

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex

Site Code: PH-EV-17

NGR Site Centre: 541680 101969

Planning Application Number: LW/17/0226



Report for BDW Southern Counties Limited

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by BDW Southern Counties to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex. The archaeological works were monitored by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in April and May 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of seventeen trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology to a depth of approximately 0.5m (40-46m aOD). The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the presence of archaeological activity in the form of possible field systems and potential enclosures/droeways, dated to the Bronze Age, within the extents of the proposed development area. Archaeological features within positive trenches have been provisionally attributed to the prehistoric periods, ranging from the Early Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods. Possessing similar characteristics to remains recorded to the east, the alignments of identified linear features may suggest a continuation of the Middle Bronze Age-Late Bronze Age agrarian landscape recorded by Archaeology South East.

It has therefore been suggested that the proposed development may have an impact on archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with ESCC and local planning authority.

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Site Code: PH-EV-17

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by BDW Southern Counties to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex (**Figure 1**). A planning application (LW/17/0226) is pending consideration by Lewes District Council (LDC) for the development of the site. The planning application comprises the development of 143 dwellings (55 affordable), outline planning application for up to 307 dwellings (125 affordable), vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access, internal site roads, parking and public open space, including extension to Peacehaven Centenary Park, and landscaping.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource, the Archaeological Officer at East Sussex County Council (ESCC), who provides an advisory service to LDC, has requested that the programme of works comprising an archaeological evaluation followed by appropriate mitigation measures, if considered necessary. This follows the earlier submission of an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs Consulting Limited 2012) and subsequent Geophysical Survey (StrataScan 2017).

1.1.3 The site has been divided into five phases (SWAT Archaeology 2017: 1.2). This report details the results of the PHASE 1 evaluation only. Additional reports will be produced following additional phases of evaluation works.

1.1.4 The fieldwork was carried out between April 2017 and May 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2017), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Greg Chuter, the Archaeological Officer, at ESCC. A copy of the Specification is provided in Appendix 2.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 541680 101969, on the urban periphery of Peacehaven, East Sussex (Figure 1). Residential housing lies to the west, the Meridian Industrial Estate to the south and agricultural fields to the north and east of the proposed development area.

- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society (BGS (1:50000 map sheet 334), the site lies on Upper and Middle Chalk sealed by drift geology comprising both Clay with Flints and Head deposits.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised below.

- 2.1.2 The potential of this area has been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains. The archaeological record for the site include three Archaeological Notification Areas, one to the extreme north of the site with two others in close proximity (776 and 1228). A very substantial corpus of prehistoric finds and sites moving into the Bronze and Iron Age are known in the immediate vicinity of the site and field walking by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society revealed 'a medium scatter of Prehistoric flintwork (HER Ref: EES 14250; TQ 41700 01800).

- 2.1.3 The Historical Environment Record (HER) data maintained by ESCC has been summarised in a Desk-based Archaeological Assessment commissioned by the client from CgMs Consulting Limited, dated November 2012 (see below).

2.2 Archaeological Work on the Current Site

- 2.2.1 As part of the initial assessment of the site, an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was carried out by CgMs Consulting Limited (2012). The report concluded that the potential for archaeological remains dating the Roman and prehistoric periods were likely to be present and of local to regional importance.

- 2.2.2 A geophysical survey, conducted by Stratascan in January 2017, provided further evidence for the presence of archaeological remains on the proposed development site. The magnetometry survey concluded that 'several linear and curvilinear anomalies form a cluster of enclosures whose shape and form are clearly of archaeological interest; a few less well-defined responses could represent plough damaged ditches, which may have archaeological potential. Small ring-like anomalies are probably natural but given the nearby archaeological responses they have been classified as uncertain; the same applies to a narrow band which could be a driveway, or more probably a natural fissure in the chalk bedrock' (2017:1).

2.3 Archaeological Work Within the Surrounding Landscape

2.3.1 Directly adjacent and to the east a site measuring approximately 30.8 hectares in size was excavated and investigated by Archaeology South East, in advance for development (ASE 2010). The excavations recorded the presence of extensive prehistoric settlement including droveways and field systems, associated with the management of livestock, along with evidence for domestic settlement, including roundhouses and pottery manufacture dating between the Early Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. This continued into the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods where an extensive settlement enclosure provided a focal point for domestic and industrial use which phased out by the late 1st century AD.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (Appendix 2). These were to;

- *The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.*
- *To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.*
- *To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.*
- *The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography. Specific research questions that may be answered are to identify the archaeological anomalies highlighted by the recent geophysical survey. In general the work is to ensure compliance with the archaeological requirement from the East Sussex County Archaeologist that an archaeological evaluation to take place as a pre-planning requirement, and to publish the results either on line, or through OASIS and/or in a local journal.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2017: Section 2)

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of twenty evaluation trenches were proposed within the extents of the Site (Figure 2).

4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with ESCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.

- 4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.
- 4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of seventeen evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned in order to cover as many areas of the site as possible, whilst taking into consideration geophysical anomalies identified in the earlier survey. Individual trench results are discussed below.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil which overlay a subsoil which sealed the natural geology.
- 5.2.2 The topsoil (001) generally consisted of dark grey brown sandy clay, with moderate roots and occasional small stones which overlay a subsoil comprising a similar material with occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal (002). This sealed the natural geology which comprised intact Brickearth (003).
- 5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide site plans, Figures 3-9 illustrates individual trench plans, Figures 10-12 representative trench sections while Plates 1-10 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Negative trenches

- 5.3.1 Of the twenty trenches originally planned three trenches were not be excavated due to limitations of space (as agreed with ESCC). Trenches 1, 3, 4 (Plate 9), 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18 all 20 were all blank. The remaining six trenches had features of archaeological interest and are described in more detail below.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

- 5.3.2 Trench 2 was located within the northern extent of the site on a N-S alignment (Figure 3) and measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and 0.40m in depth (Figure 4).
- 5.3.3 An oval shaped pit [202], aligned E-W, was present at the northern extent of the trench and measured approximately 1.46m in length with a width of 0.80m and a depth of 0.40m (Figure 10 plan and Section 9). The single fill (210) of this feature comprised mid brown clayey silt. The pit was re-cut [214] by an irregular shaped feature that measured 0.80m x 0.50m x 0.34m and contained three distinct fills (Plate 1). The uppermost fill (212) comprised of grey-brown sandy silt that contained occasional charcoal. The secondary fill (213) <2> comprised of very dark grey-black sandy silt that contained frequent charcoal, burnt flint, burnt stone and produced worked flint. The fill encompassed a complete Bronze Age cremation urn. The primary fill (209) comprised light grey-brown silt.
- 5.3.4 Within the southern extent of Trench 2, a shallow, circular shaped pit [203] measured 1.40m x +0.80m, had a depth of approximately 0.15m. The slightly undulated profile (Figure 10, Section 1) gave way to a light yellow-brown sandy silt (208) fill, with occasional charcoal. Adjacent to this, linear feature [204] had a V shaped profile (Plate 2), was aligned E-W, with a width of 0.80m and depth of 0.54m (Figure 10, Section 3). The uppermost fill (205) comprised mid grey-brown silt that contained very occasional chalk pieces and produced worked flint. The secondary fill (206) consisted of mid brown clayey silt and the primary fill (207) comprised of mottled grey-brown and orange-brown lenses of silt.

Trench 7 (Figure 6)

- 5.3.5 Located approximately 20m to the west of Trench 2, within the northern extent of the site, Trench 7 contained two irregular shaped pits. The first pit [701] was aligned E-W, measured 1.80m x 1.20m x 0.50m and contained three fills (Plate 3). The uppermost fill (704) comprised light grey-brown silty sand, whereas the secondary fill (705) consisted of dark grey-brown silty sand. The primary fill (706) comprised light brown silty clay. The second pit (or possible post hole) [702] measured 0.25m x 0.25m and had a depth of 0.11m. The fill (703) consisted of light grey-brown silty sand. Both features were undated.

Trench 9 (Figure 7)

- 5.3.6 Within the western extent of the site, to the south of Trench 7, this trench was aligned E-W and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m. Two N-S aligned linear features were exposed in this trench; the first [901] was situated in the centre of the trench and had a V-shaped profile with a slight concave base (Plate 4). The ditch had a width of 0.89m, a depth of 0.50m and it contained a

fill (905) of mid grey-brown sandy silt. The second linear [902] was situated at the west end of the trench. It had wide U-shaped profile, a width of 1m, a depth of 0.30m and contained two fills. The uppermost fill (903) comprised dark grey-brown sandy silt that contained flint nodules, whereas the primary fill (904) consisted of light grey-brown sandy silt that also contained flint nodules. Both features were undated.

Trench 14 (Figure 8, Plate 10)

- 5.3.7 Located on the eastern extent of the site the trench measured 30.5m in length with a maximum depth of 0.6m. The trench was oriented E-W and revealed the presence of two linear features and three post holes.
- 5.3.8 The first linear feature [1401] was situated toward the east end and was aligned NW-SE (Plate 5). It had a wide U-shaped profile, a width of 1.20m, a depth of 0.65m and contained four distinct fills, three of which were contained by a possible bank (1416, Figure 11, Section 26). The uppermost fill (1412) comprised mid brown sandy silt that contained occasional flint nodules and produced pottery and worked flint provisionally dating the later filling of the ditch to the Late Bronze Age. The tertiary fill (1413) consisted of mid grey-brown sandy silt that contained very occasional flint nodules while the secondary fill (1414) comprised mid reddish-brown sandy silt that contained moderate flint nodules. The primary fill (1415) comprised of reddish-brown sandy clay that also contained occasional flint nodules. Layers (1414) and (1415) formed from the erosion of the possible bank. The bank was formed of a layer (1416) of reddish brown sandy clay, containing frequent flint nodules that overlaid an outcrop of chalk (1417). The similarity between the bank (1416) and the two lower fills (1414 & 1415) would seem to suggest an early phase of erosion whereby loose fill from the bank slipped into the adjacent ditch.
- 5.3.9 The second linear feature [1403] was situated at the western extent of the trench and was aligned N-S. With a U-shaped profile (Figure 11, Section 22), width of 1.50m and depth of 0.60m the feature contained three distinctive fills (Plate 7). The uppermost fill (1409) comprised light orange-brown sandy silt that contained occasional flint nodules. The secondary fill (1410) consisted of mid grey-brown sandy silt, whereas the primary fill (1411) was mid orange-brown sandy clay. This second linear feature was undated.
- 5.3.10 The three post holes were situated between the linear features (Figure 8). Post hole [1402] was circular (Plate 8), had a concave profile and had a diameter of 0.50m and a depth of 0.18m (Figure 11, Section 15). The fill (1405) comprised dark grey sandy silt that contained small chalk pieces and produced worked prehistoric flint (Figure 11, Section 17). Post hole [1404] was circular, had a concave profile, had a diameter of 0.42m and a depth of 0.18m (Plate 8). The fill (1406) was identical

to (1405) and it also produced worked flint. The third post hole [1407] was circular, had a concave profile (Figure 11, Section 19), a diameter of 0.42m and a depth of 0.20m. The fill (1408) was identical to (1405) and (1406). Post hole [1407] was undated.

Trench 15 (Figure 9)

- 5.3.11 Within the south-eastern corner of the site, Trench 15 was excavated on a E-W alignment and measured 30m in length with a maximum depth of 0.45m. At the western extent of the trench a single, oval shaped pit [1501] had a concave profile, length of 0.70m, a width of 0.60m and a depth of 0.17m. The undated fill (1502) comprised dark grey-brown silty clay.

Trench 19 (Figure 5)

- 5.3.12 Within the southern extent of the site, adjacent to the boundary, Trench 19 was excavated on a N-S alignment, measured 30.9m in length, 0.6m in depth and contained four linear features.

