.)Schultz-Bip	x		xxx
Wetland plant macrofossils			
<i>Juncus</i> sp.		x	
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm		x	x
Charcoal >5mm		x	
Charred root/stem	x		
Indet. seed		x	
Other remains			
Black porous material	xx	xx	xxx
Black tarry material	xx	x	
Ferrous material (probably natural)			x
Small coal frags.		x	x
Sample volume (litres)	10	9	9
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

APPENDIX IV

OASIS FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS Number	redriver2- -533108	
Project Name	Clays Farm, North End Road, Yapton	
Short description	Red River Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Thakeham Homes to carry out an evaluation in advance of development at Clays Farm, North End Road, Yapton. Thirteen trenches were excavated from 18-20 March 2025. Three field boundary ditches were uncovered, two intersecting and dated to the 13th century, the third undated but parallel to one of the others and with a similar composition of environmental material. Residual Late Saxon pottery and additional 13th century pottery in the subsoil was also found.	
Project dates	18-20 March 2025	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	None known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Clays Farm, North End Road, Yapton, BN18 0DT	
Study area	1.6 ha	
Site co-ordinates	NGR SU 97758 03915	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Red River Archaeology Ltd.	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) Originator	Red River Archaeology Ltd.	
Project Manager	Gemma Stevenson	
Project Supervisor	Barry Cosham	
MONUMENT TYPE	Boundary ditch	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery, Medieval	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
	Museum/Accession No:	
Physical	Littlehampton Museum when available	Potsherds
Paper	Littlehampton Museum when available	Trench sheets & permatrace
Digital	ADS	Digital photographs; site plan
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Red River Archaeology 2025 <i>Clays Farm Yapton BN18 0DT Archaeological Evaluation</i>		



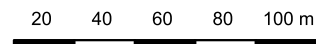
Legend

- Site extent
- Evaluation trench

Project Code: RR0634
 Project Name: Clays Farm Yapton
 Status: Evaluation
 Revision: 1.0

