

**Land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road,
Barwell, Leicestershire**

(NGR: 443773 296225)



A programme of Archaeological Strip,
Map and Sample Excavation 2023

Planning Refs: 21/00695/FUL and APP/K2420/W/3308175

Museum Accession No. X.A26.2023



© Benchmark Archaeology 2023

**Land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road,
Barwell, Leicestershire**

(NGR: 443773 296225)

**A programme of Archaeological Strip,
Map and Sample Excavation 2023**

Planning Refs: 21/00695/FUL and APP/K2420/W/3308175

Museum Accession No. X.A26.2023

by



64 Edwards Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B24 9EW

Tel: 07939 066 301
Tel/Fax: 0121 241 5771

E: office@benchmark-archaeology.co.uk
W: www.benchmark-archaeology.co.uk

For:

Fort Estates Limited

Fieldwork: Richard Cherrington, Jack Cook, Aaron Stewart, Matt Thomas and Lee Walker

Reporting: Richard Cherrington

Pottery and CBM Analysis: Paul Blinkhorn

Environmental Analysis: Val Fryer

Benchmark Archaeology will retain the copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other projected documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Design/Specification/Written Scheme of Investigation.

Cover Image: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888

Contents

Summary

1.0	INTRODUCTION
2.0	SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION, AND GEOLOGY
3.0	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND SUMMARY
4.0	PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY
5.0	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS
6.0	THE FINDS
7.0	ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
8.0	CONCLUDING STATEMENTS
9.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
10.0	REFERENCES

List of Figures

Figure 1:	<i>Site Location</i>
Figure 2:	<i>Application Site (not to scale)</i>
Figure 3:	<i>Proposed Development (not to scale)</i>
Figure 4:	<i>ASMSE Area</i>
Figure 5:	<i>Plan of Excavated Features</i>
Figure 6:	<i>F102/1 and F102/2 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 7:	<i>F102/3 and F102/4 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 8:	<i>F104 and F106 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 9:	<i>F108 and F110 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 10:	<i>F112 and F114/1 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 11:	<i>F114/2 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 12:	<i>F114/3 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 13:	<i>F114/4 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 14:	<i>F114/5 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 15:	<i>F116 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 16:	<i>F119 Plan and Section</i>
Figure 17:	<i>F124 and F126 Plan and Section</i>

List of Plates

Plate 1:	<i>Site prior to subsoil stripping looking SW</i>
----------	---

Plate 2:	<i>F102/1 (103) looking NNW (50cm scale)</i>
Plate 3:	<i>F102/2 (103) looking NNW (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 4:	<i>F102/3 (103) looking NNW (50cm scale)</i>
Plate 5:	<i>F102/4 (103) looking NNW (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 6:	<i>F104 (105) looking east (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 7:	<i>F106 (107) looking west (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 8:	<i>F108 (109) looking NNW (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 9:	<i>F110 (111) looking west (50cm scale)</i>
Plate 10:	<i>F112 (113) looking south (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 11:	<i>F114/1 (115) looking east (1.0m scale)</i>
Plate 12:	<i>F114/2 (115) looking SE (1.0m scale)</i>
Plate 13:	<i>F114/3 (115) looking NNE (1.0m scale)</i>
Plate 14:	<i>F114/4 (115) looking NNE (1.0m scale)</i>
Plate 15:	<i>F114/5 (115) looking NNE (1.0m scale)</i>
Plate 16:	<i>F116 (117, 118) looking NNE (50cm scale)</i>
Plate 17:	<i>F119 (120, 121, 122 and 123) looking NNE (1.0m scale)</i>
Plate 18:	<i>F124 (125) looking WNW (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 19:	<i>F126 (127) looking west (25cm scale)</i>
Plate 20:	<i>Pottery from F102/4, 103 (2cm scale)</i>
Plate 21:	<i>Pottery from F108, 109 (2cm scale)</i>
Plate 22:	<i>Pottery from F110, 111 (2cm scale)</i>
Plate 23:	<i>Pottery from F114/2, 115 (2cm scale)</i>
Plate 24:	<i>Pottery from F119, 120 (2cm scale)</i>
Plate 25:	<i>Pottery from F119, 121 (2cm scale)</i>
Plate 26:	<i>Pottery from F119, 122 (2cm scale)</i>
Plate 27:	<i>CBM from F126, 127 (2cm scale)</i>

List of Tables

Table 1:	<i>Summary of deposits</i>
Table 2:	<i>Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type</i>
Table 3:	<i>Environmental Remians</i>

Summary

During June 2023, Benchmark Archaeology (BA) undertook a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (ASMSE) on land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443773 296225, Figures 1 - 4). The work was commissioned and funded by Fort Estates Limited.

Planning permission (Refs: 21/00695/FUL and APP/K2420/W/3308175) was granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HaBBC) for residential development on the site comprising 51 dwellings with associated access and parking. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential where recent Archaeological Field Evaluation recorded probable Anglo-Saxon and Medieval features as well as possible Mesolithic activity.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Archaeological Advisor (AA), to HaBBC recommended that a targeted programme of ASMSE be undertaken ahead of development.

Prior to the fieldwork, a project design (Cherrington 2023) specifying the methodology to be employed during the ASMSE was produced and submitted as a condition of planning permission.

ASMSE at the site has demonstrated activity of Romano-British (43AD – 409AD) and Medieval (1066AD – 1539AD) date in the form of residual pottery and CBM, and 12th Century archaeological features respectively. A single 18th Century feature (F108) was also recorded.

In contrast to the previous field evaluation (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021) no further evidence for Prehistoric (500,000BC – 42AD) or Anglo-Saxon (410AD – 1065AD) activity was recorded.

The 12th Century features have been interpreted as probable field boundaries (F102 and F108), a pit or possible tree-hole reused for refuse (F119), and elements of a large probable rectilinear stock enclosure. Features F102 and F114 extended beyond the confines of the site.

Environmental analysis of deposits (121 and 122) from a 12th Century pit / tree-hole (F119) were relatively rich, with cereals being particularly abundant. It would appear most likely that the remains are derived from mixed refuse, including possible midden waste along with cereal storage detritus, with the latter including contaminant seeds of a similar size to the grains. Such material would have been removed from the store on an annual basis, in order to make room for the new season's crop.

Many of the remaining undated features (F104, F106, F112, F116, F124 and F126), given the similarity of the feature fills to the 12th Century features, may be of the same date. The modern features (marked red on Figure 5) are associated with drainage and are probably 19th Century in date.

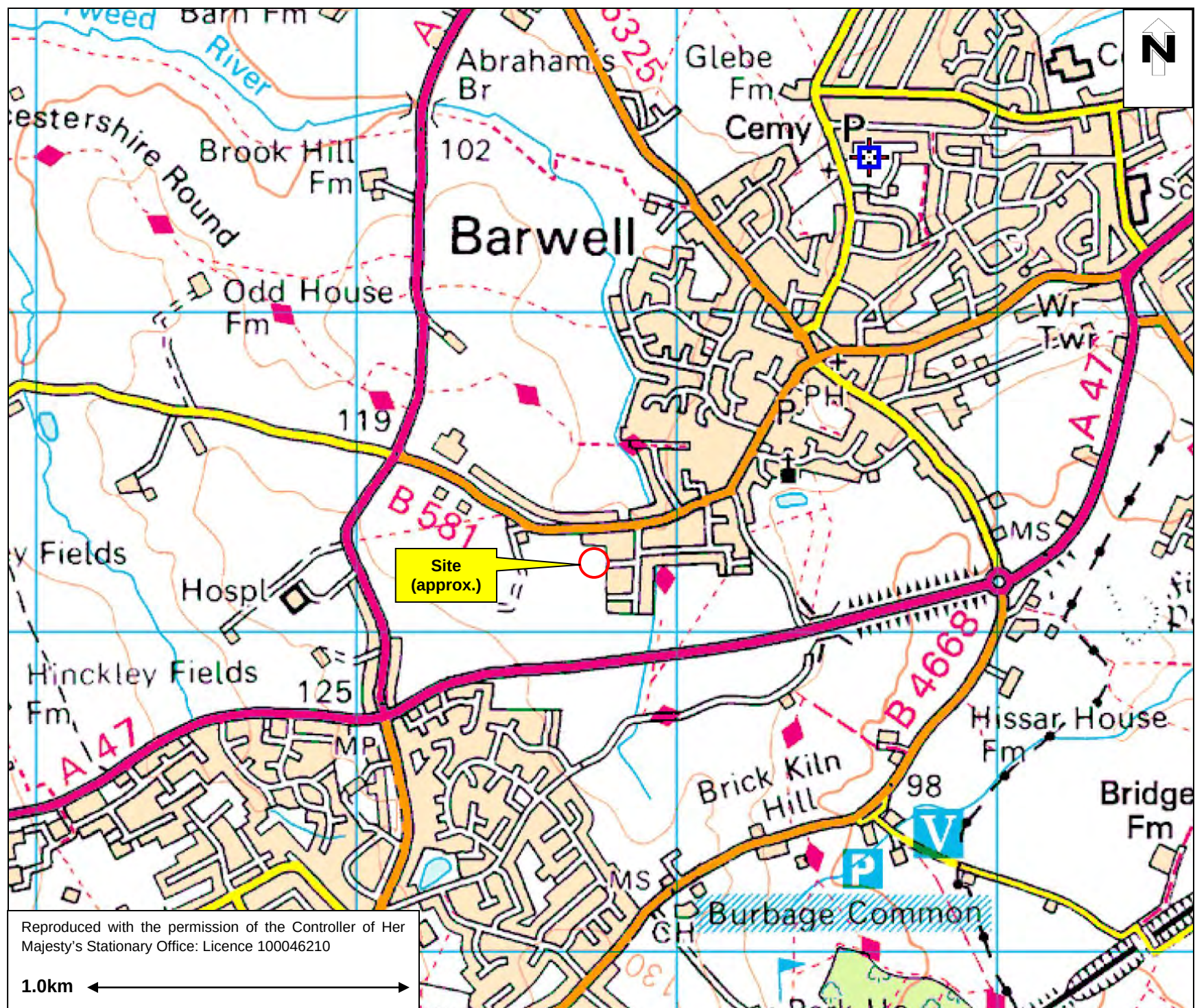


Figure 1: Site Location

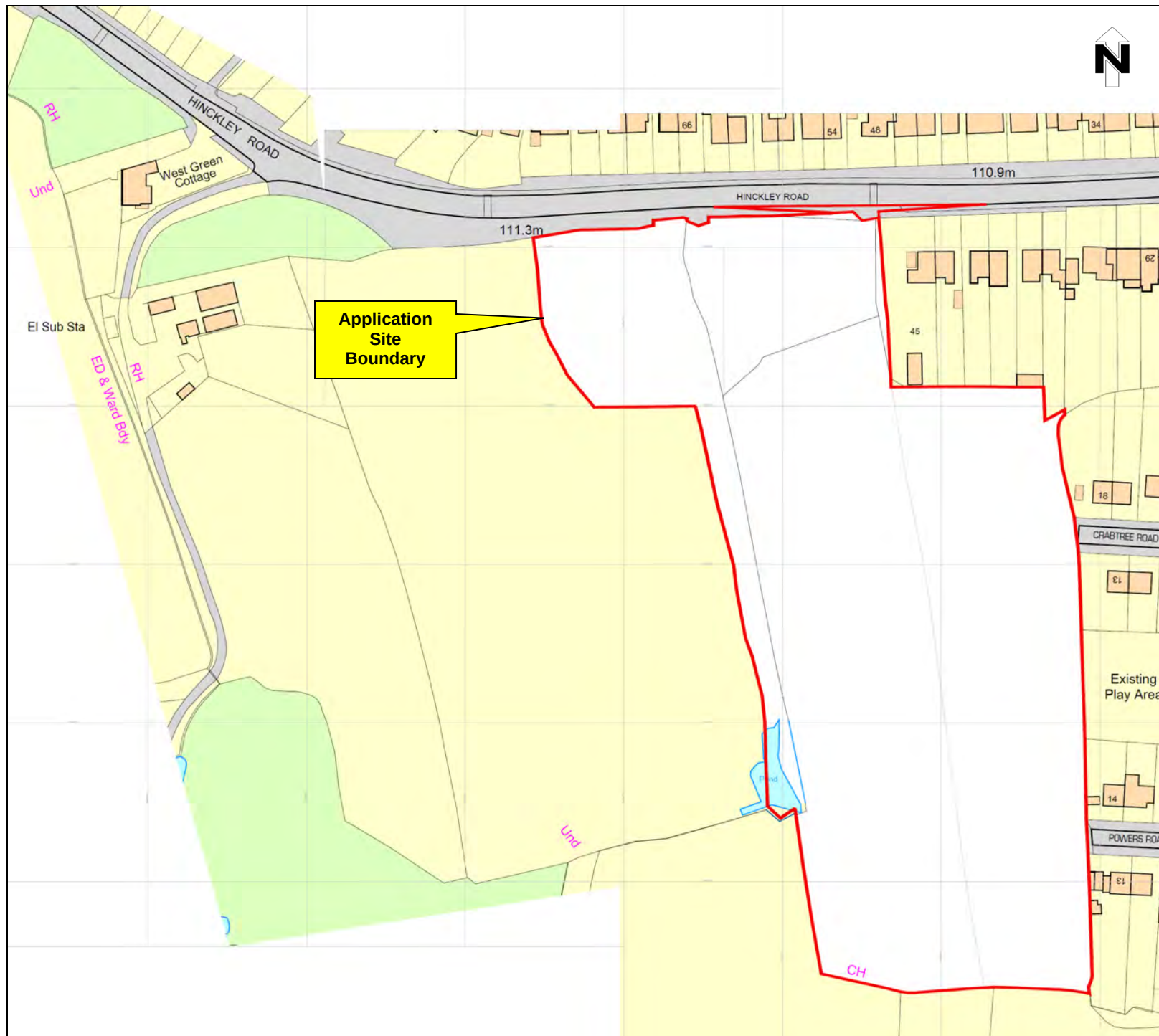


Figure 2: Application Site (not to scale)



Figure 3: Proposed Development (not to scale)

1.0 INTRODUCTION (Figures 1 - 4)

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 During June 2023, Benchmark Archaeology (BA) undertook a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (ASMSE) on land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443773 296225, Figures 1 - 4). The work was commissioned and funded by Fort Estates Limited.

