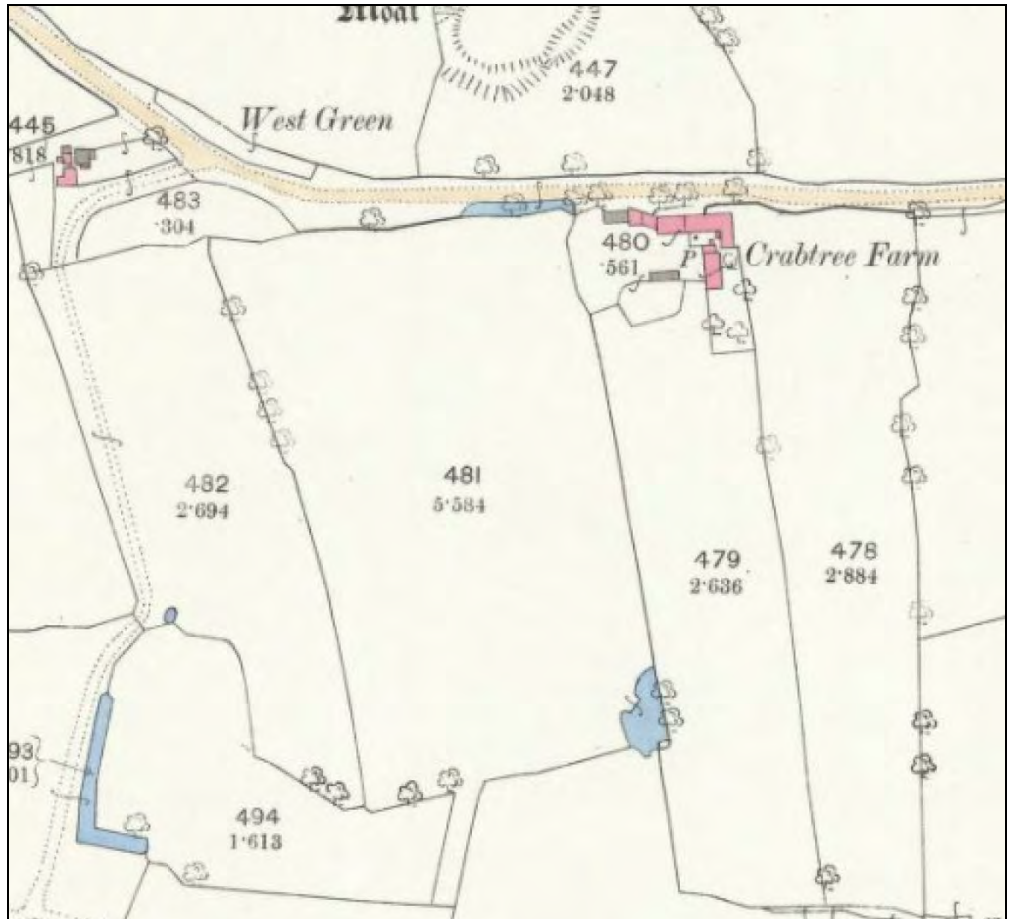


**Land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road,
Barwell, Leicestershire**

(NGR: 443635 296211)



An Archaeological Field Evaluation 2024

Planning Ref: 23/01177/FUL
Museum Accession No. X.A20.2024



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Fort Estates Limited

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Fieldwork: Richard Cherrington and Jack Cook

Pottery: Paul Blinkhorn

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Cover Image: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888

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Summary

During June 2024, Benchmark Archaeology (BA) undertook a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) on land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (Site centre @ c. NGR: 443635 296211, Figures 1 - 3). The work was commissioned and funded by Fort Estates Limited.

Fort Estates Limited are seeking planning permission (23/01177/FUL) from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HaBBC) for residential development of 45 no. dwelling houses with garage and associated driveway, open space, landscaping, drainage and LEAP (Revised scheme 22/01053/FUL).

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential where archaeological remains with an Iron Age to Post-medieval date range were anticipated.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA), Leicestershire County Council (LCC) recommended that an AFE be undertaken prior to any development in order to establish the presence / absence of archaeological remains and advise on requirements for any archaeological mitigation prior to, or during, development.

Prior to the AFE a project design (Cherrington 2024) specifying the methodology to be employed during the AFE was produced and submitted at the request of the SPA, LCC.

AFE at the site comprised the excavation of 14 trenches (Trenches 1 - 14) amounting to c. 405m of 1.80m wide trenching. The trenches were located within the footprints of the proposed housing development.

In contrast to previous archaeological work to the east of the site (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021 and Cherrington 2023), no features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and only variations in the nature of the underlying geology were noted along with (probably modern) occasional plough-scars in subsoil deposits. Very slight activity during the 12th, mid-13th, late 15th and 18th Centuries was evidenced by a small assemblage of pottery recovered from deposits 501, 701, 1300 and 1401 respectively. The pottery was probably introduced by manuring.

Based on the wholly negative excavated evidence and trench coverage it is considered here that there is 'low' potential for the survival of any complex features or deposits of archaeological significance on the site. Advice regarding the need for any further archaeological work will need to be given by the SPA, LCC.

Following consultation with Leicestershire Museums Service (LMS) and the SPA, LCC, the report will be submitted to OASIS in line with LMS guidance.

