

DEVELOPMENT ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES LTD.

A PRE-DETERMINATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT COLDHARBOUR FARM, EMSWORTH, HAMPSHIRE.

[Site Centred at approximately
National Grid Reference: SU 74511 06527]

[pre-application]

PREPARED FOR TELSTAR Ltd.



By

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June 2019

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Summary

A pre-determination archaeological field evaluation involving the excavation of fifteen trial trenches was carried out by Neville Hall and Christopher Pine of Development Archaeology Services Ltd. on the 7th and 8th of June 2019 on land at Coldharbour Farm, Emsworth, Hampshire.

The archaeological assessment of this proposed development site, which comprised the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of fifteen archaeological trial trenches [total survey area c. 600m²] provided a thorough and a comprehensive sampling of the area of the proposed development site.

No archaeological activity was identified on this site and there were no finds.

The findings from this pre-determination archaeological evaluation consisted of a deposit sequence that comprised a relatively shallow topsoil horizon overlying a natural horizon of brickearths with gravel spreads. This shallow topsoil horizon suggested that this site had been under pasture for some considerable time, and had not experienced any intensive agricultural cultivation activity.

A slight variation to this site deposit sequence was noted within Trench 13, where a modern made ground horizon overlay the topsoil horizon. This made ground consisted of compacted brick and tile and stone fragments, indicating the presence of a former modern [C20th] farm trackway.

It is suggested that on archaeological / heritage grounds there should be no grounds for refusal of any application to develop within the study site area.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS) were commissioned by Telstar Ltd. to undertake a pre-determination archaeological field evaluation on land at Coldharbour Farm, Emsworth, Hampshire, centred at National Grid Reference SU 74511 06527. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the proposed development site on the 7th and 8th of June 2019.
- 1.2 Following consultations between DAS and Mr. David Hopkins of the Hampshire County Council Environment Team, it was established that prior to the submission of a planning application for a proposed new residential development on this site, that a pre-planning determination archaeological field assessment through trial trenching of the proposed development site should be undertaken. The results of this site-specific investigation would be submitted with the forthcoming application for development at the site.
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Mr. David Hopkins, the Planning Department of Havant Borough Council, the Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Hampshire County Museum Service [Havant Museum], along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The assessment site at Coldharbour Farm is situated to the immediate north of the modern A27 trunk road, the line of which also forms the southern site boundary. The assessment site is also bounded to the north by open fields and to the east by modern residential development. The proposed development site lies on the low-lying Lower Sussex Coastal Plain at a height of approximately 12mAOD and at National Grid Reference SU 74511 06527. The assessment site lies to the north of the town of Emsworth, which in turn lies within the administrative district of Havant Borough, county of Hampshire [**Figures 1 and 2**].
- 2.2 The assessment site is currently under rough grassland/pasture. The area of the proposed development site lies on stoneless silty soils of the Park Gate Series, which in turn overlie aeolian silty drift deposits of brickearths with gravel spreads. These deposits in turn overlie London Clays of the Eocene [Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 1998].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 It is understood that a forthcoming planning application for a proposed new residential development of mixed residential units is to be submitted to Havant Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority. However, as the proposed development site is located within a perceived area of high archaeological potential, and following consultations between DAS Ltd and Mr. David Hopkins of the Hampshire County Council Environment Team, a request was made by Mr. David Hopkins for a pre-planning determination archaeological field assessment of the proposed development site through trial trenching. This should be undertaken prior to this planning application being made.
- 3.2 Consequently, a written scheme of investigation for this pre-planning determination archaeological field evaluation was subsequently submitted to and agreed by Mr. David Hopkins of the Hampshire County Council Environment Team on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. This agreed written scheme of investigation was accompanied by a trial trench layout proposal/plan, which was also submitted to and agreed with same prior to the commencement of the onsite works.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red.
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- 3.4 This report documents the results of this archaeological trial trenching and will be submitted to Mr. David Hopkins of the Hampshire County Council Environment Team and to the Local Planning Authority. This report will accompany, and will be submitted in support and to inform the granting of planning consent for the proposed new residential development on this site.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A search of the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was conducted for archaeological sites, findspots, designated heritage sites and for other previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of this proposed development site.
- 4.2 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity/occupation within the site area or within its immediate environs. An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2017 on land to the north of the assessment site at Southleigh Road, Horndean recorded residual prehistoric flintwork dated from the Lower Palaeolithic to Early Neolithic periods that was found in association with burnt flint.
- 4.3 A Roman Villa is recorded at Warblington, approximately 1km to the west of this assessment site. This site is located on higher and well drained ground. A further villa site is located at Langstone Harbour, some 1.5km to the south west of the assessment site.
- 4.4 The aforementioned archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2017 at Southleigh Road, Horndean also recorded 1st-2nd century AD Roman ditches. These suggested a localised enclosure field system or paddocks. The recovered pottery finds are generally associated with a low status rural farmstead. Although the majority of evaluation trenching at the Southleigh Road site produced no finds, it was considered that evidence of recorded field systems, possible seen in association with additional contemporary occupation structures, may extend southwards into the area of this proposed development site. It was also anticipated that localised drainage and groundwater levels would influence the distribution of contemporary archaeological features and finds within the area of this proposed development site.