1.1.2 Planning permission (Refs: 21/00695/FUL and APP/K2420/W/3308175) was granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HaBBC) for residential development on the site comprising 51 dwellings with associated access and parking. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential where recent Archaeological Field Evaluation recorded probable Anglo-Saxon and Medieval features as well as possible Mesolithic activity.

1.1.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Archaeological Advisor (AA), to HaBBC recommended that a targeted programme of ASMSE be undertaken ahead of development.

1.1.4 Prior to the fieldwork, a project design (Cherrington 2023) specifying the methodology to be employed during the ASMSE was produced and submitted as a condition of planning permission.

1.2 Planning Conditions

1.2.1 Following appeal (Ref: APP/K2420/W/3308175) planning permission was granted by HABBBC for the erection of 51 Plots with associated access and parking at land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, in accordance with the application Ref: 21/00695/FUL, dated 9 July 2021 and subject to the schedule of conditions attached to the Decision.

1.2.2 Condition No. 3 (Ref: APP/K2420/W/3308175) relates to archaeological works and states the following:

No development, including groundworks or preparatory work shall take place until a programme of archaeological work, including a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The WSI shall:

- *include the statement of significance and research objectives, and*
- *a programme and methodology of site investigation, and*
- *recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*
- *A programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication and dissemination and deposition of resulting material.*

Thereafter on land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the approved WSI. This condition shall not be fully discharged until the approved WSI has been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

1.3 Benchmark Archaeology

1.3.1 Benchmark Archaeology (BA) is an independent archaeological organisation providing a wide range of archaeological services carried out to the highest professional standards. They carry out watching briefs, evaluations, excavations, surveys, desk-based assessments, historic building recording and church archaeology, in addition to other specialist and logistical services. BA offers a cost-effective service, whilst itself maintaining the highest professional standards, and enhancing the archaeological record. All projects are carried out in accordance with NPPF (2021), the guidance of the Treasure Act (1996), and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England.

1.3.2 Richard Cherrington is Principal Archaeologist at BA. He has over 20 years' experience as a commercial archaeologist working independently and for university and local authority archaeological units in the UK and overseas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ancient History & Archaeology, a PG Cert in Environmental Management, and a PG Diploma in Practical Archaeology. Richard is an Associate of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ACIfA), a member of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG), and the British Brick Society (BBS).

2.0 **SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND GEOLOGY** (Figures 1 - 4)

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The site comprises land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443773 296225, Figures 1 - 4). Barwell is a civil parish and large village in Leicestershire. It was originally known as Borewell, but later became "Barwell", the name in use today. The brook is now called the River Tweed, and is a tributary of the River Trent.

2.2 Description

2.2.1 The ASMSE area is currently under grass (pasture) cover and was subject to evaluation trenching in 2021.

2.3 Geology

2.3.1 The underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone deposits of the Mercia Mudstone Group overlain by Diamicton deposits of the Oadby Member (www.bgs.ac.uk).

- 2.3.2 The local soilscape is described as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and of moderate fertility. The soilscape typically supports seasonally wet pasture and woodland habitats. Landcover is grassland and arable with some woodland. General cropping is mostly suited to grass production for dairying or beef; some cereal production often for feed. Timeliness of stocking and fieldwork is important, and wet ground conditions should be avoided at the beginning and end of the growing season to avoid damage to soil structure. Land is tile drained and periodic moling or subsoiling will assist drainage (www.landis.org.uk).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND SUMMARY

- 3.1 Programmes of Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (BWB 2021) and Archaeological Field Evaluation (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021) for the proposed development were undertaken in 2021. Summaries of the results of these projects appear below:

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (BWB 2021)

- *The archaeological desk-based assessment has established that there is low potential for archaeological remains, given its undeveloped nature and uninterrupted use as agricultural land away from known settlement. Archaeological investigation undertaken within the eastern part of the site found evidence for activity dating between the Saxon and post-medieval period although the extent of this was limited. Further investigation will be undertaken within the northeastern part of the site to provide more detail on the archaeology encountered.*

Archaeological Field Evaluation (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021)

- *Archaeological remains were exposed in two of the seven trenches, consisting of linear ditches and furrows, and potentially representing several different phases of activity. Ditches [612] and [614] at the east end of Trench 6 appear in plan to possibly form one corner of a rectangular enclosure, with ditches [704] and [706] at the southeast end of Trench 7 forming another corner. A Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint bladelet, very likely to be residual, was recovered from the fill of ditch [704] and a sherd of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery from ditch [706]. If this interpretation is correct, most of the enclosure is likely to extend beyond the site boundary to the east. Environmental samples from the features were limited in composition, containing only small amounts of charred cereal grains, likely to be scattered, wind-blown refuse, rather dumping directly into the features. Several of the linear features in Trench 6 were orientated north-northwest to southsoutheast, consistent with previous recording of furrows at the site (BWB 2018). A wide, shallow ditch in Trench 7 produced a single sherd of medieval pottery. This is on a different alignment to the ridge and furrow previously identified and may represent a different period of land division, but little can be inferred from a single sherd. The evidence suggests a negligible archaeological potential for much of the site, but a focus of possible activity has been identified in the northeastern part of the site, around Trenches 6 and 7, potentially dating to the Anglo-Saxon to medieval periods.*

4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY (Figure 4)

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The general aim of the work was to carry out a programme of ASMSE in the specified area (Figure 4) prior to development on the site. The ASMSE work sample excavated, recorded and planned features of archaeological significance and collected finds and samples for analysis as appropriate. ASMSE falls within the category of Archaeological Excavation as defined by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

4.2 Archaeological Excavation (ASMSE)

- 4.2.1 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines an Archaeological Excavation as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ibid).

- 4.2.2 The CIfA defines the purpose of an Archaeological Excavation thus (ibid):

- *The purpose of excavation is to examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them.*

4.3 Aims and Methodology

- 4.3.1 The footprint of the ASMSE areas (Figure 3) was mechanically stripped to the level of the first significant archaeological layer or to natural (mineral) deposits (whichever was achieved first) under archaeological supervision. Archaeological features / deposits were planned, recorded and sample excavated by hand in order to determine the date, character etc. of features / deposits encountered.

- 4.3.2 The following excavation, recording, finds / sampling and other methodologies were followed as appropriate:

Excavation

- *Any tarmacadam, concrete and other hardstanding present will be stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a suitable bucket. It may be necessary to utilise a breaker, toothed bucket or other plant to remove any hardstanding, but for archaeological purposes a toothless ditching bucket will be used below this horizon. This machine excavation will be carried out under archaeological supervision.*

- *Mobile plant will be operated in manner aimed at minimising impacts on the archaeological resource. Existing haul routes will be utilised if possible. Any new haul routes will take the presence / absence of archaeological deposits into account.*
- *Mechanical excavation will take place to the level of either natural deposits or when archaeological horizons are encountered. This machine excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision.*
- *If archaeological horizons are encountered then subsequent excavations will be undertaken by hand as appropriate.*
- *Discrete features will require a minimum of a 50% sample excavation of the deposits from each feature, but a 100% sample may be necessary should significant assemblages of finds be present; linear features (eg, ditches / gullies, paths / tracks) will require a minimum of a 20% sample of the deposits from each feature in 1m wide slots. Smaller features such as post-holes will be 100% sampled.*

Recording

- *Features will be surveyed and located to an accuracy of 0.1m or greater using GPS, tapes, plane table or EDM equipment.*
- *Plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:2500, 1:100, 1:50 and 1:20 as appropriate and located on an overall site plan. Individual sections and plans will be drawn at scale 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate.*
- *Registers will be maintained of all photographs, levels, plans, sections, finds and samples taken, made or gathered in the field.*
- *Photography will be carried out using 35mm SLR cameras, supplemented by digital images. Archaeological deposits and features will be photographed on monochrome film. Digital images in TIFF format will be taken with a Nikon D3500 DSLR which includes a 24 megapixel sensor.*
- *A detailed context record will be maintained on individual pro-forma record cards. Each archaeological layer, fill, cut, etc., will be individually numbered and described.*

Finds / Sampling

- *All finds and samples will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines 2. Advice will be taken on an appropriate environmental sampling strategy, where appropriate.*
- *If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extant and condition to be described and analysed. Environmental sampling guidelines provided by English Heritage (2011) will be adhered to. Bulk environmental samples from dateable deposits will recover 40 litres of material with the aim of processing the samples within two weeks of recovery. Where smaller volumes of dateable deposits are encountered, sampling will aim to recover the maximum amount possible. Smaller samples may be appropriate for particularly rich / waterlogged deposits. Sampling procedures will be carried out in line with English Heritage guidelines (2011) and the advice of the nominated project specialist.*

- Where deemed appropriate the advice of the relevant Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be sought in relation to the collection of palaeoenvironmental material, industrial residues or other relevant scientific material. Sampling will be in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Historic England, 2011).
- Where appropriate, specialist analysis of artefacts will be carried out by recognised experts.
- Generated spoil will be subject to rapid visual and manual scanning for unstratified finds.
- Finds will be collected, recorded and retained in line with the ClfA 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives' (ClfA 2019a) and guidance described in *Preparation of Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (2010) and the ClfA documents *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014b).
- Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate county (Leicestershire) type series.
- Finds comprising treasure will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the *Treasure Act 1996*.
- Guidance will be followed from the following Historic England documents as appropriate: *Animal Bones and Archaeology* (2019); *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (2015); *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on Their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (2018b); and *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recovery, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (2010).
- Guidance in the following document will be followed: 'Generic Brief For Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Record Excavation) – (Leicestershire County Council 2023)'.

Human Remains

- All human remains will initially be left in-situ. Where it is necessary to remove human remains, then this will be carried out in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and any exhumation licence issued. It will also be carried out in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation pertaining to the removal of human remains.
- Guidance from the following documents will be sought: *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project* (2018); the *Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE)* documents *Science and the Dead: A guideline for the destructive sampling of archaeological human remains for scientific analysis* (2013), *Large Burial Grounds Guidance on sampling in archaeological fieldwork projects* (2015), and *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (2017); and the ClfA guidelines, *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (ClfA, 2017).

General

- The work will be conducted in accordance with the relevant ClfA Standard and Guidance documents and Historic England guidance.

- The archaeological work will be undertaken in accordance with, and fulfil the requirements of, any archaeological brief issued by the AA, HaBBC.
- If, during the course of excavation, items are found that may be potentially defined as 'Treasure' under the Code of Practice for the Treasure Act 1996, BA will be responsible for ensuring that the County Coroner is informed.
- A diary record of the progress of the archaeological work must be kept, including details of liaison and monitoring meetings, visits, and a record of staff on site.
- All archaeological work will follow relevant Health and Safety legislation.
- All work will be carried out in accordance with relevant ClfA standards and guidance.
- All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the English Heritage volume entitled 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide'.
- The project will be carried out in accordance with recommendations made by the following Chartered Institute for Archaeologists documents: "Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation" (2014a), 'Code of Conduct' (2019) and Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material' (2014b).
- A copy of the report will be submitted to OASIS and the physical archive deposited with the Leicestershire Museum Service. Any digital archives will be deposited with the ADS.
- A summary of findings will be submitted to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society'.

Project Management

- All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the English Heritage volume entitled 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide'.
- The project will be carried out in accordance with recommendations made by the following Chartered Institute for Archaeologists documents: "Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation" (2020), 'Code of Conduct' (2019) and Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material' (2014b).
- Contingency funding to deal with finds and scientific analysis has been built into the approved quotation.

Flora and Fauna

- Due consideration will be paid to the welfare of wildlife / flora during the fieldwork and wildlife egress from excavated features will be taken into account.