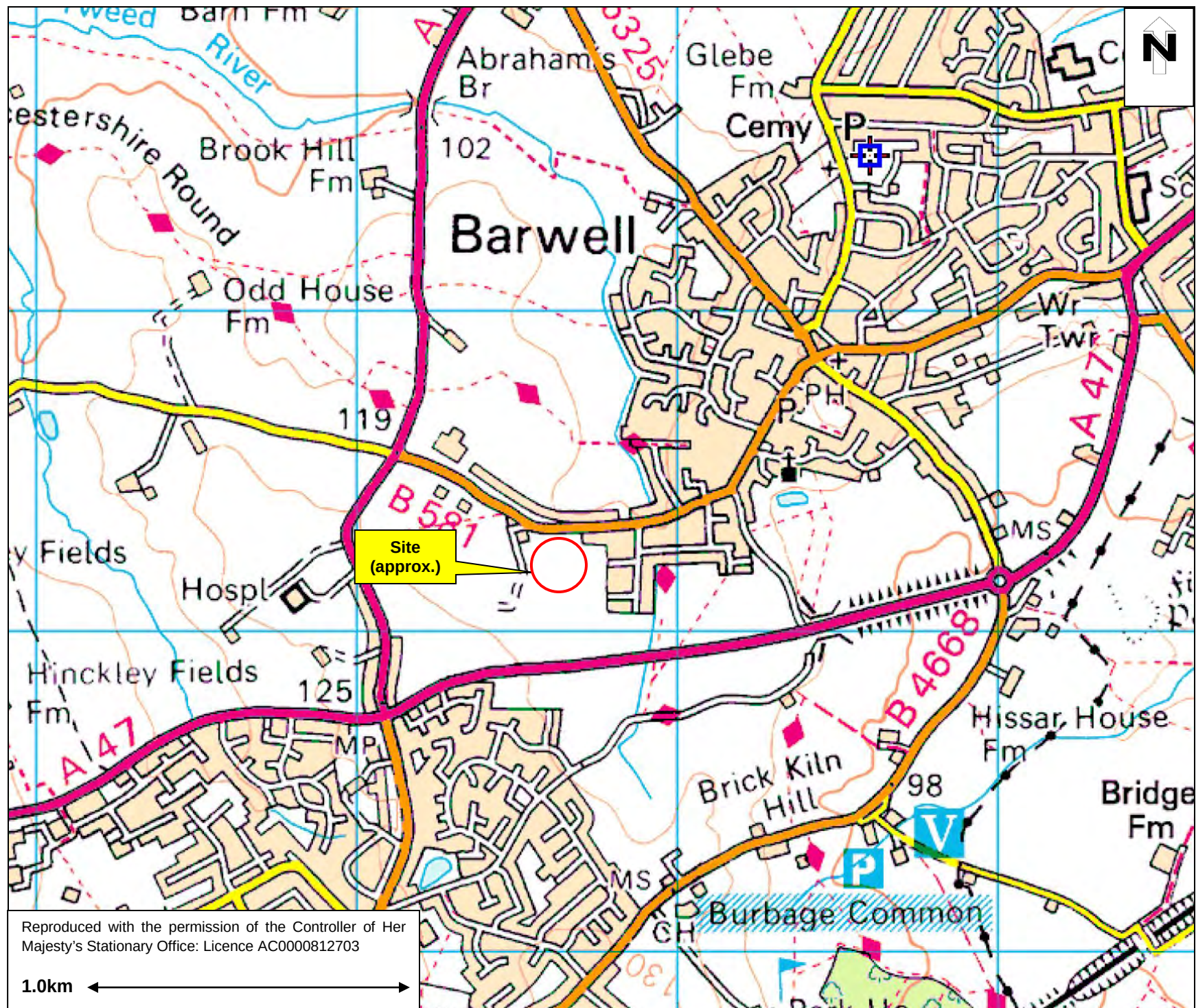


Figure 1: Site Location

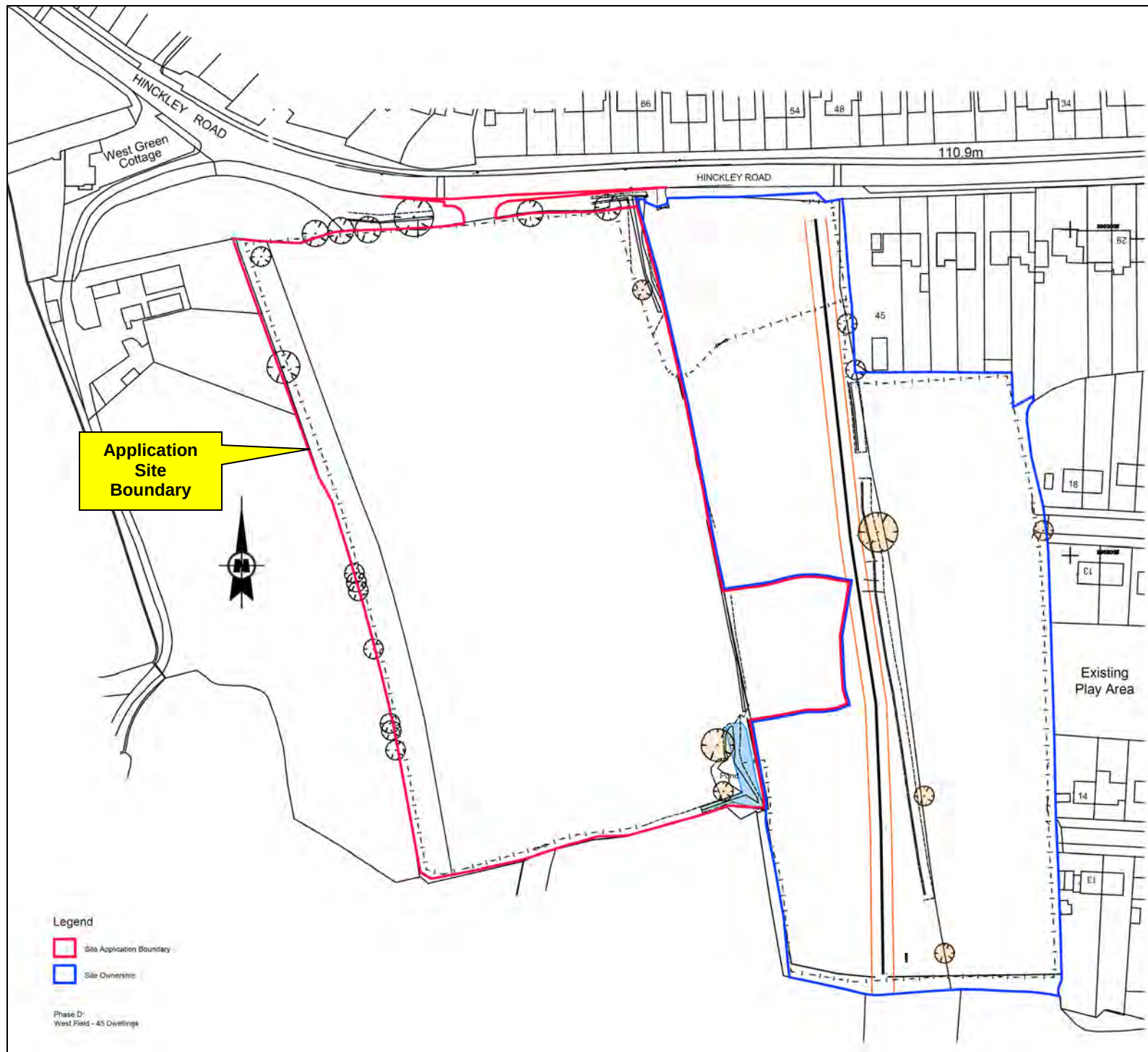


Figure 2: Application Site (not to scale)

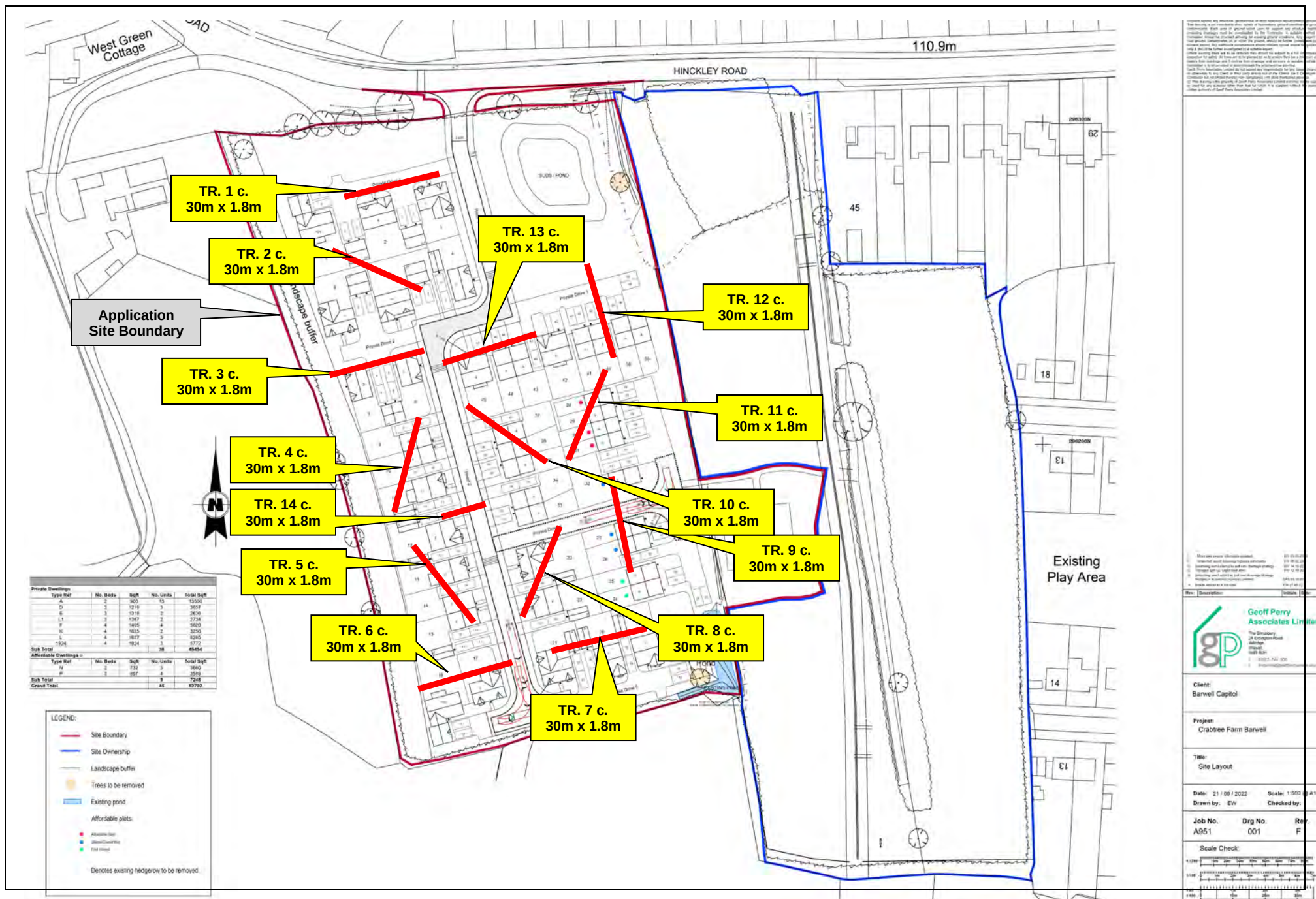


Figure 3: Proposed Development and Evaluation Trenches

1.0 INTRODUCTION (Figures 1 - 3)

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 During June 2024, Benchmark Archaeology (BA) undertook a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) on land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (Site centre @ c. NGR: 443635 296211, Figures 1 - 3). The work was commissioned and funded by Fort Estates Limited.

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1.1.3 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential where archaeological remains with an Iron Age to Post-medieval date range were anticipated.

1.1.4 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA), Leicestershire County Council (LCC) recommended that an AFE be undertaken prior to any development in order to establish the presence / absence of archaeological remains and advise on requirements for any archaeological mitigation prior to, or during, development.

1.1.5 Prior to the AFE a project design (Cherrington 2024) specifying the methodology to be employed during the AFE was produced and submitted at the request of the SPA, LCC.

1.2 Benchmark Archaeology

1.2.1 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, church and garden archaeology, in addition to other specialist and logistical services. BA is committed to ensuring that the client receives a cost-effective service, while maintaining the highest professional standards, and enhancing the archaeological record. All projects are carried out in accordance with NPPF, the guidance of the Treasure Act (1996), and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and English Heritage.

1.2.2 Richard Cherrington is Principal Archaeologist at BA. He has 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 level member 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 - 3)

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The site comprises land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443635 296211, 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 AFE area is roughly rectangular in plan and is currently under grass / rough (pasture) cover.

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).

2.3.3 No site-specific geotechnical data was available at the time of writing.

2.4 Topography

2.4.1 The site slopes gently downwards from south – north and lies at a height of c. 112m – 114m AOD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND SUMMARY (with Kelly 2024)

3.1 Introduction (with Kelly 2024)

- 3.1.1 Consideration of the submitted desk-based assessment (BWB Report Ref.: BMW 2759), and the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Evidence for prehistoric activity and Roman remains have been identified within the wider landscape. A rectangular earthwork enclosure thought to represent the remains of a medieval moated site lies immediately west of the site (HER Ref.: MLE2804), with a second similar feature recorded to the north (MLE2818). Recent trial trenching evaluation undertaken in 2021 immediately to the east found evidence for Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity, and subsequent area excavation in 2023 recorded features dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 3.2.1 Programmes of Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (BWB 2021) covering the development site, and Archaeological Field Evaluation (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021) and Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (Cherrington 2023) immediately to the east of the site have been undertaken. 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.

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (Cherrington 2023)

- 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.

4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY (Figure 3)

4.1 Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial Trenching)

4.1.1 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) as “a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”. (CIfA 2020).

4.1.2 The CIfA states that the purpose of AFE is: “to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context” (ibid).

- 4.1.3 Upon completion, the ClfA suggests that AFE may lead leading to one or more of the following:
- *The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource*
 - *The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource*
 - *The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research*
- 4.1.4 The purpose of the work was to define the character, date, and extent of archaeological remains that exist in the area under consideration, and to facilitate discussions regarding the need for preservation or other mitigation measures in any future potential development.
- 4.1.5 The AFE sought to assess, amongst other variables, the presence, absence, depth, quality, date and condition of preservation of archaeological remains and paleoenvironmental deposits that lay within areas identified as of potential archaeological significance.
- 4.1.6 It was proposed that AFE at the site would comprise the excavation of 14 no. trenches (Trenches 1 - 14, Figure 3) amounting to 737m² (4% sample) of trenching. Contingency trenching (1%, sample 184m²) was not required by the SPA, LCC.
- 4.1.7 A representative number of archaeological features were to be sample excavated by hand in order to determine the date, character etc. of features encountered. The following sample excavation percentages for typical features were envisaged:
- *Linear features: 25%*
 - *Post-holes: 50%*
 - *Pits: 50%*
 - *Suitable datable waterlogged deposits: to be environmentally sampled (see section 4.1.9 below)*
- 4.1.8 Other features such as stone structures, floor / occupation layers and kilns / furnaces were to be identified, sampled and recorded within the parameters of the AFE and in a manner not causing any unnecessary damage to important remains which may require preservation or further mitigation works. The treatment of any human remains encountered are discussed in section 4.1.9 below
- 4.1.9 To achieve the AFE aims, the following fieldwork methodology was adopted as appropriate:
- *All archaeological operations will take into account personal safety and follow current Health and Safety legislation.*

- Trenches will be surveyed and located to an accuracy of 0.1m or greater using tapes, plane table or EDM equipment.
- Tarmacadam, concrete and other hardstanding 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 constant archaeological supervision.
- Mechanical excavations will take place to a level of either natural deposits or when archaeological horizons are encountered.
- If archaeological horizons are encountered then subsequent excavations will be undertaken by hand.
- Trench plans will be drawn at scale 1:50 and 1:20 as appropriate and located on a site plan. Sections will be drawn at scale 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate.
- 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.
- Where appropriate, specialist analysis of artefacts will be carried out by recognised experts.
- 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. It will also be carried out in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation pertaining to the removal of human remains. The landowner / developer, coroner and SPA, LCC will be informed of the discovery of any human remains.
- 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. Information boards, scales and north arrows will be included in the images.
- 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.

