



Appendix 14.3

Archaeological Evaluation Report (Evaluation Trench Report)

An Archaeological Evaluation (ES Technical Appendix 14.3)

North Hemel Hempstead

NGR:TL 08400 10600

Planning Ref: 5/2025/0645

Site Code: HRHH25

Oasis Ref: preconst1-535199

Project Reference
794-PLN-HER-01242

November 2025

**LAND NORTH OF
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD ROAD (B487)
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
ST ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PLANNING REFERENCE:
5/2025/0645**

**SITE CODE: HRHH25
OASIS REF: preconst1- 535199
PCA REPORT NO: R18115
PCA PROJECT NO: K9812**

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VERSION 1 (FINAL)

Land North of Hemel Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: St Albans City & District Council

Planning Reference: 5/2025/0645

Central National Grid Reference (NGR): TL 08400 10600

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Site Code: HHH25

PCA Report No: R18115

PCA Project No: K9812

Written and researched by: Neal Mason

Project Manager: Simon Carlyle

Commissioning Client: Tetra Tech Consulting Ltd on behalf of
Bloor Homes and
Pigeon (Hemel Hempstead) Ltd

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Cambridge Office
The Granary, Rectory Farm
Brewery Road, Pampisford
Cambridgeshire CB22 3EN

Tel: 01603 574082

E-mail: scarlyle@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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ABSTRACT

From 18th August to 19th September 2025, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of a block of land north of Hemel Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The work was commissioned by Tetra Tech RPS on behalf of Bloor Homes and Pigeon (Hemel Hempstead) Ltd. A total of 94no. 30m trenches were excavated, plus four 50m trenches positioned to investigate a dry valley within the southern part of the site.

The earliest evidence encountered by the evaluation comprised a Middle to Late Bronze Age urned cremation burial of an adolescent or adult on the ridge of high ground in the northern part of the site and two pits of probable prehistoric date containing burnt flint in a dry valley to the south.

Later activity was represented by post-medieval features, including seven agricultural boundary ditches corresponding with field divisions shown on the 1841 Tithe map of the area, and five large extraction pits likely to have exploited local clay deposits, probably for ceramic production. Modern activity included quarry backfilling and demolition rubble associated with 20th-century agricultural buildings. The distribution of finds from these features was sparse, the assemblage consisting solely of sherds of pottery and fragments of brick and peg tile of post-medieval date.

Geoarchaeological trenches across the southern dry valley revealed colluvial deposits up to 0.65m thick, sealing the two burnt flint pits. No evidence was found for the more extensive settlement activity recorded by archaeological investigations beyond the site to the south.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 23rd May 2025, St Albans City & District Council (SACDC) issued a Scoping Opinion on the *Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report* prepared by Quod (Quod 2025) for an outline planning application for the North Hemel Hempstead Growth Area (SACDC planning ref. 5/2025/0645), the site of which is located to the north of Hemel Hempstead Road (B487), Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (site centred on NGR: TL 08400 10600; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The Scoping Opinion was prepared following consultation with relevant parties and was carried out in accordance with guidance and regulations detailed in *The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017* (DLUHC 2017). It was noted in the Scoping Opinion that the planning applicant intends to submit an *Environmental Statement* (ES) voluntarily; the development would far exceed the thresholds pertaining to Environmental Impact Assessment development, so an ES would be required.
- 1.3 Richard Havis and Katie Lee-Smith at Place Services at Essex County Council (PSECC), archaeological advisors to St Albans District Council (SADC), provided advice towards the drafting of the Scoping Opinion that its main recommendation should be that the site should be '*subject to an appropriate archaeological evaluation and the results included with the Environmental Statement*'. These decisions were informed by the results of the *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* of the site prepared by Tetra Tech RPS (Jacklin 2025) and the results of geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019; MoLA 2025).
- 1.4 Following discussions between Tetra Tech RPS and PSECC, it was agreed that pre-determination evaluation of the western area would consist of the excavation of 93no. 30m and 2no. 50m trial trenches at 1.8m wide (a total of 2890 linear metres; Figs 2 and 3). Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) were appointed by Tetra Tech RPS, acting on behalf of Bloor Homes and Pigeon (Hemel Hempstead) Ltd, to undertake this pre-determination evaluation, which was undertaken from the 18th August to the 19th September 2025.
- 1.5 In the northern part of the western area, the trenches provided a 1% sample evaluation of the greater part of this parcel of land, with a c. 3% sample along its northern edge and to the west of Great Revel End Farm where the archaeological potential was considered to be greater. Further archaeological trenching will be undertaken following any planning permission in order to design the scope and extent of any further

archaeological mitigation. One of these trenches targeted a linear anomaly identified by geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019). In the southern part of the western area the 2no. 50m trenches were excavated to investigate the base of a dry valley for geoarchaeological purposes; an additional 2no. 50m and 1no. 30m contingency trenches were excavated to further investigate the dry valley, bringing the total amount of trenching up to 3020 linear metres.

- 1.6 The methodology for the project was set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) that was prepared by PCA and approved by PSECC prior to the commencement of fieldwork (PCA 2025).
- 1.7 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2022), *Standard for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2023b).
- 1.8 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).
- 1.9 On completion of the project and following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited with the Verulamium Museum. The site archive shall be compiled in accordance with *A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Hertfordshire* (HAM 2023), *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections* (Boyle and Rawden 2020). A summary of information from the project has been entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>, see Appendix 5). A Hertfordshire HER summary form has been completed (Appendix 6).

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The development area is located on the north-eastern fringe of the Hertfordshire town of Hemel Hempstead, which lies approximately 5 miles (8km) west of St Albans city centre and 7 miles (10km) north of Watford town centre (Fig. 1). The site in its entirety is c.152ha in extent and comprises farmland bound by Hemel Hempstead Road (B487) to the south, Holtsmere End Lane to the west, the continuation of Holtsmere End Lane and Gaddesden Lane to the north, and Pancake Wood, private grounds and properties fronting on to Aubrey Lane to the east. The fields within the site are partitioned by mixed mature and immature hedgerows, in places interposed with mature trees, and modern post-and-wire fencing. The portion of the site that was evaluated by the current project is c. 64ha in extent and comprises fields located west of a high voltage powerline that passes through the development area to the west of Great Revel End Farm.
- 2.1.2 The site is gently undulating with a south-easterly trending slope, and four shallow, wide valleys are located between areas of higher ground. The levels of the site descend from c. 135m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) within its north-western area, to c. 101m aOD at its south-eastern end, alongside the Hemel Hempstead Road (B487). Four dry valleys are located within the site, two orientated south-east/north-west, the third roughly follows Hemel Hempstead Road, and the fourth follows Gaddesden Lane (Fig. 3).
- 2.1.3 The underlying bedrock of the site consists of undifferentiated Cretaceous rocks of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (BGS 2025). On the higher ground in the northern and central parts of the site there are superficial deposits of Palaeogene to Pleistocene clay, silt, sand and gravel (Clay-With-Flints Formation), and Quaternary Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed by hillwash and solifluction processes occur along the site's south-eastern edge.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 The following is a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site and its environs, as presented in the *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* of the site prepared by Tetra Tech RPS (Jacklin 2025). This was based on a review of relevant records held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) within a 1km radius of the site, supplemented with cartographic sources.

- 2.2.2 The report concluded that there are no designated heritage assets located within the site, although the Scheduled Monument of Aubreys Camp, a defensive enclosure likely dating to the Iron Age, is located c. 200m to the east of the site boundary (visible on the LiDAR; Fig.3). Twelve undesignated heritage assets were identified within the site and are detailed below (HHER reference numbers are given in parentheses).

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.2.3 There is no evidence for pre-Mesolithic activity within the search area recorded on the HHER, and no Mesolithic activity is recorded within the vicinity of the site.
- 2.2.4 A pit containing struck Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flakes and a fragment of prehistoric flint-gritted pottery was excavated at Great Revel End Farm. Associated with the pit was a gravelled surface with elements of burnt stone (12656, 12657). Six sherds of Iron Age pottery were found from the silts overlying the pit. A Late Bronze Age socketed axe (13091) was previously found on the surface at the farm.
- 2.2.5 Elsewhere within the search area, an isolated Neolithic pit was encountered c. 200m south of the site, and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement features and finds were encountered 1km to the south of the site, located adjacent to a paleochannel/dry valley.
- 2.2.6 Though the geophysical surveys of the site identified limited archaeological anomalies, the trenching to the south encountered discrete features and shallow linear anomalies that were undetected by the survey. The presence of the burnt and worked flints, the socketed axe and gravel surface at Great Revel End Farm and Late Bronze Age settlement features off site to the south, enhances the potential for unenclosed Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement to survive close to Great Revel End Farm and the dry valleys within the site. A Neolithic pit was encountered c. 200m to the south. Though this was the only Neolithic feature identified during the trenching, its proximity to the site means that further, isolated Neolithic pits may survive within the site.

Roman (AD 43 to AD 410)

- 2.2.7 Two parallel agricultural ditches were encountered c. 70-100m south of the site, and enclosures were identified c. 600-700m to the south-east. A small quantity of Roman coins was found at Great Revel End Farm but trenching at the farm did not encounter any Roman features.
- 2.2.8 The geophysical surveys did not record any anomalies likely to represent Roman features. The extensive archaeological work to the south did not identify any evidence

of Roman settlement close to the site, with the nearest area of settlement comprising enclosures and possible industrial activity, located c. 600-700m to the south-east.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 to 1066)

- 2.2.9 Most of the Anglo-Saxon population of Hertfordshire lived in the north of the county, in large, nucleated villages (Bryant 2011). By the late 8th century, large areas of Hertfordshire were under the rule of King Offa (Mercia) and large estates were developed, including within the core of Hemel Hempstead (*ibid.*).
- 2.2.10 There is no evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the site. There are no HHER entries relating to Anglo-Saxon sites within the search area on the HHER and no such activity was recorded by the trenching to the south.

Medieval (1066 to 1485)

- 2.2.11 Both Redbourne (c. 1.5km to the north-east) and Hemel Hempstead (c. 4.5km to the south-west) are recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey.
- 2.2.12 The geophysical survey identified a small quantity of probable linear features, located within the north-west, north and south-eastern areas of the site. Those identified close to Great Revel End Farm in the northern area of the site could be associated with the possible deserted medieval village (6373) that was located north of Great Revel End Farm. Alternatively, the ditches could be associated with the modern Great Revel End Farm.
- 2.2.13 The deserted medieval village (DMV) was first identified through aerial photography as low earthworks of ridge and furrow, boundary ditches and house platforms (6373). These earthworks are potentially visible in the LiDAR data but given this area lay outside of the original red line boundary, their survival was not confirmed by the site visit. Anomalies potentially representing medieval or post-medieval enclosures or house platforms were identified by the geophysical survey in the area of the DMV, to the north of the farm.
- 2.2.14 The remaining areas of the site would have comprised agricultural lands and were within the medieval open field system (Featherstone 2001).

Post-medieval and modern (1485 to present)

- 2.2.15 Linear cropmarks (16962) are recorded in the south-western area of the site, which correspond with historic field boundaries depicted on the tithe map.
- 2.2.16 Remains of a probable post-medieval structure were identified by the geophysical survey within the south-western area of the site (Magnitude Surveys 2019).

- 2.2.17 Remains of World War II huts were identified by the geophysical survey in the eastern area of the site. These were previously known through historic aerial photographs.
- 2.2.18 An area marked 'Quakers Ground', postulated to represent a burial ground (9664), is recorded c. 30m south-west of the site. However, archaeological work within this field (geophysical survey and evaluation trenching) did not encounter any significant archaeological remains (Oxford Archaeology 2017, 38).
- 2.2.19 The post-medieval to modern Little Revel End Farmhouse (18758) is located off site. A small building, likely a barn, is illustrated within the site boundary on the 1841 Tithe Map of Redbourn but was demolished in the later 19th century. In its place, a pond was excavated, which would have destroyed remains of the building.

Historic map regression

- 2.2.20 The earliest maps available are the 1768 Survey of the Estate of Grimston and the 1771 'Plan of Land in Redbourne'. Both maps are limited to the southern area of the site, with the 1768 map showing only the southernmost two plots adjacent to Hemel Hempstead Road. Neither provide a great amount of archaeological insight but the 1771 map does show a barn within the site, associated with Little Revel End Farm.
- 2.2.21 The 1806 Ordnance Survey (OS) map and the 1841 tithe map shows the late 16th or early 17th Great Revel End Farm (12658) and a collection of buildings (farmhouse, stables and outbuildings) located to the south of the extant farmstead. These are recorded as 'homestead' within the tithe apportionment (plot 467). An L-shaped road leads to this farmstead from Little Revel End. Concentrated magnetic disturbance was identified in the area of the 'homestead' farm by the geophysical survey, which could be a result of the demolition of the farm buildings.
- 2.2.22 On the 1806 map, the site is shown containing 21 fields located in the northern area of the site, and ten in the southern area. Three elongated fields west of Revel End could be relict medieval strip fields. A small building, potentially a cottage, was located south of Little Revel End, in the northern end of the southern area of the site.
- 2.2.23 The 1841 Redbourn Parish Tithe Map shows the site comprising all or part of 62 regular field enclosures. The pattern of enclosure shown by the mapping appears to demonstrate at least the partial enclosure of a former open-field system of agriculture, whereby some of the field boundaries appear irregular or curvilinear in form, following headlands or common features between what may have previously been sets (or furlongs) or ridge and furrow. Conversely, the greater part of fields featured regular,

straight field boundaries, forming rectangular enclosures more typical of later post-medieval planned enclosure. The existing road network appears to have been extant by the 1840s, including Little Revel End Lane, Holtsmere End Lane and Hemel Hempstead Road.

- 2.2.24 The 1883-1884 OS map shows a degree of field amalgamation within the site, with several field boundaries removed. The mapping shows planted boundaries to the fields, indicating the presence of hedgerows or treelines. In addition, a probable quarry pit is shown within the central, north part of the site, just south-west of Great Revel End Farm (recorded on the mapping as 'Great Revel End Farm'). A number of other quarry pits are also depicted, which were shown on the tithe map and correspond with geophysical anomalies. The farmstead within the site, formerly associated with Great Revel End Farm, has since been demolished. Footpaths are depicted on the mapping, linking nearby farms and fields. South-east of Hemel Hempstead Road, the Midlands Railway Hemel Hempstead Branch Line had been constructed, paralleling the road between Hemel Hempstead and Redbourn.
- 2.2.25 Outside of field reorganisation, boundary removal and quarry pit infilling, there was little change within the site during the 20th and early 21st century.

Geophysical survey

- 2.2.26 The results of the geophysical surveys (Magnitude Surveys 2019; MoLA 2025) are summarised below:
- A roughly square, three-sided enclosure adjacent to Holtsmere End Land in the south-western area of the site, covering an area of c. 0.6 ha. Likely representing a building, with a magnetically enhanced spread surrounding and localised to the enclosure, highly likely caused by demolition rubble (Magnitude Surveys 2019, 10). The rubble spread's magnetic response corresponds with the response expected from fired or burnt material such as brick. A platform in this area is visible on LiDAR data.
 - Possible ditches were identified at the northern end of the site;
 - Short linear anomalies were identified within the western field, to the south and south-east of Great Revel End Farm, and in the south-eastern area of the site (to the east of Little Revel End). The origin of these is uncertain but an archaeological origin cannot be discounted. Further uncertain anomalies were identified around the possible enclosures/building platforms. It is possible those close to Great

Revel End Farm and the enclosures/building platforms are associated with the farm itself, or potentially with the DMV.

- Anomalies in the southern area of the site, west of North Barn and Betts Cottage, correspond with military huts visible on the 1947 aerial photograph (Historic England photo ref. raf_cpe_uk_2135_rp_33711).
- Quarry pits dating to the post-medieval to modern periods. Three of these pits are depicted on the 1841 tithe map and 1883-1884 OS map. The remainder are not visible on the available mapping. A number of hollows are identifiable in the LiDAR data which could be a result of shallow quarrying.
- Narrow bands of natural responses were identified, resulting from colluvium and/or head deposits within the valleys. A number of similar dry valleys/paleochannels were identified during trenching to the south and unenclosed Bronze Age activity was identified on the valley slopes.

2.2.27 Overall, the geophysical surveys identified areas of archaeological interest in the surveyed areas of the site (building in the south-west and settlement features to the north of Great Revel End Farm). However, the trenching to the south of the site encountered archaeological features that were not detected by the geophysical survey (unenclosed settlement remains and field systems) and some features were masked by green waste.

Previous archaeological work within the search area

2.2.28 Geophysical survey (EHT8294) and two phases of archaeological evaluation trenching (not recorded on the HER; Oxford Archaeology 2017 & 2020) were carried out by Oxford Archaeology across 320ha of land, located c. 20m-2.5km south of the site, and comprised the excavation of 307 trenches. Trenches excavated c. 70-100m south of the site encountered remains of two parallel east/west aligned Roman ditches (including three undated ditches that could be contemporary) and a late medieval ditch (Oxford Archaeology 2020, 62; fig. 3). Other remains encountered comprised an undated quarry pit and a probable made-ground deposit containing a mix of material including a small quantity of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds. A Neolithic pit was located c. 200m south of the site but no other Neolithic features were recorded by the trenching. Two small Late Bronze Age pits indicating localised settlement activity and a set of Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosures and possible industrial activity were recorded c. 600-700m to the south-east. An assemblage of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flints were recovered from a Late Bronze Age boundary ditch, which itself was located close to contemporary postholes, pits and ditches

representing extensive settlement on the slopes of a dry valley/paleochannel, c. 1km south of the site.

- 2.2.29 A strip, map and sample excavation (EHT8326) carried out c. 400m east of the site at Aubrey Park Hotel, encountered remains of post-medieval to modern agricultural activity associated with the earlier farmstead (15130), but no archaeological remains pre-dating these periods.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The broad aim of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (PCA 2025, 11), was to establish the potential presence of nationally and regionally significant remains within the site, so that PSECC can advise SACDC on the archaeological implications concerning the outline planning application. If necessary, further trenching will be undertaken post-consent to define areas of archaeological mitigation.
- 3.2 The evaluation sought to identify, excavate and record the location, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains encountered in the trial trenches. In particular, the evaluation investigated the anomalies shown on the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019) and sought to 'ground-truth' these results.
- 3.3 This investigation also aimed to provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of a suitable mitigation strategy for the site's heritage assets, in light of the current development proposals. This included providing a predictive model of the archaeological remains present and likely to be present on the site, and an appraisal of their significance.
- 3.4 Where appropriate, soil samples were taken for assessment, primarily to establish the paleoenvironmental potential of the site but also to gain an insight into the range of activities (i.e. domestic, industrial, agricultural) that were undertaken at the site in the past.
- 3.5 The results of the evaluation will assist PSECC in determining the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.
- 3.6 To determine the significance of the results of the evaluation in a local, regional and national context, reference has been made to the *East of England Regional Research Framework* (researchframeworks.org/eoe/).

4 METHODOLOGY

General

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of the excavation of 94no. 30m and 4no. 50m trial trenches at 1.8m wide (a total of 3,020 linear metres; Figs 2 and 3). The trenches were arranged to provide a 1% sample of the greater part of the site, with a c. 3% sample along its northern edge and to the west of Great Revel End Farm, where the archaeological potential was deemed to be greater (Fields 1 and 2).
- 4.2 With the agreement of PSECC, the generally even distribution of trenches, as shown in the WSI, was adjusted to meet the request by the landowners to avoid excavating across the agricultural 'tram lines' used by farm machinery. This resulted in several trenches being segmented (e.g. Trenches 2, 9, 95, 96, 97 and 98) and many being slightly adjusted from their intended positions. In the case of the segmented trenches, each individual segment was recorded individually and assigned a further identifier (e.g. 96A, 96B, 96C).
- 4.3 Aside from these changes, only two trenches had to be significantly repositioned. Trench 86 was shortened from 30m to 24m due to its location between a 'tram line' and a high voltage overhead power cable. Trench 99 had to be shortened from 50m to 27m to avoid a very strong and consistent signal detected by the Cable Avoidance Tool in the southern part of its intended location.
- 4.4 In the southern and south-western parts of the site (south-western corner of Field 3 and Field 7) the geoarchaeological trenches were excavated to investigate the base of the dry valley (Trenches 95-99, consisting of 4no. 50m and 1no. 30m trenches; there was no Trench 94). The original methodology intended to take column samples throughout selected sections of these trenches. However, the high flint content of the deposits made this impossible. Consequently, and following consultation with Kristina Krawiec, Head of Geoarchaeology at York Archaeological Trust, it was decided to take small series grab samples at regular increments through the section. This was done in Trenches 96 and 97, across the most pronounced parts of the slope. To supplement this, bulk samples were also taken from Trenches 98 and 99 from the same deposits.

Survey and machine excavation

- 4.5 The trenches were set out using a Geomax Global Positioning System (GPS). Prior to machine excavation, the locations of each trench were scanned with a CAT (Cable Avoidance Tool) to check for services.

- 4.6 Using a 21-tonne or 14-tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, the overburden was removed in level spits down to the surface of the geological substrate or first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil were kept separate and stored in temporary bunds adjacent to each trench. Due to access constraints, a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator was used in Field 7.
- 4.7 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned using hand tools to define their boundaries and extent within the trenches. Limits and locations of all trenches, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum were recorded using a Geomax GPS.
- 4.8 Following sign-off by PSECC, the trenches were simply backfilled, topsoil uppermost, and tracked in by the machine.

Recording and sampling

- 4.9 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA *Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual* (Taylor and Brown 2018). All archaeological features and deposits were sufficiently excavated to fulfil the project aims stated in Section 3 above.
- 4.10 Drawn records were in the form of survey plans and section drawings of all excavated archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50), while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded using PCA's tablet-based digital recording system linked to a Geographical Information System (QGIS) that was used to interrogate the data.
- 4.11 Cameras with an APS-C or larger sensor and with a resolution of no less than 18 megapixels were used. Images are of archival quality, non-proprietary RAW (.DNG) or .TIFF files. Suitable horizontal and vertical scales were used as appropriate. Digital photographs were taken of all trenches and deposits.
- 4.12 Linear features were investigated by means of slots excavated across their width and measuring at least 1m in length, positioned to avoid areas of intercutting/disturbance to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages. A minimum of 10% of each linear was excavated. Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and when considered appropriate 100% excavated.
- 4.13 With the agreement with the PSECC, the mechanical excavators were used to extend trenches and to facilitate the excavation of several large, probably post-medieval,

extraction pits (Trenches 43, 45, 47, 87 and 89).

Environmental sampling and finds

- 4.14 Deposits were assessed in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (EH 2011) and samples taken accordingly.
- 4.15 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (ClfA 2020; Brown *et al.* 2016).

Metal detecting and Treasure

- 4.16 Prior to the mechanical excavation of the trenches, the area of each trench was scanned using a metal detector. Once the trenches were open, the spoil heaps and any features exposed in the trenches were scanned for finds. The metal detector was not set to discriminate against iron.