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS (Figures 5 - 17, Plates 1 – 19, Table 1)

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The ASMSE was carried out over eight days (05.06.2023, 06.06.2023, 07.06.2023, 08.09.2023, 09.06.2023, 12.06.2023, 13.06.2023, 14.06.2023) in June 2023 with a team of up to four archaeologists and one logistical assistant present on site. Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a wide toothless grading bucket. Further archaeological excavation and cleaning was carried out manually.

5.1.2 The excavated and recorded archaeological features have been dated on the basis of recovered pottery and stratigraphic relationships where available. All the recorded features cut natural deposits of Orange-brown clayey sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions (128). Archaeological features and natural deposits were sealed by subsoil (101) and topsoil (100) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.45m. Pottery and Ceramic Building Material (CBM), and environmental remains are discussed in Section 6.0 below.



Plate 1: Site prior to subsoil stripping looking SW

5.2 Results

- 5.2.1 The earliest recorded activity on site dates to the Romano-British (43AD – 409AD) period and is represented by the recovery of residual pottery and CBM from F114/2 (115) and F126 (127). This material comprised a heavily abraded sherd of Roman Grey Ware and an equally heavily abraded fragment of *Tegula* (roof tile). In addition to this, a small fragment of undated daub was recovered from F119 (121).
- 5.2.2 The dateable features (F102, F110, F114 and F119) all date to the Medieval (1066AD – 1539AD) period, more specifically, the 12th Century with the exception of F108 which dates to the 18th Century.
- 5.2.3 F102 comprised a narrow and shallow NNW – SSE aligned linear cut measuring up to c. 0.90m in width and up to c. 0.16m in depth with a rounded profile. Four sections (F102/1, F102/2, F102/3 and F102/4) were cut through the feature. A single sherd of 12th Century pottery was recovered from the clayey silt feature fill (103).
- 5.2.4 F110 was a short, probably truncated, section of a narrow and shallow ENE – WSW linear cut measuring c. 0.50m in width and c. 0.16m in depth with a rounded profile. The clayey silt sand feature fill (111) contained a single sherd of 12th Century pottery.
- 5.2.5 F114 consisted of a broad probable rectilinear cut running N – S and E – W measuring up to c. 2.30m in width and up to c. 0.60m in depth with both V-shaped and irregular profiles. Five sections (F114/1, F114/2, F114/3, F114/4 and F114/5) were cut through the feature. The clayey silty sand feature fill (115) contained a single sherd of 12th Century pottery as well a residual Romano-British sherd.
- 5.2.6 F119 comprised a large sub-oval cut measuring c. 3.25m in diameter and up to c. 1.15m in depth with steeply sloping sides. The feature fills (120 – 123) were environmentally sampled and three of the contexts (120, 121 and 122) contained sherds of 12th Century pottery.
- 5.2.7 F108 was NNW – SSE aligned narrow and shallow linear cut measuring up to c. 0.40m in width and up to c. 0.16m in depth. The sandy clay feature fill (109) contained a sherd of 18th Century pottery as well as a residual 12th Century sherd.
- 5.2.8 The remaining excavated features (F104, F106, F112, F116, F124 and F126) contained no dating evidence. Several modern drainage features and other later disturbances were also noted.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
100	Dark-greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional small stone	Up to c. 0.35m	Topsoil
101	Orange-brown clayey silt with occasional small stones	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
F102	NNW – SSE aligned linear cut up c. 0.90m in width	Up to c. 0.16m	Linear cut F102
103	Orange-brown sandy silt	Up to c. 0.16m	Fill of F102
F104	East - west aligned linear cut c. 0.50m in width	c. 0.14m	Linear cut F104
105	Greyish / orange-brown sandy clay and occasional small stones	c. 0.14m	Fill of F104
F106	East - west aligned linear cut c. 0.35m in width	c. 0.20m	Linear cut F106
107	Greyish / orange-brown silty clayey sand	c. 0.20m	Fill of F106
F108	NNW – SSE aligned linear cut up c. 0.40m in width	c. 0.16m	Linear cut F108
109	Greyish / orange-brown sandy clay and occasional small stones	c. 0.16m	Fill of F108
F110	ENE - WSW aligned linear cut c. 0.50m in width	c. 0.16m	Linear cut F110
111	Greyish / orange-brown clayey silty sand and occasional small stones	c. 0.16m	Fill of F110
F112	Circular pit / posthole c. 0.35m in diameter	c. 0.08m	Pit / posthole F112
113	Greyish / orange-brown silty clayey sand and occasional small stone	c. 0.08m	Fill of F112
F114	Curvilinear cut up to c. 2.30m in width	Up to c. 0.60m	Curvilinear cut F114
115	Orange-brown / grey silty clayey sand	Up to c. 0.60m	Fill of F114
F116	Truncated subcircular cut	Up to c. 0.34m	Cut F116
117	Very dark-brown clayey silty sand and occasional small stones and frequent charcoal	Up to c. 0.14m	Fill of F116
118	Greyish / orange-brown clayey silty sand and occasional small stones	Up to c. 0.34m	Fill of F116
F119	Sub-oval cut c. 3.25m in diameter	Up to 1.15m	Cut F119
120	Yellow-brown clay	Up to c. 0.18m	Fill of F119
121	Greyish-brown silty clay	Up to c. 0.55m	Fill of F119
122	Greyish-black ashy clay with charcoal flecks	Up to c. 0.16m	Fill of F119
123	Greyish-brown silty clay	Up to c. 0.45m	Fill of F119
F124	East – west aligned cut c. 0.35m in width	c. 0.10m	Cut F124
125	Brown loamy clayey sand	c. 0.10m	Fill of F124
F126	East – west aligned cut c. 0.75m in width	c. 0.26m	Cut F126
127	Greyish-brown clayey sandy loam	c. 0.26m	Fill of F126
128	Orange-brown clayey sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface @ 112.76m – 113.47m AOD.	Natural ground surface

Table 1: Summary of deposits



Plate 2: F102.1 (103) looking NNW (50cm scale)



Plate 3: F102.2 (103) looking NNW (25cm scale)



Plate 4: F102.3 (103) looking NNW (50cm scale)

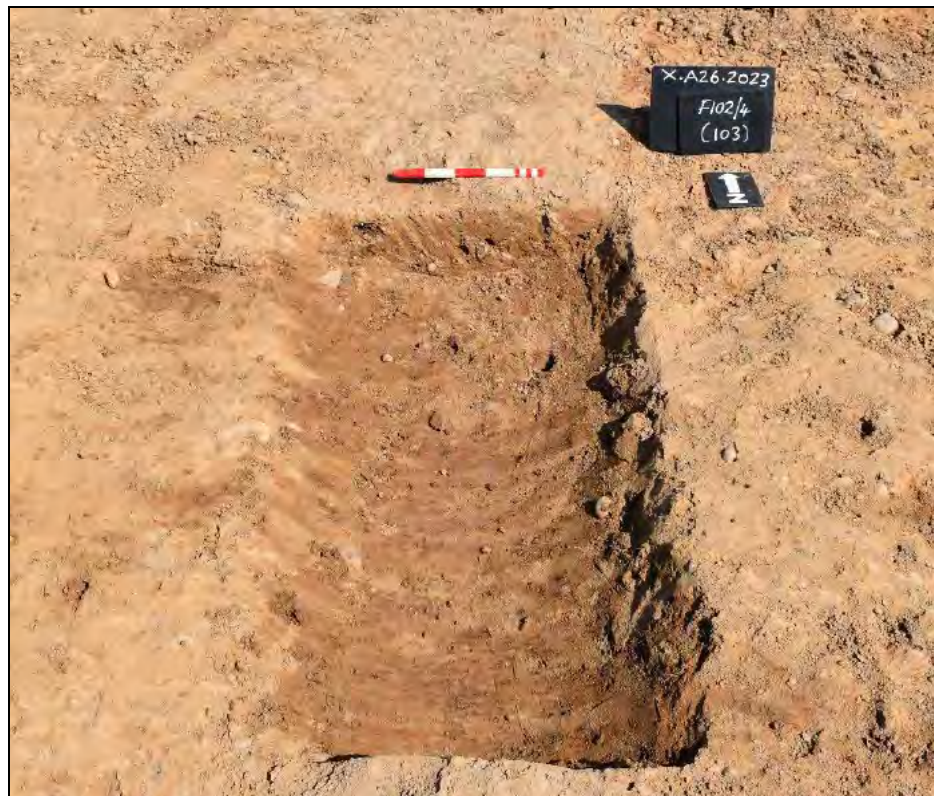


Plate 5: F102.4 (103) looking NNW (25cm scale)



Plate 6: F104 (105) looking east (25cm scale)



Plate 7: F106 (107) looking west (25cm scale)



Plate 8: F108 (109) looking NNW (25cm scale)



Plate 9: F110 (111) looking west (50cm scale)



Plate 10: F112 (113) looking south (25cm scale)



Plate 11: F114.1 (115) looking east (1.0m scale)



Plate 12: F114.2 (115) looking SE (1.0m scale)



Plate 13: F114.3 (115) looking NNE (1.0m scale)



Plate 14: F114.4 (115) looking NNE (1.0m scale)



Plate 15: F114.5 (115) looking NNE (1.0m scale)



Plate 16: F116 (117, 118) looking NNE (50cm scale)



Plate 17: F119 (120, 121, 122 and 123) looking NNE (1.0m scale)



Plate 18: F124 (125) looking WNW (25cm scale)



Plate 19: F126 (127) looking west (25cm scale)