- Trenches will be back-filled subject to agreement with the curatorial monitoring authority.
- 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 field evaluation" (2020), 'Code of Conduct' (2019) and Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material' (2014).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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)
- The work will be conducted in accordance with the relevant ClfA Standard and Guidance documents, Historic England guidance and LCC 'Generic Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial Trenching).
- Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate (Leicestershire) county type series.
- Due consideration will be paid to the welfare of wildlife / flora during the fieldwork and wildlife egress from excavated trenches will be taken into account.

4.2 Research Frameworks

- 4.2.1 Following the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis, consideration will be given as to how the project has contributed to the regional research agenda (East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework). The relevant periods are the Romano-British, Early

Medieval and High Medieval periods. Any comments will be offered using the online reporting tool.

5.0 **EVALUATION RESULTS** (Figures 4 - 17, Plates 1 - 14, Tables 1 – 14)

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The AFE was undertaken over two days (17.06.2024 and 18.06.2024) in June 2024 with a team of two archaeologists present on site. Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a 360° excavator fitted with a 1.80m grading bucket. All further excavation and cleaning was carried out manually.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 *Trench 1*

Alignment: ENE - WSW
Dimensions: c.30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.1.1 Natural deposits of orange-brown silty sand and gravel / light-brown clay (102) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.70m from the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.1.2 Natural deposits (102) were overlain by subsoil (101) and topsoil (100) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.70m.

5.2.1.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
100	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.40m	Topsoil
101	Loamy light-brown silty and occasional gravel	c. 0.30m	Subsoil
102	Orange-brown silty sand and gravel / light-brown clay	Up to c. 0.70m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 1: Trench 1 summary of deposits



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking WSW (3 x 1.0m scales)

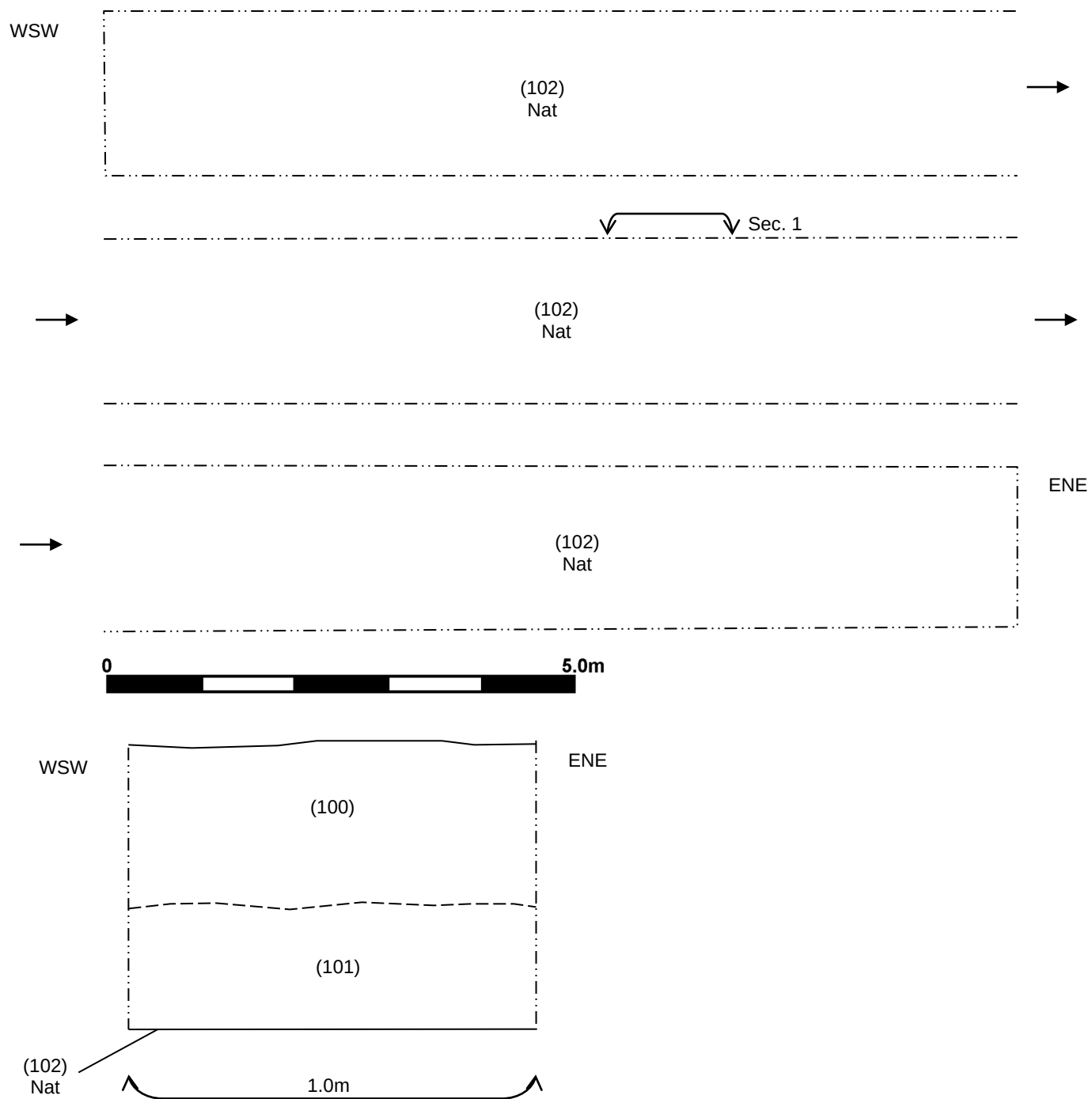


Figure 4: *Trench 1 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.2 Trench 2

Alignment: ESE - WNW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.2.1 Natural deposits of reddish-brown sandy clay and gravel (202) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.45m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.2.2 Natural deposits (202) were overlain by subsoil (201) and topsoil (200) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.45m.

5.2.2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
200	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
201	Loamy light-brown silty clay	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
202	Reddish-brown sandy clay and gravel	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 2: Trench 2 summary of deposits



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking WNW (3 x 1.0m scales)

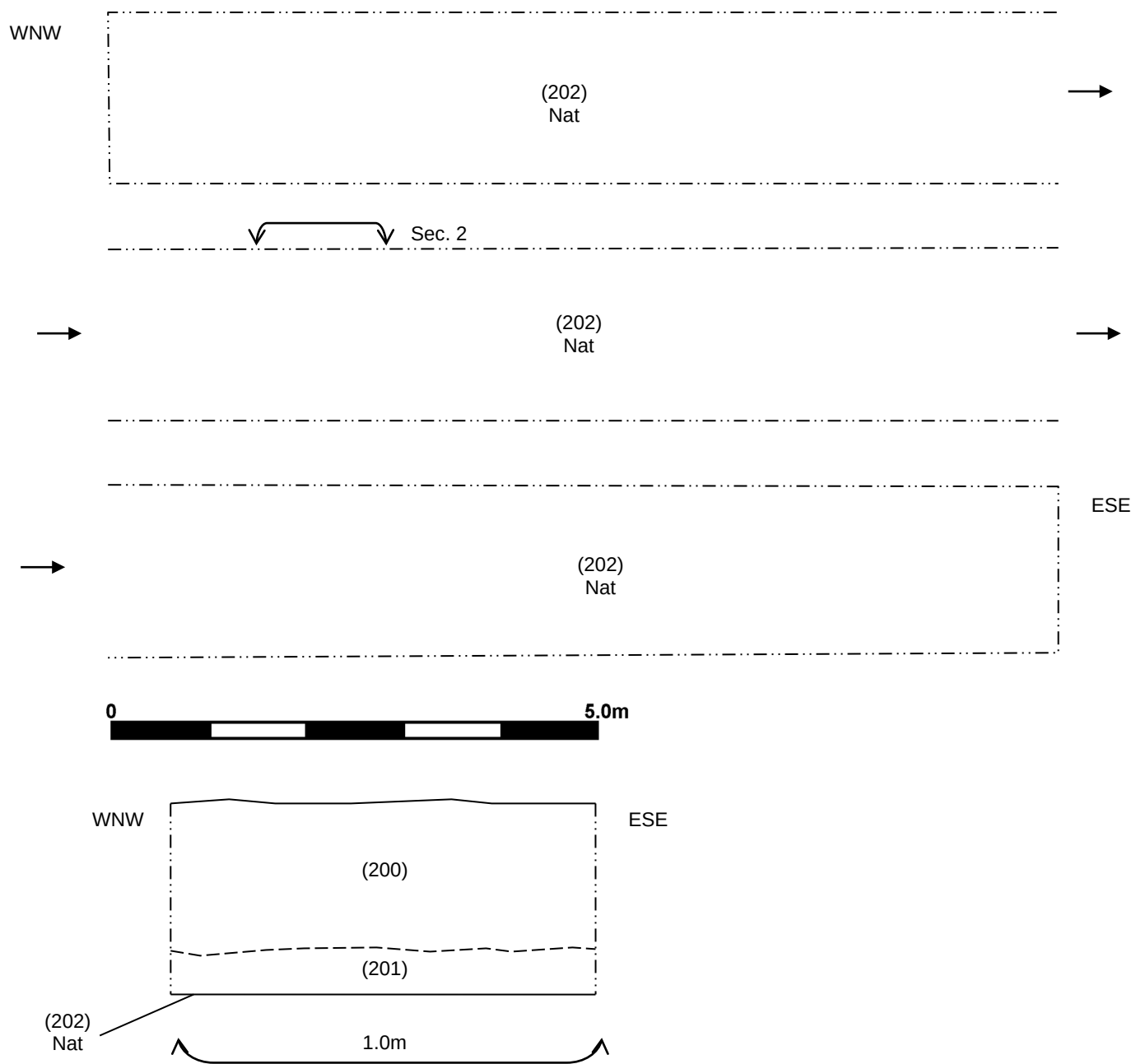


Figure 5: *Trench 2 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.3 Trench 3

Alignment: ENE - WSW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.3.1 Natural deposits of light-brown sandy clay and gravel / light-brown clay (302) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.45m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.3.2 Natural deposits (302) were overlain by subsoil (301) and topsoil (300) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.45m.