Monitoring visits

- 4.17 The initial monitoring visit was held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025, with Richard Havis (PSECC), Katie Leigh-Smith (PSECC), Sally Dicks (Tetra Tech RPS) and Simon Carlyle (PCA) in attendance. A follow-up meeting was held on Wednesday 10th September 2025, with Katie Leigh-Smith (PSECC), Sally Dicks (Tetra Tech RPS) and Michael Joyce (PCA) in attendance.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper archive

Context register sheets	6
Section register sheets	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	45
Photo register sheets	9
Environmental register sheets	3

5.2 Digital archive

Digital context sheets	112
Digital trench record sheets	108
Digital photos	682
GPS survey files	5
Digital plans	1
GIS project	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical archive

Struck flint	1
Burnt flint	35,750g
Prehistoric pottery	8 (87g)
Roman pottery	1 (1g<)
Post-Roman pottery	3 (29g)
Ceramic building material (CBM)	58 (2,652g)
Glass	1 (0.16g)
Metal objects	1 (11g)
Human bone	1 cremation
Environmental grab samples	2 series
Environmental flots and residues	From 11 samples

6 EVALUATION RESULTS

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 The evaluation comprised 98 trenches arranged across seven fields, the locations of which are shown on Figures 2-5 (due to a numbering omission, there was no Trench 94). Five of these trenches were positioned for geoarchaeological purposes to investigate the deposits in the bottom of the southernmost dry valley, although two of them also revealed archaeological remains. These trenches are discussed separately at the end of this section.
- 6.1.2 The finds assemblage was extremely sparse, meaning that a significant amount of the features encountered remain undated. The earliest closely dateable activity at the site was a cremation burial containing fragments of a probable Bronze Age urn (Trench 27). Two small pits containing quantities of burnt flint may also be of a similar date (Field 7, Trenches 95 and 96).
- 6.1.3 The next dateable phase of activity was represented by five large probable extraction pits, possibly exploiting the underlying clay deposits for ceramic production, and likely dating to the post-medieval period (Trenches 43, 46, 47, 87 and 89). All of these features were noticeably located on the higher ground between the generally north-west to south-east aligned dry valleys.
- 6.1.4 Seven ditches were revealed which correspond with boundaries recorded on the 1841 Tithe Map (Trenches 18, 43, 44, 53, 64, 75 and 95, Fig. 4). Several others were on very similar alignments and probably represented boundaries slightly predating 1841 (for example Trench 68).
- 6.1.5 Fragments of glass, large pieces of metal and brick rubble (with some bricks being marked 'LBC') were encountered in Trench 65, which probably relates to the demolition of a farm building during the 20th century. Geophysical survey identified this area as quarry pits, therefore this rubble probably represented backfill into a relatively recent pit (Magnitude Surveys 2019, 10).
- 6.1.6 Currently, the remaining features revealed are undated. This comprised a relatively small number of discrete features and several linear features, some of which broadly corresponded with linear anomalies on the geophysical survey. A relatively large amount of natural features were investigated and are included in the results below. Unless otherwise stated, the archaeological features were generally filled by light to mid grey-brown silty clays.

- 6.1.7 No archaeological remains were found in 70 of the trenches. Given the relatively low density and dispersed nature of the archaeological remains, the trenches containing features are described below by field number and then numerically. Detailed context and trench information is presented in Appendix 1.

6.2 General stratigraphy

- 6.2.1 The geological substrate (3) was generally consistent across the site, consisting of light orangey brown clay, with occasional sandy seams and abundant flint.
- 6.2.2 The layers of overburden across the site were fairly consistent, comprising topsoil (1) (0.30-0.35m thick) and a light brown silty clay subsoil (2)(0.05-0.10m thick), although many of the trenches on the higher ground revealed no subsoil. There were a small number of exceptions to this: Trench 13 in Field 2 was excavated through a relatively thick (0.50-0.75m) layer of subsoil/colluvium, probably a result of accumulation in the natural hollow/bowl observed in this part of the field. The trenches aligned across the southernmost dry valley also encountered thicker deposits of subsoil/colluvium, the details of which will be discussed below (Fields 3 and 7, Trenches 95-99).
- 6.2.3 Of note is that no field drains were observed in any of the trenches, suggesting that whilst the geological substrate was firm clay, the contours clearly allow this soil to drain effectively.

6.3 Field 1 (Fig. 6)

- 6.3.1 Located on the highest ground on the site, this was the northernmost field in the evaluation area. It was bounded by the modern road Holtsmere End to the north and agricultural fields on all other sides. Eleven trenches were opened here, two of which contained archaeological features.

Trench 16

- 6.3.2 Small, sub-circular feature [6] was located close to the centre of the trench. It measured 0.62m long by 0.4m wide by 0.08m deep (Fig. 6, Section 2). Its irregular sides and undulating base lead to the conclusion that this was a naturally-formed feature.

Trench 18

- 6.3.3 Situated close to the centre of the trench, Ditch [4] was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 0.84m wide by 0.16m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 6, Section 1; Plate 1). Its fill (5) yielded a sherd (4g) of post-medieval pottery and two fragments of post-medieval tile. It closely corresponds to a field division shown on the 1841 Tithe map (Fig. 4).

6.4 Field 2 (Figs 7-10)

- 6.4.1 This field was located on the gentle slope downwards to the south-west from the higher ground of Field 1 and was bounded by a farm track along its southern edge, Holtsmere End Lane on its western side and the Great Revel End farmyard on its eastern side. Along with Field 1, it was deemed to be of a higher archaeological potential given the results of the geophysical survey and previously known prehistoric activity in the vicinity. Of the 40 trenches opened here, nine contained archaeological features.

Trench 10

- 6.4.2 At the north-eastern end of the trench was a naturally-formed, small, sub-circular feature [12] with irregular sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, Section 5). It measured 0.6m long by 0.33m wide by 0.07m deep.

Trench 11

- 6.4.3 This trench revealed a somewhat elongated, sub-circular pit [18]. It measured 1.8m long by 0.9m wide by 0.36m deep and had steep sides and a sub-flat base (Fig. 7, Section 7). Its fill (19) contained five sherds (25g) of Belgic-type pottery that have been dated to 50 BC to AD 50 and a piece of fired clay.

Trench 13

- 6.4.4 This trench revealed one large naturally-formed feature and two archaeological features.
- 6.4.5 In the southern part of the trench, naturally-formed feature [68], probably a topographic hollow, had an irregular shape-in-plan and irregular sides. It probably represented the continuation of the natural hollow/bowl visible at ground level prior to the excavation of the trench and resulted in the trench being unusually deep. It measured 5.5m long, 1.21m wide and 0.55m deep (Fig. 7, Section 25; Plate 2).
- 6.4.6 Close to the centre of the trench was feature [77]. This extended for 0.80m from the eastern side of the trench and its U-shaped profile meant it was not possible to be certain if it was a pit or a small ditch terminus. It measured 1.0m wide by over 0.62m deep (Fig. 7, Section 29; Plate 3).
- 6.4.7 Slightly to the north-west was sub-circular pit [74]. This feature measured 0.60m long by 0.39m wide by 0.21m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, Section 27). Its fill (75) was a dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and pieces of fired clay.

Trench 23

- 6.4.8 Pit [8] was located close to the north-western end of the trench. It measured 1.2m long by 0.88m wide by 0.28m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 3; Plate 4). Its fill (9) contained pieces of fired clay.

Trench 27

- 6.4.9 Near the centre of the trench was a small pit [10] containing cremated human skeletal remains (14) and several sherds of a probable urn. Both assemblages were located in the upper part of the pit's fill, a dark grey, charcoal-rich silty clay (11). This feature was 100% excavated in 0.05m spits and all the fill was retained for analysis.
- 6.4.10 The pit [10] was sub-circular in shape with vertical sides that slightly tapered to a sub-flat base. It measured 0.45m long by 0.35m wide by 0.18m deep (Fig. 8, Section 4; Plate 5). Its fill contained two sherds (57g) and four crumbs of Mid to Late Bronze Age Deveril-Rimbury pottery.
- 6.4.11 Sub-circular shaped naturally-formed feature [15] was located to the south-west. It measured 1.0m long, 0.83m wide and 0.36m deep (Fig. 8, Section 6). Its irregular sides and somewhat undulating base were suggestive of the void left by a large tree root.

Trench 37

- 6.4.12 This trench revealed sub-circular pit [24] close to its south-western end. With moderately sloping sides and an irregular base, it may have been formed by natural processes. It was 1.0m long by 0.58m wide by 0.25m deep (Fig. 9, Section 10; Plate 6).

Trench 43

- 6.4.13 This trench revealed three archaeological features and was extended on its eastern side to allow for the greater exposure of the first of the large, broadly circular extraction pits.
- 6.4.14 Extraction pit [57]/[48] measured 5.69m long by 5.6m wide. It was partially excavated by machine on its north-western side, with the lower portion being dug by hand where it was found to be 0.58m deep (Fig. 9, Section 21; Plate 7). Its basal fill (58) was a mid-brownish orange clay, above which was a mid-grey brown silty clay (59). A second intervention [48] was hand dug on its southern edge to establish its relationship with ditch [51].
- 6.4.15 Ditch [51]/[60] was truncated by extraction pit [57]/[48]. It was broadly aligned north-west to south-east and corresponds with a field boundary visible on the 1841 Tithe

map (Fig. 6). It continued to the north-west where it was present in Trench 44. The gradually sloping sides and concave base of this feature measured 1.8m wide by 0.18m deep (Fig. 9, Sections 19 and 22; Plate 8).

- 6.4.16 Immediately to the south-west of this ditch was pit [26]. This feature was only partially exposed along the western side of the trench. It had steep, though slightly irregular sides and the visible portion measured 1.8m wide by 0.76m deep (Fig. 9, Section 11; Plate 9). Its three fills, (27), (28) and (29), were slightly anomalous for the site in that they exhibited clear tip lines, possibly redolent of intentional backfilling.

Trench 44

- 6.4.17 Trench 44 uncovered ditch [20], which was the continuation of ditch [51]/[60] in Trench 43. Here it measured 0.69m wide by 0.12m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 9, Section 8; Plate 10).

Trench 46

- 6.4.18 This trench revealed another large extraction pit [46], close to its western end. The portion visible in the trench measured 5.2m long by 1.8m wide (Fig. 10, Section 18; Plate 11). With the agreement of PSECC, hand excavation was halted at a depth of 0.56m due to the feature's similarity to four other extraction pits which were to be investigated further. Its fill (47) was mid-orange brown silty clay.

Trench 47

- 6.4.19 Trench 47 revealed three archaeological features, two pits and a large probable extraction pit. The trench was extended on the southern side to allow for machine excavation and safe ingress into the large extraction pit.
- 6.4.20 Sub-circular pit [82] was located close to the eastern end of the trench. Its moderately sloping sides and concave base measured 1.8m long by 1.14m wide by 0.50m deep (Fig. 10, Section 13; Plate 12). Its fill (83) yielded a sherd (5g) and a crumb of Post-Deveril Rimbury pottery, dated to 1150-350 BC.
- 6.4.21 Pit [86] was near the western end of the trench and was truncated by extraction pit [84]. It measured 1.80m long by 1.76m wide by 1.0m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 10, Section 33; Plate 13). Its fill (87) yielded six fragments of post-medieval peg tile and brick.
- 6.4.22 Large extraction pit [84] was broadly circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 6.1m long by 4.3m wide by 1.8m deep (Fig. 10, Section 31). Despite its depth only one fill, a compact mid greyish brown silty clay (85), was visible, probably

indicating a single filling event. A sherd (10g) of 19th-century pottery, two fragments of post-medieval peg tile and a piece of fired clay were recovered from its fill (85).

6.5 Field 3 (Figs 11-16)

- 6.5.1 Field 3 was the largest field within the evaluated area and broadly occupied the centre of the site. It sloped gently upwards from the farm track to its immediate north, where it plateaued before dropping off steeply on its south-western side, down into the base of the southernmost dry valley. It was bounded by Holtsmere End Lane on its western side, Little Revel End to the south and Fields 4 and 5 to the east. The trenches in this field were more widely dispersed as a result of the lower potential for archaeological remains suggested by the geophysical surveys. Of the 29 trenches opened in this field, 15 revealed archaeological features.

Trenches 53 and 64

- 6.5.2 This trench revealed ditch [22], which was aligned north-west to south-east and continued into Trench 64 to the south-east (where it was not excavated). It corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1841 Tithe map (Fig. 6). With moderately sloping sides and a concave base, this ditch measured 0.89m wide by 0.2m deep (Fig. 11, Section 9; Plate 14).

Trench 57

- 6.5.3 Two sub-circular pits were encountered in this trench, one at either end. Pit [88] measured 2.1m long by 1.15m wide by 0.53m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 12, Section 34; Plate 15).
- 6.5.4 Pit [90] had steep sides and a flat base and was 1.6m long, 0.72m wide and 0.14m deep (Fig. 12, Section 35).

Trench 62

- 6.5.5 Trench 62 revealed curvilinear feature [72] near the centre of the trench, which initially appeared to be archaeological, although upon excavation it was found to have irregular and slightly undercutting sides, redolent of a natural feature. It measured over 2.0m long, 0.75m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 13, Section 26; Plate 16).

Trench 65

- 6.5.6 This trench was targeted over a geophysical anomaly identified as a probable large quarry pit (Fig. 5; Plate 17). Upon excavation it was found to contain deposits (55) and (56), consisting of demolition rubble, broken glass, metal struts and multiple fragments

of CBM and brick, some of which was marked 'LBC' (London Brick Company). Due to the potentially hazardous nature of these deposits no hand excavation was attempted in this trench. However, the obviously modern nature of the material strongly suggests that this represents backfill of a relatively large quarry pit in the recent past.

Trench 68

- 6.5.7 Located in the southern part of the trench, ditch [92] was aligned north-east to south-west, consistent with the modern field boundaries and those recorded on various 19th and 20th-century maps. However, it is not shown on the 1841 Tithe map (Fig. 6). Excavation showed it to be 2.05m wide by 1.3m deep, with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 13, Section 38; Plate 18), implying that it had suffered less truncation than the other post-medieval/modern boundaries encountered on the site. This feature was hand excavated to a depth of 0.7m and by machine thereafter, owing to its depth from the top of the trench.

Trench 69

- 6.5.8 This trench revealed sub-circular natural feature [70] towards its western end (Fig. 13). Its gradually sloping sides and irregular base measured 2.3m long by 1.47m wide by 0.24m deep.

Trench 70

- 6.5.9 Natural feature [107] was located close to the southern end of this trench. It measured 0.40m long by 0.30m wide by 0.19m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 12, Section 43).

Trench 75

- 6.5.10 Ditch [99] extended for two thirds of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west. It was on the same alignment and located close to a boundary shown on the 1841 Tithe map (Fig. 6) and is therefore probably the same ditch. It measured 0.55m wide by 0.12m deep and had gradually sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 14, Section 40; Plate 19).

Trench 76

- 6.5.11 Trench 76 revealed circular pit [104], probably a small-scale extraction pit, close to the centre of the trench. It measured 1.0m in diameter and 0.62m deep and had near-vertical sides and a concave base (Fig. 14, Section 42; Plate 20). A sherd (15g) of 12th-mid-14th-century pottery was recovered from its basal fill. This feature was similar in character to pits [26] (Trench 43) and [82] (Trench 47).

Trench 77

- 6.5.12 Close to the centre of the trench, ditch [109] was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 0.53m wide by 0.18m deep and had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 15, Section 44; Plate 21). This ditch did not correspond to any boundaries on historic mapping but was similarly aligned to those on the 1841 Tithe map.

Trench 80

- 6.5.13 Sub-circular pit [53], probably a small-scale extraction pit, was partially revealed against the southern trench baulk, close to its north-eastern end. Its visible portion measured 3.14m long by 1.35m wide by 0.40m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 15, Section 20; Plate 22).

Trench 81

- 6.5.14 This trench partially revealed sub-circular pit [111] against its eastern baulk, close to the centre of the trench. Its visible portion measured 2.63m long by 0.76m wide by 0.35m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 16, Section 45; Plate 23).

Trench 89

- 6.5.15 This trench was extended on its western side to further reveal the two features present.
- 6.5.16 Close to the centre of the trench was sub-circular pit [101], which measured 2.3m long by 1.05m wide by 0.34m deep and had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 16, Section 41; Plate 24).
- 6.5.17 In the southern part of the trench was large extraction pit [95]. Despite the extension of the trench, the full limits of this feature were not fully exposed owing to its large size. It measured 8.2m long north-west to south-east and was at least 5.08m wide north-east to south-west. Machine excavation showed it to be 0.88m deep (Fig. 16, Section 39; Plate 25). Its lower fill (96) comprised hard, dark orangey-brown silty clay. Above this was fill (97) that was composed almost entirely of redeposited large flint nodules, demonstrating that the extraction process was not targeting the flint in the geological substrate. The upper fill (98) was composed of a firm, mid-brown silty clay and yielded 14 fragments of post-medieval peg tile and brick.

6.6 Field 5 (Fig. 17)

- 6.6.1 This small field was located on the same plateau of higher ground as the majority of Field 3 immediately to the west. It was bounded by Little Revel End on its southern side and agricultural fields on all other sides.

Trench 85

- 6.6.2 This trench revealed one slightly amorphous pit which may have been natural in origin. Pit [80] was sub-circular in plan, measured 2.0m long by 0.60m wide by 0.38m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 17, Section 30). Its fill (81) contained an abraded sherd (1g) of Roman pottery.

Trench 87

- 6.6.3 Trench 87 revealed the last of the five large extraction pits recorded on the site and was extended at its northern end to further reveal it. Pit [76] was sub-circular in plan and had moderately sloping sides. It measured 7.2m long by 4.65m wide and was machine excavated to a depth of 0.9m before the sides of the intervention became unstable and excavation was halted (Fig. 17, Section 28; Plate 26). Its fill (79) was compact mid grey-brown silty clay, from which was recovered three fragments of post-medieval peg tile and a piece of fired clay.

6.7 Geoarchaeological trenches (Figs 18-20)

- 6.7.1 The five geoarchaeological trenches were aligned across the base of the southernmost dry valley, spanning the south-western corner of Field 3 and the central portion of Field 7. At the request of the landowner, Trenches 95-98 were segmented to avoid disturbing the agricultural 'tram lines'. For recording purposes each segment was given a letter suffix (e.g. Trench 95 comprised 95A and 95B). The deposits encountered in the trenches, which were recorded in section, are detailed in Table 1. These comprised topsoil (c. 0.3m thick) and subsoil (0.1-0.2m thick), below which was a fairly consistent sequence of probable colluvial deposits. The colluvial deposits comprised a light to mid orange-brown silty clay with abundant gravel inclusions (Plate 27). Four of the trenches were subject to environmental sampling.

Table 1: Colluvial deposits in the geoarchaeological trenches

Trench	Section No.	Maximum depth (m)	Colluvium context no.	Colluvium average thickness (m)	Environmental samples
97A	24 (Fig. 20)	1.0	(66)	0.35	
97B		0.75	(66)	0.35	
97C		0.8	(66)	0.40	
96A		0.5	n/a	-	
96B	17 (Fig. 19)	1.0	(31) (Upper)	0.14	22 and 24
96B			(32) (Middle)	0.20	
96B			(44) (Lower)	0.45	23 and 25

Trench	Section No.	Maximum depth (m)	Colluvium context no.	Colluvium average thickness (m)	Environmental samples
96C		0.7	(44)	0.4	
98A	36	1.0	(44)	0.3	
98B		0.6	n/a	-	
95A		0.9	(44)	0.3	
95B		0.8	(44)	0.4	
99	37	1.0	(44)	0.45	

Trench 95A

- 6.7.2 This trench revealed sub-circular pit [40], which measured 1.14m long by 0.70m wide by 0.20m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 18, Section 15; Plate 28). Its lower fill (41), a firm dark greyish black silty clay, contained abundant amounts of burnt flint. The upper fill (45) was a compact dark orange brown silty clay.

Trench 95B

- 6.7.3 Located in the northern part of the trench was north-east to south-west aligned ditch [38], which corresponds to a boundary shown on the 1841 Tithe map (Fig. 6). It measured 1.25m wide by 0.50m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 18, Section 14). An iron object was recovered from the fill (39) of the ditch.

Trench 96B

- 6.7.4 Three features were recorded in this trench (Plate 31).
- 6.7.5 The northernmost was circular pit [36], which was 0.6m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 19, Section 13).
- 6.7.6 To the south was sub-circular pit [34], which measured 1.2m long by 0.90m wide by 0.15m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 19, Section 12; Plate 29). Its fill (35) of black silty clay contained abundant burnt flint, a similar assemblage to pit [40] in Trench 95A.
- 6.7.7 Close to the centre of the trench was an east to west aligned ditch which did not correspond to any features visible on historic mapping. Ditch [42] measured 0.78m wide by 0.34m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 19, Section 16; Plate 30).

Trench 97C

- 6.7.8 Feature [62] was circular in shape, measured 0.19m in diameter and 0.43m deep and

had vertical sides (Fig. 20, Section 23). Its fill (63) was mid greyish-brown silty clay, redolent of the subsoil, suggesting that this may have been a relatively recent animal burrow or other similar feature.

7 FINDS

7.1 Lithics by Laura Desrosiers-Whalley

Introduction

- 7.1.1 The evaluation resulted in the recovery of a large quantity of unworked burnt flint from two pits, totalling 35,750g. A single retouched scraper was also recovered from the topsoil.
- 7.1.2 The worked flint assemblage was recorded following standard technological and typological classifications and largely follows the methodology of Inizan *et al.* (1999) with modifications and additions as indicated in the text by the author. Retouched tools were classified following standard British works such as Healy (1988) and Bamford (1985). Measurements were taken following the methodology of Saville (1980).

Unworked burnt flint

- 7.1.3 A total of 35,750g of burnt flint was recovered from the site. The material was recovered entirely from two pits, [34] and [40], located c. 300m from one another. Each pit contained a single fill, (35) and (41) respectively, which each had four buckets of environmental sample taken due to the quantities of burnt flint and the charcoal-rich nature of the fill. Sample <6>, from fill (35) of pit [34], amounted to 35 litres of material, and Sample <7>, from fill (41) of pit [40], amounted to 34 litres of material. The unworked burnt flint was recovered entirely from these samples; therefore, a considerable amount more unworked burnt flint was present within the pits compared to the sample quantified here (Table 2).

Table 2: The unworked burnt stone

Context	Cut no.	Feature	Trench	Sample	Count	Weight (g)	Size (mm)
35	34	Pit	96b	6	924	6,700	>10mm
35	34	Pit	96b	6	1,438	6,400	>10mm
35	34	Pit	96b	6	1,650	5,000	5-10mm
35	34	Pit	96b	6		6,600	2-4mm
41	40	Pit	95a	7	1,346	8,550	>10mm
41	40	Pit	95a	7	3,550	2,100	5-10mm
41	40	Pit	95a	7		400	2-4mm
Grand Total:					8,908	35,750	

- 7.1.4 The burnt flint had all been consistently and intensively heated, resulting in total

discolouration and high fragmentation. It was sieved and counted by size; anything smaller than 5mm in its largest dimension was not counted, only weighed. 24,700g was recovered from pit [34] and 11,050g was recovered from pit [40]. These total quantities from the features would be much higher, as these totals only reflect what was recovered from the sampled portion of the fill.