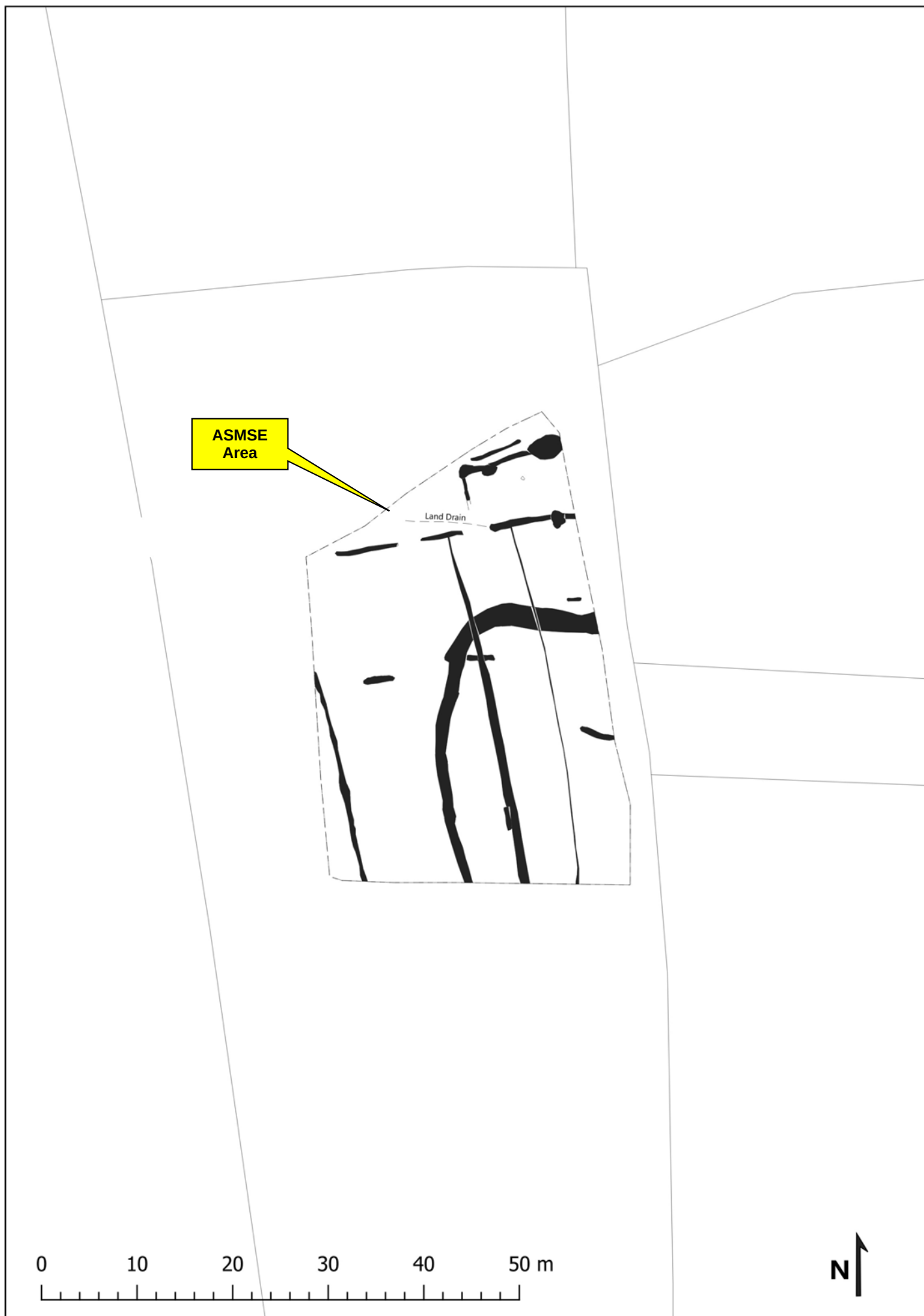


Figure 4: ASMSE Area

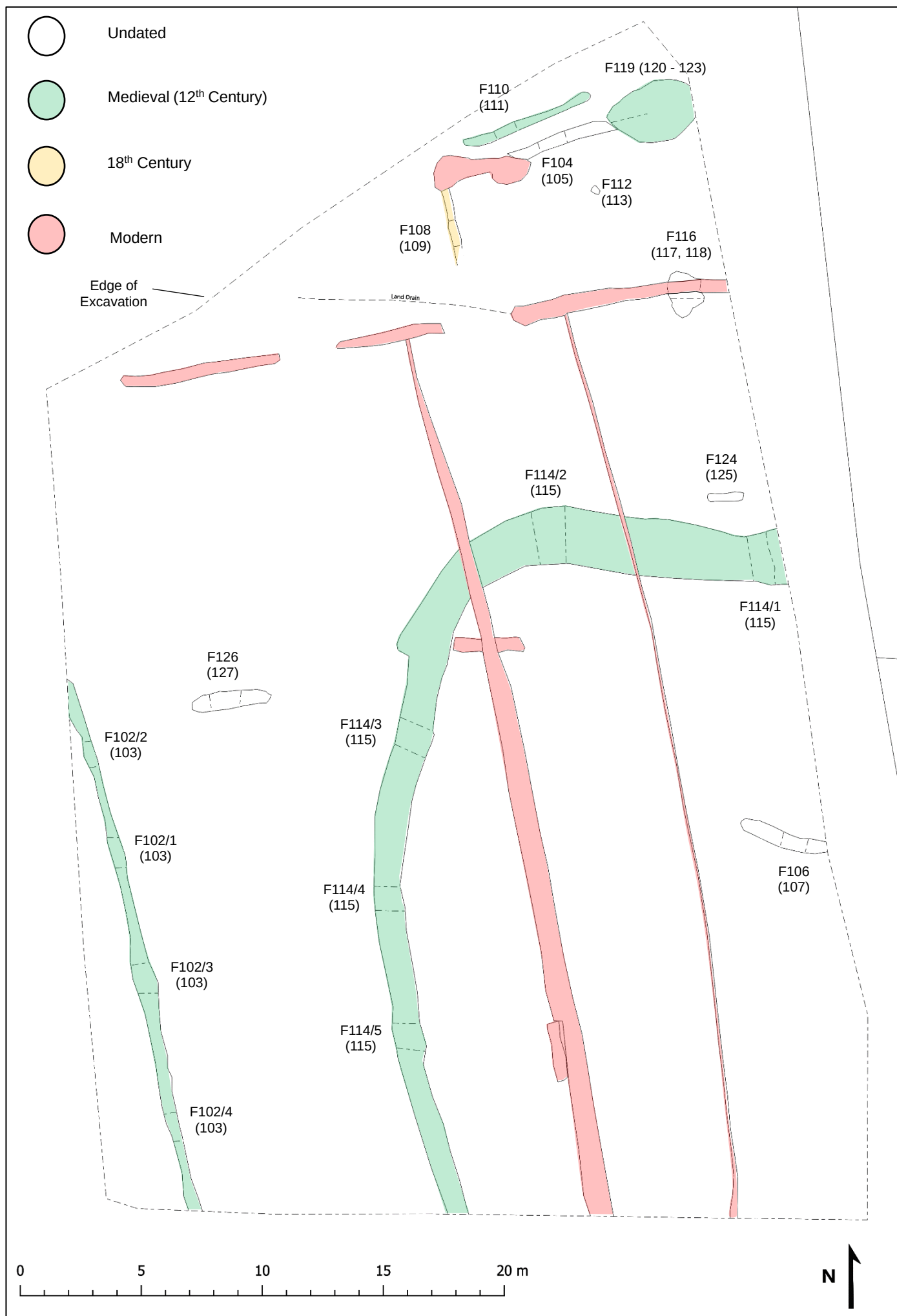


Figure 5: Plan of Excavated Features

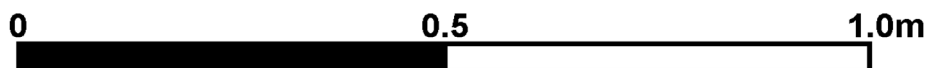
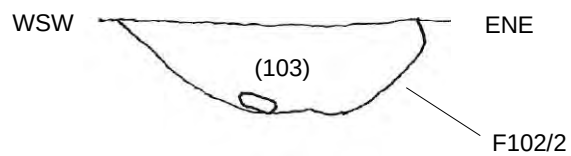
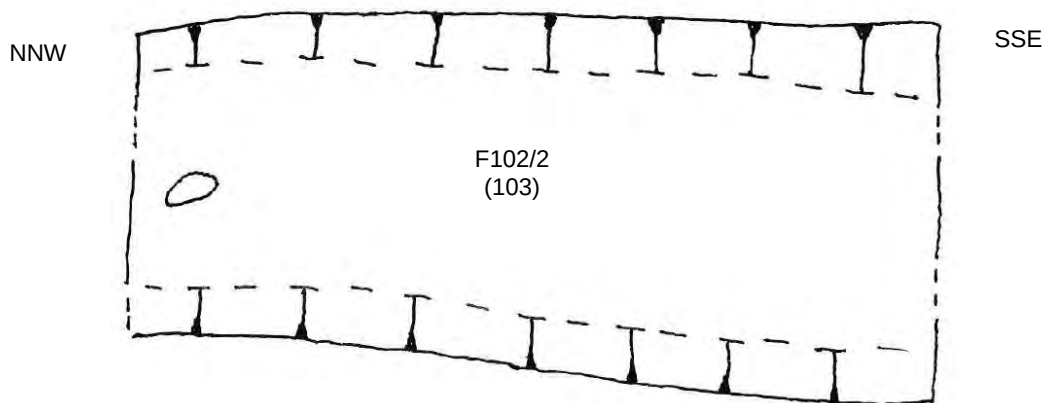
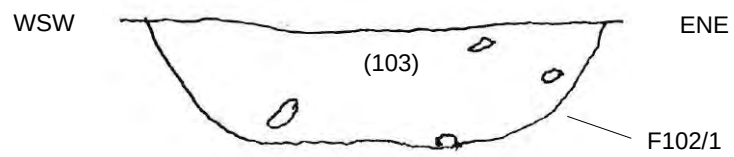
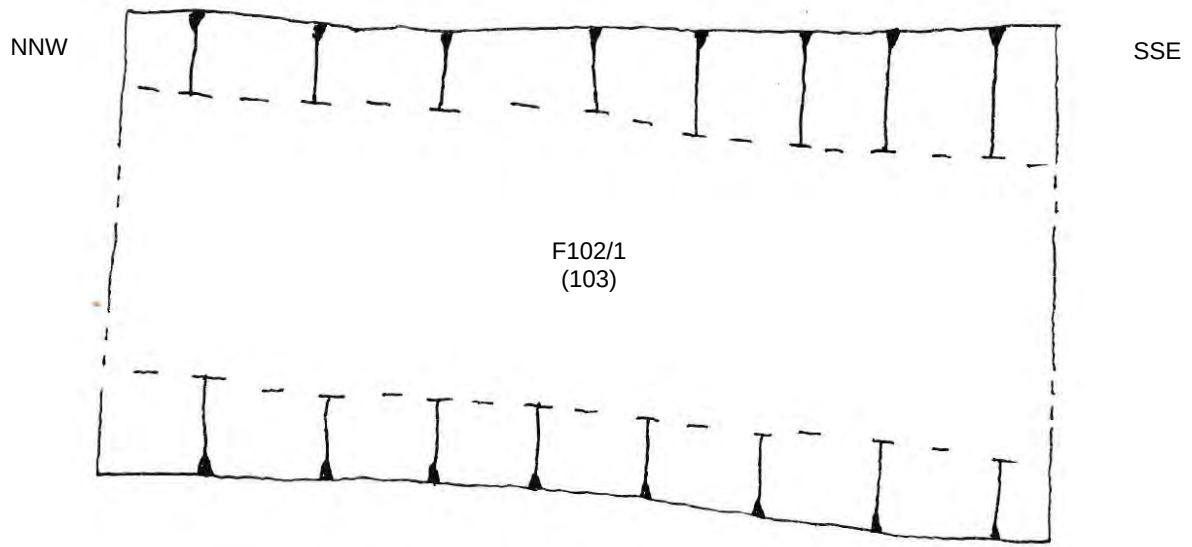


Figure 6: F102/1 and F102/2 Plan and Section

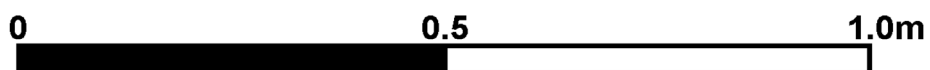
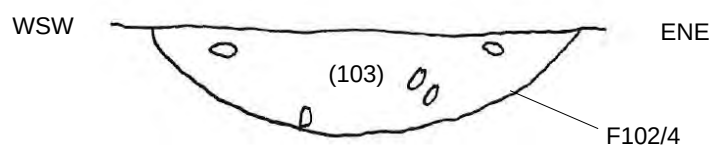
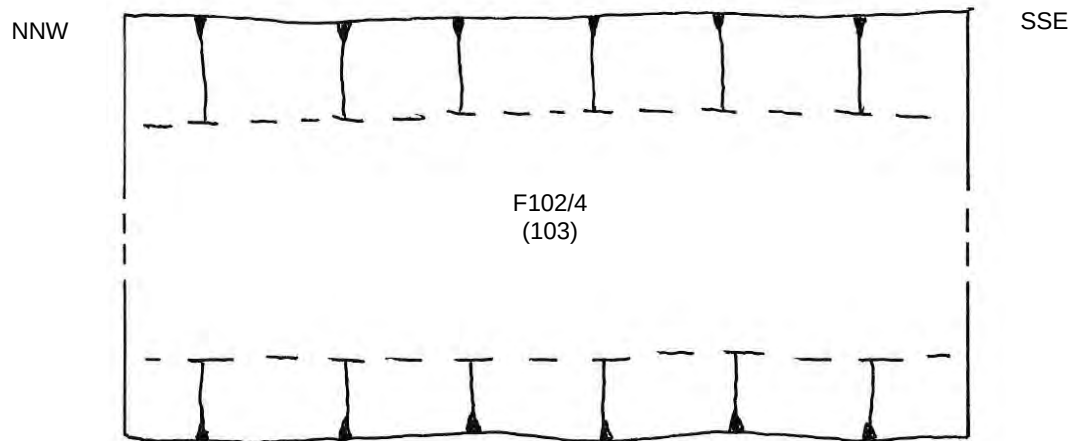
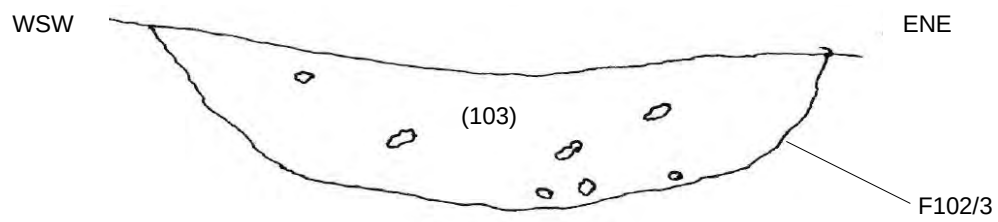
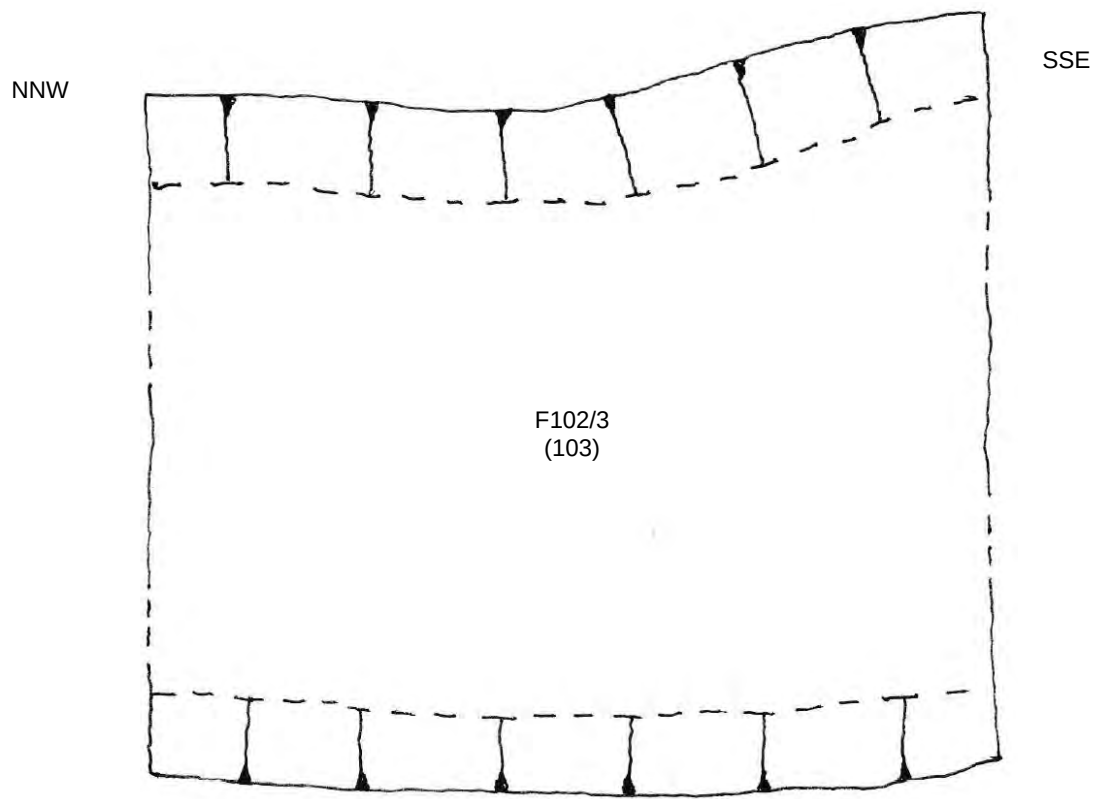