- 5.3.13 The terminus [1901] of a short linear feature [1912], aligned N-S had a U-shaped profile and had a length of 1.25m, a width of 0.60m and a depth of 0.20m (Figure 12, Section 36). The fill (1902) and (1919) comprised light grey-brown sandy silt. Forming part of a segmented field system, a second section to what was considered a contemporary feature, was observed 1m to the south. This second segment had a length of +0.80m, a width of +0.60m and had a depth of 0.36m. It contained an upper fill (1918) of mid brown sandy, clayey silt that contained occasional charcoal and a primary fill (1917) of light grey-brown sandy silt.

- 5.3.14 A stratigraphically later linear feature, [1910], cut the segmented ditch (Figure 12, Section 37). This linear was aligned E-W and had a narrow U-shaped profile with a width of 0.90m, a depth of 0.90m and two distinct fills. The latest fill (1914), possibly in a re-cut, comprised mottled mid brown and pale grey silt lenses that contained occasional charcoal and produced pottery and worked flint. The primary, perhaps original single fill (1913) comprised multi coloured lenses of sand and silt that produced pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age.

- 5.3.15 Within the centre of the trench linear feature [1903] was aligned E-W and had a wide, shallow U-shaped profile. It had a width of 0.80m, a depth of 0.13m and contained an undated fill (1904) of mid grey-brown clayey silt.

- 5.3.16 Linear feature [1905] was situated at the southern end of the trench. Aligned E-W, it had a wide U-shaped profile and had a width of 1.20m and a depth of 0.48m (Figure 12, Section 33). The ditch contained an upper fill (1907) of mid-light brown sandy clay and a primary fill (1906) of dark grey-brown sandy, silty clay. The uppermost layer, and the overlying subsoil were truncated by a modern linear feature [1908].

6 FINDS

6.1 Quantification of Archaeological Material

6.1.1 Finds comprised of 176 sherds of pottery (from features [1401] and [1910]), 28 pieces of worked flint (from features [214], [1401], [1402], [1404] and [1910]) and a ceramic cremation vessel from feature [214]. An assessment for each material type is provided below.

6.2 Lithic Assessment

6.2.1 An assemblage of 28 pieces of worked flint, weighing 304gms, from six contexts was received for assessment (Table 1). The assessment comprised a visual inspection of the flint in each bag by eye. The number of pieces of worked flint was counted and sorted by type, noting the technological attributes and extent of any retouch. Terminology is after Butler (2005). Details were also noted regarding the range and variety of pieces, their general condition, and the potential for further detailed analysis. Non-worked flints that had been collected were discarded at this stage. An archive of the assemblage was produced, comprising a full written listing by context.

Type	No
Hard hammer-struck flakes	1
Soft hammer-struck flakes	11
Soft hammer-struck blades	3
Soft hammer-struck bladelet	1
Soft hammer-struck axe thinning flake	1
Blade fragments	3
Bladelet fragments	2
Fragments	4
End scraper	1
Notched flake	1
Total	28

Table 1 *The Flintwork Assemblage*

6.2.2 The flint is mostly a light grey patinated raw material, with small numbers of mottled grey and dark grey coloured material, with just two pieces having a light blue-grey patination. Cortex where present is mostly a smooth buff coloured, although two pieces have a rougher beach pebble type of cortex. The raw material appears to be of a good quality, with few obvious flaws.

- 6.2.3 The assemblage is dominated by soft hammer-struck pieces, including flakes, blades and bladelets, with many of the flakes having blade-like attributes. Many of the pieces also have some evidence for platform preparation. One of the blades is also fire-fractured.
- 6.2.4 Where evident, many of the pieces have flake scars on their dorsal surface consistent with a systematic knapping strategy, with removals from one or two platforms, few have hinge fractures.
- 6.2.5 Although some of the pieces may have been utilised, only two pieces appear to have been modified for use as tools. An unstratified end scraper is manufactured on a hard hammer-struck flake, with abrupt retouch around its distal end and partly along one edge near the distal end. A soft hammer-struck flake from Context (1412)/[1401] has a small notch along one of its lateral edges, which appears to have been purposely created.
- 6.2.6 The only other piece of interest is a soft hammer-struck axe thinning flake from (1405)/[1402] with a distinctive curved profile and regular removals struck from the same edge on its dorsal surface, the flake terminates abruptly suggesting it had reached the opposing edge of the roughout.
- 6.2.7 The flintwork assemblage, with a predominance of soft hammer-struck bladelike debitage, evidence of systematic knapping strategies and platform preparation suggests a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date range, although most of the flintwork appears to be in residual contexts. However, the lack of any real diagnostic pieces, and the large size of most of the debitage, hints at either a transitional assemblage or an Early Neolithic date for most pieces. This would be consistent with many other groups of flintwork that have come from the local area in recent years.

6.3 Ceramic Assessment

Introduction

- 6.3.1 The prehistoric pottery assemblage from PH-EVAL-17 consists of 176 sherds with a weight of just over two kilograms (Table 2). Most are heavily weathered. Two traditions and two period groups are represented: Deverel-Rimbury, dated at PH-Eval-17 to the end of the Middle Bronze Age (perhaps c. 1200BC), and post Deverel-Rimbury, dated at PH-Eval-17 to the Late Bronze Age (c. 950–800BC). This attribution is based both on the fabrics and forms present. The assemblage from (213)/[214] includes both Deverel-Rimbury and post Deverel-Rimbury pottery. The assemblages from the other features are most likely wholly post Deverel-Rimbury.

The Deverel-Rimbury pottery

- 6.3.2 Dominating the assemblage are 140 sherds from a single coarsely flint tempered, open-mouthed, bucket shaped urn of generic Deverel-Rimbury type. It had a plain squared rim and two horizontal bosses approximately 9cm below the rim and was approximately 28cm in diameter. Its late dating

(the Deverel-Rimbury tradition in the southeast first appears at least 300 hundred years earlier) at PH-Eval-17 is suggested by its thin body, a characteristic often associated with the post Deverel-Rimbury tradition, and its flint and grog tempered fabric, which in East Sussex, is currently best paralleled in a transitional Deverel-Rimbury/ post Deverel-Rimbury assemblage (from Beddingham Roman Villa).

- 6.3.3 The urn's state of preservation and spatial isolation, assuming there is no functional relationship between it and the later pottery with which it was found, is wholly consistent with the excavator's interpretation of it as a cinerary urn.

Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery

- 6.3.4 The post Deverel-Rimbury assemblage is much smaller but more diverse, comprising nine different fabrics, including fine, medium and coarse wares, from the same number of, or possibly even more pots. Its attribution is based on the fabric suites comprising the assemblages from [1401]/(1412) and [1910], which are characteristic of the tradition locally, and two bowl forms, one hemispherical and one bi-partite, distinguishable amongst the sherds from (213)/[214], which are also characteristic of the tradition. Owing to the small size of the assemblage and the restricted range of feature sherds present, it is not possible to place it precisely within the tradition, but, viewed as a group, the large number of very different fabrics would recommend a middle or late phase attribution for it over an early one. There is no possibility of an overlap between it and the Deverel-Rimbury pottery with which it was associated.

- 6.3.5 The group stands out for two reasons — firstly, the fabric suite from (213)/[214] is not typical of the tradition locally, indeed, fabric CQ, from which the bi-partite bowl was fashioned, is a first for the area; and secondly, the assemblage as a whole includes an oddly high proportion of fine wares and distinguishably small vessels. These very likely have implications in terms of the site's social relationships, pottery procurement strategies and role during the Late Bronze Age. As it stands, however, the assemblage is too small to make much of interpretatively.

Interpretative importance

- 6.3.6 Beyond the observations made above, and the contextualization of these in terms of their feature relationships, the present assemblage has no potential interpretatively. But where there is one cinerary urn, there are very likely more, while a larger assemblage of post Deverel-Rimbury pottery from the site would very likely illuminate the issues raised by the post Deverel-Rimbury assemblage's atypical composition. From a ceramic point of view, therefore, further investigation of the site, if not of the present assemblage, would be welcomed.

Cut	Fill	No of sherds	Weight in grams	Fabrics	Other diagnostics	Pottery tradition	Spot date	Comments
214	213	140	1920	CF1	large, relatively thin-bodied DR-type open mouthed bucket-shaped urn with 2 horizontal bosses and plain squared rim	DR	MBA	Thin body and grog inclusions suggest a later, rather than earlier DR attribution
		16	70	CF2	small, possibly hemispherical bowl with plain squared rim	PDR	LBA	All the fabrics represented are possible within the PDR tradition locally but collectively they form an atypical suite for the region
		3	20	GQ	rim and side of small PDR-type hemispherical bowl with flat-topped, slightly internally expanded rim			
		2	10	Q FMF	Q burnished			
		1	5	CQ	possible rim and neck of PDR-type bipartite bowl. Very soft fabric	(?) PDR	ND	Fabric CQ has no PDR parallels locally known to the specialist
1401	1412	6	30	FFQ x 1 FMF x 1 MF x 1 DS x 3	FFQ burnished	PDR	LBA	Typical PDR fabric suite
1910	1913	1	5	MF	none	PDR	LBA	While some sherds from 1910 could be DR, the suite as a whole is more characteristic of the PDR tradition
	1914	3	8	MF	burnished	PDR	LBA	
	1916	1	5	MCF	plain rounded rim	DR or PDR	MBA or LBA	
		3	15	MF x 2 CF1 x 1	none			
<p>Key</p> <p>Fabrics (in order of appearance in table): CF1 = coarse flint tempered fabric with grog and iron oxide inclusions (more densely tempered than CF2); CF2 = sparse coarse flint tempered fabric; GQ = fine sandy grog tempered fabric; Q = soft sandy fabric (like FFQ without the flint); FMF = fine to medium flint tempered fabric; CQ = medium to coarse sandy fabric; FFQ sandy sparse fine flint tempered fabric; FMF = fine to medium flint tempered fabric; MF = medium flint tempered fabric; DS = (decalcified) shelly fabric; MCF = medium to coarse flint tempered fabric</p> <p>Traditions: DR = Deverel-Rimbury; PDR = post Deverel-Rimbury</p>								

Table 2 Prehistoric pottery from Peacehaven PH-EVAL-17

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This report will describe the contents of two whole earth 'bulk' soil samples for flotation taken during the 2017 evaluation at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex. The excavation of fifteen evaluation trenches revealed drift geology (clay with flints and undifferentiated head deposits) and archaeological features that comprised of a series of linear field systems, pits, postholes and at least one cremation burial (SWAT Archaeology 2017).
- 7.1.2 Two samples were recorded as being taken during excavations by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) and both were presented for processing and assessment.
- 7.1.3 Both samples were taken from trench 2 (SWAT Archaeology 2017). Sample <1> was taken from pit [203] that contained a light yellow-brown sandy silt (208) in which charcoal was visible (ibid). Sample <2> was taken from the secondary fill of an irregular feature [214] that re-cut a pit. The sampled fill (213) comprised of very dark grey-black sandy silt that contained frequent charcoal, burnt flint and worked flint and encompassed a completed cremation urn believed to be Bronze Age (ibid). The sampling record for sample <2> states that a quernstone fragment was found beneath the urn in fill (213).
- 7.1.4 This report will assess the type and quality of preservation of organic remains in these samples and consider their potential and significance for further analysis.