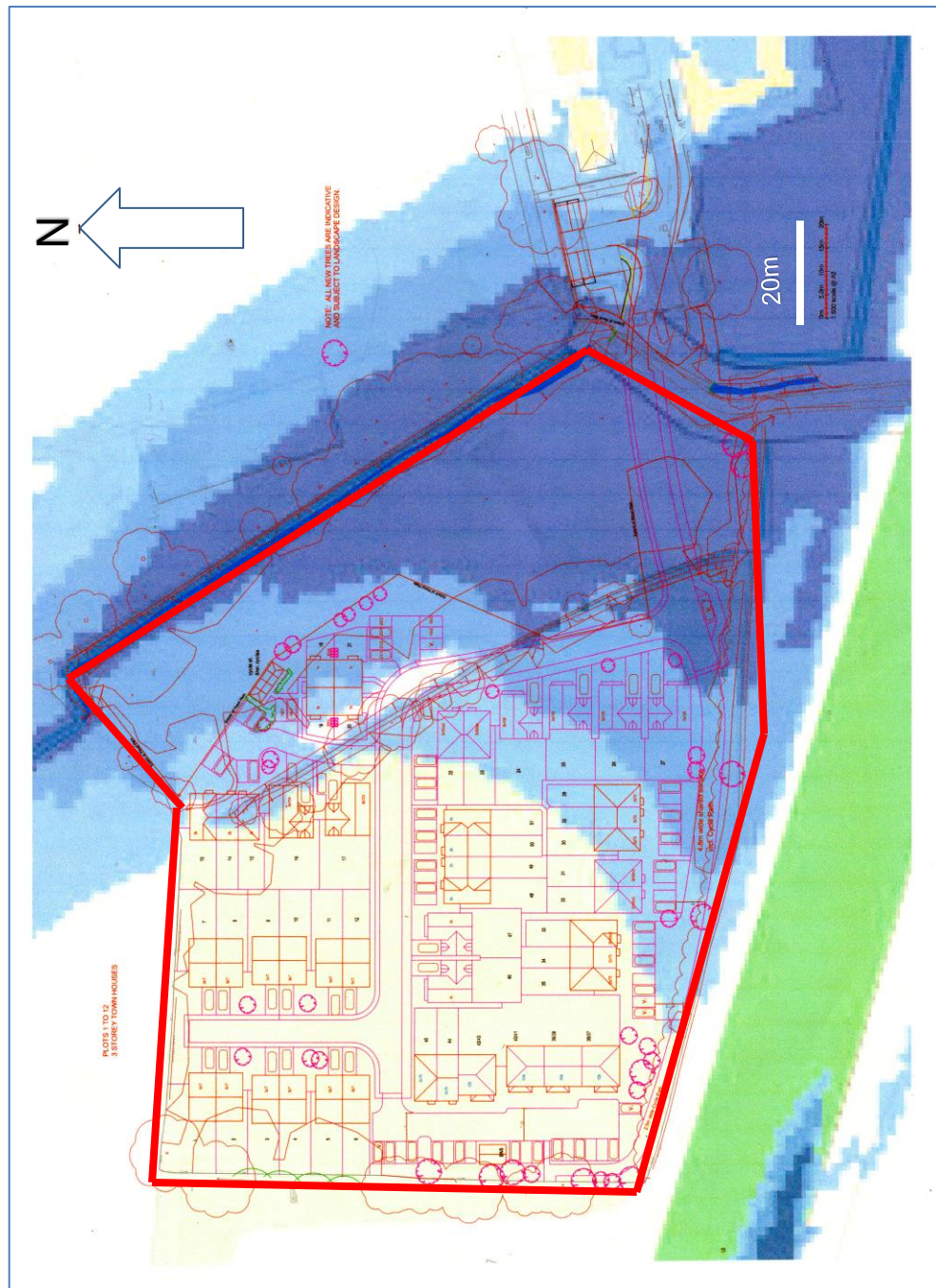


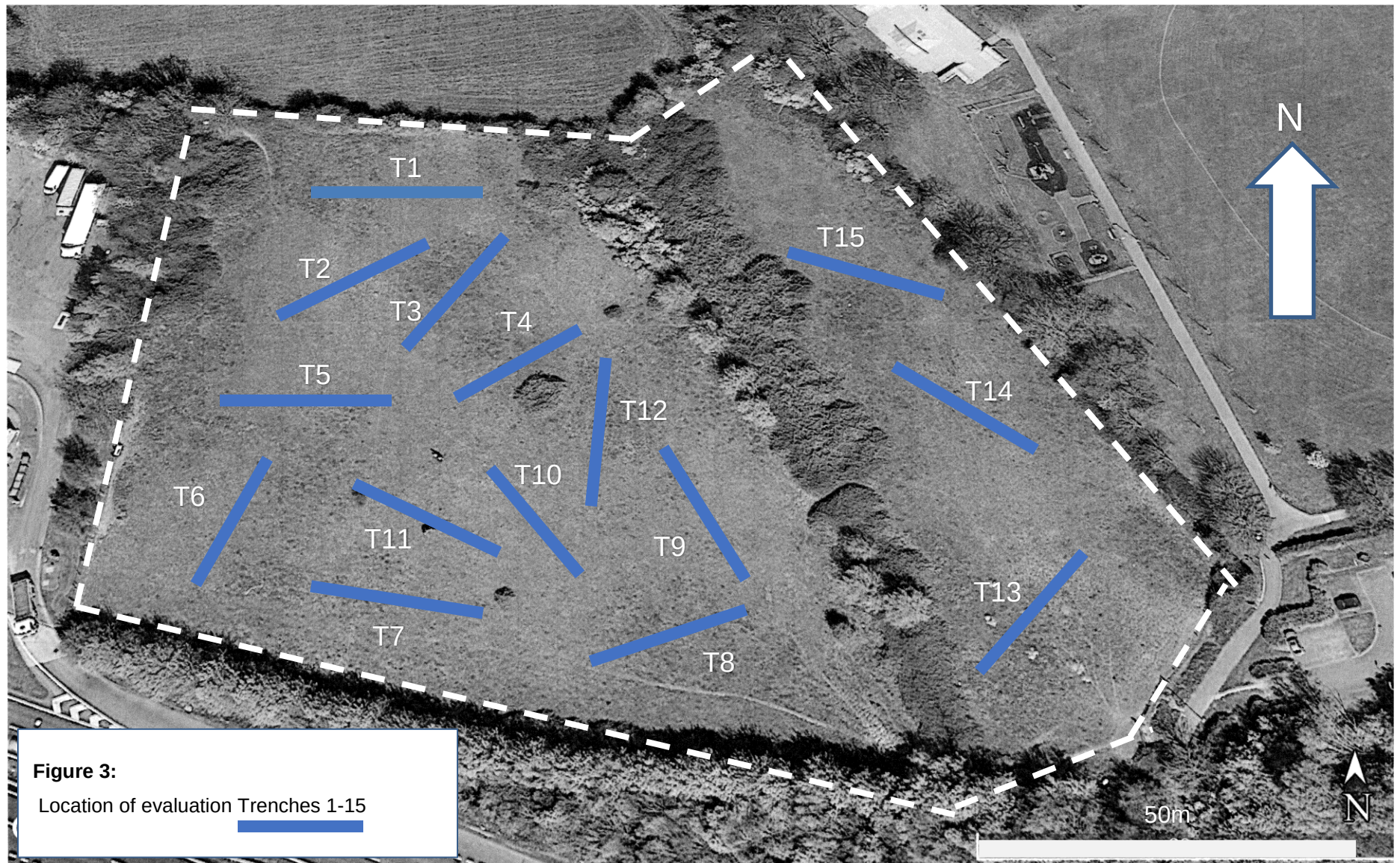
Figure 2: Plan showing 'concept' plan layout of the proposed development