Figure 7: F102/3 and F102/4 Plan and Section

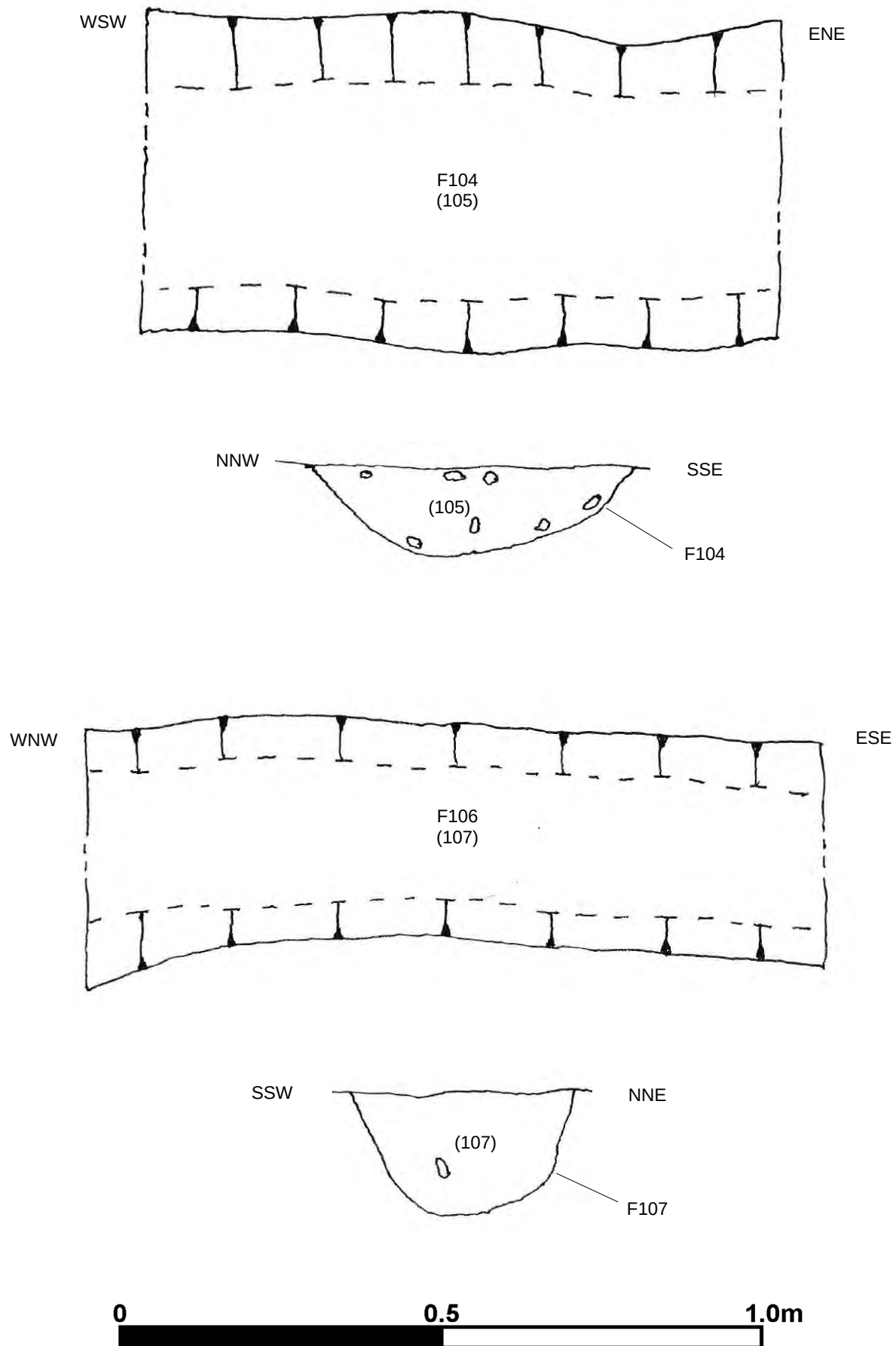


Figure 8: F104 and F106 Plan and Section

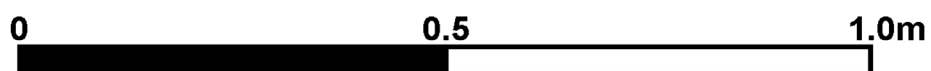
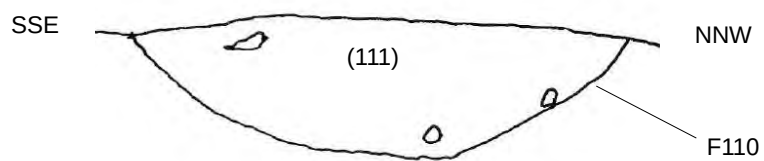
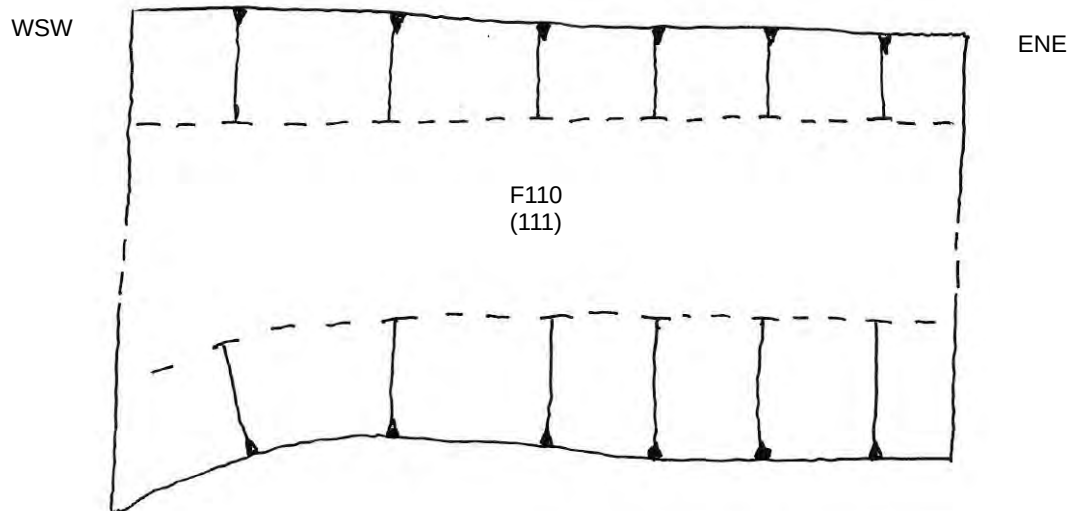
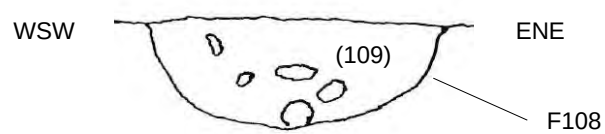
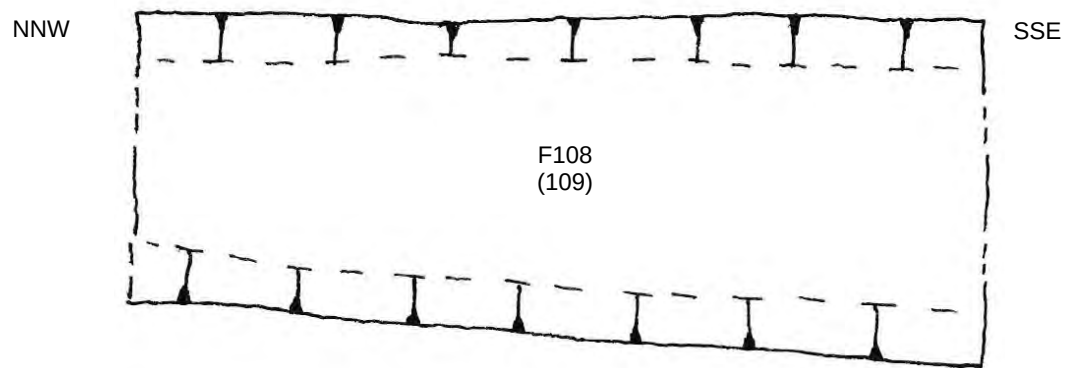