- 7.1.5 Burnt flint is not inherently dateable but is often recovered from prehistoric contexts. Smaller quantities are usually indicative of incidental debris from ground-set hearths. However, the very high quantity of burnt flint material from the two pits suggests the deliberate burning of high quantities of flint. Flint is not necessarily a sought-after material for burning, especially in domestic hearths. Typically, large quantities of flint, such as those seen here, are associated with burnt mound sites, common to the Bronze Age period. In some cases, pits are used as an intermediary stage between the initial burning and its further fragmentation and discard onto the burnt mound itself (Bishop 2015).
- 7.1.6 It is possible that a burnt mound is present on the site, or in the vicinity, which was not uncovered during the evaluation or detected by prior geophysical survey. However, large quantities of burnt flint are often recovered from Iron Age settlement sites, posited as a feature of a variety of agricultural or cooking practices; in this case, the unworked burnt flint is often found in pits, similar to those described here (Bishop 2023).
- 7.1.7 Whichever its purpose, the quantity of burnt flint represents a significant activity that was occurring at the site.
- 7.1.8 The burnt flint material has been discarded in its entirety by the specialist, in keeping with regional recommendations.

Late Neolithic scraper

- 7.1.9 The single struck lithic piece, recovered from the topsoil (1), was a retouched end scraper, likely dating to the Late Neolithic (Butler 2012).
- 7.1.10 The piece was entirely recorticated, with the exception of some minor chipping along the left margin which was most likely post-depositional. The blank was a fairly large, thick, elongated flake, almost a decortication flake save for two narrow dorsal scars. Further flake scars followed these, but step-fractured much shorter than the earlier flake scars. The distal end was steeply retouched into a rounded scraper, with some possible evidence of use-wear, most likely on hard materials.
- 7.1.11 The residual nature of this single piece cannot elucidate much with regard to knapping

practices, or prehistoric activity more broadly, at the site. It was likely incidentally discarded and later disturbed, included in the topsoil by ploughing or similar processes.

Conclusions

- 7.1.12 The burnt flint is of interest, as the large quantity of material from some of the features indicates the deliberate selection of the material for a large-scale, intense and deliberate burning, perhaps in a feature such as a burnt mound. An account of this material should accompany any publications concerning this site.
- 7.1.13 If any further excavations take place on this site, this material should be considered in conjunction with any further lithic material recovered.

7.2 Prehistoric pottery by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Introduction

- 7.2.1 A small assemblage comprising eight sherds (87g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation (Table 3). The pottery derived from only three contexts, relating to two pits and a cremation.
- 7.2.2 The pottery recovered can be assigned to a small number of different ceramic traditions. The earliest of these was the Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Middle Bronze Age, although this designation cannot be made with great confidence.
- 7.2.3 Other prehistoric traditions represented were even more sparse, comprising the Post Deverel-Rimbury tradition, of the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, and the Belgic-type tradition (the term 'Belgic' is used here following Thompson (1982, 4-5) and should not be taken to imply a link with Caesar's Belgae (*Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, 5.12)), which is characteristic of the Late Iron Age. As with the prior tradition, diagnostic qualities were very low, inhibiting confidence.
- 7.2.4 A total of 7g of pottery crumbs (<1g) were recovered during the evaluation. The ceramics are in a stable condition. This report provides a quantified description of the assemblage with a brief discussion and assessment of potential for analysis.

Methodology

- 7.2.5 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the *Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group* (2010; Barclay *et al.* 2016). The recording methodology used follows two similar but different approaches, the division being made between sherds of characteristically Middle Iron Age and earlier ceramic traditions (Method One), and sherds of characteristically Late Iron Age or Late Iron Age/Early Roman transitional ceramic traditions (Method Two). This decision has been

taken based on the different typical exhibited characteristics of these assemblage types, which can be captured better by slightly different recording/analytical methodologies.

Fabric

- 7.2.6 Following Method One, fabric types were devised on the composition of inclusions present, as well as their density and modal size. Fabric types are designated based on shorthand abbreviated codes, recorded as INCLUSIONTYPE-frequency-size in the catalogue to facilitate wider comparative analysis (Table 4). These groups were then given site specific codes, i.e. FL1, QUFL2 in this report. In cases where the fabric recipe included more than one inclusion type, the more frequent inclusion is recorded first, i.e. fabric FLQU1 would have calcined flint as the dominant inclusion, with sand being the secondary inclusion. Where tertiary, incidental inclusions were intermittently present within sherds of a given fabric, or where unusual fabric qualities (outside the bounds of the code system) were notable, these are recorded in the longform fabric descriptions in the catalogue (i.e. 'incidental fossil shell'). It should be noted that the recording of incidental fabric qualities in this manner is for descriptive purposes only, i.e. a sand fabric with 'incidental fossil shell' should not be seen as analogous to a QUSH (sand with shell) fabric recipe for comparative purposes.
- 7.2.7 Method One entailed each sherd being recorded individually. Sherds weighing less than 1g were classified as crumbs and were recorded by context and weight in the catalogue. Crumbs were not subject to further analysis unless they formed the sole pottery recovered from a context, in which case they are noted in Table 3 as a null '0' value.
- 7.2.8 In the case of Method Two, Late Iron Age sherds were assigned to wider fabric families and names only (e.g. GROG; RW(GROG)). The sherds were also not individually weighed or assigned to a size category, with each group of sherds considered to represent a single 'vessel' being recorded in bulk per context (including any pottery crumbs). Where sherds of comparable fabric that could be visually assigned to separate vessels were present within a context assemblage, the grouped sherds were recorded in separate entries in the catalogue. As a result, each entry in the catalogue for sherds recorded using method two is considered to be a separate 'vessel', meaning additional vessel numbers were not required to be assigned.

Class, form, surface treatments/decoration and miscellaneous characteristics

- 7.2.9 In both methodologies, sherd type (or bulk sherd types) were recorded in the catalogue using the convention R=rim, U=bodysherd, SH=shoulder and B=base, with the suffix 'D' being used to indicate the presence of decoration, i.e. RDU is a rim and body sherd with decoration on the rim, RDSHD a rim and shoulder sherd with decoration on the rim and shoulder etc. (further, less commonly used sherd codes are recorded in the 'key' section of the catalogue).
- 7.2.10 Manufacturing technology was also recorded (where apparent), evidence for surface treatment, decoration (technique, motif and location, expanded upon in the catalogue as required) and the presence of adaptation, repair, makers stamps, soot and/or residue.
- 7.2.11 All sherds recovered and recorded using method one were subject to size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small', sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' and sherds over 8cm in diameter were classified as 'large'.
- 7.2.12 For both methodologies rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted (thereby allowing the Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) to be calculated, if considered appropriate). Where possible, sherds were assigned to a ceramic tradition, based on their exhibited characteristics. In the case of method one, rim and base forms were described using a codified system appropriate to their ceramic tradition, with shoulder type also being described using a generalised format in the catalogue (Appendix 3). Rim and base sherds were then assigned vessel numbers. For Method Two, rim and shoulder types were not recorded (the more detailed form categories serving this purpose for these ceramic traditions), although base types were still recorded using an appropriate more generalised format.
- 7.2.13 The site assemblage contained a minimum of three vessels. This is based on the number of rim sherds recovered and recorded using Method One (two sherds) combined with the number of entries recorded using Method Two (one entry).

Dating

- 7.2.14 Based on the recorded characteristics above, a suggested sherd date range was assigned to each sherd. The combined information about all the ceramics from each context was then used to suggest a ceramic date range for that context. For example, a context with five undiagnostic Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ceramic tradition sherds, and one diagnostic Earlier Iron Age sherd could result in the whole context being assigned an Earlier Iron Age date range, if considered appropriate.

- 7.2.15 It should be noted that most sherds do not exhibit diagnostic characteristics that enabled such a refined date range to be suggested, with such refined context dates often relying on the presence/absence of limited numbers of diagnostic sherds.

Terminology

Table 3: Prehistoric pottery by context

Context	Cut	Category	Fabric code	Fabric name	Count	Weight (g)	Ceramic tradition	Ceramic context date
14	10	Cremation	FL1; GR1		2	57	DEVEREL-RIMBURY	1600/1500-1150/1100BC
19	18	Pit		RW(GROG)(OX SURFACES)	5	25	BELGIC-TYPE	50BC-AD50
83	82	Pit	FLQU1		1	5	POST DEVEREL-RIMBURY	1150/1100-400/350BC

Table 4: Prehistoric pottery fabric series

SSFabric code	Shorthand fabric type	Fabric name	Longform fabric description
		RW(GROG)(OX SURFACES)	Reduced ware (grog) (oxidised surfaces)
FL1	FL-MC-FVC		Moderate to common, fine to very coarse calcined flint
FLQU1	FL-SM-FMQU-RS-F		Sparse to moderate, fine to moderate calcined flint, rare to sparse, fine sand
GR1	GR-RS-FC		Rare to sparse, fine to coarse grog

Deverel-Rimbury tradition

- 7.2.16 The tradition assemblage comprised sherds derived from a single feature, Cremation [10] in Trench 27, all of which had been severely abraded (Plate *).

Fabric, form and decoration

- 7.2.17 All of the sherds (57g) were composed of the same thick-walled, very coarse fabric with calcined flint inclusions, all of which derived from the same vessel (although crumbs of a coarse grog-tempered fabric were also present). Only part of the upper profile of the vessel survived, comprising c. 23% of the diameter of the vessel rim, which was a simple, rounded type. The diameter of the vessel mouth was c. 24cm and the vessel had been decorated by the addition of a single circular 'boss', located c. 2cm below the rim on the exterior surface.

Discussion

- 7.2.18 The diagnostic potential of such a small sherd assemblage is limited. However, the combination of characteristics can be 'best-fitted' into the Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Middle Bronze Age (Brown 1996 and 1999). This tradition is primarily composed of large, bucket or barrel jars, typically in grog or calcined flint fabrics. Although incomplete, the large size of the rim diameter suggests the current site's vessel represents one of these large jars, which are the vessel class preferentially selected for funerary purposes within the tradition. The use of raised decorative motifs, typically cordons, lug handles or bosses are well documented within the tradition, with examples being found at the 'type-site' of Ardleigh (*ibid.*, fig. 64, 99) and elsewhere (Longworth *et al.* 1988, fig. 30, 86).

Post Deverel-Rimbury tradition

- 7.2.19 A single sherd of pottery (5g) was recovered from Pit [82] in Trench 47. The sherd was relatively thin and composed of a hard, fine, calcined flint and sand tempered fabric.

Discussion

- 7.2.20 Little analysis can be undertaken on a single sherd. However, the characteristics of the sherd (most significantly the fabric recipe) indicate that it can be 'best-fitted' into the Post Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (Barret 1980; Brudenell 2012).

Belgic-type tradition

- 7.2.21 The Belgic-type ceramic tradition assemblage (five sherds, 25g) was entirely derived from Pit [18] in Trench 11. All the sherds were undiagnostic bodysherds in a poor condition, which were composed of a grog-tempered fabric with an oxidised exterior surface.

Discussion

- 7.2.22 As with the prior tradition assemblage, the limitations of the assemblage restrict both analysis and confidence in designation. However, although the sherds were handmade the relatively well sorted grog inclusions and uniform firing suggest a designation to the Belgic-type tradition is appropriate, rather than to other (typically early) prehistoric traditions that also use grog-tempered fabrics. The use of a relatively consistent oxidised surface is also associated with this ceramic tradition, where it has been suggested that it may be an attempt to mimic the surface appearance of Gallo-Belgic or other imported ceramics, typically from c. 15/10BC (Rigby 1989, 117-145;

Thompson 1982, 22).

Summary

- 7.2.23 The pottery recovered can be assigned to a small number of different ceramic traditions. The most significant assemblage was also the earlier, in the form of the partial remains of a single, Deverel-Rimbury tradition cremation urn.
- 7.2.24 The remaining assemblages were much less diagnostic and comprised sherds that could be 'best-fitted' to the Post Deverel-Rimbury and Belgic-type traditions.
- 7.2.25 The ceramics have been fully recorded and are in a stable condition. If the site's phasing and grouping is revised, this report will need to be updated to reflect any changes. Similarly, in the event of any further work on the site, these ceramics and this report will need to be integrated into further reporting.

7.3 Roman pottery by Amanda Hayes

- 7.3.1 One highly abraded sherd of greyware pottery, weighing less than 1g, was recovered from the fill (81) of Pit [80] in Trench 85. The sherd, which is probably residual, is too small to indicate the type of vessel it came from, but it was likely a beaker given the thickness.
- 7.3.2 The fabric is quite likely Roman (AD 43-410); unfortunately, given its fragmentary state, no closer dating is possible.

7.4 Post-Roman pottery by Amber Johnson

- 7.4.1 A small assemblage of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the evaluation, amounting to three sherds, representing a minimum number of three vessels and weighing 29g. The pottery dates to the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 7.4.2 The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an Access database, by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types is according to the codes used in Hertfordshire (Blinkhorn, Lyrn & Pearce 2020; Blinkhorn 2012) and the Museum of London Archaeology typology (MOLA 2014). The *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* were followed for recording, and the forms were identified in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's guide to the classification of forms (Barclay *et al.* 2016; MPRG 1998; 2001). A catalogue of the pottery with date ranges and a suggested spot date appears in Table 5.
- 7.4.3 Fill (5) of Ditch [4] in Trench 18 contains a body sherd of post-medieval Glazed red

earthenware (GRE) which has a dull, clear glaze on the interior; the sherd itself is small and abraded. Fill (85) of pit [84] in Trench 47 yielded a body sherd of refined whiteware (REFW) that is in better condition, with a thick, clear glaze. Finally, fill (105) of Pit [104] in Trench 76 contained a medieval sherd of South Hertfordshire greyware that is fairly coarse and dates from the late 12th to mid-14th century.

- 7.4.4 The pottery types and forms are well-parallelled in Hertfordshire and south-east England (Sudds 2012; 2016). The pottery has the potential to date the contexts from which it was recovered and demonstrates activity in the medieval and post-medieval period in the vicinity of the site. Beyond this the pottery has little significance due to the small size of the assemblage and common fabric types. No further work is recommended.

Table 5: Summary catalogue of post-Roman pottery

SC = Sherd count; ENV = Estimated number of vessels

Context	Fabric Code	Fabric code description	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments	Date range		Context considered date
5	GRE	Glazed red earthenware	1	1	4	Body sherd. Some abrasion. Internal dull, clear glaze.	1580	1900	1580-1900
85	REFW	Refined whiteware	1	1	10	Body sherd, plain. Thick, clear glaze on both surfaces.	1805	1900	1805-1900
105	SHER	South Hertfordshire grey ware	1	1	15	Body sherd. Dark, reduced surface, grey and brown core/margins. Coarse variety?	1170	1350	1170-1350

7.5 Ceramic building material and burnt clay by Amparo Valcarcel Estors

Introduction

- 7.5.1 A total of 58 fragments (2,652g) of ceramic building material (CBM) and daub/fired clay were recovered from the fills of pits and layers, with only one fragment found in environmental samples (2g). Numerically, the predominant assemblage dates to the post-medieval period and primarily consists of bricks and roofing tiles. A lesser quantity of fired clay/daub was also identified. A complete catalogue of objects by context is presented in Table 6, while Table 7 provides a summary of the identified fabrics.

Methodology

- 7.5.2 The material was examined under ×20 magnification and quantified across multiple

parameters: context, fabric, form, number, weight, and measurement (ACBMG. 2002). As no fabric codes had been found, new codes were created, starting with the prefix HEMP, followed by a number (e.g., HEMP1, HEMP2...). Standard practice dictates that common fabrics and forms be discarded post-recording.

The assemblage

- 7.5.3 The assemblage is tabulated below by period, form and fabric (Table 7). By fragment count, post-medieval forms are most prevalent, represented in local fabric types. An overview of the assemblage is presented below. The assemblage comes from a variety of fills associated with pits and layers.

Distribution

- 7.5.4 The table below shows the quantity, weight, form, and fabric of the materials found. This information is separated by context.

Table 6: Distribution of the CBM by context with spot dates

Context	Cut	Feature	Fabric	Form	Quan.	Wt (g)	Date range of material based on fabric/form		Spot date
5	4	Ditch	UNK; HEMP3	Unknown fabric and form; Post-medieval peg tile	2	26	1700	1900	1700-1900
9	8	Pit	3102	Unknown fabric and form	12	7	4000BC	1800	4000BC-1800
19	18	Pit	UNK	Unknown fabric and form	1	2	UNK	UNK	UNK
31	31	Subsoil	UNK	Unknown fabric and form	1	2	UNK	UNK	UNK
55	55	Layer	HEMP1; UNK	Post-medieval peg tile; Unknown fabric and form	4	59	1700	1900	1700-1900
56	56	Layer	HEMP1; UNK	Post-medieval peg tile; Unknown fabric and form	3	43	1700	1900	1700-1900
75	74	Pit	3102	Unknown fabric and form	4	5	4000BC	1800	4000BC-1800
79	76	Pit	HEMP1; UNK	Post-medieval peg tile; Unknown fabric and form	4	87	1700	1900	1700-1900
85	84	Pit	HEMP1; HEMP2 UNK	Post-medieval peg tile; Unknown fabric and form; Post-medieval brick	4	347	1700	1900	1700-1900
87	86	Pit	HEMP1; UNK	Post-medieval peg tile; Unknown fabric and form	9	247	1700	1900	1700-1900
98	95	Pit	HEMP1; HEMP2	Tile and brick	14	1827	1700	1900	1700-1900

Fabrics

- 7.5.5 Three fabrics of CBM have been identified. HEMP1 and HEMP2 have incorporated materials from the same geological formations, based on a clay matrix and a range of inclusions. HEMP3 is a silty fabric, suggesting broad compositional variations or a different chronology.

Table 7: Assemblage by form type/class, quantity and weight (excluding undiagnostic fabrics and forms)

Code	Description	Type	Date	Quantity (Fragments)	Weight (g)
HEMP1	Very fine sandy fabric, occasional quartz, black iron oxide and mica	Peg tile	AD1700-1900	25	871
HEMP2	Very coarse sandy fabric, frequent quartz, occasional white quartz, flint, black iron, mica and glassy inclusions	Brick	AD1700-1900	5	1698
HEMP3	Very coarse silty fabric, pinkish in colour, abundant pink quartz, occasional black iron oxide and mica	Peg tile	AD1700-1900	1	22

Prehistoric

- 7.5.6 Daub/fired clay was recovered in small quantities (16 fragments, 13g) from Pits [8] and [75]. Pit [75] is of particular note, as it was related to pyre debris and located in Trench 13, while Pit [8] was located in Trench 23. All the collected fragments are amorphous and small in size.

Post-medieval

- 7.5.7 The assemblage included 26 peg-tile fragments with a total weight of 893g. The presence of regular peg holes and fine moulding sand suggests a late post-medieval date (AD 1700-1900) for these tiles. The fragments only consist of thickness sections, which range between 11-15 mm. The fragmentary nature of the assemblage makes a full reconstruction of the tiles' original dimensions challenging.
- 7.5.8 The bricks (six fragments, 1,698g) recovered from the deposits form a homogeneous group, primarily characterized by a sandy, reddish-orange fabric (HEMP2). These bricks are unfrogged and possess irregular and rough or grass-marked bases. The example from fill (98) of pit [95] in Trench 89 is 48mm thick and is likely to be part of a brick paver.

Undated

- 7.5.9 A group of 27 ceramic fragments, weighing a total of 61g, was identified across several

archaeological contexts. Unfortunately, these fragments are considered undiagnostic due to their extremely small size or significant abrasion. Their poor condition precludes the identification of their specific fabric type or original form, limiting their interpretative value.

Summary

- 7.5.10 The fired clay found in fill (75) of Pit [74] in Trench 13 is likely derived from the cremation burial. These fragments are undiagnostic in fabric and form. The post-medieval material was found redeposited and dispersed across several deposits. The scattered nature of this material across various features suggests an unintentional deposition process (e.g. manuring, ploughing), likely following the demolition or collapse of nearby structures, probably those related to the Little Revel End farmhouse and associated buildings.
- 7.5.11 The material collected from the evaluation demonstrates activity at the site from the prehistoric to the late post-medieval period. The cremation contained a small quantity of probably *in situ* burnt material. The post-medieval material was located in quarry pits and layers linked to agricultural/farming activities. Given that all the material was found redeposited, no further investigation of these materials is required.

7.6 Metal objects by Thomas Lucking

- 7.6.1 A single unidentifiable iron object was recovered from fill (39) of Ditch [38] in Trench 95. It consists of an undated curved strip of uncertain function. It measures 120mm long and weighs 11g. As a single object it provides limited insight into historic activities on site. No further work is required, and the item is recommended for discard.

7.7 Glass by Thomas Lucking

- 7.7.1 A tiny fragment of glass measuring 8mm by 6mm and weighing 0.16g was recovered from Sample <1> taken from the fill (11) of cremation pit [10] in Trench 27. At such a small size and taken from the top spit of the cremation it is likely to be intrusive. No further work is required, and the item is recommended for discard.

8 HUMAN BONE

8.1 Human bone by Petra Ivanova

Introduction

- 8.1.1 During the archaeological evaluation a Middle Bronze Age cremation burial [10] was found in Trench 27.

Methodology

- 8.1.2 The cremated human remains were excavated and recorded in accordance with the updated ClfA guidelines (Mitchell and Brickley 2017). All cremation deposits and surrounding soil were subjected to 100% recovery on site (McKinley 2000). The cremation urn (14) and cremation pit [10] were excavated in spits and the deposits from each spit were then wet sieved through a 0.5mm mesh. The residue was then passed through a stack of 10mm, 5mm and 2mm sieves, and all bone >2mm was sorted and analysed. The ≤2mm residue was scanned (and has been retained) and any identifiable bone and artefacts extracted. Fragments smaller than 2mm were examined for identifiable elements but were excluded from the total weight of the cremation.
- 8.1.3 Bone fragments were refitted where possible, for the subsequent identification of bone elements. Identifiable bone fragments (skull, axial or appendicular skeleton, and unidentifiable limb bone and long bone) were recorded along with the level of fragmentation and oxidisation illustrated by variations in colour from unburnt buff to fully oxidised, white.
- 8.1.4 General methods used in the osteological evaluation of the skeletal material are those of Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994).
- 8.1.5 The age categories are represented in Table 8 below:

Table 8: Human age categories (after Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994)

Age	Years
Infant	0-3 years
Child	3-12 years
Immature	<12 years
Adolescent	12-20 years
Adolescent/Adult	>12 years
Young Adult	20-35 years
Middle Adult	35-50 years
Old Adult	50+ years

Results

Middle Bronze Age Cremation Burial 1 [10] (possible adolescent/adult)

- 8.1.6 This was a severely truncated, urned cremation burial, located in the north-eastern part of Trench 27, in the northern part of the site (Plate A). The burial contained the cremated remains of a possible adolescent/adult individual of indeterminate sex. The burial pit was backfilled with a single fill (11), excavated in four, 5cm spits. The cremation vessel (14) was excavated in one, 4cm spit. The bone was intermixed with charcoal flecks.