7.2 Methods

- 7.2.1 Sampling was and processing carried out by the SWAT Archaeology team. The samples were processed using a recycling flotation tank with a 1mm mesh for the residue and 250-micron mesh sieve for the flot. 40 litres of soil were sampled and completely processed.
- 7.2.2 After processing the residue and flot were air dried. Sample <1> did not produce flot. Once with the author the residue was sorted (larger fraction by naked eye and smaller fraction in der a microscope) and the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each residue and flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

7.3 Results

Biases in Recovery, Residuality, Contamination

- 7.3.1 The sample sheets do not note any biases in recovery, residuality of contamination. The most productive sample, sample <2> was taken from the middle fill of the feature. Root action and terrestrial mollusca were seen in this sample, both can be indicative of bioturbation and aeration of the soil.
- 7.3.2 Conditions like these tend to provide preservation conditions best suited to robust plant material such as those evident here, such as charred plant remains and uncharred plant remains with robust testas.
- 7.3.3 Sample <1> did not produce a flot. This is a rare occurrence. The only plant remain in the residue was one small fragment of charcoal.

Quality and type of preservation.

- 7.3.4 The plant macro-remains in sample <2> were preserved by charring. Charring of plant macrofossils occurs when plant material is heated under ‘...reducing conditions...’ where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2) leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (English Heritage 2011,17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).
- 7.3.5 The dried waterlogged/desiccated seeds were present only as testas and endocarps so could be archaeological, but they could also be intrusive from more recent contexts.
- 7.3.6 No mineralised or waterlogged plant remains were found.

The Plant Remains (see Table 2)

- 7.3.7 Charcoal fragments were abundant, many of these were of identifiable size. Charred cereal grains were found in moderate quantities. They were identifiable as wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). No cereal chaff was found so identification to genus will have to rely on grain morphology alone. A charred buttercup-type (*Ranunculus* sp.) seed was present. Charred nutshell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.) present in moderate quantities.
- 7.3.8 Low numbers of seeds of ruderal plants were found, such as fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.). All seeds came from native plants.

Sample	Fill	Cut	Sample description	Bulk sample volume (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Charred grains			Charred seeds			Charred nutshell	Charred wood	Charred wood	Dried waterlogged Seeds			Modern	Details - main and significant taxa
						a	d	p	a	d	p	a	a	a	a	d	p	a	
1	208	203	pit	14	NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	no flot produced
2	213	214	cremation fill	26	300	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	3	2	1	3	3	moderate quantities of charred grains and nutshell

Table 3 Plant Remains

Key: ab = abundance [1=occasional 1-10, 2=moderate 11-100 and 3= abundant >100; div = diversity [1=low 1-4 taxa types, 2=moderate 5-10, 3= high; pres= preservation [1 = poor (family level only), 2= moderate (genus), 3= good (species identification possible)

The Faunal Remains

7.3.9 This is not a zoo-archaeological report. Quantities and apparent diversity will be commented on here. Any identifications should be considered provisional until examined by a zoo-archaeologist. Only sample <2> contained faunal remains. These consisted of abundant quantities of terrestrial mollusca and low numbers of puparia. No fragments of cremated bone were present.

The Inorganic Remains

7.3.10 48 potsherds were found in sample <2>. This sample also contained 300ml of CBM, 200 ml of burnt flint and 25ml of magnetic material. Sample <1> contained no artefactual inorganic remains. Fragments of angular and rounded unburnt flint were present in both samples

7.4 Significance, Potential and Recommendations

Significance

7.4.1 A detailed environmental analysis of faunal and archaeobotanical remains from Lower Hoddern Farm was carried out for Archaeology South East in 2010 (Allot 2010). Allot's samples produced a range of cereal grains, chaff, seeds and charcoal taxa in samples in a variety of features dating from prehistoric to Early Roman periods and several charred plant remains were submitted for radiocarbon dating so this evidence will be very useful to compare with any further work on this sample or at the site (ibid.).

7.4.2 The charred assemblage in sample <2> is interesting because it is in the fill surrounding a cremation urn so likely to be prehistoric. Further analysis of this sample would fulfil 2008 SERF seminar recommendations for the focus of future archaeobotanical research for South-Eastern England.

7.4.3 For the Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (3000 - 1500 cal. BC)

7.4.4 Increased awareness of problems of intrusive cereal remains, and targeting well-sealed deposits containing cereal remains for radiocarbon dating, in order to provide more secure evidence for this apparent change and investigate it further.

Potential

7.4.5 Sample <2> has the potential to provide information about crop use and burial practices and shows that charred plant remains do survive in this part of the site. Future work at Lower Hoddern Farm should consider the extensive findings may by Archaeology South East and samples should be taken because they have the potential to be as productive as those taken in 2010.

Recommendations

7.4.6 It is clear, from the finds in sample <2> and the work carried out by Archaeology South East that charred plant remains survive at Lower Hoddern Farm and that they provide an important insight into prehistoric and Early Roman activity in Sussex. Further work at the site should continue with bulk environmental sampling of a variety of feature types.

Acknowledgements

7.4.7 Thanks are due to Dr Paul Wilkinson and Mr Simon Holmes for provision of background information and for access to the site archive.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Archaeological Narrative

- 8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Lower Hoddern Farm in Peacehaven, East Sussex, has demonstrated the presence of archaeological activity in the form of possible field systems and potential enclosures/droeways, dated to the Bronze Age, within the extents of the proposed development area.
- 8.1.2 The natural geology was encountered at an average depth of approximately 0.5m below the existing ground surface (40-46m aOD), directly underlying a subsoil sealed by the existing topsoil. Rapid cartographic regression suggests that the site has been relatively undisturbed throughout the past 150 years, confirmed during the evaluation, as any modern truncation was limited low impact access routes and rooting.
- 8.1.3 Archaeological features within positive trenches have been provisionally attributed to the prehistoric periods, ranging from the Early Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods. Possessing similar characteristics to remains recorded to the east, the alignments of identified linear features may suggest a continuation of the Middle Bronze Age-Late Bronze Age agrarian landscape recorded by Archaeology South East. There was little on the current site to suggest domestic settlement, although the presence of a cremation burial is significant. Unlike the adjacent site, Neolithic remains were not encountered.
- 8.1.4 The geophysical survey, carried out by Stratascan, suggested the presence of a potential droeway, which was confirmed and recorded in Trench 14. In addition, areas of magnetic response may relate in intense burning, i.e. additional cremation deposits. The presence of confirmed archaeological features within 'blank' geophysical areas would also suggest that positive features identified to the south (Stratascan 2017: Figure 4) may also extend into the current site.
- 8.1.5 With no known modern high impact activity being recorded within the site extents it is plausible to suggest that extensive prehistoric settlement may be present within the extents of the proposed development site. Such settlement patterns offer an extension to the distribution of previously recorded archaeological sites within the surrounding area, in particular the process of nucleated settlement evolving during the Bronze Age as identified within the adjacent site.
- 8.1.6 In the event that finished ground levels remain constant, the depth of impact associated with future development is likely to require the excavation of material exceeding 0.50m in depth. In the absence of ground raising, proposed impacts to archaeological deposits throughout the site are expected.

8.2 Conclusions

8.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives of the Specification. It is suggested that development proposals are likely to impact on archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with ESCC and local planning authority.

8.2.2 This evaluation has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer (ESCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 General

9.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

10.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank BDW Southern Counties Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Chris Greatorex Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council, for his assistance and advice.

10.1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Scott Skinner, Dan Latus, Dan Quinlan, Jim Quinlan and Dan Worsley. Site survey and illustrations were produced by 'Digitise This' and Bartek Cichy. Illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Specialist assessments were carried out by Mike Seager, Luke Barber and Lisa Gray. Scott Skinner produced the draft text for this report which was edited by David Britchfield (MCIfA). The project was managed by Dr. Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

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12 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.55m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 46.96 m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 47.22 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.20
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.20-0.40
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.40+
101	Modern test pit	Modern	-
102	Natural undulation within 002	Natural	-

Trench 2	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.40m deep, NNW-SSE aligned Ground Level at N end: 46.48 m aOD Ground Level at S end: 45.56 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.16
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.16-0.36
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.36+
201	Modern test pit		-
202	Pit filled by 209 and 210	Pit	-
203	Pit filled by 208	Pit	-
204	Ditch filled by 205, 206 and 207	Ditch	-
205	Mid grey-brown silt that contained very occasional chalk pieces and produced worked flint	Fill of 204	-
206	Mid brown clayey silt	Fill of 204	-
207	Primary fill comprised of mottled grey-brown and orange-brown lenses of silt.	Fill of 204	-
208	Light yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal	Fill of 203	-
209	Light grey-brown silt	Fill of 202	-
210	Mid brown clayey silt	Fill of 202	-
211	NOT USED		-
212	Grey-brown sandy silt that contained occasional charcoal		-

213	Very dark grey-black sandy silt that contained frequent charcoal, burnt flint, burnt stone and produced worked flint	Fill of Cremation 214	-
214	Pit filled by 213	Cut for cremation	-

Trench 3	Dimensions: 29.7m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 45.68 m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 45.65 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.24
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.24-0.42
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.42+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.40m deep, NNW-SSE aligned Ground Level at N end: 45.82 m aOD Ground Level at S end: 44.97 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.30
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.30-0.51
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.51+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.50m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 44.09 m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 44.55 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.22
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.22-0.45
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.45+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.55m deep, NNW-SSE aligned Ground Level at N end: 44.88 m aOD Ground Level at S end: 43.32 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.17
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.17-0.30

003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.30+
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Trench 7	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 45.92 m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 45.87 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.17
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.17-0.33
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.33+
701	Pit filled by 704, 705 and 706	Pit	-
702	Pit filled by 703	Pit	-
703	Light grey-brown silty sand	Fill of 702	-
704	Light grey-brown silty sand	Fill of 701	-
705	Dark grey-brown silty sand	Fill of 701	-
706	Light brown silty clay	Fill of 701	-

Trench 8	Dimensions: Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	NOT EXCAVATED		
002			
003			

Trench 9	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 45.05 m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 45.27 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.26
002	Not present	Subsoil	-
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.26+
901	Ditch filled by 905	Ditch	-
902	Ditch filled by 903 and 904	Ditch	-
903	Dark grey-brown sandy silt that contained flint nodules	Fill of 902	-
904	Light grey-brown sandy silt that also contained flint nodules	Fill of 902	-

905	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of 901	-
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Trench 10	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.40m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 44.42 m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 43.66 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.15
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.15-0.33
003	Orange brown mottled sandy clay	Natural	0.33+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, NNW-SSE aligned Ground Level at N end: 42.83 m aOD Ground Level at S end: 41.71 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.20
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.20-0.40
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.40+

Trench 12	Dimensions: Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	NOT EXCAVATED		
002			
003			

Trench 13	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 42.63m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 43.68 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.24
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.15-0.26
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.26+

Trench 14	Dimensions: 30.5m x 1.8m, 0.6m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 41.82m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 42.44 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.20
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.20-0.35
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.35+
1401	Ditch filled with 1412, 1413, 1414 and 1415	Ditch	-
1402	Pit filled by 1405	Pit	-
1403	Ditch filled by 1409, 1410, 1411 and	Ditch	-
1404	Pit filled by 1406	Pit	-
1405	Dark grey sandy silt that contained small chalk pieces and produced worked prehistoric flint	Fill of 1402	-
1406	Dark grey sandy silt that contained small chalk pieces	Fill of 1404	-
1407	Pit filled by 1408	Pit	-
1408	Dark grey sandy silt that contained small chalk pieces	Fill of 1407	-
1409	Light orange-brown sandy silt that contained occasional flint nodules	Fill of 1403	-
1410	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of 1403	-
1411	Mid orange-brown sandy clay	Fill of 1403	-
1412	Mid brown sandy silt that contained occasional flint nodules and produced pottery and worked flint	Fill of 1401	-
1413	Mid grey-brown sandy silt that contained very occasional flint nodules	Fill of 1401	-
1414	Mid reddish-brown sandy silt that contained moderate flint nodules	Fill of 1401	--
1415	Reddish-brown sandy clay that also contained occasional flint nodules	Fill of 1401	-
1416	Reddish brown sandy clay, containing frequent flint nodules	Bank	-
1417	Chalk	Bank	-