Figure 9: F108 and F110 Plan and Section

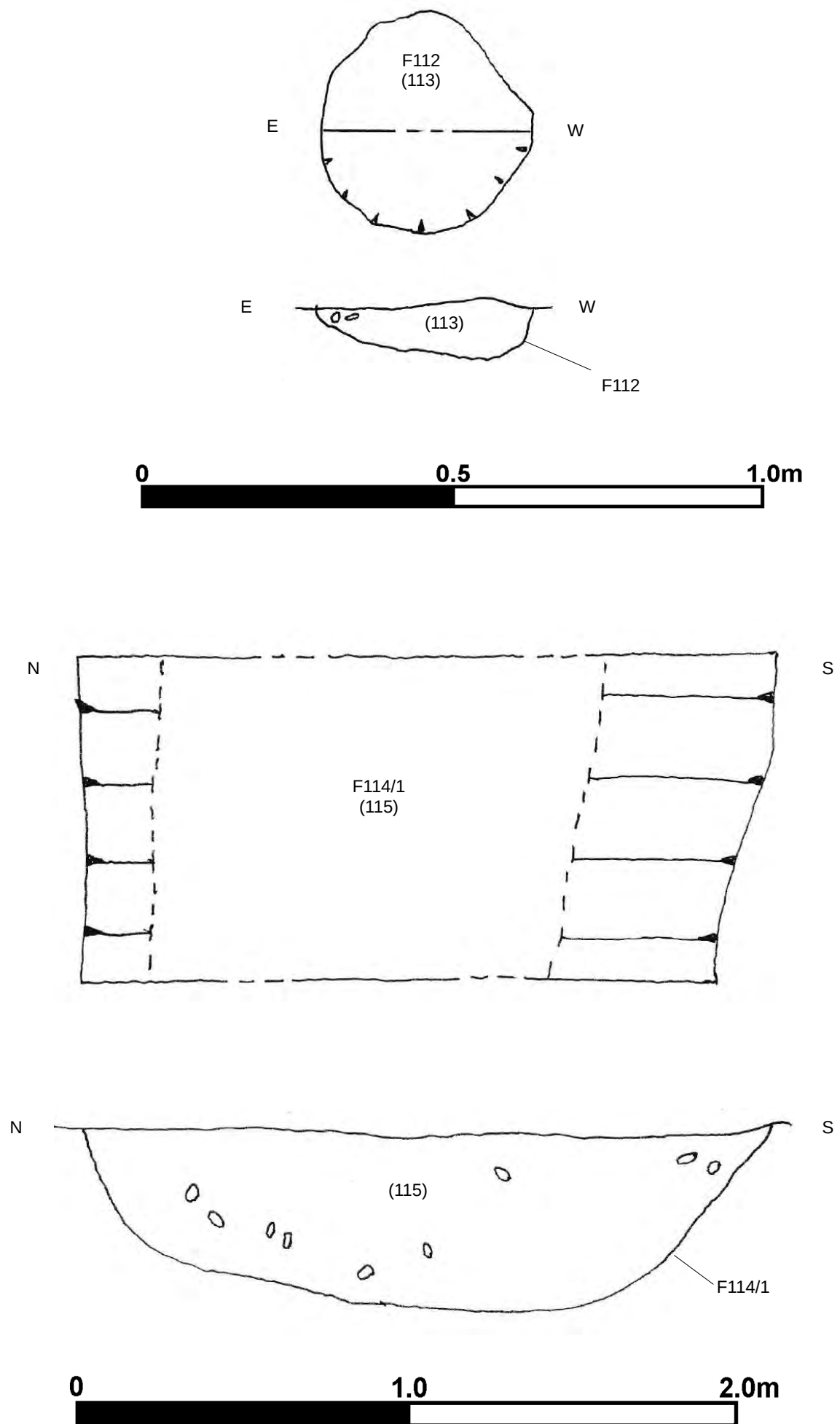


Figure 10: F112 and F114/1 Plan and Section

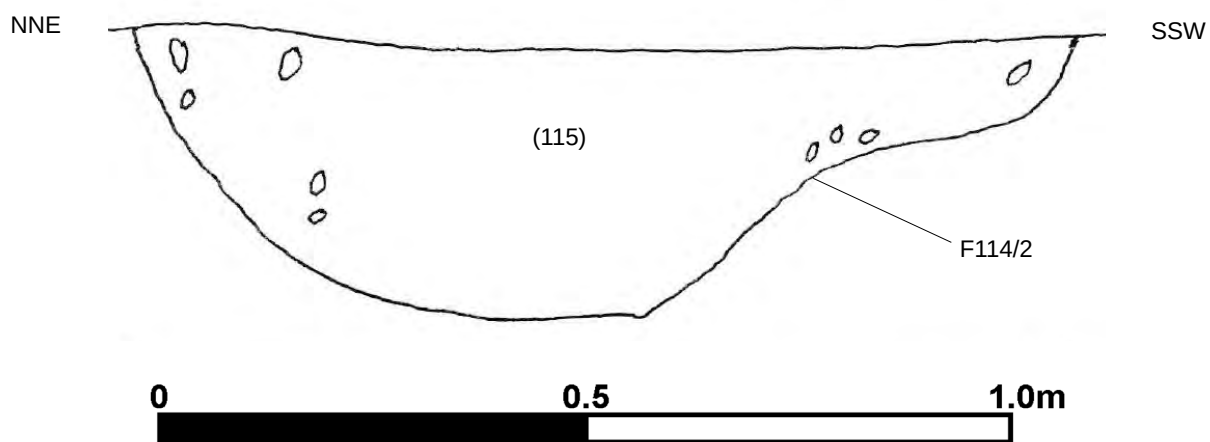
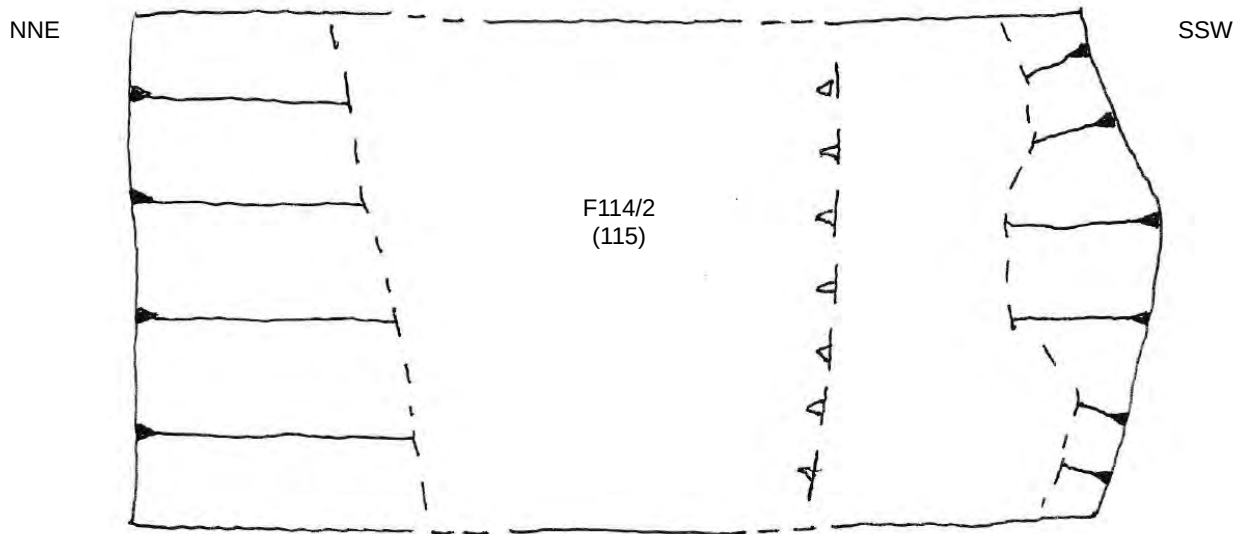