Plate A: Cremation Burial 1 [10].

Weight and condition of the bone

- 8.1.7 The bone was fully oxidised and white in colour, indicating that it was exposed to pyre temperatures exceeding 650°C (Bonucci and Graziani 1975, 531; Devlin and Herrmann 2015, 121). The weight of the cremated bone is summarised in Table 9.

Table 9: Weight of the cremated bone in backfill (11) and cremation urn (14) in Cremation Burial 1 [10]

Context No.	Cut No.	Spit No.	Sample No.	≥10mm fraction (g/%)	≥5mm fraction (g/%)	≥2mm fraction (g/%)	Total weight without ≤2mm	Total weight of cremation
11	10	1	<1>	0g (0%)	0g (0%)	1g (2.6%)	1g (2.6%)	39.2g (100%)
11	10	2	<2>	0g (0%)	0.5g (1.3%)	1g (2.6%)	1.5g (3.8%)	
11	10	3	<3>	0g (0%)	0g (0%)	0.1g (0.3%)	0.1g (0.3%)	
11	10	4	<4>	0g (0%)	0g (0%)	0.1g (0.3%)	0.1g (0.3%)	
14	10	1	<5>	7.5g (19.1%)	9g (23%)	20g (51%)	36.5g (93.1%)	
				Total ≥10mm 7.5g (19.1%)	Total ≥5mm 9.5g (24.2%)	Total ≥2mm 22.2g (56.6%)		

- 8.1.8 The fragmentation of the bone was severe, with only 19.1% of fragments larger than 10mm (Table 10). The largest fragment, a cranial piece measuring 1.75cm, was retrieved from the cremation urn. The bone fragments exhibited heat-induced transverse and longitudinal fissures.

Table 10: Identifiable bone fragments in Cremation Burial 1 [10]

Context No.	Cut No.	Spit No.	Sample No.	Fraction	Identifiable bone fragments
11	10	1	<1>	≥2mm	2x skull
11	10	2	<2>	≥5mm	1x long bone
11	10	3	<3>	≥2mm	1x skull
14	10	1	<5>	≥10mm	7x skull, 2x limb bone, 1x spongy bone
14	10	1	<5>	≥5mm	7x skull; 5x limb bone, 1x long bone
14	10	1	<5>	≥2mm	3x skull

Palaeodemography

- 8.1.9 The approximate age category of the buried individual was estimated based on the thickness of the skull (0.4cm), with the suture scored as 0 (open) (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994, 34), and the general size of the bone.

Discussion

- 8.1.10 The level of bone fragmentation in this burial was very high, with only 19.1% (7.5g) of fragments larger than 10mm. Studies have shown that bone fragment sizes from modern crematoria are typically in excess of 10mm; however, due to post-depositional disturbance and truncation, fragment sizes recovered from archaeological cremation burials are often significantly smaller (McKinley 1994). The high degree of fragmentation and the low weight of cremated bone (39.2g) suggest that this burial was severely truncated, likely resulting in substantial bone loss. This has hindered more precise estimation of the biological profile.
- 8.1.11 The bone fragments were completely calcined and white, demonstrating an efficient incineration process and high thermal alteration with temperatures exceeding 650°C (Bonucci and Graziani 1975, 531; Devlin and Herrmann 2015, 121). Heat-generated transverse and longitudinal fissures found on these cremated remains are attributed to, and provide evidence of, the dehydration of the green (fleshed bone) caused by heat exposure during the cremation process (Binford 1963; Buikstra and Swegle 1989; Whyte 2001; Curtin 2015, 223; Ward and Tayles 2015, 389).
- 8.1.12 The burial did not contain any grave goods, which is consistent with funerary practices during the Middle Bronze Age, a period marked by a shift away from material offerings

(Caswell and Roberts 2018, 329). However, their absence may also be attributed to the severe truncation of the urn.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

9.1 Environmental remains by Sophie Pallett

Introduction

- 9.1.1 This report presents the environmental findings from an assessment of eleven samples of under 40 litres that were taken from a cremation, pits and layers.

Aims

- 9.1.2 The aims of this assessment are threefold: to give an overview of the contents and abundances of the assessed samples, to determine the environmental potential of the assessed samples, and to recommend further analysis of the assessed samples, if necessary.

Methodology

- 9.1.3 Eleven samples of under 40L were processed through flotation. The material was collected using a 300 µm mesh for the flot and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was dried and sieved through 10mm, 5mm, and 2mm fractions before being sorted. Archaeological material was extracted, labelled and recorded from these residues. The abundance of each material type was recorded using a non-linear scale: "1" showing occasional occurrence (1-10 items found), "2" showing fairly frequent occurrence (11-30 items found), "3" showing frequent occurrence (31-100 items found), and "4" showing an abundant presence of material (>100 items found).
- 9.1.4 The flot was dried, labelled and scanned under a low power binocular microscope in order to identify the presence and quality of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, grain, molluscs, charcoal and modern material. It was separated into sieve fractions of >4mm, 2-4mm and <2mm. Abundances of material were recorded in the same manner as detailed above within the heavy residue. Seed and cereal identifications were made using standard reference materials (Jacomet and Greig 2006; Cappers *et al.* 2012).

Results

Cremation [11], fill (10): Samples <1> to <5>

- 9.1.5 All samples contained high amounts of charcoal across all sieve fractions, with Sample <1> containing the least, and Sample <2> containing the most with two pieces of charcoal of potentially identifiable size (hereby meaning exceeding 4mm in all directions). Sample <3> contained a single piece of charred cereal waste material, and

Sample <2> contained the occasional presence of amorphous charred material. All samples, barring Sample <4>, contained occasional uncharred seeds. All samples contained modern plant material and roots/tubers, ranging from occasional to abundant. Sample <3> contained occasional insect remains. Also present within the sample were small amounts of burnt clay, human skeletal remains (HSR), pottery and glass.

Pit [41]: Samples <6> fill (34) and <7> fill (40)

- 9.1.6 Both samples contained charcoal across multiple fractions, with Sample <6> (34) containing more overall. Sample <7> (40) contained occasional uncharred seeds. Both contained modern plant material and roots/tubers, as well as terrestrial molluscs. Sample <7> (40) contained more terrestrial molluscs, as well as fairly frequent insect eggs/worm cases. Both samples contained insect remains. Also present were small amounts of burnt clay and burnt flint.

Layers: Samples <22> (31), <23> (44), <24> (31) and <25> (44)

- 9.1.7 All samples contained charcoal 2-4mm, ranging from fairly frequent to abundant. Three of the four samples also contained occasional charcoal <2mm, as well as occasional amorphous charred material. Sample <24> (31) contained a single instance of indeterminate grain, in addition to Sample <23> (44) which contained occasional *Brassica* sp. (mustards), and Sample <22> (31) which contained occasional vitrified material. All samples contained occasional uncharred seeds, as well as varying amounts of modern plant material and roots/tubers. Sample <22> (31) contained occasional terrestrial molluscs. Also recorded were small amounts of CBM.

Conclusions

- 9.1.8 The state of preservation in the sample set recovered by the evaluation varies largely. While cremation [11] contains a relatively large amount of charcoal, as would be expected, the remainder of the samples are largely sterile. There was also significant evidence of bioturbation throughout the samples in the form of modern plant material, roots/tubers, burrowing terrestrial molluscs, insect remains, insect eggs/worm cases and uncharred seeds.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The archaeological potential of the site, as presented in the *Desk-Based Assessment* (Jacklin 2025), was deemed to be relatively low due to the lack of any designated heritage assets within the study area. Only twelve entries on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record were identified within the site, relating to small and localised prehistoric activity at Great Revel End Farm, medieval earthworks to the north of the farm associated with a deserted medieval village and surface finds dating from the prehistoric to modern periods (including a Late Bronze Age socketed axe). The two geophysical surveys carried out on the site (Magnitude Surveys 2019; MoLA 2025) added only the identification of several areas of likely post-medieval quarrying and a recently demolished farm building to this potential.

10.2 This evaluation confirmed the sparsity of the archaeological remains present on the site, with 70 of the 99 trenches revealing no remains. The features which were encountered comprised a Bronze Age cremation, two pits containing burnt flint of a likely prehistoric date and field boundaries and quarry pits of a likely post-medieval date - largely confirming the conclusions of the Desk-Based Assessment (DBA). The DBA did highlight fieldwork undertaken to the south of the site (Oxford Archaeology 2017 and 2020) which identified unenclosed Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age settlement, apparently favouring locations close to dry-valleys, and some evidence for Romano-British field systems. Despite the site's location across similar dry valleys (Fig. 6) and the proximity of these remains, no evidence of these activities continuing northwards into the study area was found.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

10.3 Evidence of low-level Middle to Late Bronze Age activity within the site was found in the form of a small cremation burial which contained fragments of a probable urn (Field 2, Trench 27). This was located on the down-slope of the northernmost dry valley. This cremation burial has the potential to contribute to the East of England Regional Research Framework: *LBA-MIA 17: How can we better understand the nature and extent of Bronze Age cremation?*

10.4 No other dateable Bronze Age features were found but two small pits revealed in the southern field, both located in the bottom of the southernmost dry valley, contained abundant amounts of burnt flint, a feature type characteristic of the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (Field 7, Trenches 95 and 96).

10.5 The location of these prehistoric features in the lower contours of the dry valleys implies

a significance was attached to these locales which is no longer apparent.

Post-medieval (1485-1815)

- 10.6 Seven ditches were recorded which corresponded to boundaries present on the 1841 Tithe map of Redbourn (Trenches 18, 43, 44, 53, 64, 75 and 95). Several, such as Ditch [92] (Field 3, Trench 68) and Ditch [109] (Field 3, Trench 77) were very similarly aligned and probably represented boundaries slightly pre-dating 1841. As such, this suggests that all the ditches encountered on the site can be confidently assigned to the post-medieval period. These boundaries, generally aligned north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west, are still reflected in the general layout of the fields encompassed by the site today, albeit many have been removed as a result of the mechanisation of agriculture during the 20th century. Finds from these ditches were sparse, consisting solely of a small number of pottery sherds and fragments of brick and tile of post-medieval date.
- 10.7 The geophysical surveys identified several areas of probable quarrying/extraction. Only one trench was targeted directly over these anomalies, Trench 65 (Field 3), where modern demolition rubble was encountered, possibly the result of the backfilling/consolidation over a disused quarry pit. However, five further large extraction pits were uncovered by this investigation (Trenches 43, 45, 47, 87 and 89) which were not recorded by the geophysical surveys. All of these were located on the higher ground between the dry valleys. The fact that Pit [95] (Field 3, Trench 89) contained a thick fill composed almost entirely of redeposited flint nodules strongly implies that the quarrying was targeting the clay geology, probably for ceramic production.

Undated features

- 10.8 Sixteen discrete features, along with the pit/ditch terminus in Trench 13, are undated. These were generally small, sub-circular pits dispersed across the site. Seven natural features were also recorded, generally also of a small and sub-circular character.

Geoarchaeological trenches

- 10.9 The five trenches excavated across the bottom of the southernmost dry valley (south-western corner of Field 3 and centre of Field 7) revealed a consistent sequence of colluvial deposits below subsoil and topsoil. The deepest trench (Trench 95), located towards the south-eastern end of the dry valley within the site, encountered the geological substrate at a depth of c. 1.0m, above which two colluvial deposits were recorded (0.65m thick in total). The remaining four trenches revealed a single colluvial

deposit ranging between 0.30m and 0.45m thick. Of note is that two pits of a probable prehistoric date containing burnt flint were revealed below these colluvial layers.

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- 11.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Neal Mason (Project Officer), Isaac Groves, Amy Moralee and Daniel Percy. This report was written by Neal Mason, with specialist contributions by Laura Desrosiers-Whalley, Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne, Amanda Hayes, Amber Johnson, Amparo Valcarcel Estors, Thomas Lucking, Petra Ivanova and Sophie Pallett, and the figures were prepared by Ramon Navas. Finds processing was coordinated by Harmony Andrews and QGIS support was provided by Valerio Pinna. The project was managed for PCA by Simon Carlyle and for Tetra Tech by Sally Dicks.

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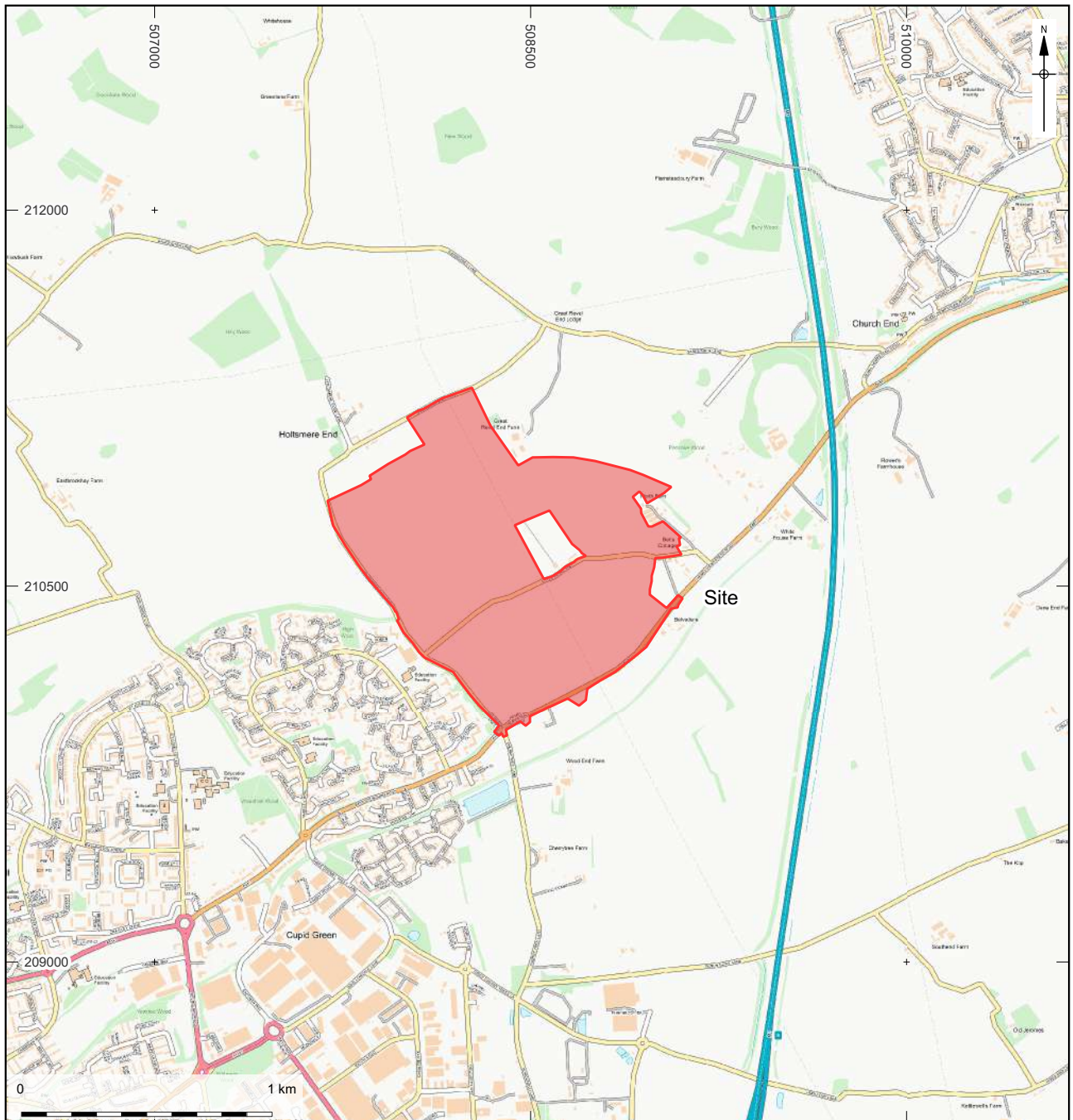
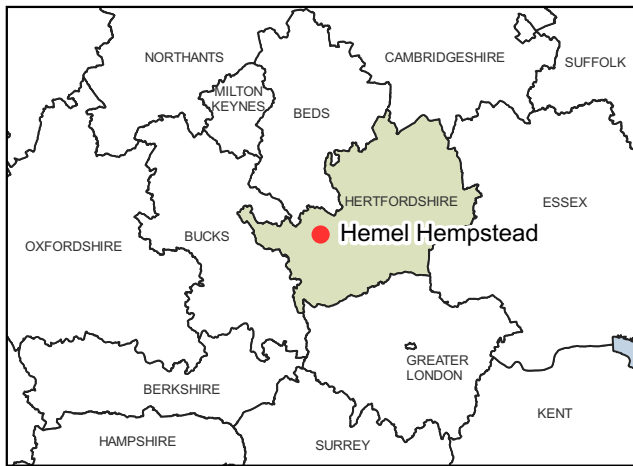
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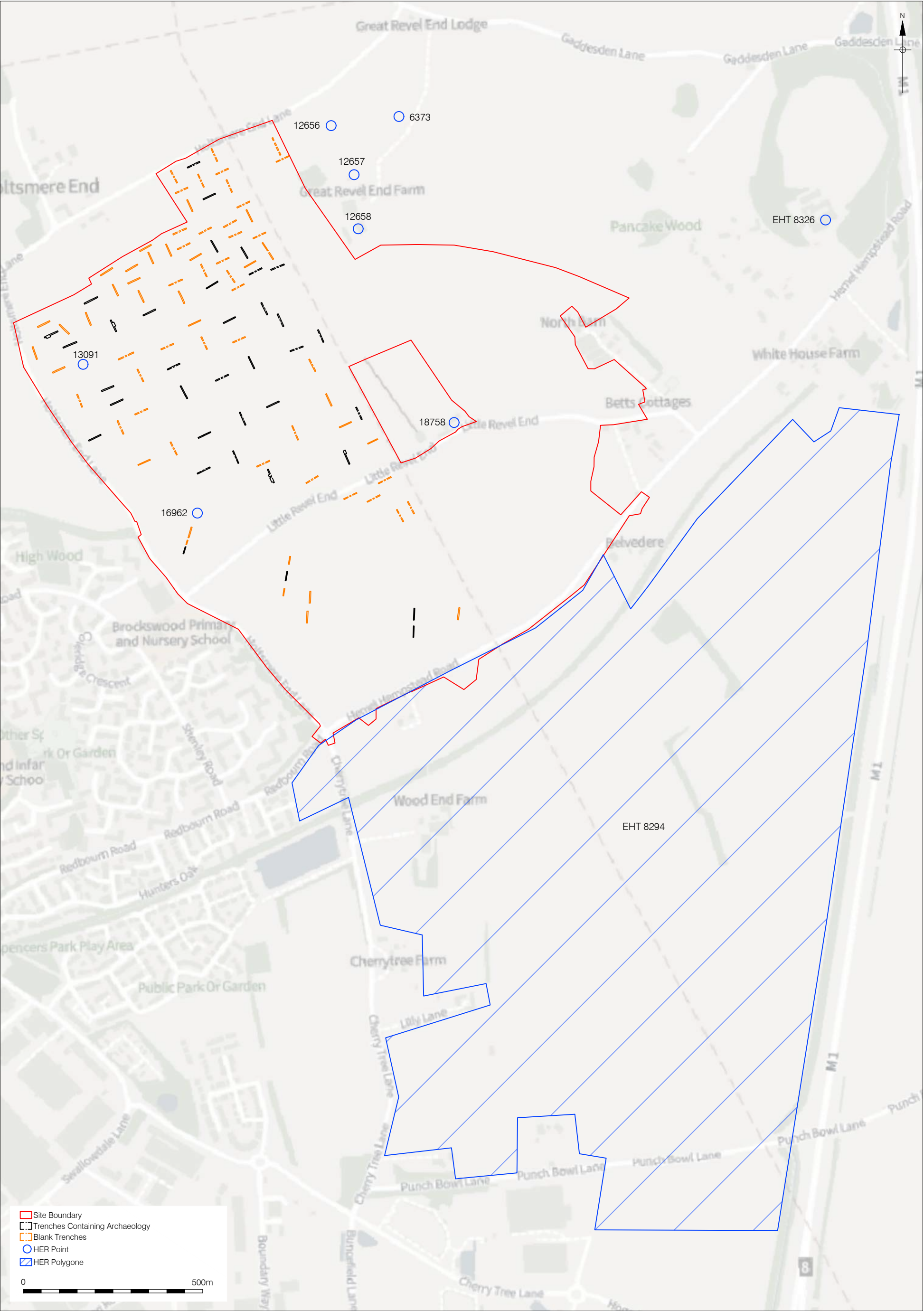
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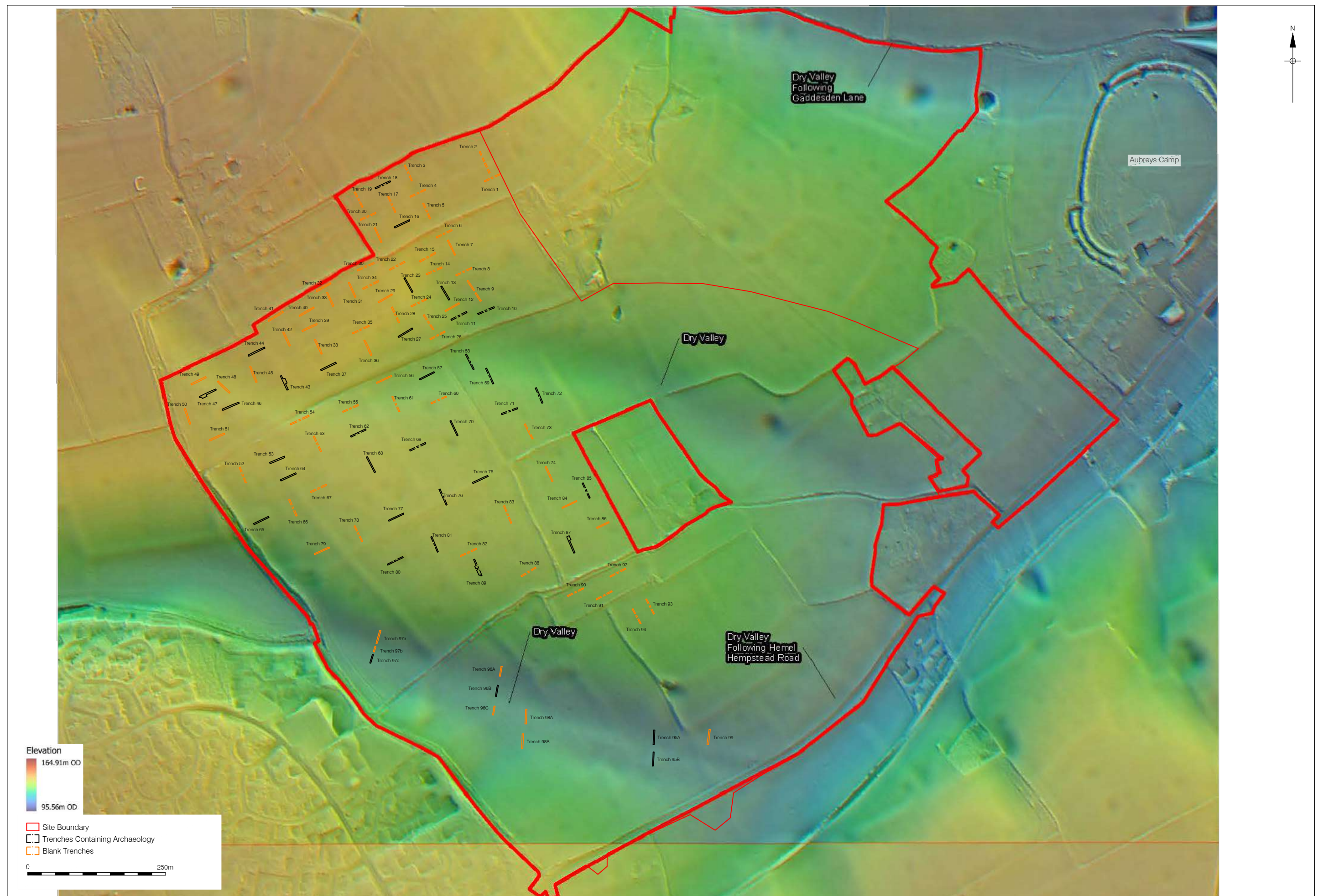
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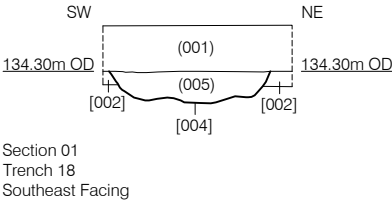
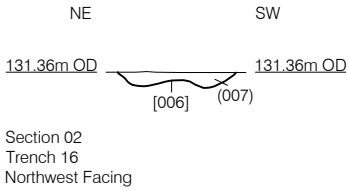
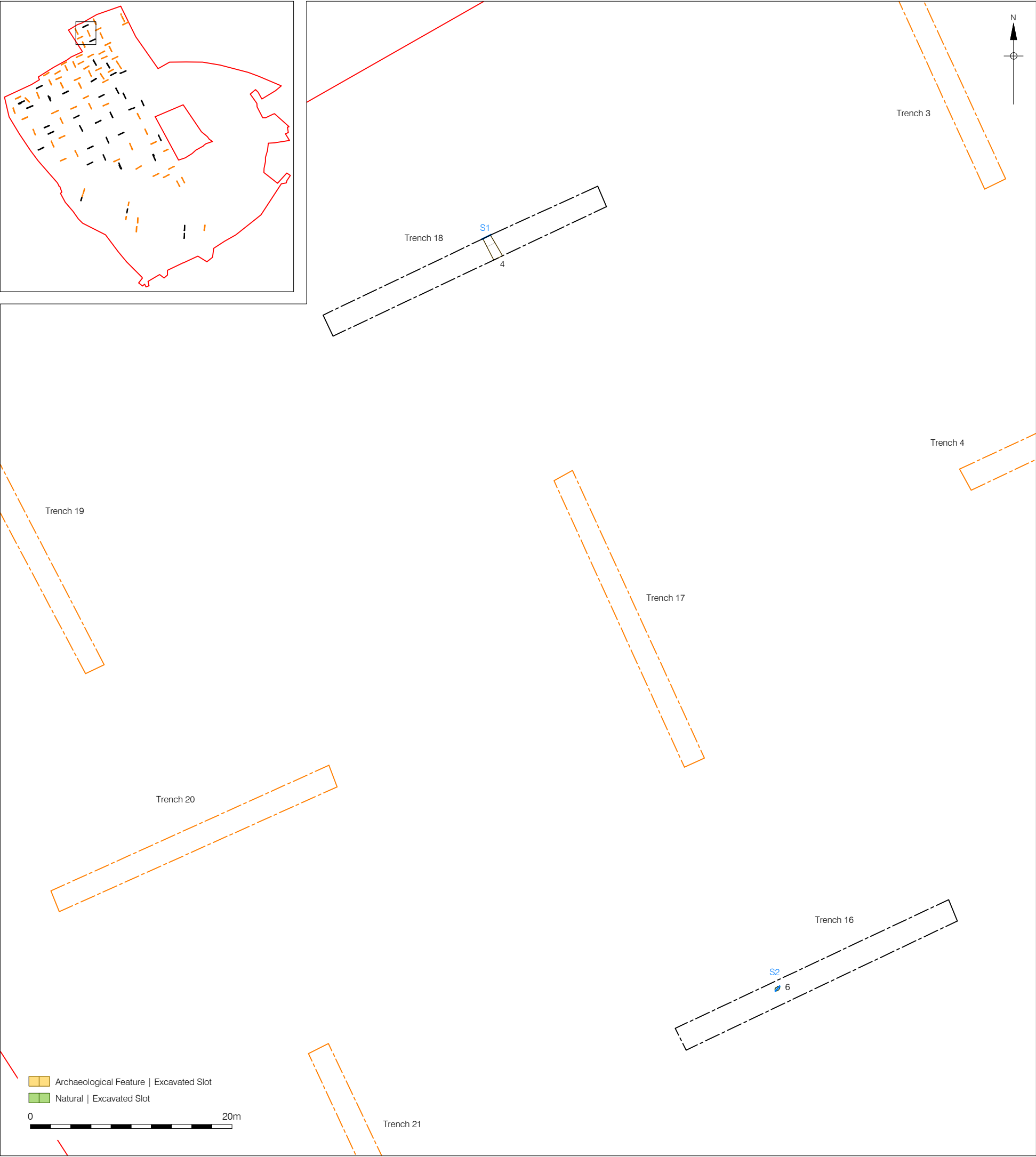


