



Bottle Knap Cottage, Long Bredy, Dorset

Observation and Recording during Drainage Improvements



Report No. 53512/3/1

December 2018

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-336779 & terraina1-336780		
Project Title	Drainage Improvements, Bottle Knap Cottage, Long Bredy, Dorset		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology undertook archaeological observations and recording during ground reduction of the track behind Bottle Knap Cottage, Long Bredy, to ameliorate damp problems within the cottage. The track itself is likely to be medieval or earlier in origin, but no medieval material was recovered. It is likely that any earlier surfaces have been eroded away. No trace of a possible earlier wall beneath the seventeenth century cottage discovered during an evaluation by the National Trust in 2016 was found.		
Project Dates	Start: 03-12-2018	End: 05-12-2018	
Previous/Future Work	Yes/No		
Project Code	53512		
Monument Type and Period	None		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ West Dorset/Long Bredy		
Site Address	Bottle Knap, Long Bredy, Dorset, DT2 9HU		
Site Coordinates	SY 5695 9033		
Site Area	c. 28m ²		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	Martin Papworth, National Trust Regional Archaeologist (Wessex)		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	The National Trust		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	None	National Trust.	National Trust.
Contents	None	Digital photography	context sheets, diary, photographs, plan, report

Bottle Knap Cottage, Long Bredy, Dorset

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December 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording at Bottle Knap Cottage, Long Bredy, Dorset (Figure 1), during groundworks associated with drainage improvements.

The work was undertaken in response to a requirement from the National Trust's Regional Archaeologist.

1.2 Brief

No written brief for the scheme of works was issued.

1.3 Site Location and Topography

Long Bredy lies at the foot of the steep, south facing, chalk scarp of the South Dorset Ridgeway. The site itself lies within the village, somewhat north of its modern centre and east of the main road, but south of the medieval Church of St. Peter, on steeply-sloping ground, centred at Ordnance Survey NGR SY 5695 9033 (Figure 1). A track runs from Manor Farm in the south to St Peter's Church, passing immediately behind Bottle Knap Cottage, where it is cut into the hillslope.

1.4 Geology

Bedrock geology is mapped as Glauconitic sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation, but the site lies close to the junction with Gault Formation Mudstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). No superficial geology is recorded.

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

On the west-facing slope of the valley, just to the north east of Bottle Knap Cottage a grave containing at least three individuals probably buried in a crouched position was found dug into and sealed by a thick layer of colluvium. The burial appears to have been covered by a low stone cairn. Radiocarbon dating of the human bone suggests a likely date range of between 802-760 cal BC, making them the first burials of the Late Bronze Age – to Early Iron Age transitional period known in Dorset, and possibly in South West England.

This burial sits within a wider rich and complex prehistoric landscape. Martin's Down, to the north of Long Bredy, forms the western end of the South Dorset Ridgeway, a nationally important complex of prehistoric funerary monuments (Woodward 1991).

Roman pottery has been found low on the opposite bank of the coombe at Long Bredy, somewhat south of Bottle Knap. No Roman site is known, but Roman occupation has been found in topographically similar settings south of the ridgeway, for example at Litton Cheney (Bailey 1966), Portesham (Valentin 2003) and, further to the east, at Sutton Poyntz (Rawlings 2007).

Long Bredy (*Langebrede*) is listed in the Domesday Book of AD1086. Its parish church, dedicated to St Peter, is thought to be 13th century (RCHME 1952, 39-41). There has been no archaeological investigation of the medieval village and its layout and development remains poorly understood. South of Bottle Knap there is a curious 'ladder'

arrangement of small sub-rectangular terraced land plots, set either side of what is now a narrow green lane (this forms the western edge of the Bottle Knap Cottage property). The lane continues as a semi-embanked earthwork north of Bottle Knap, and appears originally to have joined the White Hill driveway track, which passes east of St Peter's Church before traversing the steep scarp of the Ridgeway onto the Martin's Down. Their size and regularity suggest these plots may mark individual homesteads, although further work would be required to confirm this. There are also abundant earthworks resulting from medieval agriculture around the village. These earthworks tend to be lynchet terraces on the steeper slopes to the north, and parallel ridge-and-furrow systems attesting more regular open field systems on flatter ground to the south.