- 4.5 The place name of Emsworth translates as *Aemals worth* or *Aemels enclosure* and was first documented in AD1224. Emsworth is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of AD1086. The majority of land, including and surrounding the assessment site was recorded as being under the ownership of the Bishops of Winchester.
- 4.6 Based largely on its typical medieval town layout, the settlement of Emsworth is thought to have been founded in the medieval period. The port of Emsworth was an important trading centre during the medieval period importing both wine and producing oysters.
- 4.7 There are no entries from the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) from the post-medieval period within the area of this assessment site. Based on the limited cartographic data available for the site, the 1898 and 1910 O.S. maps for the area show the assessment site as being in use as agricultural field. Coldharbour Farm itself lay some 200m to the east of the south-eastern corner of the assessment site. This farm area was redeveloped as a modern residential estate in the early 21st century. The results of the aforementioned archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2017 at Southleigh Road, Horndean also recorded a post-medieval post built agricultural structure.
- 4.8 It was considered that there is a moderate potential for archaeological remains from the Romano-British period to be present within the site area. Farm boundary markers and/or drainage ditches from this period may extend into the site area from the north. The presence of associated contemporary light structures should also not be discounted.
- 4.9 Similarly, it was also considered that medieval/post-medieval structures and/or ditches with Coldharbour Farm lying to the east may also extend into the area of the assessment site.
- 4.10 It was anticipated that localised drainage and ground water levels were likely to influence the presence/absence and if present, the distribution of archaeological remains from all periods.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the proposed development site on the 7th and 8th of June by Neville Hall and Christopher Pine of Development Archaeology Services Ltd. This involved the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of fifteen

- archaeological trial trenches [designated as **Trenches 1-15**]. The mechanical excavations were undertaken by a 9-ton 360° mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless bucket.
- 5.2 The agreed written scheme of investigation for this archaeological evaluation had originally provided for the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of twelve trenches, each of 25.0m in length by 2.0m in width, giving a total survey area of 565m² or an approximately 5% sample of the site area. Provision was also made for an additional 150m² trenching if required. In the final event, this contingency was not utilised.
- 5.3 In the final event, a total of fifteen archaeological trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, each of 25.0m in length and 1.60m in width, giving a total survey area of 600m², and thus in excess of the original agreed 5% sample by area. The final layout of the archaeological trial trenches is shown at Figure 3.
- 5.4 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposit sequence observed was recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Individual plans of each trench were compiled on site at a scale of 1:100. These plans are reproduced at this same scale on **Figures 4-5**.
- 5.5 A total of five sections were also compiled on site [designated as **Representative Sections 1-5**] of the identified site deposit sequence at a scale of 1:20. These are similarly reproduced at this same scale on **Figure 5**. All site levels were taken from a prior topographical survey plan of the site, from which the site TBM and all subsequent site levels were plotted from using a dumpy level.
- 5.6 A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-32, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is detailed in **Appendix 2**.