Trench 15	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 41.4m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 41.2 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.10
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.10-0.30
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.30+
1501	Pit filled by 1502	Pit	-
1502	Dark grey-brown silty clay	Fill of 1501	-

Trench 16	Dimensions: Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	NOT EXCAVATED		
002			
003			

Trench 17	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, NNW-SSE aligned Ground Level at N end: 42.26 m aOD Ground Level at S end: 41.75 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots.	Topsoil	0.00-0.25
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.25-0.40
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.40+

Trench 18	Dimensions: 31.5m x 1.8m, 0.45m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 43.55m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 42.02 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots.	Topsoil	0.00-0.16
002	Dark grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.16-0.35
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.35+

Trench 19	Dimensions: 30.9m x 1.8m, 0.6m deep, NNW-SSE aligned Ground Level at N end: 44.42 m aOD Ground Level at S end: 43.71 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots.	Topsoil	0.00-0.20
002	No present	Subsoil	-
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.20+
1901	Ditch filled by 1902. Same as 1912	Ditch	
1902	Light grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of 1901	
1903	Ditch filled by 1904	Ditch	
1904	Mid grey-brown clayey silt	Fill of 1903	
1905	Ditch filled by 1906 and 1907	Ditch	
1906	dark grey-brown sandy, silty clay	Fill of ditch 1905	
1907	mid-light brown sandy clay	Fill of ditch 1905	
1908	Linear (modern)	Linear (modern)	
1909	Fill of modern linear	Fill of 1908	
1910	Ditch filled by 1913 and 1914	Ditch	
1911	Ditch filled by 1917 and 1918	Ditch	
1912	Ditch filled by 1919. Same as 1901	Ditch	
1913	Multi coloured lenses of sand and silt that produced pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age	Fill of ditch 1910	
1914	Mottled mid brown and pale grey silt lenses that contained occasional charcoal and produced pottery and worked flint	Fill of ditch 1910	
1915	Ditch fill (same feature as 1910)	No recorded cut	
1916	Ditch fill (same feature as 1910)	No recorded cut	
1917	Light grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of 1911	
1918	Mid brown sandy, clayey silt that contained occasional charcoal	Fill of 1911	
1919	Light grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of 1912	

Trench 20	Dimensions: 30.6m x 1.8m, 0.55m deep, WSW-ENE aligned Ground Level at WSW end: 44.45m aOD Ground Level at ENE end: 44.82 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate roots.	Topsoil	0.00-0.20

002	No present	Subsoil	-
003	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.20+

SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LOWER HODDERN FARM, PEACEHAVEN, EAST SUSSEX.

Development by BDW Southern Counties Ltd.

1 Introduction and Summary

- 1.1 Barratt Homes Ltd are currently making preparations for the development of land at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven (TQ 416 019). A planning application for the proposed development has been submitted to Lewes District Council (LW/17/0226). For a full planning application for the development of 143 dwellings (55 affordable) and outline planning application for up to 307 dwellings (125 affordable), vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access, internal site roads, parking and public open space, including extension to Peacehaven Centenary Park, and landscaping, all matters other than access reserved at Lower Hoddern Farm, Hoddern Farm Lane, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8AP.
- 1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource and in accordance with the provisions of National Planning Policy 2012 and the Lewes District Local Plan (March 2003), Barratt Homes Ltd intend to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluations of the proposed development site (Phases 1-5) to be able to inform the East Sussex County Archaeologist of the extent and importance of any buried archaeological remains. The archaeological works are to be monitored by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.
- 1.3 The present specification seeks to provide a programme and methodology for undertaking the initial evaluation followed setting out the objectives, the standards to be attained and the format for reporting through to publication. The archaeological works are being undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any buried archaeological features and deposits that may be present within the proposed development area (PDA).
- 1.4 All archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI and the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) procedural documents of which Dr Paul Wilkinson is a Corporate Member (MCIfA). In addition English Heritage guidelines and the Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork in East Sussex (ESCC 2015) will be adhered to.

2 Archaeological Potential and Objectives

- 2.1 17 evaluation trenches to be dug 1.9m wide by 25m lengths and arranged in a pattern across the site of the development (Phase 1), distance between trenches should be no greater than 10m and cover 5% of the area of interest, as shown on the attached drawing (Fig. 1). The total area of the proposed Phase 1 evaluation is 22,400 sq m. This work will be conducted in one phase with additional phases to be sequential with the proposed building programme. In addition a metal detector survey will be undertaken under archaeological constraints prior to the archaeological investigation outlined in this WSI.
- 2.2 The archaeological record for the site include three Archaeological Notification Areas, one to the extreme north of the site with two others in close proximity (776 and 1228). The archaeological potential is highlighted in the Archaeological Desk based Assessment (CgMS November 2012) and is unnecessary to repeat here. However, a very substantial corpus of Prehistoric finds and sites moving into the Bronze and Iron Age are known in the immediate vicinity of the PDA and field walking on the site by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society revealed 'a medium scatter of Prehistoric flintwork (HER Ref: EES 14250; TQ 41700 01800).
- 2.3 The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the Prehistoric period in the region (Booth 2013).
- 2.4 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record. The Historical Environment Record (HER) data maintained by ESCC has been summarised in a Desk-based Archaeological Assessment commissioned by the client from CgMS dated November 2012. In addition a Geophysical Survey was commissioned from Stratascan in January 2017.
- 2.5 The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.
- 2.6 To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.
- 2.7 To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- 2.8 The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography. Specific research questions that may be answered are to identify the archaeological anomalies highlighted by the recent geophysical survey. In general the work is to ensure compliance with the archaeological requirement from the East Sussex County Archaeologist that an archaeological evaluation to take place as a pre-planning requirement, and to publish the results either on line, or through OASIS and/or in a local journal.

3 Methodology

- 3.2 Mechanical excavation will be limited to the removal of topsoil/overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface whichever is the higher. The underlying surface is anticipated to be the Upper and Middle Chalk Deposits with outcrops of Woolwich Beds in the NE, NW and S of the PDA. Following the mechanical clearance of overburden, excavation in all instances will be undertaken by hand. The evaluation trenches will be hand cleaned using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool and any archaeological features exposed mapped, recorded and photographed. If necessary, hand recovery of cultural material will be augmented by wet or dry screening of 100-200 litre control samples through 10mm mesh. On site screening will not preclude the taking of other bulk soil samples for off-site screening.
- 3.3 Archaeological features in the evaluation trenches will generally only be sampled to elucidate the stratigraphic sequence and secure datable materials for assessment. Full excavation will not be undertaken at this stage. Should burials be encountered these will not be excavated.
- 3.4 Care will be taken not to damage archaeological deposits or structures by unnecessary excavation. In particular the underlying strata are not to be reduced to more clearly expose anticipated archaeological features.
- 3.5 A soil sampling programme for bulk screening, palaeo-environmental analysis, and soil micromorphology is to be undertaken if suitable deposits are identified from which data can be retrieved.
- 3.6 Generally, bulk soil samples and sub-samples will be taken from the unexcavated fills of all archaeological features for bulk screening, palaeoenvironmental analysis and soil micromorphology. In addition, further soil samples will be taken where required in the form of monolith samples. The stratigraphic position of such samples will be fully recorded. The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed with reference to English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology (English Heritage 2011), and waterlogged wood (English Heritage 2010a) and will comply with the Sussex Archaeological Standards 2015. Bulk samples will be collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, and sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits.

If human remains are found, work will cease and all necessary statutory provisions followed. The ESCC Archaeologist and the client will be informed immediately. Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 (amended 2003), shall be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer (based at Barbican House Museum, Lewes). Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the landowner and the ESCC Archaeologist will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the County Archaeologist of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto a site plan). Soil samples (generally of 40 litres where possible or 100% of the context if smaller) will be taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal

and amphibian bone, and small artifacts. Specialist samples may also be taken to target recovery of pollen (using monolith tins), fish and small bone, molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects (in small <20 litre samples) or large mammal bones and marine molluscs (in samples of 80-100 litres).

- 4.1 A general site safety strategy will be agreed, if necessary in writing, and implemented prior to the commencement of all fieldworks, to include if necessary a risk assessment, a methods statement, safety plans and procedures for safety inspections and the reporting of accidents. Safety procedures are to follow the guidelines established by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in: *Policy statement of Health and Safety* and in the *Standards and guidance* and the practical guidance in the SCAUM manual *Health and Safety in the field archaeology*.
- 4.2 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the Statutory or other Service Authorities and the landowner concerned will be taken to avoid interference with or damage to their services, and to comply with any of their codes of Practice that may be applicable. Should any pipes, cables, ducts or other apparatus be uncovered during the archaeological works the Statutory or other Service Authorities and landowner concerned will be informed immediately and further works will cease until adequate precautions have been taken for re-instatement or protection of any apparatus.
- 4.3 Any water drains which may be interfered with, or cut through, will be preserved and pipes or other means be provided so as not to stop or diminish their present usage. Should any drain be uncovered appropriate measures will be provided to convey the water and soil to a suitable outlet and every reasonable precaution taken to protect all property from damage. Temporary or permanent connections to any mains drains pipes or other services will only be made with the prior permission of the relevant Statutory Authority.
- 4.4 Enquiries as to the position and line of any existing services will be made. Excavation will not commence until the presence or otherwise of all such services has been established. The positions, depths and dimensions of all services encountered will be measured and recorded.
- 4.5 On completion of machine clearance the area of archaeological investigation will be enclosed with appropriate barriers to appropriate safety standards and maintenance. Appropriate hazard signs will also be displayed.

General

- 4.6 Appropriate security will be provided. Particular care will be taken to avoid the loss of data by unauthorized excavation for archaeological artefacts. Should security problems arise a permanent presence on the site of the excavation may be required.
- 4.7 Adverse weather may temporarily halt archaeological excavation. It may be appropriate therefore to provide cover and protection over exposed archaeological features and deposits. Time should be allowed for delays due to bad weather.
- 4.8 A detailed calendar for the implementation and completion of the archaeological evaluation will be arranged between the archaeological contractor and the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer and the dates for both the commencement and completion of the archaeological

investigation will be notified to the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.

5 Recording

Notwithstanding the requirements detailed above, the following general procedures will be followed:

- 5.1 All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards using appropriate recording systems. The recording systems used will be compatible with those used on other similar archaeological excavations within East Sussex District. The records are to be integrated into the East Sussex County Council HER. The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set out in: *Management of archaeological of projects: appendix 3* (English Heritage 2nd Ed.1991).
- 5.2 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work, comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology is to be maintained as appropriate.
- 5.3 Supplementary recording systems will be compiled for investigations and samples taken for bulk screening, palaeo-environmental analysis, and soil micromorphology.
- 5.4 A full colour and b/w photographic record of all phases of the excavation works will be kept. The photographic film and digital record, as well as the written record of the same, will comprise part of the site archive. Record digital photographs taken as part of the primary site archive will include a scale, north indicator and header board detailing the site code and context number. More general photography and area and feature photographs taken for publicity, educational or publication purposes may exclude these items. The archaeological contractor is to provide the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeological Officer with a selection of photographic images which reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on this site.
- 5.5 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project the Applicant will arrange for the archive to be held at the SWAT Archaeology storage facility until such times that Barbican House, Lewes, the catchment museum can accept the archive.
- 5.6 A site plan to indicate the location of the boundaries of the proposed development site and the position of evaluation trenches is to be drawn at a scale of 1:100. Plans to indicate the locations of archaeological features are to be drawn to a scale of 1:50, with more detailed plans as necessary. Detailed plans should normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. All detailed plans and sections are to be related to the site plans.
- 5.7 All plans and sections will be drawn on polyester based drawing film, and each plan and/or section will be clearly labelled.

