
LAND OFF GRAVEL HOLE LANE, SOWERBY, NORTH
YORKSHIRE (SOWERBY SPORTS VILLAGE).

OSA18EX10
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ASSESSMENT REPORT

April 2019



OSA

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REPORT NO: OSA18EX10

SITE NAME: Land off Gravel Hole Lane, Sowerby, North Yorkshire
(Sowerby Sports Village)

COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 4282 8070

PLANNING REF NO: 10/02373/DCN02

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1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology Ltd at land off Gravel Hole Lane at Sowerby in North Yorkshire in December 2018 on behalf of Hambleton District Council.

The investigation was commissioned to satisfy a condition attached to the planning permission for the development (Planning Reference No. 10/02373/DCN02). The investigation comprised the machine excavation and archaeological investigation of a stripped area (approx. 30m by 30m).

A large ring ditch with at least one phase of re-cutting and numerous fills was found on this site. A number of internal central pits were also found. Cremated bone comprising three individuals, as well as one near complete and two partial Bronze Age Food Vessels were found within these pits. Finally, a small boundary ditch was found to cut the ring ditch and probably represented part of a Romano-British field system.

The results of the investigation are of sufficient importance to warrant publication in a regional archaeological journal.

2.0 Site Location and Geology.

The site, centred at SE 4282 8070 lies to the south of the town of Thirsk in parts of three former agricultural fields (Figure 1).

The underlying geology is Mercian Mudstone with overlying superficial glaciolacustrine deposits (Devensian) of sand and gravel. (<http://bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)

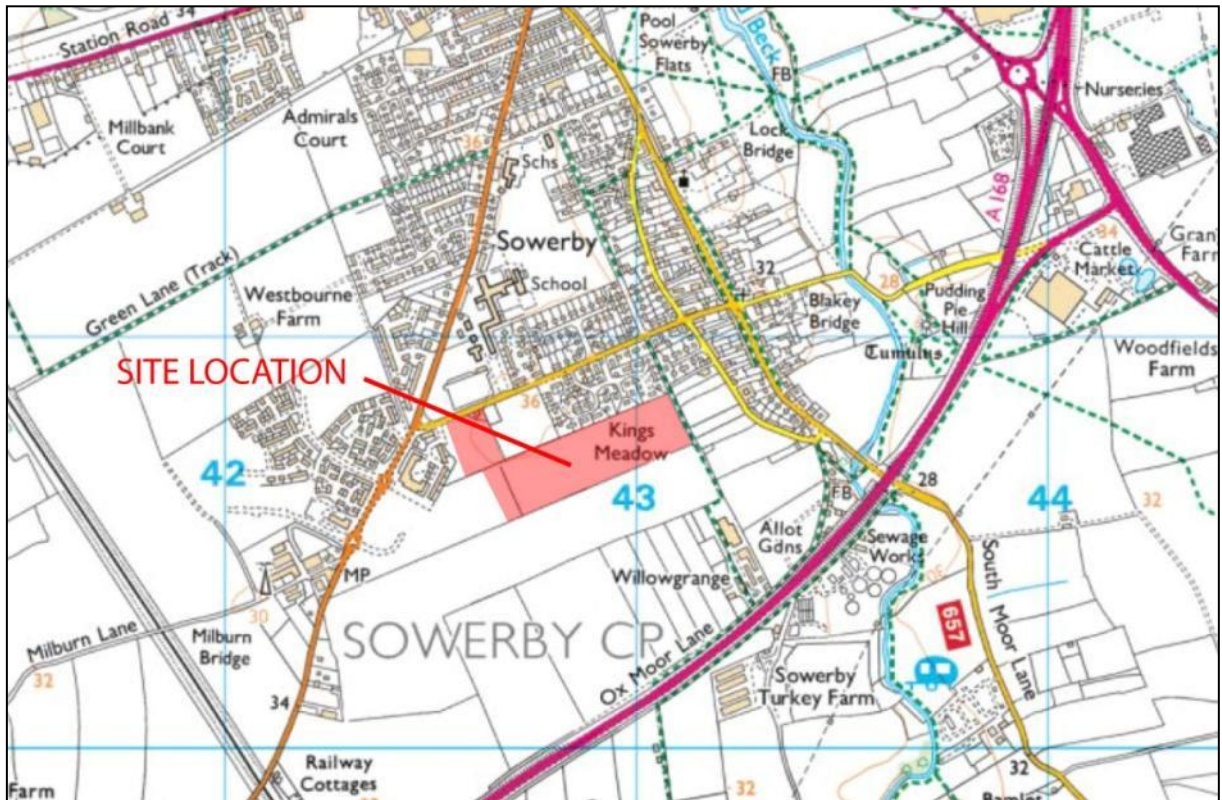


Figure 1. Site Location SE 4282 8070

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3.0 Archaeological Background.

A desk-based assessment was carried out on the wider Sowerby Gateway site by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* in January 2009, which the current Sowerby Sports Village site forms a part of (OSA 2009 Land Adjacent to Topcliffe Road, Thirsk. Report on an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. OSA Report No: OSA08DT13). This was followed by a Cultural Heritage chapter for an Environmental Statement submitted as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment in October 2010 (OSA 2010 Sowerby Gateway. Environmental Statement. Chapter 6. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage). The results of the desk-based assessment are summarised below (see OSA, 2009 for full details).

The wider area within 5km of the site has produced occasional objects of Neolithic date. However, sites of this date have not been confirmed through excavation. The Bronze Age is represented in the area by cropmarks of probable round barrows, although there is no evidence to suggest the presence of Bronze Age remains within the site itself. The Iron Age may be better represented, although this period is indistinguishable, on the basis of the available evidence, from the Romano-British period. Analysis of aerial photographs suggests the presence of field systems, enclosures and possible trackways that may be dated to the Iron Age and/or Roman period. These lie at least partly within the area of the current development, lying to both the southeast and northwest of Topcliffe Road (OSA 2010, Figures 3 and 7). The quality of the aerial photographs is not sufficient to allow the precise identification and location of the features represented by the cropmarks. Within a 5km radius of the site, two possible Iron Age settlement sites in the form of cropmarks indicating hut circles have been recorded. One lies 4km to the northeast, the other 5km to the southwest. The Roman period is represented by the presence of a supposed Roman road, in a predominantly ploughed out form, named as Saxty Way on historic map sources. This road lies in the northeast corner of the wider development site, but outside the boundaries of the current development area. Saxty Way has been assumed to be of Roman date for at least 150 years when it was recorded as such on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey. During the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods the site appears to have been occupied entirely by agricultural activity. The only major change appears to have been the enclosure of the land with the granting of a parliamentary Enclosure Award in 1798. Enclosure established the broad pattern of fields present on the site today, although the network of boundaries has changed slightly over the years. The first buildings in the location of Cocked Hat Farm are shown in the Tithe Map of 1843, although the farm is not named until the 1912 Ordnance Survey Map. Topcliffe Road is first shown on the map of Yorkshire by Thomas Jeffries in 1772, although one branch is shown to terminate close to the site, suggesting the possibility that it was of relatively recent construction at that time.