5.2.3.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
300	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
301	Loamy light-brown silty clay	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
302	Light-brown sandy clay and gravel / light-brown clay	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 3: Trench 3 summary of deposits



Plate 3: *Trench 3 looking ENE (3 x 1.0m scales)*

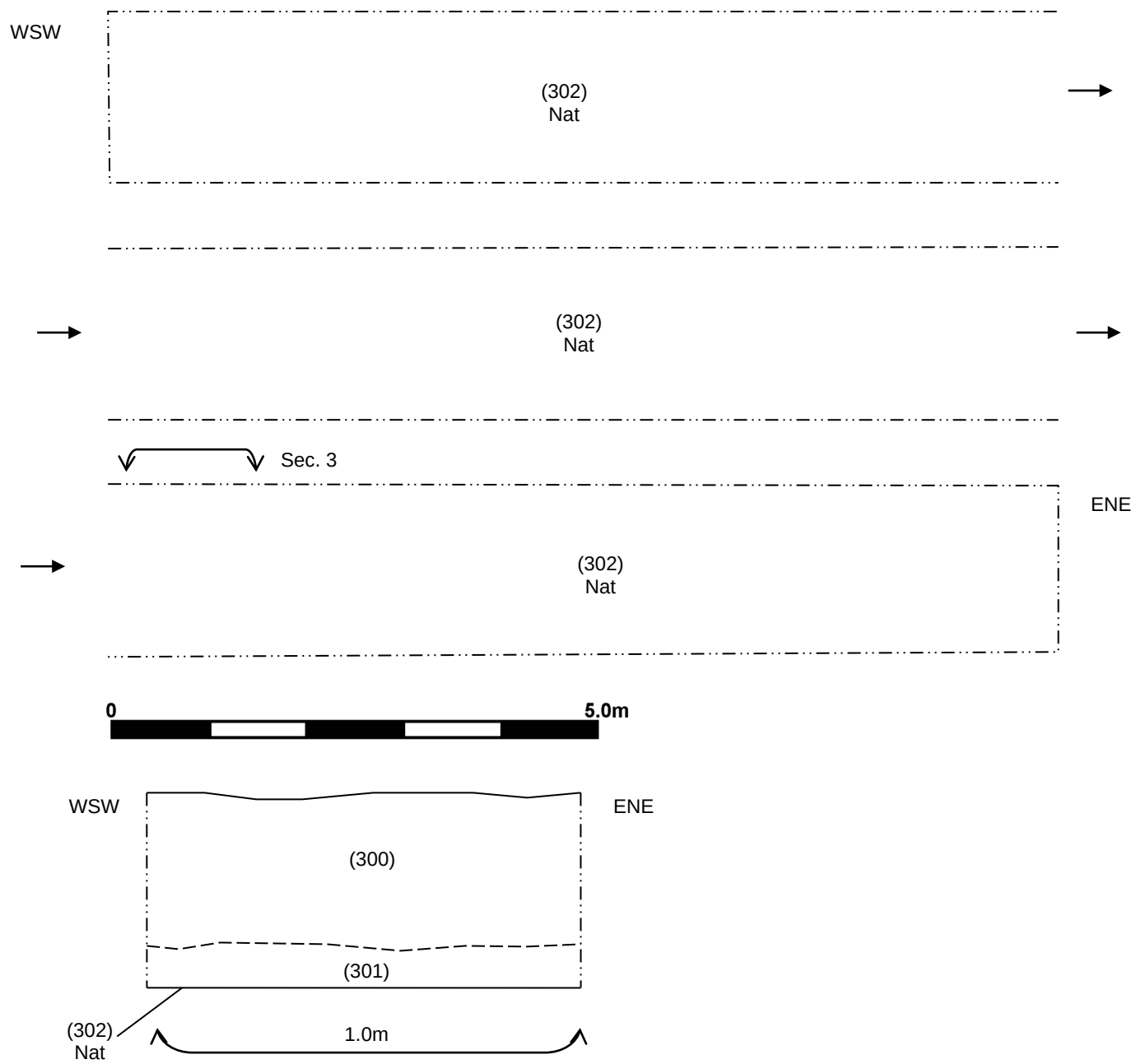


Figure 6: *Trench 3 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.4 Trench 4

Alignment: NNE - SSW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.4.1 Natural deposits of light-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay / light-brown sand and gravel (402) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.45m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.4.2 Natural deposits (402) were overlain by subsoil (401) and topsoil (400) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.40m.

5.2.4.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
400	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
401	Loamy light-brown silty clay	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
402	Light-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay / light-brown sand and gravel	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 4: Trench 4 summary of deposits



Plate 4: Trench 4 looking NNE (3 x 1.0m scales)

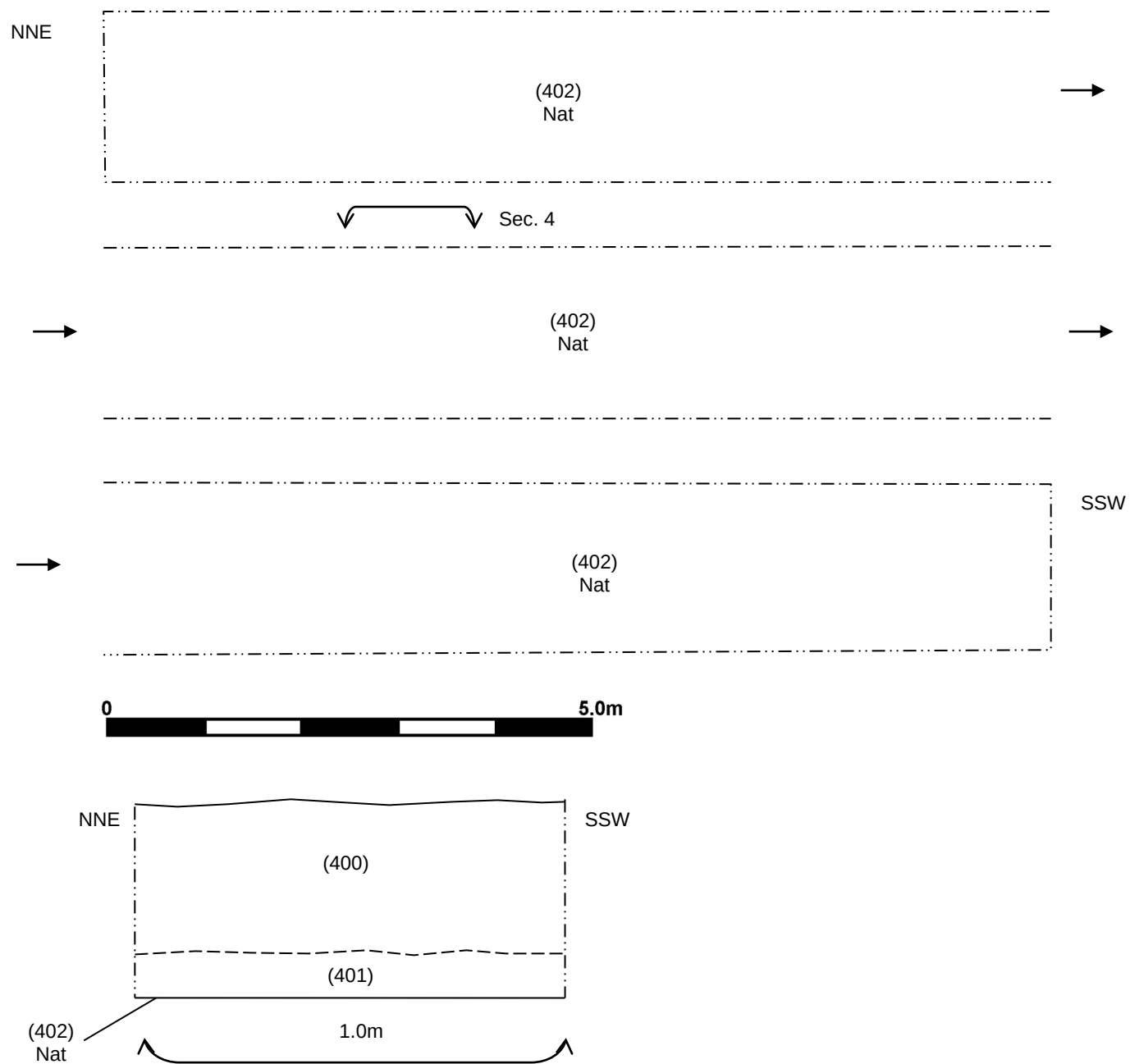


Figure 7: *Trench 4 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.5 Trench 5

Alignment: NW - SE
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.5.1 Natural deposits of light-brown sand and gravel (with plough-scar evidence) (502) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.40m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.5.2 Natural deposits (502) were overlain by subsoil (501) and topsoil (500) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.40m.

5.2.5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded. Two sherds of 12th Century pottery were recovered from deposit 501 (see Section 6.0 below).

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
500	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
501	Loamy light-brown silty clay	c. 0.05m	Subsoil
502	Light-brown sand and gravel (with plough-scar evidence)	Up to c. 0.40m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 5: Trench 5 summary of deposits



Plate 5: *Trench 5 looking SE (3 x 1.0m scales)*

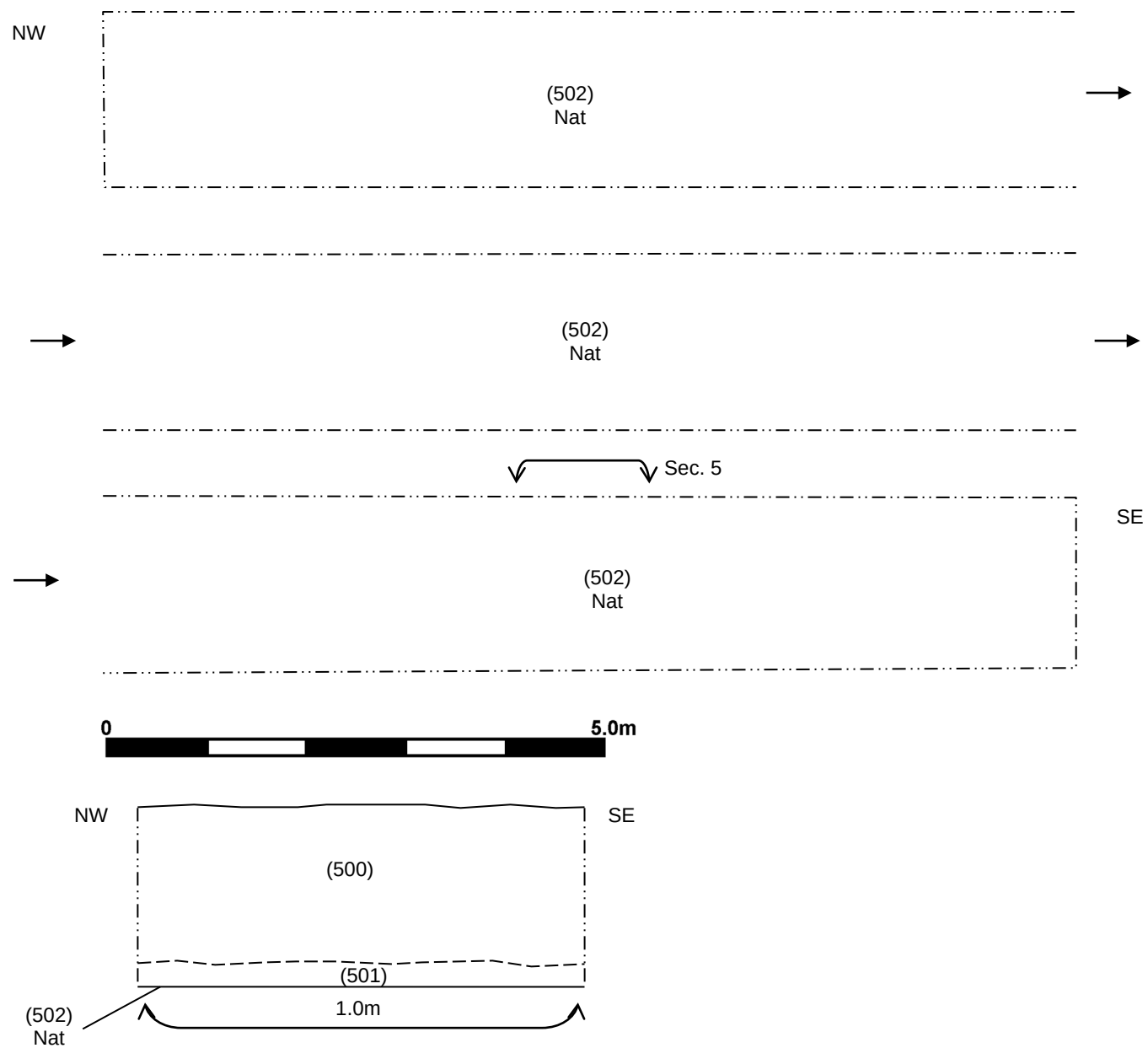


Figure 8: *Trench 5 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.6 Trench 6

Alignment: ENE - WSW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.6.1 Natural deposits of light-brown and orange-brown sandy clay and gravel (602) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.40m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.6.2 Natural deposits (602) were overlain by subsoil (601) and topsoil (600) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.50m.