- 5.8 A GPS site grid will be established across the areas subject to evaluation. All field surveying will be preceded by a site visit to clarify the site specific surveying methodology, determine lines of sight and locate appropriate survey points.
- 5.9 All recording points will be accurately surveyed with an GPS or Total Station to a horizontal accuracy of +/-500mm, and located to the National Grid.

6 Assessment and Reporting

- 6.1 The results of the evaluation will be communicated to Barratt Homes and the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer at the earliest possible opportunity. This will comprise either a brief written statement or an interim report, but will not at this stage include recommendations as to whether further work will or will not be required.
- 6.2 The site archive will be collated after the evaluation/SMS, with all site drawings digitised, and records and finds cross-referenced and ordered as an internally consistent permanent record. The site archive will comprise two elements, the documentary (written, drawn, photographic and electronic) record and the material remains recovered. A full archival indexed catalogue of the documentary site archive will be prepared.
- 6.3 The site archive will include all records created and artefacts and soil samples recovered during the course of the fieldwork and will be suitably marked as such to distinguish these records from those created during post-excavation analysis. No parts of the documentary site archive will be discarded. The documentary site archive will also be distinguished from records created during project management.
- 6.4 All soil samples and each class or type of artefacts will be clearly and suitably marked and boxed. A full archival catalogue of the material archive will be prepared.
- 6.5 On completion of the ordering and cataloguing of the site archive the site archive will be assessed in accordance with the principles of The Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) (English Heritage, 2nd Edition, 1991) and a programme of post-excavation analysis will be defined and agreed between Barratt Homes, the archaeological contractor and the East Sussex Council Archaeological Officer.
- 6.6 As a minimum the post-excavation analysis will include:
- a) the stratigraphic analysis of the results of the evaluation excavations
 - b) the creation of a context matrix
 - c) a written description of the stratigraphic analysis
 - d) the preparation of phased site plans

- 6.7 In addition the material archive will be studied and assessed by type of artefact and outline catalogues prepared including data on the quantity, identification and date of the artefacts assessed. Further conservation of artefacts will be undertaken where appropriate. Interim summary reports on the various categories of artefacts will be compiled. Full archive cataloguing of artefacts will not be undertaken at this stage.
- 6.8 Sub-samples from the soil samples taken for bulk screening, palaeoenvironmental analysis and soil micromorphology will be processed as part of the post-excavation analysis where this has not previously been undertaken during the valuation. To avoid contamination and deterioration as a result of long-term storage it may prove necessary to process all soil samples. Should this prove impractical or unnecessary soil samples are to be sorted under appropriate conditions. Finds recovered from bulk screening will be treated as small finds and appropriately recorded. Residues will be retained as part of the site archive. Samples taken of wooden structures or bulk materials such as metallurgical residues will also be retained. Interim summary reports on the results of the processing of soil samples will be compiled by type of artefacts and classes of biological material recovered.
- 6.9 Dispersal of certain classes of the material site archive, including soil samples, may be appropriate and will follow established procedures and a review of the material within the particular context of the evaluation. A detailed brief setting out the procedures for the retention and dispersal policies for samples and artefacts is to be prepared as part of the post-excavation analysis. This will follow the guidelines set out in: Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections: guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (The Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993).
- 6.10 On completion of the ordering of the site archive and as part of the assessment process, a field report on the evaluation will be compiled. This will consist of a brief concise narrative with appropriate illustrations to present an overview of the results of the work undertaken by area and period. This report will be completed within 5 weeks of the completion of the evaluation and submitted to Persimmons and the East Sussex Council Archaeological Officer. Where significant artefacts have been recovered during the course of the evaluation or where the archaeology recorded is complex, a summary report will be compiled.
- 6.11 Recommendations for further archaeological work are not to be included within the field report. The report, however, will assess the archaeological importance of any archaeology revealed during the evaluation.
- 6.12 In addition to the field report a short summary report (generally no more than 500 words with selected drawn and photographic illustrations) will be compiled for subsequent publication in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, the journal of the Sussex Archaeological Society. This summary report will be produced within 6 months of the completion of the evaluation and copies submitted to Barratt Homes and the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.
- 6.13 Should no further archaeological works be required following the completion of the evaluation and the completion of the post-excavation analysis, an appropriate programme of further post-excavation assessment as required will be defined and agreed in writing between SWAT Archaeology, the archaeological contractor and the East Sussex County Council Archaeological

Advisor to bring the results of the evaluation to publication.

- 6.14 This will comprise in the first instance an assessment report that will contain as a minimum the following, together with such further work as is justified by the assessment. The post excavation assessment will be completed within three months of the completion of the evaluation and a report submitted to Barratt Homes and the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Advisor.
- a) a brief summary of the archaeology of the site.
 - b) A description and interpretation of the archaeology and depositional history of the site and a summary list of features with additional information, including matrices, on stratigraphic relationships.
 - c) A table showing the classes and numbers of artefacts located and their interpretation if appropriate.
 - d) A catalogue and discussion of any other finds by category, the level of detail required being determined by the assessment, but with particular attention being paid to all stratified and other datable material and any finds of intrinsic or historic interest.
 - e) Copies of the excavation location plans at 1:100, a plan of the main archaeological features at 1:50, together with more detailed plans and key section drawings, all at appropriate scales.
 - f) Recommendation for further post-excavation work to attain publication standard.
- 6.15 The results of the evaluation and the importance of any archaeology revealed and recorded during the evaluation will determine the methodologies to be adopted in the preparation of interim field, summary and assessment reports. Should the evaluation reveal little of archaeological importance or significance the assessment and reporting detailed above will not be required and a brief summary report only should be prepared.
- 6.16 Should further archaeological works be required following the completion of the evaluation, post-excavation analysis and assessment of the results of the evaluation will be incorporated into subsequent programmes of archaeological investigations.

7 General

- 7.1 Any enquiries or complaints made to the archaeological contractor during the course of any phase of the fieldworks or subsequent post-excavation analysis and assessment from the press, Statutory Authorities or the public shall be recorded in writing and forwarded immediately to the landowner. The archaeological contractor shall not enter into any written, verbal or electronic communication with the press, Statutory Authorities or the public without the prior consent of the landowner.
- 7.2 All artefacts recovered during the excavation shall remain the property of the landowner. The finds may be retained by the archaeological contractor for a period not exceeding 2 years for post-

excavation analysis. The artefacts are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with: Walker, K. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage and conservation* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section, 1990) and: *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992).

- 7.3 On completion of the project, the archaeological contractor is to arrange for the transfer, subject to the landowners consent, of the documentary, photographic and material archive to SWAT Archaeology, and to ensure that the appropriate level of resources for cataloguing, boxing and long term storage are provided for a set fee until such times that Barbican House, Lewes can accept the archive.
- 7.4 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the valuation, by Barratt Homes, and the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.
- 7.5 Copies of all reports compiled as a result of the excavation and post-excavation archaeological works will be submitted to Barratt Homes as CD containing a .pdfA version. In addition a CD containing a .pdfA version of the report and a selection of site photos in jpeg format to be sent to the ESCC Archaeological Officer and once approved sent to the ESCC HER for inclusion on the East Sussex County Sites & Monuments Record.
- 7.6 In undertaking the work the archaeological contractor is to abide by the: *Code of conduct* and the: *Codes of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW) The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP
Date: 04.04.2017