As the first stage of evaluating phase 1 of the development, a geophysical survey by magnetometry was carried out in July 2011 (OSA 2011 Sowerby Gateway Phase I. Report on an Archaeological Geophysical Survey. OSA Report No: OSA11EV20 (Geophysics)). This covered the main part of the phase 1 site that lay on the northwest side of Topcliffe Road. The southeast part of the site was under crop at the time of the survey. A number of features with potential archaeological interest were revealed by the geophysical survey of Phase I,

although the large volume of features suggested the aerial photographs was not shown. In addition, the remains of ridge and furrow ploughing of medieval or later date were indicated, running northeast-southwest over much of the area. It is notable that while the ridge and furrow was perpendicular to the field boundaries, it was at an oblique angle compared with Topcliffe Road. This seemed to confirm Topcliffe Road as a relatively late addition to the landscape, cutting through the existing pattern of ploughing established in the pre-enclosure period. The geophysical survey of Phase I was followed by evaluation trenching (OSA May 2012 Sowerby Gateway Phase I. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching. OSA Report No: OSA11EV20.), which led to the formulation of a scheme of mitigation, which included strip and record and watching brief (OSA October 2012 Sowerby Gateway Phase I, Topcliffe Road, Thirsk, North Yorkshire. Method Statement for a Programme of Archaeological Mitigation.). The scheme of mitigation is ongoing, but a brief summary of the results to date is included here. The project has revealed the presence of a complex ritual landscape, which has included ploughed out square and round barrows, pit alignments and other boundary features. Datable artefacts have been extremely infrequent on the site, although a small quantity of worked flint of Mesolithic date represents the earliest evidence for activity within the area.

A geophysical survey of the site was carried out in June 2016 (On-Site Archaeology. June 2016. Sowerby Sports Village, Thirsk North Yorkshire. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation (Geophysics). OSA Report No: OSA16EV14). The survey contains several features of potential archaeological interests (Figure 2). Areas of interest include the curvilinear feature in the northern part of the survey. The dimensions and form of this feature may represent the remains of a ploughed out funerary monument, such as a large round barrow, probably of later prehistoric date. Previous archaeological investigations carried out on the broader Sowerby Gateway site have confirmed the presence of several funerary monuments. Within the southern part of the survey area features are limited to linear responses suggestive of soil filled ditches. These all appear to follow broadly north - south and east - west alignments, representing a rectilinear field system. The alignment of this presumed field system differs from the current pattern of field boundaries which were established during the later 18th century enclosure of the area. The survey area also has evidence of both recent and medieval agricultural practice.

In March 2018 a scheme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out to test the results of the geophysics (On-Site Archaeology. March 2018. Sowerby Gateway Sports Village, North Yorkshire. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation. OSA Report No: OSA18EV08). A total of seven evaluation trenches were opened, which targeted the anomalies identified through the geophysics (shown red on Figure 3). The evaluation trenches broadly confirmed the archaeological character of the site as had been suggested by the geophysical survey. The majority of excavated features were ditches, which were generally represented within the geophysics as linear anomalies. Given the paucity of artefactual material these ditches are most likely to represent field boundaries, away from any concentrations of settlement. The possible barrow identified by the geophysics has not been confirmed by the excavation of Trench 1. The ditches are clearly present, in the location suggested by the geophysics but the possible central feature did not prove to have an archaeological origin. This feature may

therefore still be a barrow, without a surviving central burial, or alternatively represent a different archaeological feature, such as a roundhouse gully.

4.0 Methodology.

The excavation comprised the machine excavation of a single area under direct archaeological supervision (Figure 2). The area measured 32m by 33m and was located to further investigate a circular geophysical anomaly and features found in Evaluation Trench 1.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. These involved the completion of context sheets as well as plans and sections drawn to scale. Heights above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were calculated by taking levels from a Temporary Benchmark (TBM), which was then tied in with an existing Ordnance Survey benchmark. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained.

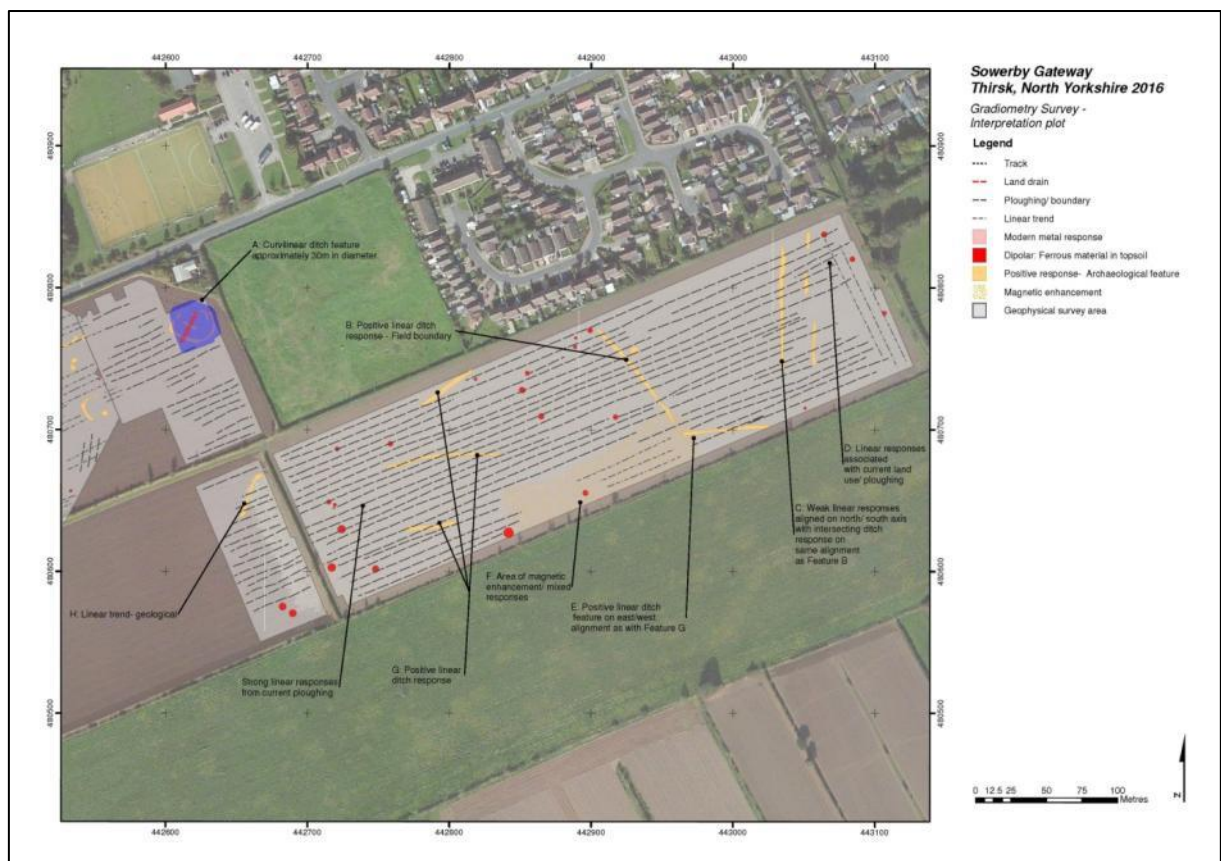


Figure 2. Location of Mitigation Area (blue) with Evaluation Trench 1 (red) and geophysical survey results.