Figure 11: F114/2 Plan and Section

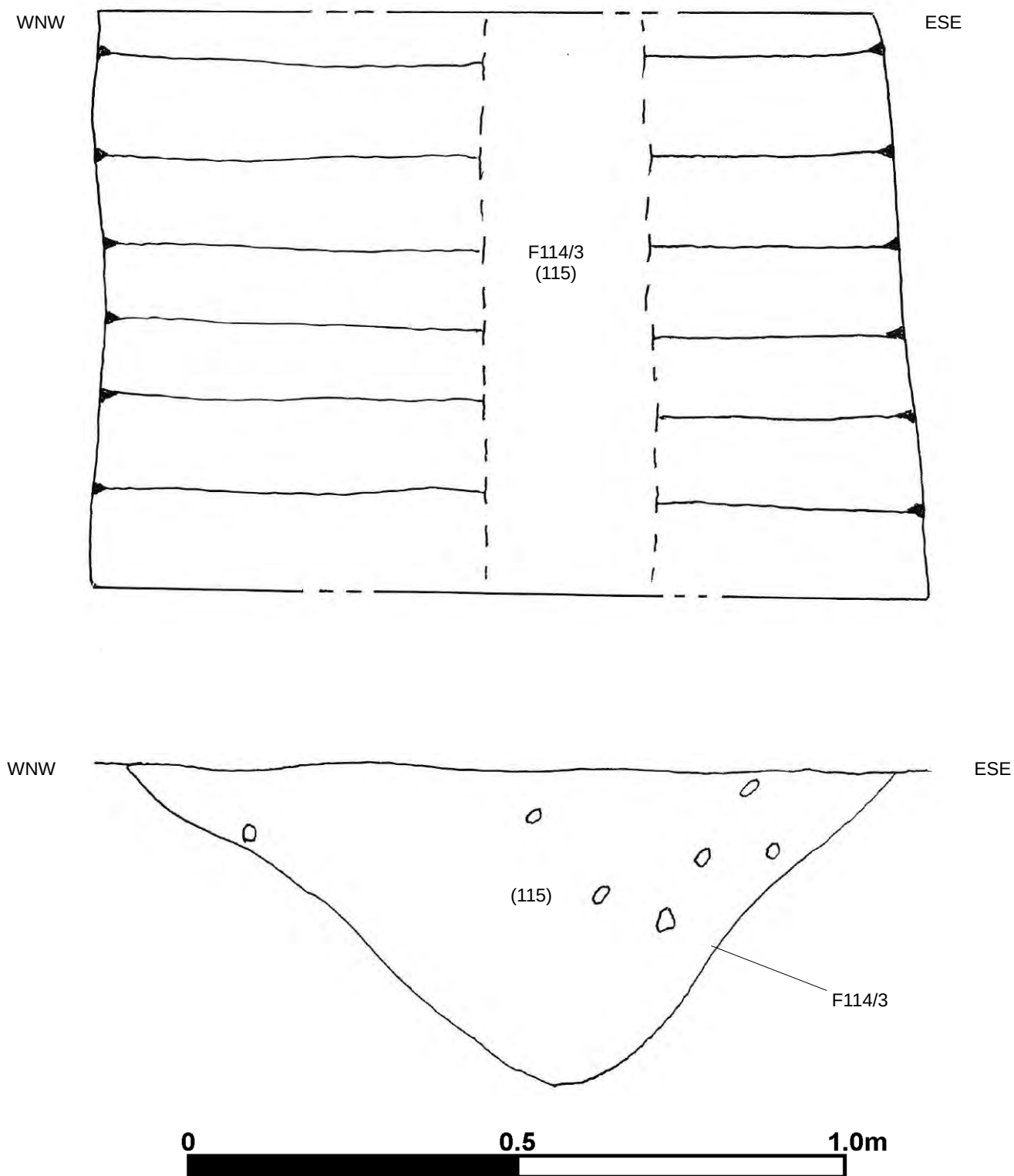


Figure 12: F114/3 Plan and Section

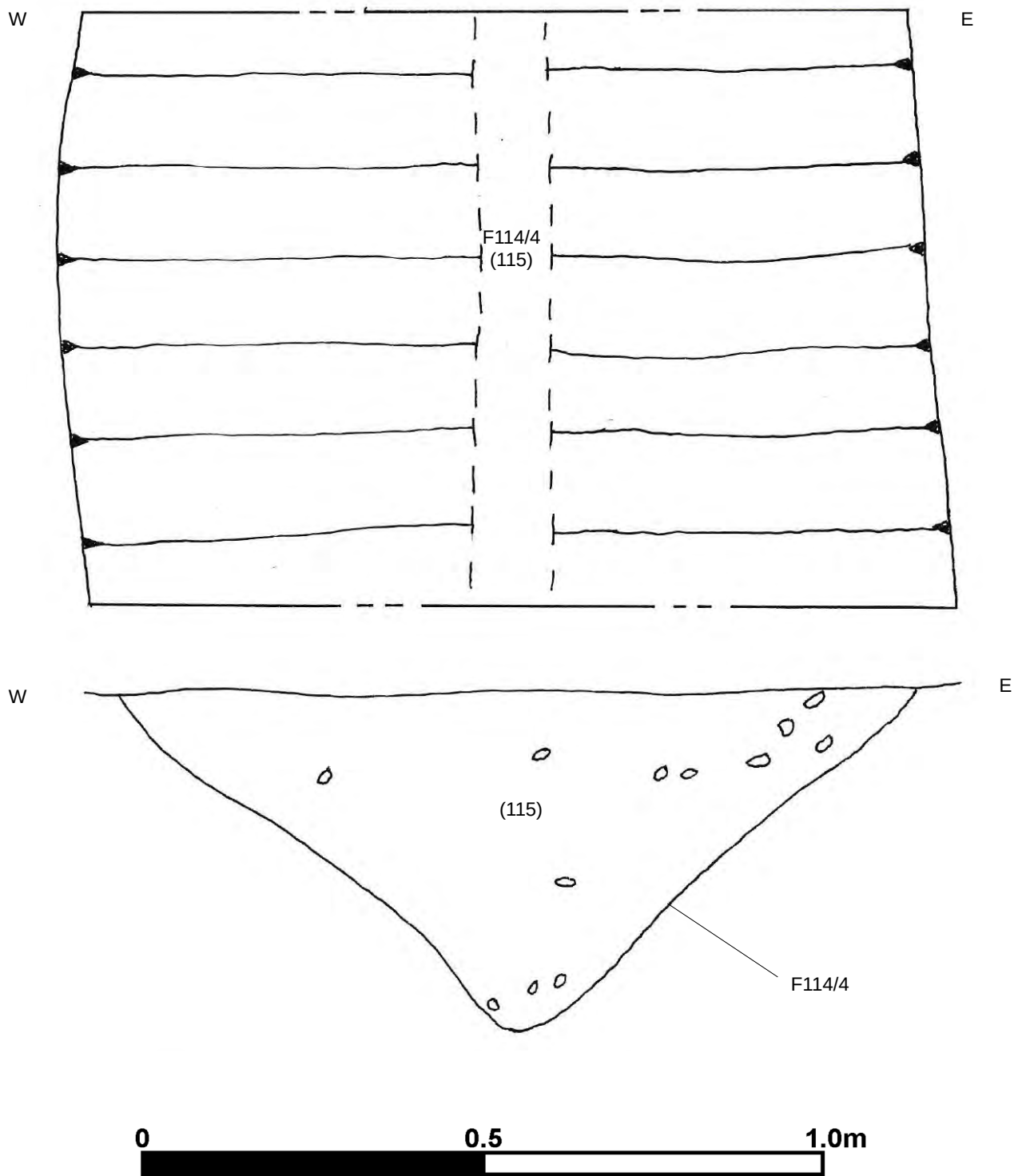


Figure 13: F114/4 Plan and Section

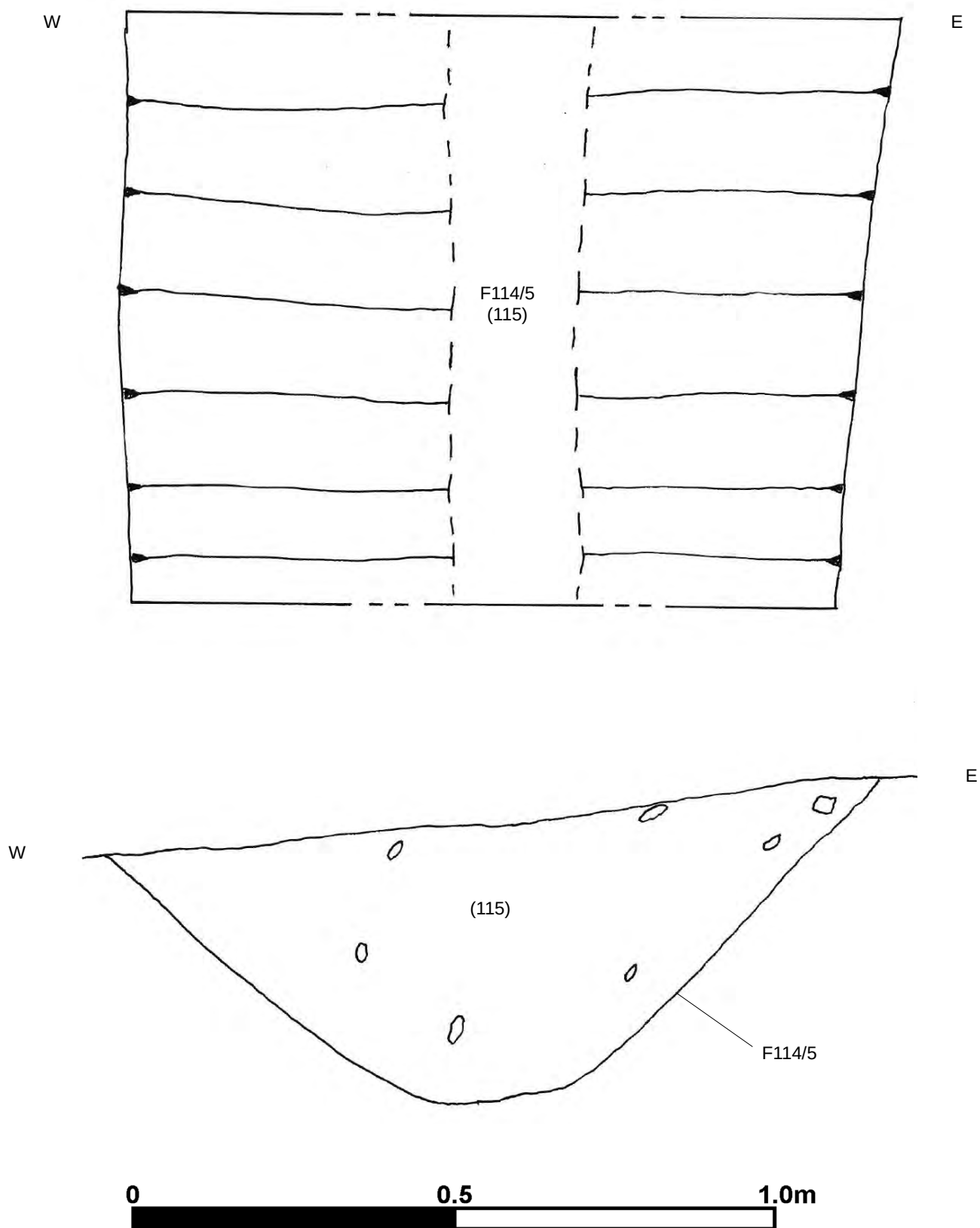


Figure 14: F114/5 Plan and Section

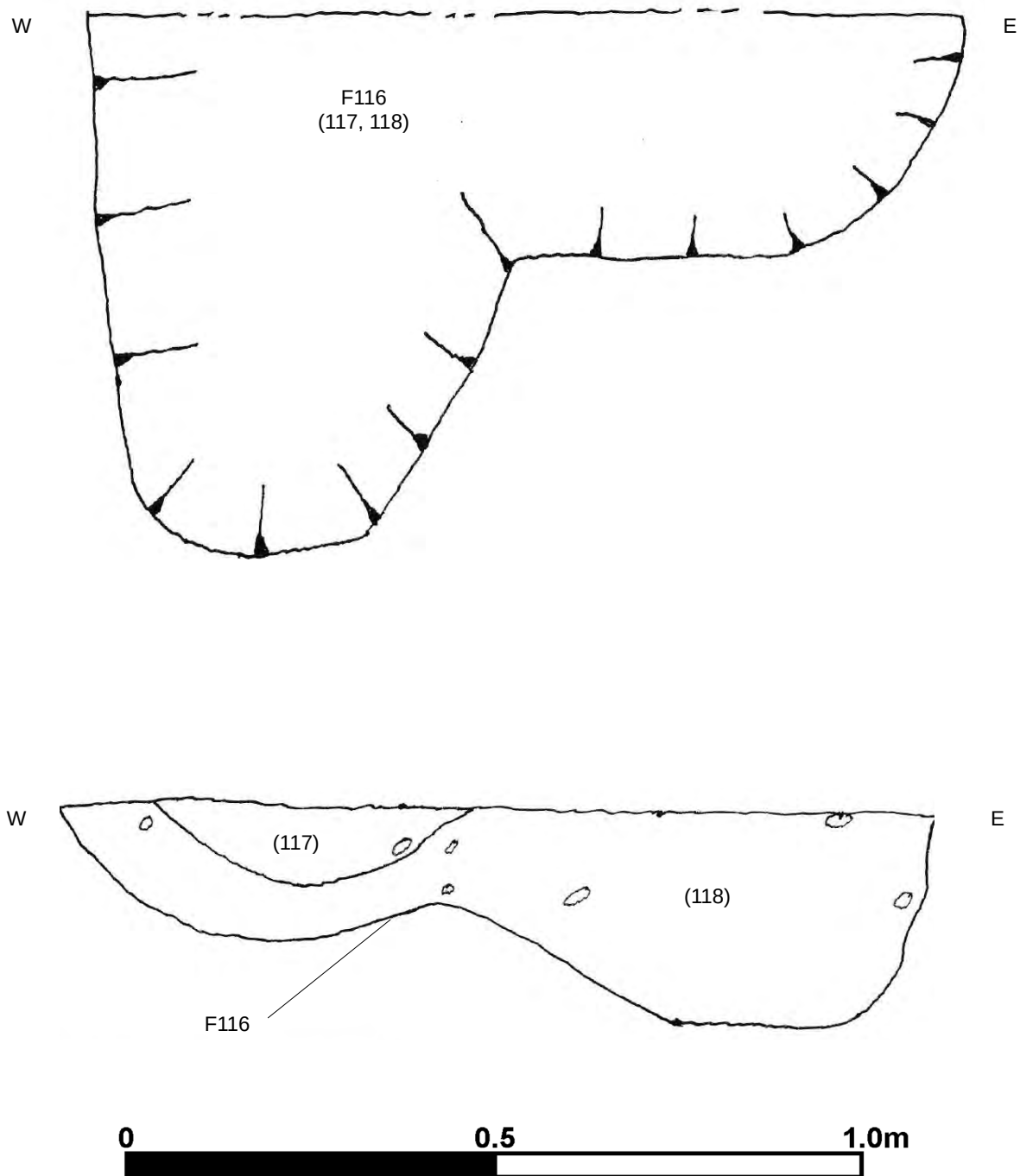


Figure 15: *F116 Plan and Section*

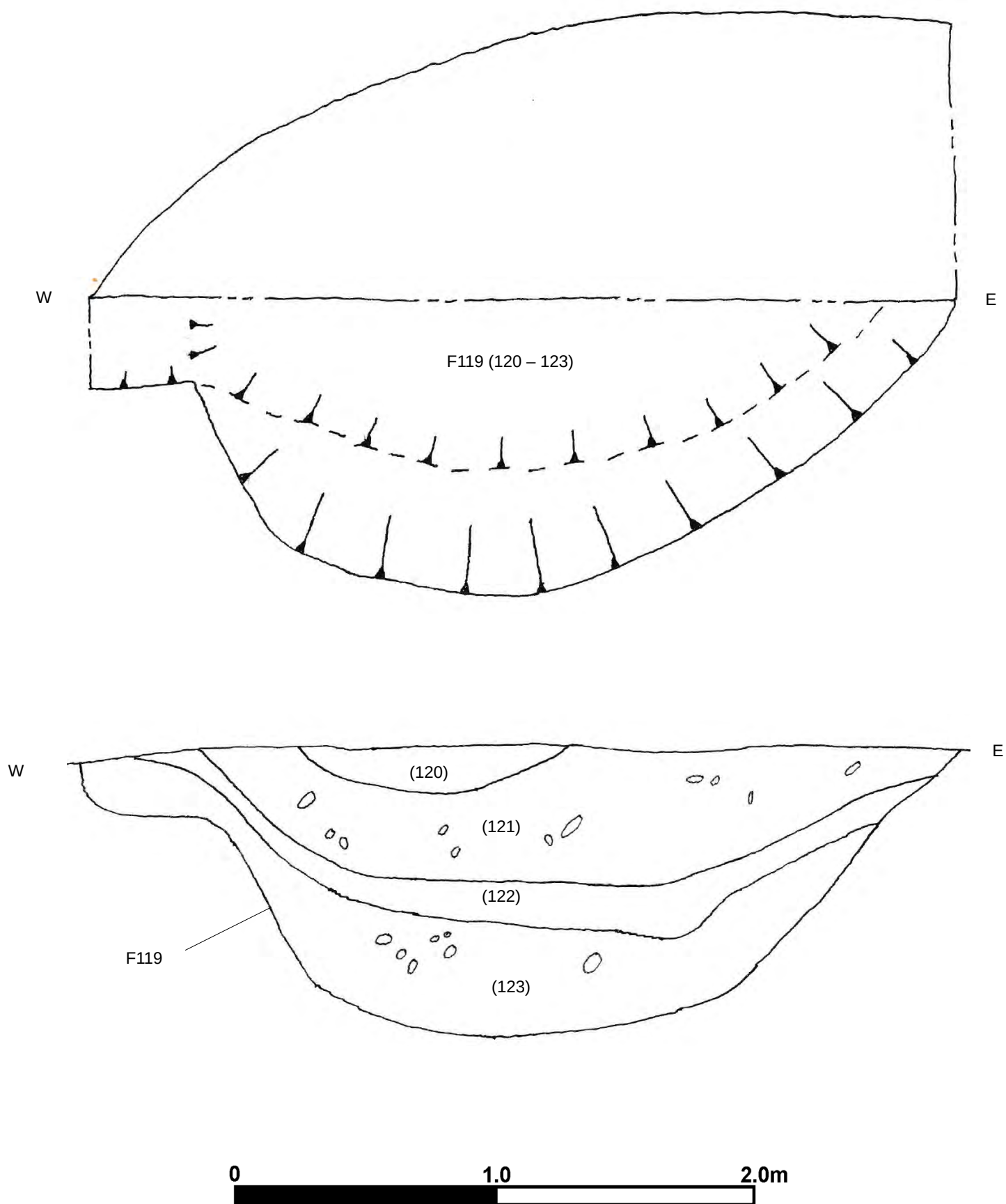


Figure 16: F119 Plan and Section

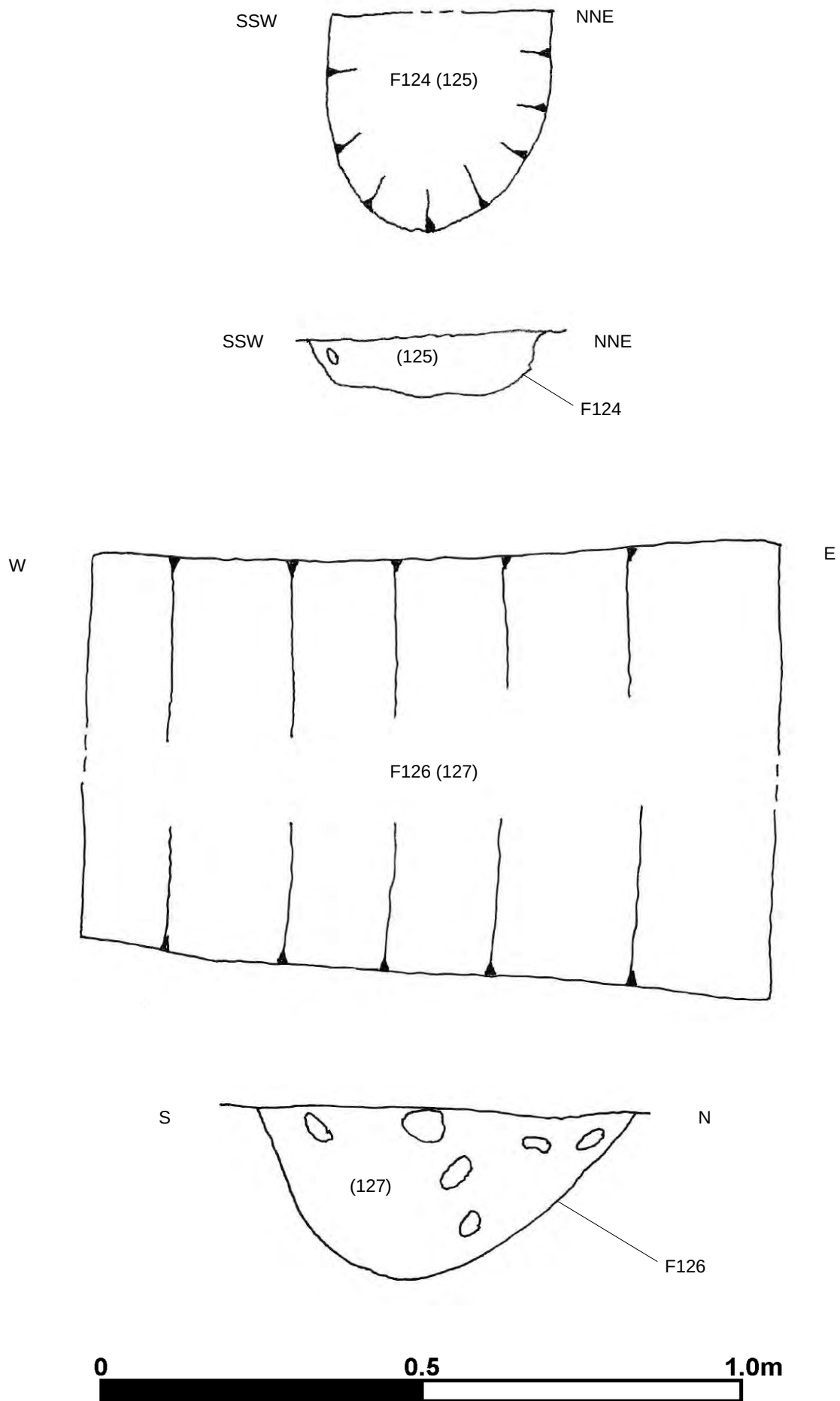


Figure 17: F124 and F126 Plan and Section

6.0 THE FINDS (Plates 20 – 27, Tables 2 and 3)

6.1 The Pottery and CBM by Paul Blinkhorn

6.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 13 sherds with a total weight of 120g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British, Medieval, and Post-medieval wares, with the Medieval and later material recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994) as follows

- **EA6:** **Post-medieval Blackwares**, late 17th Century +. 1 sherd, 8g.
- **PM:** **Potter's Marston Ware**, 1100-1300. 11 sherds, 76g.