0 250 1250
SCALE 1:25000 METRES

Licence No: AL 50125A

Figure 1: Site location map

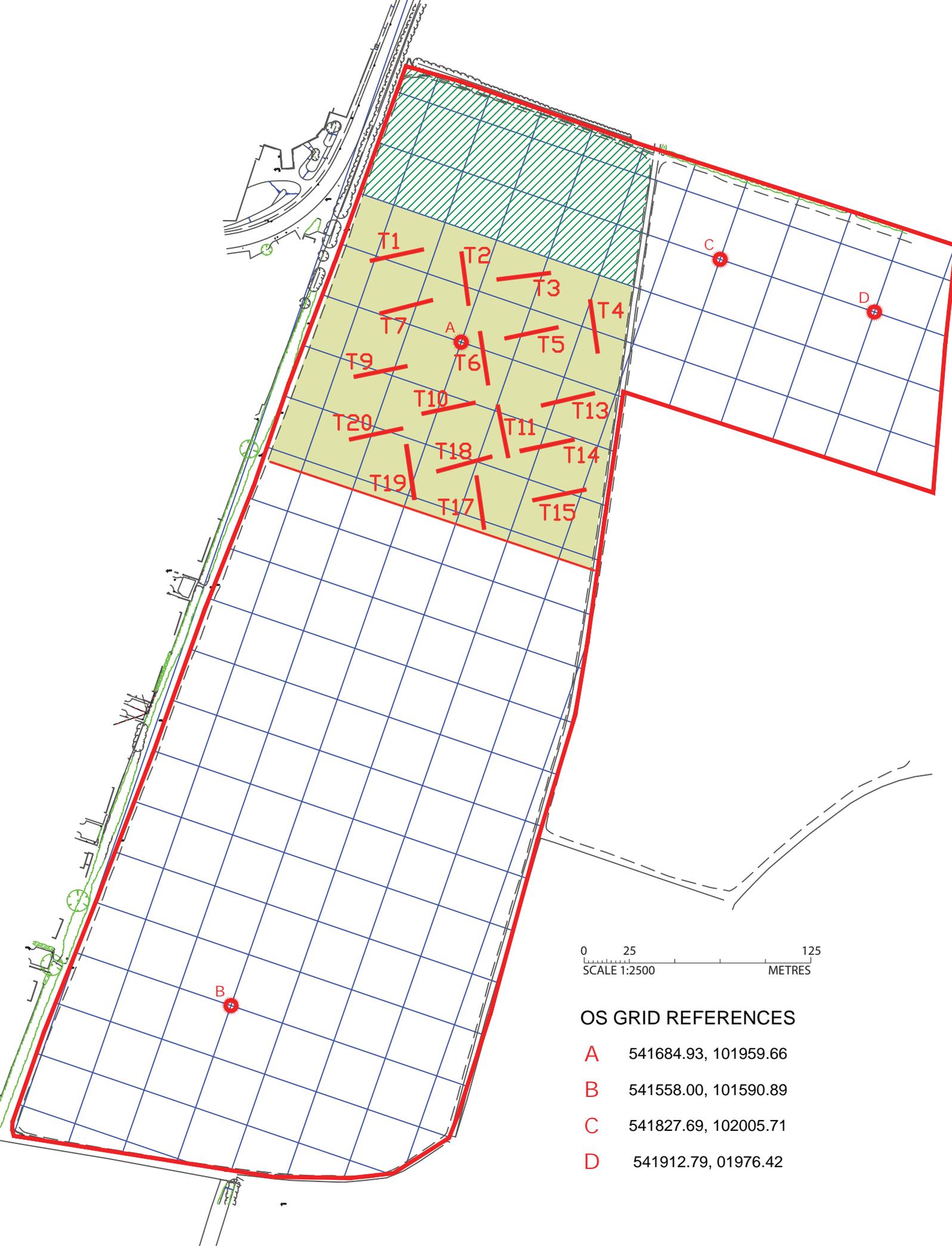


Figure 2: Site plan

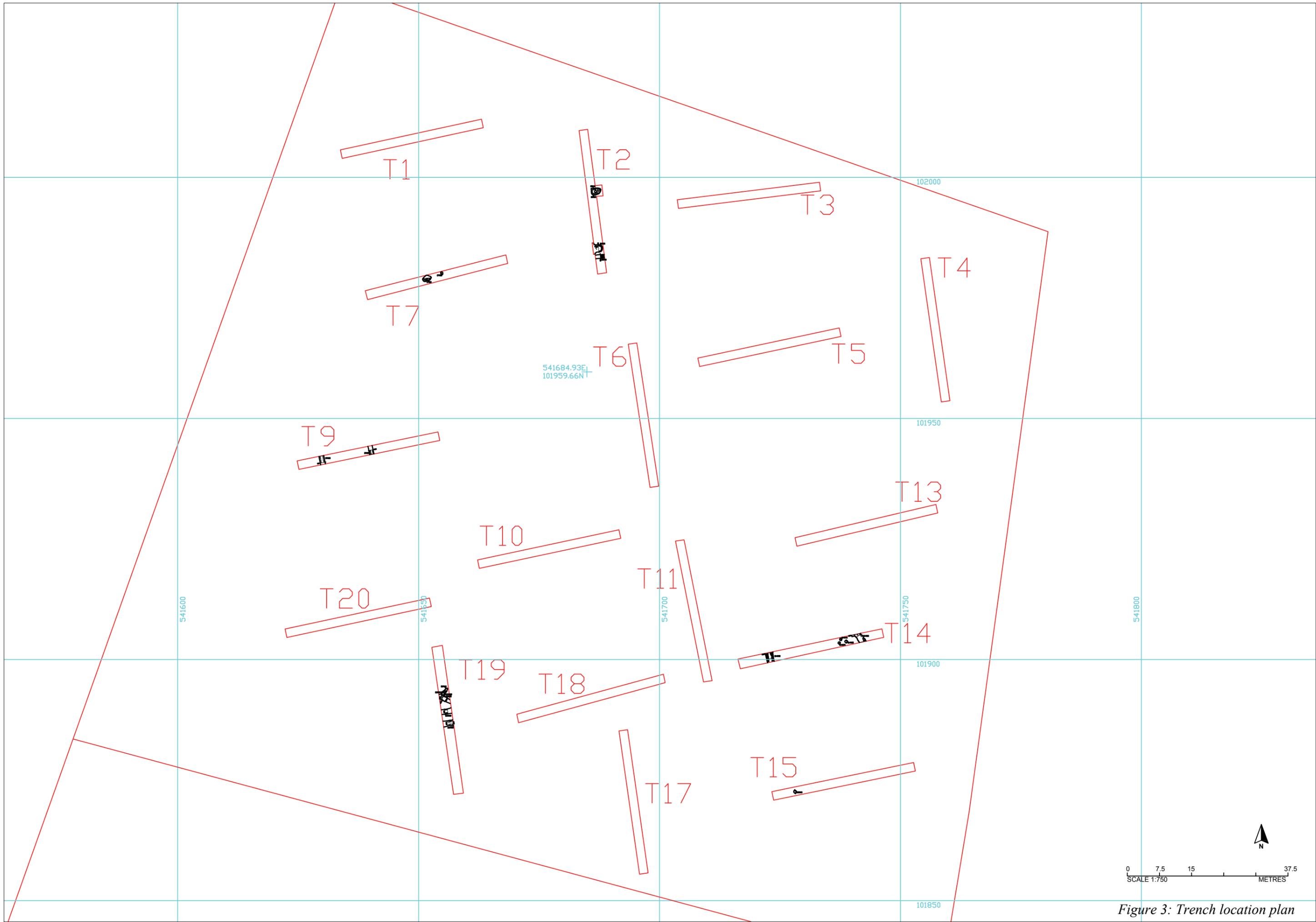


Figure 3: Trench location plan

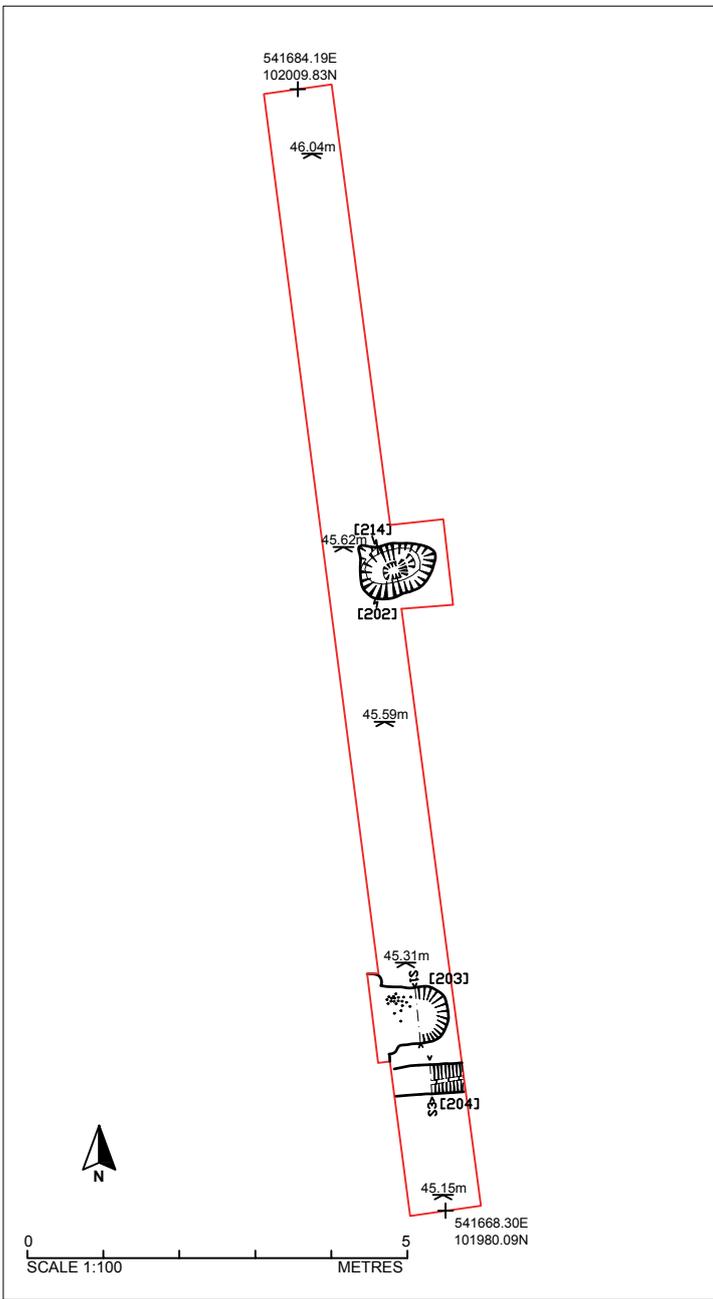


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2

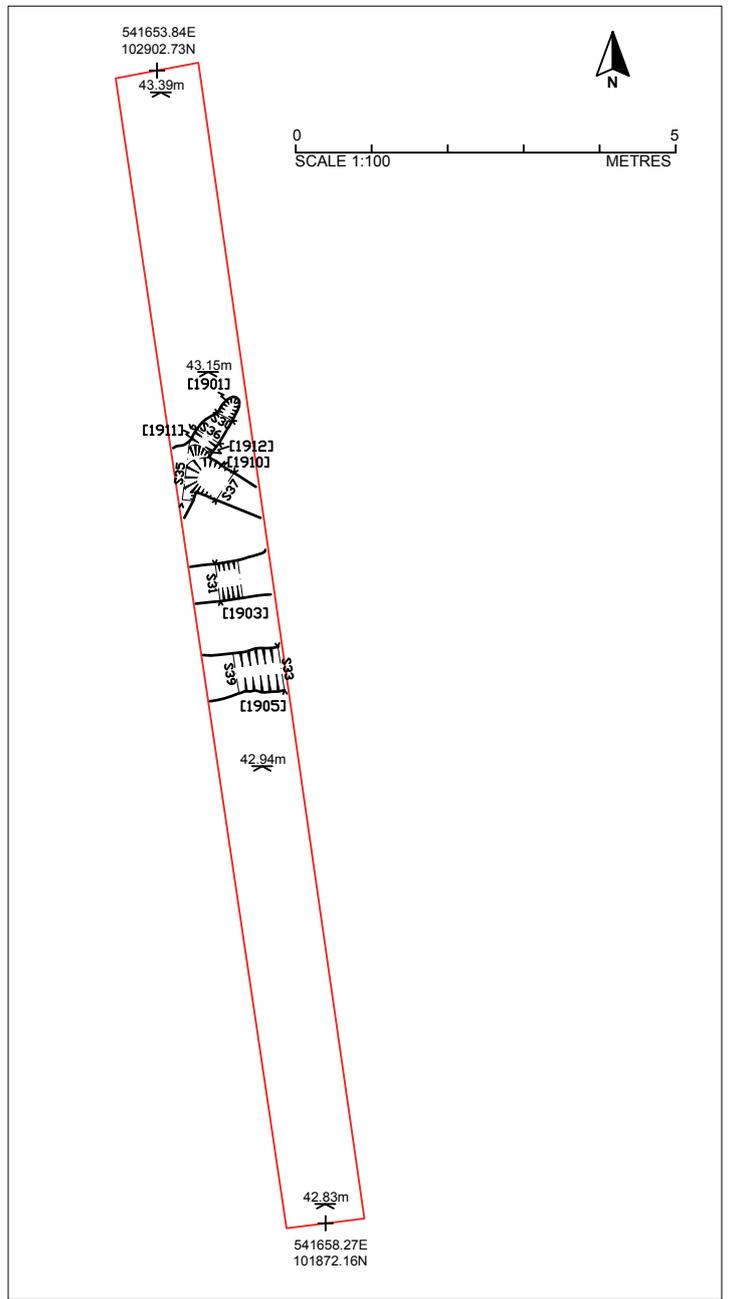


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 19

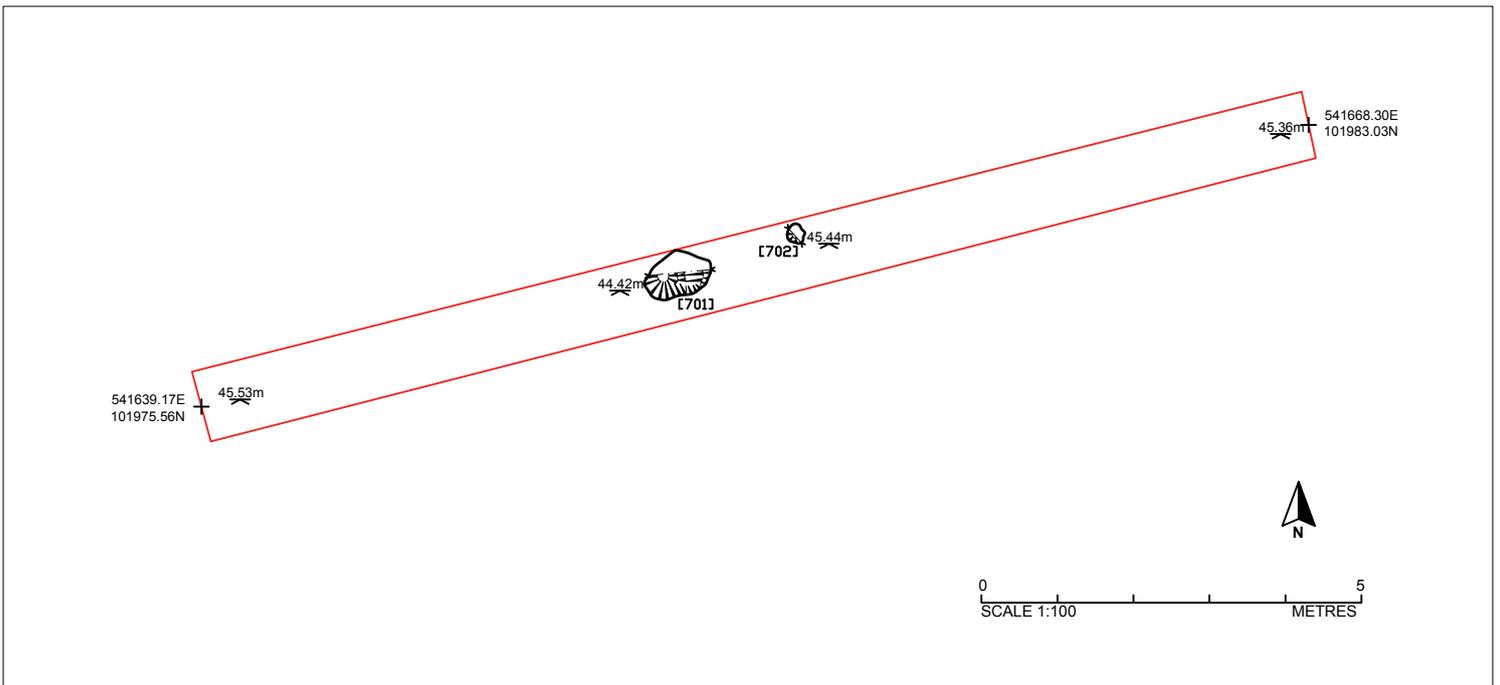


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 7