5.0 Results.

Within the trench was a large ring ditch with a number of central pits as well as a single later ditch (Figures 3 and 4). The earliest deposit was the geological natural (1003), a mixed light brownish yellow sand and light orangey yellow sandy gravel. The natural was seen at heights between 35.12m and 35.35m AOD. All the features cut the natural.

The ring ditch was roughly circular and measured a maximum of 28.7m north to south and 28.6m east to west (Plates 1 and 2). It was seen to be a complete ring ditch with no breaks or entrances. Eight slots were excavated through the ring ditch. Generally the sections through the ditch showed an original ditch cut with a later re-cut (Figure 5 and Plates 3-10). One slot showed only the original cut (Plate 9) and another had a second re-cut (Plate 7). The outer circumference of the ring ditch measured c.86m. The overall ditch had a width between 1.4m and 2.3m with a depth between 0.68m and 1.06m. The bases of the ditch were at heights between 34.08m and 34.60m AOD.

The earliest cut of the ditch [1008] found in the slots was seen to have a varying number of fills, from three to seven. All the fills seen within the original ditch cut appeared to be silting or slumping layers largely consisting of light coloured sand and gravel. There was no consistent pattern to the silting or slumping as might be expected with a ring ditch circling a barrow mound. These fills appeared to be a mixture of slumping of the edges of both sides of the ditch and silting from a possible barrow mound and from external, possibly wind-blown, material. All fills appeared to be archaeologically and archaeobotanically sterile.

In all but slot 7 a re-cut ([1015], [1025], [1039], [1049], [1066], [1096] and [1100]) of the original ditch was seen. This ditch measured between 1.4m and 2.3m wide with depths between 0.31m and 0.66m. This ditch was found to have between two and five fills. Largely these fills were a mid to dark brown sandy silt with infrequent gravel and pebble inclusions. One fill ((1004), (1026), (1036), (1051) and (1081)) that was seen in five of the sections of the re-cut ditch was found to contain high frequency of iron panning.

A second re-cut ditch [1053] was found in slot 5 (Figure 5 and Plate 7). This ditch measured 1.25m wide with a depth of 0.5m and was located on the internal side of the ring ditch. It contained three fills ((1050, (1051) and (1052)), which were very similar to fills seen in the other re-cut ditch. No finds were recovered from any of the slots excavated into the ring ditch.

Seven discrete features were found roughly central to the barrow ring ditch (Figure 4). The largest and most central of the features was pit [1088]. The pit measured 1.03m wide and 2.05m long with a depth of 0.43m (Plates 11 and 12). It had a primary silting fill (1087) seen on the southeastern side of the pit consisting of mixed dark greyish brown sandy silt and light orangey yellow sand. The upper main fill (1086) consisted of dark greenish brown sandy silt with inclusions of very infrequent pebbles and gravel. Within this fill was a near complete Bronze Age Food Vessel probably of a date between 2100-1900BC (Plates 14). It was decorated with neat cord and spatula impressions. The vessel was found in the southwest

corner of the pit, against the feature edge (Plate 13). No human remains were found associated with this vessel or within the pit.

At the southwestern end of pit [1088] was a small but deep probable posthole [1056] (Plate 13 and 15). The feature measured 0.5m by 0.56m with a total depth of 0.44m. The lower fill (1055) consisted of mid yellowish greyish brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of small pebbles and gravel and filled the lower 0.3m of the feature. The fill contained cremated human remains (approximately 2.3% of an individual). It is likely that these remains are intrusive and were part of the individual found within the upper fill. The upper fill (1054) was a mid brownish grey sandy silt with infrequent inclusions. A large quantity of cremated human remains was found within this fill (approximately 40% of an individual). Furthermore, several sherds from a Bronze Age Food Vessel, similar to that found in fill (1086), were found within the upper fill. These sherds showed decoration of 'maggot' cord impressions. It appeared as though this feature cut pit [1088]. 100% soil samples were taken of the two fills and both were fully processed to maximise retrieval of human remains.

Two small shallow pits were located either side of pit [1088]; one to the northwest and one the southwest. The northern of the two [1058] measured 0.65m by 0.74m with a depth of only 0.04m, having been almost completely ploughed away. The single fill (1057) consisted of mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt. Within in this fill a partial Bronze Age Food Vessel was found (Plate 16). This vessel was decorated with finger-nail and spatula impressions. No human remains were found within this feature. A 100% soil sample was taken from the fill and fully processed. The other similar feature to the south of pit [1088] was pit [1060], which measured 0.5m by 0.56m with a depth of only 0.02m. The single fill (1059) was a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt. It contained cremated human remains (approximately 5.8% of the individual) (Plate 17). No pottery was recovered from this feature. A 100% sample was taken of the fill and fully processed.

The other three discrete features found within the central part of the barrow were intercut pits with unknown functions. The earliest of the three pits was pit [1091], which measured 0.76m by 1.08m with a depth of 0.53m. It contained two fills; a main lower fill (1090) of mid to dark brownish greyish sandy silt with moderate inclusions of pebbles and gravel, possibly the result of natural infilling. The upper fill (1089) was only 0.07m deep and consisted of mixed mid orangey yellow sand and dark brownish grey sandy silt. Cutting this pit was pit [1095] which measured 0.72m by 1.22m with a depth of 0.27m. It contained a single fill (1094) of mid greyish brown sandy silt. This pit was then cut on its southwest corner by pit [1093]. Pit [1093] measured 0.58m x 0.66m with depth of 0.43m. Again only a single fill (1092) was seen and consisted of dark brownish grey sandy silt. No finds were recovered from these features and all the fills appeared to be archaeobotanically sterile.