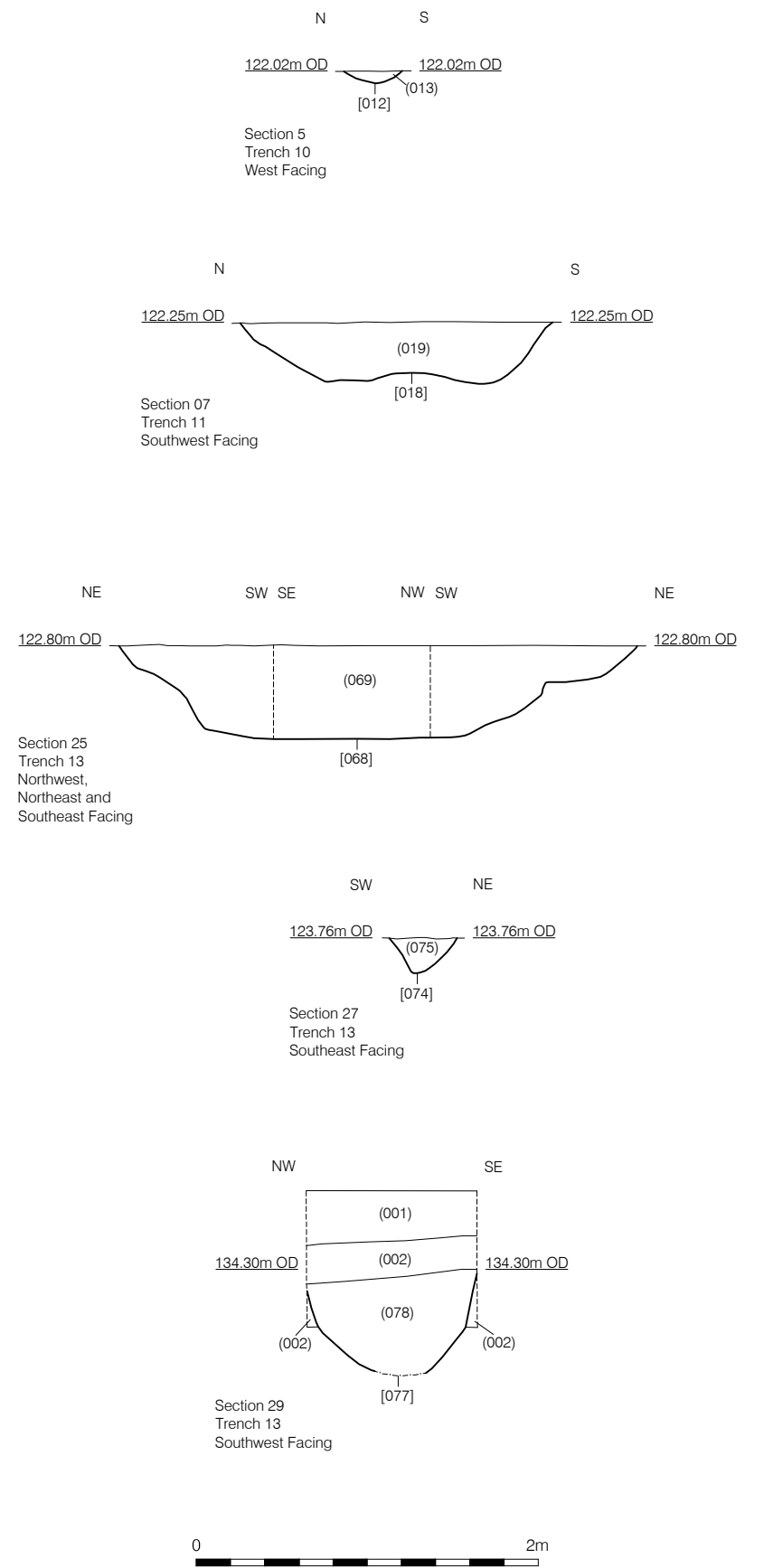
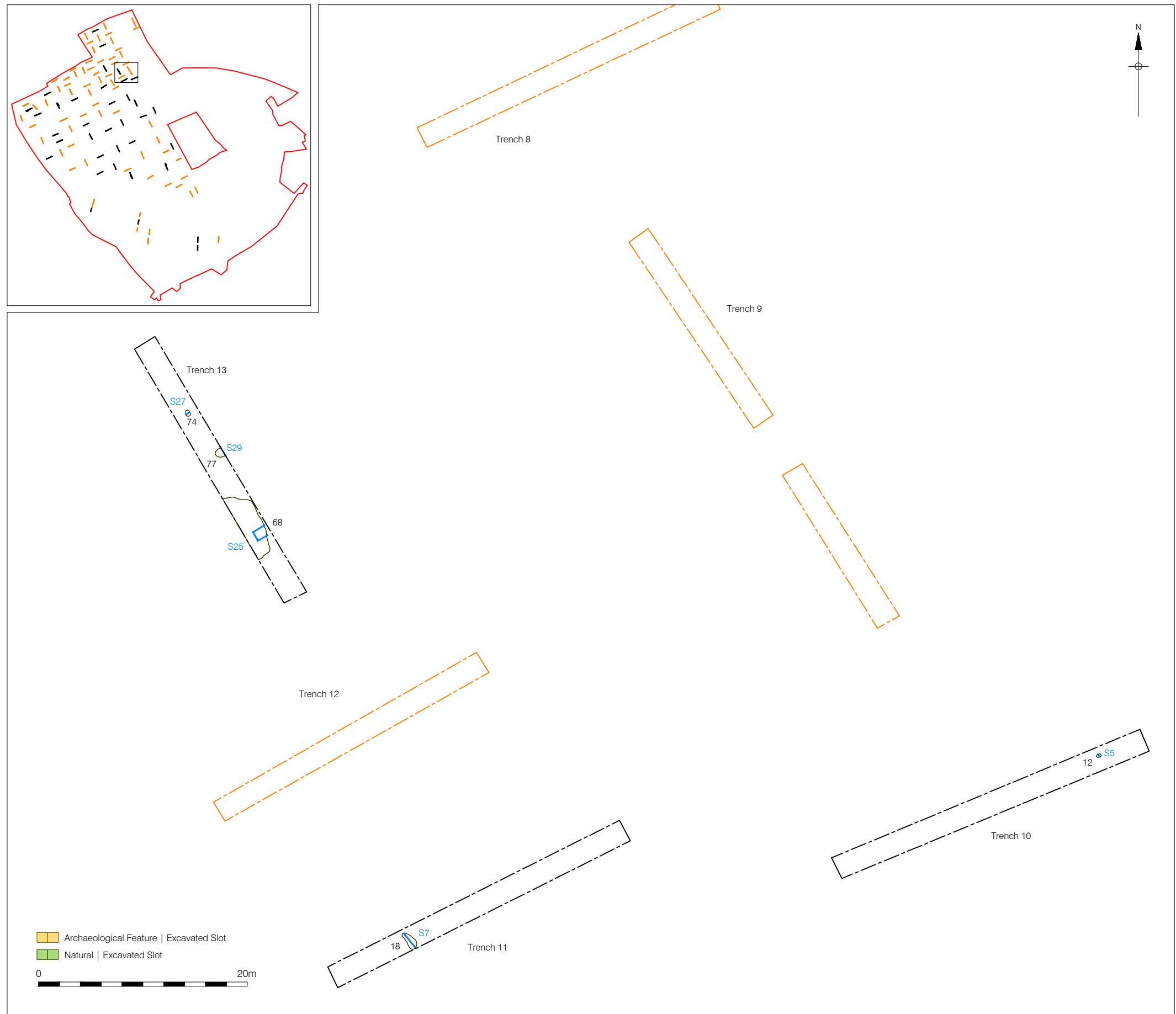


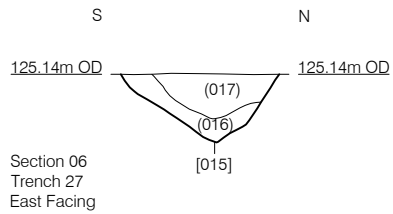
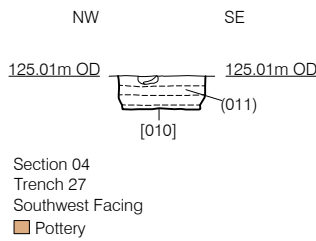
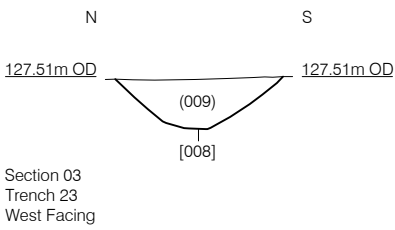
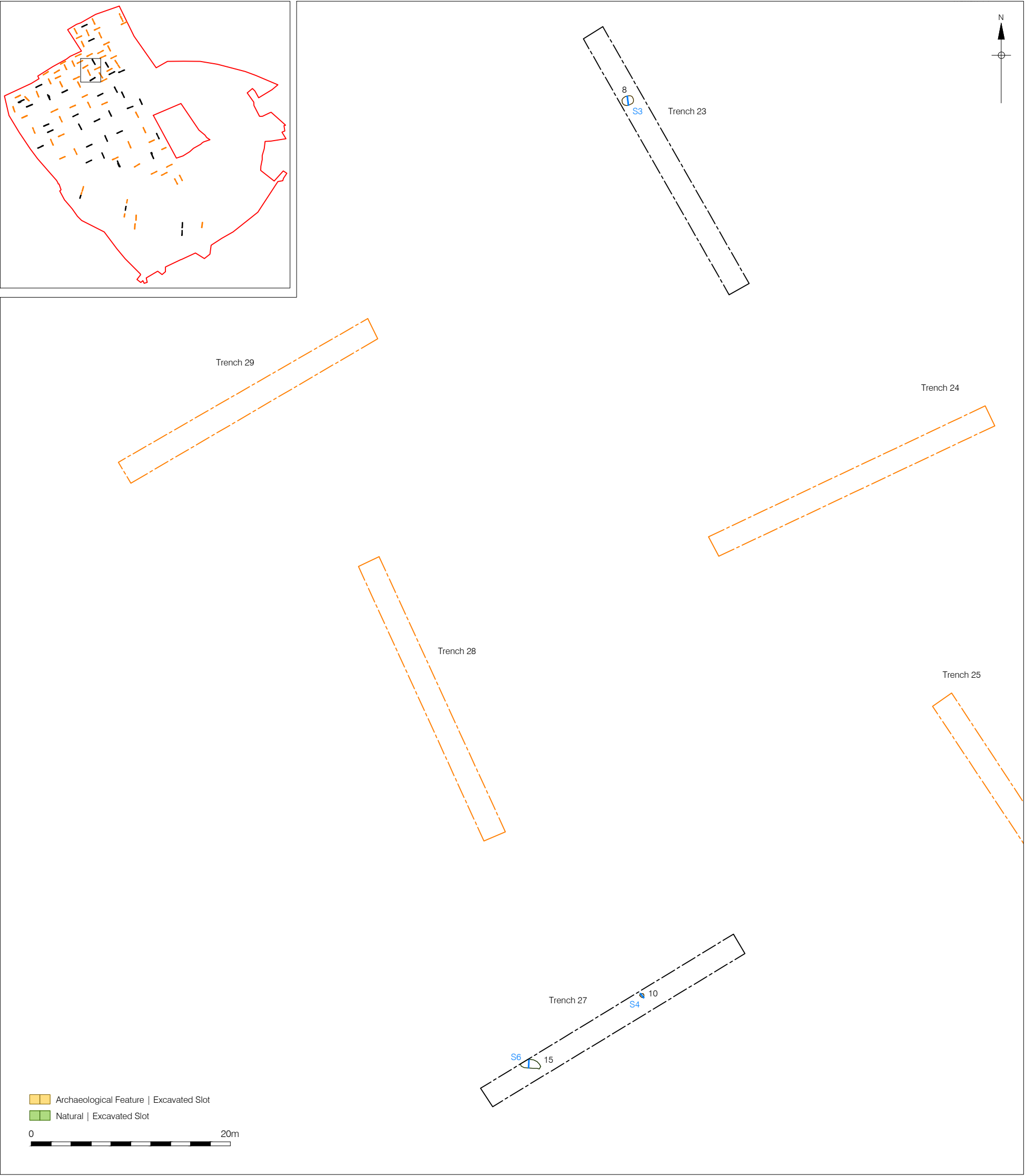












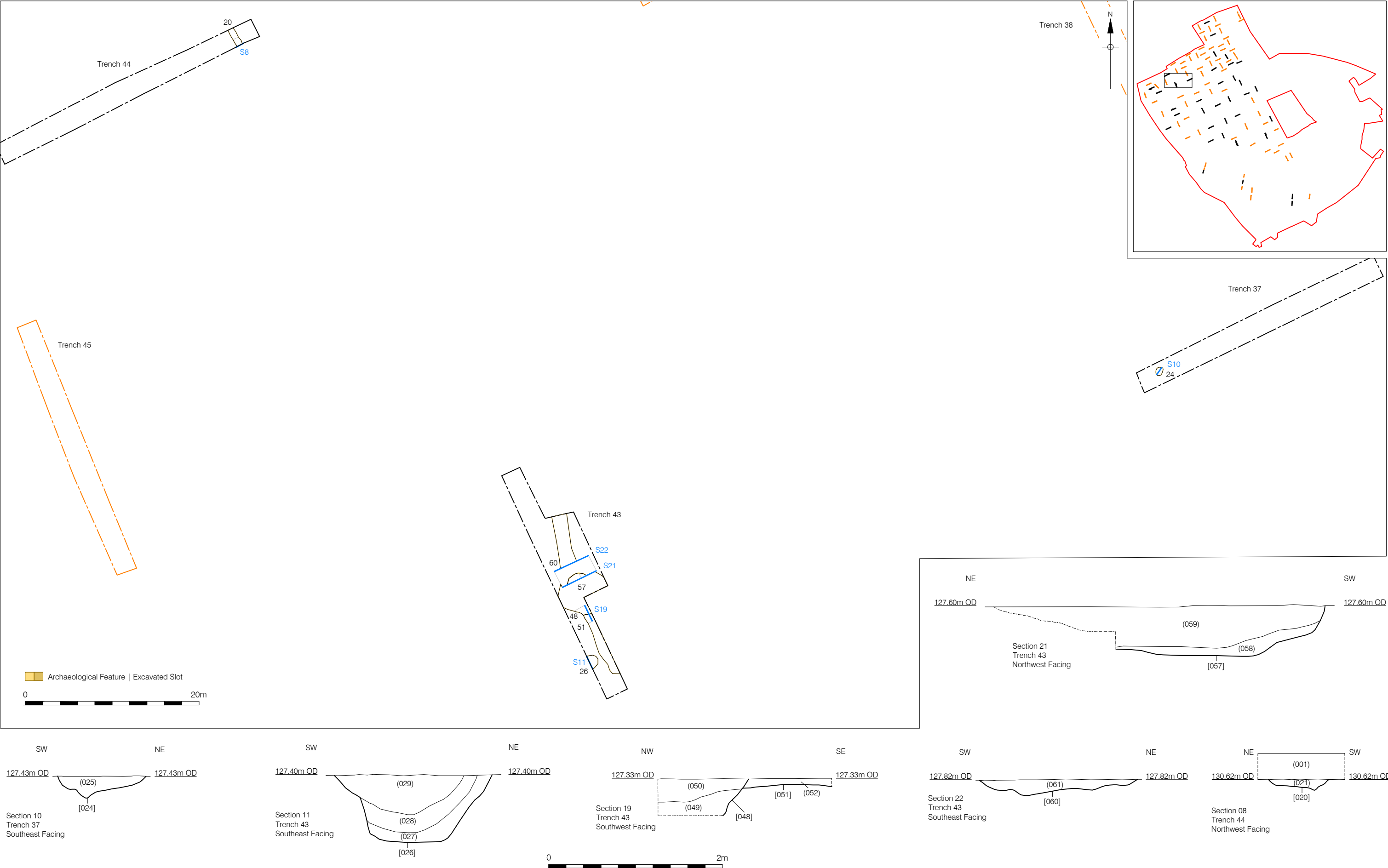
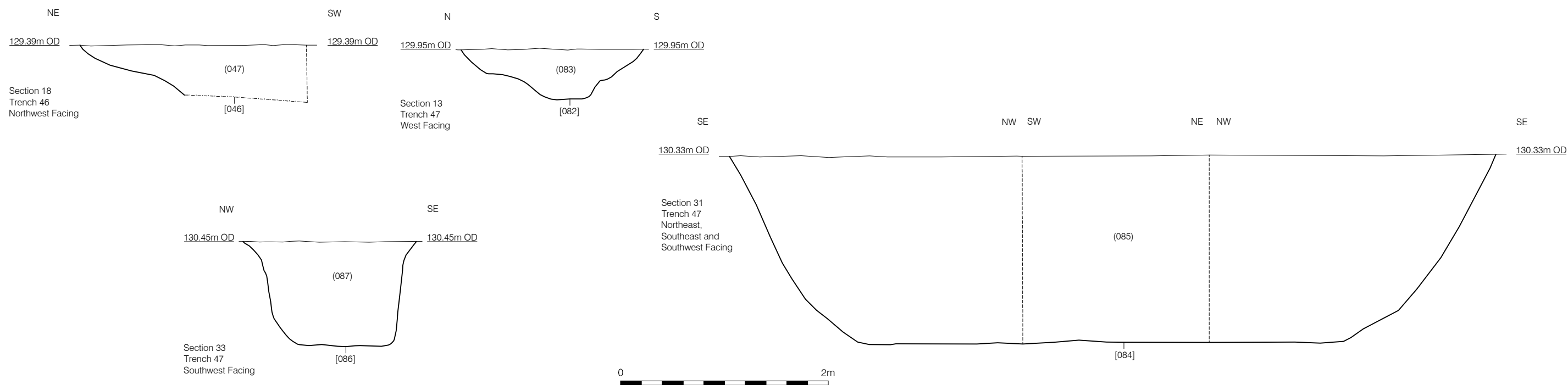
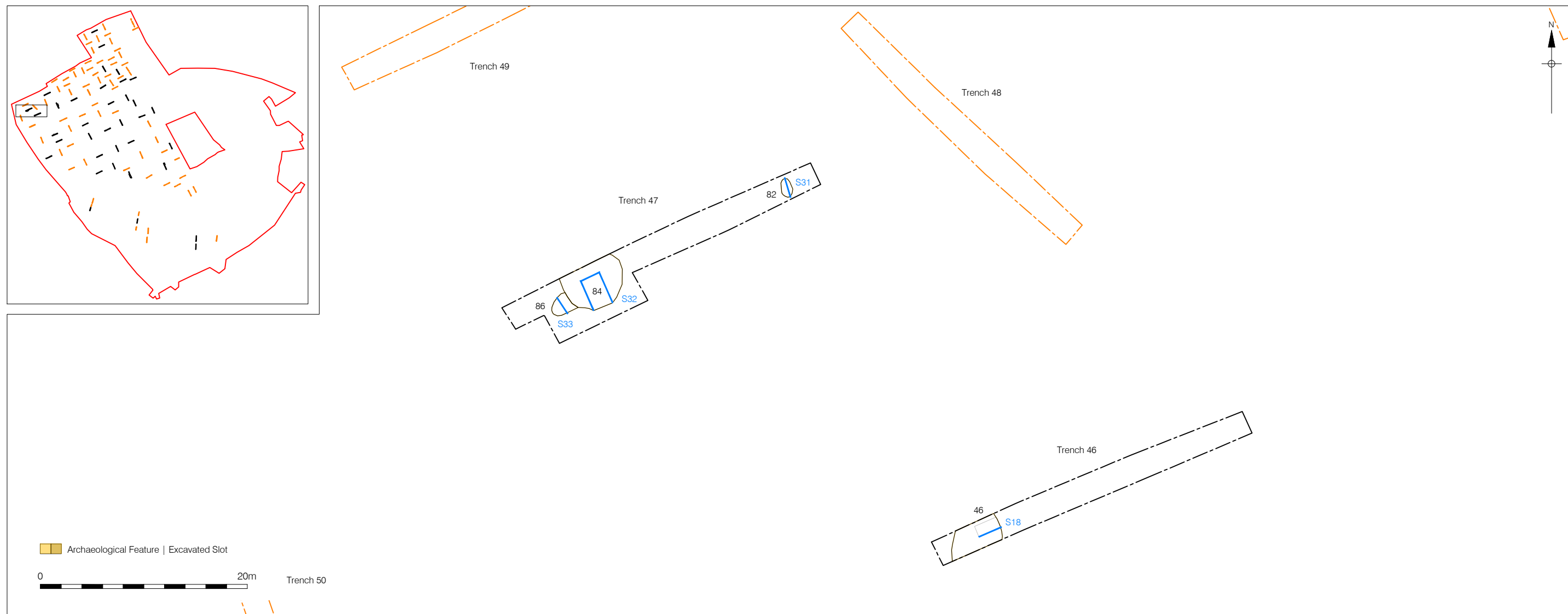