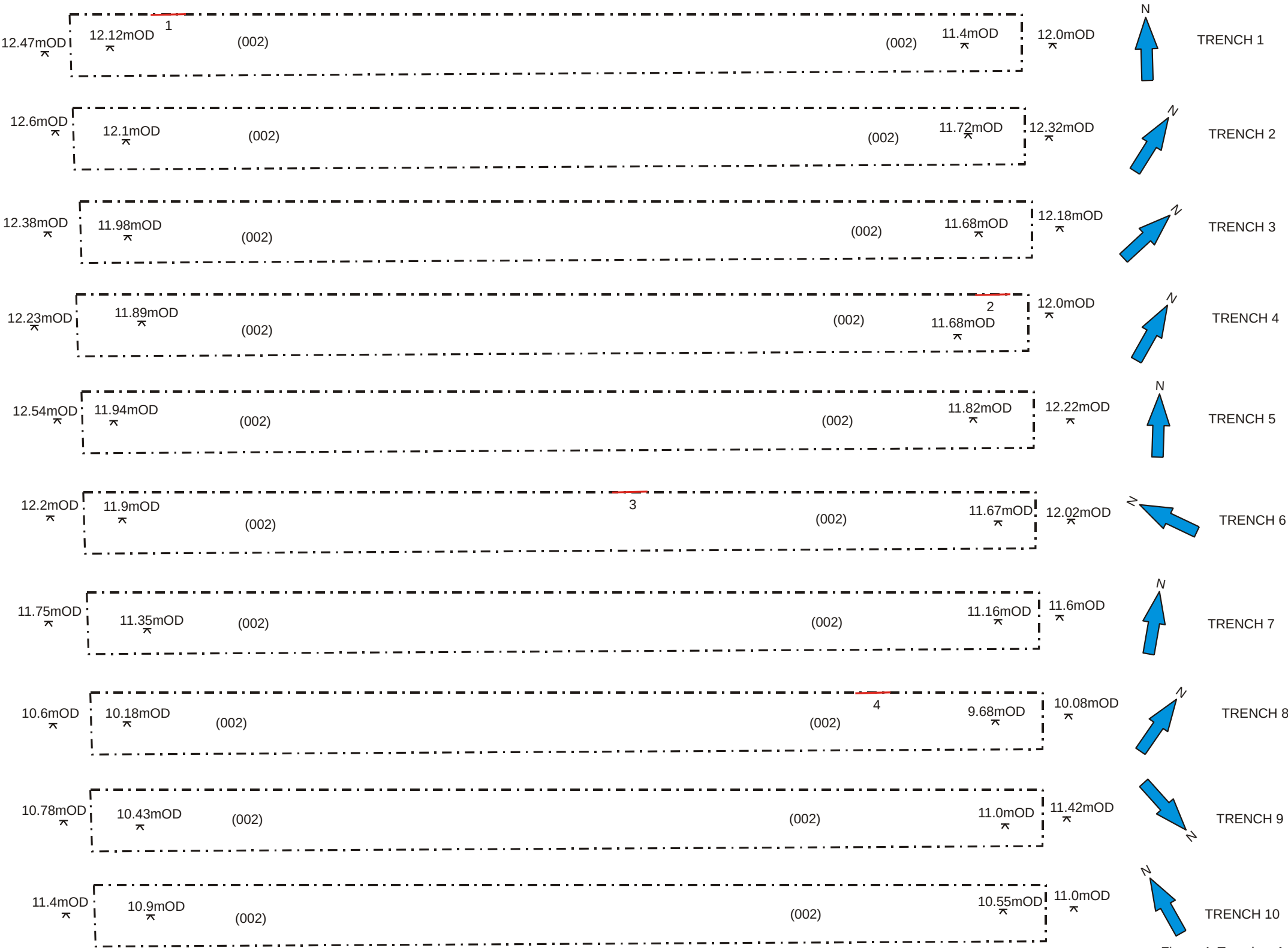


Figure 4: Trenches 1-10 at a scale of 1:100

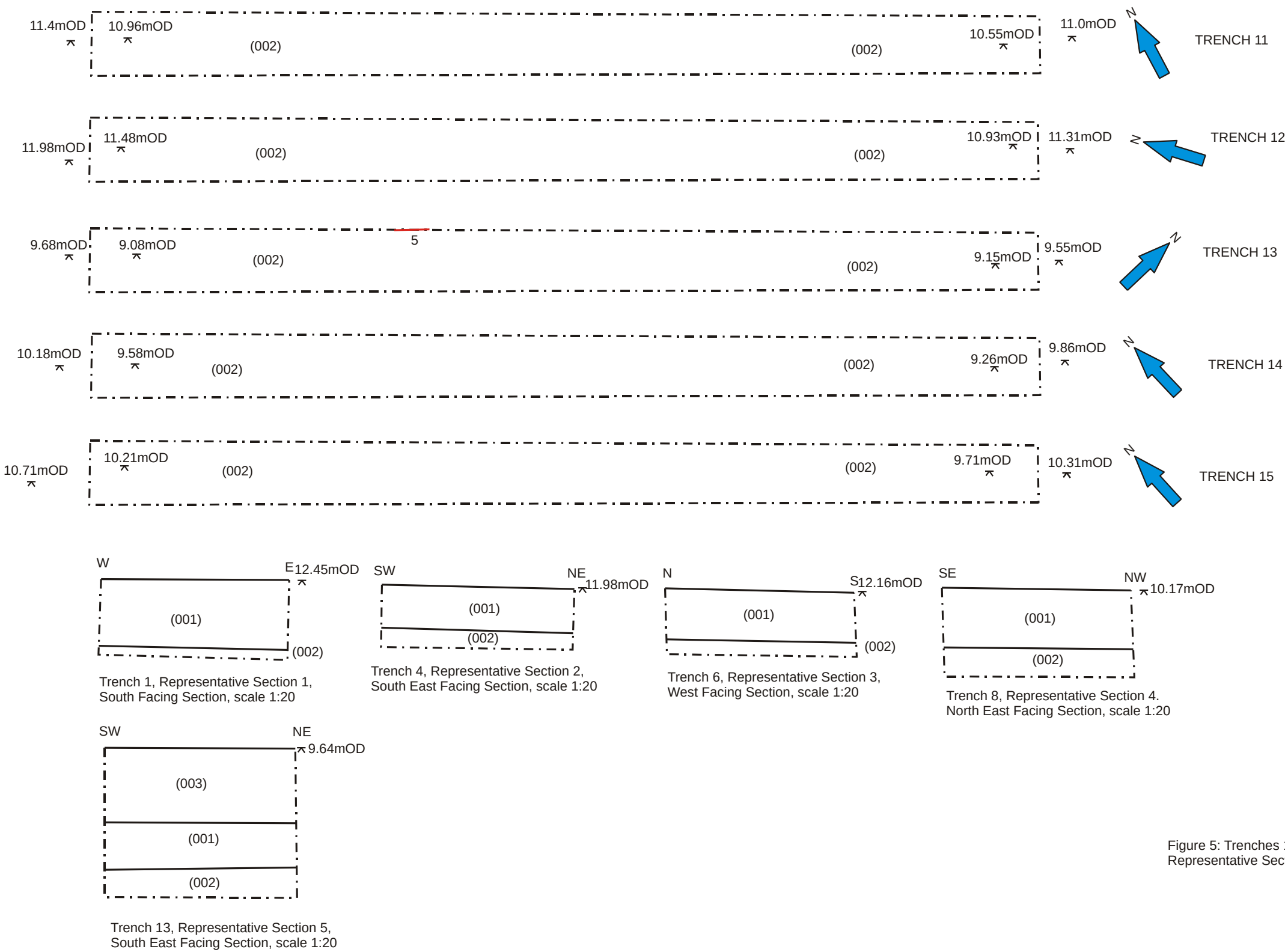


Figure 5: Trenches 11-15 at a scale of 1:100 & Representative Sections 1-5 at a scale of 1:20

6. Results [Figures 4-5; Appendix 1, Plates 1-32]

All of the fifteen archaeological trial trenches that were excavated under archaeological supervision were done so to uniform lengths of 25.0m and to uniform widths of 1.60m.

6.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 **Trench 1** was positioned at the northern end of the field survey area and was orientated from east-west. The mechanical excavation of this trench was undertaken to depths of between 0.35m-0.60m to below ground levels [**Plates 1 and 3**]. The mechanical excavation of this first initial trench identified a deposit sequence that consisted of a relatively shallow topsoil horizon and an underlying natural horizon of brickearths with gravel spreads (**002**), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 1 [Plate 2]**.