In the southern part of the trench a small ditch [1062]/[1072] was found to be cut the barrow ditch. This ditch extended from the southwestern L.O.E (limit of excavation) on a northeast to southwest alignment then curved to run on an east to west alignment where in terminated 8.5m from the southeastern L.O.E within the backfill of the re-cut ring ditch [1066] and the original ring ditch [1008]. The ditch measured 0.6-0.75m wide with a depth of 0.26-0.45m deep. It contained a single fill (1061)/(1071) of mid orangey reddish brown sandy silt. No

finds were recovered from this feature. This ditch was also seen in Evaluation Trench 1 ([102]) and could be seen to cut the barrow ditch again in this location.

A small area of subsoil (1001) was seen in the northern part of the trench covering an area of 7m by 24m. The subsoil consisted of mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt. Above all was a 0.3-0.4m deep layer of ploughsoil topsoil consisting of dark greyish brown sandy loamy silt.

Artefacts were limited to the Bronze Age pottery vessels and fragments of vessels described in Appendix 3 below, which were recovered from the features excavated in the interior of the ring ditch. No artefacts were recovered from the ring ditch. A series of samples were taken from the internal features and the ring ditch. Processing of these samples only produced small quantities of additional cremated human bone and no other archaeological material. The absence of charred plant remains, especially charcoal, suggests that the cremated bone had been carefully collected from the cremation site prior to burial.

6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations.

The archaeology found during the mitigation investigations on this site comprised a large ring ditch with internal funerary features, as well as a single small ditch. The ring ditch measured approximately 86m in circumference and was probably a ditch associated with a round barrow. Cremated bones from at least two individuals were found within two of the internal features of the barrow, as well as one near complete and fragments of two other early Bronze Age Food Vessels. A number of other barrows have been found in the wider landscape around the site including an Iron Age square barrow, a small single ditch barrow and a small double-ditched barrow with a single cremation; indicating this area was used as a ritual funerary landscape for at least 1000 years. The other single ditch found is presumed to be of Romano-British dated despite the lack of dating from this period. It was on a different alignment to the medieval ditches found in the evaluation stage of investigations on this site.

Bronze Age barrows with surviving internal funerary features are rare within this part of the country. It may be that this is the first early Bronze Age cremation found in the Vale of Mowbray since 1950 when a barrow at Quernhow, Ainderby Quernhow. Therefore, due to the significant nature of the archaeology found during this investigation it is highly recommended that the results be published in an article for submission to *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*. To assist in the dating of the cremations a programme of radiocarbon dating will need to be carried out.

7.0 Bibliography.

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8.0 Appendix 1~ Context Register.

8.1 Context Register

Context	Description	Thickness	Extent
1000	Dark greyish brown sandy loamy silt. Topsoil	0.3-0.4m	Trench
1001	Mid to dark reddish brown sandy. Subsoil.	0.15m	7m+ x 24m+
1002	Mixed light brownish yellow sand and light orangey yellow sandy gravel. Natural.	-	Trench
1003	Mid to dark brownish grey silty sand. Fill of [1096].	0.23m	1.55m x 2m+
1004	Mid to dark reddish brownish grey. Fill of [1096].	0.07m	1.25m x 2m+
1005	Mid brownish grey silty sand. Fill of [1096].	0.18m	1.2m x 2m+
1006	Light to mid yellowish grey sand. Fill of [1008].	0.08m	0.9m x 2m+
1007	Light yellowish grey sand. Fill of [1008].	0.09m	0.7m x 2m+
1008	Cut of ring ditch.	0.68-1.06m	1.8-2.05m x 86m
1009	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.3m	0.58m x 2m+
1010	Dark brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.19m	0.49m x 2m+
1011	Light to mid yellow sand. Fill of [1008].	0.07m	0.47m x 2m+
1012	Dark yellowish brown sand. Fill of [1008].	0.15m	0.2m x 2m+
1013	Mid brownish yellow sand and gravel. Fill of [1008].	0.07m	0.32m x 2m+
1014	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.1m	0.67m x 2m+
1015	Cut of ditch.	0.52m	2.3m x 2m+
1016	Mid to dark reddish brown sand and gravel. Fill of [1015].	0.3m	1.35m x 2m+
1017	Mid to dark reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1015].	0.06m	1.3m x 2m+
1018	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1015].	0.45m	2.3m x 2m+
1019	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1015].	0.15m	1.2m x 2m+
1020	Light to mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1015].	0.12m	0.62m x 2m+
1021	Mid brownish yellow sand. Fill of [1008].	0.25m	0.85m x 2m+
1022	Light reddish brown sand. Fill of [1008].	0.14m	0.85m x 2m+
1023	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.17m	1.2m x 2m+
1024	Mid brownish yellow sand. Fill of [1008].	0.04m	0.2m x 2m+
1025	Cut of ditch.	0.36m	2m x 2m+
1026	Mid to dark reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1025].	0.07m	1.35m x 2m+
1027	Mid to dark reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1025].	0.25m	2m x 2m+
1028	Light to mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1025].	0.22m	1.25m x 2m+
1029	Light yellowish brown sand and gravel. Fill of [1008].	0.44m	1.3m x 2m+
1030	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.11m	0.7m x 2m+
1031	Mid reddish yellow sand. Fill of [1008].	0.12m	0.64m x 2m+
1032	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.06m	0.06m x 2m+
1033	Light to mid brown sand. Fill of [1008].	0.04m	0.06m x 2m+
1034	Light to mid brownish yellow silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.4m	0.53m x 2m+
1035	Light reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1039].	0.24m	1.45m x 2m+
1036	Light reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1039].	0.09m	1.2m x 2m+
1037	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1039].	0.16m	1m x 2m+
1038	Dark reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1039].	0.18m	0.65m x 2m+
1039	Cut of ditch.	0.62m	1.4m x 2m+
1040	Light greyish blue sand and gravel. Fill of [1008].	0.2m	0.65m x 2m+
1041	Light greyish yellow silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.4m	0.06m x 2m+
1042	Light reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.08m	0.7m x 2m+
1043	Light brownish yellow silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.07m	0.8m x 2m+
1044	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.14m	1.2m x 2m+
1045	*VOID*		
1046	*VOID*		