Figure 9
Detailed Plan of Trenches 37, 43 and 44
Inset 1:20,000, Plan1:400, Sections at 1:40 at A3



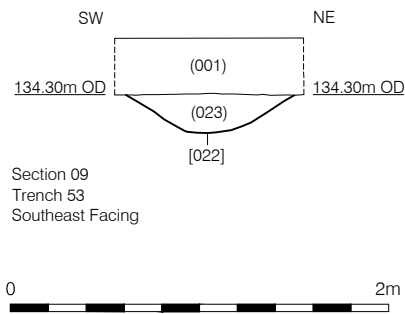
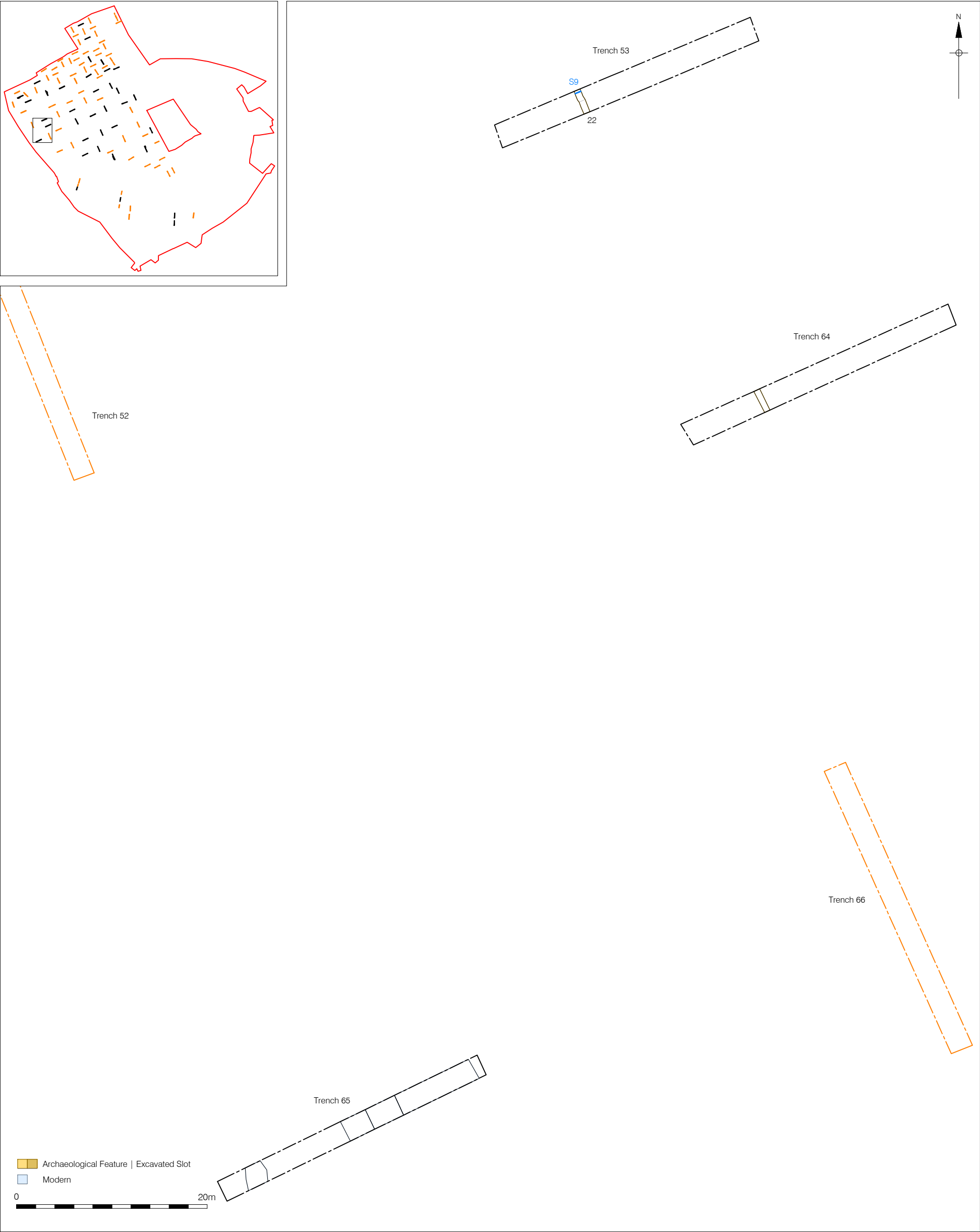
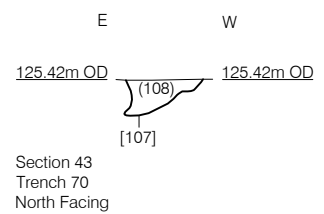
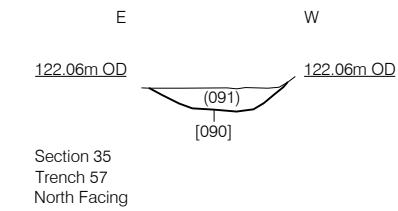
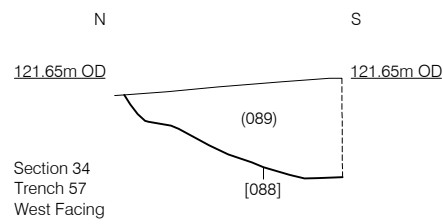
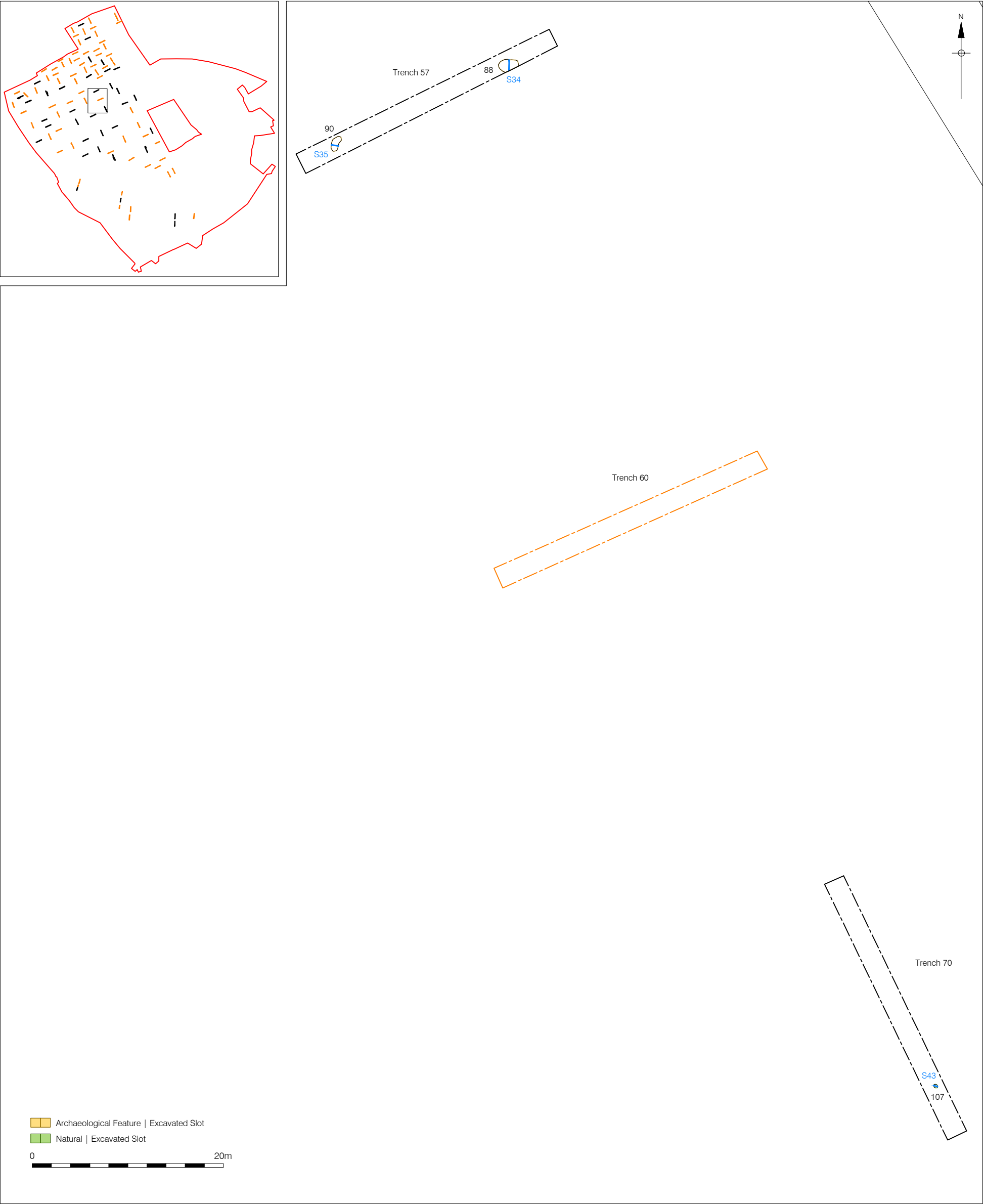
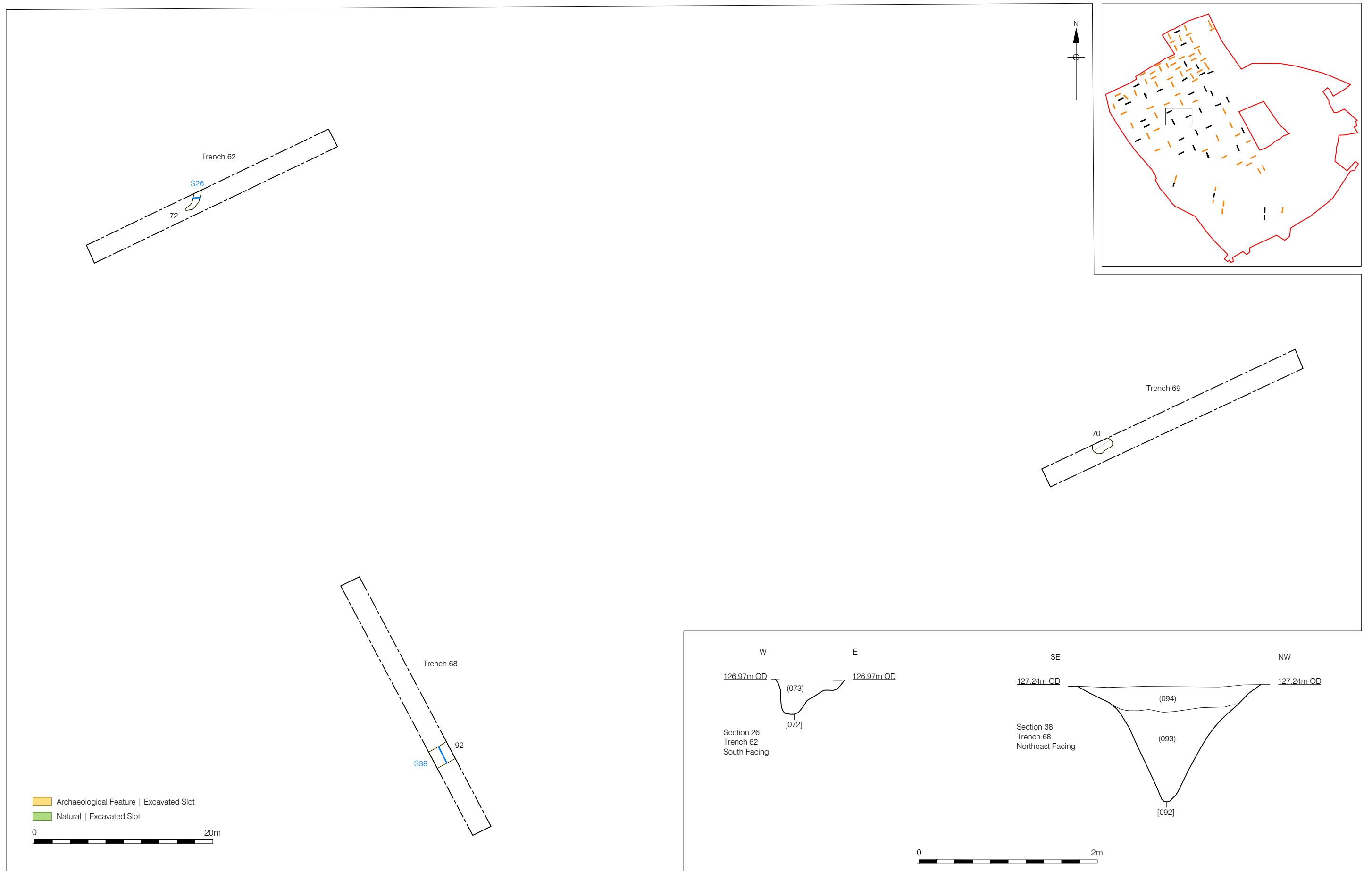
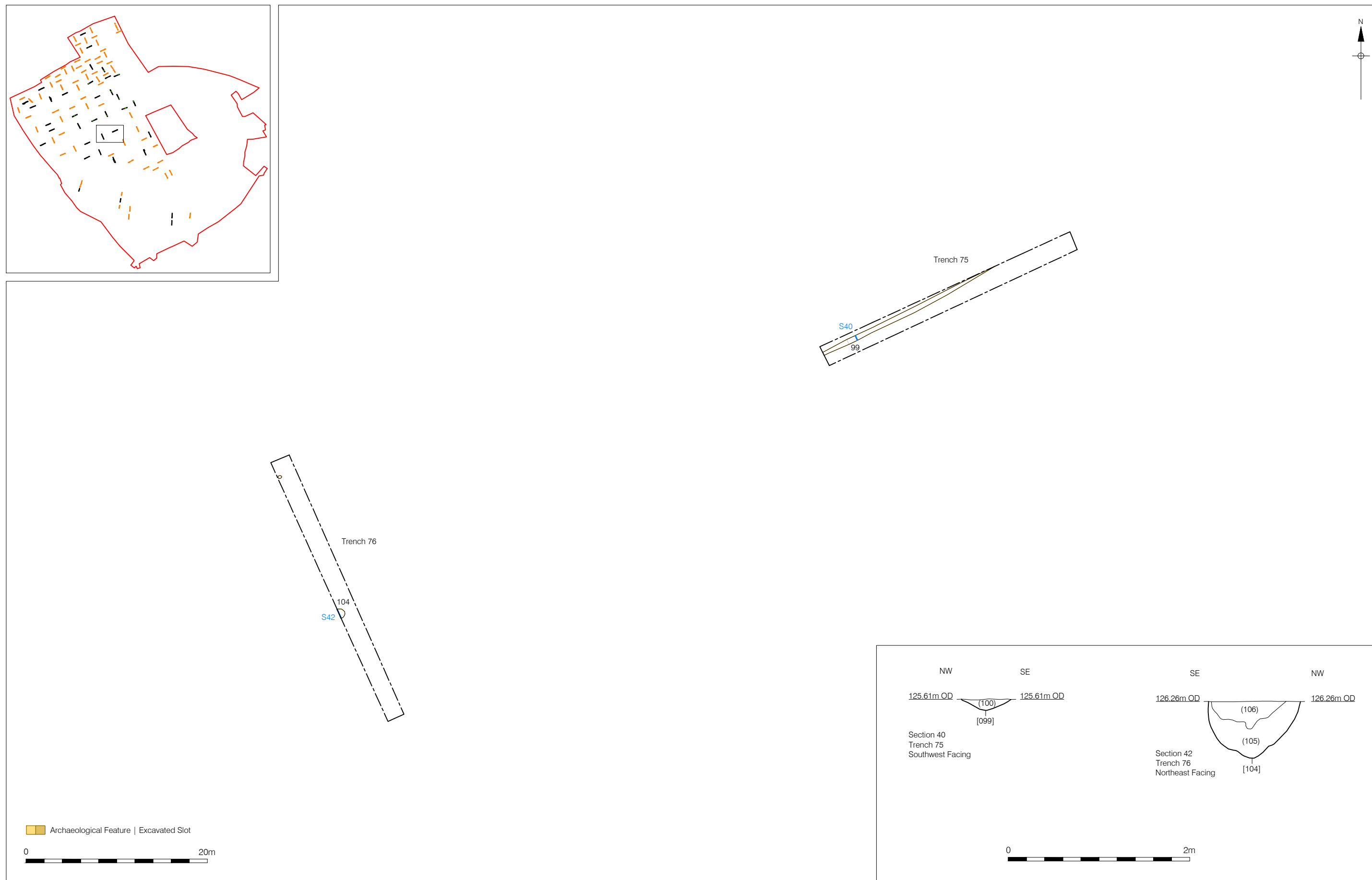
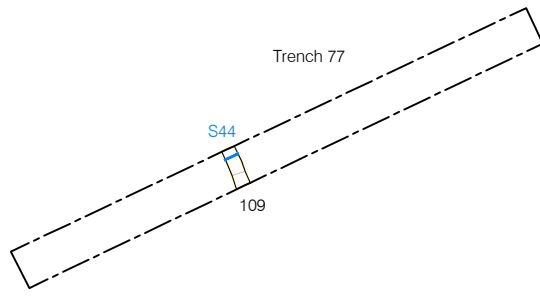


Figure 11
Detailed Plan of Trenches 53, 64 and 65
Inset 1:20,000, Plan1:400, Section 1:40 at A3

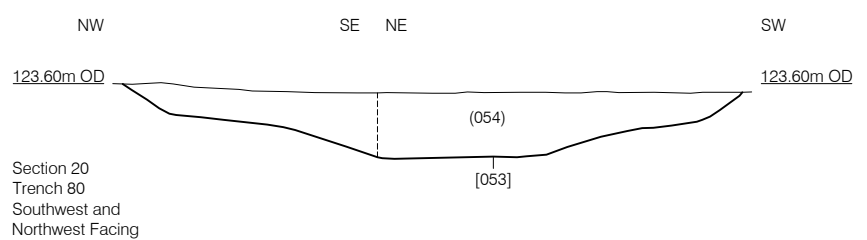
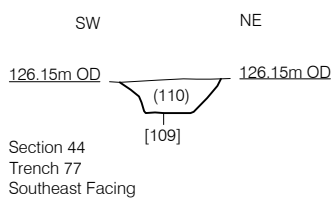
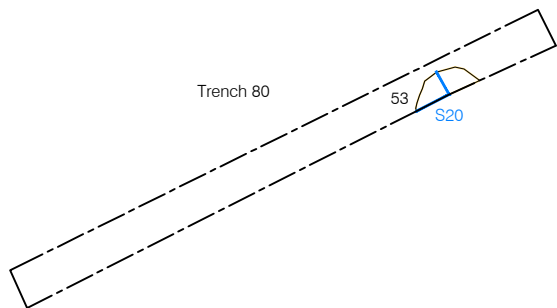