Bottle Knap Cottage is Grade II Listed (English Heritage National Heritage List No. 1118679). It is a mid 17th century detached cottage with later alterations.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

In May 2013 Terrain Archaeology undertook a watching brief during trenching and other groundworks associated with the installation of a replacement septic tank. To the north west of Bottle Knap Cottage the remains of a grave containing at least three individuals, possibly interred in a crouched position, was found cut into and sealed by colluvium. The grave may have been covered by a low stone cairn (Trevvarthen 2013). Three radiocarbon dates were obtained from the burial, indicating a probable date of 802–760 cal BC.

In May 2015, Terrain Archaeology undertook a watching brief during works associated with the installation of a new water pipe and livestock water trough. Two small pits were dug in the garden of Bottle Knapp, immediately north of the cottage, and a third was dug just to the west, to enable drilling of the water pipe under an adjacent embanked green lane. No archaeological features or finds were observed (Trevvarthen 2015).

In November 2016, the National Trust undertook an evaluation of the area of the site (Papworth 2016). Four small trenches were dug, three (A, B, D) along the rear (east) wall of the cottage and one (C) on the opposite side of the trackway behind the cottage. These revealed some details on the shallow footings of the cottage and the nature of the makeup of the bank on the east side of the trackway. There was a suggestion that there may have been an earlier wall aligned NW-SE running beneath the existing cottage wall footings in Trench A (Figure 2).

1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Archaeological Observations and Recording was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

Its objectives were:

- To observe and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate professional standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Groundworks

The drainage improvement scheme groundworks consisted of the lowering of the level of the trackway where it passes behind the cottage so the ground level is lowered by 0.5 m with a drain at the southern downhill end to carry the water away from the cottage. The strip of ground butting the cottage was chamfered to allow the water to drain away from the cottage. The area of ground reduction measured 14 m by 1.8 m and was dug to a depth of 0.55 m below existing ground level. The drain trench at the southern end was 0.35 m wide and about 0.5 m deep, extending about 8.8 m down the track (Figure 2).

1.9 Methods

The observation and recording of the groundworks was undertaken to the standards of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a), with an archaeologist in attendance during the all groundworks likely to expose archaeological evidence.

All features and deposits were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance. A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital format, which includes aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

1.10.1 Paper Archive

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, has been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b) and the requirements of the receiving museum. It is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53512. In due course, the archive will be accessioned for long-term curation and storage by the National Trust.

1.10.2 Artefacts

No artefacts were retained from the fieldwork.

1.10.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with the National Trust Sites and Monuments Record and with Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terraina1-336779* and *terraina1-336780*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

2. Results

2.1 Natural Deposits

Natural deposits were exposed in the base of the trench at a depth of about 0.5 m below ground level. The natural consisted of a yellow to yellowish-brown sand (103) with bands of greensand sandstone lumps visible running diagonally across the trench. In the southern part of the site, solid sandstone bedrock was encountered about 0.5 m below ground level.

2.2 Colluvium?

In the northern end of the trench a thin layer of grey sand with frequent small stone and chalk lumps (102) was observed immediately above the natural sand 103. It did not spread across the whole width of the trench. This may be part of a colluvial soil development on the steep sloping side of the trackway, where it is cut into the slope.

2.3 Soils

In the base of the trackway, immediately overlying the natural sand 103, was a 0.15 m thick layer of dark brown sandy clay loam soil (101) with frequent stone rubble, up to 100mm across, and occasional fragments of brick. The brick and stone may have been the laid down as consolidation material for the trackway. It was sealed beneath a 0.25 m thick layer of dark brown clay loam soil (100), containing fragments of ceramic drain pipe, slate and pieces of iron (including parts of a strap hinge). Occasional sherds of nineteenth century pottery were also noted.