6.1.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 **Trench 2** was situated to the south of **Trench 1** and was aligned from north east-south west. **Trench 2** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.44m-0.60m below ground levels [**Plates 4 and 5**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trench was also recorded within this trench.

6.2.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.3 Trench 3

6.3.1 **Trench 3** was located to the east of **Trench 2** and to the south-east of **Trench 1**. **Trench 3** was orientated from north east-south west. and was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.40m-0.50m below ground levels [**Plates 6 and 7**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench.

6.3.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.4 Trench 4

6.4.1 **Trench 4** was positioned to the south-east of **Trench 3** and was aligned from north east-south-west. **Trench 4** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.32m-0.34m below ground levels [**Plates 8 and 9**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench within **Representative Section 2 [Plate 10]**.

6.4.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.5 Trench 5

6.5.1 **Trench 5** was situated to the south of **Trenches 2 and 3** and to the south-west of **Trench 4**. **Trench 5** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.40m-0.60m below ground levels [**Plates 11 and 12**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench.

6.5.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.6 Trench 6

6.6.1 **Trench 6** was located to the south of **Trench 5** and was orientated from approximately north-south. **Trench 6** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.30m-0.38m below ground levels [**Plates 13 and 14**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench within **Representative Section 3 [Plate 15]**.

6.6.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.7 Trench 7

6.7.1 **Trench 7** was positioned to the south-east of **Trench 6** and was aligned from east-west. **Trench 7** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.40m-0.44m below ground levels [**Plates 16 and 17**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench.

6.7.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.8 Trench 8

6.8.1 **Trench 8** was situated to the east of **Trench 7** and was aligned from north east-south west. **Trench 8** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.30m-0.40m below ground levels [**Plates 18 and 20**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench within **Representative Section 4 [Plate 19]**.

6.8.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.9 Trench 9

6.9.1 **Trench 9** was located to the north of **Trench 8** and was orientated from north west-south east. **Trench 9** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.35m-0.42m below ground levels [**Plates 21 and 22**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench.

6.9.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.10 Trench 10

6.10.1 **Trench 10** was situated to the north of **Trench 7**, to the east of **Trench 6** and to the north-west of **Trench 8**. **Trench 10** was orientated from north west-south east and was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.45m-0.50m below ground levels [**Plates 23 and 24**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench.

6.10.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.11 Trench 11

6.11.1 **Trench 11** was positioned to the south-west of **Trench 10**, to the west of **Trench 8**, to the north of **Trench 7** and to the east of **Trench 6**. **Trench 11** was aligned from north west-south east and was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of 0.45m below

ground levels [**Plates 25 and 26**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench.

6.11.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.12 Trench 12

6.12.1 **Trench 12** was situated to the west of **Trench 9**, to the north of **Trench 10** and to the south-east of **Trench 4**. **Trench 12** was aligned from north-south and was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.38m-0.50m below ground levels [**Plates 27 and 28**]. The same deposit sequence that was identified within the preceding trenches was also recorded within this trench.

6.12.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.13 Trench 13

6.13.1 **Trench 13** was situated within the south-eastern portion of the survey area and was orientated from north east-south west. **Trench 13** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.40m-0.70m below ground levels [**Plate 29**]. The mechanical excavation of this trench identified a slightly different deposit sequence with a modern made ground horizon (**003**) consisting of brick fragments [modern] and crushed concrete [modern] overlying the topsoil horizon (**001**) and the underlying natural horizon of brickearths with gravel spreads (**002**), which occurred at the base of this excavation. This variation to the site deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 5** [**Plate 30**].

6.13.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.14 Trench 14

6.14.1 **Trench 14** was located to the north-west of **Trench 13** and at the eastern end of the survey area. **Trench 14** was orientated from north west-south east and was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.48m-0.60m below ground levels [**Plate 31**]. The site deposit sequence which consisted of the topsoil horizon (**001**) and the underlying natural horizon of brickearths with gravel spreads (**002**), which occurred at the base of this excavation was identified within this trench.