1047	Light brownish yellow silty sand. Fill of [1049].	0.14m	1.22m x 2m+
1048	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1049].	0.43m	0.32m x 2m+
1049	Cut of ditch.	0.66m	1.3m x 2m+
1050	Mid yellowish brown silty sand. Fill of [1053].	0.18m	0.9m x 2m+
1051	Light to mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1053].	0.04m	0.93m x 2m+
1052	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1053].	0.36m	1.25m x 2m+
1053	Cut of ditch.	0.5m	1.25m x 2m+
1054	Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of [1056].	0.14m	0.5m x 0.56m
1055	Mid yellowish greyish brown silty sand. Fill of [1056].	0.3m	0.31m x 0.45m
1056	Cut of pit.	0.44m	0.5m x 0.56m
1057	Mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1058].	0.03m	0.6m dia.
1058	Cut of pit.	0.03m	0.6m dia.
1059	Mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1060].	0.04m	0.55m x 0.58m
1060	Cut of pit.	0.04m	0.55m x 0.58m
1061	Mid reddish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1062].	0.45m	0.75m x 0.7m+
1062	Cut of ditch.	0.45m	0.75m x 0.7m+
1063	Mid reddish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1066].	0.2m	1.6m x 2m+
1064	Dark reddish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1066].	0.25m	1.5m x 2m+
1065	Dark reddish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1066].	0.12m	1.25m x 2m+
1066	Cut of ditch.	0.6m	1.6m x 2m+
1067	Light yellowish orangey brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.1m	1.3m x 2m+
1068	Dark reddish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1008].	0.1m	1.2m x 2m+
1069	Light to mid orangey brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.2m	1.2m x 2m+
1070	Mid orangey brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.25m	0.8m x 2m+
1071	Mid orangey reddish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1072].	0.26m	0.6m x 1m+
1072	Cut of ditch.	0.26m	0.6m x 1m+
1073	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1100].	0.3m	1.7m x 2m+
1074	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1100].	0.17m	1.5m x 2m+
1075	Dark greyish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.12m	1.28m x 2m+
1076	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.15m	1.1m x 2m+
1077	Light brownish yellow sand. Fill of [1008].	0.4m	0.73m x 2m+
1078	Dark greyish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.09m	0.4m x 2m+
1079	Mid reddish brown silty loamy sand. Fill of [1008].	0.17m	1.8m x 2m+
1080	Mid reddish brown sand. Fill of [1008].	0.1m	1.6m x 2m+
1081	Light to mid reddish brown sand. Fill of [1008].	0.05m	1.3m x 2m+
1082	Light to mid reddish brown sand. Fill of [1008].	0.07m	1.4m x 2m+
1083	Light to mid greyish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.3m	0.97m x 2m+
1084	Mid brownish yellow sand and gravel. Fill of [1008].	0.2m	1m x 2m+
1085	Light yellow sand. Fill of [1008].	0.06m	0.1m x 2m+
1086	Dark greenish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1088].	0.12m	0.7m x 1.8m
1087	Mixed light orangey yellow sand and dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1088]	0.4m	1.03m x 2.05m
1088	Cut of pit.	0.43m	1.3m x 2.05m
1089	Mixed mid orangey yellow sand and dark brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of [1091].	0.07m	0.76m x 1.08m
1090	Mid to dark brownish greyish sandy silt. Fill of [1091].	0.46m	0.7m x 1.08m
1091	Cut of pit.	0.53m	0.76m x 1.08m
1092	Dark brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of [1093].	0.43m	0.58m x 0.66m
1093	Cut of pit.	0.43m	0.58m x 0.66m
1094	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of [1095].	0.27m+	0.72m x 1.22m
1095	Cut of pit.	0.27m+	0.72m x 1.22m
1096	Cut of ditch.	0.47m	1.55m x 2m+
1097	Mixed light orangey yellow sand and mid greyish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.21m	0.8m x 2m+
1098	Light to mid yellowish brown sand. Fill of [1008].	0.13m	0.74m x 2m+

1099	Mixed mid yellow brown sand and mid greyish brown silty sand. Fill of [1008].	0.12m	0.68m x 2m+
1100	Cut of ditch.	0.43m	1.71m x 2m+

9.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index

9.1 Drawing Register.

Drawing No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	North facing section of ring ditch slot #1.	1:10	12/12/18	RV
2	East facing section of ring ditch slot #2.	1:10	12/12/18	TR
3	East facing section of ring ditch slot #3.	1:10	12/12/18	TR
4	South facing section of ring ditch slot #4.	1:10	13/12/18	TR
5	Northeast facing section of ring ditch slot #5.	1:10	13/12/18	RV
6	Northeast facing section of ring ditch slot #8.	1:10	19/12/18	JS
7	West facing section of ditch [1072].	1:10	19/12/18	JS
8	Southeast facing section of ring ditch slot #6.	1:10	19/12/18	TR
9	Southeast facing section of ring ditch slot #7.	1:10	20/12/18	TR
10	Northeast facing section of pit [1088].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
11	Southeast facing profile of pit [1056].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
12	Southeast facing profile of pit [1058].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
13	Southeast facing profile of pit [1060].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
14	South facing profile of pit [1091].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
15	Southwest facing section of relationship between pits [1091] and [1093].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
16	Southeast facing section of relationship between pits [1091] and [1095].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
17	Southwest facing section of pit [1095].	1:10	20/12/18	KL
18	Pre-ex plan of internal features.	1:20	17/12/18	KL
19	Post-ex plan of internal features.	1:20	20/12/18	KL
20	Post-ex plan of trench (north).	1:100	20/12/18	TR/JS
21	Post-ex plan of trench (south).	1:100	20/12/18	TR/JS

9.2 Photographic Register.

Frame no.	Description	Date	Initials
<i>Digital Download 21/12/19</i>			
1-17	Working shots/ general shots of barrow.	11/12/19	KL
18-24	Internal features - pre-ex.	11/12/19	KL
25-27	East facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #2.	11/12/19	TR
28-31	North facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #1.	12/12/19	RV
32-37	East facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #3.	12/12/19	KL
38-43	South facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #4.	13/12/19	TR
44-48	Northeast facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #5.	13/12/19	RV
49-61	Internal features - pre-ex.	17/12/19	KL
62-70	Working shots/general shots of barrow.	17/12/19	KL
71-98	Internal features - pre-ex.	17/12/19	KL
99-104	Southeast facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #6.	17/12/19	TR
105-110	Southeast facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #7.	17/12/19	TR
111-119	Northeast facing section of ring ditch barrow - slot #8.	19/12/19	JS
120-125	East facing section of ditch [1062].	19/12/19	JS
126-130	Northeast facing section of pit [1088].	19/12/19	KL
131-138	Post-ex shot of posthole [1056].	19/12/19	KL
139-154	Post-ex shots of internal features.	20/12/19	KL
155-157	Post-ex shots of pit [1058].	20/12/19	KL
158-163	South facing section of pit [1091].	20/12/19	KL

164-167	Southwest facing section of relationship between pits [1091] and [1093].	20/12/19	KL
168-170	Northeast facing section of relationship between pits [1093] and [1095].	20/12/19	KL
171-176	Southeast facing section of relationship between pits [1091] and [1095].	20/12/19	KL
177-180	Southwest facing section of pit [1095].	20/12/19	KL
181	Location of urn in pit [1088].	20/12/19	KL
182-194	Urn in pit [1088].	20/12/19	KL
195-199	Post-ex shots of pit [1088] and posthole [1056].	20/12/19	KL

10.0 Appendix 3 ~ Assessment Report on pottery

B. Vyner

Introduction

This ceramic assemblage comprises the remains of three Early Bronze Age cremation urns, current towards the end of the 3rd and beginning of the 2nd millennium BC. The vessels appear to have been deposited at the centre of a low burial mound, now ploughed flat by continued agriculture.