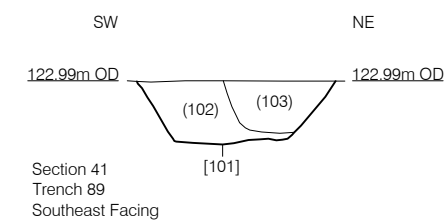
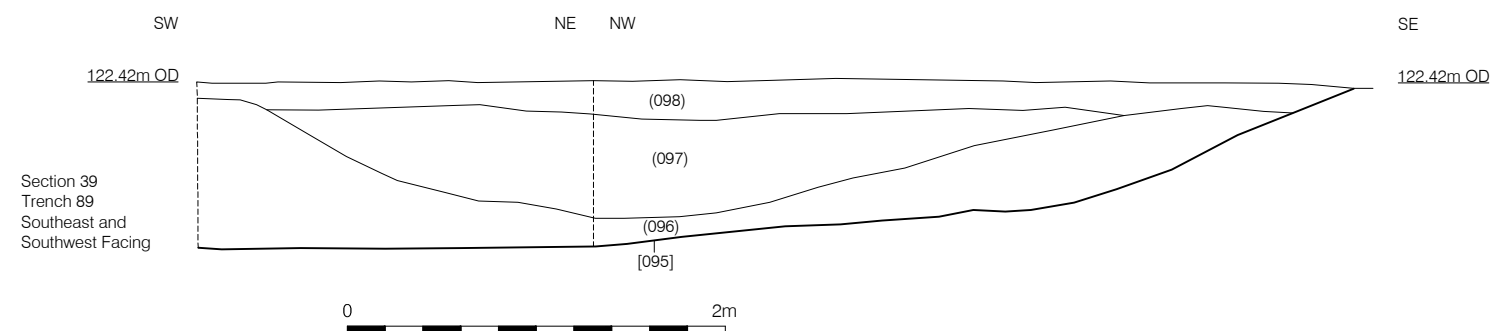
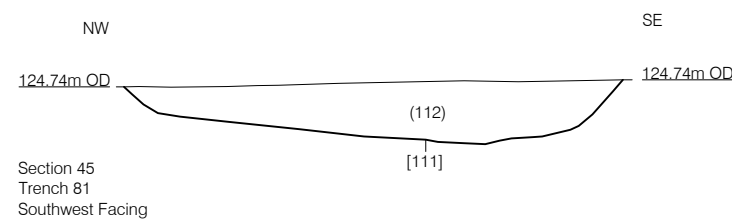
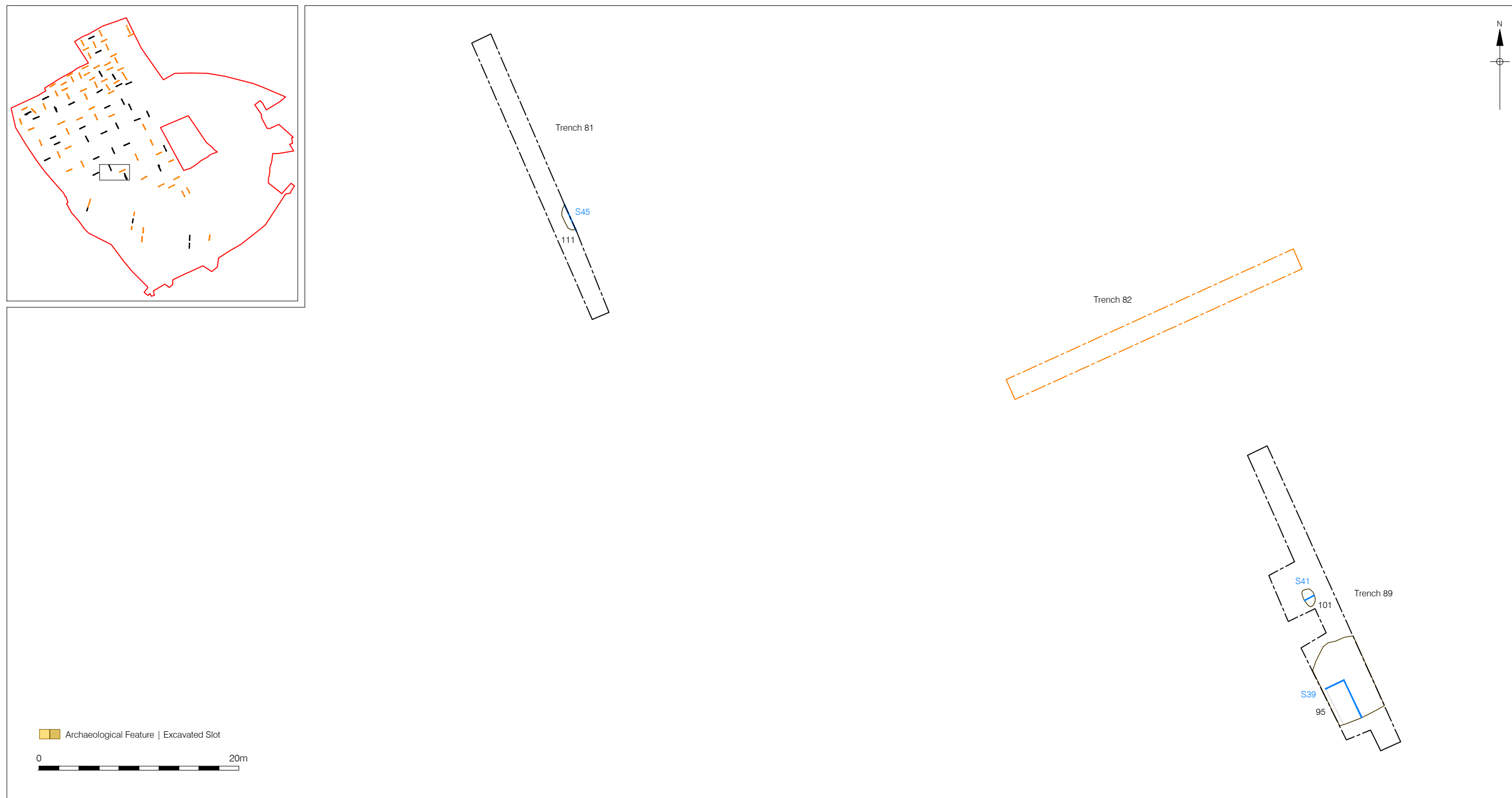


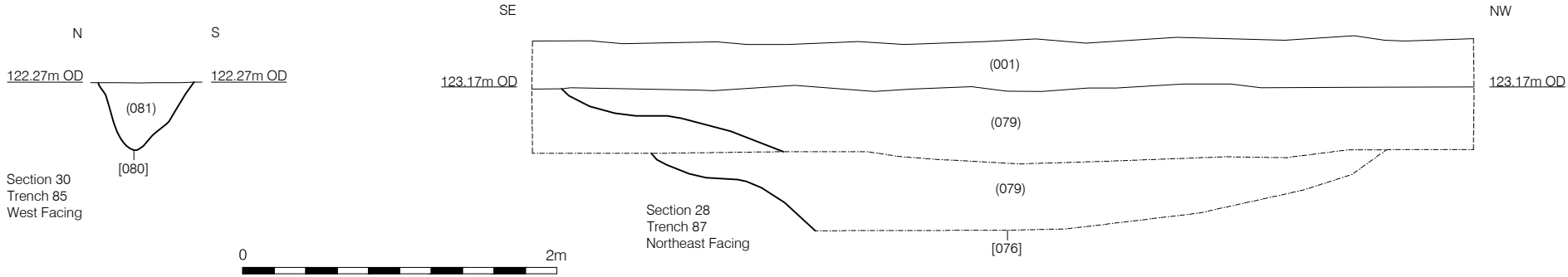
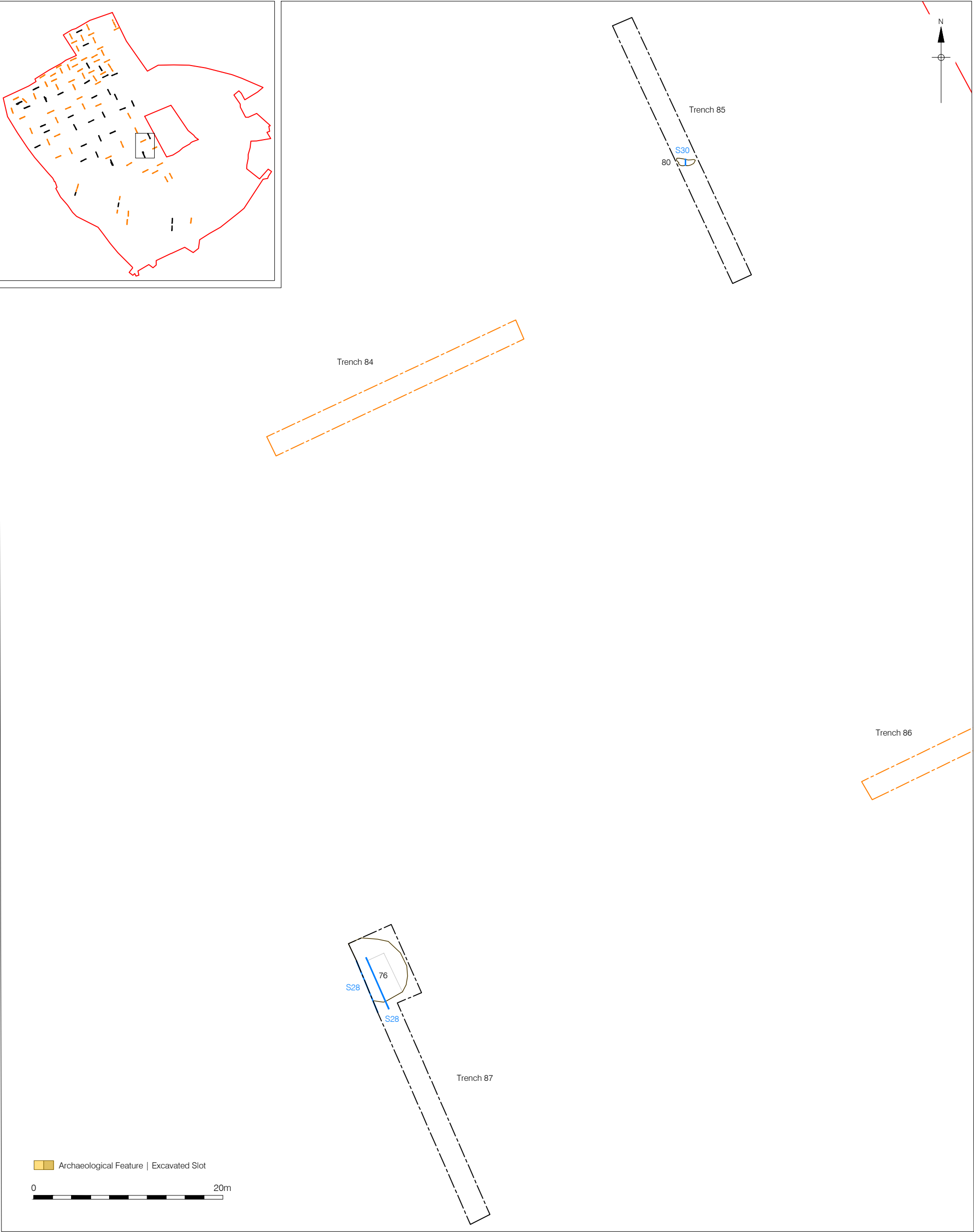


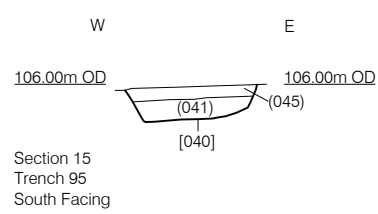
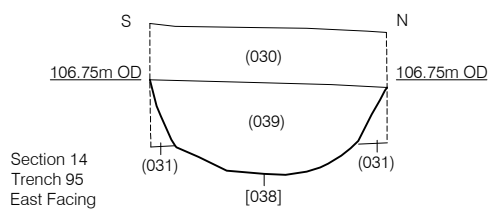
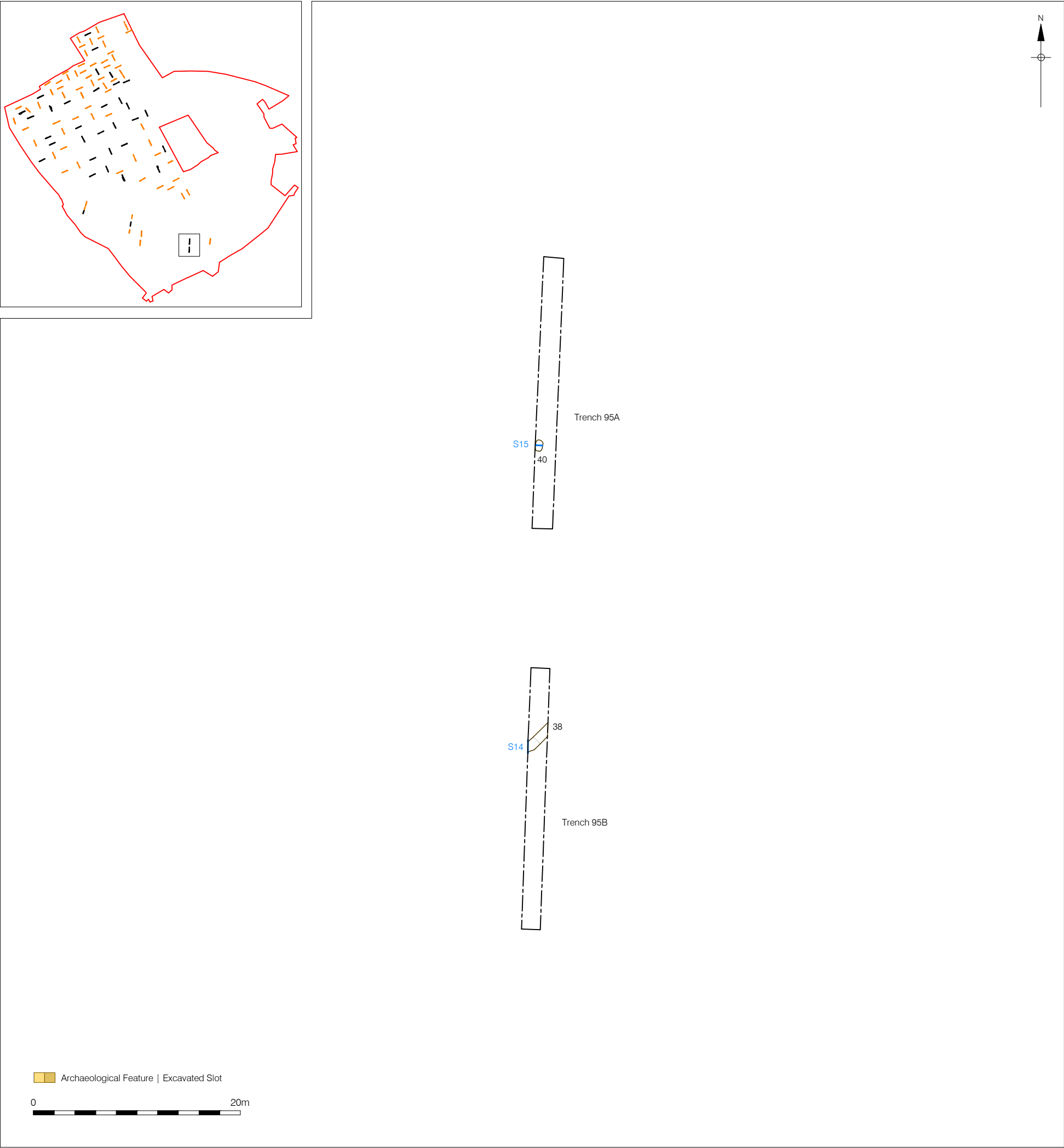


Archaeological Feature | Excavated Slot



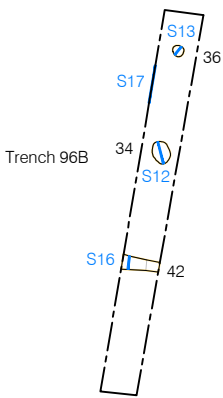








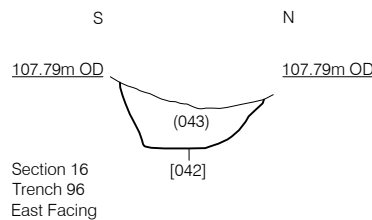
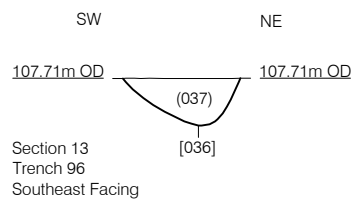
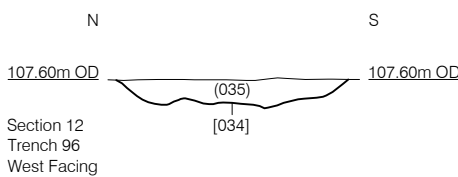
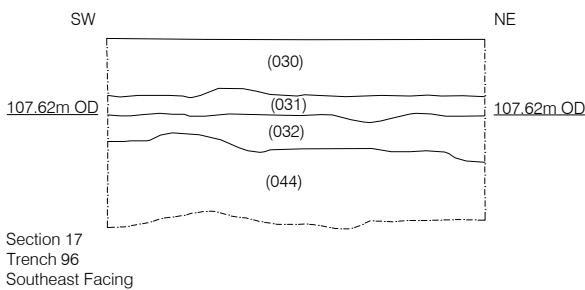
Trench 96A



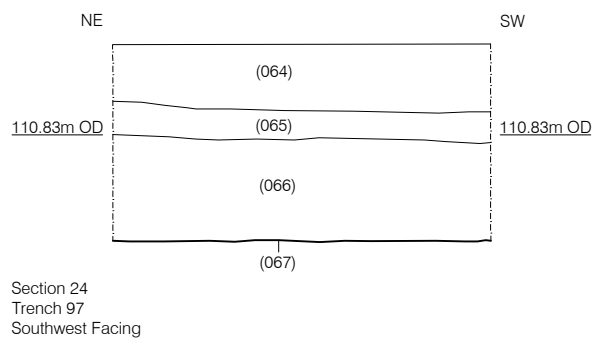
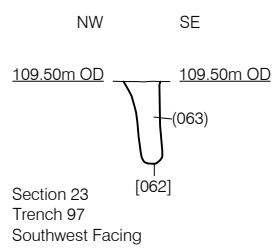
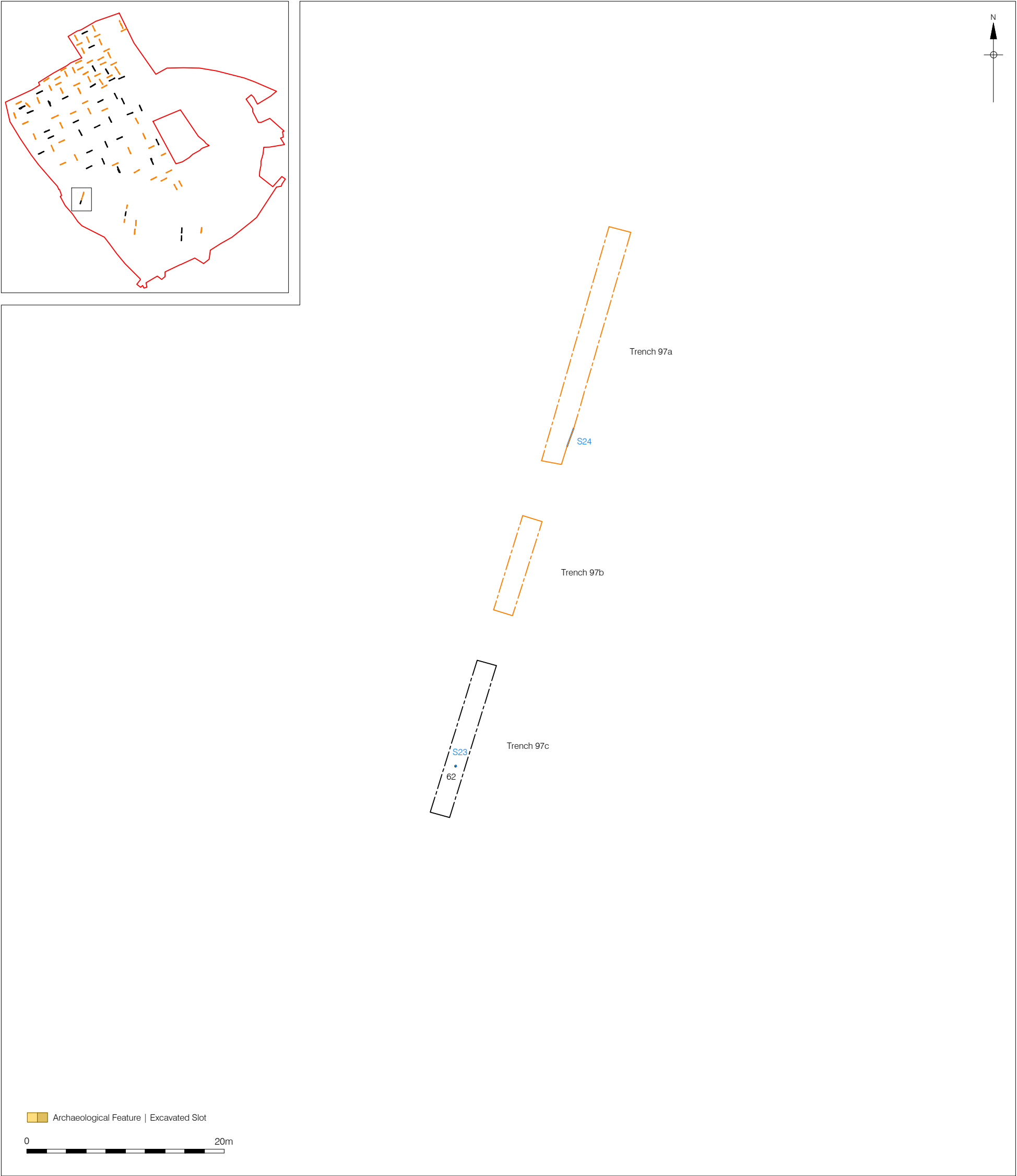
Trench 96C

Archaeological Feature | Excavated Slot

0 20m



0 2m



PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 18, Ditch [4], looking north-west



Plate 2: Trench 13, Natural Feature [68], looking north-west



Plate 3: Trench 13, Pit or Ditch Terminus [77], looking north-east



Plate 4: Trench 23, Pit [8], looking east



Plate 5: Trench 27, Cremation [10] mid-excavation showing pottery and burnt bone, looking north-east



Plate 6: Trench 37, Pit [24], looking north-west



Plate 7: Trench 43, Pit [57], looking south-east



Plate 8: Trench 43, Ditch [51] truncated by Pit [48], looking north-east



Plate 9: Trench 43, Pit [26], looking west



Plate 10: Trench 44, Ditch [20], looking south



Plate 11: Trench 46, Pit [46], looking south-east



Plate 12: Trench 47, Pit [82], looking north-east



Plate 13: Trench 47, Pit [86] (foreground) and Pit [84] (background), looking north-east