5.2.6.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
600	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
601	Loamy light-brown silty clay and occasional gravel	c. 0.15m	Subsoil
602	Light-brown and orange-brown sandy clay and gravel	Up to c. 0.50m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 6: Trench 6 summary of deposits



Plate 6: Trench 6 looking WSW (3 x 1.0m scales)

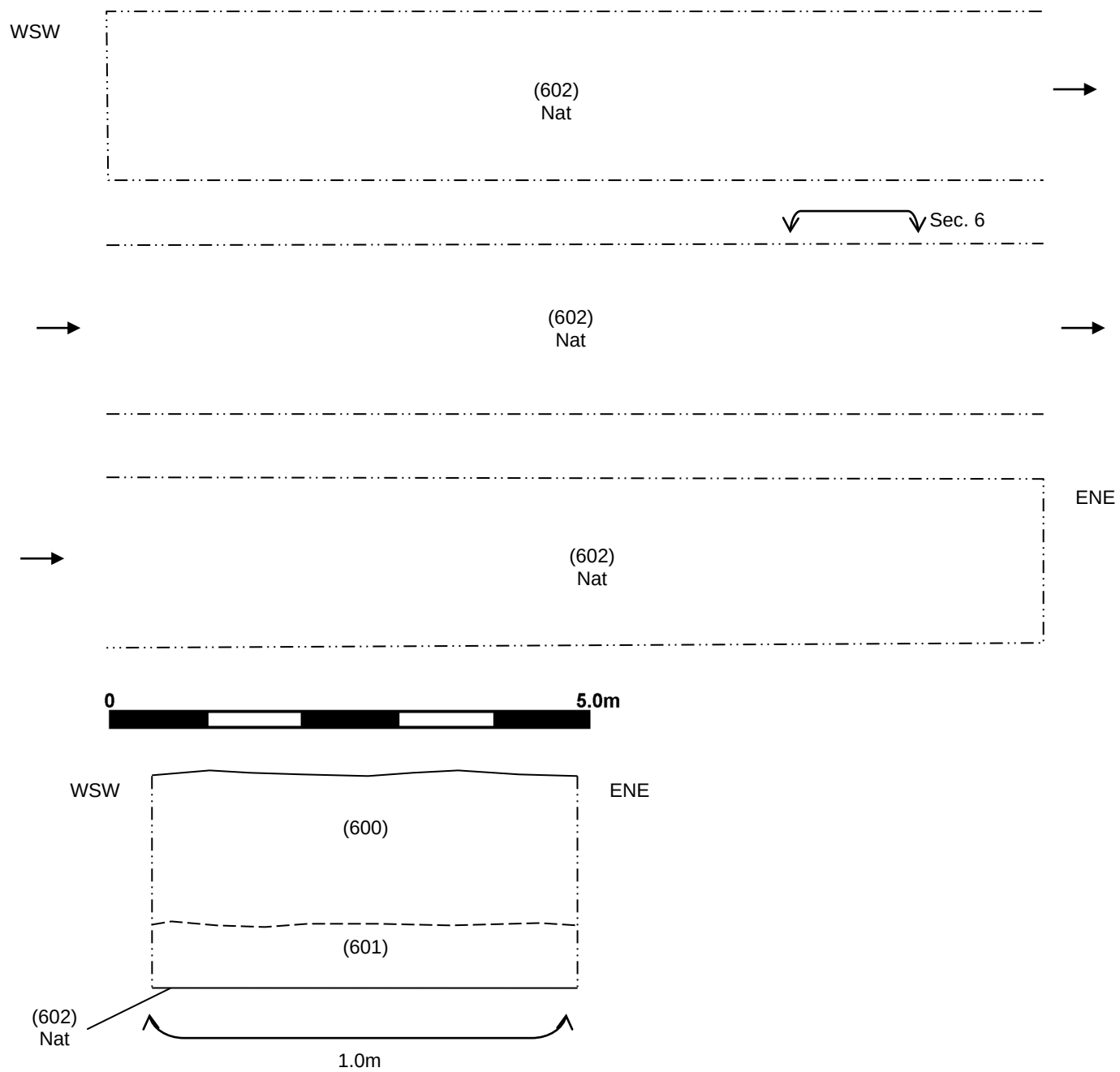


Figure 9: *Trench 6 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.7 Trench 7

Alignment: ENE - WSW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.7.1 Natural deposits of light-brown, orange-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay and gravel (702) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.50m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.7.2 Natural deposits (702) were overlain by subsoil (701) and topsoil (700) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.50m.

5.2.7.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded. A single sherd of 18th Century pottery was recovered from deposit 701 (see Section 6.0 below).

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
700	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
701	Loamy light-brown silty clay and occasional gravel	c. 0.15m	Subsoil
702	Light-brown, orange-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay and gravel	Up to c. 0.50m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 7: Trench 7 summary of deposits



Plate 7: Trench 7 looking ENE (3 x 1.0m scales)

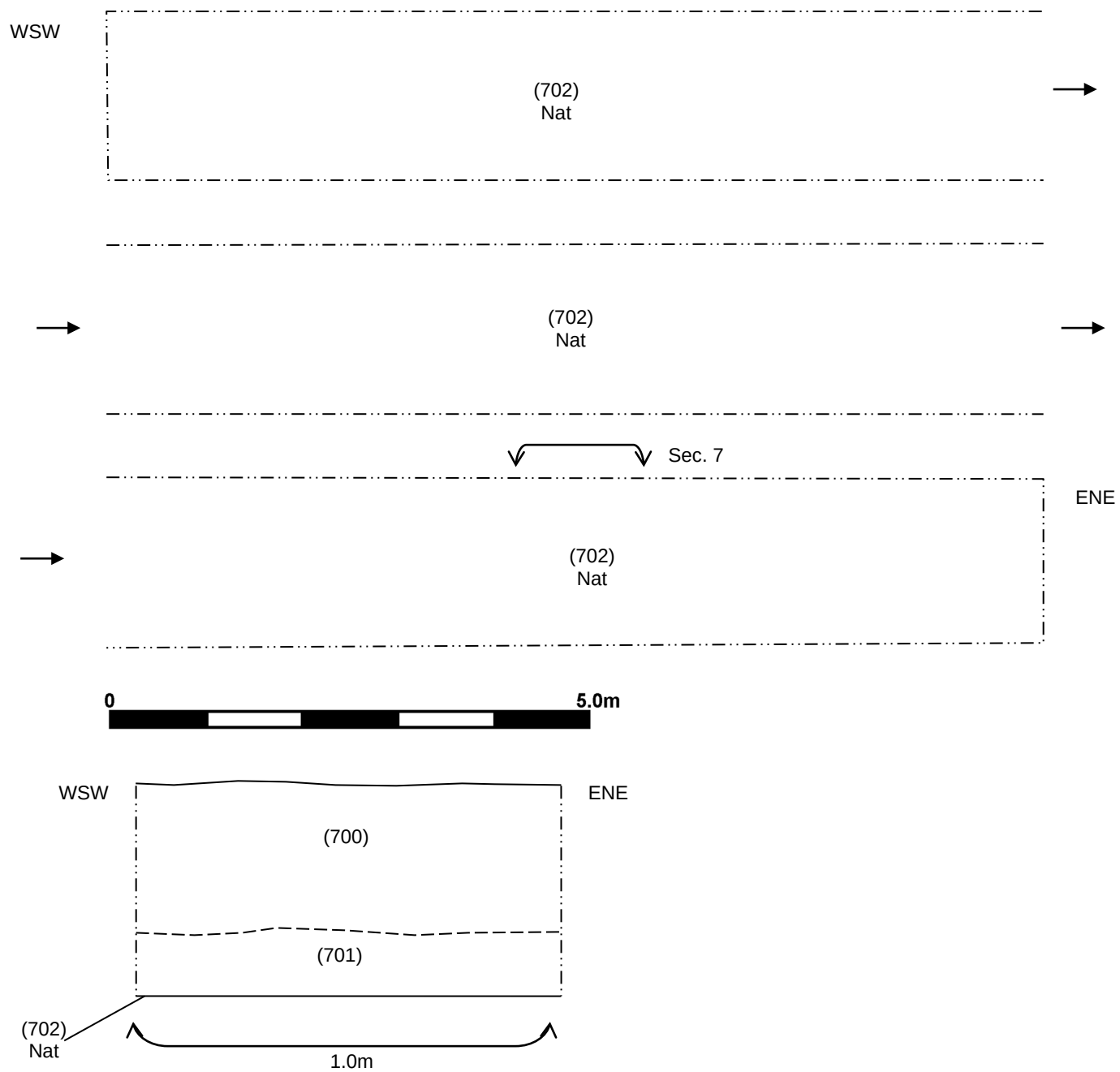


Figure 10: Trench 7 Plan and Sample Section

5.2.8 Trench 8

Alignment: NNE - SSW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.8.1 Natural deposits of light-brown and orange-brown sandy clay and gravel (802) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.45m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.8.2 Natural deposits (802) were overlain by subsoil (801) and topsoil (800) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.45m.