Treatment

The pottery had been carefully cleaned prior to receipt and is in generally good condition, although cautious washing of some sherds may be necessary to confirm the detail of decoration and fabric.

Summary ceramic range and chronology

The vessels are all Food Vessels, a vessel type which was current in the period 2100 – 1900 BC, although the precise chronology of the vessels in North Yorkshire requires further refinement.

Summary of vessel types present

All three vessels are small jars in the Food Vessel tradition, decorative traits being markedly different on each. The most complete vessel, from context 1086, is particularly well-decorated with neat spatula and small cord impressions. The vessel from context 1057 is decorated with a combination of spatula and finger-nail impressions, while the third vessel, represented by only a few sherds, is decorated with impressed cord ‘maggot’ impressions.

Summary of fabric types present

Calcitic grits are present in two of the three vessels present, the material being perhaps chalk or gypsum. One vessel appears to contain fragments of re-fired ceramic known as ‘grog’. Further examination may provide a more definitive conclusion.

Minimum number of vessels present

Three vessels are present.

Accretions

None noted.

Summary catalogue

OSA18 EX10 context 1054

A few sherds from a Food Vessel, the rim and body decorated with ‘maggot’ cord impressions. Well-made vessel fabric with occasional small cavities from which calcitic grits have leached, but more usually containing mixed fillers and potential ‘grog’.

OSA18 EX10 context 1057

Part of a Food Vessel, the profile near reconstructable, but with the rim missing. The fabric contains numerous quartzitic grits. Decorated with finger-nail and spatula impressions.

OSA18 EX10 context 1086

The full profile, and probably a third Food Vessel is present. The fabric has occasional rounded stones, but is otherwise notable for the cavities from which numerous small and medium-sized calcitic grits have leached. Decorated with neat cord and spatula impressions, this is a very well-made and decorated vessel with a pedestal base.

Illustration

All three vessels justify illustration.

Conservation

Most of the ceramic is stable although care should be taken in handling it and the complete vessel should be consolidated.

Further reporting

Early Bronze Age cremations are scarce in the Vale of Mowbray, being much more common in surviving burial mounds on the nearby North York Moors, where their distribution tends towards the eastern and southern margins of the uplands. This may be the first discovery of Food Vessels in the northern Vale of York since the excavation of Quernhow, Ainderby Quernhowe, in 1950. This small excavation therefore has the potential to make a valuable contribution to knowledge of early settlement in the Vale.

11.0 Appendix 4 ~ Assessment of Cremated Bone

K. Keefe



Four contexts of cremated bone were assessed to determine their potential for further analysis. Each context survived in a very good state of preservation, with minimal evidence of surface erosion. Three of the contexts were immediately identifiable as human, a fourth will require further inspection to determine the species. One of the contexts yielded a significant proportion of bone which may represent a primary cremation deposit. The remaining three contexts consisted of considerably less bone, and may have been disturbed, or alternatively, represent token burials.

Context	Sample	Species	Preservation	Weight	Percentage of complete individual
1054	1	Human	Very Good	653g	40.1%
1055	2	Human	Very Good	35g	2.3%
1057	3	Unclear	Very Good	2g	0.1%
1059	4	Human	Very Good	94g	5.8%

Based upon the assessment of the cremated bone; it is recommended that each context undergo full analysis. It may be possible to determine age and sex, minimum number of individuals per burial, as well as any manifestations of disease from which the individual may have suffered. Additional information regarding the cremation techniques and funerary ritual may also be gleaned from the surviving bone condition, colour and degree of fragmentation.

Comparative analysis may also help to place the burials within their archaeological context, for example; a previously excavated cremation from Sowerby Gateway, analysed on behalf of Archaeological Services WYAS suggests that the cremation deposits recovered from the current scheme form part of a wider prehistoric ritual landscape, which as yet, has not been fully understood.

12.0 Appendix 5 ~ Plates.



Plate 1. Mid-ex shot of barrow ring ditch [1008], looking north.



Plate 2. Mid-ex shot of barrow ring ditch, looking north.



Plate 3. North facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot #1).



Plate 4. East facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot#2).



Plate 5. East facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot #3).



Plate 6. South facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot #4).



Plate 7. Northeast facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot #5).



Plate 8. Southeast facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot #6).



Plate 9. Southeast facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot #7).



Plate 10. Northeast facing section of barrow ring ditch (slot #8).