6.14.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

6.15 Trench 15

6.15.1 **Trench 15** was located to the north of **Trench 14** and was also aligned from north west-south east. **Trench 15** was excavated under archaeological supervision to depths of between 0.50m-0.60m below ground levels [**Plate 32**]. The site deposit sequence which consisted of the topsoil horizon (**001**) and the underlying natural horizon of brickearths with gravel spreads (**002**), which occurred at the base of this excavation was also identified within this trench.

6.15.2 No archaeological activity was identified within this trench and there were no finds.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

8.1 The archaeological assessment of this proposed development site, which comprised the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of fifteen archaeological trial trenches [total survey area of c. 600m² = 5% of full site area] provided a thorough and a comprehensive sampling of the area of the proposed development site.

8.2 No archaeological activity was identified on this site and there were no finds.

8.3 The findings from this pre-determination archaeological evaluation consisted of a deposit sequence that comprised a relatively shallow topsoil horizon overlying a natural horizon of brickearths with gravel spreads. This shallow topsoil horizon suggested that this site had been under pasture for some considerable time, and had not experienced any intensive agricultural cultivation activity.

8.4 A slight variation to this site deposit sequence was noted within Trench 13, where a modern made ground horizon overly the topsoil horizon. This made ground consisted of compacted brick and tile and stone fragments, indicating the presence of a former 'modern' farm trackway. This site deposit sequence, including this variation were recorded within a total of five representative sections, that were widely distributed across the assessment site.

- 8.5 It is suggested that on archaeological / heritage grounds there should be no grounds for refusal of any application to develop the study site area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 DAS would like to thank L. Shipp and D. Christian [Telstar Ltd] for commissioning this. Grateful thanks are also extended to Mr. D. Hopkins of the Hampshire County Council Environment Team for his prompt advice and assistance throughout.

10. Bibliography

British Geological Survey, (1998), *Fareham, Solid & Drift, 1:50,000 scale map sheet no. 316.*

Pine, C. (2019), *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation [Phase 1] at: Coldharbour Farm, Emsworth.* Development Archaeology Services Ltd.

Ordnance Survey, (2005), 1:25,000 scale map, *Chichester, South Harting & Selsey*, Explorer Sheet No. 120.

Soil Survey of England & Wales, (1983), *Soils of South Eastern England, Sheet 6, 1:250,000 scale.*

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1, from the west



Plate 3: Trench 1, from the east



Plate 2: Trench 1, Representative Section 1, from the south



Plate 4: Trench 2, from the north-east



Plate 5: Trench 2, from the south-west



Plate 7: Trench 3, from the north-east



Plate 6: Trench 3, from the south-west



Plate 8: Trench 4, from the south-west



Plate 9: Trench 4, from the north-east



Plate 10: Trench 4, Representative Section 2, from the south-east



Plate 11: Trench 5, from the east



Plate 12: Trench 5, from the west



Plate 13: Trench 6, from the north



Plate 14: Trench 6, from the south



Plate 15: Trench 6, Representative Section 3, from the west



Plate 16: Trench 7, from the west



Plate 17: Trench 7, from the east



Plate 18: Trench 8, from the south-west



Plate 19: Trench 8, Representative Section 4, from the north-east



Plate 20: Trench 8, from the north-east



Plate 21: Trench 9, from the south-east



Plate 23: Trench 10, from the south-east



Plate 22: Trench 9, from the north-west



Plate 24: Trench 10, from the north-west



Plate 25: Trench 11, from the south-east



Plate 27: Trench 12, from the south



Plate 26: Trench 11, from the north-west



Plate 28: Trench 12, from the north



Plate 29: Trench 13, from the north-east



Plate 30: Trench 13, Representative Section 5, from the south-east



Plate 31: Trench 14, from the south-east



Plate 32: Trench 15, from the south-east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Topsoil horizon. Soft, dark orange brown clayey silt. No inclusions. Above **(002)** and below **(003)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-5**. Depth - 0.32m.
- 002** Natural horizon. Soft, light orange brown clayey silt (brickearth) with gravel spreads composed of small-medieval angular stones and flint fragments (60%). Below **(001)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-5**. Depth - >0.16m.
- 003** Modern made ground horizon consisting of compacted brick, tile and stone fragments, the line of a possible former farm trackway. Above **(001)**. Recorded within **Representative Section 5**. Depth - 0.40m.