5.2.8.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
800	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
801	Loamy light-brown silty clay and occasional gravel	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
802	Light-brown and orange-brown sandy clay and gravel	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 8: Trench 8 summary of deposits



Plate 8: Trench 8 looking NNE (3 x 1.0m scales)

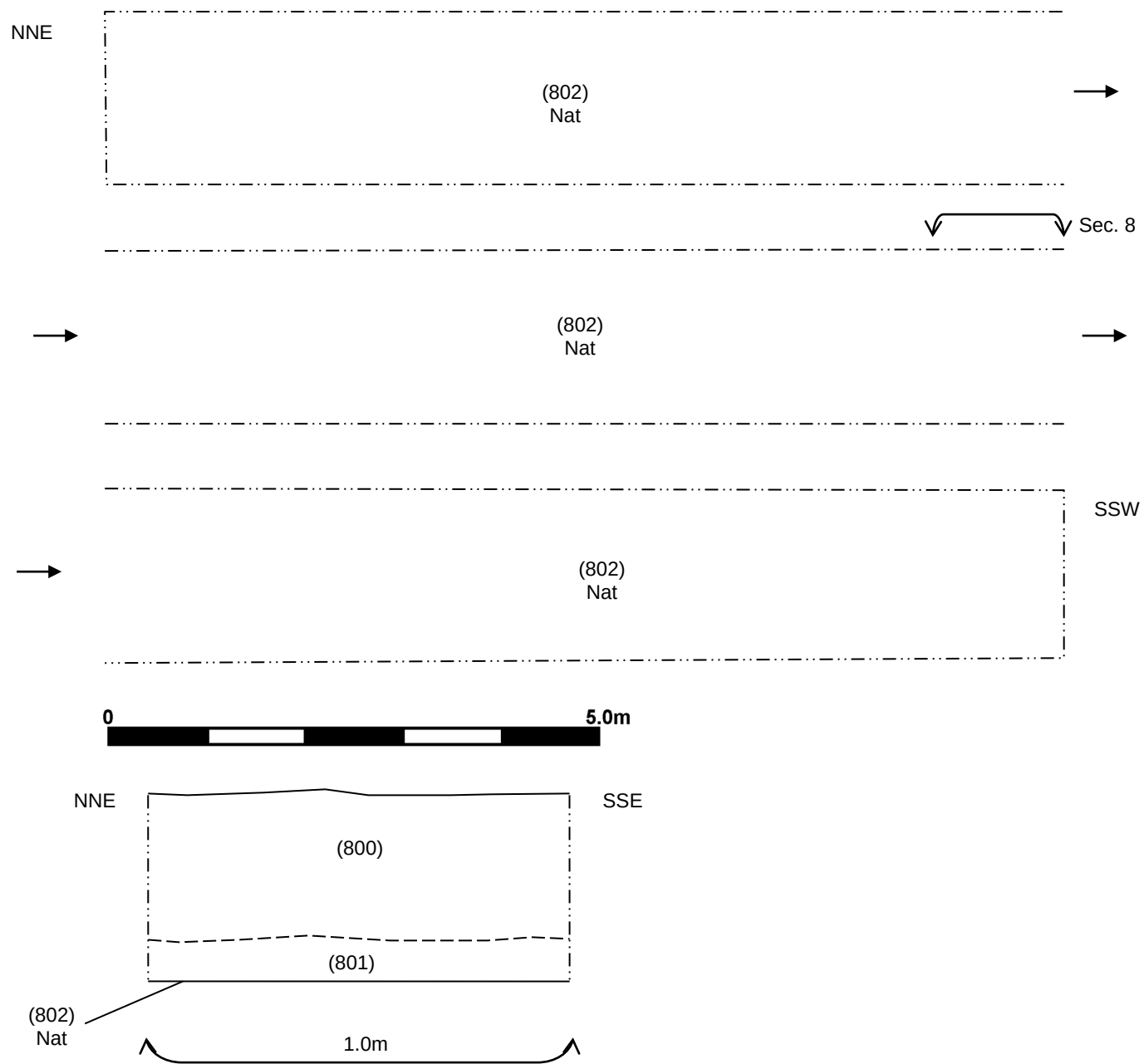


Figure 11: Trench 8 Plan and Sample Section

5.2.9 Trench 9

Alignment: N - S
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.9.1 Natural deposits of light-brown sandy clay and gravel (902) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.45m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.9.2 Natural deposits (902) were overlain by subsoil (901) and topsoil (900) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.45m.

5.2.9.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
900	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
901	Loamy light-brown silty clay and occasional gravel	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
902	Light-brown sandy clay and gravel	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 9: Trench 9 summary of deposits



Plate 9: Trench 9 looking north (3 x 1.0m scales)

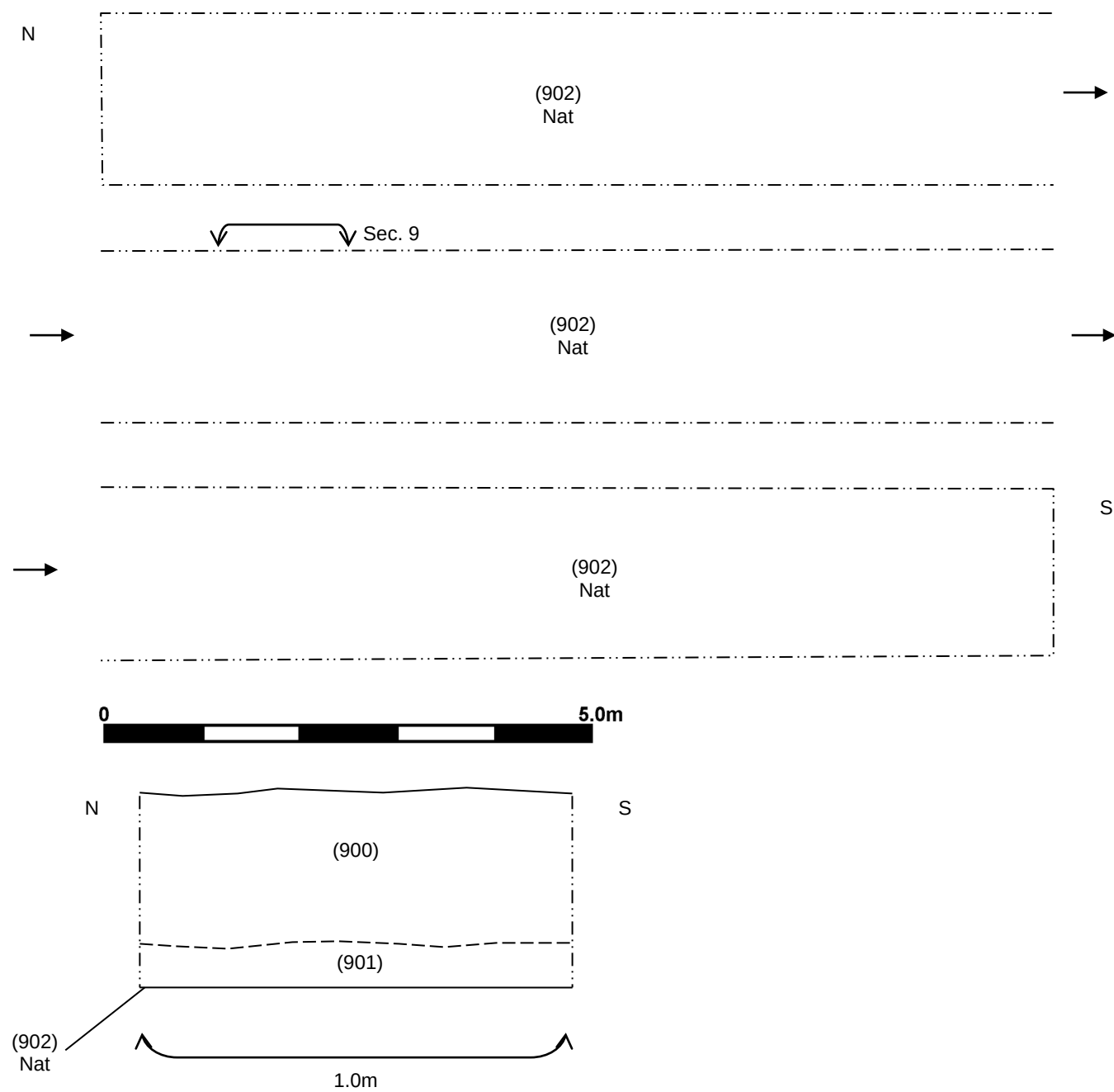


Figure 12: Trench 9 Plan and Sample Section

5.2.10 Trench 10

Alignment: ESE - WNW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.10.1 Natural deposits of light-brown, orange-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay (1002) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.45m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.10.2 Natural deposits (1002) were overlain by subsoil (1001) and topsoil (1000) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.45m.

5.2.10.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
1000	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
1001	Loamy light-brown silty clay and occasional gravel	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
1002	Light-brown, orange-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 10: Trench 10 summary of deposits



Plate 10: Trench 10 looking WNW (3 x 1.0m scales)

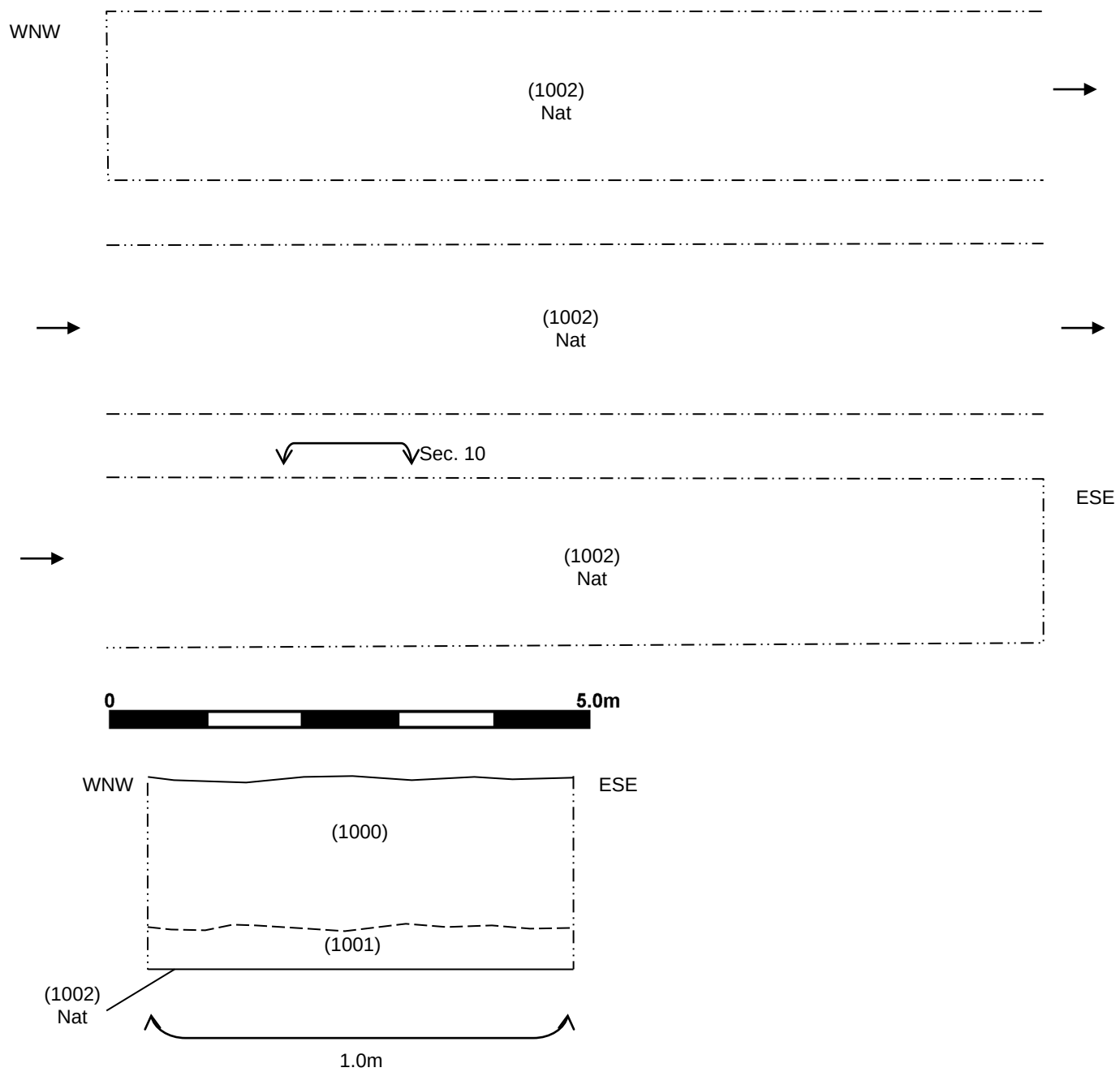


Figure 13: Trench 10 Plan and Sample Section

5.2.11 Trench 11

Alignment: NNE - SSW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.11.1 Natural deposits of light-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay / orange-brown sandy clay and gravel (1102) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.45m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.11.2 Natural deposits (1102) were overlain by subsoil (1101) and topsoil (1100) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.45m.