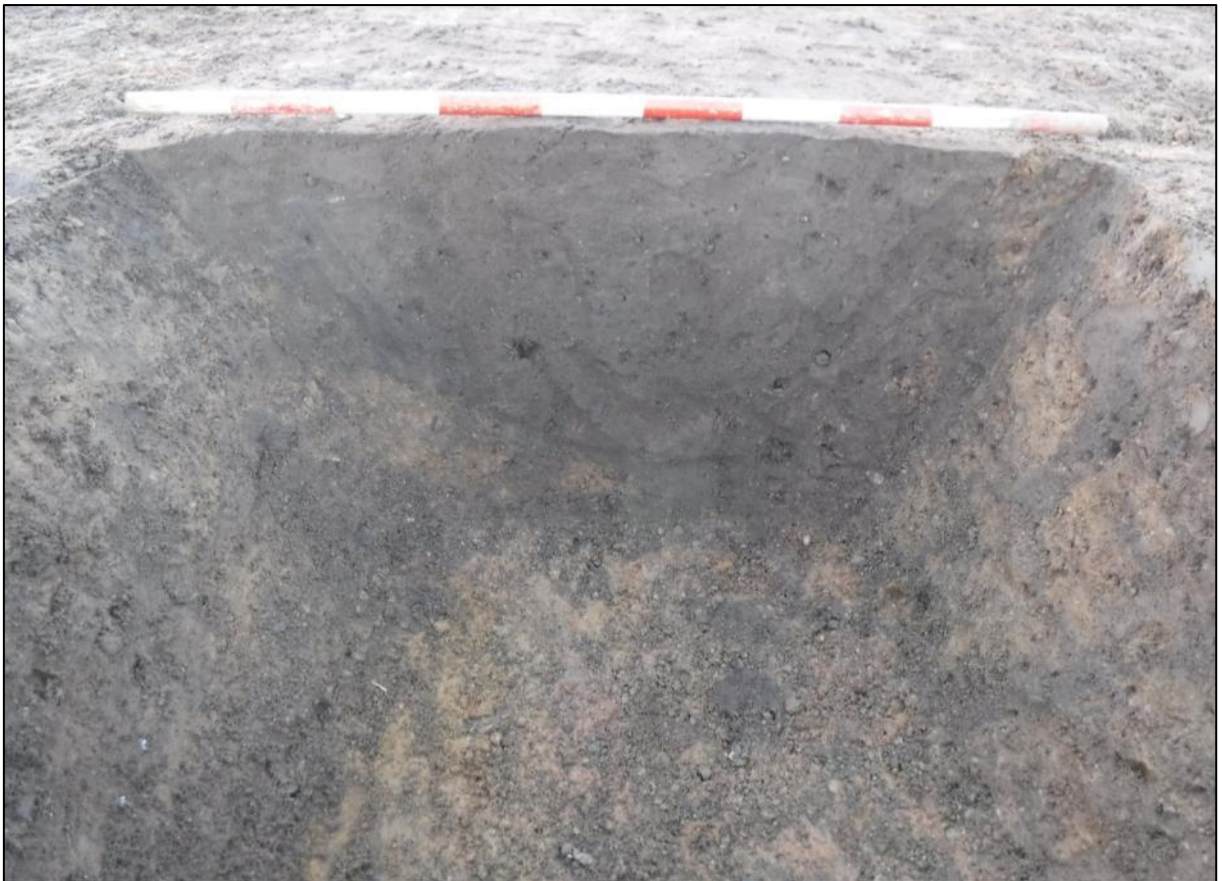


Plate 11. Northeast facing section of pit [1088].



Plate 12. Post-ex shot of pit [1088] and posthole [1056], looking southwest.



Plate 13. Location of Bronze Age Food Vessel within pit [1088].



Plate 14. Bronze Age Food Vessel found in pit [1088].



Plate 15. Post-ex shot of posthole [1056].



Plate 16. Bronze Age Food Vessel found in pit [1058].



Plate 17. Cremated bone within pit [1060].

13.0 Appendix 6~ Figures.

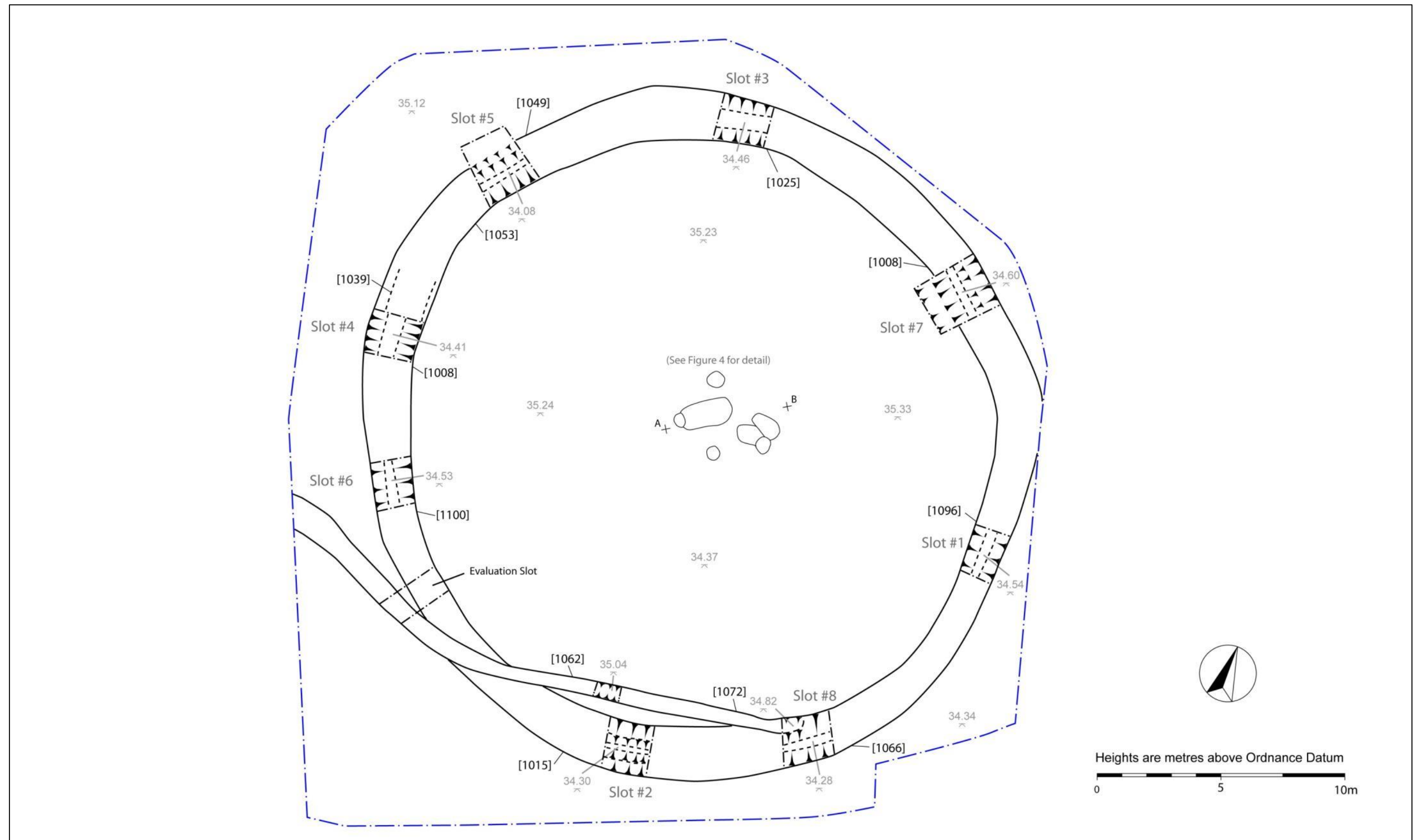


Figure 3. Plan of Mitigation Area.