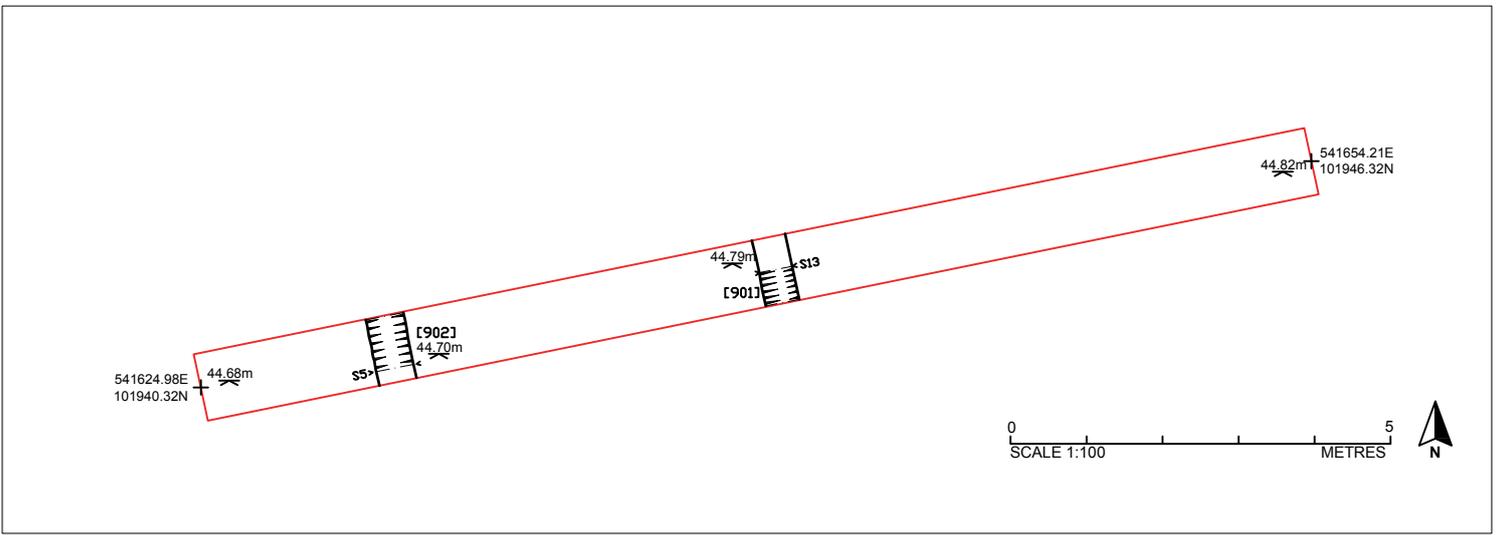


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 9

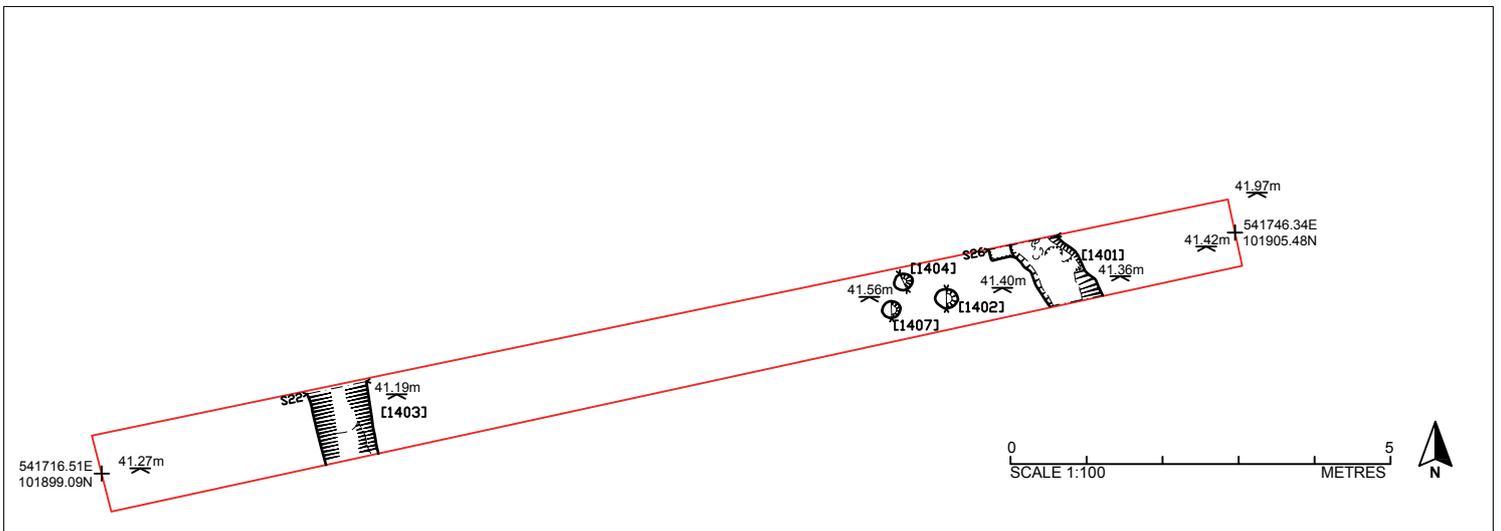


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 14

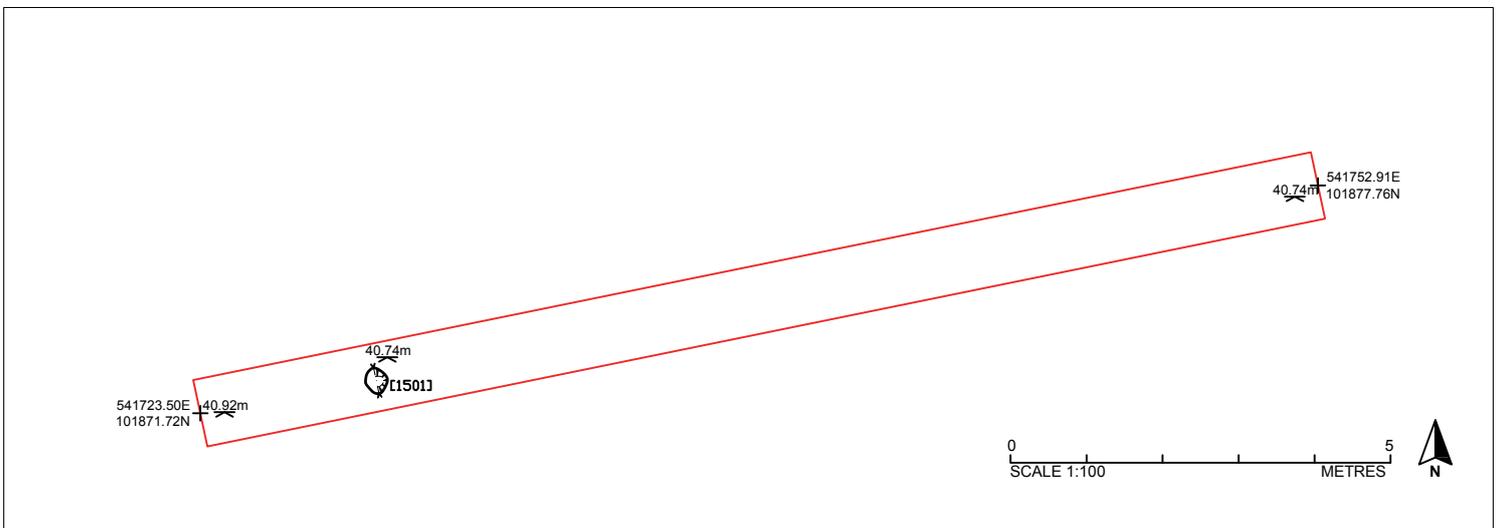
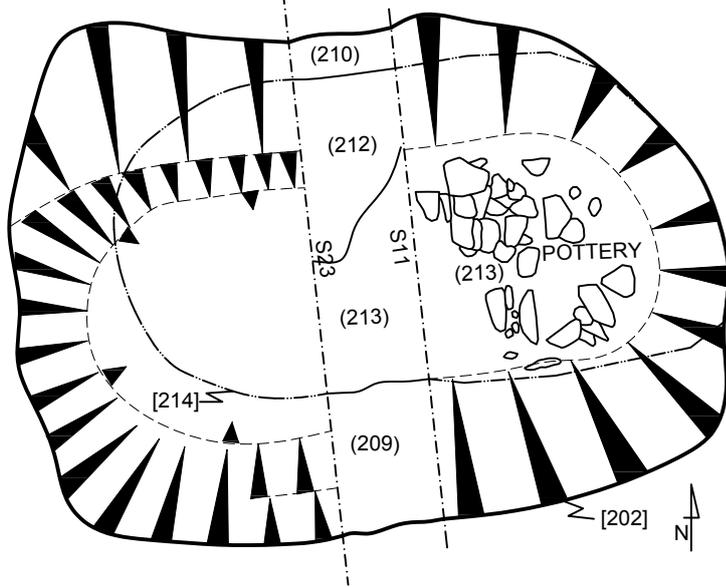
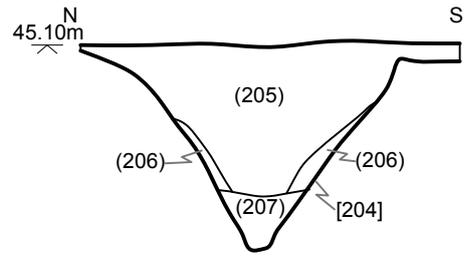


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 15

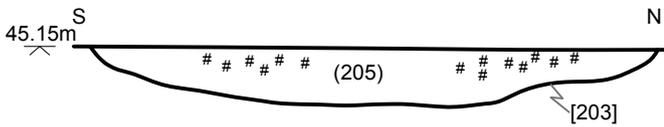
Plan of Pit [202] truncated by pit [214]