2.4 Scoop 105

An irregular scoop (105) was partially exposed in the south west part of the trench (Figure 2; Plate 4). This scoop measured about 1.4 m across and had steep to shallow sloping sides. It was cut through the base of the topsoil down on to the top of the natural sand. It was filled with a mixed brown sandy loam (104) with frequent small chalk lumps, moderate to frequent stone rubble and occasional brick and tile fragments.

2.5 Drains

Three drain covers were visible in the strip of ground between the cottage and the track, suggesting significant disturbance from services in this area. The concrete around the central drain cover was exposed in the edge of the trench and fragments of a brick chamber (106) were displaced by the machining, just to the south of this drain (Plate 5). The reshaping of the profile of this strip revealed a metal pipe running N-S just to west of the excavated area.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

A small number of artefacts including slate roof tile fragments, brick and tile fragments, glazed ceramic drain pipe fragments and occasional nineteenth century industrial whiteware sherds were noted during the observations, but were not collected or quantified. A small number of animal bones were also noted, but not collected or quantified.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

The groundworks have revealed very little significant archaeology. No trace was found of the possible early wall (Wall 9) exposed in Trench A during the 2016 evaluation (Papworth 2016). It is possible that this wall did not extend as far as the present trench, but no trace was seen during the reprofiling of the ground alongside the cottage either. It may be that it had been disturbed by the construction of the drains and other services running along the side of the house. Alternatively, stonework seen in the base of Evaluation Trench A may not be the remains of a wall, but just a slightly irregular part of the footings of the cottage. The small size of Trench A means that it was not possible to fully examine this structure and its true character may only be revealed by more extensive investigations along the wall of the cottage.

The track behind Bottle Knap Cottage runs between Manor Farm and St Peter's Church, before joining the White Hill driveway giving access up on to the chalk ridge and Martin's Down. The location of this track between the manor and the church suggests a medieval or earlier origin and there are a number of earthwork platforms along the edge of this track, which may be the remnants of medieval plots. No medieval material was recovered from the ground reduction of the track; however, the current level of the track lies below the level of the natural slope of the ground, thus forming a holloway. Therefore, it is likely that the medieval surface of this track was at a higher level and has been eroded away. The stony soil layer 101, immediately above the natural sand did not appear to be a metalled surface, but may be consolidation material to counteract the muddy surface of the track. There are places elsewhere along the length of the track where there is some rough metalling, but for much of its length it is now a grass track.

4.2 Conclusions

No significant archaeology was revealed during the groundworks.