6.1.2 In addition, a single large sherd of heavily abraded and residual Romano-British grey ware (weight = 36g) occurred in F114/2 (115). The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region.

6.1.3 Most of the assemblage comprised fairly small and slightly abraded sherds which are the product of secondary deposition. The fragments of PM from contexts F102/4 (103) and F119 (120) were from the rims of jars, a typical product of the tradition. The rest of the assemblage comprised plain bodysherds.

6.1.4 Two fragments of CBM were also noted. A large piece of a very heavily abraded Romano-British *tegula* (weight = 208g) occurred in F126 (127). A small fragment of undateable, amorphous and abraded burnt daub weighing 6g occurred in F119 (121).

F	Cntxt	RB		PM		EA6		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
F102/4	103			1	13			12thC
F108	109			1	2	1	8	18thC
F110	111			1	1			12thC
F114/2	115	1	36	1	4			12thC
F119	120			1	32			12thC
F119	121			5	20			12thC
F119	122			1	4			12thC
	Total	1	36	11	76	1	8	

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type



Plate 20: Pottery from F102/4, 103 (2cm scale)



Plate 21: Pottery from F108, 109 (2cm scale)



Plate 22: Pottery from F110, 111 (2cm scale)



Plate 23: Pottery from F114/2, 115 (2cm scale)



Plate 24: Pottery from F119, 120 (2cm scale)



Plate 25: Pottery from F119, 121 (2cm scale)



Plate 26: Pottery from F119, 122 (2cm scale)



Plate 27: CBM from F126, 127 (2cm scale)

6.2 Environmental Remains by Val Fryer

6.2.1 Introduction

6.2.1.1 Excavations at Barwell, undertaken by Benchmark Archaeology, recorded a limited number of contexts including a large pit (F119) of 12th Century date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from two of the pit fills (contexts 121 and 122). The samples were processed by manual water flotation / washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred, with the exception of the blackberry (*Rubus* sect *Glandulosus*) 'pips'. As the latter are un-charred, it is thought most likely that all are modern contaminants. Other contaminants, including fibrous roots and arthropod remains, are not listed in the table. The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts / ecofacts were not recorded.

6.2.2 Results

6.2.2.1 Cereal grains, chaff and seeds of common weeds are present at varying densities within both assemblages. Preservation is generally very poor, with the cereals in particular being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of exposure to very high temperatures during combustion.

6.2.2.2 Oat (*Avena* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with high densities of cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Of the identifiable grains, wheat is predominant within both assemblages, and rachis nodes of both bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type and rivet wheat (*T. turgidum*) type are also recorded. A single rachis node of possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.)/rye type is present within the assemblage from fill (122). The same assemblage also includes silica skeletons of cereal glume beaks and awn, and possible seeds of large legumes (Fabaceae). The silica skeletons probably indicate that some material was burnt at a high temperature within well-oxygenated conditions (for example, within a bonfire). The large legumes are very poorly preserved, but their size suggests that they may be of field bean (*Vicia faba*) type.

6.2.2.3 Weed seeds are scarce within both assemblages and, as with the cereals, most are poorly preserved. Of those identified, all are of common segetal species including brome (*Bromus* sp.), cornflower (*Centaurea* sp.), thistle (*Cirsium* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), grasses (Poaceae) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). It is noted that small legumes (Fabaceae) are relatively common, which may

suggest that they were being grown on a rotational basis, in attempt to improve soils which had become impoverished due to poor land management. Evidence for this practise has now been noted at many contemporary sites across lowland Britain. Both assemblages also include small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell.

6.2.2.4 Comminuted charcoal / charred wood fragments are abundant within both assemblages, with larger pieces >10mm in size also being common. Some of the charcoal appears to be rounded and abraded, possibly suggesting that it had been exposed to the elements for some time prior to incorporation within the pit fills. Other plant macrofossils occur less frequently, but do include an indeterminate bud and fruit stone, culm nodes and inflorescence fragments and a single thorn of probable sloe (*Prunus* sp.) type.

6.2.2.5 The fragments of black porous material, which are common within both assemblages, are (along with the black tarry material and the vitreous concretion) all probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains including cereal grains. Other remains are all but absent, although very small fragments of bone are noted within the assemblage from fill (122).

6.2.3 Conclusions

6.2.3.1 In summary, the assemblages are both large (circa 0.3 – 0.5 litres in volume) and relatively rich, with cereals being particularly abundant. However, preservation is generally very poor. Notwithstanding this, it would appear most likely that the remains are derived from mixed refuse, including possible midden waste along with cereal storage detritus, with the latter including contaminant seeds of a similar size to the grains. Such material would have been removed from the store on an annual basis, in order to make room for the new season's crop.

6.2.3.2 Although both assemblages do contain sufficient material for quantification and analysis (i.e. 100+ specimens), it is currently unclear how valuable this work would be to the overall interpretation of the site and its component features. If the excavator feels that this work is unnecessary, then it is recommended that this assessment is included within any synthesis of data from the site.

Context No.	121	122
Cereals and other possible crop plants		
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	xcf	x
(awn frags.)	x	x
<i>Hordeum/Secale cereale</i> type (rachis node)		x
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)	x	xcf
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xxx	xxx
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)	xx	x
<i>T. turgidum</i> L. (rachis node)	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	xxx	xxxx
(rachis node frags.)	x	
(silica skeletons)		x
Large Fabaceae indet.		xcf
Dry land herbs		
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		x
Caryophyllaceae indet.		x
<i>Centaurea</i> sp.		xcf
<i>Cirsium</i> sp.		xcf
Small Fabaceae indet.	x	xxx
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A. Love	xtf	x
<i>Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia</i>		xcf
Large Poaceae indet.	x	x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		x
Tree/shrub macrofossils		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L	x	x
<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> Wimmer & Grab	xxw	xw
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >10mm	xx	xxx
Charcoal >40mm	x	
Charred root/stem	x	x
Indet. bud	x	
Indet. culm node	x	
Indet. fruit stone		x
Indet. inflorescence frags.	x	x
Indet. seeds	x	xx
Indet. thorn (<i>Prunus</i> sp. type)		x
Other remains		
Black porous material	xxx	xxx
Black tarry material	x	x
Bone		x
Burnt organic concretion		x
Vitreous material	x	
Sample volume (litres)		
Volume of flot (litres)	0.3	0.5
% flot sorted	50%	25%

Table 3: Environmental Remains

7.0 CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

- 7.1 ASMSE at the site has demonstrated activity of Romano-British (43AD – 409AD) and Medieval (1066AD – 1539AD) date in the form of residual pottery and CBM, and 12th Century archaeological features respectively. A single 18th Century feature (F108) was also recorded.
- 7.2 In contrast to the previous field evaluation (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021) no further evidence for Prehistoric (500,000BC – 42AD) or Anglo-Saxon (410AD – 1065AD) activity was recorded.
- 7.3 The 12th Century features have been interpreted as probable field boundaries (F102 and F108), a pit or possible tree-hole reused for refuse (F119), and elements of a large probable rectilinear stock enclosure. Features F102 and F114 extended beyond the confines of the site.
- 7.4 Environmental analysis of deposits (121 and 122) from a 12th Century pit / tree-hole (F119) were relatively rich, with cereals being particularly abundant. It would appear most likely that the remains are derived from mixed refuse, including possible midden waste along with cereal storage detritus, with the latter including contaminant seeds of a similar size to the grains. Such material would have been removed from the store on an annual basis, in order to make room for the new season's crop.
- 7.5 Many of the remaining undated features (F104, F106, F112, F116, F124 and F126), given the similarity of the feature fills to the 12th Century features, may be of the same date. The modern features (marked red on Figure 5) are associated with drainage and are probably 19th Century in date.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The project was managed by Richard Cherrington BA, PG Cert, PG Dip Archaeol, ACIfA, Principal Archaeologist, Benchmark Archaeology, who also supervised the archaeological work and wrote this report. Archaeological assistance was supplied by Jack Cook and Lee Walker, and logistical assistance by Aaron Stewart. Surveying was carried out by Matt Thomas. Pottery and environmental analysis were undertaken by Paul Blinkhorn and Val Fryer respectively. The project was monitored by William Kelly, AA, HABBC. The work was commissioned and funded by Fort Estates Limited.
- 8.2 We would like to thank the team from Fort Estates Limited. for their cooperation and assistance during the project.

9.0 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliographic

Allen Archaeology Ltd. (2021) *'Archaeological Evaluation Report: Trial trenching on land at Crabtree Farm, Barwell, Leicestershire (Report Number AAL2021022)'*.

Allen, J.L. and St. John Holt, A, (1986) *'Health and Safety in Field Archaeology'* published by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM).

Brown, D H, for Archaeological Archives Forum (2007) *'Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'*.

BWB (2021) *'Barwell Capitol, Barwell East, Hinckley Road, Barwell: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment'*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014a) *'Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation'*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014b) *'Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials'*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2017) *'Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains'*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2019a) *'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2019b) *'Code of Conduct'*.

Cherrington, R (2023) *'Land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443773 296225): Project Design for a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation 2023'* (Planning Ref: 21/00695/FUL).

Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport, (1996) *'The Treasure Act'*.

English Heritage (2010) *'Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood'*.

English Heritage (2011) *'Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation'*. English Heritage Guidelines.

Historic England (2015a) *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide'*.

Historic England (2015b) *'Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record'*.

Historic England (2018a) *'The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project'*.

Historic England (2018b) *'Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on Their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation'*.

Historic England (2019) *'Animal Bones and Archaeology: Recovery to archive'*.

Historic England (2020) *'Deposit Modelling and Archaeology: Guidance for Mapping Buried Deposits'*.

Leicestershire County Council (2014) *'The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections'*.

Leicestershire County Council (2023) *'Generic Brief For Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Record Excavation)'*.

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021) *'National Planning Policy Framework'*.

Sawday, D (1994) *'The post-Roman pottery'* in **P Clay and R Pollard** *'Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester. Excavations 1962-71'*. Leics. Museums.

Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) *'Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections'*.

Stace, C (2010) *'New Flora of the British Isles'*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press.

9.2 Internet

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/> (accessed 18.02.2023) *'Agenda and Strategy for the historic environment of the English East Midlands'*.

www.bgs.ac.uk (accessed 18.02.2023) *'A world-leading geoscience centre for survey and monitoring; modelling and research; data and knowledge'*.

www.landis.org.uk (accessed 18.02.2023) '*LandIS - Land Information System- A soils-focussed information system for England and Wales*'.

Benchmark Archaeology is an independent archaeological organisation providing a wide range of commercial archaeological services. We are committed to ensuring that the client receives a cost-effective service, whilst maintaining the highest professional standards in archaeology.

Our archaeological services include:

- Watching Briefs
- Field Evaluation
- Excavation
- Formal Garden Archaeology
- Church Archaeology
- Historic Building Recording
- Surveys
- Desk-Based Assessments
- Consultancy
- EIA's
- Heritage Statements

For further information please contact:
Richard Cherrington (Principal Archaeologist)
Benchmark Archaeology
64 Edwards Road, Erdington
Birmingham
B24 9EW
Tel: 07939066301
Tel/Fax: 0121 241 5771

E-Mail: office@benchmark-archaeology.co.uk
Web Address: <http://www.benchmark-archaeology.co.uk>