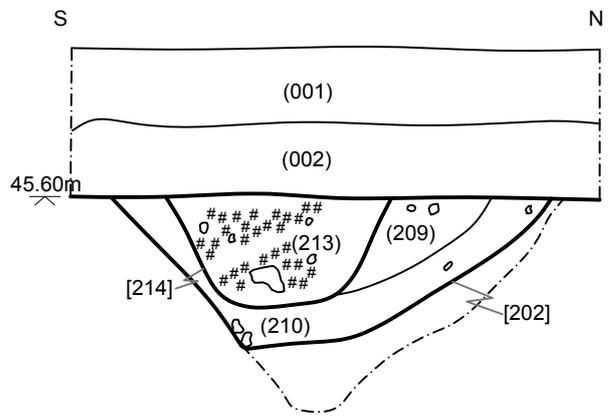
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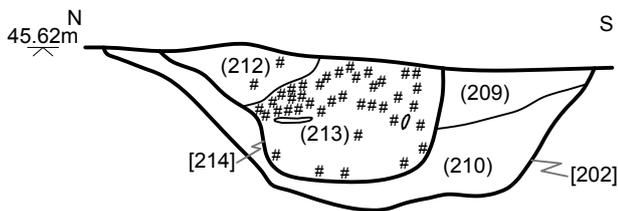
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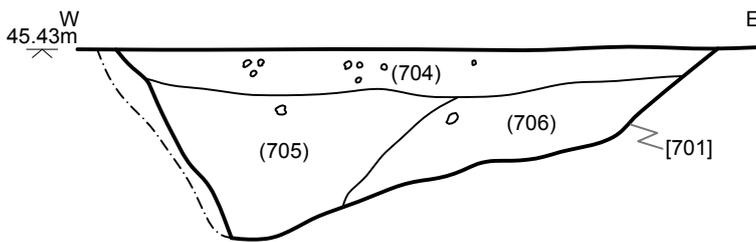
Section 23



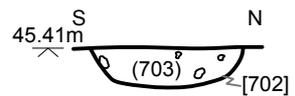
Section 11



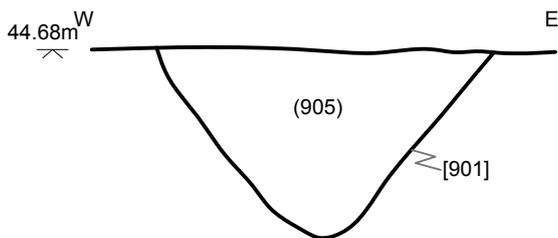
Section 9



Section 7



Section 13



Section 5

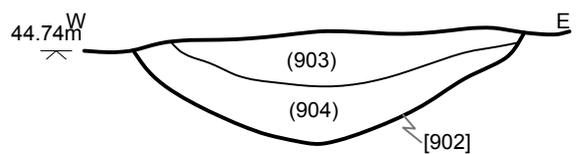


Figure 10: Sections of Trench 2, 7 and 9

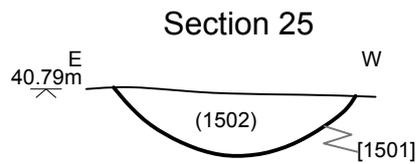
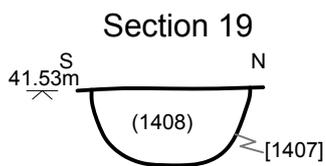
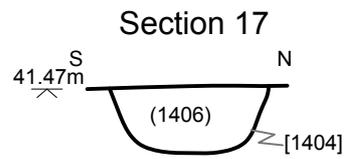
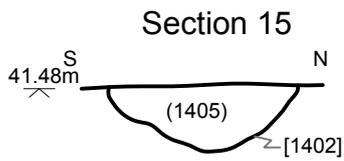
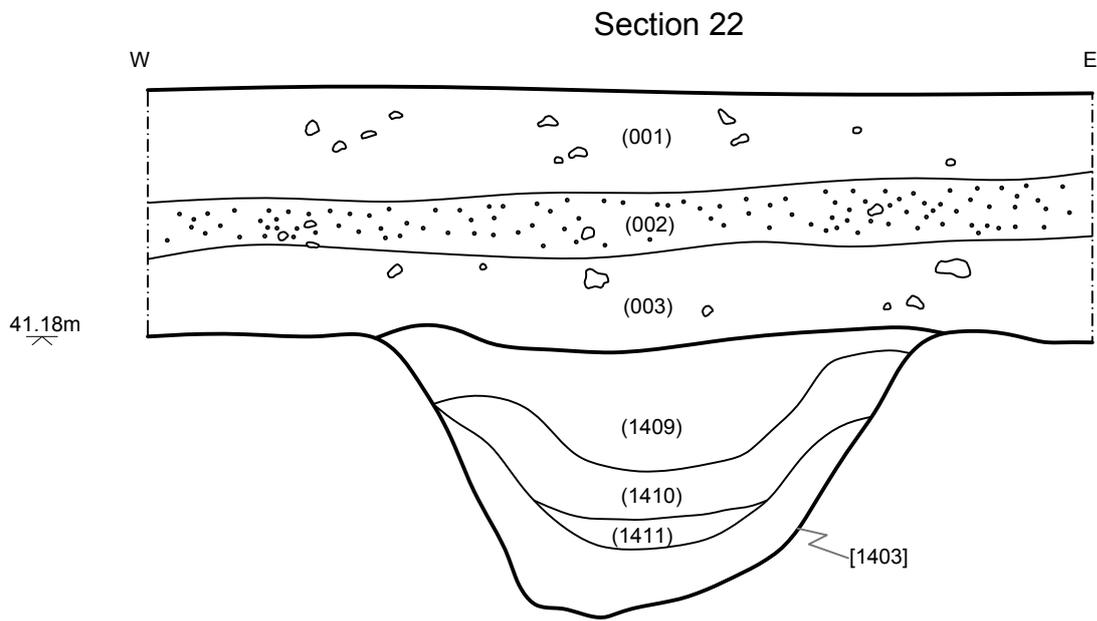
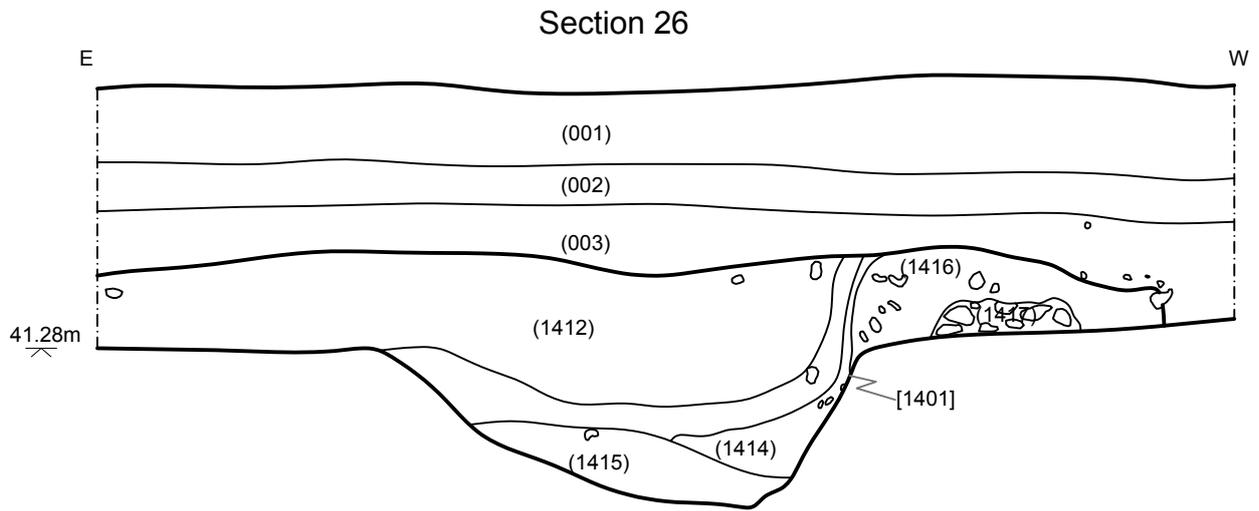


Figure 11: Sections of Trench 14 and 15

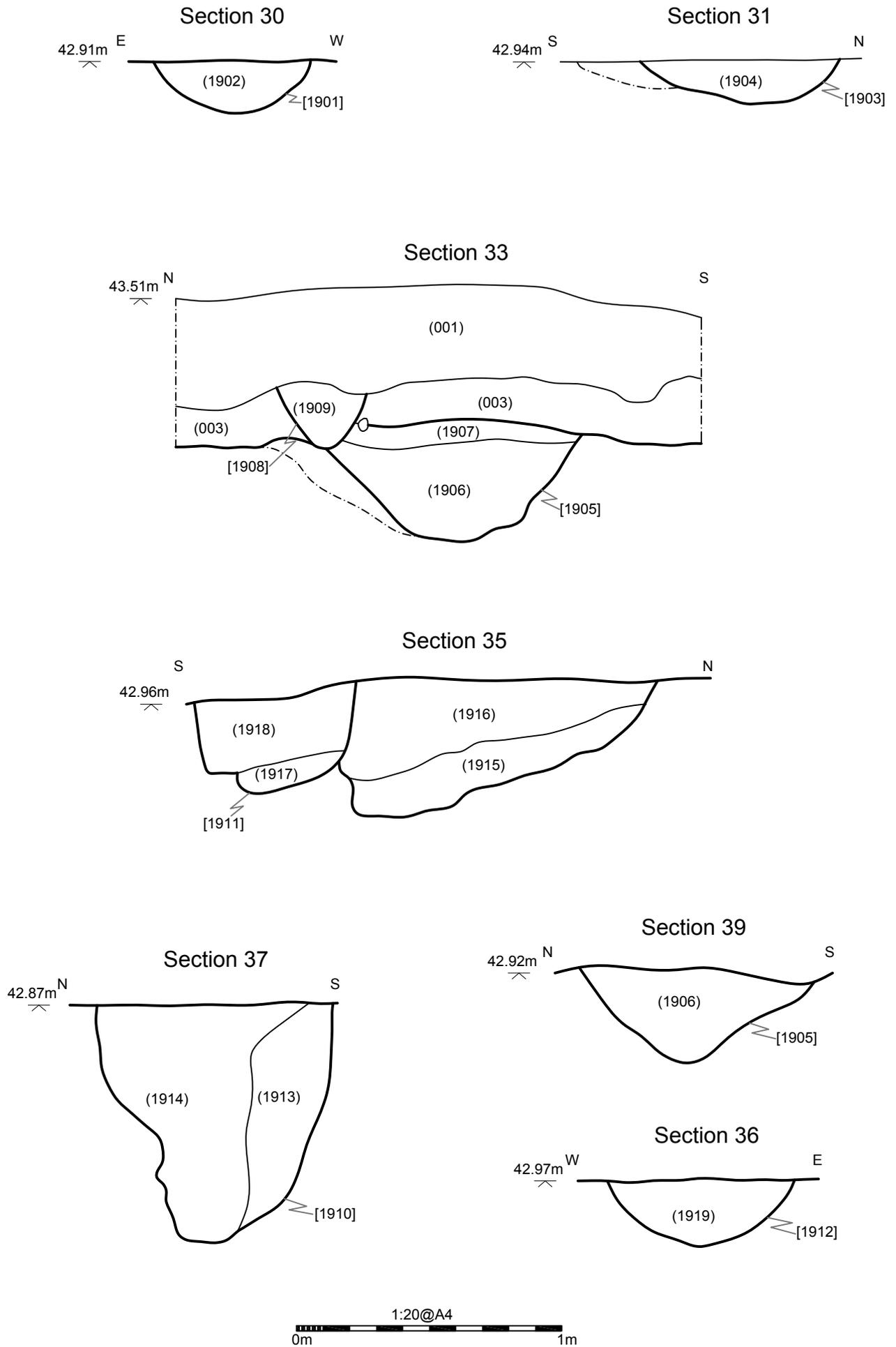


Figure 12: Sections of Trench 19



Plate 1. Pit [202] looking south-east



Plate 2. Linear [204] looking east



Plate 3. Pit [701] looking north



Plate 4. Linear [901] looking south



Plate 5. Linear [1401] looking south



Plate 6. Post hole [1402] looking west



Plate 7. Linear [1403] looking north



Plate 8. Post hole [1404] looking west



Plate 9. Trench 4 (looking south)



Plate 10. Trench 14 (looking east)