Plate 14: Trench 53, Ditch [22], looking north-west



Plate 15: Trench 57, Pit [88], looking north-east



Plate 16: Trench 62, Natural Feature [72], looking north-east



Plate 17: Trench 65, demolition deposits (55) and (56), looking south-west



Plate 18: Trench 68, Ditch [92], looking south-west



Plate 19: Trench 75, Ditch [99], looking north-east



Plate 20: Trench 76, Pit [104], looking south-west



Plate 21: Trench 77, Ditch [109], looking north-west



Plate 22: Trench 80, Pit [53], looking south



Plate 23: Trench 81, Pit [111], looking north-east



Plate 24: Trench 89, Pit [101], looking north-west



Plate 25: Trench 89, Pit [95], looking north-west



Plate 26: Trench 87, Pit [76], looking east



Plate 27: Trench 96B, colluvial layers (32) and (44), looking west



Plate 28: Trench 95A, Pit [40], looking north



Plate 29: Trench 96B, Pit [34], looking south-east



Plate 30: Trench 96B, Ditch [42], looking west



Plate 31: Trench 96, looking south

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXTS INDEX AND TRENCH DATA

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Description
1			Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0	
2			Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0	
3			Layer	Natural	0	0	0	
4	4	18	Cut	Ditch	1	0.84	0.16	Linear, moderate sides, flat base and N-S aligned
5	4	18	Fill	Ditch	1	0.84	0.16	Hard mid greyish brown clay with charcoal, flint
6	6	16	Cut	Natural Feature	0.62	0.4	0.08	Irregular, complex sides, irregular base and NE-SW aligned
7	6	16	Fill	Natural Feature	0.62	0.4	0.08	Hard mid yellowish brown clay with charcoal
8	8	23	Cut	Pit	1.2	0.88	0.28	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base
9	8	23	Fill	Pit	1.2	0.88	0.28	Hard dark brownish orange clay
10	10	27	Cut	Cremation	0.35	0.45	0.18	Sub-circular, vertical / near vertical sides, sub-flat base
11	10	27	Fill	Cremation	0.35	0.45	0.18	Firm - - black charcoal with infrequent small fragments of cremated human bone, very infrequent small natural flints
12	12	10	Cut	Natural Feature	0.6	0.33	0.07	Sub-circular, complex sides, concave base
13	12	10	Fill	Natural Feature	0.6	0.33	0.07	Hard dark orangish red clay
14	10	27	Fill	Cremation	0.2	0.1	0.04	Firm mid brownish grey cremated human bone with frequent medium charcoal
15	15	27	Cut	Natural Feature	1	0.83	0.36	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base and NW-SE aligned
16	15	27	Fill	Natural Feature	1	0.73	0.36	Hard dark yellowish black clayey silt with fine charcoal, burnt out/rotted tree
17	15	27	Fill	Natural Feature	1	0.68	0.23	Hard light yellowish brown clayey silt
18	18	11	Cut	Pit	1.8	0.9	0.36	Sub-circular, steep sides, sub-flat base and N-S aligned
19	18	11	Fill	Pit	1.8	0.9	0.36	Hard mid greyish brown clayey silt with flint stones, fine charcoal
20	20	44	Cut	Ditch	1	0.69	0.12	Linear, moderate sides, flat base and N-S aligned
21	20	44	Fill	Ditch	1	0.69	0.12	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with few charcoal flecks
22	22	53	Cut	Ditch	1	0.89	0.2	Linear, moderate sides, concave base and N-S aligned
23	22	53	Fill	Ditch	1	0.89	0.2	Compact mid orangish brown silty clay with flint, few cbm flecks
24	24	37	Cut	Pit	1	0.58	0.25	Sub-circular, moderate sides, irregular base and NE-SW aligned
25	24	37	Fill	Pit	1	0.58	0.25	Compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent quite large charcoal
26	26	43	Cut	Pit	0	1.8	0.76	Circular, vertical / near vertical sides, flat base
27	26	43	Fill	Pit	0	1.44	0.76	Hard mid greyish brown clayey silt with large flint, charcoal
28	26	43	Fill	Pit	0	1.34	0.66	Compact mid brownish orange clay with large flint, few charcoal
29	26	43	Fill	Pit	0	1.38	0.44	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with flint
30		962	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Soft mid brown clay loam with abundant flint
31		962	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.1	Firm light - brown silty clay with abundant flint
32		962	Layer	Colluvium	0	0	0.25	Hard light yellowish brown gravel with flint
33		962	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	light orangey brown flinty clay with abundant flint
34	34	962	Cut	Pit	1.2	0.9	0.15	Sub-circular, moderate sides, flat base and NW-SE aligned
35	34	962	Fill	Pit	1.2	0.9	0.15	Loose dark - black gravel with burnt flint
36	36	962	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.6	0.25	Circular, moderate sides, concave base
37	36	962	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.6	0.25	Loose mid orangish brown gravel
38	38	952	Cut	Ditch	1	1.25	0.5	Linear, steep sides, concave base and NE-SW aligned
39	38	952	Fill	Ditch	1	1.25	0.5	Hard light yellowish grey gravel
40	40	951	Cut	Pit	1.14	0.7	0.2	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base
41	40	951	Fill	Pit	1.14	0.64	0.14	Firm dark greyish black silty clay

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Description
42	42	962	Cut	Ditch	1	0.78	0.34	Linear, steep sides, concave base and E-W aligned
43	42	962	Fill	Ditch	1	0.78	0.34	Compact - - black silty gravel
44	44	962	Layer	Layer	0	0	0.42	Hard mid orangish brown gravel with flint
45	40	951	Fill	Pit	1.14	0.7	0.09	Compact dark orange brown silty clay
46	46	46	Cut	Pit	5.2	1.8	0.56	Sub-circular, steep sides, not reached base
47	46	46	Fill	Pit	0	0	0	Firm mid orangish brown silty clay with frequent large natural flint nodules, frequent manganese
48	48	43	Cut	Pit	2	1.04	0.42	Circular, steep sides, not reached base
49	48	43	Fill	Pit	2	0.67	0.3	Hard mid brownish orange clay with large glint nodules
50	48	43	Fill	Pit	1.04	20	0.26	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with chalk lumps, flint
51	51	43	Cut	Ditch	1	0.8	0.1	Linear, gradual sides, flat base and NW-SE aligned
52	51	43	Fill	Ditch	1	0.8	0.1	Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with few flint stones, rare charcoal flecks
53	53	80	Cut	Pit	3.14	1.35	0.4	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base
54	53	80	Fill	Pit	3.14	1.35	0.4	Soft mid greyish brown clay with occasional chalk
55		65	Layer	Layer	15.03	2	0	Soft dark greyish black silt
56		65	Layer	Layer	2.25	2	0	Soft dark greyish black silt
57	57	43	Cut	Pit	5.69	5.6	0.58	Circular, steep sides, flat base
58	57	43	Fill	Pit	2.36	0.6	0.58	Hard mid brownish orange clay with flint
59	57	43	Fill	Pit	4	2	0.48	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with flint, chalk lumps
60	60	43	Cut	Ditch	2	1.8	0.18	Linear, gradual sides, concave base and NW-SE aligned
61	60	43	Fill	Ditch	2	1.8	0.18	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with flint
62	62	973	Cut	Posthole	0	0.19	0.43	Circular, vertical / near vertical sides, concave base
63	62	973	Fill	Posthole	0	0.19	0.43	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with charcoal full depth
64	64	971	Layer	Topsoil	2	2	0.3	Soft mid greyish brown silt with flint
65	65	971	Layer	Subsoil	2	2	0.2	Compact mid orangish brown clayey silt with flint
66	66	971	Layer	Colluvium	2	2	0.5	Compact mid orangish brown gravel
67	67	971	Layer	Natural	2	2	1	Compact light yellowish brown clayey silt with flint
68	68	13	Cut	Natural Feature	5.5	1.21	0.55	Irregular, steep sides, concave base
69	68	13	Fill	Natural Feature	5.5	1.21	0.55	Firm mid orangish brown clayey silt
70	70	69	Cut	Natural Feature	2.3	1.47	0.24	Sub-circular, gradual sides, irregular base
71	70	69	Fill	Natural Feature	0	0	0.24	Firm mid - brown silty clay
72	72	62	Cut	Natural Feature	2	0.75	0.38	Curvilinear, steep sides, concave base and N-S aligned
73	72	62	Fill	Natural Feature	2	0.75	0.38	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with manganese
74	74	13	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.39	0.21	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base
75	74	13	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.39	0.21	Firm dark greyish black silty clay
76	76	87	Cut	Pit	7.2	4.65	0.9	Circular, moderate sides, not reached base
77	77	13	Cut	Terminus	0.8	1	0.62	Linear, steep sides, not reached base and NE-SW aligned
78	77	13	Fill	Terminus	0.8	1	0.62	Hard mid greyish brown silty-gravel
79	76	87	Fill	Pit	7.2	4.65	0.9	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with small flint pieces
80	80	85	Cut	Pit	2	0.6	0.38	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base and E-W aligned
81	80	85	Fill	Pit	2	0.6	0.38	Compact light greyish brown clayey silt with flint, charcoal
82	82	47	Cut	Pit	1.8	1.14	0.5	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base
83	82	47	Fill	Pit	1.8	1.75	0.5	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent medium to small natural flints
84	84	47	Cut	Pit	6.1	4.3	1.8	Circular, steep sides, flat base
85	84	47	Fill	Pit	4	4	1.8	Compact mid greyish brown clay with frequent small to medium natural flints
86	86	47	Cut	Pit	1.8	1.76	1	Circular, vertical / near vertical sides, flat base

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Description
87	86	47	Fill	Pit	1.8	1.76	1	Compact mid greyish brown clay with very frequent chalk inclusions
88	88	57	Cut	Pit	2.1	1.15	0.53	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base
89	88	57	Fill	Pit	2.1	1.15	0.53	Firm dark greyish brown clayey silt
90	90	57	Cut	Pit	1.6	0.72	0.14	Elongated, steep sides, flat base
91	90	57	Fill	Pit	1.6	0.72	0.14	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt
92	92	68	Cut	Ditch	1	2.05	1.3	Linear, steep sides, concave base and E-W aligned
93	92	68	Fill	Ditch	1	1.4	1	Compact mid - brown silty clay with abundant flint
94	92	68	Fill	Ditch	1	2.05	0.3	Hard dark - brown silty clay with abundant flint and manganese
95	95	89	Cut	Pit	8.2	5.08	0.88	Sub-circular, moderate sides, flat base
96	95	89	Fill	Pit	3.66	2.1	0.8	Hard dark orangish brown silty clay
97	95	89	Fill	Pit	2.78	1.72	0.56	Loose mid greyish brown almost entirely flint with almost entirely flint
98	95	89	Fill	Pit	7.8	2.1	0.22	Mid-brown silty clay
99	99	75	Cut	Ditch	1	0.55	0.12	Linear, gradual sides, concave base and E-W aligned
100	99	75	Fill	Ditch	1	0.55	0.12	Firm mid - brown silty clay
101	101	89	Cut	Pit	2.3	1.05	0.34	Elongated, steep sides, flat base
102	101	89	Fill	Pit	2.3	0.83	0.34	Firm light yellowish brown clayey silt
103	101	89	Fill	Pit	0.59	0.5	0.28	Firm dark greyish black clayey silt
104	104	76	Cut	Pit	1	1	0.62	Circular, vertical / near vertical sides, concave base
105	104	76	Fill	Pit	1	1	0.62	Compact mid brownish orange silty clay with flint.. mixed backfill of mostly clay and some silt
106	104	76	Fill	Pit	0	0.82	0.3	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt with charcoal
107	107	70	Cut	Natural Feature	0.4	0.3	0.19	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base and E-W aligned
108	107	70	Fill	Natural Feature	0.4	0.3	0.19	Compact dark brownish black clayey silt with charcoal
109	109	77	Cut	Ditch	1	0.53	0.18	Linear, steep sides, flat base and NW-SE aligned
110	109	77	Fill	Ditch	1	0.53	0.18	Firm mid orangish brown silty clay
111	111	81	Cut	Pit	2.63	0.76	0.35	Elongated, steep sides, concave base
112	111	81	Fill	Pit	2.63	0.76	0.35	Firm mid orangish brown clayey silt with frequent flint

Trench Number	Alignment	L (m)	Max machined depth (m)	Topsoil thickness (m)	Subsoil thickness (m)
1	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.4	0
2	NW-SE	26.9	0.3	0.3	0
3	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0
4	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
5	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0.05
6	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
7	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0
8	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.35	0
9	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.35	0
10	NE-SW	30	0.48	0.27	0
12	NE-SW	30	0.5	0.3	0
13	NW-SE	30	1.15	0.4	0.55
14	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.35	0
15	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
16	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.3	0.05
17	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0
18	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.4	0
19	NW-SE	30	0.25	0.25	0
20	NE-SW	30	0.25	0.25	0
21	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.25	0.05
22	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
23	NW-SE	30	0.45	0.32	0
24	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.35	0

Trench Number	Alignment	L (m)	Max machined depth (m)	Topsoil thickness (m)	Subsoil thickness (m)
25	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.4	0
26	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
27	NE-SW	30	0.45	0.45	0
28	NW-SE	30	0.5	0.4	0
29	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
30	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.3	0
31	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.4	0
32	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.4	0
33	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.35	0
34	NE-SW	30	0.5	0.4	0
35	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.4	0
36	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0
37	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
38	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0
39	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
40	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
41	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
42	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.35	0
43	NW-SE	30	0.45	0.3	0
44	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
45	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0
46	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.4	0
47	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.4	0
48	NW-SE	30	0.6	0.3	0.3
49	NE-SW	30	0.55	0.3	0.25
50	NW-SE	30	0.5	0.3	0
51	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.35	0
52	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.3	0.05
53	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
54	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.25	0.1
55	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
56	NE-SW	30	0.55	0.25	0.3
57	NE-SW	30	0.71	0.33	0.31
58	NW-SE	30	0.55	0.3	0
59	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0
60	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
61	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
62	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
63	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
64	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.35	0
65	NE-SW	30	0.52	0.38	0
66	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
67	NE-SW	30	0.45	0.35	0.1
68	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0.05
69	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.3	0.05
70	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0
71	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
72	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
73	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0.05
74	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0
75	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
76	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0
77	NE-SW	30	0.38	0.28	0
78	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.3	0.05
79	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
80	NE-SW	30	0.45	0.31	0
81	NW-SE	30	0.38	0.26	0
82	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.35	0
83	NW-SE	30	0.4	0.3	0.1
84	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.25	0.05
85	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0

Trench Number	Alignment	L (m)	Max machined depth (m)	Topsoil thickness (m)	Subsoil thickness (m)
86	NE-SW	24	0.3	0.25	0.1
87	NW-SE	30	0.9	0.3	0
88	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.25	0.05
89	NW-SE	30	0.51	0.29	0.15
90	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
91	NE-SW	30	0.3	0.3	0
92	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.3	0
93	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0.3
94	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.3	0
99	N-S	25	1	0.4	0.1
951	N-S	15	0.9	0.3	0.58
952	N-S	30	0.8	0.4	0.18
961	N-S	10	0.5	0.25	0
962	N-S	10	1	0.3	0.14
963	N-S	10	0.7	0.25	0.14
971	NE-SW	25	1	0.3	0
972	NE-SW	10	0.75	0.3	0.1
973	NE-SW	15	0.8	0.3	0
981	N-S	25	1	0.4	0.1
982	N-S	25	0.6	0.35	0.1

APPENDIX 2: PREHISTORIC POTTERY CATALOGUE

Context	Cut	Sample	Technology	SSFabric code	Fabric type	Fabric family	Fabric name	Fabric description	Sherd count	Crumbs (g)	Small <4cm	Medium 4-8cm	Large >8cm	Refits	Weight (g)	Sherd Type/dsc	Vessel class	Abrasion
19	18		HM			GROG	RW(GROG)(OX SURFACES)	OX EXT SURFACE, PATCHY	5						25	U	VESSEL (UNKNOWN)	SEVERE
83	82		HM	FLQU1	FL-SM-FMQU-RS-F				1		1.00				5	U	VESSEL (UNKNOWN)	SLIGHT
83	82		HM	FLQU1	FL-SM-FMQU-RS-F					1								
14	10		HM	GR1	GR-RS-FC					2								
14	10		HM	FL1	FL-MC-FVC			THICK	1		1.00				7	R	VESSEL (UNKNOWN)	SEVERE
14	10		HM	FL1	FL-MC-FVC			THICK		2								
14	10		HM	FL1	FL-MC-FVC			THICK	1				1	3	50	RUD	JAR	SEVERE
14	10	5	HM	FL1	FL-MC-FVC			THICK		2								
								TOTALS	8	7	2	0	1	3	87			

APPENDIX 3: CBM CATALOGUE

Context	Cut	Trench	Date range	Earliest date	Latest date	Period	Fabric	Form	Suffix	Count	Weight (g)
5	4	18	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	UNK	UNK	UNK	1	4
5	4	18	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP3	TP	T PEG	1	22
9	8	23	4000BC-AD1800	4000BC	AD1800	Uncertain	3102	UNK	UNK	12	7
19	18	11	UNK	UNK	UNK	Uncertain	UNK	UNK	UNK	1	2
31	Subsoil	96B	UNK	UNK	UNK	Uncertain	UNK	UNK	UNK	1	2
55	Layer	65	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP1	TP	T PEG	3	52
55	Layer	65	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	UNK	UNK	UNK	1	7
56	Layer	65	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP1	TP	T PEG	2	30
56	Layer	65	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	UNK	UNK	UNK	1	13
75	74	13	4000BC-AD1800	4000BC	AD1800	Uncertain	3102	UNK	UNK	4	5
79	76	87	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP1	TP	T PEG	3	82
79	76	87	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	UNK	UNK	UNK	1	5
85	84	47	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	UNK	UNK	UNK	2	6
85	84	47	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP1	TP	T PEG	1	25
85	84	47	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP2	B	B	1	316
87	86	47	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP1	TP	T PEG	6	237
87	86	47	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	UNK	UNK	UNK	3	10
98	95	89	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP2	BU	B U	4	1382
98	95	89	1700-1900	1700	1900	Post-medieval	HEMP1	TP	T PEG	10	445

APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant, Y- present

Sample Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	22	23	24	25
Feature Number	10	10	10	10	10	34	40				
Context Number	11	11	11	11	14	41	41	31	44	31	44
Feature type	Cremation	Cremation	Cremation	Cremation	Cremation	Pit	Pit	Layer	Layer	Layer	Layer
Period											
Volume of flot (millilitres)	132	293	288	41	37	10	14	51	28	76	38
Volume of sample (litres)	5	8	6	4	2	35	34	16	16	18	15
FLOT RESIDUE:											
Charcoal											
Charcoal >4mm	3	4	4	3	3	2					
Charcoal 2-4mm	4	4	4	4	4	3	1	1	1	1	
Charcoal <2mm	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	4	3
Charcoal of ID size		≤2									
Seeds											
<i>Brassica</i> sp.									1		
Uncharred Seeds											
<i>Rubus</i> sp.								1		1	
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1
Cereals											
Charred cereal waste material			1								
Indeterminate charred grain										1	
Other plant macrofossils											
Modern plant material	4	1	2	2	1	4	1	4	2	3	4
Roots/tubers	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4
Molluscs											
Terrestrial molluscs						1	4	1			

Other remains											
Insect eggs/ worm cases							2				
Insect remains			1			1	2			1	
Amorphous charred material		1						1	1	1	
Vitrified material								1			
Burnt Clay	1				1		1				
Burnt flint						3	1				
HSR		1			2						
HEAVY RESIDUE:											
Charcoal											
Charcoal >4mm		2	2	1	1	1					
Charcoal 2-4mm	4	4	4	4	3	3	1				
Building Material											
CBM								1			
Finds											
Pottery					1						
HSR	2	2	2	1	4						
Glass	1										
Burnt Flint						4	4				

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

APPENDIX 6: HERTS HER SUMMARY FORM

Site name and address: Land North of Hemel Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: St Albans City & District	
Village/Town: Hemel Hempstead	Parish: Redbourn	
Planning application reference: 5/2025/0645		
HER Enquiry reference: TBC		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Sally Dicks, Tetra Tech RPS		
Nature of application: Outline planning		
Present land use: Agricultural		
Size of application area: c.152.41ha	Size of area investigated: c.68.21ha	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 08400 10600		
Site code (if applicable): HRHH25		
Site director/Organisation: Neal Mason/Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
Type of work: Trial trench evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 18/08/2025	Finish: 19/09/2025
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Verulamium Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Bronze Age, Post-medieval, Modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports:		
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation comprising 99 trenches was carried out ahead of development. Seventy trenches contained no archaeology. Evidence of prehistoric activity was limited to a small Bronze Age cremation burial and two pits containing burnt flint. Later remains included seven post-medieval boundary ditches corresponding with the 1841 Tithe Map and five large clay extraction pits, probably for ceramic production. Modern quarry backfilling and demolition debris associated with 20th-century farm buildings were also recorded. Geoarchaeological investigation of a dry valley revealed colluvial deposits sealing some of the prehistoric features. The evaluation confirmed that archaeological remains within the site are sparse, of limited extent, and largely of local significance.		
Author of summary: N. Mason	Date of summary: 01/10/2025	

OASIS Summary

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-535199
Project Name	Evaluation at Land North of Hemel Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead
Sitename	Land North of Hemel Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead
Sitecode	HRHH25
Project Identifier(s)	tbc
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	5/2025/0645
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	18-Aug-2025 - 19-Sep-2025
Location	Land North of Hemel Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead NGR: TL 08400 10600 LL: 51.78357147678132, -0.429958181988642 12 Fig: 508400,210600
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Hertfordshire Local Authority District: St Albans Parish: Redbourn
Project Methodology	Trial trench evaluation, 99 trenches
Project Results	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook a trial trench evaluation on land north of Hemel Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (site code HRHH25) in August–September 2025. Ninety-nine trenches were excavated, of which seventy were archaeologically sterile. The earliest activity comprised a Bronze Age cremation burial and two pits containing burnt flint. Later remains

included post-medieval boundary ditches corresponding with the 1841 Tithe Map and five large clay extraction pits, probably for ceramic production. Modern quarry backfilling and demolition debris were also recorded. The evaluation demonstrated a sparse and dispersed archaeological record of predominantly local significance.

Keywords Cremation Burial - BRONZE AGE
Pit - LATER PREHISTORIC
Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL
Extractive Pit - POST MEDIEVAL
Burial Urn - BRONZE AGE
Pot - LATER PREHISTORIC
Pot - ROMAN
Tile - POST MEDIEVAL
Burnt Flint - LATER PREHISTORIC
Lithic Implement - LATER PREHISTORIC

Funder Private or public corporation: RPS

HER St Albans City and District UAD
Hertfordshire HER

**Person
Responsible for
work** Simon Carlyle

HER Identifiers

Archives Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Verulamium Museum;
Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

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