5.2.11.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
1100	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.35m	Topsoil
1101	Loamy light-brown silty clay and occasional gravel	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
1102	Light-brown and reddish-brown sandy clay / orange-brown sandy clay and gravel	Up to c. 0.45m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 11: Trench 11 summary of deposits



Plate 11: *Trench 11 looking SSW (3 x 1.0m scales)*

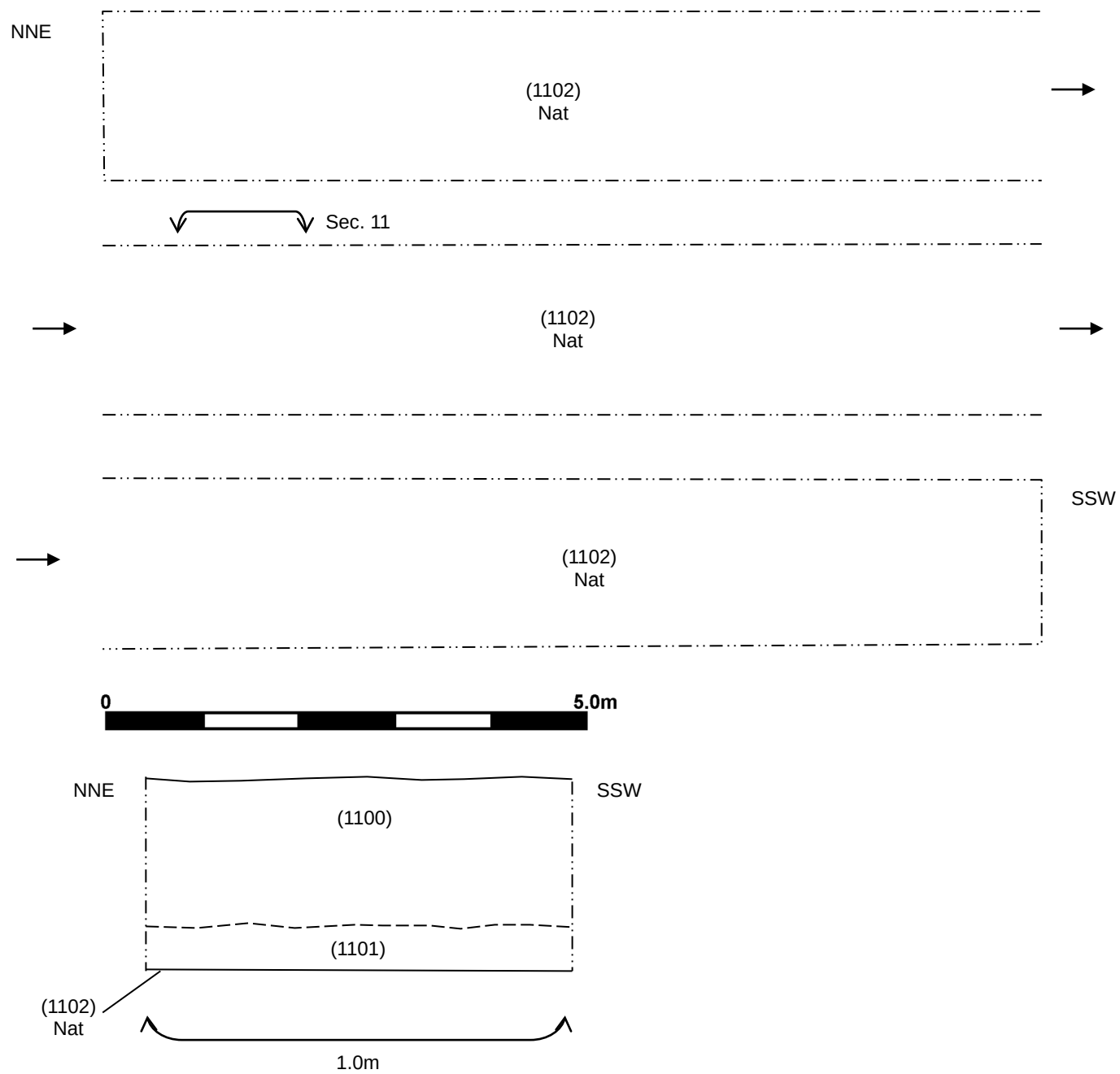


Figure 14: *Trench 11 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.12 Trench 12

Alignment: NNW - SSE
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.12.1 Natural deposits of light-brown and orange-brown clayey sand and gravel (1202) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.55m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.12.2 Natural deposits (1202) were overlain by subsoil (1201) and topsoil (1200) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.55m.

5.2.12.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
1200	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.45m	Topsoil
1201	Loamy clayey sand and gravel	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
1202	Light-brown and orange-brown clayey sand and gravel	Up to c. 0.55m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 12: Trench 12 summary of deposits



Plate 12: *Trench 12 looking SSE (3 x 1.0m scales)*

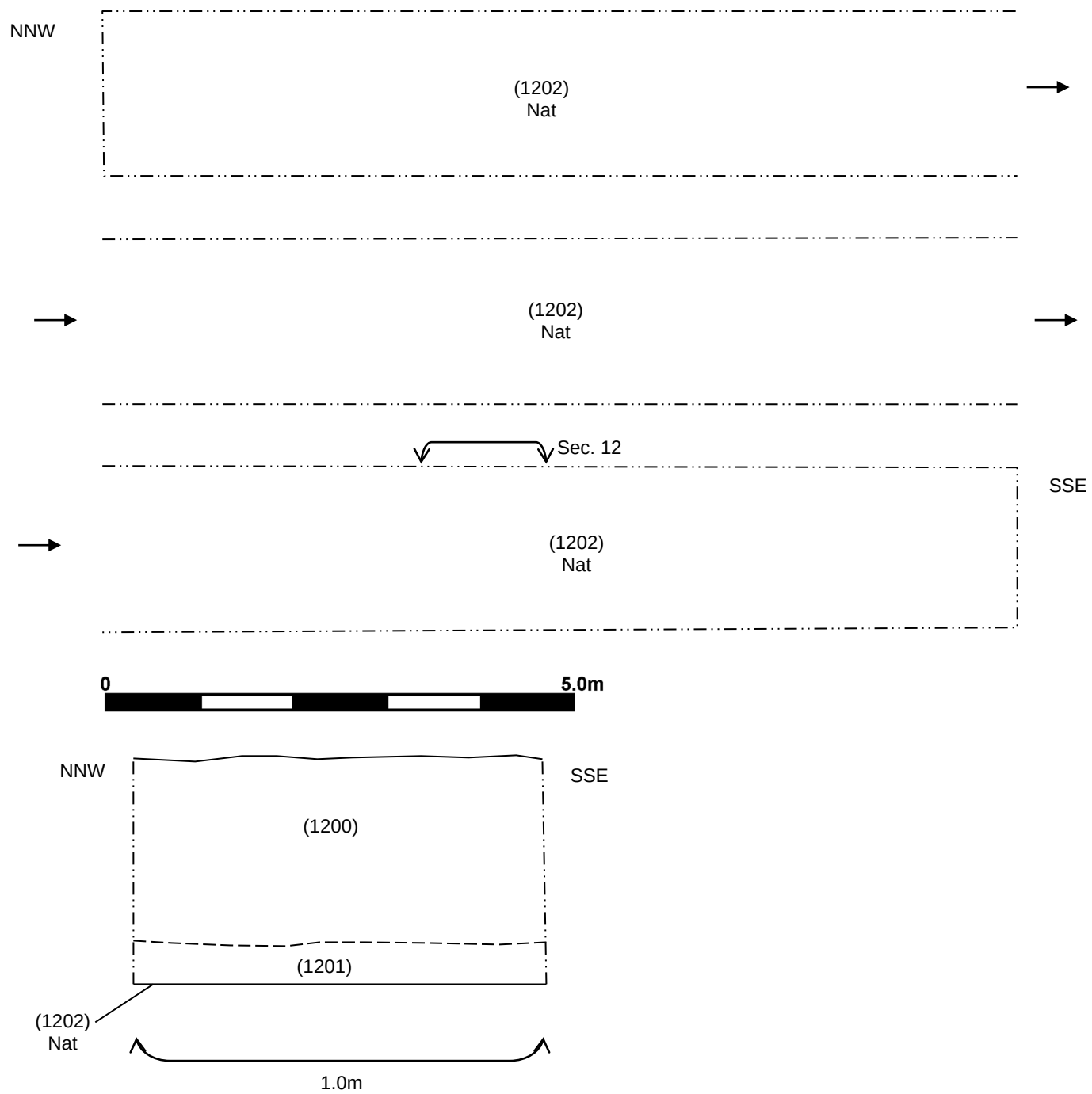


Figure 15: Trench 12 Plan and Sample Section

5.2.13 Trench 13

Alignment: ENE - WSW
Dimensions: c. 30.0m x 1.80m

5.2.13.1 Natural deposits of orange-brown clayey sand and gravel (1302) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.55m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.13.2 Natural deposits (1302) were overlain by subsoil (1301) and topsoil (1300) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.40m.

5.2.13.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded. A single sherd of late 15th Century pottery was recovered from deposit 1300 (see Section 6.0 below).