Prepared by: M Smithson-Shaw
 Approved by: G. Stevenson

Date: 11/03/2025
 Scale: 1:2500 @ A4



**Red River
 Archaeology**

Figure 1 - Site location

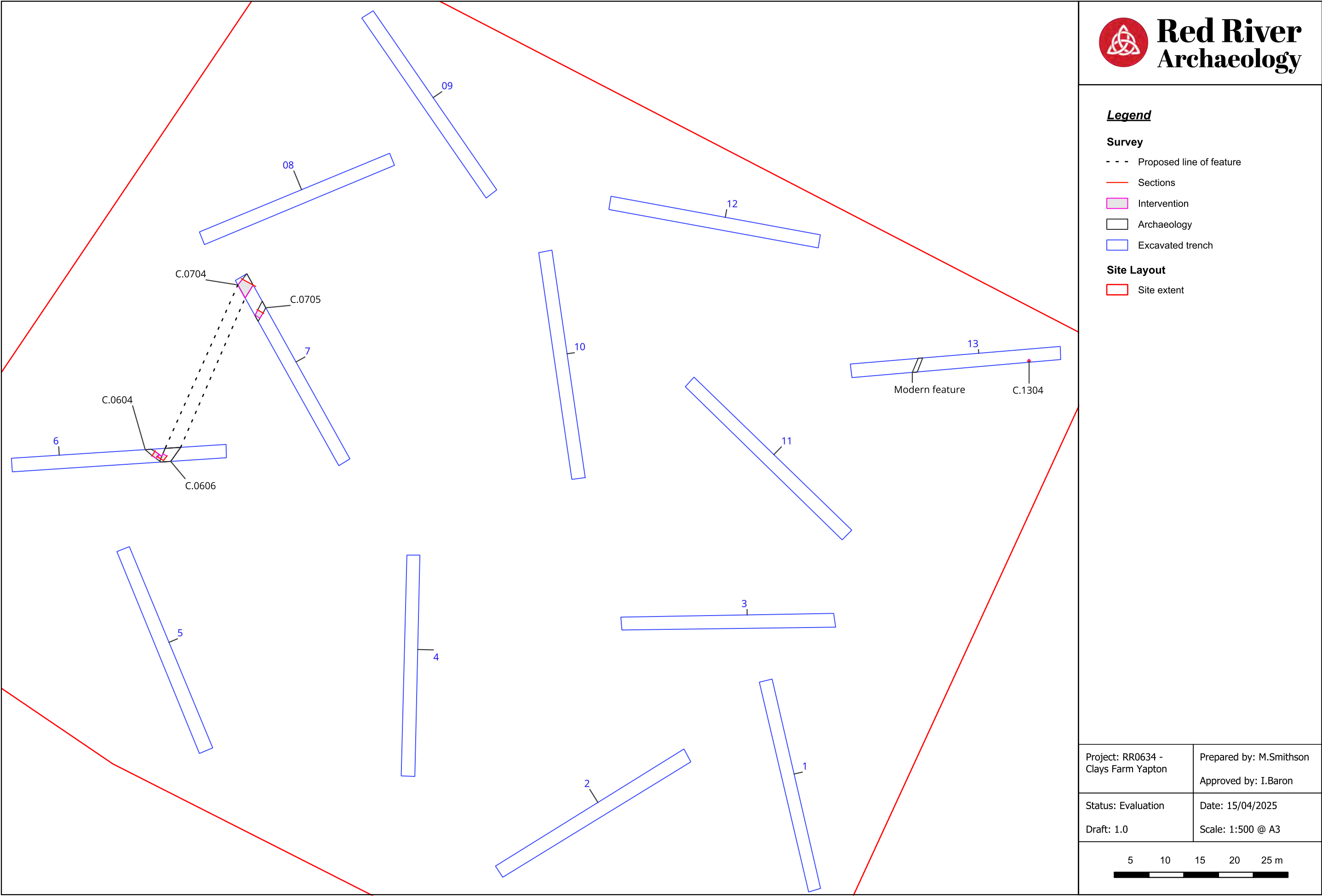


Figure 2 - Evaluation overview