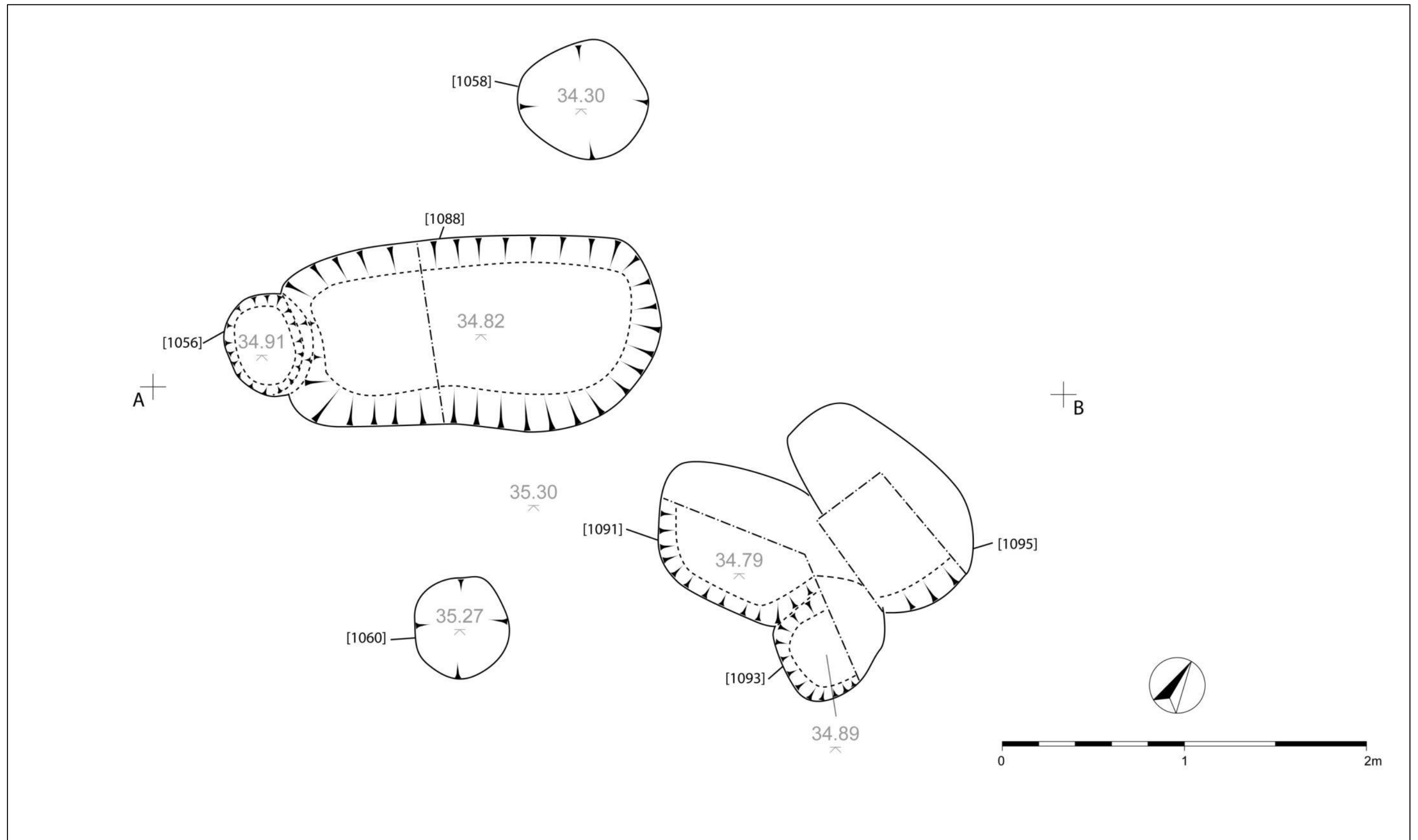


Figure 4. Plan of internal barrow features.

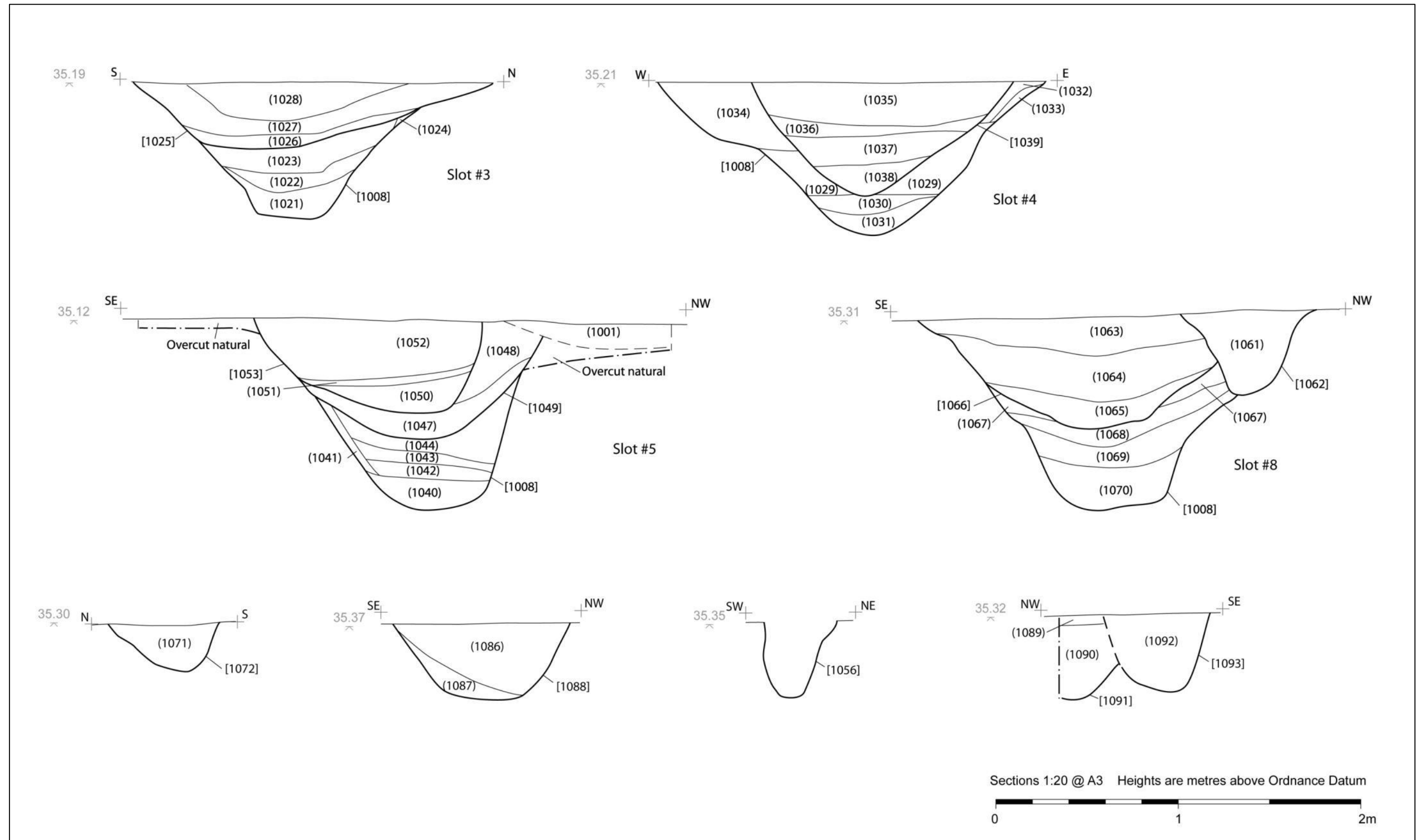


Figure 5. Selected sections of features in Mitigation Area.