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
1300	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.45m	Topsoil
1301	Loamy clayey sand and gravel	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
1302	Orange-brown clayey sand and gravel	Up to c. 0.55m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 13: Trench 13 summary of deposits



Plate 13: Trench 13 looking WSW (3 x 1.0m scales)

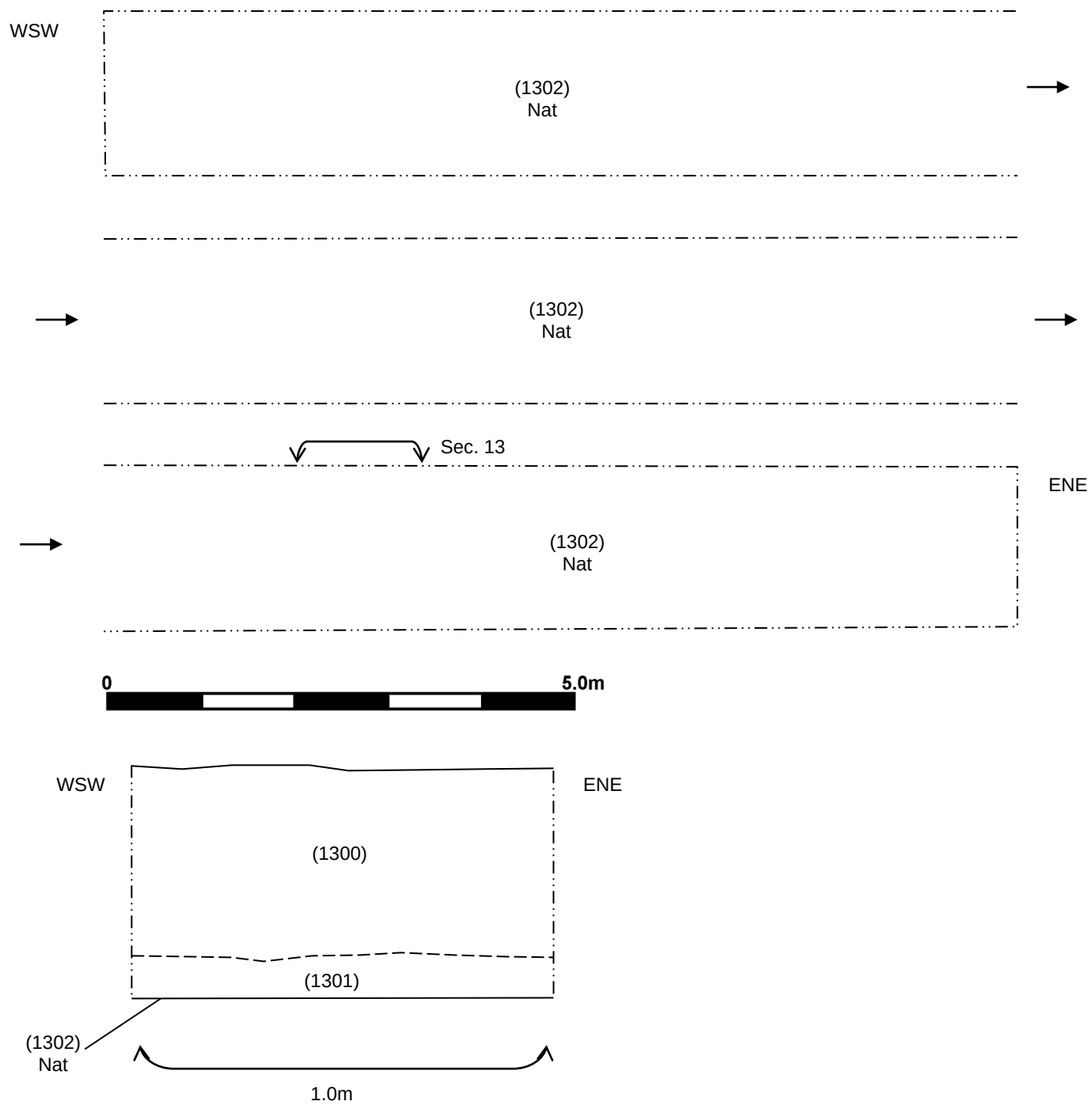


Figure 16: *Trench 13 Plan and Sample Section*

5.2.14 Trench 14

Alignment: ENE - WSW
Dimensions: c. 15.0m x 1.80m

5.2.14.1 Natural deposits of orange-brown sandy clay with occasional limestone fragments (302) and greyish-brown clay with frequent limestone fragments (303) were recorded at a depth of up to c. 0.40m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at this level.

5.2.14.2 Natural deposits (302 and 303) were overlain by subsoil (301) and topsoil (300) deposits with a combined depth of up to c. 0.40m.

5.2.14.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded. Two sherds of mid-13th Century pottery were recovered from deposit 1401 (see Section 6.0 below).

Deposit/ feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/ feature type
1400	Dark-brown sandy clayey loam and occasional gravel	c. 0.25m	Topsoil
1401	Loamy clayey and gravel	c. 0.10m	Subsoil
1402	Light-brown clay and gravel	Up to c. 0.35m below modern ground surface	Natural ground surface

Table 14: Trench 14 summary of deposits



Plate 14: *Trench 14 looking ENE (3 x 1.0m scales)*

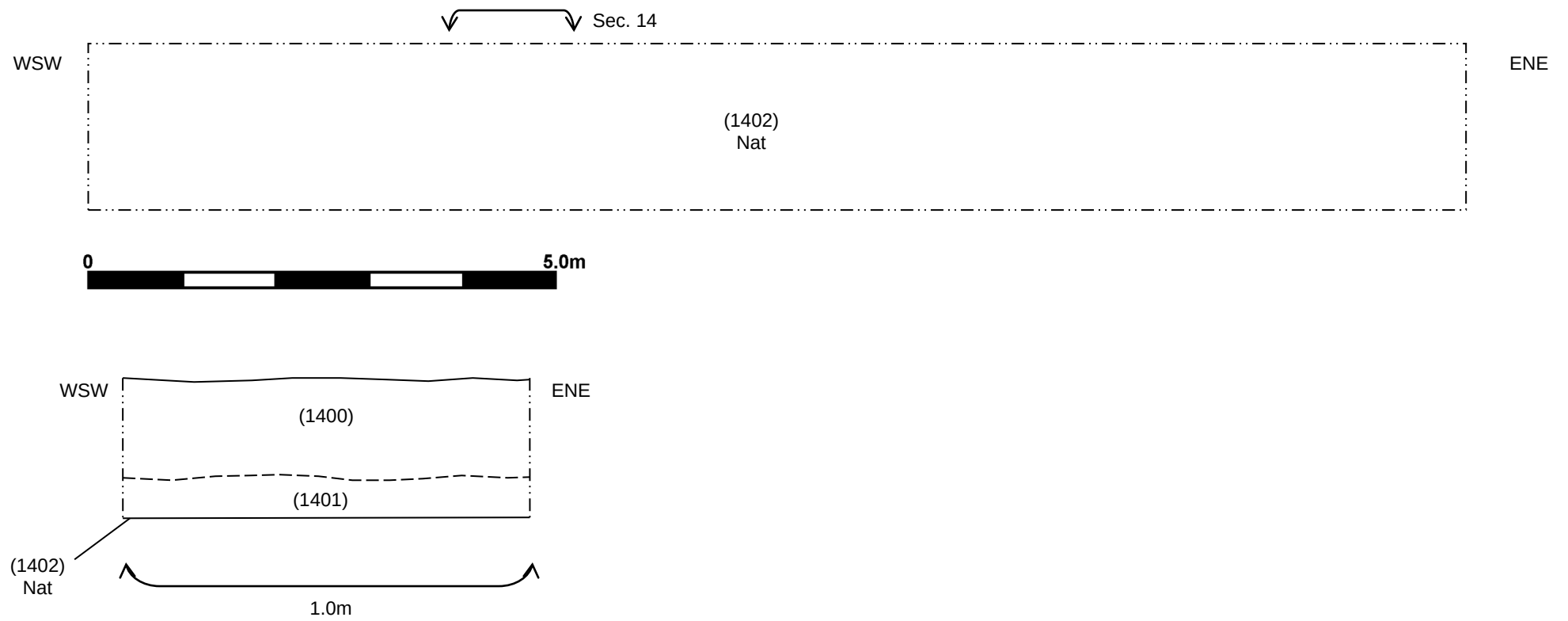


Figure 17: *Trench 14 Plan and Sample Section*

6.0 THE FINDS (Plates 15 – 18, Table 15)

6.1 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

6.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised six sherds with a total weight of 29g. It was all Medieval or later, and was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

CC1: Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware, AD1200-1400. 2 sherds, 6g.

CW: Cistercian Ware, 1475-1700. 1 sherd, 12g.

EA2: Iron-Glazed Earthenware, 18th – 19th century. 1 sherd, 7g.

PM: Potter's Marston Ware, 1100-1300. 2 sherds, 4g.

6.1.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 15. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region. Apart from the fragment of CW, from the body of a tyg or cup, all the pottery comprised small, plain bodysherds in fairly poor, abraded condition, reflecting the fact that they occurred in topsoil and subsoil deposits.

	PM		CC1		CW		EA2		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
501	2	4							12thC
701							1	7	18thC
1300					1	12			L15thC
1401			2	6					M13thC
Total	2	4	2	6	1	12	1	7	

Table 15: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type



Plate 15: Pottery from Trench 5, deposit 501 (2cm scale)



Plate 16: Pottery from Trench 7, deposit 701 (2cm scale)



Plate 17: Pottery from Trench 13, deposit 1300 (2cm scale)



Plate 18: Pottery from Trench 14, deposit 1401 (2cm scale)

7.0 CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

- 7.1 AFE at the site comprised the excavation of 14 trenches (Trenches 1 - 14) amounting to c. 405m of 1.80m wide trenching. The trenches were located within the footprints of the proposed housing development.
- 7.2 In contrast to previous archaeological work to the east of the site (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021 and Cherrington 2023), no features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and only variations in the nature of the underlying geology were noted along with (probably modern) occasional plough-scars in subsoil deposits. Very slight activity during the 12th, mid-13th, late 15th and 18th Centuries was evidenced by a small assemblage of pottery recovered from deposits 501, 701, 1300 and 1401 respectively. The pottery was probably introduced by manuring.
- 7.3 Based on the wholly negative excavated evidence and trench coverage it is considered here that there is 'low' potential for the survival of any complex features or deposits of archaeological significance on the site. Advice regarding the need for any further archaeological work will need to be given by the SPA, LCC.
- 7.4 Following consultation with Leicestershire Museums Service (LMS) and the SPA, LCC, the report will be submitted to OASIS in line with LMS guidance.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The project was managed by Richard Cherrington BA, PG Cert, PG Dip Archaeol, ACIfA, Principal Archaeologist, BA, who also supervised the AFE and wrote this report. Fieldwork assistance was supplied by Jack Cook. The project was monitored by William Kelly, SPA, LCC. The project was commissioned and funded by Fort Estates Ltd.
- 8.2 We would like to thank the team from Fort Estates Ltd. for their cooperation and assistance during the project.

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