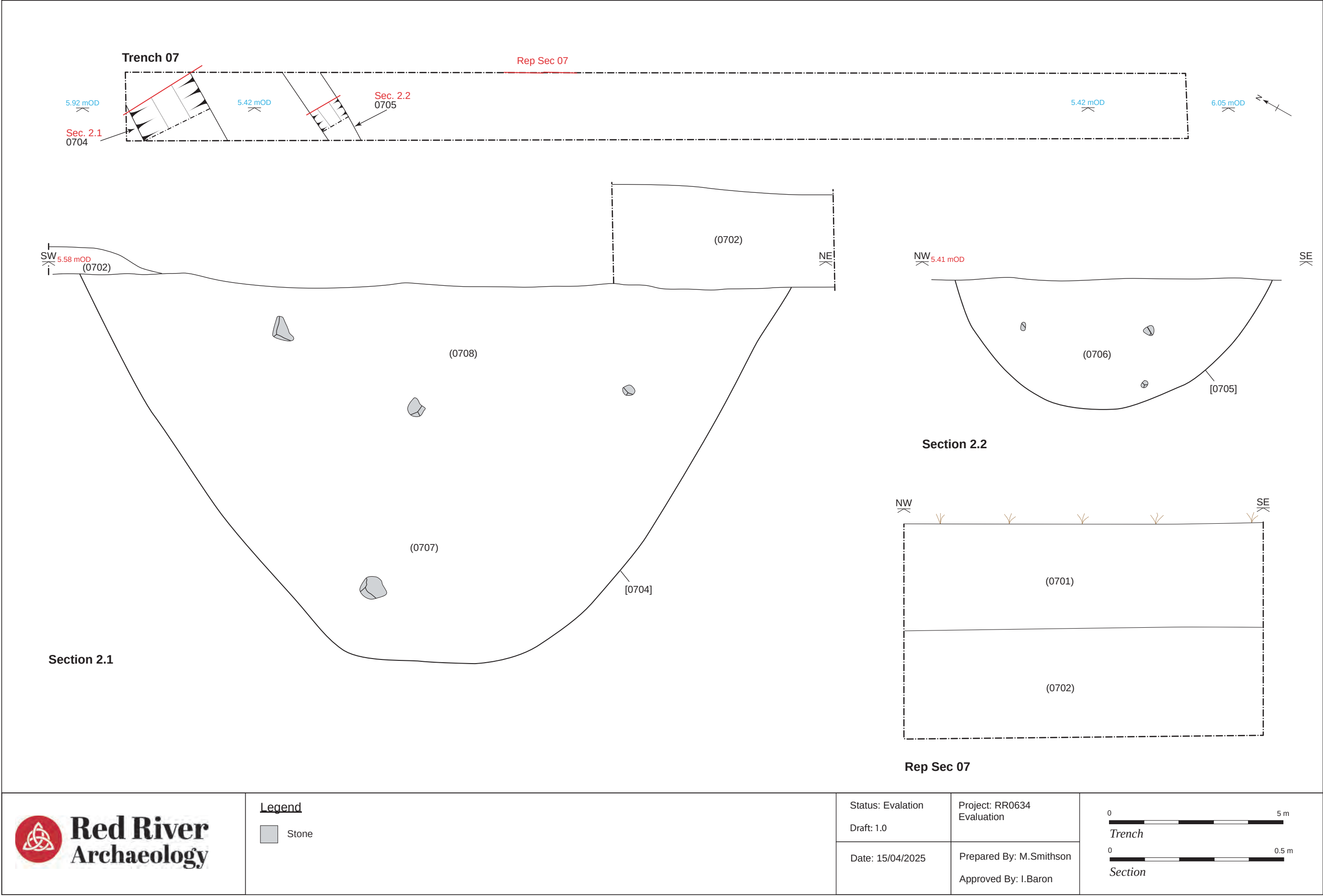


Figure 4 - Trench 7 plan with sections

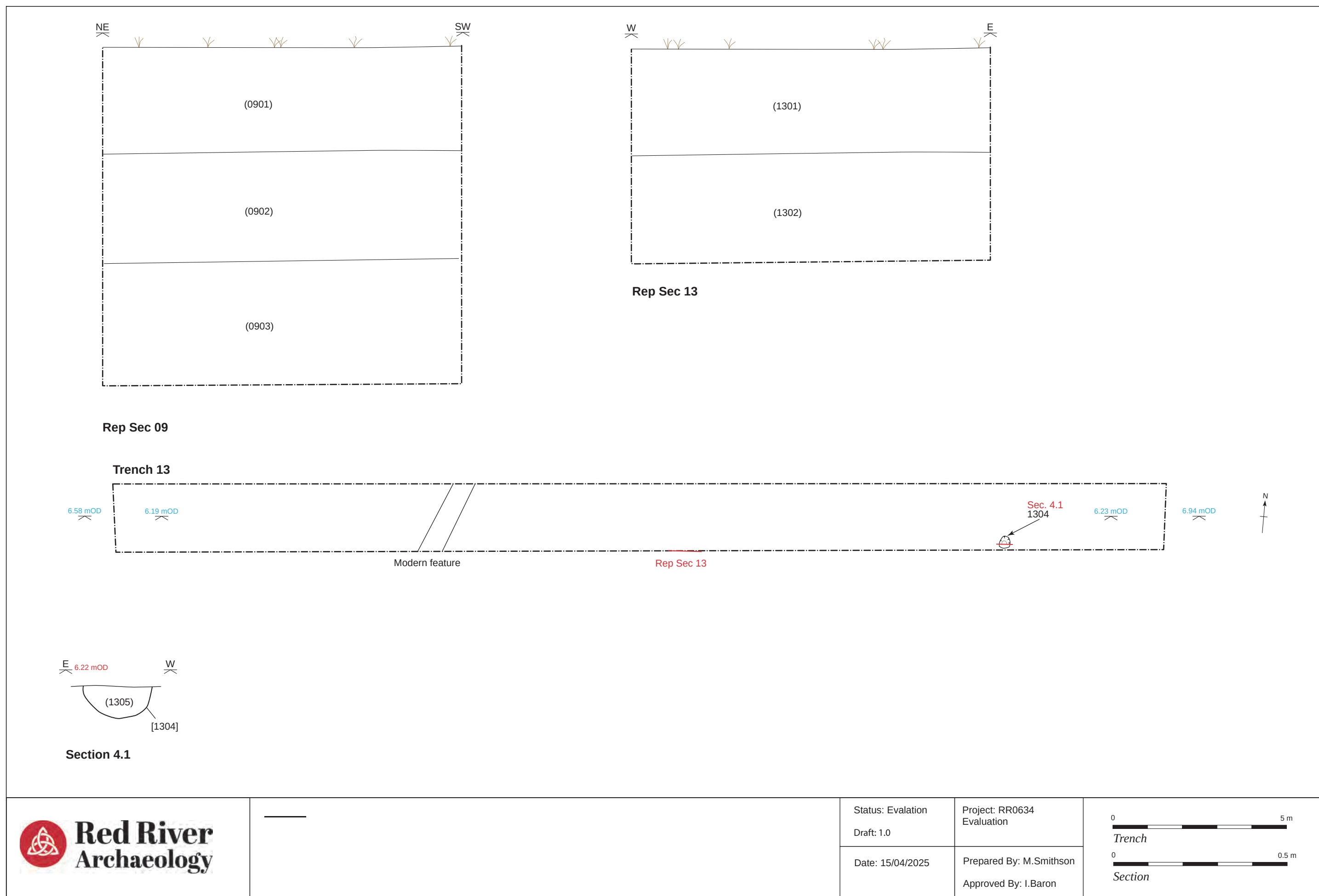




Plate 1 - Overview of Trench 1, facing north



Plate 2 - SW facing section of [0705]



Plate 3 - NW facing section [1304]