5. References

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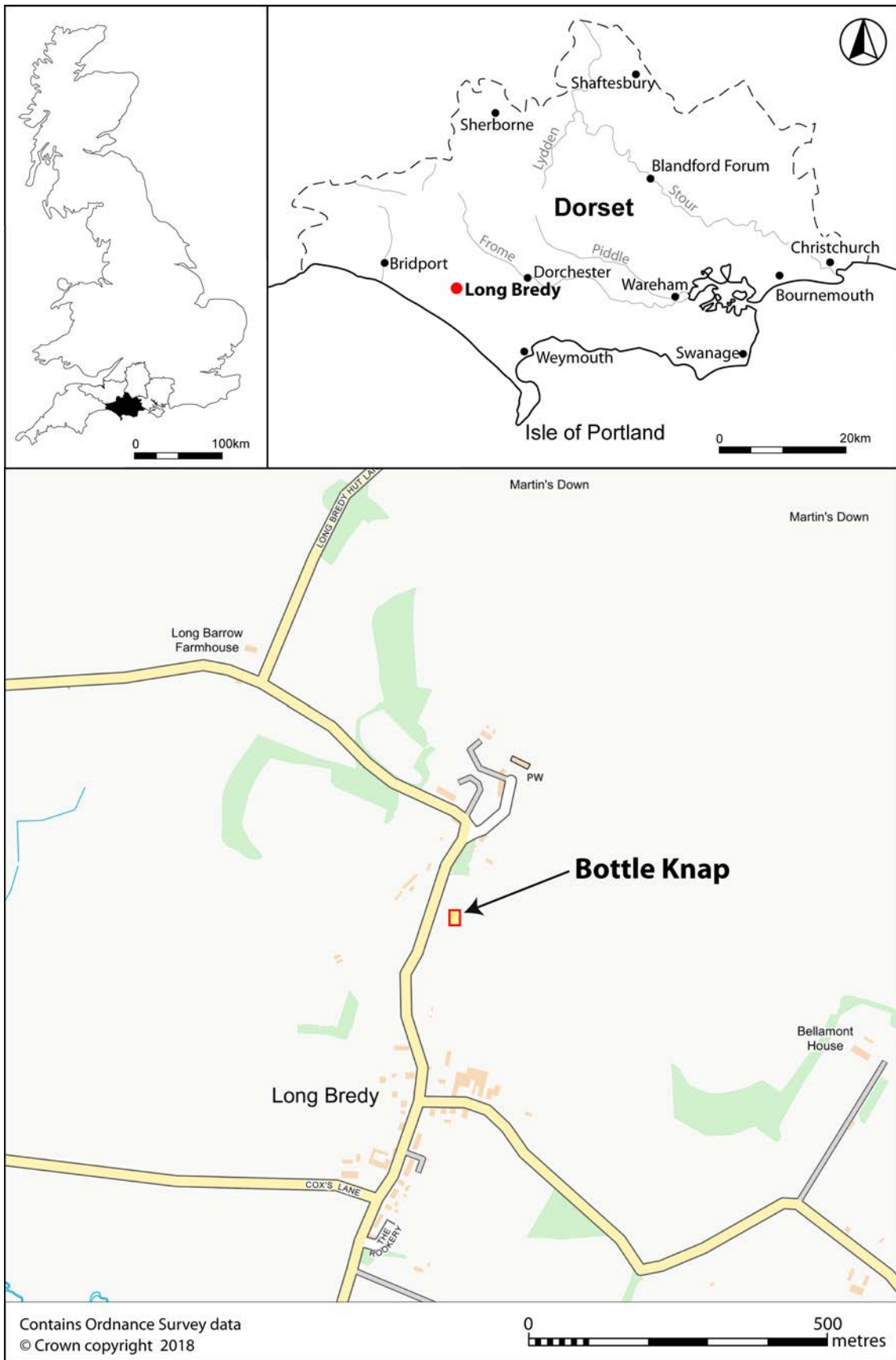


Figure 1 Location map.