Plate 4 - Relationship slot [0604] + [0606], facing southeast



Plate 5 - Relationship slot [0604] + [0606], facing southwest

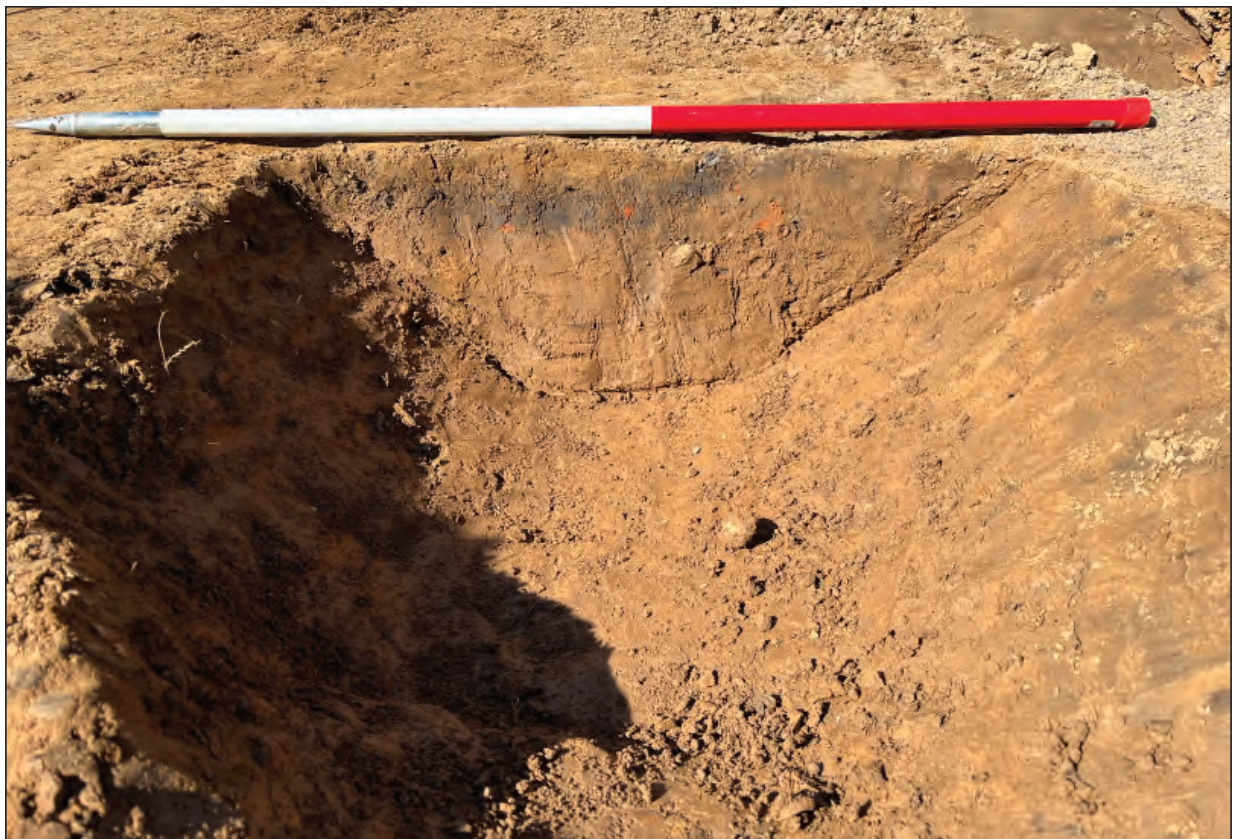


Plate 6 - SE facing section [0604]



Plate 7 - SW facing section [0704]