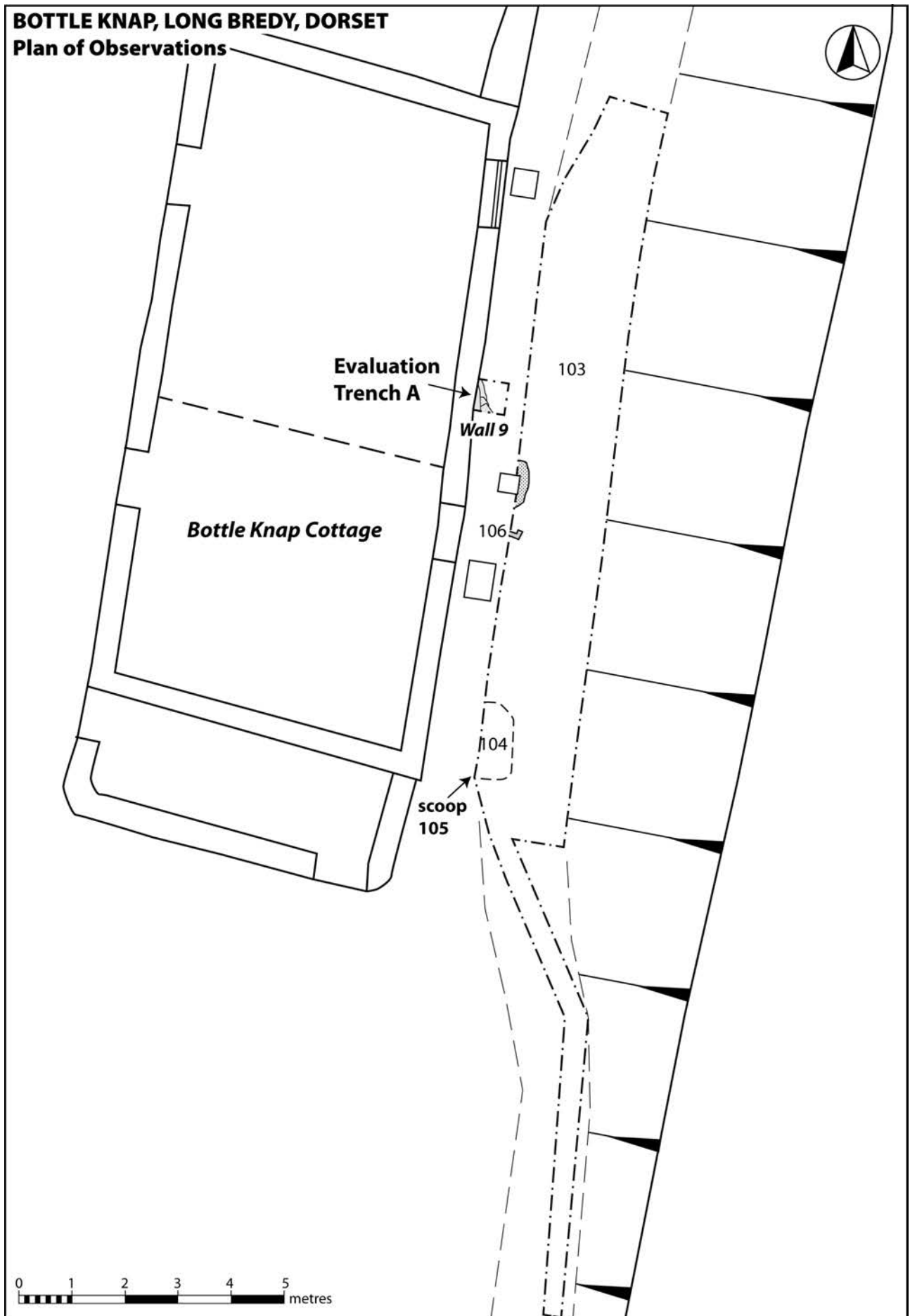


Figure 2: Plan of Observations



Plate 1: View of trench after excavation, viewed from north. 1m scale.



Plate 2: View of trench after excavation, viewed from south. 1m scale.



Plate 3: General view of site after excavation of drain trench, looking north. 1m scale.



Plate 4: Scoop 105 sectioned in edge of trench. 1m scale.



Plate 5: Part of brick structure 106, disturbed during machining, with concrete of drain to right.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Trench 1

Length: 14 m; Width 1.8 m; depth 0.55 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	Topsoil: Dark brown humic clay loam with frequent roots. Contains some fragments of ceramic drain pipe, slate and iron objects.	0.00 – 0.25m
101	Subsoil: Dark brown sandy clay loam with frequent small stone up to 100mm across and occasional brick fragments.	0.25 – 0.40m
102	Colluvium?: Mid grey sand with frequent small stone and chalk.	0.40 – 0.50m
103	Natural: Yellowish-brown sand with bands of greensand.	0.5m+
104	Fill of Scoop 105: Mixed mid brown sandy clay loam with frequent small chalk lumps, moderate to frequent stone rubble up to 200mm across and occasional brick and tile fragments.	0.20 – 0.5m
105	Scoop: Shallow to steep sided cut of irregular plan. Full plan shape not recorded. Filled with 104.	0.20 – 0.5m
106	Drain chamber: Mortared brick structure in edge of trench. It was displaced during machining.	0.2 – 0.6m